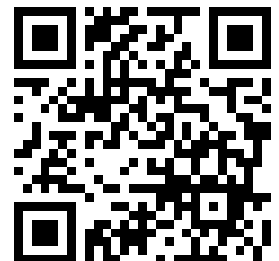


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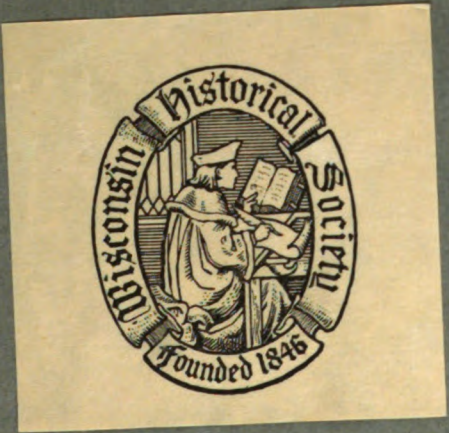
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COMPENDIUM  
OF  
History  
Reminiscence  
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OF  
WESTERN NEBRASKA

CONTAINING A  
History of the State  
of Nebraska

Embracing an account of Early Explorations, Early Settlement, Indian  
Occupancy, Indian History and Traditions, Territorial and State  
Organizations; a review of the Political History; and  
a concise History of the Growth and  
Development of the State.

ALSO A  
COMPENDIUM OF REMINISCENCE  
OF WESTERN NEBRASKA

Containing Biographical Sketches of Hundreds of Prominent Old Settlers and Representative  
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with a review of their life work; their identity with the growth and development of the Region;  
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**HISTORY**

**OF**

**NEBRASKA**





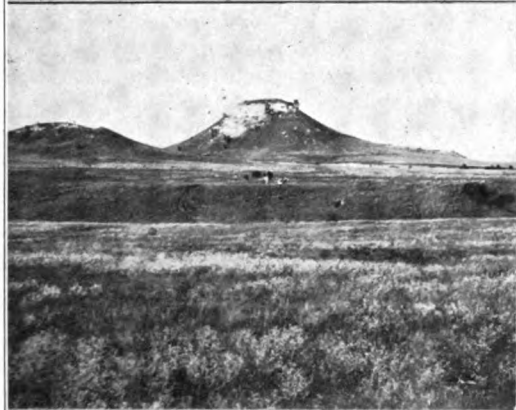




WESTERN FALLS OF SNAKE RIVER, SOUTH OF CODY, NEBRASKA



FALLS OF SNAKE RIVER, SOUTH OF BURGE, NEBRASKA



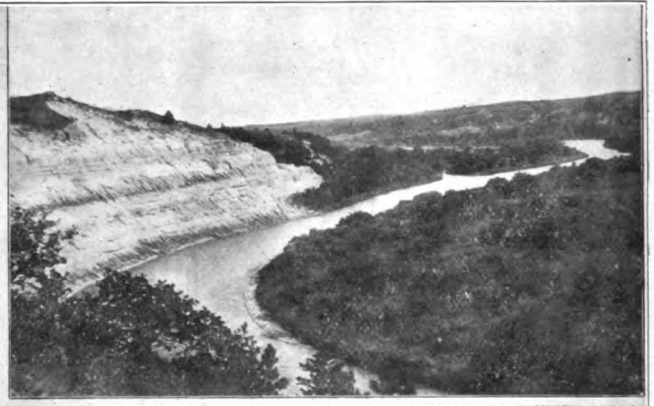
FREDERICK'S PEAK NEAR VALENTINE, NEBRASKA



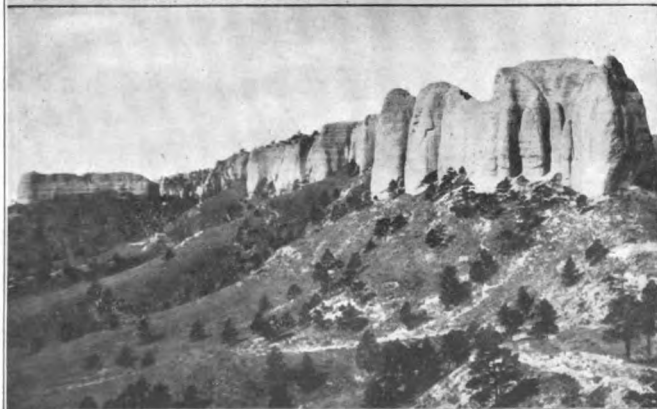
FORD ON KEYA PAHA CREEK NEAR MILLS, NEBRASKA



CLIFFS ON PLUM CREEK NORTH OF AINSWORTH, NEBRASKA



CLIFFS ON NIOBRARA RIVER, NORTH OF SPARKS, NEBRASKA



CROW BUTTES, CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA



NORTH PLATTE RIVER NEAR PAXTON, NEBRASKA



# HISTORY OF NEBRASKA

## CHAPTER I.

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GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, GEOLOGY, SOIL, NATURAL RESOURCES, IRRIGATION, ETC.

COMPRISING as it does an area larger by 14,259 square miles than all of New England, the State of Nebraska is justly entitled to the important position it holds among the Sister States of the Republic. Twice the size of Ohio; larger in area by many thousand square miles than England and Wales combined, Nebraska in area is an empire.

The position occupied by Nebraska is quite near the center of the United States. The parallel of forty degrees bounds it on the south, and the Missouri river is its eastern and northern boundary until the forty-third degree parallel is reached. This parallel then constitutes the northern boundary until the west line of the State, on the twenty-seventh degree of west longitude is reached. The western boundary of the State follows the twenty-seventh degree of longitude west from Washington south until the forty-first degree of north longitude is reached; it then follows the forty-first degree of longitude east, to a point formed by its intersection with the twenty-fifth degree of longitude west from Washington; then south to the for-

tieth degree of north latitude. This, it will be seen, takes quite a notch, approximately 7,300 square miles, out of the State. If it were not for this off-set, the State would approximate the shape of a parallelogram. The extreme width of the State from north to south is 208.5 miles; and its length from east to west is approximately 413 miles. Previous to 1882 the area of the State was almost 75,995 square miles. In that year by act of Congress the northern boundary was straightened which added approximately 900 square miles to its territory, giving a present area of 76,895 square miles, or 49,212,000 acres. In the heart of the great Union, grouped among the greatest states of the Commonwealth, directly in the great center of the Nation's wealth, Nebraska has received the overflow from the east, and blessed them with plenty. And its location, combined with its climate and natural resources, have made its settlement, growth and development so rapid as to place it among the greatest states in the Union in a time so short as to be within the memory of the present generation.

## TOPOGRAPHY.

Nebraska has an extremely varied surface. Although there are no elevations high enough to be called mountains, yet in the northern and western parts of the State there are lofty hills of varied character. In the eastern states the ridges are generally the result of elevations and subsidences of the earth's crust modified by subsequent aqueous agencies, but in Nebraska the rolling lands and hills are caused mostly by erosion. In the east massive rocks mainly make up the body of the hills; while here they are to a certain extent composed of drift materials, loosely compacted, but chiefly of loess. The bottom lands are met with every few miles crossing the State. They are huge and in general shallow troughs; in breadth, proportionate to the size of the stream. In width they range from a quarter of a mile to twenty-three miles on the Platte and the Missouri. Quite often we find them terraced. These terraces, like broad steps, lead gradually to the bordering bluffs. Sometimes the edges of the low terraces on the bottoms are so worn away that their character is concealed. What was once a terrace has become a gentle slope. The slopes on the bottoms between Crete and Beatrice, and Ashland and Lincoln are good examples of this character.

In regard to the surface the curve is the predominating geometrical form—streams, terraces, bluffs, valleys, all follow curves. "The curve is the line of beauty." This law is exemplified here.

There is an amazing number of valley or bottom lands. By the thousand they must be numbered. As an example, take the region of the Republican river. On the average of every two miles a tributary valley comes into the bottom from the north side. Counting the small tributaries with their narrow bottoms, not less than twenty-five per cent. of the entire surface of the State is made up of bottom lands.

The gently rolling lands of three-fourths of the State appear very much like billows of the ocean. Sometimes extensive stretches are met with which appear to be level, but even these on closer observation show to be gently undulating. From these last mentioned forms to the

few isolated sections of limited extent, broken by canons with precipitous sides, the transition is gradual. It is altogether a prairie State, with rich alluvial valleys and table lands stretching away into extensive level plains, with a gradual ascent from the Missouri river westward, reaching an altitude on its western border of between five and six thousand feet above the sea level, and yet the incline is so gradual that in the construction of the Union Pacific railroad up the Platte Valley, not a tunnel, trestle or fill of any importance was required; nor a single difficulty encountered from the Missouri river to the west line of the State. Take the State as a whole, it slopes mainly toward the east, and in minor degree toward the south. The ascent west from Omaha is at the rate of five and a half feet to the mile for 100 miles. The second hundred miles increases the ascent to seven feet; the third hundred, seven and a half feet; the fourth hundred to ten and a half feet to the mile; and the ascent of the last fifty miles at the west end of the State is eighteen feet to the mile. The figures are approximately correct. A similar gradual ascent characterizes the south and north lines of the State. The southeastern corner of the State which is the lowest part of the State has an elevation of 878 feet. Here the ascent is only one and a quarter feet to the mile. Even less than this is the fall going northward to Dakota City. In western Nebraska the difference in elevation between the Union Pacific railroad and the Republican valley on the south side is approximately 352 feet. From the Union Pacific, on the west line, going northward, the elevation increases until Scott's Bluff is reached, where the elevation of 6,051 feet is the highest point in the State. From here to the valley of the Niobrara, toward the north line there is a gradual descent. As the elevation at Pine Bluffs, on the extreme western line of the State on the Union Pacific, is 5,061 feet, the ascent from this point northward is 635 feet, against a corresponding difference of less than 200 feet on the east line of the State. Taking the data, obtained principally by a reduction of railroad surveys in various parts of the State, the average elevation of the whole State is about 2,312 feet.



Although there are no large lakes in Nebraska, there are many small ones. Besides the lakes of fresh water there are a few saline or alkaline. In southeastern Nebraska many springs appear on top of limestone strata that underlie loosely-compacted sandy rocks or shales. In most parts of the State by sinking a shaft down from fifteen to fifty feet fresh water can be had in abundance. In Fillmore, Clay, Adams and Phelps counties, and some other portions of the State, we find exceptions to this rule, where there is a great thickness of loess and drift to be penetrated before impervious strata capable of holding water are reached. Some artesian wells have been bored.

Among the rivers of Nebraska the deep and rapid Missouri is the principal one. At least 500 miles of this river are on the eastern and northern borders of the State. It is a highway to the commerce and markets of the world. Had it not been for the Missouri the settlement of this region would have been indefinitely delayed. As the river is navigable for two thousand miles above Omaha it was a great highway for traffic with the mountain regions of Idaho, Dakota and Montana in early days. However, with the building of railroads, the business has fallen off. The Missouri river is the only navigable river in Nebraska and has always been described as an "exceedingly crooked, treacherous stream." Its source is in latitude 45 north, and longitude 110:30 west, high up in the Rocky mountains, and the distance it flows from the Great Falls to its junction with the Mississippi river is 2,575 miles. The Missouri seems to hold a mortgage on the lands that flank it on either side, and it often takes such lands by force, only to return them when some other change in its every shifting course is developed. Previous to the exploration made by Lewis and Clark, the impression prevailed among the Spanish and French residents in what was then known as the Northwestern Territory, that the source of the Missouri was near a point where it joins the Niobrara, and most of the maps in use previous to the exploration referred to locate its source at or near the point mentioned.

Having referred to the Missouri as being the only navigable river touching Nebraska it will doubtless be of interest in this connection to

mention the first steamer on the Missouri. It was built at Pittsburgh by the United States Government in 1818, and named the "Western Engineer." She left her moorings at Pittsburgh, May 3, 1819, having on board an exploring expedition, sent out by order of the Government to explore the Missouri river and the country west of the Rocky mountains. The expedition was under the command of Major S. H. Long and arrived at St. Louis on June 20, one month and seventeen days after starting. The mouth of the Platte was reached on the 17th of September following, and on the 19th of the same month the expedition cast anchor near the Mouth of Boyer river, on the Iowa side, about five miles below Council Bluffs, where it went into winter quarters. The point of encampment was known as Fort Lisa, and was occupied by the Missouri Fur Company as a trading post. Here the explorers remained during the winter of 1819-'20, Major Long, in the meantime, returning to Philadelphia, the then seat of Government, with reports of the expedition. June 20, 1820, Major Long returned to Fort Lisa with orders for the expedition to proceed overland to the head waters of the Arkansas and Red rivers for the purpose of exploring said streams and the country contiguous to them, and, in accordance therewith, the expedition left the boat at this point and proceeded up the valley of the Platte, holding councils with the numerous Indian tribes through which they passed. The "Western Engineer" after the departure of the expedition received a new commander and was employed for many years thereafter in transporting Government supplies to forts and trading posts along the Missouri river.

The Platte is the second great river in Nebraska. It is nearly 1,200 miles in length. Its head waters originate in the mountains and some of them in lakelets fed by the everlasting snows. By the time it reaches Nebraska it is a broad, shallow, sandy but rapid current. Flowing from west to east through the State it divides it, leaving the larger part on the north. It is not navigable. Flood time is about the same for both rivers. Sometimes for the Platte it is a few days or weeks earlier.

Among other important rivers and creeks

are the Republican, Niobrara, Keya Paha, White, Elkhorn, Logan, the Bow rivers, the Nemahas, the Blues, the Loups, Salt Creek, Weeping Water, the Wahoo, Elk Creek, South and West Iowa Creeks and others.

#### SOIL, AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING.

The elements found in the soil of the greater part of Nebraska forms one of the richest and most tillable soils in the world, and the unrivalled fertility of her soil places Nebraska in the front rank among the great grain producing states of the Union. The soil of the table and upland is composed of what is known as Loess or Lacustrine deposit, most valuable of all for agricultural purposes, and this deposit, of uniform color, prevails over nearly three-fourths of the area of the State. In some places in the northeastern counties it is claimed to be nearly 200 feet thick, but in the balance of the State it ranges from five to 150 feet in thickness. One of the former State Geologists, Prof. Samuel Aughey, after a careful analysis of this soil from samples taken in different portions of the State, incorporated the following in one of his reports: "From my examinations I find that over eighty per cent. of this formation is silicious matter, and so finely comminuted is it that the grains can only be seen under a good microscope. So abundant are the carbonates and phosphates of lime that in many places they form peculiar rounded and oval concretions. Vast numbers of these concretions, from the size of a shot to a walnut, are found almost everywhere by turning over the sod and in excavations. The analysis shows the presence of a comparatively large amount of iron, besides alumina, soda, potash, etc. These elements form one of the richest soils in the world. In fact, in its chemical and physical properties and the mode of its origin, it comes nearest to the loess of the Rhine and the Valley of Egypt. It can never be exhausted until every hill and valley which composes it is entirely worn away. Owing to the wonderfully finely comminuted silica of which the bulk of the deposits consist, it possesses natural drainage in the highest degree. However great the floods of water that fall it soon percolates through this soil, which

in its lowest depths retains it like a sponge. When drouths come, by capillary attraction, the moisture comes up from below, supplying the needs of vegetation in the dryest seasons. This is the reason why all over this region, where this deposit prevails, the native vegetation and cultivated crops are seldom either dried out or drowned out. This is especially the case on old breaking where deep plowing is practiced."

Next in importance after the loess or lacustrine are the alluvium deposits. From an analysis made of the bottom lands, it appears that chemically, alluvium differs from the loess chiefly in having more organic matter and alumina and less silica. The soil of the bottom lands is rich in organic matter. The depth of this soil varies greatly, it often being twenty feet or more in thickness, then again the sand of the subsoil is reached at a depth of two or three feet.

The alkali lands are to be found in different sections of the State but chiefly in the western portion. In the east half there are scarcely any such lands, the majority of the counties having none at all, while in others are small spots. These alkali lands are renovated and made very productive by irrigation, cultivation and drainage. The time is rapidly approaching when these lands will become the most valuable farming sections of the world. They are not confined to any one geological formation, but are found sometimes on the drift, alluvium or the loess. They increase in number from the eastern to the western portions of the State, and where they have been closely examined they are found to vary a great deal in chemical constituents. Generally, however, the alkali is largely composed of soda compounds, with an occasional excess of lime and magnesia or potash. Much of the alkali originated by the accumulation of water in low places. The escape of the water by evaporation left the saline matter behind, and in the case of salt (sodium chloride), which all waters contain in at least minute quantities, the chlorine, by chemical reactions, separated from the sodium, the latter uniting with oxygen and carbonic acid formed the soda compounds. The alkali that exists far down in the soil is also

brought up during dry weather by escaping moisture and is left on the surface when the water is evaporated.

One of the most interesting features of the topography of southern Nebraska is the salt basins stretching along the west side of Salt Creek from Lincoln five or six miles to the north. An early writer said of these: "In ordinary sunny days, of which the climate of Nebraska is so prodigal, these basins, some of which are a mile in diameter, exactly resemble at a distance bodies of limpid water, and it is difficult for a stranger to realize that what he sees reflecting the rays of the sun from a mirror-like surface is a level floor of compact earth, covered with a layer of saline crystals and intersected with tiny rivers of brine flowing into the creek that obtains from them its name and character." The discovery of these basins was made by the Government surveyors in 1856, and at that time great wealth was anticipated for those who would erect suitable works for the manufacture of salt. Several companies were organized to manufacture salt and a good deal of litigation resulted over the rival claims to the various basins.

In certain sections of the western portion of the State are found the "sand hills." Sometimes these hills are comparatively barren but in most places they are fertile enough to sustain a covering of nutritious grasses, and these regions are now famous stock raising areas. In many places in the sandy regions the soil has a mixture of drift and loess which makes it highly fertile when supplied with sufficient moisture.

Irrigation, which is treated of in another part of this volume, has already begun in the western portion of the State on an extensive scale, and the wonderful future of this line of development is surely foretold in the success that has been attained along the Platte river by irrigating the lands. This great work as yet is in its infancy, but enough is already proven along this line to safely predict a most marvelous growth and development of the wealth and resources of western Nebraska by scientific and practical irrigation.

Nebraska is essentially an agricultural State, the bountiful soil and mildness of climate are especially favorable to cereal crops, and in fact

to all the products of the temperate zone, nearly all of which are grown here to perfection, and attain a size and quality rarely found in the older states. It is also one of the most favored and important stock raising countries in the world—in fact, the State of Nebraska, and more especially its northwestern and western portions, is fairly entitled to the first position among the western states and territories as a stock producing and stock sustaining region. Its vast prairies; abundant, luxuriant and nutritious grasses; its rivers, creeks and springs of clear, sparkling waters; and still more, its uniform and delightful climate—these are a few of the more substantial reasons why Nebraska excels as a stock raising country. But even in the far western counties mixed farming is fast gaining headway, and the general rule of the moderate farmer is to raise grain along with stock, and the growth in wealth and productiveness of that region has been marvelously rapid and substantial.

All of the factors which enter into the determination of an ideal climate are found in Nebraska—temperature, forms of relief, condition of the atmosphere, geographical position and rainfall—all combine to make this a climate as satisfactory as can be found anywhere in the Union. Long and mild autumns are characteristic here. During these months, excessive rains seldom fall. Occasionally there is a rough spell in October, but almost invariably it is followed by mild weather which is generally prolonged into December and in some years into January. The climate is particularly healthful. No spot on the globe is absolutely free from disease but this State is singularly exempt from its severest forms. Fever and ague are more rarely met with here than in most States. Where they do occur it is owing to limited local causes or extraordinary exposure, and they are generally successfully treated by the simplest remedies. Many of these cases, contracted elsewhere, come here in hopes of having the disease cured by this climate and they are rarely disappointed if nature is given a chance to exert its full health-making power. The cause of the general exemption from this class of diseases and malarial poisons is found in the peculiar climate and surface conditions of the State.

An early writer in speaking enthusiastically of this climate said: "Nearly everyone who comes to the State feels a general quickening and elasticity of spirits. The appetite and digestion improve wonderfully. Mind and body are lifted up. It must originate from our peculiarities of climate. I have myself felt in this State, as I have never felt it elsewhere, especially when camping out far away from settlements and alone with Nature and God, how luxurious existence was and how pleasant life was intended to be."

Western Nebraska, as a whole, has been what might be called semi-arid, though not in an extreme sense, as many sections have been productive since early settlement. During the last ten years moisture conditions in the entire section have been improving and the productivity has, therefore, been increasing, which has consequently caused a general and gradual increase in land values which is continuing at the present time. Two things in early days caused western Nebraska to be semi-arid; first, lack of sufficient precipitation, and second, hot winds. There have been years when the annual rainfall was sufficient, but at the time when the crops were nearing maturity the hot winds from the south and southwest would blast them. During the past few years innumerable irrigation projects, both government and private, have been turning hundreds and thousands of acres in Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming under irrigation. This great transformation in the southwest will result in eliminating forever any further visitations of hot winds which originated in that territory, at least, under no conditions will they again visit this region with such destroying effect as in the past. This vast irrigated district surrounding Nebraska on the west, southwest and south will result in giving western Nebraska increased precipitation from the great evaporation occurring there.

#### IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA.

Irrigation in Nebraska has made considerable progress during the past few years and the work contemplated by the government along the line of storing the flood water of the North

Platte river will add a large number of acres to the irrigated area.

In the valleys of the Platte and North Platte rivers are found the largest irrigation enterprises of the State. In many places the valley reaches a width of ten to twelve miles and contains some of the best soil to be found anywhere in the State.

On the Republican some very successful ditches have been operated. The total length of these ditches is nearly two hundred miles, covering about fifty thousand acres.

In the northwestern part of the State, a large number of canals have been built using the water from Hat creek, White river and Niobrara river and their tributaries. Most of these ditches are small, but they are of great value, as they furnish the means of supplying winter feed for the cattle which graze upon the range adjacent to these irrigated sections during the greater part of the year. These small ditches also enable the ranchman to raise a variety of products which would be impossible without irrigation.

Many canals have been built taking their water from the Loup rivers and their tributaries. The largest of these, the Great Eastern canal, which heads a short distance above Genoa, has about seventy miles of canal constructed and in operation and covers about forty thousand acres of land. These streams flow for the greater portion of their lengths through a section of the State where the natural rainfall is generally sufficient for the production of good crops, and for this reason only a very small percentage of the flow has been diverted for use in irrigation.

Some very extensive schemes for the development of power have been planned involving the use of the waters of the Loup, Elkhorn and Platte rivers.

Only a few canals have been taken out of the Elkhorn and lower Niobrara rivers for irrigation. Among the largest of these is the Elkhorn Valley canal.

The Elkhorn river is used extensively for the development of power and application has been made for water for several large power plants on the Niobrara.

Some of the smaller streams, such as Lodge Pole, Pumpkin Seed and Frenchman rivers, irrigate an area very much in excess of what would be expected from an examination of the records of their discharge measurements.

The Lodge Pole, which rarely flows more than twenty cubic feet per second at any point at this writing, supplies seventy-seven miles of canal, covering about twelve thousand acres of land, and a large percentage of this land receives sufficient water to insure the production of good crops.

In many localities in Nebraska the land under irrigation has reached a high state of cultivation and a large variety of crops is produced. Under the older canals many well improved farms are found which will compare favorably with any to be found in the eastern portion of the State.

A great deal of alfalfa is grown under irrigation and the cultivation of sugar beets is being rapidly developed. The beets show a very large percentage of sugar and the tonnage is heavy. The abundance of sunshine and the fact that the amount of moisture supplied may be regulated so as to give the growing beets just the amount required, and the further fact that the soil seems to be particularly adapted to their growth, make this an ideal locality for sugar beet culture. Much of the land under irrigation has never been broken up and is devoted to the production of native hay. The native sod when irrigated produces large crops of hay of a very superior quality.

Within the last few years the supreme court has handed down several opinions which have done much to settle the question of irrigation rights in Nebraska. These decisions declare the irrigation laws of the State to be constitutional, define the rights of riparian owners and uphold the rights of appropriators who have made beneficial use of the water. This has done much to establish the stability of existing rights and to encourage appropriators. There are still a number of important points which remain unsettled. Nebraska, extending as it does from the Missouri river almost to the mountains, includes within its borders two distinct regions. The eastern portion of the State is within the humid region and the rainfall is sufficient for success-

full agriculture, and the extreme eastern portion might be classed as semi-arid. Here the rainfall in the past has been very variable. The conditions being so different in different portions of the State, render it very difficult to settle many of the questions which arise in regard to the use of water.

The question of the distribution of the waters of interstate streams is a very important one and one which should be settled as soon as possible. Nebraska is particularly interested in this question. A very large part of the land reclaimed in this State receives its water from the Platte rivers. The pioneers of irrigation have gone into this part of the State and encountered all the hardships incident to the settlement of a new country, and have brought thousands of acres of land under the influence of irrigation and added millions of dollars to the value of the State. These people should be protected in the use of water which they have appropriated, and be assured that subsequent appropriators in other states will not be permitted to divert the water and ruin their work of a lifetime. Some system should be devised whereby the appropriator of the water of any stream who has made beneficial use of the same, should be protected without regard to State lines or other political subdivisions.

In the early days of the settlement of this State there was a great prejudice against irrigation and any one who advocated it was looked upon as an enemy of the State. Many of the pioneers who settled in the western portion of the State, realizing the uncertainty of agriculture when dependent upon the natural rainfall, constructed a number of canals which demonstrated the value of irrigation.

We quote the following article, bearing on this subject, from the latest report issued by the State Board of Agriculture: "Nebraska has now over 2,500 miles of canals, covering over one million acres of land. In the western part of the State the normal flow of many of the streams during the height of the irrigating season has already been appropriated, but only a small portion of the entire flow is used, and a large amount of land can still be reclaimed by an intelligent system of storage and by educating the irrigators to use the water upon the

land when it is to be had, instead of waiting until the crops are suffering and everyone desires to use the full amount of his appropriation. On some of the smaller streams the plan of distributing the water by a time schedule has proved very successful. This allows each appropriator to use all the water available in the stream for a short period and then turn it out to be used by the next one who is entitled to it. In this way it is possible to accomplish much more than could be accomplished when each irrigator is restricted to the amount of his appropriation, which is sometimes only a fraction of a cubic foot per second and is allowed to use it for the entire season.

"We have a district irrigation law in Nebraska which enables a majority of the land-owners in any territory which is susceptible to irrigation from a common source to organize a district, and this district has authority to vote bonds for the construction or purchase of works, and to levy a tax to raise money to pay these bonds, and also to pay for the maintenance of the works. This law has worked out very successfully in many cases, and we have some districts organized under it which are finely improved and in good financial condition.

"There has been considerable development along the line of pumping water for irrigation, and quite a number of plants have been put in operation, employing windmills, water wheels, gasoline and steam engines for the motive power."

Taking everything into consideration, Nebraska has made very good progress in irrigation improvement, and is in position to make still greater development in the future.

#### STATISTICS.

In 1874 the government report showed that Nebraska raised only 3,619,000 bushels of wheat. In 1880 this had grown to 12,922,000. In 1890 the government gave the figures as 15,315,000 bushels, and in 1900, 24,810,000, but since then the State has made wonderful development in the way of wheat growing. In

1902 it raised a crop of 52,726,000 bushels; its crop in 1905 was 48,002,000 bushels; in 1906 its wheat yield was 51,709,000 bushels, and in 1907, when the crop was short everywhere, the government report made it 46,879,000 bushels. It has also become a great corn growing state. As late as 1880 its corn crop was only 59,507,000 bushels. Eight years later it raised 144,217,000 bushels. In 1898 the government reported its crop at 158,754,000 bushels; in 1904 it was 260,942,335 bushels; in 1906 its yield was 241,383,537 bushels, and the reports for 1907 gave the yield as being 169,732,885 bushels.

The above figures are given to show by way of comparison the marvelous growth of the State, and its development as an agricultural region. The growth has been equally marked in regard to other crops, and also in its manufacturing and commercial interests. This is evidenced by the growth of bank deposits in Nebraska. In 1890 the bank deposits in Nebraska were reported as being \$48,770,811. In 1905 they had grown to \$134,991,210; and two years later (1907) were given as being \$178,361,355.13.

In speaking of the prosperity of the State and general condition of its people, Governor Sheldon in closing his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1907, said:

"Our granaries and our store-houses are filled with the products of our farms and our factories. Our pastures and feed-lots contain cattle, hogs and sheep without number. Our commercial and business institutions are solvent. Our people, realizing that they must go up or go down together, have full confidence in each other's honesty and integrity. The industrious and frugal for a decade have been well rewarded for their labor. This has enabled them to provide their families with the comforts of life and build beautiful homes in our cities throughout the country. For all these things that have promoted our peace, prosperity and happiness it is fitting that thanks should be rendered unto Him whose invisible hand controls our destiny."

## CHAPTER II.

### THE DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF LOUISIANA; EARLY EXPLORATIONS, EARLY SETTLEMENT; THE BIRTH OF NE- BRASKA—PRINCIPAL EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE.

IT is difficult looking back through the mist of years to arrive at an incontrovertible conclusion as to just when and by whom the middle portion of the United States was first visited by white men. There is a wealth of interesting historical documents and writings recounting the invasion of this part of the continent by whites and tracing the march of civilization, most of which base their beginnings with the French explorers; but it is now regarded as an established fact by many historical writers that the southwestern and middle portions of the United States were included in Spanish explorations early in the fifteenth century. One of the expeditions which is referred to by many historians is the Coronado expedition. It is related that in about the year 1540 Coronado, who was then Governor of New Gallia, organized an expedition and executed a march from Mexico to the region which is now the heart of Nebraska and Kansas. That was as marvelous an undertaking as the history of this continent affords. Not only was the region to be covered an unknown land, but the obstacles to be overcome, the mountains between and subsequent stretches of sand plains and desert made the undertaking a gigantic one. And yet under these conditions it is said that an army of about one thousand men was pushed across the arid plains, the rugged mountains and barren deserts, which lie between what is now Nebraska and Mexico. This, it must be remembered, was eighty years before the Pilgrims landed on the shores of New England;

sixty-eight years before Hudson discovered the river which bears his name; sixty-six years before John Smith commenced the settlement of what was afterward to be Virginia; and nearly a century before Jean Nicolet established commercial relations with the Indians of Wisconsin. This expedition was organized to search for fabulous wealth which was supposed to exist in these regions, of which marvelous tales had been carried to Mexico. The end of the long march is graphically told by Judge J. W. Savage, a careful student and an eloquent writer on Nebraska's early history, in the following words: "Northward from the Arkansas river for many weary and anxious hours, the little band which accompanied the adventurous general pursued its way over the Kansas plains. July had come, the days were long and hot and the sultry nights crept over the primeval prairie, seeming to rise like a shadowy and threatening specter out of the grass. But stout hearts and good horses brought them at last to what I am satisfied is the southern boundary of Nebraska. And here, along the Platte river, they found the long-sought Kingdom of Quivera; here was Tartarrax, the hoary-headed old ruler of the land. But alas for the vanity of human expectations! The only precious metal they saw was a copper plate hanging to the old chief's breast, by which he set great store; there were no musical bells, no gilded eagle, no silver dishes, no rosary, no image of the Virgin, no cross, no crown, that they had been led to believe existed. In the midst of his dis-

appointment the general took a melancholy pleasure in hanging his guides who had so egregiously misguided him. It is said that the guides here boldly avowed that they knew of no gold, that they had brought the invaders into the wilderness to perish with hunger and hardship, to rid the peaceful dwellers in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys of their hated presence, and met their fate with stoicism which the Spaniards called despair and remorse. Here then, upon the southern boundary of this State at a point not yet easily ascertainable, but doubtless between Gage County on the east and Furnas county on the west, Coronado set foot on the soil of Nebraska and remained for twenty-five days. I have heretofore adverted to the fact that this location of the northern terminus has not met with universal acceptance. The arguments, however, in support of the theory seem to me to be unanswerable."

While it is true that the location of the northern terminus is not definitely settled, most writers concede that Coronado's march—following the itinerary given in the Spanish documents and papers—must have carried this band of explorers up somewhere into the Kansas-Nebraska prairies. The land of Quivera, and the Seven Cities of the Buffalo, referred to is surrounded by much glamour of romantic mystery. Although a number of contemporaneous narratives are preserved referring to this kingdom and to remarkable searches made for it, it is singular that hardly any two writers agree as to the location or the ultimate terminus of the searching expeditions.

At about the same time another event was transpiring, also under the folds of the Spanish flag, which for years stood undisputed in point of priority and an epoch is marked in American history by the discovery of the Mississippi by Ferdinand De Soto in 1542.

It is related that in 1542 Ferdinand De Soto, with a band of Spanish adventurers, acting under a commission from the sovereign of his native land, discovered the Mississippi river about the mouth of the Ouachita. After the sudden death of their leader, in May of that year, his followers, after burying his body in the river, built a small vessel, and in July, 1543, descended the great river to the Gulf of Mexico.

Thus the mouth of the Mississippi was discovered one hundred and thirty years prior to the discovery of its upper valley by the French missionary priests.

By virtue of this and the conquest of Florida, Spain claimed the country bordering on the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, but made no attempt to colonize it permanently. At that time it was tacitly understood by the various maritime states of Europe that the discovery and occupation of any part of the New World made a legitimate title to the country. Although the valley of the Mississippi was thus taken possession of by Spain, the failure of that power to consummate its discovery by planting colonies or settlements, made their title void, and the country was left open to be rediscovered and taken possession by other powers.

In 1534 and 1535 an intelligent and capable French naval officer, Jacques Cartier, discovered and named the St. Lawrence river. He took possession of that country in the name of his king and built a rude fort, in 1541, near the present site of Quebec. This was sixty-six years before the English made a settlement at Jamestown, Virginia. From that time on the country became known and settlements sprang up along the great river and it became the province of New France. In 1608 Champlain selected the site of the old fort of Cartier's as the future capital of the province. Champlain made many explorations in and around the country, and in 1609, ascending a tributary of the St. Lawrence, found that beautiful sheet of water in New York that bears his name. After visiting France, he returned and in 1615, accompanying a tribe of Indians to their far off hunting grounds, discovered Lake Huron.

It was early in the seventeenth century when the revived religion of France quickened the fervor of her noble missionary priests. Led by their zeal to the New World, they penetrated the wilderness in all directions from Quebec, carrying the tidings of the Gospel to the heathen. Along the river St. Lawrence, through the chain of Great Lakes, westward, they pushed their way, establishing missions and endeavoring to turn the savages to their faith. This movement began in 1611, when Father La Caron, a Franciscan friar, the friend and com-



panion of Champlain, made a journey to the rivers of Lake Huron on foot and by paddling a bark canoe. In 1632, on the establishment of a government of New France, under the commission of Louis XIII, and the patronage of his great prime minister, Armand Duplessis, Cardinal Richelieu, the work of converting the Indian passed from the order of St. Francis, to that of Loyola, the famed Jesuit. Burning with a pious zeal and animated by a spirit of self-sacrifice, rarely, if ever, paralleled in the history of missionary work, these latter, simple priests, penetrated the wilds of the Canadian frontier, and through toil and pain, often to martyrdom, carried the cross to the remote tribes of the Mississippi and its tributaries. Bancroft, the historian, says: "The history of their labors is connected with the origin of every celebrated town in the annals of French America; not a cape was turned or a river entered, but a Jesuit led the way."

In 1634 the Jesuits, Brebeuf and Daniels, followed by Lallemand, made a journey into the far west. Joining a party of Huron Indians, who had been in Quebec, and who were returning to their homes, they pushed their way, enduring, without complaint, untold fatigue and suffering, by lake, river and forest. They penetrated to the heart of the Huron wilderness. Near the shores of Lake Iroquois was raised the first house of the Society of Jesus in all that region, and soon two villages, named St. Louis and St. Ignace, sprang up among the primeval forests that were then the homes of the savage red man. The mission of Brebeuf gave to the world its first knowledge of the water courses of the St. Lawrence valley. From a map published in France in 1660 it is seen that these pious priests had explored the country from the waters of the Niagara to the head of Lake Superior and had heard of or seen the shores of Lake Michigan.

As early as 1635 Jean Nicolet, who had been one of Champlain's interpreters, and who had come from his native land, France, to Canada in 1618, reached the western shores of Lake Michigan. In the summer of 1634 he ascended the St. Lawrence river with a party of Hurons, and thence onward to Lake Michigan, and during the following winter traded

with the Indians at what is now Green Bay, Wisconsin. In 1635 he returned to Canada. He was married in Quebec, October 7, 1637, and lived at Three Rivers until 1642, when he died. Of him it is said, in a letter written in 1640, that he had penetrated the farthest into these distant countries and that if he had proceeded "three days more on a great river which flows from that lake (Green Bay), he would have found the sea, for such was the common belief in those days, even among geographers and other scientists.

The hostilities of the Iroquois, or Five Nations, a confederacy of fierce and bloodthirsty savages, prevented the journey of Raymbault and Picard to the west in 1640, but the following year at the great feast of the dead, held by the Algonquins, at Lake Nipising, the Jesuits were invited to visit the land of the Ojibway or Chippewa Indians, at what is now Sault de Sainte Marie. Accordingly, September 17, 1641, Fathers Raymbault and Jogues left the Bay of Penetanguishene in a bark canoe for the rendezvous, where, after a passage of seventeen days, they found two thousand Indians, who had congregated to meet them.

At this assembly the fathers learned of many, as yet unheard of tribes. Here was heard the first mention of the Dacotahs, called in the Ojibway tongue, Nadouechionec or Nadoues-sioux. The latter name, abbreviated by the French, forms the present name of those fierce nomads of the North, the Sioux. It has been truly said "that the French were looking toward the homes of the Sioux, in the great valleys of the Mississippi and Missouri five years before the New England Eliot had addressed the tribes of Indians who dwelt within six miles of Boston harbor." In the ardor of his enthusiasm for discovery Raymbault expected to reach the Pacific Ocean, then supposed to be but a few hundred miles west of where the Mississippi river is now found. However, he was laid low by the hand of death, dying in 1642, of sickness brought on by hardships and exposure.

In August, 1654, two fur traders joined a band of Ottawa Indians and made a long journey into the far west. In two years they returned with some fifty canoes and two hundred and fifty natives. They described the rivers

and lakes of the west, and the tribes whose homes stretched away to the northern sea and mentioned the Sioux who dwelt beyond Lake Superior and who wanted to trade with the white man.

In this way the exploration of the western country was extended from the eastward into the wilds of the great west. The adventurous spirits from the St. Lawrence explored the great lakes and adjacent regions, planting the seeds of commerce and civilization, and we see the trend of exploration pushing still westward toward the land of which we write. Among those who should be mentioned as having helped to carry civilization west of the great lakes and who explored considerable territory in what is now Wisconsin and Illinois were Father Rene Menard, Father Claude Allouez and Father Jaquez Marquette. It seems that in the year 1660 the superior of the Jesuits at Quebec, learning of the many savage tribes to the west of the missions, and burning with zeal for the advancement of the cause of Christ and his church, and aiming at the conversion of the heathen, sent this Father Rene Menard and another priest as apostles among the red men. Father Menard's "hair had been whitened by age, his mind ripened by long experience, and, being well acquainted with the peculiarities of the Indian character, he seemed the man for the mission." The night previous to his departure sleep deserted the eyes of the venerable priest. He knew that he was going into the land of ruthless, savage barbarians, and he thought of his friends. Two hours past midnight he penned a letter to a friend, the pious simplicity of which is a monument to this estimable priest. Early in the morning of the 28th of August, 1660, in company with the party of fur traders, he departed from Three Rivers. Oct. 15th he arrived at a bay on Lake Superior, to which he gave the name of Ste. Theresa, its discovery occurring on her fete day. The party remained at this point all winter, hard pressed for want of food, being driven to all sorts of shifts to avoid starvation. Having received an invitation to visit them from the Hurons and Ottawas, Father Menard started for their villages on the island of St. Michael. In some manner he wandered away from his guide, got

lost, and, although the guide sought him faithfully, was never found; he perished in some unknown manner. Relics of him were found from time to time in Sac and Sioux villages many years after, but no tale ever came to his many waiting friends to tell how or where he died.

In the summer of 1663 the news of his death reached Montreal. His successor was soon found, for the impassive obedience of the members of the Order of Loyola brooked no opposition to the command of a superior. Father Claude Allouez was chosen to carry the cross to these heathens and to follow in the footsteps of Father Menard. Impatiently waiting for the chance to proceed to his work, he was unable to find conveyance and convoy until the summer of 1665, when, in company with six of his own race and color and four hundred savages, he started. He built a mission at La Pointe, on Lake Superior, where he taught the simple natives his religion and took up his work among them. Here he, too, heard about the Indians that had their home on the banks of that mighty river, a stream which the natives knew by the name Messipi.

Although he had done a great work, exploring the country around the southern boundary of what is now Wisconsin and in the northern part of Illinois and had preached to all the Indians met with in that region, Father Allouez grew discouraged and passed on to other fields. September 13, 1669, he was succeeded by the famous Father Jacques Marquette. The design of discovering the Mississippi, a stream about which the Indians had told so much, seems to have originated with Father Marquette in the same year of his reaching the mission of the Holy Ghost, at La Pointe. The year previous he and Father Claude Dablon had established the mission of St. Mary within what is now Michigan. Circumstances about this time were favorable for a voyage of discovery among Indians. The protection afforded to the Algonquins of the west by the commerce with New France had confirmed their attachment and had created for them a political interest in France and in the minds of Louis XIV and his great financier, Colbert. The Intendent of Justice in New France, Talon, determined to extend the power of France to the utmost border of Can-

ada, and for this purpose Nicholas Perrot was despatched to the west as an emissary. The latter proposed a congress or convention of the Indian nations at St. Mary's mission, and the invitation to attend was extended far and wide. Perrot arrived, and in May, 1671, there assembled at the Sault de Ste. Marie a great gathering of Indians from all parts of the northwest. From the headwaters of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi, from the Great Lakes and the prairies beyond, from the valley of the Red river of the north and from the plains of Dakota they came, and it was announced that there should be peace, and that they were all under the protection of France. The same year Pere Marquette gathered together one of the broken branches of the Hurons at Point St. Ignace, which became quite a religious establishment.

These things having been done, the grand exploring expedition to the west to discover the great river so often heard about was the next to be attended to. May 13, 1673, Marquette and Joliet, accompanied by five other Frenchmen, set out. Louis Joliet was a native of Quebec, born in 1645. He was educated by the Jesuits for the priesthood. He, however, determined to become a fur trader, which he did. He was sent, with an associate, to explore the region of the copper mines of Lake Superior. He was a man of close and intelligent observation and possessed considerable mathematical acquirements. In 1673 he was a merchant, courageous, hardy, enterprising. He was appointed by the French authorities at Quebec to discover the Mississippi. He passed up the lakes to Mackinaw, and found at Point Ignace the reverend Father Marquette, who was ready to accompany him. Their outfit was simple, two birch bark canoes and a supply of smoked meat and Indian corn. The friendly Indians tried to dissuade the Father and Joliet from undertaking this voyage, saying that the Indians of that quarter were bad, that they were cruel and relentless and that the river was the abode of all kinds of demons and evil spirits, but this did not intimidate these bold and hardy men. Passing the straits, they followed the north and west shore of Lake Michigan to Green Bay, where they entered the Fox river. This they ascended with great labor until they

came to the village of the Kickapoos and Miamis, the extreme point to which the explorations of the French had as yet extended. Here Marquette was much pleased to see "a beautiful cross planted in the middle of the town, ornamented with white skins, red girdles and bows and arrows which those good people had offered to the Great Manitou, or God, to thank him for the pity he had bestowed upon them during the winter in having given them an abundant chase." On assembling the chiefs of the village and the medicine men, Marquette made them a speech, telling them that Joliet had been sent by the Governor of New France to discover new countries, and himself by God to spread the light of the gospel. He added that he feared not death nor exposure to which he expected to be called on to endure. From this place, under the guidance of two Miami Indians, the expedition started to cross the portage from the Fox to the Wisconsin river. On reaching the latter stream the guide left them and they pushed their way down the rapid waters of the Wisconsin until, upon the 17th of June, their frail barks floated upon the majestic waters of the Mississippi. Down the mighty "Father of Waters" they voyaged until they reached the mouth of the Illinois. Up the latter stream they paddled their way through a virgin land, encountering many difficulties and privations. At the forks of the river they entered the Desplaines, and by that and the Chicago river reached Lake Michigan and finally Green Bay. At the latter point Father Marquette remained to recuperate his exhausted strength, while Joliet and his companions hastened on to Quebec to report his success to his superiors.

The re-discovery of the lower Mississippi remained for the gallant, daring and indefatigable La Salle, to whose labors, privations and enterprise the French settlements in the Mississippi valley were so largely indebted. La Salle was a poor man, for, having relinquished his patrimony on entering the Society of Jesus, on his honorable retirement from that order he had nothing. In 1667, having in the meantime crossed the seas to the new world in search of fortune, he appeared as a fur trader near what is now the city of Montreal. His business led

him to explore both Lakes Ontario and Erie. Full of enthusiasm for discovery and for the colonization of the west, he returned to his native land for help and authority to act. He received the title of Chevalier and considerable grants of land in Canada and returned in 1678. The same year he conveyed a party from Fort Frontenac (now Kingston, Canada) to the neighborhood of Niagara Falls in a vessel of ten tons. This was the first craft that ever sailed up the Niagara river. In 1679, he launched a vessel of some seventy tons burden. On the 7th of August of that year, amid the salvos of artillery, the chants of the Te Deum by the priests and the plaudits of the people and Indians, he sailed from the little harbor. He passed through Lake Erie and through the Detroit and St. Clair rivers into Lake Huron. Onward through the straits of Mackinaw into Lake Michigan his little vessel ploughed its way, and was the first to navigate a sailing craft upon the blue waters of the latter body of water. Coasting down its western shore, La Salle in his bark, which he had called the Griffin, came to Green Bay, where he came to anchor. He had named his little craft in honor of the coat of arms of his patron, comte de Frontenac, then Governor of New France. It was La Salle's intention to utilize his vessel in a regular commerce between the Indians and the settlements, but was doomed to disappointment. Having loaded the vessel with furs and peltries, he ordered the crew to return with it to the Niagara river. He journeyed down to the head of Lake Michigan, and, passing up the St. Joseph river, discovered a portage over the swamps and priaries to the Kankakee river. He followed the latter stream to the Illinois and paddled down the latter river until he reached a point about where now stands the city of Peoria. Misfortunes then accumulated upon the head of La Salle. His vessel was wrecked on its voyage down the lakes and its cargo of furs and pelts totally lost, and the expected stores upon which he had depended to found and keep his colony did not come. The men that were with him grew discontented and threatened to desert. Like a man, and a brave and energetic one, he went to work to carry out the object that he had come so far to accomplish.

He built a fort just below Lake Peoria, to which he gave the appropriate name of Crevecoeur (Broken Heart). He sent Accault, Father Hennepin and others who had accompanied him on a voyage up the Mississippi. This expedition, as related further on, was very successful, it being the first party of white men to tread the shores of the Mississippi near its head and to gaze upon the falls of St. Anthony. After their departure La Salle set his men to work to build a barge or boat in which to descend the river, but as sails and cordage were necessary, he determined to make the journey back to Canada. It was in the depth of winter, and he could have no food but what he could gain by the chase, and no drink but what the streams would afford. Leaving the bulk of his little force under his lieutenant, Tonti, he started with three companions on this almost unparalleled journey through the wilderness. He accomplished his mission, but on returning to the fort which he had built and where he had left his men, he found it deserted. The party, who had been ordered before his departure to erect a new fort on the bluff, had been assaulted by a band of Pottawattamie Indians, and, becoming demoralized, had fled to the shores of Lake Michigan for safety. After wasting some time in a fruitless search for his men, La Salle finally, with the party brought with him, started on his long voyage down the Illinois and Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. April 9, 1682, he took possession of the whole country watered by the great river from its source to its mouth in the name of the King of France, Louis XIV.

Thus was the Mississippi river in its lower course rediscovered and taken possession of as French territory, and thus to La Salle belongs the honor of first navigating its length from the mouth of the Illinois southward. He gave to this vast empire he had added to the French possessions in America the name of Louisiana, in honor of the king, Louis XIV, and to the river which now is called the Mississippi the name of Colbert, after that able minister of finance of France, then one of the foremost men in Europe. He erected a column or cross near the mouth of the river, bearing the leaden plate with an inscription, which may be translated as:

"Louis the Great, King of France and  
Navarre,  
Reigning April 9, 1682."

He found the three channels of the delta, whereby the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. In May, 1683, he returned to France to make a report of his valuable discoveries. In 1685 he returned from his native land with a fleet and with emigrants to colonize the country he had found. Owing to the flat, level country, where land mingled with the water in marsh and swamp spread for hundreds of miles along the north coast of the gulf, he was unable to find the mouth of the river. After beating about for some time in search, he was finally abandoned by Beaujeau, who commanded the fleet, who returned to France. With his store ship and two hundred and thirty emigrants, La Salle was driven ashore and wrecked in Matagorda Bay, in what is now the state of Texas. He hastily constructed a fort of the scattered timbers of the vessel and formed a colony, to which he gave the name of St. Louis. This settlement, made as if by accident, made Texas a part of Louisiana.

After a four-months' search, which he conducted in canoes, for the lost mouth of the river, which proved fruitless, the restless La Salle, in April, 1686, turned his steps toward New Mexico, with twenty companions. He hoped to find the rich gold mines of that country, the Eldorado of the Spanish. The colony did not prosper in his absence. Sickness and death soon took off many of the poor emigrants, so that on his return to that place he found it reduced to about forty or fifty persons. Moving them to a healthier locality, La Salle determined to travel across the country on foot to the settlements on the Illinois and to Canada and bring back emigrants and supplies. January 12, 1687, he started with sixteen men, leaving the fort and settlement in charge of Sieur Barbier. His little party passed the basin of the Colorado and reached a branch of the Trinity river, where, March 20, 1687, the brave and gallant La Salle was assassinated by three of his own party. One of his biographers, who calls him, truly, the father of the French settlements in Louisiana, says: "Not a hint appears in any

writer that has come under our notice that casts a shade upon his integrity and honor. Cool and intrepid at all times, never yielding for a moment to despair, or even despondency, he bore the heavy burdens of his calamities to the end; and his hopes only expired with his breath."

In the meantime, in 1680-'81, Louis Hennepin, the Franciscan friar, started down the Illinois river to explore its mouth, and on reaching the Mississippi extended his explorations northward as far as the Falls of St. Anthony, which he named. The war between the Iroquois and British colonies on the one side, and the French of Canada on the other, commenced in 1689, and any further attempt at colonization of the lower Mississippi was interrupted, and for a number of years exploration and colonization in the west was at a stand still.

It is now time to trace the growth of the great French province of Louisiana in another quarter. This was the parent stem from which grew so many of the great and growing states of the northwest, foremost among which is Nebraska.

At the close of the seventeenth century France by right of discovery and occupation claimed not only Canada and Nova Scotia, then known as New France and Acadia, Hudson's Bay and Newfoundland, but parts of Maine, Vermont and New York, together with the whole of the Mississippi valley and possessions on the Gulf of Mexico, including Texas as far south as the Rio del Norte. The English revolution of 1688, when William of Orange succeeded James II upon the throne of England, nor the peace of Ryswick in 1697, did not affect these possessions of France in the new world. At the period at the close of the great war which had just been brought to an end by the above treaty, in which so many powers were included, none of the possessions of France in the new world engaged the attention of the French government so much as Louisiana. In 1697 D'Iberville still further aroused the interest of the minister of the colonies, and inspired the Comte de Pontchartrain with the idea of building a fort and making a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi. Two vessels were fitted out, one under the command of the Marquis de Chateau-Morand and the other under D'Iberville. Both left France in October,

1698, to find the mouth of the river, and after touching at Pensacola, entered the delta of the Mississippi March 2, 1699. De Chateau-Morand soon went back to Hayti, but D'Iberville ascended the river as far as what is now known as Bayou Goula. At this point he met an Indian chief, who handed him a letter, which was written by Tonti, the man who had left his post at Fort Crevecoeur, where he had been placed by La Salle, and was addressed to the latter as governor of Louisiana. It read as follows:

"Sir:—Having found the post upon which you had set up the king's arms thrown down by the driftwood, I caused another to be fixed on this side about seven leagues from the sea, where I have left a letter in a tree by the side of it. All the nations have smoked the calumet with me; they are people who fear us exceedingly since you have captured this village. I conclude by saying it is a great grief to me that we will return with the ill fortune of not having found you, after we had coasted with two canoes thirty leagues on the Mexican side and twenty-five on that of Florida."

The receipt of this letter was twelve years after the death of La Salle and nineteen after he and Tonti had parted at the Peoria fort. Neither knew what had become of the other. Both had sought the other unavailingly. The letter is interesting as shedding some light on Tonti's conduct, but more so for the peculiarity of the Indian keeping it so long.

D'Iberville again descended the Mississippi and went to the bay of Biloxi, between the Mississippi and Mobile rivers, where he erected a fort. Missions, trading posts and small settlements began to be founded from that time on in the province. As early as 1712 land titles were issued as far north as Kaskaskia, in what is now Illinois. Other settlements arose along the Mississippi at various points from the mouth of the Illinois southward. The French determined to circumvent the English colonies on the Atlantic coast by building a line of forts from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, as was once suggested to the French government by La Salle. Part of this plan was carried into execution. Fort Chartres was constructed on the east bank of the Mississippi, in what is now Randolph county, Illinois, about sixty-five miles south of

the mouth of the Missouri river. This was one of the strongest fortresses on the continent at the time, and its ruins were to be seen a hundred years later. It was the headquarters of the commandant of Louisiana. Shortly after that the villages of Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher and others sprang into existence. Fort Vincennes, on the Wabash, was founded in 1702. A monastery and college was established in 1712 at Kaskaskia, a very important post at that time and afterward the capital of the state of Illinois. The French laid claim to all the great Mississippi valley at that time. "France," says Bancroft, "had obtained, under Providence, the guardianship of this immense district of country, not, as it proved, for her own benefit, but rather as a trustee for the infant nation by which it was one day to be inherited."

By the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, France ceded to England her possessions in Hudson's Bay, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, but the former power retained the sovereignty of Canada and Louisiana. In 1711 the affairs of the latter were placed in the hands of a governor general, but this only lasted one year. The colony not meeting the expectations of the government of the mother country, in 1712 was farmed out to a company to be carried on by private capital.

In the year 1712 the entire province of Louisiana, including the vast country between the Rocky Mountains on the west and the Alleghanies on the east—in fact the entire area drained by the Mississippi was granted to Anthony Crozart or Crozat, a wealthy French merchant of Paris. Within his grant was the whole of the territory which now forms the State of Nebraska. It was stipulated that every two years Crozart was to send two ships from France with goods and emigrants. In his grant the river "heretofore called the Mississippi" is named "St. Louis;" the "Missourys" is called "St. Phillip," and the "Quabache" (the Wabash and Ohio united) is named "St. Jerome." Louisiana was made dependent upon the general government of New France (or Canada). The laws of Paris were to be observed. Crozart's patent extended for a term of sixteen years but was resigned in 1717 after five years. Every Spanish port on the gulf was closed to its commerce and the occupation of Louisiana was at that time deemed an encroachment upon Span-

ish rights by that proud nation. Soon after the relinquishment of the Crozart charter the colony of Louisiana was granted to the Mississippi Company. Projected by the dreamer John Law, of South sea bubble fame with a complete monopoly of its trade and commerce to declare and prosecute wars and appoint officers. This company established Fort Chartres, about sixty-five miles below the mouth of the Missouri on the east side of the Mississippi. Mechanics, miners and artesans were encouraged to emigrate and in 1717 the city of New Orleans was founded. The Illinois country received a considerable accession and settlements now began to extend along the banks of the Mississippi.

In 1718 the new company sent eight hundred emigrants to Louisiana. These people Governor Bienville settled at what is now New Orleans, but three years later the remainder of these people, some two hundred, were found still encamped on the site of the future city, they not having energy enough to build houses for themselves. The larger part had died on account of the climate and malarious condition of the land. In May, 1720, the bubble burst, the land company went into bankruptcy, impoverishing France both in its public funds and private fortunes. The effect on the infant settlement in the new world was more disastrous, if possible. The principal occupation of the new settlers, like their Spanish neighbors, was the search for immense mines of gold and silver, for which they neglected the enormous natural agricultural resources of the country, now the granary of the world and the source of supply of the larger part of the cotton and cane sugar of commerce. The contrast was strong between the colonies of the Latin races and those of Anglo-Saxon origin.

In 1719 there arrived in what is now Illinois one Phillipe Francois Renault, who had been appointed director general of the mines of Louisiana. With him he brought two hundred miners and artisans. The extent of the country explored at that time embraced among others the headwaters of the Minnesota and the Red river of the North, the tributaries of the Missouri, and even extended to the Rocky Mountains.

About this time hostilities with the Indians broke out, and a war with Spain threatened the lower part of the province. From 1712 to 1746

the settlers in Louisiana fought with the savages. In the latter year, at Butte des Morts and on the Wisconsin river, the Fox Indians were defeated and driven westward. During this time, in 1729, the Natchez, Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians rose and massacred all within their reach. Military operations against them were taken. The Choctaws were detached from the confederacy by the diplomacy of Le Sueur, the famous explorer, and the Natchez defeated. The latter's chief, Great Sun, and four hundred of his people were taken prisoners and sold as slaves in Hispaniola, now the island of San Domingo-Hayti. Thus perished this interesting tribe, who were at that time semi-civilized or had a civilization of their own approaching in some degree that of the Aztec of Mexico.

In 1719 Dutisne, a French officer was sent from New Orleans by the Governor of Louisiana into the country west of the Mississippi and revisited a village of Osage Indians, five miles from the Osage river, "at eighty leagues above its mouth." Thence he crossed to the northwest one hundred and twenty miles over prairies abounding with buffaloes to some villages of the Pawnees. He traveled westward fifteen days more, which brought him to the Palcukahs a warlike tribe of Indians. Here he erected a cross with the arms of the king, September 27, 1719. It is thought that Dutisne set foot on Nebraska soil on this trip. If he did not he could not have been far from the Nebraska line. From the writings of Charlevoix concerning these explorations we quote the following:

"We arrived at the mouth of the Missouri on October 10, 1721. I believe this is the finest confluence in the world. The two rivers are much the same in breadth, each about half a league; but the Missouri is by far the most rapid, and seems to enter the Mississippi like a conqueror, through which it carries its white waters to the other shore without mixing them; afterward it gives its color to the Mississippi which it never loses again, but carries it quite down to the sea. The Osages, a pretty numerous nation, settled on the side of a river which bears their name and which runs into the Missouri about forty leagues from its junction with the Mississippi, send once or twice a year, to sing the Calumet amongst the Kalkaskias, and are act-

ually there at present. I have just seen a Missouri woman who told me that her nation is the first we meet with going up the Missouri. This nation (the Missouri) is situated eighty leagues from the confluence of the Missouri river with the Mississippi." Charlevoix also gives the first information we have of the tribes of Indians above the Missouri nation. Higher up we find the Cansez (Kansas); then the Octotatoes (Otoes), which some call the Mactotatas; then the Ajouez (Iowas) and Panis (Pawnees), a very populous nation divided into several cantons, which have names very different from each other. All the people I have mentioned inhabit the west side of the Missouri, except the Ajouez (Iowas), which are on the east side, neighbors of the Sioux, and their allies." Another writer says: "It is evident that during the first half of the seventeenth century, the country now forming the State of Nebraska was inhabited along its southern border by the Kansas Indians; that the Platte river, then called the Divere des Panis, was the home of the Pawnees, who also had villages to the northward at a point a considerable distance up the Missouri river. But to the westward, on the headwaters of the Kansas river, of the Platte river and of the Niobrara, lived the Padoucahs, a tribe long since extinct.

In about 1721-24 the French under M de Bourgmont erected a fort on an island in the Missouri river, above the mouth of the Osage river, which post was called "Fort Orleans," But the stockade was attacked after its completion and occupation, and all the garrison slain. Bourgmont the builder of this Fort Orleans, before its destruction passed many leagues up to the northwest of this fort into the Nebraska and Kansas country, and made firm friends with the Padoucahs, who had previously been seen by Dutisne.

In 1732 the Mississippi company surrendered their charter to the French government and then came the bursting of the "Mississippi bubble." This company had held possession of Louisiana for fourteen years and left it with a population of five thousand whites and half as many blacks. On the 10th of April, 1732, the French King declared the province free to all his subjects, with equal privileges as to trade and commerce. Though the company had done little for the en-

during welfare of the Mississippi valley regions, yet it did something; the cultivation of tobacco and rice was introduced; the lead mines of Missouri were opened, and, in the Illinois country, the cultivation of wheat began to assume some importance, but the immediate valley of the Missouri and the country to the west remained wholly in possession of the native tribes. For thirty years or more after this there was but little worthy of special mention that transpired in the upper portion of the Louisiana province. St. Genevieve, on the west side of the Mississippi, within what is now Missouri was founded, and during 1762 the first village was established on the Missouri river named "Village du Cote" now St. Charles, Mo. In the same year the Governor General of Louisiana granted to Laclede and others a charter under the name of the "Louisiana Fur Company," which, among other things, conferred the exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians of the Missouri River. But just before this time, momentous events had transpired in Canada. This country was conquered by the English, and the province of Louisiana became the property of other powers.

A brief review of the events leading up to the transfer of Louisiana to Spain by the French will be appropriate in this connection.

On the 10th of April, 1732, after the bursting of the "Mississippi bubble" and the surrender of the charter of the Mississippi Company, the control of the commerce of Louisiana reverted to the crown of France. Bienville remained as governor for the French king until 1735. In the meantime a jealousy and rivalry had sprung up between Louisiana and the English colonies on the Atlantic coast which became fierce and bitter. In 1753 the first actual conflict arose between the French and English colonists. The French exerted every effort to prevent the other colonists from attempting to extend their settlements toward the Mississippi. The avowal was made of the purpose of seizing and punishing any Englishman found in the Ohio or Mississippi valley. To carry out their purpose the French seized upon a piece of territory claimed by Virginia, and, alive to their interests, protests were made by the colonists of Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. In 1753 Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, sent George Washington, then a young



man of twenty-one, to the French commandant to demand by what right he invaded British soil in time of peace between France and England. Gardeur de St. Pierre, the French officer in command, was met near the headwaters of the Allegheny by the young colonist, after a difficult winter journey. Washington, on stating his demands, received the insolent answer that they would not discuss right, but as they had discovered the country they would hold it.

On the return of Washington, in January, 1754, he made his report. Forces were raised, and, under Colonel Washington, marched upon the enemy. They had an action in western Pennsylvania with some of the French troops, in which ten of the latter, with their commander, Jumonville, were killed. Some twenty French were made prisoners. The French receiving reinforcements, Washington was forced to fall back before overwhelming numbers. At Green Meadows he erected a rude stockade, which he called Fort Necessity. Here he was, shortly after, surrounded by a force consisting of some six hundred French and a hundred or two Indians. On the 3d of July he was forced to capitulate, and July 4, 1754, the British troops (or rather the colonials) withdrew from the Ohio valley. War between England and France broke out in May, 1755. This conflict lasted, in the colonies, with various fortunes, until February 10, 1763, when the treaty of Paris was signed by the warring powers of Europe. By this instrument France renounced all her title to New France, now Canada, and all the land lying east of the Mississippi river, except the island and town of New Orleans.

By the conquest of Canada by the British in 1760 the province of Louisiana alone remained to France, but even this she was not in a position to hold. On November 3rd, 1762, she ceded it to Spain, shorn however, of its eastern half which fell to the English as stated. The entire region of the Missouri river including all that now forms Nebraska was thereafter for thirty-seven years, Spanish territory, but Spain did not at once take possession of this territory. On February 15th, 1764, Laclède's company established itself on the present site of the City of St. Louis where he founded that city. A few years later a company of Spanish troops took possession of

St. Louis in the name of the King of Spain and, in 1770, French possession was at an end in so much of upper Louisiana as lay west of the Mississippi, for in that year a lieutenant-governor arrived at St. Louis and extended his authority over the whole region.

In 1783 Great Britain by a definite treaty of peace signed September 3, relinquished all claim and ceded to the United States all the territory east of the Mississippi river to the Atlantic ocean from a line along the great lakes on the north southward to the thirty-first parallel and southern border of Georgia. This was the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, which terminated the Revolutionary war. At the same time the British government ceded to Spain all the Floridas which she had taken east of Louisiana and south of the southern limits of the united colonies just freed. It will therefore be seen that as yet the territory now constituting the State of Nebraska was no part of the United States, but remained a possession of Spain, and the home of savage nations, visited only by the vagrant trader to traffic in furs with the different tribes. These traders were mostly Frenchmen. Sometimes they would have houses and remain stationary for one, two or even more years; but sooner or later they all departed from the country.

At an early period after the conclusion of peace the people of the United States began to demand the free navigation of the Mississippi river. The Spanish power holding one bank entirely, and both part of its course, assumed that they had exclusive use of it, and demanded heavy tolls on all imports south of the mouth of the Ohio. This was a vexed question at the time, and came, at one period, near disrupting the country, the intrigues of Miro and Carondelet, the Spanish governors, tending to the separation of the western colonies from the eastern. All these questions were quieted by the treaty of Madrid, October 20, 1795, by which the free navigation of the river was assured and the use of New Orleans as a port of entry or deposit granted. October 16, 1802, these rights were revoked by Morales, then intendent of Louisiana, but this action was not acquiesced in by the governor. Indignation ran high in the United States at that time over the matter. To effectually secure the rights of the United States in the navi-

gation and commerce of the Mississippi, President Thomas Jefferson, in January, 1803, sent a message to the Senate of the United States nominating Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe ministers to the court of France, with full authority to conclude a treaty to that end. Previous to this all the Louisianas had passed back into the possession of France. By a treaty made between the republic of France and Spain the latter power had agreed to furnish a monthly war contribution to France, as she was unable to furnish soldiers for a common war. This debt, not being paid, accumulated until poverty-stricken or favorite-ridden Spain could not pay. At the same time, the first consul, Bonaparte, had constructed out of some fragments of Italy remaining in his hands the kingdom of Euria. Now Spain proposed that she would, on the cancellation of the debt due by her, and the gift of the kingdom of Euria to the deposed Prince of Parma, son-in-law of the king of Spain, make over to France her province of Louisiana. This was acceded to, and by the hands of her chief magistrate the new monarchs were crowned in Paris and sent to their new government, and, by the treaty signed at Madrid, March 21, 1801. France received back the immense tract of territory then known as Louisiana. Thus Nebraska was again French territory.

The newly accredited ministers of the United States arrived in Paris at a critical time. The hollow peace which followed the treaty of Amiens between England and France was strained to its utmost. Napoleon, with the admirable foresight which governed all his military measures, saw that this vast colony across the seas would be lost to him if war should break out between France and England. He took measures accordingly. Summoning M. Marbois, the secretary of finance, he broached the idea of selling to the Americans the whole province of Louisiana. In this he was governed by several motives. He felt he was making a friend of the American people and casting a bone of contention between them and the English government, and he also procured money with which to carry on the war. M. Marbois sent for the ministers and proposed the matter. Messrs. Monroe and Livingston were, neither of them, dismayed at their want of powers to make any such a treaty, entered into

the stipulation, subject, of course, to the ratification of their government. By the terms of this paper France ceded to the United States the whole province of Louisiana, for which she was to receive the sum of fifteen million dollars, and the United States assumed, also, the payment of certain claims against the French government. These latter were by merchants and ship owners who had suffered loss by the seizure of their vessels and cargoes by the Directory, a former government in France. The original price, which was paid through banking houses in Amsterdam, and the "spoliation claims" above mentioned, brought the price of Louisiana up to \$27,267,621.98, as officially stated. This treaty was signed April 30, 1803. Much opposition developed in the United States to the ratification of the treaty, New England being particularly bitter against it. The far-seeing statesmen of that day alone appreciated the vast importance of the territory so cheaply purchased. The administration was bitterly attacked by the Federalists, and it was claimed that all kinds of danger to the republic would grow out of the confirmation of the treaty. Sober common sense, however, prevailed, and the treaty was confirmed. In December of the same year the province was officially delivered to the commissioners appointed to receive it, Governor Claiborne, of Mississippi, and General James Wilkinson, of the United States Army. It is related that these latter were just in time, as a British fleet was approaching New Orleans to take possession when the stars and stripes were being hoisted over it.

By these means the United States became possessed of a territory extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the forty-ninth parallel of north latitude, and from the banks of the Mississippi to the crest of the Rocky Mountains. If the treaty, which was confirmed through the personal influence of President Jefferson, had miscarried our now grand republic would have been bounded on the west by the "Father of Waters," and the vast empire lying west of it, now a valuable part of the United States, would have been in the possession of a foreign power. To that act of Livingston and Monroe in transcending their powers, the personal influence and wisdom of President Jefferson, and the acquiescence of the Senate and the people in an act only after it had

been done, is due the fact that Nebraska is now a part of the Federal Union.

At that time the territory since known by the name of the Louisiana purchase included what is now the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota (or the greater part of it), North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado. It also included Indian Territory and Oklahoma.

The full text of the treaty of cession between the United States of America and the French Republic is as follows:

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, desiring to remove all sources of misunderstanding relative to the objects of discussion mentioned in the second and fifth articles of the convention of the 8th Vendemaire, an 9 (30 September, 1800), relative to the rights claimed by the United States, in virtue of the treaty concluded at Madrid, the 27th of October, 1795, between his Catholic Majesty and the said United States, and willing to strengthen the union and friendship which at the time of the said convention was happily re-established between the two nations, have respectfully named their plenipotentiaries, to-wit: the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the said States, Robert R. Livingston, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, and James Monroe, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the said States, near the government of the French Republic; and the First Consul, in the name of the French people, the French citizen Barbe Marbois, Minister of the Public Treasury, who, after having respectively exchanged their full powers, have agreed to the following articles:

Article I. WHEREAS, By the article the third of the treaty concluded at St. Ildefonso, the 9th Vendemaire, an 9, (1st October, 1800), between the First Consul of the French Republic and his Catholic Majesty, it was agreed as follows: "His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to retrocede to the French Republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein relative to his royal highness, the Duke of Parma, the colony or province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States;" and

WHEREAS, In pursuance of the treaty, and particularly of the third article, the French Republic has an incontestible title to the domain and the possession of the said territory: the First Consul of the French Republic desiring to give to the United States a strong

proof of his friendship, doth hereby cede to the United States, in the name of the French Republic, forever, and in full sovereignty, the said territory, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner as they have been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above-mentioned treaty, concluded with his Catholic Majesty.

Article II. In the cession made by the preceding article, are included the adjacent islands belonging to Louisiana, all public lots and squares, vacant lands, and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks and other edifices which are not private property. The archives, papers and documents relative to the domain and sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependencies, will be left in the possession of the Commissioners of the United States, and copies will be afterward given in due form to the magistrates and municipal officers of such of the said papers and documents as may be necessary to them.

Article III. The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the federal constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the meantime they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion which they profess.

Article IV. There shall be sent, by the Government of France, a Commissary to Louisiana, to the end that he do every act necessary, as well to receive from the officers of his Catholic Majesty the said country and its dependencies in the name of the French Republic, if it has not been already done, as to transmit it in the name of the French Republic to the Commissary or agent of the United States

Article V. Immediately after the ratification of the present treaty by the President of the United States, and in case that of the first consul shall have been previously obtained, the Commissary of the French Republic shall remit all the military posts of New Orleans and other parts of the ceded territory, to the Commissary or Commissaries named by the President to take possession; the troops, whether of France or Spain, who may be there, shall cease to occupy any military post from the time of taking possession, and shall be embarked as soon as possible, in the course of three months after the ratification of this treaty.

Article VI. The United States promise to execute such treaties and articles as may have been agreed between Spain and the tribes and nations of Indians, until by mutual consent of the United States and the said tribes or nations, other suitable articles shall have been agreed upon.

Article VII. As it is reciprocally advantageous to the commerce of France and the United States to encourage the communication of both nations, for a limited time, in the country ceded by the present treaty, until general arrangements relative to the commerce of both nations may be agreed on, it has been agreed be-

tween the contracting parties, that the French ships coming directly from France or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce or manufactures of France or her said colonies, and the ships of Spain coming directly from Spain or any of her colonies, loaded only with the produce or manufactures of Spain or her colonies, shall be admitted during the space of twelve years, in the ports of New Orleans, and all other legal ports of entry within the ceded territory, in the same manner as the ships of the United States, coming directly from France or Spain or any of their colonies, without being subject to any other or greater duty on merchandise, or other or greater tonnage than those paid by the citizens of the United States.

During the space of time above-mentioned, no other nation shall have a right to the same privileges in the ports of the ceded territory; the twelve years shall commence three months after the exchange of ratifications, if it shall take place in France, or three months after it shall have been notified at Paris to the French Government, if it shall take place in the United States; it is, however, well understood, that the object of the above article is to favor the manufactures, commerce, freight and navigation of France and Spain so far as relates to the importations that the French and Spanish shall make into the said ports of the United States, without in any sort affecting the regulations that the United States may make concerning the exportation of the produce and merchandise of the United States, or any right they may have to make such regulations.

Article VIII. In future, and forever after the expiration of the twelve years, the ships of France shall be treated upon the footing of the most favored nations in the ports above-mentioned.

Article IX. The particular convention signed this day by the respective Ministers, having for its objects to provide for the payment of debts due to the citizens of the United States by the French Republic, prior to the 30th of September, 1800 (8th Vendemaire, 9), is approved, and to have its execution in the same manner as if it had been inserted in the present treaty, and it shall be ratified in the same form and in the same time, so that the one shall not be ratified distinct from the other.

Another particular convention, signed at the same date as the present treaty, relative to a definite rule between the contracting parties, is in like manner approved, and will be ratified in the same form and in the same time, and jointly.

Article X. The present treaty shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratification shall be exchanged in the space of six months after the date of the signature by the Ministers Plenipotentiary, or sooner if possible. In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed these articles in the French and English languages, declaring, nevertheless, that the present treaty was originally agreed to in the French language; and have thereunto set their seals.

Done at Paris, the tenth day of Floreal, in the

eleventh year of the French Republic, and the 30th April, 1803.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON,	[L. S.]
JAMES MONROE,	[L. S.]
BARBE MARBOIS,	[L. S.]

An act was passed by Congress October 31, 1803, which authorized the President of the United States to take possession of Louisiana and form a temporary government thereof. By this act, the government was vested in such manner as the President of the United States might direct. But the authority of the general government really dates from March 10, 1804, on which date Amos Stoddard assumed the duties of Governor of Upper Louisiana. On the 26th of that month, Congress erected Louisiana into the territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana. The division line was the southern boundary of Mississippi territory and the thirty-third degree of latitude. So Nebraska was then a part of the District of Louisiana, the latter being all of the French cession west of the Mississippi river except the present State of Louisiana. The government of this large district was committed to the officers of the Territory of Indiana.

The Lewis and Clark expedition was the next move directed toward exploring and improving the newly acquired territory. This expedition was planned by the President in the summer of 1803 for the purpose of discovering the courses and sources of the Missouri and the most convenient water communication thence to the Pacific ocean. Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, both army officers, were given command. The party started in May, 1804, and consisted of nine young men from Kentucky, fourteen soldiers of the United States army, who volunteered their services, two French watermen, an interpreter and hunter and a colored servant of Capt. Clark. In addition to these, who were enlisted for the whole expedition, a corporal and six soldiers, also nine watermen, were engaged to accompany the expedition as far as the Mandan nation in order to assist in carrying the stores or repelling an attack. This expedition embarked in three boats up the Missouri river. On May 25th they reached LaCharrette a little settlement of seven houses on the Missouri river about fifty miles above its mouth in what is now the State

of Missouri. This was the last settlement of white people on the Missouri river. From this point onward, there was no civilization. Continuing up the river the expedition reached and encamped on a large island of sand on the north side of the Missouri, immediately opposite the mouth of the River Nemaha on the evening of July 11th. As the party proceeded from this point northwest to the mouth of the Niobrara they explored much of what is now the eastern boundary of Nebraska, an account of what they saw is of especial interest in this connection. We therefore give their daily journal until the Platte was reached:

"Thursday, 12 (July, 1804). We remained here today for the purpose of refreshing the party and making lunar observations. The Nemahaw empties itself into the Missouri from the south, and is eighty yards wide at its confluence, which is in latitude 39 degrees, 55 minutes and 56 seconds. Captain Clark ascended it in the pirogue about two miles, to the mouth of a small creek on the lower side. On going ashore, he found in the level plain several artificial mounds, or graves, and, on the adjoining hills, others of a larger size. This appearance indicates sufficiently the former population of this country, the mounds being certainly intended as tombs, the Indians of the Missouri still preserving the custom of interring the dead on high ground. From the top of the highest mound a delightful prospect presented itself—the level and extensive meadows watered by the Nemahaw and enlivened by the few trees and shrubs skirting the borders of the river and its tributary streams the lowland of the Missouri covered with undulating grass, nearly five feet high, gradually rising into a second plain, where rich weeds and flowers are interspersed with copses of the Osage plum; farther back were seen small groves of trees, and abundance of grapes, the wild cherry of the Missouri, resembling our own but larger, and growing on a small bush, and the choke-cherry, which we observed for the first time. Some of the grapes gathered today are nearly ripe. On the south of the Nemahaw and about a quarter of a mile from its mouth, is a cliff of freestone, in which are various inscriptions and marks made by the Indians. The sand island on which we

are encamped is covered with two species of willow—broad and narrow leaf.

"July 13. We proceeded at sunrise with a fair wind from the south, and at two miles passed the mouth of a small river on the north called Big Torkio. A channel from the bed of the Missouri once ran into this river and formed an island called St. Joseph's, but the channel is now filled up and the island is added to the northern shore. Farther on to the south is situated an extensive plain, covered with a grass resembling timothy in its general appearance, except the seed, which is like flax-seed, and also a number of grape-vines. At twelve miles, we passed an island on the north, above which is a large sand-bar covered with willows, and, at twenty and a half miles, stopped on a large sand-bar in the middle of the river, opposite a high, handsome prairie, which extends to the hills four or five miles distant though near the bank the land is low and subject to be overflowed. This day was exceedingly fine and pleasant, a storm of wind last night from the north-northeast having cooled the air.

"July 14: We had some hard showers of rain before 7 o'clock, when we set out. We had just reached the end of the sand island, and seen the opposite banks fall in, and so lined with timber that we could not approach it without danger, when a sudden squall from the northeast struck the boat on the starboard quarter and would have certainly dashed her to pieces on the sand island if the party had not leaped into the river, and with the aid of the anchor and cable, kept her off—the waves dashing over her for the space of forty minutes, after which the river became almost instantly calm and smooth. The two pirogues were ahead, in a situation nearly similar, but fortunately no damage was done to the boats or the loading. The wind having shifted to the southeast, we came, at the distance of two miles, to an island on the north. One mile above, on the same side of the river, is a small factory, where a merchant of St. Louis traded with the Otoes and Pawnees two years ago. Near this is an extensive lowland, part of which is overflowed occasionally, the rest is rich and well timbered. The wind again changed to northwest by north. At seven and a half miles, we reached

the lower point of a large island on the north side. A small distance above this point is a river, called by the Maha (now Omaha) Indians, the Nishnabotona. This is a considerable creek, nearly as large as the Mine River, and runs parallel to the Missouri the greater part of its course, being fifty yards wide at its mouth. In the prairies or glades, we saw wild timothy, lambsquarter, huckleberries, and, on the edge of the river, summer grapes, plums and gooseberries. We also saw to-day, for the first time, some elk, at which some of the party shot, but at too great a distance. We encamped on the north side of the island, a little above Nishnabotona, having made nine miles. The river fell a little.

"July 15. A thick fog prevented our leaving the encampment before 7. At about four miles, we reached the extremity of the large island and, crossing to the south (side of the Missouri), at the distance of seven miles, arrived at the Little Nemaha, a small river from the south, forty yards wide a little above its mouth, but contracting as do almost all the water emptying into the Missouri at its confluence. At nine and three-quarter miles we encamped on a woody point on the south. Along the southern bank is a rich lowland, covered with peavine and rich weeds, and watered by small streams rising in the adjoining prairies. They, too, are rich, and though with abundance of grass, have no timber except what grows near the water; interspersed through both are grape vines, plums of two kinds, two species of wild cherry, hazelnuts and gooseberries. On the south, there is one unbroken plain, on the north, the river is skirted with some timber, behind which the plain extends some four or five miles to the hills, which seem to have little wood.

"July 16. We continued our route between a large island opposite to our last night's encampment and an extensive prairie on the south. About six miles, we came to another large island called Fairsun Island, on the same side, above which is a spot where about twenty acres of the hill have fallen into the river. Near this is a cliff of sandstone for two miles, which is much frequented by birds. At this place, the river is about one mile wide, but not deep, as the timber or sawyers may be seen scattered across the

whole bottom. At twenty miles distance, we saw on the south an island called by the French l'Isle Chance, or Bald Island, opposite to a large prairie which we called Baldpoint Prairie, from a ridge of naked hills that bound it, running parallel with the river so far as we could see, and from three to six miles distance. To the south, the hills touch the river. We encamped a quarter of a mile beyond this in a point of woods on the north side. The river continues to fall.

"Tuesday, July 17. We remained here this day in order to make observations and correct the chronometer, which ran down on Sunday. The latitude we found to be 40 degrees, 27 minutes, 5 seconds. The observation of the time proved our chronometer to be slow 5 minutes and 51 seconds. The highlands bear from our camp north, 25 degrees west, up the river. Capt Lewis rode up the country and saw the Nishnabotona about ten or twelve miles from its mouth, at a place not more than three hundred yards from the Missouri, and a little above our camp. It then passes near the foot of the Bald Hills and is at least six feet below the level of the Missouri. On its banks are the oak, walnut and mulberry.

"Wednesday, July 18. We passed several bad sand-bars in the course of the day, and made eighteen miles and encamped on the south (of the Missouri) opposite to the lower point of the Oven Islands. An Indian dog came to the bank; he appeared to have been lost and was nearly starved. We gave him some food, but he would not follow us.

"Thursday, July 19. The Oven Islands are small and two in number, one near the south shore, the other in the middle of the river. Opposite to them is the prairie called Terrien's Oven, from a trader of that name. We encamped on the western extremity of the island, in the middle of the river, having made ten and three-quarter miles.

"Friday, July 20. We passed, at about three miles distance, a small willow island to the north and a creek on the south, about twenty-five yards wide, by the French called L'eau qui Pleure, or the Weeping Water. Thence we made two and one-half miles to another island; three miles farther to a third; six miles beyond, which is a

fourth island, at the head of which we camped on the southern shore; (made) in all eighteen miles.

"Saturday, July 21. We had a breeze from the southeast, by the aid of which we passed, at about ten miles, a willow island on the south, near highlands, covered with timber at the bank, and formed of limestone with cemented shells. On the opposite bank is a sand-bar, and the land near it is cut through at high water by small channels, forming a number of islands. The wind lulled at 7 o'clock, and we reached, in the rain, at the distance of fourteen miles, the great river Platte."

On the morning of the 22d of July, the party again set sail, and, having found, at a distance of ten miles from the mouth of the Platte, a high and shaded situation on the north side of the Missouri, they encamped there to make observations and to send for the neighboring tribes for the purpose of making known to them the recent change in the government and the wish of the United States to cultivate their friendship. That time of the year was the one in which the Indians go out into the prairies to hunt the buffalo, but, as some hunters' tracks had been discovered, and, as the plains were on fire in the direction of the Indian villages, it was hoped that they might have returned to gather the green corn. Two men were therefore dispatched to the Otoe or Pawnee villages with a present of tobacco and an invitation to the chiefs to visit the company at their encampment. Their first course was through an open prairie to the south, in which they crossed Butterfly Creek. They then reached a small beautiful river called Come de Cerf, or Elkhorn River, about one hundred yards wide, with clear water and a gravelly channel. It emptied a little below the Otoe village into the Platte, which they crossed and arrived at the town, about forty-five miles from the point of starting. They found no Indians there, though they saw some fresh tracks of a small party.

The Otoes were once a powerful nation, and lived about twenty miles above the Platte, on the southern bank of the Missouri. Being reduced, they emigrated to the neighborhood of the Pawnees, under whose protection they were then living. Their village was on the south side of the Platte, about thirty miles from its mouth,

and their number was 200 men, including about thirty families of Missouris (all that were left), who were incorporated with them. Five leagues above them, on the same side of the river, resided the Pawnees. This nation, once among the most numerous of those inhabiting the valley of the Missouri, had gradually been dispersed and broken, until they were now greatly reduced in numbers. They consisted of four bands—the first was the one just mentioned, of about 500 men, to whom of late years had been added the second band called Republican Pawnees, from their having lived previously on the Republican branch of the Kansas River, whence they emigrated to join the principal band on the Platte. They amounted to nearly 250 men. The third was the Pawnees Loups, or Wolf Pawnees, who reside on the Wolf Fork of the Platte, about ninety miles from the principal Pawnees. These numbered 280 men. The fourth band originally resided on the Kansas and Arkansas, but, in their war with the Osages, they were so often defeated that they at length retired to the Red River, where they formed a tribe of 400 men. To the westward of the Pawnees, upon the Platte, were a number of wandering tribes supposed to have previously been of the Padoucahs, previously mentioned.

The expedition again started up the Missouri on the 27th of July. At ten and a half miles, there was seen and examined a curious collection of mounds, on the south side of the river. Not far from a low piece of land and a pond was discovered a tract of about 200 acres covered with these prehistoric earthworks of different heights, shapes and sizes, some of sand and some of both earth and sand, the largest being nearest the river. After making fifteen miles, the party encamped for the night on the Nebraska side of the Missouri. The next day (July 28), they reached the place where the Iowa Indians formerly lived. These were a branch of the Otoes and emigrated thence to the river Des Moines. The hunter to the expedition, in the evening, brought to the camp a Missouri Indian, whom he had found with two others, dressing an elk. They were perfectly friendly, gave him some of the meat, and one of them agreed to accompany him in. He was one of the few remaining Missouris living with the Otoes. He belonged to a small

party, whose camp was four miles from the river. He reported that the body of the Otoes were hunting buffalo on the plains. He appeared quite sprightly and his language resembled that of the Osage, particularly in his calling a chief 'inca.' This name was probably learned from the Spaniards of New Mexico. Capts. Lewis and Clark sent the Indian back the next morning, with one of their own party, with an invitation to the Indians to meet them on the river above, and the expedition proceeded on its way. What transpired during the next six days is best given in the record of the company:

"Sunday, July 29. We soon came to a northern bend in the river, which runs within twenty yards of Indian Knob Creek, the water of which is five feet higher than that of the Missouri. In less than two miles, we passed Bower's Creek on the north (side of the Missouri), of twenty-five yards width. We stopped to dine under a shade near the highland on the south, and caught several large catfish, one of them nearly white, and all very fat. Above this highland, we observed the traces of a great hurricane, which passed the river obliquely from northwest to southeast and tore up large trees some of which, perfectly sound and four feet in diameter, were snapped off near the ground. We made ten miles to a wood on the north (of the Missouri), where we encamped.

"July 30. We went early in the morning three and a quarter miles and encamped on the south (Nebraska), in order to wait for the Otoes.

"July 31. The hunter supplied us with deer, turkeys, geese and beaver; one of the last was caught alive, and, in a very short time perfectly tamed. Catfish are very abundant in the river, and we have also seen a buffalo-fish. One of our men brought in yesterday an animal called by the Pawnees chocar toosh, and by the French blair eau, or badger.

"We waited with much anxiety the return of our messenger to the Otoes. The men whom we dispatched to our last encampment returned without having seen any appearance of its having been visited. Our horses, too, had strayed, but we were so fortunate as to recover them at the distance of twelve miles. Our apprehensions were at length relieved by the arrival of a party of about fourteen Otoe and Missouri Indians,

who came at sunset on the 2d of August, accompanied by a Frenchman, who resided among them and interpreted for us. Captains Lewis and Clark went out to meet them, and told them that they would hold a council with them in the morning. In the meantime, we sent them some roasted meat, pork, flour and meal, in return for which they made us a present of watermelons. We learned that our man Liberte had set out from their camp a day before them; we were in hopes that he had merely fatigued his horse or lost himself in the woods and would soon return, but we never saw him again.

"August 3. The next morning, the Indians, with their six chiefs were all assembled under an awning formed with the mainsail, in presence of all our party, paraded for the occasion. A speech was then made announcing to them the change in the Government, our promises of protection and advice as to their future conduct. All the six chiefs replied to our speech, each in his turn according to rank. They expressed their joy at the change in the Government; their hopes that we would recommend them to their great Father (the President of the United States) that they might obtain trade and necessaries; they wanted arms, as well for hunting as for defense, and asked our mediation between them and the Mahas (Omahas), with whom they were now at war. We promised to do so, and wished some of them to accompany us to that nation, which they declined, for fear of being killed by them. We then proceeded to distribute our presents. The grand chief of the nation not being of the party, we sent him a flag, a medal and some ornaments for clothing. To the six chiefs who were present, we gave a medal of the second grade to one Otoe chief and one Missouri chief; a medal of the third grade to two inferior chiefs of each nation, the customary mode of recognizing a chief being to place a medal around his neck, which is considered by his tribe as a proof of his consideration abroad. Each of these medals was accompanied by a present of paint, garters and cloth ornaments of dress; and to this we added a canister of powder, a bottle of whisky and a few presents to the whole, which appeared to make them perfectly satisfied. The air-gun, too, was fired, and astonished them greatly. The absent chief was an Otoe named



Heahrushlah, which in English degenerates into Little Thief. The two principal chieftains present were Shongotongo, or Big Horse, and Wethea, or Hospitality; Shosguscan, or White Horse, an Otoe; the first an Otoe, the second a Missouri.

"The incidents just related induced us to give to this place the name of Council Bluffs. The situation of it is exceedingly favorable for a fort and trading factory, as the soil is well calculated for bricks and there is an abundance of wood in neighborhood and the air being pure and healthy. It is also central to the chief resorts of the Indians; one day's journey to the Otoes; one and a half to the Great Pawnees; two days from the Mahas; two and a quarter from the Pawnees Loups village; convenient to the hunting-ground of the Sioux, and twenty-five days journey to Santa Fe."

After concluding the ceremonies of the council, Lewis and Clark set sail in the afternoon and encamped in what is now Nebraska, at a distance of five miles above Council Bluffs. The next day (August 5), after passing a narrow part of the river, they came to a place on the south side of the Missouri, where was a deserted trading-house. Here one of the party had passed two years in trafficking with the Mahas. Fifteen miles from their previous encampment brought the expedition to a place where it was concluded would be a good stopping place for the night—where the hills on both sides of the river were twelve or fifteen miles from each other. From this point, nothing of especial interest transpired during the next three days; meanwhile, a distance of nearly sixty miles was made, when (August 7) four men were sent back to the Oteo village in quest of the missing man, Liberte, also, to apprehend one of the soldiers, who left the party on the 4th of the month, under pretext of recovering a knife which he had dropped a short distance behind, and who is was feared had deserted. Small presents were also sent to the Oteos and Missouris, and a request that they would join the expedition at the Maha village, where a peace might be concluded between them. On the 11th of the month, after having made sixty miles farther up the Missouri, the expedition halted on the south side of the stream for the purpose of examining a spot where one of the

great chiefs of the Mahas, named Blackbird, who had been dead about four years, was buried. He died of the small-pox. This chief seemed to have been a person of great consideration in his nation. August 13 he brought the party, at a distance of over forty miles from Blackbird's grave to a spot where, on the Nebraska side of the Missouri, a Mr. Mackay had a trading establishment in the years 1795 and 1796, which he called "Fort Charles."

The diary of the expedition continues: "At fourteen miles (from the previous place of camping), we reached a creek on the south, on which the Mahas reside, and, at seventeen miles and a quarter, formed a camp on a sand-bar, to the south side of the river opposite the lower point of a large island. From this place, Sergt. Ordway and four men were detached to the Maha village, with a flag and a present, in order to induce them to come and hold a council with us. They returned at 12 o'clock the next day, August 14. After crossing a prairie covered with high grass, they reached the Maha Creek, along which they proceeded to its three forks, which join near the village; they crossed the north branch and went along the south; the walk was very fatiguing, as they were forced to break their way through grass, sunflowers and thistles, all above ten feet high and interspersed with wild pea. Five miles from our camp they reached the position of the ancient Maha village; it had once consisted of 300 cabins, but was burnt four years ago, soon after the small-pox had destroyed 400 men and a proportion of women and children. On a hill, in the rear of the village are the graves of the nation, to the south of which runs the fork of the Maha Creek; this they crossed where it was about ten yards wide, and followed its course to the Missouri, passing along a ridge of hill for one mile and a half and a long pond between that and the Missouri; they then re-crossed the Maha Creek and arrived at the camp, having seen no tracks of the Indians nor any sign of recent cultivation.

"On the morning of the 15th, some men were sent to examine the cause of a large smoke from the northeast, and which seemed to indicate that some Indians were near; but they found that a small party, who lately passed that way, had left some trees burning, and that the wind from that

quarter blew the smoke directly toward us. Our camp lies about three miles northeast from the old Maha village, and is in latitude 42 degrees, 13 minutes and 41 seconds. The accounts we have had of the effects of the small-pox on that nation are most distressing; it is not known in what way it was first communicated to them, though probably by some war party. They had been a military and powerful people, but when these warriors saw their strength wasting before a malady which they could not resist, their frenzy was extreme; they burnt their village and many of them put to death their wives and children to save them from so cruel an affliction, and that all might go together to some better country.

"On the 16th we still waited for the Indians; a party had gone out yesterday to the Maha Creek, which was dammed up by the beaver between the camp and the village; a second went to-day. They made a kind of drag with small willows and bark, and swept the creek. The first company caught 318 fish; the second, upward of 800, consisting of pike, bass, fish resembling salmon, trout, red-horse, buffalo, one rock-fish, one flatback, perch, catfish, a small species of perch, called on the Ohio silverfish, a shrimp of the same size, shape and flavor of those about New Orleans and the lower part of the Mississippi; we also found very fat muscles, and, on the river, as well as the creek, are different kinds of duck and plover. \* \* \*

"Friday, 17. In the evening one of the party sent to the Otoes returned with the information that the rest were coming on with the deserter; they had also caught Liberte; but by a trick, he made his escape; they were bringing three of the chiefs in order to engage our assistance in making peace with the Mahas. \* \* \*

August 18. In the afternoon, the party arrived with the Indians, consisting of the Little Thief and the Big Horse, whom we had seen on the 3d, together with six other chiefs and a French interpreter. \* \* \*

"August 19. The chiefs and warriors being assembled at 10 o'clock, we explained the speech we had already sent from Council Bluffs and renewed our advice. \* \* \*

"The next morning, August 20, the Indians mounted their horses and left us, having received a canister of whisky at parting. We then set

sail, and, after passing two islands on the north, came to one on that side under some bluffs—the first bluffs near the river since we left Ayauwa (Iowa) Village. Here we had the misfortune to lose one of our Sergeants—Charles Floyd. He was yesterday seized with a bilious colic, and all our care and attention were ineffectual to relieve him. A little before his death, he said to Capt. Clark, "I am going to leave you." His strength failed him as he added, 'I want you to write a letter for me.' He died with a composure which justified the high opinion we had formed of his firmness and good conduct. He was buried on the top of the bluff with the honors due a brave soldier, and the place of his interment was marked by a cedar post on which his name and the day of his death were inscribed. About a mile beyond this place, to which we gave his name, is a small river, about thirty yards wide, on the north side (of the Missouri), which we called Floyd's River, where we encamped. We had a breeze from the southeast and made thirteen miles."

On the 21st of August the party reached the mouth of the Great Sioux river, where is now situated Sioux City, Iowa, and on the 27th of the same month reached the mouth of the James or Dakota river. Here they met and held a council with the Sioux Indians, a large body of whom were encamped near by. This council was held at Calumet Bluffs, on the Nebraska side of the Missouri, August 30. The Sioux were found by Lewis and Clark to be divided in ten separate tribes or bands—Yanktons, Tetons of the Burnt Woods, Tetons-Okandandas, Tetons-Minnekenozzo, Tetons-Saone, Yanktons of the Plains, Wahpatone, Mendawarcarton, Wahpatoota, and Sistasoone. It was estimated that the men of the entire nation in 1804 was over 2,500 representing a population of over 10,000. From here on to the Rapid river (or as it was called by the French, Rivere qui Court—now the Niobrara) nothing of particular importance occurred, and here the expedition passed beyond sight of Nebraska soil. The expedition finally reached the Pacific ocean, and returned down the Missouri in the summer of 1806.

In the daily journal which was kept by Lewis and Clark an extended account is given of a remarkable pre-historic earthwork which

they visited before they reached the Niobrara. It was on the south side of the Missouri river in the north part of what is now Knox county, Nebraska. The journal says: "This earth-work is opposite the upper extremity of Bonhomme Island, and in a low, level plain, the hills being three miles from the river. It begins by a wall composed of earth, rising immediately from the bank of the river, and running in a direct course south seventy-six degrees west, ninety-six yards; the base of this wall or mound is seventy-five feet and its height about eight. It then diverges in a course south eighty-four degrees west, and continues at the same height and depth to a distance of fifty-three yards, the angle being formed by a sloping descent; at the junction of these two is an appearance of a horn work of the same height as the first angle; the same wall then pursues a course northwest for three hundred yards. Near its western extremity is an opening or gateway, at right angles to the wall, defended by two semi-circular walls, placed before it; and from the gateway there seems to have been a covered way communicating with the interval between these two walls. Westward of the gate the wall becomes much larger, being about 105 feet at its base and twelve feet high. At the end of this high ground the wall extends for fifty-six yards on a course north thirty-two degrees west. It then turns north twenty-three degrees west for seventy-three yards. These two walls seem to have had a double or covered way. They are from ten to fifteen feet in height and from seventy-five to 105 in width at the base; the descent inward being steep while outward it forms a sort of glacis. At the distance of seventy-three yards the wall ends abruptly at a large hollow place, much lower than the general level of the plain, and from which is some indication of a covered way to the water. The space between them is occupied by several mounds scattered promiscuously through the gorge, in the center of which is a deep round hole. From the extremity of the last wall, in a course north thirty-two degrees west, is a distance of ninety-six yards over the low ground, where the wall re-commences and crosses the plain in a course north eighteen degrees west for 1,830 yards, to the bank of the Missouri. In this

course, its height is about eight feet, till it enters, at the distance of 533 yards, a deep circular pond of seventy-three yards in diameter, after which it is gradually lower toward the river. It touches the river at a muddy bar, which bears every mark of being an encroachment of the water for a considerable distance, and a little above the injunction is a small circular redoubt.

"Along the bank of the river and at 1,100 yards distance in a straight line from this wall, is a second wall about six feet high and of considerable width. It rises abruptly from the bank of the Missouri, at a point where the river bends, and goes straight forward, forming an acute angle with the last wall, till it enters the river again, not far from the mounds just described, toward which it is obviously tending. At the bend, the Missouri is 500 yards wide; the ground on the opposite side, highlands, or low hills on the bank; and, where the river passes between this fort and Bonhomme Island, all the distance from the bend it is constantly washing the banks into the stream, a large sand bank being already taken from the shore near the wall. During the whole course of this wall, or glacis, it is covered with trees, among which are many large cotton trees, two or three feet in diameter. Immediately opposite the citadel, or the part most strongly fortified on Bonhomme Island, is a small work in a circular form, with a wall surrounding it about six feet high. The young willows along the water joined to the general appearance of the two shores, induce a belief that the bank of the island is encroaching, and the Missouri indemnifies itself by washing away the base of the fortification. The citadel contains about twenty acres, but the parts between the long walls must embrace nearly 500 acres."

The District of Louisiana was changed to the Territory of Louisiana by an act of Congress passed March 3, 1805, which provided for a governor, secretary and two judges. It was detached from Indiana Territory and erected into a separate territory, so that Nebraska became a part of the "Territory of Louisiana." In 1808 the Missouri Fur Company was established, and an expedition under its auspices was sent out under command of Maj. A. Henry.

He established trading posts on the upper Missouri beyond the Rocky mountains.

In 1805 Manuel Lisa, a wealthy Spaniard, with a party in search of trading grounds, reached the lands north of the Platte. The beauty of the scene caused him to exclaim "Bellevue," by which name the spot has since been designated. It is the present site of Bellevue, Sarpy county, Nebraska.

In 1810 the American Fur Company, a great trading monopoly under the control of John Jacob Astor, established a trading post at Bellevue. Francis De Roin was placed in charge of the business there, and a few years later was succeeded by Joseph Robiaux. In 1842 Col. Peter A. Sarpy became agent at Bellevue and for thirty years he was the leading spirit of that region. In 1841 the government transferred to Bellevue the government agency which had previously been located at Fort Calhoun or Old Council Bluffs.

The settlement of Bellevue and the establishing of the trading post there by the American Fur Company in 1810 is claimed by many writers to have been the first settlement made by whites within the limits of what is now the State of Nebraska.

By an act of Congress passed June 4, 1812, the "Territory of Louisiana" became the "Territory of Missouri," within the bounds of which was the present area of Nebraska. It provided for territorial officers and a council and house of representatives. The members of the house were to be elected by the people. On the 19th of January, 1816, the legislature passed a law making the common law of England the law of the territory.

In 1819 an exploring expedition was started from Pittsburgh, Pa., to the Rocky mountains, under Maj. Stephen H. Long, the principal object of which was a topographical description of the country visited. They came up the Missouri river and reached the mouth of the Platte river on September 15, 1819. Two days later they reached the trading establishment of the Missouri Fur Company, called Fort Lisa. This was five or six miles below Council Bluffs on the west side of the river. It was occupied by Samuel Lisa, one of the most active persons engaged in the fur trade. The expedition went

into quarters for the winter about a half mile above Fort Lisa, on the same side of the river.

In the meantime councils had been held with various Indian tribes, which eventually resulted in treaties being agreed upon. A treaty between the Otoes and the United States was proclaimed December 26, 1817; one was ratified with the Iowas and one with the Mahas December 26, 1815, and one with the Pawnees as early as January 5, 1812. A treaty was also concluded with the Pawnees Grand and proclaimed January 7, 1819; one with the Noisy Pawnee tribe on the same day, and one with the Republican Pawnees January 17, 1819. The Yankton tribe of the Sioux treaty was proclaimed July 19, 1815; the Sioux of the River St. Peter's and those of the Lakes was proclaimed the same day. The treaties all provided that there should be perpetual peace between the Indians and Americans and the tribes all acknowledged themselves to be under the protection of the United States.

It will therefore be seen that at the time of Major Long's visit to Nebraska all the Indian nations of the Missouri river and its tributaries as far up as the homes of the Sioux and down to the region of the mouth of the Namaha had been treated with by the agents of the general government. Major Long held various councils with the Indians. During the winter of 1819-'20, it was decided to change the course of the expedition and explore the sources of the Platte river. The expedition left "Engineer Cantonment" June 6, 1820, and reached the Elkhorn, a considerable tributary of the Platte the next day. Soon after crossing the Elkhorn, the party entered the valley of the Platte. The march was up this valley on the north side of the stream until the Loup Fork was reached. In this way the expedition proceeded up the Platte valley, crossing the entire State of Nebraska, following the south fork to the Rocky mountains, visiting en route a number of the Indian villages.

Major Long's party was the first exploring expedition ever to ascend the Platte from its mouth to the confluence of the two forks, but others had descended the river previous to that date. In 1811 a part of the men engaged in Hunt's expedition to the mouth of the Columbia

river, on their return from the Pacific, fell upon the source of the north fork of the Platte and descended thence to the Missouri. Also in June, 1812, Robert Stewart, one of the partners of the Pacific Fur Company, with several others while coming from the Pacific struck the headwaters of the Platte, spent the winter on it, and finally reached the Missouri.

It may now be said that the territory included within the present boundaries of Nebraska had been explored. The general features and the homes of its Indian tribes were pretty well known.

On the 2d of March, 1819, the Congress of the United States created, out of the Missouri Territory, the Territory of Arkansas. On the 6th of March, 1820, an act was approved authorizing the people of Missouri Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of the State into the Union. This was assented to by the people, in State convention on the 19th of July following. On the 2d of March, 1821, the State was admitted, with conditions, by a joint resolution of Congress. These conditions were accepted, and Missouri became a State by proclamation August 10, 1821. As first established, the State was bounded on the west by a meridian passing through the mouth of the Kansas river. An act was approved June 7, 1836, extending the boundary to the Missouri river, north of its intersection with this line, whenever the Indian title to this portion should be extinguished, and the State express its assent to the change. The Indian title was extinguished by a treaty with the Iowas and Sacs and Foxes, September 17, 1836. This addition was known as the "Platte Purchase," and was sanctioned by the State December 16, 1836, and was declared perfected by a proclamation of the President March 28, 1837. This was bringing a state very close to portions of what are now included in Nebraska—only across the Missouri to the present counties of Richardson, Nemaha, and the southeast corner of Otoe.

After the admission of Missouri as a State into the Union for nearly thirty-three years the country now included within the boundaries of the State of Nebraska was practically without a government, but before the end of this time

the country was attached to the United States Judicial District of Missouri.

In the spring of 1822, William H. Ashley, the head of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, of St. Louis, equipped two boats to ascend the Missouri river to the mouth of the Yellowstone. This was a disastrous expedition, as during the first three months one-fourth of the men were lost by violent deaths, and a good deal of the property by accident, deceit and war with the savages.

In the meantime negotiations were being carried on with the Indians of the various tribes. The Missouri Fur Company, one of the strongest and most active engaged in the trade, had at its head Dr. Pilcher. Benjamin O'Fallon was one of the principal partners and was one of the most active in bringing about the treaties between the government and the various Indian tribes of Nebraska and adjacent country already referred to. By a treaty proclaimed December 30, 1825, the Kansas tribe ceded to the United States a large section of this country. On April 12, 1834, a treaty was proclaimed by which the four confederate bands of the Pawnees did likewise. The Pawnees as well as the surrounding tribes were greatly ravished by smallpox in 1832. Soon after the Pawnees by treaty agreed to confine themselves to the north side of the Platte, but in a short time the Sioux came down upon them with great slaughter. From this time their numbers rapidly decreased.

In 1834, by an act of Congress, it was enacted that all that part of the United States west of the Mississippi and not within the States of Missouri and Louisiana or the Territory of Arkansas should be considered Indian country for the purposes of the act, and certain regulations were prescribed for its government. This included the whole of the present State of Nebraska.

In 1835 another expedition under the direction of the general government traversed the Platte valley. Col. Henry Dodge was in charge of this expedition and followed the west bank of the Missouri to the mouth of the Platte, then traced the last-mentioned stream to its source.

Col. John C. Fremont's exploring expedition came in 1842. They reached the Big Blue on

June 20, 1842. Fremont reached the confluence of the North and South Forks of Platte river July 2d. From this point the party traveled up the South Fork forty miles, where it was decided to divide the party—one to ascend the fork they were then on, the other to cross over to the North Fork. With five men Fremont continued his journey up the South Fork, reaching, on July 5th, a point near the western boundary of what is now Keith county, Nebraska. The other party followed the North Fork up to the American Fur Company's fort, at the mouth of Laramie's Fork (Fort Laramie), where the two parties were reunited and went on west, returning later in the fall of the same year. The second Fremont expedition was undertaken in 1843.

During the decade following the time when the Fremont expedition traveled over Nebraska, various circumstances conspired to send thousands of white men into this region for a longer or shorter period. First, in point of time and numbers were the Mormons. Their home in Nauvoo, Illinois, having been broken up, the greater part of the believers in that faith journeyed slowly across Iowa, and finally with few exceptions crossed the Missouri river during the years 1845 and 1846, locating about six miles north of Omaha, at what is now known as Florence, but which was then called "Winter Quarters" by the Mormons. Here about 15,000 people congregated. The Indians were hostile to them, complaining that they cut too much timber, and the complaints caused the exodus of the Mormons. Many of them found temporary shelter on the Iowa side of the river. Soon an expedition of eighty wagons was sent out in search of a permanent home for the Latter Day Saints, which resulted in the selection of the Salt Lake Valley—then far beyond the reach of government law and civilization. The presence of these families had no decisive influence on the future of Nebraska.

In 1847 the Presbyterian Board of Missions confirmed the selection of Bellevue for the location of a mission school. This was an important step in the history of Nebraska. The mission school buildings were finished and formally opened in 1848.

In 1849 there set in that wonderfully mi-

gratory movement to California, directly across what is now within the boundaries of the State. Bands of gold seekers crossed the Missouri at old Fort Kearney (now Nebraska City), at Plattsmouth, at Bellevue and at Council Bluffs. Another great stream flowed from the southeast, striking the Platte at (New) Fort Kearney, previously called Fort Childs, which had been established on the south side of the Platte, opposite Grand Island. Thus the fever of 1849 swept over all the land and thousands found their way to the Pacific along the valley of the Platte. The moving host left here and there a permanent impress on the land; the knowledge of this fertile country spread, and later on many of these same "forty-niners" sought its peaceful hills and plains wherein to erect homes for their declining years. Another effect of the emigration was the establishment of a ferry between what is now Omaha and Council Bluffs by Wm. D. Brown, in 1851 or 1852. In 1853 he made claim to the site of Omaha. In 1850 a military road was established leading from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Kearney on the Platte.

By this time the territory was being so thoroughly travelled over that the broad and beautiful rolling prairies and the rich soil became well known and it was clear now that it was only a question of time when emigration would cross the Missouri and in an irresistible wave spread itself widely over the fertile plains beyond. The general government, therefore, continued the negotiations for residue of the Indian lands and as rapidly as possible concluded treaties to restrict the Indians to moderate metes and bounds.

Nebraska was the highway to the west, and a place should be given in this history to mention of the events and conditions which were largely instrumental in the original settlement of Nebraska. In remote times—remote for the west—the beginning of "the West" was at the Mississippi. Western Illinois and Wisconsin and Western Iowa were accessible by water by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The region beyond was known only to the courageous few who had braved the perils of a wilderness inhabited by hostile tribes. But, in 1850, when the fever for gold had spread throughout the



*NIORRARA RIVER FROM RAILROAD BRIDGE, VALENTINE NEBRASKA*



*TUNNEL ROCK, KEYO PELLA COUNTY, NEB.*



*SOD CHAPEL (EPISCOPAL) AT KENNEDY, NEBRASKA*



*CLIFFS ON NIORRARA RIVER, SOUTH OF CODY, NEBRASKA*



*NORTH PLATTE,  
NEAR OGALLALA, NEBRASKA*



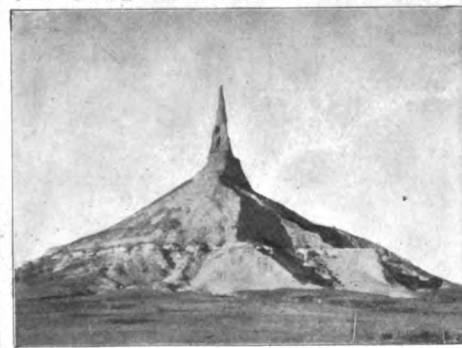
*COURT HOUSE & JAIL ROCKS NEAR BRIDGEPORT, NEB.*



*SOD SCHOOLHOUSE, SOUTH OF BURGE, NEB.*



*MINNECHADUSA CREEK  
AT VALENTINE NEBRASKA*



*CHIMNEY ROCK NEAR HAYWARD, NEBRASKA*





East, the limits of civilization had extended so far that supplies of horses, mules, cattle, wagons, coffee, flour, bacon, sugar and the indispensables of a trip across the plains were obtainable at points on the Missouri river, in the State of Missouri. Parties endeavored to reach that stream early in the spring, that they might take advantage of the growth of vegetation as food for their teams. While some caravans followed the Arkansas, many more chose to come up the Missouri, and travel thence westward along the rich valley of the Platte. Thus was first opened up to observant pioneers the beauties of this region. Hundreds of improvident but eager men set out so late in the season as to encounter the rigor of winter in the mountains, and many perished miserably from exposure and starvation. Others started early enough to safely pass the Rocky mountains, only to meet their fate in the inhospitable fastness of the Sierra Nevadas, where snow frequently piles to the depths of thirty and forty feet in localities. Among the early trials were the dangers incident to crossing a country inhabited by fierce Indians. If the truth could be known, probably every mile from the Missouri to the Pacific would demand at least one headstone to mark a victim's grave.

At the time referred to, the whole region, from the Missouri to the Pacific, was vaguely known as "the plains," though it embraced almost every variety of country. First, the emigrant crossed the rich, rolling prairies of Nebraska. The soil grew thinner and thinner until it merged into dreary sand deserts. Upon these he found myriads of prairie dogs, sometimes living in towns twenty miles square; herds of graceful antelopes bounded over the hills, and huge ungainly buffaloes, which numbered millions then, blackened parts of the landscape. A day's journey was from ten to twenty miles. When the company halted for the night, they turned their animals to graze, with such precautions as served to prevent their escape; lighted a fire on the prairie of buffalo chips, and supped on pork, hot bread or "flap-jacks," and washed the frugal repast down with the inevitable tin cup of coffee. Their trusty guns were kept within easy reach, and the whitened skull of a buffalo, perhaps killed by some emi-

grant long before in wanton sport, served as a seat. The wagons were covered with stout canvas, and afforded protection to the few women and children during the later years of the excitement. All became inured to the conditions of outdoor life. When large streams were reached, the heavy wagons were floated or hauled, and where it was convenient to do so, rude bridges were constructed over smaller streams. Every source of ingenuity was developed. If a wheel gave way, and the mechanical productiveness of the party could not replace it, a cottonwood log, with one end dragging on the ground, was made to serve instead. If a pole broke, another was extemporized from the nearest timber. If an ox died, some luckless cow was yoked in his place. Sometimes one family, or one party of half a dozen men, journeyed alone, and sometimes there were a hundred or more wagons in a single "train," with their white covers enveloped in an increasing cloud of dust. During the seasons when emigration was very heavy, caravans could, from an eminence, be seen stretching out for miles and miles, and at night every pleasant camping-ground was a populous village. The journey was not without its enjoyments, though one's philosophy was sorely tried at times. There were often long delays for hunting lost cattle, waiting for swollen streams to subside, or in climbing the mountains. Storms and mishaps frequently taxed the patience of all, and sickness came to feeble frame and hardy men alike. The first of a long line of trains often climbed steep hills, instead of going the longer and easier way through ravines, and the followers along the new roads were forced to desert the beaten track, and risk untried courses, or labor on in their wake. It was not uncommon to see from ten to thirty yoke of cattle hitched to a single wagon, working slowly up the mountain. The summit reached at last, the wagon would be emptied, and, with a huge log trailing behind as a brake, the teams would descend to repeat their experience in ascending with other loads. The wild, majestic scenery along the way may have been a partial compensation to some for the hardships they endured; but it is reasonable to believe that few would have refused to forego those delights if thereby they

might have gained easier transit. The tragedies of those days were numerous. The very nature of the journey, and the chances of sudden wealth, combined with the freedom of the manner of living, gathered many a desperate character into the civil army. The baser passions were too often allowed full scope, and hence it must be recorded that many a villain found his end at the hands of outraged companions. The travelers were a law unto themselves, and greed or lust were summarily avenged.

An early settler wrote the following vivid description of the appearance of Nebraska in 1856: "In 1856 I first came to Nebraska, and the rolling prairies existing between the Big Sandy and Fort Kearney had been burnt off, so that as the caravan with which I was traveling passed along, a wide waste of desolation met the eye. The surface of the earth was black as charcoal, and here and there was spotted with the bleached bones of buffalo, oxen and wolves. It seemed as though nothing could live in that forsaken-looking country; and yet I thought then that where that black, charred surface was, there must have been long blades of brown and yellow grass, before the fire swept them out of existence. And I thought, too, the grass must have been beautifully green in the spring and summer time; and I hoped to see the summer bloom for me again. When I approached the Platte valley from the hills which skirt it, my eyes were delighted with the sight that met my view. Near by, lay that beautiful country; its land as level as a floor, the dense groves of trees stretching out as far as the eye could see. It was a gorgeous spectacle, and, it seemed to me, no valley on the earth could surpass it in agricultural possibilities. During the winter of 1856-57, I journeyed on to Fort Laramie. The point at which I struck the Platte must have been 250 miles from its mouth. From there to Fort Laramie was about 375 miles. I, therefore, traveled fully 375 miles, so that my opportunity for judging of its extent and general features was of the best, although it was seen under most disparaging circumstances. That was a terrible winter. From October to May snow was on the ground. On the last day of November, our party arrived at Ash Hollow, returning from Fort Laramie.

The snow was a foot deep at the former place. That night, another storm came on and continued for several days and nights. When it was over, we were snow-bound. We remained there two weeks and then moved on to a village of Ogallala Sioux Indians, where we remained more than a month, and were kept from starving by the kindness of the Indians, who gave us all the buffalo meat we needed for our food. From this village to Fort Kearney we journeyed on the ice of the Platte. On the land, the snow lay two feet deep, while the valleys were filled full with drifting snow. For months there was nothing to be seen but the dazzling whiteness of the snow. We were sixteen days in going from Ash Hollow to Fort Kearney, a distance of 150 miles, and necessarily encountered many hardships and privations on the way. A few days after our arrival at the fort another severe storm came on with strong winds. This lasted several days and completely buried the one-story houses of the fort in the drifts. Barracks, officers' quarters, stables—all were covered, and trenches had to be dug around haystacks to prevent the cattle from walking on top of them. Cuttings were made from door to door of the houses, to allow the inmates to go in and out. The season was terrible, but it was general throughout the northwest. It was an unfavorable time to form an opinion of the region, but I nevertheless resolved to make it my future home. I knew that the snow would finally disappear; and so it did. In June, the valley of the Platte was decked with living green; the trees were rich with foliage, and birds chirped forth their songs of joy."

Early in the fifties a movement was begun which culminated in the organization of Nebraska as a territory. On February 10, 1853, a bill organizing the territory of Nebraska passed the house but failed to pass the senate. On the 14th of December, 1853, the second bill was introduced in the senate, and on May 30, the organic act creating the Territory of Nebraska was signed by President Pierce and became a law. The first territorial officers appointed by President Pierce were as follows: Governor, Francis Burt, of South Carolina; secretary, Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa; chief justice, Tenner Ferguson, of Michigan; associ-

ate justices, James Bradley, of Indiana, and Edward R. Hardin, of Georgia; marshal, Mark W. Isard of Arkansas; attorney, E. Estabrook, of Wisconsin.

Governor Burt reached the Territory in ill health on the 6th of October, 1854, and proceeded to Bellevue. He took the oath of office October 16, 1854, but his illness proved of a fatal character, and he sank rapidly. His death occurred October 18, 1854, and the duties of organizing the territorial government devolved upon secretary Cuming, who became acting governor. Practically the first official act in the territorial government was the issuance of a proclamation announcing the death of Governor Burt.

At the time of its organization the territory was divided into eight counties, viz.: Burt, Washington, Dodge, Douglas, Cass, Pierce, Forney and Richardson.

The official headquarters of the territory were located temporarily at Bellevue until the assembling of the legislature in January, 1855. There was intense rivalry over the location of the capital between Bellevue, Florence, Platts-mouth, Nebraska City and Omaha, but it was decided in favor of Omaha. The erection of a capital building at Omaha was commenced in the fall of 1855, which was completed by January, 1858. It was a commodious brick building.

In the fall of 1854, the first census of the Territory was taken by virtue of a proclamation issued by the governor, and on December 12th, of the same year, the first election was held.

In March, 1860, the question of forming a State Government was submitted to the people and defeated by a vote of 2,372 to 2,094.

The matter of State organization was again taken up in 1864. On April 19, of that year, the enabling act passed by Congress was approved by the President and became a law. Nebraska was now a State.

In the meantime settlements were being made by a sturdy and thrifty class of pioneers in various portions of the State, and the inhabitants settled down to the peaceful pursuits of husbandry. From this time down to the present time we will here treat of only the most important points that have proven mile posts in

the history of the State. For the more detailed mention of the different phases of the growth and development of the State we refer the reader to the special articles, elsewhere in this volume.

The growth and development of the State and its settlement had only begun to reach substantial proportions when it was interrupted by the breaking out of the civil war in 1861. In May, 1861, Gov. Alvin Saunders issued a proclamation calling for the immediate raising of a regiment of infantry. In pursuance to this Companies A, B, C, D, E, F and G, of the First regiment were all sworn into the service in June, 1861. Three more companies were sworn into the service in July and all these companies took their departure for St. Joseph. In August a call was issued for two companies of cavalry to join the First regiment.

In 1862 and also in 1863 a number of companies of cavalry were organized and mustered into the service. Additional companies of cavalry and infantry were organized in 1864 and sent to the front.

In 1864 and 1865 the Indians along the frontier gave the whites a great deal of trouble and many depredations were committed. On July 25, 1865, an attack was made on Platte Bridge Station by one thousand Indians.

In 1866 the State constitution was adopted by a vote of the people and on March 1, 1867, President Andrew Jackson issued a proclamation declaring Nebraska a State. The first session of the legislature after the admission of the State into the Union met May 16, 1867, under a proclamation issued by Governor Butler.

The first State legislature (1866-'67) appointed Governor David Butler, secretary of State, T. P. Kennard, and state auditor, John Gillespie, a commission for selecting a site for the State capital. The commissioners commenced their search in July, 1867, and made a thorough examination of all territory designated by the act of the legislature which embraced the counties of Lancaster, Seward and a part of the counties of Butler, Saunders and Saline. Seventy-two sections of land and twelve salt springs had been donated to the new State by the general government and these were located by the Governor within a radius of twenty miles of the

Great Salt Basin. The balloting of the commissioners for location of the State capital occurred July 29, 1867, and resulted in favor of Lincoln (then called Lancaster). Work on the capitol building was commenced promptly. The building was sufficiently completed by December, 1868, for occupancy and on December 3, 1868, Governor Butler issued a proclamation announcing the removal of the seat of government to Lincoln, and ordered the transfer of the archives of the State to the new capitol.

In 1869 the University of Nebraska was founded.

On the 10th of May, 1869, there occurred an event which marked one of the most important mile posts, not only for Nebraska alone but in American history as well—the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad to Ogden. On that day two oceans were united, a continent was spanned by iron bands and a revolution was accomplished in the commerce of the world. The event was observed in Omaha by a grand celebration.

In 1871 articles of impeachment were formulated against Governor Butler. The trial began March 14th, and resulted in an order for his removal from office. On September 19th of this year a new constitution was submitted to a vote of the people and rejected.

The first serious devastation by grasshoppers occurred in July, 1874. In 1875 a new constitution was adopted by a vote of the people. In 1878 the State Historical Association was organized.

In 1882 a great strike took place on the Burlington railroad, resulting in serious rioting, which required the militia to quell.

In 1890 an Indian insurrection occurred at Pine Ridge Agency, which assumed such serious proportions as to require the calling out of the National Guards. The census of this year gave Nebraska a population of 1,058,910.

In 1894 began the "famine period." The hot winds in July of this year throughout practically the whole State parched all vegetation, causing a practically entire failure of crops of all kinds. The crop failures (1894-1895) resulted in great suffering in the western part of the State. In January, 1895, the legislature passed a relief bill, appropriating \$50,000 for the relief of the

western sufferers. This was followed in March of the same year by an additional appropriation of \$200,000.

In 1898, shortly after the breaking out of the Spanish-American war, Governor Holcomb issued a proclamation calling for volunteers, and as a result of this the First and Second regiments were mustered in at Lincoln, May 9 and 10, 1898. The Third regiment was mustered in at Fort Omaha on July 7th, of the same year.

One of the important events of recent years in Nebraska that should be mentioned was the opening of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, June 1, 1898.

The foregoing covers all the most important events that would be considered as marking epochs in the history of the State. It may be said that the principal set-backs which the State has suffered were those caused: First, by the civil war in 1861-1865, which temporarily delayed the settlement and development of this region by the drawing into the service of the government many of the able bodied men from all parts of the country. But the delay was only temporary and the emigration set in with renewed force immediately after the close of hostilities, and many of the war veterans found their way to Nebraska to settle down to peaceful avocations. Second, the occasional outbreaks of the Indians in early days may be said to have been one of the causes which for a time most seriously delayed and interrupted the growth of the State as many living in the eastern states were deterred from emigrating to Nebraska through fears of the Indians, aroused by the occasional outbreaks and the sensational rumors that were current in the east. The third great interruption to Nebraska's growth was from the grasshopper raids of the "seventies." Fourth, the drouth and consequent failure of crops which occurred about 1894 proved a serious set-back to Nebraska as well as to the entire western country.

These however may all be justly considered as being the usual and ordinary set-backs that must be met in the development of any new country. With these exceptions it may be said that the forward progress of the State has been steady and rapid. The seasons have come and

gone, leaving bountiful crops to enrich and supply the wants of all, and prosperity reigns supreme throughout the length and breadth of the State. The changes that have been wrought are truly marvelous. And as these changes of only a half a century are contemplated, one can scarcely realize or comprehend that the wonderful results of time's marvel-working hand are the achievements of a period, so brief, as to be within the remembrance of men who are still living. Turn back, as it were, the leaves of time's great book to but a half century ago, and the stranger would have gazed upon a landscape of great beauty, selected by the red men as their camping-ground, with that singular appreciation of the beautiful which nature made an instinct in the savage. These vast and rolling prairies were as green then as now; the prairie flowers bloomed as thickly and diffused their fragrance as bountifully. It was the home of the

red man with scarcely a trace of civilization. But today, what a contrast! Then all was as nature had formed it with its variegated hues of vegetation; in winter a dreary snow-manteled desert; in summer a perfect paradise of flowers. Now all traces of the primitive are obliterated; in place of the tall prairie grass and tangled underbrush, one beholds the rich waving fields of golden grain. In place of the dusky warriors' rude cabins are the substantial and often elegant dwellings of the thrifty farmers; and the "iron horse," swifter than the nimble deer, treads the pathway so recently the trail of the red man. Cities and villages, the peer of those which have been centuries in building, have sprung up as if by magic; civilization and progress are apparent on every hand; schools and churches adorn the former prairies; and the result is a prosperous land, filled with an enterprising, intelligent and happy people.

## CHAPTER III.

### POLITICAL, TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION, STATE ORGANIZATION, LEGISLATIVE AND OFFICIAL ROSTER.

#### MOVEMENTS TOWARD SECURING TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION.

In 1851 and 1852 the first effort was made to erect a territory west of Missouri and Iowa which was abortive and the matter did not reach a vote in Congress. At the next session, 1852-'53, Willard P. Hall, of Missouri, on December 13, 1852, offered a bill in the House of Representatives organizing the Territory of "Platte," which included in its area what is now the greater part of Nebraska, the northern limit of the region being generally described as "the Platte River." The bill was referred to the Committee on Territories. From that committee William A. Richardson, of Illinois, reported a bill organizing the Territory of Nebraska, covering the same area. The report did not meet with the approval of the southern mem-

bers, and they made such a fight on it that the report presented recommended that the bill be rejected. Notwithstanding the objections, however, the bill passed the House by a vote of 98 to 43, February 10, 1853. Now began the contest which became notorious in the history of the nation. The bill went to the senate, heralded by pro-slavery blasts of warning. There was organized, secretly, a system to prevent free soil from becoming a new territory, unless a similar tract of slave soil should be set off, as a counterpoise in the National Legislature; for to admit a free territory without one dedicated to slavery was to give the anti-slavery faction a political lever that might be used against the South. The bill reached the Senate where it was moved to "lay it on the table." This defeated the bill by a vote of 23 to 17, the senators from the slave states, with the

exception of those from Missouri were solidly arrayed against the bill.

In the meantime the people of Iowa and many localities in the west had manifested their disapproval of the lines described in the bill, and they began to impatiently insist that the country west of the Missouri river be opened to settlement. Thousands of emigrants were camping along the eastern banks of the Missouri, impatiently awaiting the extinguishment of the Indian title to lands and were awaiting the permission of the general government to cross over and settle in the new territory. And to that end in the fall of 1853 a considerable number of persons, crossed the Missouri from Iowa and assembling at Bellevue and Old Fort Kearney, proceeded to hold an election for a delegate to represent their interests at Washington in securing a territorial organization. Said election was held on the 11th of October, 1853, and resulted in the unanimous choice of Hon. Hadley D. Johnson, a prominent lawyer and leading citizen of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

On the 14th of December, 1853, a bill was introduced in the senate by Augustus C. Dodge, senator from Iowa, providing for the organization of the "Territory of Nebraska." This measure adhered to the former boundaries, and it was referred to the committee on territories. The bill contained no clause interfering with the interdict on slavery in this region laid down by the Missouri Compromise. The report of this committee contains so much information concerning the situation at that time that we quote the following from it, viz.: "A question has arisen in regard to the right to hold slaves in the Territory of Nebraska, when the Indian laws shall be withdrawn and the country opened to emigration and settlement. By the eighth section of an act to authorize the people of Missouri Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for admission of such State into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states, and to prohibit slavery in certain territories,' approved March 6, 1820, it was provided: "That in all that territory ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six and one-half degrees north latitude, not included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act,

slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than a punishment of crimes, shall be and hereby are prohibited; provided always that any person escaping into the same, etc., such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person or persons claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.' Under this section, as in the case of the Mexican law in New Mexico and Utah, it is a disputed point whether slavery is prohibited in the Nebraska country, by valid enactment. The decision of this question involves the constitutional power of Congress to pass laws prescribing and regulating the domestic institutions of the various territories of the Union. In the opinion of these eminent statesmen who hold that Congress is invested with no rightful authority to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the territories, the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri is null and void; while the prevailing sentiment in large portions of the Union sustains the doctrine that the constitution of the United States secures to every citizen an inalienable right to move into any of the territories with his property, of whatever kind and description, and to hold and enjoy the same, your committee do not feel themselves called upon to enter upon the discussion of these controverted questions. They involve the same grave issues which produced the agitation, the sectional strife and fearful struggle of 1850. As Congress deemed it wise and prudent to refrain from deciding the matters in controversy then \* \* \* so your committee are not prepared to recommend a departure from the course pursued on that memorable occasion, either by affirming or repealing the eighth section of the Missouri act, or by any act declaratory of the meaning of the constitution in respect to the legal points in dispute. It is apparent that the compromise measures of 1850 affirm and rest upon the following propositions: First, that all questions pertaining to slavery in the territories, and the new states to be formed therefrom are to be left to the people residing therein."

When the report of the committee was presented Archibald Dixon, of Kentucky, gave notice that he would, when the bill came up, offer as an amendment a clause that the eighth

section of the Missouri act "shall not be so construed as to apply to the Territory of Nebraska, or to any other territory; but that the citizens of the several states shall be at liberty to take and hold their slaves within any of the territories or states to be formed therefrom." This, of course, would have annulled the compromise act and it reopened hostilities. It was in the midst of this discussion and controversy that Hadley D. Johnson, representing the Nebraska people, reached Washington. He had no official status, but, as representative of a large region affected by the measure, he was admitted to the councils of the committee on territories. He had a good deal of influence with the committee and it was mainly through his efforts that senator Douglas requested the recommital of the bill. On January 23, 1854, a bill retaining the title was offered, but so amended as to leave but little of the original document. Two territories were now proposed—one to be called "Kansas," the other "Nebraska." The amended bill contained the following important provisions concerning slavery: First, that all questions pertaining to slavery in the territories, and in the new states to be formed therefrom, are to be left to the decision of the people residing therein, through their appropriate representatives.

Second. That all cases involving the title to slaves, and questions of personal freedom are referred to the adjudication of the local tribunals, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Third. That the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States, in respect to fugitives from service, are to be carried into faithful execution, in all the original territories, the same as in the states.

The fight that followed over this bill was a hotly-contested one. Senator Douglas introduced an amendment, affirming the principle of non-intervention by Congress which prevailed. Senator Chase moved "that the people of the territory may, if they see fit, prohibit the existence of slavery therein." This was voted down. The contest and debate that followed was one of the most notable in the history of the country. It is not necessary to follow it in detail in this connection. So far as the destiny of

Nebraska is concerned it is only necessary to say that the senate passed the amended bill by a vote of 37 to 14 on March 3, 1854. In May a bill was passed by the house, in form as an original measure, although it was in essence the amended senate bill. This was sent to the senate May 24th, and was passed. The bill was approved by President Pierce May 30, 1854. The territory embraced 351,558 square miles, extending from the fortieth parallel of north latitude to the British possessions on the north; and from the Missouri river on the east to the summit of the Rocky mountains on the west. The creation of the territory of Colorado, February 28, 1861, decreased the area by 16,035 square miles; and the creation of the Territory of Dakota, March 2, 1867, further diminished the area by 228,907 square miles. At one time a triangular tract of 15,378 square miles was attached from Washington and Utah territories, lying on the southwest slope of the Rocky mountains, but this was afterward included in the 45,999 square miles which went to form the Territory of Idaho, March 3, 1863.

#### NEBRASKA AS A TERRITORY.

The following is the full text of the organic act which created the Territory of Nebraska:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,* That all that part of the territory of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions thereof as are hereinafter expressly exempted from the operations of this act, to wit.: Beginning at a point on the Missouri river, where the 40th parallel of north latitude crosses the same; thence west on said parallel to the east boundary of the Territory of Utah, on the summit of the Rocky mountains; thence on said summit northward to the 49th parallel of north latitude; thence east on said parallel to the western boundary of the Territory of Minnesota; thence southward on said boundary to the Missouri river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning be, and the same is, hereby created into a temporary government, by the name of the Terri-

tory of Nebraska; and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission: *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to inhibit the Government of the United States from dividing said Territory into two or more Territories, in such a manner and at such time as Congress shall deem convenient and proper, or from attaching any portion of said Territory to any other State or Territory of the United States: *Provided further*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty between the United States and such Indians, or to include any territory which, by treaty with any Indian tribe, is not, without the consent of said tribe, to be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the Territory of Nebraska, until said tribe shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within said Territory of Nebraska, or to affect the authority of the Government of the United States to make any regulations respecting such Indians, their lands, property or other rights, by treaty, law or otherwise, which it would have been competent to the Government to make if this act had never passed.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the executive power and authority, in and over said Territory of Nebraska, shall be vested in a Governor, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States. The Governor shall reside within said Territory, and shall be Commander-in-Chief of the militia thereof. He may grant pardons and respites for offenses against the laws of said Territory, and reprieves for offenses against the laws of the United States, until the decision of the President can be made known thereon; he shall commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws

of the said Territory, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be a Secretary of the said Territory, who shall reside therein, and hold his office for five years, unless sooner removed by the President of the United States; he shall record and preserve all the laws and proceedings of the legislative assembly hereinafter constituted, and all the acts and proceedings of the Governor in his executive department; he shall transmit one copy of the laws and journals of the legislative assembly within thirty days after the end of each session, and one copy of the executive proceedings and official correspondence, semi-annually, on the 1st days of January and July of each year, to the President of the United States, and two copies of the laws to the President of the Senate, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to be deposited in the libraries of Congress; and in case of the death, removal, resignation or absence of the Governor from the Territory, the Secretary shall be and he is hereby authorized and required to execute and perform all the powers and duties of the Governor, during such vacancy or absence, or until another Governor shall be duly appointed and qualified to fill such vacancy.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislative power and authority of said Territory shall be vested in the Governor and a Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly shall consist of a Council and House of Representatives. The Council shall consist of thirteen members, having the qualification of voters, as hereinafter prescribed, whose term of service shall continue two years. The house of representatives shall, at its first session, consist of twenty-six members, possessing the same qualifications as prescribed for members of the council, and whose term of service shall continue one year. The number of Representatives may be increased by the Legislative Assembly, from time to time, in proportion to the increase of qualified voters: *Provided*, That the whole number shall never exceed thirty-nine. An apportionment shall be made, as nearly equal as practicable, among the several counties or districts for the election of the Council and Representatives, giving to each



section of the Territory representation in the ratio of its qualified voters as nearly as may be. And the members of the Council and of the House of Representatives shall reside in, and be inhabitants of, the district or county or counties for which they may be elected, respectively. Previous to the first election, the Governor shall cause a census or enumeration of the inhabitants and qualified voters of the several counties and districts of the Territory to be taken by such persons and in such mode as the Governor shall designate and appoint, and the persons so appointed shall receive a reasonable compensation therefor. And the first election shall be held at such time and places, and be conducted in such a manner, both as to the persons who shall superintend such election and the returns thereof, as the Governor shall appoint and direct; and he shall at the same time declare the number of members of the Council and House of Representatives to which each of the counties or districts shall be entitled under this act. The persons having the highest number of legal votes in each of said Council districts for members of the Council shall be declared by the Governor to be duly elected to the Council; and the persons having the highest number of legal votes for the House of Representatives shall be declared by the Governor to be duly elected members of said House: *Provided*, That in case two or more persons voted for shall have an equal number of votes, and in case a vacancy shall otherwise occur in either branch of the Legislative Assembly, the Governor shall order a new election; and the persons thus elected to the Legislative Assembly shall meet at such place and on such day as the Governor shall appoint; but thereafter, the time, place and manner of holding and conducting all elections by the people, and the apportioning the representation in the several counties or districts to the Council and House of Representatives, according to the number of qualified voters, shall be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the commencement of the regular sessions of the Legislative Assembly: *Provided*, That no session in any one year shall exceed the term of forty days, except the first session, which may continue sixty days.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That

every free white male inhabitant above the age of twenty-one years, who shall be an actual resident of said Territory, and shall possess the qualifications hereinafter described, shall be entitled to vote at the first election, and shall be eligible to any office within the said Territory; but the qualifications of voters, and of holding office, at all subsequent elections, shall be such as shall be prescribed by the Legislative Assembly: *Provided*, That the right of suffrage and of holding office shall be exercised only by citizens of the United States, and those who shall have declared on oath their intention to become such, and shall have taken an oath to support the constitution of the United States and the provisions of this act. *And provided further*, That no officer, soldier, seaman or marine, or other person in the army or navy of the United States, or attached to troops in the service of the United States, shall be allowed to vote or hold office in said Territory, by reason of being on service therein.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the legislative power of the Territory shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation consistent with the constitution of the United States and the provisions of this act; but no law shall be passed interfering with the primary disposal of the soil; no tax shall be imposed upon the property of the United States; nor shall the lands or other property of non-residents be taxed higher than the lands or other property of residents. Every bill which shall have passed the Council and House of Representatives of the said Territory shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor of the Territory; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it originated, who shall enter the objections at large on its journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of that house it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, to be entered on the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within

three days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Assembly, by adjournment, prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That all township, district and county officers, not herein otherwise provided for, shall be appointed or elected, as the case may be, in such manner as shall be provided by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Nebraska. The Governor shall nominate, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, appoint all officers not herein otherwise provided for; and in the first instance the Governor alone may appoint all said officers, who shall hold their offices until the end of the first session of the Legislative Assembly; and shall lay off the necessary districts for members of the Council and House of Representatives and all other officers.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That no member of the Legislative Assembly shall hold, or be appointed to, any office which shall have been created, or the salary or emoluments of which shall have been increased, while he was a member, during the term for which he was elected, and for one year after the expiration of such term; but this restriction shall not be applicable to members of the first Legislative Assembly; and no person holding a commission or appointment under the United States, except Postmasters, shall be a member of the Legislative Assembly, or hold any office under the Government of said Territory.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the judicial power of said Territory shall be invested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, Probate Courts, and in Justices of the Peace. The Supreme Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices, any two of whom shall constitute a quorum, and who shall hold a term at the seat of government of said Territory annually, and they shall hold their offices during the period of four years, and until their successors shall be appointed and qualified. The said Territory shall be divided into three judicial districts, and a District Court shall be held in each of said districts by one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, at such times and places as

shall be prescribed by law; and the said Judges shall, after their appointments, respectively reside in the districts which shall be assigned them. The jurisdiction of the several courts herein provided for, both appellate and original, and that of the Probate Courts and Justices of the Peace, shall be as limited by law: *Provided,* That Justices of the Peace shall not have jurisdiction of any matter in controversy when the title or boundaries of land may be in dispute, or where the debt or sum claimed shall exceed \$100; and the said Supreme and District Courts, respectively, shall possess chancery as well as common law jurisdiction. Each District Court, or the Judge thereof, shall appoint its Clerk, who shall also be Register in Chancery, and shall keep his office at the place where the court may be held. Writs of error, bills of exception and appeals shall be allowed in all cases from the final decisions of said District Courts to the Supreme Court, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; but in no case removed to the Supreme Court shall trial by jury be allowed in said court. The Supreme Court, or Justices thereof, shall appoint its own Clerk, and every Clerk shall hold his office at the pleasure of the court for which he shall have been appointed. Writs of error, and appeals from the final decisions of said Supreme Court, shall be allowed, and may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, in the same manner and under the same regulations as from the Circuit Courts of the United States, where the value of the property, or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath or affirmation of either party, or other competent witness, shall exceed \$1,000; except only that in all cases involving title to slaves, the said writs of error or appeals shall be allowed and decided by the Supreme Court, without regard to the value of the matter, property or title in controversy; and except also that a writ of error or appeal shall also be allowed to the Supreme Court of the United States, from the decision of the said Supreme Court created by this act, or of any Judge thereof, or of the District Courts created by this act, or of any Judge thereof, upon any writ of *habeas corpus* involving the question of personal freedom. *Provided,* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply to or af-

fect the provisions of the "act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," approved February 12, 1793, and the "act to amend and supplementary to the aforesaid act," approved September 18, 1850; and each of the said District Courts shall have and exercise the same jurisdiction in all cases arising under the constitution and laws of the United States as is vested in the Circuit and District Courts of the United States; and the said Supreme and District Courts of the said Territory, and the respective Judges thereof, shall and may grant writs of *habeas corpus* in all cases on which the same are granted by the Judges of the United States in the District of Columbia; and the first six days of every term of said courts, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, shall be appropriated to the trial of causes arising under the said constitution and laws, and writs of error and appeal in all such cases shall be made to the Supreme Court of said Territory, the same as in other cases. The said Clerk shall receive in all such cases the same fees which the Clerks of the District Courts of Utah Territory now receive for similar services.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the provisions of an act entitled "an act respecting fugitives from justice, and persons escaping from the service of their masters," approved February 12, 1793, and the provisions of the act entitled "an act to amend, and supplementary to, the aforesaid act" approved September 18, 1850, be, and the same are hereby declared to extend to and be in full force within the limits of said Territory of Nebraska.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be appointed an Attorney for said Territory, who shall continue in office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President, and who shall receive the same fees and salary as the Attorney of the United States for the present Territory of Utah. There shall also be a Marshal for the Territory appointed, who shall hold his office for four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the President, and who shall execute all processes issuing from the said courts when exercising their jurisdiction

as Circuit and District Courts of the United States; he shall perform the duties, be subject to the same regulations and penalties, and be entitled to the same fees, as the Marshal of the District Court of the United States for the present Territory of Utah; and shall, in addition, be paid \$200 annually as a compensation for extra service.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the Governor, Secretary, Chief Justice and Associate Justices, Attorney and Marshal, shall be nominated, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appointed by the President of the United States. The Governor and Secretary to be appointed as aforesaid shall, before they act as such, respectively take an oath or affirmation before the District Judge, or some Justice of the Peace in the limits of said Territory duly authorized to administer oaths and affirmations by the laws now in force therein, or before the Chief Justice or some Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States to support the constitution of the United States and faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective offices, which said oaths, when so taken, shall be certified by the person by whom the same shall have been taken; and such certificates shall be received and recorded by the said Secretary, among the executive proceedings; and the Chief Justice and Associate Justices, and all other civil officers in said Territory, before they act as such, shall take a like oath or affirmation before the said Governor or Secretary, or some Judge or Justice of the Peace of the Territory, who may be duly commissioned and qualified, which said oath or affirmation shall be certified and transmitted by the person taking the same to the Secretary, to be by him recorded as aforesaid; and afterward the like oath or affirmation shall be taken, certified and recorded, in such manner and form as may be prescribed by law. The Governor shall receive an annual salary of \$2,500. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall each receive an annual salary of \$2,000. The Secretary shall receive an annual salary of \$2,000. The said salaries shall be paid quarter-yearly, from the dates of the respective appointments, at the Treasury of the United States; but no such payments shall be made until said officers shall

have entered upon the duties of their respective appointments. The members of the Legislative Assembly shall be entitled to \$3 each, per day, during their attendance at the sessions thereof, and \$3 each for every twenty miles' travel in going to and returning from the said sessions, estimated according to the nearest usually traveled route, and an additional allowance of \$3 shall be paid to the Presiding Officer of each house for each day he shall so preside. And a Chief Clerk, and Assistant Clerk, a Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper, may be chosen for each house; and the Chief Clerk shall receive \$4 per day, and the said other officers \$3 per day, during the session of the Legislative Assembly; but no other officer shall be paid by the United States: *Provided*, That there shall be but one session of the Legislature annually, unless on an extraordinary occasion, the Governor shall think proper to call the Legislature together. There shall be appropriated, annually, the usual sum, to be expended by the Governor, to defray the contingent expenses of the Territory, including the salary of a Clerk of the executive department; and there shall also be appropriated annually a sufficient sum, to be expended by the Secretary of the Territory, and upon an estimate to be made by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, to defray the expenses of the Legislative Assembly, the printing of laws, and other incidental expenses; and the Governor and Secretary of the Territory shall, in the disbursement of all moneys intrusted to them, be governed solely by the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and shall, semi-annually, account to the said Secretary for the manner in which the aforesaid moneys shall have been expended; and no expenditures shall be made by said Legislative Assembly for objects not specially authorized by the acts of Congress making the appropriations, nor beyond the sums thus appropriated for such objects.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Nebraska shall hold its first session at such time and place in said Territory as the Governor thereof shall appoint and direct; and at the said first session, or as soon thereafter as they shall

deem expedient, the Governor and Legislative Assembly shall proceed to locate and establish the seat of government for said Territory at such place as they may deem eligible; which place, however, shall thereafter be subject to be changed by the said Governor and Legislative Assembly.

SEC. 14. *And be it further enacted*, That a delegate to the House of Representatives, of the United States, to serve for the term of two years, who shall be a citizen of the United States, may be elected by the voters qualified to elect members of the Legislative Assembly, who shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as are exercised by the delegates from the several other Territories of the United States to the said House of Representatives; but the delegate first elected shall hold his seat only during the term of Congress to which he shall be elected. The first election shall be held at such time and places, and be conducted in such manner, as the Governor shall appoint and direct; and at all subsequent elections the times, places and manner of holding the elections shall be prescribed by law. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be declared by the Governor to be duly elected, and a certificate thereof shall be given accordingly. That the constitution and laws of the United States which are not locally inapplicable shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory of Nebraska as elsewhere within the United States, except the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March 6, 1820, which being inconsistent with the principles of nonintervention by Congress with slavery in the States and Territories, as recognized by the legislation of 1850, commonly called the Compromise measures, is hereby declared inoperative and void, it being the true intent and meaning of this act not to legislate slavery into any Territory or State nor to exclude it therefrom, but leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the constitution of the United States: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to revive or put in force any law or regulation which may have existed prior to the act of 6th March, 1820, either protecting,

establishing, prohibiting or abolishing slavery.

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted,* That there shall hereafter be appropriated, as has been customary for the Territorial Governments, a sufficient amount, to be expended under the direction of the said Governor of the Territory of Nebraska, not exceeding the sums heretofore appropriated for similar objects, for the erection of suitable public buildings at the seat of government, and for the purchase of a library, to be kept at the seat of Government, for the use of the Governor, Legislative Assembly, Judges of the Supreme Court, Secretary, Marshal, Attorney of said Territory, and such other persons, and under such regulations, as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 16. *And be it further enacted,* That when the lands in the said Territory shall be surveyed under the direction of the Government of the United States, preparatory to bringing the same into market, Sections Number 16 to 36 in each township in said Territory shall be and the same are hereby reserved for the purpose of being applied to schools in said Territory, and in the States and Territories hereafter to be erected out of the same.

SEC. 17. *And be it further enacted,* That, until otherwise provided by law, the Governor of said Territory may define the judicial districts of said Territory, and assign the Judges who may be appointed for said Territory to the several districts; and also appoint the times and places for holding courts in the several counties or subdivisions in each of said judicial districts by proclamation, to be issued by him; but the Legislative Assembly, at their first or any subsequent session, may organize, alter or modify such judicial districts; and assign the Judges, and alter the times and places of holding the courts, as to them shall seem proper and convenient.

SEC. 18. *And be it further enacted,* That all officers to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for the Territory of Nebraska, who, by virtue of the provisions of any law now existing, or which may be enacted during the present Congress, are required to give security for moneys that may be intrusted with them for disbursement, shall give such security, at such time and

place and in such manner as the Secretary of the Territory may prescribe.

Approved May 30, 1854.

The first territorial officers were appointed under the provisions of the organic act by President Pierce as follows: Francis Burt, of South Carolina, Governor; Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa, Secretary; Tenner Ferguson, of Michigan, Chief Justice; James Bradley, of Indiana, and Edwin R. Hardin, of Georgia, Associate Justices; Mark W. Izard, of Arkansas, Marshal, and Experience Estabrook, of Wisconsin, Attorney. Governor Burt reached the Territory in ill health on the 6th of October, 1854, and proceeded to Bellevue, where he was the guest of Rev. Wm. J. Hamilton at the Old Mission House. His illness proved of a fatal character, and he sank rapidly until his death, which occurred October 18, 1854.

With the death of Governor Burt the duties of organizing the Territorial Government devolved upon Secretary Cuming, who, by virtue of his office, became acting governor. The first official act performed in the territory by an executive officer was the issuance by Governor Cuming of the following proclamation:

"It has seemed good to an all-wise Providence to remove from the Territory by the hand of death, its chief magistrate, Governor Francis Burt. He departed this life this morning at the Mission House in Bellevue, after an illness protracted since his arrival, during which he received the most faithful medical aid and assiduous attention. His remains will be conveyed, on Friday next, to his home in Pendleton, South Carolina, attended by a suitable escort. In this afflictive dispensation, as a mark of respect and affection for the lamented and distinguished executive and a sign of the public sorrow, the National colors within the Territory will be draped in mourning, and the territorial officers will wear crape upon the left arm for thirty days from date.

"Given under my hand at Bellevue, Nebraska Territory, this 18th day of October, A. D., 1854. (Signed) T. B. Cuming, Acting Governor of Nebraska."

The official headquarters remained at Bellevue until the assembling of the first territorial legislature in January, 1855, when Omaha be-

came the seat of government. The machinery of the territorial government was set in motion in 1854. In October the acting governor issued a proclamation, by virtue of which the first census was taken. It was completed November 20, 1854, and gave the territory a total population of 2,732. Of this number 13 were reported as being slaves. There were 929 white males over twenty-one years of age reported. Immediately after the census was completed, an election was held, at which a delegate to Congress and members of the first territorial legislature were chosen.

The territory was divided into eight counties, viz.: Burt, Washington, Dodge, Douglas, Cass, Pierce, Forney and Richardson.

Burt county was bounded as follows: Commencing at a point on the Missouri river, two miles above Fort Calhoun, thence westwardly, crossing the Elkhorn river, 120 miles to the west boundary of lands ceded to the United States; thence northerly to Mauvaise river and along the east bank of the same to Eau Qui Court, or Running Water; thence easterly to the Aaway river, and along the south bank of it to its mouth, and thence southerly along the Missouri river to the place of beginning. This county was subdivided into two voting precincts—one called the Tekamah precinct, at the house of Gen. John B. Robinson, who, with W. N. Byers and B. R. Folson, formed the board of election; W. W. Maynard and N. C. Purple, clerks; and the second precinct, called Black Bird, located at the Black Bird House, with Frederick Buck, Dr. Shelley and John A. Lafferty, judges; and Lorenzo Driggs and William Sherman, clerks.

Washington county was bounded as follows: Commencing at a point on the Missouri river, one mile north of Omaha City, thence due west to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers; thence northwesterly twenty miles to the Elkhorn river, thence easterly to a point on the Missouri river, two miles above Fort Calhoun, and thence southerly along said river to the place of beginning. There was one precinct of voting in this county. It was at the postoffice at Florence, or "Winter Quarters." Anselm Arnold, Charles How, and William

Bryant were appointed judges of election, and Henry Springer and William More, clerks.

Dodge county was bounded as follows: Commencing at a point on the Platte river, twenty miles west of Bellevue; thence westerly along Platte river to the mouth of Shell creek, thence north twenty-five miles; thence east to the dividing ridge between the Elkhorn and Missouri rivers; thence southerly to the place of beginning. The voting place was at the house of Dr. M. H. Clark, in Fontenelle precinct. The judges of election were William Kline, Christopher S. Leiber and William S. Estley; the clerks, William Taylor and E. G. McNeely.

Douglas county was bounded as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Platte river, thence north along the west bank of the Missouri river to a point one mile north of Omaha city; thence west along the south boundary of Washington county twenty miles; thence south to the Platte river; and thence east to the place of beginning. Two precincts or places of voting were established, one at the brick building at Omaha City, and the other at the Mission House at Bellevue. David Lindley, T. G. Goodwill and Chas. B. Smith were appointed judges of election, and M. C. Gaylord and Dr. Pattee, clerks in the Omaha precinct. Isaiah Bennett, D. E. Reed and Thomas Morton were appointed judges of election, and G. Hollister and Silas A. Strickland, clerks in the Bellevue Precinct.

Cass county was bounded on the north by the Platte, east by the Missouri, south by the Weeping Water river, to its headwaters, thence westerly to the west boundary of lands ceded to the United States, and thence by said boundary northward to the Platte. Two precincts were named—one at the house of Colonel Thompson, the Kenosha precinct, with J. S. Griffith, Thomas B. Ashley and L. Young, judges; Benjamin B. Thompson and William H. Davis, clerks; the other at the house of Samuel Martin, with James O'Neil, Thomas P. Palmer and Stephen Willes, judges; and T. S. Gaskill and Levi G. Todd, clerks.

Pierce county (now Oteo) was bounded as follows: Commencing at the mouth of Weeping Water river, on the Missouri, thence westward to its headwaters; thence due west to the

west boundary of lands ceded to the United States (100 miles); thence south twenty miles to the north line of Farney county; thence due east along the Farney county line to Camp Creek, and along the north bank of said creek to the Missouri river; thence northward along the river to the place of beginning. The single precinct was located at the house of Maj. H. P. Downs. The judges were William C. Fowlkes, Simeon Hargous and Henry Bradford; the clerks were James H. Cowles and James H. Decker.

Forney county (now Nemaha) was bounded as follows: Commencing at the mouth of Camp Creek, thence to the headwaters of the same; thence due west to a point sixty miles from the Missouri river; thence due south twenty miles; thence east to the head waters of the Little Nemaha river; thence along said river to the Missouri, following the Missouri northerly to the place of beginning. One voting precinct, known as Brownville, was established at the house of Richard Brown. Richard Brown, Allen L. Coate and Israel Cuming were appointed judges of election, and A. J. Benedict and Stephen Sloan, clerks.

Richardson county was bounded as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of the "Half-Breed Tract," thence westerly along the Little Nemaha river; thence westerly to a point sixty miles west of the Missouri river; thence south to the fortieth parallel, the boundary between Kansas and Nebraska; thence east to the Missouri river; thence North along the Missouri and west ten miles to the southwest corner of the "Half-Breed Tract;" thence north to the place of beginning. Two precincts were designated: One at the house of William Level, in Precinct No. 1, with John Purket, Robert T. Archer and James M. Roberts, judges; Wm. V. Soper and John A. Singleton, clerks. Precinct No. 2 was at the house of Christian Bobst, with Henry Shellhorn, Henry Abrams and William J. Burns, judges; Christian Bobst and W. L. Soper, clerks.

Another county, designated as Jones county, was to be created under the first division of the territory, but certain irregularities in the surveys decided Marshal Izard to report adversely to the measure. This county would have included the

southernmost section of the territory, from sixty miles west of the Missouri river westward, from the north corner of Richardson county as then established, along the Platte to the 103<sup>d</sup> degree of west longitude, thence along the southwest boundary of Richardson county. Another county composed of what is now Sarpy (then commonly spoken of as the "burnt district") was designated under the name of Omaha, but for some reason no official promulgation of its creation was made and the section became a part of Douglas county.

The following apportionment of councilmen and representatives was made in accordance with the census returns of November 20, 1854, viz.: Burt county, one councilman, two representatives; Washington county, one councilman, two representatives; Dodge county, one councilman, two representatives; Douglas county, four councilmen and eight representatives; Cass county, one councilman and three representatives; Pierce county, three councilmen and five representatives; Forney county, one councilman and two representatives; Richardson county, one councilman and two representatives. The first general election for members of the legislature and a delegate to Congress was held on December 12, 1854.

The first territorial legislature convened at Omaha, January 16, 1855, and the occasion created intense excitement. The official roster of the first legislature stood as follows:

COUNCIL—Richardson county, J. L. Sharp, president; Burt county, B. R. Folsom; Washington county, J. C. Mitchell; Dodge county, M. H. Clark; Douglas county, T. G. Goodwill, A. D. Jones, O. D. Richardson, S. E. Rogers; Cass county, Luke Nuckolls; Pierce county, A. H. Bradford, H. P. Bennett, C. H. Cowles; Forney county, Richard Brown. Officers—Dr. G. F. Miller, Omaha, chief clerk; O. F. Lake, Brownville, assistant clerk; S. A. Lewis, Omaha, sergeant-at-arms; N. R. Folsom, doorkeeper.

HOUSE—Douglas county, A. J. Hanscom, speaker; W. N. Byers, William Clancey, F. Davidson, Thomas Davis, A. D. Goyer, A. J. Poppleton, Robert Whitted; Burt county, J. B. Robertson, A. C. Purple; Washington county, A. Archer, A. J. Smith; Dodge county, E. R. Doyle, J. W. Richardson; Cass county, J. M.

Latham, William Kempton, J. D. H. Thompson; Pierce county, G. Bennett, J. H. Cowles, J. H. Decker, W. H. Hail, William Maddox; Forney county, W. A. Finney, J. M. Wood; Richardson county, D. M. Johnson, J. A. Singleton. Officers—J. W. Paddock, chief clerk; G. L. Eayre, assistant clerk; J. L. Gibbs, sergeant-at-arms; B. B. Thompson, doorkeeper.

During the first session of the legislature many important matters were provided for. The local machinery of government was provided for, county offices created and the nature and emoluments thereof fixed; the offices of territorial auditor, treasurer and librarian fixed. The legislature adopted the criminal code of Iowa with necessary alterations as the code of the territory. Napoleon B. Gidding, who had been elected delegate to Congress, was instructed to use his influence in securing the passage of a homestead law for Nebraska similar to that of New Mexico and Oregon. Educational affairs received early recognition. The Simpson University, at Omaha; the Nebraska University, at Fontenelle and the Nebraska City Collegiate and Preparatory Institute were incorporated at this first session. Governor M. W. Izard, who had been appointed governor to succeed Governor Burt, deceased, arrived and took the oath of office February 23d, 1855, and delivered his first formal message to the legislature February 27.

The agitation over the permanent location of the State capital at this time was intense. The efforts of the Omaha men were crowned with success in the matter of the seat of government. Governor Izard appointed James C. Mitchell sole commissioner to locate the capitol building. On the 17th of March, Commissioner Mitchell reported to the governor that he had that day selected the center of Capitol Square, in Omaha City, as the site for the edifice.

One of the measures passed by the first legislature was an act adopted March 6, 1855, relative to the claims of squatters. At this time the territory contained hundreds of would-be settlers, who were temporarily debarred from becoming legal citizens, and at the same time owners of the lands of their choice, because at that period the public domain was not fully in the market. The survey was begun and prose-

cutted as speedily as possible, but not rapidly enough to gratify the ambition of emigrants or the greed of speculators. Those men who were determined to remain and abide their time were known as "squatters," and so numerous was this element that legislation in its behalf was enacted, as a protection against the abhorred class called "claim jumpers," or men disposed to violate the unwritten law of the territory. As in all new countries, where expressed laws were inadequate to insure equity and peace, the citizens formed clubs, and through the action of those informal but efficient organizations order was maintained. By this act of March 6, 1855, it was provided that each claimant might hold 320 acres, when a member of a club, which was duly governed by established rules, a copy of which was filed with the registrar of the county. The clubs were vested with certain legislative power for their neighborhood. The constitutionality of this act was not permitted to be discussed. The clubs were a government unto and for themselves, as many a wretched man was able to testify, after daring their wrath.

The first formal census of the territory was taken in 1855, in order that a re-adjustment of legislative representatives might be made. The reports from the existing counties showed population as follows:

Burt county, 85; Cass, 712; Dakota, 86; Dodge, 139; Douglas, 1,028; Nemaha, 604; Otoe, 1,188; Pawnee, 142; Richardson, 299; Washington, 207; Total, 4,491. Pierce county ceased to exist. The one now bearing that name dates from 1859. Dakota county was not accredited in the legislative proceedings with a representative.

The second session of the assembly convened at Omaha, December 18, 1855. The changes in the council were: John Evans, Dodge county, vice M. H. Clark, deceased; A. A. Bradford, Otoe county (newly created county), and S. M. Kirkpatrick, Cass county, vice Luke Nuckolls. The council officers were: B. R. Folsom, president; E. G. McNeely, chief clerk; M. B. Case, assistant clerk; C. W. Pierce, sergeant-at-arms. The house roster was: A. D. Kirk, Richardson county; W. H. Hoover, Richardson and Nemaha jointly; Charles McDonald, Rich-



ardson and Pawnee jointly. The census gave Pawnee county a population of 142, and this, it was claimed by some, entitled it to representation. After considerable debate, Thomas R. Hare was accorded a seat, but he resigned January 11, after it became apparent that his presence might invalidate the acts of the body, since the bill creating the territory stipulated that the house should be composed of only twenty-six members. The remainder of the body was: W. A. Finney, L. A. Chambers, Nemaha county; James H. Decker; M. W. Riden, J. Sterling Morton, William B. Hail, J. C. Campbell, John Boulware, Otoe county; A. M. Rose, Otoe and Cass jointly; John F. Buck, William Laird, J. McF. Hagood, Cass county; George L. Miller, William Larimer, Jr., Levi Harsh, W. E. Moore, Alexander Davis, Leavitt L. Bowen, Alonzo F. Salisbury, William Clancy, Douglas county; P. C. Sullivan, Washington county; William B. Beck, Washington and Burt jointly; and Thomas Gibson, Dodge county.

The organization of the house was perfected by the election of the following officers: P. C. Sullivan, speaker; H. C. Anderson, chief clerk; I. L. Gibbs, assistant clerk; A. S. Bishop, sergeant-at-arms; E. B. Chinn, doorkeeper. The auditor's first report was submitted which gave a valuation of the property, real and personal, in the territory of \$617,822, not including the newer counties.

A bill providing that counties in the then uninhabited regions should be organized with boundaries of twenty-four miles square, without reference to the Platte or other streams was successfully passed.

The so-called first report of the superintendent of public instruction was made under date of January 5, 1857, by H. Anderson. The report covers two pages of the Journal and is but a statement of what should be done, rather than what had been performed, in pursuance of an act entitled "Common Schools," approved January 26, 1856, which act is the origin of the public school system of the State.

January 5, 1857, the third annual session of the territorial legislature began. The following members composed the council: Douglas county, A. F. Salisbury, George L. Miller, S. E. Rogers,

L. L. Bowen for the Northern District; Southern District of Douglas, Washington, Burt and Cuming counties (jointly), James A. Allen; Otoe county, A. A. Bradford, Mills S. Reeves; Cass county, S. M. Kirkpatrick; Nemaha county, R. W. Furnas; Washington county, William Clancy; Richardson and Pawnee counties, Charles McDonald; Dodge, Cass, Otoe (jointly), Jacob Safford; Dakota county, A. W. Puett. The officers were: L. L. Bowen, president; O. F. Lake, chief clerk; T. H. Robertson, assistant clerk; Samuel A. Lewis, sergeant-at-arms; Patrick McDonough, doorkeeper. The house was organized by the election of I. L. Gibbs, speaker; J. H. Brown, chief clerk; S. M. Curran, assistant clerk; P. Lacombe, sergeant-at-arms; J. Campbell, doorkeeper. The members were: Richardson and Pawnee counties, A. F. Cromwell, N. J. Sharp; Nemaha county, W. A. Finney, I. C. Lawrence, S. A. Chambers; Otoe county, H. P. Downs, I. D. White, H. C. Cowles, J. C. Ellis, I. L. Gibbs, W. B. Hail; Cass county, W. M. Slaughter, H. C. Wolph, Broad Cole; Cass, Lancaster and Clay counties (jointly), J. A. Cardwell; Douglas county (Southern District), S. A. Strickland, Joseph Dyson, C. T. Holloway, John Finney; Douglas county (Northern District), W. E. Moore, H. Johnson, J. Steinberger, M. Murphy, R. Kimball, Jonas Seely, A. J. Hanscom, George Armstrong; Dodge and Platte counties, Silas E. Seeley; Washington county, J. A. Stewart, William Connor, E. P. Stout; Burt county, G. M. Chilcott.

On December 8, 1857, the fourth session began with no change in the roll of council members from the foregoing session. Hon. George L. Miller, of Omaha, was elected president; Washburn Safford, chief clerk; S. H. Elbert, assistant clerk; George A. Graves, enrolling and engrossing clerk; John Reck, sergeant-at-arms; Jacob R. Cromwell, doorkeeper.

The house chose Hon. J. H. Decker, of Otoe county, speaker; S. M. Curran, chief clerk; R. A. Howard, assistant clerk; Albert Mathias, sergeant-at-arms; and Isaac Fisher, doorkeeper.

The roll of the house showed: Richard and Pawnee counties, A. F. Cromwell, Wingate King; Nemaha and Johnson counties, A. J.

Benedict, J. S. Minick, S. A. Chambers; Otoe county, J. Sterling Morton, J. C. Campbell, J. G. Abbey, D. B. Robb, W. B. Hail, J. H. Decker; Cass county, E. A. Donelan, T. M. Marquette, L. Sheldon; Sarpy county, S. A. Strickland, C. T. Holloway, James Davidson, Amos Gates; Douglas county, George Armstrong, J. Steinberger, George Claves, J. S. Stewart, M. Murphy, A. J. Poppleton, W. R. Thrall, J. W. Paddock; Washington county, J. A. Stewart, P. C. Sullivan, P. G. Cooper; Burt and Cuming counties, William B. Beck; Dakota and Cedar counties, W. G. Crawford, E. C. Jones; Dodge and Platte counties, J. M. Taggart.

On September 21, 1858, the fifth session of the legislature began. The following members composed the council: Richardson and Pawnee counties, Charles McDonald, whose seat was contested by E. S. Dundy; Nemaha county, R. W. Furnas; Otoe county, Mills S. Reeves, W. H. Taylor; Otoe, Cass and Dodge counties, John H. Cheever; Sarpy county, L. L. Bowen; Douglas county, G. L. Miller, W. E. Moore, John H. Porter; Washington county, George E. Scott; Burt, Washington and Sarpy counties, George W. Doan; Dakota county, W. G. Crawford. Hon. L. L. Bowen was elected president; S. M. Curran, chief clerk; John G. Tredway, assistant clerk; John McA. Campbell, Sergeant-at-arms, and John Reck, doorkeeper.

In the house the roll stood: Richardson and Pawnee counties, William C. Fleming, A. C. Dean; Nemaha and Johnson counties, M. F. Clark, Jesse Noel, S. G. Daily; Otoe county, John Cassell, O. P. Mason, H. P. Bennett, George F. Lee, W. B. Hall; Cass county, William A. Davis, William J. Young, T. M. Marquette, R. G. Doom; Sarpy county, Charles C. Norwood, Stephen H. Wattles; Douglas county, James H. Seymour, Clinton Briggs, Augustus Roeder, James Stewart, William A. Gwyer, R. W. Steele, John A. Steinberger, George Claves; Dodge and Platte counties, Henry W. DePuy; Washington county, C. D. Davis, P. G. Cooper, L. W. Kline; Burt county, David L. Collier; Dakota, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, John Taffe, D. T. Bramble. The officers of the house were: H. P. Bennett, speaker; E. G. McNeely, chief clerk; Hugh McNeely, assistant

clerk; J. D. N. Thompson, sergeant-at-arms; F. H. Rogers, doorkeeper.

On the 1st of November, 1858, Representative S. G. Daily introduced a bill "to abolish slavery in the Territory of Nebraska." This bill with various changes and amendments occupied a great deal of the time of the various sessions of the legislature until January 1, 1861, when a bill prohibiting slavery was passed over the veto of Governor Black. This matter is treated at length in another part of this work.

Governor Richardson's term extended only from January 12, 1858, to the 5th of December of the same year. Secretary J. Sterling Morton assumed the functions of executive at that date, continuing as acting governor until the arrival of Governor Samuel W. Black, May 2, 1859.

On December 5, 1859, the sixth session of the territorial legislature convened at Omaha. The only changes in the council were: Thomas J. Boykin, of Sarpy county; Thomas T. Collier, of Dakota county, and W. A. Little, of Douglas county, who succeeded Messrs. Bowen, Crawford and Moore, respectively. The officers of the council were: F. A. Donelan, president; S. M. Curran, chief clerk; E. A. Allen, assistant clerk; J. F. Coffman, sergeant-at-arms; and R. R. Kirkpatrick, doorkeeper.

The house roll was: Richardson county, Houston Nuckolls, J. F. Burbank, Nathan Myers; Namaha county, George Crowe, W. W. Keeling, Jesse Noel, John P. Parker; Otoe county, John C. Campbell, Alex Bain, Truman H. Adams, Stephen H. Nuckolls, Milton W. Reynolds, William H. Broadhead; Cass and Lancaster counties, J. N. Stephenson, William S. Latta, William R. Davis, Samuel Maxwell, T. M. Marquette; Sarp county, Matthew J. Shields, Silas A. Strickland; Douglas county, A. J. Hanscom, D. D. Belden, Harrison Johnson, George F. Kennedy, George B. Lake, A. B. Malcomb; Washington county, James S. Stewart, J. S. Bowen; Burt and Cuming counties, David S. Collier; Dakota county, George A. Hinsdale, Barnabas Bates; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, James Tufts. The officers were: Silas A. Strickland, speaker; James W. Moore, chief clerk; George W. Rust,

assistant clerk; J. W. Coleman, sergeant-at-arms; N. J. Sharp, doorkeeper.

Among the most important legislation of the sixth session was "an act to frame a constitution and State government for the State of Nebraska." The proposition was submitted to the people March 5, 1860, and decided adversely by a vote of 2,372 against it and 2,094 for it.

On December 3, 1860, the seventh session of the territorial legislature convened. The council stood: Douglas county, John M. Thayer, David D. Belden, W. A. Little; Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, John Taffe; Washington county, John A. Unthank; Sarpy county, Silas A. Strickland; Cass county, T. M. Marquette; Otoe county, William H. Taylor, John B. Bennett; Nemaha and Johnson counties, T. W. Tipton; Richardson and Pawnee counties, E. S. Dundy; Cass, Otoe and Dodge counties, Samuel H. Elbert; Burt, Washington and Sarpy counties, John Q. Goss. The officers were: W. H. Taylor, president; E. P. Brewster, chief clerk; D. H. Wheeler, assistant clerk; W. H. James, sergeant-at-arms; D. C. Slader, doorkeeper.

The house stood: Richardson county, F. A. Tisdell, A. M. Acton, H. B. Porter; Nemaha county, Thomas R. Fisher, James Hacker, John P. Baker, George Blane; Pawnee county, E. W. Fowler; Johnson, Clay and Gage counties, Hiram W. Parker; Otoe county, Samuel P. Sibley, Alfred Mathias, Adin G. Cavins, Charles H. Cowles, Jacob Sallenberger, Hiram P. Downs; Cass and Lancaster counties, William Reed, E. W. Barnum, W. R. Davis, Lauden Mullen, W. Gilmour; Sarpy county, James Davidson, Amos Gates, William Cleburne; Douglas county, John I. Reddick, S. A. Lowe, J. T. Griffin, Merrill H. Clark, Henry Grebe, Ezra T. Millard; Washington county, Giles Mead, H. W. DePuy; Dodge county, M. S. Cottrell; Burt county, J. R. Hide; Dakota county, William T. Lockwood, Thomas Coleman; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, Amos S. Chase. The officers were: H. W. DePuy, speaker; George L. Seybolt, chief clerk; S. D. Bangs, assistant clerk, F. M. Virden, sergeant-at-arms; W. A. Pollock, doorkeeper.

The roster of the eighth session stood:

Council—John Taffe, president; R. W. Furnas, chief clerk; William Lehmer, assistant clerk; J. W. Chapman, sergeant-at-arms; A. J. Warner, doorkeeper. The only changes from the preceding session were: F. W. Sapp, Douglas county; C. Blanchard, Sarpy county; John McPherson, Nemaha and Johnson counties; S. M. Kirkpatrick, Cass, Otoe and Dodge counties. The house—A. D. Jones, speaker; George L. Seybolt, chief clerk; J. W. Virtue, assistant clerk; F. C. Morrison, sergeant-at-arms; John Wolfue, doorkeeper. The representation—Richardson county, L. Allgawahr, J. S. Ewing, H. B. Porter; Nemaha county, A. S. Holladay, George Crowe, William Reed, John Crothers; Pawnee county, David Butler; Johnson, Clay and Gage counties, Nathan Blakeley; Otoe county, M. W. Reynolds, J. H. Croxton, J. Closser, W. P. Birchfield, W. Buchanan, N. B. Larsh; Cass and Lancaster counties, S. E. Eikenberry, Isaac Wilds, James Chalfant, W. F. Chapin, E. W. Barnum; Sarpy county, W. D. Rowles, Stephen H. Wattles, Henry T. Clarke; Douglas county, James H. Seymour, Joel T. Griffin, A. D. Jones, Merrills H. Clark, Oscar F. Davis, Aaron Cohn; Washington county, John S. Bowen, E. A. Allen; Dodge county, E. H. Barnard; Burt county, S. T. Leaming; Dakota county, C. O'Connor, Barnabas Bates; Dakota, Dixon and L'eau Qui Court counties, Daniel McLaughlin; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, R. M. Hagaman; Platte, Green, Calhoun and Butler counties, John Reck; Hall and Monroe counties, Enos Beall.

The ninth session of the territorial legislature assembled at Omaha on January 7, 1864. In the council were: T. M. Marquette, J. E. Doom, O. P. Mason, John C. Campbell, David Butler, William A. Little, John R. Porter, John McCormick, E. A. Allen, Frank Welch and A. H. Jackson. E. A. Allen was chosen president; J. W. Hollingshead, chief clerk; John H. Mann, assistant clerk; S. A. Lewis, sergeant-at-arms; and W. B. Dixon, doorkeeper. In the house: Douglas county, John Ritchie, George B. Lake, Daniel Gavitt, Joel S. Smith, B. E. B. Kennedy, Henry Grebe; Otoe county, Henry A. Newman, Francis Sim, F. Renner, C. W. Seymour, W. McLennan, A. T. McCartney; Dodge county, Isaac E. Heaton; Platte county, John P. Becker;

Dakota, Dixon and L'eau Qui Court counties, J. O. Fisher; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, N. S. Porter; Burt and Cuming counties, D. Hobbs; Washington county, J. Evans, H. J. Rohwer; Richardson county, Lewis Allgawhar, J. C. Lincoln, M. W. Brennan; Sarpy county, C. Blanchard, Amos Gates, John Whalen; Cass and Lancaster counties, J. W. Chapman, H. C. Pardee, D. G. Todd, R. D. Hoback, J. S. Gregory, Jr.; Pawnee county, George L. Griffing; Nemaha county, G. W. Fairbrother, Lorenzo Rice, C. G. Dorsey, Joseph Dash. The officers were: George B. Lake, speaker; R. Streeter, chief clerk; T. A. Moore, sergeant-at-arms. During the session of Congress, 1862-1863, a bill was introduced, late in the session, authorizing the territories of Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada to take the preliminary step toward admission into the Union as states. This measure did not reach final action during the life of that session. The Proclamation of Emancipation, issued by President Lincoln, January 1, 1863, was approved by the ninth legislature.

On January 5, 1865, the tenth session of the territorial legislature convened at Omaha. The council was divided into districts for the first time. First, Thomas L. Griffey—Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties; Second, Edwin A. Allen—Washington, Burt and Cuming counties; Third, John R. Porter and B. E. B. Kennedy—Douglas county; Fourth, C. Blanchard—Sarpy and Dodge counties; Fifth, Isaac Albertson—Platte, Monroe, Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Kearney and Lincoln counties; Sixth, J. W. Chapman—Cass county; Seventh, J. G. Miller—Cass, Lancaster, Saline and Seward Counties; Eighth, O. P. Mason and John B. Bennett—Otoe county; Ninth, Andrew S. Holladay—Nemaha county; Tenth, Oliver P. Bayne—Richardson county; Eleventh, J. N. McCasland—Pawnee, Gage, Johnson, Clay and Jones counties. The officers were: O. P. Mason, president; John S. Bowen, chief clerk; W. W. Morgan, assistant clerk; Samuel Gamble, sergeant-at-arms; Charles Bryan, doorkeeper.

The house was composed of: Richardson county, Oliver W. Dunning, F. A. Tisdell, Charles F. Walther, E. H. Johnson; Pawnee county, John Briggs; Nemaha county, William

B. Phillips, George Crowe, J. W. Taylor, Samuel Petit; Otoe county, Mason Crouch, R. Hedges, John Beuter, George P. West; Cass county, S. M. Kirkpatrick, Samuel Maxwell, J. T. A. Hoover, J. McF. Hagood; Johnson county, Milo K. Cody; Lancaster, Seward and Saunders counties, William Imlay, Sarpy county, Amos Gates, Martin Langdon; Douglas county, E. L. Emry, A. J. Critchfield, Charles M. Conoyer, Charles H. Browne, James W. Pickard; Dodge county, W. H. Ely; Platte county, Guy C. Barnum; Washington county, W. N. McCandish, H. M. Hitchcock; Dakota county, John Hefferman; Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, Nathan S. Porter; Dakota, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, G. A. Hall; Gage and Jones counties, H. M. Reynolds; Saline, Butler, Kearney and Lincoln counties, A. C. Leighton; Lancaster county, John Cadman; Burt and Cuming counties, John D. Neligh. The officers were: S. M. Kirkpatrick, speaker; John Taffe, chief clerk; Walter C. Heydon, assistant clerk; Anson Rising, sergeant-at-arms; Mitchell Fleming, doorkeeper.

On January 4, 1866, the eleventh session of the territorial legislature met at Omaha. The council was: T. L. Griffey, E. A. Allen, B. E. B. Kennedy, J. R. Porter, J. Albertson, J. S. Miller, J. W. Chapman, John Bennett, O. P. Mason, A. S. Holladay, O. P. Bayne, J. N. McCasland. The officers were: O. P. Mason, president; W. E. Harney, chief clerk; William W. Watson, assistant clerk; Charles Ulry, doorkeeper.

The house: Richardson county, L. Crouse, William Parchen, J. D. Ramsey, John Jay Hart; Pawnee county, John R. Butler; Nemaha county, W. B. Phelps, John Green, W. A. Pollock; Otoe county, John H. Maxon, James Thorn, M. S. Campbell, Albert Tuxbury, James A. Gilmore; Cass county, Joseph Arnold, W. F. Chapin, Samuel Maxwell, Benjamin Austin; Johnson county, James Robinson; Lancaster county, John Cadman; Clay, Lancaster, Seward and Saunders counties, Marcus Brush; Sarpy county, T. H. Robertson, N. P. Lefler; Douglas county, G. B. Luke, J. W. Paddock, C. H. Brown, Fred Drexel, J. G. Megeath; Dodge county, J. G. Smith; Platte county, G. C. Bar-

num; Washington county, E. H. Clark, Charles Easley; Dakota county, Cornelius O'Connor; Dakota, Cedar, Dixon and L'eau Qui Court counties, R. H. Wilbur; Dakota, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, L. E. Jones. The officers were: James G. Mageath, speaker, George May, chief clerk; E. S. Towle, assistant clerk; Chester Lusk, sergeant-at-arms; Dennis Dugan, doorkeeper.

The preceeding year had witnessed the close of the rebellion and the return of national peace; but the Indian war upon the western borders of Nebraska still continued when this legislature met. During the year 1865, the savages, emboldened by temporary successes, had grown exceedingly reckless in their assaults upon settlers and upon the overland stages and telegraph lines. Outrages of the most atrocious character had been repeatedly perpetrated. It had become necessary to call on Congress for more stringent action for the suppression of this form of lawlessness.

This year (1866) the laws of the territory were revised, arranged and issued in the form of revised statutes, the immense labor being completed in time for presentation early in the session and approved February 12, 1866. The new laws went into effect July 1st.

On the 19th of April, 1864, an act of Congress was approved by the President and became a law, enabling the people of Nebraska to form a State constitution and government. But the continuance of the war and the consequent disturbance of national affairs, united with the partial suspension of emigration to the west and the Indian troubles on the frontier, united in rendering this permission undesirable. The territory had been drained of many men and much treasure in its generous assistance of the government during the years of its struggle for existence. With the return of peace and the suppression of border outlawry, however, came an awakening consciousness of the value of state institutions. The people once more turned their attention to the subject and revived an interest in the Enabling Act.

A constitution was framed early in 1866, embodying these essential features:

Declaring equal inherent rights to all men;

Prohibiting slavery in the State; maintaining freedom of speech and press; establishing the right of petition to the people; the justice of trial before the law; civil and religious liberty; the perpetuation of free government and the rights of the people; declaring the elective franchise belongs to "white" citizens; vesting the government of the State in the legislative, the executive and the judicial branches, and defining their powers and jurisdiction; providing for methods of revenue and limiting expenditures, describing the jurisdiction of the State over the eminent domain; naming the boundaries of the State, and arranging for the fundamental machinery of a State after the "manner and order usual in such mighty undertakings."

The constitution provided that it should be voted upon June 2, 1866. The legislature authorized the submitting of the question and the election of State officers by an act approved by Governor Saunders, February 9, 1866. At this election the constitution was adopted by the following vote: For adoption, 3,938; against 3,838. It was approved and signed by Governor Butler, February 21, 1867.

#### NEBRASKA AS A STATE.

On March 1, 1867, the President issued his proclamation announcing the admission of Nebraska into the Union and on the 2d, Hon. T. M. Marquette presented his credentials in the House of Representatives and consummated the bond.

On the 4th of April, Governor Butler issued his call for an extra session, and on the 18th of May, the legislators came together and set in motion the machinery of the State.

The constitution provided that the first session of the so-called State legislature should meet July 4, 1866, and in accordance therewith, the members chosen at the preceeding election assembled in Omaha in formal conclave on that day. The roster of that body was: House—Richardson county, William Parchen, B. F. Cunningham, J. M. Deweese, J. T. Hoile; Pawnee county, C. H. Gere; Gage and Jones counties, N. Blakely; Nemaha county, George W.

Fairbrother, W. G. Glasgow, Daniel C. Sanders, W. A. Pollock; Johnson county, A. W. Gray; Otoe county, E. S. Reed, A. Tuxbury, D. M. Anderson, James Thome, John Graves; Lancaster, Seward and Saunders counties. Janes Queen; Lancaster county, Ezra Tullis; Cass county, S. Maxwell, W. F. Chapin, T. R. Beil, H. D. Hathaway; Sarpy county, T. H. Robertson, J. D. Smith; Douglas county, P. O. Hanlon, A. J. Critchfield, J. W. Paddock, V. Burkley, W. A. Denton; Dodge county, George J. Turton; Platte county, E. W. Arnold; Platte, Merrick, Hall and Buffalo counties, James E. Boyd; Washington county, David McDonald, W. R. Hamilton; Burt and Cuming counties, G. P. Thomas; Dakota county, A. H. Baker; Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, R. H. Wilbur; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, Kelly Frazier. Officers: W. A. Pollock, speaker; J. H. Brown, chief clerk; J. T. Davis, assistant clerk; F. M. Downing, sergeant-at-arms; E. A. Graves, doorkeeper. Council: Nathas S. Porter, Frank Welch, James G. Megeath, M. C. Wilbur, David Leach, Vincent Krummer, Thomas K. Hann, John Cadman, S. H. Calhoun, Oliver Stevenson, S. M. Rich, F. D. Tisdale, A. S. Stewart. Officers: F. Welch, president; C. E. Yost, chief clerk; E. K. Valentine, assistant clerk; Wilson E. Majors, sergeant-at-arms; P. Judson, doorkeeper.

The following is the text of the proclamation issued by President Andrew Johnson declaring Nebraska a State:

"Whereas, the Congress of the United States, did by an act approved on the 19th day of April, 1864, authorize the people of the Territory of Nebraska to form a constitution and State government and for the admission of such State into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states, upon certain conditions in said act specified, and

Whereas, said people did adopt a constitution conforming to the provisions and conditions of said act and ask admission into the Union; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States did on the eighth and ninth days of February, 1867, in mode prescribed by the constitution,

pass a further act for the admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union, in which last-named act it was provided that it should not take effect except upon the fundamental condition that within the State of Nebraska there should be no denial of the elective franchise or of any other right to any person by reason of race or color, excepting Indians not taxed, and upon further fundamental condition that the Legislature of said State, by a solemn public act, shall declare the assent of said State to the said fundamental condition, and should transmit to the President of the United States an authenticated copy of said act of the legislature of said State, upon receipt whereof, the President, by proclamation, should forthwith announce the fact, whereupon the said fundamental condition should be held as a part of the organic law of the State; and thereupon, and without any further proceeding on the part of the Congress, the admission of said State into the Union should be considered as complete; and

Whereas, within the time prescribed by said act of the Congress on the eighth and ninth days of February, 1867, the legislature of the State of Nebraska did pass an act ratifying the said act of Congress of the eighth and ninth days of February, 1867, and declaring that the aforementioned provisions of the third section of said last-named act of Congress should be a part of the organic law of the State of Nebraska; and

Whereas, a duly authenticated copy of said act of the legislature of the State of Nebraska has been received by me;

Now, therefore, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress last herein named, declare and proclaim the fact that the fundamental conditions imposed by Congress on the State of Nebraska, to entitle that State to admission to the Union, have been ratified and accepted, and that the admission of the said State into the Union is now complete.

In testimony whereof I hereto set my hand and have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed."

"Done at the City of Washington, this first

day of March, in the year of our Lord, 1867, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-first.

By the President:

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State."

The twelfth and last session of the territorial legislation met at Omaha, January 10, 1867. The roster is here given:

Council—Barnabas Bates, J. D. Neleigh, G. W. Doan, W. Baumer, E. H. Rogers, F. K. Freeman, Lawson Sheldon, James E. Doom, M. S. Reeves, W. W. Wardell, T. J. Majors, W. A. Presson and A. S. Stewart. Officers: E. H. Rogers, president; O. B. Hewett, chief clerk; L. L. Holbrook, assistant clerk; E. A. Kirkpatrick, sergeant-at-arms; John Cadman, door-keeper.

House—Pawnee county, John R. Butler; Richardson county, G. Duerfeldt, J. M. Deweese, Joseph T. Hoile; Nemaha county, George Crowe, William Daily, Lewis Waldter, C. F. Haywood; Otoe county, W. M. Hicklin, J. R. Graves, A. F. Harvey, D. M. Anderson; Cass county, D. Cole, W. F. Chapin, Isaac Wiles, A. B. Fuller; Johnson county, A. W. Gray; Lancaster county, E. H. Hardenberger; Lancaster, Seward and Saunders counties, E. L. Clark, Sarpy county, George N. Crawford, A. W. Trumble; Douglas county, G. W. Frost, D. S. Parmelee, H. Link, S. M. Curran, E. P. Child; Dodge county, J. E. Dorsey; Platte county, John E. Kelley; Washington county, L. J. Abbott, Amasa S. Warwick; Dakota county, Daniel Duggan; Platte, Merrick, Hall and Buffalo counties, John Wallich; Gage and Jones counties, Hugh M. Ross; Burt and Cuming counties, Martin Stuefer; Lincoln, Kearney, Saline and Butler counties, William Baker. Officers: W. F. Chapin, speaker, J. S. Bowen, chief clerk; W. S. Brewster, assistant clerk; J. M. Howard, sergeant-at-arms.

The constitution provided that senators and representatives should be elected biennially, on the second Tuesday in October, at which time the State officers were also to be chosen. This, however, did not apply to the first set of officers designated under the constitution, those named under what may be termed, for distinction here,

the provincial officers. That first election was ordered by the constitution to take place June 2, 1866. Under this provision Hon. T. M. Marquette was elected representative in Congress. The vote for treasurer (which may be taken as a fair estimate of the party lines) was 4,756 for the Republican candidate, to 4,161 for the Democratic. In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, although the territory was still out of the Union as a State, the first regular election was held on the second Tuesday in October. Then it was that Hon. John Taffe was elected to Congress.

The new State began its existence under the official guidance of David Butler, governor; Thomas P. Kennard, secretary of State; John Gillespie, auditor; Augustus Kountze, treasurer; Thomas P. Kennard, librarian; Champion S. Chase, attorney general. The congressional representatives were: Senators, John M. Thayer and Thomas W. Tipton; Representative, John Taffe.

The so-called third session of the State legislature (but in reality the first session) met at Omaha under proclamation of Governor Butler, May 16, 1867. The State comprised eleven senatorial districts, represented by the following named senators: First district, Harlan Baird; Second district, J. T. Davis; Third district, Isaac S. Hascall and J. N. H. Patrick; Fourth district, E. H. Rogers; Fifth district, F. K. Freeman; Sixth district, Lawson Sheldon; Seventh district, J. E. Doom; Eighth district, W. W. Wardell and Mills S. Reeves; Ninth district, Thomas J. Majors; Tenth district, William A. Presson; Eleventh district, Oscar Holden. Hon. E. H. Rogers, of Dodge county, was elected president; L. L. Holbrook, secretary; Seth Robinson, assistant secretary; D. W. McKimmon, sergeant-at-arms; E. K. Caldwell, doorkeeper.

The house consisted of: Richardson county, J. T. Hoile, G. Duerfeldt, J. M. Deweese, T. J. Collins; Pawnee county, J. R. Butler, Nemaha county, William Daily, George Crowe, Louis Waldter, C. F. Hagood; Otoe county, A. F. Harvey, W. H. Hicklin, John B. Bennet, George W. Sroat, D. M. Anderson; Cass county, W. F. Chapin, D. Cole, A. B. Fuller, Isaac Wiles; Clay, Lancaster, Seward and Saunders

counties, E. L. Clark; Saline, Lincoln, Benton and Kearney counties, William Baker; Sarpy county, A. W. Trumble, George N. Crawford; Douglas County, G. W. Frost, J. M. Woolworth; Martin Dunham, Joel T. Griffin; Platte county, John E. Kelley; Washington county, D. C. Slader, John A. Unthank; Burt and Cuming counties, Austin Rockwell; Dodge county, Henry Beebe; Dakota county, James Preston; Johnson county, George P. Tucker, Dakota, Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court Counties, Henry Morton; Gage and Jones counties, Oliver Townsend; Lancaster county, John Cadman.

Hon. W. F. Chapin, of Cass county, was elected speaker; J. S. Bowen, chief clerk; W. B. Smith, assistant clerk; D. Labor, sergeant-at-arms; E. L. Clark, doorkeeper. The specific purposes for which this extraordinary session was called, was the enactment of laws and the amendment of existing statutes to harmonize with the new order of government.

The fourth session of the legislature was called for the purpose of making such provision as was essential, under the constitution of the United States, for the election of electors for President and Vice-President, this important duty having been unprovided for in previous sessions. The legislature met in Omaha, October 27 and 28, 1868, and on the last named day, passed a bill which was approved by Governor Butler defining the method of choosing electors.

The fifth session of the legislature (which is incorrectly called the "First regular Session" on the title page of the Journal) was the first to meet in Lincoln, after the removal of the capital to that place. It was also the first session by operation of the constitutional law, under the supreme ordinance of 1866; the preceding sessions, since the passage of the constitution having been either practically territorial legislatures, or "called" sessions of the State body, hence the designation as "first regular session."

The legislature met January 7, 1869. The members of the senate were by districts as follows: First—Richardson county, E. E. Cunningham; Second—Nemaha, Charles J. Majors; Third—Nemaha, Richardson and Johnson, I. Reavis; Fourth—Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Sa-

line and Lancaster, C. H. Gere; Fifth—Otoe, T. Ashton and T. B. Stevenson; Sixth—Cass, H. D. Hathaway; Seventh—Cass, Sarpy, Saunders, Butler and Seward: W. F. Chapin; Eighth—Douglas, E. B. Taylor and G. W. Frost; Ninth—Washington and Butler, William F. Goodwill; Tenth—Platte, Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Kearney and Lincoln: Guy C. Barnum. The senate chose Hon. E. B. Taylor, of Douglas county, president; S. M. Chapman, secretary; J. R. Patrick, assistant secretary; W. H. Miller, engrossing clerk; George Vandeventer, enrolling clerk; W. A. Pollock, sergeant-at-arms; John Bradshaw, doorkeeper.

The house was composed of: Richardson county, O. C. Jones, Delos A. Tisdell, J. E. Gardner, J. T. Hoile; Pawnee county, A. S. Stewart; Gage and Jefferson counties, Nathan Blakeley; Johnson county, Hinman Rhodes; Nemaha county, J. S. Church, H. Steinman, George Crowe, G. R. Shook; Otoe county, James Fitchie, W. McLennan, A. F. McCartney, J. W. Talbot, A. Zimmerer; Lancaster county, Ezra Tullis; Cass county, David McCaig, J. McF. Hagood, G. L. Seybolt, Joseph McKinnon; Saunders, Seward and Butler counties, Marcus Brush; Saline, Lincoln and Kearney counties, J. S. Hunt; Sarpy county, J. N. Case and J. D. Smith; Douglas county, S. C. Brewster, Joseph Fox, J. B. Furay, J. T. Griffin, D. S. Parmalee and Edwin Loveland; Dodge county, E. H. Bernard; Platte county, C. A. Speice; Hall, Buffalo and Merrick counties, Wells Brewer; Washington county, Christian Rathman and W. H. B. Stout; Burt and Cuming counties, Watson Parrish; Dakota county, John Naffziger; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, C. B. Evans. The officers were: Hon. William McLennan, of Otoe county, speaker; John S. Bowen, chief clerk; C. H. Walker, assistant clerk; E. L. Clark, sergeant-at-arms; H. J. Mumford, doorkeeper; Jessie Turner, engrossing clerk, Abram Deyo, enrolling clerk.

The sixth session of the legislature was an extraordinary convention for twenty specific purposes, first among which was the ratification of the proposed fifteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States. The measure of greatest State interest was the erection of a



penitentiary, and the remaining objects of the session varied in importance from the incorporation of cities to the payment of legislators.

On February 17, 1870, the legislature met at Lincoln. The new representatives were: Samuel Carter, Leander W. Pattison, from Richardson county; Hiram O. Minick, from Nemaha county; Fordyce Roper, from Gage and Jefferson counties, and C. A. Leary, from Douglas county. Speaker McLennan presided. The new members of the senate were: Second district, William Daily, Sr.; Third district, Samuel A. Fulton and Eugene L. Reed.

Immediately after the close of the sixth session, the seventh session assembled, at 8:30 p. m., March 4, 1870, on the order of Governor Butler, whose proclamation was issued during the day. The session was in fact but the continuance of the preceding session. The objects enumerated in the executive message were the necessity of a passage of a herd law; the ratification of a contract made by the Governor for the conveyance of certain lands to Isaac Cahn and John M. Evans; to aid in the developments of the saline interests of the State and some local measures. The result of the session was not favorable to the desire of Governor Butler, relative to his action in the saline land contract.

The eighth session of the legislature began January 5, 1871. The senate consisted of: First—Richardson county, E. E. Cunningham; Second—Nemaha county, E. W. Thomas; Third—Nemaha, Richardson and Johnson counties, George P. Tucker; Fourth—Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson, Saline and Lancaster counties, A. J. Cropsey; Fifth—Otoe county, David Brown and Robert Hawke; Sixth—Cass county, Lawson Sheldon; Seventh—Cass, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Butler counties, Willett Pottinger, contested successfully by A. W. Kennedy, who sat during the latter part of the session; Eighth—Douglas county, Frederick Metz and I. S. Hascall; Ninth—Washington and Burt counties, B. F. Hilton; Tenth—Dodge Stanton, Cuming, Cedar, Dixon and L'eau Qui Court counties, A. W. Tennant (contested unsuccessfully by J. D. Neighley); Eleventh—Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Kearney and Lincoln counties, Leander Gerrard. Hon. E. E. Cunningham was elected president; C. H. Walker, secretary;

C. M. Blaker, assistant secretary; A. T. Mc Carthy, engrossing clerk (Miss Cornelia Frost received two votes for this office, two less than Mr. McCarthy, the first instance of a woman being nominated for office in the Nebraska legislature); G. G. Beecher, enrolling clerk; L. L. Kline, sergeant-at-arms; C. E. Hines, door-keeper.

The house contained: Richardson County, H. W. Sommerlad, James Wickham, Henry Schock, Ruel Nims; Nemaha county, William Daily, S. P. Majors, G. R. Shook, De Forest Porter; Pawnee county, G. W. Collins; Gage and Jefferson counties, D. C. Jenkins; Johnson county, Hinman Rhodes; Otoe county, W. E. Dillon, J. E. Doom, Eugene Munn, John Ober-ton, J. W. Conger; Lancaster county, S. B. Galey; Cass county, F. M. Wolcott, J. K. Cannon, J. M. Patterson, John Rouse; Saunders, Seward and Butler counties, A. Roberts; Saline, Lincoln and Kearney counties, Isaac Goodin; Sarpy county, E. N. Grinnell, Chas. DUBY; Douglas county, John Ahmanson, T. F. Wall, J. C. Myers, E. Rosewater, W. M. Ryan, L. S. Reed; Dodge county, A. C. Briggs; Platte and Colfax counties, A. J. Hudson; Hall, Buffalo and Merrick counties, Enos Beall; Washington county, Elam Clark, H. C. Riordan; Burt and Cuming counties, Frank Kipp; Dakota county, James Clark; Dixon, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, D. J. Quimby. Officers: Hon. George W. Collins, speaker; Louis E. Cropsey, chief clerk; J. R. Webster, assistant clerk; D. L. Snyder, engrossing clerk; Charles Culbertson, sergeant-at-arms; E. L. Clark, doorkeeper. By an irregularity in the journals the election of Miss Cornelia Frost is not recorded, but that lady qualified as enrolling clerk and so served.

On the 9th of January, 1872, in accordance with the order of adjournment, the legislature re-assembled in what was known as the eighth adjourned session.

The ninth session of the legislature convened January 9, 1873, with the following senate: First district, W. D. Scott; Second, G. R. Shook; Third, A. Bowen; Fourth, E. W. Barnum; Fifth, W. A. Gwyer and O. Wilson; Sixth, L. W. Osborn; Seventh, J. C. Crawford; Eighth, S. W. Hayes; Ninth, G. C. Barton; Tenth, Job

A. Dillon; Eleventh, S. B. Pound; Twelfth, N. K. Greggs. Officers: Hon. W. A. Gwyer, of Omaha, president; D. H. Wheeler, secretary; L. S. Estell, assistant secretary; W. D. Wildman, sergeant-at-arms; S. L. Barrett, engrossing clerk; William Caffrey, enrolling clerk; C. E. Hine, doorkeeper.

The house consisted of: Richardson county, E. S. Towle, C. L. Metz, H. Holcomb; Nemaha county, C. Blodgett, C. W. Wheeler; Otoe county, J. H. Masters, J. W. Patrick, Logan Enyart, Paul Schminke; Cass county, J. W. Barnes, J. L. Brown; Pawnee county, A. H. Babcock; Johnson county, L. H. Lafin; Gage county, J. B. McDowell; Lancaster county, A. K. White, S. G. Owen; Saunders county, W. H. Deck; Saline county, O. W. Baltzley; Jefferson, Nucholls and Webster counties, Silas Garber; York, Polk, Butler, Platte, Hamilton, Clay and Adams counties, J. E. Cramer; Lancaster, Saunders, Gage, Jefferson and Pawnee counties, M. H. Sessions; Sarpy county, George S. Burtch; Douglas county, C. F. Goodman, W. R. Bartlett, J. L. Webster, M. Dunham, H. L. Dodge, E. G. Dudley; Washington county, Henry Sprick; Burt county, Austin Nelson; Dodge county, Milton May; Cuming and Wayne counties, R. F. Stevenson; Dakota and Dixon counties, R. H. Wilbur; Platte and Colfax counties, A. J. Arnold; Madison, Stanton, Pierce, Cedar and L'eau Qui Court counties, L. M. Howard; Hall, Merrick, Greeley, Howard, Boone and Antelope counties, Ed. Parker; Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Dodge counties, Bruno Tzschuck. Officers: Hon. M. H. Sessions, speaker; J. W. Eller, chief clerk; E. Chadwick, assistant clerk; U. B. Balcombe, enrolling clerk; J. F. Zediker, engrossing clerk; D. V. Stevenson, sergeant-at-arms.

The tenth session was an extra one, beginning March 27, 1873, for the purpose of taking action on matters relating to the boundaries of certain counties and other legislation.

The eleventh session of the legislature began January 7, 1875. The senate roll stood: First district, T. C. Hoyt; Second, J. B. Fisher; third, J. E. Lamaster; Fourth, S. M. Chapman; Fifth, C. B. Rustin and J. S. Spaun; Sixth, Waldo Lyon; Seventh, Alexander Bear; Eighth, H. D. Perky; Ninth, Guy C. Barton; Tenth, Rufus H.

Abbott; Eleventh, C. C. Burr; Twelfth, N. K. Briggs. Officers: Hon. N. K. Briggs, president, D. H. Wheeler, secretary; C. L. Mather, assistant secretary; George F. Work, engrossing clerk; J. W. Conger, enrolling clerk; Levi A. Stebbins, sergeant-at-arms; C. E. Hine, doorkeeper.

The house was composed of: Richardson county, Henry Fischer, E. S. Towle, Seth W. Beals; Nemaha county, Church Howe, C. M. Hayden; Otoe county, N. R. Pinney, Logan Enyart, J. H. Tomlin, Eugene Munn; Cass county, J. L. Brown, H. W. Farley; Pawnee county, W. F. Wright; Johnson county, C. A. Holmes; Gage county, J. B. McDowell; Lancaster county, A. T. Hastings, Louis Helmer; Saunders county, J. F. Roll; Seward county, D. C. McKillip; Saline county, G. H. Hastings; Thayer, Jefferson, Nuckolls and Webster counties, F. J. Hendershot; York, Polk, Butler, Platte, Hamilton, Clay and Adams counties, Albinus Nance; Lancaster, Saunders, Gage, Johnson and Pawnee counties, Thomas C. Chapman; Sarpy, James, Davidson and Douglas counties, B. H. Barrows, J. M. Thurston, Jacob Weidensall, John Baumer, Frank Murphy, A. H. Baker; Madison, Stanton, Pierce, Cedar and Knox counties, R. S. Lucas; Hall, Merrick, Howard, Greeley, Boone and Antelope counties, Loran Clark; Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Washington and Dodge counties, J. W. Barnes; Lincoln, Cheyenne, Dawson, Buffalo, Sherman, Valley, Kearney and Franklin counties, M. V. Moudy; Washington county, E. S. Gaylord; Dodge county, J. C. Seeley; Colfax county, Frank Folda; Burt county, W. G. Olinger; Dakota county, B. F. Chambers; Cuming county, J. C. Crawford. Officers: Hon. E. S. Towle, speaker; G. L. Brown, chief clerk; J. F. Zediker, assistant clerk; S. B. Jones, engrossing clerk; Miss Sarah C. Funke, enrolling clerk; J. W. Manning, sergeant-at-arms; J. W. McCabe, doorkeeper.

The State constitution of 1875 was presented to the people for ratification or rejection in 1875. It was ratified by a vote of 30,202 against 5,474, which were against it.

On December 5, 1876, the twelfth session of the legislature was called to pass upon the question of the legality of the election of Amosa

Coub to the office of presidential elector. Mr. Cobb was chosen by ballot, in joint convention of both houses, on the same day as the preceding session the thirteenth session of the legislature was held for the purpose of canvassing the popular vote cast for the State ticket and congressman.

On January 2, 1877 the fourteenth session of the legislature convened in regular session. The senate consisted of the following members: First district, J. W. Holt, P. W. Birkhauser; Second, Church Howe; Third, G. W. Covell, C. H. Van Wyck; Fourth, S. M. Chapman; Fifth, G. W. Ambrose, C. H. Brown; Sixth, A. N. Ferguson; Seventh, W. C. Walton; Eighth, G. F. Blanchard; Ninth, J. C. Crawford; Tenth, Isaac Powers, Jr.; Eleventh, S. W. Hayes; Twelfth, John Aten; Thirteenth, G. H. Thummel; Fourteenth, J. E. North; Fifteenth, H. Garfield; Sixteenth, A. M. Bryant; Seventeenth, Thomas P. Kennard and C. N. Baird; Eighteenth, T. W. Pepoon; Nineteenth, L. W. Colby; Twentieth, J. W. Dawes; Twenty-first, E. C. Carns; Twenty-second, W. M. Knapp; Twenty-third, M. W. Wilcox; Twenty-fourth, J. S. Gilham; Twenty-fifth, E. C. Calkins; Twenty-sixth, B. I. Hinman. Officers: Hon. Othman A. Abbott, president; Hon. George F. Blanchard, president pro tem; D. S. Wheeler, secretary; E. J. Baldwin, assistant secretary; Thomas Harlan, sergeant-at-arms; Miss Ella Marlay, enrolling clerk; Miss Mollie Baird, engrossing clerk; M. J. Houck, doorkeeper.

The house roll by districts was: First district, J. D. Gillman, William Gerdis, Joseph H. Meyers; Second, E. Jordan, W. J. Halderman; Third, William Anyan, L. M. Boggs; Fourth, W. H. Doolittle, William R. Spicknall; Fifth, J. G. Evans, John Frerichs, J. J. Mercer; Sixth, George McKee, F. W. Robb, J. B. Elliott, Paul Schminke; Seventh, John Cadman, W. C. Griffith, Henry Spellman, R. O. Phillips; Eighth, J. A. Jury, M. M. Runyon, E. M. Mengel; Ninth, J. C. Gilmore, T. N. Bobbitt, J. M. Beardsley; Tenth, S. F. Burtch; Eleventh, A. H. Baker, J. S. Gibson, William Neville, P. P. Shelby, G. E. Pritchell, James Creighton, L. L. Wilcox, Thomas Blackmore; Twelfth, H. B. Nicodemus, N. S. Belden; Thirteenth, Henry Sprick; Fourteenth, F. M. Johnson; Fifteenth,

W. J. Mcicker, J. W. Pollock; Sixteenth, J. C. Hefferman; Seventeenth, J. P. Walters; Eighteenth, L. C. Champlin; Nineteenth, W. W. Fitzpatrick; Twentieth, S. T. Caldwell; Twenty-first, J. E. Smith; Twenty-second, S. Sadler; Twenty-third, James W. Small; Twenty-fourth, C. M. Northrup; Twenty-fifth, E. Whitcomb, T. B. Parker, James McCreedy; Twenty-sixth, Thomas Wolfe, Thomas A. Healey; Twenty-seventh, S. V. Moore, Lee Love; Twenty-eighth, Thomas B. Johnson; Twenty-ninth, Peter Harrison; Thirtieth, S. W. Switzer; Thirty-first, Anthony Reis; Thirty-second, B. B. Mills, Thirty-third, N. J. Paul; Thirty-fourth, Henry A. Bruno; Thirty-fifth, Albinus Nance; Thirty-sixth, Cyrus Allen; Thirty-seventh, N. W. Wells; Thirty-eighth, C. C. Barnum; Thirty-ninth, Alexander Bear; Fortieth, G. A. Hall; Forty-first, C. F. Eiseley, Forty-second, C. H. Frady; Forty-third, Thomas G. Hullihen; Forty-fourth, W. B. Lambert; Forty-fifth, Loren Clark; Forty-sixth, J. H. McColl; Forty-seventh, A. H. Bush; Forty-eighth, A. E. Harvey; Forty-ninth, W. P. P. St. Clair; Fiftieth, Samuel Barker; Fifty-first, D. P. Whelpley; Fifty-second, J. O. Chase. Officers: Hon. Albinus Nance, speaker; B. D. Slaughter, chief clerk; J. F. Zedizer, assistant clerk; W. B. White, enrolling clerk; Hannah M. Kellum, engrossing clerk; L. B. Palmer, sergeant-at-arms; H. W. Gregory, doorkeeper.

The fifteenth session of the legislature met January 7, 1879. Below is given the roster of the senate: First district, P. W. Birkhauser, G. P. Stone; Second, Church Howe; Third, C. H. VanWyck, D. T. Hayden; Fourth, Orlando Tefft; Fifth, C. K. Coutant, C. H. Brown; Sixth, C. V. Gallagher; Seventh, John A. Cuppy; Eighth, William Marshall; Ninth, Louis Otterstein, Tenth, W. B. Beck; Eleventh, Louis Ley; Twelfth, O. P. Sullenberger; Thirteenth, E. W. Arnold; Fourteenth, J. T. Clarkson; Fifteenth, W. F. Kimmell; Sixteenth, T. A. Bonnell; Seventeenth, E. E. Brown, M. B. Chency; Eighteenth, B. F. Dorsey; Nineteenth, James A. McMeans; Twentieth, J. H. Grimm; Twenty-first, T. L. Norval; Twenty-second, D. A. Scovill; Twenty-third, J. F. Coulter; Twenty-fourth, A. L. Wigton; Twenty-fifth, John D. Seaman; Twenty-sixth, George H. Jewett.

Officers: Hon. Edmund C. Carns, president; Hon. William Marshall, president pro tem; Sherwood Burr, secretary; C. H. Babcock, W. M. Seeley, assistant secretaries; Miss Kate E. Stover, engrossing clerk; J. T. Allen, enrolling clerk; J. N. Cassell, sergeant-at-arms; W. H. Thomas, doorkeeper.

The house roll by districts was: First district, John Kloepfel, B. R. Stouffer, W. M. Patton, J. Fenton; Second, R. A. Kennedy, S. Bornard; Third, John Sparks; Fourth, S. B. Starrett, W. R. York; Fifth, W. A. Pollock, N. Johnson, E. Lash; Sixth, J. L. Mitchell, R. D. Brownlee, Jacob Lisk, George Ferguson; Seventh, M. H. Sessions, S. G. Owen, W. W. Carder, T. R. Burling; Eighth, H. A. Fisher, B. F. Hammitt, F. E. Davis; Ninth, R. B. Windham, I. F. Polk, Isaac Stone; Tenth, Amos Gates; Eleventh, George Plumbeck, L. M. Bennett, R. E. Gaylord, Patrick McArdle, W. H. Burns, J. S. Gibson, B. E. B. Kennedy, C. J. Karbach; Twelfth, C. F. Eiseley, G. M. Dodge; Thirteenth, Giles Mead, J. J. Thompson; Fourteenth, Ribert Hanson; Fifteenth, B. A. Thompson, John E. Long; Sixteenth and Seventeenth, W. H. Vanderbilt; Eighteenth, C. B. Slocumb; Nineteenth, G. C. Bruce; Twentieth, R. M. Simonton; Twenty-first, J. E. Smith, Twenty-second, R. A. Batty; Twenty-third, H. A. Draper; Twenty-fourth, J. D. Jenkins; Twenty-fifth, M. B. C. True, J. W. Gilbert, N. H. Moore; Twenty-sixth, H. A. French, William Hickman; Twenty-seventh, W. T. Scott, W. H. Keckley; Twenty-eighth, R. W. Grayhill, Twenty-ninth, G. H. Bush; Thirtieth, J. H. Davis; Thirty-first, A. H. Bradley, Thirty-second, P. J. Dempster; Thirty-third, J. F. Frederick; Thirty-fourth, J. W. Sparks; Thirty-fifth, T. S. Sparks; Thirty-sixth, F. Englehard; Thirty-seventh, N. W. Wells; Thirty-eighth, T. C. Ryan; Thirty-ninth, C. P. Mathewson; Fortieth, J. A. Ziegler; Forty-first, R. N. Day; Forty-second, Tobias Mack; Forty-third, B. Y. Shelley; Forty-fourth, F. H. Trowbridge; Forty-fifth, Oscar Babcock; Forty-sixth, T. L. Warrington; Forty-seventh, Sidney Baker; Forty-eighth, R. H. Rohr; Forty-ninth, F. W. Gassman; Fiftieth, A. W. Vandeman; Fifty-first, D. C. Loveland; Fifty-second, M. S. Price. Officers: Hon. C. P. Methewson, speaker; B.

D. Slaughter, chief clerk; J. F. Zedicker, T. H. Benton, assistant clerks; Miss Kate Strickland, engrossing clerk; W. P. Squire, enrolling clerk; Isaac Goodin, sergeant-at-arms; C. H. North, doorkeeper.

The foregoing pages have carried the various sessions of the legislature through territorial organization and also through the first dozen years of statehood in consecutive form. This was during the formative period of the history of the State. The men who served in the councils of the State during these years may truly be classed as pioneers, and they were the representative men of their day from the various portions of the State.

#### MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE FROM 1866 TO 1910 INCLUSIVE.

In the following pages we present an alphabetical list of the members of the Nebraska legislature from 1866 to 1910 inclusive. The name is given first, together with the county from which the party was elected; and the figures indicate the sessions in which the party served:

#### SENATORS.

Abbott, Rufus, Pawnee county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Akers, Wm. R., Dawson county, Session 24.  
 Alden, J. M., Pierce county, Session 28.  
 Aldrich, C. H., Butler county, Session 30.  
 Alexander, C. L., Adams county, Session 26.  
 Allen, E. N., Furnas county, Session 27.  
 Ambrose, Geo. W., Douglas county, Session 14.  
 Anderson, C. B., Saline county, Session 28.  
 Arends, J. H., Otoe county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Arnold, E. W., Hall county, Session 15.  
 Ashton, F. W., Hall county, Session 30.  
 Ashton, T., Otoe county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Aten, John, Dixon county, Session 14.  
 Babcock, Wm. N., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Baird, Cyrus N., Lancaster county, Session 14.  
 Baird, Harlan, Richardson county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Baldrige, Howard H., Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Baker, Sidney, Buffalo county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Ballentine, D. C., Lincoln county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Banning, W. B., Session 31.  
 Barker, L. D., Saline county, Session 18.  
 Barmun, Guy C., Buffalo county, Sessions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.  
 Barnum, E. W., Cass county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Barton, G. C., Lincoln county, Sessions 9, 11.  
 Barton, W. R., Johnson county, Session 26.  
 Bartos, F. W., Session 31.  
 Bauer, Wm. E., Butler county, Session 24.  
 Beardsley, S. W., Lancaster county, Session 21.  
 Beal, C. W., Custer county, Session 25.  
 Bear, Alexander, Madison county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Beck, Wm. B., Burt county, Sessions 15, 22.  
 Beghtol, P. F., Lancaster county, Sessions 28, 29.

- Berlet, Peter, Nemaha county, Session 27.  
 Besse, C. R., Session 31.  
 Birkhauser, P. W., Richardson county, Sessions 14, 15.  
 Black, Joseph, Buffalo county, Session 24.  
 Blanchard, Geo. F., Dodge county, Session 14.  
 Bodinson, E. F., Session 31.  
 Bomgardner, D. E., Kearney county, Session 18.  
 Bonesteel, H. E., Knox county, Session 20.  
 Bonnell, T. A., Saunders county, Session 15.  
 Bowen, A., Otoe county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Brady, James T., Boone county, Session 28.  
 Bresee, Charles P., Sheridan county, Session 29.  
 Bressler, John T., Wayne county, Session 24.  
 Brown, Charles H., Douglas county, Sessions 14, 15, 18.  
 Brown, David, Otoe county, Session 8.  
 Brown, E. E., Lancaster county, Sessions 15-18.  
 Brown Ezra, Clay county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Brown, E. P., Session 31.  
 Brown, J. Marion, Washington county, Session 22.  
 Brown, O. F., Platte county, Session 18.  
 Brown, R. G., Clay county, Session 20.  
 Brown, W. C., Keyapaha county, Session 28.  
 Bryant, A. M., Saunders county, Session 14.  
 Buck, S. H., Otoe county, Sessions 30-31.  
 Buckworth, A. D., Lincoln county, Session 19.  
 Burnham, S. W., Lancaster county, Session 20.  
 Burns, Joseph, Lancaster county, Session 30.  
 Burns, J. F., Dodge county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Burns, Martin, York county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Burr, C. C., Lancaster county, Sessions 11, 12, 13-19.  
 Burton, George W., Harlan county, Session 21.  
 Butler, David, Pawnee county, Session 18.  
 Byrnes, J. C., Platte county, Session 30.  
 Cady, A. E., Howard county, Session 29.  
 Cady, H. F., Otoe county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Cadman, John, Lancaster county, Session 1.  
 Cain, J. R. Jr., Session 31.  
 Caldwell, G. H., Hall county, Session 24.  
 Caldwell, S. T., Clay county, Session 25.  
 Calhoun, L. H., Otoe county, Session 1.  
 Calkins, D. K., Franklin county, Session 20.  
 Calkins, Elisha C., Buffalo county, Session 14.  
 Campbell, Frank, Holt county, Session 27.  
 Campbell, J. E., Sarpy county, Session 20.  
 Campbell, J. N., Nance county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Campbell, Wm., Otoe county, Session 17.  
 Canaday, J. S., Sessions 25, 26.  
 Canfield, George, Douglas county, Session 18.  
 Carns, E. C., Seward county, Session 14.  
 Case, O. C., Webster county, Session 18.  
 Casper, C. D., Butler county, Session 20.  
 Castle, G. H., Gage county, Session 17.  
 Chapin, Wm. F., Cass county, Session 5.  
 Chapman, S. M., Cass county, Sessions 11, 12, 13, 14.  
 Cheney, M. B., Lancaster county, Session 15.  
 Cherry, A. B., Gage county, Session 19.  
 Christofferson, George, Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Clarke, A. L., Adams county, Session 30.  
 Clarke, C. H., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Clarke, H. F., Sarpy county, Session 19.  
 Clarkson, J. T., Platte county, Session 15.  
 Coffee, C. J., Boyd county, Session 28.  
 Colby, L. W., Gage county, Sessions 14-20.  
 Collins, Geo. F., Gage county, Session 22.  
 Conaway, J. B., York county, Session 25.  
 Conger, W. H., Boone county, Session 20.  
 Conkling, A. T., Washington county, Session 18.  
 Conner, A. H., Buffalo county, Sessions 18-21.  
 Coon, C. B., Adams county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Cornell, C. H., Cherry county, Session 21.  
 Correll, E. M., Thayer county, Session 23.  
 Coulter, F. B., Hall county, Session 22.  
 Coulter, J. F., Fillmore county, Session 15.  
 Coutant, C. K., Douglas county, Session 15.  
 Covell, G. W., Otoe county, Session 14.  
 Cox, J., Hamilton county, Session 28.  
 Cox, J. M., Session 31.  
 Crane, T. D., Douglas county, Session 24.  
 Crawford, J., Holt county, Session 24.  
 Crawford, J. C., Cuming county, Sessions 9, 10-14.  
 Cropsey, A. J., Jefferson county, Session 8.  
 Cross, George, Jefferson county, Session 24.  
 Crounse, Lorenzo, Washington county, Session 27.  
 Crow, Jcs., Douglas county, Session 26.  
 Cummins, H. B., M. D., Seward county, Session 27.  
 Cunningham, E. E., Richardson county, Sessions 5, 6, 7, 8.  
 Cuppy, J. A., Washington county, Session 15.  
 Currie, F. M., Custer county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Daily, Wm., Sr., Nemaha county, Sessions 6, 7.  
 Daily, Wm., Nemaha county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Dale, W. F., Harlan county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Darner, J. H., Dawson county, Session 23.  
 Davis, Jesse T., Washington county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Dawes, J. W., Saline county, Session 14.  
 Day, C. A., Saunders county, Session 19.  
 Day, George L., Nuckolls county, Session 28.  
 Dav. T. J., Garfield county, Session 22.  
 Dean, Frank A., Phelps county, Session 28.  
 Dearing, W. H., Cass county, Session 25.  
 Deck, W. H., Saunders county, Session 18.  
 Dern, John, Dodge county, Session 21.  
 Diers, Herman, Session 31.  
 Dillon, J. A., Johnson county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Dimery, Martin W., Seward county, Sessions 29.  
 Dinsmore, J. B., Fillmore county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Doane, Geo. W., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Dodson, P. F., Saline county, Session 30.  
 Dolan, J. W., Redwillow county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Donahoe, J. A., Session 31.  
 Doom, Jas E., Cass county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Dorsey, B. F., Johnson county, Session 15.  
 Dundas, John H., Nemaha county, Session 25.  
 Dunn, J. A., Platte county, Session 26.  
 Dunphy, R. E., Seward county, Session 18.  
 Duras, C., Saline county, Session 20.  
 Durland, A. J., Madison county, Session 19.  
 Dye, Wm., Fillmore county, Session 18.  
 Dysart, Wm., Nuckolls county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Edgar, Wm. H., Gage county, Session 27.  
 Eggleston, G. W., Lancaster county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Einsel, E. D., Phelps county, Session 19.  
 Epperson, Chas. H., Clay county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Ervin, J. R., Johnson county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Evans, A. J., Butler county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Evans, J. H., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Everett, F., Burt county, Session 23.  
 Farrell, T. F., Merrick county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Feltz, F. Q., Keith county, Session 25.  
 Ferguson, A. N., Douglas county, Session 14.  
 Fisher, J. B., Nemaha county, Sessions 11, 12, 13, 18.  
 Filley, Elijah, Gage county, Session 18.  
 Filson, G. M., Richardson county, Session 19.  
 Fowler, C. A., Fillmore county, Session 26.  
 Freeman, F. K., Kearney county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Fries, M. L., Valley county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Fritz, Nick, Thurston county, Session 25.  
 Frost, G. W., Douglas county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Fuller, Frank, Wayne county, Session 20.  
 Fulton, S. A., Johnson county, Sessions 6, 7.  
 Funck, I. W., Gage county, Session 20.  
 Gallagher, C. V., Douglas county, Session 15.  
 Gallogly, Jos. J., Merrick county, Session 21.  
 Gamill, John C., Session 31.  
 Garfield, H., Butler county, Session 14.  
 Gere, C. H., Lancaster county, Sessions 5, 6, 7, 16, 17.  
 Gerrand, Leander, Buffalo county, Session 8

- Gibson, L. C., Douglas county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Giffert, D. C., Cumming county, Session 26.  
 Giffin, W. D., Dawson county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Gilham, J. S., Adams county, Session 14.  
 Gilligan, John P., Holt county, Session 29.  
 Glover, H. B., Custer county, Session 30.  
 Goehner, J. F., Seward county, Session 19.  
 Gondring, J. N., Platte county, Session 25.  
 Good, Ellis E., Nemaha county, Session 29.  
 Goodrich, L., Fillmore county, Session 30.  
 Goodwill, W. F., Washington county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Gould, E. D., Greeley county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Graham, Alex., Gage county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Graham, L. M., Frontier county, Session 25.  
 Graham, Thos., Seward county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Gray, W. M., Valley county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Griggs, N. K., Gage county, Sessions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.  
 Grimm, J. H., Saline county, Session 15.  
 Grothan, O., Howard county, Session 25.  
 Gwyer, Wm. A., Douglas county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Hahn, L., Adams county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Halderman, W. J., Richardson county, Sessions 26.  
 Hale, F. J., Madison county, Sessions 23, 26.  
 Hall, Joseph, Burt county, Session 28.  
 Hall, Mathew A., Douglas county, Session 28.  
 Haller, W. D., Washington county, Sessions 25, 29.  
 Hanna, D., Cherry county, Session 30.  
 Hanna, T. K., Cass county, Session 1.  
 Hannibal, R. R., Hall county, Session 26.  
 Harris, C. L., Boone county, Session 18.  
 Harris, J. E., Otoe county, Session 23.  
 Harlan, Nathan V., York county, Session 27.  
 Harrington, R. B., Gage county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Harrison, T. O. C., Hamilton county, Session 18.  
 Harrison, W. H., Hall county, Session 28.  
 Harsh, A. F., Kearney county, Session 29.  
 Hart, David, Adams county, Session 29.  
 Hascall, J. S., Douglas county, Sessions 2, 3, 4, 8.  
 Hastings, Shelby, Butler county, Session 28.  
 Hastings, W. G., Saline county, Session 19.  
 Hasty, D. S., Furnas county, Session 28.  
 Hatfield, J. D., Session 31.  
 Hathaway, H. D., Cass county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Hawke, Robert, Otoe county, Session 8.  
 Hayes, S. W., Dodge county, Sessions 9, 10, 14.  
 Hayden, D. T., Otoe county, Session 15.  
 Heapy, J. W., Sherman county, Session 25.  
 Heartwell, J. B., Adams county, Session 20.  
 Hedge, J. C., Adams county, Session 28.  
 Heist, G. W., Dawson county, Session 18.  
 Henry, F. J., Session 31.  
 Higgins, J. M., Cass county, Session 20.  
 Hiegins, P. M., Colfax county, Session 20.  
 Hill, J. F., Adams county, Session 22.  
 Hilton, B. F., Washington county, Session 8.  
 Hinman, B. I., Lincoln county, Session 14.  
 Hitchcock, J. H., Johnson county, Session 24.  
 Hodges, B., Kearney, Phelps & Harlan counties, Session 27.  
 Hoebel, Louis, Otoe county, Session 19.  
 Helbrook, W. D., Dodge county, Sessions 24, 26, 30.  
 Holden, Oscar, Pawnee county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Holmes, C. A., Johnson county, Session 20.  
 Holt, J. W., Richardson county, Session 14.  
 Hoover, J. S., Webster county, Session 21.  
 Horn, Valentine, Hamilton county, Session 22.  
 Howard, F. M., Hamilton county, Session 26.  
 Howe, Church, Nemaha county, Sessions 14, 15, 19, 21.  
 Howe, J. D., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Howell, E. E., Douglas county, Sessions 25, 31.  
 Howell, M., York county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Howell, Robt. B., Douglas county, Session 28.  
 Hoyt, T. C., Richardson county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Hughes, Hugh, Platte county, Session 29.  
 Hurd, L. G., Clay county, Session 21.  
 Hyers, Robt. W., Cass county, Session 19.  
 Ijams, W. H., Douglas county, Session 21.  
 Jackson, H. W. L., Gage county, Session 29.  
 Jeffcoat, John, Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Jeffres, E. W., Greeley county, Session 24.  
 Jennings, W. H., Thayer county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Jewett, G. H., Lincoln county, Session 15.  
 Jewett, L. H., Custer county, Session 21.  
 Johnson, L. L., Clay county, Sessions 23, 25.  
 Jones, R. W. W., Otoe county, Session 29.  
 Keckley, C. R., York county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Kelper, G. F., Pierce county, Session 22.  
 Kennard, T. P., Lancaster county, Session 14.  
 Kent, L. H., Kearney county, Session 30.  
 Ketchum, Smith, Session 31.  
 Kimmell, W. F., Butler county, Session 15.  
 King, E. L., Polk county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Kinkaid, M. P., Antelope county, Session 18.  
 Klein, Jacob, Session 31.  
 Knapp, W. M., York county, Session 14.  
 Knepper, A. J., Butler county, Session 26.  
 Koontz, J. N., Hayes county, Session 22.  
 Krumbach, Charles, Polk county, Session 27.  
 Krummer, L., Platte county, Session 1.  
 Latta, J. P., Burt county, Session 30.  
 Lamaster, J. E., Otoe county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Lavery, Alex., Saunders county, Sessions 29, 31.  
 Leace, David, Sarpy county, Session 1.  
 Lee, J. D., Boyd county, Session 25.  
 Lehr, W. J., Saunders county, Session 24.  
 Lewis, T. L., Burt county, Session 19.  
 Lev, L., Madison county, Session 15.  
 Liddell, John L., Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Lindsay, H. C., Pawnee county, Session 24.  
 Lindsay, J. P., Furnas county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Lininger, G. W., Douglas county, Session 20.  
 Linn, J. L., Richardson county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Lobeck, C. O., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Love, E. M., Antelope county, Session 19.  
 Lowley, G. W., Seward county, Session 23.  
 Luce, C. A., Harlan county, Session 30.  
 Lyman, J. N., Adams county, Session 27.  
 Lyon, W., Burt county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Maher, M., Platte county, Session 21.  
 Majors, T. J., Nemaha county, Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 31.  
 Manning, J. R., Wayne county, Session 21.  
 Marshall, Charles, Otoe county, Session 28.  
 Marshall, Wm., Dodge county, Session 15.  
 Martin, Francis, Richardson county, Session 27.  
 Mattes, John, Jr., Otoe county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 McAllister, W. A., Platte county, Session 19.  
 McCargar, H., Saline county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 McCarty, T. F., Howard county, Session 23.  
 McDonald, B. F., Thurston county, Session 23.  
 McGann, M. W., Boone county, Session 25.  
 McKeeby, G. E., Webster county, Session 24.  
 McKesson, J. C. F., Lancaster county, Sessions 24, 30.  
 McMeans, J. S., Fillmore county, Session 15.  
 McNamar, C. W., Dawson county, Session 20.  
 McShane, J. A., Douglas county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Megeath, James G., Douglas county, Session 1.  
 Meiklejohn, G. D., Nance county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Meredith, George W., Saunders county, Sessions 27, 28.  
 Meserve, Wm. A., Knox county, Session 29.  
 Metz, F., Douglas county, Session 8.  
 Metz, Fred, Douglas county, Session 19.  
 Michener, N. S., Polk county, Session 22.  
 Mitchell, E. E., Hamilton county, Session 24.  
 Miller, James E., Buffalo county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Miller, J. E., Session 31.  
 Miller, J. P., York county, Session 23.

- Miller, Wm., Burt county, Session 25.  
 Mills, M. A., Polk county, Session 19.  
 Mockett, John H., Jr., Lancaster county, Session 29.  
 Moore, R. E. Lancaster county, Sessions 20, 22, 23.  
 Morgan, W. A., Dixon county, Session 26.  
 Morse, W. R. Hall county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Muffy, C. T., Madison county, Session 25.  
 Mullen, J. P., Holt county, Session 23.  
 Murphy, G. A., Gage county, Session 25.  
 Mutz Otto, Keyapaha county, Session 25.  
 Myers, John C., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Myers, F. L., Session 31.  
 Nesbit, J. I., Lincoln county, Session 21.  
 Newell, W. H., Cass county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Nielson Fred C., Cuming county, Session 29.  
 Norris, C. H., Pawnee county, Session 19.  
 Norris, Charles I., Pawnee county, Session 28.  
 Norris, W. F., Dakota county, Session 18.  
 North, J. E., Platte county, Sessions 14, 23.  
 Norval, R. S., Seward county, Session 21.  
 Norval, T. L., Seward county, Session 15.  
 Noyes, Isaac, Douglas county, Sessions 24, 26.  
 O'Connell, J. G., Johnson county, Session 30.  
 O'Neill, H., Holt county, Session 26.  
 O'Neill Richard, Lancaster county, Sessions 27, 28.  
 Ollis, J. A., Session 31.  
 Olson, Andrew R., Cuming county, Session 27.  
 Osborn, L. W., Washington county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Osborn, John M., Pawnee county, Session 25.  
 Otterstein, L., Cuming county, Session 15.  
 Owens, E. D., Dawson county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Packwood, Samuel, Knox county, Session 23.  
 Paschal, Joseph L., Platte county, Session 27.  
 Patrick, J. N. H., Douglas county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Patrick, W. R., Sarpy county, Session 30.  
 Patterson, J. M., Cass county, Session 18.  
 Paul, J. N., Howard county, Session 19.  
 Paulsen, J. T., Douglas county, Session 21.  
 Paxton, Wm. A., Douglas county, Session 21.  
 Pemberton, L. M., Gage county, Session 28.  
 Pepon, T. W., Johnson county, Session 14.  
 Perkey, H. D., Saunders county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Perkins, J. W., Dixon county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Peterson, J. E., Franklin county, Session 29.  
 Phillips, F. W., Holt county, Session 30.  
 Pickett, T. J. Jr., Saunders county, Session 21.  
 Pierce, C. W., Lancaster county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Pitney, O. R., Webster county, Session 27.  
 Polk, M. D., Cass county, Session 21.  
 Pope, John D., Saline county, Sessions 21, 23, 24.  
 Porter, N. S., Dakota county, Sessions 1, 5, 6, 7.  
 Pottinger, W., Saunders county, Session 8.  
 Pound, S. B., Lancaster county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Powers, Isaac, Jr., Burt county, Sessions 14, 16.  
 Poynter, W. A., Boone county, Session 22.  
 Presson, W. A., Richardson county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Prout, F. N., Gage county, Session 26.  
 Putnam, F. C., Hamilton county, Session 19.  
 Randall, Charles A., Madison county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Randall, H. L., Phelps county, Session 22.  
 Ranson, F. F., Otoe county, Session 21.  
 Ransom, F. T., Douglas county, Sessions 25, 27, 31.  
 Rathbun, F. M., Furnas county, Session 24.  
 Raymond, I. M., Lancaster county, Session 21.  
 Raymond, L. L., Session 31.  
 Reavis, Isham, Nemaha county, Session 5.  
 Reed, E. L., Richardson county, Sessions 6, 7.  
 Reeves, M. S., Otoe county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Reuting, Henry, Clay county, Session 27.  
 Reynolds, B. W., Dodge county, Session 28.  
 Reynolds, S. S., Butler county, Session 18.  
 Reynolds, W. H., Dawes county, Session 26.  
 Rich, H. M., Jefferson county, Session 18.  
 Rich, S. M., Nemaha county, Session 1.  
 Ritchie, W. E., Butler county, Session 25.  
 Robbins, A. M., Valley county, Session 20.  
 Robinson, J. C., Cedar county, Session 21.  
 Roche, J., Lancaster county, Session 26.  
 Roche, J. J., Antelope county, Session 21.  
 Rogers, E. H., Dodge county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Rogers, J., Otoe county, Session 18.  
 Root, J. L., Cass county, Session 30.  
 Rustin, C. B., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Sackett, H. E., Gage county, Session 30.  
 Sanders, W. A., Saunders county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Sang, Charles, Dodge county, Session 18.  
 Saunders, C. L., Douglas county, Sessions 28, 29, 30.  
 Saunders, S., Knox county, Session 24.  
 Schaal, W. D., Sarpy county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Schminke, Paul, Otoe county, Session 20.  
 Schoenheit, A., Richardson county, Session 18.  
 Schram, S., Butler county, Session 22.  
 Scott, A. R., Richardson county, Session 23.  
 Scott, W. D., Richardson county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Scoville, D. A., York county, Session 15.  
 Seaman, J. D., Buffalo county, Session 15.  
 Shanner, L. T., Holt county, Session 21.  
 Shea, J. C., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Sheldon, George L., Cass county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Sheldon, L., Cass county, Sessions 2, 3, 4, 8.  
 Shervin, J. E., Dodge county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Shreck, George W., York county, Session 29.  
 Shock, G. R., Nemaha county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Shumway, H. P., Dixon county, Session 22.  
 Sibley, C. G., Frontier county, Session 30.  
 Skinner, J. B., Nuckolls, Session 19.  
 Sloan, C. H., Fillmore county, Session 24.  
 Sloan, Robert J., Fillmore county, Session 28.  
 Smith, A., Lancaster county, Session 19.  
 Smith, B. K., Madison county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Smith, G. N., Buffalo county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Smith, H. L., Fillmore county, Session 19.  
 Smith, J. F. S., Antelope county, Session 26.  
 Smith, Richard, Douglas county, Session 24.  
 Snell, W. H., Jefferson county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Sowers, A. H., Adams county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Spaun, J. S., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Spencer, E. R., Lancaster county, Session 25.  
 Spencer, J. T., Dakota county, Session 19.  
 Spohn, G. P., Nuckolls county, Session 26.  
 Sprecher, John C., Colfax county, Session 24.  
 Sprick, H., Washington county, Session 20.  
 Starbuck, J., Thayer county, Session 22.  
 Steele, C. F., Jefferson county, Sessions 25, 26, 27.  
 Sterling, J. H., Fillmore county, Session 20.  
 Steufer, Wm., Cuming county, Session 24.  
 Stevens, J. K., Lincoln county, Session 22.  
 Stevenson, O., Otoe county, Session 1.  
 Stevenson, T. B., Otoe county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Stewart, A. S., Pawnee county, Session 1.  
 Stewart, H. G., Dawes county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Stone, G. A., Richardson county, Session 15.  
 Sullenberger, —, Saline county, Session 15.  
 Sutherland, —, Burt county, Session 21.  
 Switzler, W., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Sykes, T. P., Adams county, Session 25.  
 Taggart, F. D., Adams county, Session 21.  
 Tabbot, A. R., Lancaster county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Tanner, J. H., Session 31.  
 Taylor, E. B., Douglas county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Taylor, S. B., Washington county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Taylor, W. M., Loup county, Session 22.  
 Tefft, O., Cass county, Sessions 15, 16, 17, 23, 24.  
 Tennant, A. W., Dodge county, Session 8.  
 Thatch, S. H., Stanton county, Session 18.  
 Thomas, B. F., Douglas county, Sessions 29, 30.

- Thomas, E. W., Nemaha county, Session 8.  
 Thomas, S. L., Cass county, Session 22.  
 Thompson, O. R., Session 31.  
 Thomson, John, Dodge county, Session 23.  
 Thomson, R. M., Buffalo county, Session 30.  
 Thorne, W. E., Webster county, Session 30.  
 Thummel, G. H., Hall county, Session 14.  
 Tibbets, G. W., Session 31.  
 Tisdale, F. D., Richardson county, Session 1.  
 Trompen, John J., Lancaster county, Session 27.  
 Tucker, E. A., Richardson county, Session 29.  
 Tucker, G. P., Johnson county, Session 8.  
 Turk, W. W., Richardson county, Session 16, 17.  
 Turner, Edward, Saline county, Session 22.  
 Turner, M. K., Platte county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Tzschuck, Bruno, Douglas county, Session 20.  
 Umstead, J. H., Nance county, Session 28.  
 Van Boskirk, J. R., Cherry county, Session 27.  
 Vandemark, J. K., Saunders county, Session 20.  
 Van Dusen, J. H., Douglas county, Session 26.  
 Van Housen, J. C., Colfax county, Session 22.  
 Van Wyck, C. H., Otoe county, Sessions 14, 15, 16, 17.  
 Volpp, Fred, Session 31.  
 Vore, T. A., Saline county, Session 29.  
 Wall, Aaron, Sherman county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Walker, P. H., Lancaster county, Sessions 17, 18.  
 Walton, W. C., Washington county, Session 14.  
 Wardell, W. W., Otoe county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Warner, C. A., Fillmore county, Session 22.  
 Warner, William P., Dakota county, Session 28.  
 Warren, A. G., Session 31.  
 Watson, E. G., Saline county, Session 25.  
 Watson, J. C., Otoe county, Session 24.  
 Way, W. A., Platte county, Session 28.  
 Webber, Chris., Greeley county, Session 27.  
 Welch, F., Washington county, Session 1.  
 Weller, A. A., Otoe county, Session 25.  
 Wells, H. M., Saline county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Wetherald, F. W., Thayer county, Session 21.  
 Whaley, M. H., Merrick county, Session 29.  
 Wherry, R. A., Richardson county, Session 16, 17.  
 White, C. C., Saunders county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Wigton, A. L., Adams county, Session 15.  
 Wilbur, M. C., Douglas county, Session 1.  
 Wilcox, F., M. D., Thayer county, Session 30.  
 Wilcox, M. W., Fillmore county, Session 14.  
 Williams, C. W., Johnson county, Session 22.  
 Williams, J. J., Wayne county, Session 29.  
 Wilson, O., Douglas county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Wilson, W. H., Pawnee county, Session 30.  
 Wilson, W. W., Dawes county, Session 22.  
 Wiltse, George W., Cedar county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Wilsey, Albert, Frontier county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Wolbach, S. N., Hall county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Woods, L. H., Pawnee county, Session 22.  
 Woostenholm, J. A., Hall county, Session 27.  
 Wright, C. J., Seward county, Session 20.  
 Wright, J. B., Lancaster county, Session 24.  
 Young, J. L., Johnson county, Session 28.  
 Young, L. W., Furnas county, Session 23.  
 Young, W. W., Stanton county, Session 27.  
 Zehrunge, H., Cuming county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Zeigler, T. F., Cedar county, Session 27.

#### REPRESENTATIVES.

(1866 to 1910).

- Abbott, N. C., Lancaster county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Abel, A., Dawson county, Session 18.  
 Abrahamson, O., Kearney county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Adams, G. M., Dawes county, Session 30.  
 Adams, J. M., Cheyenne county, Session 19.  
 Agee, A. W., Hamilton county, Session 20.  
 Ahmanson, J., Douglas county, Session 8.

- Aikin, R. M., Nuckolls county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Albert, H., Gage county, Session 22.  
 Alden, J. M., Cedar county, Session 22.  
 Alderman, F. B., Cuming county, Session 25.  
 Alderson, T. E., Madison county, Session 30.  
 Alexander, T. J., Nemaha county, Session 20.  
 Allen C., Butler county, Session 14.  
 Allen, H. A., Session 31.  
 Allen, James, Douglas county, Session 24.  
 Ames, G. W., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Ames, W. R., Otoe county, Session 22.  
 Anderson, Charles, Hamilton county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Anderson, C. J., Douglas county, Session 29.  
 Anderson, D. M., Otoe county, Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 Anderson, F. E., Knox county, Session 28.  
 Anderson, G. W., Lancaster county, Session 26.  
 Anderson, N., Fillmore county, Session 17.  
 Anderson, Victor, Kearney county, Sessions 27, 28.  
 Andres, H. C., Buffalo county, Session 20.  
 Andres, P., Douglas county, Session 20.  
 Andrews, J. A., Frontier county, Session 27.  
 Ankeny, H. T., Cedar county, Session 25.  
 Anyan, W., Gage county, Sessions 12, 13, 14.  
 Armitage, H. G., Adams county, Session 18.  
 Arnold, A. J., Platte county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Arnold, E., Gage county, Session 22.  
 Arnold, E. W., Platte county, Session 1.  
 Armstrong, J. W., Nemaha county, Sessions 26, 27, 30.  
 Armstrong, F. W., Session 31.  
 Ashburn, S. P., Buffalo county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Ashby, T. F., Franklin county, Session 18.  
 Ashby, W., Clay county, Session 24.  
 Atwood, S. S., Seward county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Ayer, S. C., Buffalo county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Babcock, A. H., Pawnee county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Babcock, C. F., Redwillow, Session 18.  
 Babcock, N. S., Fillmore county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Babcock, O., Boone county, Session 15.  
 Babcock, W. E., Furnas county, Session 20.  
 Bacon, F., Dawson county, Session 24.  
 Bacon George E., Dawson county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Bailey, J. B., Washington county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Bailey, O. J., Franklin county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Bailey, S. M., Jefferson county, Session 19.  
 Baird, H., Dakota county, Session 20.  
 Baird, J. P., Valley county, Session 30.  
 Baker, A. H., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13, 14.  
 Baker, B. S., Thayer county, Session 21.  
 Baker, D. W., York county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Baker, S., Franklin county, Session 15.  
 Baker, W., Saline county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Baldwin, A. S., Dawson county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Baldwin, C. W., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Ballard, J. R., Fillmore county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Baltzley, O. W., Saline county, Sessions 3, 4, 9, 10.  
 Barclay, A., Session 31.  
 Barker, A. H., Dakota county, Session 1.  
 Barker, S., Cass county, Session 14.  
 Barnard, E. H., Dodge county, Session 5.  
 Barnard, S., Pawnee county, Session 15.  
 Barnes, J. W., Cass (Douglas) counties, Sessions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.  
 Barnes, S. C., Douglas county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Barney, R. E., Buffalo county, Session 19.  
 Barnum, G. C., Platte county, Session 14.  
 Barrows, B. H., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Barry, P. H., Greeley county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Barton, L., Kearney county, Session 18.  
 Bartco, A. E., Valley county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Bartholomew, —, Antelope county, Session 22.  
 Bartlett, E. M., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Bartlett, W. R., Douglas county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Barrett, George, Buffalo county, Session 30.



- Barrett, G. W., Session 31.  
 Barrett, J. H., Cuming county, Session 20.  
 Bassett, S. C., Buffalo county, Session 19.  
 Bates, M. A., Session 31.  
 Batty, R. A., Adams county, Session 15.  
 Baumer, J., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Beal, C. W., Custer county, Session 23.  
 Beall, Charles H., Clay county, Session 27.  
 Beall, E., Hall county, Session 8.  
 Beals, S. W., Richardson county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Bear, A., Madison county, Session 14.  
 Beardsley, J. M., Cass county, Session 14.  
 Becher, Dirk A., Platte county, Sessions 27, 28.  
 Becher, G. G., Platte county, Session 24.  
 Beck, H. S., Pierce county, Session 24.  
 Beckman H., Seward county, Session 21.  
 Bedford, Wm. H., Holt county, Session 29.  
 Bee, E. R., Furnas county, Session 24.  
 Beebe, H., Sessions 3, 4.  
 Beekly, Wm. H., Seward county, Session 27.  
 Beethe, C. H., Johnson county, Session 27.  
 Begole, B. H., Session 31.  
 Beisner, Conrad, Thayer county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Belden, H. S., Richardson county, Session 28.  
 Belden, N. S., Dodge county, Session 14.  
 Bell, T. R., Cass county, Session 1.  
 Bender, John W., Platte county, Session 29.  
 Benedict, E., Douglas county, Session 24.  
 Bennett, J. B., Sessions 3, 4.  
 Bennett, L. M., Douglas county, Session 15.  
 Bentley, W. G., Saunders county, Session 20.  
 Berkley, H., Fillmore county, Session 18.  
 Berlin, R. H., Douglas county, Session 21.  
 Berlet, P., Johnson county, Session 26.  
 Bernard, J. J., Pawnee county, Sessions 24, 25.  
 Berry, E. M., Pawnee county, Session 21.  
 Bertrand, G. E., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Besse, C. R., Webster county, Session 30.  
 Best, F. C., Douglas county, Session 30.  
 Beverly, J. A., Douglas county, Session 26.  
 Bick, H., Seward county, Sessions 16, 17, 20.  
 Bickley, W. M., Madison county, Session 19.  
 Bierbower, V., Cheyenne county, Session 18.  
 Bigland, I. S., Session 31.  
 Billings, O. P., Keyapaha county, Session 25.  
 Bisbee, M. B., Holt county, Session 21.  
 Black, Cyrus, Session 31.  
 Blackmore, T., Douglas county, Session 14.  
 Blaco, R., Washington county, Session 19.  
 Blaine, W. H., Fillmore county, Session 19.  
 Blake, P., Johnson county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Blakely, N., Gage county, Sessions 1, 5.  
 Blodgett, C., Nemaha county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Blystone, W. J., Lancaster county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Bobbit, T. N., Cass county, Session 14.  
 Boelts, J. G., Session 31.  
 Boggs, L. B., Gage county, Session 14.  
 Bohacek, W., Saline county, Session 21.  
 Bolen, J. M., Butler county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Boland, P. G., Session 31.  
 Bolin, H., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Booth, J., Dodge county, Session 19.  
 Borroughs, W. W., Merrick county, Session 29.  
 Bortis, C. W., Clay county, Session 21.  
 Botts, F. J., Session 31.  
 Boulrier, Alex., Saunders county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Bowman, A. H., Session 31.  
 Bowman, G. G., Platte county, Session 20.  
 Bowman, H. E., Nuckolls county, Session 29.  
 Bower, S., Howard county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Boyd, James, Nuckolls county, Session 27.  
 Boyd, J. E., Platte county, Session 1.  
 Boyd, R. W., Session 31.  
 Bradley, A. H., Lincoln county, Session 15.  
 Brady, J., Buffalo county, Session 24.  
 Brancht, H. G., Colfax county, Session 21.  
 Brandt, Wm., Jr., Lancaster county, Session 19.  
 Bredeson, Ole, Polk county, Session 22.  
 Breen, J. J., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Brennan, J. C., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Brewer, W., Hall county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Brewster, S. C., Douglas county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Briggs, A. C., Dodge county, Session 8.  
 Brink, A. P., Boone county, Session 21.  
 Britton, J., Stanton county, Session 18.  
 Broatch, W. J., Douglas county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Brockman, J. M., Richardson county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Broaderick, J. E., Session 31.  
 Broaderick, M., Clay county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Brokaw, W. A., Seward county, Session 24.  
 Brownell, R. C., Saunders county, Session 24.  
 Brownlee, R. D., Otoe county, Session 15.  
 Bruce, G. C., Thayer county, Session 15.  
 Bruno, H. A., Merrick county, Session 14.  
 Brush, M., Saunders county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Brown, C. M., Furnas county, Session 27.  
 Brown, David, Cass county, Session 27.  
 Brown, D. J., Seward county, Sessions 18, 23.  
 Brown, E. A., Sherman county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Brown, E. P., Lancaster county, Session 30.  
 Brown, E. W., Lancaster county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Brown, G. W., Boone county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Brown, J. L., Cass county, Sessions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.  
 Brown, W. W., Frontier county, Session 20.  
 Buckley, J. B., Polk county, Session 30.  
 Buffington, J. R., Gage county, Session 19.  
 Bunner, T. C., Douglas county, Session 19.  
 Burch, J. C., Gage county, Session 24.  
 Buresh, Vaclav, Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Burgess, H. C. N., Lancaster county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Burke, D. W., Cuming county, Session 24.  
 Burkett, E. J., Lancaster county, Session 25.  
 Burkley, V., Douglas county, Session 1.  
 Burling, T. R., Lancaster county, Session 15.  
 Burman, F., Douglas county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Burnham, A. J., Cherry county, Session 21.  
 Burnham, S. W., Lancaster county, Session 19.  
 Burns, E. C., Dodge county, Session 24.  
 Burns, J., Lancaster county, Sessions 23, 24, 26, 29.  
 Burns, W. H., Douglas county, Session 15.  
 Burtch, G. S., Sarpy county, Session 9, 10.  
 Burtch, S. F., Sarpy county, Session 14.  
 Bush, A. H., Franklin county, Session 14.  
 Bush, G. H., Hall county, Session 15.  
 Bushee, B. K., Session 31.  
 Butler, J. H., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Butler, J. R., Pawnee county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Butt, William, Session 31.  
 Byram, H. D., Burt county, Sessions 25, 30.  
 Cady, A. E., Howard county, Session 21.  
 Cadman, John, Lancaster county, Sessions 2, 4, 14.  
 Cain, J. B., Hamilton county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Cain, J. R., Jr., Richardson county, Session 27.  
 Caldwell, J. L., Lancaster county, Session 20, 21.  
 Caldwell, P. A., Clay county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Caldwell, S. T., Nuckolls county, Session 14.  
 Calkins, J. T., Saline county, Session 27.  
 Callahan, T. C., Saline county, Session 19.  
 Cameron, M., Washington county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Campbell, B. W., Clay county, Session 25.  
 Campbell, R. W., Merrick county, Session 24.  
 Cannon, J. F., Cass county, Session 8.  
 Cannon, S. S., Sherman county, Session 20.  
 Cantlin, J. R., Dodge county, Sessions 16, 17.

- Capek, T., Douglas county, Session 22.  
 Carder, W. W., Lancaster county, Session 15.  
 Carlin, J. J., Rock county, Session 30.  
 Carlson, O., Kearney county, Session 24.  
 Carman, A. A., Johnson county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Carnaby, Wm., Douglas county, Session 18.  
 Carpenter, G. J., Jefferson county, Session 23.  
 Carpenter, R. C., Butler county, Session 22.  
 Carr, John F., Session 31.  
 Carrigan, D., Cheyenne county, Session 16.  
 Carter, S., Richardson county, Sessions 6, 7.  
 Carton, J., Holt county, Session 26.  
 Case, E. S., Session 31.  
 Case, J. H., Clay county, Session 16, 17.  
 Casebeer, J. H., Gage county, Sessions 25, 29.  
 Casper, C. D., Butler county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Casper, C. F., Butler county, Session 19.  
 Cassell, Job, Otoe county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Castle, G. H., Gage county, Session 18.  
 Cawthra, R., Gosper county, Session 26.  
 Chaddock, L., Seward county, Session 17.  
 Chambers, B. F., Dakota county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Chambers, J. H., Washington county, Session 26.  
 Champlin, L. C., Jefferson county, Session 14.  
 Chapman, T. P., Lancaster county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Chapman, W. O., Saline county, Session 24.  
 Chapin, C. C., Franklin county, Session 18.  
 Chapin, W. F., Cass county, Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 Charleston, C. O., Harlan county, Session 18.  
 Chase, C. H., Stanton county, Session 24, 31.  
 Chase, J. N., Sarpy county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Chase, J. O., Fillmore county, Session 14.  
 Chittenden, W. E., Gage county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Church, J. S., Nemaha county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Christenson, A. C., Kearney county, Session 29.  
 Christopherson, J., Douglas county, Session 18.  
 Christy, G. S., Nemaha county, Session 28.  
 Christy, H., Dodge county, Session 21.  
 Christy, S. W., Clay county, Session 21.  
 Clapp, H., Jefferson county, Session 22.  
 Clark, A. F., Colfax county, Session 18.  
 Clark, E., Washington county, Session 8.  
 Clark, E. L., Lancaster county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Clark, H. G., Douglas county, Session 18.  
 Clark, Jas., Dakota county, Session 8.  
 Clark, L., Hall (Boone) counties, Sessions 11, 12, 13, 14.  
 Clark, P. F., Lancaster county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Clark, R. A., Richardson county, Sessions 25, 31.  
 Clark, T. S., Polk county, Session 15.  
 Clark, H. T., Jr., Douglas county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Clay, J. H. M., Lancaster county, Session 28.  
 Coats, W. N., Holt county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Coffee, Charles F., Dawes county, Session 27.  
 Cole, A. V., Adams county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Cole, Charles, Richardson county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Cole, D., Cass county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Cole, I. M., Hall county, Session 18.  
 Cole, J. W., Hitchcock county, Session 24.  
 Cole, William, Kearney county, Session 25.  
 Coleman, A., Polk county, Session 21.  
 Coleman, J. M., Antelope county, Session 21.  
 Collins, G. W., Pawnee county, Session 8.  
 Collins, J. S., Saunders county, Session 18.  
 Collins, T. J., Richardson county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Collins, W., Cuming county, Session 21.  
 Colpetzer, F., Douglas county, Session 18.  
 Colton, G. R., Butler county, Session 23.  
 Conaway, J. B., York county, Session 24.  
 Cone, T., Saunders county, Session 30.  
 Conger, J. W., Otoe county, Session 8.  
 Conger, W. H., Sherman county, Session 19.  
 Connelly, J. F., Session 31.  
 Conwell, M., Fillmore county, Session 26.  
 Cook, J. M., Nuckolls county, Sessions 16, 17, 18.  
 Cook, W. L., Jefferson county, Session 18.  
 Cooksey, W. H., Fillmore county, Session 27.  
 Cooley, A. S., Cass county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Cooperrider, I. J., Session 31.  
 Cope, J. A., Pawnee county, Session 19, 20.  
 Coppoc, Ed., Holt county, Session 27.  
 Copsey, A. H., Custer county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Corbin, O. A., Nemaha county, Session 21.  
 Corneer, S. A., Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Cornelius, G., Hall county, Session 19.  
 Cornell, W. H., York county, Sessions 12, 13.  
 Cornish, A. J., Lancaster county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Corr, T., Seward county, Session 19.  
 Correll, E. M., Thayer county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Cosgrove, J. H., Garfield county, Session 26.  
 Cox, J., Hamilton county, Sessions 18, 19.  
 Cox, Levi, Douglas county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Crab, John, Session 31.  
 Craig, W. S., Burt county, Session 20.  
 Cramb, J. C., Thayer county, Session 22.  
 Cramb, J. O., Jefferson county, Session 24.  
 Cramer, J. E., York county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Crane, M., Valley county, Session 20.  
 Crane, T. D., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Cravens, Joseph M., Pawnee county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Crawford, G. N., Sarpy county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Crawford, J., Cass county, Session 19.  
 Crawford, J. C., Cuming county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Creighton, J., Douglas county, Session 14.  
 Crissey, H. G., Johnson county, Session 27.  
 Critchfield, A. J., Douglas county, Session 10.  
 Crockett, Charles, Knox county, Session 27.  
 Crockett, C., Knox county, Session 26.  
 Cronk, J. H., Valley county, Session 25.  
 Crook, W. H., Richardson county, Session 19.  
 Cropsey, D. B., Jefferson county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Cross, George, Jefferson county, Session 23.  
 Crow, J., Douglas county, Sessions 24, 25.  
 Crowe, George, Nemaha county, Sessions 2, 3, 4, 5.  
 Cruzen, A. R., Frontier county, Session 21.  
 Culdice, C. H., Saline county, Session 30.  
 Cunningham, A. V., Hamilton county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Cunningham, B. F., Richardson county, Session 1.  
 Cunningham, —, Harlan county, Session 26.  
 Currie, Frank, Dawes county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Curtis, C. E., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Curtis, C. W., Madison county, Session 22.  
 Cushing, R. C., Douglas county, Session 21.  
 Dahlsten, Peter, Wheeler county, Session 27.  
 Daily, William, Nemaha county, Sessions 2, 3, 4, 8.  
 Dastal, Joseph, Session 31.  
 Davenport, H. H., Cedar county, Session 18.  
 Davidson, J., Sarpy county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Davies, J. A., Cass county, Sessions 23, 24.  
 Davis, F. E., Saunders county, Session 15.  
 Davis, J. H., Buffalo county, Sessions 15, 28, 29.  
 Davis, F. J., Cass county, Session 30.  
 Dawson, J., Harlan county, Session 18.  
 Day, R. N., Burt county, Session 15.  
 Dech, W. A., Saunders county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Decker, F., Thayer county, Session 22.  
 Delaney, M. C., Butler county, Sessions 21, 24.  
 Dempster, John A., Fillmore county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Dempster, P. J., Harlan county, Sessions 15, 19.  
 Dempsey, W., Boxbutte county, Session 24.  
 Denman, H. C., Hall county, Session 21.  
 Denman, Z. H., Hall county, Session 18.  
 Denton, W. A., Douglas county, Session 1.  
 Dernier, William Deles, Cass county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Detweiler, J. O., Douglas county, Session 26.  
 Detrick, H. M., York county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Dew, J. S., Johnson county, Sessions 16, 17, 23.

- Deweese, J. M., Richardson county, Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4.  
 Dickerson, A., Sherman county, Sessions 22, 23.  
 Dickinson, J. W., Lancaster county, Sessions 20, 21.  
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 Swartsley, J. C., Platte county, Session 21.  
 Swearingen, J., Seward county, Session 18.  
 Sweet, F., Merrick county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Swezy, F. A., Webster county, Session 28.  
 Switzer, S. W., Buffalo county, Session 14.  
 Taggart, R. M., Otoe county, Session 19.  
 Talbot, J. W., Butler county, Session 30.  
 Talbot, J. W., Otoe county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Talcott, J. M., Session 31.  
 Tanner, J. W., Nance county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Taylor, A. B., Session 31.  
 Taylor, F. M., Johnson county, Session 22.  
 Taylor, J. H., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 Taylor, W. H., Butler county, Sessions 22, 25.  
 Taylor, W. H., Fillmore county, Session 26.  
 Taylor, W. J., Custer county, Sessions 26, 27, 31.  
 Taylor, W. Z., Frontier county, Sessions 18, 19, 31.  
 Tefft, C. R., Lancaster county, Session 27.  
 Ten Eyck, W. B., Douglas county, Session 28.  
 Thiessen, J. P., Jefferson county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Thorn, J., Otoe county, Session 1.  
 Thomas, A. N., Hamilton county, Session 24.  
 Thomas, G. H., Colfax county, Session 19.  
 Thomas, G. P., Burt county, Session 1.  
 Thomas, I., Burt county, Session 18.  
 Thomas, J. W., Cass county, Session 19.  
 Thomas, W. P., Session 31.  
 Thompson, A. L., Jefferson county, Session 19.  
 Thompson, F. A., Clay county, Session 26.  
 Thompson, J. J., Washington county, Session 15.  
 Thompson, M. J., Boone county, Session 18.  
 Thompson, Oscar, Cuming county, Session 29.  
 Thompson, R. A., Cuming county, Session 15.  
 Thompson, W. T., Merrick county, Sessions 26, 28.

- Thomssen, Wm., Hall county, Session 27.  
 Thornton, S. W., Buffalo county, Session 20.  
 Thorpe, Wm. P., Garfield county, Session 28.  
 Thurston, J. M., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Timme, H., Douglas county, Session 24.  
 Tingle, A. H., Holt county, Session 20.  
 Tisdell, D. A., Richardson county, Session 5.  
 Tomblin, D. M., Furnas county, Session 17.  
 Tomlin, J. H., Otoe county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Tooley, J. J., Custer county, Session 28.  
 Towers, L. H., Adams county, Session 18.  
 Towle, A. L., Knox county, Session 21.  
 Towle, E. S., Richardson county, Sessions 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.  
 Town, W. A., Thayer county, Session 18.  
 Townsend, O., Gage county, Sessions 3, 4.  
 Tracey, J., Lincoln county, Session 20.  
 Trask, I. N., Fillmore county, Session 28.  
 Troup, A. C., Douglas county, Session 19.  
 Trowbridge, F. H., Antelope county, Session 15.  
 True, M. B. C., Saline county, Session 15.  
 Truesdale, S. A., Thayer county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Trumble, A. W., Sarpy county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Tucker, F. S., Douglas county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Tucker, G. P., Johnson county, Sessions 3, 4.  
 Tucker, J. M., York county, Session 26.  
 Tullis, E., Lancaster county, Sessions 1, 5, 6, 7.  
 Turner, C. M., Seward county, Session 19.  
 Turner, G. R., Gage county, Session 18.  
 Turner, W. L., Knox county, Session 20.  
 Turtle, W., Douglas county, Sessions 8, 19.  
 Turton, G. J., Dodge county, Session 1.  
 Tuxbury, A., Otoe county, Session 1.  
 Tweed, Robert, Thayer county, Session 27.  
 Tyson, W., Washington county, Session 20.  
 Tzschuck, B., Douglas county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Uerling, P., Adams county, Session 25.  
 Uhl, Mel, Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Underhill, G. C., Otoe county, Session 20.  
 Unthank, J. A., Washington county, Sessions 1, 3, 4.  
 Vandergrift, John, Sherman county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Vanderman, A. W., Cass county, Session 15.  
 Vanderbilt, W. H., Dixon county, Session 15.  
 Vanderverter, W. N., Richardson county, Session 22.  
 Van Duyn, J. N., Saline county, Session 23.  
 Van Horn, S. S., Dodge county, Session 25.  
 Van Housen, J. C., Colfax county, Sessions 23, 24, 30.  
 Varner, L. A., Johnson county, Session 19.  
 Veach, M. A., Richardson county, Session 20.  
 Vlasek, J. J., Saunders county, Session 28.  
 Vopalensky, F., Saunders county, Session 30.  
 Vorhes, J. T., Hamilton county, Session 22.  
 Voter, Frank P., Cedar county, Session 29.  
 Wait, A., Otoe county, Session 24.  
 Waite, C. E., Lancaster county, Session 25.  
 Waitt, G. W., Dixon county, Session 19.  
 Walker, Chas. R., Dundy county, Session 27.  
 Walker, M. K., Pawnee county, Session 18.  
 Walcott, F. M., Cass county, Session 8.  
 Waldron, W. H., Adams county, Session 22.  
 Waldter, L., Nemaha county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Wallichs, J., Platte county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Walling, A. M., Colfax county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Walling, J., Dawson county, Session 26.  
 Walsh, J., Douglas county, Session 30.  
 Walters, J. P., Dixon county, Session 14.  
 Ward, John, Sarpy county, Session 29.  
 Wardlaw, J. M., Gage county, Session 20, 23.  
 Waring, E. M., Holt county, Sessions 27, 28.  
 Warner, Chas. J., Lancaster county, Sessions 27, 28, 29.  
 Warrington, T. L., Dawson county, Session 15.  
 Wart, M. H., Knox county, Session 24.  
 Watts, S. F., Lincoln county, Sessions 16, 17, 18.  
 Watson, A. J., Cedar county, Session 27.  
 Watson, G. P., Pierce county, Session 26.  
 Watson, J. C., Otoe county, Sessions 20, 21, 22, 23.  
 Weaver, A. J., Richardson county, Session 26.  
 Webb, E. M., Custer county, Session 25.  
 Weber, B. R. B., Saunders county, Session 21.  
 Weber, L. C., Washington county, Session 24.  
 Weborg, C. J., Thurston county, Session 28.  
 Webster, J. L., Douglas county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Weems, J., Nance county, Session 30.  
 Weems, J. H., Session 31.  
 Weibe, C. E., Hall county, Session 25.  
 Welch, W., Polk county, Session 25.  
 Weller, H. D., Richardson county, Session 21.  
 Wells, H. C., Franklin county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Wells, J., Dawson county, Session 21.  
 Wells, N. W., Colfax county, Sessions 14, 15.  
 Wenzl, John F., Pawnee county, Sessions 26, 27.  
 Werham, W. S., Jefferson county, Session 18.  
 Werner, E., Richardson county, Session 22.  
 West, F. S., Session 31.  
 Westcott, M. H., Lancaster county, Sessions 17, 18.  
 Westover, H., Valley county, Session 21.  
 Wetherald, F. M., Thayer county, Session 20.  
 Whedon, C. O., Lancaster county, Sessions 16, 17, 18.  
 Wheeler, C. F., Furnas county, Session 25, 26.  
 Wheeler, C. H., Nemaha county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Whelpley, D. P., Platte county, Session 14.  
 Whitcomb, E. W., Saline county, Session 14.  
 White, A. K., Lancaster county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 White, E. O., Hall county, Session 30.  
 White, Francis E., Cass county, Sessions 20, 21, 22.  
 White, F. E., Knox county, Session 19.  
 Whitehead, J., Custer county, Session 21.  
 Whitford, A. D., Dixon county, Session 21.  
 Whitham, J. W., Johnson county, Sessions 29, 30.  
 Whitmore, John A., Hamilton county, Session 27.  
 Whitmore, W. G., Douglas county, Sessions 19, 20.  
 Whitney, Howard, Sarpy county, Session 30.  
 Whitzel, I. J., Fillmore county, Session 18.  
 Whyman, F. E., Gage county, Session 21.  
 Wickham, J., Richardson county, Session 8.  
 Wiedensall, J., Douglas county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Wilbur, R. H., Dakota county, Session 1.  
 Wilbur, R. S., Dakota county, Sessions 9, 10.  
 Wilcox, Burton E., Douglas county, Session 27.  
 Wilcox, J. A., Redwillow county, Session 21.  
 Wilcox, L. T., Douglas county, Session 14.  
 Wilcox, W. T., Lincoln county, Session 26.  
 Wilder, T. G., Webster county, Session 24.  
 Wiles, I., Cass county, Sessions 2, 3, 4.  
 Wilhelmson, J., Howard county, Session 20.  
 Wilkinson, Richard, Cass county, Session 27.  
 Williams, H., Nemaha county, Session 19.  
 Williams, J. W., Gage county, Sessions 21, 22.  
 Williams, T. J., Franklin county, Session 22.  
 Wilsey, A. E., (York, Hamilton) counties, Sessions 16, 20.  
 Wilson, C. G., Webster county, Session 22.  
 Wilson, F. C., Custer county, Session 30.  
 Wilson, J., Buffalo county, Session 23.  
 Wilson, J. L., York county, Session 20.  
 Wilson, V. E., Session 31.  
 Wilson, W. H., Pawnee county, Sessions 28, 29.  
 Wimberly, T. M., Lancaster county, Session 25.  
 Windham, R. B., Cass county, Sessions 15, 16, 17, 29.  
 Winslow, W., Gosper county, Session 25.  
 Winspear, J. H., Douglas county, Session 19.  
 Winter, T., Brown county, Session 21.  
 Wissenburgh, H., Lancaster county, Session 18.  
 Withnell, C. H., Douglas county, Session 23.  
 Wolbach, S. N., Hall county, Session 19.  
 Wolenweber, N., Seward county, Session 20.

Wolfe, T., Seward county, Session 14.  
 Wolph, H. C., Cass county, Session 18.  
 Woodard, J. M., Hamilton county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Woods, J. D., Sheridan county, Session 23.  
 Woolworth, J. M., Douglas county, Sessions 3, 4.  
 Wooster, C., Merrick county, Session 25.  
 Worl, W., Lancaster county, Session 18.  
 Worthing, H., Dawson county, Sessions 30, 31.  
 Wright, J. B., Lancaster county, Session 19.  
 Wright, J. H., Nuckolls county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Wright, P. G., Dixon county, Session 20.  
 Wright, W. F., Pawnee county, Sessions 11, 12, 13.  
 Wyatt, C. C., Madison county, Sessions 16, 17.  
 Wyman, E., Buffalo county, Session 26.  
 Yeiser, J. O., Douglas county, Session 25.  
 York, W. R., Johnson county, Session 15.  
 Young, B., Thayer county, Session 18.  
 Young, L. J., Session 31.  
 Young, J. R., Douglas county, Session 20.  
 Young, T. T., Cass county, Sessions 25, 26.  
 Yutzy, J. C., Richardson county, Sessions 20, 21.  
 Zellers, M. T., Dodge county, Session 26.  
 Ziegler, J. A., Cedar county, Sessions 15, 16, 17.  
 Zimmerman, D. S., York county, Session 25.  
 Zimmerman, P. F., Madison county, Session 27.  
 Zimmerer, A., Otoe county, Sessions 5, 6, 7.  
 Zimmerer, F., Dawson county, Session 27.  
 Zink, J. W., Sherman county, Session 24.  
 Zink, V., Johnson county, Session 24.  
 Zuelow, Otto, Colfax county, Session 29.

#### TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.

The following is a list of the various gentlemen who filled the most important positions in Nebraska during Territorial times, viz.:

**GOVERNORS**—Francis Burt served from October 16, 1854, until the time of his death, October 18, 1854, and the vacancy was filled by Secretary T. B. Cuming to February 20, 1855. Mark W. Izard, from February 20, 1855, to October 25, 1857, when he resigned and the vacancy was filled by Secretary Cuming to January 12, 1858. William A. Richardson, from January 12, 1858, to December 5, 1858, when his death occurred, and the vacancy was filled by Secretary J. Sterling Morton until May 2, 1859. The next was Samuel W. Black, who served until February 24, 1861, when he resigned to enter the army, and the vacancy was again filled by J. Sterling Morton. Alvin Saunders was the next incumbent of the office of governor, and served until February 21, 1867.

**SECRETARIES**—Thomas B. Cuming, from August 13, 1854, to the time of his death, March 12, 1858. John B. Motley, from March 23, to July 12, 1858. J. Sterling Morton, from July 12, 1858, to May 6, 1861. Algernon S. Paddock, until February 21, 1867.

**AUDITORS**—Charles B. Smith, March 16, 1855, to August 3, 1857. Samuel L. Campbell, to June 1, 1858. William E. Moore, to August 2, 1858. Robert C. Jordan, to October 8, 1861. William E. Harvey, to October 10, 1865, when he was succeeded by the last under territorial organization, John Gillespie.

**TREASURERS**—B. P. Rankin was the first territorial treasurer, term of office began March 16, 1855. He was succeeded by William W. Wyman, whose term began November 6, 1855. Augustus Kountze was next, term of office began October 8, 1861.

**LIBRARIANS**—The first was James S. Izard, whose term of office began March 16, 1855. H. C. Anderson, term began November 6, 1855. John H. Kellom, term began August 3, 1857. Alonzo D. Luce, term began November 7, 1859. Robert S. Knox, term began June, 1861.

**SUPREME COURT—CHIEF JUSTICES**—Tenner Ferguson, term began October 12, 1854. Augustus Hall, term began March 15, 1858. William Pitt Kellogg, term began May 27, 1861. William Kellogg, term began May 8, 1865. William A. Little, 1866—died in office. Oliver P. Mason, 1866.

**SUPREME COURT—ASSOCIATE JUSTICES**—Edward R. Harden, term began December 4, 1854. James Bradley, October 25, 1854. Samuel W. Black, 1857. Eleazer Wakeley, April 22, 1857. Joseph Miller, April 9, 1859. William E. Lockwood, May 16, 1861. Joseph E. Streeter, November 18, 1861. Elmer S. Dundy, June 22, 1863.

**CLERKS OF THE SUPREME COURT**—H. C. Anderson, 1856. Charles S. Salisbury, 1858. E. B. Chandler, 1859. John H. Kellom, 1861. William Kellogg, Jr., 1865.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEYS**—D. S. McGary, term of office began May 10, 1855. Jonathan H. Smith, June 9, 1855. S. A. Strickland, June 11, 1855. John M. Latham, November 6, 1855. Jacob Safford, November 6, 1855. William Kline, November, 1855. James G. Chapman, August 3, 1857. William McLennan, August 3, 1857. George W. Doane, August 3, 1857. U. C. Johnson, October 11, 1859.

**UNITED STATES MARSHALS**—Mark W. Izard, term of office began October 28, 1854. Eli R.

Doyle, April 7, 1855. Benjamin P. Rankin, March 29, 1856. Phineas W. Hitchcock, September 19, 1861.

TERRITORIAL DELEGATES TO CONGRESS—Napoleon B. Gidding, elected December 12, 1854. Bird B. Chapman, elected November 6, 1855. Tenner Ferguson, elected August 3, 1857. Experience Estabrook, elected October 11, 1859. Samuel G. Daily, elected October 9, 1860. Phineas W. Hitchcock, elected October 11, 1864.

#### STATE OFFICERS OF NEBRASKA FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.

In the following pages we give a list of all the most important State officials of Nebraska from the time of its organization as a State:

GOVERNORS—David Butler, from February 21, 1867, to June 2, 1871. Elected in 1866, but did not enter upon the duties of the office until the admission of the State into the Union. Wm. H. James, acting governor from June 2, 1871, to January 13, 1873. Robert W. Furnas, from January 13, 1873, to January 11, 1875. Silas Garber, term began January 11, 1875. Albinus Nance, term began January 9, 1879. James W. Dawes, term began January 4, 1888. John M. Thayer, term began January 6, 1887. James E. Boyd, term began January 8, 1891. Lorenzo Crouse, term began January 13, 1893. Silas A. Holcomb, term began January 3, 1895. William A. Poynter, term began January 5, 1899. Charles H. Dietrich, term began January 3, 1901. John H. Mickey, term began January, 1903. George L. Sheldon, term began January, 1907. A. C. Shallenberger, term began January, 1909.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS—Orthman A. Abbott, term began January 4, 1877. Edmund C. Carns, term began January 1, 1879. A. W. Agee, term began January 4, 1883. H. H. Shedd, term began January 8, 1885. George D. Meikeljohn, term began January 3, 1889. Thomas J. Majors, term began January 6, 1891. Robert E. Moore, term began January 3, 1895. James E. Harris, term began January 7, 1897. E. A. Gilbert, term began January 5, 1899. Ezra P. Savage, term began January 3, 1901. Edmund G. McGilton, term began January,

1903. M. R. Hopewell, term began January, 1907; re-elected, term began January, 1909.

SECRETARIES OF STATE—Thomas P. Kennard, term of office began February 21, 1867. William H. James, term began January 10, 1871; acting governor from June 2, 1871, to January 13, 1873. John J. Gosper, term began January 13, 1873. Bruno Tchuck, term began January 11, 1875. S. J. Alexander, term began January 9, 1879. Edward P. Roggen, term began January 4, 1883. Gilbert L. Laws, term began January 6, 1887; resigned November 20, 1889, to fill unexpired term in Congress, caused by the death of James Laird. Benjamin R. Cowdery, appointed by Governor Thayer to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Secretary Laws, term began November 20, 1889. John C. Allen, term began January 8, 1891. Joel A. Piper, term began January 3, 1895. William F. Porter, term began January 7, 1897. George W. Marsh, term began January 3, 1901. A. Galusha, term began January, 1905. George C. Junkin, term began January, 1907; re-elected November, 1908.

STATE AUDITORS—John Gillespie, term of office began February 21, 1867. Jefferson B. Weston, term began January 13, 1873. F. W. Liedtke, term began January 9, 1879. John Wallicks, term began November 12, 1880. H. A. Babcock, term began January 8, 1885. Thomas H. Benton, term began January 3, 1889. Eugene Moore, term began January 13, 1893. John F. Cornell, term began January 7, 1897. Charles Weston, term began January 3, 1901. Edward M. Searle, Jr., term began January, 1905. Silas R. Barton, term began January, 1909.

STATE TREASURERS—August Kountze, term of office began February 21, 1867. James Sweet, term began January 11, 1869. Henry A. Koenig, term began January 10, 1871. J. C. McBride, term began January 11, 1875. George M. Bartlett, term began January 9, 1879. Phelps D. Sturdevant, term began January 4, 1883. Charles H. Willard, term began January 8, 1885. John E. Hill, term began January 3, 1889. Joseph S. Bartley, term began January 13, 1893. John B. Messerve, term began January 7, 1897. William Steufer, term began January,

ary 3, 1901. Peter Mortensen, term began January, 1903. L. G. Brian, term began January, 1907.

ATTORNEYS-GENERAL—Champion S. Chase, term of office began February 21, 1867. Seth Robinson, term began January 11, 1869. Geo. H. Roberts, term began January 10, 1871. J. R. Webster, term began January 13, 1873. Geo. H. Roberts, term began January 11, 1875. C. J. Dilworth, term began January 9, 1879. Isaac Powers, Jr., term began January 4, 1883. William Leese, term began January 8, 1885. George H. Hastings, term began January 8, 1891. Arthur S. Churchill, term began January 3, 1895. Constantine J. Smyth, term began January 7, 1897. Frank N. Prout, term began January 3, 1901. Norris Brown, term began January, 1905. Wm. T. Thompson, term began January, 1907.

COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS—This office was created in 1875. F. M. Davis, term of office began January 4, 1877. A. G. Kendall, term began January 6, 1881. Joseph Scott, term began January 8, 1885. John Steen, term began January 3, 1889. A. R. Humphrey, term began January 8, 1891. Henry C. Russell, term began January 3, 1895. William V. Wolfe, term began January 7, 1897. George D. Follmer, term began January 3, 1901. Henry M. Eaton, term began January, 1905. Edward B. Cowles, term began January, 1909.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION—This office was created by the act of the legislature, February 15, 1869. S. DeWitt Beals was appointed by Governor Butler; term of office began February 16, 1869. J. M. McKenzie, term began January 10, 1871. S. R. Thompson, term began January 4, 1877. W. W. W. Jones, term began January 6, 1881. George B. Lane, term began January 6, 1887. A. K. Goudy, term began January, 1891. Henry R. Corbett, term began January 3, 1895. William R. Jackson, term began January 7, 1897. William K. Fowler, term began January 3, 1901. Jasper L. McBrien, term began January, 1905. E. C. Bishop, term began January, 1909.

SUPREME COURT—CHIEF JUSTICES—Oliver P. Mason, appointed by Governor Butler; term began 1867. Geo. B. Lake, term began Janu-

ary 16, 1873. Daniel Gantt, term began January 3, 1878. Samuel Maxwell, term began May 29, 1878. Geo. B. Lake, term began January 5, 1882. Amasa Cobb, term began January 3, 1884. Samuel Maxwell, term began January 7, 1886. M. B. Reese, term began January 5, 1888. Amasa Cobb, term began January 9, 1890. Samuel Maxwell, term began January 7, 1892. T. L. Norval, term began January 4, 1894. A. M. Post, term began January 9, 1896. T. O. C. Harrison, term began January 6, 1898. T. L. Norval, term began January 4, 1900. John J. Sullivan, term began January, 1903. Silas A. Holcomb, term began January, 1905. S. H. Sedgwick, term began January, 1907.

SUPREME COURT—ASSOCIATE JUSTICES—George B. Lake, term of office began February 21, 1867; re-elected 1872-1877. Lorenzo Crounze, term began February 21, 1867. Daniel Gantt, term began January 16, 1873. Samuel Maxwell, term began January 16, 1873; re-elected 1877-1887. Amasa Cobb, term began May 29, 1878; appointed to fill vacancy; elected 1878; re-elected 1879-1885. M. B. Reese, term began January 3, 1884. T. L. Norval, term began January 9, 1890; re-elected 1895. A. M. Post, term began 1892. T. O. C. Harrison, term began January 4, 1894. John J. Sullivan, term began January 6, 1898. Silas A. Holcomb, term began January 4, 1900. Samuel H. Sedgwick, term began January, 1903. John B. Barnes, term began January, 1905. C. B. Letton, term began January, 1907.

SUPREME COURT—1909-1910—M. B. Reese, J. B. Barnes, C. B. Letton.

#### REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

TERRITORIAL DELEGATES IN CONGRESS—Napoleon B. Gidding, elected December 12, 1854. Bird B. Chapman, November 6, 1855. Fenner Ferguson, August 3, 1857. Experience Estabrook, October 11, 1854. Samuel G. Daily, October 9, 1869. Phineas W. Hitchcock, October 11, 1864.

UNITED STATES SENATORS—The following is a list of the different parties who have represented Nebraska in the United States Senate since the admission of the State into the Union,

viz.: John M. Thayer, 1867-'71. Thomas W. Lipton, 1867-'75. Phineas W. Hitchcock, 1871-'77. Algernon S. Paddock, 1875-'81. Alvin Saunders, 1877-'83. C. H. Van Wyck, 1881-'87. Charles F. Manderson, 1883-'95. Algernon S. Paddock, 1887-'93. W. V. Allen, 1893-'99. John M. Thurston, 1895-1901. H. L. Hayward, 1899; died in office. W. V. Allen, 1899-1901. Charles H. Dietrich, 1901-. Joseph H. Millard, 1901-. E. J. Burket, 1907-.

REPRESENTATIVES—The following is a list of the different parties who have represented the various Nebraska districts in the House of Representatives since the organization of the State government:

XXXIX Congress, 1865-'67, T. M. Marquette. Mr. Marquette, who was elected to represent Nebraska in the House, presented his credentials March 2, the day following President Johnson's proclamation of the admission of Nebraska, and thereby limited his own term to the short period of two days, as this session expired March 4, 1867.

XL Congress, 1867-'69, John Taffe.

XLI Congress, 1869-'71, John Taffe.

XLII Congress, 1871-'73, John Taffe.

XLIII Congress, 1873-'75, Lorenzo Crounze.

XLIV Congress, 1875-'77, Lorenzo Crounze.

XLV Congress, 1877-'79, Frank Welch. Thomas J. Majors (to fill vacancy).

XLVI Congress, 1879-'81, E. K. Valentine.

XLVII Congress, 1881-'83, E. K. Valentine.

XLVIII Congress, 1883-'85: First district, A. J. Weaver; Second district, James Laird; Third district, E. K. Valentine.

XLIX Congress, 1885-'87: First district, A. J. Weaver; Second district, James Laird; Third district, Geo. W. E. Dorsey.

L Congress, 1887-'89: First district, John A. McShane; Second district, James Laird; Third district, Geo. W. E. Dorsey.

LI Congress, 1889-'91: First district, W. J. Connell; Second district, James Laird (died in office, and Gilbert L. Laws filled vacancy); Third district, Geo. W. E. Dorsey.

LII Congress, 1891-'93: First district, W. J. Bryan; Second district, W. A. McKeighan; Third district, O. M. Kem.

LIII Congress, 1893-'95. First district, W. J. Bryan; Second district, H. D. Mercer; Third

district, George Meiklejohn; Fourth district, E. J. Hainer; Fifth district, W. A. McKeighan; Sixth district, O. M. Kem.

LIV Congress, 1895-'97. First district, J. B. Strode; Second district, H. D. Mercer; Third district, George Meiklejohn; Fourth district, E. J. Hainer; Fifth district, W. E. Andrews; Sixth district, O. M. Kem.

LV Congress, 1897-'99: First district, Jesse B. Strode; Second district, David H. Mercer; Third district, Samuel Maxwell; Fourth district, William L. Stark; Fifth district, R. E. Sutherland; Sixth district, William L. Green.

LVI Congress, 1899-1901: First district, E. J. Burkett; Second district, David H. Mercer; Third district, John S. Robinson; Fourth district, William L. Stark; Fifth district, R. D. Sutherland; Sixth district, William L. Green (died in office); William Nevill (to fill vacancy).

LVII Congress, 1901-'03: First district, Elmer J. Burkett; Second district, David H. Mercer; Third district, John S. Robinson; Fourth district, William L. Stark; Fifth district, A. C. Shallenberger; Sixth district, William Nevill.

LVIII Congress, 1903-'05: First district, Elmer J. Burkett; Second district, Gilbert M. Hitchcock; Third district, J. J. McCarthy; Fourth district, Edmund H. Hinshaw; Fifth district, George W. Norris; Sixth district, Moses P. Kinkaid.

LIX Congress, 1905-'07: First district, Elmer J. Burkett; Second district, John L. Kennedy; Third district, J. J. McCarthy; Fourth district, Edmund H. Hinshaw; Fifth district, Geo. W. Norris; Sixth district, Moses P. Kinkaid.

LX Congress, 1907-'09: First district, E. M. Pollard; Second district, G. M. Hitchcock; Third district, J. T. Boyd; Fourth district, Edmund H. Hinshaw; Fifth district, George W. Norris; Sixth district, Moses P. Kinkaid.

LXI Congress, 1909-'11: First district, John A. Maguire; Second district, Gilbert M. Hitchcock; Third district, James P. Latta; Fourth district, Edmund H. Hinshaw; Fifth district, Geo. W. Norris; Sixth district, Moses P. Kinkaid.

## CHAPTER IV.

### STATE INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.

The University of Nebraska, located at Lincoln, was founded by an act of the legislature passed in 1869. It was opened and students received in 1871. The various acts of the legislature providing for its organization authorized the establishing of various departments and laid the groundwork for one of the greatest educational institutions in the Union. Allen R. Benton, Ph. D. was the first chancellor.

The university comprises the graduate school, the college of literature, science and the arts, the industrial college, the college of law, schools of agriculture, mechanical arts, and domestic science. Collegiate courses preparatory to law and journalism, and medicine as well as a special teacher's course and summer sessions are offered. The regents of the university have also entrusted to their care the U. S. Experiment Station, and the central office of the Nebraska section of the climate and crop service of the U. S. Weather Bureau is located within its grounds. Courses in University extension including Farmers' institutes are given as a means of education to those beyond the bounds of the University. Admission to the university is by certificate from about seventy-five accredited schools or by examination. The degrees are A. B.; B. Sc.; B. Sc. in engineering courses; LL. B.; A. M., and Ph. D. Tuition is free except in the professional and special courses, where a nominal fee is charged. A matriculation fee of five dollars is provided by statute. A system of fellowships and scholarships exists, and in each county maintaining a first-class three or four year high school a scholar-

ship is awarded the student passing the best competitive examination. Several prizes are offered along certain lines of college activity, such as oratory and literature. The university has a campus in the center of the city of Lincoln of twelve acres, and an experiment station farm of three hundred and twenty acres. There is a score of buildings, the most prominent being university hall, the chemical laboratory, Grant memorial hall, containing the armory and gymnasium, library building, Nebraska hall, mechanical arts hall, the library, the Patho-triological laboratory, dairy hall, and Soldiers' memorial hall.

The College Farm (including the Experiment Station farm) was secured by the exchange of State land and the payment of about \$20,000 out of State funds. The property is now valued at about a quarter of a million dollars. On the farm are the buildings for the use of the Experiment Station. The total value of the entire property of the university is now estimated at over one million dollars.

#### THE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The fifth territorial legislature, in an act approved October 14, 1858, providing for the organization of county agricultural societies, established a territorial board of agriculture to receive and digest reports from, and of the several organizations, and to hold annual meetings for the purpose of deliberating and consulting as to the wants, prospects and conditions of the agricultural interests throughout the territory. This board as originally constituted, consisted of Thomas Gibson, Harrison Johnson, A. D. Jones,

E. Estabrook, J. M. Thayer, Christian Bobst, Robert W. Furnas, Jesse Cole, S. A. Chambers, Jerome Hoover, Mills S. Reeves, Broad Cole, J. C. Lincoln, Harlan Baird, Joel T. Griffin and E. H. Chaplin, duly created a body corporate, with perpetual succession, empowered to fill vacancies in its membership, and to elect officers at its discretion.

The first meeting of the board was held in Omaha, October 30, 1858, the election of officers for the ensuing year resulting as follows: President, R. W. Furnas; secretary, A. D. Jones, treasurer, J. M. Thayer; board of managers, E. H. Chaplin, H. Baird, M. S. Reeves, Broad Cole, and C. Bobst. It was determined at this meeting that the first annual fair be held three days in succession, in September, 1859, in such county as offered the largest donations, privileges and best accommodations. Under this arrangement Otoe county was selected as the location and the first territorial fair was held at Nebraska City, September 21, 22 and 23, 1859. The amount actually awarded in premiums was \$355, in addition to a gold watch, saddle and bridle, and two sets of jewelry valued at \$115, and a goodly number of diplomas. The address of the occasion was delivered by J. Sterling Morton. At the end of the report of the fair to the next legislature, the committee "beg leave to say that this first territorial fair of Nebraska, though not a complete success, was far from a failure. Taking all things into consideration, it is a marvel that we have done half so well."

This was the only territorial fair ever held in Nebraska, no decided effort appearing to have been made toward another exhibition until 1868, when the board having been changed to a State organization by the admission of the territory, held a second annual fair, also at Nebraska City, October 7, 8 and 9, 1868. Under the State organization the number of incorporated members was increased from sixteen to twenty-eight. In early days of the State's history, the State fairs were held at various places, including Nebraska City, Brownville, Omaha and Lincoln.

The State board of agriculture embraces all the minor kindred organizations, the horticultural society and others, reports of which are incorporated in the official statements of the board to the legislature. It has since its institution as a

territorial organization, fostered, encouraged and developed the farming interests of Nebraska, stimulating honest rivalry. To it the State owes much of its present popularity, and to the indefatigable efforts of its officers, is due in a great measure the fact, not that Nebraska is an agricultural State, but that she is preeminently, because scientifically, such. The object of the association has been and is, to advertise and make known in every possible way the agricultural advantages, products, resources, possibilities and promises of the State. Of late years this has been done, not only by holding annual fairs and exhibitions, but by the publication of a four hundred-page volume of agricultural, horticultural, dairy, forestry, live stock, crop, botanical, geological, entomological, meteorological, civil engineering, zoological, and other important data and information.

#### SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The Nebraska School for the Deaf and Dumb was established in 1869, with Prof. William M. French as principal. The object of the institution, as set forth in the law and in the first report of the superintendent is "to promote the intellectual, physical and moral culture of the deaf and dumb by a judicious and well adapted course of instruction, that they may be reclaimed from their lonely and cheerless condition, restored to society, and fitted for the discharge of the duties of life." The object of the organization has remained the same, and in many instances has been accomplished. The first year there were enrolled twelve pupils and the school was housed in a rented building. This institution is doing excellent work in carrying out the intent of the law and the object of the school. An exhibit was made at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of work from all departments of the school, which attracted marked attention. The exhibit was awarded a diploma and gold medal by the exposition, and the committee appointed to judge of the work done in the education of the defective classes, awarded the Nebraska School for the Deaf a diploma for first rank. This committee awarded but one of first rank.



## THE NEBRASKA INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

This institution, which is located at Nebraska City, was opened in 1875. To secure the institution, Nebraska City donated \$3,000 and ten acres of ground just north of the city limits. On this site substantial buildings have been erected, and the institution is admirably conducted and doing good work. The school was first opened in rented rooms, March 10, 1875. At the beginning there were only three students, but the enrollment reached twenty-one by the close of the first two years. Samuel Bacon was the first superintendent.

## STATE PENITENTIARY.

The Nebraska State Penitentiary is located at Lancaster, about three miles south of the city of Lincoln. Under grants from the Congress of the United States, by acts of 1864 and 1867, the State of Nebraska received 32,044 acres of land for penitentiary purposes. The act providing for the building of the State Penitentiary, on the site donated for that purpose by Capt. W. T. Donovan and Mr. Hilton, was passed March 4, 1870. W. W. Abbey, W. W. Wilson and F. Tlempin were appointed prison inspectors to attend to selling the land granted by the government for prison purposes, and to superintend the building, \$5,000 being appropriated for the erection of a temporary prison. The first warden of the penitentiary was Henry Campbell. The institution has always ranked high among the penal institutions of its class in the country.

## NEBRASKA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

This institution is located at Lincoln. As early as 1865, it was found necessary to make provision for the insane in the Territory of Nebraska. Four cases were already being cared for in an Iowa hospital. The legislature authorized the governor to make some arrangement with the State of Iowa, by which they received and cared for the insane at the expense of Nebraska. Under this arrangement fifty patients were sent at various times to the hospital at Mount Pleasant. Soon after Nebraska became a State the gov-

ernor, secretary of State and auditor of public accounts were appointed a board of commissioners to locate a site for a State lunatic asylum near the city of Lincoln. The first building was completed at a cost of \$137,000 in the fall of 1870, and the first patient was admitted November 26th of that year. Early in the following December, seventeen patients were brought over from Mount Pleasant to the new institution, and four were admitted who had been confined in the Pawnee county jail. Dr. N. B. Larsh was the first superintendent. In April, 1871, the institution was destroyed by fire. Five patients were reported missing and were never afterwards accounted for. The remaining patients were taken to Lincoln and cared for in rented houses until a temporary building was erected on the asylum grounds. As there was no appropriation available, and the citizens of Lincoln were fearful lest the institution should be removed to some rival city, they advanced the funds necessary to build a temporary frame structure, which did service as a hospital until a new stone building was erected the following year. Since that time the institution has been enlarged by the erection of additional buildings, until today it is one of the most modern institutions of its kind in the country. As the population of the State increased, the number of insane persons likewise increased, thereby making it necessary to increase the capacity of the hospital. The congestion was also relieved by the erection of other institutions at Hastings and Norfolk. The first patients were sent to the Norfolk hospital February 15, 1888, and to the Asylum for the Chronic Insane at Hastings, August 1, 1889. Originally the State guaranteed the expense of caring for insane patients, and, when possible, collected the amount so expended from the estate of the patient, or from his or her natural guardians. Later the superintendent certified to the auditor the number of patients from each county, and the auditor of public accounts certified to the commissioners of the several counties the amounts due for the maintenance of their insane. In 1883 this was changed and the State assumed the entire expense of caring for this class of persons.

No effort has been spared to bring the hos-

pital service up to the highest standard of efficiency, and the citizens of Nebraska may well be congratulated on the excellent reputation which the Nebraska Hospital for the Insane bears in the surrounding states.

#### ASYLUM FOR THE CHRONIC INSANE.

The Asylum for the Chronic Insane was located near the city of Hastings in the year 1888, the first building being erected from an appropriation allowed by the legislature of 1887. The capacity of the building at the time was one hundred and eighty patients. The institution was opened for the admission of patients in August, 1889, Dr. M. W. Stone being the first superintendent, having been appointed by Governor Thayer. The object of the institution is to care for the more quiet and those found to be chronic after treatment in the asylums of the State for the acutely insane. The legislature has since from time to time made large appropriations for additional buildings for enlarging the scope and usefulness of the institution.

#### NORFOLK HOSPITAL FOR INSANE.

The Norfolk Hospital for Insane owes its origin to an act of the legislature of 1885 appropriating \$75,000 to build an insane hospital within three miles of the city limits of Norfolk, provided the city should donate three hundred and twenty acres of good land upon which to locate said institution. The three hundred and twenty acres were donated, commanding a most beautiful view of the lovely valley of the Elkhorn, its tributary, the North Fork, and the surrounding country. The first building was completed in November, 1886. The legislature has from time to time made liberal appropriations to extend and enlarge this institution and it ranks among the most important eleemosynary institutions of the State.

#### NEBRASKA INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE MINDED YOUTHS.

This institution is located at Beatrice, Gage county. It was established by the State of Ne-

braska in 1885, for the benefit of feeble-minded children between the ages of five and eighteen years, who are by reason of their affliction, denied the educational advantages of the public schools, and who, likewise, because of their physical weakness, are necessarily dependent. We quote the following from the act of the legislature creating this institution, viz: "Besides shelter and protection, the prime object of said institution shall be to provide special means of improvement for that unfortunate portion of the community who were born, or by disease may become, imbecile or feeble-minded, and by a well adapted course of instruction reclaim them from their helpless condition, and through the development of their intellectual faculties fit them as far as possible for usefulness in society. To this end there shall be furnished them such agricultural and mechanical education as they are capable of receiving." Children who are residents of Nebraska, who are feeble-minded, and those who have such marked peculiarities or eccentricities of intellect, or those who, by reason of their being backward, are unable to receive the benefits of the common schools and ordinary methods of instruction, are entitled to care and training free of charge, except the expense of necessary clothing and transportation to and from their homes. Since the institution was founded about one thousand applications have been made for admission, about half of which have been received as patients. The work of the institution covers a useful scope. Aside from the school duties, the girls are taught sewing, house work, cooking, and all branches of domestic employment, while the boys are instructed in brush making, carpenter work, farm work, and such other branches of employment as may be useful to them after leaving the school.

#### THE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

This institution is located at Lincoln. In 1876 some of the charitable women of Nebraska organized a society known as the "Home for the Friendless," the object of which was to furnish a refuge for friendless children, girls, young women and old ladies. This society was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and has been managed continuously from

the time of its incorporation, by a board of ladies, who have served without pay, mileage or financial recompense whatever. Absolutely non-sectarian, as every religious organization has been represented, and absolutely non-political. In 1881 the State legislature appropriated the sum of \$5,000 to aid the society in the erection of a permanent building. As the State has grown, this charitable work has increased and several legislative appropriations have been made to assist the society in carrying on their great work. It can safely be said that thousands of friendless children have been received within the shelter of this institution, and permanent homes have been found for them among the substantial citizens of the State. A record is kept of each child, and a useful future is assured to these unfortunate children, who otherwise would have contributed to the haunts of vice and swell the roll of criminals. Over a thousand wives and mothers have been cared for by the Home, besides caring for many aged inmates. The magnitude of this work can only be appreciated by those who intimately acquaint themselves with the work of the society. Christian women have devoted much of their time and contributed of their substance to the caring for these unfortunates for years. Auxiliary societies have been organized by the charitable women of many towns throughout the State, and the foundation has thus been laid for great charitable work in the future.

#### SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME—GRAND ISLAND.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Grand Island was established under an act of the legislature of 1887. This act constituted the board of public lands and buildings a commission to locate and establish a home for honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines and hospital nurses who served in the United States army or navy or hospitals during the war of the rebellion, and who by reason of such service, old age or otherwise have become disabled from earning a livelihood—providing such applicants have been actual bona fide residents of Nebraska for two years next preceding such application. This commission approved and accepted a site near the city of Grand Island, containing six hundred and forty acres of land,

which was donated to the State by the citizens of Grand Island. The management of the home is vested in a visiting and examining board, consisting of five persons appointed by the governor, three of whom must be honorably discharged volunteer soldiers, and two of whom must be either wives, sisters or daughters of honorably discharged soldiers and members of the Woman's Relief Corps of Nebraska.

#### SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME—MILFORD.

A branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home was established by an act of the legislature, which took effect April 9, 1895. This home is located near Milford, on the banks of the Blue river, and the site comprises about thirty-five acres. It consists of the sanitarium, park and springs, together with a brick and stone building surrounded by broad piazzas. The home is governed in like manner as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Grand Island.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL HOME—MILFORD.

The Industrial Home at Milford was established in 1888. Its object is to protect and care for the unfortunate and homeless girls, and thus prevent crime. In this institution a home is offered and an opportunity given to commence life anew, as without this opportunity and refuge, often, if the will to reform is evident, the way is completely hedged in. The institution is doing excellent work, and is a charitable enterprise that is worthy of the support of the State.

#### STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The State Industrial School at Kearney was established by the legislature of 1870, under the title of State Reform School. The sum of \$10,000 was appropriated for the erection of the first building and its temporary maintenance. The first building was completed in 1881, and the records of the school show that the first boy was committed by W. H. Ely, county judge of Dodge county, July 12, 1881. Since that time nearly 1,500 boys have been committed to the school by the different counties of the State, besides about 200 girls that

were sent here previous to the establishing of the Girls' Industrial School at Geneva in 1891. In 1887 the legislature changed the title of the Kearney institution from the State Reform School to that of the State Industrial School, the name it now bears. The intention of the change in the name was to remove the school, as much as possible, from a penal institution to that of educational and industrial training, with the sole purpose in view that, as far as possible, no stigma should be attached to the unfortunate and wayward youths that have received their education within its confines.

#### THE GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The Girls' Industrial School at Geneva was established in 1891, and the main building was completed during the same year. Up to this time the boys and girls were in one school at Kearney. The site for the school is located less than a mile from Geneva, Fillmore county, on a beautiful, elevated tract of land, containing forty acres. This institution has done and is doing noble work. The school is divided into classes, or families as they are called, and graded or placed according to the commitment, and are assigned a certain number of demerits that must be cancelled by good behavior. They are detailed regularly every three months in the industrial departments and work one-half of each day, and are in school the other half day. All are committed till they are twenty-one years old, unless sooner released by the governor or the board. They have an hour and a half to play each day, and there seems to be as much happiness as is found in the ordinary boarding school. When a girl has worked out on her "honor" and has no home; one is provided for her where she goes on trial and is reported monthly. Many such are now commanding good wages; some have married and have homes of their own. While inmates are committed here for certain offenses it is not a prison nor does it resemble one in any way. It has no fences, nor bars on the windows, and the surroundings are as inviting as any high school. The girls are not here to take punishment for past mistakes, but for education and protection

from all harm, especially evil influences. No home has better moral training.

#### STATE BOARD OF FISH COMMISSIONERS.

The legislature of 1879 passed an act creating the board of fish commissioners, for the purpose of protecting, propagating and stocking the waters of the State and to arouse interest in fish culture. Governor Garber appointed as the first board of fish commissioners, William L. May of Fremont, C. W. Kaley of Red Cloud, and B. E. B. Kennedy of Omaha. The present site, consisting of fifty-two acres of ground lying along the Platte river in Sarpy county, just south of the village of South Bend, was purchased in 1880, and, being well watered with several magnificent springs, has proven well adapted for the purpose for which it was acquired. J. G. Romine, of South Bend, was the first superintendent, appointed at a salary of \$500 per annum. The board of commissioners received no salary, but were allowed \$250 per annum for expenses. The superintendent's salary is now \$1,200 per annum, and he is allowed several assistants. When the station was first located, considerable attention was paid to the hatching and distribution of white fish, and land-locked salmon, but it soon became apparent that the waters of this State were not adapted to these kinds of fish, and this work was discontinued, and the work of hatching carp, black bass, brook, rainbow and brown trout was taken up. The scope of the work has gradually been broadened until now, in addition to the varieties named, they also propagate croppie perch, catfish, rock bass, tench and several kinds of ornamental fish, and, on the whole, the work has been very successful.

#### NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Nebraska State Historical Society was organized September 25 and 26, 1878, at Lincoln, with the following as charter members: Dr. Geo. L. Miller, Chris Hartman and J. T. Allen, Douglas county; Governor Silas Garber and H. S. Kaley, Webster county; S. R. Thompson, T. P. Kennard, W. W. Wilson and Samuel

Aughey, Lancaster county; Rev. J. M. Taggart and J. H. Croxton, Otoe county; C. H. Walker, Franklin county; Hon. L. Crouse and E. N. Grenell, Washington county; Prof. C. D. Wilbur, Saline county; J. Q. Goss, Sarpy county; D. H. Wheeler and William Gilmore, Cass county; O. T. B. Williams, Seward county; L. B. Fifield, Buffalo county; Rev. L. W. B. Shryrock and E. Shugart, Gage county; William Adair, Dakota county; Robert W. Furnas, Nemaha county; H. T. Clark, Sarpy county; J. H. Brown, A. Humphrey, J. H. Ames, John Cadman and A. G. Hastings, Lancaster county; J. A. MacMurphy, Cass county; Hiram Craig, Washington county; J. J. Budd, Douglas county; F. J. Hendershot, Thayer county; S. A. Fulton, Richardson county; Theron Nye, Dodge county. A constitution was adopted, providing officers and regulations, and the first president, secretary and treasurer were respectively: Hon. Robert W. Furnas, Prof. Samuel Aughey and W. W. Wilson. The organization remained unchanged from 1878 to 1883, having a president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer and board of directors. During this time the funds of the society consisted solely of fees and dues paid in more or less irregularly, and were very small. The members first met at the old Commercial Hotel to organize, but usually thereafter the annual meetings were held in some room at the State University. The secretary, Professor Aughey, gathered a small nucleus of a library, consisting of donations from R. W. Furnas, D. H. Wheeler, Moses Stocking and others. The society began also to carry out some of its proposed objects. These were: (1) To collect all material relating to the history of Nebraska; (2) to publish as much of it as possible; and (3) to found an historical library.

A subject of no small interest at the time the society was organized, was that of the "historical block." This was block twenty-nine of the original plat of the city of Lincoln, later known as "Haymarket Square," and having the city offices on it, which was set apart by act of the commissioners and of the State legislature, February 15, 1869. It was called "State Historical and Library Association Block," and was for the benefit of the "State Historical Li-

brary Association," organized August 26, 1867. The society in question had some sessions, and its president for some time was Hon. John Gillespie. But for some reason the legislature, by act of February 24, 1875, took away this block and gave it to the city of Lincoln. On the organization of the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1878, an effort was made to ascertain whether it was possible to recover this block for the latter society, but the attempt was abandoned.

In 1883, by act of the legislature of February 23, 1883, the society was made a State institution, and a sum appropriated for its support. This opened up to the society a way to accomplish the purpose of publishing historical material. The first volume was issued in 1885, which has been followed by a number of additional volumes. The biennial appropriations of the legislature for its support have increased from time to time, but have hardly kept pace with the needs of the society. Nebraska has made a good beginning in the matter of collecting its own history, but its work does not as yet compare with that of most of its sister states. The plans of the officers of the society for the future contemplates an increase in the work and effectiveness of the organization.

#### STATE BAR ASSOCIATION.

The Nebraska State Bar Association was organized January 6, 1876. The constitution states the objects of the organization as follows: The association is established to maintain a high standard of professional integrity among the members of the Nebraska Bar, to cultivate social intercourse and courtesy among them; to encourage a thorough and liberal legal education, and to assist in the improvement of the law and the due administration of justice to all classes of society without distinction." The constitution provided for its incorporation under the laws of the State, appointing the president to take the necessary steps in the matter. Any member of a county association may become a member and all judges of the supreme district and federal courts of Nebraska are members by virtue of their offices and have all the privileges of membership, except voting. Its constitution pro-

vides for punishment of its members for misconduct toward the association and the administration of justice, but it is also a vigilance committee to look after and punish in the courts the misconduct of non-members.

#### NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION.

An organization was effected on December 6, 1859, of what was known as the Editors' and Publishers' Association of Nebraska Territory. The first meeting was held at the Herndon House, Omaha; the following persons being present: Thomas Morton and M. W. Reynolds, of the *Nebraska City News*; R. W. Furnas, of the *Brownville Advertiser*; T. H. Robertson, of the *Omaha Nebraskan*; E. Giles, of the *Plattsmouth Sentinel*; Burbank & Jamison, of the *Falls City Broad Axe*; E. D. Webster, of the *Omaha Republican*; and ex-editors H. D. Johnson, J. W. Pattison and S. Belden. On this occasion M. W. Reynolds was elected president; R. W. Furnas, vice-president; and M. H. Clark, secretary. Among the resolutions adopted at this meeting is one: "That a public journal is an impersonality, and should be so treated on all occasions; and that in our intercourse with each other, we will neither use offensive personalities nor encourage them in others; but that we will at all times discourage their use as ungentlemanly and degrading to the profession of journalism." At this meeting Geo. A. Hensdale and J. Sterling Morton were elected honorary members.

The next reunion was held September 14, 1864, when the members of an "Editorial Convention" assembled at Nebraska City, the object as expressed in the call being to adopt uniform rates of advertising. T. H. Robertson was elected president; W. H. H. Waters, secretary; and a committee was appointed to prepare a schedule of prices. The rates, as adopted secured publishers \$2.50 for weekly subscriptions; \$1.00 per month for daily subscriptions; \$5.00 per year for tri-weekly subscriptions. Legal and transient advertisements to be inserted at the rate of \$1.50 per square for first insertion; \$1.00 for each subsequent insertion, and the price of all job work advanced 50 per cent.

In January, 1873, a preliminary meeting of

the "Nebraska Press Association" was held in Lincoln, at which Maj. Caffrey acted as chairman and J. A. MacMurphy as secretary. With the appointment of committees the meeting adjourned until February 27, 1873, at which time a constitution and by-laws were adopted. No meeting was held in 1874, but the organization has been maintained, increasing in importance and in the number of members and with growing zeal in the profession, up to the present day. Its membership is representative of all sections of the State, and its tendency the creation of personal good will and harmony.

#### STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The organization of the Nebraska State Medical Society was effected at a meeting held in Omaha, June 24, 1868. It was then declared that such an institution "organized and conducted so as to give frequent united and emphatic expression to the views and aims of the medical profession in this State, must at all times have a beneficial influence and supply more efficient means than have hitherto been available here for cultivating and advancing medical knowledge, for elevating the standard of medical education, for promoting the usefulness, honor and interests of the medical profession, for enlightening and directing public opinion in regard to the duties, responsibilities and the requirements of medical men; for exciting and encouraging emulation and concert of action in the profession, and for facilitating and fostering friendly intercourse between those who are engaged in it." The members of the society, were, by the constitution, divided into three classes—delegates, members by invitation, and permanent members. The constitution was signed by the following, as the charter members: G. C. Monell, M. D.; H. P. Mathewson, M. D.; James H. Peabody, M. D.; J. C. Denise, M. D., S. D. Mercer, M. D., of Douglas county; R. R. Livingston, M. D., of Cass county; D. Whiting, M. D., N. B. Larsh, M. D., of Otoe county, and J. P. Andrews, M. D., and August Roeder, M. D., of Washington county. The first officers elected were as follows: Gilbert C. Monell, president; Robert R. Livingston, vice-president; N. B. Larsh, second

vice-president; J. C. Denise, corresponding secretary; S. D. Mercer, permanent secretary; Daniel Whiting, treasurer.

The first annual convention was held at Nebraska City, June 1 and 2, 1869. The society is to-day in prosperous condition and growing in power and influencé. It has from time to

time issued full and valuable reports of its proceedings, accomplishing, as far as possible, that which it aimed to do—elevating the standard of medical education and promoting the usefulness, honor and interests of the medical profession.

## CHAPTER V.

### RAILROADS.

The question as to who it was that first suggested the possibility of building a railroad across the continent has been a disputed one. It was discussed by public men early in the century and was mentioned in various journals and newspapers, but it gradually assumed more definite shape, and culminated, finally, in the organization and construction of the Union Pacific railroad. While the scope of this work forbids an extended history of each particular road that has aided in the progress of the State, the inception and building of the great Union Pacific is so intimately connected with the pioneer history of Nebraska that the writer believes a more extended history of its inception and growth will be found interesting in this connection.

The claimants for the honor of having first introduced the subject of a trans-continental railway to the American people have been numerous and persistent. The subject has been mooted time out of mind, and the question, "who first suggested the Pacific railway?" propounded and repeated incessantly. It is said that Jonathan Carver foreshadowed its construction as early as 1778, and if true, he was farthest ahead of all men of the age in which he lived. When, during succeeding years, it was again and again mentioned and pronounced impracticable, California, rich in wealth and resources, sprang as if by magic from the desert and the undertaking became an enterprise of the present rather than of the future. Since then, the march of progress has, with magestic tread, swept across the continent, populating the

valleys, developing the agricultural resources of the plains, bringing to light the hidden mineral wealth of the mountains and inscribing her name on the brightest pages of history in every State. Upon the banks of the Father of Waters the steps of progress impatiently lingered, but spanning that stream, she swept along her magnificent career. Next she reached Nebraska, touching into life with her magic wand the hidden wealth therein sleeping. The Rocky mountains were crossed, and the Queen of the Pacific reached.

As early as 1835 the Rev. Samuel Parker, in his journal of a trip across the continent, recorded an opinion that the mountains presented no insuperable obstacle to a railroad. In 1836 John Plumbe, Jr., a Welshman, but a naturalized American, residing at Dubuque, commenced, in person at his own expense the survey of a route for a railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific ocean, directing public attention to its importance in several well written articles in the newspapers of the day. In 1838 he succeeded, through the influence and efforts of the Hon. George W. Jones, in procuring an appropriation from Congress to defray the expenses of locating the first division of the line, devoting his entire attention to, and making constant exertions for, the promotion of this great national object. He lived until after the gold discoveries of California, and used them as additional arguments in support of his pet scheme. Among the many claims is also that advanced by the friends of John Wilgus, formerly a resident of Brownsville, Pennsyl-

vania. A full review of the Wilgus claims are contained in an article published in the Uniontown (Pa.) *Republican-Standard*, from which we quote the following:

"Many public men bask in borrowed light, and in no instance is this proposition more signally illustrated than in the case of Hon. Thomas H. Benton, who as history records, is the accredited father of the Pacific railroad. Men of true moral and intellectual worth are more often modest and unassuming, and, though deserving the gratitude of their fellow-men, live in obscurity and go to their reward hardly known outside the village in which fortune cast their lot. Such a man was John Wilgus, the man who, above all others, is entitled to the credit and honor of originating the idea of a railroad to the Pacific. Born in comparative obscurity in a small town in southwestern Pennsylvania, in the latter part of the last century, he very early gave promise of having a more than bright intellect. Poverty and a lack of schools stood in his pathway, but his insatiable desire for learning was only limited by insurmountable obstacles incident to a new settlement on the border. The Bible was his companion from his youth, and in his manhood and declining years, he who sought a controversy on religious dogmas must come fully armed and equipped. He had examined in detail all controverted points, read all the standard authors on Bible lore, memorized whole chapters and books of the Bible, and from studies and researches in various departments, culling here and there logic and analogy, and with a memory never at fault when a topic was once scanned, he was a formidable opponent. While yet a young man, he conceived the idea of a railroad to the Pacific, and this not when railroads were out of their swaddling clothes, but in their infancy; before mountains had been scaled and rivers spanned. He contemplated and suggested congressional aid by giving ten miles of public land on each line of the surveyed routes; laying the road out so as to run through the county seats of successive counties; the eastern terminus should be the western shore of Lake Superior, near the present site of Duluth; also, that it should cross the Rockies where the present road crosses, and its western terminus should be the Bay of San

Francisco. Drawing a map and plan of his proposed railroad, he drew up a letter detailing the plans and methods, and the reasons for the same, and forwarded the whole to Hon. Andrew Stewart, who was then a representative in Congress from Fayette county, Pennsylvania. The plans and details were shown to a number of members, and it was thought advisable to have any proposition relating thereto come from a western man, and Mr. Benton, who was nearing the zenith of his glory, was selected. Mr. Benton arose in his place in the Senate on the following day, and proposed the building of a railroad to the Pacific. Mr. Stewart wrote to Mr. Wilgus the disposition made of his submissions. Years after, in the later years of Mr. Stewart's life, when the Pacific road was building, he wrote a letter to Mr. Wilgus, recognizing him as the original proposer of the road, and complimenting him upon the grand consummation about to dawn upon his early hopes."

The letter referred to, and which is the only evidence now obtainable to substantiate Mr. Wilgus' title to the honor, reads thus:

UNIONTOWN, PA., JUNE 25, 1869.

*John Wilgus, Esq., Brownsville, Pa.:*

DEAR SIR: I have just received your letter of yesterday, inclosing your communication to the *Commercial*, in reference to a correspondence between us, relative to the "Pacific Railroad," between twenty and thirty years ago, and requesting me to give you my recollections in reference to that matter.

I have a perfect recollection of having received numerous letters from you, urging me, as a member of the committee on railroads and canals, to call the attention of Congress to this subject, in which you took so much interest.

Your first route was from Lake Michigan, by the Columbia river, to the Pacific, but after the acquisition of California, you changed it from St. Louis to San Francisco. Of this route you sent me a very handsome map, following, according to my recollections, very nearly the route on which the road has been lately built—which map I had, as you say, suspended in the hall of the House of Representatives, for the inspection of the members.

I drew up a resolution authorizing the Presi-



dent to employ a corps of engineers of the United States army, to examine and report upon the practicability of the proposed project, which resolution I submitted to a number of members of Congress, but especially to those of the west, who were most favorably disposed.

Upon consideration and reflection, however, I concluded that the resolution had better be first offered in the Senate, being a smaller body, and where the small western states were comparatively much stronger than in the House. I therefore took the resolution, with your map, to the Senate, where I was advised by those friendly to the project, to hand the papers to Col. Benton, whose son-in-law, Col. Fremont, had made the preliminary explorations. I did so and he promised to attend to the matter, in which he also took a very lively interest. I advised you of this arrangement, with which you expressed yourself satisfied and said you would write to Col. Benton on the subject, who afterward informed me that you had done so.

Without referring to the journals, to which I have not now access, I can not undertake to state the action of the Senate on the subject, but may do so hereafter, and should I find anything further material to your inquiry, I will let you know.

Very respectfully, your friend, etc.,

A. STEWART.

Lewis Gaylord Clarke, in 1838, wrote to the *Knickerbocker*: "The reader is now living who will make a railway trip across the continent." In 1846, Asa Whitney began to urge the project of building a line from the Mississippi to Puget Sound, if Congress would donate public lands to the width of thirty miles along the entire road. Later experience has shown that the proceeds sought by Whitney would have been utterly insufficient. His plan was conceded to be superior to that submitted by Mr. Plumb, but it was not acted upon. In 1850 the first Pacific railroad bill was introduced into Congress by Senator Benton, of Missouri "Old Bullion" contemplated a railroad only "where practicable," leaving gaps in the impassable mountains to be filled up by wagon roads. The Alleghanies were not even then crossed by an unbroken railway, but by a series of inclined

planes, upon which the cars were drawn up and let down by stationary engines. In all ages mankind has sought the shortest, most expeditious and economical route to market. The work was demanded in a national point of view, and across the State of Nebraska must the road be built. The questions which primarily suggested themselves—would it pay?—how should it be built? and where was it to leave the frontier?—were made the subjects of careful consideration. In 1851 the Hon. S. Butler King submitted a plan which received almost universal approval. It was, practically, that the government should guarantee to any company or persons who would undertake and complete the road a net dividend of five per cent. for fifty or one hundred years; the road to be constructed under the supervision of an engineer appointed by the government, the cost of the road not to exceed a certain sum, and the guaranty not to begin until the road was completed and equipped for operation. In 1853-'54, nine routes were surveyed across the continent on various parallels between British America and Mexico, under the supervision of Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war. The results were summarized in the interests of the extreme southern line. Up to this period, the Canadians and many residents of the United States believed that a railway could not be built south of the British possessions, unless it was carried far down toward Mexico. In spite of all this, however, the Union Pacific shouldered the enterprise, and in four years built a total of 1,000 miles. With each returning session of Congress, thereafter convened, the benefits and peculiarities of these several routes were submitted. The impracticability of building the road had been from time to time removed by reports of engineers engaged in surveying designated routes, and many advocates were found who urged that the geography of the country and other features of excellence demonstrated incontestably, that the old Mormon trail up the Platte river was the most available.

A number of appeals were made to Congress urging that a reasonable grant of land and other aid be made as would give an impulse to the building of the road. As regarded the Platte valley route, its superiority was insisted upon, and the truth of history cited in that behalf.

In the early days of Brigham Young's domination, trusty emissaries were by him dispatched for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of the best road from the Missouri to Salt Lake. After every possible and impossible route had been explored this shrewd leader, who had more at stake than any man who ever crossed the western prairies, chose the North Platte route. The speed and safety with which he and his followers traversed it attest a sagacity which only a thorough knowledge of the country would enable him to employ. The first emigrants to California crossed the Missouri at St. Joe, Leavenworth, Kansas City, Independence and elsewhere. But, after the country had been explored thoroughly, the emigration of 1852 was by way of Council Bluffs and the north Platte route. From the earliest days of the territory, the people and official representatives of Nebraska favored the speedy completion of a line through the valley of the Platte. The proceedings of the legislature prove this. Every governor from Cuming to Saunders advocated the measure and a most urgent spirit was manifested from 1855 to 1865.

On January 20, 1858, a committee of Congress, through Senator Gwin, of California, reported a bill which proposed to locate the road at some point between the Big Sioux and Kansas rivers to San Francisco. It provided for the donation of alternate sections of land on each side of the route, and \$12,500 per mile, the same to be advanced on the completion of every twenty-five miles of the road until \$25,000,000 was reached; the amounts to be returned in mail and army service and transportation, etc. This bill, however, was killed in the Senate. At the session of 1859-'60 another effort was made, and a bill introduced into the House by Mr. Curtis, of Iowa. It provided for the construction of a road across the continent, with branches from two points on the navigable waters of the Missouri, to converge and unite within two hundred miles of that stream, thence run to the Sacramento river. The bill ran through a long and excited debate and was amended in several particulars and finally was rejected by Congress. The great difficulty at this time seemed the selection of a route.

In 1861 the war came on and monopolized

public attention, but early in 1862 the possibility of constructing the road was again brought up and at this time first took definite shape. On February 5, 1862, Mr. Rollins, of Missouri, introduced a bill to aid in constructing a railroad and telegraph line from the Missouri river to the Pacific ocean. The bill was finally passed by both houses of Congress June 24, 1862, and was approved July 1, 1862, thus creating "The Union Pacific Railroad Company." The bill provided for the amount of the capital stock; the election of directors; the right of way through public lands; the extinguishment of Indian titles; the donation of alternate sections, except mineral lands; the conveyance of lands upon completion of forty consecutive miles of road, and the issue and payment of bonds therefor, besides various other provisions. The act was amended later and the company was formally organized October 29, 1863, by the election of a board of thirteen directors. Work on the road was commenced at once and progressed rapidly. On March 13, 1866, it was announced that sixty miles of the road had been completed and awaited examination by the commissioners of the government. The completion of the road occurred on May 10, 1869. The foregoing covers briefly the facts leading up to the inception and building of the Union Pacific.

#### PIONEER RAILROADS IN NEBRASKA.

The Union Pacific railroad was the first railway enterprise commenced in Nebraska. The mere talk of the project of building this line from the Missouri river westward to the Pacific attracted a great deal of attention to the west—and especially was emigration to Nebraska hastened by this. The location of the road and the commencement of operations looking to the building of its route, tended to fill up Nebraska, then a territory with a thrifty population, as also to develop the agricultural and mineral wealth of the country beyond. The immediate effects were, of course, experienced first by that portion of the domain through which the road passed, and in other portions of the territory as its influence gradually extended. The great empire west of Omaha, along the base of the Rocky Mountains, rich in mineral wealth beyond any

other portion of the country, filled up rapidly with people. The productive lands of Nebraska were brought into requisition to furnish them with wheat, corn, potatoes and other cereals and esculents, and the wholesale merchants of the metropolis contributed to their necessities. The building of the road cheapened transportation and in every way promoted the growth and development of Nebraska.

The bill passed by Congress creating the "Union Pacific Railroad Company," which was approved July 1, 1862, provided for the construction of a continuous railroad and telegraph line from "a point on the 100th meridian of longitude west of Greenwich, between the south margin of the Republican river and the north margin of the valley of the Platte river, in the Territory of Nebraska, to the western boundary of Nevada Territory. This great national enterprise was formally organized in the city of New York, October 29, 1863, by the election of the first board of directors, as has already been stated. At that time four lines of railroad had been projected, and were in process of construction across the State of Iowa—The Burlington & Missouri, the most southern; the Mississippi & Missouri, the next north; the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska, farther north; and the Dubuque & Sioux City. The first named was in operation about one hundred miles westward from Burlington, with its western terminus undecided. The Mississippi & Missouri was in operation from Davenport to Grinnell, with its western terminus decided as Council Bluffs, opposite Omaha. The Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska road was in operation from Clinton and Lyons to Marshalltown; and the Dubuque & Sioux City was operated a short distance west of Dubuque with its western terminus at Sioux City. For this latter road, a connection with the trunk line of the Pacific road was expressly provided in the act of Congress incorporating the Union Pacific, obliging that company to construct a branch to a point opposite Sioux City, whenever a road should be completed there to cross the State of Iowa. At this time there was great anxiety throughout the west as to what place on the Missouri river the President would select as the initial point of the Union Pacific road, and Omaha, it was insisted upon, offered

superior inducements in that connection. On the morning of Wednesday, December 2, 1863, the engineer of the road received a telegram from New York, announcing that the President of the United States had fixed the initial point of the road on "the western boundary of the State of Iowa," opposite Omaha, and directing him to formally "break ground" and inaugurate the great work. To aid in the construction of this great national highway the United States government conferred upon the Union Pacific a magnificent land grant, amounting to over 12,000,000 acres, contained in alternate sections of one square mile each, within a breadth of twenty miles on either side of the railroad, and extended along its entire line. The act passed by Congress required that one hundred miles of the Union Pacific railroad, between the Missouri river and the 100th meridian, be completed within three years after filing of the company's assent of the organic law, filed June 27, 1863. Considerable delay was occasioned by various interests fighting to secure the location of the line where it would serve speculative enterprises, but in 1865 the work of construction was being pushed with vigor. On March 13, 1866, it was announced that sixty miles of the road had been completed and awaited examination by the commissioners of the government. Soon after the first hundred miles were completed, in July, 1866, one hundred and thirty-five miles were announced as ready for the "cars" west of Omaha. The final completion of the line to the Pacific ocean, one of the great events of the century, occurred on May 10, 1869. On that day, two oceans were united and a continent was spanned by the bands of iron, over which was to flow the commerce of the nation. An early writer, speaking of this event, said: "Fruitful as has been the present century in important discoveries and useful inventions, varied and multiform as have been the improvements wrought out by patient toil and unequalled energy of the men of the age in which they lived, no single achievement will compare in its immediate and ultimate consequences to the material prosperity of the people, not only of America but of Europe and Asia, with the grand work which reached its final consummation on Monday, May 10, 1869."

The bridge across the Missouri river at Omaha was completed in March, 1872, at a total cost of \$1,450,000.

The first line from the east to salute the people of Omaha with the screech of the engine whistle was the Chicago & Northwestern, the first train on that road entering the city on Sunday, January 17, 1867. The Missouri river was crossed on a pile bridge, which for several years was used during the winter months for crossing the river, it being removed during the months of navigation, and a ferryboat employed in its place to transfer freight and passengers. The second road to reach the State was the St. Joseph & Council Bluffs line. The Burlington & Missouri was completed to the city of Omaha in 1868. The Omaha & Northwestern was built to Herman, a distance of forty miles in October, 1871, and during the same year the Omaha & Southwestern was completed to the Platte river.

In February, 1869, the legislature of Nebraska appropriated two thousand acres per mile to any railroad which should complete ten miles of its route within one year, the grant in no case to exceed 100,000 acres. It was stated that the members of the legislature appreciated its importance of prompt action and realized that the railroads alone could effect the desired end, and appropriated altogether 500,000 acres of land for the purpose of internal improvements. Movements to take advantage of this act were inaugurated in various portions of the State during the summer of 1869. Early in October, 1869, James E. Boyd of Omaha made through the public press, a proposition, the substance of which was, that he would be one of twenty men to advance \$10,000 for the purpose of constructing the Omaha & Northwestern road over a route projected from Omaha to the Niobrara river. On the 19th of November, 1869, articles of incorporation were drawn up and the organization of the company was perfected a few days later. The work of building the road was pushed with wonderful rapidity, and on February 3, 1870, the railway was completed ten miles on its route, at a cost for materials of \$108,000. During 1870 twenty-six and one-half miles of road were completed to DeSoto and a lease entered into with John I. Blair, of a branch of the Missouri & Pacific road, known as the "DeSoto Plug," by which

communication between Omaha and Blair became direct and regular. On the 7th of October, 1871, the road was completed to Herman on the line of Washington and Burt counties. As showing the liberality with which railroads were treated by the State and the public generally in those days it may be said that the company received \$200,000 in ten per cent. twenty-year bonds from Douglas county; \$150,000 in eight per cent. twenty-year bonds from Washington county for the building of the line from the south to the north line of the latter county; in addition, two thousand acres of land per mile from the State and liberal donations from other northern counties. During 1872 the road bed was graded to Tekama, but as the panic of 1873 came on it was not completed to Tekama until August, 1876, at which time the company received \$45,000 in bonds from Burt county. The following year the road was sold under foreclosure proceedings, and reorganized, and later was pushed on northward.

The Omaha & Southern Railroad Company was one of the projects organized to take advantage of the act of legislature passed in February, 1869, appropriating two thousand acres of land per mile to any railroad which should complete ten miles of its route within one year. This company was organized November 27, 1869, when officers were elected and plans laid for pushing the work. The affairs of the road were conducted with signal ability with a view solely to the completion of the first ten miles before the 1st of February, 1870. The work of grading was let to Smiley & Meson, McCarth & Fleming, William Knight and John Green, and commenced without delay, so that its completion was reached and the last rail laid on the evening of January 29, 1870, at a total cost of \$195,000. The celerity with which this railroad and also the Omaha & Northwestern line (which is mentioned elsewhere) was incepted, pushed forward and completed the desired number of miles, was something marvelous, and up to that time exceeded anything in the annals of railroad building. Sixty days previous to their completion, the ties of both roads were in the primeval trees of the forest, the iron composing the rails was in a crude state six hundred miles away from where they were to be subsequently laid. This road, as

previously stated soon after its construction became a part of the Burlington & Missouri River—now the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system.

On the 11th of August, 1866, authority was obtained under the general law of Nebraska by the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad Company to build a railroad from the Nebraska State line to Fort Kearney. The Northern Kansas Railroad Company was consolidated with this company, and the rights to lands granted by Act of Congress, July 23, 1866, of one million, seven hundred thousand acres was thereby obtained. Subscriptions from municipal corporations to the amount of one million, twenty-five thousand dollars were secured in aid of building the road. Work was commenced and eighty-miles of the line were completed and in operation in October, 1870, at a cost of about one million, five hundred thousand dollars. In 1871 the line was extended forty-eight miles and in the following year it was completed to Hastings. It later passed into the hands of the Union Pacific Company, and was extended to Grand Island in the summer of 1879. Later it was extended further north. Harrison Johnson, an early writer on Nebraska history, said of this line: "The total cost of the line from St. Joseph to Hastings was five million, four hundred forty-nine thousand, six hundred twenty dollars and seventy-seven cents, of which stockholders paid one thousand four hundred dollars; seven hundred eighty-two thousand, seven hundred twenty-seven and ten cents from State and municipal aid, and the remainder four million, six hundred sixty-five thousand, four hundred ninety-three dollars and sixty-seven cents from the proceeds of mortgage bonds."

Early in the "seventies" the project of building what was then called the "Julesburg cut-off" or the "Omaha & Denver Short Line" attracted a good deal of attention. In 1873 the Union Pacific road first fostered the enterprise of building this line and much of the projected line was graded between 1873 and 1875, when certain complications with the then inimical Kansas Pacific, forced an abandonment of the scheme. Upon the completion of the purchase by the Union Pacific of the Kansas Pacific, however, the reconstruction of the line was recommenced early in 1880 and it was rapidly pushed to completion to Denver.

On January 17, 1870, the first passenger train from Chicago to Council Bluffs over the line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad marked the completion and opening of a third line of railway from Chicago to Omaha. To the Chicago & Northwestern is due the credit of having been the first, followed soon afterward by the completion and opening of traffic on the Iowa division of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. This was followed as stated, by the Burlington & Missouri River Railway, a continuation of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. This line became a part of the great organization known as the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad System. They rapidly pushed their lines beyond the Missouri river by acquiring other lines already built or under construction, and by the construction of new lines. Their lines now traverse the richest portions of the State.

In 1871 a line of railway was built from Nebraska City to Lincoln, a distance of fifty-eight miles by a company organized that year under the title of the Midland Pacific Railroad. It was extended to Seward eighty-three miles from Nebraska City, in 1874. It was the intention of the original company to build a line to Fort Kearney, or to some point farther east on the Union Pacific road. A branch was also projected from the main line in Otoe county to Fort Riley, in Kansas. The line was, however, sold under foreclosure and reorganized under the name of the Nebraska Railway, and later passed into the hands of the Burlington & Missouri Company, in 1876, and later was pushed on westward to York and Aurora and Central City in Merrick county; and was also extended southward from Nebraska City.

The Sioux City & Pacific Railroad was one of the pioneer railroads of Northeastern Nebraska. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley road which was operated by the Sioux City & Pacific was also among the pioneers. The first ten miles of this road was completed December 31, 1869. This line reached Stanton, the county seat of Stanton county, in 1879. The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway with lines from Sioux City to Omaha, and branches, was a pioneer in Northwestern Nebraska and was an important factor in the growth,

settlement and development of that region. These lines are now a part of the Northwestern System, one of the greatest of America's railway organizations. The Northwestern System has extended their lines throughout all of northern and eastern Nebraska.

#### RAILROADS OF TODAY.

The foregoing pages have treated of the railroad development in Nebraska in early days. Perhaps no State in the Union owes more of its rapid growth to the railroad than does Nebraska. The last thirty years has been an era of railroad building throughout the West and especially is this true of Nebraska. The State has been covered with a net work of rails that extend to all parts of the commonwealth and in all directions the lines radiate into the outer world. Transportation facilities today are excellent, not only within the State, but in all directions with the centers of trade and commerce of other States.

The Union Pacific has its main line extending through the State from east to west, making it the greatest of all highways between the east and the Pacific coast. It also has various branches in Nebraska extending north and south from the main line, notably those reaching the following

named towns: Norfolk, Albion, Spalding, Ord, Callawa and Stromsburg; also a branch south through Lincoln to connect with the Union Pacific lines in Kansas, and they also control the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railway extending from Grand Island southeast to St. Joseph, Missouri.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy System traverses the entire State of Nebraska from east to west, with various branches. The Chicago & Northwestern line, together with the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha which it controls, is another of the great railway systems that today serve much territory within the State and connect the State with the outside world. Their main line to the northwest and to the Black Hills, with various branches serve the north and northeastern part of Nebraska, while branches also extend southwest to Hastings, Superior and Lincoln. In addition to these there are a number of other important lines of railway that have trackage interest in the State and add to the transportation facilities of Nebraska in connecting the State with the outside world, among which should be mentioned the following: The Missouri Pacific, Kansas City & Northwestern, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, The Chicago Great Western, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Great Northern, and the Illinois Central.

# CHAPTER VI.

## MISCELLANEOUS HISTORICAL MATTERS.

### THE LOCUSTS OR GRASSHOPPERS.

In the early history of Nebraska nothing excited more general interest than the locust question. Early in the decade between 1860 and 1870 these insects invaded portions of the State and wrought great havoc and damage, but the greatest damage was done during the latter part of the following decade—the damage they accomplished being particularly great in 1874, 1876 and 1877. In those days there were generally a number of years between great locust invasions. It never occurred that the whole State suffered at one time, but in those years small visitations were more frequent and over comparatively small areas. This is now all a thing of the past, but as it forms one of the most interesting features of the natural history of Nebraska, we present the following article on this subject written by Prof. Samuel Aughey, Ph. D., in 1880, when the locust question was one of vast importance to the settlers of the western states, including Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and the Dakotas. The settlers had then only recently suffered severely from the locust visitations and were constantly in fear of their reappearance.

“The permanent habitat of the migrating locust is the region between latitude 43 degrees and 53 degrees north, and 103 degrees and 114 degrees west of Greenwich. From their native habitat they move mainly in an easterly, southeasterly and southern direction. Moving in this direction those that commence migrating from northern Montana by the middle of July reach southern Dakota Territory and in some cases probably Nebraska and even Kansas, sometime in August or September. Generally, however, those that come into Nebraska and Kansas were

hatched and matured south of Montana. It takes generally from two to three seasons for them to reach these latitudes. Often the numbers that alight are amazing. During July, in 1866, in Cedar county, their numbers were so great that the sun was darkened. Many of the tree limbs were broken under their weight. This was an exceptional case. However, they often completely covered the ground. Generally, the cereal grains are already harvested when the migrating locusts reach Nebraska. Wheat, oats and barley are safe. Corn and the gardens are the victims, if they come before the former is sufficiently ripened to resist their attacks. A swarm of locusts in July and August can ruin a field of corn in a few days and sometimes a few hours. Often the fields are only partially destroyed. Sometimes the silk and foliage are partially eaten off and the ends of the ears bared, so that the crops cannot mature. If they leave, at this stage of their proceedings, all is well, and if not their eggs are deposited and the wheat crop endangered during the coming spring. The countless numbers that are hatched out, if the spring happens to be favorable to them, become exceedingly voracious. As they soon commence to move by jumping in one direction, when abundant they are apt to devour everything in their path. This continues until they are old enough to fly, when they depart for other regions. Generally some corn can be saved and late planting may entirely escape. Often the third planting of corn during locust years yielded a fair crop. The cereal grains have, however, in some places and during a few years, been largely destroyed during the time between the hatching out and flying of the locusts. As yet no successful method has been devised to destroy the locusts on their first ap-

pearance in migrating swarms from the northwest. The eggs, however, which are laid in autumn, have been frequently destroyed by repeatedly harrowing the ground, breaking up the nests and exposing them to the action of rain and cold and birds. Plowing them under very deep also destroys great numbers. When they hatch out in the spring in destructive numbers, the most vigorous methods need to be employed. One of the most successful ways of destroying them is the digging of ditches around the fields, across the path on which they are moving. If the trenches are made from twelve to fourteen inches deep, and still deeper holes dug every few rods in the trenches, the young locusts first get into the trenches, then into the holes, where unable to get out, they can be destroyed by piling ground on them. Some farmers have saved their entire crops in this way in the midst of the most infested districts. However, nature has its own method of destroying locusts. The locust's natural habitat is a high, dry region where the rainfall is from ten to twenty inches a year. They cannot long endure a combination of low altitudes and moisture, combined with extreme and sudden changes of temperature. Hence, the locust can never become localized in Nebraska. From the time they leave their native habitat, constitutional impairment sets in, and a few years in lower moisture regions exterminates them, unless they speedily return to their upland dry home. Generally, there are many years between great locust invasions. It never occurs that the whole State suffers at once, while the small visitations have been more frequent, the destructive ones occur at very long intervals and over comparatively small areas. The small area under cultivation even in the thickest settlements has been heretofore, one reason for the destructiveness of locusts. The locusts seemed to select the corn fields and gardens for their feeding grounds. When the area under cultivation is trebled, the amount of damage they can do will be more than one-half less. Another more potent agency against their increase and destructiveness is the increasing rainfall of the State. The presence of the locust is by no means the pest that it sometimes has been represented to be." (1880).

The following very interesting article on the grasshopper raids was written by Harrison John-

son, in 1879, viz.: "During the growing seasons of 1874 and '75 the Rocky Mountain locust, or grasshopper, visited Nebraska and did incalculable damage by devouring the crops in a large portion of the State. In many sections, more particularly in the western and middle counties, the destruction of crops by these insects was almost complete, not a vestige of anything green being left untouched by them; and as many of the farmers living in the sections so afflicted were new settlers, the total loss of their crops upon which they were dependent for the support of their families, was a great calamity and caused much distress and suffering. The destitution was so widespread and so great in some localities, that public aid was asked, for the relief of the sufferers. The prompt and generous responses to the call by the people of the East and other localities not so afflicted, in forwarding provisions, clothing and money, saved many a poor family from actual want if not starvation.

"While it is true that the damage done by the grasshoppers was very great, and caused much genuine distress among the people in several of the counties yet the whole matter was grossly exaggerated and enlarged upon by a certain busy class of persons who somehow always come to the front on such occasions, actuated, generally, more by a desire to further their own selfish ends than by any kindly, true feeling for the distressed. This blatant, noisy class, with their loud demonstrations and universal begging, not only disgusted the more sensible people, but did the State an injury next to that of the grasshoppers themselves.

"Yet it is a stubborn fact that the timely succor sent to the settlers in the devastated districts saved much suffering among the poorer portion; and the people of Nebraska owe a lasting debt of gratitude to the noble men and women of the East, who contributed so willingly and bountifully to their aid in time of need. By an act of the legislature of Nebraska, fifty thousand dollars were donated as a relief to the grasshopper sufferers, which amount was judiciously expended and distributed for that purpose., but the grasshopper scares have passed away, we hope, forever; the seasons have come and gone, leaving us with bountiful crops of all kinds to enrich and supply the wants of all, and prosperity reigns



supreme throughout the length and breadth of the State." (1879).

#### PUBLIC LANDS.

In early days the public lands in Nebraska were given with a lavish hand to aid in the settlement, growth and development of the country, as well as for internal improvements, railway grants, and school purposes. The State received from the general government millions of acres for various purposes. The records show that during the first ten years of statehood the State received grants of land aggregating nearly three and a half million acres, as follows: For internal improvement 500,000 acres; for agricultural college, 90,000 acres; for university, 46,080 acres; for public buildings, 12,800 acres; for penitentiary, 32,000 acres; for saline purposes, 46,080 acres; for common school purposes two sections in every township, aggregating about 2,650,000 acres. The 500,000 acres for internal improvement purposes were granted to the State upon its admission to the Union, under the provisions of an act of Congress, approved September 4, 1841. These lands were selected through agents appointed for that purpose, and disposed of in pursuance to the provisions of an act of the legislature, approved February 15, 1869. Up to February 24, 1874, the general government had turned over 504,131 acres of land to Nebraska for internal improvement purposes. These lands were disposed of by the State in the following manner. Deeded to Saline county for bridges, 1,000 acres; Gage county for bridges, 1,000 acres; Elkhorn & Missouri Valley R. R., 100,030 acres; Midland Pacific R. R., 100,384 acres; Brownville & Ft. Kearney R. R., 19,989 acres; Burlington & Missouri River R. R., 50,104 acres; Sioux City & Pacific R. R., 47,327 acres; Omaha & Southwestern R. R., 100,010 acres; Omaha & Northwestern R. R., 80,416 acres; Burlington & Southwestern R. R., 20,000 acres; Atchison & Nebraska R. R., 12,841 acres.

The railroads received from the government an immense amount of land in the way of land grants. The aggregate amount of lands in Nebraska received by the Union Pacific Railway from the government was about 5,926,400 acres,

all contiguous to their line of road, and about half of these lands were in the Platte Valley. The Burlington & Missouri River Railway received from the government a land grant in Nebraska amounting to 2,382,208 acres; they received from the State of Nebraska 50,104 acres, and when they took possession of the Omaha & Southwestern Road they acquired the land grant made to that line, by the State, of 100,010 acres. These lands were situated chiefly in the north-central and south-central portions of the State, and were designated as "North Platte" and "South Platte" lands. The railroad lands were placed on the market at extremely low prices and on very reasonable terms, a very small cash payment being required and long time being given for payment of the balance at low rates of interest. These conditions greatly stimulated the settlement of the State.

On the first of January, 1863, the homestead law went into effect, and thereby public lands were subject to entry by those who acknowledged their intention to settle permanently, for a merely nominal fee. Congress, in order that the benefits of the law might be justly distributed, from time to time amended its provisions and enlarged its scope. Liberal provisions were made by which the soldier, his widow and his orphans were permitted to receive enlarged privileges in securing homesteads, thus adding to the national recognition of the principle that every citizen of the republic was entitled to the rights to make himself a home upon the public domain, the still nobler and higher doctrine that it was the nation's duty to reward the defenders of the country and provide homes for the families of those who gave up their lives in its defense.

The preemption law also helped materially the early settlement and development of Nebraska. Under this law with certain restrictions, every person who was the head of a family or over twenty-one years and a citizen of the United States, was entitled in early days to enter a quarter section of land under the preemption act. The rules of the general land office, in those days, required a person to build a house and break at least ten acres of land before he could make final proof and perfect his title to the land and in order to take a preemption, a settlement

on the land was required to be made within sixty days from the date of filing the claim. A patent could be secured at the expiration of thirty months from the time of filing, on payment of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre where the land was located outside the limits of a railroad land grant and two dollars and fifty cents per acre if within such limits.

Another important method of securing title to public lands was by means of the "timber culture entry," or "tree, claim act" and this act left its impress throughout all the prairie regions of the West. Only one timber culture entry was permitted on each section, and this class of entries could only be taken upon "prairie land," or land naturally devoid of timber. No residence on the land was required. The law required that for a timber culture entry of 160 acres, five acres be broken within the first year; that it be cultivated the second year, and planted to forest trees four feet apart each way, within the third year; and that a second five acres be broken the second year, cultivated the third year, and planted as in the first instance the fourth year, and that if the ten acres be kept in a growing condition a patent was issued for the tract at the expiration of eight years, provided that not less than six hundred and seventy-five trees be found in a growing condition at the expiration of that time. The law also provided that in case the trees, seeds, or cuttings should be destroyed by grasshoppers, or by extreme and unusual draught, for any year or term of years, the time for planting such trees, seed, or cuttings should be extended one year for every such year that they were so destroyed.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

In educational matters Nebraska has kept pace with any of the other states in the Union. Profiting by the experience of the older states, Nebraska, at its organization, incorporated into her common school system all that had been proven by experiment to be the best and most advantageous methods. To show the growth and development along educational lines we will state that in the year 1870, there were in the State only seven hundred and ninety-seven districts, employing five hundred and thirty-six teachers, and serving 32,789 children. The

value of school property at that time was approximately \$178,604. For the purpose of comparison we give the following statistics for the school year—twenty-six years later—in 1906, viz.: In 1906 there were in the ninety counties a total of 6,671 districts, employing 9,639 teachers, occupying 6,780 school houses and serving 373,829 children of school age. The total value of school district property at this time was \$12,076,569. The number of graded schools in the State in 1906 was 492, giving employment to 3,570 teachers. These figures speak well for the intelligence of the people of any state.

There are a great many institutions of higher learning scattered throughout the State. The State University, located at Lincoln, was established by act of the legislature in 1869, and opened in 1871. It is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume. The following is a list of the most important colleges, academies, business and normal schools in the State, giving the location of each, viz.: Aurora Normal and Business College, at Aurora; Bellevue College, at Bellevue; Brownell Hall, at Omaha; Brown's Business College, at Lincoln; Central College, at Central City; Chadron Academy, at Chadron; Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, at Lincoln; Cotner University, at Bethany; Creighton University, at Omaha; Custer College, at Broken Bow; Dana College, at Blair; Doane College, at Crete; Franciscan Monastery, at Humphrey; Franklin Academy, at Franklin; Fremont College and School of Pharmacy, at Fremont; Gates Academy, at Neligh; Grand Island Business and Normal College, at Grand Island; Grand Island College, at Grand Island; Hastings Business College, at Hastings; Hastings College, at Hastings; Kearney Military Academy, at Kearney; Lincoln Business College, at Lincoln; Lincoln Syllabic College, at Lincoln; Luther Academy, at Wahoo; Lutheran Seminary, at Seward; Nebraska Normal College, at Wayne; Nebraska Wesleyan University at University Place; Northwestern Business College, at Beatrice; Omaha Commercial College, at Omaha; Orleans Seminary, at Orleans; Pawnee City Academy, at Pawnee City; St. Catherine Academy, at Jackson; St. Francis Academy, at Columbus; St. Mary's Academy, at O'Neill; St. Paul Normal and Business Col-

lege, at St. Paul; St. Theresa Parochial High School, at Lincoln; Union College, at College View; Ursuline Convent, at Falls City; Weeping Water Academy, at Weeping Water; York Business College and Normal School, at York; York College, at York.

#### POPULATION OF NEBRASKA.

The first census of the territory now comprising Nebraska was taken in the fall of 1854, being completed on the 20th of November, of that year. It gave the territory a total of 2,732 white population. The first United States census was taken in 1860, and this may be said to have been the first enumeration taken with any reasonable degree of accuracy. This gave the territory a population of 28,841. Taking the United States census, taken every ten years, as a basis, the following table shows the growth of the population of Nebraska:

In 1860 its population was. . . .	28,841
In 1870 its population was. . . .	122,993
In 1880 its population was. . . .	452,402
In 1890 its population was. . . .	1,058,910
In 1900 its population was. . . .	1,068,539

#### DID SLAVERY EXIST IN NEBRASKA?

To the average reader of to-day it will be interesting to know that at one time in the history of Nebraska the existence of slavery within its borders furnished the most important topic for discussion and legislation at several sessions of the territorial legislature. On November 1, 1858, a bill was introduced in the territorial legislature "to abolish slavery in the Territory of Nebraska." The bill was referred to a committee of five, three of whom recommended the passage of the bill, but two of the committee presented a minority report in which they "regretted the introduction of the bill, fearing it was done at the promptings of political ambition, and that the discussion of an abstract question, having no bearing on the practical affairs of the territory, could but sow the seeds of dissension." The bill was laid on the table, and the matter went over to the next session. On December 7, 1859, a bill was introduced "to abolish and

prohibit slavery or involuntary servitude," by Wm. H. Taylor, and was referred to a committee consisting of William H. Taylor, George W. Doane and George L. Miller. The report of Mr. Taylor, of this committee, contains so many interesting facts bearing on the subject, that we quote from it the following:

"The ostensible objections urged against the passage of the bill are twofold in their character. First, it is said by the opponents of free states and free territories, that "Slavery does not practically exist in Nebraska Territory." In reply, I affirm the converse of the proposition to be true, and will give the facts to show that slavery does practically exist in Nebraska. There has never been to my knowledge a federal officer appointed to any office in this territory from any slave state of this Union who has not brought with him into the territory, a negro or negroes, who have been and are now held in slavery. E. A. Deslonde, receiver of public moneys at Nebraska City, has one or two slaves. Now, if slavery does not exist here, then the slave is free the instant he sets foot on Nebraska soil, provided he came with his master for the purpose of residing in Nebraska. I know of my own knowledge, that Hon. S. F. Nuckolls, a Democratic member of the territorial legislature, had three colored persons whom he claimed as slaves up to a very late period. Two of these persons escaped from Mr. Nuckolls in the winter of 1858-'59, and the other, a colored man of twenty-five years of age, was sold by him, if I am correctly informed, and carried to some of the southern slaveholding states, as a slave, in the spring of 1859. This man has been a resident of Nebraska for about three years. Mr. A. Majors, one of the government contractors, has a number of colored persons in Nebraska City whom he claims as slaves now in the Territory of Nebraska. Judge C. F. Holly has two colored persons whom he claims as slaves. How many more there are in the territory at present I am not advised. But the fact is indisputable. African slavery does practically exist in Nebraska. Our eyes cannot deceive us, and if slavery is wrong, morally, socially or politically, it is wrong to hold one slave. There is no distinction in principle between holding one human being in bondage and ten thousand.

"Again, as evidence that slavery does exist, and is considered to be a legal institution here, I have only to cite the fact that Hon. S. F. Nuckolls before alluded to has instituted suit in the Second Judicial Court of this territory against certain parties residing in the State of Iowa, for the value of two colored persons, his slaves, whom he alleges were abducted from him in the spring of 1858-'59, which is now pending in said court and undecided.

"Second. It is said by those who oppose the passage of this bill that the "let alone policy is most commendable." If it be true that we are all in favor of freedom, a free territory, and a free State, why recommend the "let alone policy" as the most commendable? Why curse our virgin soil with the foot-print of African slavery? \* \* \* I would ask of the opposers of this bill, when is the proper time to pass an act like the one under consideration? Shall we wait until slavery has acquired a permanency? \* \* \* It is said that "naught but mischief can arise from the ill-timed and injudicious agitation of the question." \* \* \* If a constitutional convention was now in session, it would be said by those who oppose the bill, "Don't agitate the question." \* \* \* Gentlemen of the council, if you are honestly in favor of Nebraska being a free territory and ultimately a free State, how can the passage of this bill generate an injurious agitation? Men holding a common sentiment, and desiring a common object, do not get up an ill-timed and injudicious agitation. Nothing short of a sincere opposition to free white labor and a free territory can produce agitation or excitement. Remember, it is the clashing of public sentiment upon the same subject matter, and not its argument that produces the results contemplated by you. Vote for this bill that makes Nebraska free and prevents persons being held in slavery, and there will be no agitation. We will have then done all in our power and our whole duty, to rid ourselves of the cursed institution of slavery. But, it is objected, the bill pre-supposes the existence of slavery by virtue of the constitution of the United States. It pre-supposes no such thing, but simply admits the fact that persons are to-day held in slavery by usage, or custom, or somehow, and that it ought not to

be permitted; however, we all do know that this administration and a majority of the American Senate, and ninety-three Democrats in Congress of the United States contend that slavery exists in all the territories of the United States, by virtue of the constitution, as much and as certainly as in Georgia or South Carolina.

"Attorney-General Black has recently written several pamphlets to demonstrate this proposition. It cannot be denied, it is contended by a large party in this country, that the people of the territories in their territorial capacity have no power to legislate upon the subject of slavery, until they become sufficiently numerous to form a State constitution, and ask admission into the Union. And this same party maintains that Congress has power to legislate upon the subject. Thus leaving the people of the territories to be cursed with slavery, without the ability on their part or on behalf of Congress, to get rid of it so long as the territorial existence continues. While, on the other hand, it is contended that the people of the territories, in their territorial capacity, have the right and power to prohibit and abolish slavery. This position is contended for and sustained by arguments of great force. How the friends of Senator Douglas can oppose this bill, if they are really in favor of making Nebraska a free State, is astounding to me. We can account for the opposition of the administration Democracy. The Territory of Kansas has prohibited slavery after an unprecedented struggle against the policy of the two last administrations, and why should not Nebraska act? Believing that the power exists in the territorial legislature under and by virtue of the organic act, and every community has the inherent right to regulate its own affairs and institutions, free from foreign or federal intervention, and that Nebraska should be a free territory, and forever dedicated to free white labor; and knowing that slavery does practically exist here, I earnestly recommend the passage of the bill.

"All of which is respectfully submitted to the consideration of the council.

"WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*"

This report was, under the rules, laid over for future action. Whereupon, Hon. George L.

Miller submitted the following minority report:

"The first question suggested by the examination of this measure, refers to the necessity, if any, which exists for the enactment of such a law in this territory. It is understood that our power to pass such a law, and to impart to it validity, is extensively desired, and, as there is known to be in the territory, as well as throughout the Union great diversity of opinion, both as to the power of the territorial legislature over the question of slavery and the expediency of attempting its exercise, your committee deem it extremely injudicious for the legislature to lend itself to the agitation of a subject which, to the people of Nebraska, is conceded to be really of no practical importance. As to the necessity which exists at present, or is likely to exist in the future, for such a law in this territory, there can be no two intelligent opinions. No sane person for a moment supposes that Nebraska is in the slightest possible danger of being either a slave territory or a slave State. Popular sentiment, in Nebraska, is universally against the institution of slavery, and even if it were not, and the public voice were to pronounce to-day in favor of its establishment here, the controlling laws of nature peculiar to this latitude, would utterly preclude the possibility of its obtaining a permanent place among us. Suppose it true—which it is not—that the territory does furnish a profitable field for slave labor, who is there so infatuated as to believe for an instant that this territory, peopled almost entirely by men whose associations from infancy and whose education in the midst of free institutions have conducted them into manhood, not only with all their prejudices but with all the convictions of their judgment against the institution—who so foolish as to say that legislation is required or ought to be granted upon this subject? Your committee have felt it to be their duty to inquire into the cause which induced the introduction of the bill under consideration. Having made diligent search, with a view to ascertaining whether any slaves exist in Nebraska, to their utter surprise, after four days' anxious inquiry and labor, they are prepared to report to the council, that, south of the Platte river, owned and held as such by highly

respectable gentlemen, there are six and a half slaves, the fractional portion referring to a small negro boy who is in excellent and humane keeping, in that section of the territory. Now, instead of becoming alarmed at this information, your committee are rather disposed to congratulate the council and the country upon the fortunate condition in which these slaves are found. We are happy to add, on the best of authority, that their servitude is entirely voluntary, and that they are perfectly contented with their lot. It is to be observed that these slaves were originally from Missouri and Louisiana. One of them, we are informed, proves a great burden to his owner by being subject to fits. What can be done to lighten the burden of the master or remedy the terrible malady of the slave we leave to your careful and candid consideration. At all events, it is very clear that, in removing to this territory, these slaves have been changed from a worse to a better condition; and, surrounded as they are by increased comforts, and having before them the almost certain prospect of ultimately gaining their freedom, it would seem to be absolute cruelty in the legislature, even if it had the power and the purpose to do it, to enact a law here which would compel their owners to sell them into a worse bondage, where these prospects would be forever blasted. A noticeable fact is to be found by reference to the census record of 1855. At that time, thirteen slaves existed in Nebraska. Under the operation of incidental causes, aided by the stealing propensities of an unprincipled set of abolitionists, inhabiting a place called Civil Bend, Iowa, the number has been reduced to the insignificant figure of six and a half slaves, all told. \* \* \*

"Your committee respectfully recommend that the bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole, and that it be made the special order for some future day of the session."

A second report was submitted by Hon. George W. Doane, the third member. This gentleman reported, after the two preceding reports had been read, and concurred "in the main with the views expressed in the report submitted by Mr. Miller." He did not admit that, practically, slavery had any existence in the terri-

tory. "To agree that, because a single instance may be found of a returning emigrant from Utah, who has pitched his tent in some remote part of the territory, and is cohabiting with two women claiming to be his wives, therefore, polygamy exists as an institution in the territory, would be quite as conclusive and sensible as the attempt made by the chairman of this committee to fasten upon our fair territory the stigma of slavery by the very slender data upon which his conclusion is based. \* \* \* But if slavery does legally exist in the territory, as the bill reported by the chairman would advertise to the world that it does, is it proposed to confiscate the property of such as are interested in that description of property, by an unconditional abolition of the tenure by which it is held? And if it does not legally exist, what is the necessity of legislating for its abolition? The evil must be corrected by the judicial and not by the legislative branch of the government." Mr. Doane waived discussion of the principle involved in the abstract question of the right or wrong of slavery, and merely on the ground of expediency at that moment, reported adversely to the bill.

Still another bill "to abolish and prohibit slavery in Nebraska" was presented to the legislature December 7, 1859, by T. M. Marquette, of Cass county, which was passed on the 17th of December, by a vote of twenty-one to seventeen. This bill, however, when it reached the council was "indefinitely postponed." At this time it was proposed as a substitute that a resolution be passed by both branches of the legislature, making the following declarations: "That slavery does not exist in the territory and there is no danger of its introduction; that it is unnecessary to waste the time of the legislature in enacting any legislation relating thereto; that being opposed to slavery and asserting its right to the full control of such matters within the territory, the legislature declares itself prepared to take whatever action may be necessary to prohibit or exclude slavery at any time it may become necessary; but that the agitation of this question at that time was believed to be ill-timed, unnecessary, pernicious and damaging to the fair name

of the territory." This resolution was not acted upon.

On the 29th of December, 1859, a bill for the prohibition of slavery in Nebraska was introduced by Mr. Little, which passed both houses of the legislature. The report of the committee to which this bill was referred is interesting at this day, as it shows the intense feeling that the question had wrought. We quote from the report the following: "The question, disguise it as you will, which is involved in this bill, is the great question of the age. Our entire Union is divided into two great parties on this question; one party struggles ever to uphold the principles of this bill, the other labors as earnestly for its overthrow, and we are now called to take one side or the other. The power to prohibit, in the opinion of the majority of your committee, is conferred on us by our organic act, and by this measure, the opportunity is given us to test our fidelity to freedom and our opposition to the extension of slavery. The opponents of this measure have not a single reason to advance why this bill should not pass; they put forth, however, some excuses for opposing it. They come forth with the miserable plea that they are opposed to blotting our statute books with useless legislation. Sir, this is not so much a plea against this law as it is in favor of blotting our territory with slavery. They say that slavery does not exist here, and that this measure is useless. This excuse will not now hold good, for a President's message has just reached us in which it is declared, and in this opinion he is backed by a powerful party, that men have the right to bring slaves here and to hold them as such, and that this is slave territory. We, it is true, may not be of opinion that this doctrine is true; but, Sir, if men declare that they have the right to make this a slave territory, shall we not prohibit them in this act, and prevent the wrong they would do us? If the friends of slavery insist that they have the right to hold slaves here, shall we tamely submit to it? If they insist on making this a slave territory, which they do, shall we not insist that it shall be forever free?"

This bill was passed by both houses of the legislature January 3, 1860, and placed in the

hands of Governor Black for approval. On the 9th of January he returned it with his veto. The most important objections noted in the veto message were the following:

"This act necessarily involves the whole question of power or jurisdiction over the subject matter. If slavery exists here in law or in fact, to prohibit it is to abolish it. If it does not exist, where is the need for legislation? This bill is intended to interdict slavery or involuntary servitude, within the territory; and raises the question whether the territorial legislature can do it. For the purpose of considering the question with distinctness, I will first examine it, as it may or may not be affected by the treaty with France. This territory was a part of Louisiana, and all agree that when we acquired Louisiana in 1803, it was slave territory, and slaves were property. The third article of the treaty by which Louisiana was acquired by the United States is important at this point. It provides 'that the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the provisions of the Federal constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States; and in the meantime they shall be protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the religion which they profess.

\* \* \* Nebraska was acquired to become a State, and for no other purpose. For this purpose, and this alone, is there any power under the constitution to acquire foreign territory. \* \* \*

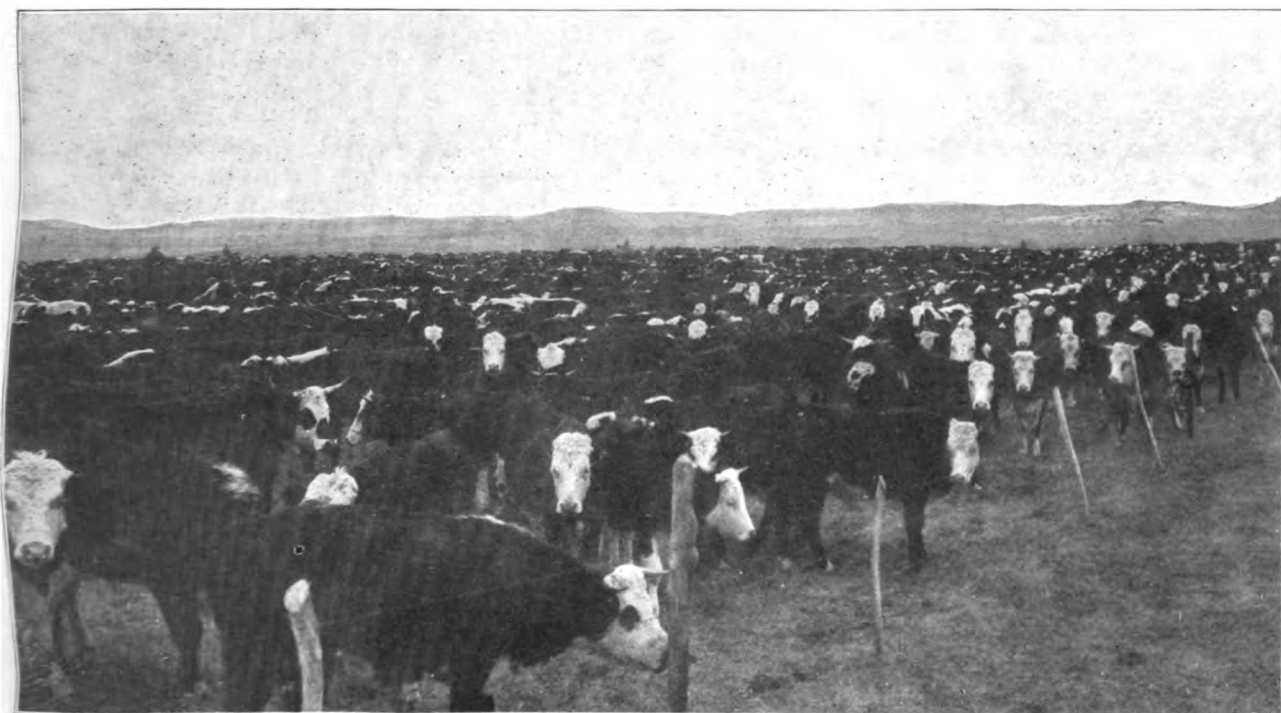
\* It is a stipulation in the treaty 'that the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States,' and it is every whit as strong a stipulation as that 'in the meantime they shall be protected in the free enjoyment of liberty, property and religion.' The faith of the country is pledged to it and it is just as good to the inhabitants of Nebraska territory to-day, or any day, as it was to the first inhabit-

ants in 1803. Mr. John Quincy Adams understood this perfectly, and disposed of the question very briefly and conclusively when Arkansas was before Congress for admission in 1836. 'She is entitled to admission as a slave state as Louisiana and Missouri have been admitted,' by virtue of 'that article in the treaty for the purchase of Louisiana, which secures to the people of the ceded territories, all the rights, privileges and immunities of the original citizens of the United States, and stipulates for their admission, conformably to that principle, into the Union.'"

The argument continued that "if a party is a citizen of some one of the United States, he has a right to enter into the territory clothed with all his rights. He takes his property with him from his own State, and if he may not do so, then the territory is not acquired for the common and equal benefit of the several states. The territorial legislature was deemed but a temporary department having no right or power to pass a law which was regarded as conflicting with the individual rights of citizens." This veto prevailed and the matter was again indefinitely postponed. When the seventh session of the legislature convened December 3, 1860, the question of slavery again came to the surface. On the 6th of December Mr. Mathias introduced in the house a bill "to abolish slavery and involuntary servitude in the territory" and on the following day Mr. Thayer introduced the bill in the council. The bill was ratified by both houses and was presented to Governor Black for approval, but on the 1st of January, 1861, it was returned to the legislature unsigned with a lengthy message giving the grounds on which the veto rested, they being mainly a duplicate of the reasons assigned for the former veto. The bill, however, was promptly passed over the veto and became a law. Thus after a long and intensely heated contest the subject was disposed of to the permanent honor of Nebraska.

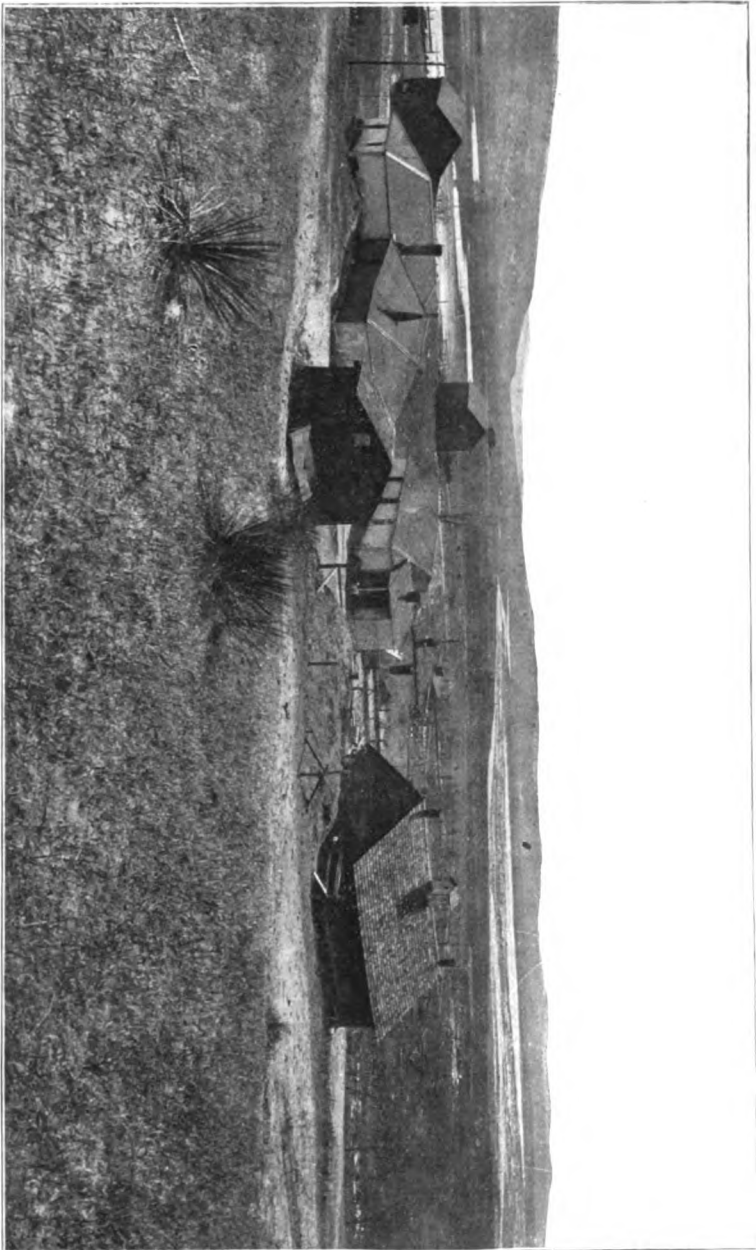






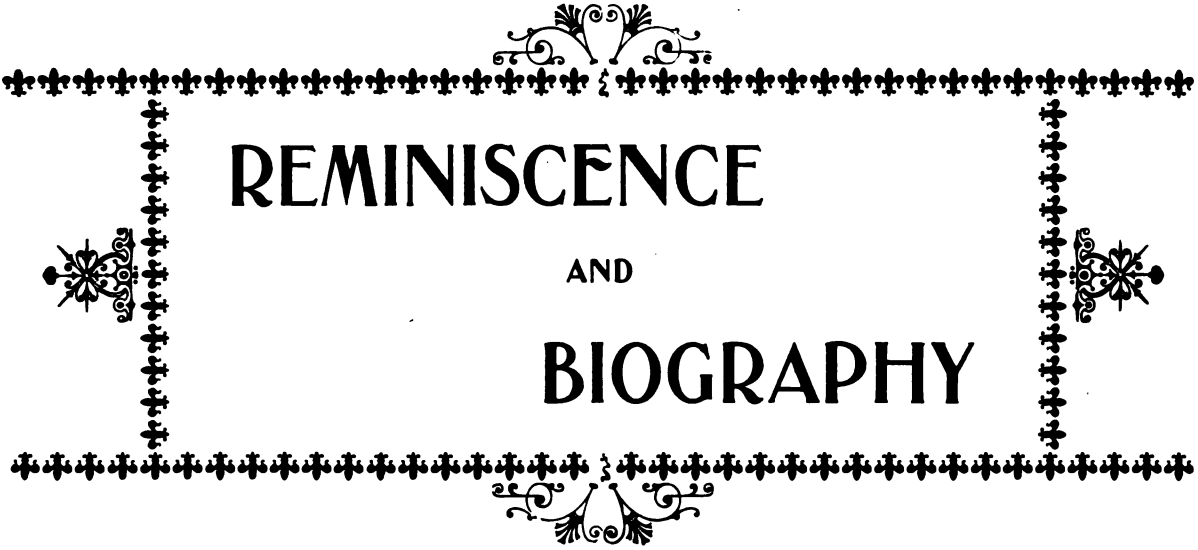
A "ROUND-UP" OF 3000 HEAD HEREFORD CATTLE.  
Ranch of Crescent Live Stock Co., B. F. Ankeny, General Manager, Deuel County, Nebraska.





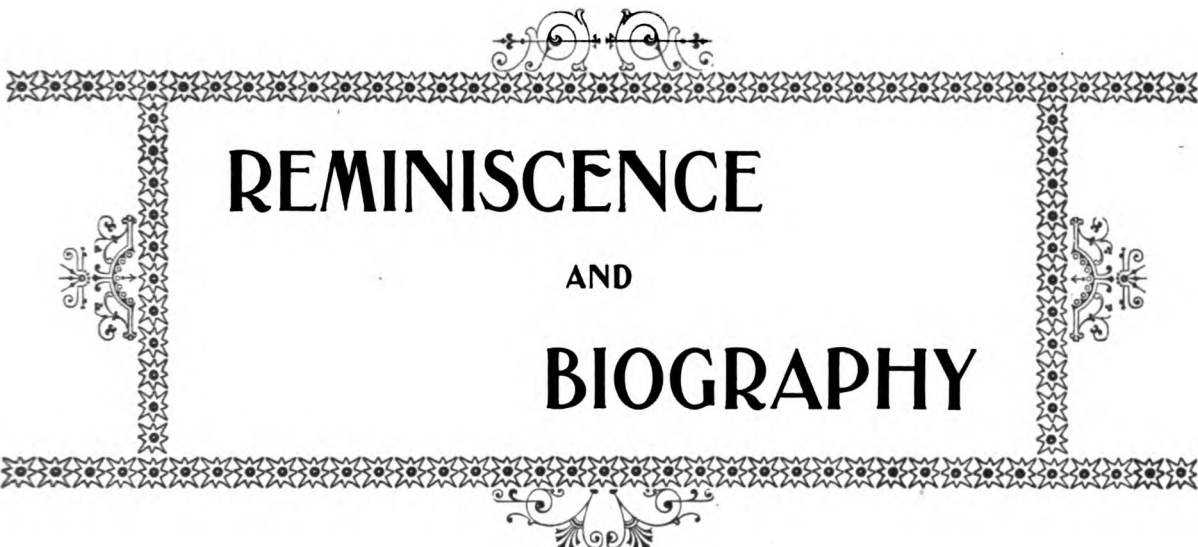
**RANCH SCENE AND BUILDINGS OF CRESCENT LIVE STOCK CO.,  
B. F. Ankeny, General Manager, Deuel County, Nebraska.**





REMINISCENCE  
AND  
BIOGRAPHY





# REMINISCENCE

AND

# BIOGRAPHY

## GOVERNOR A. C. SHALLENBERGER.

Governor A. C. Shallenberger has for many years been one of the most prominent residents of Alma, Nebraska, and is widely known through Harlan county and the surrounding country as a successful agriculturist and stockman. He is President of the Bank of Alma, which he established in 1887, and of which he was Cashier for six years, from 1887 to 1893 inclusive, then became the head of the institution. He served for some time as Mayor of Alma and represented this district in Congress in 1900. In 1906 he was the Democratic candidate for governor of Nebraska, and again in 1908, when he was elected to that office.

Mr. Shallenberger was born in 1861 at Toulon, Illinois. He came to Nebraska in 1880, settling in Polk county. He was then eighteen years of age, and for some time after locating here was employed as a clerk in a store at Osceola, Nebraska, and also at Stromsburg, Nebraska. He has five brothers, two of whom are managers for the International Harvester Company, and three are engaged in the banking business, so it was only natural for him to select this line of work. The Bank of Alma has a capital of \$30,000. To illustrate the rapid growth of the Bank of Alma it is only necessary to say that while seventeen years ago the deposits were only \$8,000, they are today \$200,000. Then there were no farmers' accounts, and now the bank carries over five hundred accounts, the greater portion of them being from farmers, which shows the wonderful progress of this vicinity and the prosperity of the farmers and stockmen. Since 1890 lands in this section of Nebraska have advanced from 200 to 300 per cent. Mr. Shallenberger is the owner of one

thousand seven hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land located near Alma, and since 1890 he has raised and fed large numbers of cattle and hogs each year. The farm land about here has become so high that he has gone out of ordinary stock, and breeds only the best, and keeps only thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, preferring these as they serve the dual purpose of beef and dairy, and the latter pays better on high priced land than beef cattle. At the Nebraska State Fair, in 1906, "Bar None II" took first prize and sweepstakes, and at the Royal Exhibit held at Kansas City he captured second prize for yearling bulls. Mr. Shallenberger captured eleven first prizes in 1907, and in 1908 captured nine first prizes. He has now seventy-five to one hundred, thoroughbred Shorthorns in his herd, and at his sales held each year, buyers come from all over Nebraska and Kansas, recognizing the fact that they will get nothing but the best of stock.

In 1906, he had forty acres of white corn, yielding one hundred bushels to the acre, which is an enormous crop, the average in Harlan county being fifty bushels per acre. He also has two hundred acres of alfalfa, and is experimenting with Turkestan variety. He is making these experiments at the request of the United States Agricultural and the Nebraska State Agricultural Departments. The average corn crop of Nebraska exceeds the average of both Illinois and Iowa for the same periods, and this state's corn holds the third place in quantity of product for these ten years. Out of ten hay states Nebraska ranks second in quantity and value of hay produced, and still has less acres devoted to its culture than any of the ten, showing a great yield per acre, which shows the immense possibilities

as this state increases the acreage of hay and alfalfa. An average of 10,000 head of cattle are fed each winter within a radius of eight miles from Alma, and this furnishes a fine market for hay, grain and rough feed.

There is probably no man in western Nebraska who has made a closer study of the financial and agricultural conditions and possibilities through this section of the state than Mr. Shallenberger, and he is recognized as an authority on all matters of this kind.

Mr. Shallenberger was married in 1884 to Miss Eliza Zilg, of Spring Green, Wisconsin. They have three children, Martin Shallenberger, who is second Lieutenant of the 16th U. S. Infantry; Grace Shallenberger, at the University of Nebraska, and Dorothy Shallenberger, six years of age, at home.

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#### HON. CHARLES H. CORNELL.

Hon. Charles H. Cornell, an old settler, and one of the organizers of Cherry county, is one of the most prominent business men in this part of the state. He is President of the First National Bank of Valentine, and by his careful and conservative management has made it one of the most reliable financial institutions in the commonwealth.

Mr. Cornell was born in Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, December 19, 1854, a scion of one of the oldest and most prominent families of Orange county, New York. His father, Hiram Cornell, is of English descent, the family taking its name from a colloquial pronunciation of Cornwall, where the family originated, the spelling finally conforming to the sound of the name. Hiram Cornell's birth occurred June 24, 1815, and he is still hale and hearty, having attained more than four score and ten years. In 1857 he followed the stream of energetic men to the west, settling in Calloway county, Missouri, where his family was reared and educated in the common schools. During the war he served as captain of Missouri state militia. After the war he moved to Wisconsin and later to Nebraska, where he still resides, hale and hearty in spite of his weight of years. The mother, born Sarah N. Haight, came of a Quaker family in York state and became the mother of five daughters and one son. After a common school education, Charles H. Cornell, at the age of fourteen, started out for himself, beginning an apprenticeship in the printers trade, a short time before his parents moved to Wisconsin whither he followed them, and there entered

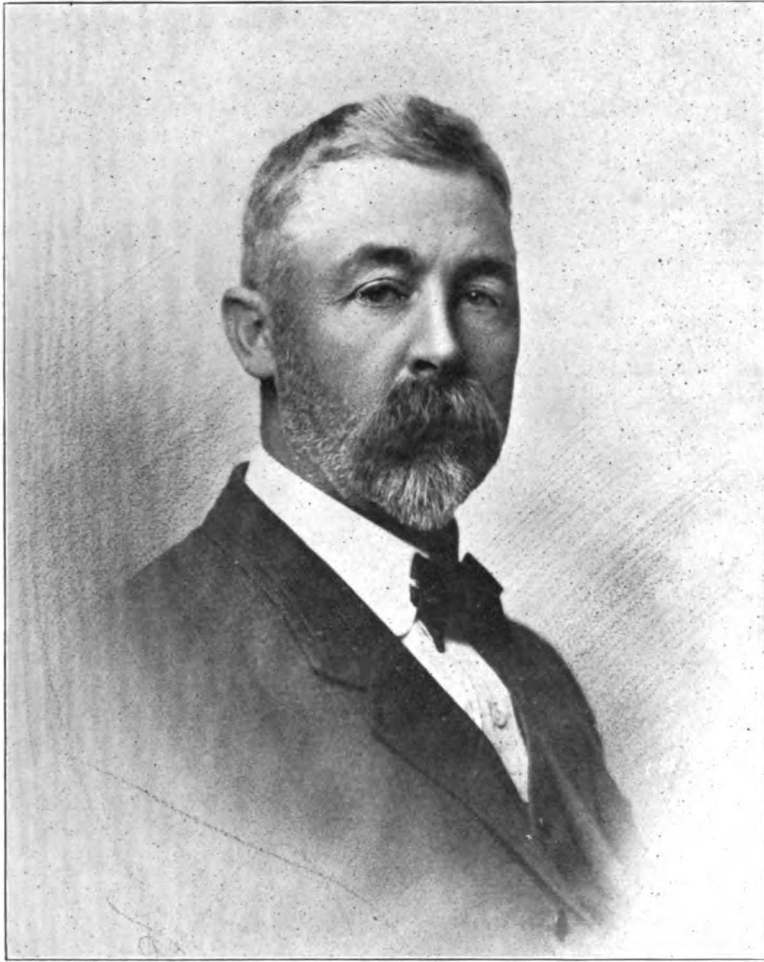
the railway mail service, remaining for three years on runs out of Chicago. In 1877 he went to Wyoming, traveling by wagon from Green River on the Union Pacific Railway, thence to Fort Washakie, a military post 150 miles north on the Little Wind River, and came from there in 1880 with the troops that established Fort Niobrara in Cherry county, where for a time he was connected with the Traders' Store, at the post. In 1884 Mr. Cornell laid out the town site of Valentine at the time the railroad came in here, opening a general store. He disposed of this store in 1886, to give his entire attention to the Bank of Valentine which he had established two years before and of which he was the head. This was conducted as a private bank until 1902, when it was incorporated as the "First National Bank of Valentine" and it is now the largest banking institution in Cherry county, with officers as follows: Charles H. Cornell, President; J. T. May, Vice-President, and M. V. Nicholson, Cashier. The First National Bank of Valentine had in 1908 deposits of \$225,000; capital and surplus \$32,000, and loans \$165,000. Its equipment and fittings are the finest in the state west of Omaha. Aside from this Mr. Cornell is at the head of several extensive enterprises and has done much toward the upbuilding of Valentine. He still owns a large part of the town site, and has large land and cattle interests, notwithstanding which he finds time to devote to local and state affairs.

In 1884 he was elected county treasurer, serving one term, and was elected to the state senate in 1888. In 1889 he was appointed Register of the United States Land Office in Valentine, serving efficiently until 1904.

In 1902 Mr. Cornell was married to Miss Bertha Childe, whose father, Edwin P. Childe, is a leading physician of Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. Cornell are the parents of two fine boys, Elmore and Cyril. Mrs. Cornell is an active and enthusiastic member of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Cornell is Republican in politics, standing high in the party councils of the state. He is a member of the Governor's staff, participating in the presentation of a silver service to the battleship Nebraska, in May, 1908, at San Francisco. He has been chairman of the congressional committee of his district since 1902. Fraternally he affiliates with the Minnechadusa Lodge No. 192 of Valentine, and Chapter No. 61, R. A. M., at Long Pine. He also holds membership in the A. O. U. W. of Valentine. A portrait of Mr. Cornell will be found elsewhere in this work.





C. H. CORNELL.



## ELISHA CUNNINGHAM CALKINS.

Mr. Calkins was born in Erie county, New York, in 1847. In the civil war he served as a private in Company B, Tenth New York Cavalry, from September, 1864, to June, 1865, and was present with his regiment in actions at Stony Creek Station, Jarrett's Station, Bellfield, Hatchers Run, Dinwoodie Court House, Sailors Creek, Farmville and Appomattox Court House.

He studied law and was admitted to practice in the supreme court of New York in 1869 and practiced there until his removal to this state in 1873. He settled in Kearney and has practiced his profession there continuously until his appointment as one of the commissioners of the supreme court in April, 1907. He was state senator in 1877 and Regent of the State University from January, 1902, to April, 1907, and president of the State Bar Association for the year 1906. He has been much interested in educational affairs and a member of the school board in his home city for more than twenty years.

He has been identified with the Grand Army of the Republic since its first organization in Nebraska, having been the first Commander of Sedgewick Post No. 1.

Mr. Calkins is the only son of Harrison and Elizabeth (Cunningham) Calkins. Harrison Calkins was born in Clinton county, New York, and his father, Elisha Calkins, was a native of Vermont. Harrison Calkins was a member of the state militia in 1837 and served in those disturbances on Canadian border that have passed into history as the "Patriot War." The maternal grandparents of the subject of this sketch, David and Phoebe (Bloomfield) Cunningham, lived in the Mohawk Valley before they settled in Erie county.

Mr. Calkins was married in New York to Arethusa Jewitt Patch and they have become the parents of the following children: Harrison V. of Lindsay, California; Jessie, wife of George Windel of Payette, Idaho, and Arethusa, who resides with her parents at Kearney.

## WILLIAMS J. WATKINS.

Among those who have made Perkins county their home for many years past and who have aided materially in the development of the agricultural and financial resources of the region, the gentleman above named deserves a prominent place. Mr. Watkins has held public office in the county for the past several

years, serving as sheriff since 1903, and he makes his residence in Grant, where he has a pleasant home and is one of the leading citizens.

Mr. Watkins was born in Will county, Illinois, and reared on a farm. His father was Richard Watkins, a native of England, who married Katherine Russell, also born and reared in England, they coming to this country and settling in Illinois. They lived on the same farm until our subject was twenty-five years of age, although he had begun farming on his own account when he became of age. In 1882 he came to Seward county, Nebraska, where he carried on farming on rented land for five years, then moved to Perkins county and homesteaded on section 26, township 9, range 40, driving to his new location from Ogallala. His first dwelling was a frame shack which he put up himself, later went through the "sod house experience," proving up on his claim and improving the place as he was able. He engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, and succeeded in building up a good home, adding to his farm until he became owner of a good ranch of eight hundred acres, all well improved with good buildings, fences, and every convenience for its proper operation.

In November, 1903, Mr. Watkins was elected sheriff of Perkins county on the fusion ticket. He was re-elected in 1905 and 1907, and is now serving his third term.

In 1904, while still sheriff, Mr. Watkins moved to Grant, and has since made it his home. He was married in 1877, at Joliet, Illinois, to Miss Eleanor Francis, of English descent, born and raised in Illinois. To them have been born the following children: Martha, John, Sylva, Clarence, Emery, Arthur, Lucinda, Elmer, Ora and Roscoe.

Mr. Watkins has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He served as justice of the peace in Grace precinct, near Venango, for four years and has held some school office twenty years out of the twenty-one years he has lived here.

## JOHN H. WELTON.

The gentleman above named is one of the leading citizens of Mullen, Nebraska, and for many years past has taken an active part in the development and growth of the western part of the state. He is editor of the Hooker County Tribune, also the Thomas County Herald, the latter being under the management of his son, Ross H. Welton, and published at

Theford, Nebraska, and has always been unceasing in his efforts to boom every laudable enterprise which has been started for the benefit of Hooker county. As a citizen he is broad-minded and public-spirited to the last degree, and he has taken a prominent part in local politics, at the present time serving as United States commissioner of the Nebraska district.

John H. Welton was born in Cleveland, Minnesota, January 12, 1865. His father, Barnabas, was a native of New York state, a farmer by occupation, and he married Adalaid Huntley, daughter of Lodwick Huntley, a famous Indian scout and fighter, both he and Barnabas Welton being among the pioneers in the state of Minnesota. During their early settlement there they took part in several Indian battles and skirmishes with General Sibley, at New Ulm and Mankato, and later on served in the United States regular army with the Fourteenth Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and saw hard service in the civil war.

Our subject grew up in his native state, following the typical life of the frontier, father, mother and six children coming to Nebraska in 1879, and settling in Holt county, where they were again among the earliest settlers. There they established a ranch, and the former was elected one of the first sheriffs of that county after its organization, later served as police judge for several terms and became one of the best known men of the county and a leading citizen of the times. He died at O'Neill, February 27, 1894, at the age of sixty-four years, and was greatly missed by all as a man of superior judgment and active public spirit, always standing for the best interests of his community.

Our subject grew to manhood in Holt county, receiving his education in the country schools, later attended high school at O'Neill, and there first started in the newspaper business. For a while he published the Danbury Review at Danbury, Iowa, but in 1897 returned to Nebraska, settling in the western part of the state and there followed newspaper work in various towns. He was connected with the Beacon Light, at O'Neill, during a number of years, which paper exposed the startling robbery of \$94,000 from the county treasury by grafters, which theft was perpetrated while our subject was a resident in that town.

He was married to Mary M. Chisholm in 1893, and four children were born to this union. In 1901 he was married to Mattie E. Everett, to which union one son was born, the little one passing away at the age of one year.

Mr. Welton was finally compelled to seek

change of climate on account of failing health, so traveled through the west for a time, but returned to Nebraska and settled permanently at Mullen, purchasing his present business in 1901. This paper was established in 1895, by F. M. Cudebeck, and subsequent proprietors had charge of the organ in the order mentioned: Edgar Phillips, from 1897 to 1898; Charles Schilling, from 1898 to 1899; E. L. Everett, from 1899 to 1901, and the paper then came into the hands of our subject, who has since been sole owner, editor and publisher. It is at present the only newspaper in Hooker county, and is loyally supported by the people of the county with a circulation of more than 700 copies, and an advertising patronage that gives promise of a prosperous, steady growth.

In political matters Mr. Welton is a Republican, and a member of the congressional committee for the sixth district, also chairman of the Republican county central committee, and takes a prominent part in all party affairs. He is a member of the village council, and his life has been spent in doing all in his power to help build up his part of the state.

Mr. Welton has now devoted twenty-seven years to newspaper work in Nebraska, is one of the best known men in the profession, and also has followed the business in South Dakota, Iowa and several other states in the Union.

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#### CHARLES W. POTTER.

Charles W. Potter occupies a foremost position in Brown county, Nebraska, as a citizen of worth, and a successful and prosperous business man of Ainsworth.

Mr. Potter was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, October 19, 1841. His father, Martin M. Potter, a farmer, was a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, descended from old Yankee stock, and came west settling in Illinois in 1831 or 1832. The nearest market place from his farm at that time was one hundred and twenty-three miles away, and this was Chicago, then a comparatively small town. Dianthony Pratt, a New Yorker, was our subject's mother, he being the third member in a family of four children. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm, where he secured a good sturdy training which fitted him for the work of his later years, and at the age of nineteen enlisted in Company G, Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, under Colonel John B. Wyman, in the year 1861, one of the first regiments to go to the front during the war. He was at the battle of Vicksburg, at Wilson

Creek and Pea Ridge; he was with the Army of the Tennessee, and with Sherman to Atlanta, where his time expired and regiment was discharged in Woodville, Alabama. He immediately re-enlisted in Company I, Fifty-sixth Illinois Regiment, and served until August, 1865, receiving an honorable discharge at Little Rock, Arkansas.

After the war closed he was transported by sea from Savannah to Washington, taking part in the Grand Review, a spectacle at which the nations of the Old World marvelled. During all his career as a soldier he was never severely wounded, receiving slight scratches from time to time. In the spring of 1865 he returned to his old home and began farming, remaining here until the spring of 1872, when he came west, locating in Shelby county, Iowa. He remained at that point until 1884, then came to Nebraska, settling on a farm in Brown county. He lived on this place for eight years, following mixed farming and stock raising, then leaving the farm moved to Ainsworth. In 1899 he was elected county judge by the Populist party, serving two terms. In 1905 he was re-elected, and is serving his county in that capacity at the present time. In 1889 he was the nominee of the Independent party for lieutenant governor, on the ticket of which David Butler was the head.

Mr. Potter was married on Christmas day, 1866, in Prophetstown, Illinois, to Miss Harriet Shorett, a Canadian. Her parents were of French descent, residing at Toronto, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have a family of two sons, Marion J. and Clayton W.

Mr. Potter is one of the old settlers in the western part of Nebraska, and has done his full share towards the building up of the country. He is now a Democrat in politics and a member of the G. A. R. Post at Ainsworth.

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#### GEORGE S. TODD.

George S. Todd, residing in section 18, township 21, range 15, who came to Nebraska many years ago, in 1884, and is well known all over Garfield county as a progressive and successful agriculturist, is now living on twenty acres of land where he settled twenty-five years ago, having sold most of his land of late years.

Mr. Todd was born in Ohio in 1841, and is of Scotch descent, his grandfather on his mother's side being one of the Stuarts of the family of the Queen of Scots. He was reared as a mechanic, and followed that work in his

native state until he was twenty-five years of age. He joined in the struggle of his country for liberty and freedom, entering Company B, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in 1862, and served for three years. He saw active service through the Vicksburg campaign, to the Gulf, and then to Washington, District of Columbia, where he was mustered out. In 1866 he engaged in the work of building and contracting in Iowa, which he followed for some years.

In 1887 Mr. Todd settled in Nebraska, starting a farm in Wheeler county. He put all his energy into his enterprise and succeeded in developing a splendid farm, which he has sold of late, only retaining twenty acres. He is well satisfied with the results of his labor in this state, and thinks a man's chances are much better here than in the East, as the investment of a small capital here will bring greater returns in a less number of years. However, to make money, a man must be industrious and able to adapt himself to the country and prepared to fight hard and overcome many discouragements and failures. A poor man, can of course, make a good living here, but if a man has a little capital to start with he is able to build up a fortune rapidly. Land here has advanced nearly a hundred per cent. in the past ten years, and one who began with a small farm then and has added to its acreage constantly since that time would now be a pretty wealthy man.

Mr. Todd was married in 1865 to Miss Eda L. Brainard, a native of Ohio, daughter of L. D. and Maria (Vaughn) Brainard. To Mr. and Mrs. Todd have been born nine children, seven of whom are living, named as follows: Zeros Z., Clara E., Mabel M., Viola V., Samuel S., Nina R., Logan D., Tetulah M. (deceased), and Stuart (deceased). The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and all are held in the highest esteem in their community. Mr. Todd is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also of the Masonic lodge at Correctionville, Iowa. In 1893 he was elected county judge of Garfield county, by the Republican party. He still takes a deep interest in local politics but does not seek office, preferring to lead a quiet home life.

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#### F. S. WILCOX.

The above gentleman is known as one of the successful business men of McCook, Redwillow county, Nebraska, and recognized as among the best judges of live stock and all

conditions of ranching, farm lands and markets in the western part of the state of Nebraska. He is an authority on the subjects of breeding and feeding all kinds of stock, and one of the leading men of this locality.

Mr. Wilcox was born in Canaan and reared in Columbia county, New York, settling in Gilman, Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1870, where he was engaged in the mercantile business for fourteen years. His brother, the Honorable J. A. Wilcox, is a merchant residing at Alma, Nebraska, and his sketch appears in this volume on another page. Our subject first came to Nebraska in 1884, embarking in the mercantile business, and the following year started in the live stock business in addition to his other interests, buying and shipping stock. He owns a large ranch of seven hundred acres situated on the river opposite McCook, and this he uses for feeding purposes. He is also the proprietor of another ranch of one thousand seven hundred and twenty acres on Dry Creek, and on this he keeps one hundred head of registered Hereford cattle, having one of the finest herds in this locality, selling these animals at private sales throughout this state, Colorado and the west, where he is well known. He began with Hereford cattle in 1902, and has been most successful in this line of work. He ships about two hundred cars of hogs and the same number of cattle each year, and during the year 1907 expects to even exceed this amount, now having on feed about one thousand one hundred head of cattle which he bought in Nebraska and Colorado. Since first locating here he has raised, bought and shipped hogs, and finds this very profitable. He was one of the first in this locality to sow alfalfa, beginning in 1889. This has added greatly to the wealth of this state, and is a wonderfully successful product. His first crop in 1889 cut five tons to the acre in 1906, and has never needed re-seeding. He has refused eight dollars per ton, which equals forty dollars per acre for this grass. He contends that this country is as nearly perfect as can be found anywhere for feeding and fattening cattle, as the cattle do well through the mild and dry winters. One winter he fed at Hooper, Nebraska, and says he would give from five to eight cents per bushel more for corn here owing wholly to weather conditions, as a person can make cattle so much more comfortable here and fatten quicker and cheaper. All of the Divide land has doubled in the last eighteen months, and he has bought and sold a great deal. Bottom lands are scarcer and have been held firm owing to the culture of beets and alfalfa. The land here to-

day is not selling for one-half what it is worth, when a man can raise from thirty to forty bushels of wheat to the acre. Mr. Wilcox has now on his three places about nine hundred head of hogs. He always selects the best breeds, but these he does not register. He has settled on the Black Poland China as the best suited to his purpose, after trying all other breeds, as when fat they sell for more money and they mature quicker and it takes less corn to fatten them.

Mr. Wilcox was married in 1875 to Miss Katie Lovejoy, and this union has been blessed with one child, a son, named Harry J.

Mr. Wilcox is one of the representative men in western Nebraska, highly respected and esteemed by his fellowmen. He has built up a fine home in McCook, and is one of the wealthiest men in this locality.

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#### PETER M. PERSON.

Peter M. Person, residing on section 18, Lake township, Phelps county, is proprietor of a fine one hundred and sixty acre farm, which he took up as a homestead in 1879, building a sod house and starting a home and farm. For the first five or six years he was unable to raise a crop, and up to 1884 he met with much discouragement in his work. After that he had good success, and for the past six years has raised a fine crop of winter wheat each season, and as he has tried all kinds, states that winter wheat is the best for his locality. When Mr. Person first settled here Kearney was the nearest market place, and the country very thinly settled, and he has watched the development and growth of the region from its earliest beginning, and has been no small factor in its development.

Mr. Person is a native of Sweden, who came to this country when about twenty-six years of age. He was a sailor on the lakes, settling in Chicago after landing in this country, where he remained for eleven years. He was captain and owner of a two-masted schooner, and was also engaged in carrying lumber on the lakes. Prior to this he spent twelve years on the ocean as first mate on the brigs Rosetta and James Crow. While in this work he traveled all over the world and had many interesting experiences, being shipwrecked at one time. Before going as a sailor four or five years he attended the navigation school in his native country, and graduated as captain of a first-class ship under a rigid examination. His father, Martin Person,

was a teacher for thirty years in the public schools there, and his son naturally followed in his footsteps and acquired a splendid education. He has been treasurer of Lake township for several terms, and his early training and education has eminently fitted him to take a leading place among his fellows. From all his experience gained by travel of the different parts of this country, he considers this part of Nebraska the best he has ever seen, for health, farming or stock-raising, and he is content to remain here for the balance of his time.

Mr. Person was united in marriage in 1873 to Miss Hannah Erickson, born in Norway, who came to this country about 1865, at the age of fifteen. Their marriage has been blessed with a splendid family of children, who are named as follows: Edwin B. is manager of the grain elevator at Funk, Phelps county; Albert W. is holding the same position at Sacramento, this county; Julius and Ernest T. are both living at home, and one daughter, Annie Caroline, is the wife of A. T. Curtis, of Sacramento, manager of a grain elevator at that place. Emma died at the age of twenty-one. John Martin is in the wholesale store of Granger Bros. at Lincoln, Nebraska.

In political sentiment Mr. Person is an independent and reform voter.

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#### FLOYD H. FIELD.

Floyd H. Field, residing at Dunning, in Blaine county, Nebraska, is one of the old timers of that region. He came to the locality ahead of the railroads, when the country was full of wild game of all kinds, and most of the land raw prairie with settlers few and far between, and has watched every change which has taken place here since that time, and has the satisfaction that much of the success now enjoyed by the people of the locality has come about through his aid. He is one of the wealthy residents of his county, enjoying a fine home, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Field was born in Cook county, Illinois, in 1852. His father, Oliver, who married Narcissa Miner, was a farmer, and both were born and raised in Vermont. Floyd grew up in Illinois, twenty-two miles west of Chicago, and helped his parents carry on the home farm until he was about eighteen years of age, then left home and begun railroading on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, working as a

trainman for eleven years. During his career as a trainman he was in two serious wrecks, and on one occasion was buried in the debris of a baggage car, but was fortunate enough to escape without injury.

He and his brother, F. W., came west to southern Colorado and worked in the mines at Silverton, remaining there for two years, then they came to Merna, Nebraska, landing there in 1880. He filed on a homestead and improved the place to the extent of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, then sold out for twenty-five dollars, living on the place for a part of one year, then went to Cherry county, south of Fort Niobrara, where he spent three or four months. His next move was to Lena, near where Dunning now stands, and there he began working for the C. O. D. Cattle Company, and worked as a cowboy for two years, roughing it all of that time, most of the time camping out on the plains, winter and summer. He finally went into the stock business for himself in 1884, establishing a ranch near Dunning on land which had formerly been used by the C. O. D. Cattle Company, and has been in the business ever since. He has a ranch of three thousand acres of deeded land, and runs from five hundred to seven hundred head of cattle each year. The place is well improved with substantial buildings and fences, has fine water supply, etc., and is one of the widely known stock ranges of the west. Our subject and his brother, F. W., have been associated in business together ever since they came to Nebraska, and personally superintend their large ranch and both have fine residences in Dunning.

Mr. Field is married and has one child, Albert Floyd Field. Our subject is among the prominent men of his section, and remembers all the old Nebraska times, having hauled posts from Upper Dismal river to Grand Island, which he traded for groceries in the first years of his residence here.

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#### HARVEY L. MILLAY.

Harvey L. Millay, banker and successful business man of Springview, Keya Paha county, is accorded a high station among the worthy citizens of this locality. Mr. Millay is the active manager of the Stockmen's Bank of Springview, organized in 1900, incorporated and opened for business March 1st, of that year. This bank was the first institution of the kind in Springview since 1893, and is now the oldest bank in the town.

Mr. Millay is a native of Leland, La Salle county, Illinois, born October 17, 1866. His father, Robert Millay, was a stockman and pioneer settler in Keya Paha county, coming here in 1884, four years prior to his death. He came to this section in its early days, and was one of those who helped to establish the county-seat of Springview. The mother of our subject was Miss Ellen Deach, a native of Blane, Pennsylvania, who joined her husband in this county a year after his advent here, and she now lives in Springview. She was reared and educated in Livingston county. Our subject attended high school at Odell, Illinois, whither his parents moved in 1869, from which institution he graduated in 1883. The following year he entered the employ of a large grocery establishment in Chicago and remained with this concern until 1887, when he came to Nebraska and located in Keya Paha county. Here he clerked for D. A. Davis for two years, and then purchased the hardware business of Wolf & Logan, which he conducted for the following ten years. In 1895 he was elected county clerk and served in this capacity for four years, and at the expiration of his term established the bank of which he is now the cashier, Mr. E. D. Reynolds, a capitalist of the east, being president. In 1904 these two gentlemen, together with Mr. J. M. Hackler, organized the Gregory State Bank, located at Gregory, South Dakota, on what was the Rosebud Reservation. This was the first banking institution established on that reservation, and opened for business in 1905 with a capital of \$25,000. Its growth has been phenomenal, and now does the largest business of any bank in that territory. Mr. Millay is active manager of the bank, dividing his time between this and the Stockmen's Bank at Springview. Besides these interests he owns three bodies of land aggregating two thousand acres, situated in Keya Paha county, and engages to a large extent in stock raising, personally managing the affairs of the ranches.

Mr. Millay was married in September, 1888, to Miss Emma Banks, born in Clayton county, Iowa, a daughter of James Banks, who is a prominent farmer of Clayton county. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Millay, who are named as follows: Edna E., Robert Lloyd, Fern, Don B., and Ruth, all born in Springview excepting Edna, who was born on the old homestead in Custer precinct, within sight of the town.

Mr. Millay has since his residence in this section taken a deep interest in all affairs that tended to the general improvement of his community, and has been instrumental in the de-

velopment of the commercial and educational opportunities throughout the county. He has held local office at different times, and at present is a member of the town board. Fraternally he is an active member of the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Highlanders of Springview.

#### LOUIS JOHN FREDERICK IAEGER.

Louis John Frederick Jaeger, better known throughout the western part of the United States as "Billy, the Bear" is one of the prosperous and prominent citizens of Dawes county, Nebraska, where for the past twenty-two years he has resided and acted in many official capacities, having been elected four terms as police judge and justice of the peace in the early days of the county when times were red hot for officials of any character. He was also elected for eleven years as city clerk of his favorite city of Chadron, Nebraska, and is at present serving a four-year term as clerk of the district court of Dawes county, as well as filling the offices of deputy clerk of the United States circuit and district courts. He is a native of Pennsylvania, where, in 1855, he first saw the light of day. His ancestors were all of strong German pioneer stock; his great grandfather was spiritual adviser to Frederick the Great and the use of the royal coat of arms was given the Jaeger family, which fact is a matter of historical record, at this day, in Washington, District Columbus. His grandfather on his father's side was the Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger, a pioneer who helped to settle Pennsylvania and whose record is monumental among the Lutheran synods of that state for his good deeds in the pulpit of Berks county. From this venerable ancestor it is believed that the subject of this sketch inherited his own truly charitable instincts, his exceptional business integrity and his systematic quality of mind. His father, Charles S. Jaeger, was a coachmaker by trade and followed his profession at Hamburg, Pennsylvania, up to the time of his death which occurred when Louis was five years of age. A year later his mother was stricken with paralysis, caused from a runaway team which killed his father the year before and at which time our subject was with his parents, but was unhurt in the affair.

His democratic principles, as to the meaning of liberty and freedom of speech, never suited his next of kin after the death of his parents and at the tender age of six he was sent, via Central America, to California, where he was raised by his father's brother in Yuma,





L. J. F. IAEGER.



California, who, at that time, was one of the wealthiest and largest contractors on the Pacific coast and who was known as Don Diego. From 1861 to 1869 our subject's associates were mostly Spaniards, his uncle being married to one of Castile's beauties, and together with his cousins attended Spanish school until after the civil war, after which his education was entrusted to private tutors. His progress was rapid among the arts and mechanics of those days while nautical works were the preferred studies of this wonderful boy of only thirteen who, by this time, had learned to be a pilot on one of the river boats, of which his uncle was owner.

At sixteen years of age he passed the educational examination for the Annapolis Naval Academy, but was rejected on account of a slight defect with one of his ears. He never faltered, however, and in the fall of the same year underwent a critical examination before the New York Nautical Academy and was granted his diploma and two years later he received a navigator's certificate as a sailing master entitling him to sail the high seas as a captain notwithstanding he was at that time under the age limit and was compelled to undergo a severe examination in consequence. In 1873 he entered the employ of W. R. Grace & Co., of New York city, in what was then known as the California Grain Fleet between Liverpool and San Francisco; but his blood was too fast for so slow going crafts and the following year, after having made a trip overland from New York to San Francisco, he was especially employed as quartermaster on board the *City of Pekin*, one of the finest 5,000 ton liners then plying between San Francisco and the Oriental ports including the *Yellow Pearl domain*, and which vessel was a sister ship to the *City of Tokio*, both of which belonged to the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company. Having already traveled twice around the world as sailor and tourist and while thus employed as quartermaster on one of his trips, he made the acquaintance of a rich nobleman's son, who, taking a fancy to his roving spirit and bright disposition, sought him as a partner and guide in his travels over the world, offering to pay all bills, which offer was accepted and the "Ropes" were again overhauled and the world was seen from "High Points."

In 1876 he cast anchor in the publishing house of A. L. Bancroft & Co., of 721 Market street, San Francisco, where he worked as proof reader on the Herbert H. Bancroft series, the most remarkable original historical work ever produced on this side of the Atlantic by a single brain. "Around the world in

eighty days" again took him to Australia in the early part of 1877 and, returning to San Francisco in June of that year, he appeared on the boards of the Grand Opera House in the play of "Snowflake." Buffalo Bill was at that time touring the Pacific coast with "The Buffalo Bill Combination Company," and soon Mr. Jaeger was engaged to play the part of a bear in the play of "Red Right Hand," with which Cody was taking the Californians by storm. He soon became Cody's private secretary and, with the closing of the season, he accompanied the noted scout to North Platte, Nebraska, where he decided to cast his lot with the plainsmen and cowpunchers of the frontier, anything for novelty and newness being his sole enjoyment.

The opening up of a new cattle country on the famous Niobrara river in the northern part of Nebraska next caught his fancy and in 1878 he was one of the leaders there in the warfare on the Cheyenne Indians who were burning ranches and killing the cattlemen. For two years this suited him and the hardships of a nomadic life proved to make him a man of steel. Soon, however, civilization commenced to move westward, and Fort Niobrara was established at Valentine, Nebraska. Sheridan and Fort Robinson were military posts further west and the white covered wagons of the early settlers were getting too numerous and consequently it was no more a good cattle country and "Billy" migrated to the Snake creek country on the Black Hills road on the shores of Broncho Lake years before it could have been dreamed that Alliance would come and drink up its waters. In 1881 he again "moved camp" and went to Texas, where he purchased one thousand five hundred head of stock horses and, to use his own words, made a "wagon full of money."

In the same year the Wood river gold excitement attracted his attention in Idaho and not until he had wasted \$45,000 of money "that was good in Europe," did he make up his mind that mining was out of his class. Those were the days of strenuous and tumultuous life or spectacular times,—up one morning and down the next. The man who could stand loss was a safe one to tie to, but woe to him who sorrowed for gold. Our subject was not of the latter kind; he was constructed of steel bands, and when he came down, he found himself in the saddle once more punching cows for Sudduth and Montgomery on Rock creek, in Wyoming, content with \$75.00 per month.

Soon, however, Mr. Jaeger's services were sought by eastern capitalists then organizing a monster cattle company to be known as "The

Yellow Stone Cattle Company," and Colonel Cody, his old friend, was foremost in testimonials touching Mr. Jaeger's qualifications to manage this vast undertaking, but his star of fate seems to have been against him from this point, for this engagement was the forerunner of the saddest experience of his life, and which has been to him a tragedy for the past twenty-five years, and will be so no matter how hard he may seem to want to forget it until his remains are laid away in the silent tomb.

He was on an errand in obedience to his employers, when, overtaken in a Wyoming blizzard, he lost both feet and all his fingers, after having been exposed for five days and four nights to the coldest weather Wyoming has ever experienced. His detailed story of those days and nights are enough to chill one's blood and, but for the fact that he has refused to re-write it for this work, we would gladly give it space.

Left penniless and almost distracted at his loss, he still relied on science to assist him in the world. He at once procured a set of Kolbe Artificials and set about to educate himself more with a view of adapting himself to clerical work. From the time of his release from the hospital at Laramie City, Wyoming, May 5, 1883, to April, 1886, he continued his studies and exerted his all-powerful will to overlook his own wants and disadvantages and assist others who might be in greater distress. He has certainly accomplished wonders and bears the name throughout the entire west as a liberal, generous-hearted man, ever ready to lend a hand for the purpose of uplifting a brother in need. In 1882 he married one of the brightest and handsomest young ladies of his county and today stands as a living monument among his fellow citizens as a man fully and thoroughly capable of having a good home of his own adorned by a loving and devoted wife and two boys, aged fifteen and seven, who will soon be able to assist their father in his work for the advancement of mankind. He cast his maiden vote for Samuel J. Tilden and thereby incurred the displeasure of an uncle who cut him short \$59,999, leaving him \$1.00, while to his brothers and sisters, each was given \$60,000.

He is a Democrat to the core, and studies other governments in unison with our own. He swears by W. J. Bryan and hopes the God of Fate may be with his cause. His friends in fraternal orders are legion and especially so among the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in which order he holds high office, both at home and throughout his state, being recognized as a worker for anything that may befriend and do good to a brother in distress.

Judge E. S. Ricker, ex-county judge and journalist, of Chadron, has this to say of him:

"I have been personally acquainted with L. J. F. Jaeger in an official and a business manner as well as in a friendly relation for twenty-one years, and it gives me much happiness to say he possesses exceptional worth as a man; a well recognized capacity for business, which has been developed by study and experience and that in his long service in minor judicial positions he has displayed sound and impartial judgment which recommend him to his fellow citizens for re-election.

"Whenever called to any position of honor or trust he has not failed to continue to deserve the respect which raised him to the public place or confidential connections. He has seen much of the world, and his knowledge of men and of human nature helps to fit him with a special competency for the high and honorable place to which his aspirations invite him.

"He is courteous and obliging in disposition, which qualities of the agreeable man distinctly mark his intercourse with others and at the same time he may be depended upon for ready decision and prompt action, springing from his ability for both, and afterwards to maintain these by such firmness as gives stability to all proceedings.

"It is to me both a personal pleasure and privilege to pay this tribute to such a remarkable and deserving man while he lives; it could do him no good after he is dead."

A portrait of Mr. Jaeger appears on another page of this work.

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#### MICHAEL D. JORDAN.

Michael D. Jordan, county treasurer, is one of the old settlers of Sioux county, Nebraska, who has gone through many hard and bitter experiences during the early settlement of this region, and on three distinct occasions in his career experienced the sensation of being down to "rock bottom" so far as finances were concerned. He has seen as much of the seamy side of pioneer life as any one who has settled in the wilds of Nebraska, but through it all has done his best to assist in the development of his locality, and his name will occupy a prominent place in the history of its growth.

Mr. Jordan was born in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, on a farm, April 15, 1848. His parents were of Irish birth, both emigrating to this country when children, and were raised and educated here, where their parents settled in the early days.

Our subject grew up in his native state,

assisting his father in carrying on the home farm, early learning to do all kinds of hard work, and when he was nineteen years of age the family left Wisconsin and moved to Boone county, Iowa, where they lived until Michael was thirty-eight.

In 1886 Mr. Jordan came to Sioux county, Nebraska, and during the first several months in this region was employed on construction work on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway which was then being laid through to Douglas, Wyoming. He filed on a tract of government land situated twenty-five miles northeast of Harrison, and rapidly improved it and proved up on the claim. In 1893 he established a general merchandise store at Adelia, Nebraska, and conducted that place for about thirteen years, and did well in that line. In 1901 he purchased a nice ranch in section 29, township 33, range 53, and still owns the property. It is well improved, and is at present rented out, while he is attending to his duties as county treasurer at Harrison. He occupies a handsome and pleasant home in Harrison village, where the family have a host of good friends and congenial neighbors. Mr. Jordan is one of the organizers of Sioux county, and was the first postmaster at Adelia, which was established in 1892.

In 1907 our subject was elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket, and is now serving in that capacity, and has proven a most capable and popular public official.

Mr. Jordan was married in 1905 to Mrs. Clara Davis.

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#### H. M. WARRINER.

H. M. Warriner, proprietor of one of the finest farms in Franklin county, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in this locality. He has done his full share toward the development of the agricultural resources of the region where he chose his home, and is a widely known and universally respected citizen.

Mr. Warriner was born in Geauga county, Ohio, in 1836, and brought up in that state. His father, William Warriner, was also a native of Ohio, the family originally coming from New York state, and after our subject grew up, the father came to Nebraska and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres situated near Riverton, which he lived on up to the time of his death. The mother, prior to her marriage, was Miss Emily Bushnell, daughter of Martin Bushnell.

In 1861 our subject enlisted in the Forty-first Ohio Infantry, and served as a soldier for

two years and a half. He took part in many of the large battles, among them the battle of Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Vicksburg and all the battles of the sixteenth army corps. He was obliged to leave the army on account of sickness, and he then went to Iowa where he farmed in Delaware county. Since his experience here in Nebraska he states that this is a much better farming country than Iowa, as the land is fully as good, and the crops are as good as can be raised anywhere. Besides this, the climate is delightful, and one man can do as much work here as two can do there. Mr. Warriner has a farm of four hundred acres and has it in the finest shape imaginable. He has good buildings and everything in the way of modern machinery to properly run the place. He is assisted in its operation by his eldest son, Willard David Warriner, who is married and living at home, taking the heaviest burdens from the shoulders of his father. They carry on mixed farming, and keep quite a large number of grade cattle, also many hogs for market.

Mr. Warriner was married to Miss Abbie Walder. Besides the son mentioned above, Mr. and Mrs. Warriner are the parents of the following children: George, married, and father of two children; Roy, attending school, and Blanche, a teacher in the Franklin county schools. Mr. Warriner is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and for forty years has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and one of the earnest workers in that lodge. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In political sentiment our subject is a strong Republican, and takes an active interest in party affairs. He has served Franklin county as sheriff for two terms, from 1900 to 1903, and in 1902 was superintendent of the county farm up to 1905. He has been a member of the school board for many years, and acted as secretary and treasurer of that body during a long period.

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#### JOSEPH OBERFELDER.

Among the business enterprises which contribute in a marked degree to the prosperity of Sidney, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, as a business point, the clothing and gents' furnishing goods store of Joseph Oberfelder occupies a prominent place. This is one of the best and most complete stores in this section, and the proprietor is well known to the people of the county for his honest business methods

and careful attention to the needs of his patrons.

Mr. Oberfelder was born in New York city, September 18, 1858. His father was a merchant there, and the family is of Bavarian stock, the father coming to America in 1830, while his mother, who was Miss Betsy Bachman, came to this country in 1834. Our subject was educated and grew up in his native city, graduating from the grammar school when he was thirteen years of age. In 1875 he came west to Omaha, and there secured a position as cashier and bookkeeper for Maxmeyer & Co., and had entire charge of the financial part of that concern. He remained there for two years, then came to Sidney and opened a store, carrying a general line of clothing, revolvers and ammunition, saddlery, pocket cutlery, blankets, chaperajos, boots, shoes, etc., also all kinds of sporting goods. He has built up a good trade and an enviable reputation as a business man, and now carries a complete stock of clothing, gents' furnishing goods, and sporting goods, and is well-known throughout this section and highly esteemed for his strict integrity and industry. Mr. Oberfelder has been in business here for thirty years in all, and is the owner of valuable property in Sidney and all through Cheyenne county. He has associated with him his brother, Robert S., and the Oberfelder block in Sidney is owned by the two brothers, as is also a fine ranch near Lodgepole. They are also extensively engaged in buying all kinds of school and county warrants and municipal securities.

In 1881 our subject returned to New York city and was there married to Miss Hannah Rosenthal, daughter of Gustave Rosenthal, importer of cloths and woolens. Mrs. Oberfelder is a graduate of the grammar school in New York, and is a very estimable lady. Eight children have been born to them, named as follows: Blanche, Sidney, Lillian, Clara Belle, Arthur M., Beatrice Hazel, Irving Tobias, and Leonie, all born in Sidney.

During the time Mr. Oberfelder lived in New York city he was president and secretary of the Cooper Union Literary Class, president of the Charles Sumner Literary Union, also secretary of the Hamilton Literary Society. Since locating in Nebraska Mr. Oberfelder has been active in educational affairs, and has served as county superintendent of the public schools in Cheyenne county, from 1881 to 1883. He was mayor of Sidney from 1887 to 1889. He is a prominent member of the Masonic lodge here, Frank Welch No. 75, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Sidney Lodge 196, Ancient Order of United Workmen; Modern

Woodmen of America No. 1096, and Legion of Honor. He belongs to the Mystic Legion of America, and takes an active part in the social affairs of Sidney. He is now Master Workman of the A. O. U. W., and Venerable Consul of the Modern Woodmen of America Camp. In political views he is a loyal Democrat, and a particular friend and warm supporter of William Jennings Bryan.

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### JOHN F. TROXEL.

John F. Troxel, deceased, was one of the very first settlers in Loup county, locating in 1879. He was born on a farm in Maryland, in 1845, and was the son of John and Sophia (Wilhide) Troxel.

John F. Troxel, deceased, saw service in the civil war as a member of Company G, Third Maryland Infantry, and when the war was over he came west to Illinois, where, in 1868, he was married to Miss Mary J. Groves, a native of New York state. Her father was Jeremiah Groves, who lived and died in New York; her mother was Miss Susanna Livingston before marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Troxel had seven children: Harvey, Alice, John, George and Harry; Annie and Ernest are deceased.

In 1869 Mr. and Mrs. Troxel came west to Saunders county, Nebraska, where they lived for ten years, and when they first came, only a few shacks could be seen. They migrated to Loup county in March, 1879, and located a homestead eleven miles up the Loup river from Taylor. They came overland in a covered wagon and were two weeks on the road. The nearest trading points were North Loup and Ord; and a little later Burwell and Seargent. Mr. Troxel's first house was a log cabin with a sod roof, and everything was of the most primitive nature.

John F. Troxel died in the fall of 1888, when the oldest boy was eighteen years of age. Mrs. Troxel, from this time on, had to take all the responsibility of looking after the farm and providing for the family. The dry years came and these were hard times for the pioneers. But Mrs. Troxel has succeeded by her good management in making a fine home and bringing the farm of three hundred and twenty acres to a high state of improvement. She has good buildings and machinery, a fine grove of forest trees and a nice bunch of cattle and other stock.

In August, 1907, Mrs. Troxel moved to Taylor and left the oldest son, Harvey, in charge of the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Troxel were among the first settlers and took an important and honorable position in the growth of the community. They had many hard experiences during their pioneer days, but they survived them and grew in wealth and prosperity. Once, while her husband was gone for supplies, a number of Indians made their way into the house without her knowledge. After giving her quite a scare, the Indians asked for a little flour, but, as her supply was low, she had to refuse them. They made no trouble but hung around the house. Fortunately, Mr. Troxel arrived the next day with his load of supplies, and a trade was made with the Indians so that they got their flour and went away happy.

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#### IRA E. TASH.

Among the early settlers in western Nebraska, who labored for the upbuilding of that region and has met with marked success as a business man and gained a high station as a citizen, none commands higher respect and esteem than the subject of this review. Mr. Tash is a gentleman of active public spirit, and has been prominent in local and county affairs for many years past, serving in different official capacities, to which he was elected on the Republican ticket, and is also well known in Masonic circles throughout this country. He resides in Alliance, Box Butte county, and has acted as postmaster of that place since 1903, proving a most popular and efficient man for the place, universally esteemed as a true and worthy citizen.

Mr. Tash was born in Clark county, Iowa, in 1862. His father, Louis Tash, was a native of Indiana, whose grandfather was of an old South Carolina family. He married Miss Mary E. Weeter, and they started life together in a log cabin on a farm, where our subject grew up assisting his parents in carrying on the farm work and at the same time attending the country schools until he was nineteen years of age. He progressed rapidly and was able to teach in their vicinity during the winters, and his summers were spent in railroading. He followed this work for seven years, and in 1887 left Indiana and came west, first settling in Nonpariel (now extinct), then the county seat of Box Butte county. There he was engaged in the real estate and farm loan business for ten years, aiding materially in settling the country and developing the commercial and agricultural resources of the region. In the fall of 1889 he was elected county clerk and

served his term, then the county seat was moved to Hemingford. At the expiration of his term of office he, together with S. P. Tuttle, opened a law, loan and real estate business, which they continued with success from 1892 to 1899, in September of the latter year our subject removing to Alliance, where the county seat had finally been established, he also moving his dwelling house to Alliance. For the following two years he worked at railroad construction on the Union Pacific. In 1902 he became associate editor of *The Times*, a leading newspaper of Alliance, retaining this position for one year, then was appointed postmaster, which position he is now filling with much credit. In 1905 he was appointed receiver of the Bank of Hemingford and satisfactorily disposed of that business. Mr. Tash is a man of superior business tact and executive ability, and had filled numerous responsible positions.

In 1888 our subject married Miss Eva M. Wilcox, daughter of B. J. Wilcox, a farmer of Union county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Tash have been born the following children: Charles C., Emma E., and Nellie M.

Since locating in Alliance Mr. Tash has been actively interested in all local affairs and has held numerous offices, in each of which he has discharged his duties faithfully and well, gaining the confidence of his fellow-men by his strict integrity and honest dealings. He is past master of the Alliance Lodge No. 183, A. F. and A. M., and a member of the Sheba Chapter No. 54, also a member of the Eastern Star, and Bunah Commandery No. 26, Knights Templar.

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#### ALFRED C. KENDALL.

In reviewing the list of prominent pioneer business men of Rock county, a leading place is accorded the name of Alfred C. Kendall. This gentleman has been intimately associated financially and socially with the development of this section of the country, and has been a potent factor in its upbuilding.

Mr. Kendall was born in Canton, Bradford county, Pa., on January 4, 1837, the second in a family of three children. His father, Seneca Kendall, a native of Vermont and a wagon-maker by trade, was of Irish descent, and his mother, Miss Sally Andrus, was of German stock, and died when our subject was a small lad. He was raised in Pennsylvania and remained with his father until the latter's death, which occurred in 1877. In 1862 our subject was married to Miss Susan Andrus, of Ameri-

can ancestry, and six children were born to them, namely: Carrie, wife of J. B. Gould, of Brown county; Guy, who married Gertrude Harrison; Monroe, whose wife was Edyth Piersall; Chester C.; Kate, who married Mr. Trogood and lives west of Bassett; and Minnie. The wife and mother died January 2, 1891, and Mr. Kendall was subsequently married to Mrs. Anna (Matson) Andrus.

While in Pennsylvania Mr. Kendall followed carpentry, and after working at this for twenty years came to Cass county, Nebraska, locating twenty miles east of Lincoln, in 1881, buying a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he remained for three years. In 1884 the family moved to Rock county, settling on a government tract located in section 11, township 31, range 20, where they lived for twelve years. This land was subject to drouth and he sold out and in 1896 bought part of his present farm, situated in section 26, township 32, range 20, paying \$650 for one hundred and sixty acres, this being entirely unimproved land, with a good growth of natural timber on it, and located close to the Niobrara river. Since then they have added to this farm and improved it, until now, together with his sons, he has sixteen hundred acres of homestead and deeded land and leases four hundred acres additional, operating altogether two thousand acres, enclosed by thirteen or fourteen miles of fence. They also have a good set of farm buildings, a fine orchard of sixty bearing trees, and a twenty-acre tract of irrigated land, which is conceded to be the best market garden in northwestern Nebraska. Three reservoirs have been built on the range by damming the spring streams which run from the hills, one built in 1900, another in 1901, and the third in 1902, and from these Mr. Kendall conserves water enough to irrigate the twenty acres above mentioned, although there are years when no irrigation is necessary, the natural rainfall being sufficient. Dairying is one branch of industry of this enterprising family, the cream of twenty cows being shipped to eastern markets. Farming and ranching also have their place on this productive estate, each of which is conducted on an extensive scale. Mr. Kendall insists that much credit is due his family, and in particular his son, Guy R. Kendall, who is business manager, for their part in the building up and improving of this property. Of the Kendall ranch thirty acres are situated on the river bottom, and this has been cleared of brush and timber, thus forming a valuable portion of the farm.

During the Rebellion Mr. Kendall volunteered twice and was rejected. Later he en-

listed in the One Hundred and Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry, in September, 1863, at Williamsport. He was assigned to duty with the Army of the Potomac under Colonel Dwight, serving six months during the winter of 1863 and 1864 on guard duty along a railroad, a crippled foot preventing his participating in long marches, a disability for which he was discharged in the spring of 1864.

Mr. Kendall is a strong Republican, takes an active part in party politics, both local and state, having attended numerous conventions as a delegate. September 7, 1907, he was appointed postmaster at Cuba postoffice and the daily mail is now distributed from his ranch.

A view of the "Long Pine Valley Farm" and buildings will be found on another page.

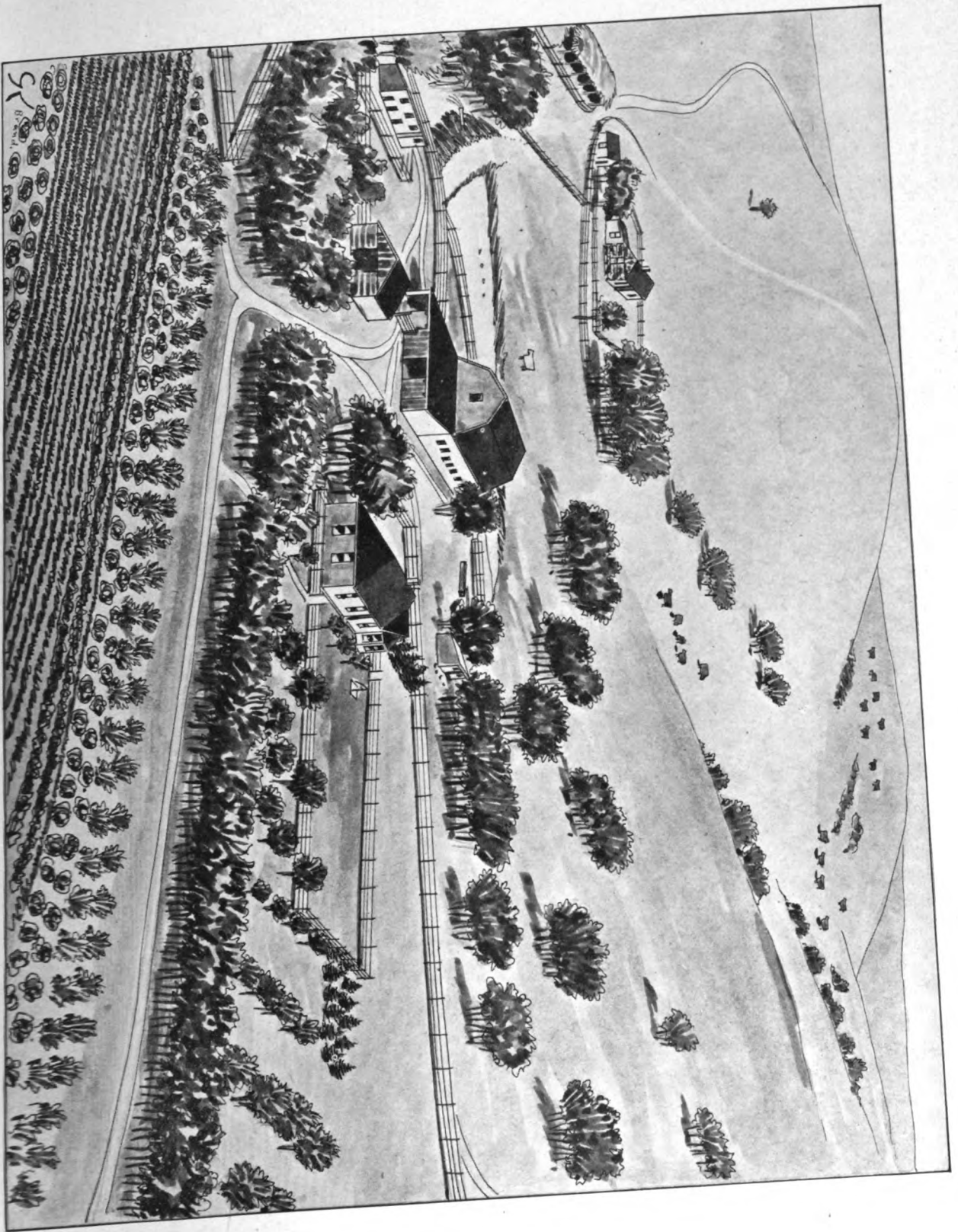
#### GUY R. KENDALL.

Guy R. Kendall, a well-to-do young farmer of Rock county, Nebraska, where he is regarded alike for his manly qualities and his farmer-like ways, was born in Canton, Pennsylvania, in 1873, and reared in Bradford county, that state, until he was eight years of age. He is a son of Alfred C. Kendall, of whom a sketch appears on another page of this work.

In 1881 the family moved to Nebraska and settled in Cass county, twenty miles east of Lincoln, and in 1884 moved to Rock county, some two and a half miles south of their present dwellings. At an early age our subject began to handle a team and do farm work, and grew up accustomed to all sorts of hard work always to be found in carrying on a farm. He has remained at home with his parents, and has given all his time and best efforts in assisting in the improvement and operation of the large farm described in his father's sketch, being the business manager of their large and varied industries.

Mr. Kendall was married June 23, 1903, to Gertrude K. Harrison, born near Jefferson, Green county, Iowa, in 1874. Her people were old settlers in Nebraska, where she was reared and educated. Her parents, James H. and Emma (Robinson) Harrison, were old settlers in Keya Paha county, where they started as pioneers, the family at first living in a log house, their first farming being done with a yoke of oxen. They built up a comfortable home in this locality, and were regarded as among the leading citizens of their community. Mrs. Kendall was, prior to her marriage, a teacher in the schools of Rock county for several years, and was a competent instructor and very estimable lady.





"LONG PINE VALLEY FARM," RESIDENCES OF A. C. AND GUY KENDALL,

Rock County, Nebraska.



Mr. Kendall has always taken an active part in the school work of his neighborhood, and has held different offices for the past twelve years. He is also active in political matters, and was appointed county commissioner of Rock county in 1900, serving for one term. He was a Republican. Of the fraternal orders he is a member of two, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. A view of his residence, together with that of his father, is to be seen elsewhere in this work.

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### REINHARD GEISERT.

A sketch of the history of western Nebraska would be incomplete without mention of Reinhard Geisert, one of the most prosperous of the early settlers of this region. Reinhard Geisert was born in the little village of Eichstetten, province of Baden, Germany, August 3, 1861. His father, Matthew Geisert, was a farmer, and lived and died in Germany. His mother, who was Louisa Hornecker in her youth, died in Ogallala, July 31, 1908, at the residence of her son.

Mr. Geisert remained in Germany until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to America, sailing from Havre, France, February 10, 1880, and landed in New York after a voyage of thirteen days. He came direct to Henry county, Illinois, where several uncles had preceded him, and here he spent three years, at times engaged in farm labor and work in a sawmill, and attending school one winter during that time.

In 1883 he turned west through Iowa and eastern Nebraska, looking over the country, seeing Keith county during the fall of this year. At that time cowboys and gamblers ruled the town of Ogallala and he saw many thousands of dollars piled on the gambling tables of the town. Men were frequently killed in quarrels during these days and drunken cowboys often rode through the town killing horses for which they afterward had to pay.

In the fall of 1883 he filed on a homestead in section 28, township 13, range 37, which he improved the following year, farming a little and building a frame shanty and sod barn. He at times worked out for other settlers in eastern Nebraska, helping them to shuck their corn, to increase his income, when not employed on his own place.

Until the winter of 1885 Mr. Geisert had been alone in this country, but at that time he revisited his old home and brought his mother, four brothers and a sister to this country, returning to Nebraska with them in 1886.

Here his brothers settled on claims and commenced farming with very little capital, after a time buying horses, cattle and machinery.

They were obliged to endure many hardships during the dry years following 1890. From 1890 to 1895 they had but one good crop, the crop of 1892. In spite of all these discouragements they persevered and began to raise cattle and horses, which made it possible for them to succeed when farming proved to be unprofitable.

Mr. Geisert has a farm of one thousand acres at the present time, with as many more under his control; two hundred acres he thoroughly cultivates and the rest is devoted to pasturage, all enclosed with ten miles of fence. He has also several fine buildings on his farm, among them being a fine large house, and a barn which cost him two thousand dollars.

Mr. Geisert has from one hundred and fifty to two hundred head of cattle and fifteen head of horses. He milks from thirty to forty cows, whose cream brings in a comfortable and steady income. At times he raises hogs to help out his other enterprises, but does not raise a large herd every year.

He was married in 1886 to Miss Katie Miller, a native of Germany, whose father, Fred Miller, a native of that country, spent his entire life there. Mr. and Mrs. Geisert have eight children: Dora, wife of Otto Pankonin, of Perkins county; Louisa, a teacher in the Keith county schools; Caroline, Reinhard, Jr., Minnie, Robert, Mary and Ida.

Mr. Geisert has taken a prominent part in the establishment of the schools and has been school officer ever since the schools were established. He also helped to build the first country church in the county. He was compelled to endure many hardships during the first years of his life in Nebraska and was often lost on the prairie where there were no roads or trails. The family all belong to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Geisert is one of the most highly respected of the old settlers and has held many offices of trust, having been justice of the peace several terms and precinct assessor. He is a staunch Democrat.

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### R. LISCO.

R. Lisco is vice-president and general manager of the Rush Creek Land and Live Stock Company, with the home ranch located on section 33, township 16, range 46, situated at the head of Rush creek, in Deuel county, Nebraska. This company was organized in 1890, and was

formerly known as the Club Ranch, formed in 1883, was closed out in 1886 and reorganized under the present name in 1890, with officers as follows: Thomas E. Wells, president; R. Lisco, vice-president and general manager.

R. Lisco, the subject of this sketch, was born in Worth county, Iowa, November 21, 1858. He grew up in Iowa, receiving a good schooling, following farming as a boy, and came to Platte county in 1873 and to Deuel county in 1881. Upon landing in this region he became interested in ranching and stock raising, and has devoted all his time to that pursuit ever since. The firm which he now represents owns forty-eight thousand acres of ranch land, besides other property. It is improved with good buildings of every kind and well equipped for the proper handling of a large herd of cattle, being one of the most complete outfits of its kind in the west. They run from six thousand to eight thousand cattle each year, besides a large number of horses, at the present time having three hundred and fifty head on the ranch.

Our subject was married at Chappell, Nebraska, February 5, 1895, to Miss Addie R. Miller, who was born in Michigan and came west in 1894. They have no children. Mr. Lisco's father is living with him at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

Mr. Lisco has always taken an active part in local affairs and has been a leading citizen of his county since locating here. In 1889 he was elected sheriff of Deuel county, and served in all for four terms.

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#### COLONEL HARRY W. KIRBY.

Colonel Harry W. Kirby, one of the old settlers of Thomas county, Nebraska, now residing in Thedford, is a leading citizen and popular member of the business and social life of that community.

Mr. Kirby was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1845, of American stock. His maternal grandfather, Jacob Bear, was of Pennsylvania Dutch blood, and one of the pioneer settlers of Ohio, having settled in Harrison county in 1813. The father of our subject, Ephraim Kirby, was born in 1808 at Bedford, Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in 1824 with his mother, three brothers and four sisters, all of whom were reared, educated and married and had large families. Ephraim taught school and entered a quarter of land, upon which he lived until his death in September, 1888. He

married Elizabeth Bear in 1832, by which union they reared nine children, six boys and three girls, the colonel being fourth in line.

At the age of fifteen our subject taught school and entered college and in 1861 he, with fifteen of his classmates, enlisted in the Eightieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This regiment followed the fortunes of Grant and Sherman through every southern state except Florida, and stained the soil with their blood at Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Atlanta, march to the sea, and up the coast to final surrender and grand review at Washington. He was a brilliant soldier and held the position of lieutenant colonel of his regiment at the close of the war.

After returning home when peace had been declared Colonel Kirby entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and took up a literary course, graduating with high honors in 1869. He then read law and was admitted to the bar in his native state and later in Indiana, where he spent the ten years from 1880 to 1890 in law and editorial work as proprietor of the Decatur Journal. As a Republican he has always taken an active part in politics. He came to the state of Nebraska in 1904, took up a section of land under the Kincaid law and has been twice elected county judge.

Colonel Kirby was married in March, 1907, to Miss Elizabeth P. Crawford, a charming and accomplished lady, also from Ohio.

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#### JUDGE W. C. ELDER.

W. C. Elder, of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, was elected judge of the county court in 1905. Prior to this he was clerk of the district court for fifteen years, and throughout all his public career has had the confidence and esteem of all who knew him for his honesty and integrity in all matters of public interest.

Mr. Elder is a native of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and his father was also born in that county. His grandfather, James Elder, was a fuller and farmer. In 1853, at the age of seven years, our subject came to Green county, Iowa, with his parents, where he afterwards farmed it for some time. He was justice of the peace in that section, also assessor and deputy sheriff. He was the first man to sink a coal shaft in central Iowa, and was fortunate in obtaining a large amount of good coal.

At the age of seventeen years he enlisted in Company C, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry, and served in the western army. He was at the battle of Red Mound, Tennessee, and scouted all over the central part of the latter state after the battle of Lookout Mountain. He was at Altoona Pass, Georgia, where the Thirty-ninth Regiment held the fort, over one-half of their number being killed or wounded, nine out of the eleven officers losing their lives in the encounter. At the same battle our subject received two wounds which incapacitated him from service for a time, but he rejoined his regiment at Goldsboro, North Carolina, in April, 1865, and took part in the grand review at Washington in May, 1865.

In 1882 Mr. Elder came to Nebraska and located at Medicine Creek on a farm, where he engaged in stock raising, holding this property up to 1905, then sold out his interest. He settled in North Platte in 1889, and has been prominent in politics for forty-one years, always a strong Republican. He was justice of the peace for many years, and is widely known all through this section of the country as an active public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Elder was married in 1867 at Rippey, Iowa, to Mrs. E. A. York. They have one son, Ora, of North Platte, who is a prominent real estate dealer and actively interested in county and state politics. He is chairman of the Republican county committee, and also of the senatorial committee. Our subject's first wife died at North Platte, Nebraska, in October, 1883, and on January 5, 1898, he married Mrs. Mary H. Clerk, of North Platte. This union has been blessed with one son, W. C., born September 8, 1900.

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#### ALFRED W. ROGERS.

For over twenty years past the gentleman above named has been identified with the agricultural interests of Wheeler county, Nebraska. He has aided materially in transforming this locality from its wild natural state into the thriving farming district it has now become. Mr. Rogers is a gentleman of unusual perseverance and energy, and has met with deserved success in his labors and is today classed among the leading citizens of his community.

Alfred W. Rogers was born in Kent county, Michigan, in 1853. His father, Joseph Rogers, was a native of Canada and married Lucinda Hathaway, also a native of that country, and they left their native land and came to the

United States during their young days, settling in Newaygo county, Michigan, where they built up a good home, and where their children grew up. Our subject remained there up to 1878, when he was twenty-three years of age, then came west, locating in Nebraska, taking up a pre-emption in section 26, township 21, range 11, Wheeler county. He bought land as he became able, and kept improving his place, and is now proprietor of as fine a farm as can be found in this locality, containing in all four hundred and eighty acres, on which he grows small grains of all kinds. In addition to his farming operations Mr. Rogers deals in stock to quite an extent, running cattle and hogs principally, but he is of the opinion that his farm is better adapted to grain raising and cultivates nearly all of it for this purpose. He has erected a good set of substantial farm buildings, has good wells, windmills, etc., and is widely known throughout the locality as an agriculturist of ability and a good business man.

In 1883 Mr. Rogers was married to Miss Helen Westbrook, born and reared in New York state, and of this union six children were born, who are named as follows: Ella, Ida, Myrtle, Thomas, Frank and Alice. Mr. Rogers is an independent voter, and while he takes a keen interest in local public affairs, has never aspired to office, preferring to give his whole attention to the development of his farm and in the quiet of his home life. However, he has served on the school board in his district for several years.

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#### JOHN A. SLATER.

For the past twenty-five years the citizens of Minden, Kearney county, Nebraska, have had in their midst a gentleman who has been identified with the development and growth of this region from its early settlement. Mr. Slater is engaged in the real estate and loan business, and has occupied the office where he now carries on his business since the year 1883.

Mr. Slater is a native of Whiteside county, Illinois, born in 1856. His father, Roswell Slater, was a member of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, and died while fighting for his country in 1863.

Mr. Slater is now chairman of the county board of supervisors, serving his second term. He is also president of the First National Bank at Bertrand, and controls most of the stock of that bank, which was established December

13, 1906. The contracts for the new \$80,000 court house is under his control as chairman of the county board, and much of his time is spent in looking after these different matters. He has been county surveyor a great deal of his time since coming here. Kearney county rates as high as any, the best land averaging seventy-five dollars per acre, and in 1905 Mr. Slater sold sixty farms in Gosper county. In 1906 he sold from thirty to forty quarter sections in Cheyenne county, also a great deal in Phelps county and Kearney county. He has been one of the leading real estate men in western Nebraska for many years past. The Swedes who settle here buy land, but do not often sell, and some of them own up to two sections.

Mr. Slater is owner of over two thousand acres in this and the adjoining counties, all of which he rents out, and he states that the land in this region has more than doubled in value during the past four years. Four years ago he bought three hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid eight thousand dollars, and only recently was offered twenty-two thousand dollars for it, but refused the offer. One of his farms is stocked with cattle and horses, and the balance are devoted to grain culture.

Mr. Slater occupies a fine residence in Minden, his family consisting of his wife, one son, Roscoe J., who is cashier of the First National Bank of Bertrand, and one daughter, Alena, wife of R. J. Strabel, and two unmarried daughters, Edna and Loretta. For the past ten years Mr. Slater has been a member of the board of trustees of the Wesleyan University for Nebraska. This school has had a hard struggle for existence, and he has given liberally of his money and time to help the institution along. He is a member of the executive committee, and the school now has about one thousand students and is developing rapidly. He has been on the board of the Minden Methodist Episcopal church since he first located here, and this church has recently built a fine new brick building.

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#### TIMOTHY MORRISSEY, DECEASED.

Timothy Morrissey, deceased, one of the most prominent early settlers in western Nebraska, was proprietor of a fine ranch of six thousand acres located twenty-four miles from Chadron, residing prior to his decease with his family in that town, where he moved in 1906 in order to give his children the advantages of the city schools. Mr. Morrissey was

among the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Chadron, there being very few white men here when he arrived. He was an important factor in the development of the financial resources of that region, and was widely and favorably known throughout Dawes and the adjoining counties.

Mr. Morrissey was born in Livingston county, New York, in 1860. His father was Andrew Morrissey, born in Ireland, who came to this country when a young man and started a farm in New York state. He had brought his bride, who was Katherine Dowling, of Queens county, Ireland, with him to the new country, and together they began life in the land of the free, building up a comfortable home. They raised their family in Livingston county, where they were taught to do all kinds of farm work, and in his boyhood days our subject worked out on different farms in the vicinity of his home.

In 1884 he came west and arrived in Nebraska on March 31, camping out on the Bordeaux creek, Dawes county, in Pete Nelson's yards, where Chadron first started. Mr. Morrissey had footed it through this county from Valentine, as he had no team and the railroad was not at that time through this section. In the spring of that year he filed on a pre-emption north of Chadron and later returned to Valentine, where he remained for a short time and then went farther west, traveling by ox team through the country. His was the first shack ever built in what is now the town of Chadron, and he drove the first well on the upland near that place. The present site of Chadron was then "prairie dog town." During the winter of 1885-86 he was city marshal and made Chadron his home up to the spring of 1889, serving as deputy treasurer of Dawes county under DeForrest Richards, and that same year moved to twenty-four miles south of Chadron, where he took up a homestead and timber claim, all of which was wild land. Here he tried farming for the first few years, but did not have very good success, so went into the stock raising business. He put up good buildings and improved his place constantly. He was owner of six thousand acres of good ranch land, engaging exclusively in sheep raising, and made a pronounced success of this line of work. When the C. & N. W. Railway was put through the sand hills in Cherry county, Mr. Morrissey was one of those who assisted in the work. Mr. Morrissey had a fine house containing nine rooms, the building being two stories high. His barn is 28x56, and plenty of good shed room, etc., and he put six wells on his place, with four





W. H. MILLER.



windmills and everything necessary to make a model ranch. He had telephone connections at his ranch home, building the line himself out of his own pocket. In September, 1906, Mr. Morrissey purchased his town residence and moved his family there, and until his demise divided his time between his ranch and city home, devoting all his attention to the building up of these places. Mr. Morrissey died the 20th day of December, 1907.

Mr. Morrissey was married in April, 1889, to Miss Agnes L. Bartlett, daughter of Alfred E. Bartlett, farmer and ranchman of Dawes county, of Yankee stock, originally from Massachusetts. To Mr. and Mrs. Morrissey were born five children, namely: May, Inez, Harry, Reta and Mart, all of whom were born on the ranch. Mart, the baby, last named, died the 16th day of December, 1907, four days before her father's decease.

For six years Mr. Morrissey acted as justice of the peace in Dawes county, during that time performing many marriages among the people of this region. He also held the position of postmaster at Dunlap, this county, for five years, and through these offices became a familiar and widely known citizen of the county.

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#### W. H. MILLER.

W. H. Miller, county attorney of Franklin county, Nebraska, is one of the leading citizens of his vicinity. He is the only child of A. V. Miller, retired, of Franklin, who is one of the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, having located in this county in 1880, homesteading in Macon township one hundred and sixty acres, breaking up the land and building a sod house, and who went through all the pioneer experiences of failures of crops and the discouragements familiar to the early settlers in this state. A. V. Miller was born in Waldoboro, Maine, in 1841, and enlisted in the United States navy in 1864, serving on the sloop "Brooklyn" and the gunboat "Ottawa" on the Atlantic at the battle of Fort Fisher under Admiral Porter. He was mustered out at the Brooklyn navy yard in 1865.

His father, Gilmore Miller, served in the Twentieth Maine Regiment through the Civil war, from 1862 up to 1865. He was in the Army of Port Hudson, under General Banks. Our subject's grandfather, Frank Miller, of Lincoln county, Maine, was in the war of 1812; also his father, William Miller, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, so that the Millers were of fighting blood from the earliest days,

and were brave soldiers and patriotic citizens. Hiram Miller came to this country from Germany as early as 1767. A. V. Miller's mother was Elizabeth Hahn, of Waldoboro, Maine. He married Miss Asenith Mack at Lawrence, Massachusetts, daughter of George and Louise Chase Mack, of Eaton, New Hampshire. Mrs. Miller was born in Carroll county, that state, and her mother was a daughter of Oliver and Abigail (Fernal) Chase, whose family settled there before the Revolutionary war. Our subject is the owner of a fine four-hundred-acre farm in Ash Grove township and Bloomington township, while his son, W. H. Miller, owns two hundred and forty acres under ditch on Snake river, in Carbon county, Wyoming. The latter married Miss Verna Furry, of Franklin, daughter of L. E. Furry and Carrie Bender Furry, both of whom came from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, whose parents were early pioneers in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two sons, Leonard Avy and Herbert Ross.

Attorney Miller was born in Butler county, Iowa, in 1870. He attended Franklin Academy and studied law at the Lincoln State University, and graduated from that institution in 1897, at once opening an office in Hildreth. He was elected county attorney the following year and served one term, and re-elected in 1906, on the Republican ticket. He is recognized as one of the leading men of the profession in this part of the state, and has gained a high position in the estimation of his associates as a man of superior ability and judgment in all matters. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and of the fraternal order of Independent Order of Odd Fellows. A portrait of Mr. Miller appears on another page of this volume.

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#### HENRY H. PROUTY.

The history of Kimball county, Nebraska, would be incomplete without the life story of Henry H. Prouty, one of the most prominent of the pioneers of western Nebraska. Mr. Prouty was elected judge of the county in 1895, and, with the exception of the years 1897 and 1898, has held the office ever since, being the present incumbent. Judge Prouty has served his country with rare fidelity and acceptability and has won a high place in the esteem of his associates.

Henry H. Prouty was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, December 28, 1842, being the youngest of ten children in his father's family. Mr. Prouty was reared in his native state, receiv-

ing a good education and working for years in a carriage factory in Brattleboro. In April, 1886, he came west, locating in Kimball (then Cheyenne) county, Nebraska.

Mr. Prouty saw active service in the Civil war, enlisting June 20th, in Company C, Second Vermont Infantry. He entered the service as a private and when mustered out in 1865 he had risen to the rank of senior captain of Company B of his regiment. Our subject participated in many severe battles from Bull Run to Appomattox. He was shot through both thighs May 4, 1863, at Salem Heights, Virginia, and was confined to the hospital for three months, after which he returned to his company. He was adjutant and quartermaster on the regimental staff, serving with honor and distinction, and was mustered out at Balls Cross Road, Virginia, July 28, 1865, after which he returned to Vermont.

Henry H. Prouty was married in Brattleboro, Vermont, March 16, 1867, to Julia M. Hurley, a native of Ireland, and who died in Kimball, Nebraska, May 14, 1908. She was sincerely mourned by her family and a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Prouty were the parents of children: Edward M., married and living in Kimball, Nebraska; Ella M., now Mrs. E. M. Farley, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Caroline M., who is Mrs. Frank Lynch and a resident of Kimball; Harriet L., married to Lucian Stedman and living at Gardner, Massachusetts; and Julie M., married to Thurlaw Weed and living in North Loup, Nebraska.

Our subject, on coming to Nebraska, located on a claim in section 14, township 16, range 56, and later took a tree claim. In 1868 he sold his ranch and moved to Kimball, the county seat, where he has resided ever since. Mr. Prouty was postmaster of Kimball under President Cleveland's second administration. Judge Prouty is a Democrat in politics and his popularity is shown by the fact that, although he is a Democrat in politics, he has been elected in a strong Republican county and at the last election he was also nominated at the Republican primaries.

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#### CHARLES F. BOYER.

The above is one of the old settlers of Nebraska who came to this state when it was practically in its infancy and has remained to see it grow from a wild prairie tract to the fertile and productive country it has now become. While building up a good home and

competence for himself he has also aided materially in the growth of his locality and is now prepared to enjoy the fruits of his many years of hard labor and share in the prosperity of the region. He has a comfortable residence and pleasant home in section 24, township 25, range 33, Cherry county, and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Boyer was born in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1874. He is a brother of Fiels L. B. K. Boyer, whose sketch appears in this book, and a son of Hugh Boyer, an old settler of Cherry county, of old American stock. When our subject was nine years old the family settled in Madison county, in the eastern part of Nebraska, and with his father made the trip to Cherry county about 1886, where they picked out a location on which they made settlement in that year, the balance of the family coming here later on, traveling through the country by team with a covered wagon containing their goods.

At the first they put up a rough building and started to break up land for a farm. All supplies had to be hauled from Purdum, a distance of fifty miles from their claim, and their nearest trading post.

When Charles was eighteen years of age he started out for himself in Madison county, where he farmed for three years, then returned to Cherry county for a time, and was back and forth between the two places up to 1898, finally settling permanently nine miles northwest of Mullen. He is now owner of a good ranch consisting of eight hundred acres, which is devoted to cattle raising, and he is also interested in the dairying business on quite a large scale.

In 1901 Mr. Boyer was married to Stella Hewitt, daughter of Wilson Hewitt, an old settler and owner of a good farm located near Kearney, Nebraska, where Mrs. Boyer was born and reared. Mr. and Mrs. Boyer are the parents of four children, namely: Esther, Wava, Bertha and Leonard. Mr. Boyer is independent in politics, voting for the men and measures he believes best suited to the needs of the people.

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#### HON. DAVID HANNA.

David Hanna, one of the older settlers of Cherry county, Nebraska, and a popular resident of Wood Lake, has watched the development and growth of this section for the past twenty-five years, and has gained an enviable reputation as a successful business man and



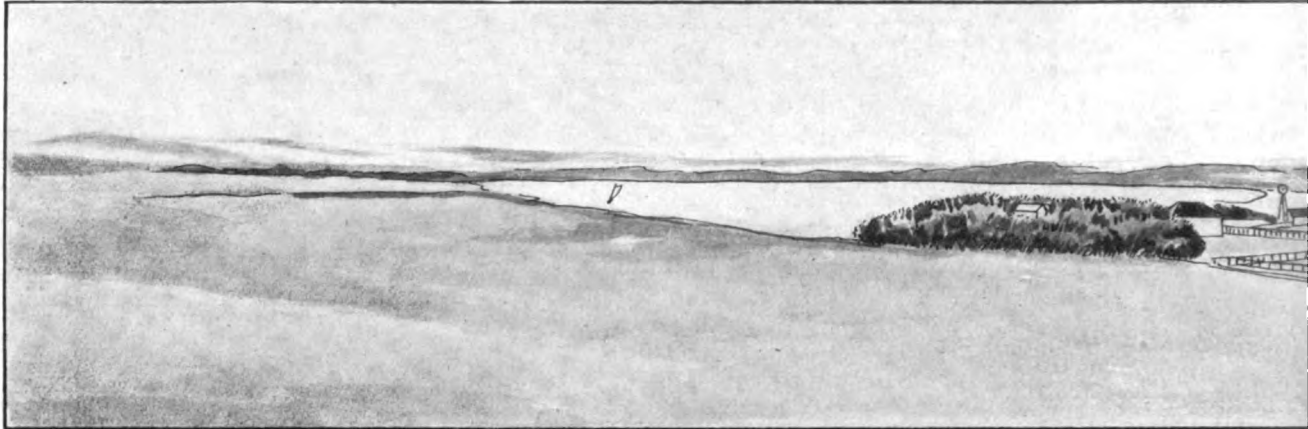
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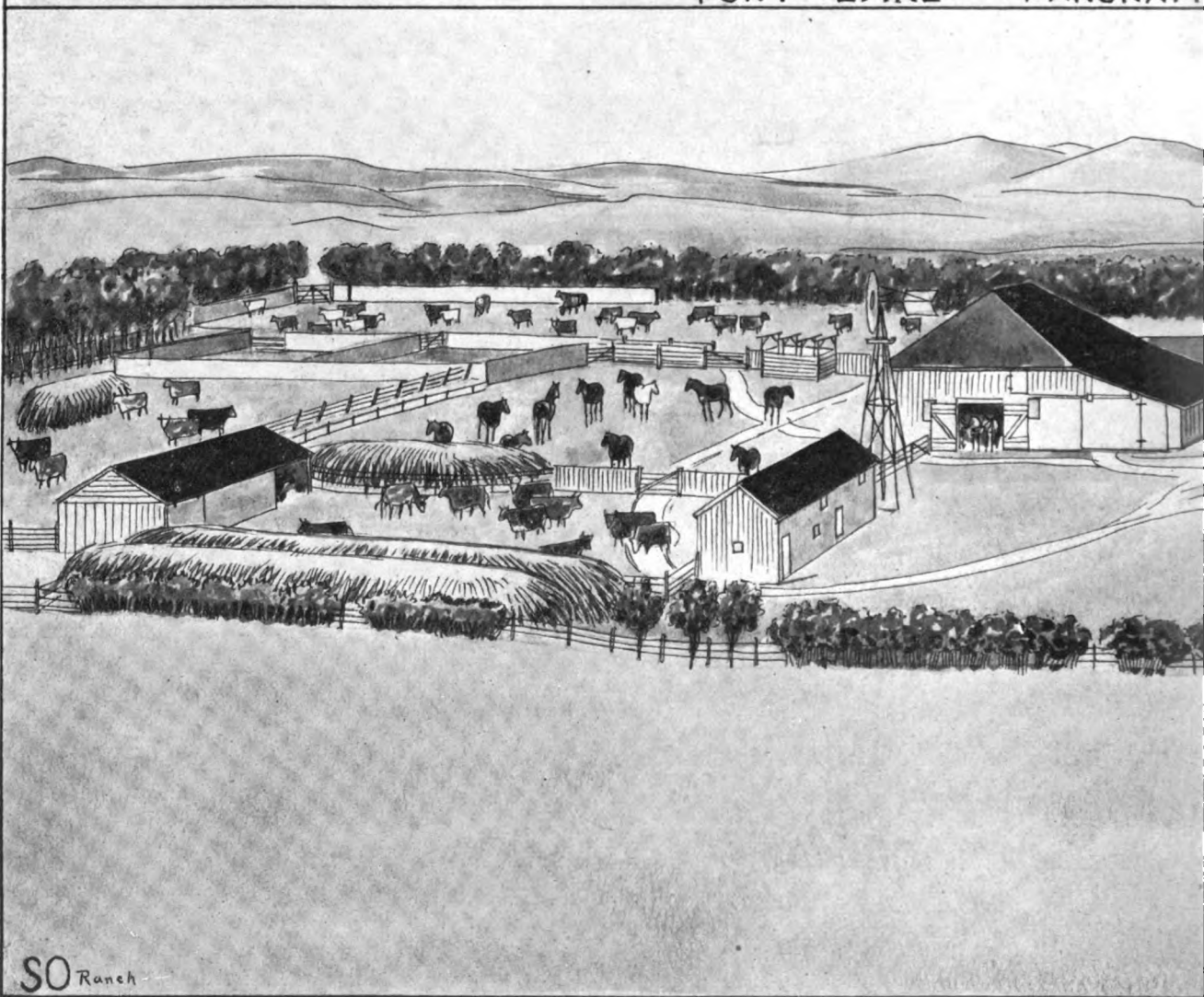
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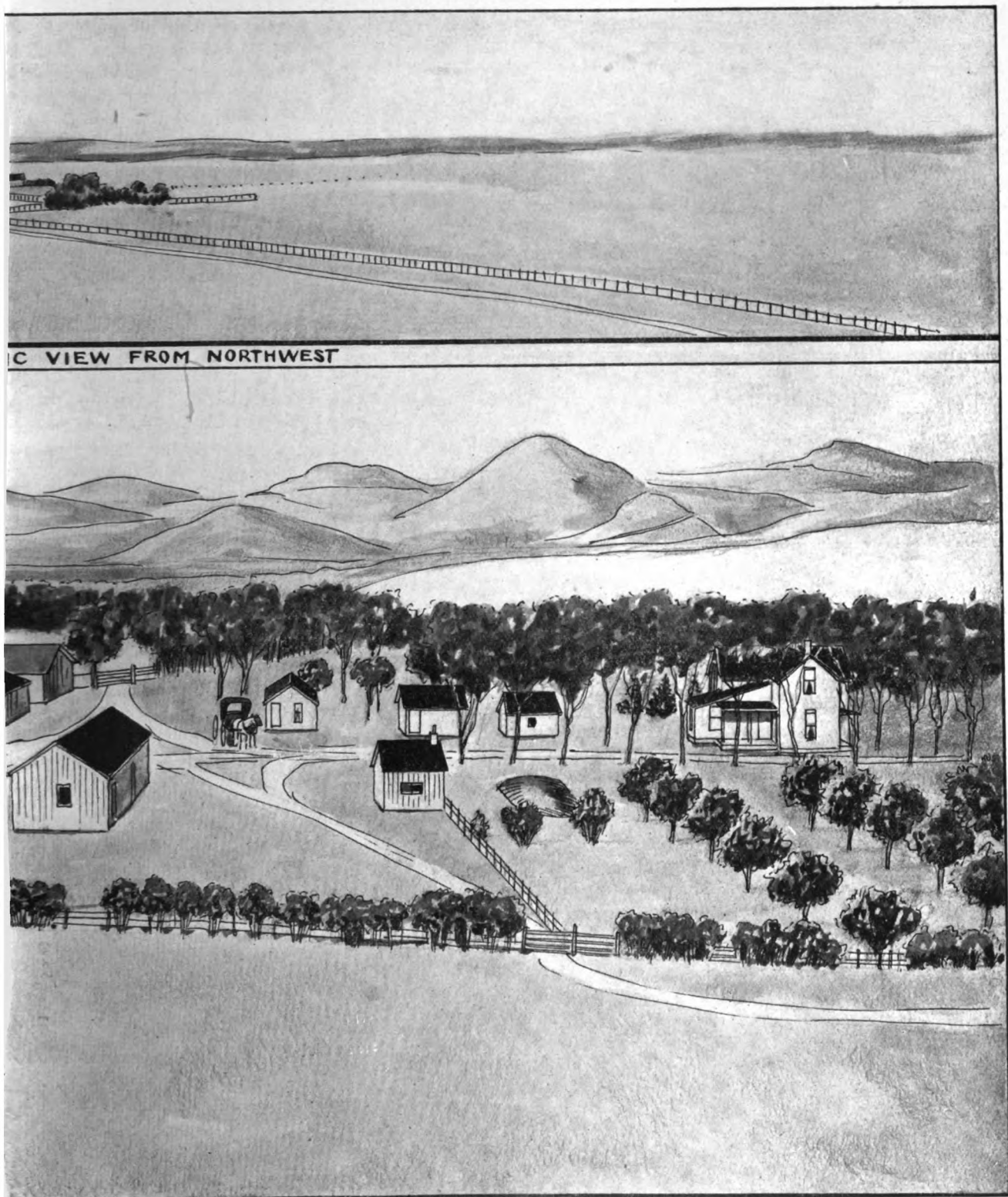




PONY LAKE PANORAM



RANCH PROPERTY OF  
Cherry Coun



C VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

HON. DAVID HANNA,  
y, Nebraska.





worthy citizen. He is engaged in the banking business and is widely known throughout this and adjoining counties.

Mr. Hanna was born near Lisbon Center, St. Lawrence county, New York, July 4, 1844. His father, John Hanna, was of Scotch-Irish stock, farmer by occupation, and his family of eight children were reared and educated on the farm where our subject early learned to perform all sorts of hard labor, and received a good old-fashioned training which fitted him for the struggle with fortune which he encountered later in life. He first started out for himself at the age of nineteen years, when, together with one brother, he came west to Winona county, Minnesota, where they worked on farms for three years. In 1888 the parents with five sons followed and each bought land on the Winnebago reservation. In 1883 Mr. Hanna first came to Cherry county in company with his youngest brother, driving a bunch of cattle from Minnesota to this county, and immediately settled in section 18, township 29, range 27, on a homestead and tree claim and started in the stock raising business. He proved up on these places and having improved it with good buildings and fences, it is now considered one of the best ranches in the county. It is personally managed by himself and he derives a good income from the stock which he keeps on the place. The range contains eight thousand acres, and he runs about sixteen hundred cattle and two hundred and fifty horses on it. The surrounding country is well settled now, but when Mr. Hanna came here the nearest neighbor was thirty miles from his place, and he and his brother were the first white men to settle west of the village of Johnstown. There was no one living between his farm and Valentine, and no one south between his ranch and Broken Bow. He has always done his share in advancing the interests of Cherry county, and has built up a fine estate, which would be a great credit in the older and more thickly settled portions of the country. April 1, 1904, he bought a half interest in the bank at Wood Lake, purchased a fine residence and moved into town to give personal attention to the business. In 1890 Mr. Hanna was elected sheriff of this county, serving one term, and in 1902 was sent to the state legislature to represent the county as a member of the lower house. Since 1906 he has been a member of the state senate from his district.

Mr. Hanna was married to Miss Janette Lambie, who was born in Hammond, St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1854, of Scotch descent. Seven children have been born to Mr.

and Mrs. Hanna, four of whom are living, named as follows: Niel, Florence, Mary and Charlotte, all reared in Cherry county. They are consistent members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Hanna with his family occupies a beautiful six thousand dollar residence in Wood Lake, and devotes his time to his different enterprises. He takes a keen interest in politics and keeps abreast of the times in matters of local and national importance. He is a Republican in politics. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with the blue lodge at Wood Lake, the Chapter at Long Pine, the Commandery at Norfolk and the Shrine at Omaha. He also holds membership in the A. O. U. W. at Wood Lake.

One of the most interesting illustrations in this work, and which is shown on another page, is a view of the home and its surroundings. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Hanna will also be found elsewhere.

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### JOHN GENTRY.

Among the oldest settlers of western Nebraska who has taken an active part in the development of that region and gone through many bitter experiences in building up a home and competence out of nothing excepting his strong heart and willing hands, the gentleman above named deserves prominent mention. He came here when this part of the state was entirely undeveloped, towns were few and far between, supplies had to be hauled from North Platte to his claim, which was located twelve miles northwest of where the town of Whitman now stands, before the railroads were put through any portion of Grant county, and has come out victorious from the struggle. He had just gotten his home established and his farm nicely started when along came a destructive prairie fire and everything was swept away with the exception of his house, which was a rude affair built of sod. This occurred in 1894 and was a terrible calamity to him at that time, as well as to many other poor settlers in the vicinity, as it burned off miles of range and destroyed many humble homes.

John Gentry was born on a farm in Monroe county, Indiana, in 1858, of American stock. He grew to the age of six years on the home farm, when the family moved to Illinois, settling in Hancock county, where he was reared and educated. In 1876 he left home and emigrated to Kansas, securing employment on a ranch and worked as a cow-

boy, riding all over the western part of that state, eastern Colorado and into Nebraska, spending many years in that section of the country. He came to Grant county, Nebraska, in 1886, the following year took up a homestead in Cherry county, twelve miles northwest of Whitman and started at once in the cattle business. His first buildings were a sod house and barns, corrals, etc., and he lived on the place for about eleven years. This ranch now consists of three thousand acres, all good range land, partly fenced and supplied with good farm buildings. There are four flowing wells on the ranch, and he has a large bunch of cattle and other stock, and has made a decided success in the ranching business. He puts up many hundreds of tons of hay each year and has some fine lakes on his ranch, which abound in many wild ducks and other kinds of wild fowl. Mr. Gentry personally conducts his ranching interests, but in 1896 removed to Hyannis with his family, where they occupy a handsome residence.

In 1888 our subject was united in marriage to Fannie Monahan Abbott, whose father is a prominent pioneer in this part of Nebraska. They have two children, Carver and Raymond. Both children are at home with their parents and are very bright boys, who attend school in Hyannis during the session.

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#### JUDGE FRED N. MORGAN.

Judge Fred N. Morgan, who enjoys an extensive and lucrative law practice, is one of the leading citizens of Bassett, Rock county, Nebraska. He is recognized by the legal profession as an able representative of the Nebraska bar, and his successful practice is the result of his earnest efforts and sound judgment. He was elected the first county judge of Rock county, and held that office for eleven years, being re-elected six times.

Judge Morgan was born in Marion county, Indiana, September 22, 1858. His father, Granville Morgan, was a farmer and one of the pioneer settlers in Indiana, of American stock. When he located in that state he filed on a tract of government land situated three miles from the city of Indianapolis. Our subject's mother was, prior to her marriage, Sarah J. Smith, whose father was a Virginian and served in the War of 1812. He was an old settler in Kentucky, where the daughter was born. Mr. Morgan was reared and educated in his native state, during his boyhood years remaining on his father's farm and assisting in the

farm work, following the plow and getting a good sturdy training. He attended the country schools, and afterwards went to school in Indianapolis, graduating from the high school there at the age of nineteen. After school he spent one year on the home farm, then came to Nebraska, settling in Washington county, making his home at Blair, where in 1882 he began the study of law. In 1885 he moved to Newport, remaining four years, then came to Bassett, where he received the nomination as county judge and was elected, being the first judge of Rock county after its organization. He had been practicing law for several years prior to this, having been admitted to the bar in 1887 at Ainsworth. In 1904 he was elected county attorney, serving in that capacity two years, and has come to be recognized as one of the leading lawyers of the locality. He devotes his attention to the building up of his practice and has been successful in a marked degree. In 1904 he was appointed commissioner of the United States, having jurisdiction over land cases and preliminary hearings in cases that may come before the criminal branch of the court.

October 7, 1889, Judge Morgan was married in Ainsworth to Miss Jessie C. Smith, a native of Iowa, daughter of Newton F. and Adaline (McAhren) Smith. This union is blessed with three children, namely: Alta Pauline, Genevieve Irene and Lyle Newton.

Judge Morgan is one of the influential and public-minded citizens of his community, and stands firmly for the principles of the Republican party. The entire family holds communion with the Episcopal church, while the judge affiliates with the Masonic order and the order of the Eastern Star, the Elks, the Workmen, the Woodmen and the Royal Highlanders.

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#### WEBSTER E. BOWERS.

Webster E. Bowers, a prosperous and successful member of the business community in Mullen, Hooker county, is an old settler in western Nebraska, having settled on the Dismal river in the southern part of what is now Hooker county in the spring of 1884. At this time there was no county organization. In fact, there were but two other families in that part of the country, and during the years in which this section of the state has been developing into a prosperous and comparatively populous region he has taken an active part in its growth and upbuilding.

Judge Bowers was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, in July, 1856. His father, James M., was a well-to-do iron worker when the Civil war broke out, and was among the first to enlist in West Virginia for the defense of the Union. The close of the war found him broken in health and financially ruined. The agitation regarding the admission of the territory of Nebraska into the union of states had brought this region prominently before the public and in 1869, with his worldly possessions in a wagon, he left La Salle county, Illinois, for Nebraska, locating in the fall of 1869, fifteen miles southwest of Fairbury, Jefferson county, where he saw the uninhabited prairie grow into a prosperous, well tilled farming community and was an important factor in that development. The following sketch of his life is from the Fairbury Journal of March 21, 1903:

"Captain James M. Bowers died at Fairbury, Nebraska, Monday, March 16, 1903, aged seventy-one years, eight months and twelve days. He was born July 4, 1831, in Blair county, Pennsylvania, and spent the early years of his life in that region. October 1, 1854, he was married to Miss Margaret Twinam at Marshall, West Virginia, and for the next ten years their home was at Wheeling. In 1861, when President Lincoln made the first call for volunteers, Mr. Bowers was among the first to enlist, being enrolled as a private in the First Virginia Regiment, United States Volunteers. He was almost immediately introduced to the realities of war, being actively engaged in McClellan's brilliant campaign whereby the rebels were driven from West Virginia and that portion of the Old Dominion saved to the Union. He was loth to speak of his military services, but it was evident that they were very honorable to him, inasmuch as he was promoted to the captaincy of his company within five months after his enlistment. He was subsequently engaged in the operations of the armies opposed to General Lee and participated in the battle of Gettysburg. On account of impaired health he was honorably discharged in August, 1863.

"After the Civil war he resided for a short time in Illinois, and removed from there to Nebraska in 1869, residing for a short time at Blue Springs and since 1870 in Jefferson county on his farm near Reynolds. Some twelve years ago he began to feel the serious infirmity of the disease that ultimately resulted in his death and so retired from active labor and made his home in Fairbury. He has been known here as a quiet and honorable citizen, respected by all, beloved by the few whose

privilege it was to know him intimately. So humbly that his good works were known to only a small number of his nearest friends, he was systematically charitable to the poor and distressed, and many suffering families have received the relief which he was so glad to extend without knowing who their benefactor was. Though himself a man of moderate means, he was thus one of the most useful and worthy citizens. His kindness of heart was the fruit of a strong Christian faith. He had been a member of the Methodist church for over fifty years and was at one time a local preacher of that denomination. He was also an Odd Fellow and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Funeral services at the Methodist church were conducted by Rev. W. M. Balch and at the grave by the Grand Army of the Republic.

"He is survived by his wife, six sons and two daughters, and was preceded in death by two of his children."

Margaret Bowers, widow of the old veteran and pioneer, still lives in the old home at Fairbury, and her gentle and lovable character has brought her the love and respect of all who are so fortunate as to know her. Though she is now seventy years of age, she is ever to be found where there is need of sympathy, or more substantial help.

The long drive from Illinois developed in the subject of our sketch a slumbering desire to ramble, and after four years of drouth and grasshoppers with the old folks, at the age of seventeen he struck out on his own hook. Marysville, Kansas, was on the old Mormon and California trail, and the well known Independence ford across the Big Blue river was only a few miles below this town. As this was a general resting place for the traveler on the way to the coast country, or the Mormon bound for Utah, it promised a contrast to the lonely life on the claim, and accordingly it was attractive to the youth in search of a change of scene. Though no longer the activity of former years prevailed here, still it presented many attractions to the eye of young Bowers. United States soldiers, trappers, scouts and Indians were often on the streets of the little town, and he was soon on the great plains hunting the then numerous herds of buffalo. Several years of hunting and trapping followed, with many adventures of different kinds, from riding day and night without rest and nearly without food to bring help for an injured comrade who lay nigh the jaws of death, a long hundred miles from a surgeon, to the plain matter of fact diet of straight jerked buffalo meat and alkali water.

"Web," as he is commonly called, is not much of a talker, but his story of a little too much whisky is amusing:

"A party of hunters were coming in from a very successful hunt, and one of the number, Rug. Beulis, an old United States soldier, was extremely fond of the red liquor. The crossing of the Republican river, near the mouth of Whiterock creek, was a hard one on account of quicksand, and Enoch Martin, who lived on the creek near its mouth, was engaged to help get the wagons over, and so save a great deal of labor unloading. When the crossing was made, and we were preparing for the night, Rug. was missed. A couple of the boys went back to the north side of the river, where he was last seen near the camp of a party of trappers, where he was found, dead to the world with whisky he had obtained by trading the last of his ammunition to a trapper who had more whisky than gun feed. Martin was again pressed into service, and Rug. loaded into the wagon. When nearly across the river on the way to our camp, a trace which had probably been strained in the previous heavy pulling, broke, and Martin tumbled out to repair the trace. During this operation Rug. roused enough to see the fringe of cottonwoods along the stream and hear the ripple of the water, and he broke the silence with 'Boys, letsh camp, wood and water sho handy,' and then he was gone again. We had been where wood and water were appreciated."

In November, 1877, Mr. Bowers was married to Miss Roxy L. Ripley, daughter of Amos J. and Huldah S. Ripley, at Marysville, Kansas. To them were born nine children. In the spring of 1884 they located on the south branch of the Dismal river, in what is now Hooker county. At that time this was a hunters' paradise. Antelope, deer and elk were roaming the country by the hundreds. Here again began the life of the pioneer, with all that the term implies. North Platte, by the route then traveled, was seventy-five miles distant, and was the nearest trading point, and postoffice, and the road was sandy and hilly, but over it was hauled, one way timber and posts from the Dismal, and the other the necessary supplies for the family. The trip usually required about seven days, and often ten. Grub, bedding, fuel to cook with, summer or winter, and a supply of water for man and team a great part of the time, all had to be hauled in addition to the regular load. From the river to the Platte was but one settlement; one Chapin, had a small ranch at the head of the South Loup river. This eternal drag through the sandhills can be estimated at its

true meaning only by one who has had the actual experience.

In 1889 Mr. Bowers began the study of photography, and in time became thoroughly proficient in that work. For about ten years he traveled in Hooker and surrounding counties, making pictures of ranches, stock and the babies. Today the most highly prized mementos of many of the old timers are the pictures made by this wandering photographer.

In 1890 he sold his homestead on the Dismal, and moved to Mullen, where he now lives. Domestic dissension caused a rupture in time which led to a separation of Mr. Bowers and his wife. In 1901 he married Martha E. Ripley, a sister of his former wife. To them have been born two children.

In 1901 our subject established the only photograph gallery in Hooker county, at Mullen, where he has built up a good business, and is regarded as one of the best artists in the state, and is one of the substantial citizens of the town, and a worthy representative of his community. Judge Bowers has served his county in various official capacities, and has given satisfaction to his people as justice of the peace, county commissioner and county judge. He is a strong Republican, active in party politics.

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#### FRANKLIN R. HOGEBOOM.

The subject of this review was born in Ghent, Columbia county, New York, March 11, 1854, of American-born parents. His father, John T. Hogeboom, was a civil engineer and lawyer by profession. The family came from Amsterdam, Holland, and settled in New Amsterdam, now New York City. His mother's maiden name was Sarah McClellen, and her father's name was Dr. Samuel McClellen, of Nassau, New York. Our subject was reared in New York, remaining until 1878, when he traveled in the west, and worked on different ranches. He also came up with cattle to Ogallala, which was the end of the old cattle trail from Texas, where over three hundred thousand were delivered and placed on northern ranges, to be shipped later to the Chicago markets; was located at one time seventy-five miles west of old Fort Hartsuff on the North Loup river and no one was between them and Rosebud Indian reservation many miles to the west; was present at a Sioux Indian pow-wow at the mouth of Goose creek, where a beef was butchered and the pipe of peace—Calumet—was smoked and good feeling prevailed. The Sioux came to the ranch not in the best of

good feeling, as they were returning from an unsuccessful trip east, where they had been after stolen ponies. He came to his present location on the head of the South Loup river four years prior to the organization of Logan county. Settled on unimproved prairie land and was the first homesteader who settled in the unorganized territory and has developed a splendid ranch, all improved and fenced in up-to-date manner, giving his attention to stock raising, where one of the attractions is the herd of registered Mule-Footed hogs.

Mr. Hogeboom was married in 1882 to Mrs. Georgiana C. Hilgard, widow of Theodore C. Hilgard, M. D., whose father was Theodore E. Hilgard, lawyer, born in Nassau, Germany, immigrated to Illinois in 1835 with a family of nine children. Her father was Albert C. Koch, M. D., who immigrated to this country from Germany, coming here to make collections for the European museums. Among his collections were three skeletons of a big lizard seventy-five to eighty feet long, "Zeuglodon maciospondylus." One was burned at Chicago during the great Chicago fire.

Judge Hogeboom had excellent educational advantages in his early life and prepared himself for the legal profession by graduating from Columbia College of New York.

He was well equipped with learning to participate in the political affairs of his county and to perform the duties of prosecuting attorney of Logan county, which position he held. He was county judge when the county was first organized and is at the present time the county judge.

He was the first postmaster in Logan county, did surveying for many years, and quit only after his private and public interests demanded it. No man has been more closely identified with the growth of Logan county than has Judge Hogeboom, and he is esteemed everywhere for his sound principles and wise counsel.

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#### ARTHUR R. BOWEN.

The subject of this review is now the oldest settler on the North Loup river in Custer county, Nebraska. He has taken an active part in the development of his locality and is one of the successful old-timers of this part of the country.

Arthur R. Bowen was born in Garden Grove Village, Decatur county, Iowa, August 26, 1856, and was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His father, Daniel L. Bowen, was a native of Ohio and a pioneer of Nebraska, being the first man

to bring a family west in 1873. He was an old-time homesteader and drove to the state overland in a covered wagon, locating near the North Loup river. The father and our subject and brothers made trips with ox teams to Grand Island, a hundred miles away, to haul cedar posts and other supplies and material. They built rafts of cedar posts and floated them down North Loup river to Columbus, where they sold them.

Our subject's mother died in 1884. His father died in 1907 at Sheridan, Wyoming, at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. He built up a good home and was prominent and influential among the old settlers.

Arthur R. Bowen entered a homestead in Custer county in 1877 and has been an interested witness of the growth of the territory. He had to meet all the pioneer hardships, among them drouth, grasshopper raids for two years and the resulting crop losses. In 1904 a tornado wrecked his property in terrible shape, tore down buildings, windmills, trees, and his home, built of sod, was swept away from over their heads. His wife had to be dug out from under the sods and from under a heavy oak table after the storm had spent its fury. This was an awful experience and it is stamped indelibly on the minds of the family. Our subject has now a beautiful farm of four hundred and eighty acres with splendid improvements, and he has plenty of timber in the canons on the ranch. He cultivates two hundred and thirty acres and is successfully engaged in farming and stock raising.

Arthur R. Bowen was married in 1879 to Miss Mollie Hollopeter. Her father was American-born, but of German parents. He was a prominent Dunkard minister. Her mother, Eliza Zigler, was American-born, but her parents were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Bowen have one child, Theresa, now married and living in South Dakota.

Mr. Bowen is a strong Democrat in politics and is a stanch supporter of the principles promulgated in the platform of his party. He has held several minor offices with credit and distinction. He organized the Kent school district and built the school house years ago.

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#### C. H. GREGG.

C. H. Gregg, a well known resident of Kearney, Nebraska, is a typical representative of this hustling and enterprising western city, and illustrates in his own career the conditions of success at the present day. For many years

he has lived in the city, where his clean and spotless life, his genial disposition and pronounced ability won him a host of friends, whom he has fortunately retained. For some seventeen years he has been in the dry goods business; lately he has been president of the hardware company, an institution organized and set in motion by him in 1904. He is a director of the business men's association of Kearney, and in that way has been able to greatly promote the welfare of the city. His public interests are many and varied and in a history of Kearney and Buffalo county his name would appear many times.

Mr. Gregg is a native of Bracken county, Kentucky, where he was born in 1865. He was reared in Kentucky and educated in Wheaton, Illinois, College. After attending Wheaton College Mr. Gregg taught school for one year at Albion, Iowa. He came to Ashland, Nebraska, in the spring of 1886 and was in the clothing business for Hon. H. H. Shedd. In 1887 he married Miss Maude Taylor. He came to Kearney in 1890 to engage in business and has since been prominently identified with the business interests of Buffalo county.

C. H. Gregg was on the city school board for five years, and his familiarity with school matters made him enthusiastic in the work of securing the location of the state normal at this point, an achievement largely due to his knowledge of the situation, his tireless zeal and his ability to approach men. In 1904 he was appointed a member of the State Board of Education, and served on the executive committee until the completion of the normal at this point. Its construction was under his management, and what has been done here is largely due to his energy and marked business ability. The normal is an enterprise of much moment, and it has cost up to date (1906), more than \$50,000. For the heating and lighting more than \$15,000 have been expended, and for the building and furnishing of the dormitory more than \$50,000. Mr. Gregg served on the furnishing committee. The land on which the normal stands consists of twenty-four acres west of town and at the head of Twenty-fifth street. The location of such an institution was agitated as usual a considerable time, and there was intense rivalry for its location, fifteen towns seeking to have it in their midst. The contest for the normal is one of the historic struggles of the state. The business men of Kearney united in the effort to bring it to this city, and appointed a strong committee of the best men of the place, with Mr. Gregg as chairman, to work for it. Mr. Gregg's known business ability, and his strong

personality, coupled with social qualities of a high degree, and backed by the natural advantages and splendid location of Kearney, in addition to the work of a strong committee and pledges of \$50,000 in cash for the institution, gave Mr. Gregg a long start in the struggle, and he threw himself into the fight to win. He watched the progress of the bill through the legislature, and staid right there until the bill for the appropriation and the location had safely gone through, and was duly signed. More than a thousand pupils were enrolled the first year, and what this school means educationally, socially and materially to Kearney, even the most sanguine have not realized.

Mr. Gregg gives close attention to his mercantile interests and at the same time has been a shrewd investor in Buffalo county realty, having at different times owned several farms, which he has sold at good profit.

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#### JOSEPH G. ARMSTRONG.

Joseph G. Armstrong, residing at Rushville, Nebraska, was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, in 1850. His father, Alexander Armstrong, was a merchant in Millbrook, Toronto, born in the north of Ireland, and his mother was of English birth. The family consisted of eight children, of whom he is the third member, and when he was five years old his parents came to the United States, locating at Fairfield, Iowa. Here he was raised and educated until he was eighteen years of age, then came west to Wyoming, obtaining employment on the Union Pacific railroad as a fireman, and followed this for two years. From there he went to southwestern Nebraska and took up a homestead and tree claim, also pre-emption, and proved up on all three. He lived in a dugout, later sod house, then log house, and hunted buffalo all over that part of the country and into Colorado. He followed a typical hunter's existence, camping out half the time, and roughed it winter and summer. He has camped out at night when the ground was covered deep with snow, being two hundred miles from any settlement, when the woods were overrun with wild animals of all descriptions, and passed through many exciting and dangerous experiences.

For twelve years Mr. Armstrong made Beaver City, Nebraska, his home, during that time working at freighting from Cheyenne to the Black Hills. On more than one occasion on these trips his wagon was fired into and he had

narrow escapes from the Indians. For eight seasons he drove large bands of sheep from New Mexico to Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas. In 1884 he first came to Rushville, driving in from the Black Hills country. He located in the town of Rushville, buying land, and established a bank in 1886, this being the second bank opened up here. He continued in this enterprise for twenty years, and also during that time has been engaged in the land business, dealing in Colorado and Mexican lands. In 1889 he established the Rushville Mercantile Company, which is now one of the largest stores in the place. This concern occupies a building 25x100 feet, with basement, and they do an immense trade through the county. Mr. Armstrong still owns large ranching interests in Cherry county, dealing in stock raising constantly. He has accumulated a large and valuable property through his industry and good business ability, and is numbered among the leading men of this section, who has always done all in his power to promote the best interests of his community, and his name will go down in history as a prominent old-timer of Nebraska.

Mr. Armstrong was married in April, 1889, to Miss Mary E. Jack, whose father, George B. Jack, was one of the early settlers in Sheridan county. Two boys have been born to them, George J., born in January, 1891, and Joseph T., born in December, 1898. In political faith Mr. Armstrong is an independent.

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#### PETER THIES.

Peter Thies, one of the leading and most influential of the pioneers of western Nebraska, lives in a pleasant ranch home on section 24, township 14, range 38, in Keith county. Mr. Thies has traveled a great deal and lived in a number of different states, and now after a long life of useful endeavor has established himself in comfortable circumstances and is considered one of the well-to-do citizens of the community.

Peter Thies first saw the light in the village of Wormaldange, near Luxemburg, the capitol city of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, under the protectorate of Holland, February 2, 1844. His father, John Thies, had an estate on the Moselle river, and was a miller and wine-grower in the old country. His ancestors were Hanovarian. Like all his race he was of a martial spirit and took part in the revolution in which Holland and Belgium were engaged. One of the family was a gen-

eral in Napoleon's army. His mother, Magdelina Punell, was of French ancestry. In coming to America in 1857, the family visited relatives in Paris for a week before sailing from Havre on the old sailing ship "Santa Anna." After a voyage of fifty-six days, during which Peter became enamored of the life of a sailor, they landed in New Orleans. Then they ascended the Mississippi river to St. Louis, where a month was spent visiting relatives who had preceded them to the new world. The father settled in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he started a brickyard, which he operated until the outbreak of the civil war. Peter's enlistment deprived him of his bookkeeper and manager. Our subject was reared in Wisconsin and was tutored by John Commons of the public schools, an Irishman, to whom, in turn, Peter gave lessons in the French language, which he knew as fluently as the German, Dutch and Luxemburger tongues.

When the civil war broke out, our subject enlisted in Company E, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at Mineral Point. He was in the detached service scouting and on police duty and was in many dangerous situations during the time he gave to his adopted country. For a time his command was stationed at Milwaukee to enforce the draught and because of his intelligence and aptness in clerical work was assigned duty much of the time under General Pope. In 1863 he was sent into Minnesota to engage the Sioux Indians, capturing many and putting an end to the Indian war. They marched across Minnesota to Fort Ridgeley and thence across the plains where they built a fort called Fort Wadsworth, later changed to Sisseton, returning to St. Louis in the fall. Later they were sent on a dangerous expedition hunting guerillas in Kentucky. His service was of long duration over a wide extent of country in which he experienced many perils. After the war was over, Mr. Thies returned to Wisconsin and was with his father for a time, going thence to Pikes Peak, Colorado, in the spring of 1866, and remaining in the far west with a brother until 1867. He again returned to Wisconsin where, he married and engaged in agricultural pursuits, operating three farms during a period of six years, accumulating considerable means. His health still remained poor, and he again sought relief in the mountains of Colorado, residing in Central City four years engaged in mining when able to work. Going to Colorado Springs, he was employed in the mines for a year before being placed in charge of the stamping mills, which were run-



ning at a loss until he took charge. Returning to Wisconsin in such poor health that he had to stop off in Topeka, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and Freeport to recuperate, he entered politics and was at one time candidate for city treasurer. In 1885 Mr. Thies sold out all his chattel property and came west to Keith county, Nebraska, settling on his present farm. He came to the new country principally for his health and also to furnish his children the opportunity of securing farm homes to a larger extent than could be done in the east. Mr. Thies found a country conducive to good health and he has built up a splendid ranch home of six hundred and forty acres and placed himself in very good circumstances. He has taken an active part in the affairs of his locality and has done his part toward the material advancement of the community. Together with his sons and daughters, he owns over four thousand acres of fine land, much of it in the immediate bottoms of the North Platte.

In Wisconsin, October 5, 1868, occurred the marriage of Mr. Peter Thies to Miss Mary Wenner, a native of the village of Coutern, three miles from the capitol of Luxemburg, a daughter of John Wenner, a farmer, besides, being an architect and builder. He was intrusted with the keeping in perfect repair the fortifications of the city of Luxemburg, the strongest inland fortress in the world. Mr. and Mrs. Thies have had six children: Mary Kathrine, who died in Colorado and was buried in the cemetery at Central City, Colorado; Mary May Magdalena, wife of George Williams, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Michael J., a ranchman, of Keith county; John, accidentally killed at Sidney, Nebraska; Perry J., also engaged in ranching on the North Platte, and Annie V., one of Keith county's most successful teachers, now perfecting her title to a Kincaid claim north of her brother's ranches in Keith county.

Mr. Thies is a stanch Republican in political views. He was reared in the Catholic church in the old country. He was made a Mason at Black Hawk, Colorado, and was a member of the Ogallala Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

#### B. F. HASTINGS.

B. F. Hastings, a banker of Grant, Nebraska, is one of the leading men of his community as well as one of the old settlers in western Nebraska, and to his efforts and influence during the past many years have been due

much of the prosperity enjoyed by the residents of that region.

Mr. Hastings was born in McHenry county, Illinois, in 1863, and reared on a farm there, where his father was among the pioneers, he a native of Connecticut, as was also his mother. Our subject received a good common school education and later attended the Oberlin College and graduated with the class of '86 in the classical course, and the same year came to Nebraska, locating at Crete and entering the law office of George H. Hastings. In December he came to Grant and filed on a homestead near the town, proved up on it in due time and made it his home for some time. In 1888 he was admitted to the state bar, and nominated for county judge, receiving the election and served for four years in that capacity, then begun the practice of law. He built up a good patronage and was most successful, and in 1900 was appointed county attorney, serving since that time as such. In 1899 he established a banking and loan business, carried it on for several years, and then organized the Commercial Bank of Grant in 1905, of which he is president and general manager.

Besides his banking business Mr. Hastings is quite heavily interested in the lumber and coal business at Madrid, Nebraska, also in farming and ranching in Perkins county. He is a gentleman of excellent business ability, a first-class financier and one who has the entire confidence and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Hastings was married in 1890 to Miss Elizabeth Buckland, daughter of David Buckland, an early settler of New York state, where she was born and raised. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings have an interesting family of four children, all born in Perkins county, and named as follows: George, Irene, Louise and Charles.

#### MRS. FRANCES MARIA BRAINARD O'LINN.

The estimable lady who bears the above name is one of the early settlers in western Nebraska, and is well known throughout the state as a successful attorney and prosperous business woman. She is a woman of high literary attainments, possessing a highly gifted mind thoroughly educated, and recognized as one of the leading citizens of Dawes county, esteemed and admired by everyone in that region. Mrs. O'Linn and her daughter reside in Chadron, where they have one of the pleasanter homes the city affords.



Mrs. O'Linn was born in Birmingham, Iowa, in 1848, and is a daughter of Daniel Egbert Brainard, a prominent attorney and judge of the circuit court of Iowa, who served on the bench for thirty years. He was a native of New York state, born at Watertown in 1809, and married Elizabeth Anne Pickett, a Kentuckian, General Pickett of the southern army, being her own cousin, and Senator Clark, of Kentucky, her uncle. The Pickett family were prominent members of the old southern aristocracy, many of the male members occupying high positions in public life in the earlier days. Our subject was reared and educated in Iowa, graduating from the state university in 1865, and after leaving college, followed the profession of a teacher at Magnolia. She was married at the latter place in 1868, to Dr. D. H. O'Linn, a rising young physician of that city, and they had a family of three children, namely: Daniel Egbert, Hugh Brainard and Elizabeth Anne, of whom but the last named is now living, widow of Clarence C. Smith, of Chadron, and mother of two children, Frances Minerva and Henry Holden.

In 1872 the family moved to Blair, Nebraska, and were among the pioneers of that town, Dr. O'Linn practicing his profession up to 1880 when he died, deeply mourned by his family and friends. Mrs. O'Linn was principal of the schools at Blair and Tekamah for many years, resigning her position as such in 1884, when she first settled in Dawes county. Here she took up a homestead and built a log house, the place being located on the White river, now called Dakota Junction. She remained on the place until proving up on her claim, and it was while living there that her son, Egbert, was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun, while attempting to scare away the range cattle from their hay stacks. The region was then very sparsely settled, and there were not enough neighbors to bury him, so the mother was herself compelled to do her share of the work of preparing him for burial.

In 1885 our subject moved to Chadron, and was the first postmistress at that town, the office having been just established, and she carried on that work for several years, and had previously held the same office at the Junction, which was called O'Linn, named so by the cowboys for the son, who was killed. She took up the study of law during this time, following the work she had already done with her father, and in 1887 was admitted to the bar of Nebraska, and in 1891 to the supreme court of Nebraska, and also, on October 17, 1893,

admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the United States. She has become well known throughout the country as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the profession, and as a woman of great intellectuality and strength of character. Mrs. O'Linn practiced from that time on, and in addition to attending to her practice, is engaged in the settlement of estates, titles, doing abstracting and all the branches of the work. She is also interested in the insurance business, and has a large clientage throughout Dawes and the surrounding country.

Her second son, Hugh Brainard O'Linn, was killed by being thrown from a train just east of St. Louis, July 8, 1899. He was returning home from Central America, where he had been sent by the Associated Press.

Her son-in-law, Clarence Cinclair Smith, was killed at Harrison, Nebraska, August 10, 1907, by being run over by a train, thus depriving, for the third time, the family of a loved one in a shocking and heart-rending manner, without a moment's warning.

Mrs. O'Linn is a lady of charming personality, broad-minded and liberal in her views of people and things, and her name will occupy a prominent place in the history of the state of Nebraska.

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#### CHARLES CALLAHAN.

Charles Callahan, proprietor of the electric light plant of Sidney, Nebraska, is a gentleman of wide experience in the business and has met with excellent success in his career.

Mr. Callahan is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, born in 1861, and is a son of John P. Callahan, of American stock, engaged in the nursery business in Indiana. Our subject grew up in the city of his birth, and from the time he was twelve years of age he hustled for himself, learning the printer's trade when a boy. He later worked in Chicago, St. Louis, and for a time was in Canada, and most of his education was self-taught, gained through contact with business men and in travel. In 1884 he first struck Sidney, and for a time worked on The Telegraph, purchasing a half interest in that organ in 1886, two years later buying the whole paper and was sole proprietor and editor up to 1891. He left Sidney for a time, spending about four years at Omaha, Hot Springs, and other places, always engaged in newspaper work. In the fall of 1894 he came back to Sidney and again took up his position as editor and proprietor of The Telegraph, and

continued in that capacity for eight years. In 1897 he was elected postmaster of Sidney, and held office for five years, proving a most capable official, well liked by all. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Sidney, started in 1902. He was also engaged in the banking business at Sidney, but sold out his interests. He now owns a fine business block. In 1905 our subject established the Sidney electric light plant, and is now sole owner and operator of the concern, the plant being built in duplicate to avoid a shut-down in case of accident to machinery.

In 1899 Mr. Callahan was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Cleburne, daughter of Joseph Cleburne, an old-timer of Cheyenne county, and pioneer previous to 1870. Our subject is a Republican, and takes an active part in local party matters. He is a thirty-second degree Mason.

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#### E. M. TRAVER.

Edgar M. Traver, residing on section 7, township 22, range 44, Deuel county, Nebraska, has built up a comfortable home and enjoys the esteem of all who know him. He was born in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1865, and raised on his father's farm. He is a son of Cyrus Traver, a native of New York, whose ancestors were among the early settlers on the Hudson river. He was a farmer, and his wife, who was Abby Moorehouse, is also a native of the same state, her family having settled on the Hudson river on landing here from Holland in early pioneer days. Our subject's father was married twice, and had a family of seven children, of whom he was the third member in order of birth. He left his parents' old home and came west in 1885, driving one thousand miles by team accompanied by his father and one brother, following the line of the Chicago & Northwestern railway. They settled in Box Butte county, Nebraska, the father taking a homestead in section 26, township 25, range 48, and our subject also took up a pre-emption on coming of age and held this for eight years, and had also taken up a homestead during this time. He followed farming part of the time, and was on this place during the dry years, and also drove the mail stage in 1890, which was one of the worst years in this section. He had made quite a little money up to this time, but spent it all to pull through the hard times, and was compelled to sell his land and go into the cattle business to make a living.

In 1895 he came to the sand hills and located on a farm here, and started out with one cow. Here he put up hay and baled it, hauling this to Lakeside and in this way paid for his cow. It was slow work getting a start in the cattle business when he had so little capital, but he gradually added to his herd and made a success of the business. He has a farm of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land now, and uses his brother's hay ranch for feed for his stock, of which he has two hundred head of cattle and about twenty horses. He has bought and paid for all of his place excepting an additional homestead of four hundred eighty acres. He is well satisfied with this region, and will remain here as long as he has to work for a living as his family likes the country and there is an excellent school within half a mile of his farm. His family consists of his wife, whose maiden name was Miss Maggie Schramling, whom he married in 1894, and their family of two children, namely, Elmer and May, both born and raised in this locality. Mrs. Traver is a daughter of Avery Schramling, of German descent, who was one of the first settlers in Jackson county, Iowa. He was one of those who went through this state over the California trail during the gold fever of 1849, and afterwards located on a farm in the above county.

Mr. Traver gives all his time and attention to the building up of his home and farm, and has never held office, although he takes a lively interest in all local and state affairs. He votes the Republican ticket, always going for the best man. His postoffice is Lakeside.

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#### C. W. HOXIE.

The gentleman above named is prominently known as one of the leading business men and worthy citizens of Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Hoxie is president and founder of the Hoxie Grocery and Mercantile Company, of that city, and is one of the public spirited men of this section of the country.

Mr. Hoxie is a native of Vermont. He began his business career at the age of seventeen years. In 1883 he came to Nebraska from Ottawa, Illinois, locating in Lincoln. There he was principally engaged in the real estate and insurance business, and, like all energetic Nebraskians, in farming and buying and selling farm lands. He was deputy sheriff of Lancaster county, Nebraska, for four years, being appointed in 1891, and in 1897 he was appointed superintendent of the State Industrial



C. W. HOXIE,  
Superintendent, Kearney Industrial School.



School at Kearney, filling this position with credit for three years, retiring February 1, 1900. In March of that year he bought the grocery business of M. A. Nye, located on Central avenue, Kearney, and organized the Hoxie Grocery & Mercantile Company, with W. J. Vosburg, then assistant superintendent of the State Industrial School, as vice-president. In 1902 Mr. Vosburg retired from his position at the Industrial School and since that time has devoted all his time to the business. During the latter year the company bought the Nelson grocery store located on North Central avenue, which establishment is managed by Mr. Vosburg. The following year they purchased the Johnson store on South Central avenue, and at the present time own and operate these three stores. The business has grown steadily, and both Mr. Hoxie and Mr. Vosburg are known as two of Kearney's most successful business men. Mr. Hoxie is a member of the city council, representing the third ward, and has been in this office since 1904. He served as president of that body, and chairman of the financial committee, also a member of the streets and alley committee.

Mr. Hoxie was married November 12, 1879, to Mary M. Atkinson, a native of Wheeling, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Hoxie are members of the St. Lukes Episcopal church and Mr. Hoxie is one of the vestry men. Mr. Hoxie has a wide reputation as a business man of exceptionally good judgment, conservative in all matters of moment, and has gained the respect and confidence of his fellowmen. A portrait of Mr. Hoxie will be found on another page in this work.

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#### FIELS L. BOYER.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the old settlers of Nebraska, a gentleman of sterling character, honest, industrious, and who has made his mark in the affairs of his locality, and incidentally built up for himself a competence by dint of good management and thrift.

Mr. Boyer was born in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1870. His father, Hugh, was a farmer and pioneer in Nebraska, and a sketch of him, also of two brothers, appear in this volume. When our subject was twelve years of age, in 1882, the family left Virginia and came west, settling in Madison county, Nebraska, where they rented a farm for about five years. He lived with his parents until he was above seventeen, then started for himself,

following farm work at first, then learned the trade of a telegraph operator and worked at that off and on for a number of years. In 1890 he came to Cherry county, spent one summer, then went to California and worked as an operator for the Santa Fe & Los Angeles Terminal company, remaining in their employ for six years. In 1900 he returned to Nebraska and filed on a homestead on the Loup river, in Hooker county, northwest of Mullen, and there begun ranching and farming, living on that place up to 1905, then moved to his present ranch in section 28, township 25, range 32. He put up good buildings at the start, drilled wells and put up windmills, and has every improvement. The place contains nine hundred and sixty acres, about eighty acres of which is devoted to farming and the balance used as a stock ranch.

In 1894 Mr. Boyer was married to Alice Osborn, a daughter of T. C. Osborn, who is a well known ranchman and old settler in eastern Nebraska, and one of the first homesteaders in Madison county. Two children have come to bless the union of our subject and his good wife, named as follows: Glenn, aged twelve years; and Lynn, aged ten years.

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#### S. L. ROBERTS.

In compiling a list of the prominent business and professional men of Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, who have been intimately identified with the upbuilding of the commercial interests of that locality, and are widely and favorably known, a foremost place must be given S. L. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts is a native of Clark county, Ohio, born in 1845, near Springfield. He is a son of William V. Roberts, a native of Berkeley county, West Virginia, and his grandfather, Captain James Roberts, was captain of the Ohio troops in the war of 1812. In 1856 our subject's parents moved to Warren county, Iowa, and at the age of fifteen he enlisted in the Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, Company G, serving for four years and ten months. He was never off duty only when shot off, and was wounded at the battles of Shiloh and Atlanta. Was taken prisoner at Corinth, and paroled from Vicksburg in a few weeks and exchanged in January, 1863. He was all through the battles around Vicksburg and was at the siege of Vicksburg. He was with Sherman in the Georgia campaign, was with the company on their march to the sea, and through the Carolinas. He was mustered out

at Louisville, Kentucky, and took part in the Grand Review at Washington.

Mr. Roberts came to Harlan county, Nebraska, locating on a homestead in Alma in the year 1873, and seven years later moved into Alma, which had just been started as a town, the railway having been put through in 1879. He established himself in business as abstractor of titles, in 1890, and was one of the first trustees for the village of Alma in 1880. He served first the village, later the town, on the board and council for a number of terms. In 1895 he was elected county clerk and register of deeds, and was re-elected in 1897, holding office up to 1901. Back in the '80s he was justice of the peace for a number of years, and was on the school board in 1885, when the old school house was built, and has been a member off and on ever since then, and is now holding the office of president of the school board of Alma. They are this year building a fine new high school, to cost when completed, \$25,000. This will contain ten rooms, and be an up-to-date, modern building in every respect.

Mr. Roberts was married in 1872 to Miss Anna McGlathery, of Cass county, Missouri. One son, John W. Roberts, is now superintendent of the Alma city schools, appointed in 1906. He was born and raised in Alma and educated at the high school here, later attending the state university, graduating in 1904. For two years he taught Latin and German at Falls City high school, and at the end of that time was tendered the position he now holds, without having applied for it. One daughter, Grace A., is a graduate of the Alma high school, also the state university, entering the latter institution when but sixteen years of age, and was for two years teacher of mathematics and Latin in the city schools, retiring in 1905. She has a brilliant record as a scholar, both at school and later as a teacher. Mr. Roberts is a Democrat.

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#### IRA L. BARE.

The above mentioned gentleman is one of the prominent residents of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska. He is editor and publisher of the Semi-weekly Tribune, established in 1885 by L. A. Stevens.

Mr. Bare is a native of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and was reared and educated there. The North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune was established in 1885 by L. A. Stevens, and in June of the same year our subject bought a half interest in the paper. In 1901 he

bought the whole paper, and was sole proprietor. From the time of first getting an interest in it, he has been the editor and active member of the firm. This paper has been a Republican organ from the start and always taken a firm stand in upholding the party principles. It has always stood for the best interests of North Platte and its growth and advancement as one of the leading cities of western Nebraska, and been an earnest advocate of the schools and all improvements which would add to the prosperity of this locality. The paper started and led the fight which resulted in the building of the new high school in 1905, at a cost of \$25,000, and the city still needs four more rooms to accommodate the pupils properly. The only debt which the town has is \$30,000 which was expended for sewers, and the city is now negotiating for the purchase of the water plant. This paper has also always dealt fairly by the Union Pacific railway, recognizing it as the principal factor in building up the city. It has a large circulation in this and the adjoining counties, and is the leading news medium of this locality. The job department is thoroughly equipped for executing orders promptly, and gives universal satisfaction.

Mr. Bare was married in 1887 to Miss Mollie Thompson, of northeast Pennsylvania, and by which union a daughter and son are living.

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#### JOHN MORGAN COTTON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is the popular editor and manager of the Ainsworth Star-Journal, the oldest paper published in Brown county, Nebraska. This paper is a reliable news medium, and has a wide circulation all over Brown and the adjoining counties. The Ainsworth Star-Journal is the successor of the Western News, established in 1880, The Journal, The Star, The Idea, The Home Rule and The Herald.

Mr. Cotton is a native of Indiana, born in 1853, of Irish descent. His grandparents were born in Virginia. His father, Isaac Cotton, was a farmer, and his mother was a daughter of John Morgan, a captain in the war of 1812. He is the elder of three children, and was raised in Iowa, where the family settled about 1855, locating on a farm in Story county. He received his early education in the common schools, and then attended the college at Ames, Iowa. In 1872 he was appointed a civil engineer on the Santa Fe railroad, and followed this work for some years. He then re-

signed that position and began teaching school. He was admitted to the bar in Nebraska, in 1875, and has the distinction of being the first person to be admitted to the supreme court on examination in that state. He is a graduate of the University Law School in Kansas, and subsequently practiced in Kansas for five years. After having had about two months' experience in the printing business he located at Louisville, Kansas, in 1880, and became editor of the Louisville Reporter. The former editor of that paper had been arrested and charged with a serious crime two months after Mr. Cotton had settled in Louisville, and he was asked to take charge of the paper, and also to defend the editor in the suit which was brought against him. After a hard fought legal battle Mr. Cotton secured his client's acquittal in spite of the fact that public sentiment was strongly against the man. In fact, although he was proven not guilty, the feeling against him was so bitter that he was at once compelled to leave town. This, of course, left our subject as editor and manager of the Reporter. After some years in newspaper work he was on the road traveling for different lines of business, all over Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Manitoba, Kansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, and in some sections of Wisconsin and Michigan. He was engaged in the newspaper business in Lincoln for three years, also in Omaha for a time, and in 1903 located in Owatonna, where he acted as editor of the daily and weekly Journal for over two years. In the year 1905 he purchased the paper of which he is now editor and manager.

Mr. Cotton was married in 1900 to Miss Nannie Remy, a native of Indiana, a daughter of Dr. G. O. Remy, of Ainsworth.

Mr. Cotton has been very successful in his newspaper work, and is highly respected by the entire community for his active public spirit, and his paper is the exponent of all that tends to the advancement of the locality in which it is printed.

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### C. C. SMITH.

The gentleman above named is a well known business man and respected citizen of Alliance, Nebraska. He has given liberally of his time and influence in building up the financial interests of the town, and has taken an active part in every movement to better the conditions of his community.

Mr. Smith is a native of England, born in Lincolnshire, in 1856, of American parentage on his father's side, the latter having settled in England in his young manhood and there married Sarah Barton, of English birth. The father was a horse dealer, and when our subject was a boy the family came to America and settled in Iowa where he was reared and educated. When he reached the age of twenty-one years he begun railroading, beginning as a machine hand in the shops and working up to be engineer for the company he started with. He continued at this work up to 1892, the year previous having located in Alliance, and at that time was engineer on the Burlington railroad, having been with that company for fourteen years. In May, 1905, he met with an accident and was obliged to quit the road. In May, 1906, he started in the livery business in Alliance, and has had a good patronage since the beginning. He has also been engaged in the real estate and land business here.

Mr. Smith was married in 1884 to Miss Addie Brenanstill, daughter of R. R. Brenanstill, who is a large dealer in the hide and grease business at Creston, Iowa.

Mr. Smith is a Republican politically, and active in party affairs. In 1906 he was elected a member of the town council, and the following year was nominee for mayor by all parties and elected by a goodly majority. He has been a member of the school board for a number of years, and is one of the leading public men of his community, enjoying a host of warm friends and the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen.

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### GEORGE. P. EMIG.

One of the leading and most successful business men of Taylor, Nebraska, is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this review. He has been engaged in the drug business ever since 1883 and has built up a large and prosperous trade. He is an enterprising and successful business man and has the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

Mr. Emig was born in Columbus, Bartholomew county, Indiana, in the year 1849, and was the son of Michael and Permilla (Anderson) Emig, the former a native of Germany and the latter of New Jersey. The father was a barber by trade, and was a veteran of the Mexican war.

George Emig was reared in Indiana, receiving a good education in the city schools.

Early in life he exhibited excellent business capabilities, learning the tannery and the boot and shoe business and also the drug line. At the age of sixteen years he was so proficient that he was placed in charge of thirty workers in the tannery and twenty employes in the boot and shoe department, and he followed this employment up to the year 1879. He then went west, locating on a farm at Ord, Nebraska, where he remained for two years. At this time he went into the drug business in the village of Ord, remaining there for four years.

In 1880, while on a hunting expedition, he visited Loup county, and in 1886 concluded to make it his home. On arriving in Taylor, the county-seat, he purchased his present drug business which had been established in about 1884 by F. A. and Otto Witty. At that time the stock was very small and Mr. Emig began at once to enlarge it and make it adequate for the increasing demands of the trade. For twenty-two years it has been Mr. Emig's constant aim to make his store one of the most modern and up-to-date establishments in this part of the country. He has been a warm supporter of educational matters, assisted in the establishment of the independent school district and has been an active member of the school board.

George P. Emig was united in marriage in 1876 to Miss Mary Matilda Whiteside, a native of New York state. Her father, William Whiteside, was born in Canada; her mother was a native of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Emig have two children: Charles M. and Emma.

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#### H. P. WAITE.

Among the popular residents of McCook, Red Willow county, none is better known or more universally esteemed than the gentleman above named, who has been mayor of the town for the past two years. Mr. Waite was elected in 1905, and succeeded himself the following year. His duties are many as McCook is growing very rapidly and its municipal government consequently becoming important, imposes a greater tax upon the time and ability of the mayor. During his term of office one of the most important and beneficial steps for the present and future good of the town has been inaugurated and completed, and much praise is due him for the very successful culmination of this enterprise. The sewerage system is referred to by the above. McCook is much better situated than most west-

ern cities for sewerage disposal, being on high land overlooking the Republican River, and although it was an immense undertaking, it is now in full operation and proving an important factor in the growth and development of its industries and commercial value. This work will cost the town about \$40,000. The main sewer is one mile long, and empties into the river, the laterals being from eight to nine miles in length. With the fine supply of water from the works put in here in the year 1883, McCook is thoroughly up-to-date in all respects, and the health of the citizens and progress of the city is assured.

Mr. Waite is a native of Vermont. He came to McCook in 1888, and in 1896 established a hardware business here and since locating has been one of the active and successful citizens of the place. He is a director of the First National Bank. He has served the town as alderman for two terms. The city is building a new high school to cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, and Mr. Waite was instrumental in getting this for the city. During the term of his office as mayor the Carnegie gift of \$10,000 for a public library has been accepted, and the city has guaranteed a fund of \$1,000 per year to support this, Mr. Waite having appointed the trustees for this.

McCook has between four and five hundred B. & M. railway men residing here with their families. This is a division headquarters with the superintendent and many officials living here, also the roundhouse and machine shops are located here, which employ a large number of men.

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#### SIMON FISHMAN.

Simon Fishman is one of the prosperous business men of Sidney, where he is engaged in the general merchandise business and has built up a good trade through his industry and good management, and is deservedly placed in a high rank among the worthy citizens of that thriving town.

Mr. Fishman was born in the village of Thisit, Germany, in 1880. His parents were Jews, and lived in Germany all their lives. Our subject remained at home until he was thirteen years of age, then came to America, and from that time on has made his own way in the world. He located in Trenton, Tennessee, and spent four years in that city. At the end of that time he came west to Sterling, Colorado, and there began working as a clerk and continued in this work for four years when







ROBERT S. CAROTHERS.

he started in business for himself at Sterling, being just twenty-one years old, opening a general merchandise store. He ran this place up to 1903, then sold out and came to Sidney, Cheyenne county, Nebraska. Here he opened up in the same line of business and has built up a good patronage. He has a nice store building with a frontage of 50x135 feet and occupies two floors, carrying a large and complete line of merchandise.

In 1901 our subject was married to Mary Firee. Mr. Fishman is looked upon as one of the city's substantial and successful business men, and is always active in local affairs promoting the commercial or educational interests. He is a member of the city council, and is now serving in that capacity. In 1907 he was elected mayor of Sidney, and is one of the best public officials the town has ever had, highly esteemed by all.

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#### ROBERT S. CAROTHERS.

Perseverance and integrity are the stepping stones by which many men have reached success, but of the early settlers in the west these characteristics were required in a greater measure than usually falls to the men of a more settled region. Here they had little incentive to perseverance when their every effort was almost fruitless for so many years, and the blasts of winter or storms and pests of summer destroyed the results of their toil. Those who remained through the pioneer days and witnessed a most radical change in the landscape and conditions are worthy of great praise for their work as developers of the country, and are citizens of whom their fellowmen may feel justly proud. Such a man is Robert S. Carothers, and he now resides in Perkins county, where he has a finely developed farm and valuable estate. A portrait of him will be found on another page.

Mr. Carothers was born at Frankfort Springs, Pa., August 15th, 1864. He comes of American stock, Scotch-Irish descent, and his father was a native of Pennsylvania also. When Robert was just one year old the family settled in Mercer county, Ills., where he grew to manhood, he going to Missouri in 1882, and there followed farm work. In the spring of 1886 he settled in Perkins county, locating on section 20, township 10, range 36. On coming to this region he shipped to Ogalala, which was the nearest trading point, driving to his new location, and for two years every trip for supplies for his home was made

to that town. His father had settled in the vicinity in 1885, and was hard at work building up a home. He had hauled water for household use from Stinking Water Creek, several miles away, and was also going through the hardships and discouragements incidental to establishing a farm. His farm was on section 19, and his house a stopping place for many people who came to the region in search of homes, at one time he having twenty people crowded in his sod shanty for the night. He was one of the most hospitable of men, and was always ready and willing to lend a helping hand to the newcomer in getting located and his home started.

Our subject's first dwelling was a sod shanty, and in this he led a bachelor existence up to 1891, then was married to Miss Nellie Coates. She was born in Wisconsin, the family settling in Keith county in 1885, and later her father, C. C. Coates, located in North Platte, where he opened a real estate office. During the construction of the C. B. & Q. Railway through the county Mr. Carothers helped survey the line through Perkins and Chase counties. He spent some time subsequently in Colorado and Kansas in company with surveying parties, roughing it on these trips, and passed through several exciting experiences. At one time near Sterling, Colo., a blizzard struck the camp and blew their tents away, and they had a hard time to save themselves from severe suffering trying to find shelter, for two hours wandering around seeking an abandoned shack in which to pass the time until the storm abated, finally succeeding in locating the shanty and saving themselves from exposure and possible death by freezing.

In 1893 and '94 our subject met with severe crop losses on his farm and during these times was compelled to work away from home in order to make a living for his family. After these times passed he gradually got ahead, improved his place in good shape and added more land to his original homestead until he became proprietor of a section of good farm and range land, which is supplied with good buildings, including a comfortable dwelling, commodious barn 28 x 54 feet with 14-foot posts, besides sheds, etc. He has 200 acres cultivated and uses the rest as pasture and hayland for a large herd of stock. It will be of interest in this connection to say that in the spring of 1894 our subject hauled hay from near Keystone, on the North Platte river, thirty-five miles away. In the spring of 1886 hay was hauled from the South Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Carothers have a family of six children, namely: Roy N., Glen, Rex,

Fern, Ray and Robert, and their home is one of the pleasant spots to be found in the community.

Mr. Carothers is a populist. In early days he was actively interested in the Farmers' Alliance and was secretary and treasurer of the Perkins county organization.

Mr. Carothers relates many incidents of pioneer life that are interesting. On January 12, 1888, there was a school exhibition in the neighborhood, when the blizzard of that date occurred, and the people were compelled to spend the night in the sod house where the exercises took place. Mr. Carothers' father, Robert L. Carothers, was justice of the peace of his neighborhood for ten or twelve years in early days. It is related that when he performed his first marriage ceremony in pioneer times, the bridegroom called him out after the ceremony and asked for a chew of tobacco and told the magistrate that he was financially "strapped" and would have to postpone paying the fee. For years this first marriage fee that Mr. Carothers received was a standing joke in the neighborhood.

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#### HON. J. S. HOAGLAND.

J. S. Hoagland, a prominent resident of North Platte, Nebraska, of the firm of Hoagland & Hoagland, attorneys at law, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1847. He is a son of W. V. F. Hoagland and Sarah L. Hoagland, his father at that time being engaged in the drug business in New York City in partnership with Dr. J. H. Schenk, of Philadelphia, and it was at the latter's request that our subject was named J. Schenk Hoagland.

In 1857 Mr. Hoagland moved to Bunker Hill, Illinois, and remained there up to 1872, then came to Nebraska, locating at Lincoln. There he served as deputy sheriff, and later as sheriff of Lancaster county, this in 1878. He was educated in Illinois, studying law at Bunker Hill and at Lincoln, Nebraska. In February, 1865, he enlisted in the 152nd Illinois Infantry and served his country as a private for nine months.

Mr. Hoagland was married in 1868 to Miss Maria L. Waples, of Madison county, Illinois. They have two sons, one of whom, W. V., is in partnership with his father in his law business, and A. B. Hoagland, a prominent merchant of North Platte.

Mr. Hoagland is a strong Republican. He has been judge of Lincoln county, and was elected a member of the Nebraska State Sen-

ate in 1895. He has been the representative of Nebraska to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows since 1889, and recognized as one of the most faithful and efficient members of this splendid body of representative men. He is a gifted orator and eagerly sought as a speaker on all occasions in the different cities in which they meet by the order itself and also other orders by which the Grand Lodge is entertained.

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#### LOGAN COUNTY.

By an Early Settler.

Logan county lies just west of Custer and north of Lincoln counties and was organized in 1885 by a soldiers' colony of about three hundred members who settled upon government lands under the homestead and timber culture act of Congress. The colony was organized in 1883 at the office of J. S. Hoagland, then a practicing lawyer in Lincoln, Nebraska. Several veterans of the Civil war desiring to enter upon government land consulted with Mr. Hoagland as to where such land could be found. They were advised that such information could be obtained by organized effort at much less expense than if each one attempted to ascertain such information for himself. A date for a meeting was fixed and the Lincoln papers printed a notice that there was to be a soldiers' colony organized at Mr. Hoagland's office at a certain time. At this appointed time there were two hundred and twenty ex-soldiers on hand and joined the organization, each paid in one dollar and a committee of five members was selected to go out and find a good location where government land could be obtained. All railroads offered free transportation to the members of the committee and one-half fare and one-half the regular freight rates for members of the colony. The committee after having carefully examined the country in the northwest, southwest and central western portions made its report to a meeting of the colony called to act upon such report and it was decided almost unanimously to locate in the unorganized territory where Logan county is now situated. The south Loup river, a beautiful little stream, runs through the center of the county. The valleys and table lands are very productive, and the prosperity of many members of the colony is shown by the comfortable houses, barns, splendid stock, fertile fields and growing trees. The people have prospered without the aid of a railroad as no railroad company has as yet constructed any line through this coun-

ty. Land there is selling from ten to thirty dollars per acre because of its great productiveness. The farmers ship but little grain because of the long haul necessitated in the marketing of their product. Mr. Hoagland, the organizer of the colony, went with his comrades to their new home, procured a patent from the government for his quarter section of land in 1885 and is now one of the leading lawyers in North Platte. Logan county will probably have a railroad in the near future and so lands will rapidly increase in value. A daily mail runs between North Platte and Gandy, the county seat of the county, and nearly every resident of the county has his telephone service. The raising of the best breeds of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep is the principal industry. They have good schools and churches and the people are happy even though they do not hear the whistle of the locomotive and the rumble of the railroad trains.

#### WILLIAM P. HALL.

Among the leading citizens and prominent business men of Holdrege, Nebraska, none occupies a higher position than the gentleman herein named. Mr. Hall has been engaged in the practice of law for the past twenty-five years, and is closely identified with every movement which has been inaugurated for the benefit of his locality, and his name will figure prominently in the history of the region.

Mr. Hall is a native of Morgan county, Illinois. He studied law at Jacksonville, Illinois, after having received his earlier education in the public schools, and was admitted to the bar in 1884. In that year Mr. Hall located at Holdrege, and at that time there was not a school building, church or a sidewalk in the town. He was the second mayor, elected in 1889, and served one term. In 1898 he was again elected and held the office for one term. In his first term as mayor the city council took forcible possession of the water works, owing to the owners refusing to furnish water to the city, and after running it for one summer the city bought it and has since retained possession, which they have found a satisfactory arrangement. In 1889 the population of Holdrege was 1500, and it is now 4000. There are now two ward schools, a high school, eleven churches with many fine residences and altogether it is one of the most up-to-date towns of the state.

Our subject served five terms as city attorney in the '90's, and also during 1904 and 1905.

He has an extended practice throughout this section of the country in all courts of the state, and is recognized everywhere as a man of superior ability and sound judgment.

In June, 1906, Mr. Hall was appointed postmaster, and is now serving in that capacity, proving a most popular and efficient official.

#### ROBERT WILBERT.

The gentleman herein named has for many years been devoted to the interests of his community in public matters, displaying an enterprising spirit and the exercise of good judgment in a manner that commends him to all as a worthy citizen. Mr. Wilbert resides near Ainsworth, Nebraska, where he has a pleasant home and is proprietor of a large farm and ranch, to which he devotes all of his time and attention.

Mr. Wilbert was born in Pennsylvania in 1847. His father, Israel Wilbert, was of old American stock, a farmer by occupation, who died when our subject was a boy, leaving a family of six children and a widow, who was Elizabeth Eakert, of Pennsylvania, Dutch blood. Of these six children, he is now the only one living. His mother, now in her eighty-third year, is living at Dustin, Holt county, Nebraska. When he was thirteen years old he enlisted in the army serving in Gen. Sheridan's cavalry troops for three years and nine months. Was at the battle of Appomattox, Five Forks, and other campaigns, and was present at Lee's surrender, but most of the time was spent in the Shenandoah valley.

After he left the army he spent one year at home, then traveled through the south for three or four years, and about the year 1870 went to Bismarck, North Dakota, where he scouted for the government, and also hunted and trapped. He took part in all the preliminary surveys of the Northern Pacific railway from Bismarck to Musselshell, Montana, and spent five years in that country. He next came to the Niobrara Valley in Holt county, and hunted and trapped for five years, and in the spring of 1881 moved to Brown county before it was organized, where he settled on a homestead in section 13, township 31, range 23. At that time there were only a few ranchers in this county, and the land abounded in wild game which very nearly supplied all his wants, which were few and simple. He built a log house and started to build up a ranch, but for the first few years had a hard time getting along, experiencing many losses in

crops and stock, going through several dry seasons and destructive hail storms. He stuck to the work through all disappointments, and now has a farm of 1,480 acres, of which 650 are cultivated, and he engages in stock raising and ranching. He runs about 150 cattle, thirty-five horses and three hundred and fifty hogs. His place is well improved with good buildings and fences, and he has a very valuable property and is well known throughout this part of the country as a successful and prosperous ranchman and farmer. Mr. Wilbert was married while living in Holt county in 1877, and his wedding was the first ever held in that county. His bride was Miss Martha A. Berry, born in Boonesboro, Iowa, and came to Holt county in 1873 with her parents. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert, namely: Mabel, born in Holt county in 1879, and Hattie, born on the present homestead in 1886. Mr. Wilbert has been prominent in political circles for many years past, and was a strong Peter Cooper man, a greenbacker, later deeply interested in the union labor question and anti-monopolist. He was a member of the Farmers Alliance and supporter of the populist party, always taking sides with the reform parties. He has never held any remunerative office of any kind, but for several years was postmaster at Mabelo, which has since been discontinued. Our subject is a man of superior intelligence and great energy of mind, and a truly self-made man, never having attended an English school. He is among the oldest settlers in Brown county and this part of the state of Nebraska, his nearest neighbor as a pioneer, being ten miles away. His first garden was also ten miles from his house, and the nearest postoffice when he was first married was Paddock, Holt county, Nebraska.

#### WALTER P. MANN.

Walter P. Mann, a prosperous ranchman and worthy citizen of Dawes county, Nebraska, is a man of wide experience in business pursuits who has met with pronounced success and enjoys a comfortable home and the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances as a result of his integrity and sterling character. Mr. Mann resides in Chadron, where he is engaged in business.

Mr. Mann was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1869, of American stock. His father, Elias Mann, was a dentist. He married Miss Harriet Ballard, and came with his family to northwestern Missouri when our subject was

an infant, settling in Nodaway county at the county seat, which was then Maryville, and there our subject was raised and educated. When he was fifteen years old he ran away from home and came to Dawes county, Nebraska, with a freighting outfit, the party camping out nights and roughing it generally. He then put in ten years on different ranches in Wyoming, working as a cowboy, and saw all that country, including the Dakotas and parts of Montana, making Chadron his home and headquarters during all of the time. He grew familiar with the whole western country, and liked Nebraska better than any part of the west, so finally bought a ranch situated fifteen miles northwest of Chadron which he operated for some time and still owns and personally manages the place.

Mr. Mann is recognized as one of the leading pioneers of western Nebraska, and has done his full share in building up the region where he chose his home. He has always taken an active interest in every movement that tended to the advancement of the interests of his community, and deserves a first place among those who have helped make this country what it is to-day. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

#### GEO. F. SCOTT.

Geo. F. Scott, postmaster and influential merchant of Taylor for the last twenty-four years, coming here in 1884, is a native of Minnesota, and was born near Albert Lea, February 12, 1857. His father, L. T. Scott, was one of the pioneers in Minnesota and was in the state during the Indian massacre. In early life he was a farmer, but, later, turned his attention to banking and the mercantile business. Our subject's mother was Marion Purdy before marriage and was of Scotch descent.

Geo. F. Scott grew up on a frontier farm and was used to the hard work and the rough life of pioneer life. He came to Nebraska in 1878, locating in Furnas county, where for six years he was engaged in the mercantile business. He then removed to Taylor, where, in company with C. F. Wheeler, he opened a store with a small capital of about \$2,000. For twenty-four years Mr. Scott has been successfully carrying on his large business which has increased as the years went by. He is interested in a store at Burwell which was opened in 1891, and the management of that business is in the hands of our subject's nephew, I. A. Howard.

Geo. F. Scott was married in 1885 to Miss Della Farrand, a native of Michigan. Her father, A. Farrand, was a pioneer of Furnas county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have one child, a daughter named Aural.

Mr. Scott was appointed postmaster of Taylor, in 1885, and has held the position ever since. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of Taylor, and also of Loup county, and has done his share in building up the prosperity of the community. He has proven eminently successful as a business man and has merited the esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

#### EUGENE HARTWELL HILL.

Eugene H. Hill, residing in the thriving town of Grant, is well known throughout western Nebraska as a business man of exceptional ability, who has for the past many years been extensively interested in the financial and commercial affairs of the region. He is at present engaged in the real estate business, handling land all over Nebraska and also in Colorado. Mr. Hill was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, June 15, 1862. In the paternal line he is descended from an old eastern family, who resided in Lewis county, New York. Goodwin John Hill, father of our subject, was born in Louis county, New York, in March, 1824, where he was reared on a farm and lived with his parents until he was married in 1843 to Miss Caroline Matilda Hubbard. They emigrated to Wisconsin in the pioneer days of that state, settling in Richland county, where there was born to them three sons and two daughters, the oldest son being Ralph K. Hill, now a resident of Hardy, Nebraska; Mortimer W. Hill, now residing on a farm near Alexandria, Nebraska, and Eugene Hartwell Hill. Mrs. Fannie Stanclift, one of the daughters, passed away in 1886 and the other daughter, Mrs. Lillian Jackson, is now residing in Spokane, Washington. Goodwin J. Hill died March 28, 1884. His wife survived him and passed away July 10, 1899. She was the daughter of William Hubbard, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died at the age of ninety-three years. His wife's maiden name was Caroline Elizabeth Bush.

Our subject was raised in Richland Center to the age of eight years, then the family emigrated to Nebraska, locating in Jefferson county in 1870, driving the entire distance from Wisconsin with a two-horse team and cov-

ered wagon. After arriving in Nebraska they settled right among the Indians, living on the old Farrell ranch near Big Sandy River in Jefferson county, and there our subject grew to manhood. In 1883 he left home and started for himself, having previously learned the printer's trade, and followed the work considerably from that time on, employed on different newspapers through eastern Nebraska. He came to Grant in April, 1888, purchased the Grant Enterprise in partnership with L. S. Lacey, and ran this paper for about four years, acting as editor and publisher. This was the first newspaper published in Perkins county. He sold the organ in 1892 and went into the real estate business, also in the stock business in 1898, carrying on both enterprises up to 1903, owning at different times large tracts of land, and running from 4,000 to 6,000 head of sheep on his ranches. He opened his present real estate establishment in 1903, and has been successful in making some large deals, and has induced many settlers to this part of the state. He is at present owner of a ranch containing one thousand one hundred and eighty acres situated four miles north of Grant, and on this place he carries on stock raising and farming, having several hundred head of cattle, horses and hogs.

Mr. Hill was married December 27, 1889, to Miss E. Alice Sexson, of Grant, Nebraska, who was born on a farm in Center township, Green county, Indiana, October 11, 1856, a daughter of John Granvill and Martha S. (Walker) Sexson. She emigrated with her parents to York, Nebraska, March, 1883, where she taught school until 1886, when she accompanied her parents on their removal to Perkins county, Nebraska, where she again resumed her profession as teacher and was principal of the Grant high school at the time of her marriage to Mr. Hill. Her father was born in Kentucky April 27, 1825, and in early childhood moved to Greene county, Indiana, with his parents, to whom were born sixteen children. This family moved west on horseback all of that distance. He was married in 1850 to Miss Martha S. Walker and passed away March 13, 1896, while his wife died May 15, 1896. She was born in Bledsoe county, Tennessee, November 16, 1823, and moved with her parents to Monroe county, Indiana, when a young girl, where she was reared amid the scenes and environments of pioneer life. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Granvill Sexson were as follows: Mary Abigail, who was born in 1851 and died May, 1852; Joseph Joel was born January 4, 1854, and is employed in the mail

service running from Hastings to Omaha; E. Alice was born October 11, 1856; Edward Hanigan and Edgar Harris were born June 3, 1858. Edward, who lived in Greeley, Colorado, died January 6, 1899. Edgar served in the capacity of county treasurer of Perkins county, Nebraska, two terms, but is at present engaged in ranch business; Rebecca Cornelia was born August 2, 1860, is engaged in the millinery business in Grant; Viola Florence was born May 9, 1862, died January 26, 1890; Carol Speed was born August 11, 1864, engaged in farming and stockraising in Perkins county, Nebraska; John Granville, Jr., was born August 9, 1867.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill have become the parents of a son, Eugene Harold, born August 11, 1893. Mr. Hill was made a Mason in Plumb Lodge No. 186, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in 1889 and is now a member of Ogallala Lodge, Ogallala, Nebraska. He and his family are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of Grant, Nebraska.

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#### HENRY J. LOWE.

Henry J. Lowe, a leading business man of Mullen, Nebraska, has been closely identified with the development of Hooker county for many years past. He is proprietor of the leading general store in that town, carrying a large line of merchandise, lumber, coal and farm machinery, and enjoys a good trade from the surrounding country. Mr. Lowe is a man of much enterprise, and no one is more highly esteemed as a worthy and deserving citizen than the gentleman above named.

Mr. Lowe was born at Cambridgeshire, England, in 1861. His father, Henry, Sr., was a carpenter by trade, and came to America in 1872 with his family, settling in Marshall Village, Michigan, where our subject grew to manhood. At the age of seventeen he left home and emigrated to Iowa, remaining there but a short time, then determined to go farther west, traveling by team and covered wagon, and finally settling in Goodland, Sherman county, Kansas, landing at that place in March of 1885. He settled on a pre-emption and later took a homestead, and started to build up a home. During that year the Indians had begun troubling the settlers, and while they were considered extremely dangerous, our subject stayed on just the same, spending in all ten years in that region, and succeeded in establishing a good ranch and home.

Mr. Lowe was married there in 1889 to Mary Kudrva, whose parents were early settlers in that state, and she grew up there. The young couple began on a small scale and went through the usual pioneer experiences, and lived in a dugout the first six months, working faithfully to accumulate a comfortable home, but in 1894 they, with many other settlers, left the region on account of the hard times and unfavorable conditions. They came to Hooker county, Nebraska, settling on a ranch situated ten miles west of Mullen, and after living on the place for a year traded a bunch of horses for a stock of merchandise valued at \$500, which was his start in the business world. He put in a larger line, and constantly extended his patronage throughout the county, and is now considered one of the leading merchants of his county, his trade at the present time amounting to \$50,000 per year. He has a handsome and modern building, equipped with the most complete line of goods in this part of the state, and his floor space covers an area 25x60 feet, containing his smaller goods, while the shed, 14x70 feet, is used for flour and other goods. The machinery and lumber occupy a half block west and adjoining the main store. The upper floor of his store is used as a town hall.

Besides his mercantile business Mr. Lowe owns a fine ranch situated three miles northeast of Mullen, on which he runs from 700 to 800 head of cattle and about 125 horses, also 700 sheep, and he personally superintends the operation of this extensive ranch.

Mr. Lowe's family consists of himself, wife and two children—Lewis, aged seventeen years, and Elliott, aged fifteen years. They have a beautiful home, and are well liked by all with whom they come in contact, occupying a foremost place in the social life of the town.

Mr. Lowe is a staunch Republican in political views, and was county treasurer for four years. He was appointed postmaster at Mullen, and held that office for eight years.

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#### J. W. JACKSON.

J. W. Jackson, of Loomis, is one of the largest landowners of Phelps county, Nebraska, being proprietor of two thousand one hundred and eighty acres, a part of which is located very near Holdrege and the balance near Loomis, all of which is improved land. Mr. Jackson is one of the progressive and up-to-date agriculturists of this region, and it is





J. W. JACKSON.



through his good management and enterprising spirit that he has reached the success he now enjoys. A portrait of him is presented on another page of this work.

Mr. Jackson was born in Maryland in 1848. His father, Joseph Jackson, came west in 1856, settling in Logan county, Illinois, where our subject was reared and made his home until February, 1884.

He first came to Nebraska in 1884 and settled in Phelps, section 3, Laird township. In 1884 he bought this land in Laird township, having \$2,500 capital, which was the proceeds of a fifty-acre farm near Lincoln, Illinois. The following year he built and operated the first store at Loomis, the railway having made that a station. He also petitioned for a postoffice, and was appointed the first postmaster, holding that office for nine years. From 1893 to 1901 he was engaged in the lumber business with one August E. Anderson, and they also put up the first grist mill and elevator at Loomis, with a capacity of fifty-five thousand bushels, the building costing thirty thousand dollars. He has since sold out his interest in this business.

For four years he operated a general store at Loomis with an eight thousand dollar stock of goods, and during the dry years when so many became discouraged he went right on buying farms and farming with success. In those years he grew mostly rye and had big crops. At that time land in that vicinity was worth from fifteen dollars to twenty dollars per acre, and the same land is now worth sixty to one hundred dollars per acre, and he is still buying Phelps county land at these increased prices. Mr. Jackson rents out his land in three hundred and twenty-acre farms, and thus, at one outlay, has better buildings and conveniences, giving his tenants a chance to do well and remain with him for several years. He believes in grain raising and only keeps stock enough for farming and domestic purposes. His annual grain crop is about fifty thousand bushels, which is his one-third interest in the farms rented.

Mr. Jackson is an authority on farming lands all over the west. He has investigated farming lands with a practiced eye all over Texas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Colorado, Kansas, etc., and considers western Nebraska the best of all. The soil here is very productive and can raise any kind of grain if properly tilled and cared for. His idea is to cultivate and keep cultivating the surface of the land, keeping it level; if allowed to become ridged up it will not hold moisture in dry seasons.

in a crop of wheat, and the first year's crop paid for the land. Then came on a dry spell, and while other farmers were sticking to wheat and getting nothing out of it he planted rye and got a yield of thirty-five bushels to the acre, and kept at this, keeping the land absolutely level by harrowing and keeping the ground floated down, and his opinion is that this country will stand dry and wet spells better than any place he knows of. He advocates plowing under cornstalks, as they hold the moisture, whereas stubble should be burned off and not plowed under, as this tends to make the ground dry and the burning also kills all insects of wheat and oat stubble. As an example, plant trees with cornstalks or any rubbish under them and they will grow much better, as the ground is kept moist.

In 1892 Mr. Jackson erected a fine farm residence in which he and his family lived up to the fall of 1906, and he also owns considerable property in the town of Holdrege. He was married in 1872 to Miss Annie Bruner. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have a family of seven children, namely: Alfred C., of Holdrege; Albert, deceased; Andrew and Loda, Ada, Nellie and Lina. The younger children are all attending school.

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#### HENRY E. GAPEN.

Prominent among Cheyenne county's worthy citizens is the gentleman above mentioned, as he has been largely instrumental in bringing about the present financial and commercial prosperity. Mr. Gapen located in this county in 1887, and since that time has done his full share in building up the section in a business way, giving liberally of his time and money to every movement which tended to improve conditions here. Cheyenne county is free of all debt and everything is run on a cash basis, and to Mr. Gapen great credit is due for this state of affairs. He resides in Sidney, where he is engaged in the practice of law, and his clientage extends throughout Cheyenne and the adjoining counties.

Mr. Gapen was born in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1863. His father was William E. Gapen, a prominent attorney, and judge of the municipal court at Bloomington, Illinois, where the family moved when our subject was three years of age. William E. Gapen was a delegate at the first convention which nominated Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States, and also a delegate to the national convention nominating James A. Garfield. He was well known all

over the country, and was a college mate of James G. Blaine. He married Miss Helen Minor, also a native of Pennsylvania. Henry Gapen grew to manhood in Illinois, receiving a common school education, and after leaving school he began studying law in his spare hours with his father. In the fall of 1885 he came west, locating in Deadwood, South Dakota, where he took a position as clerk in the government land office, being obliged to travel from Chadron, Nebraska, to Deadwood by stage through a perfectly wild and unsettled country. He remained at Deadwood until the spring of 1887, then came to Sidney in June of that year, where he had secured the position of chief clerk in the government land office, which was opened in July, 1887. Here he served for seven years, then began the practice of law, and in the fall of 1895 was elected to the office of county attorney, and has been re-elected for four successive terms, at present serving his fifth term in that capacity. He has done a general law and land business, and has stumped and canvassed Cheyenne county many times in different political campaigns. He is recognized as one of the leading old-timers and foremost barristers of this section of the country, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a business man and good citizen. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### CHARLES G. ELMORE, M. D.

Charles G. Elmore, a leading physician and surgeon of Chadron, Nebraska, is an exceedingly proficient member of his profession and has an extensive practice throughout Dawes and the adjoining counties. He is a man of keenest perception and superior ability, and has gained an enviable reputation by his strict attention to his work and for his unfailing sympathy and aid in times of need to his patrons.

Dr. Elmore was born in Alamo, Montgomery county, Indiana, in 1858, of American stock, Scotch-Irish descent. His father was a merchant and farmer, and our subject was reared in the state of his birth, attending the academy at Alamo, from which he was graduated at the age of twenty. He immediately began the study of medicine, devoting three years to this work at Crawfordsville, and also attending the medical department of Butler University at Indianapolis for two years. He remained in the vicinity of the latter place and practiced for a time, then returned to school, taking a course of study at the Uni-

versity of Tennessee, and graduated from that institution in 1887. In that year he came to Nebraska, locating at Gordon, where he opened an office and built up a good practice through that region. He constantly kept up his studies and received a diploma from the New York Polyclinic School, this being post-graduate work, and he is considered one of the best read men in the profession. He also has attended Johns Hopkins University and done post-graduate work in Chicago. When he first settled in Gordon, that now thriving town was a regular "wild west" town, and he took an active part in building up the place and was one of the pioneers of the region, his practice in those days extending all through that section of the country, covering Pine Ridge Reservation and for many miles in each direction.

Dr. Elmore came to Chadron in 1896 and opened an office, which he has maintained ever since, enjoying a good practice and an enviable reputation as the leading physician of the county. He has been coroner of Dawes county for a number of years; surgeon for the C. & N. W. Railway, and United States pension examiner for years at this point.

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#### W. L. BLACK.

W. L. Black, residing in Prairie township, Phelps county, farmer, stock shipper and dealer in Jersey Red Duroc hogs, pure-bred, is one of the leading stockmen of this locality. He is an authority on this subject, and has made a pronounced success since he has been engaged in the work.

Mr. Black is a native of Illinois. His father, John L. Black, was born in Schuyler county, Illinois, and a sketch of his brother, Richard S., appears in this volume. The father was a soldier in an Illinois regiment during the Civil war and lost his life in defense of the Union. Our subject came to Phelps county in March, 1897, purchasing a farm of eighty acres adjoining the town of Holdrege and another of seventy-six acres near by. The places were supplied with good buildings, and he paid ninety dollars per acre for the land containing eighty acres and one hundred for other property, and it is worth much more today. Prior to this he lived in Harlan county for nine years, where he farmed over eight hundred acres, most of it in small grain and corn. There he fed cattle and hogs during the winters, and made a success of the business. In 1906 he sold the land, consisting of two hundred and ninety acres, for sixteen thousand dol-

lars, and when he bought it he only gave twenty dollars an acre, showing a good advance. Mr. Black lived in Iowa for four years, then in Missouri for ten years, and states that from his experience he thinks Nebraska by far the best place he has ever seen, taking one year with another. One has better crops here, it is healthier, better water, and the land is easier worked, one man being able to till twice the number of acres that he could in either of those states. When Mr. Black came here ten years ago he had very little to start with, and he has been one of the successful men of the section, and is now proprietor of a valuable estate. He now has sixty head of pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs and feeds out and sells to the local markets over two hundred head each season. He has dealt in these hogs for the past six years and has met with decided success, and is of the opinion that the Durocs are the best hogs for this country, being healthier and better rustlers, making quicker growth and larger litters, usually getting a third more pigs. They are always in good demand and are the best lard hogs in the world. Mr. Black also ships from two to three cars of cattle and hogs each week during the shipping season, usually sending them to the St. Joe market.

Mr. Black was married in 1893 to Miss Luella Lawler. By a former marriage Mr. Black had three children, one of whom was an adopted child. One son, C. C. Black, died in 1905 at the age of twenty-one. In the family there are now three children, named as follows: Frederick L., Henry L. and Irene.

Our subject went into the dairy business in 1906, and has a herd of forty-five dairy cows. He sells all his milk at the city of Holdrege. He has made a success in this business; in fact, in his community he can't supply the demand for dairy products. He has gradually increased his land until now he has a ranch of two hundred and forty acres, although his start was made with only seventeen cows.

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#### ORLANDO U. LENINGTON.

To the pioneers of a county is due most of the credit for the prosperity enjoyed there in after years, and among those who have spent many years in assisting the development of the agricultural and commercial resources of western Nebraska, the gentleman above named is accorded a prominent place. He went through all the hardships of a pioneer's life, starting in when but a boy, and despite many

losses and discouragements which overtook him at different times worked steadily and earnestly on, and is now one of the substantial citizens of Dawes county, residing in Chadron, where he is engaged in the feed and grain business.

Mr. Lenington was born at Marietta, Ohio, in 1866. His father, J. B. Lenington, was a farmer, of American stock, and the family remained in Ohio until our subject was six years old, then went to Minnesota, settling in Stearns county, on a farm, where he was reared and educated. He was brought up to do all kinds of hard farm work, and he and his father carried on the farm up to 1885, when they came to Nebraska, where the latter took up a homestead and started a farm. He was only here two years when he died, and our subject was left to run the farm, which he did for two years. They had put up a log house and lived in that all the time they were on the place. He remained on his farm, also working out in the vicinity of his home, and part of the time worked as an engineer in a sawmill, where he had full charge of the lumbering operations. He then was employed as foreman of a horse ranch in Cherry county for five years. Mr. Lenington came to Chadron and for three or four years was engaged in the cattle business on his own account, and made a success of the work, but opened his present feed store in 1900 and has built up a fine trade in that time.

In 1891 our subject was married to Miss Ada M. Canaday, whose father died when she was a baby. To Mr. and Mrs. Lenington two children have been born—Marcie, aged four-teen, and Eva, aged nine.

Mr. Lenington has taken a very active part in local affairs since coming to Chadron. He has been assessor in Chadron for several terms and has assessed nearly half of Dawes county eight different times. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### H. HAPEMAN, M. D.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a widely known physician of Kearney county, Nebraska, who has been a resident of the town of Minden for the past twenty-five years.

Dr. Hapeman is a native of La Salle county, Illinois, born in Earlville, Illinois. Dr. Hapeman first came to Minden in 1884 and opened up in the office he now occupies, being the oldest physician in this county. He has made a specialty of surgery, and his practice ex-

tends over the state and into Colorado and Kansas. He devotes his entire time and attention to his clients, and has gained the confidence and esteem of a host of people, all of whom recognize in him a master of his profession. Prior to coming west Dr. Hapeman practiced in Polo, Illinois, for two years. He received his education and training at Rush Medical College, Chicago. He is a member of the State Medical Society and District Medical Society, also railway surgeon, and is surgeon for the B. & M. railway at Hastings.

Dr. Hapeman is interested to some extent in farming lands in this section of the country, and is thoroughly familiar with all important matters relating to agriculture, and has seen the value of lands in this section raise from eight dollars per acre to seventy-five dollars in the past few years.

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#### GRANVILLE H. COX.

In compiling a list of the prominent business men of Purdum, Blaine county, who have been for many years intimately identified with the upbuilding of the commercial interests of that locality and are widely and favorably known, a foremost place must be given Granville H. Cox. He is engaged in the general mercantile business at that place, has established a splendid trade throughout the section, and enjoys the confidence of all with whom he has had to do. He is also one of the earliest settlers in the county, coming here in 1887, and has watched the growth of this region from almost its very beginning as a farming community.

Mr. Cox was born in Preble county, Ohio, in 1872, and while a small boy the family lived in Iowa, Indiana and later in Nebraska, Levi Cox, the father, having been an early settler in this state, locating at first in Custer county, Granville being about fourteen years of age when they came to Nebraska. In 1887 they came from Custer county to Blaine county, driving the entire distance with a team and covered wagon, and settled on a homestead which they farmed for a number of years. Their nearest trading point at that time was Ainsworth, about fifty miles from the claim, and our subject lived with his parents, assisting them in building up the home farm, until he was past twenty-one, then filed on a claim for himself and started to develop a farm and ranch. He was married in 1896 to Miss Gertrude Keller, whose father, George Keller, is a pioneer in this vicinity, and together they

worked faithfully to build up a comfortable home, going through many hardships and privations at the first, but gradually improved their place, proving up on the land, which he still owns.

In 1900 Mr. Cox was appointed postmaster at Purdum, so removed to the town and soon afterwards established his present business, beginning with a capital of about four hundred dollars, putting in a small stock of general merchandise, and during the first weeks of his career as a merchant his sales amounted to something like two dollars and a half each day. His store was a rude little building, 12x14 feet floor space, and from such a start he has grown to be one of the leading business men of the town, occupying a building 24x50 feet in size, and nearly as much used as a store room. He carries a very complete line of general goods and furnishings, hardware, groceries, shoes, etc., and besides this deals in farm machinery, having a machine shop 30x36 feet for this stock. He has made a success of the enterprise, and is one of the well-to-do men of the town, taking an active part in local affairs and recognized as a gentleman of superior business ability and a worthy citizen of the community.

Mr. Cox has a pleasant home, and the family occupy a prominent position in the social affairs of the town. There are three children, Kyle, Bessie and George.

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#### HARRY D. ALFORD.

Harry D. Alford, the popular mayor of Grant, has been a resident of Perkins county for the past twenty-five years, and is well known all through the region as a man of strong character and the strictest integrity.

Mr. Alford was born in Jasper county, Iowa, November 12, 1868. His father, George P. Alford, is of Scotch blood, and was an early settler in western Nebraska. He married Jennie Kirk, of old American stock, and the family settled in Perkins county during its early days as a county, Mr. Alford being appointed postmaster at Grant and served for eight years. Our subject grew up in Iowa, coming to Nebraska with his parents when seventeen years of age, locating on the father's present homestead a mile and a half southeast of Grant, and he worked with his father until he was twenty-one years of age. He then left home and settled in Grant, establishing a draying business, starting with one team and wagon, did very well, and in 1894 added a livery business, which he carried on for several years. He

bought a small hardware store in 1900, started in this September 10th of that year with a small capital and a floor space 24x40 feet. He soon was obliged to increase his stock and now has a frontage of seventy feet on the main street of the town, and occupies a store of six hundred and fifty square feet floor space. He enjoys a good trade, and is classed among the solid and substantial business men of the town, always ready and willing to help in promoting the best interests of his community, financial, commercial and educational, and is one of the best known men in the county.

On November 10, 1892, Mr. Alford was united in marriage to Miss Laura Yenney, whose father, John Yenney, was a homesteader and early settler in this county.

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#### A. T. DAVIS.

A. T. Davis, one of the leading farmers of section 31, township 26, range 38, is also one of the old settlers of Cherry county, Nebraska. Coming here in the early days of its settlement, he has aided materially in the development of the region, and well merits the high standing he has gained as a citizen and progressive agriculturist and stockman.

Mr. Davis was born in Meigs county, Ohio, in 1858. He is a descendent of an old American family, his father, Robert, being a native of New Hampshire and an early pioneer in Ohio. He married Elizabeth McNeil.

When our subject was a lad of seven years the family came to Illinois and settled in Wayne county, where they lived on a farm for seven years, and then emigrated to Nebraska, locating in Redwillow county. They landed there in 1873, traveling by team and covered wagon through the wild and unsettled country, camping out along the road on the journey, and met with numerous exciting experiences. During the early settlement in Nebraska father and son did quite a good deal of hunting and killed many buffaloes and other wild game, and they went through the pioneer incidents, encountering many difficulties in getting their home established and opening up a ranch and farm. Our subject received his education in the country schools during his early boyhood, and later attended the State University for two years, the family having settled in Lincoln county, where the father died. After several years the mother with her little family came to Cherry county, arriving here in 1888, our subject settling on a ranch sixteen miles north of Hyannis, and was among

the earliest settlers in that vicinity, which was later named "Davis Valley," one of the greatest hay valleys in the county, yielding annually about twenty-five thousand tons of hay.

Mr. Davis worked faithfully and succeeded in building up a good home, improving the place in good shape and grew into the stock business gradually, and now has some of the finest herds of cattle and horses in the county, which brings him in a nice income, and he has made a great deal of money in that line. He is now proprietor of a two thousand-acre ranch, all deeded land and splendid range country. Although he has prospered in a wonderful degree since coming here, he has at different times met with reverses, in 1889 losing his entire hay crop by fire, besides other property. Also, several times he has had serious cattle losses on account of severe storms, but has in the main had great success in his ventures, now standing in the front ranks of the well-to-do men of his county.

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#### J. B. BILLINGS & SON.

The above firm, successful business men of Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, are engaged in the real estate and investment business at that place. They are special agents for the Burlington Railway lands, and have acted in this capacity for over twenty years; also for the B. & M. railroad and the Lincoln Land Company. They established this firm in 1877, and have carried it on continuously ever since that time, and have built up an enormous trade, extending all over the western part of the state of Nebraska and part of northern Kansas. It is the pioneer real estate business in Alma, and father and son are well and favorably known all over this section of the country.

J. B. Billings was a pioneer of Wisconsin, born in Montgomery county, New York, in 1846. He has three sons, namely: Aubrey A. Billings, who lately was cashier of the Bank of Alma, having held that position for the past fourteen years, and has recently resigned; James Earl Billings, a dentist, of Grand Junction, Colorado, and Robert F., associated with his father in the real estate business. For several years Mr. Billings was a resident of Parkersburg, Iowa, and then came to Harlan county in 1872, where he located on a farm near Alma, and remained on this place for eight years. He then moved to the town. He held the office of justice of the peace for many years, and was police judge of the city several years. He was county commissioner for six

years, and was appointed postmaster of Alma under President McKinley, proving a most efficient and popular public official. He was the first mayor of Alma, and a member of the town board for several terms. He also served on the school board for many years.

The firm of J. B. Billings & Son have been potent factors in the development and growth of this section, and have aided materially in the building up of the community. They have brought many settlers to this county, and have the greatest faith in land here. They own several large tracts of land, having twelve hundred acres located in Phelps, Harlan and Furnas counties, most of which is in the first named. During the past four years lands in this part of the country have advanced more than double. On the first of March last year this firm closed sales of over one hundred thousand dollars.

J. B. Billings is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, also of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and takes an active part in all local and state affairs. In political faith he is a Republican.

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#### CLELL LA BELL.

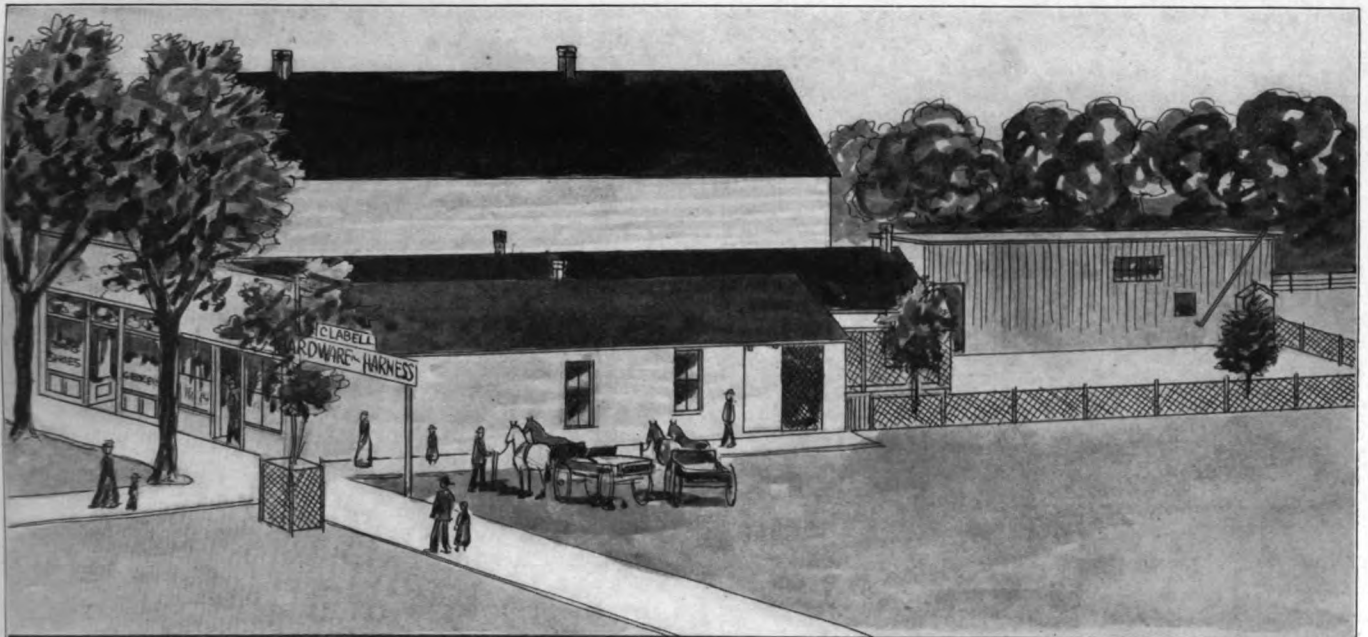
In the story of the career of this enterprising and successful citizen of Newport, Rock county, Nebraska, we have a story of far more than the usual interest, and yet one that is repeated thousands of times in the redemption of the children of the old world from the oppression of intolerable conditions, and their introduction into the larger life and liberty of the new. The transference of such vast multitudes from the almost hopeless poverty, destitution and toil that so largely rule across the ocean to the freedom and enlightenment that attend manhood and industry on American soil is a marvel of history, and gives a zest and a glory to the humble life of many who have toiled and labored here never dreaming of the possibilities their achievements bring, not only to their own descendents, but to the land of their adoption as well.

Mr. La Bell was born in Italy, near the city of Rome, April 10, 1865, where his father died when he was only eight years of age. At that time he was brought to this country by a German musician who agreed to teach him music, pay his mother \$12 per year for his time and return him to her at the end of four years. On the arrival of the steamer the German was arrested for kidnaping a boy some three years before and Clell and three

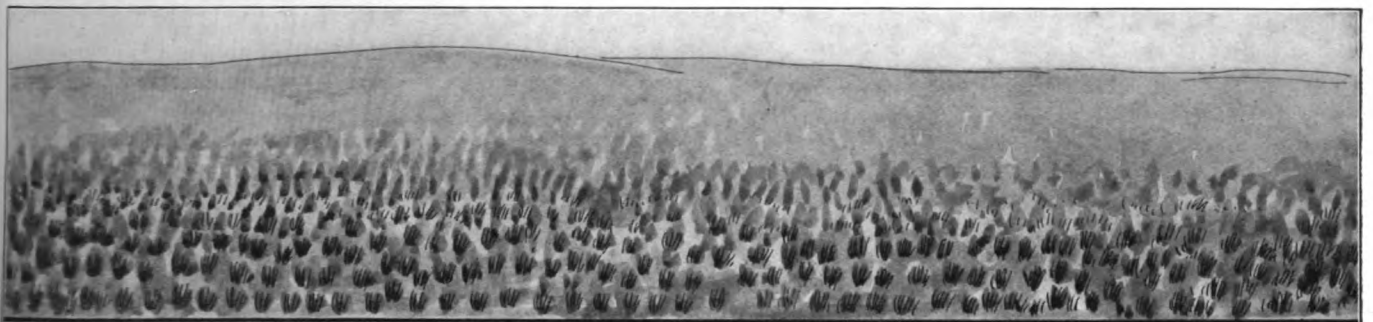
other lads were left strangers in a strange land to make their own way in the world alone. Cast adrift in the city of New York, it was his good fortune that he did not remain a homeless waif on its streets, but was cared for by the Humane Society and through them adopted by Elijah Longbottom, of Rockford, Iowa, where for some three years he was employed in farm labor. He was cruelly treated here and to escape a threatened flogging for staying overtime at a neighbor's ran away. From there he went to Hamilton county, after being abandoned by a brother of his adopted parent, and was fortunate to fall into the hands of Abraham Johnson, who gave him the advantages of school and a Christian home, and here he remained until eighteen years of age. The following year was spent by him in Montana in labor and mining, from whence he returned to Hamilton county, remaining until he attained his majority. That year Mr. La Bell came to Rock county, Nebraska, and filed on a homestead entry six miles southeast of Long Pine, where he "kept bachelor's hall" for a year, and for two years did his farm work with oxen.

Clell La Bell and Miss Luda O. De Witt were married April 5, 1891, and by this union he has become the father of two children, Ethel and Mabel. Mrs. La Bell is a daughter of Solomon De Witt, who comes of an old American lineage. Mr. and Mrs. La Bell passed through several protracted drouth periods and have seen hard times, but success has greatly crowned their efforts. With the opening of the year 1896 a fire swept away their hay and cattle sheds, causing a loss of about five hundred dollars, at that time a serious blow. However, with true grit he recovered from it, and when he sold out in 1902 had acquired an entire section of land for his homestead, on which he had a five-room residence and a barn that could shelter a hundred head of cattle. We show a view of this homestead on another page, together with a view of the prairie at the time of his coming, covered only by the prairie grasses. We also show a view of his residence and business property in Newport. There was an abundance of water and an orchard that attested faithful care. With the proceeds Mr. La Bell came to Newport and engaged in trade, opening a general store and inviting patronage especially to his harness, hardware, boot and shoe and grocery departments. He has been in business since leaving the farm and his store has become widely and favorably known alike for its reliable goods, fair treatment and the courteous manners of its management. In political af-

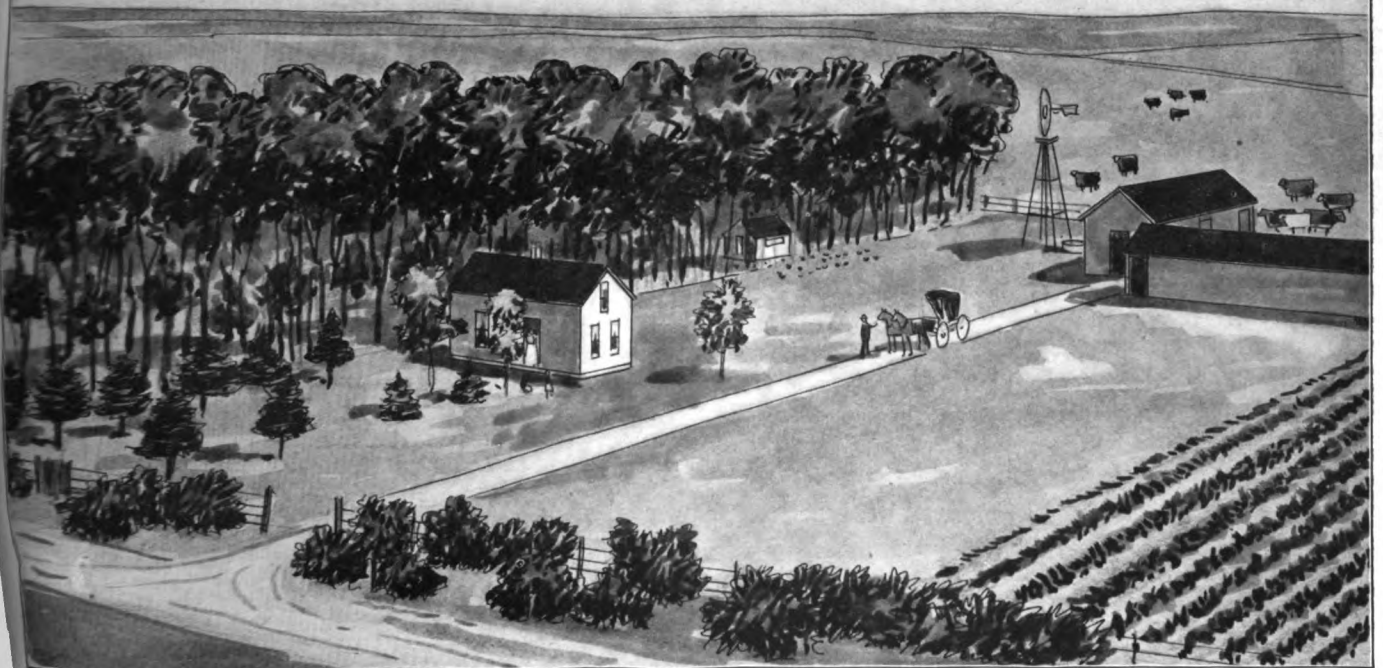




*STORE & RESIDENCE OF MR. C. LA BELL, NEWPORT, NEB.*



*LOOKING WEST ACROSS SECTION SIX AS MR. LA BELL FOUND IT IN 1888.*



RESIDENCE OF C. LA BELL,  
Section 6, Township 29, Range 19. Rock County, Nebraska.



fairs Mr. La Bell is a Republican. The family are all members of the Methodist church, while Mr. La Bell is a member of the Newport clan of Royal Highlanders and was formerly affiliated with the Knights of Pythias.

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#### GEORGE M. CLEAVENGER.

George M. Cleavenger, residing in Mullen, Hooker county, Nebraska, is one of the leading and substantial citizens of that thriving town, highly esteemed for his unswerving integrity and sterling worth.

Mr. Cleavenger was born in Hardin county, West Virginia, in 1847, and is of English and Irish descent. His father, Thomas, was a farmer and blacksmith, and he followed his calling in Hardin county, West Virginia, for many years. The family moved to Ohio in 1851, remained there for about two years, then emigrated to Iowa, settling in Union county, where they were among the pioneers and spent several years on the frontier, our subject growing up in that vicinity. When he reached the age of eighteen he left home and went to Kansas, locating in Washington county. At that time that country was full of Indians, also buffalo and other wild game, and a great deal of his time was spent in hunting. He took up a tract of land and developed a good farm, living there for twenty-two years. He was married while in that region, in 1871, taking as a wife Belle Lavinger, daughter of William Lavinger, an early settler in Kansas. Mrs. Cleavenger's mother was Ann Snyder, and the former grew up and was educated in Kansas. Our subject succeeded in accumulating a good home and farm in Kansas, but in 1888 disposed of the farm and moved to Montana, settling in Custer county, the family driving through the country to their new location from White-wood, South Dakota. As soon as they reached Montana he took up a desert claim and began to open a ranch, starting at once in the stock business. His ranch was situated one hundred and twenty miles from the county seat, Miles City, which was also his nearest trading point, and his nearest postoffice was a distance of forty miles. Mr. Cleavenger succeeded well in the ranching business, and remained on the place for ten years, then came to Nebraska, settling in Hooker county. This trip was also made by team, they being on the road for forty days, camping out along the way, sleeping under their wagon and cooking their meals over camp fires. As soon as he arrived here Mr. Cleavenger bought land and began to start a

ranch, also farmed some from the beginning, and has been following the same work for the past ten years. He deals principally in horses, raising the animals for breeding and market purposes, and is considered one of the best judges of horses in the region, well known all over this county as an authority on all matters pertaining to horseflesh.

Mr. Cleavenger's family consists of seven children, who are named as follows: Elvery B., Carrie May, Georgia, Frank, Charles, Grace and Estelline.

Our subject has always taken an active part in local affairs and is known throughout his locality for his liberal views on all matters of public interest. He was elected county commissioner of Hooker county in 1899 and served in that capacity for five years.

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#### JUDGE ALBERT MULDOON.

Judge Albert Muldoon, a prominent attorney of North Platte, Nebraska, is a gentleman of exceptional ability as a lawyer, one of the best informed men in the state of Nebraska, and is highly respected and esteemed as a worthy citizen. He is probably the most widely known man in the profession in this section of the country, and has built up a large and lucrative practice since settling here.

Judge Muldoon was born January 28, 1860, in Logan county, Illinois, and was educated in the schools near his home, afterwards attending the State Normal located at Normal, Illinois. After this he engaged in teaching and followed that occupation for six years in Logan county. His parents, James and Mary Costello Muldoon, both natives of County Derry, Ireland, came to America in 1858 and settled in Illinois, where they raised their family, and they still reside there. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1889, locating at Ogallala, and there practiced his profession for about seven years, and then moved to North Platte, where he has resided ever since, following his chosen work. He was elected county judge of Keith county on the Republican ticket in 1890, serving one term, and county attorney for two terms. He has served on the county central committee for Lincoln and has been on the district committee.

While in Ogallala he finished his studies, which were begun in his young manhood, and it was there that he was admitted to the bar. He is now district attorney for the Union Pacific Railway, and attorney for the Exchange Bank of Ogallala, the Sutherland and State

Bank and the Commercial Bank of Paxton, Nebraska. His time is fully occupied in looking after the interests of these different concerns, together with the general practice which he enjoys and which extends all over the western part of Nebraska, and the success which he has attained in his profession proves him to be one of the foremost lawyers of his time.

Judge Muldoon was married in 1886 to Miss Mary E. Lucas, a native of Logan county, Illinois.

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### PETER DAHLSTEN.

Peter Dahlsten, of Bartlett, Nebraska, is one of the old settlers of Wheeler county and a public official of enviable reputation, well known throughout the northwestern part of the state of Nebraska. He is the present county clerk, and his popularity is best evidenced by the fact that for the past fifteen or twenty years he has constantly held office in Wheeler county in some capacity or other, serving as postmaster at Erickson for six years, receiving his appointment under President Cleveland's regime. He has also held the office of treasurer of the county for four years, and was representative from the Forty-ninth District, consisting of eight counties—Greeley, Wheeler, Garfield, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker and Grant—elected to that office in 1900 on the People's Independent ticket. In 1905 Mr. Dahlsten was elected county clerk, and is still acting in this capacity, now serving his second term. He is a popular and efficient public official and one of the foremost men of this region, noted alike for his active public spirit in every matter pertaining to the good of the locality and for his many sterling qualities of heart and mind.

Mr. Dahlsten was born in Clayton county, Iowa, December 4, 1862. His father, Carl Dahlsten, was a native of Sweden, as was also his mother, Carrie (Hansen) Dahlsten. Our subject's father died in Madison county, Nebraska, November 2, 1905, and his mother in the spring of 1883. The family came to America in 1857, making the trip across the ocean in a sailing vessel, the journey taking three weeks from the time of leaving their native country up to the time of landing in New York City, and during the trip they were exposed to much hardship and suffering.

In 1876 our subject, with his parents, three brothers and a sister, moved from Clayton county, Iowa, to Cumming county, Nebraska, where they lived for three years. They then moved to Madison county, Nebraska, where

our subject assisted in opening up a homestead filed on by his father in 1883. When twenty-one years of age he came to Wheeler county and took up a homestead and tree claim on Cedar river, which is now three miles southeast of Ericson. Here he now has a ranch of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, besides six hundred acres leased school land. He has forty thousand cottonwood and ash trees and a large orchard growing on his place, mostly planted by himself.

On December 25, 1893, Mr. Dahlsten was united in marriage to Hannah McCart, a native of Nebraska, born in Otoe county, February 13, 1875. Her father, Henry O. McCart, and her mother, Minerva (Blevins) McCart, were pioneer settlers of Otoe county, near Palmyra, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Dahlsten the following children have been born: Belle, aged fourteen; Carl, aged eleven, and Anna, aged nine, this being October 22, 1908. The family are all active members of the Lutheran church and highly esteemed by all. Mr. Dahlsten is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### ELMER J. SWEET.

The above name will be readily recognized as one of the leading business men and worthy citizens of Sidney, Nebraska. Mr. Sweet is one of the oldest settlers in this part of Nebraska, and has various financial interests in Sidney and vicinity. He is a man of strict integrity and of energy and one of the wide-awake and influential men of his community.

Mr. Sweet was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, June 8, 1858, on a farm. His father was Dodge Sweet, of American stock, and came west as far as Denver as early as 1849. He married Miss Susan Crawford, of Ohio. Our subject was raised in his native state, attended the country schools and helped his parents in the farm work up to 1881. He had learned the carpenter's trade when a young fellow, making the farm his home for years, his father having died when he was four years old, and Elmer assisting in the care of his mother and the family. When he was twenty-three years of age he came to Sidney, settling there, where he followed his trade up to 1904. He did contracting here and all over the surrounding country, and he put up some of the finest buildings in the place and is considered one of the foremost men in his line of work. In 1903 he opened a lumber yard and carries a large stock of lumber, feed, building material,





J. H. DENSLow,  
Glen. Nebraska.

grain, etc., and has done a flourishing business since starting up. He also owns land in this vicinity.

In 1881 Mr. Sweet was united in marriage to Miss Lucy M. Rogers and she died in 1890, leaving a family of four children, named as follows: Samuel R., Arthur W., Susan and Henry, the latter having died in infancy. Mr. Sweet was married the second time, in 1894, to Miss Luella Fetterly, and she died in 1900, leaving one child, Irene.

Mr. Sweet is interested in politics along reform lines and votes the Prohibition ticket. Fraternally he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Maccabees.

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### J. H. DENSLOW.

The gentleman above named is a representative Nebraskan and one of the progressive farmers of Sioux county, owner of a fine estate of sixteen hundred acres in section 35, township 31, range 54. He is a young man of excellent business capacity and well merits his success and enviable reputation as an up-to-date agriculturist and worthy citizen. We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Denslow on one of the illustrated pages of this work.

Mr. Denslow was born in Dodge county, Nebraska, in 1870, on a farm. His father, Jeremiah, was a farmer and pioneer in this state, settling here in 1856, and he experienced all the phases of frontier life, freighting through the country when this region was practically a wilderness and was here ahead of the railroads. He gradually worked into the stock business, and in later years was recognized as one of the leading stock growers and ranchmen in western Nebraska.

Our subject grew up on the home farm, receiving his education in the country schools, spending his youth in eastern Nebraska, farming in Dodge county, and later coming to Sioux county, arriving here June 22, 1902. This, however, was not his first trip to this section, as he had been through the territory previously, locating the tract on which he settled, which lies fifteen miles west of Crawford, on the White river, and on seeing this locality was so well pleased that he decided to make it his home, which he did. The tract was entirely unimproved land at that time. The town of Glenn lies one and a half miles east of the place and is his postoffice. The ranch is well supplied with timber and is all good land, on

which he has built a fine set of farm buildings and many miles of fence. His entire time has been spent in developing his farm and making it a model ranch home, and he intends soon to have one hundred and twenty-five acres under irrigation. He is a young man of energetic character and indomitable will, and is on the high road to wealth and success, who is doing his full share in building up the commercial and financial resources of this section.

Mr. Denslow was married while living in Dodge county in 1892 to Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, daughter of B. J. Baldwin, a well known farmer residing at Fontanelle, Nebraska, and an old settler in that locality. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Denslow taught school in Dodge county, and is a lady of superior mental attainments. To our subject and his good wife have been born the following children: Aurelia, Grace, Rachel, Clyde, Ford and a baby, named Nina. The family occupy a pleasant home, and theirs is one of the most hospitable places to be found anywhere by the traveler through this part of the state. In politics Mr. Denslow is a supporter of Mr. Bryan and the policies he represents.

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### DR. J. L. KAY.

J. L. Kay, prominently known as a leading physician throughout Redwillow county, resides in McCook, Nebraska. He has an extended practice all over this and the adjoining counties, and by his skillful methods in all cases has won the confidence and esteem of every one in this section of the state.

Dr. Kay was born in the state of Ohio, in 1853. He came to Nebraska in 1883 from Cullom, Livingston county, Illinois, where he had practiced his profession from 1876 up to that time. He is a graduate of the Louisville (Kentucky) Medical School, class of 1876.

For some time after locating in McCook Dr. Kay held the position of physician for the B. & M. Railway, traveling from Hastings to Denver. Owing to failure of his health, in 1897 he removed to Joplin, Missouri, where he built up a large practice and was recognized as a master in his profession. He returned to McCook in 1905, and has rapidly regained his old practice, his patients of former years welcoming him back, and he has also gained many new ones since McCook has grown rapidly during the latter years.

Dr. Kay is the owner of the Commercial Hotel, located on one of the best corners of the Main street. This is conducted by his son,

Elmer Kay, and is the leading hostelry in McCook.

Dr. Kay takes an active interest in all local affairs, and has served on the city council for two terms, also on the city school board. He is prominent in Masonic circles, and is a past master and high priest of the Chapter. He is a member of the Commandery and Scottish Rite.

#### HON. J. G. BEELER.

Hon. J. G. Beeler, a prominent attorney of North Platte, Nebraska, is a gentleman of excellent qualifications and enjoys universal esteem all through western Nebraska.

Mr. Beeler is a native of the north of Holland and came to the United States when a small child, and has made a trip back there once since coming to this country, in 1872. He received his education at Hedding College, Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois, and also studied law at Bushnell, Illinois. He was admitted to the bar in Nebraska in 1890, and was elected county attorney, serving from 1895 to 1898, inclusive, on the Fusion ticket. He was a member of the board of education for six years, and is now serving his third term as chairman of that body. During his earlier years Mr. Beeler followed teaching as a profession and taught in Illinois, later in Holdrege, Nebraska, for about twelve years. He has always taken a deep interest in educational affairs in his community and helped build the twenty-five thousand dollar high school building at North Platte, also the wings on each of the ward buildings. The schools in this town are exceptionally well equipped, and has a force of twenty-seven efficient teachers.

Mr. Beeler is at present acting as attorney for the town of North Platte, also in the same capacity for the McDonald State Bank and the N. P. Land and Water Company. In 1906 he was nominated to represent the Fusion party from his district in the state senate. He first located in Lincoln county in 1885, and in 1890 began the practice of law, coming to this place in 1895, where he has since resided, and has practiced all over the thirteenth judicial district. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a trustee of the same, acting on the building committee. He is a prominent worker in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge here, and trustee of the Workmen.

Mr. Beeler was married in 1881 to Anna D. Thomas, of Abingdon, Illinois. To this union four daughters have been born, namely: Win-

nie O., married to Marshall B. Scott, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Cuba, Illinois; Fenna C., who is attending the State University at Lincoln; Jennie G., married to Charles F. Temple, stenographer and law student, and Myrtle, who is attending school.

#### R. C. WHITAKER.

R. C. Whitaker, one of the leading citizens of Lake township, Phelps county, is the owner of the celebrated Duroc Jersey farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 5. He has this year sold off one hundred and sixty acres, and will now devote most of his attention to the breeding of pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs. In 1892 our subject and his father, N. M. Whitaker, came to this county from Macon county, Illinois, and bought four hundred and eighty acres, and started in the hog business here. They had owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Illinois and there made a specialty of raising and feeding hogs for the Chicago market, and were very successful, and numbered among the best shippers in their locality. They are of the opinion that Nebraska is superior to that state for the successful raising of hogs, as the dry atmosphere here is much better for their culture, while in Illinois the wet weather in the spring and fall is very damaging to their perfect growth and development. Since they have located here they have not lost one hog, where in that state they lost a dozen, and again, the alfalfa raised here and used as a food gives this country a wonderful advantage. In 1903 our subject established himself in the Duroc Jersey pure-bred business, and he now has ninety head of hogs from the best strains in the country. He will hold his first sale in February, 1907, and as every farmer and stock raiser in the section knows the quality of his animals, he will be able to dispose of whatever he has on hand at a good round sum.

While living in Illinois he also handled a big bunch of cattle, but since coming here he has given up handling those animals and confines his attention to handling Duroc Jerseys exclusively. Mr. Whitaker considers Nebraska far ahead of Illinois for farming, as one man can attend to eighty to ninety acres of corn here while there forty acres would be all one man could successfully cultivate, and the yield and quality here will be just as good. His own farm is exceptionally well located for the markets at Holdrege, the county seat, which is five miles west, and Funk, located



three miles to the east. Sacramento, two miles distant, is also a good shipping point, so that they have only a short distance to drive their stock when ready for shipment. When they came to this locality they paid eight thousand five hundred dollars for one-half a section, and recently sold a quarter section for ten thousand dollars, which shows conclusively the rapid advance in land values.

Our subject's father died here in 1903, aged seventy-one years. He was a native of Indiana, son of B. B. Whitaker, and his parents located at Lincoln, Illinois, when he was an infant. He married Mary C. Novell, who is now living with her son, he having been the only boy in the family, with four sisters, one of whom, Mrs. G. O. Perrine, now resides in Illinois, and two in Kansas, Mrs. T. F. Bridget and Mrs. L. E. Street; one in Alberta, Mrs. B. M. McCurdy.

Mr. Whitaker married Miss Irene Erickson, daughter of Andrew Erickson, of Lake township, Phelps county, who is a successful farmer. The Whitakers are of Kentucky descent, and our subject and his two sons, Lloyd and Clinton, are the only representatives in a direct line on his father's side. He is an "old-line" Democrat, all the time, and has always taken an active part in politics.

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#### CLARENCE ELMER LAWSON.

Clarence Elmer Lawson, known throughout Cherry county as a prosperous young agriculturist and ranchman and worthy citizen, resides on his well improved estate in section 15, township 25, range 39. He is a gentleman of good business judgment and is the proprietor of a valuable property by dint of his industry, economy and honesty.

Our subject was born in Lynn county, Missouri, in 1873. His father, W. J. Lawson, was a pioneer settler in Dawson and Custer counties, Nebraska, a native of Tennessee. He married Miss Dicie Montgomery, a native of Kentucky. Clarence grew up on a farm in Dawson county, receiving a limited education in the country schools, and became well acquainted with the life on the frontier. He started for himself in 1894, coming to Cherry county, and the following year located on the place he now occupies, which lies in section 15, township 25, range 39. Here he at once put up a sod house and stables, beginning to farm a little the first year, but did not have very good success at first. He improved the ranch as fast as he was able and kept it up in

splendid shape. There are three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, all in one piece, and he also controls a thousand acres of leased land lying near Motler Lake, and he is part owner of this lake, which is a beautiful body of water, where many ducks and other wild fowl abide, making an ideal place for the sport during the hunting season.

When Mr. Lawson first settled in this vicinity the whole country round was raw prairie land, and one look at it now will convince the spectator that he has certainly done some work to accomplish the task of developing it into the fine ranch it now appears. He has been earnest and painstaking in all his efforts, always striving to get the best possible results from his labors, and is one of those men who aim for the making of good homes and upright citizenship. He has good buildings and a comfortable home.

Mr. Lawson was married in 1902 to Laura Woodruff. Mrs. Lawson was a native of Canada, daughter of Emmet Woodruff, one of the best known pioneer ranchmen of Cherry county, and her mother, whose maiden name was Mary Perrett, was born and reared in England. One child has been born to our subject and his estimable wife, a daughter, Lois, aged five years.

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#### GEORGE L. MATHEWS.

Among the prominent citizens of Thedford, Thomas county, who has for the past many years taken an active part in the development of the county and is familiar with the changes which have taken place throughout the section, we mention the name of George L. Mathews. This gentleman is one of the well-to-do residents of Thedford, where he was the first man to build a house.

Mr. Mathews was born in New York state in 1854, reared on a farm in Delaware county, and is of American stock. His father, Robert, was a farmer all his life, his wife's maiden name being Jane Riddle. Our subject lived in his native state until he was twenty-one years of age, then came to Nebraska, settling in Lancaster county, where he was among the earliest settlers. He spent one year there, then went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, remained but a short time and drifted to Colorado, where he spent three years, engaging in mining near Leadville. From there he went to Arizona, remained for eight months, then to California for sixteen months, following mining nearly all of this time. A part of his time was occupied in ranching, following lumbering, etc. In 1884

he went to Utah, landing there in the spring of that year, and after a short time there returned to Leadville, Colorado. His next move was to Dunning, Nebraska, and there he was ahead of the railroad, that not entering Blaine county for some little time afterwards, and there was not a building up in that place when he arrived there. He finally landed in Thomas county in 1887, and his was the first house built in Thedford, he having previously taken a homestead about a mile and a half from the town site. There he put up a house and began developing a ranch and lived on it for twenty years, transforming the tract from a barren prairie to one of the best improved ranches in the vicinity. He moved to Thedford in 1907, and here has a comfortable and pleasant home, and his family are among the foremost in the little town. For six years he held the office of county clerk of Thomas county, and is a popular and capable public official, enjoying the esteem and confidence of his associates.

Mr. Mathews was married in February, 1888, to Miss Addie Dunn, daughter of E. P. and Arabella (Thornburgh) Dunn, who were pioneers of Blaine and Loup counties and for several years Mr. Dunn held the office of county surveyor in that county. Mr. Dunn was born in Massachusetts, where he was reared, coming to Nebraska in 1878. Mrs. in Nebraska. Mrs. Mathews was reared and educated in Iowa, and has taught school to quite an extent in this vicinity. Our subject has a family of four children, as follows: Robert, Jane, Ella and Sarah, all of whom were born on the homestead, which Mr. Mathews sold in 1907, the family then coming to Thedford to reside.

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#### ERNEST KRUSE, JR.

Among the younger residents of Sidney, Nebraska, who have spent the greater part of their lives in western Nebraska, we mention Ernest Kruse, Jr., a successful business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Kruse was born in Davenport, Iowa, in 1872, and is a son of Ernest Kruse, a well-known carpenter of Davenport, born in Hamburg, Germany, who came to this country as a young man and built up a home and competence for his family in the western states. One brother of our subject, Rudolph, born at Davenport in 1877, is now a partner in the latter's business. When Ernest, Jr., was fifteen years of age the family moved to western Nebraska, landing in Sidney in January, 1888, the

father taking up a homestead nine miles northwest of the town of Sidney. Here they lived in a tent for a time, and then built a sod shanty and frame house combined, and while living there went through all sorts of pioneer experiences, seeing many hard times and suffering much privation. When he was seventeen years old he went to Colorado and worked in the brick yards for three years, then returned to Nebraska and filed on a homestead adjoining his father's place, and proved up on it. Three years and eight months were spent in working in the round house at Sidney, his brother Rudolph keeping house for our subject and another brother who also worked in the round house. Rudolph was graduated from the High School at Sidney, and was one of the brightest pupils in his class. The two brothers opened their present business, in 1897 and have been very successful. They are now erecting a 28x48 ft. one-story stone building on the principal street of the town, and are among the substantial citizens of Sidney, giving all their time and attention to their business.

In 1901 Ernest Kruse was married to Miss Mame E. Tobin, born and raised in Sidney. Rudolph was married in 1899, to Grace Moore, also born in Sidney. Albert, another brother of our subject, was married in 1904 to Miss Sophia Urbach, daughter of Morris Urbach, one of the pioneers in Sidney. They have one child, Myron. The brothers are all highly esteemed in the community, and are good citizens and substantial business men. Mr. Kruse has been a member of the I. O. O. F. since 1898.

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#### W. R. WATT.

W. R. Watt, one of the prominent residents of Minden, Kearney county, has for the past twenty-five years been closely identified with the development and growth of this section of the country. Mr. Watt is an active member of the community in which he lives, taking a deep interest in whatever tends to improve conditions relative to commercial and social affairs, and is widely known throughout the country as a public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Watt is a native of Warren county, Illinois, born in 1868. He came to Minden in 1883, opening a farm in Logan township, and remained on that up to 1895. He then started in the horse business, buying and selling horses and mules, shipping these to the eastern and southern markets. His operations extend all over the state of Nebraska, and during each year handles from 1000 to 1200 head. During

the war between England and the Boers, and also the war between the Spanish nation and United States, he furnished a large number of animals for the government to be used by the soldiers. In the past twelve years Mr. Watt has bought and sold over 15,000 horses and mules, and is well known throughout the entire country for the superior quality of the animals he handles, and through his strict integrity and honest dealings has won the confidence of all classes of people with whom he deals. He has a farm of eighty acres adjoining Minden which he uses for feeding purposes, also owns 640 acres on the Platte River devoted to ranching purpose. He gives his entire attention to this business, and is the largest exclusive dealer in horses and mules in western Nebraska south of the Platte River.

Mr. Watt was elected Mayor of Minden in 1903 and served his term, making a popular and efficient official. He has been Chief of Police for the last six years, and still holds this office. He is a strong advocate of temperance, and one of the foremost citizens in all matters of local importance.

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#### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS LYON.

The gentleman named above is one of the leading business men of the thriving town of Grant, in Perkins county. Mr. Lyon, as his name would indicate, is a man of patriotic spirit, untiring energy and active mind, and has done his full share toward the development of the financial interests of the community where he has spent so many years.

Mr. Lyon was born in Marion county, Ohio, in 1866, and was reared on a farm. His parents were Virginians, and his father was one of the earliest settlers in Perkins county, coming here as early as 1887, proved up on a good homestead and made it his home until his death in 1906. When our subject was five years of age the family settled in Missouri and lived there for three years, and came to Nebraska in 1875, locating in Otoe county, south of Nebraska City, where they were among the pioneer settlers. There Mr. Lyon grew to manhood, becoming familiar with every phase of frontier life. He had a common school education, spending his entire time on his father's homestead, and at the age of about sixteen located in what is now Perkins county, spending three or four years there, and in the summer of '86 went into Colorado with a party of surveyors, and was in that vicinity for three years, two years for the B. & M. Railroad and

one year for the Union Pacific, roughing it most of the time, spending many nights camping out on the plains in all kinds of severe weather, winter and summer. During the winter of 1888 he returned to Perkins county, and opened up a butcher shop in Grant, which he ran for a short time, then started in the draying and livery business, also was engaged in the implement and flour business, in which he worked up a good trade in a short time. He also bought and sold hogs and cattle through the country during the hard times in the "90's," continuing in the above lines up to 1901, then sold out all his enterprises and purchased his present store which was then but a small establishment. He put in a general line of goods, handling all kinds of merchandise, and has built up a good business throughout the surrounding country. He has two buildings, one of which is 22 x 110, and the other 22x50 ft., and conducts one of the finest and largest stores of its kind in Perkins county. He is a thorough business man, of splendid ability, and is making a success of his work.

In 1892 Mr. Lyon married Miss Grace C. Hull, daughter of Milton B. Hull, a pioneer settler of Perkins county. To them were born four children, Fay, Estelle, Bruce and Cecil, and Mrs. Lyon died in the fall of 1907.

Mr. Lyon is a Democrat and takes an active part in local affairs.

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#### ALLEN W. SKIDMORE.

Allen W. Skidmore, a native of Indiana, was born on a farm in Brown county December 2, 1862. His father, John Skidmore, was a farmer by occupation and died in Piatt county, Illinois, about 1878. His mother, who was a Mrs. Maris at the time she married Mr. Skidmore, was Miss Thamar Lane in maidenhood; she came to Keith county in pioneer days, secured a homestead and died here in 1902.

Our subject was reared on an Illinois farm in Piatt county and was educated in the common schools. In 1886 he came west to Ogalala, Nebraska, taking a homestead 45 miles south of that city in Chase county. Here he put up a sod shanty, in which he made his home for a number of years. He had but a little to start with, having no team for nearly three years. He worked out at times and did the best he could with his limited means for seven years when he proved up on his homestead. He experienced very hard times during seven years. His crops were either very poor or total failures and he was obliged to

turn his hand to almost anything in order to make a living. In 1904 he sold his Chase county land, came to Keith county and settled five miles west of Ogallala, purchasing his mother's old homestead, of 160 acres. He has succeeded in his farming and has also been successfully engaged in stock raising. He has excellent improvements and is rated among the well-to-do old settlers of this part of the state. He also owns property in the city of Ogallala, where he lives part of the time in order that his children may have the advantage of better schools.

Mr. Skidmore and Miss Rose Mossberger were united in marriage March 2, 1890. Mrs. Skidmore is a daughter of Issac and Barbara (Landis) Mossberger, influential old settlers of Chase county. Mr. and Mrs. Skidmore have been blessed with seven children: Goldie, Harry, Ethel, Ruth, George and Boyd; the first-born died unnamed.

When Mr. Skidmore reached Ogallala he was in very poor circumstances, his entire capital being \$70. But he has been thrifty and industrious and energetic and has attained a fine success, building up a farm and home that bring him comfort and a good competency. Mr. Skidmore has been active in politics, affiliating with the Republican party. For two terms he was city Marshall of the city of Ogallala. He has been deeply interested in the development of the schools of the county; he served as school director for a long time. He is a man of strong character and wields a good influence in the community in which he lives.

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#### JOSEPH E. WEST.

Joseph E. West resides in Rushville, Sheridan county, Nebraska. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1838, and is a son of Eliab West, who was in the hardware business in the village of Mansville. There was a family of nine children, and our subject was the third member. They came to Wisconsin where the family were pioneer settlers when he was nine years old. Here he was raised, and in 1860 moved to Iowa and settled near Council Bluffs. He began working at freighting, traveling from there to Denver in 1861 and continued at this work up to 1865. Our subject was one of those who helped build the Union Pacific railroad through the western part of Nebraska.

In 1880 Mr. West went to the central part of the state when he engaged in sheep raising, but met with much bad luck and after suffering heavy losses, 5000 sheep dying in one year, he

was obliged to quit the business as he had lost everything he had. He came to Sheridan county in 1889, entering the government Indian service, which subsequently brought him to Rushville, and remained in that work for eight years here. He had charge of the supplies which were shipped here for the Indians, and became thoroughly familiar with methods of dealing with those people and made an efficient and faithful employe of the government. After leaving the employ of the U. S. government he went into the hotel business, and continued at this for six years, running the Commercial House at Rushville. Since closing this out he has been engaged in the real estate business, and in 1904 established the bargain store which he now operates. He has built up a good trade and enjoys a wide patronage from all over this section of the country. Mr. West also owns a large ranch located two miles east of Rushville, containing 1,600 acres, and here he does farming and stock raising, which nets him a fine income. He is counted among the pioneers of this state, and has taken a prominent part in the history of this section from the start. He made twenty-four trips across Nebraska to Denver and Salt Lake City in the early days. He has sold many sacks of flour in the west receiving in payment for this \$100 in gold dust, for a hundred pound sack of flour. He at one time owned a freighting outfit of wagons, teams, etc., and had a party of one hundred and ten men working under him. Many times there were fierce Indian fights which our subject witnessed, and he spent years in dealing with these dangerous people, at some times being obliged to station ten men as guards on outpost duty. Many trips were made when the redskins were on the warpath, and at different times he had some exciting skirmishes with them.

In 1858 Mr. West married Miss Martha A. Lonsworth, of French-Canadian descent.

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#### M. N. HOLCOMBE.

The subject of this review has for many years past resided in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and during this time has acquired a fine property and built up a comfortable home as a result of his industry and good management. He is widely known in his locality and held in the highest esteem as a citizen of true worth. A portrait of him will be found on another page.

Mr. Holcombe was born near Atlanta, Georgia, January 1, 1853. He is a son of Reuben



M. N. HOLCOMBE.



Holcombe, who was a prominent physician of Haralson county, Georgia, and also practised in Blount county, Alabama, whose death occurred during the civil war. The Holcombes were early settlers in Virginia. Our subject's mother was Miss Sarah Adams of Carroll county, Georgia. They were of a proud old southern family, and three brothers fought and died in the service of the confederacy. The family originally came from North Carolina, and settled in Georgia in the pioneer days of that state when Indians were still in the country. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1875, working for the U. P. railroad in the vicinity of North Platte. He was employed by the railroad as foreman of the track repair department for the Mountain division west of North Platte, between there and Sidney, and was in this position for a period of nine years. At the end of this time he retired from the service of the road and went on a ranch of about 2,000 acres. This was in 1887, where he engaged in the stock business. He formerly owned 4,400 acres of land here, but disposed of over 2,000 acres, and now has a ranch of 1,600 acres, and runs about five hundred head of cattle. In past years his herd numbered from six to eight hundred head, and he has always been very successful in this work. He has done his part in the upbuilding of the county, and always takes a commendable interest in everything that tends to advance the commercial and educational matters of the locality in which he resides. He was for five years commissioner of Keith county, Nebraska, and afterwards held the office of county treasurer of Lincoln county, being elected in 1898, serving one term, but refused the re-election.

Mr. Holcombe married Miss Lulu Steele, Dec. 28, 1877, daughter of John and Nancy Honge Steele, natives of Georgia. Her ancestors on both sides were pioneer settlers in that state, serving in the revolutionary war, and in the civil war, always being prominent in public affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe have six children, who are named as follows: John, who is manager of one of the leading jewelry establishments in Haywards, California; Robert, engaged in the ranching business near Maxwell, Nebraska; Albert, attending school at Virginia City, Nevada; Steele and Edith, also at school; and Mrs. Salena Lowden, residing in North Platte.

Mr. Holcombe is manager of a large ranch of 5,600 acres located just north of his own ranch. This place is owned by the Honorable J. A. Van Arsdale, Ex-Assistant Attorney General of the U. S. at Washington, D. C., now Judge of Appeals of District of Columbia. On

this ranch they run from five to seven hundred and fifty head of cattle, and Mr. Holcombe has successfully managed this extensive property in addition to his own large interests, for the past seventeen years.

Mr. Holcombe takes a commendable interest in all public affairs, and is active in advancing the commercial and educational matters in his locality. He has served on the school board for six years in the Brady district. He is a prominent member of the order of the Macca-bees and also a Modern Woodman.

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#### GEORGE E. MORGAN.

George E. Morgan, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Deuel county, Nebraska, resides on section 5, township 22, range 44, where he has built up a comfortable home and valuable estate during the time he has spent in this locality.

Mr. Morgan was born in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1858, and raised on his father's farm in that locality. He is a son of Samuel Morgan, of English birth, who was raised in that country and came to America in the thirties. They were the parents of twelve children, the second youngest being our subject, who started in for himself at the age of sixteen years, beginning at farm work which he followed for three years. He then started to learn the blacksmith's trade, and after mastering this continued in it for five years in the vicinity of his father's home. He then took a farm in Crawford county, Iowa, remaining on that up to 1886, when he moved to Hay Springs, Nebraska, and took a pre-emption located seven miles southeast of that place. Then he bought a relinquishment and as the place was utterly without improvements was obliged to go to work building a set of farm buildings, fences, etc. During the years 1887 and '88 his crops did not come up to his expectations so he decided to go to the sand hills and start in the stock business, as he did not think he could make any money in farming in that locality. When he landed in Hay Springs he had very little money, but he had gotten together some stock and added improvements so was able to sell his farm for \$400 and this he put into stock after locating here. He brought three cows and four calves with him and kept buying more as he was able, so his herd kept increasing and he did well from the first. There were no settlers in this locality when the family moved here, and the town of Lakeside was then nothing but a side station, and the only store

was kept in a box car. He took a homestead in section 5, township 22, range 44, and still occupies this farm. For a time he had plenty of hay land and range for his stock, and he now owns 640 acres of deeded land, including 480 acres of Kinkaid homestead. On his ranch he runs 430 head of cattle and fifty-two horses, also quite a number of sheep. He devotes all his attention to stock raising and has never broken any land on the place except for a garden for home supply. He and his family lived in a sod house up to 1904, when he built a comfortable frame house, the timber for which was hauled from Lakeside, a distance of twelve and one half miles. Mr. Morgan thinks that he is much better off here than he would have been had he stayed on the table land, and the entire family is satisfied to remain here where they have such a pleasant home and comfortable surroundings.

Mr. Morgan's family consists of his wife, (who was Miss Emmaline Welch, born of Irish parents,) and their three children, namely; Charlotte, Estella and Theresa, two of whom are married. Mr. Morgan has done his share in developing this section of the country and advancing the commercial and agricultural interests. He is a Republican and always votes that ticket, but never takes any active part in party politics, preferring to let the other fellow do the talking.

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#### WILLIAM A. DANLEY.

It is not necessary to introduce the gentleman above named to the people of Dawes county, as he has been a resident of this region since its earliest settlement and has become widely known as a man of active public spirit who has always given his best efforts to aid in the development of the agricultural and commercial interests of his county. Mr. Danley resides in Chadron, where he is engaged in the bakery business, and occupies a pleasant home with his family, highly respected by all with whom he has to do.

Mr. Danley was born in Danvers, McLean county, Illinois, in 1860. He is a son of Samuel Danley, of American stock, and father and son were born in the same house, the Danleys having occupied the old homestead for a great many years. Our subject was raised and educated in his native state, attending school at Princeton, Illinois. When he was nineteen years of age he came with his parents to Nebraska, settling in Niobrara, Knox county. He worked on the railroad, helping to grade the

road from O'Neill to Buffalo Gap. He afterwards spent two years at Valentine and Fort Niobrara, he and his father working together all the time. In 1884 he came to Chadron where he worked at freighting and grading, roughing it all over this region. For two years he lived in tents, camping out through all kinds of rough weather and became thoroughly familiar with the whole country. He saw the first houses ever put up in Atkinson, Stuart, Long Pine and Ainsworth, and distinctly remembers when the whole region was practically nothing but a wilderness, wild game of all sorts roaming the plains. He took up government land at Chadron and remained until he proved up on it, and then was for three years engaged in the milk business here. He went out of that and opened a hardware store which he ran for two years. After that he was appointed assistant postmaster and served in that capacity for four years. He established his present business, consisting of bakery and confectionery goods, in 1900, and built up a good business, but sold it out in June, 1907. He was appointed postmaster June 11, 1907, and was re-appointed December 9, 1907, at Chadron, Nebraska.

Mr. Danley was married in Chadron in 1888, to Miss Jennie Hollenbeck, daughter of John Hollenbeck, who was among the early settlers of Dawes county. Mr. and Mrs. Danley have one son, Neil, born in 1898.

Mr. Danley is a Republican and takes an active interest in local party affairs, lending his influence at all times for good government.

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#### DR. NICHOLAS McCABE.

Dr. Nicholas McCabe, mayor of North Platte, Nebraska, is one of the influential and prosperous citizens of Lincoln county. He is a physician of note and a skillful surgeon, also the proprietor of one of the leading drug establishments of North Platte.

Dr. McCabe is a native of Ireland and came to this country in his boyhood. He received his preliminary education at St. Joseph's College at Buffalo, New York, and later obtained his M. D. degree from the University of Buffalo. In 1886 he came to North Platte and began the practice of medicine, and since that time has resided here continuously and has built up a large practice and also has gained the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has chosen his home. He has been surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad for the past ten years. About 1891 he established the North Platte Pharmacy, of which he was sole



proprietor until 1908, when he sold half interest to Edgar Schiller, and the new firm is conducted under the name of Schiller & Company. Dr. McCabe has invested considerably in farming lands in this county, and is the owner of 3,000 acres of land, 1,100 acres of which is farming land; he also has a large herd of stock on this farm. One feature about Dr. McCabe's farm is that it is mostly all irrigated, 700 acres is watered by the regular irrigation process, 200 acres of which are watered by a ditch which was dug by the Doctor himself and is called the McCabe Irrigation Canal, and the other 500 acres being under the "Birdwood Irrigation District."

In 1906 Dr. McCabe was elected Mayor of North Platte, on a ticket pledged to municipal ownership in buying out the private company that owns the water works plant here. He was reelected for three consecutive terms, the last one by a majority of two to one in the face of a bitter attack made upon him by his political enemies. Politically he is an Independent Democrat.

Dr. McCabe is a man of broad mind, and has always taken a commendable interest in local public affairs and assisted in the upbuilding of the city and county and every public enterprise tending to the advancement of the better interests of the community in which he resides.

#### JOHN ROSS LELACHEUR.

John Ross LeLacheur, who resides in section 29, township 26, range 32, Cherry county, Nebraska, has a valuable estate which he has gained by industry and good management. He was born in Delaware county, Iowa, in 1876, on a farm.

Elisha LeLacheur, the father of our subject, was a native of Prince Edward Island, born in 1831, and came of French parentage. He grew up in that country and came to America with his parents when he was a lad of eleven, the family settling in Iowa, and he attended the country schools in Delaware county, and was married there in 1863 to Mary J. Bliss, of English and Yankee stock, the mother now residing in Mullen. John Ross LeLacheur was one of four children in his father's family, named as follows: Phoebe E., Frank W., John R. and Wm. H., and he was the third member in order of birth. In 1882 our subject moved to Nebraska, driving from Iowa with a team and covered wagon, bringing with them a yoke of oxen and three horses, also three colts. The trip was a hard and tedious one, they being

obliged to camp out at night, but they came through with no serious drawbacks, and after arriving in Nebraska settled in Nance county, where they lived for four years, then came to Cherry county and settled on a ranch situated eleven miles northwest of Mullen. There their first dwelling was a tent, in which they lived during the first summer. Storms and hail literally tore the tent to pieces in a few months, and they were obliged to build a sod house before the rough weather came on in the fall, and also built a hen house of sod, barns and sheds for their stock. They had hard times at first, but gradually kept improving the place and tried to farm, but lost several crops during the dry years, and had bad luck. On October 23, 1894, the father died as a result of an accident. He was helping fight a prairie fire and was so badly burned that he only survived his wounds eighteen hours. On January 1, 1901, the old ranch homestead building caught fire and burned to the ground. One son, William, and his family occupied the dwelling at the time, and his wife was awakened at four o'clock in the morning by the smell of smoke, found the house on fire and they barely escaped from the burning building with their lives. As it was, William's hair was badly singed and his night clothes were nearly burned off his body. His wife and their child were almost caught in the fire, but managed to escape without serious harm. This put an end to occupying the old ranch house, but the place is still used as a summer pasture for stock.

In 1899 our subject went on a ranch of his own, which was situated in section 29, township 26, range 32. He had been married in December of the year previous, to Maggie Stevenson, daughter of Frank Stevenson, an old settler in western Nebraska. Mrs. LeLacheur's mother was prior to her marriage, Miss Adelaide Allen, born in Pine Grove, Warren county, Pennsylvania. The young couple at once started out to build up a good home together, and worked hard and faithfully to accomplish that end, and have succeeded in a marked degree. Mr. LeLacheur is now the owner of a fine ranch of 640 acres, all of which is fenced and improved with good buildings, and he is extensively engaged in the stock raising business, also farming quite a portion of the place. He has two children, Clyde and Ross.

One brother, William, also owns a good ranch of 640 acres, which he established in 1900, and is located in sections 26 and 27, township 25, range 32, this being the property of his wife, who acquired it through homestead rights. She was Miss Anna Gibson, daughter

of Alexander Gibson, an old settler in McPherson county, Nebraska, and her mother's maiden name was Ellen Morrison. Two boys have been born to William Horton LeLacheur and his good wife, namely: Ralph and Earl.

The LeLacheur family was among the first to settle in this part of Cherry county, coming here when there were but two houses in the entire neighborhood in which they located. Each has done his full share in the upbuilding of the region, and take leading parts in the community. During the early days the subject of this review and his brother Frank, captured two deer and tamed them so that they became household pets, but during the severe hail storms that swept the country and destroyed the tent in which they lived, these animals were killed, and the entire family were as much grieved by their loss as they were at the serious property loss which they suffered.

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#### JOHN H. EVANS.

Among the professional men of Thomas county, Nebraska, an able representative is found in the person of the gentleman above named, one of the most widely known attorneys and public spirited citizens of the region. He is a gentleman of superior attainments mentally, broad minded and thorough practical training, and by unbending integrity and faithful performance of duty, has built up an enviable reputation as an exemplary citizen.

John H. Evans was born near Burlington, Iowa, March 21, 1851. His father, Robert A. Evans, was a farmer by occupation, and was commissioned a Lieutenant in the 38th Regiment of the Indiana State Militia by Noah Noble, Governor of the State, in 1836, which place he held until he removed to Iowa, ten years later. The grandfather and an uncle of our subject, were soldiers in the war of 1812, and one uncle was drowned in the Platte River, near where Papillion, Nebraska, now stands, in 1836, while a Major in the U. S. Dragoon service. John's mother was Elizabeth Shoemaker, and his grandfather Henry Shoemaker, was a soldier under Gen. George Washington, participating in the "Whiskey Insurrection."

In May, 1851, John's parents removed to Winterset, Iowa, where he was engaged in working on a farm and attending the common schools, and later the High School. He then commenced the study of law, under the direction of Gilpin Brothers, and later under Gen. Polk, one time Attorney General of Kentucky, and later Dean of the College of Law of St.

Joseph, Mo. After completing his law studies, he engaged with a brother in the publication of a newspaper, and has been engaged in conducting a paper at Ord, Taylor and Thedford, Nebraska. While at Taylor, Nebraska, he was admitted to the bar, taking up a homestead near that place, and remained in that locality for about six years. He came to Thedford in 1890 and opened up a law office, was elected County Attorney, and has served in that capacity for sixteen years. He was also County Attorney of Hooker county for three years, and is now serving Grant county in the same capacity. All of his time has been devoted to the practice of his profession except a brief interval, while engaged in newspaper work. He has been prominently connected with numerous celebrated law cases, among them the trial of Michael Yoakum for the murder of Lincoln Downing in Blaine county in 1887, in which legal contest his address to the jury in behalf of the defendant was a marvel of pathos and which won for his client a verdict of not guilty. In the following year he was attorney for Wm. Croughwell, on a charge of sodomy in Richardson county, this being one of the most notorious cases in that part of the state. He is a brilliant orator and one of the most successful lawyers in the state.

Mr. Evans has been an attorney for the C. B. & O. Railroad for fourteen years past and has carried to a successful termination many suits for the company. He has been identified with every measure calculated to promote the interest of his county, holding office nearly all the time he has resided in the region. He has been a delegate to the National Irrigation Congress, a member of the National Institute of Farmers, and delegate to the Farmers' National Congress.

In 1877 our subject was married to Miss Lusetta J. Norris, daughter of Alfred Norris, Esq., a well known farmer and public spirited citizen of Winterset, Iowa. They have four children, as follows: Alice G., wife of C. C. McKay, now living at Oakland, Cal.; Theron E., a prominent young ranchman of the county; Mabel J. and Ivan D. who are at home.

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#### FRED A. GAPEN.

Fred A. Gapen, a prominent business man of Sidney, Nebraska, is classed among the pioneer settlers of that section. He is owner and editor of The Telegraph, a leading newspaper of Cheyenne county, and was born in Bloomington, McLean county, Illinois, in 1870, where





C. L. MAYES.

he grew up attending the common schools there. When he was sixteen years of age he commenced work at the printer's trade, and has since followed that business, coming to Sidney in 1894, where he has lived continuously ever since.

The Telegraph was the first paper in the county, having been founded by L. Connell in 1873, and purchased in December, 1875, by J. B. Gossage. In January, 1876, G. B. Darrow was admitted as partner, and in '79 it was sold to a stock company with Brainard & McNulty as editors. In 1880 James McNulty took control, continuing up to March, 1881, when the paper was sold to A. C. Drake, then the editor of The Plaindealer, the two papers consolidating under the name of the Plaindealer-Telegraph. After Mr. Drake's death, his wife ran the paper until 1882, when it was purchased by J. C. Bush, and in 1885 the name was changed back to The Telegraph. In '86 a half interest was purchased by C. C. Callahan, the firm name being Bush & Callahan. In September, 1888, C. C. Callahan assumed entire control and installed Frank J. Devlin as editor. In February, 1889, Mr. Devlin retired and A. C. Jordan took his place, and the following May his place was in turn filled by W. W. Robertson. In September of the same year W. A. Scott became editor. In November Mr. Scott retired and J. L. Pennington, Jr., assumed editorial charge, giving way in April, 1890, to J. F. Wellington. In May, 1890, Mr. Callahan sold The Telegraph to Messrs. L. B. Cary and Otis D. Lyon, with Mr. Cary as editor, and in May, '94, James McMullan purchased the paper and continued it up to January, 1895, when it was re-purchased by C. C. Callahan, who has continued it since. In August, '98, Fred A. Gapen was installed as local editor and manager. On February 1, 1899, The Sidney Telegraph and People's Poniard were consolidated. In May, 1902, Fred A. Gapen purchased the paper, and he is still sole owner and editor. He has a complete job printing outfit, and makes a specialty of that work, having made that a specialty while learning his trade as a young man.

The Telegraph has a wide circulation, and is a splendid and thoroughly reliable organ.

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#### C. L. MAYES.

C. L. Mayes, one of the prominent citizens of Rushville, Nebraska, is editor and proprietor of the Rushville Standard, a leading newspaper of that thriving town. A portrait of Mr.

Mayes is presented on another page of this volume.

Mr. Mayes was born at Paynesville, Pike county, Missouri, in 1861. His father, Lewis C. Mayes, was a leading merchant and farmer, and settled in Dodge county, Nebraska, in 1877. There the family lived on a farm where our subject grew up, he being the sixth member of a family of fourteen children. He received a common school education, at the age of eighteen starting out for himself, following farm work. Two years later he began on The Flail, a newspaper published at North Bend, which was his first attempt at the printing business. He remained with that paper for some time, and kept on in this line of work, in 1889 establishing The Index at Dodge, Nebraska. He soon after moved to Petersburg and started in business for himself, beginning with an outfit which cost him \$160, and established The Index, building up a good paper, running it for eight years then sold out. He was associate editor on The Albion News for one year after this, and on July 1, 1900, moved to Rushville, where he purchased the Rushville Standard. This paper was established in 1885 by E. L. Heath, who had started the paper in a tent, building up a good paper and making a great success of the enterprise. Our subject has increased the business wonderfully since taking hold of the enterprise, and it is now one of the largest weekly papers in this region, an Independent in politics, and active in advancing all measures for the benefit of the people of this section of the country. The present paper is a consolidation of two others which were established some years after it was started here.

Mr. Mayes was married in 1888 to Miss Olive Richards, born at Hazel Green, Wisconsin, in 1870, of English parents. To Mr. and Mrs. Mayes have come four children, named as follows: Ralph, Halford, Harold, and Mildred. Mr. Mayes is one of the leading citizens of his community, active in all affairs of local interest. During the past year he has purchased the Rushville Telephone Exchange which he is conducting in connection with his newspaper business.

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#### C. W. BARNES & E. J. MITCHELL.

The above firm are the well known and popular editors and publishers of The Republican, a leading newspaper of McCook, Nebraska, which has a large circulation all over this section of the state. Both Mr. Barnes and Mr.

Mitchell are pioneer newspaper men of Red-willow county, having in the early days in Nebraska published papers at Indianola, which was then the county seat. Mr. Barnes purchased The McCook Democrat in 1890, and Mr. Mitchell moved the Indianola Courier to McCook in 1896. January 1, 1902, the two plants were consolidated under the name of The McCook Republican, a home paper devoted to upholding the principles of that party, and since that time have made a marked success.

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### JACOB KASS.

Jacob Kass, of the firm of Kass & Klingaman, dealers in lumber, lime, cement, plaster and all kinds of building material, coal, wood and posts, of Chadron, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in that section who has watched the growth and aided in the development of the region from its start. Mr. Kass has always been one of the foremost men in advancing the interests of his community, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Kass was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in 1855. Both his father and mother were natives of Luxemburg, Germany, the former being a blacksmith by trade who followed that work in this country for many years. He settled in Wisconsin after landing in America, and then moved to Illinois in 1856, where his family was reared. When he was twenty-one years of age he struck out for himself, coming to the Black Hills, traveling by way of Yankton and Pierre, and remained in the hills up to 1885, going through all the rough experience of a frontiersman's existence, part of the time engaged in mining, ranching, etc. For a time he clerked in a hardware store in Deadwood, then came to old Chadron and opened one of the first stores in the place, carrying a stock of \$5,000. In August, 1885, he settled in the new town of Chadron, and went into the hardware business, continuing in it for six years. He next went into the plumbing business in partnership with Fred Poll, who had come here with him from the Black Hills, and together they carried on the business for a time, and in addition to this had a furniture store which he ran for two years. About this time he became interested in politics and devoted considerable time to public affairs, and in 1898 was appointed deputy county treasurer, serving for two years. In 1899 he was elected treasurer by the Democratic party, served his term and re-elected in 1901. He has always been a

strong advocate of Democratic party principles, and attended numerous conventions of both county and state, and is well known as one of the most active politicians in his section of the state.

In 1895 our subject was married to Mrs. Kittie Oswald, a widow with one son, Harold, and the family occupy a pleasant and comfortable home in Chadron, and enjoy a large circle of friends.

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### DRS. J. B. SUMNER AND WIFE ELLA SUMNER.

The gentleman and his wife whose names head this review are well known to the residents of Franklin county and the surrounding country, and have each met with remarkable success in the practice of their chosen profession. They have built up a large and lucrative practice throughout the locality in which they have resided since 1882, and have gained the confidence and esteem of the people among whom they have labored for so many years. Dr. Sumner is a native of New Hampshire, born near Concord, in 1847, and his wife of Essex, New York, 1860. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont, class of '78, and for some years practiced in the east, before locating in Nebraska. He received his earlier education at Williams College, Massachusetts. In 1882 Dr. Sumner came to Bloomington and opened an office, and has practiced here continuously since that time with the exception of the years 1884 to 1887, which he spent in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is physician for the C. B. & Q. railway, and an active member of the County, Republican Valley & State Medical Associations, a Mason and member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Dr. Sumner is a man of active public spirit, although his work does not allow of his accepting office. He is a Democrat, and in close touch with many prominent public men of his state. Dr. Ella Sumner shares with her husband in the good opinion of the public as to her ability as a physician and professional woman. She is a lady of superior intellectual powers and high attainments in her line of work. Mrs. Sumner is a graduate of the Medical Department, Nebraska University, of the Class of 1895, and since her start has had a large practice. Her preliminary education was received at Burlington, Vermont, where she graduated from both high school and academy. Mrs. Sumner has been coroner of Franklin county for several terms, and is the first lady to hold this position in the United States,

which fact attracted considerable attention from all parts of the country. She is a capable person for the position, and she is wonderfully well adapted to work of that nature.

The Drs. Sumner are both members of the County Medical Association, also the State and American Medical Associations. Dr. Ella Sumner has served as President of the County Medical Association and also Vice-President of the Republican Valley Association. The Drs. Sumner are owners of a drug store in Bloomington, which is managed by J. B. Sumner, Jr.

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#### GEORGE O. REMY, M. D.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the well known physicians and skilful practitioners in Brown county, Nebraska, residing in Ainsworth, where he has built up an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen.

Dr. Remy was born in New Hope, Bartholomew county, Indiana, October 1, 1851. His father, John T. Remy, was an old settler in that county; he was of French origin, his ancestors coming to this country in colonial days. Our subject's mother was Miss Nancy Jones, born in Virginia, her parents being natives of Wales. Dr. Remy was reared on a farm and educated in the country schools, attending the Baptist college at Franklin, Indiana, in his young manhood. In 1872 he began the study of medicine, attending school during the winters and farming through the summer. He also taught school in addition to pursuing his studies, and followed this for three years, and in 1875 and '76 he attended the Indiana Medical College located at Indianapolis, followed by a year at the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, graduating in the spring of 1877; he immediately took up the practice of medicine at Waymansville in his native state, where he was located until the spring of 1884 when he came west with his family, locating at Ainsworth, where he practiced his profession up to 1892. The following year he spent in eastern Nebraska, but returned to Ainsworth in 1901, and has resided here continuously ever since. In July, 1905, he became interested in the newspaper business, and associated himself with J. M. Cotton, proprietor of the Ainsworth Star-Journal,—whose sketch appears in this volume on another page,—and is at present connected with that work. On June 11, 1906, he purchased an interest in a drug store with W. F. Smith, a business enjoying a wide patronage all over the country.

Dr. Remy was married in May, 1871, to Miss Maggie Barrett, a native of Bartholomew county, Indiana, whose parents are prominent residents and well known all over the locality in which they live. Dr. and Mrs. Remy have two children, namely; Nannie, wife of J. M. Cotton, and Charles E., attending the medical department of the State University at Lincoln.

Dr. Remy is familiar with the early history of the state of Nebraska, and during the early days passed through many interesting experiences. He is a man thoroughly conversant with the important affairs of the times, and a man of great intelligence and capability in any direction. Independent in politics he casts his ballot for the man he believes to be best suited to the office. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masons, the Woodmen and the Tribe of Ben Hur at Ainsworth.

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#### BOYD K. BOYER.

In mentioning the name of Boyd K. Boyer, we present the reader of this volume with one of the well-known family of Boyers, who are among the prominent old settlers of western Nebraska.

Mr. Boyer was born in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1872, and grew up there with his brothers. His parents were Hugh and Margaret (James) Boyer, whose names appear in this book as leading citizens of their respective townships. When Boyd reached the age of eleven years he came to Nebraska, spending the first two years in Madison county. In 1887 he moved to Cherry county, accompanied by his father, and there helped to establish a home and ranch. In the spring of 1898, he started for himself, filing on a homestead in township 25, range 32, and in due time proved up on the place, remaining on it up to 1903, then moved to his present homestead, consisting of 800 acres, located in section 8, township 25, range 32. Here he has improved his ranch in good shape, and through hard work and perseverance has accumulated a valuable property. During the first few years in this locality he went through hard times, losing several crops by drouth, and met with many discouragements, suffering hardships and privation in getting his ranch started. After a time, by careful management and faithful labor he saved a little money and got a start in the cattle business, so that he is now well-to-do, and owns one of the best ranches in his vicinity, all of his land being good range and farming country.

In 1903 Mr. Boyer was married to Rose Pool, of Cherry county, Neb., daughter of J. R. and Missouri (Boyd) Pool, of American descent. Mr. and Mrs. Boyer are the parents of three children, namely: Floyd Wayne, Blanche and Pearl, and they form a most interesting and charming family.

Mr. Boyd occupies a foremost place in his community as a leading old timer, and well remembers the early days in this region when he freighted all over this part of the state in order to get a living and make a start for himself.

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#### WYMAN S. CLAPP.

Wyman S. Clapp is a prominent citizen of Kearney, Nebraska, where his high character, integrity and general business ability have won for him the public favor to a marked degree. He deals in insurance and real estate, two lines in which the competition is the keenest, and that he has forged so rapidly to the front, is proof of the man. He knows his business "from the ground up," does not misrepresent anything, and it is a known fact that his word may be trusted. He deals in the various lines of insurance, such as life, accident, and fire, and of late has handled surety bonds very successfully. Some of the most striking transactions in real estate have been completed through his assistance, and he has a steady patronage in that line. He is also interested in various other enterprises, a director, secretary and treasurer of the Kearney Telephone Company, and is also secretary and treasurer of the Midway Gas, Light, Heat and Power Company. Mr. Clapp is the secretary and treasurer of the Kearney Business Men's Association, in the organization of which he was very active in 1900. This association has done many good things for the city, its most important work having been the location of the State Normal at this point.

While still in the east Mr. Clapp was in the service of the Watson Ranch Company, and came to this state in its interest. The Watson Ranch is a very important enterprise, and comprises within its limits some eight thousand acres, mainly devoted to alfalfa and fruits. It was regarded as one of the sights of the county. Mr. Clapp has been in business for himself since 1898, and in that time has won a name and a competence.

Mr. Clapp was born in Deerfield, Massachusetts, and was reared and educated in his native state. There he was married to Miss Agnes T. Wait, who has proved a most helpful wife

and companion, winning many friends by her charming personality and attractive ways. In fraternal circles the subject of this writing is very popular, being a Mason of high degree, and is a past high priest of the Chapter. He is also an officer in the Commandery. In political matters he is in affiliation with the Republican party, and takes an active interest in its various developments. In Kearney he is known as a successful, active and enterprising citizen.

A portrait of Mr. Clapp is presented on another page of this volume.

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#### HON. JOHN WILSON.

For the past quarter of a century the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been associated with the commercial interests of western Nebraska. Mr. Wilson resides in Kearney, Buffalo county, where he has built up a pleasant home and is known throughout this locality as one of its most worthy citizens, and through his long career as a business man, and as a public spirited man he has become one of the most popular residents in western Nebraska.

Mr. Wilson is a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Kearney in 1883 from Henry county, Illinois, and from that time up to 1888 was, together with his brother Samuel engaged in the livery business at the town of Kearney, which at that time was a large and important item in the development of this part of the country. In 1888 he was elected sheriff of the county, and after serving that term was re-elected in 1900, acting in this capacity for a period of four years. During the time he held this office there were several murders in this section, also other important matters under discussion, and as the great boom was on during these years the civil part of the sheriff's work was extremely strenuous. In 1892 he was elected to the State legislature on the Republican ticket for Buffalo county, and from 1895 to 1900 he held the position of deputy collector of internal revenue for western Nebraska, with headquarters at Grand Island. In 1903 Mr. Wilson assumed the position of special land agent for the Union Pacific railway company for western Nebraska, with the head office located at Kearney. Prior to this he was connected with the land department of that railway, which position he occupied for two years, resigning to accept the former office. In the last four years there has been a big movement in western Nebraska lands, and our subject has sold for





W. S. CLAPP.



the Union Pacific company between seventy-five and eighty thousand acres of farming land at from two to five dollars per acre, mostly situated in Cheyenne, Lincoln, Kimball, Keith and Deuel counties. In the last named two counties the U. P. lands are about all sold, and there is great activity in the private sale of lands there at figures much above the above prices. These farms are admirably adapted for the culture of alfalfa, broom grass, millet and for mixed farming and stock raising. The altitude at that point is about 4,000 feet, while in Buffalo county it is 2,000 feet, thus insuring warmer nights, which is much better suited for the raising of corn. Through these counties macaroni wheat has been known to produce a crop of forty bushels per acre.

Mr. Wilson has lived continuously in Kearney since October, 1883. He was married in 1880 to Miss Rosa M. Beacher and has three children living: J. H. Wilson, of Salt Lake City, and Ella M. and Richard B. at home.

Mr. Wilson has always taken a prominent and active part in public affairs. He has served in the council, and was for fifteen years chief of the fire department. He is a Mason of high degree and also a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. While living in Henry county, Illinois, Mr. Wilson served as deputy sheriff of that county from 1878 to 1883.

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#### ALEXANDER KERNS.

Alexander Kerns, one of the enterprising and energetic citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska, where he takes high rank for his many manly and sterling qualities, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, in 1865, on a farm, and is a descendant of good old American stock.

Oliver Kerns, his father, was a native of Ohio, born in Highland county, and he married Kate Huffman, of Pennsylvania. Our subject was reared in his native state and educated in the country schools, devoting all his spare time to assisting his parents in carrying on the home farm. He lived in Ohio up to 1885, then came west, locating in Sheridan county, Nebraska, and began working at railway construction for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, which was then being put through that portion of the state. After spending about a year in that region he filed on a pre-emption, and built a log cabin, living on the place for a year, then returned to Illinois and spent one year. He came back to Nebraska in 1887, settled on a tract of land in Sheridan county and opened up a ranch and lived on the place up to 1901.

There he went through pioneer experiences, having many hard times, and going through the worst times during the years 1890 and 1891, which was the time of the Indian scares, and when the settlers were having so much trouble with the redskins in South Dakota. In 1901 he came to his present ranch on which he filed as a homestead, this being situated in section 5, township 25, range 31, Cherry county, Neb., and he has it improved in good shape. There are 640 acres in the ranch and he is engaged in stock raising principally, but farms from 150 to 200 acres.

In June, 1886, Mr. Kerns was married to Nora Bell, daughter of James Bell and Hanna Bell of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Kerns are the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Addie (married); Alta, wife of Frank Clevenger; and Lena, Elmer and Grace at home with their parents.

Our subject takes a commendable interest in local public affairs and the family are highly esteemed by all in their community. He is a Bryan Democrat in politics.

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#### DENNIS D. CHEESMAN.

Dennis D. Cheesman was born on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1868, of American parentage. His father, James Cheesman, was a farmer and pioneer settler of Loup county, his homestead being located in the southwest part of Sawyer precinct, to which he came in 1888. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Emily L. Dye. The father died some time ago.

Dennis D. Cheesman was reared in New York state, working on the farm and receiving a common school education. In 1888 he came with his father to Loup county and started in business for himself engaging in farming and stock raising.

Our subject was married in February, 1899, to Miss Josephine Moyer, daughter of Oliver and Malinda (McVey) Moyer, who became pioneer settlers of Loup county, Neb., in 1886. This union was blessed with five children,—Theodore, Mary, James, Florence and Nolah. Mrs. Cheesman taught school in Loup county for several years and is a lady of talent, and scholarly attainments.

Dennis D. Cheesman has always been active in public affairs and has participated in political movements of his community. He is regarded as a man of strong convictions and his conscientiousness has made him many warm friends. In 1900 he was elected county com-

missioner and served three years and has otherwise been honored in a political way by his friends and neighbors.

In 1905 Mr. Cheesman was nominated and elected on the independent ticket to the office of County Clerk and was re-elected in 1907. He has made an efficient officer and has strongly entrenched himself in the regard of the people. He still owns a farm in Sawyer precinct but lives in Taylor.

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#### HOMER M. CRAIN.

The gentleman mentioned above is one of the successful and prosperous young farmers of Hooker county, Nebraska. He has a well improved ranch of about two thousand acres, all deeded, belonging to the estate of his father, Joseph Crain, and is well known as a young man of industrious habits and strict integrity, highly esteemed and respected by his fellow-men.

Mr. Crain was born near Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1884. His father, Joseph Crain, was a prominent farmer and ranchman of Hooker county, Nebraska, an early settler in that region, and he died on their old homestead June 6, 1900. The mother, whose maiden name was Sarah E. Weaver, died in this county February 22, 1907. There were five children in the family, and they settled in Nebraska in 1887, locating in Hooker county. They drove to that vicinity from Broken Bow, having a team and emigrant wagon containing their goods, and camped out along the road, and afterwards went through all the pioneer hardships and privations, living for many years in that county, and built up a good home there.

Our subject and his family came to Cherry county in 1887, settling on section 27, township 24, range 33, and started to put up buildings, his father's first dwelling being a sod house, in which they lived for seven years, and then built a good frame house. He succeeded fairly well from the start, although he began with very little, and was proprietor of a ranch consisting of sixteen quarter sections, all deeded land, when he died in 1900, the whole being well improved and all good land, most of it devoted to a cattle ranch. Since the death of his father, Homer and his brother Howard have carried on the farm, assisted by their sisters. The other children are: Maude E., Howard V., Burl R., Elsie A., the latter the youngest, born in 1899. Homer also

has a Kincaid homestead adjoining his father's estate.

During the family's early residence in Nebraska they had many hardships to contend with, and suffered from crop losses, but never gave up courage, and they have been richly rewarded for remaining and putting in years of labor.

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#### L. A. BERRY.

L. A. Berry, one of the solid business men and public-spirited citizens of Alliance, Nebraska, is well-known throughout that section of the country as an able lawyer and prominent politician.

Mr. Berry was born in Onondaga county, New York, in 1854. His father, Mathias, familiarly known as "Major" Berry, was of Irish stock, a farmer by occupation, who married Sylvia Osborn, of Onondaga county, New York. Our subject grew up in his native state and received a good education, attending the Pompey Academy, and also Whitestown seminary. He was of a studious nature from early boyhood, and read Blackstone while living at home, and gained a good foundation for his studies later in life. On August 4, 1878, he was admitted to the bar in Iowa, having come west the previous year and located at Marshalltown. He first opened an office at Marshalltown and later at Gilman, remaining in those places for several years, then moved to Ida Grove, and practiced his profession for a time. About this time his health failed, and he was obliged to quit the law business and for two years was engaged in other pursuits.

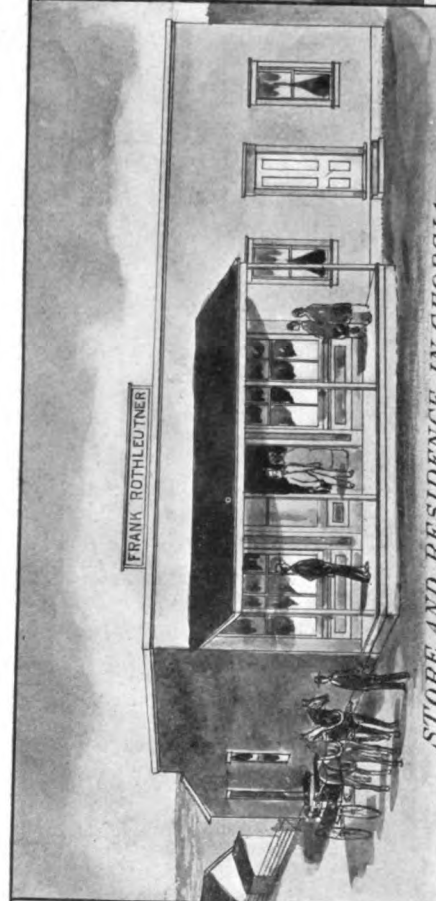
Mr. Berry came to Nebraska in 1893, going to the western part of the state where he hoped to recuperate his failing health, where he started at work on a ranch owned by his brother-in-law. He lived a free, out-of-door life in that part of the state, and in June, 1896, came to Alliance and opened a law office, and has remained here ever since. He has built up a good practice as an attorney throughout this section of the country, and has also been active in local political affairs. In the fall of 1906 he was elected County Judge to fill a vacancy. He has held the office of Justice of the Peace for several terms, also Police Judge, and to his influence and aid is due much of the prosperity and growth of the financial interests of his community. He is a Democrat politically.

Mr. Berry was united in marriage at Gilman, Iowa, in 1883, to Miss Minnie Sparks. Mrs. Berry is a daughter of Lyman Sparks, of

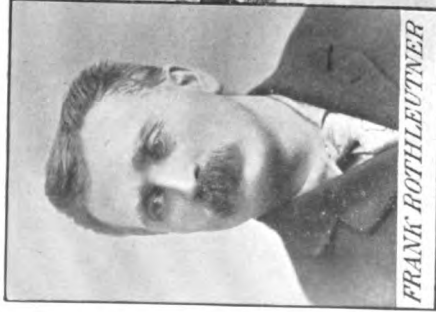




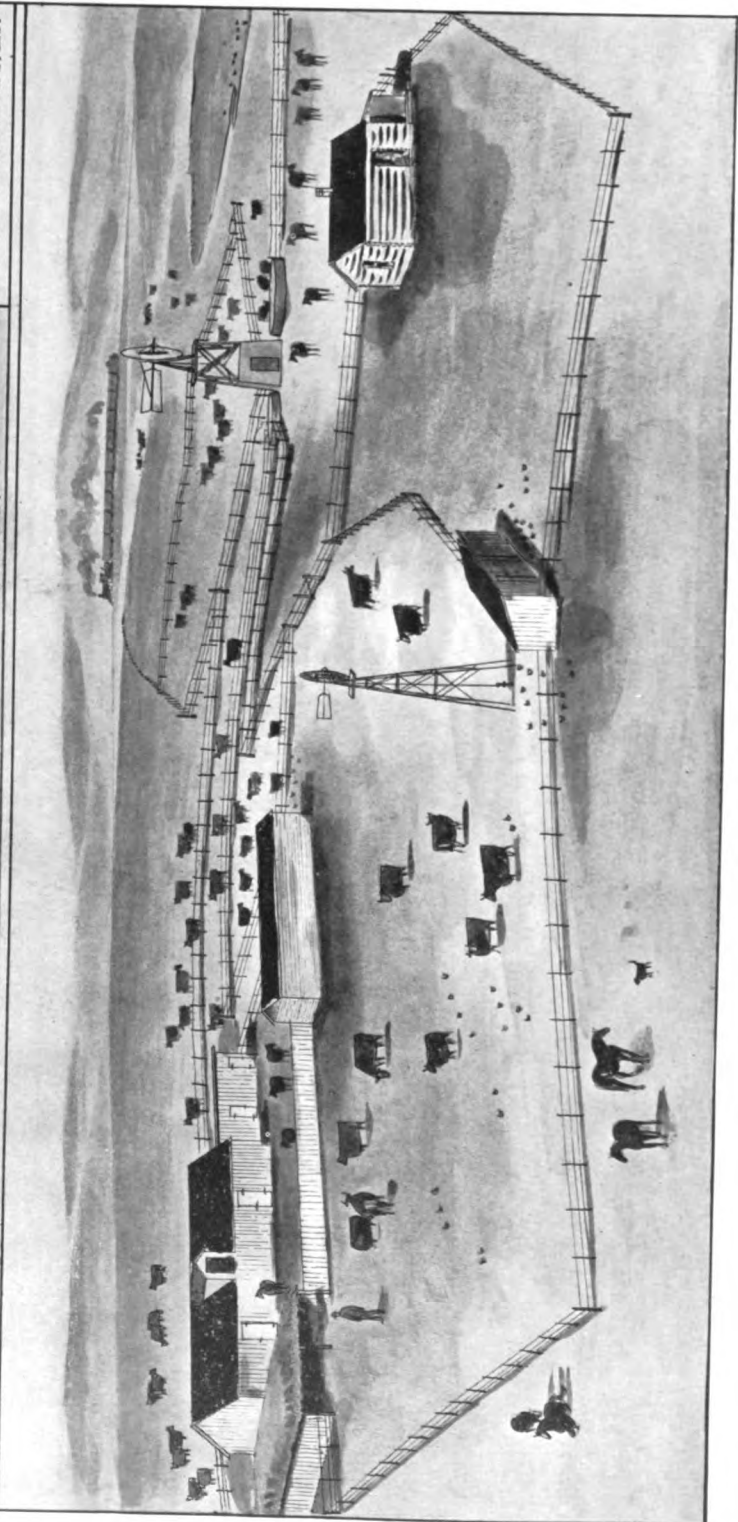
MRS. F. ROTHLEUTNER



STORE AND RESIDENCE IN GEORGIA.



FRANK ROTHLEUTNER



RANCH PROPERTY OF FRANK ROTHLEUTNER,  
One Mile West of Georgia, Cherry County, Nebraska.

Yankee stock, and Marietta Engram Sparks, of English descent. Prior to her marriage to our subject Mrs. Berry was a school teacher in her native state, and a lady of much charm and superior accomplishments. They are the parents of two sons, namely: Leo and Lyle.

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#### HON. FRANK ROTHLEUTNER.

Frank Rothleutner, one of the leading business and ranch men of Cherry county, Nebraska, is a man of wide experience, having made his way to success by perseverance and diligence, supplemented by honest dealings. He resides at Georgia Station, Nebraska, where he has a pleasant home and is engaged in the general merchandise business.

Mr. Rothleutner is a native of Bergstadt, Moravia, Austria, born July 29, 1859. His father, Joseph Rothleutner, came with his family to American shores in 1872. They sailed from Hamburg on the steamer Gallert, landing in New York June 16, after a voyage of two weeks. Locating in Platte county, Nebraska, where he was one of the pioneers, the father farmed for many years, and is now engaged in the hardware business at Columbus. Our subject is the oldest member of their family of five children, and remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, then struck out for himself, going to Holt county and taking up a homestead there in 1881, before the railroad had been built that far west. He lived in a sod shanty while proving up on his homestead, going through the usual experiences of the pioneers of that section. His first team was a yoke of oxen, with which he freighted to the Black Hills during the years 1877 and 1878. He was engaged in freighting all through western Nebraska, making Holt county his home up to 1892, having acquired a good home and a well improved farm of four hundred and eighty acres.

On March 20, 1892, Mr. Rothleutner came to Cherry county, settling on the Niobrara river south of Georgia. Here he began stock raising and ranching, and followed that work for two years. This property he sold and purchased a large ranch of three thousand acres adjoining the village of Georgia, and on this runs one thousand head of cattle and two hundred horses. In 1883 he and a brother-in-law, Gus Davis, purchased the mercantile business of John Steinbreaker, established in 1892, and ran it in partnership for a time, when Mr. Rothleutner sold out his interest, but later bought the entire business, and now operates

a large general store, selling everything that a farmer, ranchman or Indian may need. He has an extensive trade all over Cherry and the adjoining counties and Rosebud reservation, being one of the successful and prosperous business men of the county. A view of the ranch property will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Rothleutner was married January 16, 1884, to Miss Cornelia Davis, from New York state. To Mr. and Mrs. Rothleutner three children have been born, namely: Joseph Augustus, Stanley and Celia.

Our subject is a Populist in political faith and helped organize that party, which elected him their representative in the state legislature in 1894 for one term. Mr. Rothleutner was reared in the Catholic church. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### WILLIAM N. TOMPSETT.

William N. Tompsett, numbered among the pioneers of section 34, township 15, range 49, has built up a good home in Cheyenne county, and there resides surrounded by the comforts of life and esteemed by his associates. He came to that region during the early days of its settlement, and during his career as a frontiersman has seen all the phases of western life, and is one of Nebraska's substantial citizens and a worthy representative of his adopted state.

Mr. Tompsett was born in Canada in March, 1854, and lived there until he was seventeen years of age, receiving a limited schooling, and worked with his father as a boy, coming to the United States and striking out for the western states. He crossed the Missouri river on a ferry, landing in Omaha in 1871, and remained there up to 1877, and during the latter year went into the Black Hills on a prospecting trip. He afterwards traveled all through the western states and became familiar with all that country, leading a roving life for a number of years. In 1885 he came into Cheyenne county and made settlement at Sidney, locating on the northeast quarter of section 34, township 15, range 49, his wife taking up a homestead on the northwest quarter of section 34 shortly afterwards, which place is now their home ranch. Mr. Tompsett has a good farm, cultivating seventy-five acres, and using the balance for hay land and pasture, running quite a herd of stock. He has all good buildings, and is a prosperous and successful farmer and ranchman.

Mr. Tompsett married Julia F. Grafton at Sidney, Nebraska, in 1890. Mrs. Tompsett was born in Iowa, and both her parents and her husband's are now dead. They have a family of three children, named as follows: Lambert H., Clyde P. and Tom V., all living at home, and are now getting to be a great help to their father in carrying on the farm work. Our subject is a member of the Democratic party, and a staunch supporter of Bryan principles.

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#### HIRAM O. PAINE, DECEASED.

The above named gentleman was a prominent resident of Ainsworth, Nebraska, born in the town of Plattsville, in Grant county, Wisconsin, February 4, 1846. His father, Stephen O. Paine, was a prominent attorney in that state, and served in the Black Hawk war. He came of old American stock and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Paines originally came from Rhode Island, and were associated with the history of the early days of that state. Our subject's mother, Miss Pamela B. Bronson, was a native of New York state, her people being among the first settlers on Staten Island. Of a family of five children, our subject was the second member, and was reared and educated in Wisconsin, attending the common schools as a boy and later the Plattsville Academy. May 5, 1864, at the age of seventeen years, he enlisted in Company A, Forty-first Wisconsin Infantry, receiving his discharge September 23, 1864, and with his regiment saw hard service in Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia. After his discharge he was employed in the quartermaster's department until May 15, 1865, when he was discharged, settling in Omaha on his release from the service. He clerked in a store and remained in this work here and at Council Bluffs, Iowa, where the firm had a branch establishment.

In 1869 he returned to Nebraska, and locating at Fremont, was appointed postmaster and served in that capacity for sixteen years. He was a popular and efficient public official and won the esteem and confidence of all the people in that town. In the fall of 1885 he removed to Ainsworth, which was then a small village, and established a real estate and loan office. He was very successful from the start and continued in this work for twenty-two years, handling lands all over this and adjoining counties. He devoted all his time to this business, and consummated many large deals in land around the town of Ainsworth.

He was actively engaged in business at the time of his death, June 22, 1908.

He had always been one of those who materially assisted in the growth and development of the commercial interests of this section of the country. He was a member of the Old Settlers' Association in Nebraska, and prominent in county and state politics. He was a member of Governor Crounse's staff for two years, and intimately associated with all the men prominent in public affairs of the state.

Mr. Paine was married at Fremont, January 13, 1874, to Miss E. Frankie Blackman, born in Wisconsin. Her father, John C. Blackman, was station agent or car accountant on the Union Pacific Railway at Fremont for twenty-three years to a day, closing his service with the company on the anniversary of the day he began. The Blackmans originally came from New York state, settling in Nebraska in 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Paine have been blessed with four children, who are named as follows: Loraine O., Sidney P., Pearl (now Mrs. George C. Mills and the mother of two sons, George C., Jr., and Richard Hiram) and Charles K., who graduated in May, 1908, from the Ainsworth high school.

Mr. Paine was a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Ainsworth, where he had served as commander, as he had done in Fremont. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. In politics he was staunchly Republican, voting the party ticket straight.

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#### CHARLES KLINGAMAN.

Charles Klingaman, of Chadron, dealer in lumber, lime, cement, plaster, all kinds of building material, coal, wood and posts, is one of the substantial business men of that place. He is a man of sterling citizenship who has met with deserved success in his business ventures, and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way.

Mr. Klingaman is a native of Tama county, Iowa, born in 1864, and reared and educated in the village of Traer. His father, Hiram Klingaman, was born in Pennsylvania, and when a young man came west, settling in Iowa, where he was one of the pioneers. When a boy our subject learned the butcher's trade and followed that work for some years in Iowa, and in 1884 he came to Nebraska, locating in Dawes county. He teamed from Valentine,



seeing considerable of frontier life, roughing it, sleeping under his wagon many nights and camping out wherever he happened to be, and the first year in that locality operated a ranch. The following year he came to what is now Chadron, then simply a spot on which a few shanties were built, and here he worked as a carpenter, helping to build up the town. He followed this occupation for two years, then, together with two brothers, opened a meat market, and they carried this on for three years and at the end of that time Charles bought a market of his own and ran it for nine years, and in that time had a splendid trade built up and did a large business. He then sold out his butcher shop and went into his present business. He has associated with him Mr. Jacob Kass, and they are doing a good business, and are well satisfied with the general outlook of the northwest as the coming country.

In 1892 Mr. Klingaman was married to Miss Bertha Stein, whose parents were among the early settlers in Iowa, where she was born and raised. Mr. and Mrs. Klingaman are the parents of three children, who are named as follows: Fowler K., Kenneth and Lee.

Mr. Klingaman is a Democrat and takes an active interest in party affairs, and is one of the public-spirited citizens of Chadron. He is a member of the city council and has been on that board for the past six years.

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#### LOUIS F. WEBER.

Louis F. Weber, one of the leading business men of Chadron, Nebraska, is a gentleman of sound business judgment, intelligence and enterprise who enjoys an enviable reputation as a worthy and influential citizen.

Mr. Weber was born in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in 1854. His father, Anton Weber, was a farmer, and both he and his wife were born in Germany, coming to this country when quite young and settling in Ontonagon, Michigan, where our subject was raised. At the age of thirteen he came to Nebraska with his parents, the family locating in Fremont, where they lived for a short time, then moved on a farm and began building up a home and farm. In 1876 Louis left home and accompanied the first expedition which went into the Black Hills, the party driving overland with teams and covered wagons, the trip being very dangerous through the wild country and they had many exciting experiences. He remained in that section for four years, doing freighting, contracting, etc. Their mode

of life was most primitive, much of the time winter and summer being spent in camping out and often suffering from storms and other hardships. In 1880 he began working on a cattle ranch and continued at that up to 1885, then came to Chadron, where he engaged in the grocery business, his first store being in a tent, as there were few buildings there at that time. He ran his business during the summer in the tent and in the fall moved to his present location, having carried on the store for twenty-two years, and through industry, good management, and honest dealings has gained a nice property and built up a comfortable home. His business is conducted in a systematic manner, and his whole attention is devoted to keeping up an up-to-date stock of goods, in every way meeting the needs of his customers.

Mr. Weber was married in 1889 to Miss Agnes Joyce, whose people were early settlers in Indiana, where she was reared.

Our subject takes an active interest in local affairs of importance and has aided materially in the development of the commercial interests of that locality. He is a member of the Pioneer Club of the Black Hills, and is highly esteemed for his genuine worth of mind and heart and his friendly and courteous spirit. Politically he is a Bryan Democrat.

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#### GEORGE E. EDWARDS.

George E. Edwards, the popular and efficient county clerk of Perkins county, Nebraska, is one of the rising young men of that locality. Mr. Edwards is a native-born Nebraskan, and is a typical western man, having spent all his life in the freedom of the plains, and is a healthy, wholesome and capable business man who has before him a promising career.

Mr. Edwards first saw the light of day on January 28, 1881, born on a farm in York county, Nebraska. His father, William, was a native of England and came to America when he was a child five years old, landing in this country in 1858. He was a pioneer of York county, settling there as early as 1880, and after a residence of six years in that vicinity moved to Perkins county and there went through pioneer experiences, becoming one of the foremost citizens of the county. His wife was Miss Lillie E. Wright, born in New York State, and her father was also a British subject, who settled in the United States many years ago, the family coming to Nebraska and

settling on a homestead about six miles south of the town of Grant. Our subject was reared on the farm, as a boy attending the district schools, and later was a student at the Fremont Business College, graduating from that institution in 1903, and in the same year was made deputy county treasurer, served his term, and then returned to the farm. He remained for two years, then was nominated and received the election to the office of county clerk, entering upon his duties as such in the fall of 1907, and has made a good record for himself in the position.

Mr. Edwards was married in 1904 to Miss Lillie May Williams, whose father is a prominent Nebraska, settling in Omaha as early as 1873, and he has been identified with the affairs of that part of the state for many years. One child has been born to our subject, Herbert. Both Mr. Edwards and his charming wife are popular members of the younger social set of Grant, and their home is one of the hospitable places in the town.

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#### NATHAN E. FAY.

Nathan E. Fay was born in March of 1833 on a farm in Canada, sixty miles east of Montreal and within fifteen miles of the north line of the state of Vermont. His father, Alvie Fay, was born in Vermont and his mother, Augusta (Ellis) Fay, was a native of Massachusetts.

Mr. Fay was reared on the farm in eastern Canada, receiving a common school education, until 1853, when the family immigrated to Wisconsin, where for seven years our subject was engaged in farming.

In 1856 Nathan E. Fay and Miss Emily J. Calkins were united in marriage. The bride was a native of Canada, where she was born in the year 1839. Her father, Stephen Calkins, was an old pioneer of Wisconsin, having settled in that state in 1840.

Mr. and Mrs. Fay have had seven children, four of whom are living and married: Elnora, Stephen, Herschel and Alberta. Those deceased were Emma, Eugene and Etta.

When the family of our subject came to Minnesota in 1853 they traveled in a covered wagon, crossing the Mississippi river at La-Crosse, where they had a dangerous experience crossing on the ice, which was not frozen very thick. They had to string the teams and loads out as far apart as possible, and then the cracking of the ice threatened to give way at any instant. No severe mishap occurred, however, other than the breaking through of

one mule, which was soon recovered. But the nervous strain of the experience will never be forgotten by Mr. Fay. Our subject went on west to Fillmore county, Minnesota, and settled on a rented farm in the timber and prairie country and he also owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. Later he lived in Waseca for several years and joined an expedition against the Indians after the New Ulm massacre. He then went south and was a mule teamster in Missouri for some time and later settled in the Loup river valley in Nebraska, three miles east of Taylor. He drove through from Minnesota with a bunch of cattle, was three weeks on the road, living in a tent and camping out along the way. Mr. Fay lived on his land east of Taylor for seven years and in 1886 went by team to the Black Hills country and was in Custer City in Custer county and up into South Dakota. He remained here in the hill country for about six and a half years and then returned to Loup county and stuck to his farm through all the years, regardless of the drouth and total crop loss in 1894, or any other hardship, and now he has a fine farm of two hundred acres, all improved in nice shape with house, barns, fences, groves, etc. In 1903 he moved to Taylor and bought his present pleasant home.

Mr. Nathan E. Fay is one of the old-timers and has had a most interesting history. He was one of the first members of the Republican party in Wisconsin in 1856; he has been through the Indian excitement; has lived the life of a pioneer in a sod house and dugout; experienced the hard times of the years of drouth; but he has successfully met all these trying things and has now gotten in a position where he can take life easier. In the early days his home was the stopping place of travelers and freighters and he thus became acquainted with all the settlers for miles up the Loup river. He is a Republican in politics and has held the office of county commissioner. He was active in having the county seat located in Taylor and participated in all the county seat fights. Mr. Fay is a man of wide experience and mature judgment and is held in high respect by all who know him. He has been one of the most influential of the early pioneers.

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#### L. C. HUCK.

L. C. Huck, who has filled the office of clerk of the district court of Phelps county for the past eight or ten years, is one of the most whole-souled men in the county. Mr. Huck





F. MOWREY.

is a cigarmaker by trade, and shortly after his arrival in Holdrege, many years ago, opened the first cigar factory in this section. Being a student of economic questions by inclination, and a true sympathizer with the man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, he at once became identified with the old Union Labor and Alliance movements, and subsequently the Populist party. Mr. Huck was born in Germany.

In 1891 Mr. Huck was nominated for the office which he now holds, and has since administered uninterruptedly, proving one of the capable and popular public officials of the county. While devoid of ostentation, Mr. Huck is a courteous gentleman, and the administration of his office has been beyond criticism of even political opponents. During the past couple of years he has been ably assisted in his duties by his daughter, Miss Laura, whom he appointed his deputy.

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### JOHN BUHLKE.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the wealthy and progressive agriculturists of Garfield county, who has succeeded in building up a valuable farm and home through hard labor and persistent efforts. He is a loyal Nebraskan, enthusiastic in his praise of this part of the state, considering it one of the finest farming countries to be found anywhere.

Mr. Buhlke was born in Germany, October 4, 1852, and grew up there, coming to the United States in 1881. He first located in Illinois, where he remained for a year, then came to Nebraska, and has lived here ever since. He first settled in Hall county and followed farming, building up a good home. In 1893 he removed to Custer county, locating forty miles southwest of Garfield county, and lived there for five years. During 1894 and 1895 he suffered a total loss of his crops and had a hard time recovering from this loss. In 1898 he came to Garfield county and purchased six hundred and forty acres of land, which is his present homestead. He owns besides this farm one hundred and sixty acres on the table lands ten miles northeast of Burwell, and has a very valuable property. He engages in grain raising, growing wheat, corn, oats and rye, and finds ready sale for all his products direct to the stockmen, who run large bunches of stock on ranches north of his place. He has never hauled a load of grain to town since coming here, and this saves him much time, and is

much more satisfactory in every way. In 1905 he had a field of fifty acres of oats, which averaged seventy bushels per acre, and his corn crop showed a yield of forty-five bushels per acre, which is a fair average annually. He also raises quite a good deal of stock each year, running a good bunch of cattle and hogs for market. About half of his farm is devoted to raising hay and for pasture.

Mr. Buhlke has a pleasant and comfortable home, all good buildings and modern improvements, well fenced and cross fenced. The farm is well supplied with water, having two deep bored wells and supply tanks at different points on the place. During the year 1907 Mr. Buhlke donated several acres of land for town sites in the new town which is being built a short distance from his home, which is in section 7, township 22, range 15. This town is named Deverre, and there are already several store buildings going up and one general store in operation. The place promises to be a good business center, as it is situated in the midst of a rich farming community.

Mr. Buhlke was married in Germany in 1875 to Miss Katie Heintz, of German descent. When he came to this country he was accompanied by his family, consisting of his wife and two children, Bertha and Julius. There are now seven children, named as follows: Bertha, Julius, August, Ella, Ermina, John and Anna.

Mr. Buhlke is well satisfied with this part of the country and believes it offers many advantages to a poor man, and he has proven this by building up a comfortable fortune since coming to this country without much capital other than willing hands and a strong heart. He is highly respected and has held different local offices of trust, serving as road overseer for several years, and has also been a member of the school board for six years. Politically he is a Democrat, but does not take an active interest in politics at the present time.

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### FERNANDO MOWRY.

In the person of the gentleman above named we find one of the substantial and worthy citizens of Perkins county, who has spent the past twenty-three years in this region and watched its development from a wild tract of land into its present high state of cultivation, and has been instrumental in a large degree in this progress. Mr. Mowry is now a resident of Grant, where he is engaged in the milling and carpenter business. A portrait of him will be found on another page.

Our subject was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1860. His father was a native of Vermont and his mother of English descent, they settling in Pennsylvania when young people and raised their family there. As a boy Mr. Mowry learned the carpenter's trade and followed the work from the time he was fifteen years old almost constantly. He came to Hastings, Nebraska, in 1885 and worked in the vicinity for one year, then moved to Perkins county, locating in the old town of Grant at first. He soon afterwards took a homestead situated six miles northeast of Grant, and while working at his trade managed to improve his farm considerably and proved up on it, living on it for about eight years. There he went through many hard times, witnessing the drouths, severe storms, etc., and having a hard time to get ahead through losses and discouragements, and in 1897 left the place and spent one year at Cook, in Johnson county; also was in Keith county for two years, following his trade, and finally returned to Perkins county and again went on a farm, operating it up to the spring of 1908, when he moved to Grant and established his present grist mill, also started doing contracting work. He has done much of the building in Grant, putting up both churches in the town, and is well and favorably known throughout the locality.

Mr. Mowry was married in 1884 to Miss Lorena Pierce, born in Pennsylvania, daughter of David and Nancy (Andrus) Pierce, who were old settlers of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Mowry died in February, 1891, mourned by a wide circle of friends. She was a pioneer here and witnessed many of the trials of pioneer life. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mowry was blessed with two children, Vance and Hilda, both bright and intelligent young people, and popular in their community.

Our subject is a Democrat politically and has served as county assessor of Perkins county. He is active in local affairs, also takes a commendable interest in the schools and has held office and been on the school board at different times.

#### JOHN H. JACOBSON.

Of the many prominent and leading old settlers of Sheridan and Cherry counties, Nebraska, none are held in higher esteem by their fellow-men than John H. Jacobson. He has spent many years in this region, is a gentleman of wide experience and excellent busi-

ness judgment, and is deservedly popular as a good neighbor and worthy citizen.

Mr. Jacobson was born in the Province of Bergen, Norway, near the city of Bergen, in 1853. His parents immigrated to America with their family when he was but one year old, settling at Ottawa, Illinois, arriving there on July 8, 1854. After spending a short time there they moved to Dayton, remained a while, then to Otter Creek, Illinois. Their next location was Pontiac; Livingston county, Illinois, and at this place our subject grew up and attended the country schools up to his fourteenth year. In 1867 the family came to Benton, Iowa, and there John grew to manhood and was married on February 6, 1876, to Dora Tow, also a native of Norway, born near the city of Stavanger, on the seacoast, coming to this country at the age of thirteen, landing in New York in 1866. The young couple settled in Story county, Iowa, soon after their marriage and farmed on rented land for ten years. In April of 1885 our subject came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, driving through the country with a team from Valentine by wagon containing their goods and personal effects. At that time the country was overrun with Indians, and many wild beasts roamed the woods and prairies. He made settlement eight miles northwest of Rushville, taking a pre-emption and tree claim, and in June of that year his family came to join him, they traveling on the construction train from Valentine to a point west of Merriman, and from that place came the balance of the journey in a wagon, camping out along the way until they reached their destination. Their first buildings were of logs, which were cut and hauled by our subject himself, and the house was all of native timber. One of the first articles of furniture he made after coming here was a cupboard of native timber, and this is still in his possession and among his most highly prized treasures. They occupied that place for fifteen years and succeeded in developing a good farm, although meeting with many discouragements and suffering many hardships in the loss of four or five crops by drouth and other causes. For eleven years during the early times he ran a threshing outfit, and in following that work became thoroughly familiar with every part of the country and gained many friends.

In the spring of 1900 he came to Cherry county and settled on his present ranch, which is in section 25, township 26, range 32, twelve miles north of Mullen. The place was then all wild prairie, and his first house was a dug-out and shanty combined. He soon put up

good buildings, got quite a large piece of land under cultivation, and has done exceedingly well, owning at the present time six hundred and forty-three acres, and the entire ranch is fenced and cross fenced and improved in every way. He has engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, and his start on coming to this region was sixteen head of cattle. He began to rent out pasture to other settlers and in that way managed to get a little money together so that he constantly enlarged his own herd and was able to build up his ranch in good shape.

Mr. Jacobson has a family of six children, namely: Henry C., Julia, Jessie (deceased), Ella, Arthur J., John E. and Alma. The first four mentioned were born in Iowa and the others in Nebraska.

Since coming to this part of the state Mr. Jacobson has aided in a large measure in its development, helping to build up the schools and promote the general welfare of his locality. He has always been a staunch Populist and has taken an active part in political matters. For a number of years he served as justice of the peace in Sheridan county, and holds the same office now in Cherry county. He is also director of his school district, and has filled the office of president of the Farmers' Alliance in this and Sheridan county. In 1895 he was elected a member of the central committee on the Populist ticket.

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#### GILBERT V. ANDERSON.

Gilbert V. Anderson up until January, 1908, resided with his father, A. J. Anderson, on the latter's well improved farm in section 4, Sheridan township, Phelps county. Father and son operated this place together, and the latter also rented land adjoining, running in all a farm of over three hundred and twenty acres. Our subject and his father were among the most successful agriculturists in this region, and are well and favorably known throughout the locality in which they live.

Mr. Anderson was born in 1885 on his father's farm in Phelps county. His father is a native of Sweden, coming to America in 1874, settling in Chicago, where he worked for a time, then came west and located in Nebraska, where he took up a homestead, taking advantage of the liberal laws of this country to secure a farm equal to the best in the country, which is a competence for his old age and a good inheritance for his children. How wise this was in comparison with the

course of so many thousands of his countrymen who remain as toilers in the great cities is shown by contrasting their condition today with that of our subject and his family. The family first came here in 1883, and during the first years experienced all the reverses and toils of the pioneer settlers, but with the development of this section he has enjoyed the goodly measure of success which has attended all careful farmers in Phelps county who had the pluck and judgment to keep their land through the hard times.

Our subject, Gilbert V. Anderson, although only just past his majority, has, ever since he was old enough, been an able second to his father and has relieved his parents of the great responsibilities of tilling the three hundred and twenty acres. While at home he has also taken the greater part of the work upon his own shoulders. He is a bright, intelligent and clean-cut young man, a good son and citizen of the right stamp, pointing to success in the future that shall be an ample reward for his labors. He is an active Republican, alive to the requirements of the day in agricultural pursuits and general citizenship. Their farm is well improved and stocked in good shape.

The family are members of the Swedish Mission church here. Our subject sold his farming interests in January, 1908, and has gone to contracting and building in Holdrege. Cement work is his specialty, having the contract for building the First Baptist church of Holdrege. This is to be one of the finest churches in Holdrege when finished.

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#### ALBERT WIKER.

Albert Wiker, one of the old-timers and representative citizens of Alliance, Nebraska, was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1847. He is a son of John Wiker, a miller by trade and an old settler in Iowa, and the family came to Muscatine county, Iowa, when our subject was a child of four years. There they went through the usual pioneer experiences, and he grew up on the home farm, enlisting in the army in 1862, with the Eleventh Iowa Infantry. His regiment was ordered south at once, and he saw service in the western army, participating in the battle of Shiloh and also in the siege of Vicksburg. He re-enlisted in 1864 and was with Sherman's army all through Georgia and around Atlanta, taking part in the grand review at Washington. For three years and a half he followed

a soldier's fortunes, going through all the suffering and hardships which fell to the lot of those brave boys in blue.

After the war closed our subject returned to Iowa, remaining there until 1866, then went west, traveling through Colorado and spending some time in Denver, also visiting Wyoming, Texas and southern Kansas in his journey, and for many years followed the life of a cowboy. In 1872 he went back to the old home and remained there for fourteen years, engaged in different enterprises. He first settled in Box Butte county, Nebraska, in 1886, coming in here from Sidney, driving the distance with a team and wagon. He took up a pre-emption located southeast of Alliance and proved up on the ranch, living there for four years, then moved to Alliance, and has since made that his home. Here he has been one of the leading citizens, taking an active part in the development and growth of the commercial interests of his community, and is well known and highly esteemed throughout Box Butte county. He was elected sheriff in the fall of 1905, and again in 1907, and is now serving in that capacity, this being his second term. Mr. Wiker has also been town marshal for a number of years. For several years our subject was proprietor of the Wiker Dining Hall.

In 1872 Mr. Wiker was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth J. Gladstone, daughter of Thomas Gladstone and Rachel Johnson Gladstone, both born in Ireland. To Mr. and Mrs. Wiker were born the following children: John, Mabel and Arthur. Mrs. Wiker died in 1889, and in her death the family suffered a severe affliction, as she was a lady of the most estimable character, beloved by all who knew her. Mr. Wiker was married again in 1901 to Miss H. M. Frazier.

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#### COLONEL J. H. HART.

Colonel J. H. Hart is numbered among the leading business men and prominent citizens of Ainsworth, Nebraska. He is a man of active public spirit and one of the best known and most highly esteemed residents of that thriving city. Colonel Hart was born near Jacksonville, in Morgan county, Illinois, May 16, 1840. He is a son of Millington E. Hart, a farmer, of American blood, native of Kentucky. His mother is also a Kentuckian, and her maiden name was **Mary C. Majors**. Our subject is the eldest in a family of four children, and was reared in Sangamon county,

Illinois, and educated in the common schools of Auburn. At the age of eighteen years he started in the stock business and has followed in that line of work continuously ever since. In 1868 he went to Missouri and taught school in Pettis county for four years, remaining in that state until 1873, when he returned to his old home and engaged in the mercantile business at Auburn for two years. Then he engaged in farming in Sangamon county, which he followed for two years, after which he bought an elevator at Auburn and was in the grain business for six years. In 1890 he came to Nebraska and located in Ainsworth, going into the stock business, and in connection with this followed the auctioneer's calling, crying sales all over the county. He has been an active and industrious business man all his life, having been engaged in many large enterprises and has gained a large measure of success through his earnest efforts and strict attention to duty. He lost his father by death when he was but six years of age, and has had to depend entirely upon his own efforts and been obliged to hustle for himself since his boyhood days. Mr. Hart was married at Auburn, November 5, 1865, to Miss Mary Stone, a native of Kentucky, who was reared and educated in Missouri. She was a daughter of Dr. Peter H. Stone, also a Kentuckian by birth. Two children have been born to Colonel and Mrs. Hart, namely: Virginia (now Mrs. Jesse D. Cook, of Otsego county, New York), and Stella, who died in 1892. Mr. Hart and his wife both belong to the Rebecca Lodge, and take an active part in the work of that order. He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1861, serving as master of the lodge and attending grand lodge in Omaha. He has been an Odd Fellow since 1871. Since the Douglas campaign he has been a Democrat, voting the party ticket every campaign since that date.

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#### JOHN P. FISCHER.

The gentleman above mentioned needs no introduction to the people of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He is one of the early pioneers of that locality, is one of the extensive land-owners, and a man who enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him.

John P. Fischer was born in eastern Tennessee on the 15th of November, 1858. The family moved to Illinois in the spring of 1863, where our subject grew up and received a common school education, and in 1885 came







R. E. CONKLIN, M. D.



to Cheyenne county, landing in this region on March 3d, of that year. He homesteaded on section 14, township 12, range 50, proved up on the land and has added to it since, now owning half a section additional and one hundred and sixty acres under Kinkaid law. He has about one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, and deals extensively in the stock business, running fifty head of cattle at the present time, also has twenty horses. Mr. Fischer has his farm well improved with good buildings and every kind of modern machinery for the proper operation of his farm, and has a fine residence, plenty of trees and a good water supply.

In March, 1881, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage to Mary Kutzmann, who was born in Highland, Madison county, Illinois, on January 6, 1863. Seven children have been born to them, all of whom are living, named as follows: George M., born September 7, 1881, now proprietor of a fine farm which he took as a homestead, located in section 30, township 12, range 50; Louise, now wife of Henry Laaker, residing in Colorado; Katie, Ida, Minnie, Mary and Margaret. Mr. Fischer is active in public affairs and a loyal Republican in political views.

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#### J. L. DUFFIN.

J. L. Duffin is one of the prominent ranchmen in Deuel county, Nebraska, his home ranch being located on section 17, township 17, range 44. Mr. Duffin was born in Canada, March 15, 1852, and came to the United States with his parents in 1854. They located in the eastern part of the state of Iowa and our subject remained there until 1881. He then came west to Greeley county, Nebraska, and in 1886 came to Deuel county, taking up a homestead. He has been very successful in Deuel county and now controls about one thousand one hundred and twenty acres. He is unmarried.

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#### R. E. CONKLIN, M. D.

Industry, persistent effort and integrity go hand in hand toward success. To become proficient in any walk of life requires all of these characteristics, and but comparatively few men possess them in marked degree. By constantly having this aim in view one is bound to succeed, and the gentleman above mentioned is

starting out in his profession with the right ideas. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, receiving his diploma in 1905, and began the practice of medicine in his native place, Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska. He was educated at the Alma high school, class of 1896, and here received a good foundation for his later studies.

Dr. Conklin is a son of Thomas J. and Mary E. (Brown) Conklin, who came to Nebraska from La Salle county, Illinois, locating in Harlan county in 1872, where they were among the first settlers here. They homesteaded in Prairie Dog township and farmed there for thirteen years, and in 1886 removed to Alma, where Mr. Conklin followed the building and contracting business up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1887, since which time his wife has resided here. He left a family of two children, the subject of this sketch and one daughter, Blanch, now deceased, who was the wife of the late Ed L. Willits, a merchant and banker of Alma, always referred to as the most enterprising and helpful business man of Alma.

Dr. Conklin was married in 1905 to Miss Jessie Riley, of Fairbury, Nebraska, a daughter of E. L. Riley. One child has been born to Dr. and Mrs. Conklin, named Robert Earl Conklin, Jr.

During the short time that Dr. Conklin has been established in Alma his practice has grown to large proportions, extending all over this and adjoining counties, and his skill as a surgeon places him at the head of the profession among physicians in this section. A portrait of Dr. Conklin appears on another page of this volume.

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#### CHARLES FULLER.

Charles Fuller, a substantial farmer and a worthy citizen of Loup county, resides on section 11, township 21, range 17. He is one of the pioneers of that locality and has materially assisted in its development and advancement.

Mr. Fuller was born in Windham county, Connecticut, in 1841, and, on his father's side, his ancestry is traceable back to the Mayflower stock of Puritans. His parents were Solomon and Margarett (Back) Fuller, the latter born in Brooklyn, New York, and of English descent.

Our subject was reared near Hartford and attended the common and high schools. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company D,



Twenty-second Connecticut Infantry, for nine months' service, after which he returned home, remaining until coming to Nebraska.

Mr. Fuller was married in 1863 to Miss Elizabeth Phelps, daughter of Julius and Cordelia (Steel) Phelps, the father being of the old Connecticut stock. Mr. and Mrs. Fuller have two children, Margarett and Albert. Mrs. Fuller died in 1871 and was sincerely mourned by her family and a very large circle of friends.

In 1883 our subject came west to Nebraska, first stopping in Colfax county, where he remained for about a year. Then he came to Loup county, settling on a homestead and tree claim, where he now lives. His first buildings were built of sod, facetiously called "Nebraska brick" by Mr. Fuller. He set out a great number of trees and made other improvements as rapidly as his limited means would permit, and, for the first ten years, worked out a great deal of the time at the carpenter trade.

Mr. Fuller has a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres with about half of it under cultivation, and the place is thoroughly improved in an up-to-date manner. The trees that he planted in the early days have developed and now make beautiful groves for shade and shelter. Mr. Fuller was the first in the locality to experiment in the growing of alfalfa, meeting with splendid success. He does a great deal of gardening, raising vegetables of all kinds, and also small fruits in great profusion. In one season he picked between five hundred and six hundred quarts of strawberries, and has also quantities of grapes and blackberries, thus showing that the soil of Loup county is excellent for the growing of all kinds of small fruits and vegetables. Mr. Fuller also raises a fine lot of hogs every year and now has one hundred head in his pastures.

Mr. Fuller has made a fine record as a successful farmer and has placed himself in very comfortable circumstances. He has taken part in all matters of local interest and is widely known and universally respected as an honorable citizen.

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#### RICHARD H. WATKINS.

Richard H. Watkins, who for many years has been known by the sobriquet of "The Old Scout," is a prominent citizen of Alliance, Nebraska, where he has resided since 1889. He was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1857, and reared on his father's farm. His parents were both natives of Wales, and were early settlers in Iowa.

Our subject lived in Iowa up to 1882, then came to Greeley county, Nebraska, where he pioneered there for a time, building up a farm and home. He left that county and moved to Holt county in 1883, traveling through the country on horseback, and helped his brother to drive a large bunch of cattle into Cheyenne county. He next settled on Indian Creek, eight miles from Camp Clark, there engaging in freighting, driving bull teams to Fort Robinson, Rosebud Agency, Pine Ridge and the Black Hills, continuing at this work for five years, and roughed it all that time, camping out wherever he happened to be, exposed to all sorts of weather both winter and summer. Part of the time he worked as a cowboy and worked on large ranches in that part of the state. In 1889 he came to Alliance and opened a meat market, his capital being just one dollar and fifty cents. He bought the business of his brother, who was the first man to start a butcher shop in the town. Our subject ran the market for five years, then obtained a contract from the government for putting the stock on the Indian reservation, which he filled, and the following year returned to his butcher business and carried it on for a year and a half. In 1897 he began in the sheep and cattle business, buying, selling and shipping stock, and for a number of years carried on that trade, handling stock all over the western states, and is still in that business, associated with a firm which handles more stock annually than any other concern in western Nebraska. Mr. Watkins is an authority on Texas cattle, and handles these exclusively.

In 1889 our subject was united in marriage at Hot Springs, Arkansas, to Miss Lola C. Foster, who died the following year. He was married again at Los Angeles, California, in 1905, to Miss Charlotte Hill.

Mr. Watkins was engaged in the real estate business here for a time. He also has taken an active part in local politics since his residence here, always voting the Republican ticket and standing firmly for the principles of that party.

Mr. Watkins is an interesting gentleman in every way and has a host of warm friends among all classes. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, esteemed by all who know him. Among the interesting experiences he relates of the early days is the following incident: During the time when the "gentleman's game" was largely played in Alliance, Mr. Watkins and a few "pals" were passing a few pleasant hours settled on a tree claim and homestead, and in this manner, with the game getting stronger constantly. Finally all "stayed," each man at-

tempting to make the other lay down, all having what he considered "a sure winner." After all available cash had been bet, check books were produced and used, and still no one would give up. At this time a man rushed into the room and told our hero that his meat market was on fire and burning up. He was considerably disturbed, but remained in the game. A second time some one came in and excitedly told him of the fire, but instead of hastening to the scene of the conflagration he coolly remarked that it was "the first time he had ever held four aces, and he was going to see them through if the whole town burned up." This was taken as a bluff by his companions, and the betting still continued, when, not wishing to bankrupt the others, he called and threw down his hand, which indeed held four aces. He leisurely filled his pockets with the bills, checks and loose money and rushed out to look at the fire, which he found had been entirely extinguished without any great loss.

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#### HUGH B. BOYER.

A foremost place among the farming community of Cherry county, Nebraska, is occupied by the gentleman herein mentioned, who is a successful and progressive agriculturist and ranchman of township 25, range 32. He is the possessor of a good ranch, which he has acquired by hard and faithful labor, taking up land here in the early days as a homestead and transforming it from a wild prairie tract to a fertile garden, enjoying a rich measure of prosperity as a reward for his honest labors and good management.

Hugh B. Boyer was born in Mercer county, West Virginia, in 1871. His father, Dennis Boyer, was a farmer for many years in that state, and he married Sarah E. Fielder. After our subject's birth the family only remained in West Virginia for about a year, then emigrated to Tennessee, traveling to their new home by team in an emigrant wagon, settled on a farm in Sevier county, remained there for six years, then moved to Texas, locating in Anderson county, arriving there in the spring of 1878. There they started a farm, and our subject's boyhood days were spent in that locality, the family spending in all twenty-two years in Texas. Hugh lived at home until he was twenty, then took a farm for himself and farmed there for ten years. He was married in 1891, and came with his family to Nebraska in 1900, taking up a homestead in section 25, township 25, range 32. He at once erected

sod buildings in which they lived comfortably for a number of years, but he has lately put up a good frame house, barns and other buildings and added many improvements to his ranch. His ranch consists of eight hundred acres, all of which is fenced and has a fine supply of water pumped by windmills. He is extensively engaged in the stock raising business, dealing principally in cattle, which he sends to the markets. He also operates a fine large dairy, and from this industry derives a snug income. Mr. Boyer farms about one hundred acres, on which he raises splendid crops of small grains.

Mr. Boyer was married while living in Texas to Sarah Huntsman, daughter of Charles Huntsman, a farmer of that state, and she was born and reared in Houston county. The family had lived for many years in Texas, her grandfather, Joseph Huntsman, having been born and reared there; also her great-grandfather, William Hallmark, was a pioneer of that country.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyer are the parents of three children, namely: Haskle, Lessie and Gussie. The family occupy a comfortable home, and are well liked by all who know them.

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#### MAJOR A. M. DILL.

Major A. M. Dill, retired, first came to North Platte, Nebraska, in 1877, being connected with the Union Pacific Railway, and was employed by them continuously up to 1902, when at the age of seventy-nine years he left their service. He began working for the New York & Erie Railway when only twelve miles of that road was completed, in 1839, running to Piermont, Rockland county, on the Hudson. His first engine, run in 1842, was a single pair of drivers and a crank, built one the outside like a steamboat. There were five of these at that time, and were named Ramapo, Eliza, Lord Piermont, Orange and Rockland. These were afterward altered and made with two drivers and enlarged cylinders with crude hand tools. In 1850 he left this road and took charge of the blacksmith shop at Elmira, New York, under W. E. Rutter, and during the following year he built a shop of his own to make cars for the Buffalo & New York Railroad. These burned down, and he then moved to Canandaigua, remaining there up to 1856, when he came west, locating in Wisconsin, at Racine. Two years later he went to Springfield, Illinois, in the service of the Wabash road.

At this time our subject was well acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, and on the night he was nominated for President, while waiting for the news, he remarked to those about him that "if it was not dark we would have a baseball game." All adjourned to the Journal office and watched for the returns. Lincoln was one of the people, always speaking in the most kindly terms to all whom he met, and every one at Springfield felt as sad when he left them for Washington as he did himself.

Major Dill is a native of Orange county, village of Florida, New York. In 1857 he was married to Miss Julia A. Hoover. Their children were as follows: Charles A., engineer on the Union Pacific Railway; W. E. Dill, who was an engineer on the Union Pacific, and died in 1901, aged thirty-five years; and two daughters, Mrs. W. L. Park, wife of the general superintendent of the Union Pacific Railway, formerly assistant division superintendent at North Platte, and Mrs. Perry Sitton, of North Platte, whose husband is manager of the Union Pacific Hotel at that city.

Nearly all of Mr. Dill's life has been spent on the railroad. He came to North Platte in 1877 and there was foreman of the Union Pacific Railroad blacksmith shop for fourteen years. He is now eighty-five years of age, and a man of active mind, intelligent and of fine appearance. Major Dill was pensioned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in 1903.

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#### ROBERT GUNDERSON.

Robert Gunderson is favorably known as one of the successful young ranchers of Kimball county. He was born in Potter, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, Sept. 15, 1876, and is one of the oldest native born Cheyenne county boys. His father, Adam Gunderson, was one of the pioneers having settled in the county in the early years, about 1871.

Robert Gunderson was married April 6, 1904, to Miss Lizzie Asche, who was a native of Colfax county, Nebraska. Her parents are still living at a ripe old age after thirty years residence in the state. They are now living in Banner county, and are old settlers there. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have been blessed with two children: Florence Marie, and Zelma Annie.

Mr. Gunderson's father was a section foreman at Potter, Nebraska, where our subject was raised, he being used to plenty of farm work. There he also gained considerable experience at the raising of sheep and other stock. In 1900 our subject started out for himself, and took a

homestead on section 4, township 15, range 53, where he has established himself as one of the successful public spirited citizens of the community. He now owns three hundred and eighty acres, with eighty acres under cultivation. He is energetic and progressive, and is not satisfied unless he is pushing his farming operations to the utmost. In addition to his own land he leases nearly one thousand acres and runs about a hundred head of stock.

Mr. Gunderson is a staunch Republican in politics, and is always able and willing to stand by his convictions. He has held the office of county commissioner of Kimball county, Nebraska, from 1905 to 1907, his election being a decisive victory. He is at present moderator of School District No. 1, and takes great interest in all matters of an educational nature.

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#### WILLIAM WALLACE BRUCE, DECEASED.

Among the men who helped in the development and success of the western part of Nebraska the gentleman above named occupied a prominent place. He had built up a pleasant home in Rock county, where he was universally respected and esteemed by his fellowmen.

Mr. Bruce was born on his father's farm in Livingston county, Illinois, June 15, 1862. He was a son of James Bruce, a native of Scotland, as was also the mother, Katherine P. Bruce, both coming to America when quite young. In a family of nine children our subject was the second member, and was raised in his native county, until he reached the age of twenty-one years, following farm work as his occupation. In 1883 he came west settling in Sheridan county on a homestead located fourteen and a half miles south of Hay Springs. The nearest railroad point was Valentine, about a hundred miles distant and all supplies had to be hauled from that town. He immediately built a dugout in which he made his home for two years, then erected a sod house in which he lived seven years. During these days he spent his time in freighting between White River and Valentine, and at one time, for fourteen months he had never slept in a house, camping out through all kinds of rough weather. When he began he had only a team and wagon, meeting first with many discouragements and hardships, but he was possessed of a strong will and sturdy determination; never giving up, he did whatever seemed to be best at all times, and gradually worked into the stock business combined with mixed farming. At one time he had a wheat field of five hundred acres, from which, however, he



reaped no harvest, the entire field being parched by the severe drought of that season. When the dry years come on he lost several other crops, and had them twice destroyed by hail. After these years had passed and conditions become more favorable he got a new start and gained back much of his losses, and when he left Sheridan county, in 1900, he had accumulated quite a comfortable property, owning 209 head of cattle and fifty head of horses. From there he moved into Cherry county in the year 1898, remaining there for the winter, and in the spring came to Bassett, where he engaged in horse shipping, supplying the market in as distant points as New Jersey, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri and Arkansas. He was most successful at this line of work, and handled hundreds of fine animals, finding a ready sale at profitable prices. He was engaged in threshing for a time and in years gone by trailed horses into Canada and Manitoba, shipping cattle from those countries back to Nebraska, where they were disposed of to advantage.

Mr. Bruce was married in Nashville, Washington county, Illinois, May 17, 1887, to Miss Lou Hahler, a native of Illinois, born in Saint Clair county, of French and German parentage. Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, and are named as follows: Ollie I., Katie C., James W. (deceased); Nettie L., Wilmar W., Florence M., Marguerite G. (deceased); an infant that died unnamed, Margaret L. and Juanita C. The family is well known and highly esteemed all over the locality in which they reside.

Mr. Bruce died in April, 1908, regretted by a host of friends. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen.

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#### EDWARD F. PONTIUS.

In compiling a list of the prominent pioneers of Sioux county, Nebraska, who have aided materially in making that region a thriving agricultural district, a foremost place must be accorded the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. For the past several years Mr. Pontius has been closely identified with the development of Bowen precinct, and his labors to this end are well known to all who reside in that community. He now occupies a pleasant home in the village of Harrison where he enjoys the contentment which comes from the knowledge of duties well and faithfully done.

Mr. Pontius was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, December 18, 1849, of good old American stock. His father, Samuel G. Pontius, was a

farmer, descendant of French ancestors, and he married Lea Reiman, of German blood.

Our subject grew up on the home farm, where he did plenty of hard farm work during his early boyhood, receiving a common school education, and lived with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-one years. He then learned the trade of telegraph operator, and was employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for three years. After that time he started railroading, traveling in the northern part of Ohio doing station work, and after several years, drifted around in different parts of the country following his profession, so that he was able to see a great deal of the different states. Mr. Pontius came to Nebraska in 1892, landing here on June 23d, of that year, coming from St. Paul, Minnesota, where he had worked for some time. He located in Harrison where he held the position of station agent up to the fall of 1903. He homesteaded a tract of land in section 3, township 31, range 56, Bowen precinct, and proved up on his claim, still owning this property.

In 1873, Mr. Pontius was married to Elizabeth Bloom, daughter of J. M. Bloom, of Shelby, Ohio, a leading undertaker and cabinet-maker of that place. Her mother was Susan Snyder, a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Pontius have a family of four children, namely: Wanda, wife of W. H. Davis, William, Myrtle and Jennie, who are also married and live in Harrison, Nebraska, except William, who is a resident of Orin Junction, Wyoming. The family is highly esteemed by all who know them, and are popular members of society in Harrison.

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#### WILLIAM M. ALDEN.

In casting about for the name of a representative old settler of Nebraska, we give the reader that of William M. Alden, who was among the first to locate in Hamilton county, arriving there in 1879. That section was then barren prairie, and he went to work to help build up the country, spending his entire career in Nebraska, and watched the growth of civilization from its earliest start, assisting in no small measure in the work of its upbuilding. He now resides in Hyannis, where he settled in 1888, and carries on a general merchandise store, establishing this business when the state was in its first stages of development, and has remained to become one of the leading citizens and successful merchants of Grant county.

Mr. Alden was born in Union, McHenry county, Illinois, in 1860. His father was a



well known merchant of that place, and when our subject was a small boy the family moved to Iowa, where he grew up. At the age of nineteen he came to Nebraska and made settlement at Aurora, and for nine years made that town his home, working as a clerk in a store owned by his father.

Mr. Alden located in Hyannis in 1888, and opened the first store in the town, starting in the spring of that year. His first building was a lean-to, built against a house, and was twelve by twenty-two feet in size. His business expanded rapidly and he was obliged to enlarge his store space and put in a larger stock of goods, and eventually put up a commodious building, now occupying a floor space of twenty-two by eighty. He carries a splendid line of goods and enjoys an extensive trade through the surrounding ranching community. Besides this business he runs a branch store at Whitman, established in 1893, and does a good business at that point. Our subject owns a good ranch situated seven miles from Hyannis to the north, and devotes this place to stock raising.

Mr. Alden was married in 1881, at Aurora, Nebraska, to Nina M. Chapin, and to them have been born, Blanche, and Eva, who was the first child born of white parents in Hyannis, and first saw the light of day December 3, 1888.

Mr. Alden has the distinction of having been instrumental with S. S. Sears, in incorporating the town of Hyannis, in which movement they encountered considerable opposition. When he first struck this locality nearly all of the white settlers made a living by hunting wild game and picking up buffalo bones, as every man who came here was, almost without exception, entirely without funds and unable to produce enough money to open a farm until they had worked and saved the price to file on the land.

Mr. Alden has always been prominent in public affairs, is an active Republican, and served as deputy county clerk during the early history of the county. He has helped establish the schools in his locality and has been a member of the school board, also of the town council for many years.

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#### HARMON P. McKNIGHT, M. D.

Harmon P. McKnight, a prominent physician of Long Pine, Nebraska, is a gentleman of strong mind, and a capable, skilled and conscientious practitioner, and deservedly enjoys the esteem and confidence of his patrons and associates.

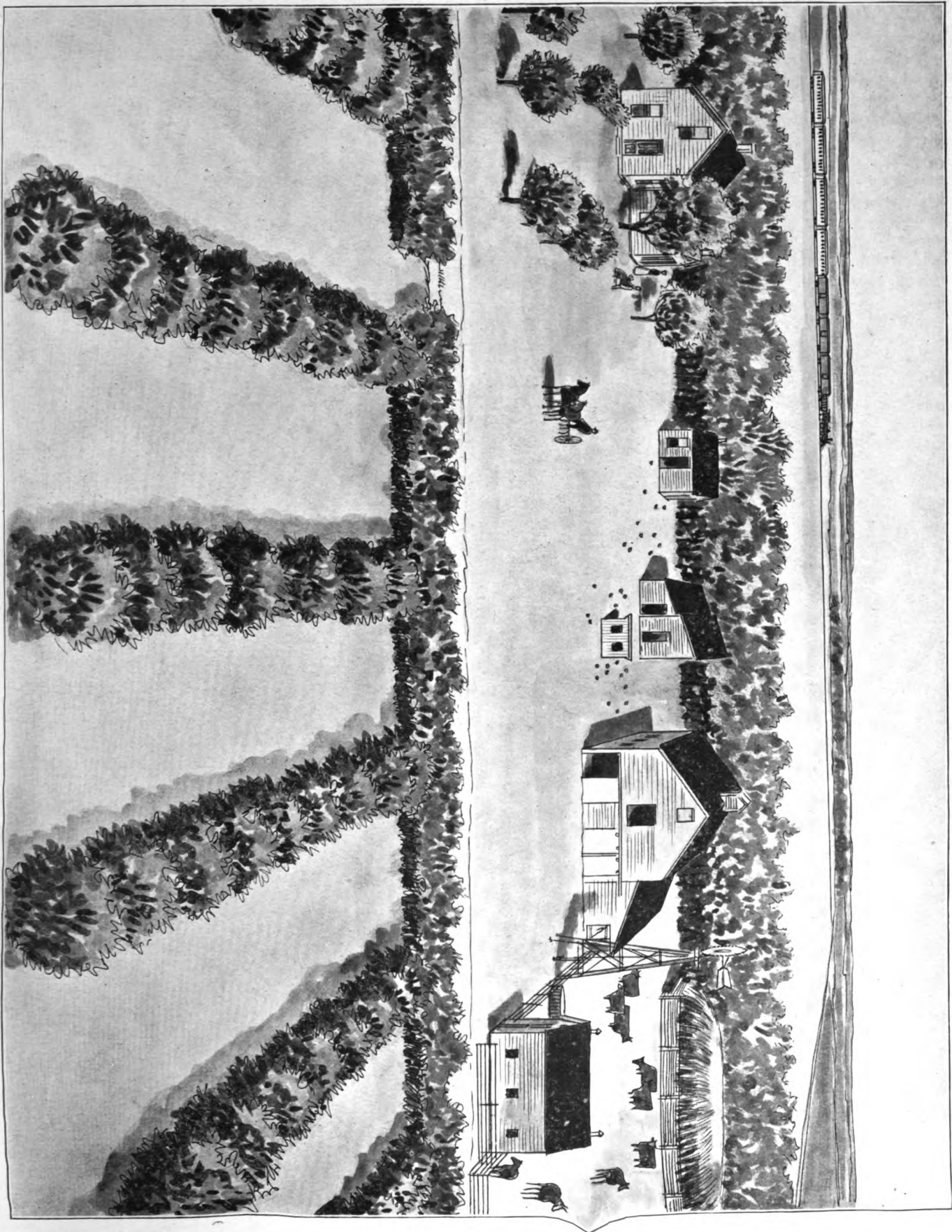
Dr. McKnight was born in St. Lawrence

county, New York, April 25, 1857. His father and mother, William and Martha (Packard) McKnight, were both of American blood and he was the fifth member in their family of nine children. He was raised in his native state, until the age of eighteen years, when in December, 1876, he enlisted in St. Louis in Company F, Eighth Cavalry and was sent to western Texas where he served five years, the two final years in hospital department, from which he was discharged in March, 1881. This gave him a liking for the medical profession, so proceeding to St. Louis he attended a course of lectures, after which he took up the practice of medicine in Shelby county, Iowa, where he remained one summer, followed by a course in Omaha Medical College. He then opened an office at Long Pine on August 20, 1883, and at once began the practice of medicine, being the first physician in this and the adjoining three counties. He built up an enormous practice, and was widely known as a man of superior mind and great strength of character, everywhere winning the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. After locating in this vicinity Dr. McKnight had intended to get his degree as soon as possible but his practice increased to such an extent that he was unable to abandon it until 1889 when he took a final course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating and receiving his diploma in 1890.

In 1891, Dr. McKnight established a drug store in Long Pine, in which he carries a complete line of drugs, toilet articles and sundries, doing an extensive business. He is also engaged in ranching, having taken up a homestead in 1883 and proved up on it. This ranch contains one thousand four hundred acres on Pine Creek and is devoted to grain and hog raising, which pursuit he finds very profitable, personally superintending this work. In 1907, he purchased a finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres in section 22 and 27, township 30, range 20, Rock county, which is devoted to agriculture; it is almost completely encircled by a grove of fifteen years standing, has a fine orchard, a good dwelling, large barns and other buildings. We present a fine view of the premises on another page of this volume.

On March 12, 1884, Dr. McKnight married a very estimable lady in the person of Miss Mattie C. Anderson, daughter of John Anderson, an old settler and prominent farmer of western Nebraska. He was an early settler in Missouri, but was forced to leave that state during the war because of his strong northern sympathies. Dr. and Mrs. McKnight have a daughter, Lena, born in Long Pine. She is now the wife of Dr. J. W. McLeran, a rising





FARM PROPERTY OF DR. H. P. MCKNIGHT,  
Of Long Pine, situated in Sections 22 and 27, Township 30, Range 20, Rock County, Nebraska.





young dentist  
has an adopted  
For the past  
has been local st  
way at Long Pine  
cian for fourteen  
panies, six of which  
is a Democrat, and  
In 1906 he was  
to fill out an unexpired  
member of the pension  
years. He is a member  
church, the Modern  
Union and the Odd

Springview. Our subject also  
son, Euel P.  
seventeen years Dr. McKnight  
for the C. & N. W. Rail-  
He is also examining physi-  
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are old line companies. He  
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appointed county commissioner  
term, and he has been a  
board for the past fifteen  
of the Congregational  
Woodmen, the Fraternal  
Fellows at Long Pine.

DR. W. H. BYERLY.

W. H. Byerly, the oldest physician in point of residence in the town of Franklin, Nebraska, has an extensive practice in his profession, and is one of the deservedly popular citizens of his locality. He has passed many years of his life here and built up a wide and lucrative practice by his skillful treatment of the ills of mankind and his conscientious service for the relief of his fellows. He also is proprietor of a drug store in Franklin, and his store is one of the best equipped in the county, in which he enjoys a large and constantly increasing patronage. Dr. Byerly was born in Virginia. He is a graduate of the Richmond, Virginia, Medical college, class of 1869, and has practiced his profession since receiving his degree of M. D. In 1879 he came to Nebraska, locating in Franklin, and has practiced successfully here since that time, his practice during the pioneer days reaching from the northern limits of this county to the center of Smith county, Kansas, west to Harlan county and east to Riverton. He is known throughout all the adjoining counties and western part of Nebraska as one of the best physicians who have ever come to these regions, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has had to do in a professional or social way. Dr. Byerly is devoted to his profession and has given his exclusive attention all these years to this work, with the exception of his drug business. As stated at the beginning of this sketch, Dr. Byerly is the oldest practicing physician in Franklin, and since locating here has been an important factor in its development. He has stood for its growth educationally, morally and religiously, and for its advance as a business center of one of the best farming regions of western Nebraska. His only son, Joe R. Byerly, is fitting himself for official service in the Merchant Marine, on the Atlantic coast trade from Balti-

more. Dr. Byerly was married in Virginia, in 1870, to Miss Anna Lee Ryan, who since her residence in Nebraska has been recognized as a lady devoted to her home, and the interests of her home community, along its best lines. Dr. Byerly is a member of the County, Republican Valley, and State Medical Associations, and a recognized authority on all subjects in his line of study. He is a member of the Episcopalian church, and also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Masonic societies.

WILLIAM N. FORD.

Among the old settlers of Nebraska who have spent many years in the work of building up and developing the commercial industries of a new country, the gentleman above named holds a prominent place. He came here in the early days and has watched the growth of this section from its early organization, and his name will occupy a foremost place in the history of Sheridan county and vicinity.

Mr. Ford is a native of England, born in Bristol in 1854. His father, was a hardware merchant, whose wife was of French descent, and our subject was the second child in their family of six boys. They all came to America when our subject was eight years of age, and settled in New York City, living there for about three years. In 1866 they came west, the father helping to build the Union Pacific road through to Ogden, Utah, and our subject also worked in Utah for three years. During one trip which he made across the plains he got into a skirmish with the Indians and there was a rather exciting time for a while. He next moved to Omaha, and there worked on the bridge which was in the course of construction across the Missouri river at that place. Later he worked on the Central Pacific railroad in Utah, and afterwards fired on the Union Pacific out of Omaha for some time. He next went to Shelby county, Iowa, and farmed there for fourteen years. In 1885 he came to Sheridan county, driving out from Valentine by team with a covered wagon, and settled on a homestead five miles north of Rushville. Here he built his first house which was of sod, and remained on this farm until he had proved up. Three years later he came to Rushville and opened a blacksmith shop, and for the past sixteen years has been engaged in this work. He has built up a good trade and has also put in a large stock of farming implements and hardware. His building occupies a space of twenty-five by one hundred feet, two stories high, and he is doing well.



Mr. Ford was married in Iowa, in 1882, to Miss Orilla Loving, whose father, James Loving, was a contractor and builder at Dunlap, Iowa. One child resulted from this union, Isa.

Mr. Ford takes a commendable interest in all local and county affairs, and has held different local offices here. He is a staunch Republican.

#### CHARLES L. PHELPS.

Charles L. Phelps, a leading old timer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, was born in Cayuga county, New York, February 14, 1844. His father, Israel E. Phelps, was a farmer by occupation, a native of Connecticut, while his mother, Mary A. Leland, was born in Massachusetts, both of old American families. Their family consisted of six children, of whom our subject was the second member. He was reared and educated in his native state, and remained at home until 1863, when he enlisted in Company L, 16th New York artillery, and with his regiment saw service on the Peninsula, between the James and York rivers. He remained in the army, participating in many actions, up to 1865, when he was honorably discharged. During his service in the army his parents had moved to Lenawee county, Michigan, and he went there as soon as he was released from duty, and took a farm which he operated for some time, besides being engaged in running a saw mill for several years. He had received a good education in his boyhood days, and while living in Michigan taught school a portion of the time.

In 1884 Mr. Phelps decided to strike out for the west, and came first to Boone county, Nebraska, whence he drove to Keya Paha county with a team and covered wagon; he settled on a homestead in section 26, township 35, range 22, and put up a rough sod house in which he lived until he proved up on his claim, which was in the year 1887. In June of the following year he took a pre-emption and proved up on this, remaining on the place up to 1893, when he came to Springview to assume charge of the village school and taught this for one year, and from that time up to 1897 followed teaching exclusively. In the latter year he was appointed postmaster, and is now serving his third term in that capacity. The central telephone office is located in the postoffice, and the two combined make it one of the busy places in the town. Mr. Phelps is a popular and efficient public official, well liked by his patrons, and just the man for the place. He has been identified with the history of Springview since 1893 and has been a member of the village council for five years, and school treasurer for six years.

Mr. Phelps' family consists of his wife, who was Miss Ella Earl, and the following children: John Edwin, Roy E., Ezoa and Ezada (twins), the former of whom is the wife of Luther L. Williamson, the latter of Fred W. Skinner, both of Springview. They have a pleasant home here, and enjoy the society of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Phelps is a staunch Republican in political faith, a member of the Congregational church, and affiliates with the Knights of Pythias; he is a detached member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

#### JOHN W. FRY.

In compiling a list of the pioneers of Sioux county, Nebraska, who have aided materially in making of that region a thriving agricultural district, a prominent place must be accorded the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. For twenty years Mr. Fry has been closely identified with the history and development of this locality, and his labors to this end are well known to all who reside in that community.

Mr. Fry is a native of Harrison county, Iowa, born twenty-five miles north of Council Bluffs, on June 1, 1858. His father was John Fry, of American blood, a native of Indiana, and his mother was Nancy E. Acre, also born in Indiana. The family lived on a farm in Iowa, where our subject was raised and educated, after he had grown up, having an interest in his father's farm, later was in the employ of the C. & N. W. Railway company, working in the shops at Missouri Valley, Iowa, for several years. In 1887 he came to Nebraska, and two years later located on section 34, township 53, Sioux county. Here he lived in a tent for six or seven months, and remained on the homestead for several years, proving up and improving the place. In 1896 he purchased his present farm on section 26, located on Dead Man's Creek, and has put up a set of good buildings, house, barns and corrals for his stock, of which he has twelve horses and twenty head of cattle. He has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, sixty acres under cultivation, and a small patch of irrigated land. The place is well supplied with natural timber, wild fruits and grasses, and everything is kept in first-class order. He has installed a complete set of water works, piped all through the house, with a fine bath room, and everything fitted up in modern shape. There is a nice spring of clear running water near the house, all concreted in fine shape for dairy and other purposes.

Mr. Fry was married in 1884 to Miss Mary E. Frazier. Mrs. Fry's father is Thomas J.



Frazier, a farmer and her mother's Frazier. Mr. and of seven children, Clarence, Leona, and Stella. The highly esteemed by all.

and mechanic by occupation, Mrs. Fry are the parents named as follows: Harry, Lynn, Wilber, Lillie are well known and Mr. Fry did his full share in building up his region, and takes an active part in educational affairs of his community. He is a Democrat, but not party bound.

HON. A. C. CHRISTENSEN.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the solid and influential citizens of Minden, Nebraska. Mr. Christensen is a prominent business man here, dealing in real estate, handling lands all over the western part of the state.

Mr. Christensen was born in Funen, Denmark, in 1850, and grew up there, coming to the United States in 1868. In 1874 he came west and located at Fredricksburg, Kearney county, then took up a homestead in Lincoln township, also tree claim, and lived there for twelve years. He broke up a large part of the land and built up the place, raising fair crops and making a success of it. He still owns this land, being proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres altogether in this county. He has the distinction of having been the first Justice of the Peace in Lincoln township, and later held the office of assessor and other local offices. He came to Minden in 1887, and was a member of the city council for one term. After locating here he went into the implement business, and continued at that for fifteen years, making a success of this venture, as in all other enterprises which he has undertaken.

Mr. Christensen is an active Republican, and in 1900 was a presidential elector from the fifth congressional district, casting his vote for Wm. McKinley, and is the proud possessor of a picture of the seven state electors which was taken at Washington on the capitol steps. He was often a delegate to state conventions, and on the county and congressional committees, and was elected to the legislature in 1905, from Kearney county.

Mr. Christensen was married in 1879 to Miss Celia Claussen, a native of Sweden. They have one son, Harry, and two daughters, Mabel and Annetta. The family occupy a pleasant home in Minden, and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

On the occasion of Mr. Christensen's trip to

Washington in 1900, his friends and admirers in Kearney county presented him with a beautiful gold-headed cane as a token of their esteem, and this is highly prized by him.

CHARLES N. CARTER.

Among the progressive and energetic pioneers of Perkins county, who have contributed largely to the prosperity enjoyed in that vicinity, a high station is accorded the gentleman above named. For many years past he has been engaged in farming and stock raising in Perkins county, and he has acquired a valuable estate and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Carter was born in Stark county, Illinois, in 1847. He comes of German stock, his great grandfather having been born and raised in Germany, the family settling in the United States many years ago, and our subject's father was a pioneer in Illinois. His mother was of Scotch blood, and the family lived on a farm during Charles' boyhood. When he was thirteen years of age they moved to Galva, Illinois, and there he attended the city schools and at the age of sixteen started out for himself, making his own living from that time on. He went to Missouri and remained for a year, then spent one year in Minnesota, coming to Keith county, Nebraska, in 1884, where he took up a homestead on section 10, township 11, range 40, and proved up on it, making a good home of it, and still owns the property. His first buildings were of sod, and he spent about nineteen years on the place, going through all the experiences common to the early settlers in that region, witnessing drouth seasons, and suffering losses of crops, etc., but finally succeeded in building up a good farm. He has about one thousand two hundred acres in the vicinity, engaging in cattle raising principally. He has some land under cultivation, the place is fitted with good buildings of all kinds, commodious residence, and he has all necessary machinery for operating his place successfully. He has good water on his farm and all the conveniences and comforts of a model rural home. He is progressive and energetic, and has met with deserved success.

In 1893 Mr. Carter moved to Grant during the hard times on the farms, and his wife took in sewing to help things along, and in payment for her work she received calves in place of money. These our subject would raise, and in this way gradually got into the stock business, which was the nucleus of his present valuable property. In 1903 Mr. Carter was elected county assessor, and again moved to Grant and



opened a real estate office. Mr. Carter is now acting as chairman of the county Republican committee, and is one of the leading men in politics in the county. He has served as census enumerator, and was also precinct assessor previous to being elected county assessor.

Mr. Carter was married in 1871 to Miss Hattie Burner, of Galesburg, Illinois. To them have been born the following children: Rollie E., Claude D. and Myrtle M. They have a pleasant home and a host of friends and acquaintances throughout the vicinity.

#### HOLLY O. BAKER.

Holly O. Baker was born on a farm in Indiana, in 1870. His father, Theodore, was a native of Ohio and was of American born parents. The father was a farmer and carpenter by trade and was one of the earliest pioneer settlers of Blaine county, Nebraska. The mother was Flora Sparks before marriage.

In 1877 the family went to Kansas, remaining in that state for four years, when they returned to Indiana. About two years later, in 1884, the family again started for the west, coming to Nebraska, which state has since been their home. The family located in Blaine county on the North Loup river and commenced opening up the lovely farm on which our subject now lives. They did a great deal of freighting in the early days, hauling material and supplies from North Loup, eighty-five miles away, and our subject had many hard experiences camping out on these trips, and sleeping under the wagon in all kinds of weather. Their first home was in a board shanty with a canvas roof, next was a sod house which, although used only a few seasons, stood for twenty years as a monument of pioneer days. In 1896 the father moved to the city of Ord, Nebraska, and our subject took charge of the large ranch, retaining its management ever since. Our subject took a homestead of his own and also built up a splendid home and farm. He now operates a large ranch of one thousand one hundred acres and its fine condition reflects great credit on its successful manager and occupant. There is a good house, large commodious barns and out-buildings, four beautiful groves of trees and the farm is nearly all fenced. Cattle and horse raising are the principal pursuits of our subject and he is doing a profitable and prosperous business.

Holly O. Baker was united in marriage in 1896 to Miss Mabel Copp, daughter of Henry Copp, one of the pioneers of Blaine county. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have had three children: Floyd, Boyd and Marion.

Mr. Baker occupies an enviable position among the younger ranchmen of Blaine county. His operations have successfully established him on the road to wealth and a prosperous home. He has taken a prominent place among the pioneer settlers of the county and is esteemed by his friends as a public-spirited citizen of strong and progressive character.

#### G. W. COOK.

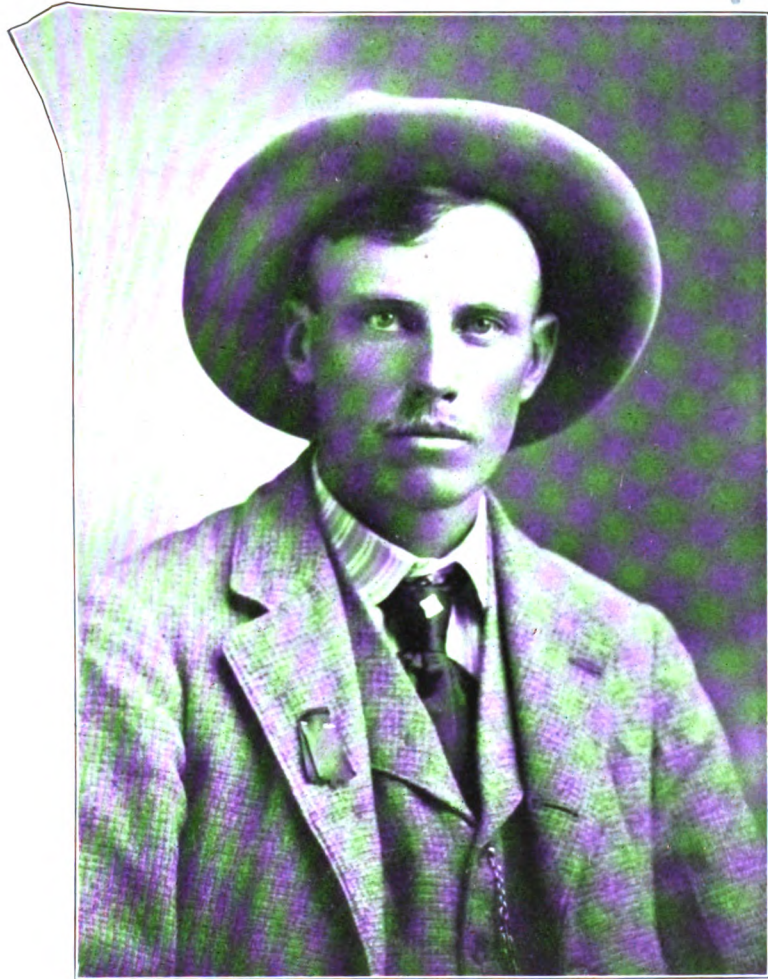
The above named gentleman, as well as his father, Charles Cook, is well and favorably known throughout western Nebraska.

Charles Cook was born in England in 1852, coming to America at the age of eighteen years. He settled in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in 1889, and spent many years on the frontier, experiencing every phase of pioneer life in the west, and to his influence and effort was due much of the success in the agricultural districts where he has made his home at different periods. In 1899 he came to Kimball county, took up a homestead and proved up on it, and there built up a good home and property. He also bought land in section 8, township 14, range 58, gradually added to his original claim until he was owner of four thousand four hundred and eighty acres. He kept large herds of stock, and now has about four hundred cattle, six hundred sheep, fifty head of these sheep are imported Rambouillets, noted for the heavy fleece they produce, shearing from fifteen to thirty pounds. Mr. Cook took the first grand prize at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, on his sheep. He also has about thirty horses and is one of the most successful ranchmen of his section. He also farms a small portion of his land, and has met with success in that line.

Mr. Charles Cook is the father of our subject. Had a family of seven sons and one daughter. He is now making his home in California, although he is the manager and gives his entire time to the operation of his extensive interests here.

Albert and Sam Cook, and one sister, Eliza Cook, are now living on the home ranch, all of whom are single. They are a most highly esteemed family, and all are popular in the neighborhood affairs.

G. W. Cook, whose name heads this review, is the eldest son of Charles Cook, and he was born in Oregon, November 16, 1880. At the age of nine years he came to Cheyenne county with his parents, and later to Kimball county, where he grew to manhood. In 1903 he purchased the Elfblade ranch, located on section



G. W. COOK.





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Rambouillets, besides  
He has a fine property,  
methods, and one of  
ful men of his section.

ange 59, and now owns nine  
acres, all good farm and  
bout fifty acres devoted to  
but is engaged principally  
running one hundred cat-  
Horns, and about one  
sheep, all thoroughbred  
quite a bunch of horses.  
is progressive in his  
substantial and success-  
ful men of his section.

Mr. Cook has never married. Politically he is a Republican, and is now serving his second term as justice of the peace. His portrait will be found on another page.

MESSRS. PORTER & GRIFFIN.

The above firm are among the prominent and successful business men of Alma, Nebraska, engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. This business was established in 1888, Mr. Griffin having come to Alma in 1886 and Mr. Porter the following year. The former held the position as cashier of the First National Bank at Alma for two years, and the latter was engaged in the practice of law for the same length of time. The firm was at first known as Griffin & Taylor, in 1888, and later as Porter & Taylor, from 1890 to 1892, when the present firm was established. Their trade extends all over this and adjoining counties, even in the state of Kansas, and they deal principally in improved farming land, handling loans, and have put through many immense deals, always being ready and willing to make loans on good farms, extending liberal terms. During the past three years land values in Harlan county have increased from five to ten dollars per acre to fifty and sixty per acre, and this has been due in a great measure to the wonderful possibilities to be found in this section, owing to the fine farming land, and excellent opportunities for stock raising, feeding, etc.

Mr. Porter is a native of Monmouth, Illinois, and was raised and educated there, attending Monmouth College. He studied law and was admitted to the bar at Springfield, Illinois, in 1887.

Mr. Griffin was born in Canton, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1844. He enlisted in the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry in 1864, saw service in many famous battles, and was with the army of the Cumberland. After the war closed he returned to his native town and remained there up to 1886, when he settled in Nebraska.

Mr. Porter is the proprietor of a fine farm of one thousand two hundred to one thousand three hundred acres in Harlan county, all of which he rents out, deriving a comfortable income from this source. Both Messrs. Porter and Griffin are prominent Republicans, active in public affairs, and one or the other of them are always on the county committee. Both are also members of the Mason's blue lodge, and Mr. Porter is an Odd Fellow.

WILLIAM GIBSON.

William Gibson is one of the well-known citizens of Cherry county, and a prosperous and well-to-do farmer. His residence is on section 34, township 26, range 33, and he is the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land, all of which is well improved. He is a gentleman of integrity and good judgment and well merits the success which has come to him and the enviable reputation which he enjoys as an old settler and worthy resident of his locality.

Mr. Gibson was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1867. His father, Alex. Gibson, was born in Ireland, as was also his mother. The former followed farming all his life, and the family settled in Iowa when William was a child one year old, and after that lived on several different farms in that state, remaining there for sixteen years in all. He attended the common schools, and worked at farming through his boyhood, coming to Nebraska with his parents about 1883, and when he was twenty-three left home and started for himself, taking a farm in Fillmore county, Nebraska, which he operated for several years. In 1893 he went with his family to McPherson county, settling on barren prairie land, filing on a homestead and proved up on it. There he put up sod buildings and built up a good ranch. That place was located thirty-five miles from a town, and they lived on it for about nine years, then moved to Mullen and made that their home for two years, coming to his present ranch from there. He now has a good ranch and home, having put up good buildings, fences and every improvement. He lately erected a fine barn fifty-six by thirty-two feet, and has plenty of sheds, with wells, windmills, etc.

Mr. Gibson was married in 1891, to Miss Sadie Brown, daughter of John Brown, a farmer and native of Scotland, who settled in this locality many years ago, her mother's maiden name was Agnes Brown. To Mr. Gibson and his good wife have been born the following children: John, Frank, Irene and Pearl, who form a most charming family group.



Our subject gives all his time to the building up of his home and management of his ranch, and everything he now has is due to his own unaided efforts, as he had absolutely nothing to start with when he began for himself, and he deserves much praise for his success. He has also aided materially in the development of the region where he has spent many years, and is one of the leading old-timers.

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#### CAPT. I. H. DEMPCY.

Captain I. H. Dempcy, a leading citizen of Arapahoe, Nebraska, holds the office of justice of the peace and notary public, and is well known in this locality as a man of sterling character and integrity. Mr. Dempcy is a native of Delaware, born in 1833. His father, Thomas Jefferson Dempcy, settled as a pioneer in Champaign county, Ohio, on an Indian reservation, originally coming from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, his father, James Dempcy, grandfather of our subject, having taken part in the Revolutionary war. After having settled in Iowa in 1856 with his family, Mr. Dempcy farmed there for several years, then came to Nebraska in the early days of this state, and the homestead on which our subject located was crossed many times by bands of Sioux Indians who traveled north and south on their way to fight other tribes, but that was about the last of the Indian scares in this part of the country. Mr. Dempcy came to Arapahoe in 1872 and took a homestead in Arapahoe precinct, which he still owns, and since then has added to it until he is proprietor of 240 acres of good land here. Most of this is used for hay and pasture land and he has it stocked with good graded stock and is engaged in raising and shipping stock. The farm is located on Muddy Creek. Mr. Dempcy has always taken an active part in local affairs, and has been on the school board ever since coming here, and nearly always has been justice of the peace. He has helped to build two school houses, fine brick buildings, also two brick churches for the M. E. church society, acting on the building committee in both instances. About the year 1873 he was elected county treasurer, when two sets of officers were elected in the county seat fight. Mr. Dempcy cast the first presidential vote for U. S. Grant that was cast in this precinct. He served for three years in the civil war with Company I, Fortieth regiment, from Iowa, and was mustered out as captain. He took part in the Vicksburg campaign, Sixteenth army corps, then in the Seventh army corps under Banks and Steele, was on the Red

river expeditions. Then was promoted to second lieutenant and soon afterwards recommended for post of first lieutenant, but before he received this office he became captain of his company. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and for twelve years was commander of the post at Arapahoe and one year in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Mr. Dempcy was married in 1856 to Miss Hannah Wilson, who died in 1860. In 1863 he married Hattie A. Gregory. Mr. and Mrs. Dempcy have two sons, namely: T. M. Dempcy, engaged in the banking business, also ranching, owner of one thousand two hundred acres near Curtis; and I. N. Demcy, in the ranching and stock business on a two thousand four hundred acre ranch in Lincoln county, Nebraska. Mr. Demcy's mother was Miss Jane Prichard, daughter of James and Elizabeth Prichard.

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#### GEORGE C. SNOW.

George C. Snow, editor and proprietor of The Chadron Journal, published at Chadron, Nebraska, is one of the rapidly rising young newspaper men of western Nebraska. He has made a success of the work in his locality, and since taking charge of the above paper as sole manager has doubled the plant and circulation of the paper and added many improvements thereto.

Mr. Snow is a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, born on a farm in 1874. He is a son of Beecher and Estella Lyon Snow, the former a farmer and early settler in Nebraska. Our subject is the oldest in his parents' family of four children, and he was reared in Illinois, attending the common schools and later the academy at Franklin, Nebraska. After coming to Nebraska he was a student at Doane College, located at Crete, and graduated from there with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. After leaving college he taught school for two years in Chadron, and was for two years a teacher in Washington, afterwards spending one year in Kansas. He holds a life teacher's certificate in Nebraska, and is one of the best known young educators in this section of the country.

In March, 1906, Mr. Snow bought The Chadron Journal and is now editor and sole proprietor of this, which is the oldest paper in Dawes county. The first issue of this paper was published in a lumber wagon in 1884, established and edited by E. E. Egan, who was also proprietor of the paper at that time. During all this time there have been nine other

*papers established here, and this is the only one which has survived, and is now the only newspaper in the county and vicinity.*  
*Mr. Snow was married in 1901 to Miss Mary Battey, American stock, native of Minnesota. Mrs. Snow graduated from the same college as her husband, at the same time, and also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, and followed teaching for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Snow are the parents of three children—Clayton, Mildred and George.*

CHARLES S. PETTIT.

Among the early settlers in western Nebraska who have given the best efforts of their lives to the development and upbuilding of the commercial and agricultural interests of this section, the gentleman above named occupies a prominent place. Mr. Pettit resides in Keya Paha county, in the town of Springview, where he has established a comfortable home and business, and is prepared to enjoy the fruits of his many years of labor.

Charles S. Pettit was born near Red Oak, Iowa, June 16, 1872. His father, Edmund F. Pettit, was a pioneer settler in Keya Paha county, coming to this locality in 1883, where he took up a homestead southeast of Springview, the family living in a shanty built of sod and boards for several years. Here our subject was reared; from the time he was old enough he was compelled to assist his father in the hard work of carrying on the farm, and early learned to care for stock, help with the planting of the crops, and followed this until his nineteenth year, then learned the blacksmith's trade and followed this as an occupation for a period of ten years. He owned a shop in Springview for several years, and afterwards worked at this trade in Bryant, South Dakota. In 1901 Mr. Pettit went into partnership with S. S. Allen in the hardware business, the latter having previously established this business in 1899. They were associated together for five years, our subject buying Mr. Allen's interest in 1906. It is now the only general and exclusive hardware store in Springview, and its proprietor has an extensive trade all over Keya Paha and the surrounding country. The business occupies a large corner building, including warerooms, and is an up-to-date place in every respect.

Mr. Pettit was married October 10, 1900, to Miss Stella Carr, whose father, John F. Carr, is an old settler in this county. Her

mother, prior to her marriage, was Amelia Schulte. Mr. and Mrs. Pettit have a family of three children, namely: Clarence A., Frank F. and Carl S. The family is highly esteemed in the community and Mr. Pettit recognized as a leading business man and worthy citizen. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities of Springview.

C. ANDERSON BURG.

C. Anderson Burg is a native of Sweden and was born in the year 1839. He brought his family to America and settled in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1886, where he located, being now in Kimball county. He chose his homestead in section 30, township 15, range 53, and by thrift and careful farming together with judicious stock raising he has gathered many broad acres and accumulated a goodly share of this world's goods. He now owns sixteen hundred acres of fine land and runs about one hundred and fifty head of cattle.

C. Anderson Burg was married in 1866 to Caroline Gustason, by whom he had seven children: Ilma, married; Carl, married; Oscar, married; Nannie, married; Conrad, Arvid and Edith, the last three mentioned being single. C. Anderson Burg's second wife was Tilda Swanson, to whom he was married in 1884, in Sweden. There were no children by this union.

In politics Mr. Burg is a Republican and always casts his vote for the furtherance of the principles of that party.

ARVID BURG lives on the home ranch with his father. The land of his birth was Sweden and his natal day was September 9, 1880. Arvid came to Nebraska with his father while yet a child and has lived at home a great portion of the time, aiding in improving and building up the home place. He located and proved up on a homestead, the northeast quarter of section 6, township 14, range 53. He is a young man of sterling qualities and is esteemed by all who know him.

JOHN GUMB.

John Gumb, who owns a fine farm of about five hundred acres in sections 4, 5 and 9, township 22, range 15, Garfield county, has been a resident of this region for the past twenty years. Mr. Gumb is an enthusiastic admirer

of this part of the country, and thinks that a workingman's chance for making a good living and becoming independent in this country is much better than in the eastern states, and a great deal better than in England, which is his native country. He is of the opinion that the same amount of labor for ten years here gives a man more returns than in twenty years in England. Mr. Gumb was born in England and came to America in 1887, going first to Pennsylvania, but only remained there a few months, and then hearing of this rich western country decided to come here, the same year locating in Holt county, Nebraska, where he took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres as a homestead. He remained there up to 1904, when he sold out and removed to Garfield county, again taking up a homestead of four hundred acres, which he uses as a grazing farm, also raising wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley. He keeps quite a number of stock, principally cattle, hogs and horses. Since coming here Mr. Gumb has raised good average crops. While living in Holt county he was mostly engaged in stock raising, and used a large part of his farm for hay and pasture, but since settling in Garfield county has run mostly to raising small grains, as he finds the soil in this section best suited for this purpose. During the dry years, in 1893 and 1894, he raised a small corn crop, but his hay was a fair yield, and cured itself on the prairies; also carried his stock through the winter in good shape. Some of the farmers near him rented feed farms at five dollars per head for their stock in the middle of the summer, thinking their hay was all ruined, but subsequently found they lost money, as the hay cured itself nicely and their stock fed out well through the winter.

Mr. Gumb is a bachelor. He comes of good, sturdy English stock, is conservative in his views, and a practical and progressive farmer. He has taken an active part in local affairs since coming here, serving several terms as school treasurer while living in Holt county, and since locating here has given liberally in all movements for the public benefit. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### FRANKLIN J. AUSTIN.

Franklin J. Austin, one of the leading citizens of Franklin county, is a prosperous merchant of Franklin, widely known as a gentleman of good business ability and true public spirit. He is a son of William E. Austin, born

June 23, 1815, and reared on his father's farm. At the age of twelve years his father died, and in 1863 he sold his farm in Massachusetts and moved to Iowa, where he lived up to 1872, then came to Logan township, Franklin county. Here he was one of the first settlers. He was a native of Massachusetts and the fifth in a family of ten children born to John and Lodemai (Daniels) Austin, whose parents were all born in Massachusetts, as was also our subject's grandfather. The mother was a daughter of Dan Daniels, whose father was commander of the British fort at Boston, but being a liberty-loving man, he deserted the British and joined the Colonial forces. A prize was offered for his capture by the British, but he kept out of their way and used his great wealth in cashing Colonial script and equipping soldiers for the colonists. Dan Daniels, mentioned above as his son, also served in the Revolutionary war as a courier. He was captured and tried, but escaped the death penalty.

Their name was originally MacDaniels, but Dan dropped the "Mac." He was a justice of the peace in Massachusetts for sixty years, which was the longest time any man ever served in that capacity there. William E. Austin came to this county in 1872, took up a homestead and started a small store as well. He was one of the foremost public-spirited citizens, and assisted materially in developing his home place into a handsome home and fine farm, and during the hard years was generous to his less fortunate neighbors, giving credit to all who came to his store, and is gratefully remembered by many.

In 1845 he married Miss Emeline Clark, daughter of Alex. Clark, of Massachusetts, and they were the parents of four children: William H., John Franklin, our subject, Ed. L. and Charles F., who died young. William H. is postmaster at Franklin and a man prominent in all local affairs. Franklin J. began his business career in his father's postoffice, the latter having succeeded in establishing a postal station in 1873, which he named "Macon," and in this place our subject opened a small store, one of the first in the county. In 1879 he was elected county treasurer, then moved to the county seat at Bloomington. After serving two terms he came to Franklin and opened a general mercantile business, which, under his management, assisted by his two sons, has grown to be one of the largest and most prosperous in the county.

Mr. Austin was married at Macon to Miss Mary Dake. She is a daughter of Calvin C. Dake, an early settler in Macon, locating there in 1872, and who is well known throughout the



locality, having  
for several years  
been the  
organizer of a union  
started in 1872.

... served as county commissioner  
Mr. Austin was the or-  
ganizer of a union  
Sabbath school in Macon,

WILLIAM W. BABCOCK, SR.

Among the leading citizens of Cherry county, none stands higher in the minds of his associates than the gentleman here named. For many years he has been a resident of this section and has developed a fine farm and with his family enjoys the comforts of a fine rural home and the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

William W. Babcock was born in Potter county, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1834. His father, William Babcock, was born in Livingston county, New York, September 7, 1798, and the family lived in a lumber camp when our subject was born, the father having followed the life of a lumberman for many years in the east. They lived in Pennsylvania until William was a lad of eighteen years, then moved to Steuben county, New York, and from there came west, locating in Hardin county, Iowa, in pioneer days, where he started farming for himself. On June 13, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, First Iowa Cavalry, and was ordered south with his regiment, going directly to St. Louis, then to Memphis, Tennessee. He went to Austin, Texas, on the Rio Grande, and also was at Little Rock, Arkansas, where he re-enlisted January 5, 1864, serving in all four years and eight months. He saw some hard service in many battles, but escaped without any serious wounds. After receiving his discharge from the army he returned to Iowa and followed farming in Hardin county up to 1891, excepting a period of about four years, which were spent six miles northwest of Kingsley, Iowa, where they farmed heavily and made money. In the latter year he came to Gordon, Nebraska, and started farming, but during the first two years suffered heavy losses on account of crop failures due to drouths, etc., and lost considerable money. He worked hard to get along, and managed to succeed fairly well, with the help of his sons and his wife, who aided him all in their power, and the latter especially deserves much credit for her faithful efforts with her husband in building up a home for themselves. They lived on that farm for seven years, at which time Mr. Babcock took up his present homestead, on section 8, township 28, range 36, bringing with him nineteen head of cattle, which he has now in-

creased to a herd of 300. Here he has a fine property, improved with good buildings, all fenced, and is one of the progressive and up-to-date ranchmen of his locality.

Immediately after returning from the war Mr. Babcock was married in Iowa, to Miss Katherine Rhodes, the wedding occurring in the fall of 1866. Mrs. Babcock is of German descent, and a daughter of Peach Rhodes, her mother's maiden name Elizabeth Crouse, the former a prominent farmer in Iowa. Our subject and his estimable wife have a family of six children, who are named as follows: Suell R., Albert J., Jessie C., William W. Jr., Nellie M. and George A. The sons all have Kincaid homesteads in the vicinity of their father's place, and each is industrious and earnestly working to accumulate a nice property and are worthy citizens of their community.

HON. JOEL HULL.

Joel Hull was born in Meigs county, Ohio, in 1831, and was reared there. In 1872 he came to Nebraska and went to the end of the Burlington & Missouri railroad then at Lowell, and on June 30th of that year located at Lowell, Kearney county. At that time there were no settlers there except on the river bottom, east and west of Lowell. The county was organized June 20, 1872, and Mr. Hull at once began as a merchant, purchasing a store from A. A. Andrews, and did an immense business, selling \$130,000 worth of goods in twenty-four months. Purchasers came from Red Cloud, and west to the Colorado line, also from Kansas, many traveling one hundred and seventy-five miles to do their trading. The town of Hastings was not in existence at that time, and only two or three houses composed the town of Kearney, which did not boast of even a depot. After September of the year 1874 the river bridge was completed, and nearly all the trade then went to Kearney, which left Lowell a dead place.

In 1874 Mr. Hull took up a homestead located four miles north of where Minden now stands, and in 1876 the town was organized and a committee of seven including our subject, chose Minden as the county seat, submitting the question to the people in November of that year and was favorably voted on, as it was a geographical centre, and admirably located. The land was bought by Mr. Hull and he offered it to the county, but it was declined. The following year he laid out the site of the town and named it Minden, and began building a temporary court house and a hotel.



He left a space in the north end of the town for the depot and in November, 1883, the Burlington and Missouri railway came in, and four years later the Kansas City and Omaha built in and took the south end of the town for their depot site, just as Mr. Hull had laid out the plans.

In 1878 Mr. Hull had been admitted to the bar, and since that time has continuously practiced law. The population of Minden in 1882 was just two hundred and eleven people, and in April of that year it was made a village, growing very rapidly from the time the railroad was built through the place. During the panic throughout this section the town went backward, and not until 1896 did it begin to pick up, and now has a population of about 2,300, and still growing. In 1889 Mr. Hull was city engineer and surveyed for the location of the canal.

The county surveyor now does the engineering work for the new \$80,000 court house. Mr. Hull has always been active in all affairs of the town. He was county judge for some years, and since 1855 has voted the Republican ticket, in 1852 voting for General Scott, the Whig candidate for president. During the civil war he served in the Ninety-first Ohio Infantry as second lieutenant, Company B, and was first lieutenant and adjutant of his regiment, and afterwards resigned as adjutant and assigned to Company K, as first lieutenant, and appointed acting assistant adjutant general of the second brigade, second division, army of West Virginia. Our subject is a charter member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Minden and has held all the offices in that post.

In the early days when the settlers first began to come to this region many did not know how to break the land and put in their crops, and a few hit it right and raised good crops, but many met with failures, and those who were fortunate soon got rich.

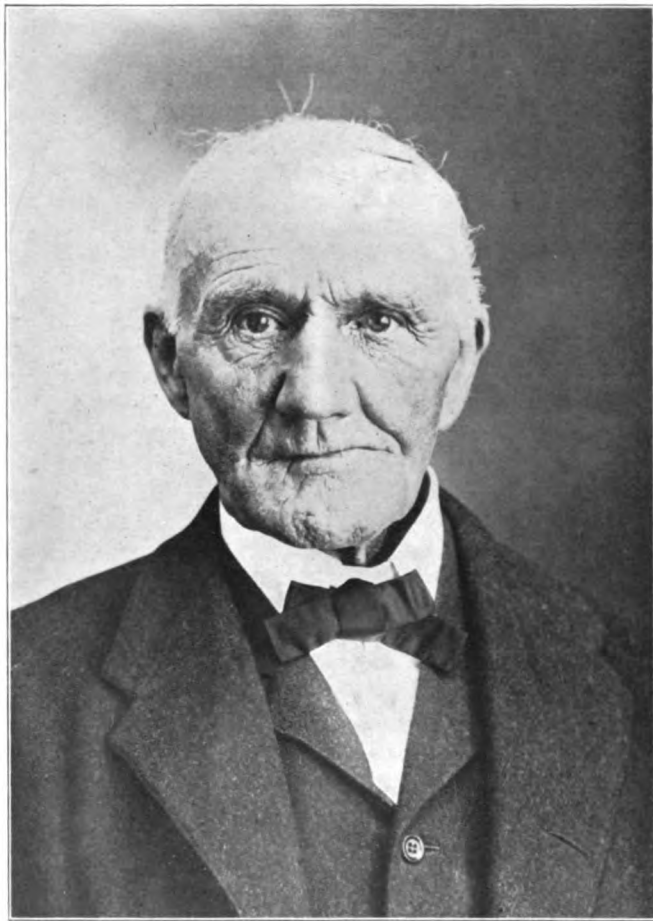
Mr. Hull is a son of Hiram Hull, whose father, Joel Hull, was born near Boston, Massachusetts, in 1776. He received a college education and became a merchant, spending several years in New York state, and in 1816 settled in Meigs county, Ohio, where his death occurred in 1827. He married Miss Mary Wallace, a native of Bennington, Vermont, born in 1779, and she died in Adams county, Illinois, in 1859. She was a Free Methodist, and a woman of much intelligence. Our subject's father was the youngest of ten children, and was born in Utica, New York, in September, 1812. In 1831 he left the family farm, settling in Chester, Ohio, where he en-

gaged in the mercantile, tannery and boat building business. In 1852 he moved to Delaware, Ohio, in order to educate his children, sending them to the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware. In 1872 he came west settling in Buffalo county, Nebraska. He lived for two years at Lowell, Kearney county, then at Kearney, where he was engaged in the merchandise trade and later in the real estate and brokerage business. Our subject's mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Luna Bosworth, of Meigs county, Ohio, daughter of Hezekiah and Huldah (Pearce) Bosworth, of Whitehall, N. Y., who settled in Meigs county, Ohio. Her father was a Methodist preacher, also a teacher and farmer, who lived to be eighty-nine years of age, his death occurring February 23, 1859, his wife dying in 1863 at the age of eighty-eight years. Our subject is the eldest child of his father, born November 23, 1831; the second son, Wyman, was born March 27, 1835; third child, Catherine, is the wife of William K. Goddard, of Dane county, Wisconsin; fourth, Helen, wife of William L. Kidd, of Oakland, California; fifth, Marinda, wife of S. W. Switzer, of San Diego, California. Mr. Hull's great-grandfather was William Hull, of Massachusetts. During his young manhood, our subject was educated at Ohio Wesleyan University, and there studied law with Sweetzer and Reid, of Delaware, both of whom are eminent lawyers, and both at one time members of congress. In 1862 Mr. Hull recruited a company for the Ninety-first Ohio and was commissioned a lieutenant of Company B. He was at the battle of Lynchburg, also at Winchester, battle of Bunker Hill, in the Shenandoah valley, and led the skirmish line of 1,300 men against 7,700 of Early's men. This force of 1,300 took more prisoners than their own number, besides capturing all of the enemy's artillery. For his part in this action Joel Hull was promoted to adjutant general of the brigade, commanded by General Crook, which brigade won at the battle of Winchester. In 1864 Mr. Hull was commissioned by the governor of Ohio to the colonelcy of a new regiment, but the closing of the war caused this to be countermanded.

After the war, in 1869, Mr. Hull went to Toledo, Ohio, where he engaged in the tannery and leather business up to 1872, under the firm name of Joel Hull & Co., and in that year came to Kearney county, Nebraska, where he laid out the town of Minden and built the first four houses, presenting a lot to each of the seven religious denominations, also gave a fourth of a block for the first school building.







THOMAS MULLALLY.



Mr. Hull  
1855, is  
had a family  
George H.,  
and Carrie A.  
and time in  
daughter of Robert  
this union four  
Joel L., Walter

married at Newark, N. J., in  
Mary E. Frisbee. They  
children, namely: Arthur E.,  
Frances E., wife of R. L. Marsh,  
Mr. Hull was married the sec-  
to Mrs. Elsie E. Granger,  
and Mary S. Scott, and to  
children were born, namely:  
Scott, Otis H. and Jessie A.

LOUIS METZLER, JR.

Louis Metzler, Jr., a highly respected citizen of Chadron, Nebraska, was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1872. He comes of old German stock, his father, Louis Metzler, and his mother, who was Miss Kate Rice, having been early settlers in western Nebraska. Their family consisted of four children, of whom our subject was the second member, and he grew up in the city in which he was born, learning the trade of a cigarmaker in his father's shop when he was a boy. At the age of nineteen he left home and spent five years in Chicago and Naperville, Illinois, working at his trade, and has made his own way in the world since then.

Mr. Metzler came to Nebraska in 1896, locating permanently at Chadron, he having visited the place in 1894. His father was engaged in business here, and he worked in his shop up to 1901, then purchased the place and started in on his own account. He has built up a good business and his trade extends all over this part of the country, where he is well known as an industrious and energetic worker, and a shrewd and capable business man.

In political sentiment Mr. Metzler is a Republican, taking an active and leading part in party affairs throughout the town and county. He is now on the town council and has served as a member of that board for five years.

JAMES N. McCLAIN.

The subject of this review is one of the successful younger farmers of Keith county, Nebraska, and resides on an excellent farm located in section 26, township 13, range 37.

James N. McClain is a native son of Nebraska and was born in Cass county March 24, 1881. His father, Nathan C. McClain, was a farmer by occupation and a native of Christian county, Illinois. The mother's name was Mary McClain, however no relation of her hus-

band's before marriage; she, too, was born in Illinois. The parents of our subject were among the earliest pioneers of eastern Nebraska, where they settled about 1877 and engaged in farming and hog raising. In 1885 the family shipped their goods to North Platte, whence they moved by teams thirty-five miles to a homestead on section 12, township 12, range 35, about eleven miles southeast of the village of Paxton. They had a good sod house, cemented inside and out, a barn, with a shed attached, to which they added first-class improvements from time to time. There the family lived for thirteen years, engaged extensively in farming. There were eight boys in the family, which enabled the father to farm very extensively, having so much good help. But the results from the crops were very poor for eight years owing to drouth and other causes, and the losses fell heavily upon the family.

James N. McClain started out for himself in 1900, working out for a while and farming rented land. He located a homestead on section 26, township 13, range 37, where he now lives, and has improved it with good buildings. He has three hundred and twenty acres, with half of it capable of cultivation.

Mr. McClain was married March 21, 1906, to Susan Knowles, born and reared in Keith county, Nebraska. Her father, David Knowles, deceased, was one of the early pioneers of Nebraska; the mother was Melissa Spurgeon. Mr. and Mrs. McClain have one son, Elmer.

As a boy and man Mr. McClain has had great opportunity to witness the development of the region in which he lives, having come here with his parents in the pioneer days of 1885. He is making a success of life and will soon have a fine farm in productive operation. He has been honored with several political offices, among them being that of assessor for Logan precinct. He is a Republican in politics and fraternally is a member of the Paxton camp of Modern Woodmen of America.

THOMAS MULLALLY.

Thomas Mullally, a retired farmer of Harlan county, Nebraska, who now resides in Alma, is the proprietor of a fine property and one of the wealthiest men in this locality. A portrait of him is presented on another page of this volume.

Mr. Mullally is a native of Longford county, Ireland, born in 1836. He came to America when a youth fourteen years of age, settling



in Dutchess county, New York. He first saw Nebraska in 1861, on his way to Pike's Peak, Colorado, where he stayed until 1863, then returned to this state, settling on a ranch on the south side of the Platte river, fifty miles west of Fort Kearney, and here he started a general store and hotel, also dealing in cattle and horses. The California trail was lined with wagons on their way across the plains to Denver, Salt Lake, Montana, Oregon, Mexico and every point throughout the western states, and for weeks and months the trail would be covered with cattle, horses and wagons. He remained on this homestead until 1867, then went to Cheyenne, as he was caused much annoyance by the travelers continually passing his home here. In 1861 a band of Indians who were roving over the country entered his yards and drove off nineteen head of horses and mules, and at Plum Creek, fifteen miles east of his ranch during the same year Indians attacked a party of travelers, including six covered wagons, families on their way west, and out of this little band of people all were murdered excepting one woman, who was made captive by the redskins. He lived in Wyoming for three years, and in 1871 came back to Nebraska, locating in Harlan county on the Turkey creek. Mullally township was named after our subject, and Harlan county was named after Tom Harlan, who came to Nebraska from Cheyenne in company with Mr. Mullally. While he lived on Platte Ranch at Willow Island he came to what is now Harlan county on a hunting expedition. The country was overrun by game—wild turkey, buffalo, deer, elk, antelope, etc.—and was the best hunting field in all western Nebraska, owing to the fact that there was plenty of wild grass and water, and small timber. When he went to Cheyenne he naturally told of the fine hunting grounds and fertility of soil to be found in the Republican Valley (then so called), and in 1870 he with a number of others organized a party and the following year they came down to Turkey creek in this county. There were seventeen men in the party, named as follows: Bill Carr, now of Alma; Tom Sheffery, Harlan county; Tom Harlan, now residing in Michigan; Mark Coad and John Coad, who had lived here prior to this, and had built a dugout; Tom Murrin, deceased; Alex Burk, deceased; Charles Sydenham, a brother of Mose Sydenham; Dick McDonahue, Mike Morrissey, Jim Ryder and others, and besides these a party drove overland with teams and wagons. Mr. Mullally remained here and homesteaded on three hundred and twenty acres situated on Turkey creek

and lived on his farm until March, 1905, engaged in farming and raising cattle and horses and other stock. When he sold out his holdings he had seventeen hundred and twenty acres of land in one block, for which he received thirty-one thousand dollars. He made a success of his farming and stock raising, and he is now one of the leading citizens of his locality.

In 1857 Mr. Mullally was married to Miss Maggie Murphy, a native of Dubuque, Iowa. They have a family of six children, as follows: Thomas, a farmer living in Turkey township; Joseph, a farmer of Mullally township; Kate, wife of James Laird, of Mullally township; Lizzie, now Mrs. August Heffer, residing in Friend, Nebraska; Maggie, located in San Francisco, California, and Mary, married to Arch Palmer, of Los Angeles, California. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer narrowly escaped the earthquake which worked such destruction in San Francisco in 1906. They left the city at three o'clock in the morning, bound for a short trip on the water, and the quake occurred at five a. m., and undoubtedly they would have lost their lives had they been at home, as at the place where they were living over one hundred people were killed.

Mr. Mullally and his family are members of the Catholic church. Politically he is a Democrat. He takes commendable interest in party politics, but does not seek public preferment. Mullally township is a strictly Democratic settlement, never having had a Republican officeholder. At one time there were only three men who voted the Republican ticket in the whole township.

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#### ARTHUR N. CASE.

Arthur N. Case, of Brown county, has by dint of general industry, reliable character and straightforward business methods, built up for himself a name and a standing second to no man in this part of Nebraska. He is still in the full maturity of his powers, and commands a host of friends wherever he is known. His word is his bond, and both as an agriculturist and a carpenter and builder he is pushing and aggressive in his efforts to reap the best results and render the largest and most satisfactory returns for all thought and money invested in his time and labor.

Mr. Case belongs to an old American family long established in the state of New York, where he was born on a farm in 1854. He was the second born in a family of three chil-

As he grew into manhood he  
 reared and educated in his na-  
 tive. He was set to learn  
 the carpenter trade, which he  
 mastered under his father's watch-  
 ful eye and careful instruction.  
 In 1875 he came west, and  
 himself to his trade in Lapeer county, Mich-  
 igan. There he was married in 1881 to Miss  
 Adath Westover, a native of Canada, who had  
 come with her parents into that county in  
 1875. To this happy union have come two  
 children, Leona and George, both of whom  
 were born in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Case removed to Brown county, Nebraska, in 1887, where he at first engaged in farming on a pre-emption claim some eight miles from Ainsworth. Here he constructed a sod house, which was unusually well built, and though primitive in its material was really very comfortable, and is now remembered pleasantly by the family. It was indeed a return to nature, as coyotes could be heard close at hand every night, and for a time game of all kinds was abundant. After the passing of six years the rapid growth of Butte seemed to present an exceptional opportunity for the skill and labor of the carpenter, which Mr. Case was quick to see, and accordingly he transferred himself and interests to Boyd county in 1891. For four years he followed his trade, with Butte City as a center, and had much to do with the construction of many homes and business buildings during that period. In 1895 he worked as a carpenter for some four months in Arkansas, and then made a home in the Ozark mountains in Missouri, where he lived about three and a half years. In 1899 he returned to Ainsworth, and here put up for himself an attractive residence and a large shop for the steady pursuit of his occupation as a builder and contractor. He soon had a large and growing patronage, and as he attended to it faithfully and well it is in every way creditable and satisfactory. Later they moved to the Moon Lake region. Mr. Case is a member of the fraternal order of the Modern Woodmen of America.

HORACE C. DALE.

Among the old settlers who have watched the growth and development of western Nebraska from the early pioneer days, who has always taken an active part in its history from the very beginning and helped to advance its commercial and agricultural industries, the gentleman above named holds a foremost place. Mr.

Dale resides in Rushville, where he is engaged in the banking business.

Mr. Dale is a native of Bellefont, Pennsylvania, born in 1859, on his father's farm. He was raised in his native state, assisting his parents until he was seventeen years of age, spending five years at the Pennsylvania State College, from which he graduated in the classical course. He also took a special course in civil engineering, and for three years worked in this capacity for the Pennsylvania Railroad on construction work. He afterwards followed land surveying for one year. In 1886 he came to Sheridan county, landing here in June, and soon after settling entered into partnership with M. P. Musser and J. K. Wohlford in the banking business, establishing the Citizens' Bank. He remained with this concern up to 1897, then disposed of his interest in the bank and opened up the Stockmen's Bank, incorporating this institution in September, 1898. He has been cashier of the bank from its organization, with A. M. Modisett as president and H. A. Dawson as vice-president. In 1906 the bank erected a fine home building covering a space 25x56 feet, two stories and basement, built of granite and cement, fitted in the most modern style. This bank will be converted into a national bank about July 1, 1908.

Mr. Dale has the management of the intricate affairs of the bank of which he is cashier, and is a gentleman of ability and excellent business foresight. He has succeeded in building up an immense business and gained the confidence of his fellow-men through his strict honesty and integrity.

In 1885 Mr. Dale was married to Miss Lillian E. Satterfield, of old American stock, whose parents were early settlers in Pennsylvania. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dale, who are named as follows: Helen M., George S., Edwin E., Horace Albert and James Leland, all born in Rushville. In political sentiment Mr. Dale is a Republican.

W. J. CRUSEN.

W. J. Crusen, residing in North Platte, Nebraska, was passenger engineer on No. 9 and 10, fast mail train between North Platte and Sidney, which makes a run of one hundred and twenty-three miles in one hundred and seventeen minutes. Mr. Crusen came here in 1880 and ever since that time has been connected with the Union Pacific Railroad. He is well known all through this locality as a man of

sterling character and integrity, and is prominent in all local affairs.

Mr. Crusen was born in Licking county, Ohio. His father, Thomas Crusen, settled at Terre Haute, Indiana, with his family in 1861. There were thirteen children, of whom only three are now living. Our subject began working on the railroad prior to 1861, and in that year enlisted in the Twelfth Ohio Regiment, Company E, recruited from Newark, Ohio, and served with this company for three years and three months. He took part in the battle of Antietam, where he saw late President McKinley, who was then a sergeant, serving hot coffee to the firing line in which the former was a private. Mr. Crusen was also at Winchester, South Mountain and all the battles through that section. In Tennessee he received a shot in the leg, and as soon as he was able to walk, ran an engine out of Nashville, Tennessee. His train was derailed and he was taken prisoner by the bushwhackers, the McNary's gang, who ordered him to blow up the engine, and when he let the steam off at the valve the natives were so badly frightened that they ran away and left him. Soon after a relief train arrived from the Union lines, and assisted him in getting away with his charge. After the close of the war he went back to railway service, and has since traveled all over every state in the Union in his work, never having had an accident. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, a prominent Mason, also Grand Army of the Republic man, well known in these different organizations. Mr. Crusen is now retired by the Union Pacific Railroad and is pensioned by that company. This makes it possible to attend more to religious work and he often fills out for different pastors in their pulpit work. Mr. Crusen is also proprietor of a fine farm of one hundred and fifty acres located near the city of North Platte, on which he makes a specialty of vegetables of all kinds and all his spare time is devoted to overseeing the work on this farm.

Mr. Crusen was married in 1868 to Miss Elizabeth McCandless, of Philadelphia. They have one child, now Mrs. York Hinman, of North Platte, and a sketch of Mr. W. M. Hinman appears in this volume. One brother, James, resides with Mr. Crusen and his wife in their pleasant home here.

Mr. Crusen is deeply interested in religious matters, is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a licensed preacher in the same. In 1896 he was a delegate from Nebraska to the general conference of that church at Cleveland, Ohio. He has attended international Y. M. C. A. conventions at Topeka,

Kansas; Buffalo, New York; Detroit, Michigan; also has attended all state conventions in Nebraska. The Y. M. C. A. of North Platte was organized by Mr. Crusen and Mr. Nash, the state secretary.

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### JAMES J. GRAGG.

James J. Gragg, who has a valuable estate, is one of the foremost residents of Hooker county, Nebraska, and has for the past fifteen years taken an active part in the political and social affairs of that locality, known far and near for his active public spirit and liberal views on every matter of importance to his community.

Mr. Gragg is a native of Oakland county, Michigan, born in 1870. His father, James T., was born at the same place, and later came to Nebraska, and was an early settler in Redwillow county. The mother, who was Miss Amy Carey, was also born in the same county in Michigan as her husband and they lived there up to 1881, engaged in farming. The family first settled in Redwillow county after arriving in Nebraska, and lived in that vicinity for about thirteen years, and our subject was raised in that county, attending the country schools as a boy, and at the same time assisting his parents in carrying on the home ranch, in this manner acquiring a thorough knowledge of the ranching business, remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Gragg came to Hooker county and located on his present ranch, which he took as a homestead, in the spring of 1895. This is situated in section 22, township 21, range 35. He started on a very small scale, his sole capital being a few dollars in money, one cow and a calf, and to make matters worse the calf died. Now he has a finely improved ranch. The Methodist Episcopal church is located on his ranch a short distance from his residence. Prior to settling in this locality he had experienced some very hard times in Redwillow county, losing six hundred and forty acres of crops in 1894, so after coming here he determined to devote his entire efforts to the stock raising business and not try to farm. He gathered together a few head of cattle at first, and from the start had very good success. He put up good buildings as he was able, improved his ranch, cultivating about one hundred and fifty acres, on which he raises good crops, and besides raising stock and farming he owns a good threshing outfit and was one of the first to operate an outfit in this region.



He has done well in this venture, and in following the work has become widely known throughout the entire country.

Mr. Gragg was married in 1893 to Dollie A., daughter of Joseph Downs, one of the earliest settlers in Redwillow county. They are the parents of four children, who are named as follows: Jessie R., Sylvia M., Amy A. and Vira J. The family is highly esteemed in the community as worthy citizens and good neighbors, and they have a comfortable and happy home.

Mr. Gragg has taken an active part in local affairs, serving as county commissioner for six years and also as county assessor for one term and precinct assessor for two terms. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

#### IRA REED.

To the early settlers of Box Butte county, Nebraska, the name of Ira Reed is well known. He has been a resident of this section for the past twenty years and is one of the prosperous business men of Alliance, having been engaged for many years past in the horse business and is considered an authority in all matters pertaining to that business.

Mr. Reed was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1859. His father, Amos Reed, was a farmer, of Pennsylvania Dutch blood, as was also his mother, and both died in that state. When our subject was twelve years old his mother died, and the father died in 1889. He was raised and educated there, and at the age of fifteen years began on his own account, renting his father's farm, which he carried on for three years. At that time he left Pennsylvania and came west, locating at Boone, Iowa, there engaging in the flour and feed business. He remained one year, then came to Nebraska, settling in the town of Superior, and opened a meat market, which he ran for three years. In 1887 he moved to Box Butte county, locating in Alliance but taking up a pre-emption and timber claim situated thirty miles from the town, on the Niobrara river. When he came here he drove from Superior, camping out on the trip, and as soon as he reached his destination started to build a house, which was 16x24 feet, made of sod. He lived on the farm for four years, building up a good home and ranch, then moved to Hemingford and again started in the meat business, which he ran for three years, and also ran a livery barn for the same length of time. He did a good business and got along in good shape, but decided to go

back to the ranching business, so settled on a farm sixteen miles northwest of Alliance and lived on that place for six years. During these years he was engaged in the horse business on a large scale, shipping a large number in and out of the state each year, and he handled some of the finest animals ever brought to this section. He has been most successful in his various ventures, and accumulated a nice property, all of which is due to his own efforts, as he had nothing to start with. He was one of the early settlers in Chadron, and helped develop that town in many ways. In 1907 he established his present business, dealing in real estate and insurance, and his knowledge of this part of the country, land values, etc., will enable him to build up a large business.

Mr. Reed is a Populist in political sentiment, and has always taken an active part in politics, attending numerous county and state conventions. He was elected sheriff in the fall of 1901, and re-elected the following term. This necessitated moving his family to Alliance, where they have lived since with the exception of the year 1906, which he spent in the gold mines in South Dakota.

Mr. Reed was married in 1879 to Miss Lizzie Savage, daughter of Henry and Anna Savage, of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Reed died in 1884, leaving him with two children, Clayton C. and Della M. In 1889 he was married again to Miss Sarah C. Dailey and he had two children by this marriage, namely: Ray E. and Elmer L.

#### BENJAMIN WELLINGTON HARVEY.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is a native of Iowa, being born in Calhoun county in 1867. His father, Benjamin Harvey, whose biography appears elsewhere in this work, is one among Loup county's earliest pioneers. The mother's maiden name was Mary E. Ham.

Benjamin W. Harvey was reared on a farm on the frontier in Nebraska and was with his father during the pioneer days when he learned to perform all the varied forms of farm work. He assisted his father in improving the home farm, driving ox teams and making many trips for supplies for the family to St. Paul and North Loup. In July, 1890, he went to Custer county, taking a homestead, on which he lived a bachelor's life for eight years. He underwent many hardships, was far from neighbors and had to haul water for all purposes for a period of five years.

In 1898 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Ella Daman, who died in 1901, leaving two children—Wayne and Claris. In 1904 Mr. Harvey was married to Miss Angie Thompson, daughter of Pembroke S. Thompson, a farmer and old settler of Loup county. Her mother died in 1905.

Mr. Harvey and family lived on the Custer county homestead until 1904, busily engaged in improving and making it a valuable property. He then proved up and sold out, and in 1905 he purchased the farm where he now lives in section 12, township 21, range 17, it being the old homestead of his father-in-law, Pembroke S. Thompson, in Loup county, a splendid place of four hundred and eighty acres, in a good crop region of the country. He has about two hundred acres under cultivation, the balance being pasture and hay land. There are nice improvements, house, barns, three wells and windmills, and the east farm is thoroughly fenced with cedar posts that were gotten out during the pioneer days of Loup county. Mr. Harvey is especially proud of his fine grove of forest trees and the orchard. Our subject has accomplished a great deal on his farm in the few years he has lived there and it has taken a vast amount of labor and expense to bring it about. He has taken a leading part in the affairs of the community and has witnessed with pleasure the splendid growth of the country in the past twenty years. Mr. Harvey is a progressive citizen and has the respect of his associates and friends.

#### EVERETTE L. BAUMGARDNER.

Everette L. Baumgardner, one of the prominent business men of Perkins county, is engaged in the real estate business with offices in Grant, and is well-known throughout the county as a man of exceptional ability and straightforward principles.

Mr. Baumgardner was born in Page county, Iowa, in 1871. He first opened his eyes in an humble log cabin on a farm. His father was an early settler in Iowa, and later a pioneer in Perkins county, homesteading here in 1886. Our subject lived at home until he was twenty-two years of age, helping him develop a good farm and build up a good home, going through all the pioneer experiences familiar to the old residents of western Nebraska, when there were no wells and people were obliged to haul water many miles, and he well remembers when he had to drive thirty-two miles for drinking water. During those years Mr. Baumgardner built twenty-

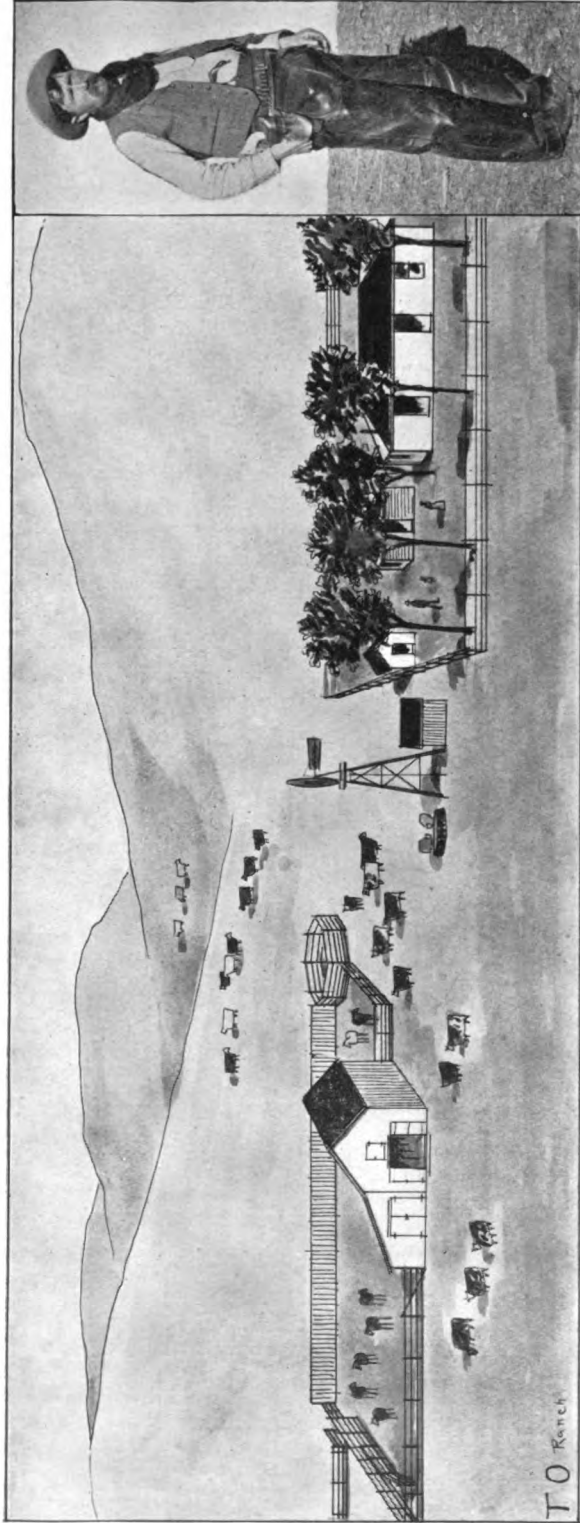
two sod houses in the county for settlers who came in. In 1887 he began railroad construction work, helping build the C. B. & Q. Railway through Perkins county, and was overseer of a gang of men for a few miles of the work. In 1893 he started farming on his own account, for a few years living in the Sandy Valley, southeast of the town of Grant, and there was engaged in farming and ranching, raising principally hogs and cattle. He continued on that ranch up to 1898, then worked as a live stock shipper, buying and selling hogs and cattle. Later was employed as a shipping clerk at Marshalltown, Iowa, and for two years travelled on the road as a salesman. He next entered the ministry and followed that for some time, becoming a successful preacher and evangelist, but finally throat trouble compelled him to give up this work. After this he traveled all through the states west of the Mississippi river except Texas, and saw every phase of life and the different countries, but found no region where the opportunities were better or inducements greater to the poor man or small investor than this part of Nebraska. There is no better climate anywhere considering all things, and they here also have the best water on earth, getting the proper rainfall during the crop-growing seasons, and he further states: "That there is no country where a man can grow a horse successfully without feeding a kernel of grain, excepting Nebraska, which is done here, and horses weighing one thousand five hundred to one thousand eight hundred pounds matured in this way are plentiful throughout the state." Mr. Baumgardner is of the opinion that the day is not far distant when this region will be eagerly sought after as a health resort by the wealthy, as it has the finest summer climate to be found on account of the cool nights in summer, and mild winter weather, making this part of Nebraska a very enjoyable region.

In the fall of 1893 Mr. Baumgardner was married to Miss Ethel Clark, daughter of John W. Clark, a prominent pioneer of this region. One child was born to them, Nellie May, now thirteen years of age. The family have a very pleasant home, and enjoy a host of friends.

Mr. Baumgardner well remembers the last herd of buffalo that was seen in this part of the country, and witnessed their extermination. He has been largely instrumental in the development of this part of the country and in its financial and agricultural progress. He is a self-made man in every sense of the word, becoming thoroughly well read and a fluent conversationalist by his own efforts, as he received only a very scanty schooling when a lad, and is now known as one of the leading men of his county, enjoying the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen and associates.





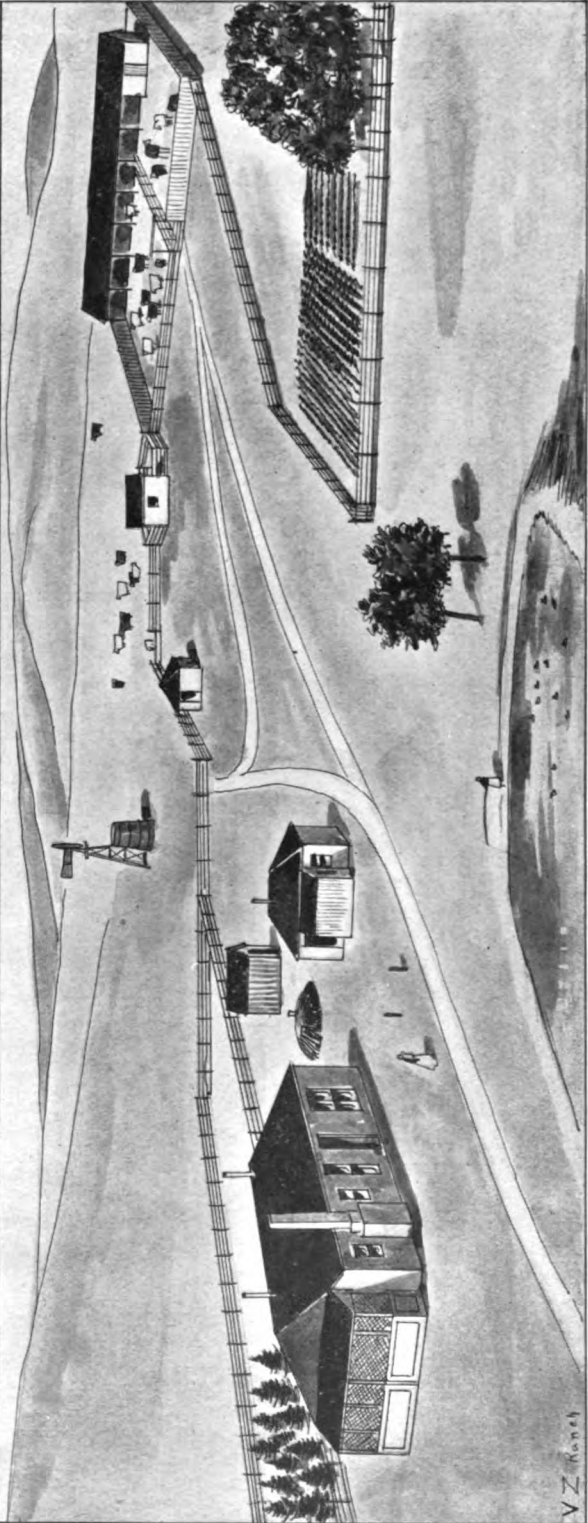


T O Ranch



"ARKANSAS BOB"

RESIDENCE OF THE LATE ROBERT F. GILLASPIE, CHERRY COUNTY, NEBRASKA.



V Z Ranch

RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH JENNETTE,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

## CLIFTON F. STOCKWELL.

The above named gentleman is well known to the residents of Rock county, Nebraska, as the genial and popular postmaster at Bassett. Mr. Stockwell was first appointed to this position in June, 1894, served for one term, and was again appointed on January 3, 1905, taking charge the 7th of February of that year. He is one of the leading public men of the county, and a citizen of true worth, highly esteemed by all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Stockwell is a native of Vermont, born near Brattleboro, August 28, 1865. His father, Francis Stockwell, was a farmer and old settler in western Nebraska, coming here in 1879 with his wife, who was Miss Harriet E. Hale, and family of seven children, of whom our subject is the fourth. They settled three miles north of Long Pine, and there he grew to manhood, going through all the pioneer experiences with his parents and brothers and sisters. During the winter of 1880 and 1881 the father made five trips to distant railroad points for supplies, at times traveling over a hundred miles and return. Our subject was one of those who organized the first school here, and his sister taught the first term. At the age of eighteen years Mr. Stockwell began the study of pharmacy in Long Pine and Valentine and in 1886 became a registered pharmacist, going into business at Bassett the following year. He later took up chemistry, and is now a member of the American Chemical Society, serving two terms as vice-president of the Nebraska section of this society, in which he is considered an expert. His drug store in Bassett was the pioneer store of its kind here and he has continued to do a large business during the years he has been located here.

In 1886, after leaving school, Mr. Stockwell was married to Miss Mina Tweed, daughter of William Tweed, an old settler in this part of Nebraska. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Bassett.

## ERIC A. WIKLUND.

Eric A. Wiklund is one of the self-made and prosperous pioneer farmers of Kimball county, Nebraska, where he settled in March, 1888. He is a native of Sweden, his birth occurring July 15, 1849. Coming to America in June, 1882, he sailed from Goettenberg to Hull, and thence by rail to Liverpool, where

he embarked on the "Alaska," and after a voyage of seven days landed in New York on the 27th.

He first went to Osage City, Osage county, Kansas, but thinking to better himself, he turned back to Chicago, where he found work in a foundry and later was similarly employed in Batavia and Aurora, remaining in the state of Illinois until March, 1884, when he came to Nebraska. He took a homestead in October, 1887, and bought a relinquishment on a tree claim a year later on the south half of section 4, township 16, range 53, which is now the home farm. He has a splendid home and a well equipped and up-to-date farm. He runs a bunch of cattle and horses. All the buildings on the place are of his own construction. He has a blacksmith and wagon shop, and builds his own conveyances. A buggy of his construction has not needed a resetting of the tires in twenty-three years. December 19, 1875, occurred the marriage of Eric A. Wiklund to Miss Anna Elizabeth Kling, a native of Sweden, who came to America a year after her husband, and by a coincidence on the same vessel, the "Alaska." Their parents are all dead. Mr. Wiklund is a staunch Republican and votes with his party. He is active in local affairs and is a public-spirited citizen. He was reared in the Swedish Lutheran church.

## ROBERT F. GILLASPIE, DECEASED.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history was probably one of the best known and best loved of the residents of Cherry county, Nebraska. He had resided in this region since 1883, and was one of the first settlers here, watching the growth and aiding in the development of the commercial industries of his community from its earliest beginning. He was familiarly known all over this part of the country as "Arkansas Bob," and was admired and respected by every one who knew him for his sterling qualities of heart and mind. His death occurred at his home in Gillaspie precinct, June 19, 1906, and his cortege was probably one of the largest ever assembled in this part of Cherry county. If any man in the county was without an enemy it was "Arkansas Bob." His disposition was most affectionate, also his love for children and the tenderness for his wife and mother. Even in his affliction of total blindness his cheerfulness did not desert him and during his stay in the hospital he kept them laughing all the time with his jokes.

Mr. Gillaspie was born in Clark county, Arkansas, October 22, 1861. His father, William Gillaspie, was of Scotch stock, and a farmer by occupation. He died when our subject was a lad of eight years old. There were five boys in the family and he was the second in number, being brought up to all sorts of farm work and early became accustomed to the life of a farmer. When he reached the age of twenty-two he came to Cherry county, trailing a herd of stock all the way from Arkansas, and being six months on the way. He afterward worked as a cowboy here on the Metzler ranch for several years, as well as in New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming, and had the reputation of being the best stockman in the country. He served for a time as foreman on the Arkansas ranch, the brand of which he later purchased, and in 1887 he started in business for himself, taking what is called the T. O. ranch located at Chesterfield. He filed on a tree claim and homestead in Gillaspie precinct, which was named after him, and was successful in this venture from the start, building up a fine ranch of from fourteen to fifteen quarter sections of land, all well stocked.

In 1900 Mr. Gillaspie was married to Mrs. Leila S. Gillaspie, a widow of his brother, a native of Arkansas, being born in Clark county. She was the daughter of C. R. Stone and Elizabeth (McMinnas) Stone. There were three sons and five daughters in the Stone family, but she was the only daughter who ever came west to live. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gillaspie, named as follows: Alice Marie and Roberto Fern.

Mrs. Gillaspie was married again September 16, 1907, to Mr. Joseph Jennette, an associate of her former husband, and they are living on the V Z ranch, which is leased for a number of years, and here each is running herds of cattle and horses which are increasing very rapidly from year to year. A view of the residence and surroundings is shown on another page of this work.

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DR. FREDERICK NASH DICK  
(DECEASED.)

The gentleman named here was a prominent physician of North Platte, born at Greenborough, North Carolina, in 1844. Mr. Dick was in the southern army, enlisting at the age of fifteen years, and served all through the war, in 1863 being taken prisoner at Johnson Island. He served in a North Carolina regiment under Colonel Bingham and a brave and gallant soldier.

Dr. Dick located in North Platte in 1868. He was a graduate of the Medical College at Baltimore, Maryland, and was the first doctor to locate in North Platte, practicing here up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1896, at the age of fifty-three years. He was appointed surgeon for the Union Pacific Railway in 1870 for the division from North Platte to Ogden, Utah, and east to Omaha. This territory was afterwards cut down, and he ran from Cheyenne to Omaha. He held this post during his lifetime, and also was county physician for two years, and coroner for several years.

Dr. Dick's father, John McClintock Dick, was judge of the supreme court of the state of North Carolina for many years, and his brother, Robert P. Dick, also held that honorable position. One brother, James Dick, was an attorney, and two others, William and Jonathan, were physicians.

Dr. Dick was married, May 2, 1871, to Miss Ella A. Webb, of Auburn, New York, daughter of Z. L. Webb and Polly Maria (Hoffman) Webb, both of pioneer families in New York state. Mrs. Dick and Mrs. Peniston, whose husband's sketch appears in this volume, are sisters. Dr. and Mrs. Dick were the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Parthenia N., wife of Albert Shaw, a ranchman of North Platte; John L., engineer on the Union Pacific Railway, residing in North Platte; Leslie E. Dick, night express agent of the Western Pacific company here; Anna R., at home, and Robert P., still attending school. Dr. Dick's memory is held in great reverence by all who knew him. He filled an honorable position as a citizen and physician who was a thorough master of his profession. Mrs. Dick came here and went through a regular pioneer life as the young bride of her husband, and is highly esteemed by all. Dr. Dick was the owner of an extensive ranch located near this town, and also was the first man to start a drug store in North Platte. He took an active interest in politics, was a strong Democrat, and elected as county commissioner in 1874, serving for two terms. He was also a member of the school board, and a devout Episcopalian.

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J. J. KLEIN.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history resides in Center township, Buffalo county, and is owner of the White Bridge Park Farm, located on Wood river, five miles from the town of Kearney. Besides successfully farming one hundred and sixty acres Mr.

Klein is developing a fine park and summer resort to be used by campers and "picnickers." The river affords, with the six-foot dam which he has built, a constant flow of water for boating for a distance of half a mile above the dam, and there are plenty of boats for hire and extensive fishing grounds, tennis, croquet plats, etc., which will furnish amusement for all ages and tastes. Mr. Klein has graded the banks and put in a fine driveway to extend all through the grounds to the river, on one side a quarter of a mile long, then crossing the river and back on the other side.

This drive leads through a beautiful piece of timber land, the road being above the high-water line. There are eight acres of woods, ash, elm, box elder, etc., affording plenty of shade, and will make an ideal amusement park. The waterfall is six feet high, and this with its music adds greatly to the charms of the resort. Mr. Klein has a state right to take water for irrigation purposes for four acres, and he has built a fish pond twenty-two feet higher than the river, and to this he raises the water by a breast wheel. Pipes lead from this pond, keeping all in a beautiful green state. The grounds are planted with flowers, fruit trees and shade trees in abundance, which makes it a pleasing spot to the eye. During 1906, up to August 1, the resort had twelve hundred visitors, while the previous year but four hundred were entertained, which shows the grateful appreciation the public bestows on Mr. Klein's efforts. Everything is planned for the comfort and pleasure of his patrons, and it is bound to become one of the most popular amusement resorts in this section of the country on account of its location and the natural beauties of the spot. Also, a first-class resort of this kind is uncommon in this region, and affords a constant source of pleasure to the people of the locality. In the fall of 1908 a railroad was surveyed near the place, crossing Wood river at Mr. Klein's place, and he expects to have a station at the summer resort.

Mrs. Klein is greatly interested in this work with her husband, and upon her shoulders falls most of the business management.

A few years since Mr. Klein obtained from the Ladies' Home Journal a twenty-five-dollar prize for a photograph of the bridge in this park, as it then appeared, with a faded coat of red paint, disfigured by all sorts and conditions of advertising signs. He secured permission to remove these unsightly things and painted the bridge white and afterwards sent another photograph of "The White Bridge," from which the park derives its name.

## ROLLO L. CAROTHERS.

Prominent among the younger members of the business circle in Grant is the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. Carothers is a young man of exceptional education and business ability, and is making a success in his chosen field of work. He has a drug store on the principal business street of Grant, and is enjoying a good patronage and rapidly becoming one of the substantial citizens of his community, taking into consideration the length of time which he has been in business, which is but a few years.

Mr. Carothers is a native of the state of Illinois, born in the town of Norwood, Mercer county, in 1874. Both parents were born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, settling in Illinois in the early days, where they followed farming for many years. When our subject was eleven years of age the family came to Nebraska. A sister of our subject, Miss Virginia Carothers, was county superintendent for six years, and is well known through the entire locality. She was one of the early homesteaders in Perkins county, as were also three brothers of our subject, namely: Vance, William and Robert. The parents of Mr. Carothers settled near Madrid, and there they began their pioneer life in a sod shanty, during the first summer living in wagons in which they had made much of the journey west. They were obliged to haul all water for domestic use for a distance of fifteen miles, and their nearest postoffice and trading station was Ogallala, thirty-two miles from their homestead. In 1893 Rollo went into Missouri, and after a short stay there returned to Madrid and entered school, after a time going to Gothenburg, Nebraska, and securing a position in a drug store, remaining there up to 1903, when he went to Creighton College, Omaha, and took his first year; then to Des Moines and entered the Highland Park College, remaining for one year, and in August, 1907, became a registered pharmacist and purchased his present establishment. Mr. Carothers is regarded as one of the rising young men of Perkins county, and none are more highly esteemed or enjoy the confidence of its citizens to a more marked degree than himself.

In 1903 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Burson, born in Fairmount, Nebraska. Her parents were old settlers in Frontier county. Mr. and Mrs. Carothers have one daughter, Marian G., born January 7, 1908. Politically Mr. Carothers is a Democrat.

Miss Virginia Carothers, a sister of our

subject, above mentioned, was the first school teacher in the district where the family settled on coming to Nebraska. She is now engaged in missionary work, having spent some time in Portland, Oregon, about two years in Spokane, Washington, and for the past five years has been located in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

#### H. L. HUMMEL.

H. L. Hummel, residing on section 11, Sheridan township, Phelps county, is one of the representative farmers of his locality. He was for eight years supervisor of his township, first elected in 1898 and re-elected for two succeeded terms, and also in 1904, 1905 and 1906. He is a member of the county board and a strong Republican, and one of the leading citizens of the county.

Mr. Hummel was born in Ogle county, Illinois, and grew up on his father's farm in Kane county, near Batavia. He is a son of Rev. H. Hummel, a minister in the Evangelical church, who purchased a farm for each of his four sons in Richardson county, Nebraska, all but our subject still residing in that county, two farming and the third a banker at Humbolt, Nebraska. Their father was born and educated in Germany and came to this country about 1833. In 1892 our subject came to Phelps county and bought three hundred and twenty acres located in south one-half section 11, building a good house and barns on the land. This year (1906) he has had erected one of the finest farm residences to be found in western Nebraska, and, in fact, in outward appearance, finish, decoration and convenience is surpassed by no city home. This forms a wonderful contrast to the sod shanties and later the modest frame houses which first served the pioneers of this section only a few years back, and illustrates the degree of progress and success to which the American farmer has attained, also the skill of our artisans in adapting water systems, sewers and the heating and lighting to the limitations of the farm, removed as it is from the systems developed in cities. For months prior to building their home Mr. and Mrs. Hummel read and consulted along these lines, with the perfect result which has been obtained. There is a large cistern of rain water which supplies the bath, also hot water reservoirs and basins, together with an air pressure boiler in the cellar capable of two hundred pounds' pressure with air and water pump, supplies the water and force at the same time, thus doing away

with the roof tank and the laborious hand pump to feed it. The plumbing is open and fixtures of the latest design. The house is heated by a hot air furnace, with lift from cellar to pantry, thus saving the women of the household many steps, and even the labor of carrying in the corncobs for the kitchen stove is avoided, for an immense bin is filled through an outside window, opening into a chute in the kitchen opposite the stove. The commodious back porch is screened in with wire so that flies will be an unknown quantity, while the kitchen doors and windows can be left wide open. The work in such a home will be a positive pleasure, and shows a marked contrast to the drudgery of the ordinary farm house devoid of any such conveniences. We describe this model farm and home in full in order to incite other farmers in western Nebraska to go and do likewise in imitating the taste and desire for home comforts and enjoyment exhibited here. With such homes as this, the desire of the boys and girls of western Nebraska to get into the city will disappear, and they will be perfectly contented to remain on the farms.

After varied experience in farming, both in Illinois and eastern Nebraska, Mr. Hummel prefers Phelps county to any other place. He bought his land here in 1889 at eighteen dollars per acre, and now it is worth seventy-five. In Kane county, Illinois, land is worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars, while here the soil is as good, and much easier worked. Except the year 1894, Mr. Hummel has had the best of success with wheat, oats and corn. He advocates the fall sowing of alfalfa, and has put this in practice on his own farm with good success. He has raised a quantity of registered Poland-China hogs, for which he finds a profitable home market. One year he exhibited this stock at the county fair and took away all the prizes with the classes shown. He is now going into the cattle business with registered Shorthorns, considering this breed the best. He has also raised good Percheron horses, and is well posted on this subject as well as all matters pertaining to progressive farming. Mr. Hummel finds it profitable to feed from two to three cars of cattle every winter, and considers no place better fitted for feeding cattle for the spring market, starting them in October and giving them a five or six months' feed.

Mr. Hummel was married in 1889 to Miss Annah Clark, of Humboldt, Nebraska, daughter of George W. Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Hummel have one son, H. L. Hummel, Jr., and a daughter, Mabelle Anna.



## JACOB H. JACOBSON.

Jacob H. Jacobson, for the past twenty years a prominent representative of the ranching community of Box Butte and Cherry counties, Nebraska, has a pleasant home in section 20, township 29, range 37. He is one of the worthy citizens of that region, and his success and good name are well merited.

Mr. Jacobson was born in Moedom, Norway, in 1855, where he grew to the age of five years, then with his parents came to America, the family settling in Houston county, Minnesota, on a farm, and were among the pioneers of that part of the state, the father's death occurring there in the fall of 1871, and the mother died in that state March 25, 1907. Our subject grew to manhood in Minnesota, following farming all the time, after the death of his father assuming entire charge of the home farm, carrying it on for two years, when he left the state, taking with him a yoke of oxen, covered wagon and personal effects, and drove through to Madison county, Nebraska, where he settled on a farm. There he went through many discouragements, witnessing grasshopper raids and suffered severely from crop losses, but stuck to the place for eighteen years, and succeeded in building up a good farm and home. From there Mr. Jacobson went to Box Butte county, where he picked out a location southeast of Hemingford, landing there in 1886, having driven through from Newman's Grove, a distance of two hundred and fifty miles.

After working hard to put in crops the first season on his new farm, our subject was dried out, losing even the seed he had planted, and being convinced that he was unable to make a living on that farm he decided to try another location, so came to Cherry county in the fall of 1890, picking out a location on Gordon creek, where he started in the cattle business, beginning on a small scale and gradually increasing his herd, and has a fine ranch with plenty of pasture and range land for his stock, the place consisting of eighteen quarter sections deeded, besides a good deal of leased land. He sold out his Box Butte ranch about six or seven years ago, after being here in Cherry county some time. He claims he sold out a little too soon, as land advanced rapidly since his selling out in Box Butte county.

Mr. Jacobson was married in 1883 to Miss Kristiane Stensrud, who was born in Norway and came to America in 1880. Mr. Jacobson's brother Charles married a sister of our subject's wife, Josephine Stensrud, and the two families are closely associated in the ranching

business. The brothers have been in partnership ever since locating in Box Butte county, and together they have built up a splendid property, being counted among the leading ranchmen of the county, who take an active part in the affairs of their community and are highly esteemed by all who know them. In politics they are Republicans.

## AUGUST HELMBOLD.

August Helmbold, a leading old settler in Nebraska, resides in a pleasant and comfortable home in Rushville, and is well known and highly esteemed in the community in which he lives.

Mr. Helmbold is a native of Germany, born in 1853 on a farm in Saxony. His father, Henry Helmbold, died in his native land about 1878. Our subject grew up in his native country, starting to learn the butcher's trade at the age of fourteen years, and continued at this work up to the time he left Germany, which was in 1881. He crossed the sea and landed in New York with his wife, whom he had married in the fatherland in 1879. They had one child, a boy, Edward, and in 1902 Mr. Helmbold had the sad misfortune in the death of his wife, who had been a true helpmeet in his labors in the new world, assisting him in building up a home and sharing all his failures and successes here. After landing in this country Mr. Helmbold came to Ida Grove, Iowa, residing at that place up to 1885, working at the butcher's trade, then came on to Rushville in July of that year, where he opened the first meat market in that place. Here he took up a homestead and proved up on it, operating this farm in connection with his other business and being very successful from the start.

Mr. Helmbold has conducted his meat market here for over twenty-two years, and has with him his son Edward, who is interested in the business also. He had practically no capital when he started here in 1885, and has gained all he has through his own efforts, devoting his untiring energy to the building up of his trade and always running a first-class market. He also owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he runs one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and fifteen horses. He owns his house and lot in town, besides the building in which he has his meat market.

Mr. Helmbold was married the second time in 1903 to Mrs. Emilia Milbrandt, who was

a widow with two children, both girls, named Mary and Bertha.

In political faith Mr. Helmbold is a staunch Republican and takes a commendable interest in all local affairs.

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#### PETE RASMUSSEN.

Pete Rasmussen, one of the patriotic and public-spirited citizens of Sioux county, Nebraska, is a striking and impressive representative of his section of the country. He is well known to all as an old settler and influential man, held in the highest esteem by his fellow-men.

Mr. Rasmussen was born in Denmark in 1860 on a farm. His father, Rasmus Jensen, a weaver by trade, lived and died in his native country, and our subject was raised and educated there, learning the tailor's trade as a young man, and also assisting his father in carrying on the farm work. In 1881 he came to America, and after landing in New York City came directly west to Dakota City, Nebraska, remaining there for three years. In 1885 he came to Dawes county, driving from Dakota City with a team and wagon, spending the nights camped out along the road, the journey taking a whole month. He was accompanied by his brother Nels, and after arriving at their destination took up a homestead twelve miles from Crawford, where they built a log house and "batched it" for two years. They began breaking up the land, part of our subject's time being spent in eastern Nebraska. They lived on the homestead for two years, going through the usual pioneer experiences in handling ox teams, freighting, etc. Mr. Rasmussen also took up a pre-emption in Dawes county and lived there for about eleven years, building up a comfortable home and farm, then was overtaken by the drouths and meeting with much loss and discouragement decided to leave, and taking his fourteen head of cattle he rented a farm in the county on which he remained for one season. He had made but little money on his place, and was obliged to make a fresh start, so he took charge of the head gate of the Crawford Irrigation Canal and held that position for four years, at the same time running a small bunch of cattle. In 1900 he purchased his present farm in section 1, township 31, range 53, Sioux county, also took up a homestead adjoining this land and began in the stock raising business quite extensively, in partnership with J. E. Porter, of Crawford. Here he runs over four hundred head of cattle and carries on

mixed farming on sixty acres of highly cultivated land. He has a fine patch of forty acres of alfalfa, and has added many improvements on his farm, and it is one of the valuable properties in the region. He located on a line of the Dead Man's Telephone Company, and gets connection with Crawford, Harrison and Chadron right from his house. His residence is on Dead Man's creek.

In 1887 Mr. Rasmussen was united in marriage to Miss Anna Madsen, a native of Denmark, who came to this country when a girl, settling in Dawes county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: Christina, Hans, Minnie, Clara, Anna, Martha and Grace. The family are popular in their community, and are true and worthy citizens, enjoying a peaceful and happy home surrounded by a host of warm friends and kind neighbors.

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#### JOHN BRENNAN.

The gentleman herein named is one of the largest ranchmen of western Nebraska, having his home in Alliance, his extensive ranch being in Deuel county. He is a leading old settler of western Nebraska, and has been in this part of the state since the early days, watching the region grow from its beginning to be the prosperous country it is today, and has been largely instrumental in its development and growth.

Mr. Brennan was born at Stratford, Ontario, in 1860. His father, Martin Brennan, was born in Ireland, and married Mary Fitzgerald, also a native of Ireland, they coming to America when quite young with their parents, and were married in Canada. The father was a lumberman, and when our subject was five years of age the family came to Michigan and located in the lumber district, where he was raised and educated, working in the woods in winter as soon as he was old enough, being employed on the log drives in the spring. For a time he was under sheriff of Bay county, Michigan, this office being the same as deputy sheriff in Nebraska. In 1887 he came to Nebraska, driving from Hay Springs to Box Butte county by stage, then to Nonpariel, where he took up a pre-emption and proved up on it. In the spring of the following year he came to Alliance and here established a cattle ranch in the sand hills southeast of the town about thirty-five miles, in Deuel county, Nebraska. His first buildings were of sod, and he put in nearly all of his time on that

place up to 1904 and still operates it as a cattle ranch. There are three thousand acres of land in the place, of which two thousand is deeded, and he runs fifteen hundred head of cattle. This is one of the most valuable estates in the county, and through his good management and business judgment it has become one of the best equipped ranches in the entire region.

In 1903 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Ready, whose parents lived near Detroit, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Brennan have one child, Margaret.

Mr. Brennan has been numbered among the prominent citizens of his community since locating here. He has seen the country grow from almost a vast wilderness to the prosperity it now enjoys, and has aided materially in that growth and development, also taking part in the organization of the county, and witnessed the fights which took place during the time the county seat was located.

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#### F. M. KIMMELL.

Among the very well known and highly respected citizens of the city of McCook, Nebraska, a prominent place is accorded the subject of this review, F. M. Kimmell. He is an old settler in this section of the state, and is familiar with the growth and development of the locality, and gives his best aid in the up-building of its commercial and educational interests.

Mr. Kimmell is a native of the state of Pennsylvania, born and raised in Somerset county, and after receiving a good education he entered upon newspaper work, obtaining employment with a local paper, and has followed that profession almost continuously since engaging in it in his young manhood. At the age of nineteen he started out for himself, and came west in 1881, locating in Columbus, Nebraska, and at once associated himself with one of the leading newspapers in that city. He also was appointed deputy city clerk, which position he held for a year, and was an efficient and popular official. The Tribune, a leading newspaper of western Nebraska, was established in 1882, and the following year Mr. Kimmell purchased this paper and took entire charge of the business, settling in McCook, where he has since resided. The Tribune is a weekly paper, devoted to the cause of Republicanism, and has a wide circulation all through Redwillow and adjoining counties. The plant has a splendid job depart-

ment, and is an authentic and interesting news medium. It has always stood staunch advocate of the interests, development and betterment of this locality, and Mr. Kimmell as its editor and manager has the confidence and esteem of the entire community. In 1898 he was appointed postmaster of McCook, and at the expiration of that term was again appointed, and after serving two years of his third term Mr. Kimmell resigned to devote himself entirely to the newspaper business. The city has grown so rapidly during the past few years that the office has been raised to a second-class one, handling a large amount of business. In 1888 Mr. Kimmell was married to Mabel M. Meserve. This union has been blessed with one child, a son.

Mr. Kimmell has the distinction of having been elected the first city clerk of McCook, and served from 1883 to 1885, proving a very capable public official, and since then has held different local offices. He is a prominent member of the Masonic lodge at McCook, and is an earnest worker in the Congregational church here.

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#### DANIEL PRATT.

Prominent among the enterprising and progressive citizens of Brown county, Nebraska, and among the number who have been associated with the very early history of this part of the state, their connection with it running back to frontier times and days, is Daniel Pratt, of Ainsworth. While not old in years, and still in the maturity of his manly powers, he has seen Brown county as a dry and thinly settled wilderness, and has witnessed the progressive steps of its conversion into the prosperous community now the delight of the west. Daniel Pratt was born in Cook county, Illinois, not far from Chicago, October 7, 1857, where his boyhood and earlier youth were passed. He was given such educational opportunities as the means of his parents afforded. His father, John B. Pratt, a native of New York, was a farmer, who, in 1884, removed to Nebraska. The mother, Ellen O'Connell, was of Irish parentage. The subject of this narration was the second member of a family of seven children born to their union. Daniel Pratt spent part of his youth in Lee county, Iowa, and in early manhood accompanied his father on his removal to Nebraska. Here he remained at home and worked for his father until his death, which occurred in 1886; after that the subject of this writing followed farming for a couple of years.

He then established a business in ice, doing in connection a dray and teaming business, in which he has been very successful. In November, 1907, he disposed of his draying interests, retaining only the ice business, in which he continues. He owns a neat and pleasant home in Ainsworth, also barns and ample accommodation for all his hauling outfit. He is now enjoying a competence which he has acquired by honest and hard work, and which all who know him are g'ld to see in his possession.

Mr. Pratt was married July 9, 1896, when Miss Emma Meyers became his wife. She was born in Danville, Illinois, and comes of Irish and German stock. They have four children: Ray, Joseph, Clara Berdetta and Joseph Francis. Mr. Pratt votes the Democratic ticket and affiliates with the Masonic, the Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Ainsworth.

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#### WILLIAM TURNER.

One of the leading men in Blaine county affairs is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. He operates a very large ranch and is one of the most substantial farmers of the territory. He has always been prominent in politics and has held the office of county judge for the past nine years and in all matters pertaining to social and economical welfare of his community he has exhibited rare qualities of wisdom and judgment.

William Turner is of English nativity, his birth occurring in Gloucestershire, England, March 13, 1859. His parents, Samuel and Emily (Gibbons) Turner, were English people.

When our subject was eight years of age the whole family came to America and settled on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, where they lived for three years, and then moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, where they were among the early settlers. Here our subject remained for about nineteen years, receiving his quota of hard work, as most farmers do, and when he was twenty years old started out for himself.

In March, 1879, Mr. Turner was married to Miss Lucy Pike, daughter of Edwin and Diana Pike, natives of England and farmers by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have been the parents of eleven children: William, Joe, Scott, Ester, Mark, Emily, Ruby, Pike, Fred, John and Harry.

In the fall after his marriage our subject came west to Blaine county, Nebraska, and located nine miles northeast of Dunning. His

first crop was destroyed by drouth and hail ruined things in 1891, and our subject had a hard time to support his family, but pluck and endurance won at last, although it was several years before better days dawned. In 1891 he located on the North Loup river, where he engaged in farming and stock raising for sixteen years. He has had many hard experiences. Once during a terrible windstorm his windmill was blown down, his wagons injured and the roof of his house was lifted, but was fortunately not blown off. Our subject has a splendid ranch of twelve hundred and eighty acres and operates altogether about four sections of land. He has been successful beyond all his early hopes and he is now enjoying the fruits of many long days of hard and painstaking labor. In politics Mr. Turner affiliates with the Democratic party. He helped establish his school district and has been school director for sixteen years.

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#### PERRY S. MAILEY.

Perry S. Mailey, well and favorably known as a prosperous and successful young farmer of township 24, range 50, in Box Butte county, has met with decided success in his chosen career as an agriculturist, and is the proprietor of a pleasant home and a well improved farm. A portrait of Mr. Mailey appears on another page.

Mr. Mailey was born in Nevada, Missouri, on a farm, in 1874. His father was a native of New York state who came west and settled in Missouri, where he went through pioneer experiences, and the father and mother died in Trenton, Missouri, when our subject was an infant. Perry S. was thus left without a home in a land where all were strangers, so was adopted and taken to raise by John H. Mailey, who is well known as an old settler in Nebraska, locating in the eastern part of the state in 1884 and living as a pioneer near Broken Bow. He improved quite a large tract of land in that vicinity, and in 1887 came with his family to Box Butte county. Mr. J. H. Mailey and Perry drove to this region by team with wagon containing their household goods, etc., the trip taking two weeks, and while on the journey spent the nights camped out on the ground. After arriving here they settled on a farm about twelve miles west of where Alliance now stands, although at that time there was no thought of a town on that spot. Mr. Mailey began to improve his place, putting up a rough building as a dwelling, and



PERRY S. MAILEY.





both father and son helped construct the Burlington Railroad through that section. They worked faithfully and managed to get along in pretty good shape, although they were obliged to content themselves with the usual disappointments in the way of failure of crops, etc., and as our subject grew up he gradually assumed the entire management of the home farm, and was very successful during later years. During this time he had also filed on a homestead and proved up, so is at this time the owner of a fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, all fenced and with good buildings, wells, plenty of trees and good water, etc. Mr. Mailey is engaged principally in stock raising, but does a little farming. His place is kept up in fine shape, and he is considered one of the well-to-do men of his locality, a thoroughly up-to-date agriculturist, and gives his whole time and attention to operating his farm.

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#### ORVIL KIDWELL.

Orvil Kidwell, a prosperous and much respected citizen of the vicinity of Hemingford, in Box Butte county, Nebraska, much deserves the abundant success that has come to him as a reward of industry, economy and thrift. Mr. Kidwell resides on the southeast quarter of section 18, township 27, range 49, about a half mile south of Hemingford, where he has built a fine house and barn and made other improvements.

Mr. Kidwell was born in Plymouth, Marshall county, Indiana, November 15, 1849. His father was a wagon maker, who died in 1873, and his mother was, prior to her marriage, Charlotte Belangee, she continuing to live in Indiana after her husband's death, where she reared her family. Our subject worked on the home farm up to the time he was twenty-one years old, receiving a common school education, and only a limited one at that, as he was obliged to help support the family and could only attend school for a few months in each year. He began working hard when he was but twelve years old, and learned to do all sorts of hard work, assisting at home and also working out by the day and month in the vicinity of their home.

In 1871 he went to Berrien county, Michigan, and was married there three years later, to Miss Mary Ann Hawkins, of English extraction, born at St. Johns, New Brunswick. They have no children.

Mr. Kidwell farmed in Michigan up to 1885, then came to Nebraska and filed on a

homestead and tree claim in Box Butte county, locating in section 1, township 26, range 50. Here he put up sod buildings, hauling the lumber for them fifty miles, over the roughest roads, from Camp Clark, from which point he did the first teaming. He lived on that farm for about thirteen years, then was overtaken by the drouth periods, losing his entire crops, and from 1890 to about 1895 was unable to do more than make a living for himself and family, so gave up the struggle, left his farm and moved to another location. This was in 1896, and here he did well. His farm consists of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, and he erected good buildings and put everything in first class shape. He farms about one hundred and eighty acres, keeping the balance for hay and pasture land. Mr. Kidwell only owns four hundred and eighty acres now, having sold six hundred and forty acres from his tracts of land. When he first struck this locality he freighted from Valentine, and during those days everything was very high in the way of provisions and feed, corn selling up as high as five cents a pound, and as his crop which he had planted the first season was entirely destroyed, he was unable to get a pound to sell.

Mr. Kidwell is one of the influential men of his locality and has always done his share in building up the region, helping to establish schools, etc., and at different times has held local office. He is a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party.

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#### ERNEST G. GRAY.

Among the younger members of the farming and ranching community of township 23, range 28, Thomas county, the gentleman whose name heads this article occupies a prominent place. He is a young man of industrious habits, who has exercised good judgment in the operation of his estate and has been well repaid for his labors in the possession of a valuable estate and pleasant home in section 11.

Ernest G. Gray was born in the eastern part of Canada in 1874. His father, George Gray, was also a native of that country, and a well-known farmer and ranchman, who came with his family to the United States when Ernest was a boy of seven years, settling in Dawson county, Nebraska, where they went through pioneer experiences in building up a home. The father filed on a homestead, and there our subject was reared, attending the common schools and assisting his father in carrying on the farm, living there up to 1890, when they came to Thomas

county and started a farm. Ernest started for himself, taking up government land, on which he lived until 1904, then sold the old homestead and moved to his present location, which is situated a short distance east of Thedford. Here he has a ranch of many acres, which is all deeded land, and he leases six hundred and forty acres of school land, engaging almost exclusively in cattle raising. He has the entire ranch fenced, and has good buildings and improvements of every kind for operating a model ranch.

In 1907 Mr. Gray married Miss Elsie Ernst, whose parents are old settlers in Nebraska, now residing in Cherry county. Mr. and Mrs. Gray have one baby girl, Rosie, now three and a half months old.

Mr. Gray is active in local affairs, and is a public-spirited citizen. He has been assessor of his township for two terms.

#### LARS C. CHRISTENSEN.

To the pioneers of a country is due most of the credit for the prosperity enjoyed there in after years. Among those who went to western Nebraska and have remained to enjoy prosperity, a prominent place is accorded the gentleman here named. He braved the hardships of pioneer life and, despite losses and discouragements, worked steadily and earnestly, and is now one of the substantial citizens of Kimball county, Nebraska, where he has a valuable farm. He has not only witnessed the growth of the agricultural resources of that region, but has been a potent factor in bringing about the same, and well merits his success and high standing.

Lars C. Christensen, whose portrait appears on another page, was born in Denmark, April 16, 1864, and lived there until he was fifteen years of age. The whole family came to America at that time, settling in Douglas county, Nebraska. There were three girls and himself, and they all went to work with a will to build up a home in the new country. The father homesteaded in Holt county, Nebraska, and eventually proved up on a tract of land, which they converted into a comfortable home and improved a good farm. The father died in Holt county in 1891, and our subject's mother is now residing in Fremont, Neb., with a daughter, while one daughter is married and lives at Loup City, Nebraska.

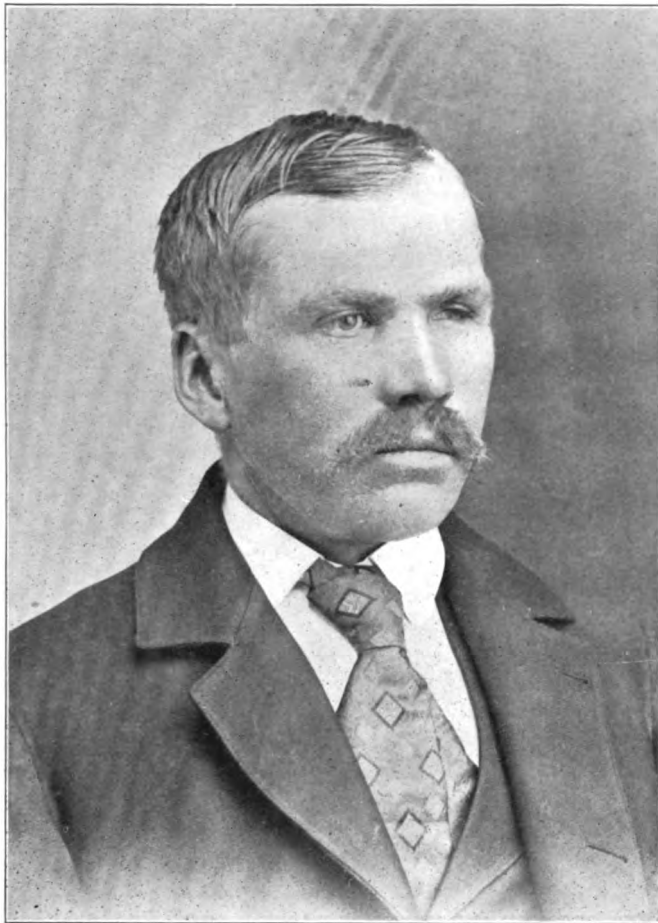
Mr. Christensen settled in Kimball county in 1889, taking a homestead in section 10, township 16, range 54, proved up on the land, and has since added to his original farm until he now owns one and a half sections of splendid land.

He has it all improved in good shape, cultivating about one hundred and fifty acres, and is engaged quite extensively in the stock business, running one hundred head of cattle and other stock. He has good buildings of all kinds, and every improvement for the proper operation of his ranch. Mr. Christensen is unmarried. He is a Republican, has held school offices, and has also served as road overseer for some time.

#### A. W. FLEMING.

A. W. Fleming, born in Cook county, Illinois, came to Phelps county, Nebraska, in 1892, purchasing the southeast quarter section 28, and resided on it and farmed from that time up to 1904, when he rented out his land but still occupies his pleasant home with his family, consisting of himself, wife and two daughters. He is a son of A. W. and Margaret (Scott) Fleming. His father was an active and leading citizen of his community, and strong anti-slavery advocate, dying when still a young man. The widowed mother, imbued with the beliefs of her husband, was an ardent worker during the late war in support of the soldiers and devoted her time to relieving their pressing wants in the way of clothing and supplies, and in this she was assisted by our subject, then a mere lad. Both parents of our subject were born in Scotland and came to America when young people.

At the age of twenty-one years Mr. Fleming left his home, then in Bureau county, Illinois, and settled in Champaign county, where he bought a 160-acre farm and operated it successfully up to 1892, then sold it out and came to Nebraska. Since coming here he has built up a fine property, and is perfectly satisfied with conditions. He greatly prefers the clear, bracing and healthful climate of Nebraska with its abundance of pure water from deep wells, and as he has just returned from a visit to Illinois where he has spent three weeks of the month of August, states that he could scarcely breathe there owing to the oppressive heat. Illinois land is now selling all the way from \$175 to \$200 per acre, and the land here at \$60 and \$80 per acre is just as productive and much easier worked, although in his opinion, our farmers need give heed to better tilling of the soil and consequent farming of less acres than has been the rule. In Illinois there is practically no wheat grown, while here wheat, corn and oats as well as alfalfa can be successfully grown, which makes Nebraska a veritable "promised land." Mr. Fleming is married; his wife was in maidenhood Miss Louisa House, daughter of Absalom House. Mr. and Mrs.



LARS C. CHRISTENSEN.



Fleming are the parents of two daughters, Ida and Maggie, both pupils of the Holdrege High School. The family are members of the M. E. church of Holdrege, of which Mr. Fleming was a trustee for a long time.

Mr. Fleming is an active Republican, and has been a delegate to state and county conventions at different times. He is a man of wide experience, and takes an active interest in all local affairs.

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#### HARRY V. DOWNING.

Harry V. Downing, one of the prosperous ranchers of township 29, range 37, owns a fine ranch of seventeen hundred acres on section 30. and adjoining section, and is a progressive and industrious member of his community.

Mr. Downing was born in Jones county, Iowa, in 1868. Henry A. Downing, the father of our subject, was an old settler in Cherry county, Nebraska, and a prominent veteran of the civil war, passing through the state of Nebraska and other western states with the United States troops during the early days on Indian campaigns, and was one of the leading old-timers of the region. He passed many years in Iowa, where Harry was reared and educated, and when he was a lad of twelve the family came to Butler county, Nebraska, where the father homesteaded and proved up on his claim, and after a short residence there returned to Iowa. In 1888 our subject came to Cherry county, traveling by way of a covered wagon from Iowa, spending six months on the trip, camping out along the way, their first location being twenty-two miles east of the town of Gordon. Mr. Downing first worked all over that country as a cowboy, and finally took a homestead, "batching it" for several years, and proved up on the place, and established his first ranch.

In 1894 Mr. Downing came to his present location, this ranch having been established in 1888, which was the property of Mrs. Jasen H. Cole, who was an old settler in the county, she owning part of the ranch in her own right. This has been improved in splendid shape by our subject, all fenced, and a fine set of buildings which he has erected. He has bought other land from time to time and now the place contains about one thousand seven hundred in all. He cultivates twenty acres only, using it almost exclusively as a stock ranch, and has met with splendid success along these lines. At times since locating here Mr. Downing has suffered severe losses caused by blizzards, his greatest loss being in 1892, when property and stock destroyed amounted to 40 per cent. In May, 1908, Mr.

Downing purchased the Gates & Ganow ranch, containing one thousand six hundred acres joining his present ranch on the southwest, one of the best hay ranches in the county, yielding about one thousand to one thousand one hundred tons each season.

In 1897, Mr. Downing married Mrs. Sadie Cole, widow of Jasen H. Cole, whose maiden name was McCawley. By her first marriage she was the mother of two children: Jay and Ray Cole, now attending the high school at Hastings, Nebraska. Jay expects to graduate this session; and of her second marriage two children have been born, George, now aged eight years, attending school at Kings, Cherry county, Nebraska; and Doris, aged three years.

Mr. Downing is identified with the Republican party politically, and is one of the leading men in local affairs.

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#### J. B. MESSNER.

The gentleman above named, living a retired life in Minden, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in Nebraska, having come to Richardson county in 1876 where he bought a farm for five dollars per acre, and after farming it for one year sold it for one thousand four hundred dollars, an advance of over six hundred dollars over what he paid for it. He then bought another farm, for which he paid two thousand dollars, improved with house, and after keeping this for four years and adding some improvements, disposed of the place at a profit of four thousand dollars. He was most successful in every undertaking, and everything he touched seemed to turn to money. In 1883 he came to Hastings, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres, paying for this land five thousand eight hundred dollars, and after holding it for a year sold it for eight thousand, then came to Kearney county two years later and bought a farm of one thousand and eighty acres in May township which he used for a stock ranch. He also bought one hundred and sixty acres at Hartwell, and made that his home for several years, engaged in the cattle feeding and shipping business, with Omaha as a market. He left there in 1893 and moved to Perkins county, then returned to Kearney in February of that year and has since that time farmed in this locality. In 1901 he came to Minden and has resided in that town since that time. He owns a farm in Phelps county, also one in Clay county and one hundred and sixty acres which adjoins Clay Centre.

Mr. Messner was born in Dauphin county, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and is a son of John Messner, who came to Ogle county, Illi-

nois, in 1847, from Dauphin county, Pennsylvania.

Before coming to Nebraska Mr. Messner farmed in Henry county, Illinois, and states that a man can make more money here than in that state, considering the amount invested. He raises fully as good crops here and the yield is as large and prices obtained equally as good.

While living in Illinois Mr. Messner enlisted in the 92d Illinois Infantry in 1862, and served up to May, 1865, participating in the battle of Cumberland and in all of the battles of that regiment until after the fall of Atlanta, and was discharged at St. Louis on account of sickness. He was at Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, the Resaca raid around Atlanta, and many other famous battles, and during all that time was never wounded.

In 1903 Mr. Messner was married to Mrs. P. J. Merrill, who came with her first husband, P. J. Merrill, from Bradford county, Pennsylvania, settling where Newark now stands in Kearney county, in 1878. Mr. Merrill was engaged in the grain business at that place. He was county commissioner about 1888 and Democratic candidate for county clerk previous to 1883. He died in 1893 at the age of forty-two years, leaving a widow and four children, Lena, Reye, Scott and Mason. Her maiden name was Hattie Sinsbaugh, all of her relatives residing in Pennsylvania, when she came west, and after coming to Nebraska she saw the first house ever erected in Minden, which was moved here from Lowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Messner are members of the M. E. church and he is one of its trustees. He is also a member of the G. A. R. post at Minden.

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#### DAN. W. HUGHES.

Dan. W. Hughes, one of the well-known citizens of Box Butte county, Nebraska, is a prosperous and well-to-do business man of Alliance, where he has lived for many years.

Mr. Hughes was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1865. His father, James Hughes, was born in Wales, and followed the occupation of a miner and farmer. He married Lydia H. Jackson, of English descent, after settling in America, and when our subject was seven years old, the family moved on a farm in Ohio, where he was reared, and in his boyhood attended the same school that our late President William McKinley did when he was a boy. He later attended the Ohio State University and received a good education. In 1886 he came to Box Butte county, driving out from Hay Springs, and took up government land located two miles south of the site of Alliance,

and put up his first building, which was a sod shanty. Here he "batched it" and worked out, later taking up a homestead west of Broncho Lake, and proved up on it. He was in this part of the state for about eight years, then went back to Ohio where he worked his father's farm for four years, when the latter died, then returned to Nebraska. During the year 1898 he worked for his father-in-law, who was in the ice business at Alliance, and the following year he bought the business and has run it ever since, and has an extensive trade. For one year he was in the livery business here, also spent a short time clerking in the postoffice, and one year railroading. He is a man of industrious habits and good business ability, and has been successful in his different enterprises, always giving his best efforts to whatever he has in hand, which is the secret of success in any line of work.

In June, 1894, Mr. Hughes married Miss Mary Fenner, daughter of Rosell Fenner, one of the pioneers of Alliance, settling in the town in 1888. His family came in on the first emigrant train that came here, and he took up government land which he afterwards proved up on. Mrs. Hughes' mother was Miss Merica E. Chritton, and the family were originally from Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Hughes one child was born, Estelle.

Mr. Hughes is a Republican, takes an active interest in politics and for the past several years has served as a delegate to different conventions and on the central committee. He is a member of the school board, and has the distinction of being the youngest man and oldest member of that board. Mr. and Mrs. Fenner, parents of Mrs. Dan. Hughes, have been married forty-two years and are still quite active at their present advanced age. Mr. Rosell Fenner served about four years in the civil war.

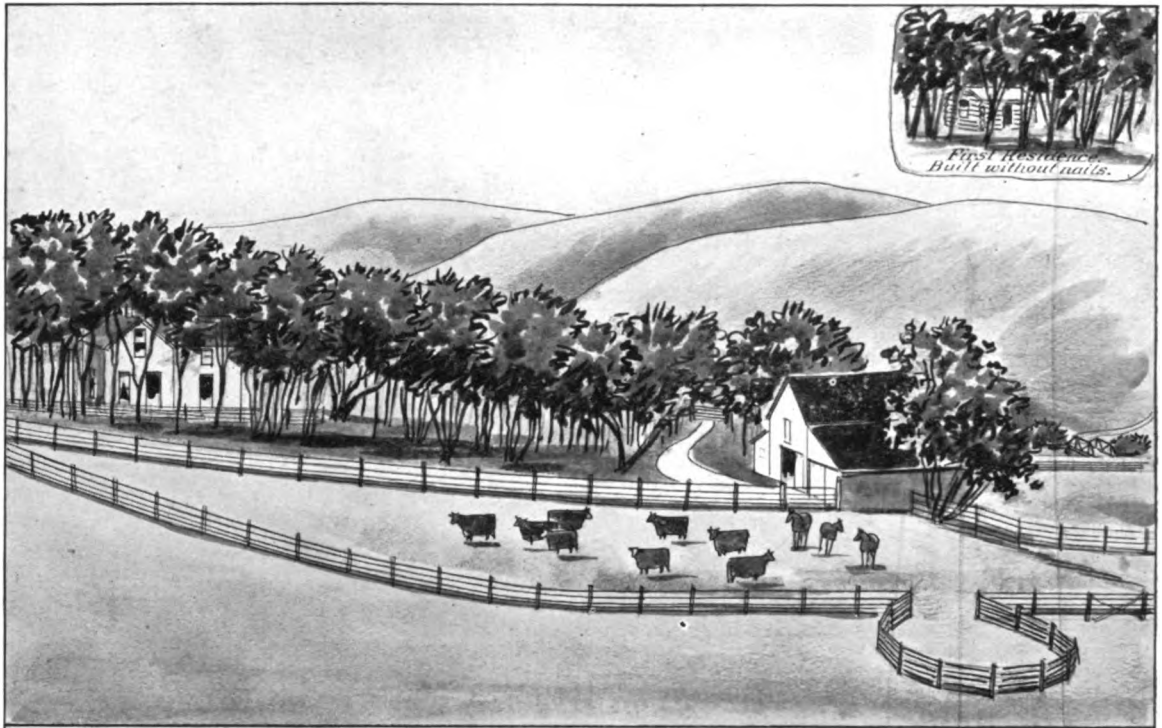
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#### JACKSON BILLETER.

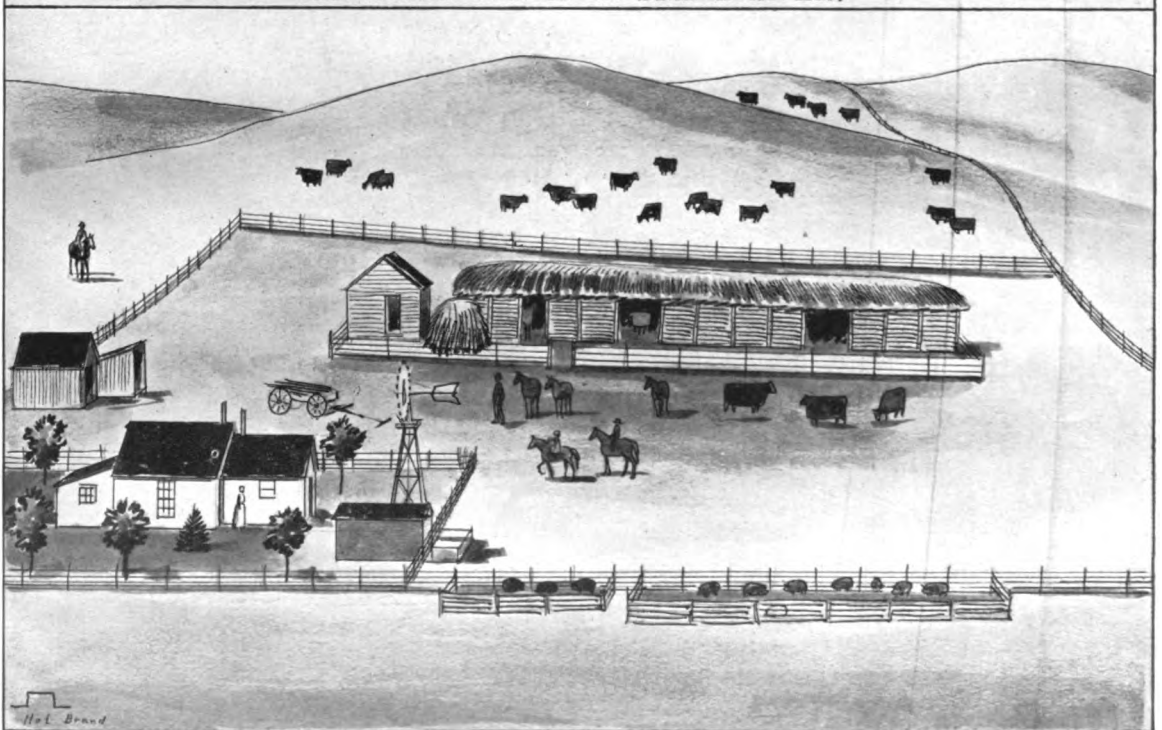
Jackson Billeter, long familiar to the people of Ainsworth, Brown county, where his fortunes have been cast for many years, is a striking representative of those sturdy qualities and manly virtues that somehow peculiarly marked the pioneer settlers of Nebraska. His career demonstrates the value of persistent and well directed effort and the competence which he has acquired stands for hard and faithful work. Mr. Billeter was born on a farm in Clay county, Indiana, April 25, 1851, and comes of a family in whose veins flow mingled English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh blood, and the combination in part may account for the vim and energy he is wont







*OLD HOME RANCH ON SNAKE RIVER.*



RESIDENCE OF ENOS R. BARNES,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

to display. His father, Penthus Billeter, was a farmer, and died in Iowa, after having tried settlement in Nebraska in 1855, but remaining here only a year. Indians were then at the height of their insubordination, and in 1856 he betook himself to Harrison county, Iowa, and the year following to Shelby and for more than thirty years was identified with Iowa interests and occupations.

Jackson Billeter found life on an Iowa farm full of hard work, and grew to manhood familiar with toil. He was married May 11, 1874, to Miss Sarah E. Kniss. She was a native of Wabash county, Indiana, a daughter of Abraham and Margaret (McMurlen) Kniss, the former born in West Virginia, the latter in Pennsylvania. They have two children, William E. and Orval K., born in Nebraska.

For some two years after their marriage, the Billeters pursued farming in Iowa, but in July, 1877, came into Cass county, Nebraska, on their way to Texas. Mrs. Billeter however, was in such poor health that they could not continue the journey, and stopped in Cass county, making their home with relatives for a time. Mr. Billeter came into Brown county in 1882, reaching Ainsworth on the twenty-fifth day of April of that year. The long journey from Cass county across country was made in a covered wagon, and required some six weeks for its completion. There were four families who came together, and thus formed a company that relieved the trip of much of its tedium. Mr. Billeter made a homestead entry in section 8, township 30, range 22, where he constructed a shanty, which the following year gave place to a sod house, much more roomy and comfortable.

Good fortune has waited on honest effort and Mr. Billeter has acquired title to a half section of land, of which about two hundred and twenty acres are under thorough cultivation, improved with a good farm house, barns and sheds.

The good character, integrity and industry of the subject of this article have won him the kind opinion of the public. In politics he is a Democrat.

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#### BENJAMINE E. BROTHERS.

Benjamin E. Brothers, one of the influential stock growers of Kimball county, resides on a fine ranch in section 28, township 16, range 53. Mr. Brothers was born September 18, 1852, in Richland county, Illinois, and was the third of eleven children in his father's family. Three sisters are living, the others are now dead.

When our subject was about seven years of

age, the family removed to Logan county and from thence to Dewitt, Illinois, remaining there until the spring of 1888. At that time Mr. Brothers came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, locating in what is now Kimball county, arriving here at 9 o'clock February 18, 1888. He took a pre-emption in the southwest quarter of section 8, township 16, range 53, and located a homestead on section 22, in the same township. and now has land in section 28 of this township. He has a splendid ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, cultivating 65 acres and using the balance for hay and grazing purposes. The farm contains good improvements and is well-equipped for stock raising. He runs about one hundred head each year. He also runs a good bunch of horses.

Benjamin E. Brothers was married August 16, 1874, to Miss Lizzie L. Henderson, a native of Dewitt county, Illinois, where the wedding was performed. Mr. and Mrs. Brothers have five children: William, now married and living on the northeast quarter of section 8, township 16, range 53; Minnie, now Mrs. D. K. Atkins; Charles, single; Cora L., single; and Emma, now Mrs. Charles Stanton, living in Cheyenne county.

Mr. Brothers is a Democrat in politics and is active in public matters. Mrs. Brothers is postmistress at Bethel postoffice. This office was located on our subject's farm in 1906. He cast his lot here on wild prairie land, and with but a small start succeeded in building a comfortable home and farm. Many antelope were to be seen in this region in those days and at times bothered to such an extent that he had trouble in keeping them out of the garden. Mr. and Mrs. Brothers have witnessed the hard times of those early days and know well by experience the hardships of frontier life. Mr. Brothers had to be away a good part of the time, as he was engaged in railroad work, and at these times his wife had the care of the place alone.

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#### ENOS R. BARNES.

Enos R. Barnes, a prominent stock raiser of Cherry county, Nebraska, was born on a farm in Fillmore county, Minnesota, September 30, 1860. His father, Alvah E. Barnes, was a farmer, and his mother was Miss Cornelia McMillan, both of good old American stock.

Enos R. Barnes was the second in a family of five children. When our subject was 11 years of age the family settled in Butler county, Iowa, where he was raised and educated, and there learned to do all kinds of hard farm work. At

the age of twenty he came to Niobrara City, Nebraska, and made settlement, taking a homestead in Holt county. His first house was a dug out, and here he "batched" it for four years, his experiences being many and varied, handling ox teams, and meeting with all the phases of life on a range.

Mr. Barnes proved up on his homestead, and in 1886 was married to Miss Fluttie Sherman, a native of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Her father, Theodore Sherman, was a farmer and old settler in Holt county, Nebraska, who was married to Mary Galbraith, a native of Ohio. To this union five children have been born, who are named as follows: Elmer, Myrtle, wife of Walter Gooden, Howard, Alvah (now dead), and Eva.

In the spring of 1887 the family moved to Cherry county, locating on the Snake river, thirty miles from a railroad, and there went through hard times and the usual pioneer experiences. Much of our subject's time was spent in cutting fence posts which he hauled to Cody and sold for eight cents each, or collecting bones from the prairies and selling at the same place. This was their only source of "grub stake."

Mr. Barnes started in life with a very small amount of capital, but with a strong constitution and any amount of energy and perseverance. He encountered many obstacles in his struggle, was often compelled to camp out doors nights, and many times found himself without even the necessities of life. His first habitation in Cherry county in 1894, was built of logs with a dirt roof, and was made without a nail. A better house was later constructed in which the family lived until the fall of 1905, when he took Kinkaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres, located in section 2, township 30, range 34, of Cherry county, Nebraska, which is his present home. He now has fifty acres of cultivated land, and altogether owns nine hundred and sixty acres. He is engaged principally in stock raising, having a herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and has met with great success in this direction.

Mr. Barnes is considered one of the successful men of the county, and enjoys the esteem and respect of all who know him. In politics he is a Democrat, and a member of the Cody lodge, Modern Woodmen of America.

A view of the family residence will be found elsewhere in this work.

#### LESTER B. WEAVER.

For many years past the gentleman above named has been a part of the growth of the commercial and agricultural interests in that part of Grant county near and in the town of Whitman,

and has been largely instrumental in the success of that thriving town, where he now makes his home, engaged in the lumber and general merchandise business, and is one of the prominent men in the place, giving his personal aid and influence in every movement which is started for the advancement of the locality.

Lester B. Weaver was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, in 1857. His parents settled in that state in 1852, the father, George, following farming all his life. He was a native of New York state, of Holland Dutch stock. He married Mary E. Moore, of English descent, born in Massachusetts, and her ancestors were of that distinguished colony who came to America in the Mayflower in 1620. Lester was raised in Illinois, spending a part of his boyhood on the farm, and the balance in the city of Rockford, working at the carpenter's trade. When he was twenty-three years of age he left home and worked as a carpenter, following that trade for seven years. He came west in 1887, driving through different parts of Nebraska looking over the country in search of a desirable location, finally pre-empting a claim on June 1st, of the latter year, situated seven miles northeast of Whitman, at that time Weir being the nearest shipping point. When he came into the vicinity there were seven cars of emigrants, whole families coming to make settlement, scattering all over this region. Our subject started to do carpenter work and built up many homes in and around Hyannis and Whitman. In the fall of 1898 he secured employment as a clerk in a general store and continued in the work up to 1901, when he was appointed postmaster of the Whitman village. During that time he also purchased a drug stock and carried on the business for a time, disposing of it in 1902. In the latter part of 1901 he bought an interest in the Whitman Lumber Yard and soon added to this coal, builders' hardware, farm machinery, barbed wire, etc., and has developed a splendid trade. He has lately established a general store, has a big stock of goods, representing about eight thousand dollars worth, and is doing a large business.

Mr. Weaver was married in 1879, to Miss Viola Phipps, whose parents were old settlers in Michigan. Three children were born to this marriage, but they all died of diphtheria within a week in November, 1889. Their names and age at death were as follows: Emma, aged nine years; Mena, aged six years; and Sadie, aged three years.

Mr. Weaver is one of the leading citizens in local affairs, having held different offices for many years past, serving as county judge, justice of the peace, and for eleven years as notary

ing and building up the schools in his section, and by his deep interest in the welfare of his community holds a high place in the esteem of his fellowmen. He is a prominent member of the Modern Woodmen of America Lodge, and has been clerk of that organization for the past eleven years. He is also an I. O. O. F. and has held office in that lodge since 1900.

#### JOHN I. DAVIS.

Among the energetic and prosperous business men of Harrison, Sioux county, Nebraska, none stands higher in the estimation of his community than John I. Davis, who has devoted many years of his career to the pursuit of agriculture and helped develop this section of the state into the fertile farming community it now represents. He has met with pronounced success in the ventures he has made along all lines, and is now in a position to enjoy the result of his hard labors.

Mr. Davis was born in Washara county, Wisconsin, in 1860. His parents were both of old American stock and were early pioneer settlers in Minnesota, where they spent about fifteen years. They then came to Valley county, Nebraska, in 1877, where they bought land and started to build up a farm. Later they moved to Sioux county, arriving January 3, 1887, and filed on a homestead near Harrison, the county seat. Our subject's father was an old soldier in the Civil war, enlisting in Minnesota in 1862 and seeing hard service up to 1865. His hard campaigning left him in bad health and never afterwards was what you could call a well man. He ran the Commercial Hotel in Harrison at one time, and was postmaster under the Harrison administration up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1891.

He went through all the pioneer experiences in this section, having a hard time to get his farm started, and during those days worked as a clerk in different business houses in Harrison. He held the office of county treasurer for one term, receiving the election in 1901. In 1903 he began in the mercantile business in Harrison, purchasing the business from Marsteller Bros. The business was established in 1886 by D. H. Griswold. Mr. Davis carries a full and complete line of goods, conducts his store on strictly business principles and has one of the best houses of its kind in Sioux county, enjoying a very lucrative patronage from all over the county. He handles furniture, dry goods and all kinds of merchandise.

In October, 1885, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Alice Hutchins, who shared with him the early hardships and privations they met with on first settling here, and together they have enjoyed the prosperity which has come to them in later years. They have an interesting family of three sons and three daughters, namely: Archie, Dan, Edna, Rosseta, John and Wanda.

#### HON. J. A. WILCOX.

Hon. J. A. Wilcox, who occupies a prominent place among the worthy citizens of McCook, Nebraska, is one of the best known men in this section of the country.

Mr. Wilcox is a native of Canaan, New York, his father, Sylvester C. Wilcox, having been a practicing physician in Columbia county, New York, for over forty years, and his brother, Joseph Wilcox, was a soldier in the War of 1812, having participated in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. Our subject has always been a Republican, and his first vote in 1864 was cast for Abraham Lincoln. At this time he was serving in the Army of the James. He had enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth New York Regiment, at Hudson, New York, in 1862, and served in the same up to 1864, when he was promoted to first lieutenant of the Thirty-eighth colored troops and went with his company to Texas, where he was adjutant of the regiment for ten months, and was mustered out at Richmond, Virginia, about January 15, 1867. He was provost marshal and aide de camp, Second Brigade First Division, Twenty-fifth Army Corps; also commanded the company about ten months under Sheridan.

After the war closed he moved to Gilman, Illinois, and in 1870 entered the mercantile business there. He came to McCook in 1884 and opened a mercantile and grocery business, and has been in this ever since under the firm name of Wilcox Bros., or Wilcox & Fowler, or J. A. Wilcox & Son, the latter, E. J. Wilcox, now being clerk of Redwillow county, serving his third term. In 1888 our subject was elected a member of the Twenty-first session of the Nebraska legislature, and it was in that session the law was passed to amend the constitution so as to submit liquor licenses to be voted on by the people, which was carried in the legislature but lost in election. E. J. Wilcox served as city clerk, and also as city treasurer of McCook for many years, and in the year 1894 was a candidate before the state convention for secretary of state.

Mr. Wilcox was married in 1882 to Miss Callie Smith, of Washington, Illinois, and they have two children, E. J., above mentioned, and one daughter, now Mrs. C. R. Woodruff, of McCook.

Mr. Wilcox is a prominent member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery; belongs to the Woodmen, Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Maccabees. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and president of the board of trustees, which office he has held since its organization in 1884. This was the first church built in western Nebraska, and cost nearly twenty thousand dollars. He is also first commander of the Grand Army of the Republic post of this district, and past commander of the district and post.

He takes a general interest in all matters of national, state and local affairs, and is a man of much activity of mind and a citizen of true worth. He has two brothers also living here, both successful stock and ranchmen, a sketch of F. S. Wilcox appearing on another page of this volume.

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#### BENJAMIN F. RAY.

Benjamin F. Ray, one of the prominent business men and deservedly esteemed citizens of Rushville, Nebraska, is a man of exceptional business capacity, who has met with a great measure of success as an artist and photographer. He established his present gallery, in May, 1900, and is thoroughly competent in this line of work.

Mr. Ray was born in Rushville, Indiana, in 1858. His father, William H. Ray, now seventy-five years of age, was a carpenter by trade, and his family of nine children, of whom our subject is the eldest, were raised in their native state. At the age of twenty-one he came to eastern Nebraska, where he lived for three years and followed the profession of a teacher in the Saunders county schools. From there he went to Ottertail county, Minnesota, and after taking up a homestead continued teaching and remained until he proved up on his farm, then went back to his old home in Indiana.

In 1891 he came to Crawford, Dawes county, Nebraska, and taught school for eight years. During these years he devoted a great deal of time to the study of photography, and spent some time in Chicago learning retouching and becoming familiar with all branches of the work. In 1893 Mr. Ray took a special

course while residing in Chadron attending the Chadron Academy.

In 1881 Mr. Ray was married to Miss Harriet Rowe, whose father was a farmer of German descent, an old soldier in the Union army and an ardent Republican in politics, who used to say "he always voted as he shot." Two children were born of this union, Ernest and Erwin, and the mother forfeited her life in giving birth to them.

Mr. Ray married again in 1898, this time to Miss Amy Leek, whose father was Rev. William Leek, a minister of the Baptist church of Missouri and one of the pioneers of that state. This marriage occurred in Chadron, Nebraska, where Mr. Ray met Miss Leek. She was also a school teacher in Dawes county. Three children have been born to them, namely: Dorothy, Harold and Margaret. The family have a pleasant and happy home and are popular residents of the town.

Mr. Ray has always taken an active interest in politics in the county and is classed among the public-spirited men of his community. He is now serving as one of the deputy assessors of his district.

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#### SHERIDAN WILLIAMS.

Sheridan Williams, one of the prominent early settlers of Harlan county, Nebraska, resides at Alma, where he has a comfortable home and a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He is widely known in this section as a successful, prosperous farmer and stockman.

Mr. Williams is a native of Illinois, and was born in 1867. His father, Weyman W. Williams, came to Nebraska from Adair county, Missouri, locating in Harlan county with his family in 1886. He served for over four years during the war in the Sixty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company D. This regiment was made up from volunteers of Hancock, Illinois, and saw hard service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Georgia, and was with Sherman in all his campaigns. Mr. Williams was in many battles, including the battles of Vicksburg, Shiloh and Corinth, also at Atlanta and other famous actions, and never received a wound. The Williams family originally came from Kentucky, settling in Illinois in the pioneer days of the state. Our subject's mother was a Miss Annie Fortney, native of Pennsylvania.

In 1886 Mr. Williams came to Nebraska and settled in Harlan county. He first rented land, and later bought a farm in Eldorado

township, consisting of four hundred and eighty acres, selling off three hundred and twenty acres after a short time. In 1904 he moved to Alma, purchasing ten acres on Cook creek, an ideal feeding place. This is supplied with plenty of water and many trees, and is a very valuable piece of property. On this stands the remains of Cook's log house, where one of the first terms of court in the county was held.

Mr. Williams is starting a herd of purebred Poland-China hogs, and is now feeding three hundred and twenty head of cattle. He also keeps a thoroughbred jack and has a McLaughlin Brothers imported horse worth three thousand dollars.

In 1892 our subject was married to Miss Dora Keiser, daughter of Elijah Keiser, who settled on a homestead in Harlan county in 1872, and still lives on the farm he homesteaded then. The Keisers originally came from Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have a family of four sons, namely: Howard, Harry, Lawrence and Paul.

Mr. Williams has been a member of the county board for two terms, and was candidate for sheriff in 1905, representing the Independent party, but lost out and has taken more or less active part in politics ever since.

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#### PEARL H. DAVIS.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the prominent residents of Rock county, Nebraska. Mr. Davis was born in Corning, Adams county, Iowa, on September 5, 1879. His father, Harry P. Davis, was a contractor and builder at Corning, still maintaining that business and address. He is of American stock, and married Miss Josephine Ritchie, of English descent, American-born, whose family was among the pioneer settlers in Adams county. There was a family of six children, and of these our subject was the third in order of birth, reared and educated in his home town. In the summer of 1899 he came to Newport and became cashier of the Rock County State Bank, remaining in that position for five years.

In 1903 Mr. Davis was elected county clerk and was re-elected in 1905. On completing his second term in 1907 Mr. Davis opened a real estate office in Newport, in which he is prospering. In politics he is a Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in party politics, being recognized as a man of superior intelligence and judgment, and commanding

the respect of all with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way. Mr. Davis owns a three hundred and twenty-acre farm in this county, most of which is in hay land.

In 1902 Mr. Davis was married to Miss Cora Berry, daughter of John H. Berry, a prominent resident of Newport. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been born the following children: Gerald and Glenn. Mrs. Davis was a music teacher prior to her marriage, and had a large class of pupils from both Rock and Holt counties. Mr. Davis is a member of the Masonic fraternity, with lodge affiliations at Bassett, which he has served as master.

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#### JOHN D. HOPKEN.

The subject of this sketch, John D. Hopken, is an example of what German thrift and perseverance will accomplish. He was born in Germany, in the northern part of Oldenburgh, February 16, 1853. His father, Johan Herman Hopken, was a baker and merchant, and his mother was Elizabeth Knudson, both born in Germany. Mr. Hopken's youth was spent in the old country in various occupations. He followed the occupation of farming for a time and served in the German army during the war with France and was with his command on French territory for twenty-three months. After leaving the army he was foreman on a government farm for about seven years, and five years were spent as foreman in a coal mine.

Our subject came to America in 1883, sailing from Havre on the "Elbe," and after a voyage of eleven days landed in New York City on February 17. He came direct to Lincoln and thence went to Seward county, where he remained for two years, farming on rented land. He came to Ogallala in 1885 and took a homestead southeast of Ogallala, building a frame shack on the homestead. He had five dollars and one horse when he settled on his homestead, and from this small beginning he has built up the success which is now his. In 1893 he was in good circumstances, but in the big fire of that year he lost twenty-nine head of cattle, his home, barn, granary, harness and furniture and was obliged to borrow money to start anew. He also worked out by the day. So complete was the loss that they used pine sticks in place of forks for a meal or two after the fire; everything was destroyed except their potatoes. Their crops were failures for several years, but Mr. Hopken, although greatly discouraged, did not give up, and when, in



1907, he sold out, he had a ranch of seven hundred acres on the South Platte river, all finely improved with good buildings and machinery. He received ten thousand dollars as the price, and with this he bought his present livery business and a residence in Ogalala, and also has sixty head of horses and one hundred head of cattle.

Mr. Hopken's first wife died some time ago and left one son, J. H. Hopken. Mr. Hopken was married a second time in 1907 to Mrs. Mary Kildare, a native of Ireland, who came to America with her parents in 1883, sailing from Liverpool to Boston. She owns a fine ranch of five hundred acres, with sixty head of horses and a hundred cattle.

Our subject is one of the oldest settlers of Keith county and has done his share in making the county what it is. He has had many discouragements, but, in spite of all, he has persevered and attained his present wealth. He is a member of the Lutheran church, while Mrs. Hopken is a Catholic in faith.

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#### CARL A. JOHNSON.

Carl A. Johnson, when but four years of age, settled with his parents in Nebraska in 1879, locating in Colfax county at that time. His father was one of the prominent pioneers of that county. He has gone through all the experiences of the old timers in western Nebraska, and has watched its growth and progress through the different stages of its development, lending his aid willingly and liberally at all times for the bettering of conditions in his locality. Mr. Johnson now resides on section 8, township 22, range 15, Garfield county, where he has a well developed farm and comfortable home one mile east of De-verre postoffice.

Mr. Johnson was born in 1874 in Wisconsin. He came of Norwegian stock, his father and mother having come to this country from Norway in 1867, settling in Wisconsin, where their family of eight children were born. They all came to Nebraska in 1879. The father bought one hundred and twenty acres in Colfax county and started to develop a farm there. He met with good success and then came to Garfield county, Nebraska. In 1901 our subject left home and settled in Garfield county on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, where his father owned a farm adjoining. Mr. Johnson has always employed progressive methods in his operations, has all of his land under cultivation, raising wheat,

oats and corn principally, running only enough stock for his farming and domestic purposes. During 1906 Mr. Johnson raised ten hundred and eighty bushels of oats from thirty-five acres of ground, and thirteen hundred bushels of corn from forty acres, and states that this is much better than could be done on any land in the eastern part of the United States, and it is only a fair average for Nebraska. He is of the opinion that a poor man's chances are the same as two to one between this country and the east. Mr. Johnson came here with but very little capital when he first started out for himself and has built up a good farm and valuable property in a very short time. His place is well supplied with good water, supplied from deep wells with windmills and supply tanks. The place is situated on the tableland and he has no cause to worry about floods, and has never had a water spout or cyclone since living in this region.

Mr. Johnson is a bachelor, a worthy citizen and good friend, belonging to the Lutheran church of Burwell. Politically he is a Republican, but has never aspired to office.

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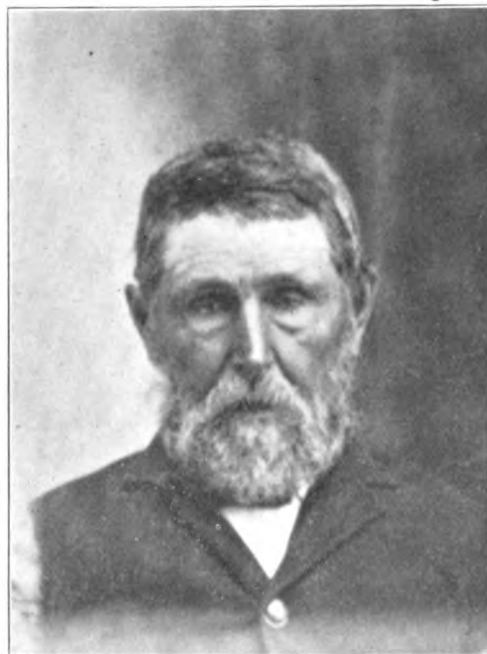
#### WILLIAM WEYGINT.

William Weygint, retired, of McCook, Redwillow county, Nebraska, came to this county in 1872, in April of that year, accompanied by Lewis Korn, Judge Hill and George Hunter, the last mentioned three all coming from Tabor, Iowa, and our subject from Vernon, Onida county, New York. During the first year Mr. Weygint squatted on land here, and in 1873 he took up a homestead where Indianola now stands. There he had one hundred and sixty acres, and he was the first white man to plow a furrow in this region. He had good luck with corn and potatoes on the sod, having a yield of forty bushels per acre. He built a dugout for a house on Boone creek, and in 1874 his wife joined him, also the families of the other men who came here with him, and the four families all settled near together, forming a sort of protection for each other. Soon afterwards ten other families came in, and there was quite a settlement made up. Mr. Weygint lived on that place for twelve years, then the B. & M. Railway came in and cut his land in two pieces, so that part of it was inside the corporation of Indianola, then the county seat. He then sold out the place and moved to Frontier county, locating on a ranch of six hundred and forty acres, and went into the stock business.





MARIAVILLE POST OFFICE,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



WILLIAM WEYGINT.



Mr. Weygint was born in 1820 in Oneida county, New York. His father, Tobias Weygint, served six years and seven months in the Revolutionary war and died in 1847 at the age of ninety-six years. The Weygint family originally came from Holland, our subject's mother being prior to her marriage Miss Unis Tower, born in New York state, of Scotch descent.

In 1862 Mr. Weygint enlisted in the Tenth New York Cavalry in the Army of the Potomac, and was saddlery sergeant of his regiment. He was in the Wilderness campaign and at Gettysburg, and in all took part in sixty-three regular engagements where artillery was used, and in twenty-four skirmishes, and escaped without receiving a scratch. At different times he had two horses shot out from under him, and can tell any number of interesting anecdotes relating to his experiences while a soldier. After the war he located in Cortland county, New York. He had married in 1844, in that county, Miss Sophronia Blanchard, daughter of William Blanchard, who was born in Vermont, settling in Cortland county with his parents when he was four years old. He served in the War of 1812 in the New York militia. William Blanchard married Laura Taylor, of Cortland county. Mr. and Mrs. Weygint had a family of seven children, as follows: Mrs. Frances Campbell, of McCook, now dead; Mrs. Antoinette Warner, of McCook; William B. Weygint, of Antelope county, retired farmer and ex-soldier of the late war, having served in the Tenth New York Cavalry; H. D. Weygint, of Meadow Grove, Nebraska, commercial traveler; Mrs. Eva Starbuck, of Salt Lake, Utah; and Mrs. Martha Stewart, of McCook. Jessie died at the age of four years.

Mr. Weygint was a member of the Whig party, but in 1856 became a Republican, and was sent as a delegate from Cortland county to Syracuse, where the first state convention of that party was held. There were three delegates from his county. He has always been active in political affairs, and has campaigned throughout the state of Nebraska for his party to a great extent. After coming to McCook he was justice of the peace in Frontier county, and later was active in the organization of Redwillow county. At the first election, held in 1876, there were one hundred and twenty-seven voters, and eighty-four of these were veterans of the Civil war, and Mr. Weygint is of the opinion that the war fitted these men for the pioneer hardships and work of this new west, and that the best and most successful business men and farmers were soldiers for the Union, showing that war does

not spoil, but makes men where the material was right. At the age of eighty-eight years he is still active and hearty, attending personally to his property interests and his home. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church here and are highly esteemed. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post. A portrait of Mr. Weygint appears on another page of this work.

#### L. E. FURRY & SONS.

The members of the above firm are among the successful business men of Franklin, where they are recognized as the leading grain and stock shippers of that locality. They are a reliable, hustling concern, and the members are held in the highest esteem as business men and worthy citizens, their trade extending all over that section of the country, buying over a thousand cattle each season in the west, which they sell to the feeders in this vicinity. Besides these, they feed about five hundred head annually on their farm of one hundred and fifty acres, located near Franklin, and one hundred and sixty acres of pasture a short distance from town.

L. E. Furry is a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Nebraska from Bedford, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in the milling business, settling here in 1887, starting at once into the grain and live stock business, and has continued at the work ever since. He is ably assisted by his sons, T. R. and C. J. Furry, and they buy stock all over this state, Colorado and Kansas, and ship each year from one hundred to one hundred and fifty cars from Franklin to the markets. Their grain shipments amount to one hundred thousand bushels of corn annually, and they also buy and ship wheat, although this is more of a corn and cattle country. Farmers in this section of the country raise too much wheat, and should put in larger crops of corn, as it is in better demand and feeders are obliged to have large amounts shipped in from neighboring states. The soil is admirably adapted to the cultivation of this grain, and big crops are raised. The state should raise enough to supply the feeders and farmers instead of importing the sixty thousand bushels annually needed to supply their demand.

The Furrys are this year feeding four hundred cattle and a large number of hogs, and they are satisfied that this is one of the best feeding countries to be found in the west. There are more hogs raised and shipped from

this region than any other part of the state, and good prices are obtained for them at the nearby and Chicago markets. The people in this vicinity are realizing the importance of getting better grade stock, and many are starting good herds, and it is generally conceded that the pure-bred Shorthorn cattle are the best for all purposes, while the Poland-China hogs are preferred to any other breed.

Our subjects own an alfalfa farm of one hundred and eighty acres adjoining the town of Franklin, and they also own three hundred and twenty acres of good land in Trenton, Hitchcock county, Nebraska.

Franklin is recognized as the best shipping point on the B. & M. Railway between Denver and the Missouri river, and the farmers are generally prosperous. It has a population of twelve hundred and fifty, has two banks, with deposits of five hundred thousand dollars, nearly all of this being farmers' money, which shows the prosperity of the people. In the past twenty years land has advanced from ten dollars to eighty dollars per acre, showing a gain of four hundred per cent. in that time.

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#### GEORGE W. FREEMAN.

Among the successful self-made men of Cherry county, Nebraska, may be truly noted George W. Freeman. He came to that region when it was but sparsely settled with white men, and has endured many hardships to secure the fine property of which he is now owner, and can recount many thrilling experiences of pioneer days in the state. While building up a comfortable home and productive farm, he has also been one of the foremost public-spirited citizens of this locality, and has added in marked degree to the general welfare of the community where he resides. His residence is on section 7, township 29, range 37, and he is held in the highest esteem by his associates.

Mr. Freeman was born in Lampassas county, Texas, in 1863. He was raised on a farm, his father, Andrew Freeman, following farming all his life. His mother's maiden name was Missouri Lucky. The family lived in Texas until George was about eighteen years of age, he working on ranches as a cowpuncher for several years, and rode all over that part of the state in rounding up cattle, etc. In 1884 he went to Wyoming, where he followed range work for about twelve years, working for different cattle outfits, also spent some time in Nebraska, and was all along the Powder river

in Montana. He came to Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1896, at that time being connected with the Spade ranching outfit, working as a cowboy, and continued with that company for about three years, then took a claim under homestead rights, locating on the land in 1900, during the spring of that year. He at once started to develop a farm, putting up buildings and breaking up land for crops, and worked faithfully until he proved up on his place. He began raising cattle and is now owner of a good herd, with plenty of good pasture and hay land. His ranch contains two thousand six hundred and forty acres altogether, and he uses it almost exclusively as a stock ranch, cultivating only about forty acres. Mr. Freeman runs about fifteen hundred head of cattle, seventy-five head of horses, has five windmills and five flowing wells, and puts up about fifteen hundred tons of hay each season. There are several fine lakes on the ranch and plenty of wild ducks and geese are to be found on the lakes, making it fine for sport during the hunting season of the year.

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#### JAMES DOUGHERTY.

Although a comparatively recent settler in Alliance, the gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the old-timers of Box Butte county, settling in the county in the spring of 1886, and is well and favorably known to the residents of this part of the country.

Mr. Dougherty was born in Canada, near New London, in 1863. His father, Michael Dougherty, was born in Ireland and came to Canada when a lad, where he was raised, and the mother was also a native of Ireland. When our subject was eight years of age the family left Canada and came to Iowa, locating at Dubuque, where they lived for five years. From there they went to northeastern Nebraska and then to Dakota county. When still a young boy James started out to make his own way in the world, locating in Box Butte county. He drove here from Hay Springs, camping out nights on the trip, and after coming here he ran a bunch of cattle on a ranch, owned now by R. M. Hampton. He took up a homestead situated six miles west of Alliance and proved up on it, and was in the cattle business on a large scale for a number of years, and also worked as a cowboy for years through the western part of the state. Together with a brother he owns a ranch at Lakeside, which they have leased for a term of five

years, and he has done exceedingly well in a financial way since settling in this region. In 1904 he moved to Alliance and has since made this his home, where he has bought good property in the western part of town, has built a fine brick house and made other improvements. He has been a prominent member of his community, and taken an active part in local public affairs, serving as marshal for two years, and also was assessor for one term. He is a Democrat and a strong advocate of the principles of that organization. Our subject's father is about seventy-five years of age, but stands erect and is as active as a boy. His mother is deceased.

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#### DE LAFAYETTE FANCHER.

Mr. De Lafayette Fancher, an energetic young farmer of Ainsworth precinct, Brown county, Nebraska, was born October 11, 1874, at Floyd Corners, Oneida county, New York, a son of Edward Fancher, a man of prominence in that state. He was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. After residing in Iowa and eastern Nebraska for a number of years he removed to Brown county, Nebraska, in 1880, making his home in Brown county, where he settled on a homestead in section 11, township 30, range 23, where he died four years later. The family came from eastern Nebraska in a covered wagon and were about six weeks on the way, enduring the usual discomforts of movers in the early days.

Mr. De L. Fancher, the third of a family of seven children born to his parents, was a lad of six years when the family moved to Brown county and here he was reared and educated in the early schools of the day, living for a time in a log house. He has memories of the privileges and privations that come to hearty, healthy youth on the frontiers. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, though he spent some ten months in the Black Hills four years prior to this interesting event.

Mr. Fancher and Miss Ada Dwyer were married in Ainsworth, December 30, 1900, and she has proved a most helpful and companionable wife. She was born on the home farm near Glenwood, Mills county, Iowa, a daughter of Chester L. and Leonora (Warren) Dwyer. The former was a native of Vermont, and a settler in Iowa at a very early day. In 1884 he located in Brown county, Nebraska, settling on a homestead under a soldier's claim. Mrs. Fancher remembers Brown county before schools or churches were established, and

largely received her education at the hands of her mother, who was a highly educated lady. She became a teacher, too, and was engaged in the work of public instruction for some nine years prior to her marriage. She also secured a homestead, upon which she has proved up, and now holds a clear title. It lies in section 4, township 29, range 25, of Cherry county. That she has been able to sustain herself as an applicant for this homestead and meet all the requirements that were thrown around its acquisition by the land office, argues much strength of character and great persistence. Mr. and Mrs. Fancher are the parents of three children—Ruth, Violet and Eunice.

Mr. and Mrs. Fancher made their location on the farm where they are found at the present time in 1900. It is in section 17 and was originally a tree claim, constituting a part of the family estate inherited from his father. In political views Mr. Fancher is a Democrat, is a member of the Methodist church and affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America of Ainsworth.

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#### SAMUEL J. HEDGES.

Samuel J. Hedges, whose labors in Cheyenne county entitle him to a foremost place as one of the developers of the agricultural interests of the locality, resides on an elegant farm in township 15, range 50. He is a pioneer of that region, his wife and himself coming into the county by ox team from Buffalo county with a covered wagon containing all their earthly possessions, leading two cows and having several pigs and a few chickens to start their new farm with. When they finally arrived at their new location all the money they possessed was thirty-five cents, and from this beginning he has carved out a considerable fortune, and is one of the progressive and well-to-do farmers of the community.

Mr. Hedges was born in Lansingburg, New York, nine miles north of the city of Albany, on December 28, 1853. He grew up there, his mother dying in 1866. His father was a soldier in the Civil war, and lived in New York state up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1893. When our subject was twenty-six years of age he came west, locating in Buffalo county, Nebraska, later moved to Washington county, where he farmed for three years, then returned to his first location, following farming up to 1886, then came to Cheyenne county, filing on a homestead on section

24, township 15, range 50. He constantly improved his farm, adding good buildings, fences, and gradually got into the stock business on quite a large scale, and has done exceedingly well, owning at the present time half a section of good land, of which he cultivates two hundred and fifty acres and keeps fifty head of cattle.

Mr. Hedges married on March 28, 1883, Mary E. Allen, a native of Pennsylvania, born in Erie county. Her mother is now living in Lincoln, Nebraska, while the father is dead. Four children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife, named as follows: Allen W., Edgar M., Lucy J. and Roy T. The first mentioned has a homestead on section 2, township 16, range 15, on which he resides, while the others live at home.

Mr. Hedges is prominent in local affairs, also in all matters of importance pertaining to his county and state, voting the Prohibition ticket.

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#### A. H. GERICKE.

A. H. Gericke, a well-to-do farmer, energetic and industrious, a typical representative of the sturdy German race, who came to this country to establish a home and accumulate a competence for his old age, resides on his fine estate in section 6, township 22, range 15. Mr. Gericke is one of the old-timers of western Nebraska, settling in Cuming county in 1878, and since coming to this part of the country he has taken a leading part in every movement for the benefit of his community. He now lives in Burwell, having traded his farm in the spring of 1908 for a hardware and implement business. He is working up a fine trade in this place.

Mr. Gericke was born in Germany in 1864, and grew up there, remaining with his parents until he was a boy of seventeen years of age, when he left his native country and struck out for himself, coming to America August 31, 1878, and on landing in New York City came direct to Nebraska, as he had relatives who had settled in this state some years previously. He lived in Cuming county for quite a time after coming here, but as this county was becoming so thickly settled and the land was getting very high, he decided to leave, and moved to Garfield county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 6, township 22, range 15, and has since added to his original possessions until he is proprietor of about four hundred acres, engaging principally in raising grain, growing

corn, wheat, oats and rye. He keeps quite a number of stock, including cattle and hogs, with enough horses for his farming purposes. Here he has made considerable money, making a splendid success of his different enterprises. After locating here he was able to obtain some very cheap land on account of some of the settlers here becoming discouraged during the poor years and who left their homes to return to the east, and Mr. Gericke thinks that a man's chances here are as twenty to one as against those in that part of the United States. He has always been lucky about his crops, and has never had a total failure since coming here. He has plenty of water for every purpose, having good, deep wells, fitted with hydraulic force pumps and supply tanks, as have most of the larger farmers in this section, and he has never been out of water since having his well put down.

Mr. Gericke was married in 1889 to Augusta Moritz, also a native of Germany, who came to this country with her parents in 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Gericke have been born nine children, named as follows: Lewis, Lizzie, Henry, Rudolph, John, George, Dick, Sussie and Annie. The family are active members of the German Lutheran church and well liked by all in their community.

Mr. Gericke is numbered among the wealthy residents of his locality and is a prominent citizen. He has held the office of road overseer for several years. He is a Republican in politics.

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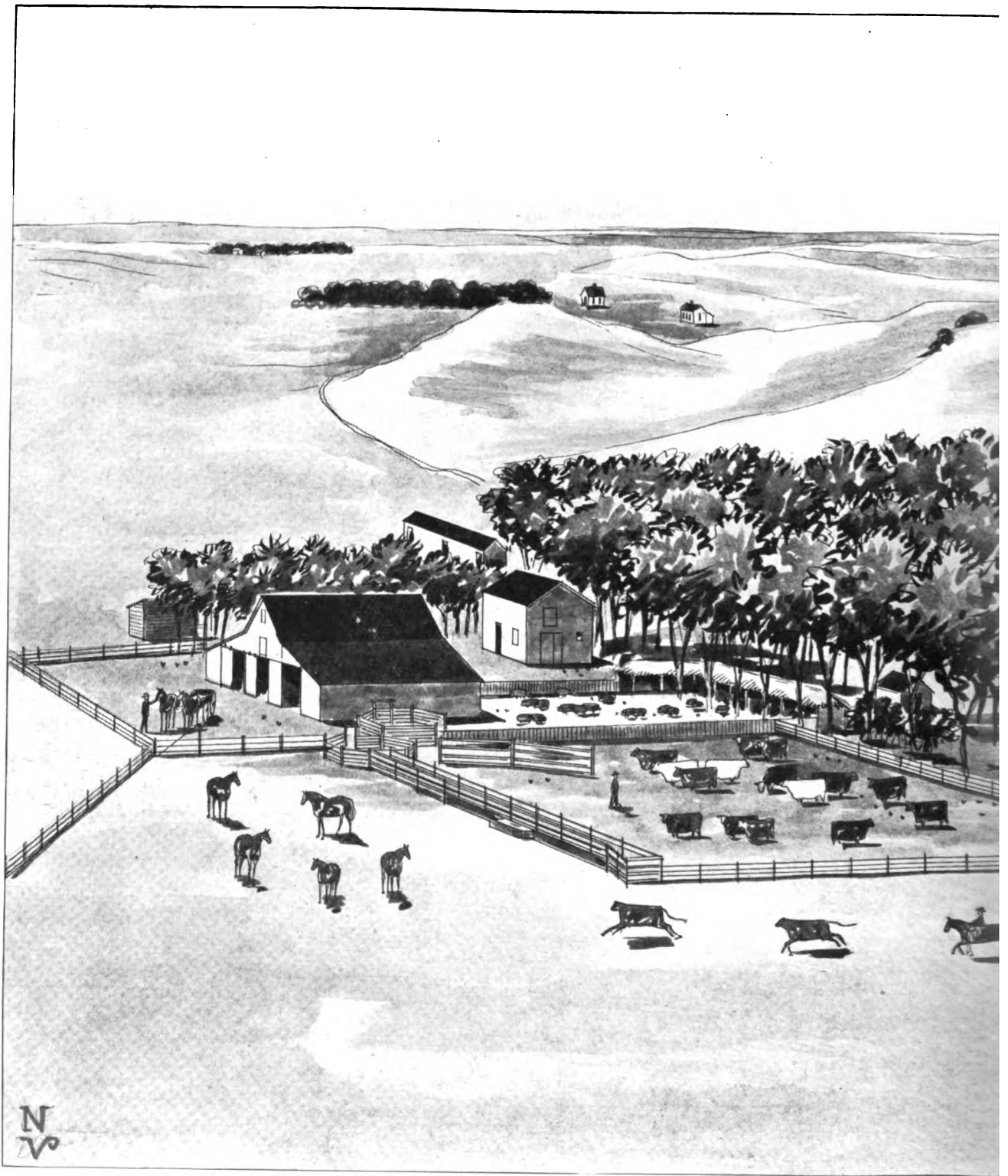
#### FRANK NIEHUS.

For the past twenty-five years the gentleman above named has been prominently identified with the farming interests of Keya Paha county. He resides on section 5, township 34, range 21, which he took as a pre-emption when he first settled here, and since that time has always been found supporting public interests and lending his aid toward the development of the social and commercial life of his home community. He is one of the leading men of his precinct and county and highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Niehus was born on a farm near the town of Elmshorn, Holstein, Germany, July 20, 1860. His father, Claus Niehus, never came to America except for a visit during the World's Fair in 1893, spending three months here, then going back to his native country, where he died in 1900. The mother never left Germany, where she still resides at the age







"EAGLE ROCK RANCH," RES  
Keya Paha Co



DENCE OF FRANK NIEHUS,  
nty, Nebraska.



of seventy-seven. When our subject was sixteen years of age he started out to make his own way in the world, coming to America in 1876, sailing from Hamburg on the "Fresia," and after a voyage of eleven days he landed in New York on May 23. He came directly to Nebraska, joining his brother at Grand Island. For three years he traveled all over the west, working for the Oregon Short Line, then returned to this state, and in the spring of 1883 located on his present farm, at the same time taking a tree claim adjoining it. He first built a small shanty, where he "batched it" for a few months, then was married July 9, 1884, to Miss Katherine Graham, born in 1866. Her parents came to this country from Scotland when they were young, the mother crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel, the voyage lasting six weeks and three days. They first located in Wisconsin, and came to Grand Island in 1865, where both her father and mother died a few years ago. After our subject's marriage, he and his bride took a wedding trip from Grand Island to Springview, traveling in a covered wagon to their home, camping on the way. An unusual wedding trip, even in the west. When he settled on this place there was not a tree to be seen, but he planted a large number and now has five groves of forest trees, comprising forty acres, with an orchard of twenty-five apple and pear trees, besides other small fruits. During the early days he herded cattle and worked on the railroad, saving his earnings, from which he has accumulated all his large estate of today. He owns eight thousand acres of land, with five hundred acres in cultivation, all lying about twelve miles northwest of Springview except a tract of seven hundred and sixty acres, with two hundred and fifty acres under the plow situated on the Niobrara river. He keeps about six hundred head of cattle and fifty horses, besides other stock. Twenty-five acres are seeded to alfalfa, which yields in abundance every season. There are three tenant houses on the ranch. At one time Mr. Niehus had a lumber yard and livery barn in Bassett, both of which he operated with success, but sold them to advantage. For some years he was engaged in buying and selling cattle, first in Bassett and then from Ainsworth, and has for a year or two been operating four threshing machines with gasoline engines.

Mr. Niehus has a nice home in South Omaha, where the family resided that the children might have the advantages offered by the city schools. In 1907 he built a large fourteen-room frame dwelling, fitted with running wa-

ter, bath room and other conveniences, being the finest country residence in the county. A view of this elegant home and surroundings is presented on another page.

Mr. Niehus had a family of seven children, five of whom are living and reside with their parents, named as follows: Pearl E., Marie Augusta, William F., John and Frances G.

In 1899 Mr. Niehus revisited his native land, crossing on the "Persia" and returning after three months' absence on the "Russia" in 1900.

Mr. Niehus is a Democrat politically, although he cast his vote for Roosevelt at his last election. In 1908 he gave his support to Bryan, returning to his old allegiance. Mr. Niehus was reared in the Lutheran church. Fraternally he affiliates with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Eagles and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### HON. WILLIAM S. PENISTON, DECEASED.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history was born in 1834 at Yorkshire, England. He came to Nebraska in 1859, and bought a ranch opposite Willow Island, where he built a log house and store on the old California trail and carried a general stock of supplies for overland travelers. In the year 1866 he moved his store and dwelling to Front street, North Platte, this being the first store in that place. On the opening of the Union Pacific Railway for one year this town was the terminus of the road. Soon after our subject located here Jack Marron moved his store here also. Mr. Peniston's partner at this time was A. J. Miller, who now lives at Rawlins, Wyoming, where the former owned a store in the early days of that territory, which was managed by Barney McDonald.

In an early day Mr. Peniston was appointed United States commissioner and afterwards was representative in the territorial legislature of Nebraska. He held the former office over thirty years ago and occupied the office up to the time of his death. He was elected county judge for several terms, and was also county treasurer for two terms. Held the office of justice of the peace for several years and to the time of his demise. He was elected a member of the territorial legislature and served several terms. He took up the first homestead in this part of the country, and this was afterwards included in the town of North Platte. Peniston's addition to the town was made by him, and his homestead was included in the site.

Mr. Peniston came from his native land (where he was born at Peniston, a place named after his father's family) with his parents, the family settling in Quebec, Canada. His father was Richard Peniston. Our subject received his education at Quebec in the higher branches, and later came to the United States. In 1865 at Auburn, New York, he married Miss Anna A. Webb, daughter of Z. L. Webb and Polly Maria Hoffman Webb. The young couple immediately struck out for the west. Mrs. Peniston and Mrs. Dr. Dick, now of North Platte, are sisters, and a sketch of Dr. Dick appears in this work. At one time when our subject and Mr. Miller were running their store they were driven away by the Indians, and again in North Platte the redskins went on the warpath and entered their place and shot up the lamps and created general confusion.

Mr. Peniston's death occurred in October, 1906, and he left a family as follows: His widow and eight children, namely: William, a ranchman and stock raiser, of Rawlins, Wyoming; Charles, a stockman; Mrs. Catherine Blood, of Cheyenne; Mrs. Carrie Marti, of North Platte; Miss Mary E. Peniston, of this town; Mrs. Ann Gaunt, also of North Platte; Mrs. Nellie Bennett, of Rawlins, Wyoming, and Mrs. Elsie House, of Rawlins. Mr. Peniston's death left a vacancy among the pioneers of western Nebraska that is keenly felt. He was an educated man and a gentleman in all his relations, private and public, and his widow and children have the sympathy and respect of all.

Mr. Peniston was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for many years, and in March, 1906, his lodge presented him with a handsome token of their esteem in the shape of a jeweled pin. He was in this order for twenty-five years. Politically he was a Democrat.

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#### THOMAS GUYNN.

Thomas Guynn, a prosperous farmer of Phelps county, owns a valuable estate in section 28, Sheridan township, where he has resided since 1902. He first settled in this county in 1890, purchasing a half section of land located west of Holdrege, and later sold that and bought one hundred and sixty acres south of that place. In 1901 he sold this out and moved to Kansas, where he bought a farm in Butler county, near Barton, remaining on that place for two years. He did not like that country, was unable to raise very good

crops, and so came back to Nebraska, and he considers that Phelps county is far ahead of Kansas in every way.

Mr. Guynn is a native of Tyrone county, Ireland, coming to this country when nine years old, with his father and mother, who were also natives of Tyrone county. The ancestors of our subject on both sides originally came from Scotland to Ireland. In 1861 Mr. Guynn enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Infantry, and served with his regiment up to August, 1865. He was in the Army of the Cumberland under General Sherman, Logan Corps, and his first fight was at Fort Henry. He then was at Fort Donaldson, on the march to Nashville, at the battle of Pittsburg Landing, also Corinth, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Atlanta, also on the march to the sea and at Altoona, where his company was detailed to guard the rations. Here the Seventh Illinois lost one-half of their number in the gallant and stubborn defense of the army supplies from the fierce onslaught of the rebels.

During the last fight, which took place at Benton, near Raleigh, North Carolina, was a terrible struggle, and although shells burst all about him and the bullets pierced his clothes, he was never struck and escaped without a scratch.

After leaving the army he returned to Illinois, and from 1867 to 1890 farmed in Logan county, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres, then came to Nebraska, where he likes it much better, as he has been in good health ever since settling here and it is a fine farming country. Here he has built up a fine farm and home, just outside the limits of Holdrege, and has everything in the best possible shape.

Mr. Guynn was married in 1886 to Miss Ida Dalbow, daughter of Isaac and Liza (Mustard) Dalbow, of Pike county, Illinois. There are three children in their family—two sons, Frank and Carl Guynn, who assist their father in carrying on the farm, and a daughter, Leigh, also living at home.

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#### CHRISTIAN JULIUS PETERSON.

Christian Julius Peterson, one of the younger residents of section 12, township 29, range 38, is nevertheless entitled to the distinction of being one of the leading old settlers of Cherry county, and has taken an active part in its history and helped materially in building up his community. He resides on section 12,

where he owns a well improved ranch of over eight hundred acres and his estate bears evidence of good management, thrift and prosperity.

Mr. Peterson is a native of Denmark, born on a farm July 17, 1872, and he grew up there, following farm work with his father up to his twentieth year, at which time his father's death occurred, and soon afterwards the mother came to America with her family, landing in Philadelphia in 1894, settling in Omaha, Nebraska, but remained there only a short time, then came to Cherry county. Christian, together with a brother, took homestead, and during the first year witnessed very hard times. They went back to Omaha and spent the first winter, returning in the spring, driving both ways. The brother, Peter, was about four years older than our subject, and he had settled in Nebraska in 1888, following ranching from the first. His ranch was situated thirty-five miles south of the town of Merriman. He was married in 1898, his wife's maiden name being Emelia Jansen, a native of Denmark.

Our subject rapidly improved his present homestead, taken in 1899, putting up good buildings, fencing the land, and started in the stock raising business, meeting with many discouragements in the way of losses by severe storms, also crop losses, but stuck to his farm through it all, and has been most successful during later years. His ranch is beautifully located on Clifford creek, is well supplied with water, lakes and wild game, has many trees on it, and altogether is a valuable property. He cultivates about thirty acres. He has really improved two places since coming to Nebraska, his first homestead having been sold about 1898.

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#### HERMAN KREIZENBECK.

Herman Kreizenbeck is a resident of Ainsworth, Brown county, and has so lived and labored that he is well worthy of a prominent place in any record of the men who have done and dared so much in the making of Nebraska. It is said that but a moment's reflection is enough to convince any one, as to the great weight of obligation this country bears towards its children from German homes, who have brought art and literature, science and learning and all the high gifts of a lofty civilization in their train, as they have ever moved to the westward. It is certainly a deeply interesting chapter of our national history that tells the achievements of many thou-

sands who have confronted helpless and hopeless conditions in the Fatherland, and have journeyed across the waters to find opportunity in a new and a strange country. That they have done so, and have prospered on every hand, becoming influential and rising to any station, shows something of what the United States has been to the world.

Herman Kreizenbeck was born near Essen, in the Rhine Province, Germany, July 21, 1851. The parents, Johan and Elizabeth (Winkleman) Kreizenbeck, lived and died on a farm in Germany. Here young Herman was reared and attended school until he was seventeen years of age, graduating from the high school, or "gymnasium" taking Latin and French. He entered the army in 1869 as a volunteer in the light Hussars, and remained with the colors until the fall of 1872, his service thus including the Franco-German war, in which he fought from start to finish as a cavalryman. At the expiration of his military enlistment he came home to take a position in Elberfeld, as bookkeeper and traveling salesman with a wholesale house, a position he held until 1876. That year he was married, and became bookkeeper for a coal mining company in Heisengen, where he continued until 1880, his father's death at that time calling him home to the settlement of the family estate. The following year, with one child, he sailed from Antwerp in the steamer "City of Montreal," on December 31, and landed in New York January 18, 1882. Making his way to Crete, Nebraska, where for some time he visited his brothers, he sent for his family, the wife and remaining child coming in June, on the steamer "John Bridle," from Antwerp.

After taking a somewhat hurried study of the field in which he was placed, he went to Omaha, and for a time was in the employ of Tom Murray, a real estate dealer and speculator. In the spring of 1883 he removed to Brown county, and located fourteen miles north of Ainsworth, almost on the Niobrara river. There he secured a homestead, and started as a farmer. At first the family dwelt in a log house, narrow and cramped for room, but an extensive addition of sod much increased the comfort of all. It was difficult making the beginning, and Mr. Kreizenbeck's affairs progressed but slowly. In 1888 he lost a crop—and this was repeated again in 1894 and the following year. The winters were warm and clear, with but little or no snow, and good grazing so the cows were about the only means of living. Here our subject remained until the spring of 1896, when he removed to a rented farm close to Ainsworth, that the



children might have a better opportunity for schooling, not to be found in the first location as there were but two families then in the school district, the Kreizenbecks and that of a Mr. Mead. In 1901 Mr. Kreizenbeck bought a ranch six miles southwest from Johnstown, but the following year came back to Ainsworth, and bought his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 16, township 30, range 22, in 1903. It is fenced and well improved. Here, fortune has smiled upon him; and though he lost his barn and contents by fire in 1905, he is making his way, and is acquiring a comfortable competence.

Mr. Kreizenbeck has passed through many experiences that have called for all his nerve and courage. In 1888 he was caught in the great blizzard that swept the country far and wide. All the ravines were filled with snow and tumble weeds, and on the surface there was nothing to mark solid earth or deep gullies. While he was out hunting he broke through a crust of snow over one of these ravines and was precipitated perhaps forty feet down into the snow. Fortunately he remembered his directions, and after tunneling about a hundred feet through the light snow and the weeds, he once more regained the surface.

For many years Mr. Kreizenbeck was affiliated with the Democratic party, but later became a Populist, and was elected assessor for several terms. In 1894, he was candidate of his party for sheriff, and in 1905 for the office of county clerk. For several years he has taken an active part in political affairs, and his character and ability give him much influence.

Mr. Kreizenbeck was married near Essen, February 6, 1877, to Miss Matilda Stoetgen, a daughter of Heinrich and Katharine (Stroeter) Stoetgen. Of their eight children, the two elder were born in Germany, the others in Nebraska. They are: Herman A., Elizabeth B., Bertha M., Matilda F., Katharine M., Anna Franz W., and Karl W. The three elder girls are graduates of the Ainsworth high school, and are teachers of the county. The members of the family are communicants of the Catholic church.

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#### WESLEY PRINGLE.

Wesley Pringle, a popular and much respected business man of Perkins county, Nebraska, is a resident of Grant, where for many years he has been engaged in business, and still has large interests in the farming community surrounding the thriving town. Mr. Pringle has now retired from all active busi-

ness, and is prepared to spend his declining years in peace and comfort, content that he has spent usefully his allotted time of more than three score and ten.

Mr. Pringle was born near Richland, in Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1842. His grandfather, together with two brothers, came to the United States from Wales, in the beginning of the history of this country, all three taking part in the Revolutionary war, and the family has always been prominently connected with the history of their adopted land, the former settling in Ohio in the early days of that state, where our subject's father was born and reared, he finally settling in Iowa in 1836. He married Rachel St. John, a native of England, who came to Canada with her parents, they locating in Warren county, Indiana, at an early day. Mr. Pringle's grandfather, Seth St. John, was county judge in that county for many years. John P. St. John, who was the presidential nominee on the Prohibition ticket, from Kansas, is a cousin of our subject. Wesley Pringle received but a limited schooling, attending the district schools during those times of year when he could be spared from the work on the home farm, but obtained in all a good practical training, fitting him well for his after years of hard work and shrewd management, starting out for himself at the age of sixteen years. He bought a team of oxen and begun farming on his own hook, then at the beginning of the war enlisted as a private in Company K, Third Iowa Cavalry at Knoxville, Iowa, in August, 1861. He was sent south to St. Louis with his regiment, and saw service all through the west, being at Vicksburg, Guntown, Pea Ridge, and was detailed with the guard of Jeff Davis after his capture. Our subject was in the service until the war closed, and during that time was twice wounded slightly, receiving an honorable discharge at Atlanta, Georgia.

After the war Mr. Pringle returned to Iowa and lived at Knoxville for a time. He was married there on January 28, 1867, to Margaret A. Totten, daughter of Captain Paris T. Totten, captain of Company I, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry. After his marriage Mr. Pringle farmed in Iowa up to the spring of 1872. During the previous year he had homesteaded on section 30, township 11, range 6, and there he subsequently built up and developed two farms, both in Hamilton county. In 1888 he came to Perkins county, locating in Grant and there established himself in the grain business, building an elevator, and continued in the business up to 1905, succeeding in building up a splendid patronage, and accumulating a nice property through his in-



dustry and good management. In the latter year he sold all his enterprises of which he was active manager, and retired from active work. For several years he has been proprietor of the Grant Lumber Yards, and also has owned considerable land in the farming community around Grant, and at different times engaged in the stock raising business in partnership with his son, William P. Our subject still owns a farm consisting of one hundred and forty-six acres adjoining Grant and still carries this on, although he does little work himself, merely superintending the operation of same.

Mr. Pringle is a staunch Republican. He has been elected justice of the peace several times, but would never consent to qualify, devoting his entire time to his business enterprises. For the past twenty years he has served on the Soldiers' Relief Commission, and is a prominent Grand Army of the Republic man. He has always given his best efforts to the advancement of his locality, and one of Grant's most enthusiastic and loyal citizens having resided here when the town was incorporated, and also was a member of the first village board.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Pringle, three of whom are still living, namely: William P., Jessie I., and Cora B.

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#### CALVIN J. WILDY.

Prominent among the successful business men of Hemingford, Box Butte county, is the gentlemen above named. Mr. Wildy has been one of the foremost men of this section in building up and developing the financial interests of his locality, and is a gentleman of sterling character, highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Wildy is a native of St. Clair county, Illinois, born in 1861, on a farm. His father, John Wildy, was a native of Switzerland, and mother of German descent. The father met his death in an accident when our subject was a lad three years of age. Our subject was reared on the home farm in St. Clair county, Illinois, near Lenzburg, where he early learned to do all kinds of hard work, attending the common schools where he received his early education, and later was a student at the Normal University of Illinois, taking a three years course. After leaving college he taught school in Illinois for one year. While at school he worked for his board to help along in his expenses. Our subject was engaged in business for several years in Lenzburg, Illinois, under

the firm name of Wildy Brothers. In 1887 he came to Nebraska, locating in Cheyenne county, where he took up a pre-emption, thirty-one miles southwest of the town of Hemingford, hauling his first supplies from Sidney, his first team being a yoke of oxen, which he used for one year trying to start his farm. In 1888 he opened a little store at Nonpariel, now extinct, the firm being C. J. Wildy and H. K. Zapp, and ran this for two years, when Mr. Zapp died, and Mr. C. J. Wildy moved to Hemingford and started in the mercantile business, and has since been operating a store in this place, being one of the pioneers in the trade, in fact, the oldest general merchant in the county. He went through hard times during the early years, but through good management and constant efforts has succeeded in a remarkable degree, and now has a good trade and splendid business. He has a store 100x60 ft. with four front doors, and carries a complete line of general merchandise and lumber, building material, etc. Besides his store property Mr. Wildy owns a ranch of several thousand acres in the southwestern part of the county and has a fine two-story, modern dwelling in the town of Hemingford.

In 1900 Mr. Wildy was united in marriage to Miss A. E. Neeland, daughter of J. F. Neeland, of Irish descent, who was one of the pioneer ranchmen of Dawes county. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Wildy was a school teacher, and for four years was county superintendent of schools in Box Butte county, having graduated from the Chadron Academy, making her own way through school. When Mr. and Mrs. Wildy were married they took an extended trip to Europe, going to Switzerland, Germany and Ireland, visiting relatives on both sides of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Wildy have been blessed with three children: Lois, Ruth and Frieda.

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#### JOSEPH A. RANKIN.

Joseph A. Rankin holds an important place in the affairs of Blaine county and is known all over the country as one of the most successful and largest ranchers of the territory. He is engaged in sheep, cattle and horse raising on his fine ranch which exceeds two thousand five hundred acres. He has an excellent home and is counted among the leading old settlers. Mrs. Rankin is postmistress of Rankin postoffice, which was established on our subject's farm in 1904.

Joseph A. Rankin was born in 1848, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and is of

Scotch-Irish ancestry. His grandfather, James, was born in Ireland and, coming to America, he was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Our subject's parents, Thomas and Catherine (Wright) Rankin, were farmers in Pennsylvania.

Joseph Rankin was reared on a farm in his native state and was given good educational advantages. Later he entered Monmouth College, at Monmouth, Illinois, where he completed his junior year.

When our subject was twenty-two years of age, in 1871, he came west to Nebraska and became one of the early pioneers of eastern Cass county. The entire family came at this time and our subject conducted his father's farm and business for years. He made trips to western Nebraska as early as 1882 and helped establish a large ranch in Blaine county. North Loup was the nearest railroad town at that time and Mr. Rankin had a long way to go for supplies and material, eighty-five miles. Many a night on these weary trips he has slept under his wagon in all kinds of weather and miles from the nearest habitation.

Joseph A. Rankin and Miss Elizabeth Peart were married in 1891. She was the daughter of Samuel and Esther (Gibson) Peart, who were Pennsylvania farmers.

After his marriage our subject spent one year in Cedar county. In 1900 he came to Blaine county and settled on his present ranch on the North Loup river, entering a homestead and buying other land. His good house, barns and other improvements, prove that he has laid the foundations of permanent wealth and prosperity. Mr. Rankin is a man of excellent business qualifications and education and wields a strong influence for public good.

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#### ELMER JOHNSON.

Prominent among the younger agriculturists of Kimball county is the gentleman above mentioned, who is owner of a well-improved estate in Kimball. His postoffice address is Crossbar, which is located on his farm, and Mrs. Johnson is the present postmistress, filling the office to the satisfaction of all.

Elmer Johnson was born in Sweden, June 1, 1877, and at the age of three years came to America with his father, mother, three brothers and one sister. They first located in eastern Nebraska, arriving there in the spring of 1880, remained for six years, then moved to Wyoming. While living in Saunders county, Nebraska, the family suffered a sad loss in the death of one daughter and one son.

In 1888 our subject came alone into Kimball county, and in 1899 filed on a homestead on northwest quarter section 26, township 13, range 58, proved up on it, and later took a Kinkaid homestead in the same section. He worked faithfully, and by good management and industry succeeded in building up a good home and farm. He now has sixty acres under cultivation, raises good crops of small grains, vegetables, etc. His place is well improved and equipped with first-class buildings. He deals in stock to quite an extent, running at the present time forty-five head of cattle and seventy-five horses. He has a fine property, and richly deserves his success and high standing.

Mr. Johnson was married at Kimball, Nebraska, on February 6, 1901, to Lillian Deacher, who was born in northeastern Nebraska and reared there. Mrs. Johnson's parents are now living in Oklahoma. To our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Rena, Kenneth, Mamie and Andry, all bright and interesting youngsters, who bid fair to be a great help to their parents when they grow up. Portraits of both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will be found on another page.

Mr. Johnson's father resides in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, while his mother is dead. Our subject is a Republican in politics, and is active in local affairs, having served as county assessor for two terms, from 1901 to 1903, and in 1907 was elected county commissioner, entering upon his duties as such January 1, 1908.

One brother of our subject, Eric Johnson, is also a resident of Kimball county, coming here in 1906, locating on a Kinkaid homestead on section 10, township 13, range 58. He is married and has three children, while another brother, Conrad, residing on section 22, township 13, range 58, is unmarried, and the possessor of a good farm. All are held in the highest esteem as worthy citizens and good neighbors.

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#### CAPTAIN HENRY W. SHORT.

To the present visitor of the agricultural district of western Nebraska, a pleasant sight in the well improved farms and highly cultivated tracts, greets the eye, and it is hard to conceive of the transformation that has taken place in the country within the past quarter of a century. The gentleman above named, settled in Saunders county in 1871, and the following year homesteaded in Marshall town-



MR. AND MRS. ELMER JOHNSON.



ship, Clay county, taking up one hundred and sixty acres, also three hundred and twenty acres as tree claim, and on the latter planted 13,778 trees, this being the third tree claim to be taken up in Nebraska. He has been one of the foremost men in the region and much of the prosperity which has come to the residents of the locality has been brought about through the efforts of just such men as Mr. Short; men who have given liberally of their time, money and influence in building up and developing the natural resources of the country.

Mr. Short is a native of Leicestershire, England, and came to America in 1848, and after landing in New York spent two years there. He then came west and was educated at the schools of Chicago, where his parents settled. They took up their residence at the corner of Clark and Harrison streets, and the district, which is now one of the busiest and most closely congested spot in that city, was then occupied by small cottages inhabited by families from foreign countries who had settled there, and many of them laid the foundation of good fortunes.

Our subject attended the public schools of Chicago, and early read law, as he was ambitious to make that his life work. He was admitted to the bar in Nuckolls county, Nebraska, in 1876, opened an office at Nelson, and practiced there for twenty-five years, up to 1903.

In 1862 Mr. Short enlisted in the First Illinois Light Artillery and served in this in the Fifteenth Army Corps. He was with the Army of the Tennessee, and took part in twenty-two battles, from Vicksburg to Nashville. His regiment lost one thousand four hundred and eighty-one men during the war. At the close of the war he was transferred to Bridges' battery.

After the war he returned to Illinois. Mr. Short settled in Franklin county, Nebraska, in 1871. He organized the Alexander Guards and was captain of this company, called Company H, First Nebraska, until after the Pine Ridge and Wounded Knee Indian outbreaks, his regiment taking an active part in these wars.

Captain Short's son, Ed. M., attended the state university of Nebraska and was admitted to the bar before he was twenty-one years of age.

Our subject has a good practice throughout Franklin and the adjoining counties, and he is a well-read, conscientious, safe and honest councillor and trial lawyer, gaining the confidence of all by his sound judgment and good advice.

In 1866 our subject was married to Miss

Fanny E. Smelt, of Ogle county, Illinois, and to them have been born the following children: Ed. M., now superintendent of schools for this county, this being his third term. He was formerly principal of the schools of Franklin for seven years, and also a teacher in Nuckolls county. The second son, Henry E., resides at Topeka, Kansas. Mary, wife of Rev. Keefer, was also a teacher before her marriage. George Ernest, of Nelson, Nebraska, is in the mail service at that place. Carroll W., a pharmacist, living at Los Angeles, California. Grace, wife of P. M. Snyder, of Burwell, Nebraska, now of Okanogan, Washington, formerly a teacher in this vicinity, and Leslie, a graduate of the Franklin high school, now at home.

Captain Short is a prominent Grand Army of the Republic man, also an Ancient Order of United Workmen and Woodman, and member of the Mystic Legion. He has been notary public for many years, and an active Republican, and is now serving his second term as city attorney.

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#### JOHN K. ENGELHORN.

John K. Engelhorn, one of the best known early settlers in western Nebraska, resides on his valuable estate in Hays township, Kearney county, Nebraska, retired from all active pursuits. Mr. Engelhorn has resided in this section for the past thirty years, and during this time has become one of the representative citizens of the community, highly esteemed by everyone.

Mr. Engelhorn is a native of Baden, Germany, born in 1842. He came to America with his parents, Matthias and Anna Engelhorn, who settled in Allemakee county, Iowa, on a farm. There he was raised, and in 1863 enlisted in the Civil war, joining the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, Company E. He served as a private until February 4, 1866, and after the close of the war was on the detached service for the government, performing outpost duty in Arkansas principally, and afterwards in Texas. Nearly all of the time he was engaged in the service of the government he was constantly in skirmishes, and never received a wound, but his health suffered from the rough life of a soldier and hardships to which he was exposed and he was unfortunate in having lost the sight of his left eye through an overdose of medicine. Two brothers, Matthias and Thomas, were also in the war, the former a member of the Twelfth Iowa Infantry, and

the latter in the navy. After the close of the war he returned to Iowa and engaged in farming for several years, then came to Nebraska, settling in Sherman township, Kearney county, in 1878. Here he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres and broke this up, remaining on it for nine years, then moved to Minden in 1887, where he bought forty acres in Hays township. He sold his farm in Sherman township in 1895. While living there he was supervisor of his township, also served on the county board for many years, and since coming to Minden has acted in the same capacity for three terms, also held the office of assessor for two years.

Mr. Engelhorn was married in 1867 to Miss Sophia Willch, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Willch, natives of Hesse, Germany, and the parents never left that land. She came to this country in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Engelhorn have no children.

Mr. Engelhorn is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post in Minden, and has passed through all the chairs of that society, now acting as assistant conductor. His wife belongs to the Women's Relief Corps here and both are members of the Lutheran church.

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#### PAYSON B. BIGELOW.

Payson B. Bigelow, one of the best known residents of Harrison, Sioux county, Nebraska, is classed among the prominent old settlers of that region. Mr. Bigelow is an enterprising merchant of that town, carrying on a flourishing general merchandise business, and has built up an excellent trade throughout this locality.

Mr. Bigelow is a native of Rock Island, Illinois, born in 1851. His father, Benjamin F., was from Vermont, of good old "Yankee stock," and he married Rachel Fairly, both being of American blood. When our subject was a boy of one or two years of age, the family moved to Iowa, settling in Davenport, where our subject grew up and received a good education. When Payson was fourteen years old, he went to Jasper county, Iowa, with his parents, where they lived up to 1880, and from there to Adair county, most of this time being spent in following farm work. In 1888 Mr. Bigelow came to Sioux county and filed on a homestead, pre-emption and tree claim, all located about six miles from the town of Harrison. His first house there was a log cabin, and there he worked hard to improve his property and build up a home. He

had experienced all kinds of hard times during the early days in this section, losing crop after crop by the drouths and meeting with disappointments in plenty. He became pretty well discouraged, and was at times tempted to give up the struggle, but determined to stick to his farm, and so kept on improving his place, slowly at first, but gradually getting ahead a little. In 1893 he had the misfortune to be burned out, losing almost everything, so that he was obliged to start all over again.

Mr. Bigelow was from the first quite heavily engaged in the cattle business, and in this way managed to make a living and lay by a little money after the poor years had passed. He lived on the ranch for about eleven years, then sold the place out and came to Harrison, locating here in 1899. He established his present business, and has done well since starting here, in the nine years he has been operating, building up a good patronage and has gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good business manager.

In February, 1892, Mr. Bigelow was married to Miss Emma E. Stewart, of Greenfield, Iowa, daughter of John and Minerva Stewart, both of American stock. They have no children. Our subject and his family occupy a pleasant and comfortable home, and are highly esteemed in their locality and liked by all who know them. He is prominent in local affairs, and has held office at different times, serving as village trustee for a number of years. He was one of the original organizers of the Republican party in this section, acting as chairman of the Republican county committee for several years.

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#### ROBERT G. HALL.

The office of county judge of Rock county, Nebraska, was bestowed upon this gentleman, and he discharged the duties of the position with rare fidelity and ever-increasing popularity. Mr. Hall was appointed in 1906, and was deservedly honored and esteemed by his fellowmen. He held the office until January, 1908.

Mr. Hall is a native of this state, born in Blair, January 17, 1885. He is a son of James Hall, a contractor, farmer and ranchman, who settled in Nebraska in 1860 and built up a good home here. He located first in Washington and was in Omaha several years. He is of Irish stock, a native of Pennsylvania. His wife was Miss Lucinda Gorton, a descendant of English settlers who came to America during colonial times.

Our subject is the second member in a family of three children, and when he was seven years old his parents settled in Rock county, where they afterwards lived in different parts of the county, he receiving a good education.

Mr. Hall, although a very young man to hold such an important office, gained the respect and confidence of the people by his strict integrity and sterling qualities, and bids fair to become one of the leading public men of this section of the country. He is now associated with his father in the contracting business and lives at Bassett, Nebraska. He is a Republican in politics, and fraternally, belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ancient Order United Workmen, and Modern Woodmen of America lodges of Bassett.

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#### WILLIAM H. WINTERER.

William H. Winterer was born in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 11, 1858. His father was Anton Winterer, a native of Baden Baden, Germany, where he was reared to young manhood and then emigrated to America, while his mother, who was Barbara Hirsch in her maiden days, was a native of Bavaria. They were married in Philadelphia about 1852. The family came to Milwaukee in the fall of 1863 and later settled in the thick hardwood timber country in Vernon county, Wisconsin, and lived there during the civil war, in which the father served as a member of the Forty-seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the last eighteen months of the war. He resides in Hillsboro, Wisconsin, retired from active life. They were among the very earliest pioneers in the locality where they settled. The woods were so thick that they had to cut a way through a mile of timber for the wagon to pass, there being only a footpath to their destination. Here our subject was reared on a timber farm, becoming inured to the hard work of grubbing and logging. Schools were few and far between, our subject being obliged to walk three miles to the school house and he therefore received only a limited common school education. In 1879 he went to Rollins county, Kansas, but that country was evidently not satisfactory, as the next year he came to the North Platte river region in Nebraska. He engaged to work with several "cow outfits" and was with M. Burk & Son, and also John Bratt & Company for some time. His duties brought him

to the vicinity of Keystone, Nebraska, and being pleased with the country, he decided to locate on a farm and build up a home. The country was very new and crude, but our subject saw possibilities which he thought promised great things if one expended energy and industry to develop them. He spent several years roughing it over western Nebraska both winter and summer and had ample opportunity to judge the country. He saw buffalo roaming the prairie in 1881 and wild game was abundant.

Mr. Winterer settled on his present farm in section 34, township 15, range 37, in 1883. He put up a sod house and a stable and made other necessary improvements. He worked out for the settlers, breaking prairie and putting up hay, thus earning enough for a living and a little more. He saved his money and bought fourteen head of cattle, which was his start in the cattle business. He has now a fine bunch of two hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and fifty head of horses. He took land that other settlers seemed not to want and has made a grand success, having three hundred and twenty acres in the North Platte river valley, and one thousand two hundred and eighty acres back in the hills where our subject's home is located. He has numerous fine trees, running streams of water, has a good orchard of apple and plum trees and a variety of small fruits. His buildings are good and he has a house and ranch of which he is justly proud.

William H. Winterer was married December 10, 1889, to Miss Louisa M. Cantrill, a native of Menominee, Dunn county, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of William Cantrill, a ship carpenter and a pioneer of that state; he formerly resided in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in New York.

Our subject has had quite a varied experience since locating in Keith county. He has had many discouragements and losses; once he was burned out, losing barns, sheds, and out-houses, and then there were the panic times of 1893 and later; also the years of drouth, when the grass grew so sparsely that it took miles of range to support his bunch of cattle and horses. In spite of all these unfortunate events, however, he stuck to his business and has attained fine success as the result of his labors. Once, when he was out in the Dismal river country, McPherson county, he found the body of a Mr. Board, one of a hunting party, who had become separated from his party and had died from fatigue and sickness. He had been missing for ten days and much fruitless search had been made for



him. The body was buried in a plain wooden box by our subject and a few others.

Mr. Winterer has been most actively interested in the affairs of his community and helped to establish the first school district on his side of the river. He has held various offices of trust and responsibility and has proven a capable and efficient public officer. He is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the German Evangelical church, the Modern Woodmen, the Odd Fellows and with his wife, of the Rebekah lodge. He is a man of strong characteristics and a worthy citizen of the state.

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#### FRANK P. FISHER.

Frank P. Fisher, one of the representative agriculturists of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, owns and operates a large farm in section 12, township 33, range 24, where he has built up a fine establishment and is recognized as one of the successful and prosperous citizens of the county. A view of the ranch house and numerous outbuildings, with grove and orchard are presented on another page of this volume.

Mr. Fisher was born in the village of Studena, Bohemia, June 20, 1846. The father, Joseph Fisher, was a tailor by trade and in 1856 the family sailed from Bremen in the ship *Sophia*, and after a voyage of thirty-eight days landed in New York. In October they reached Chicago, where the father sought in vain for work for some weeks and also had the same disappointment in Milwaukee. Returning to Chicago he secured a small amount of work, which was so well done that he was thereafter given only fine work to do. The next spring he removed with his family to Johnson county, Iowa, locating on a farm where he lived for twenty years and where our subject received a common school education until fifteen years of age, while assisting his parents in carrying on the farm. In 1884 he came to Nebraska, settling in Keya Paha county, where he took a homestead. He arrived here in April, during a big snow storm, driving from Ainsworth, and his first impressions of his new home were not altogether favorable. Not being able to sell his quarter section in Iowa to advantage until 1886 the family did not come west until that year. However, he set to work at once putting up a frame house, and gradually improved his farm adding a timber claim, on which he also filed, proving up on both. He met with severe loss during the drouth periods, and two crops in

succession were ruined in the years 1894-5. He went through hail storms when everything on his farm was beaten into the ground three different years. After these hard times he began to have good crops, and engaged in stock raising in addition to mixed farming, and eventually developing a fine farm and home, building a substantial two-story house, numerous barns, sheds and outbuildings. He has six hundred acres of land in one piece, one mile southwest of Norden, and one hundred and sixty acres in another piece located three miles northwest. He owns a house in the village where he has made his home for the past five years.

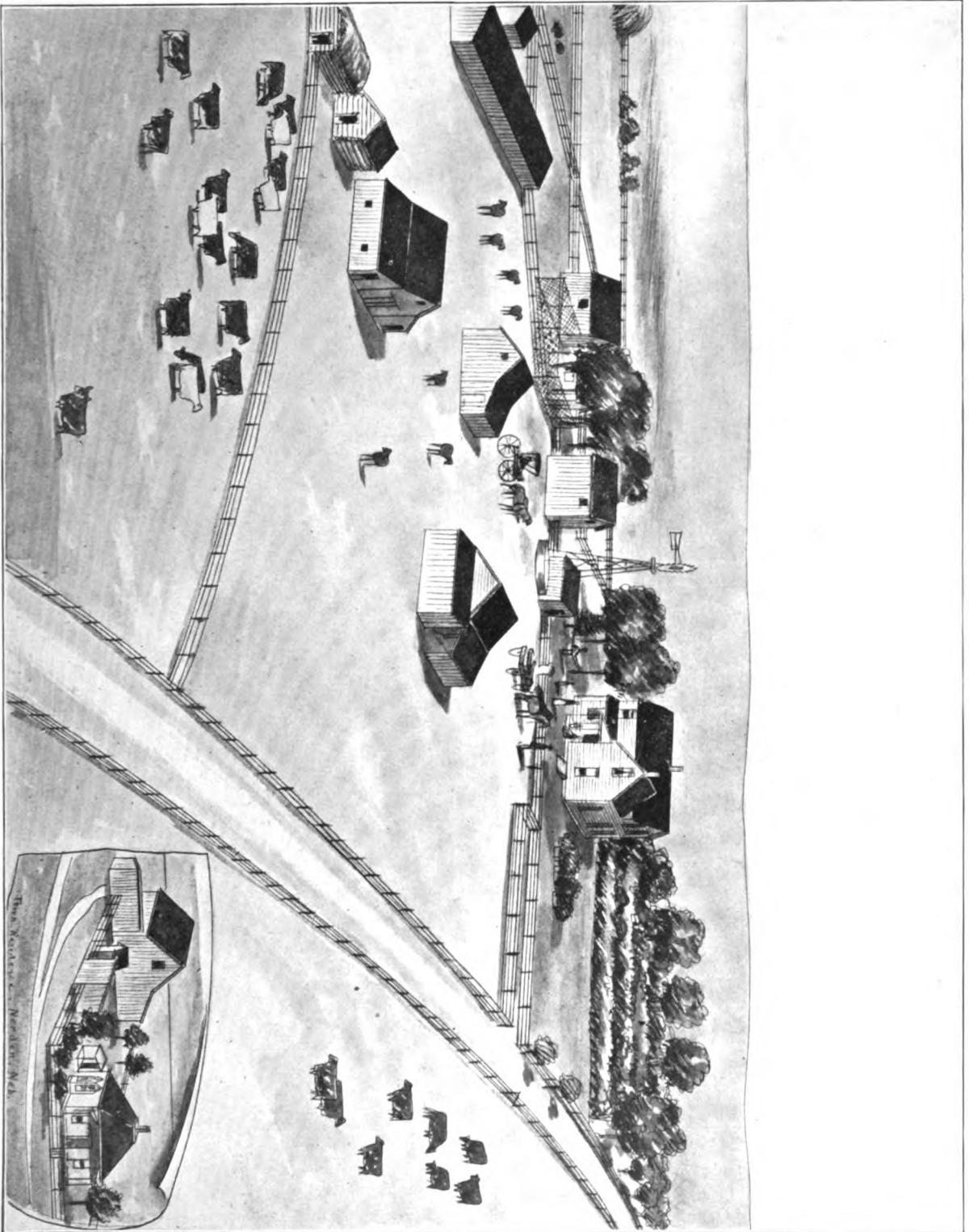
Mr. Fisher was married in Johnson county, Iowa, October 19, 1871, to Miss Catherine Weyvoda, a native of Bohemia, whose father, Frank Weyvoda, was a weaver and mason by trade in that country, and who came to America with his family in 1866. Children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, who are as follows: Mary, married William H. Gunsul, and is living at Lake Andes, South Dakota, the mother of three boys, Harry, Frank and Ralph; the second son, Frank Fisher, is farming on the home place, is married, and has one child, Elinor; Emil, the third son, is a farmer living in Idaho, also married; Will, married, engages in farming on the home place with Frank; Libbie, now Mrs. John G. Betsel, her husband being a merchant of Norden; Francis and Edmund are living with their parents in Norden.

Mr. Fisher has always been one of the public spirited men in his locality. He helped to organize the first schools in the neighborhood, and bought the logs and helped to build the first schoolhouse. He served as school moderator for several years, and was also justice of the peace for about nine years. He is one of the foremost men in all matters which tend to advance the agricultural and educational interests of his community, and lends his influence for the betterment of conditions wherever needed. Politically, he is a member of the Peoples Independent party and affiliates with the Royal Highlanders of Springview.

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#### ALBERT J. GRAGG.

Albert J. Gragg, who is among the old settlers in western Nebraska, owns a good ranch which he has improved in splendid shape during the past ten years, and he occupies a foremost position among the well-to-do and progressive farmers and ranchmen of Hook-



"PLEASANT HILL FARM," PROPERTY OF F. P. FISHER,

Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



er county. Mr. Gragg is well-known and highly esteemed throughout the community for his active public spirit and good fellowship.

Mr. Gragg was born in Oakland county, Michigan, in 1873. His father, James T. Gragg, lived for many years in that locality, and was among the pioneers in western Nebraska, coming to that state in 1881, settling on a farm in Redwillow county, near McCook, where the family lived up to 1894. At that time our subject left home and moved to McPherson county, there taking up a homestead on which he proved up in due time, and improved a good farm. He went through all the experiences of the early settler in that vicinity, suffering from many discouragements in the failure of crops, severe storms, etc., but managed to get along fairly well. He came to his present ranch in section 9, township 21, range 34, in April, 1901, and started a farm and ranch. He took the land as a homestead, and has put good building, fences, wells and wind-mills on it, devoting his entire time to its up-building, and is now proprietor of a ranch consisting of eight hundred acres, well stocked, and is making plenty of money.

In June, 1897, Mr. Gragg was united in marriage to Miss Grace Swiggart, daughter of G. W. and Susie (Doyle) Swiggart, whose sketch appears in this volume on another page. Our subject has one child, Dewey, born December 25, 1898.

Mr. Gragg takes a commendable interest in local affairs, but gives all his time to his home and ranch.

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#### L. C. BARR.

L. C. Barr, of Holdrege, Sheridan township, settled in Phelps county in February, 1878, taking up a homestead in section 28, and from that time on has resided here continuously. He is, therefore, one of the oldest settlers in this part of the state, and has gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and leading old-timer, highly esteemed by all.

Mr. Barr is a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Jeremiah and Abigail Barr, the family being of German descent. In 1864 our subject enlisted in the Twenty-third Illinois Regiment, and served for eight months in the Second Division, Second Brigade, Twenty-fourth Army Corps. He was at Petersburg, Richmond, and at the surrender of Lee at Appamatox courthouse. After being mustered out Mr. Barr settled in LaSalle county, Illinois, where he farmed for

some years. He considers farming there more sure, but prefers Nebraska as it is healthier and we have better water with no waste lands and also good roads. For three years after settling in this state Mr. Barr was unable to raise a crop, owing to the hot winds that burned everything, and with his means exhausted and a wife and seven children to support there were many times when want was keenly felt. Many times he walked for miles over the sparsely settled country, glad to find any kind of work and receive in return enough to carry home to his family the necessaries which they so badly needed. In the winter of 1881, when the snow reached to the tops of the corn stalks, he was obliged to dig down in the snow and cut the stalks which they used for fuel, and in this way kept his family from freezing to death. Remembering these times with a shudder, he also remembers the times when those brave pioneers met together and were cheerful and even happy in sharing a jack rabbit and other game, when they thought they were fortunate in having such a feast. During those years Mr. Barr owned an ox team with which he broke up his land and farmed his land, but one bitten by a poisonous snake and died, and then he was in pretty hard luck.

However, he had a good trade as a plasterer, and his brave wife agreeing to face the loneliness while he sought employment at his trade, he left his family, sold his ox, yoke and chains and with the proceeds started for Denver to find work. When he reached Loveland, Colorado, where he knew a friend lived, he started out for work. As he walked along the station platform he observed a man whose clothes and boots bespoke him a plasterer, and asked him for a job, and the man replied that in March there was but little work of that kind, but after telling the man of his condition and his suffering family in Nebraska, he was given work to do and was kept busy all summer, sent money to his wife and saved some besides. Being called home by a sick child he bought a team and tools and started farming again with much better success this time. In 1882 he put in sixty acres of wheat, and got a crop of thirty bushels per acre, and a corn yield of eighty bushels to the acre. After that year he did not have another complete failure up to 1902 at which time he sold his farm. When the country was new the land was looser and dried out quicker, and besides, the farmers did not then understand proper methods as they do now. In his opinion, this state, and especially Phelps county, is destined to become one of the best farming localities in the world.

After selling his farm in 1902 Mr. Barr again took up contracting and plastering, and does a fine business. Although he is now sixty-two years of age he does a day's work equal to any younger man and without fatigue. He has never tasted liquor, and is possessed of a clear and intelligent mind, well-read and progressive along every line of thought.

Mrs. Barr was Miss Harriet Amanda Ferry, and she is also in the enjoyment of good health. This estimable couple occupy a pleasant and happy home in Holdrege. The place consists of five acres of beautiful lawn, garden and shrubbery, and they are passing the declining years of their life in peace and comfort, justly proud of their family of bright children, whom we will now proceed to present to the reader, together with the part they take in life's history. Nettie, now the wife of Rev. H. B. Allen, of Aledo, Illinois, pastor of the Presbyterian church at that place. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Allen taught in the Holdrege public schools for a long time, and was also principal of the schools at Bertrand, Phelps county. For three years she taught at Colorado Springs, and has a fine record as a teacher. The second daughter, Helen, is the wife of E. P. Montgomery, of Fort Collins. He was at one time superintendent of schools in this county, and Mrs. Montgomery also taught a number of terms in Phelps county. Lois was for several years a teacher in the Holdrege schools, and for three years at Colorado Springs, one year at Springfield, Massachusetts, and is now attending Columbia College at New York City, fitting herself for a high career in educational work. Jennie, wife of Dr. B. L. Doane, of Lincoln, Nebraska, followed the profession of a teacher for a number of years prior to her marriage, at McCook, Fairbury, and also near Lincoln. Her husband is a surgeon for the camp at Calcite, Colorado. Mrs. Doane died in 1905, leaving an infant child, her death being due to the high altitude there. Edna, the fifth daughter, was a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music, afterwards taught music here, and is now the wife of Frank Love, of Lincoln, who is chief clerk of the chief engineers' department. One son of our subject, Edward, died during his last year at the State University, and two sons, Norman B. and Clinton M., were both teachers in this county. The family of seven children are all wonderfully bright and ambitious, all occupying a prominent part in the educational work of western Nebraska. During their early life they went through many hardships and struggles, and nothing but indomitable pluck and energy could have

surmounted the difficulties which beset them. When the times were the hardest and most of them were mere children, the family held a council as to whether they, as a family, should give their lives to reclaiming and farming and endeavor to own acres and acres of prairie land, or to attaining an education, and suiting the desires and wishes of the stanch father and brave mother, they decided in favor of the education, planning that the eldest should have the advantage, and each help the other down to the youngest. This they followed out to the letter, and the success which each attained, and the splendid work they have accomplished is evidence of their intelligence and integrity. Their parents now consider that the reverses and hardships which they encountered were the school that moulded their children's characters, although they would not care to go through the same experience twice in a lifetime.

During the pioneer days in this section Mr. Barr served as coroner, and was deputy sheriff of his county for twelve years in succession, retiring in January, 1906. For many years he was a member of the school board. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian church at Holdrege ever since it was organized.

One son, Clinton M. Barr, is principal of the schools at Wahoo, Nebraska. He was educated in the public schools of this county, and graduated from the state university. Rev. Norman, another son, is pastor of the Olivet Presbyterian church at Chicago. He is a graduate of the State University of Nebraska, also of the Presbyterian Theological College at Chicago. He has held the pastorate of Olivet church for seven years, and this was his first church. He is greatly beloved by his people, and is a leader in the Presbyterian sect.

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#### GEORGE A. ECKLES.

Among the enterprising and successful professional and business men of Dawes county, Nebraska, none is better known or more universally esteemed than the subject of this review. Mr. Eckles is one of the founders of the Chadron Academy, and was active in raising the first \$12,000 with which to build the institution, and after it was destroyed by fire in 1891, he was among those who assisted in raising \$8,000 which was necessary to rebuild the school. He acted as secretary of the academy since it was first started.

Mr. Eckles was born in New Castle, Pennsylvania, September 1, 1853. His father, Jo-

seph Eckles, was a farmer by occupation, and an officer in the army during the civil war, and was killed in Kentucky, serving as an officer of his regiment at the time of his death. He was of American birth, originally of English stock. Our subject's mother was Miss Margaret Patten, born in this country of Scotch parents. They had a family of ten children, he being the seventh child of his parents. When he was about five years of age the family moved to Indiana and lived there until he was seventeen. He then came to Nebraska and took up a homestead, locating in Merrick county and proving up on his land. In 1877 he moved to Holt county and there settled on a ranch. He had previously studied law to some extent, and he associated himself with Judge Gerney, a prominent lawyer at Neligh, remaining with him for some time. During the spring of 1886 he came to Chadron and opened a law office, practicing up to January, 1899, then received the appointment of postmaster at that place and served his term. He was reappointed for a second term, and made a most efficient and popular public official. While practicing law here he was elected and served as county attorney for two and a half terms. He always took an active part in politics, a strong Republican, and served on the state Republican committee for many years, attending all the conventions in the state for the past twenty-five years. At one time he was a prominent candidate for state auditor, but failed to secure the nomination because the candidate for governor was chosen from his district.

Besides these offices of public trust, Mr. Eckles had other large interests, having been extensively engaged in the sheep business, and owned a fine ranch in this county. A man of wide experience and good business judgment, his integrity and sterling character placed him among the most prominent and influential citizens of this section of the country. In July, 1907, Mr. Eckles moved to Omaha.

Mr. Eckles was married when only seventeen years of age, to Miss Eunice Paulins, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and they have a family of two children, Mrs. Cora G. Kelsey, of Neligh, Nebraska, and J. Paul Eckles, of Omaha, Nebraska.

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#### FRED WITTIG.

Should the reader of this volume ask for the name of a representative old settler of Cheyenne county, Nebraska—a man who came in mature years to brave the storms of the

wilderness, and beyond the dreams of youth to hammer a home and fortune out of adversity—let him have the name that introduces this review.

Fred Wittig was born in the village of Torna, Kingdom of Saxony, Germany, August 7, 1853, and was raised there until he attained his majority, following the occupation of a farmer and laborer up to his twenty-eighth birthday. The parents, Fred and Henrietta Wittig, lived and died in the old country, the mother passing away when our subject was six weeks old. Fred Wittig came to the United States in 1881, sailing from Hamburg, on the "Gellert," February 21st, and landed in New York March 8th. He joined three friends in Ohio where he worked, near Toledo, on a farm, remaining there for about a year. He next went to Coldwater, Michigan, where he spent three years working in a hotel. In 1885, in company with a man by the name of Allen, our subject came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in section 28, township 13, range 49, and remained through the pioneer days of that region, going through the usual hardships and privations of the early settler of those days. He had a hard time to get along in starting his farm, suffering from the drouth periods, hail and grasshopper raids which damaged this part of the country at different times, and had a hard struggle to make a living in the face of so many discouragements. Many years he was unable to raise much more than enough for seed, and was compelled to work out by the day and week at anything he could secure in the way of work to keep himself and family, and while he often became almost ready to give up the struggle, kept up a brave spirit and continued to improve his place as fast as he was able. He came out victorious through the hard times, and has succeeded in accumulating a nice property. He is proprietor of the south half of section 28 and the northeast quarter of section 33, township 13, range 49, Sidney precinct, all of which is deeded land. He devotes about one hundred acres to farming purposes, keeping the balance for pasture for his stock. He has fifty head of cattle, and usually owns about ten good horses.

Mr. Wittig has a good set of substantial farm buildings on the ranch, including a comfortable and commodious modern residence, and also every convenience for operating his farm in the way of the latest improved farm machinery.

On December 6, 1886, our subject was united in marriage at Sidney, Nebraska, to Miss Amelia Eichler, of German descent, whose parents were early settlers in Michigan,

where her mother still lives; the father died there about 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Wittig have a family of five children, named as follows: Amelia, Fred, Jr., Emma, Frank, and Otto. The family are well liked in their community and enjoy a pleasant and congenial homelife.

Mr. Wittig has for the past many years been active in local affairs pertaining to the schools in his locality. In politics he is independent and votes a mixed ticket according to his judgment of the men. The family are adherents of the Lutheran church.

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#### WILLIAM T. PHILLIPS.

William T. Phillips, one of the prominent business men of Bassett, Nebraska, is a man of exceptional ability and superior intelligence. He has made for himself an enviable reputation by his honest and energetic labors, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen.

Mr. Phillips was born near Maquoketa, Jackson county, Iowa, January 6, 1843. His father, William Phillips, was a native of Ohio, and a farmer by occupation; and his father fought in the war of 1812, and his grandfather in the revolutionary war. Our subject's mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Lydia Whittaker, also a native of Ohio. His parents had a family of nine children, of whom he was the youngest. He was raised and educated in Iowa, growing up in Maquoketa, Jackson county, where he attended school. When he was seventeen years old he started out for himself, after his father's death, engaging in farming, in Iowa, until 1883.

Mr. Phillips first came to Rock county, Nebraska, 1883, and settled on a pre-emption in the northwest corner of this county, putting up a log house two stories high, and lived in it for six years. He made a success of farming, and in 1889 moved to Bassett where he has since resided. In the latter year he was elected county clerk, and held this office for five years. He was one of the organizers of Rock county, in 1889, and, being the first county clerk, transcribed from the books of Brown county everything necessary for the records of Rock county. From 1895 up to 1901 he was engaged in the newspaper business, being editor and publisher of the Rock County Eagle, which he established the former year and disposed of in May of the latter date.

On disposing of his journal he went into the real estate business in which he has prospered, owning a great deal of town property, with business extending all over Brown, Keya

Paha and Rock counties. He has done his share as an old settler and is recognized as one of the leading citizens and public-spirited men of his community, always ready to advance the interests of this locality by his influence and financial aid.

Mr. Phillips was married in Storm Lake, Iowa, April 26, 1883, to Miss Maggie McCoy, of American stock, daughter of Clement J. McCoy, a native of Illinois, and an old settler in Iowa and Nebraska, whose death occurred November 29, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have a family of four children, who are named as follows: Lottie, Cora, Nora and Charlie. Mr. Phillips affiliates with Ancient Order of United Workmen of Bassett.

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#### W. F. EVERIST.

W. F. Everist, one of the influential citizens of Redwillow county, residing in McCook, has followed the ranching and stock business for many years, and is one of the substantial and prosperous residents of the locality in which he lives.

Mr. Everist is a native of DeKalb county, Missouri, and came to Nebraska in 1879, at the age of six years. He was raised on a farm, and has grown up in the stock business, and is one of the best informed men in this section of the country on the subject of ranching and stock raising and breeding. He has a brother, Egbert H. Everist, who is the owner and manager of a large ranch in this county, situated near the Kansas line.

Mr. Everist started in the live stock business for himself in 1883, buying and shipping stock, and also raising cattle, horses and hogs, and has continued this ever since, making a success from the first. During the year 1897 he handled 10,000 cattle, purchasing them and selling them over again to farmers in this and surrounding counties. Nearly all his feeders are imported from the west and southwest, and he has traveled all over the western states in his work, and is thoroughly familiar with conditions existing all over the country pertaining to the stock business. His ranch is located on Driftwood creek, seven miles from the city of McCook. In three years he shipped five hundred cars of stock per year to Davis & Son, of St. Joseph, Missouri. In January of this year Mr. Everist organized the McCook Live Stock Company, and is manager of this concern. This firm has purchased the Allen ranch comprising three thousand acres of land in Redwillow county, and on this ranch







MR. AND MRS. CHARLES A. ERLEWINE.  
(Photo taken the year they homesteaded in Perkins County—1886.)

they have put two hundred and fifty white face cattle. They also have one hundred and twenty-five head grazing on the Sheridan ranch, this place containing two thousand acres. This concern will buy, raise, feed, ship and handle cattle, hogs and horses on a very large scale, and expect to make a great success in their venture. They have five hundred hogs at present which they are getting ready for market, and our subject alone has one hundred head of horses. The headquarters of the firm will be at the Allen ranch, and the post-office address is McCook.

Mr. Everist firmly believes that Redwillow county is the best place on earth for farming and stock raising. It is great in growing alfalfa and beets, and all stock product can be fitted for market here cheaper per pound than in any other section of the United States. The climate is immensely in its favor, being warm and dry all through the winter, and stock make a good gain when not exposed to severe weather. Mr. Everist always makes a specialty of buying nothing but the best grades, and he also deals in mules to quite an extent. He has investments in McCook that are valuable and expects to make his home there.

Mr. Everist was married January 1, 1887, to Miss Minnie Albright, of Cambridge, Nebraska, and they have a family of four daughters.

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#### FRED BORK.

Left fatherless when only two years old, Fred Bork has had most of his own way to make among surroundings that require grit, hard work and persistent effort. In his native country he had some advantages for an education and attended the German schools. Fred Bork has made a success and it has been done through the qualities named above.

Our subject was born on a farm in West Prussia, Germany, in 1855. His father, Gottlieb, died when Fred was two years of age, and the mother, Caroline, died after the son came to America.

Fred Bork came to America in 1880, landing in New York, from thence going to Illinois and later to St. Louis. After a short time he went to Wisconsin, thence to Minnesota, and from that state to Iowa, engaging in various occupations. Then in 1883, he came to Nebraska, settling on a farm near Burwell, and, in 1885, he came to Loup county and located on his present farm in section 4, township 21, range 17. He had practically nothing to start

with, other than an abundant capacity for hard work and a strong determination to make his prairie farm a good home and a means of livelihood. He made the first road from his neighborhood to the city of Burwell. He built a sod house and commenced the improvements on his land. He has done well and been successful in every way. His fine farm of three hundred and seventeen acres has been equipped with a good house and other buildings, and he cultivates about one hundred acres of land. He raises cattle and hogs, his sales of cattle in 1908 bringing \$600.00, and he still has forty-one head left, besides forty-six head of hogs, and is increasing his herds all the time. He is a very energetic hustler.

Mr. Bork has built up a good business and is looked upon by every one as a man of energy and enterprise. He has done his part as an old settler and has merited the respect of his fellow citizens.

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#### CHARLES A. ERLEWINE.

Charles A. Erlewine, whose handsome and well-kept farm home is in section 22, township 12, range 38, Perkins county, where he owns six hundred and forty acres of good land, is one of the old-timers of that region, and has passed through all the old Nebraska times. He was born in Monroe county, Ohio, October 27, 1857. He is a son of Isaac Erlewine, who comes of German stock, and was one of the earliest settlers of Fremont, Nebraska, locating there in 1872. He married Eliza McCoy, of Scotch stock, the family coming to Nebraska together, and Charles A. grew up on a farm near Fremont, going through all the pioneer experiences, witnessing drouths, grasshopper raids, etc. One instance of these times is well remembered by our subject, when he saw an entire field of corn completely eaten up by grasshoppers, the destruction consuming just two hours, and then the pests left the place.

Mr. Erlewine lived with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, then struck out for himself, following farm work. He took a homestead on section 22, township 12, range 38, built a sod house fourteen by twenty feet in size, lived in that for many years, and it still stands on the same spot. His start was a team of horses, wagon and two cows, and with these he began to develop a farm and build up a fortune. His nearest trading point was Ogallala, a distance of some fourteen miles, and he hauled all his supplies from that

town for several years. During the years 1892 to 1896, he witnessed drouths and had a hard time to raise any crops, often being out even the seed he put into the ground, but never thought of giving up his place, and as the seasons become more favorable he was able to improve his farm, constantly adding to his original homestead, and is now owner of a fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, cultivating about eighty acres and on which he raises good crops of grain, etc. He runs considerable stock, and besides his own ranch leases land in the vicinity which he uses as hayland and pasture for his stock.

Mr. Erlewine was married in 1883, to Miss Ida Moore, daughter of Daniel Moore, a well known pioneer in Nebraska. They have a family of four children, namely: Eunice, Hazel, Rexford and Dale, all bright and intelligent young people and a credit to their parents' training. Our subject is an Independent in his political views, and has always taken an active part in local affairs, helping to establish the schools of his locality, and lending his influence at all times for good government. In about 1896 he was elected county commissioner, holding the office one term, and has held minor offices in his community.

On another page of this work we present portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Erlewine, as they appeared in 1886, when they homesteaded in Perkins county.

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### JOHN D. RICHARDS.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the very oldest settlers of the west, and has experienced very phase of life on the frontier, and to his efforts not a little of the success and prosperity today enjoyed in different regions is due. He traveled all over the country, most of the time with pack horses, when the whole section was infested with Indians and wild beasts, and can relate many thrilling incidents connected with those days. Mr. Richards is now owner of a good ranch, situated in section 18, township 29, range 38, which he has improved in good shape, and is one of the foremost citizens of his community, and numbered among the truly substantial residents of Cherry county.

John D. Richards was born near Canton, Ohio, in 1848. His father, Adam, was of American stock, and a farmer all his life. His mother's maiden name was Lydia Hayden. He spent his childhood days in his native county, and about 1858 the family moved to Williams

county, Ohio, where the old folks made their home for many years. In 1864 John enlisted in the Civil war, becoming a member of the One Hundred Eighty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and his regiment was sent south. He saw active service in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, serving in the Fourth Army Corps under General Thomas, also participated at the following battles: The battle of Nashville, the battle of Franklin, Williamson county, Tennessee, and the battle of Columbia. He saw every side of a soldier's life, and the horrors of war, and was honorably discharged in April, 1865.

After leaving the army Mr. Richards returned home, and afterwards went to Michigan, where he spent three years in the lumber woods of that state. He next struck out for the west, first going to California, where he worked on different ranches as a cowboy, riding the plains for two years. He finally drifted into eastern Oregon, and engaged in the cattle and horse raising business, establishing a ranch of his own, and succeeded in making a success of the venture, remaining there for nine years and in that time building up two ranches, each time selling out when he had everything in first-class shape. In 1880 he went to the Big Horn Basin, Wyoming, and settled on a ranch which he operated for two years, and from there came to Hat Creek Valley, Sioux county, Nebraska, locating close to Pine Ridge, at the head of Whitehead Creek. He started another ranch there, and lived on the place for four years, that being the fourth ranch he had opened up and improved.

Mr. Richards first came to Cherry county and located permanently in 1889, taking his present ranch as a homestead, which is situated in section 18, township 29, range 38, on which he erected sod buildings and gradually added good improvements. The ranch contains four hundred and eighty acres, the greater part of it being good hayland, and he uses the place principally as a cattle ranch. He has done exceedingly well since locating here, although has suffered some stock losses, the worst year being in 1892, when he lost thirty-five head of cattle through severe storms.

While living in Wyoming, Mr. Richards had many bitter experiences with the Piegan Indians. At one time they ran off six head of cattle from his ranch, and altogether they stole one hundred and fifty head of stock from the locality. A party of ranchmen banded together, our subject being one of the number, and they followed the thieves for many miles, but one by one the searchers became weary and discouraged, dropping out of the party, so

that finally the hunt was abandoned and all returned to their homes, and gave up trying to recover their property, especially when they found that the cattle had all been eaten by the redskins during the cold weather.

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#### HEVNER & SONS.

Messrs. Hevner & Sons, of Franklin, deal in stock and are the most extensive dealers in this business in that locality. The firm is composed of H. W. Hevner, banker and stockman, of Hardin, Missouri, and his two sons, C. W. and John Hevner, of Franklin, the former occupying one of the finest residences in Franklin, and both highly esteemed by all.

They located at Franklin in 1904, purchasing a forty-acre feed lot one mile east of the town, where they feed about 800 head of cattle each year, shipping them to St. Joseph, Kansas City and the Chicago markets. At Hardin they also feed about 600 each season, buying these feeders all over western Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. The business at Hardin has been successfully conducted for the past twenty-one years, and they are widely known as the leading shippers in their section. Hevner & Sons feed also about as many hogs as cattle at each place, so that they prepare for market from 2,500 to 3,000 animals each season. In the four years they have resided in Nebraska they have established a reputation as **skillful feeders and expert judges of live stock**, being among the best posted men in the business on the art of feeding and preparing for market, which is a profession needing careful study and attention down to the smallest detail. They weigh everything used, even the salt fed, and have a record of the increase in weight, the time taken, and cost, **also the proper amount of feed, rotation, mixing and diet given their stock**, and have reduced to a science each detail of the work. They now have on foot plans to increase their Franklin business to three or four times its present volume in the near future, so that they will here feed from 2,500 to 3,000 cattle and as many hogs each season. They have already demonstrated that it pays better to ship cattle here from Missouri and to pay the freight here and then to market, rather than feed in that state, as they consider this the best feeding country to be found, there being less storms, better climate and plenty of alfalfa and corn. They buy feed and ship it in here by train, hauling it to their yards themselves. They have recently bought four hundred acres located two miles

east of Franklin on the river bottom, in addition to their forty-acre yards.

One brother, Clarence, came to Franklin in 1908; he owns a farm of two hundred and fifty acres close to Franklin, and to an extent engages in the feeding business, and in partnership with the old firm, Hevner & Sons. He is married and has a family.

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#### JOHN M. COBLE.

Among the prominent business men and old settlers of Keya Paha county is John M. Coble.

Mr. Coble was born in Elkhart county, Indiana, December 14, 1856. His father, Abraham Coble, was an Ohioan of American stock, while his mother, Mary Miltenberger, a lady of German descent, was born in Pennsylvania. He is the second in a family of four children, all reared and educated in Indiana. At the age of eighteen years he began life for himself, making several trips west, and in 1879 settled on a farm near Waterloo, in Douglas county, Nebraska, where he remained until 1884, when he moved to Keya Paha county, securing a homestead on section 22, township 33, range 21, where he erected a frame shanty. Here he hauled lumber twenty-five miles, camping out nights under his wagon, a large part of the first summer. As soon as he settled here he began to break up part of his farm, and his first year's crop was a sod crop of corn. He afterwards filed on a tree claim three-quarters of a mile west of Springview where he witnessed the devastating drouth periods, thereby sustaining heavy losses.

In 1884 he was elected sheriff, serving for four years. This supplied him with ready money, and helped him pull through the dry years, and during this time he sold his homestead, later buying a tract of land three miles northwest of Springview, which he still owns. This land comprises a ranch of one thousand and eighty acres, including three hundred and twenty acres of leased land, two hundred of which are under cultivation devoted principally to corn and oats; the remainder is given over to stock raising. He has a sixty-acre tract adjoining Springview with several houses thereon and where he has resided since he was first elected sheriff.

In 1893 he was appointed deputy U. S. marshal, under President Cleveland, and served three years. In '97 was again elected sheriff, making a total in the sheriff's office of ten years. Mr. Coble has always taken an

active part in the politics of Keya Paha county and although a Democrat has frequently carried a Republican county.

In 1884 Mr. Coble was married to Miss Eliza Peany, daughter of Robert Peany, a native of Ohio, of American stock, and a pioneer farmer in Douglas county, where he has a ranch near Omaha. Mrs. Coble died in March, 1889, leaving one child, Rena, now the wife of Emanuel Boshart, principal of the schools of Bellview, Nebraska. In 1890 Mr. Coble was married to Mary Hassed, a widow with two children, William, editor of the "Burton Independent"; and Walter, a practicing physician of Springview.

Mr. Coble enjoys the close friendship of a host of people, and is universally respected. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Highlanders. He affiliates with the Democratic party.

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#### EDWARD J. BARRY.

Edward J. Barry, a successful business man and ranchman of Alliance, Nebraska, has been a resident of Box Butte county for many years past. He is one of the leading old timers of that locality and has always been foremost in the development of the commercial interests of his community.

Mr. Barry was born in New York state in 1864. His father, Lawrence Barry, was a native of Ireland, who came to this country when a young man, settling on a farm in Dixon county, Nebraska. He married Bridget Ryan, who also was born in Ireland, and came from the same county. When our subject was a small boy his parents moved to Iowa and there lived in different places for several years, then, in 1877, came to Nebraska, and settled in Dixon county, where he grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-three years he left home and started out for himself, coming to Box Butte county, where he took up a pre-emption and tree claim and opened a ranch which he operated for a year. Alliance was just starting at that time, and he put up the third building at that town, erecting a hotel which was called "The Barry House." He owned and ran the hotel for three years, and also spent one year in railroading. The hotel is now carried on by his sister.

Mr. Barry owns a fine ranch located four miles from Alliance, and he is interested to quite an extent in stock raising on that place. In 1899 he engaged in the saloon business at Alliance, and was proprietor of one of the

leading places there. The town "went dry" at the last election and saloons became a thing of the past. Besides these interests Mr. Barry owns considerable stock in the Black Hills mines.

Mr. Barry was married in 1902 to Miss Lizzie Creason, daughter of Carl Creason, a prosperous farmer of Yolo county, California.

In political sentiment Mr. Barry is identified with the Democratic party, and is a staunch advocate of the principles of that organization. He takes an active part in all local affairs tending toward the improvement of conditions in his locality, and is universally respected and esteemed.

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#### RICHARD KRUEGER.

Among the prosperous and enterprising farmers of Colton precinct, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, none is better known or more highly respected than the subject of this review. Mr. Krueger has devoted many years of his life to the pursuit of agriculture in this region, and has been a potent factor in producing the present prosperity enjoyed in his locality. His home is on section 29, situated at Colton Siding, which he purchased from the Union Pacific company.

Mr. Krueger was born in Prussia, Germany, a few miles from Berlin, April 19, 1855. He came to America in 1856 with his parents, the family settling in Burlington, Wisconsin, where he spent his boyhood years. In 1879, after a short residence in Grand Island, Nebraska, he came to Cheyenne county and filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres located in section 32, township 14, range 48, on which he proved up and to which he has since added many acres. Mr. Krueger's land is situated along the banks of Lodgepole Creek, and is admirably located for all farming and ranching purposes. He has put the whole tract in the finest shape possible, having on the place an artificial lake of ten acres known as Krueger lake, which he has stocked with fine fish. He has a good system of water works, irrigating about half of his farm, and has a good set of substantial stone farm buildings, including a handsome ten-room house, enlarged and remodeled in 1908, and a large stone barn. He is engaged in the ice business, cutting immense quantities during the winter months, and furnishes Sidney with its supply of ice in the summer, having built up an excellent trade along this line. About one hundred of his one thousand three hundred and twenty acres are under cultivation, a

large portion being devoted to the raising of alfalfa, and many acres are in hayland and pasture, supporting about one hundred and twenty-five head of stock.

Our subject was married January 1, 1887, to Miss Alice Carey, who is a native of Portage, N. Y., and came to Nebraska in 1885 with her father, the mother having died in the East. Mr. Carey at present resides north of Sidney, in Cheyenne county. Mr. Krueger and his good wife are the parents of seven children, named as follows: William F., Elmer T.; Frank, who died in January, 1904; Jessie; Richard E.; Grace E., and Chester G. The family comprises a charming and interesting group, and the home of our subject is one of the most hospitable to be found in the community. Mr. Krueger is one of the foremost citizens of his locality, and enjoys the confidence of all who know him. He is Republican in politics and is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Maccabees at Sidney.

#### GEORGE W. VROMAN.

George W. Vroman, of North Platte, Nebraska, is well-known among railway men throughout the western part of Nebraska. He was passenger engineer for the Union Pacific railway on the Chicago & Denver special.

Mr. Vroman is a native of Dane county, Wisconsin, born in 1841. His parents settled there in 1836, coming from near Syracuse, N. Y., of German descent. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1869, in the year the Union Pacific railway was completed, the last rail being laid on May 10th of that year at Promontory, Utah. He had been with the Wabash railroad for six years prior to this, beginning with them in 1862. He worked as a passenger engineer up to 1881, then was foreman up to 1884, having charge of the machine shops. After that time he resumed his place on the road as engineer. In April, 1877, he organized the first general committee of the engineers on the Union Pacific and was elected as chairman continuously until 1905, with the exception of one term of two years. At first the jurisdiction of this committee extended from Omaha to Ogden on the main line, and over all the branches; i. e., the Oregon Navigation Company and the Colorado Central, but after 1891 these branches were put under another jurisdiction of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. At the beginning of this organization there were only eight on the committee, and now there are over 500 engineers in this territory. Mr.

Vroman has attended as delegate, thirteen national conventions of the brotherhood. He was salaried chairman from 1891 to 1894, with twenty-four lodges of engineers under him. When the Union Pacific was in the hands of a receiver in 1894, they issued an order reducing the wages of the scheduled men on the road, our subject representing the engineers of this 8,000 miles of road, and really, as well representing the case of the firemen, conductors, shopmen, brakemen and other employees. He took the matter before Judge Caldwell, at Omaha, in the U. S. Circuit Court, and the evidence introduced by him covered forty-one pages of the record. The decision was that the old schedule was fair and proper, and the receivers' lower schedule should not take effect. This is the highest court that any labor question has so far reached, and this was one of labor's greatest victories. The case was entered in February and decided in April, 1894. The first case in America in which questions between railway employees and the company was arbitrated, was on the Union Pacific railway in 1879, at North Platte, with Mr. Vroman as chairman of the committee of the Brotherhood, he taking the case before the arbitrator, Captain Rustin, on one day, and the next day the decision was given, favorable to the employees. From this time the employees never make a demand, but put their grievances or wishes in the form of statements and requests. These are fairly considered by the officials and the matters agreeably adjusted. On the day the first award was given, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Vroman, and she was named "Arba T."

The most thrilling experience Mr. Vroman ever had in his railway work was when his train was held up at Big Springs, Nebraska, one night in September, 1877, at 10:30 P. M. The train stopped at this way station, but the robbers had compelled the agent to put out a red light to make sure. There were eight of them in the gang, two appearing at the side of our subject's engine and one at the fireman's side. One was on the coal tender. As Mr. Vroman saw the gun from above pointed at him he ducked and the bullet struck the boiler head, put out the lights and filled his cab with smoke. In the confusion he went by the window over the boiler to the other side, when the bandits called for a surrender and he would not be injured. They secured \$63,000 and got away, but five of them were mortally wounded in resisting arrest, and the other three never were apprehended.

Mr. Vroman was married at Indianapolis, Indiana, to Miss Mary Jordan, the marriage



taking place November 1, 1874. Six children were born of this union, who are named as follows: Blanche E., Clarence, employed in the Union Pacific shops at Omaha; Walter J., Clay W., in the U. S. mail service on the same railway; Arba T., and Ralph W.

In 1882 Mr. Vroman served one term in the town council. He is an independent voter. The family are members of the Unitarian church at North Platte.

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### JOHN W. DYER.

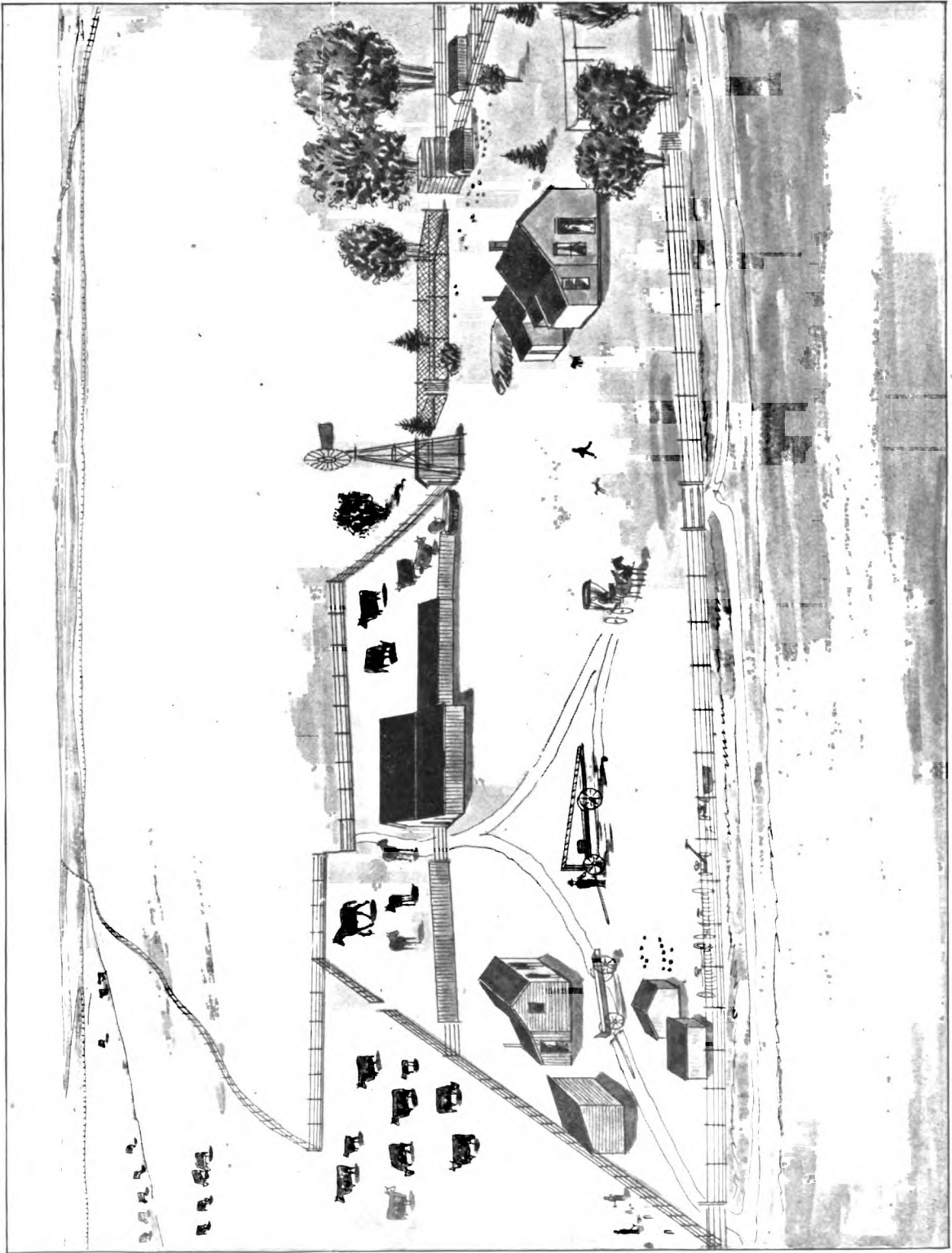
John W. Dyer, retired, is one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Franklin county, Nebraska. He resides in the city of Franklin, where he has built up a pleasant home, surrounded by a host of warm friends, and is regarded as one of the representative old settlers of this locality. He has crossed the continent from Atlantic to Pacific four or five different times, each time taking a different route.

Mr. Dyer was born in Milo, Maine, and is a son of John Dyer, of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and Betsy Goodrich Dyer, who was born in Industry, Franklin county, Maine. Our subject's uncle, General Nathan Goodrich, was one of the heroes of the Mexican war, and Commander Nathan Goodrich, a second cousin, was with Dewey at Manilla, on the gunboat Raleigh as assistant engineer for three years. In 1861 our subject enlisted in the Second Maine Infantry, Company I, and served with his regiment up to August 5, 1862, and re-enlisted in the Second Maine Cavalry, Company G, and with this regiment saw service through the Red River expedition, also in Florida, Alabama and Georgia under General Steele and later General A. J. Smith, Sixteenth Army Corps. The regiment was mustered out at Barrancas, Florida, December 16, 1865, a few months after the close of the war. While with the Second Maine Infantry he was in the battle which took place at Yorktown, at Hanover Court House, Fair Oaks or Seven Pines, and also in a number of exciting skirmishes under General Martin Dale, commander of the brigade, and General Porter was the division commander. At this time General McClellan was in command of the army.

In 1872 Mr. Dyer came west to Smith county, Kansas, locating twelve miles south of Franklin, and October 1st of that year homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres and lived on it, farming until 1901. When he landed here, after filing on his homestead, he had just

forty-two dollars left with which to face the winter and supply himself, wife and two children with provisions, clothes, etc., so he and a companion went to Fort Dodge, Kansas, where thousands of buffalo roamed through the plains, and in four days had killed and taken the hides from eighty buffalo, all they could carry on their wagon. After selling them at the nearest station he started for home with sixty-five dollars in his pocket and enough buffalo meat to last him all winter, and dried meat which lasted throughout the following summer. At that time there were hundreds of hunters through that section of the country, and had it not been for the buffalo many of the pioneers could not have survived those times. During the first years our subject's family lived in a dugout, then built a log house in which they lived for some time, and after being there for eleven years they were able to build a good residence. He broke up his land gradually, and by dint of hard work and strictest economy on the part of himself and wife began to get ahead, purchasing more land as he was able until he owned three quarter sections. His home farm of three hundred and twenty acres was brought up to a high state of cultivation, and he had added improvements until it was one of the most valuable estates in the locality. He engaged largely in raising and feeding stock, which he shipped to market, each year disposing of a car of hogs and from fifty to one hundred steers, this netting him a very snug income. Mr. Dyer farmed in Jasper count, Iowa, for five years, coming there from Bureau county, Illinois, where he had farmed for about a year, and in his opinion the Republican valley is a much better place for farming and stock raising than either Iowa or Illinois, as the climate is healthier and there is no mud to contend with. Here the land is easier to work, so that one man can till as much ground as two men can do in those states, while the average crops and prices obtained for them are equally as good. In addition to his eastern experience, Mr. Dyer visited California and Oregon twice in 1904, making a careful study of conditions there. He took his wife and children with him on the last trip, and all agreed that there was no country ahead of Nebraska, so they returned to Franklin and intend to make this their permanent home. In 1905, after his return from the west, he purchased twenty-four acres of land located in the northwestern part of Franklin, and on this built a nice residence. He has the place in a very fine condition. In the fall of the same year he purchased eighty acres of second bottom land lying about a mile west of





RESIDENCE OF WINFIELD P. TOWNSEND,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

Franklin. Before he went to California Mr. Dyer bought thirteen acres located on the high grounds overlooking Franklin and the river and valley, on which he erected a handsome two-story house, planting trees and making it into a beautiful spot, then sold it. He also owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres situated two miles northwest of Franklin, which he disposed of to good advantage. Mr. Dyer has the greatest faith in the possibilities of this country, and with good management and industry he has from a very small beginning worked up to a position of ease and prosperity.

Mr. Dyer was married in 1867 to Miss Anna Peterson, of Galesburg, Illinois, her parents being natives of Sweden. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, named as follows: George W. Dyer, a prosperous farmer of Smith county, Kansas, operating a farm of four hundred and eighty acres; Addie May, wife of Seth E. Roath, of Smith Center, Kansas; John Clayton Dyer, owner of a fine one hundred and sixty-acre farm in Marion township, this county; Grace, wife of William Gretchell, a farmer of Smith county, Kansas; Nathan G. Dyer, living on his farm three and one-half miles northwest of Franklin; Anna P. Dyer, a graduate of the Franklin Academy, of marked musical ability, holding three diplomas and now teaching music in Franklin and neighboring towns; Daniel E. Dyer, recently married, a farmer living eight miles from Franklin, and the youngest, Oliver R. Dyer, helping his father at home.

Mr. Dyer is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic post here, and a man of active public spirit. He is a Republican.

#### WINFIELD P. TOWNSEND.

Winfield P. Townsend, Ainsworth, Nebraska, takes an honorable place among the early settlers of Brown county, and has enjoyed those rich rewards which agriculture is ever ready to render to those who engage in its pursuit with foresight and industry. He has had much to do with the early settlement and general improvement of this part of the state, and illustrates in his own experience the value of character, perseverance and industry as habits of life.

Mr. Townsend was born June 22, 1849, on a farm in Muskingum county, Ohio, where his father, Jonathan Townsend, had long been established, not only being engaged in the tillage of the soil, but also following the butcher

and carpenter trades. About 1855 he moved to Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he followed farming for years. He came to Holt county, Nebraska, at an early day, and died here in January, 1890. He came of Welsh and German lineage, and was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, serving as a member of Company D, 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He married Martha Goldrick, daughter of an Irish blacksmith, who married a Welsh girl. Winfield P. was the fourth child in a family of eight born to his parents.

When the subject of this sketch had reached the age of six years his parents removed to Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood, in the meantime attending country school and securing such educational training as the scanty opportunities of the times afforded. He was familiar with hard work from his early youth, and was ready to start out in the world for himself at the age of twenty-two years. His marriage to Miss Viola T. Chase occurred March 5, 1871. She was born in Vermont, and came from a family long associated with the early New England history. Her parents were farming people, and represent in their own history many of the best traditions of that section where their fortunes had long been cast. To this marriage were born ten children, of whom are living: Julia A., wife of Alva H. Brobst; Myrtle V. T., who married Burdette L. Lovett; Clyde A., Lowell J., Alice L., Cornelia, William A. L., and Leon E. M. The two older children were born in Wisconsin, and all the others in Nebraska.

While the young couple lived in Wisconsin Mr. Townsend was engaged in farming, and at times "worked out" to sustain his family. In 1878 he removed to Nebraska, reaching Butler county the fifth of July, and settled in Clay county in the fall of that year, where he lived on rented land for three years, making his home in a sod house, enduring such privations as were common to a new country. In 1880 he came to Brown county, "to look over the country," and was so pleased with its general appearance that he made haste to cast in his lot with its earliest settlers. Renting land for one year, he took a homestead on section 6, township 30, range 22, in the spring of 1882, and this he soon transformed into a neat and profitable farm, modern and up to date in every respect. Mr. Townsend in coming from southern Nebraska, drove across the country; reaching Brown county he installed his family in a "dug-out," which was their only home for two or three years. Now he has an estate consisting of two hundred and forty

acres, on which he has erected a comfortable rural home, ample barns and other farm buildings, a windmill and has provided an ample equipment of machinery for the operation of such a place. A picture of the place will be found on another page.

The place is known as "Victory Farm," from his winning a nine years' contest before the land office, twice carrying the case up to the Secretary of the Interior. Secretary Noble settled the contest in favor of Mr. Townsend, November 16, 1892, giving him a clear title forever to the land now known as "Victory Farm."

Mr. Townsend began bridge building in 1892, and has since been actively engaged in this work on a very extensive scale. He has a complete outfit for bridge building, including a pile driver and all necessary machinery and he has built bridges all over the county. Mr. Townsend is a staunch Democrat politically. He is a consistent member of the Methodist church.

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#### LOUIS F. HOEVET.

Louis F. Hoebet, an old-timer of Dawes county, Nebraska, has succeeded in building up a good home and valuable estate here through his industrious habits and sturdy perseverance. He resides in section 11, township 31, range 51, where he has a comfortable home and is highly esteemed by his fellow-men.

Mr. Hoebet is a native of Lake county, Indiana, born in 1860, on a farm. His father, Charles Hoebet, was a farmer, born in Germany, who came to Nebraska in 1880, first settling in Clay county, later settling in Dawes county in 1894, where he died January 6, 1904. He married Miss Elizabeth Ritter, born in Ohio in 1843, of German stock. A sketch of Charles Hoebet will be found on another page of this volume. Our subject grew up in Illinois, where the family had moved when he was a boy, and he attended the common schools during his spare hours, assisting his parents in the farm work. In the fall of 1879 he came west to Clay county, Nebraska, the rest of the family coming out the following year, and there they were among the first settlers in the region. He farmed in Clay county for several years, then moved to Perkins county, where he took up a pre-emption and proved up on the land. There he lived in a sod shanty and went through all sorts of pioneer experiences, but stuck to it and succeeded in building up a good home and farm and made money.

In 1894 Mr. Hoebet came with his family to Dawes county, having sold his pre-emption in Perkins county, and here settled on section 11, township 31, range 51. He is owner of two hundred acres of good land, seventy of which is under cultivation, and the balance in pasture for his stock, of which he keeps quite a large number of cattle, hogs and horses. His place is well improved and he has everything in first-class shape, showing good management and improved methods of agriculture.

Mr. Hoebet left home when he was twenty-six years of age, and at that time was united in marriage to Miss Armenta Hiatt, daughter of Riley and Lementine Hiatt, early settlers in Appanoose county, Iowa. He was from North Carolina, and married Miss Clementine Jones, born in Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Hoebet are the parents of three children, namely: Edna, Fay and Helen.

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#### CHARLES HOEVET, DECEASED.

Charles Hoebet, who was one of the prominent old settlers of Dawes county, died January 6, 1904. He had been in failing health for some time and on the 30th of December he was seized with paralysis and from that time there was little hope for his recovery, and he gradually sank until the end came. The funeral was held at Bethel church and the services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Shull, of Crawford. The whole country turned out in respect to the memory of this highly esteemed neighbor.

Mr. Hoebet was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, on the 3d day of June, 1832, and consequently attained the ripe age of seventy-two years, seven months and three days. He was the youngest of nine children, all of whom he survived. In 1852 he emigrated to America and for a few years resided in Indiana and afterwards settled in Kankakee county, Illinois, where he made his home until the spring of 1880. In that year he removed to Clay county, Nebraska, and in 1892 to Dawes county, where he established himself with his family upon a well improved and beautiful farm east of Crawford, where his life was brought to a close. In 1859 he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Ritter, who was the daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Hammond) Ritter. The children of this union were nine in number, seven of whom, with the aged widow, survive to mourn the loss of a good husband and father, and all of whom were present at the deathbed and funeral. The liv-

ing children are: Louis, Charles, Delia, Otto, Edward, Albert and Floyd.

Mr. Hoebet was one of the most substantial and respectable citizens of Dawes county and his death will be recognized as a distinct loss to the community.

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#### CHARLES T. HOWARD.

On the banks of the Lodgepole creek, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, stands the handsome residence of one of the leading citizens of that county. Among those who have endured many hardships and succeeded in spite of many discouragements which fell to the lot of the early settler of Western Nebraska, no one is more deserving of prominent mention than the gentleman who forms the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Howard was born in Plattsburg, New York, on September 14, 1845. He grew up in that locality, and at the age of eighteen years moved to Will county, Illinois, where he acquired an eighty acre farm one mile north of Manhattan. He first came to Cheyenne county in 1885 and filed on a homestead in section 26, township 13, range 49, and spent eight years on that place, making good improvements. He then purchased and moved onto a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 31, township 14, range 47, situated on Lodgepole creek, and still occupies this last mentioned place. Here he has made a fine farm, and owns in all one thousand two hundred acres, which includes the original homestead. He devotes about thirty acres to crops, and has sufficient pasture for the stock he owns. He has erected good farm buildings, fences and necessary wells and windmills for the care of about thirty head of cattle and fifty horses which he keeps. The family occupy a fine modern residence, and every corner of the place shows good management, prosperity and painstaking care in its operation.

Mr. Howard was married at Mokena, Illinois, on the 24th day of November, 1876, to Miss Alice Turner, a daughter of James and Abeygail (Crandle) Turner, born near Ashtabula, Ohio. Six children blessed this union, named as follows: Harry (deceased); Lila, wife of Leroy Dyke, now living in Portland, Oregon; Winifred, who married Carl Homan, of Sedgewick, Colorado; Lee, Lucy and Potter, the three last named all living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Howard are of a most hospitable nature, and have a family of intelligent and

congenial children, making a happy family which it is a pleasure for one to meet. Our subject himself is a man of very pleasant personality, and a gentleman of superior qualities of mind and character. Owing to impaired health, Mr. Howard spent the winter of 1908 in southern California, in which place he rapidly recuperated. He has always voted the Republican ticket, and takes an active part in local and county affairs. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, and with his family, of the Episcopal church.

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#### WILLIAM E. GAMEL.

The gentleman above named is a leading merchant of Loomis, Nebraska. In 1899 he bought out the hardware business of D. T. Garrett, and has since that time successfully conducted the store, increasing his stock, and has more than trebled the business, so that his patronage extends all over the territory adjacent to Loomis. Mr. Gamel has one of the largest and finest stores in this section, handling hardware, furniture, harness, paints, oils, tin and kitchenware, stoves and ranges, plumbing and the last year adding automobiles, and enjoys a great measure of prosperity and an enviable reputation as a business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Gamel is a native of Champaign county, Illinois, and is a son of O. J. Gamel, who came to this county locating in Lake township with his family in 1888, his death occurring there in 1894, at the age of forty-eight years. He was the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land in that township, and was a very successful farmer and agriculturist. He was by profession a druggist being a registered pharmacist, and was engaged in that business, also the grocery business before coming to Nebraska. Prior to the time of our subject starting in business in Loomis, he was engaged in the profession of a teacher here, having followed this for seven years, also taught in Lake township and the last three years spent in the Loomis public schools.

Mr. Gamel was married in 1894 to Miss Helen Potter who, prior to her marriage, was a teacher in the Loomis schools, and a lady of much intelligence and charm. She was a native of Owego, New York, daughter of John Q. Potter, now a resident of Denver, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Gamel have two children. Mr. Gamel received his education at the Fairmont, Nebraska, high school, and later attended the Franklin Academy and Lin-

coln Normal, receiving a state certificate. Mr. Gamel is a genial, intellectual gentleman, popular in business and social circles, universally esteemed and respected.

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#### BERNARD J. MCGUIRE.

Bernard J. McGuire, who enjoys the comforts of a rural home in section 10, township 26, range 28, Cherry county, is one of the well known and wealthy residents of his locality. He is one of the old settlers there and his labors have become a part of the history of the county.

Mr. McGuire was born in Roscommon county, Ireland, in 1865. His father, Michael McGuire, came to America several times on a visit, but spent his entire career in his native land engaged in farming. He married Mary Buchanan, and they owned a good home and farm, on which our subject grew to the age of thirteen years, at which time he came to America by way of England, landing in Philadelphia. He spent five years in the east, then came to Nebraska. While in Pennsylvania he attended school, and also worked in the mines until coming west to Jefferson county, Nebraska, then went into the Black Hills and was there at the time of the Indian massacre, taking part in subduing the insurrections of the redskins. During that trip he slept on the ground and often awakened in the morning with his blankets covered with snow. He roughed it for two years in that vicinity, working as an engineer in a sawmill. As early as 1885 he came to Cherry county.

Mr. McGuire was married at Fairbury, Nebraska, January 31, 1891, to Miss Anna Shanley, daughter of Patrick Shanley, who was an old settler in Cherry county. After their marriage they went to Denver and remained in that city for five years, where Mr. McGuire was engaged in the ice business. He held considerable ranching property in Cherry county, having quite a herd of cattle and horses, which brought him in a good income. He acquired his present ranch in 1895, and the following year moved with his family on the place, which they have occupied ever since. At that time it was highly improved land, with good buildings, wells and windmills, and he has continued to improve it and keeps it in good shape. The place consists of one thousand nine hundred and twenty acres, all deeded land, and he also controls one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of leased land in the vicinity, using it almost exclusive-

ly as a stock ranch, running a large bunch of cattle and other stock. Since coming to his present ranch the only bad luck he has experienced was loss sustained through a cyclone which came along and blew the roof off his house and utterly destroyed a shed on the place, together with smaller damage.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire have a family of five children, named as follows: Michael B., Mary, Letta Beatrice, Berenice Rosetta and Patrick Leo, and they form a most interesting family group, all bright and intelligent, their home one of the most pleasant to be found in the community. They have a large circle of friends and acquaintances who enjoy their hospitality. Most of Mr. McGuire's time is devoted to his family and the interest of his ranch, and while he takes a commendable interest in local affairs, has never sought public office.

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#### D. C. SHETLER.

For the past twenty-five years the gentleman above named has been an important factor in the development and progress of the section lying south of the Platte river, covering Phelps and Kearney counties, Nebraska. He came to Nebraska in 1879, from Johnson county, Iowa, locating at Wilcox, Nebraska, and in 1886 engaged in the lumber business at Wilcox, which he conducted for five years. He was the first chairman of the village board of Wilcox, organized in 1889, and held the position of postmaster of that town for five years. Wilcox now has a population of five hundred, and boasts two banks, two papers, three elevators and a number of fine stores. Our subject is at present occupying the position of cashier of the Exchange Bank of Wilcox. This institution was established by him in 1905, with a capital and surplus of \$12,000, and since its organization the bank has built up a prosperous and growing business. It now owns and occupies a fine new brick building, and is one of the most reliable banking institutions of Kearney county. For the past twelve years Mr. Shetler has owned the Wilcox Herald, for which he has recently erected a substantial brick building and installed a new, up-to-date press and job office, supplied with a gasoline engine, new press, and every improvement, at a total cost of \$3,500 for the plant. This paper has a wide circulation in the four counties of Phelps, Harlan, Kearney and Franklin, the town of Wilcox being located at the corner of these counties. The paper is managed by J. B. Lane. Mr. Shetler also is interested





D. C. SHETLER.



largely in the real estate, loan and insurance business, with his headquarters and office at Wilcox, and has sold large tracts of farming lands in the four counties above mentioned, amounting to millions of dollars. His is the largest agency of its kind in this section, and has located hundreds of farmers in Nebraska, and is constantly advertising its advantages. Land in this vicinity has advanced 200 per cent. in the past fifteen years. Our subject is now owner of two thousand five hundred and twenty acres of fine farm land, three hundred and twenty acres of this being located near the town of Wilcox, one thousand six hundred acres in different parts of Nebraska and six hundred and twenty-five acres of it in Iowa. All of these lands are under rental, and he derives a substantial income from this source. He also owns five hundred head of Duroc Jersey pure-bred hogs, from the best strains in the country, and one hundred head of Shorthorn cattle. He has fed from five to ten cars of cattle and hogs annually for the past ten years, which he ships to the markets. The past year he raised one hundred acres of wheat which netted him \$1,739 after paying expenses of \$533. He is a strong advocate of sowing fall wheat at the end of August. He is also a firm believer in the state of Nebraska as a banner crop producer. Mr. Shetler also has large interests in Holdrege, where he now lives.

He was married in 1876 to Ella Garey, and they have been blessed with three children: Ethel, Fay and Louise. Mr. Shetler was born in Ohio.

A portrait of Mr. Shetler will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### ANTON UHRIG.

The gentleman above named was one of the first to settle in Box Butte county, and has, since the earliest days of settlement in this section, taken a leading part in the public affairs of the section, having been the first mayor of Hemingford. Mr. Uhrig is held in the highest esteem by all who know him, and his name will figure prominently in the history of the development and growth of this part of the country. He occupies a pleasant and comfortable home adjoining Hemingford, and is one of the substantial and worthy citizens of the town and township.

Mr. Uhrig was born in Nassau, Germany, in 1847, and his father was a merchant at that place, who spent all his life in his native

country, his death occurring there in about 1873. Our subject was reared in the old country, learning the harness-maker's trade and followed the work for six years there, and when he was twenty years of age he came to America, landing here in 1867, and came directly west to Illinois, locating in Carlyle, where he followed his trade for about two years, and later spending a short time at St. Louis. He then went to Council Bluffs and Omaha, working at his trade in both cities, then went to Mondamin, Iowa, where he opened a harness shop of his own, manufacturing and selling harness.

Mr. Uhrig next moved to a farm in that vicinity, and after farming for one year left the place and located in Mexico, Missouri, where he attended school for one year, striving to gain a better knowledge of the English language to help him in his business career. He later engaged in the furniture business at that place, being manager of the store for over a year, and then begun as a traveling salesman for the firm of Heller & Hoffman, chair, and other furniture manufacturers, and continued in that work for three years, traveling principally through western Iowa and Nebraska, having been the first salesman the concern had ever employed in the territory of western Nebraska.

In 1884 Mr. Uhrig took a pre-emption and a tree claim, both proved up on later, and later a homestead three and a half miles southwest of Hemingford, and part of that town is now located on what was his tree claim. He sold the first carload of furniture that was shipped into Rushville, and in the fall of 1885 made another trip on the road.

Mr. Uhrig started farming in the year of 1885, in addition to his other business enterprises, and the following year opened his store in Hemingford, dealing in furniture, hardware and saddlery, and he had the first stock of hardware and saddlery that was ever brought into the town. He located here before the railroad was built in and also when the county seat was located, and was one of the men who went to Lincoln to interview the railroad officials and offer inducements to the company for bringing the road to his town, part of his tree claim being presented to the railway company as a bonus for locating here.

Since coming to this locality Mr. Uhrig has been remarkably successful, and has accumulated a fine property through his good management and steady perseverance. He is owner of six hundred and two acres of land near Hemingford, also two blocks, a part of the town site. He has a fine store building

twenty-five by sixty feet, with a basement and second story, on one of the main streets of the town.

In 1886 Mr. Uhrig was united in marriage at Mexico, Missouri, to Miss Augusta Basse. Mr. and Mrs. Uhrig are the parents of the following children: Nettie, Frank, Ida, Otto, Winfred, George and Margaret.

Mr. Uhrig is a Democrat and a strong party man.

#### CARMEL E. CHENEY.

Carmel E. Cheney has been intimately identified with the early history of Brown county, Nebraska, and is known in the vicinity of Ainsworth as one of the most reliable and prominent representatives of its best farming circles. He owes his present forward position to honest purpose, fair dealing and industrious habit. His father, John Cheney, was a native of New England and achieved a competence in Nebraska by dint of thrift and labor. Carmel E. Cheney, born near the line of Lynn and Delaware counties, Iowa, December 29, 1860, was the third in his father's family and grew to manhood in his native state, where his characteristics early indicated a substantial success in whatever occupation he might address himself. His parents resided in Lynn and Delaware counties, Iowa, until he reached the age of fifteen. They removed to Marshal county about 1876 and to Crawford county a year later. In the spring of 1882 the entire family came into Nebraska, and made a home in Brown county. Here the subject of this sketch located on his present farm property, taking it under the pre-emption law, later making it a homestead claim, upon which, in due time, he made all the legal proofs and acquired a clear title. In the beginning it was a raw prairie, and all the improvements that now make it sightly and pleasant owe their existence to the indefatigable labors of Mr. Cheney. For a time he "batched," and then lived with his father until his marriage, April 8, 1896, when Miss Ellen McKeever became his wife. She was born in Iowa of American antecedents, and was a lady of more than the usual gifts and graces. Before her marriage she had taught school for some years in Boyd county, Nebraska. This union has been blessed with four children: Zenas D., Bessie M., Cordelia C. and Earl V.

Mr. Cheney is the proprietor of a well appointed farm of one hundred and sixty acres. It is all fenced and devoted to both grain and

stock farming. The Cheney's take a very active part in school matters, and have been very instrumental in the successful operation of literary societies, and other intellectual stimulants in the neighborhood in which they live. In politics Mr. Cheney is a Democrat and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Ainsworth.

#### JOHN Z. VAN HOUTEN.

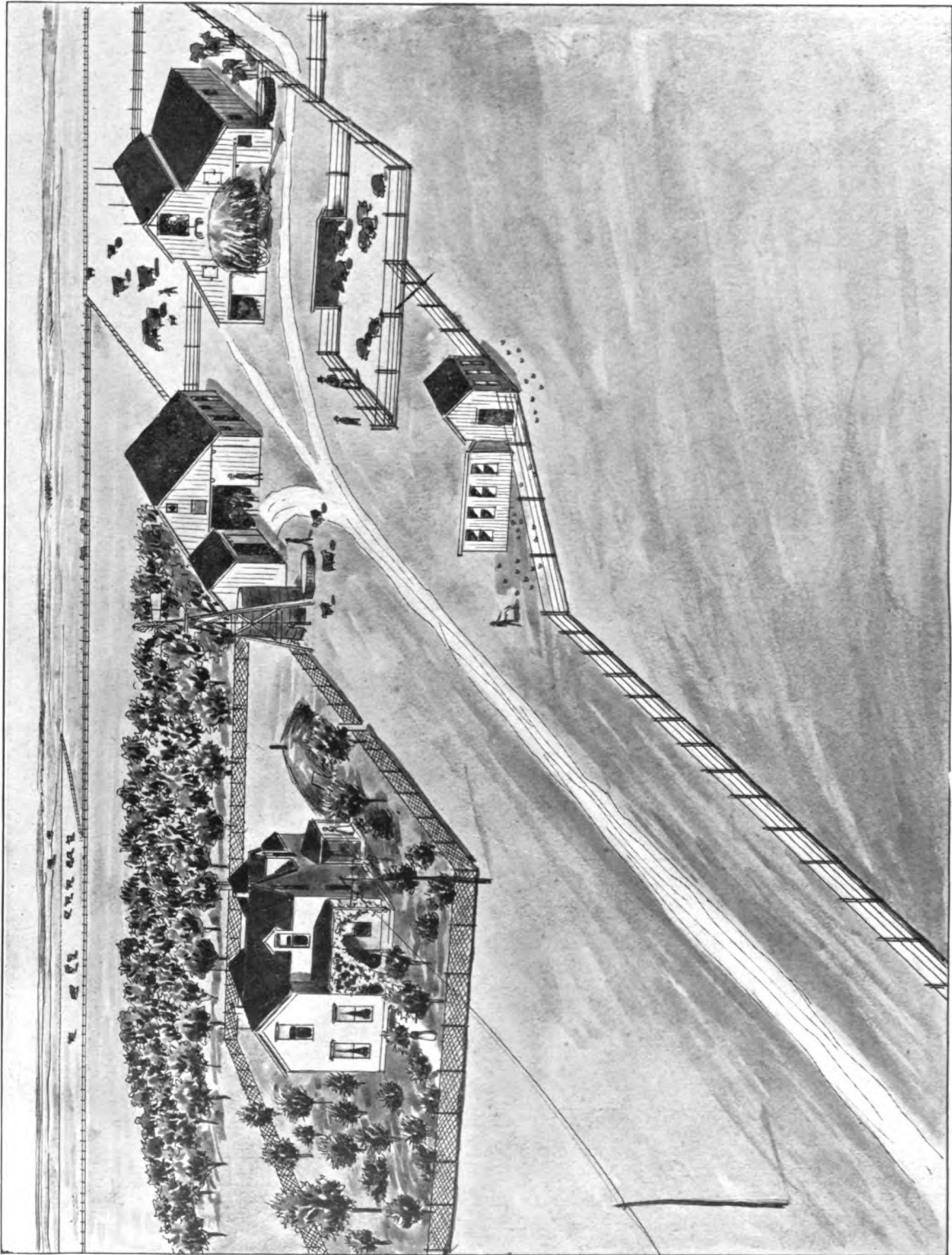
An honorable position among the pioneer settlers of Loup county is readily accorded to this gentleman, better known as "Jack Houten," by every one with whom he is acquainted. He occupies one of the large and well-improved ranches of the county, and is greatly respected in the community where he has lived for so many years.

Mr. Van Houten was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1857. His father, John Van Houten, was born in the state of New York, a farmer by occupation and was of Holland-Dutch and Scotch ancestry. The mother was a native of Rhode Island, and her name, before marriage, was Cornelia Johnson.

The subject of our sketch lived in Illinois until 1862, when the family moved to New York state, where they resided for about six years, at the end of which time they came west to Humboldt county, Iowa, where our subject grew up on a farm and attended the country schools. In 1879 the family drove through with team and covered wagon to Loup county, Nebraska, and our subject settled on a homestead in section 27, township 21, range 17. He built the regulation sod shanty and prepared for the experiences of pioneer life. He had a team and drove to St. Paul, Nebraska, for supplies and materials. He remained on the farm, and, although there were three successive failures of crops during the drouth years, he stuck to his work and now has a fine farm of four hundred and seventy acres along the North Loup river. His parents lived and died in the county and they were respected and revered by all who knew them.

In 1881 Mr. Van Houten was married to Miss Carrie Reniff, daughter of Philo and Mary (Wickson) Reniff, old settlers of Nebraska. The father was a native of New York state. Mr. and Mrs. Van Houten have eight children: Burt, Harry, Horace, Jack, May, Peter, Mattie and Ella. Before her marriage, Mrs. Van Houten was a school teacher of good abilities and she has always been deeply in-

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RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM G. FERNAU,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

terested in the educational affairs of the district.

Mr. Van Houten has been an active participant in local political affairs, has been precinct officer, assessor, road overseer and has held other minor offices. He is outspoken and frank in all things and his stand for advancement along all lines is firm and decided.

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#### CHARLES H. SAILOR.

Charles H. Sailor, a leading citizen of Gordon, Nebraska, is a prosperous merchant, widely known as a gentleman of good business ability and true public spirit.

Mr. Sailor was born in Hancock county, Illinois, in 1864. His father, Richard A. Sailor, was a native of Kentucky, reared and educated in Missouri, and followed farming as an occupation all his life. Of a family of seven children our subject was the third member, and he was raised in Illinois until he reached the age of twenty, attending school until eighteen years of age, when he started to learn the carpenter's trade. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and settled in Antelope county, where he remained for two years. In July, 1885, he moved to Gordon, where he took up a homestead situated ten miles south of the town on Niobrara river. His first dwelling was a log house, and he lived in this for five and a half years, proving up and improving the place. He had early learned the carpenter and builder's trade, and in 1891 moved to Gordon and followed this work for several years. He did well at this, and in 1901 begun to deal in farming implements and has gradually increased his business until he is now enjoying a lucrative trade. He established himself in his present location in 1903 and now handles all kinds of farming machinery, pumps, windmills, pianos, organs, sewing-machines, etc., his patronage extending all through Sheridan and the adjoining counties. He and his son now have the finest hardware store in Sheridan county.

Mr. Sailor was married in 1885, during the month of October, to Miss Lydia Wyman, of American stock, whose father, Charles M. Wyman, was a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Sailor have a family of five children, namely: Ralph, Ray, Hallie, Chester and Dwight, all born in Sheridan county.

Mr. Sailor is prominent in all local affairs that tend to advance the commercial interests of his locality. He has acted as president of the Sheridan county agricultural association

for six years, and has served as county assessor for the past four years. He was a member of the school board for about five years, and for ten years was village clerk. He has aided in the bettering of conditions in his town, as when he first came here Gordon had thirteen saloons and about three stores, and since then the town shows wonderful growth and improvement. He is a strong Republican.

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#### WILLIAM G. FERNAU.

William G. Fernau, one of the earliest settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, is a prosperous farmer of this locality, and has gained a comfortable competence and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Fernau was born on a farm in Washington county, Wisconsin, March 10, 1855. His father, John Fernau, was a shoemaker and farmer, who came to this country from the province of Hesse Cassel, Germany, while a young man, settling in Wisconsin, where our subject was reared, receiving a common school education. He was the sixth member in a family of eight children, and during his boyhood days assisted his father in the farm work, and thus grew up accustomed to good hard labor. In 1885 he came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead, and the first building he put up was a small shanty, in which he lived for some time. He went to work improving his farm, but the dry years came on and his crops were all ruined by the drouth and hail storms, and this discouraged him so greatly that he gave up trying to do anything, and left his homestead, going to Chicago, determined to change his occupation. He remained there for a year, working in a furniture factory and a cooper shop, saving his money, and then returned to Brown county and started over again; from that time on he plodded along, slowly but surely, building up and improving his farm, in the hard times being very careful of expenditures, until now he is the owner of five hundred and twenty acres of good farming land, of which all but sixty acres are under cultivation and improved with a good house, barns, and other buildings, all his land being fenced, and well stocked with cattle, hogs and a number of horses. The land is well adapted to potatoes, of which Mr. Fernau is an extensive cultivator, having some years five thousand bushels at the digging. A view of the home and surroundings is presented on another page.

In 1879 Mr. Fernau was married to Miss



Lavina E. Fye, a native of Wisconsin, whose father came of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and her mother of German descent. They are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: John, Emma, George, Edward, David, William and Warren. The two eldest were born in Wisconsin, and the younger five in Nebraska.

Mr. Fernau deserves much praise for the substantial success which has attended his labors. Beginning with the most modest capital, he has worked his way up to the competence he now enjoys, and is an exemplary member of the community in which he chose his home. In politics he is Democratic, and with the family, a member of the Congregational church of Ainsworth.

#### WILLIAM E. ROUDEBUSH.

William E. Roudebush, who for the past many years has resided in Deuel county, Nebraska, is the possessor of a fine estate and one of the highly esteemed citizens of Chappell, where he now makes his home.

Mr. Roudebush was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1871, and was raised on a farm. His father, Jacob H. Roudebush, was a native of Pennsylvania, of old American stock, and later was one of the early settlers in Deuel county, Nebraska. He married Anna H. Brown, born in Indiana, of American blood. When our subject was a lad of fifteen years he came to Deuel county with his parents and has lived on the frontier since that time, being familiar with every phase of ranch life, helping his father build up his extensive ranching interests, and is a thorough judge and master of the business from start to finish. When a very young man he began in the cattle business on his own account, taking a homestead on section 9, township 20, range 44, built a shanty and roughed it for several years. The town of Alliance, thirty miles away, was his nearest railroad station, and from there he had to haul all his supplies. He lived on this ranch until 1900, building up a valuable estate, then sold out and moved to near Oshkosh, still running his ranch himself. He owns in all one thousand six hundred acres, which is devoted to stock raising.

In 1905 Mr. Roudebush was elected treasurer of Deuel county, served his term and was re-elected in 1907, still occupying the office. He moved to Chappell several years ago and has a pleasant home here.

Our subject was married in 1896, at Al-

liance, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Applegarth, daughter of Henry Applegarth, an old settler of this county. He located here in 1888 and is well and favorably known throughout the vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Roudebush have a family of three children, named as follows: Claude, aged ten; Elma, aged five, and Myron, a baby of three years, and they form an interesting and charming group.

#### WILLIAM WILSON.

Among the old settlers and prominent residents of Chadron, Nebraska, the name of William Wilson deserves a foremost place. Mr. Wilson is well known all over the western part of Nebraska as a successful ranchman and farmer, owning valuable property in Dawes county, and he is one of the public-spirited citizens of his community, at present making his home in the town of Chadron.

Mr. Wilson was born in Morgan county, Indiana, in 1833. His father was Alexander Wilson, of American stock, owner of a fine farm in the timbered region, and was owner of a large sawmill plant; was killed there in August, 1862. His mother was Mary Maxwell, also of American blood. William grew up on his father's farm on the frontier, and was married in that neighborhood in 1856, to Miss Mary A. Hollis, whose parents were American born. Our subject entered the service of his country in 1862, enlisting in Company H, Seventy-ninth Indiana Infantry, and served in Kentucky and Tennessee. He was at the battle of Stone River, Tennessee, and Perryville, Kentucky, seeing actual service for many months. The following year, 1863, at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, he received his discharge and returned to his native county where he remained for several years, then came to Missouri and settled on a farm in Harrison county, on which he lived with his family for twenty years. There he opened up as fine a farm as was to be found in that part of the country, within two miles of Ridgeway, Missouri; that town being established many years after he settled there. When he first came the country was all open prairie. Mr. Wilson's whole life has been spent on the frontier in Indiana, Missouri and Nebraska.

Mr. Wilson first came to Dawes county in 1889, settling on a ranch six miles east of Chadron, and he built up that place and operated it for eighteen years. He had three hundred and twenty acres of good range land, part of which was cultivated, and made a suc-

cess of the work from the beginning. Mr. Wilson was township treasurer in Missouri for years, in which capacity he collected the money and hired and paid the school teachers of the township; and he has been treasurer of the first agricultural association of Dawes county, Nebraska. He moved to the city of Chadron in 1903, and has since made that city his home, and where he has a fine residence. He is police judge of Chadron, having held that office for four terms. He is well known and esteemed as a leading citizen and politician, a man of high character and progressive ideas.

Mr. Wilson suffered a sad bereavement in June, 1906, in the death of his wife, who left the following children: William A.; Lovica, wife of Peter Tanner, residing in Missouri on a very fine farm; Grace, now Mrs. J. P. Owen; Jennie, now Mrs. E. R. Whetstine; John T.; Dolly, now Mrs. R. A. Bowes; Fred K.; Henrietta, wife of C. B. Owen, all settled in this vicinity except Lovica, as stated above.

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#### J. A. GIBSON.

J. A. Gibson, one of the leading citizens of Alma, Harlan county, was born in Marion county, Illinois, in 1848. He is a son of James and Margaret (French) Gibson, the former born in Monongahela county, West Virginia, the latter of Champaign county, Ohio. The family moved to Marion county, Iowa, in 1854, where the father became one of the active pioneer settlers in that part of Iowa. Our subject's grandfather, Hugh Gibson, came from Kannykajig, in the north of Ireland, early in the seventeenth century, and settled at the mouth of the Cheat river, West Virginia, then Virginia. He married Miss Peggy Foreman, of Jamestown, Virginia.

In 1864 our subject enlisted in the Forty-seventh Iowa Infantry, at the age of sixteen years, and served until the close of the war. He was with his regiment all through Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas, taking part in the battle of Big Creek, Arkansas, and in other engagements of that division. He had two brothers in the war, serving in the Ninth Iowa Cavalry.

Mr. Gibson came to Nebraska and located in Harlan county in 1878. He drove here in a covered wagon, accompanied by his wife and three children. They took up a homestead situated north of Alma, and resided on this farm until 1892, when they removed to the town of Alma, where Mr. Gibson engaged in

the grocery and produce business. He operated this store up to 1894, and since that time has conducted a feed and poultry business here. He has built a fine residence and is one of the prosperous business men of this section. Mr. Gibson has held different local offices, having served as justice of the peace and township supervisor. He was a candidate for sheriff on the Republican ticket. Later he was appointed sheriff and filled an unexpired term. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Alma, and past master of the Masonic lodge here.

In 1871 Mr. Gibson married Miss Margaret Wilson, a resident of Sheridan, Iowa, at the time. They have a family of six children living, who are named as follows: Mary; wife of J. R. Punshon, of Morton, Kansas; Clara, now Mrs. Kirkpatrick, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Nellie, now Mrs. Moore, also of Colorado Springs; Mrs. A. L. Burkey, of Alma; John L. Gibson, of Alma, and Bessie Gibson, living at home. They also have two adopted children, taken from the New York Orphans' Home, Bennie and Ida Jones.

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#### GEORGE D. BERRY.

Among the prosperous and wide-awake business men of Bassett, Nebraska, who has been in this section since the pioneer times, we mention the name of George D. Berry. He has been intimately identified with the upbuilding of that locality and is widely and favorably known throughout Rock county.

Mr. Berry is a native of Juneau county, Wisconsin, born September 5, 1854. His father, also George Berry, was born in England and emigrated to this country when a young man, settling in Wisconsin, where he farmed for many years, prior to establishing himself in Iowa, where he died. When our subject was five or six years of age his parents settled in Corydon, Wayne county, Iowa, where he attended the common schools, receiving a fair education. At the age of thirteen years he began working for himself, being employed as farm boy for a time. In 1884 he came to Nebraska and located in Rock county, where he secured a place in a grocery store as a clerk, and continued at this work for several years. He came to Bassett in 1884 and settled on a homestead south of the town, clerking in Long Pine for some time. After settling here he opened a grocery store in Bassett on his own account, and in 1899 traded his homestead for a lot and building in the town. He

made a success of the business from the start, and built up a profitable trade among the residents of Bassett and all over the surrounding country by his strict integrity and honest and fair treatment. He has accumulated a comfortable property and is regarded as a successful business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Berry was married in Iowa September 5, 1886, to Miss Sadie C. Stewart, a native of Iowa, born at Henry. Her father, Charles Stewart, was a farmer by occupation, born of Irish stock, while her mother, Susan Ireland, was of Yankee and Dutch blood. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Berry, namely: George Milo and Harvey Park.

Mr. Berry is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Odd Fellows and Workmen at Bassett.

#### WILLIAM C. DUGGER.

Another of the well-to-do residents and old-timers of western Nebraska is found in the person of the gentleman above mentioned, who is owner of a valuable estate in Cheyenne county.

William C. Dugger was born in Scott county, Illinois, on December 10, 1857. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother born in England, the latter dying in 1864, and the former is also deceased. They lived in Illinois until William was seven years of age, then, after the mother's death, the father went to Kansas with his children, settling in Clay county, where he lived for about thirteen years. From there he moved to Linn county, that state, and came to Cheyenne county in 1886, landing in the region April 22d. He first took a pre-emption and homestead, the latter on section 11, township 18, range 51, which now forms the home ranch. There are four hundred acres lying along Pumpkin creek and three hundred and twenty acres on Middle creek, all good range and farm land. He has one hundred acres cultivated, raising small grains, and he runs about one hundred and twenty head of cattle and twenty horses. There are good buildings and improvements on the place and Mr. Dugger is one of the leading men of his locality.

On June 2, 1877, our subject was united in marriage in Linn county, Kansas, to Miss Avilla J. Millsap, who was born in Iowa, and reared there. They raised a family of six children, named as follows: Grace A., married to J. W. Nunn, living near her father's ranch, mother of four children; Amanda mar-

ried W. J. Cochran, and they have one child; Marion A., Thomas, Florence and Naomi, the last mentioned four living at home. The mother died September 22, 1907, leaving many sorrowing friends to mourn her loss, as she was a most estimable lady, greatly beloved by all who knew her.

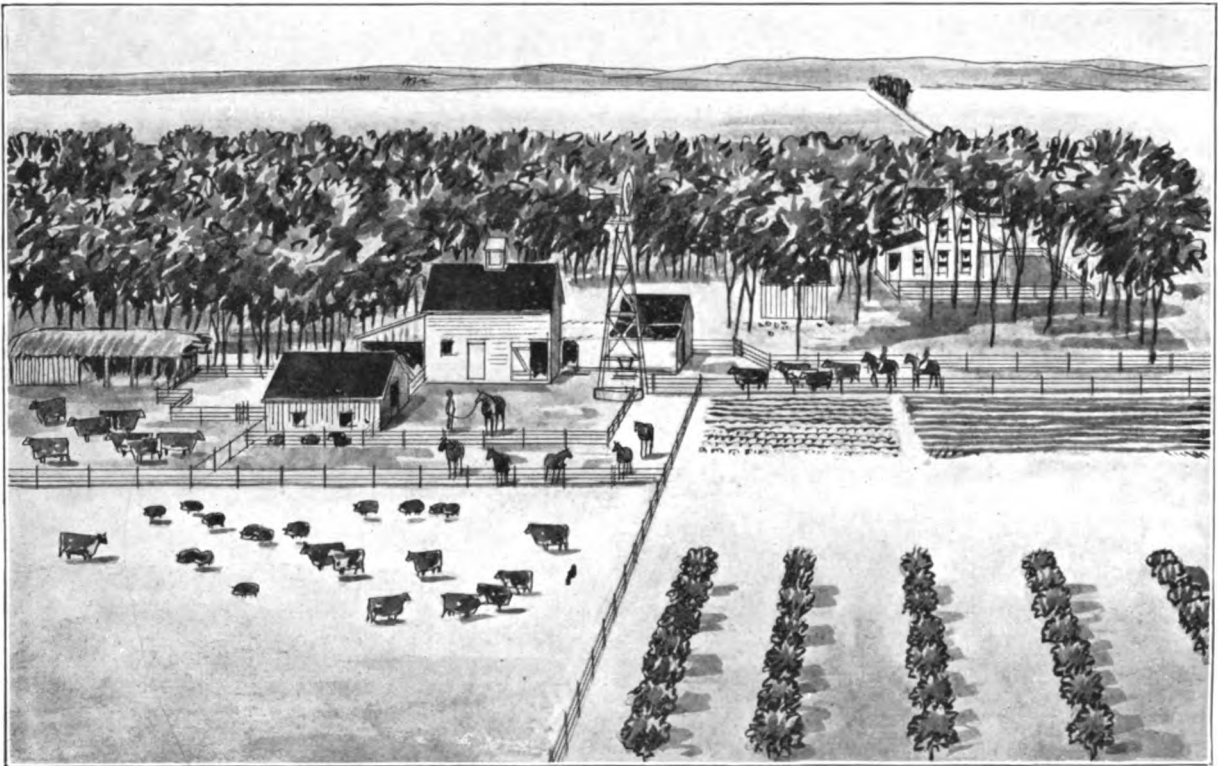
Mr. Dugger is president of the Court House Rock Telephone Company, and is active in all local matters of public benefit. He is serving as moderator of school district 143 at the present time. In political views he is a staunch Republican, and was elected county commissioner in 1905, and re-elected for the following term, which will expire in 1910.

#### JAMES P. SWEENEY.

James P. Sweeney, a prosperous agriculturist and one of the leading citizens of township 28, range 37, Cherry county, is called one of the old settlers of western Nebraska, although he is one of the younger men in his locality.

Mr. Sweeney was born in Oil City, Pennsylvania, in 1876. His father, Michael Sweeney, was a farmer and teamster of that state for many years, later a pioneer in western Nebraska, where he settled with his family in 1885, locating at first in Holt county, and from there moved to Sheridan county, where he lived for a number of years. He was one of the well known men of the region, and died on May 2d, 1907, in Cherry county, Nebraska, leaving his widow, whose maiden name was Miss Mary R. Zink, and five children, namely: Kate, married; Joe B.; James P. (our subject); Ed. and Rose M. In 1895 James came to Cherry county with the family, landing here in the spring of that year, his father taking up a homestead on section 28, township 28, range 37. The place has been improved in good shape, is all fenced and our subject is engaged in stock raising principally, and is making a splendid success of the work with his two brothers, Joe and Ed., they being equally interested in the ranching business. The mother and his sister, Rose M., both live with our subject. The ranch contains nine quarter sections of deeded land and is one of the most valuable estates in the county. All the children have Kincaid homesteads adjoining their mother. They have three flowing wells, five windmills, and six or seven lakes abounding with fish, ducks, geese, etc. They put up annually about two thousand tons of hay. They run large herds of cattle and horses each year for the markets.





RESIDENCE OF T. V. JAQUES,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF W. C. SOLLENBERGER,  
Alliance, Nebraska.

Mr. Sweeney is an honest, industrious young man, who gives his entire time and attention to the operation of his extensive interests, being associated with his two brothers as before stated, and is on the high road to success. All three are strong Bryan Democrats.

#### THOMAS V. JAQUES.

Thomas V. Jaques, one of the leading old settlers of Keya Paha county, resides on a well-improved farm in Custer precinct, and is thoroughly conversant with agricultural pursuits and is a successful and progressive member of the farming community of this section of the country.

Mr. Jaques was born in Burlington Plain, near Hamilton, Canada, March 18, 1849. His father, Thomas Jaques, was a native of England, of French ancestry, who came to Canada when a young man, and in 1871 came to the states and settled in Greene county, Iowa, with his family, consisting of his wife, who was Miss Margaret Bird, of English stock, and their eight children, of whom our subject was the fourth member. At the age of twenty-one years he started out for himself, following farm work, as his boyhood years had all been spent on a farm and he had had plenty of hard work to do in assisting his parents on their home farm in Iowa, where they located. In 1884 he came to Keya Paha county, settling on a homestead one mile from Springview, and lived on the place for ten years. He then bought his present home, located on section 1, township 33, range 21, which was partly improved at that time. He is considered one of the leading old settlers of this county, having built up two farms here, also planting many trees and groves on his own and others places, having on his own farm ten acres of the finest grove to be found in the county. He has nine hundred and sixty acres of land, mostly in pasture, keeping one hundred and eighty head of cattle and some horses and hogs. At no time during the distressing drought periods were the crops of his farm a total failure.

Mr. Jaques was married, November 4, 1874, to Miss Lavina Clopton, whose parents were among the early settlers in Iowa, where they still reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Jaques have been born the following children: Marshall B., Joseph F., William A., Ralph B., Guy D., Nettie Pearl, Bessie O., and Ethel I., all grown up.

In political faith Mr. Jaques is a Repub-

lican, although he does not take any active part in politics. He is a member of the Methodist church and the Royal Highlanders of Springview.

A picture of Mr. Jaques' place will be found on another page of this volume.

#### WILLIAM C. SOLLENBERGER.

William C. Sollenberger, one of the well-known and highly esteemed farmers of township 24, range 50, is one of the substantial citizens of his community, and owner of a large tract of valuable land in Box Butte county, all of which he has acquired since taking up his residence in this region, and is the result of his earnest labors and good management.

Mr. Sollenberger was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1862. His parents were of Pennsylvania Dutch blood and followed farming all their lives. Our subject was reared in Ohio until he was a young man of nineteen years, during his boyhood doing all kinds of hard farm work, receiving but a limited education through attending the country schools. He went to southeastern Kansas, and remained for one summer, then to Indian territory and remained one winter. He next moved to Missouri, then to Iowa, remaining there up to the spring of 1885, then came to Nebraska, locating in Box Butte county and taking up a homestead four miles southwest of where Hemingford now stands. During the first summer he hauled timber which was used for the first buildings put up in Nonpariel and Hemingford. He had a team of mules, harness and wagon, breaking plow, and went to work breaking land in the vicinity of his claim, working for his neighbors who had no teams, and also built a number of shanties for others. He lived there until the spring of 1888, then moved to the southwestern part of Box Butte county, and settled on his present ranch. This is situated eighteen miles from Alliance, on section 29. He improved the place in fine shape, built a fine house of concrete, together with good barns and other buildings. He has planted plenty of trees, both fruit and shade varieties, and everything is kept up in the finest possible condition, and is one of the show places of the county. Mr. Sollenberger is an up-to-date agriculturist and progressive stockman, energetic and industrious. He has done considerable experimenting in growing different kinds of crops, striving to get the best possible results from the soil and conditions in the section.

Our subject was united in marriage in 1886, to Emma Scofield, whose parents were old settlers in Iowa, where she was born and reared. Children have been born to this union, named as follows: Marion, Ward, Agnes, Emma, Freda and Kenneth. They form a most interesting and charming family, and their home is one of the most hospitable in the locality. A picture of Mr. Sollenberger's residence and family is presented on another page.

When Mr. Sollenberger first came to this region he drove out from Valentine through the Sand Hills, camping out along the way. He was one of the organizers of the first schools established in this locality, and took an active part in every movement started for the building up and developing of the country. In politics Mr. Sollenberger is a Republican, and he has always been active in local affairs, serving as assessor, also as justice of the peace for a number of years. In school affairs he takes a leading part, acting as treasurer and director for his district.

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#### HON. J. S. CANADAY.

Hon. J. S. Canaday, ex-state senator for Kearney, Phelps and Harlan counties for two terms, resides in Hays township, Kearney county, and is well known all over the western part of the state of Nebraska as a man of active public spirit, and one of the foremost citizens of this region. He was county superintendent of education for Kearney county from 1892 to 1896, and has been a member of the Farmers' Alliance since 1890. He is now serving as president of the Farmers' Local Co-operative Association, and is secretary and treasurer of the Farmers' Co-operative Grain and Live Stock State Association, having held the latter office for three years. He was the first president of this organization, elected in 1903, and re-elected to the office in 1906. Mr. Canaday is a state lecturer in this organization, the object of the society being to keep the local elevators of farmers alive and active. These local elevators have been of immense benefit to the farmers here, and our subject is one of the active members of the society and on the legislative committee, looking after the laws and every interest of the farmers in this region.

Mr. Canaday is a native of Indiana, born in 1861. His great-grandfather was the only one of his family who escaped being massacred by the Indians in Kentucky during the time of Daniel Boone.

Mr. Canaday came to Nebraska in 1883, locating in Seward county, from Clark county, Illinois. His family originally came from Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1884 he came with his parents to Kearney county, settling southeast of the town of Minden. He had received a good education during his young manhood, attending the country schools in Illinois, and after locating in Nebraska taught school in this county for several years. He is the owner of a fine farm of one hundred acres in section 13, Hays township, and the family occupy a beautiful home here.

In 1890 Mr. Canaday married Miss Mary Jane Winters, of West York, Illinois. They have two sons and a daughter, named as follows: Ralph, Walter and Mary Goldie. Mr. Canaday has two sisters living in this county, and he is their only brother. They are members of the Christian Science church, giving generously of his time and money to this belief.

Mr. Canaday is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and was active in the society of the Knights of Labor. He was district master workman for the fifth congressional district in about 1894 and 1895. In politics he is an Independent. Mr. Canaday was a candidate for state auditor of Nebraska in 1904 and again in 1906, on the Fusion ticket.

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#### JOHN H. BARTELL.

John H. Bartell, one of the prominent residents of section 5, township 31, range 55, Sioux county, Nebraska, has spent many years in this part of the country and is well known as a man of energetic habits and sterling qualities.

Mr. Bartell is a native of Jackson county, Iowa, born in 1854, on a farm, and grew up there, following farm work during his boyhood. His father, John, of American stock, was a farmer all his life. In 1875 our subject went into western Iowa and settled in Adair county, where he followed farming for several years. He did very well there, but decided to try Nebraska, so came to Sioux county in 1888 and located on a homestead near Harrison, and there engaged in mixed farming and stock raising and proved up on his land and has made a success here, building up a good home and farm. He had seen hard times, going through the drouth periods when he was unable to raise a crop for several years, and just managed to get along and keep his farm going.



In 1897 Mr. Bartell moved to Harrison and established a mercantile business, starting here in February of that year in a little store with a small stock of general goods. He succeeded exceedingly well and his trade grew so that he was compelled to seek larger quarters, so in 1902, bought his present store, situated on one of the best corners in Harrison, having a fifty foot frontage, and here he has a fine store and does an excellent business. This is now one of the best equipped stores in Harrison, and he conducts it along the latest business methods and carries a complete, up-to-date line of merchandise.

In the fall of 1904 Mr. Bartell filed on four hundred and eighty acres under the Kincaid law, located four miles east of Harrison, and he makes this his home. He is improving this place in splendid shape, putting up fine buildings, and intends to devote it to ranching purposes.

Mr. Bartell was married while living in western Iowa, in November, 1879, to Lorenia Bricker, whose father, David Bricker, was a farmer and stock raiser of that section. Her mother was Henrietta Cherrington, of Galesburg, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Bartell have a family of ten children, namely: Dotha, George, John and Maud, born in Iowa, and Fred, Bertha, Edith, Lula, Harry and Floyd, born in Nebraska. George, Bertha and Floyd are deceased.

In the fall of 1901 Mr. Bartell was elected county judge of Sioux county, following an appointment of one year in that capacity. He has held the office of justice of the peace for a number of years past, and also served his community in numerous capacities. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### WELBY B. ALLISON.

Welby B. Allison, who lives on section 1, township 9, range 35, is a well and favorably known citizen of Perkins county, where he has spent a large part of his career as an agriculturist. He has passed through all the early Nebraska times and has done much in the way of helping in the advancement of his region, incidentally building up for himself a comfortable home and good farm.

Mr. Allison was born in Floyd county, Iowa, in 1863. His father, Perry Allison, was born in the east and married Levina Dawley, who is of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, and they lived on a farm in Iowa for a number of years, where our subject was reared and edu-

cated, remaining at home until he was twenty-two years of age, then went west in company with a party of men who were seeking new homes. He had his own team and covered wagon, and traveled through the country, camping out on the plains, finally landing in Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead on section 31, township 10, range 34. During his first summer in that locality he freighted from North Platte to different parts of the country and made long trips, roughing it and suffering many hardships and privations while on these journeys, but continued at it for several months, in the fall of the year building a sod shanty on his claim and started to develop his farm. His shanty was a small rough affair, about twelve by fifteen feet, with a brush roof, and there he got his own meals and batched it for about a year, working hard to get a start and meeting with many discouragements. He proved up on his land and lived on it up to 1897, then moved to Perkins county, coming to his present location in 1906. During his residence in Lincoln county he went through hard times, witnessing drouths and other setbacks, several seasons losing his crops, and at different times was obliged to work out in order to get along. Since coming to Perkins county he has met with better success, and has a quarter section of deeded land besides controlling considerable leased land. He has improved his farm with good buildings, fences, etc., and has a very good home.

Mr. Allison was married in 1888 to Miss Laura F. Jack, who was born and raised in Iowa, her father being well known at Phebe, Nebraska, where the family spent a good many years. J. F. Jack carried the mail from North Platte to Phebe Postoffice, which was established in 1885. Mrs. Jack acted as postmistress and Laura Jack as assistant. In connection with the postoffice Mr. Jack carried a stock of groceries and provisions, which he freighted from North Platte. Mr. and Mrs. Allison have five children, named as follows: Royal, Mabel, Esther, Wilma and Clarence. Our subject is a strong Republican and active in local affairs. He has served as justice of the peace in Perkins county.

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#### JOHN MURRAY.

One of the highest tributes to be paid to a citizen is to say that he is a leading old settler, and the gentleman named here is certainly entitled to this honor, richly deserving

a foremost place in the list. Mr. Murray came to Nebraska in 1869, a member of the Fifth Cavalry, United States army, at Fort McPherson. He had enlisted with his regiment in 1858, at New York city, and served for ten years, all through the civil war. He was with the Army of the Potomac throughout the whole war, and his regiment was in the advance at the first battle of Bull Run. Afterwards he took part in the battle of Antietam and many smaller battles and skirmishes, his regiment earning a great reputation as a fighting squad, and each commander always wanted them when detailed on a hard emergency call. Mr. Murray called General J. B. Stuart the night he left Fort Washington at midnight to join the rebels, and at the battle of the Wilderness Stuart was killed. Our subject's regiment was practically fighting all through the war, and at Malvern Hill took part in the charge against the Jackson brigade, which took place at sundown. After the fighting was over he found thirteen spent balls imbedded in the rubber coat which was rolled up on the saddle in front of him. In 1868 he re-enlisted in Company G, Fifth Cavalry, and was made sergeant of it. He comes of good, old fighting stock, being a native of county Westmeath, Ireland, which has furnished thousands of brave soldiers for the Union army. He has fought in Indian battles here, when for two weeks the Fifth were in the saddle night and day, fighting the bands of Indians who would appear in war paint near North Platte, three to four hundred strong, breaking into fifties and leading the soldiers a merry chase round and round, all the time being close to the Indian village and did not know it. At last, by a night march the Fifth caught them in the village and succeeded in breaking up the gang as far as depredations were concerned in this part of Nebraska. While pursuing them the soldiers did not dare build fires at night, and were often without food or water, thus suffering much privation. General Carr was in command of this Indian expedition. Mr. Murray afterwards served for fourteen months in Arizona, and in 1872 left the army and settled on a ranch near Fort McPherson, in Lincoln county, and remained on this ranch until his removal to North Platte in 1906, where he is retired from all active business and enjoys a life of peace and quiet, after so much adventure and hard work.

The Murray family are members of St. Paul's Roman Catholic church of this place, and highly esteemed as worthy citizens and good neighbors by all.

Mr. Murray is a man of wide intelligence

and varied experience, and can tell many interesting incidents connected with his life on the frontier. He is now strong, erect and hearty, and a splendid specimen of physical manhood.

#### ENOCH PROCTOR.

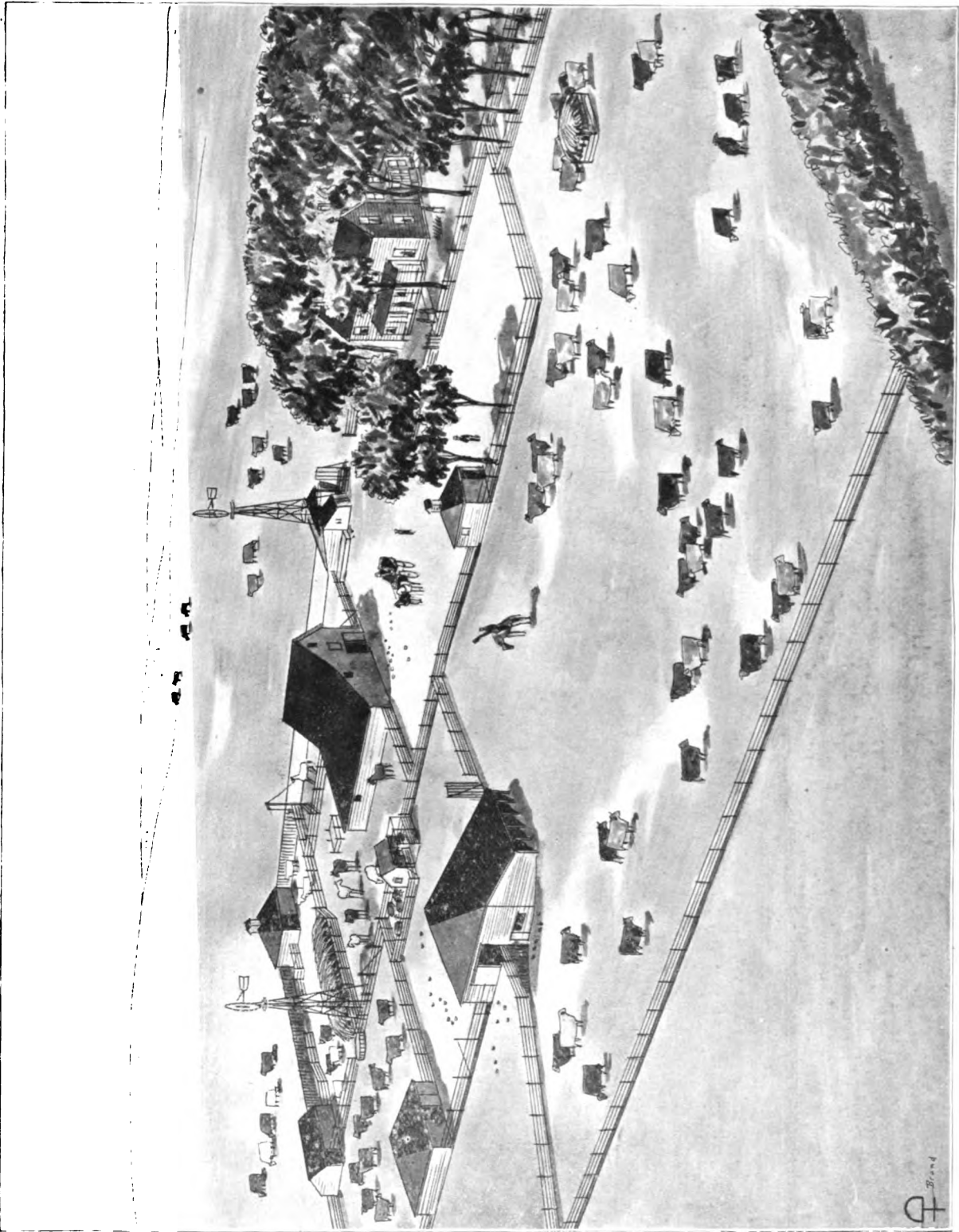
Enoch Proctor, residing on section 29, township 22, range 15, Garfield county, Nebraska, was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1832, and was reared in that country. In 1877 he came to Michigan and remained there until 1884, when he moved to Iowa, spending one year in that state, then left there and struck out for Nebraska, landing here in 1885. He settled on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 7, and lived there up to 1893, following farm work. He became dissatisfied with conditions here at that time and sold out, going to Oklahoma with a view of settling in that country, but after looking around did not like it very well, so returned to Nebraska and purchased a timber claim, which he has developed into his present home. He has tried different states and has come to the conclusion that the chances for a poor man are much better here than in the east, or almost any other state, and is glad he located here. Mr. Proctor has a good farm, and the one great trouble in the earlier days was the insufficient water supply, but he has of purpose on his farm and in his home.

One thing Mr. Proctor says is a drawback here, and that is that this is not a very good country for fruit, as apple, peach, cherry and pear trees do not thrive well, but there are plenty of smaller fruits, such as wild blackberries, etc. Also, the fuel is rather a scarce article, as coal is hard to get, especially from the railroads, and in many localities corncobs are used extensively for fuel, as the corn is all shelled. When our subject first came to Nebraska there were quite a number of deer in the vicinity where he settled, and lots of prairie chickens, quail, snipe and wild ducks, although now the latter are not so plentiful during the springtime of the year.

In the year 1894 he had a total failure of crops, due to the hot winds which swept his section of the country, but ever since that time has had good success. His principal crops are corn, oats, wheat and rye. He keeps quite a good deal of stock for domestic purposes, but does not aim to raise any great amount for market.

Mr. Proctor, although seventy-five years of

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RESIDENCE OF SQUIER JONES,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

F. Brand

age, is hale and hearty, and although he has never been much of an athlete, has never in his life been sick enough to call a doctor. He is of a cheerful disposition, and is still capable of doing considerable work. He has an excellent memory, is well read and keeps fully posted on all the current topics of the times, as he is an inveterate reader. He has always taken an active interest in county affairs and willing at all times to do all he can for the betterment of conditions locally. He is well known throughout Garfield county, and every one who knows him is his friend.

In 1865 Mr. Proctor was married to Miss Dora Garbutt, a native of Canada, and they are the parents of three children, one son and two daughters, the latter having died during young womanhood, aged seventeen. The son, Ira, is a well-to-do farmer of Garfield county. The family have always been members of the Congregational church of Burwell, and are highly esteemed in the community. Our subject is a Republican and a strong party man. He was elected county judge in 1892 and resigned his office when he left Nebraska to go to Oklahoma.

#### JAMES H. BURNS.

Among the prominent railroad men connected with the B. & M. Railway in western Nebraska, James H. Burns occupies a foremost place. He resides at McCook, where he is well known and highly respected as a citizen and business man.

Mr. Burns is a native of Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and was raised and educated there. He came west in 1882, previously having been connected with the Pennsylvania Railroad on the Pittsburg division for one year. He is the oldest employe in point of service with the B. & M. and has been a conductor on that line since 1884. For a year he was trainmaster at Sterling, Colorado, and all the rest of the time has been at McCook continuously. He had charge of the special train which carried President Harrison from Hastings to Denver while on a trip through the west, and remembers this incident with great pleasure. He ran the first automatic brake train over the line from Hastings to Denver, this being the Westinghouse test train. All the old-time officials were on this train watching the test, and it was one of the great events in railroad history. He also had charge of the world record train on the main line, which for fourteen and a half miles between Akron and McCook made 96.66 miles

per hour actual time. From Denver to Ray it made up forty minutes on one run. In 1882 while on a run when near the Colorado line he saw the last herd of buffalo which roamed through this country grazing in the distance, watching them while the train was speeding along. Mr. Burns was treasurer of Division 95, B. & M. Order of Railway Conductors, for three years, and is one of the best informed men in the railroad service. He has a brother, W. J. Burns, who was connected with the mechanical department of the Pennsylvania Railway for many years. He is a prominent member of the Masonic lodge at McCook and takes an active part in all local affairs.

#### SQUIER JONES.

Prominent among the successful farmers and ranchmen of Brown county, the gentleman here named occupies a foremost place. Mr. Jones resides in Ainsworth precinct, where he has a large and valuable estate, well improved and his entire attention is devoted to its care and management.

Mr. Jones is a native of Harrison county, Iowa, born March 3, 1869. His father, John M. Jones, was a farmer and stock raiser of Welsh descent, American born, and his mother, whose maiden name was Sophia Swift, was also of American stock. His parents were old settlers in Bon Homme county, South Dakota, where they moved in 1871, and it was there that our subject was reared, attending the country schools of the neighborhood. He was a strong, sturdy youth, and assisted his father in carrying on the farm work, plowing corn at the age of eight years. When he was fourteen his father died, and he then started out to make his own living, going to the Black Hills, where he remained for six years, working on different cattle ranges in that vicinity. He came to Nebraska in 1890, having made a trip through Holt, Rock, Brown, Cherry, Sheridan and Dawes counties before deciding upon locating here. He looked the ground over thoroughly, camping out at night and roughing it for some time, becoming used to this nomadic life through his experience on the cattle ranges, where he had spent the entire summer outdoors; in fact, had at times slept in the open the greater part of the year. On coming to Brown county he filed on a homestead in section 24, township 29, range 22, and built a sod house, in which he lived for three years. All his farm buildings were of the same construction. He at once began

farming and stock raising, in which he was successful from the beginning, and gradually added to his land until he now owns a farm of fifteen hundred and forty acres. Eight hundred of this he has in hay land and two hundred cultivated, with the balance in range and pasture. He has a fine property, with good, substantial buildings, and has twenty-four miles of fence on his land. There are four wells and windmills, with concrete tanks, and one flowing well, which is now in the bed of a fine pond from which the summer's supply of ice is harvested. An elevated supply tank, also of concrete, supplies the bath room and kitchen sink with an abundance of excellent water.

Mr. Jones, although a young man, has accomplished a good deal in the time he has been here, and owes everything he has to his industry and good management, and well deserves his success. The numerous barns and buildings look like a small village; a blacksmith shop makes ordinary farm repairs a matter easily managed; an ingenious device for handling wild stock, breaking them to the halter and making them tractable, is one of the most ingenious inventions to be found in the state. A concrete dipping vat is not the least of the excellent conveniences of the ranch.

On December 31, 1889, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Viola Steele, daughter of Daniel Steele, an old settler in Cherry county, the family locating there about 1885. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, namely: Margareta, Velma, Garnett, Katie, Dale and Glenn.

Mrs. Jones died April 8, 1903. A second marriage was contracted November 9, 1907, with Miss Edith A. Gross, a native of Shenandoah, Iowa, where she attended the State Normal School. Later a business education fitted her for responsible positions in the west. She had been teaching in Brown county prior to her marriage. Mr. Jones is a Democrat politically and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Ainsworth. A fine view of his home place may be found on another page.

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#### E. M. BENSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a leading farmer and stockman of Riverton, who has had wide experience in this line of work and has thoroughly mastered the art of getting the best possible results from his operations. Mr. Benson was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1840.

He is a son of James and Susan (Murray) Benson, both natives of Maryland. He grew up in Ohio with his brothers, John W., James M. and Ephraim B., and all four served through the Civil war. Our subject enlisted in 1861 in Company G, Forty-fourth Ohio, the regiment being under the command of Colonel S. A. Gilbert, and served for three years, first in the Army of Fremont, Virginia, then under Burnside at Knoxville. His third year as a soldier was spent in General Sheridan's army.

In later years, after settling in Nebraska, Mr. Benson was first lieutenant of Company H, First Nebraska National Guards, and served two years. In this time he helped settle the strike in Omaha in March, 1882. His experience in the Civil war gave him his position as lieutenant, and because of this experience he was given a responsible position during the Omaha strike. It was during this strike that a man named Armstrong was killed and Mr. Benson was placed in command of the guard at that time.

Mr. Benson came to Nebraska in 1873, settling in Nuckolls county, where he took up a homestead and farmed for twenty years, and during nearly all that time served as justice of the peace there, and was one of the leading old settlers.

In 1893 Mr. Benson came to Riverton, purchasing a farm four miles from the town. There he carried on mixed farming for several years, and in 1901 he went into the stock business, buying, selling and shipping, and has been very successful, shipping thirty-five carloads per year. One year he shipped forty-five carloads. He is also engaged to quite an extent in the real estate and land business, and handles a great deal of farming lands in Franklin and the adjoining counties. Since July, 1908, Mr. Benson has retired from an active business life and intends to take a well earned rest. In 1901 Mr. Benson was united in marriage to Miss K. A. Crilly, daughter of Hugh Crilly, a pioneer settler of Franklin county, who came to this country in his young days from the north of Ireland.

Mr. Benson has the following children: J. H., who lives on the homestead of one hundred and sixty acres near Riverton; W. H., who enlisted in the Third Nebraska during the late war with Spain, and who was the first one of his regiment to die at Jacksonville, Florida; J. A., who died in 1904, aged thirty-four years. He was a farmer; Myrtle L., now Mrs. Tom Glenn, of Riverton, and Mrs. Charity Susan Merritt, of Altoona, Kansas.

Mr. Benson has always been a man of ac-

tive public spirit, and has assisted materially through his labors and example in the up-building of the farming interests of his community, well meriting his high standing as a good business man and worthy citizen. For five years he held the office of assessor of Grant township, and takes a deep interest in all local affairs. He has been past commander in the Grand Army of the Republic posts at Riverton and Nelson, and for a long time was adjutant in that body in both these towns. Mr. Benson is now serving as commander of the Franklin post.

Mr. Benson became converted in 1857 in Ohio and united with the First Christian church, and since coming west he has joined the Congregational church and holds the office of clerk in this organization. He has taken an active part in religious work for years.

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#### HUGH P. SLAWSON.

The gentleman above named resides on a fine estate and is one of the well known old-timers of Cheyenne county, where he has passed about twenty-five years, and has seen all of the stages of the growth and development of that region. Mr. Slawson is engaged in dairying on a large scale, and has a finely equipped dairy place on his ranch in section 30, township 14, range 46, and ships large quantities of cream and other products to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Hugh P. Slawson was born in Elmira, New York State, on the 21st day of March, 1854, and when a small boy his parents moved to Pennsylvania, where he grew up, his father being engaged in the lumbering business in that state. During his boyhood he learned the blacksmith's trade, and later went into the piano, organ and sewing machine business, following that up to 1884, when he came west, locating in Cheyenne county. He at once filed on a homestead in section 20, and after farming for several years there sold the place and took up his present ranch, now being proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and sixty of which was acquired by homestead rights and the balance by purchase. Here he cultivates one hundred acres and runs quite a large number of cattle and horses, at present having seventy head of cattle and fourteen head of horses. Connected with our subject in the dairying business is his son, Fred N. Slawson, and together they are doing a fine trade. The son is now occupying the ranch home with his father, he being married and having one son, Hugh, born January 5, 1900.

On July 4, 1873, Mr. Slawson was united in marriage to Alice E. Brooks in Pennsylvania, she being a native of Potter county, that state. Two children were born to them, named as follows: Fred N., who is with his father on the ranch, and who owns three hundred and twenty acres adjoining, thus making six hundred and forty acres in one body. The other is Rho, married and living in Council Bluffs, Iowa, engaged in the mail service, also carrying on a grocery business there. He has two sons, Rho, Jr., born April 9, 1901, and Kenneth Brooks, born September 13, 1904. The parents of both our subject and his wife are now deceased. In political matters Mr. Slawson is an independent voter.

Mr. Slawson was indeed a pioneer in the new country in which he settled in 1884. He built the first frame building in the town of Lodge Pole excepting the railroad buildings and the little school house. His new building stood on the site of the present Park Hotel. He afterwards went on his homestead in section 20, township 14, range 46, and built a home for his family, which consisted of four sod walls (with the luxury of a floor), the roof being boards bent over a piece of timber, sod and dirt being freely applied to shut out cold and storm. That year his children attended school in town, two and one-half miles away, that, by the way, being their nearest neighbor. The next year Mr. Slawson was active in organizing a school district, No. 35, and as it was the first of its kind it was called the "Pioneer" district. The school house was built of sod, 16x20, minus a floor. Here his boys attended school, while his wife taught the school two years after the district was formed. Mr. Slawson drilled the first well that was ever drilled on the north divide, erecting the first windmill. Afterward drilled many wells and put up mills in the surrounding country.

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#### ANDREW J. ROBBINAULT.

Andrew J. Robbinault, one of the oldest settlers of Blaine county, Nebraska, lives on a fine ranch of eight hundred acres on the North Loup river. He was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1860. His father, Jeremiah Robbinault, was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and was a pioneer of western Nebraska. The mother, Margaret Gillespie in her youth, was of Irish parentage.

When our subject was six or seven years old the family came west, locating in Crawford county, Iowa, where they were among



the earliest settlers on a farm three miles from the town of Denison. Our subject grew up accustomed to plenty of hard work. He remained with his father until he was twenty-six years old.

Andrew J. Robbinault was married in 1887 to Miss Ella A. Golson, who was reared in southern Nebraska. She was the daughter of J. C. Golson and Della (Trainer) Golson, pioneers of Blaine county, Nebraska, where they settled in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Robbinault have two children—Della, now Mrs. Porter C. Riggs, and Joseph.

Our subject and one brother came to Nebraska in 1883, picked out land and located a homestead on the Little Wild Horseshoe Flats, later called Edyth Valley. They drove through from Iowa with team and covered wagon and were two months on the road, doing some carpenter work at Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. The brothers put up sod shanties, very rudely constructed, and their first good house was built of prairie sod. The same year another brother-in-law came out and in the fall the father joined his sons. They all drove through in covered wagons, bringing all the stock they could. The nearest railroad town was North Loup, eighty-five miles away, and from this town all the supplies were hauled.

When Blaine county was organized Mr. Robbinault was elected the first sheriff of the county and was widely known as the "boy sheriff." He, with his brother as deputy, captured the notorious criminal Yocham. Since those days our subject has participated in political affairs, holding various political positions with honor to his community and credit to himself. He has been a constable and also a justice of the peace. He is now United States mail carrier from Dunning to Prichard, Blaine county.

Mr. Robbinault's first ranch was ten miles from Brewster, where he lived until proving up on his land in 1893. He then went to California, locating twenty-two miles from Los Angeles, living there fourteen months. From thence he went to Dickinson, Texas, where he remained a year, thence to Houston, where he lived six months, and then he returned to Blaine county, Nebraska.

Our subject has had many trying ordeals through which to pass, among them the destructive fire which burned him out in 1893, destroying barns and buildings on his Nebraska ranch, at which time he lost six fine horses in the flames. In spite of all the setbacks, however, our subject has constantly made headway and has established his fortunes on a safe and gratifying basis. His fine

ranch of eight hundred acres is well improved with a good home, barns, wells, fences and trees, and he has some of the finest hay land in the county. He cultivates only about sixty-five acres, giving almost all his attention to stock raising. Mr. Robbinault occupies a prominent and influential place in the affairs of his county and is looked upon as one of the most progressive and well-to-do old-timers.

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#### WILLIAM E. STILSON.

Although the gentleman above named is still a young man, he has spent considerable time in the pursuit of agriculture in western Nebraska, and during that time has managed to accumulate a nice property by dint of industry and good management, and is classed among the successful citizens of his community. Mr. Stilson resides in section 4, township 27, range 36, Cherry county, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home, and is highly esteemed by his associates.

William E. Stilson was born in La Salle county, Illinois, in 1870. He is a son of Samuel E. and Melissa Ferguson Stilson, both of Scotch descent, the former both in America and the latter in Canada, they having been married in 1869 in Illinois. There was a family of six children, our subject being the eldest. The others are Cora, Gertrude, Sarah, Samuel and Grace, and they all grew up in Illinois, coming to Aurora, Nebraska, about 1885, where they were among the earliest settlers, the father engaging in the grain and milling business. They lived there for five years, then removed to Hyannis, arriving there on December 20, 1890, bringing with them fifty-three head of cattle and their household goods, driving in a covered wagon. They took a homestead six miles south of Hyannis and started to develop a farm, proved up on the claim and remained for six years, then sold the place at a profit, having improved it in good shape with substantial buildings, etc. They went through hard times while living there, and Mr. Stilson was obliged to hunt grouse for a living, worked as a cowboy on ranches in the neighborhood, and did anything that would bring in a little money to help in the support of the family. They next moved to a ranch north of Hyannis, and farmed for three years, coming to his present location in July, 1900. This is situated on section 4, township 27, range 36, his ranch consisting of about sixteen sections, located thirty-eight miles north of the town of Hyannis, which is devoted prin-

cipally to the ranching business, running about seven hundred head of cattle at the present time. He makes a specialty of breeding and raising Aberdeen Angus cattle, and has a fine bunch of these animals at the present time.

The father of our subject was a prominent and public-spirited citizen in his section of the country, having been elected county judge for three terms, and was the third man to hold that office in Grant county. He had traveled all over western Nebraska on hunting trips during the very early days, and while engaged in the grain business made many heavy shipments of grain into the county.

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#### LOUIS K. MOTE.

Louis K. Mote, one of the best known pioneers of Dawes county, Nebraska, was one of the first settlers of that region, and is a business and public man of more than ordinary capacity, conducting numerous extensive enterprises during his career. He is possessed of wide and varied experience and a character of the highest integrity. Mr. Mote resides in Chadron, and is now filling the office of sheriff of Dawes county, elected in 1905 by the Republican party.

Mr. Mote was born in Miami county, Ohio, on May 15, 1859. He is a son of Samuel and Anna (Macey) Mote, the former a farmer of American blood, who settled in western Nebraska in 1891, coming here from Marshall county, Iowa. They are both still living at the advanced age of eighty-two and seventy-three years, respectively. Our subject was reared in Iowa, where his parents had settled on a farm in Marshall county in 1865, and his boyhood days were spent in assisting his father in the hard work on the home farm. He received a good education, attending a Quaker school, and later the academy at Le Grand, Iowa.

In January, 1886, Mr. Mote came to Chadron, where he took up a homestead and for seven years farmed and engaged in the ranching business. In 1893 he left his farm and moved into the town of Chadron, where he entered the business world, opening up a feed and transfer establishment and ran this for several years, selling out his holdings in 1905. He had been appointed deputy sheriff in 1901, and held the office for four years, then was elected sheriff and is still acting in that capacity. His services to the county which he represents have been invaluable, and of such a character that he has become universally

esteemed and admired by his fellow-men and associates.

Mr. Mote was married March 4, 1886, to Miss Carrie E. Gifford, daughter of William B. Gifford, now a resident of California, the family coming from Albany, New York, where Mrs. Mote was born. To this marriage six children have been born, namely: Walter, who is bookkeeper in the First National Bank in Chadron; George, Esther, Howard, Anna and Francis.

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#### C. L. GRANLUND.

C. L. Granlund, of Holdrege, Nebraska, deputy county treasurer of Phelps county, is one of the honored public officials of the county and a business man of enterprise and capability.

Mr. Granlund was born in Sweden in 1861. His parents, John and Caroline Granlund, were born in Sweden and came to the United States when young people, locating in Porter county, Indiana, where they settled on a farm near Porter Station, later removing to Illinois. The father was a successful farmer, and in 1879 the family came to Nebraska, settling in Laird township, this county, taking a homestead in section 8. Here they broke up the land and farmed one hundred and sixty acres, the father dying in 1891 at the age of fifty-eight years. Our subject remained on the homestead up to 1887, then started in for himself clerking in stores. Mr. Granlund finally sold the father's property in Laird township, which he had previously bought from the heirs. During the years 1891 to 1902, inclusive, Mr. Granlund was engaged in the general merchandise business at Loomis in partnership with C. E. Magnuson, and the firm did an extensive business.

Mr. Granlund located in Holdrege in 1902 and since coming here has been one of the leading men in public affairs, being elected county treasurer of Phelps county in the fall of 1901 and 1903, serving two terms. He is a strong Republican and one of the best known men in this locality, popular with all classes and enjoying an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor, always lending his influence for the betterment of matters in his community. He was deputy county treasurer of Phelps county for one year.

Mr. Granlund is a member of the Swedish Mission church here, and while living in Loomis served as secretary of the church at that point. He has one brother, Andrew E.

Granlund, a successful and prosperous farmer of Center township.

Mr. Granlund was married in 1885 to Miss Emma Anderson, of Laird township. To Mr. and Mrs. Granlund four children have been born, namely: Minnie V., Agnes Luella, Carl Bennett and Evald Ferdinand, and the family have a pleasant home and enjoy the friendship of a host of people.

Since January, 1908, Mr. Granlund has been in the hardware business in Holdrege.

### BURT E. CHENEY.

Burt E. Cheney is one of the progressive young farmers of Brown county, Nebraska, and counts a host of friends at Ainsworth and the vicinity, where his manly and upright character, his push and energy have brought him well to the front. The occupation to which he has addressed himself is a noble one, and the price it demands for success, honesty, integrity and industry Mr. Cheney is ready to pay.

The subject of this writing was born in Lynn county, Iowa, December 3, 1875, where his father, John Cheney, was engaged in farming. He was born in Milford, Massachusetts, coming with his parents when a boy to Jackson county, Iowa. After his marriage he bought a farm in Dubuque county. He came to the state at an early day, living successively in Lynn, Delaware, Marshall and Crawford counties prior to moving to Brown county. He settled on a homestead in section 16, township 30, range 22.

The first house which he constructed for his family home was a rough log cabin, which later gave place to a one and a half story log dwelling, which was afterwards covered with siding resembling a frame house.

Burt E. Cheney was seven years old when the family sought a location in Nebraska, and here he was reared and educated. He remained at home as long as his father lived, and when he died took charge of the paternal estate. In 1898 he bought it, and here he has since made his home.

Mr. Cheney and Miss Emma Baker were united in marriage December 19, 1897. She was born in southern Nebraska, a daughter of Samuel Baker, a pioneer in Brown county, where he settled in 1884. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Cheney has been blessed with three children—Freda I., Niel B. and Floyd A.

They own a choice farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all fenced and in fine condi-

tion, with a large new barn replacing the log structure which in earlier days served as a dwelling. In political views Mr. Cheney is Democratic.

### SWAN ANDERSON.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentleman here named has acquired a well developed farm, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming. He is of a progressive nature and has had a wide experience in farming and every detail of his work is looked after and personally supervised by himself. His estate is situated in section 25, Westmark township, Phelps county, Nebraska. A portrait of him will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Anderson was born in Wormland, Sweden, in 1852, and came to this country in 1880, bringing his mother with him to this state, where she died in 1903. His father died when he was an infant. After landing in this country he came to Chicago and worked for three years in the McCormick Reaper Works, and there are now hundreds of his Swede coworkers employed there, and all of them put together could not raise sufficient capital to buy the land and stock owned by our subject, and this is one of the strongest arguments in favor of able-bodied men quitting the cities and wage work and getting onto farms, and young men to get out in the country and take hold of the breaking plow. Mr. Anderson's judgment and foresight realized this and he acted on his convictions, bought a team with his last money and came west, and the old saying, "He came, he saw, he conquered," holds good here. He landed in Phelps county in 1883, and bought a homestead claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Center township, improving it, putting up a house, barn and other buildings, planted over seven thousand trees, and soon afterwards bought one hundred and sixty acres in Anderson township. These two pieces of land he exchanged for four hundred and eighty acres on which he now resides; also bought eighty acres adjoining that, and has bought several pieces more, so that his farm consists of six hundred and forty acres, and also has property in Holdrege. He also has three hundred and twenty acres of pasture land in Cottonwood township and a six hundred and forty acre ranch in Dawson county, where he rents an additional one hundred and five acres. In 1905 he sold six cars of cattle and one car of hogs, which netted him seven thousand dollars. He now has thirty-five horses, one hun-



SWAN ANDERSON



dred hogs and two hundred and thirty-five head of cattle, the latter all raised by him for market. From the above it will be seen that he is one of the most successful farmers in this county, and he can say that it was all made since coming to Nebraska, by his own unaided work and hustling along intelligent lines, for he is a man of cast-iron constitution, full of "go" and energy. He is well posted on farming, stock, markets and local and national affairs, in all of which he takes a keen interest, shrewdly recognizing what makes for success and general prosperity, and expressing his views with force and reason. He is owner of a threshing machine, which he uses on his farm, doing only a limited amount of outside work. This year (1906) he raised four thousand bushels of wheat, thirteen hundred bushels of barley and oats and two hundred and thirty acres of corn, which promises a yield of fifty bushels to the acre. He had a large crop of hay also. He markets very little of his crop, preferring to make the profit by feeding it and selling the resulting fat cattle, hogs and colts. When he first came here he could not even harness a team properly, but was not discouraged, as "Where there's a stout heart, strong arms, and a will, there's always a way," and he has certainly proven that it pays to go at a thing right and stick to it.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1900 to Miss Emily Swanberg, and has a family of four children, as follows: Elmer, Ruth, Priscilla and Phoebe. The family are members of the Free Mission Swedish church at Phelps Center, and Mr. Anderson is a trustee of the same. For the past several years he has been a school treasurer for his section. He is a Republican, and takes a lively interest in all local and state affairs of his party. Our subject was burned out in 1906. lost barn, granary and corn cribs, and six horses and other valuable property. He has rebuilt and has better buildings and also added to his house.

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#### LOUIS AUFDENGARTEN.

Louis Aufdengarten, a well and favorably known resident of Paxton precinct, has the honor of being the oldest settler now living in Keith county, Nebraska. Mr. Aufdengarten was born in Prussia, April 17, 1847. His father, Herman Aufdengarten, was a farmer and linen manufacturer, who spent his entire life in Germany, as did also his mother, who was Mary Witte.

When our subject was fifteen years of age he left home and took passage at Bremen the middle of September on an emigrant steamer, the "Hansa," for America, landing after a stormy passage of seventeen days in New York City, and went direct to Toledo, Ohio, where he lived for about two years, employed in a sash, door and blind factory, the latter part of the time as shipping clerk. He then went to Omaha, Nebraska, ascending the Missouri by steamer from St. Louis. He spent four years in Omaha as a clerk in a grocery store. After that he went to Julesburg, Colorado, which was then the old town and situated six miles from where the present town of Julesburg is located. In 1869 Fort Sedgwick was moved from old Julesburg to Sidney, and he located at Ogallala, where he established a store, the first opened in that town. He also was the first man to erect a residence in Ogallala, and his son Henry was the first white child born in the locality. He put in a small stock of general goods, dealing principally with the Pawnee Indians and scouts, and with the white soldiers in the region. The buffalo soon began roaming through the region and then the hunters came in large numbers, which increased his business to a great extent. Soon after this period the ranchmen and cowboys began to settle in the country, and he was obliged to constantly enlarge his stock, so that he carried a stock of \$20,000 to \$25,000, and had the biggest establishment in that part of the state. He carried on this business until 1876, when he sold out and went into stock raising, which he tried for three years, then went back to the mercantile business, continuing until 1886, but as his health began to fail he was obliged to quit, starting a mill, the first in Ogallala. The mill was burned in 1894.

In 1898 Mr. Aufdengarten came to his present location, which he had taken as a tree claim in the early days, and he then began to build up a farm. He improved it rapidly, and now has a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, with irrigated meadow land, pleasant premises, good buildings of all kinds, etc. He has ten acres devoted to fruit, having apple, peach, plum and cherry trees, besides grapes and other small fruits. There are over two hundred grape vines bearing splendid fruit, and his is one of the finest equipped and best cultivated farms in the vicinity, having the finest grove to be found in the region surrounding a dwelling.

Mr. Aufdengarten has been a leading citizen of Keith county since locating here, and was one of the men who helped organize it

as a county in 1873. He was appointed the first county clerk and held the office for eight years. Later he served as county treasurer for four years, and has held other important offices in the region. In politics he is a Democrat and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### PATRICK HENRY O'ROURK.

Patrick Henry O'Rourke, one of the best known residents of Sheridan county, is honored as a public-spirited citizen and one of the ablest attorneys in western Nebraska. He lives in Gordon and for the past thirteen years has followed his profession here, building up an extensive business, and is one of the interesting characters of this section of the country.

Mr. O'Rourke was born in Granville, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin. His father, Michael O'Rourke, was born in Ireland, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Rogers, both coming to the United States when quite young, locating in Syracuse, New York, where they were married by the Rev. Father Hayes. Our subject was the second member of his parents' family of twelve children, and grew up in Wisconsin, attending the common schools, and has made his own way in the world since he was a small boy. He was an apt scholar and at the age of sixteen years began teaching school, and at the same time kept up his studies in law, graduating from the law department of the University of Wisconsin, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws and being admitted to the bar of the supreme court of Wisconsin before he was of age. He tried his first case in the courts of law when he was nineteen years of age.

Mr. O'Rourke early developed marked ability as a public speaker and was elected to the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature, being the youngest member in the assembly, and the first man born in the state elected to the legislature of the state. He was afterward elected to the senate of Wisconsin and served two terms in that body, and while serving as a senator, Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, styled him "the Marc Antony of golden-edged oratory." Mr. O'Rourke built up a prosperous law practice and was attorney for John Fitzgerald, an extensive railroad builder, and he handled cases for this gentleman in the Dakotas, Nebraska and several other western states.

In 1873 he acted as reporter for different

papers in the east and traveled through the West Indies and Australia, and was also in some of the western states in this capacity, and it was during this year that he first traveled through the Platte valley. In 1893 he came to Gordon and located, opening a law office, and has since made this his permanent residence. For some years he was a lecturer and earnest worker in the cause of temperance, and lectured on the subjects of "John Wesley and the Methodist Church," "The Soldier and His True Dignity" and "Sisters of Charity."

He has done a great deal of newspaper work in past years, and had become so thoroughly conversant with conditions throughout the west that his writings of this section of the country influenced immigrants to these states to a large extent.

Mr. O'Rourke is widely known throughout the western states as "Senator" O'Rourke, and through his varied experiences has met many of the leading men of the times, among whom he is accorded a prominent place.

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#### ALONZO S. BARKER.

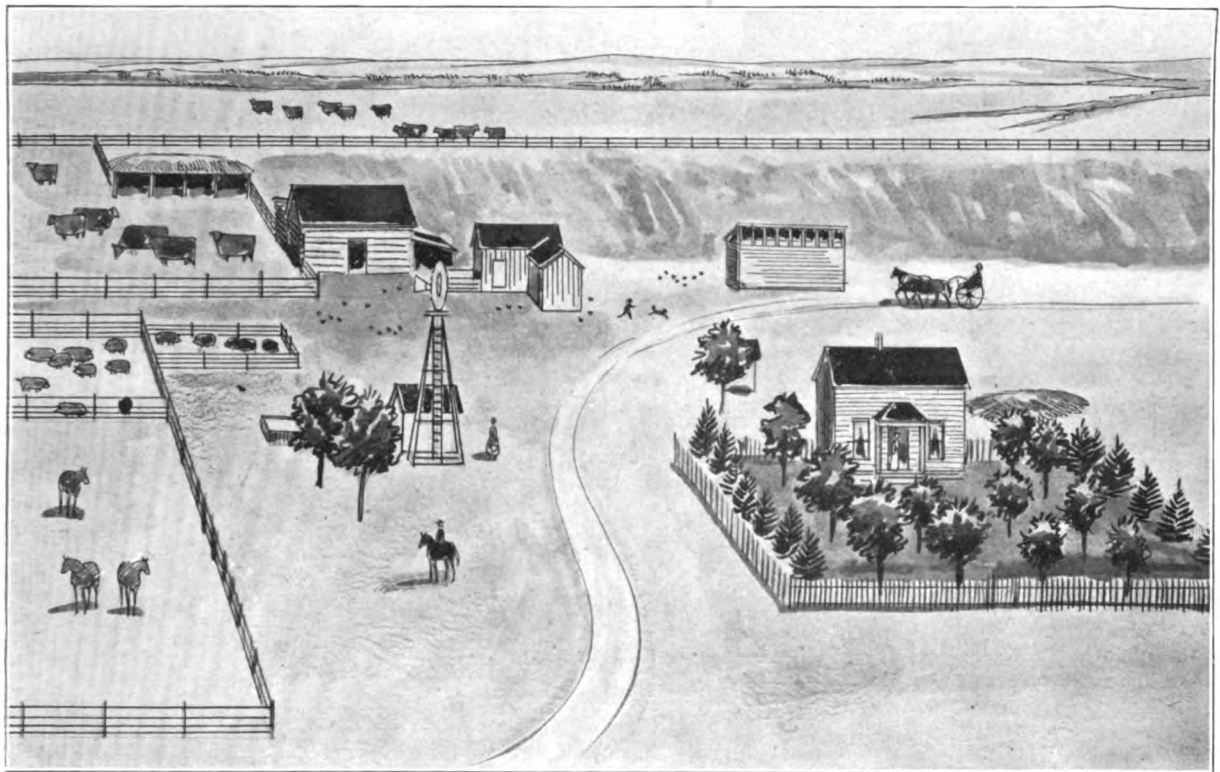
For many years past the gentleman whose name heads this review has been one of the prosperous farmers of Brown county, Nebraska, where he has built up a fine home and farm through his industry and good management.

Mr. Barker is a native of Albany county, New York, born July 13, 1862. His father, Nathaniel Barker, was a carpenter by trade, who moved to Ford county, Illinois, when our subject was a boy, and there on a farm Alonzo learned to endure the hard work of the farm in his younger days, receiving a common school education. In 1884 he came to Brown county with his parents, where they located on a farm on Long Pine creek. The father died in Fillmore county in 1898.

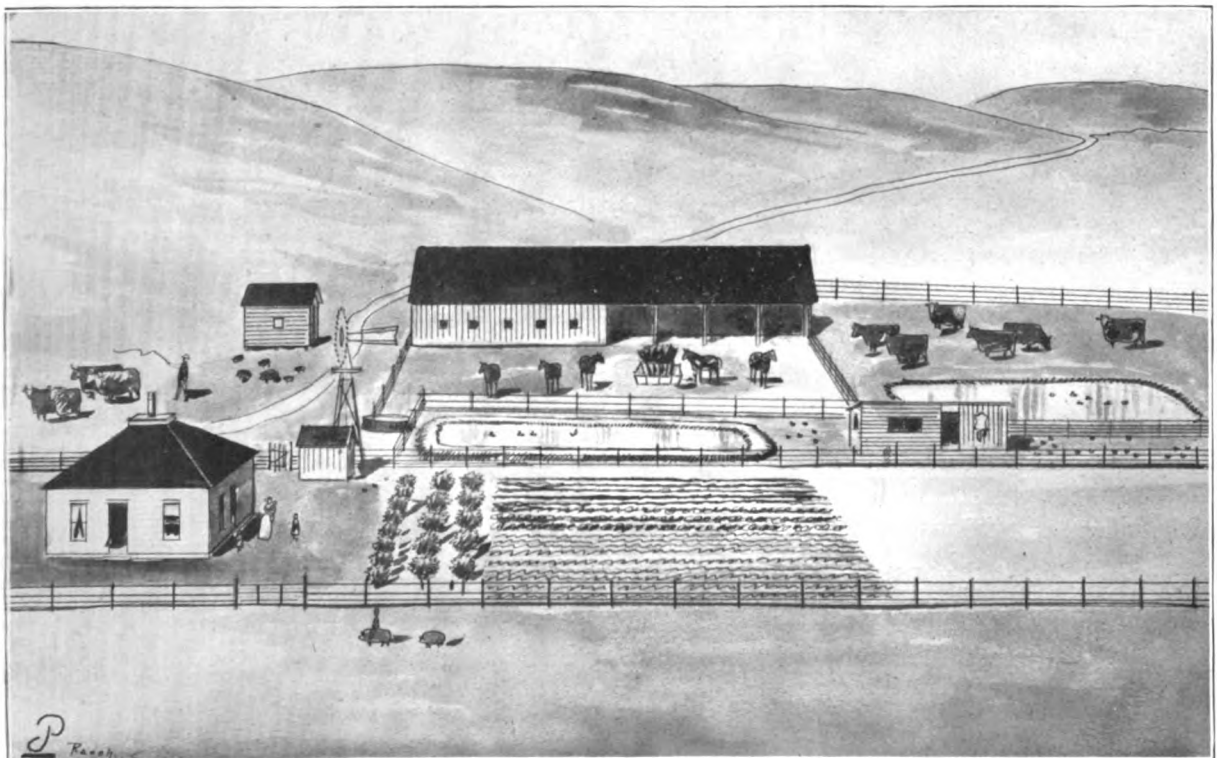
Alonzo, on reaching maturity, took up a pre-emption in section 18, township 31, range 20, and proved up on his claim, living on that place for two years. He then homesteaded his present place in section 17, at that time a barren tract of land. He built a log cabin and other buildings, adding improvements as he could and purchasing more land as he was able, until he now owns a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, with a good dwelling and sufficient barns, sheds, cribs and other buildings. He has thirty-five acres under cultivation and engages principally in stock raising, which has proved very profitable to him.

Mr. Barker operates in all, with leased land,





RESIDENCE OF A. S. BARKER,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF HENRY H. GANOW,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



three hundred and forty acres, being recognized as one of the progressive citizens of the county. When he first came to this locality he met with many reverses, losing three crops in succession, beginning with 1898, through the ravages of chinch bugs and by hail.

On March 1, 1886, Mr. Barker was married to Miss Minnie Miller, whose father, Horace G. Miller, is an old settler in Brown county. His sketch appears on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Barker have a family of three children, all of whom were born in Brown county, named as follows: Nellie, Audrey and Dale.

Mr. Barker takes a commendable interest in all local affairs that tend to better conditions in his community and is held in high esteem by his fellow-men. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Royal Highlanders at Long Pine. On another page of this volume will be found a view of Mr. Barker's residence and the surrounding buildings.

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#### CAPTAIN JOHN F. MORGAN AND MRS. MARY R. MORGAN.

The esteemed couple above named are prominent residents of Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, having made this town their home for the past quarter of a century. Captain Morgan is a native of Ohio, born near Urbana, Champaign county, in 1842. He is a son of John and Sarah (Foster) Morgan. Mrs. Morgan was born at New Lexington, Ohio, and is a daughter of Andrew Ashbaugh, the families of both having been pioneer settlers in their respective states. Mrs. Morgan's great-grandfather, Ebenezer Donaldson, was killed in the Wyoming massacre in Pennsylvania.

Captain Morgan came to Harlan county in 1878 and located on a homestead in Fairfield township. He remained there for two years, then removed to Alma, renting his farm. He served all through the late war, having enlisted October 14, 1861, in Company A, Sixty-sixth Ohio Regiment, under Colonel Charles Candy. This was a company of volunteers from Champaign county, Ohio, and they saw service in many large battles. He remained with this regiment up to December 16, 1863, then re-enlisted on Lookout Mountain. In October, 1862, he had been made sergeant and filled this post with honor. June 20, 1865, he was commissioned first lieutenant of Company A. He was in Virginia at the battle of Winchester and Port Republic. Also at Cedar

Mountain and Antietam, and at the latter place he received a severe wound which forced him to the Baltimore hospital for several months. He took part in the battle of Chancellorsville, and also in the battle of Gettysburg, this battle lasting for three days, and the horrors of that famous action are still fresh in our subject's mind. He was then ordered to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with his regiment, having been transferred to the western army. Here he participated in the battles of Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Resaca, Ringgold, Dallas and Pumpkin Vine Creek, where there was continual fighting between the Federals under General Sherman and Confederates under Johnston. He participated in the ten days' siege at Kenesaw Mountain, at Peach Tree Creek and at the siege and capture of Atlanta. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, at the siege of Savannah, and through South and North Carolina, and at the battle of Richmond and later at the grand review at Washington, D. C.

Captain Morgan has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic since 1878, and of Van Meter Post No. 94, as a charter member, and for a number of terms has held the office of commander and adjutant. He was on Captain Henry's staff while department commander and in 1905 on the staff of Corporal Tanner, major general and commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, and others.

Mrs. Morgan is one of the leading members of the Woman's Relief Corps of Alma. On May 11, 1886, she became a charter member and first president of Van Meter Relief Corps, and has been one of the hardest workers in that body. She was appointed press correspondent for the Department of Nebraska, and assistant national inspector in June, 1886; served for two years as president of the Department of Nebraska, and was for two and a half years treasurer of that department, one year was department secretary, and is now serving as department counselor. She was the national secretary for the years 1905 and 1906, and at the present time is acting as chairman of the national executive committee of the Woman's Relief Corps. In this order there are over one hundred and fifty-five thousand members in the United States.

In 1888 Captain and Mrs. Morgan edited and published "The News-Reporter," of Alma, an independent paper in the interest of the temperance cause, and this had a wide circulation in western Nebraska. They sold out their interest in this organ in 1900. Both Mr. and Mrs. Morgan are active in public affairs all through this section, the latter having

served from 1881 to 1888, inclusive, as county superintendent of education for Harlan county. Captain Morgan is a prominent member of the Masonic order and an active worker in Harlan Lodge No. 116; also an Independent Order of Odd Fellow, being a charter member of Alma Lodge No. 81, which was the first of this order organized in Harlan county—in 1878.

He is an active Republican and has held the office of assessor, township clerk and treasurer of the town of Alma, and many other local offices. Captain Morgan has now retired from all active business interests and his time is devoted to his family and in the enjoyment of his comfortable home, surrounded by a host of warm friends and acquaintances.

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#### ALVIN M. MILLER.

A leading old-timer of Box Butte county who has watched the growth of that part of the county since its early beginning, resides in Hemingford, where he is engaged in the milling and lumber business and is one of the prosperous and successful business men of the town.

Mr. Miller was born in McHenry county, Illinois, in 1844. His father, Worthington Miller, was of American birth and his mother was Miss Harriet Everett before her marriage, and who died when he was six years old. When he reached the age of twelve years our subject started out for himself, working on different farms in Kankakee county, Illinois, for a number of years, and at the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the Seventy-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company F, and saw active service along the Mississippi river and in Florida. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg; also at the siege of Mobile and spent three years in a soldier's life. He was in the last battle of the war, fought at Fort Blakely. His company went into the war in 1862 with one hundred men, and at the close of the war only twenty-two men answered the roll call, while the company had been recruited to the extent of fourteen men during that time. At the battle of Fort Blakely there were thirty-three men who went to the front, and after the battle came out with a loss of eleven men. After the close of the war he came back to his old home and went to farming and remained in Illinois up to 1880, moving to Chebanse, Illinois, in 1879, where he was engaged in the creamery business for five years. In the spring of 1885 he came to Hay Springs,

Nebraska, locating on a homestead five miles from Hemingford, and here his first building was a sod house, at first occupying a tent for a few months after landing, with the tent pitched in the road. During the first years here he hauled wood and timber from Pine Ridge, and worked at different things to make a living and get a start on his farm, and broke up some land, proving up on the homestead after two years, using his soldier's right.

About the year 1891 our subject moved to Hemingford, where he started in the milling business, purchasing an interest in the Hemingford Flouring Mills. This mill was built in 1890 by Schlunts & Thomas, who operated it for a time. The mill has a capacity of seventy-five barrels per day, and has been a success from the start, and Mr. Miller was connected with the business for sixteen years, and is now sole owner of the establishment. He also handles lumber and coal, and has a wide patronage throughout the town and county.

Besides his business interests in Hemingford, Mr. Miller owns a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Iroquois county, Illinois, which was operated under his personal supervision for fourteen years, and he still spends much of his time at the place, although giving much of his attention to the milling and lumber business in Hemingford. Mr. Miller owns about one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the town of Hemingford, which is well improved.

Shortly after returning from the war Mr. Miller was married in Illinois to Miss Addie Pearson, and they are now the parents of two children, namely: Melvin L. and George A. Melvin L. is in Iroquois county, Illinois, on the farm, and George A. is in Hemingford.

Mr. Miller was elected county treasurer of Box Butte county in 1895 and 1898, holding that office for two terms. He has been on the town board for a number of years, and has always taken an active and leading part in local affairs of his community. He is a Republican.

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#### HENRY H. GANOW.

Henry H. Ganow, one of the pioneers of western Nebraska, is known throughout Cherry county as a prosperous and energetic ranchman and farmer. He has been closely identified with the development of this region since 1880, when the family moved into this part of the wild west, and his name will occupy a place in the making of history of this part of the country. He resides on sec-

tion 15, township 32, range 38, where he has a valuable estate of eight hundred acres, improved with a good house and barns, larger and better than the average in this part of the west.

Mr. Ganow was born in Fort Collins, Colorado, June 13, 1871, where almost the entire population were Indians, and he grew up amid the excitement of a wild and dangerous people, witnessing many uprisings of the redskins.

Mr. Ganow's father, Mallory B. Ganow, was a prominent old-timer in the west, coming to the plains many years ago. He acted as pilot for large herds of cattle and sheep driven from Texas and Mexico into this section, some times having as high as twelve thousand in a drove. He had a contract for ties and lived in the Colorado mountains for three years without seeing anything of civilization. There were six children in the family, of whom our subject was the fourth member, and he was raised in Colorado and Nebraska, coming to this region in June, 1881. His parents settled on White Clay creek, north of Rushville, Sheridan county, on a ranch, and it was there that Henry began his career as a cowboy when but nine years of age. He afterwards rode all over this part of Nebraska and into South Dakota, leading a typical life of the wild west, camping out nights and experiencing many rough and dangerous times, and of his many narrow escapes that of a bear fight, while a friend, his brother and himself were on the Big White river, was the most exciting. The Bruin referred to was one of the largest ever seen in this territory. In 1899 he settled on a homestead, which he still occupies and on which he has resided continuously since. His first house was destroyed by a cyclone on August 3, 1900, in which everything was demolished. He has since erected a good set of buildings, a commodious frame dwelling, barns and sheds 26 feet by 80 feet in extent, wind mills, irrigation reservoir, fences, etc., making it one of the best equipped farms and ranches in that part of the country.

His ranch contains eight hundred acres, with sixty acres under cultivation, and he has it well improved with a fine orchard and many kinds of small fruit.

In July, 1900, Mr. Ganow was married to Miss Kathenka L. Beck, a native of the village of Nyckjobing, Denmark, and a daughter of James P. and Hannah M. (Elsberg) Beck. They came to America in 1874, sailing from Copenhagen in the Humboldt. The father was an expert machinist and traveled in Denmark,

where his work carried him. He died in the old country. The mother with her little family came to America and settled in Chicago, where Kathenka attended kindergarten and school. Later on coming to Omaha she became forewoman in a mattress factory and nurse for a wealthy family who traveled a great deal.

Mr. and Mrs. Ganow have a family of four children, namely: Laurine B., Harold E., Valerie M. and Curtiss C. Mrs. Ganow is educating her children personally, there being no schools nearby, and is instilling into them refinement and love for books not common in the ranch country. She is teaching them music as well as the ordinary branches of elementary learning and for politeness they are not excelled by children city bred. Mr. Ganow is a Republican and takes a lively interest in all local and state party affairs. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. A view of the family residence, with its surroundings, is to be found on another page of this work.

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#### CHARLES E. ELL.

The gentleman above named resides in North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska. He holds the post of passenger engineer on the Union Pacific Railway, and has a record as one of the most successful engineers on the road, his work being of such a high order that he is chosen by the railroad officials for the most of the special runs requiring skill, nerve and a cool head. He is very popular in railway circles, and has the esteem and friendship of a host of people.

Mr. Ell is a native of Columbus, Ohio, son of John P. Ell, who came to Lodgepole, Nebraska, in 1868 with his family. The father enlisted in the Eighteenth United States Infantry, and served all through the Civil war in the Army of the Potomac under General Phil Sheridan, taking part in all the great battles of the war. When the barracks were built at Omaha he was sent there, then being a member of the Twenty-seventh United States Infantry. He also served in the Mexican war with the Ohio troops, and owing to his experience in that war was offered promotion in the Civil war, but declined the honor. In 1870 he came to North Platte and resided here up to the time of his death, which occurred in June, 1882, aged sixty-four years.

Our subject began with the Union Pacific Railroad here in 1870, working in the round-house wiping engines, then was a fireman from

July, 1871, to November, 1876, and since that time has been an engineer. He has the record of having made the fastest runs west of here, taking his train from Sydney to North Platte, one hundred and twenty-three minutes, in one hundred and nine minutes. The train was late, and this is the record run for this division. He was engineer from Sidney to North Platte on the celebrated run made by E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific, and Mr. Harriman had a record of this trip made and framed, sending a copy to each conductor and engineer who took part in it. Mr. Ell is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, joining that lodge in 1877.

Mr. Ell was married in February, 1876, to Miss Maggie McGinn, of Pittsfield, Illinois, and they have a family of two sons—John, a conductor on the same road his father is with, and George, brakeman on that road.

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#### JOHN W. McLERAN, D. D. S.

Dr. John W. McLeran, a rising young dentist of Springview, has gained the confidence and respect of a large circle of acquaintances as a skillful practitioner and worthy citizen.

Dr. McLeran was born December 7, 1873, in Marshalltown, Iowa, and is the son of Samuel R. McLeran, a prominent resident of Marshalltown, who has served as clerk of the district court in Marshall county for fifteen years. He was born in Vermont, of Scotch-Irish parents, served in the Civil war, and is widely known in political circles. His mother, who was Theresa P. Jones, died at the time of his birth.

Our subject was reared in Marshalltown, and after graduating from the high school there entered the State University at Iowa City, and afterwards the dental department of the Northwestern University, in Chicago, Illinois. After receiving his diploma he remained in Chicago for two years practicing his profession, and from there went to Boston, where he spent two years. In 1899 he located at O'Neil, Nebraska, practicing in that town for four years, then removed to Springview, where he has since been located. He is building up a splendid reputation and practice and is one of the solid men of Springview.

On May 3, 1905, he was married to Miss Lena McKnight, whose father, Dr. McKnight, is a prominent old settler of Brown county, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. One daughter, Ruth, has been born to them, her nativity occurring at Long Pine.

The Doctor is a Republican in politics. He has served the Masonic lodge at Springview as master since the institution of the lodge, and also affiliates with the Workmen. He deals extensively in real estate, has served as county surveyor and as editor of the local paper.

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#### S. J. DUNN.

S. J. Dunn, one of the leading citizens and foremost public men of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is a worthy representative of an old Nebraska family. He is a brother of I. J. Dunn, who has the honor of having nominated William J. Bryan for the presidency in Denver July 9, 1908. The Dunns are all well known in politics and have taken leading parts in the upbuilding and progress of western Nebraska from its early settlement.

Our subject was born in Omaha, May 14, 1862, living there until he was four years of age, when his parents removed to Sarpy county, where he grew up on a farm. Of the children in the family there were six sons and two daughters, and S. J. was the second oldest. The father is now dead, but the mother occupies the old farm in Sarpy county.

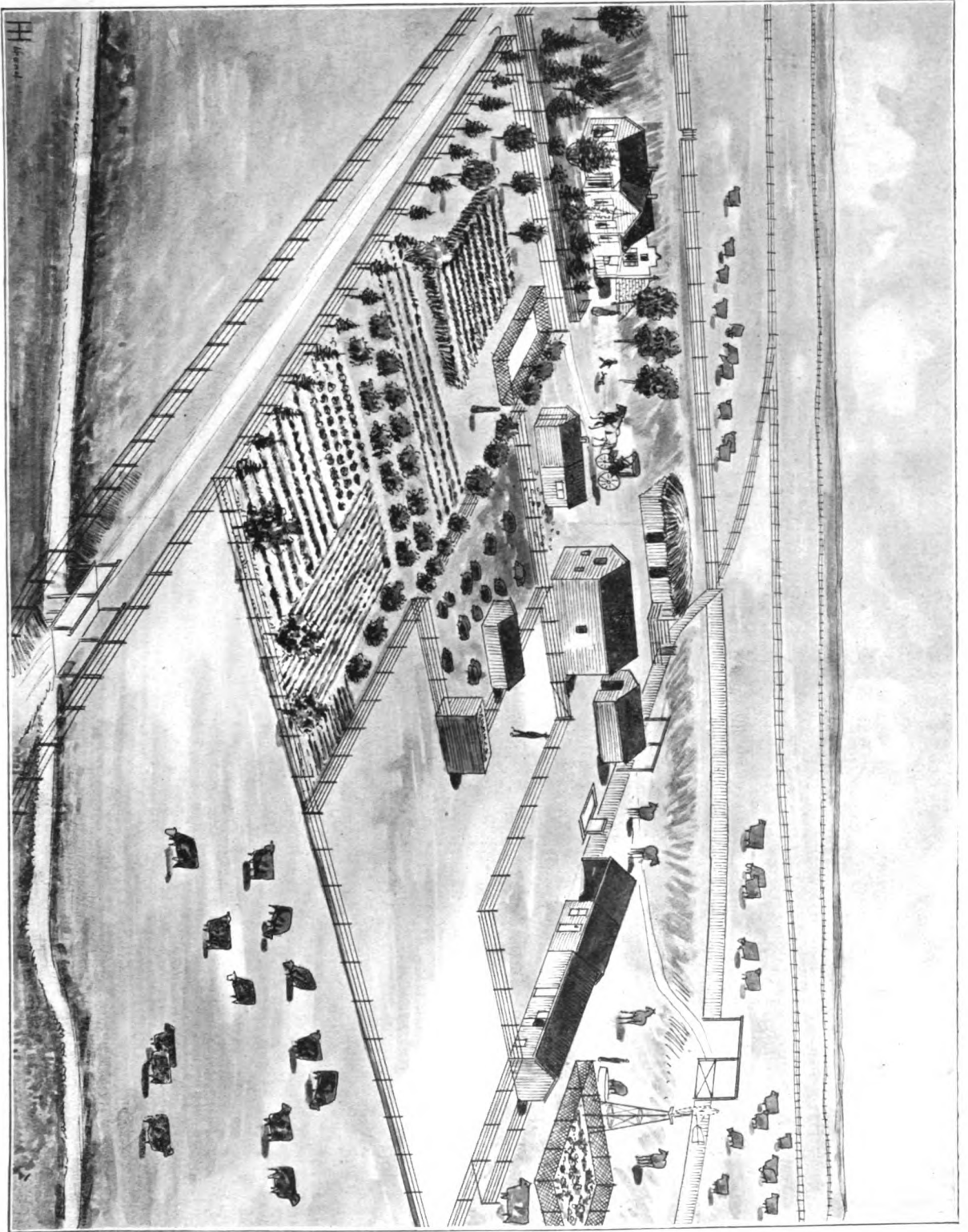
Mr. Dunn came to Cheyenne county in 1895, arriving here in May of that year, and immediately took up a homestead on section 18, township 19, range 48, which he proved up on and has since added land to his original tract, owning at the present time three hundred and twenty acres, which he uses for grain and stock raising, running quite a bunch of cattle and horses.

Mr. Dunn has been very successful in his ventures and is one of the well-to-do residents of his township. He has a pleasant home and well improved farm, and is up-to-date and progressive in his method of farming. Politically he is an Independent.

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#### WARREN G. TOWNSEND.

In driving through the farming district of Brown county, Nebraska, many well kept, highly cultivated and splendidly improved places are seen, but none is more carefully conducted or successfully operated than that owned by the subject of this review. Mr. Townsend has spent many years on this farm and has become well versed in all modern methods of agriculture, and by experience and observation has acquired a wide knowledge,



RESIDENCE OF WARREN G. TOWNSEND,  
Brown County, Nebraska





to which his success is in a large measure due.

Mr. Townsend was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, October 22, 1857. He is a son of Jonathan Townsend, a farmer of Pennsylvania German origin, and Martha Goldrick, who was also a native of the Keystone state. He is the seventh member of a family of eight children, was reared on a farm, beginning at an early age to assist his father in the hard work of which every one who has ever lived in the country knows there is much. He received a common school education, and after attending the state normal school began teaching in his native county. At the age of twenty-one he left home and began a career for himself. Coming west he first settled in Hamilton county, Nebraska, in 1871, where he followed teaching for two years. In 1880 he came to Brown county and remained there through the severe winter of 1880-81, having taken a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 11, township 30, range 23, where he put up a two-story dwelling built of hewed logs, and "batched" it for several years. In 1890 this house burned and all his household goods were lost. During these years all his supplies had to be hauled from Oakdale and Neligh, a distance of about one hundred miles, and in making these trips he was obliged to spend several nights camping out on the road. He was employed part of the time during the early years here in teaching the district school in his locality, and has since first coming always taken a deep interest in all educational matters in the county, for two terms serving as superintendent of schools of Brown county. In 1894 he purchased his present home, located in section 12, township 30, range 23, moving on it in the same year. This was entirely unimproved property, and he went to work building up a good farm, and now has a complete set of substantial and comfortable buildings, with windmill, fences, etc., which makes it one of the best farms in the locality. A view of the home and surroundings may be seen elsewhere in this work. He enjoys peace and prosperity and his pleasant home is surrounded by all the comforts of country life. He engages principally in grain raising, which he finds very profitable, also keeps quite a goodly number of stock.

Mr. Townsend was married November 15, 1887, to Miss Leona Hagerman, a native of Wisconsin. Her father, Calvin Hagerman, is an old settler in this county, and a sketch of this gentleman's life will be found in this volume on another page. Mr. and Mrs. Townsend have a family of four children, who are named as follows: Glen R., Lura B., Lyndon

E. and Lisle M. They are a happy family, and highly respected in the community in which they reside.

Mr. Townsend has been a man of successful endeavor, and is now numbered among the substantial and prominent citizens of this locality. In political faith he is a Democrat and affiliates with the Ainsworth camp. Woodmen of the World.

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#### DR. HAL. C. SMITH.

The gentleman above named is one of the well known and highly esteemed residents of Franklin, Nebraska, where he has practiced medicine for the past two years. He is a young man of exceptional intelligence and good judgment, and has fitted himself for the profession which he has chosen for his life work by a superior education and years of hard study and close application. Dr. Smith is a native of Pike county, Illinois, a son of Rev. John T. Smith, a well known minister of the Christian (Disciples) church, and our subject grew up in Illinois. He was educated at the Nebraska City high school and later the Lincoln Medical College, graduating from the latter institution in 1904. He then took a post-graduate course at the Chicago Polyclinic College and attended Pratt's Course in Chicago during 1905 and Northwestern University the following year. Dr. Smith is also a graduate of Neiswanger's School of Electro-Therapeutics, and in 1908 he attended the surgical clinics at the Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital of Chicago and also Dr. Pratt's Course the same year at Herring Medical School. In addition to this, he spent some time at Dr. Mayo's Hospital, Rochester, Minn., and has thoroughly prepared himself for his career. In May, 1904, he located at Brownsville, and came to his present location in 1906, where he is now enjoying a large practice, and rapidly gaining recognition as a master of the work.

Dr. Smith is a Mason and Shriner, also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Republican Valley and the Nebraska State Medical Associations, also secretary of the County Medical Association, and special examiner here for the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Bankers' Life, of Lincoln, and the Security Mutual Insurance Company, of Lincoln, sides acting also for the Middle West, of Lincoln, and the Union Central, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and State Mutual Life Assurance C

pany, of Worcester, Mass. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### ALLEN G. FISHER.

Allen G. Fisher, whose name is familiar to all acquainted with the business men of Northwestern Nebraska, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in September, 1863, of Scotch-Irish, Pennsylvania Dutch and English blood. His father, George W. Fisher, senior, is a Presbyterian minister, still in charge of the First Presbyterian church of Trenton, Illinois, of which he was made pastor in 1868.

Our subject was educated at McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., where though youngest he took third honor in his class with the degrees of A. B., LL. M. and A. M. In 1884 he took third honors and degree of LL. B. at Washington University, St. Louis. He served as deputy clerk of Cumberland county, Illinois, for twenty-eight months, and May 1, 1886, located at Chadron, where he was a member of the firm of Fall, Spargur & Fisher, the first lawyers in Chadron. He has practiced law there continuously since, except 1898, when he was in the army. He took a homestead in section 32, township 30, range 56, in Sioux county, Nebraska, and still owns this and other lands. His practice extends all over central Wyoming and Black Hills, and all over Nebraska. He is a Republican and from January, 1897, to June, 1898, was county attorney of Dawes county, being elected by the same majority that the county gave Bryan, and Holcomb for Governor on the fusion ticket. For three years he served as city attorney of Chadron. Having been since 1887 a member of the National Guard, he was commissioned captain for services in Sioux war in 1891, and in 1898, at the declaration of war with Spain, he raised Company H, Second Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, and was elected captain and commissioned as such and went south with it to Chickamauga Park, Georgia. They were mustered out with this regiment at Fort Omaha, October 24, 1898, at the end of six months' service, and he was offered a similar commission in the Philippine army, but the war being ended, declined this. During this service the county board removed him from the office of county attorney as a political stroke, but he was placed on the ticket as candidate for representative, after his muster out, to fill vacancy, by declination of Republican nominee, and he carried the district (then and later fusion by more than 800 votes) by a substantial majority.

Mr. Fisher was married in 1884 to Miss Flora Yanaway, also a native of Ohio, and they are parents of six living children: John G., a Sioux county rancher; Bessie V. and Winnie, both graduates of Chadron High School and Wesleyan students at University Place; William Allen, Alice Regina and Charles Andrew, who survive their brother, George, who died in 1905.

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#### JOHN N. STANDT.

Among the business enterprises which contribute in a marked degree to the prosperity of Holdrege, Phelps county, Nebraska, is the wholesale bakery and confectionery establishment of John N. Standt, sole proprietor and manager.

Mr. Standt is a native of Bundenbach, Rhineland, Germany. His parents having died, our subject left his native land with an uncle when only a boy, going to London, England, and he there learned the baker's and confectioner's trade, working at it up to 1885, and at that time came to the United States where he has been in the same business ever since.

In 1889 he came to Holdrege and began in business, starting in on a small scale as he had not much capital, but he made a success from the start, and his good bread, cakes and confectionery brought him an ever increasing trade and he is accounted one of the leading business men of the town. He now turns out from one thousand five hundred to two thousand loaves of bread per day, and his cake and candy output is correspondingly large, employing four bakers all the time. He sends his goods all through the western part of Nebraska, also into Colorado. He does not keep any solicitors to sell his goods, but sells them entirely on their merits. Mr. Standt owns his store and factory building, which is located on one of the main corners of Holdrege.

Mr. Standt is one of the active public-spirited men of his community, and takes a leading part in all matters that tend to the advancement of commercial and educational affairs. He has been city treasurer for the past eight years. At different times has held the office of chairman and secretary of the county central committee of the People's Independent party of Phelps county. He is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen of the World, the Highlanders, the Mutual Protective League, also the National Protective League, besides other fraternal and social organizations. He has a genial, social disposition and pleasing

personality which makes and keeps him friends in all walks of life.

Mr. Standt was married in 1901 to Miss Anna K. Standt and they have one child, John N. Standt, Jr.

### JOHN L. ROSEBERRY.

John L. Roseberry, residing on section 25, township 28, range 35, Cherry county, was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1866. His father was a farmer and a veteran of the Civil war, who died in 1865 from the effects of his service during his career as a soldier. The mother's maiden name was Julia A. Stewart, and both parents were American-born, descendants of old American stock.

Mr. Roseberry was reared in Pennsylvania on a farm, living at home until he was twenty-one years of age, then started for himself, coming west and locating in Clay county, Nebraska, where he spent two years farming. He then came to the western part of the state and took a tree claim on Dismal river, returned to Pennsylvania and spent a year, then back to Nebraska, this time settling in Cherry county, taking a homestead here in 1890, which he has occupied ever since. He was the first white settler to begin improving land in the Dismal country and put up some of the first buildings, making the first fence in the locality. His buildings were all of sod, and his teams were oxen, which did all his farm work for a number of years. He got together quite a herd of cattle and other stock, and during the severe storms which swept the country in 1892 lost one hundred and forty-five head of stock, and for a few years went through very hard times, losing crops, stock, etc. He used his old tree claim as a summer pasture for his cattle, farming a small portion of his homestead, and about 1895 sold the former and afterwards leased land and ran stock for others, forging ahead slowly and bettering himself as he was able. He gradually added land to his original claim and is now possessor of three thousand three hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, besides leasing four sections, all of which is used for a stock ranch, having plenty of pasture and hay land.

Mr. Roseberry has a fine ranch house 36x40 feet, two stories, and water piped throughout the residence, a good barn, workshop and other buildings, wells, wind mills, three flowing wells, and has built sixty miles of fence. He also has a fine fruit orchard, has seven hundred apple trees bearing the finest fruit,

also plums, cherries and small fruits. He has eighty acres of alfalfa, and cultivates one hundred acres, raising small grain of all kinds. Mr. Roseberry has done considerable experimenting with grasses and different grains, in order to ascertain which is the best adapted to the soil and climate, and the past year has tried raising Mexican peas, and shipped a crop of five hundred pounds. He has also given much time to the patenting of a hay stacker, which proved to be a success, and on which he took out a patent on February 21, 1905, called the Roseberry Stacker, which is in quite common use in the western states, claimed to be one of the best on the market, and has made a nice income for the inventor. Mr. Roseberry deals heavily in cattle and horses, running annually from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred of the former, and at present has eighty horses. His ranch is one of the best equipped and finest in the west, he devotes his entire attention to its management, and deserves the success which has come to him.

Mr. Roseberry was married in 1893 to Miss Oscee G. Garrett, daughter of James H. and Alice (Hamm) Garrett, well known in Nebraska as one of the pioneer families here. They have the following children: Ira L., Ray, Paul T., Alice, Mabel, Oscar, Irena and a baby, Garrett.

Our subject has always taken an active part in local affairs, serving as justice of the peace at different times, and was county commissioner for one term. He is president of the Hooker and Cherry County Telephone Company, organizer of that company and was active in getting the line established through the section.

### OSCAR E. FORSLING.

The office of sheriff of Kimball county has been bestowed upon this gentleman, and he is discharging the duties of the position with rare ability and increasing popularity. He was elected in 1907, and prior to that time had served as deputy sheriff for four years, in that time becoming thoroughly familiar with the work, and he is deservedly honored and esteemed by his fellow-men.

Mr. Forsling was born near the city Gothenberg, Sweden, on July 19, 1873. His father was a native of that country and followed farming as an occupation, also was for eighteen or twenty years a government officer, being well and prominently known in this

of the country. He was a very wealthy man, owner of two extensive estates, and a very influential citizen. In 1883 he came to America with his family, locating in Kimball county, Nebraska, in 1885. He took a homestead and built up a comfortable home and became one of the prominent residents of that locality, known all over the section as one of the very old-timers and successful stockmen in that part of the state. A sketch of Mr. Forsling appears in this volume on another page.

Our subject left home and started for himself at the age of thirteen years, beginning as a cowboy, and at a very tender age rode the range all over the western part of Nebraska and the adjoining states, "punching" cows during the summer months and hunting and trapping through the winters. A considerable portion of his time was spent in Wyoming, Dakota, Montana and Colorado, and he roughed it during summer and winter, camping out on the ground wherever he happened to stop in his travels. He finally settled permanently in Kimball county, and is now living in the town of Kimball, where he has a good home and is one of the leading citizens.

On November 25, 1900, Mr. Forsling was married to Miss Ethel Whitman, who is a daughter of F. M. Whitman, proprietor of the leading hotel in Kimball. Mrs. Forsling is a very charming and estimable lady, and their home is one of the most hospitable in town.

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#### EARL R. BATTY, D. D. S.

The gentleman above named is among the rising professional men of Alma, Nebraska. He has gained an enviable reputation in his line during the comparatively short space of time in which he has practiced, and is regarded as a man of sterling qualities, well qualified for the work he has undertaken, and has the support of a large patronage.

Dr. Batty is a native of Illinois, and is of English descent. He is a son of E. H. Batty, who settled in Alma in 1887, who was engaged in the real estate, and later the flour, feed and grocery trade, and now resides at Hastings. He invested largely in farming land, which he sold at a good round figure, and now owns considerable business house property in different towns in this section. He was for a time owner and publisher of the Alma Record, which was the Republican organ of the county, and still owns this paper, but leases it to other parties. He came to Nebraska from Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in 1886, with his family,

locating in Alma, where our subject was reared, graduating from the Alma high school in 1896. After finishing high school he worked under Dr. Hill of this place and later studied dentistry at the Kansas City Dental School, and graduated from that institution with the class of 1901. He at once established an office at Alma, and is the oldest dentist in length of time practicing in Alma at the present time. His clientage extends all over Harlan and the adjoining counties, and has made an immense success in his profession. One brother, Dr. A. J. Batty, is in the same profession, with office at Wilcox, Nebraska.

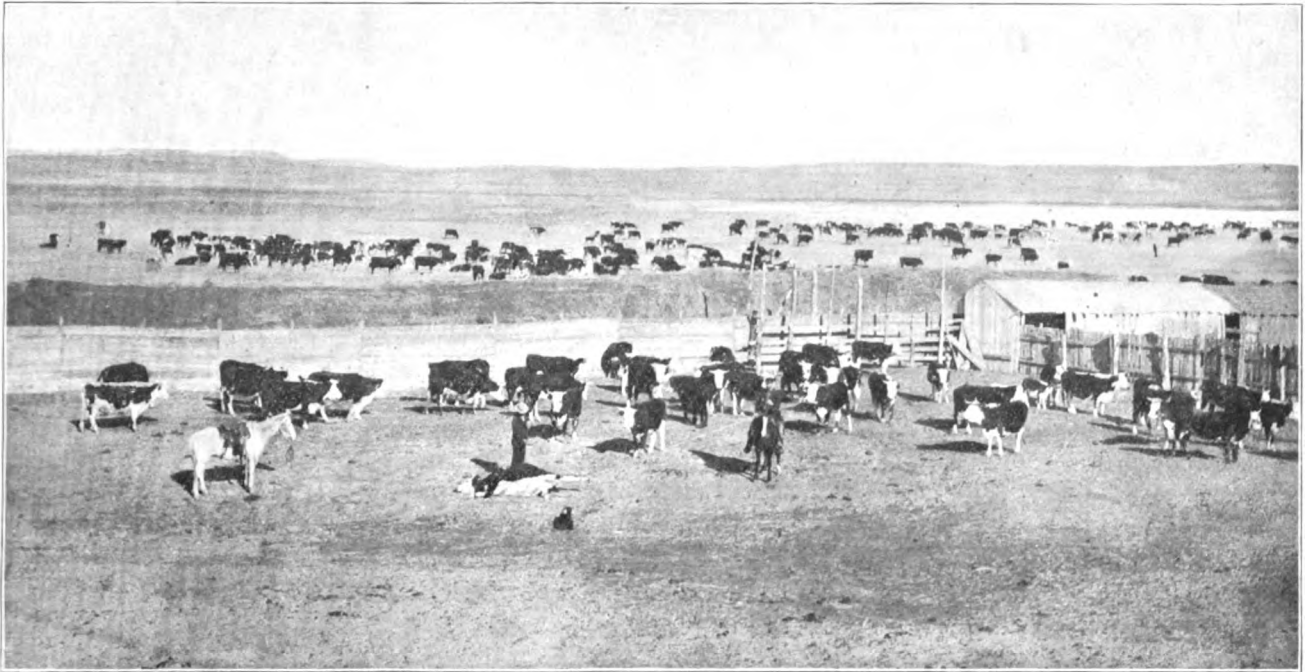
Dr. Batty was married in 1905 to Miss Anna Stewart, daughter of C. W. Stewart, a merchant of Alma.

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#### EVERETT M. ELDRED.

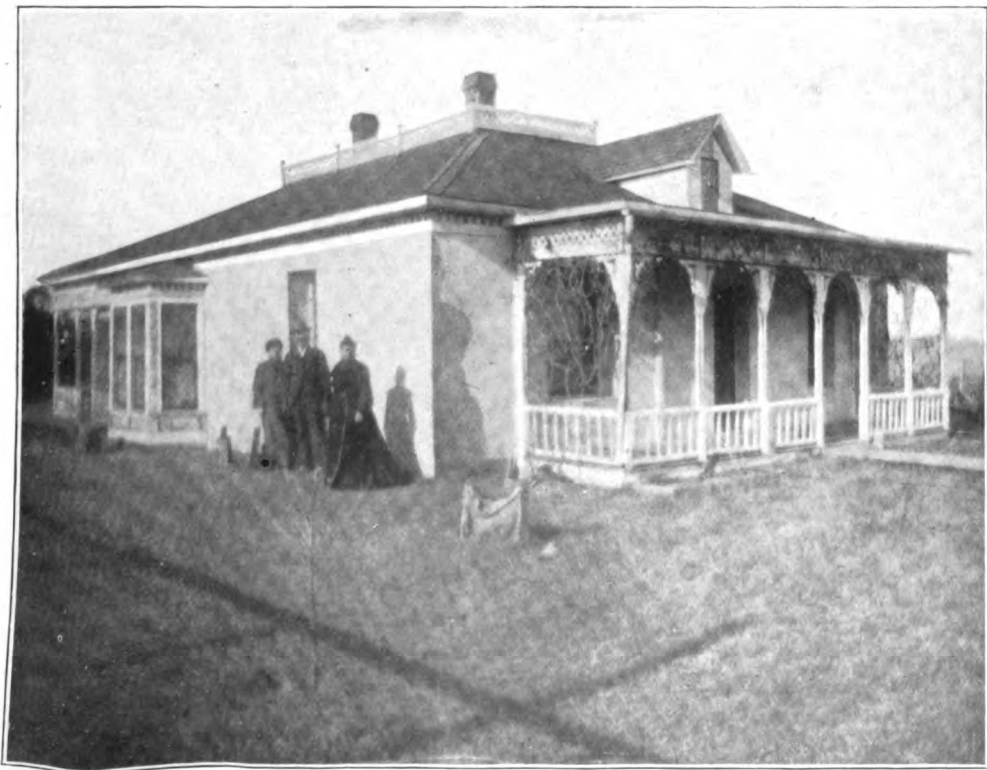
Among the old-timers in western Nebraska who have watched the development and growth of this part of the country from the time of the organization of the counties, and who has been an important factor in the upbuilding of this section, the gentleman above named holds a prominent place. He resides on section 9, township 21, range 45, Deuel county, where he has a fine ranch and valuable estate.

Mr. Eldred was born in Jones county, Iowa, in 1864, and raised in that locality. He is a son of E. J. Eldred, a native of New York state, who was among the first settlers in Jones county, where he settled on a farm. Our subject is the second member of a family of four children, all boys. At the age of sixteen years he left the home of his uncle with whom he was then living and came to Saline county, Nebraska, where he followed farming, working out on ranches in that vicinity, and afterwards was engaged in the livery business for some years. He remained there up to 1888, when he moved to Deuel county, taking a homestead, which is the farm he now occupies. When he struck here he had very little capital, but he went to work building a set of sod buildings and began to start his farm. His brother Edgar came with him, and they had brought about one hundred and fifty cattle, and from that start gradually worked into the stock business, and have been engaged in this ever since. He batched it on his claim for ten years, constantly adding to his land, until he now owns a ranch of six thousand acres, on which he runs three thousand head of cattle and about two hundred horses. A large number of the horses are used in handling the cattle, as he requires five men



E. M. ELDRED

Part of his ranch and stock, Deuel County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF E. M. ELDRED.





to assist him in the care of this stock and operate the ranch. His place is well improved, and his hay land, of which he has a large tract, is all fenced. He has never been through anything like hard times, and has been successful from the beginning. In 1906 he had about five hundred tons of hay which he was unable to cut on account of the valley where it was grown being wet, and this was quite a severe loss to him. He built a comfortable frame house in 1893, but this was burned down in 1895, and he then erected a brick adobe and plastered with cement. This is well finished off inside and has a fine porch around it. He has a pleasant home, burns coal for fuel, which is rarely done in this locality, and is a great believer in having the comforts of life. He is well contented here, but intends to move to town in the near future, as his wife wants to leave the hills.

Mr. Eldred was married to Miss Mary Ellen Avery in 1898. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus Avery. Mr. and Mrs. Eldred have no children.

Mr. Eldred is an independent voter, believing it best to give the best man on any ticket the chance, and has never taken an active interest in politics, although he always gets out to vote. He has made a great success since coming to this country, and is satisfied with the result of his ventures in the cattle business. The nearest mail station from his ranch is at Orlando, a distance of one and one-half miles. His nearest trading point is Alliance, thirty miles distant. Lakeside, in Sheridan county, on the B. & M. Railroad, twenty-five miles distant, is his shipping point.

Some interesting pictures are presented on another page showing some of Mr. Eldred's property.

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#### ALEX. LOWRY.

Alex. Lowry, who is an old settler and highly esteemed citizen of Harrison, Sioux county, Nebraska, and the owner of a neat little restaurant and confectioner's store at that place, is a man of good business judgment and sterling character. He is well known throughout his community as a man of energetic habits, and is well-to-do and one of the leading citizens in local affairs.

Mr. Lowry was born in New Lenox, Will county, Illinois, in 1856. His father, J. W. Lowry, was a farmer all his life. He married Jane Davis and the family lived in different parts of Illinois during our subject's boyhood days. In July, 1861, the family went to Iowa,

where they remained about eighteen months, then back to Illinois in the spring of 1863, remaining two years; then to Canada for a year, and in 1866 they returned to Illinois. In the spring of 1877 he again moved to Iowa and farmed there for four years in Warren county. From there he went to Calhoun county, Iowa, in 1881, purchasing a farm on which he lived up to 1892. Soon after leaving the last mentioned place Mr. Lowry came to Harrison, and here filed on a homestead situated three and a half miles east of the town, and improved it, living on the place until he proved up on his claim. He then rented land near Harrison and farmed for ten years, also was interested in the live stock business to quite an extent. In August, 1903, Mr. Lowry left his farm and came to Harrison to reside permanently, opening up a restaurant and confectionery store, purchasing the building which he now occupies. He has done exceedingly well and has built up a good trade, carrying a nice line of goods, and has his place fitted up with all modern appliances for the proper handling of his business.

While living in Illinois Mr. Lowry was married, October 19, 1876, to Miss Alice Corwin, daughter of Nathan and Eliza (Cole) Corwin. Mr. and Mrs. Lowry are the parents of three children, namely: Mabel, Della and John. The family occupy a pleasant home and are popular in their neighborhood as worthy citizens.

Mr. Lowry was elected sheriff of Sioux county in 1900 and at the expiration of his term was again chosen. He proved a most capable and efficient public officer and served in all five years in this capacity, lacking about ten months of serving three full terms.

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#### HUGH BOOTH.

Hugh Booth, a respected and successful farmer of Brown county, Nebraska, has a home and a habitation near Long Pine, where his cheerful countenance and genial ways have long been known and welcome. The vast farming interests of northern and central Nebraska have long been suspected, but it has taken the labors of men like Mr. Booth to show something of what might be done in this, so long a barren and dreary waste. For many years he has been associated with pioneer experiences, and in any record of what has been done "out west" to make a garden out of a wilderness the name of Hugh Booth will deserve a prominent place.

Mr. Booth was born at Forest Lake, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1850, where his father, William Booth, was at the time engaged as a miller. William Booth was a native of England, near Nottingham, in Derbyshire, where he married Hannah Wheatcroft and where his first two children were born.

Hugh Booth was the seventh in a family of eight children born to his parents, all of whom are now living. He spent his childhood and youth in his native state, where he secured his education by attending the public schools. When he reached the age of twenty years he started for himself. After some years spent in various occupations, mostly in farming, he settled in 1882 at West Point, Cuming county, Nebraska, where he resided five years, then moved to Keya Paha county, teaming from Cuming county to their new location, the trip consuming ten days. Mr. Booth and his family made a location on a homestead near the Keya Paha river, and their first home was a sod house. Here Mr. Booth lived until his election as sheriff five years later. He was the third to be elected to that position in the new county. While sheriff he made his home in Springview, where his wife died. His wife was Mary Whiteman, to whom three children were born—Fred, Mary and Hugh, Jr. In 1892 he was married to Mrs. Eliza Hains. Three children have blessed this union—Oscar, Stella and Rose. By her first marriage Mrs. Booth bore three children—Alice, John and Fern. In 1892 Mr. Booth removed to Brown county, where two years later he settled on a farm in section 1, township 30, range 22, which he sold in 1907 and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 24.

He is a true type of the best American farmer, upright and manly, industrious in his habits and of a kindly heart. Politically he is a Bryan Democrat.

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#### ED. T. ROSS.

Ed. T. Ross, one of the early settlers in the western part of Nebraska, resides in Gordon, Sheridan county, where he is widely known as a successful ranchman and business man. Mr. Ross was born in Fayette county, Texas, in 1862. His father, Anderson Ross, was a prominent merchant and cattleman, who lived on a large ranch in southern Texas, where our subject was raised. He was the fifth in a family of five children, and his father died when he was a small boy, leaving

his mother, who was Mary Page Ligon before her marriage, to rear her large family of children. There was plenty of hard work to be done in carrying on the farm, and he assisted in this until he reached the age of twenty, then left Texas and came north to Nebraska, helping to drive a bunch of horses to that country. He with his companions camped out during this trip and traveled over the spot where Gordon now stands in 1882. After coming to this state he worked on the E. S. Newman ranch, called the "N" Bar ranch, up to 1885, then moved to Montana, where he remained until 1889.

In 1891 Mr. Ross came to Gordon and settled on a homestead twelve miles northeast of the town. He proved up on his claim and bought adjoining land until he owned a large tract, then sold it all out and purchased another ranch located eighteen miles northeast of Gordon. He is now proprietor of nineteen and a half quarter sections, and is extensively engaged in the cattle business. He has a very valuable estate and has been most successful in all his ventures since coming to this region. He personally superintends the ranching business, although he resides in Gordon, having built a fine residence there in the fall of 1897.

Mr. Ross was married in 1888 to Miss Besie Arnold, of Texas. Her father, J. C. Arnold, was a farmer of Fayette county, and her mother was of English descent. Seven children resulted from their marriage, named as follows: Roy, Jessie, Mary (deceased), Eva, Anderson (deceased), Hope and Robert.

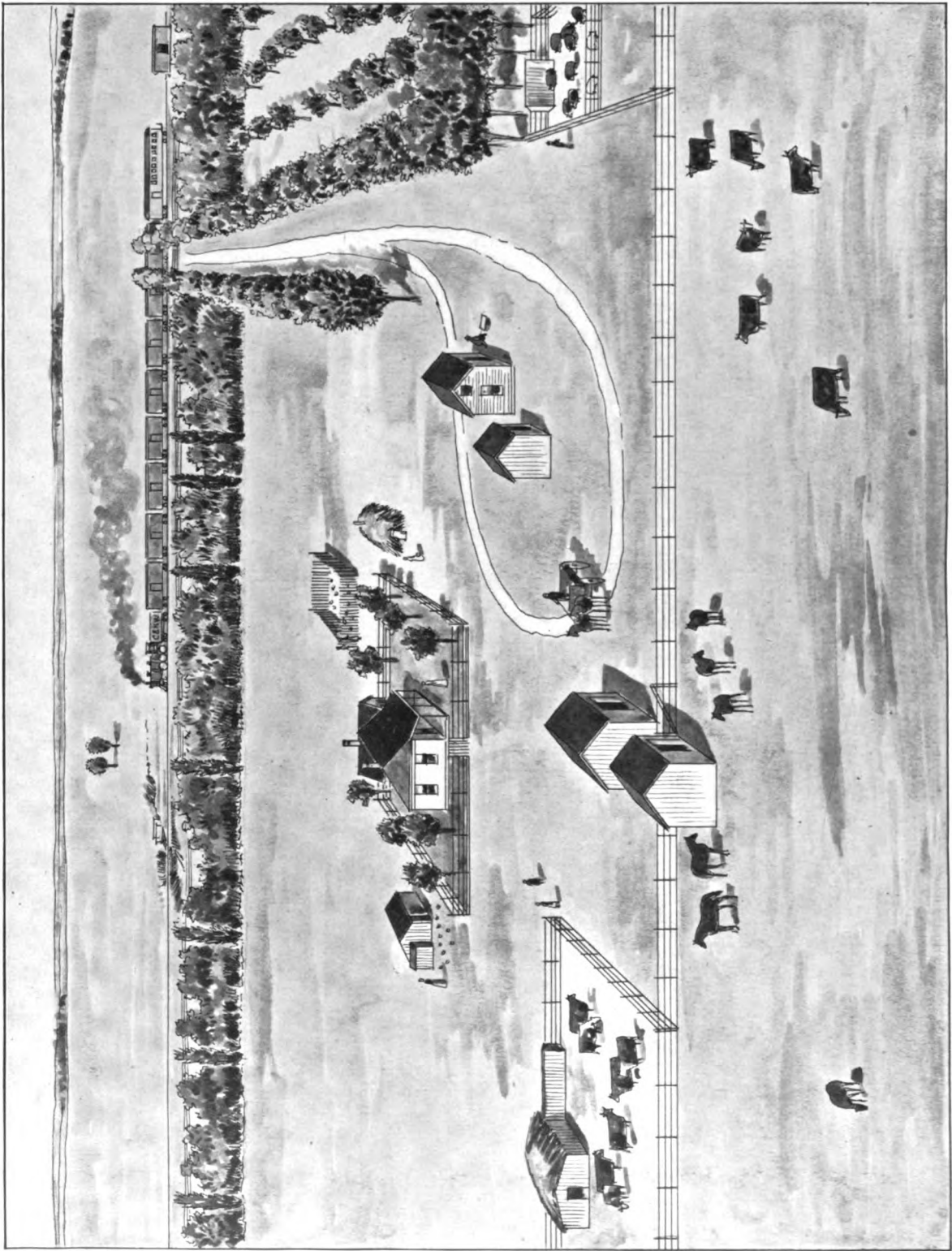
Mr. Ross is a staunch Republican and takes a leading part in the affairs of that party.

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#### ADAM SCHIMKA.

Among the successful self-made men of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, may be truly noted Adam Schimka. He came to the new world from his mother country when but a mere boy, and since his residence here has displayed an enterprising spirit and the exercise of good judgment in a manner that commends him to all as one of the prominent and worthy citizens of his community. He now resides in section 4, township 12, range 48, and is a prosperous agriculturist and active, public-spirited resident. He settled in the region as a pioneer and has accumulated a fine property, now possessing three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, also controlling thirteen hundred and twenty acres under lease. Mr. Schimka has closely applied himself to





RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM KACKMEISTER,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

the study of his calling, is well versed in the same and possesses what years of experience teach to the observing only.

Mr. Schimka was born in Bohemian Austria on the 24th of December, 1859, and grew to the age of thirteen years in his native country, then came to America, landing in New York City on June 1, 1872. He came to Missouri and settled in Benton county, remaining there until March 1, 1875, then moved to Wilber, Saline county, Nebraska, and lived in that place up to 1887. From there he removed to Lodgepole, Cheyenne county, arriving there April 9 of that year. He filed on a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 4, township 12, range 48, and developed a good farm, put up good buildings, etc., and still occupies the original homestead. He cultivates about one hundred and seventy acres and uses the balance of his ranch for range and pasture, keeping about one hundred and fifty head of stock, mostly cattle. Mr. Schimka has been most successful during later years, but in the early days of his residence in this region he went through many crop failures and became discouraged, but determined to remain and has **become one of the most successful ranchmen** of the county, and especially prominent among those who have come to America from the old world and succeeded in building up a valuable estate and comfortable home.

Mr. Schimka was married September 28, 1882, at Wilber, Nebraska, to Mary Novak, born in Bohemia, and who came to the United States in that year, then a girl of twenty years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Schimka are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: Edward, now living at Colorado; Mary, wife of Joe Brown, of Sidney; Emma, Rose, Joe, Ella and James, the last five all living at home. Three children, two boys and one girl, died in infancy, and both our subject's and his wife's parents are dead.

Mr. Schimka is prominent in local affairs. He has been assessor of Colton precinct for a number of years. Politically he is a Democrat.

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#### WILLIAM KACKMEISTER.

Among the successful self-made men of Brown county may be truly mentioned the gentleman whose name heads this review. He came to the new world from his native country when a very young man, and since his residence here has displayed an enterprising spirit and the exercise of good judgment in a manner that commends him to all as a worthy citi-

zen. Mr. Kackmeister was born in the village of Kissdorf, Holstein, Germany, October 25, 1857. His father, Claus Kackmeister, served in the German army during the war of 1848 against Denmark and again in 1852. Our subject was the fourth member in a family of five children, and was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education, and grew up assisting his father in all the hard farm work. At the age of twenty-one he entered the army, serving six months. In 1881 he came to the United States, sailing from Hamburg on the steamer Pennsylvania, landed in Philadelphia April 29. Here he remained for one year, working in a village near Reading, then came west to Omaha, securing employment on a farm near the city. He worked at this for a short time, then began railroading on the Union Pacific Railway, but soon became dissatisfied and quit that. He next bought a team and rented a farm near Omaha, but only remained on this place one year and one on a farm in Sarpy county, then moved to Howard county, there renting land which he worked for three years. From there he moved to Cherry county, where he settled on a homestead on the North Loup and engaged in the cattle business. Here he lived in a sod shanty, twenty-five miles from a railroad, proved up on a pre-emption claim and took a homestead. He remained on this homestead until 1893, and then came on to Brown county, settling on rented land and farmed for nine years, when he bought his present farm, located in section 33, township 30, range 21. He at once went to work improving this property, and now is proprietor of four hundred acres of land in one piece, with eighty acres three miles north of this farm and a tract of one hundred and sixty acres south of the home place. His farm buildings are substantial and conveniently arranged, and he has a good supply of water the year around. He has a fine apple orchard and other small fruits nicely growing, surrounded, as are also the buildings, by a thrifty grove of forest trees. He is progressive in his farming methods, and is one of those who has done a great deal towards securing good schools in this locality. A view of the premises will be found on one of the illustrated pages of this volume.

Mr. Kackmeister was married June 3, 1879, to Miss Sophia Schuman, a daughter of Joseph and Katharine (Goetch) Schuman, who was born and raised on a farm near his old home. Ten children have been born to them, named as follows: Henry, Annie, Willie, August, Tillie, Mary, Sophia, John, Katie and Nellie.

When Mr. Kackmeister first came to Cherry county his sole possessions were a covered wagon and eighteen head of cattle and from this small beginning he has watched his fortunes and reputation expand and broaden until today he is the proud possessor of everything which goes to make up the comfort of a peaceful and happy home. He enjoys the friendship and esteem of a large circle of people, and is perfectly contented to remain in this locality the balance of his life. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### LEE VANVOORHIS.

Lee VanVoorhis, the efficient and popular postmaster of Crawford, Nebraska, is a prosperous and successful business man of that thriving town. He is one of the progressive and consequently esteemed men of his community, and has built up a home of more than usual comfort through his energy and good business foresight.

Mr. VanVoorhis was born at Oxford Mills, Jones county, Iowa, in 1861. He is a son of Garrett VanVoorhis, a native of New York, and Lottie Smart VanVoorhis, also a New Yorker. The family moved to central Iowa when our subject was born and there he was raised, learning the miller's trade, and also spending some time in a hardware store in Union, Iowa, where he acquired a thorough knowledge of that business. In the spring of 1885 he came to Hay Springs, Nebraska, where he opened the first and only hardware store in the place, and his store was the second frame building ever erected on the main street. He ran this business for two and a half years, and in the fall of 1887 sold out there and moved to Crawford, settling here on January 2 of the following year. He then purchased the W. F. Rockwell hardware store and continued this business up to 1896, then sold out and opened up a fruit and confectionery store, at which he did well, building up a nice trade in the town.

On February 11, 1903, Mr. VanVoorhis was appointed postmaster, served one term and was reappointed January 31, 1907, proving a most capable man for the position, well liked by the general public for his accommodating manner and thorough fitness for the work. He has been active in local affairs from the time of locating here, serving on the village board for several terms, also a member of the school board for a number of years. He is a strong Republican.

Mr. VanVoorhis was among the earliest settlers in this locality, coming here before the C. & N. W. Railroad was laid as far as Chadron. When he first arrived he took up a homestead and built a sod house in which he lived for about three years. This place was three miles from Hay Springs.

In 1878 Mr. VanVoorhis was married to Miss Mary O. Humeston, whose parents were early settlers in Iowa. To them have been born five children, named as follows: Lottie, Roy, Garrett, Edna and Josephine, the last named having died in December, 1891.

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#### HENRY E. ERICSON.

Henry E. Ericson, treasurer of Phelps county, elected in 1905, resides in Holdrege, where he has a fine residence and is highly esteemed by a host of people. Mr. Ericson has been engaged in farming for many years of his life, and has met with pronounced success in this line of work. He has also taken an active interest in public affairs, and is one of the leading citizens of his community and county.

Our subject is a native of Chicago, Illinois. The family resided in Iowa prior to settling in Nebraska, and his brother, A. S. Ericson, is well known throughout Phelps county, as he served as county clerk and resided at Funk, Divide township, for some years. (See sketch in this book.) The father, Andrew Ericson, homesteaded here in 1884 and farmed for many years. Our subject now owns six hundred and forty acres in section 19, Sheridan township, and has his farm improved with fine buildings and every modern improvement for the proper running of a model farm. He has given close attention to good stock, has one hundred head of Shorthorn cattle and a number of fine Percheron and Clyde horses, considering the first mentioned the best animal for the farmers in this vicinity, as it is good both for farm work and general purposes, whereas the Clydes are only good on the farm. He has pure bred Jersey hogs, and prefers this breed to any other for this section. Owing to the high price of land here the farmers will be compelled to work into the higher grades of stock for which best prices are obtained, otherwise it would not pay to encumber the land with poor stock. Alfalfa is a great boon to this county. Four hundred and fifty acres of Mr. Ericson's farm is under cultivation, seeded to wheat, oats and corn, and his wheat crop in 1906 showed a yield of thirty-three

and one-third bushels per acre. The average each year is about twenty-five bushels, and corn from forty to sixty, and has gone as high as seventy-five bushels per acre. Twenty-eight years ago our subject's father bought land at two dollars and fifty cents an acre, and the same land is now worth seventy-five dollars.

Mr. Ericson was clerk of his township for eight years, also has served as treasurer of the school board in this district for several years. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a prominent Mason, and he is a popular and worthy citizen as well as a good neighbor and friend. In political faith he is an independent voter. In 1891 Mr. Ericson was married to Miss Amanda J. Carlson.

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#### NEIL PHILIP EASTMAN.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentleman here named has succeeded in building up a well developed farm and comfortable home, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming. He is of a progressive nature and has had a wide experience in farming, and every detail of the work is carefully looked after and personally supervised by him. He resides in Rock county, Nebraska, where he is widely known and highly respected.

Mr. Eastman was born in Madison county, New York state, March 22, 1860. His father, Neil Eastman, was a farmer and interested in the oil business; he was born of Scotch-Irish parents. The mother, whose maiden name was Ellen Cassady, was of Irish descent. Our subject is the eldest member in a family of four children, and was reared and educated in the state of his birth. At the age of nine years he lost his mother by death and at that time began life for himself, having ever since made his own way. He drove a canal boat on the Erie canal for several years, and part of the time was engaged in working out on a farm. When he was fifteen he served an apprenticeship of three years in a blacksmith shop, thoroughly mastering that trade, at which he worked in his native state for two years, then came west to Iowa, where he followed that trade in Cass county and other parts of the state, spending some time in Des Moines. He first came to Nebraska in 1884, locating in Rock county, where he took up a homestead and tree claim. He immediately began improving his farm, put up a sod house as his first dwelling place, and lived in this for six

years. He still followed the trade of blacksmith, driving each day to Bassett, where he had a shop. Continuing this for years, he prospered reasonably well, escaping many of the hardships usual to pioneer experiences. In 1888 a terrible blizzard swept over that region, causing them much suffering and loss, as did also the drouth periods. He operated the farm up to 1905, at the same time continuing at his trade in Bassett, whither he had previously removed with his family, and in the last named year traded his farm for a hardware store located in Edgar, Nebraska. Soon afterwards, however, he disposed of this business, and the same year bought his present farm of eight hundred acres, mostly in hay land. Here each year he mows and bales many tons of excellent hay for shipment to the eastern markets.

Mr. Eastman was married in 1886 to Miss Lida Hunter, of American stock, born in Champaign county, Ohio. Her father, James Hunter, lived for fourteen years in Champaign county, Illinois, before moving to Nebraska to become an old settler in Keya Paha county, securing a farm there in 1884. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Eastman taught the first school in the district near their home. The school house was a log cabin, with rude benches for seats, and no modern paraphernalia to assist her in her work. She was one of the pioneer school teachers in that locality, and her experiences were many and amusing. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman have a family of six children, who are named as follows: Ellen L., James N. (deceased), Grover C., Amy B., Laura G. and Jessie M. The family is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community in which they reside, and enjoy a pleasant and comfortable home, surrounded by a large circle of friends. They are members of the Church of God.

Mr. Eastman has risen from a start of practically nothing to his present prosperous state, and well deserves much credit for his success. He has been one of those who helped build up this region, and is one of the regular old-timers in Nebraska. He is a Democrat politically and fraternally a member of Bassett camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### JOSEPH E. WATKINS.

In a county as well settled as Perkins county, Nebraska, it would be difficult to name the most prominent citizen, but a high station is willingly accorded the gentleman whose name heads this personal review. He has resided here many years and is always found



standing on the side of right and justice, and has been one of the leaders in the development and upbuilding of his community.

Joseph E. Watkins was born in Will county, Illinois, in 1867. His father, Peter Watkins, was born and raised on a farm in England, came to the United States when a young boy, and died in Illinois in 1881. He married Mary Phillips, also born in England, who came to America when a child. When our subject was twenty years of age, the family came to Perkins county, the mother taking a homestead on section 25, township 9, range 41, and Joseph also a pre-emption and proved up on it. They built a dugout and sod house on the mother's farm and improved the place as rapidly as possible, although during the first few years it was rather uphill work, as conditions were not favorable for the raising of good crops, and they had many setbacks. Joseph remained at home up to 1902, helping run the home ranch, then settled on his own farm and improved it in good shape. In 1907 he bought his mother's old homestead and now runs the place, operating a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in all. He has about one hundred acres cultivated, and keeps quite a bunch of stock. The farm is well fenced, has good buildings and improvements of all kinds, and he is classed among the progressive and up-to-date agriculturists in his locality.

Mr. Watkins was married in 1905 to Miss Florence Smith, whose father was a prominent pioneer of Perkins county. To them has been born one child, Goldie, a very charming baby. Mr. Watkins is a Democrat and takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs.

In 1905 the vicinity of our subject's farm was swept by a very disastrous prairie fire, and he suffered severe loss. The head fire came within a few feet of his buildings and it was only by the hardest kind of fighting that they were saved. As it was, he lost several horses, some hogs, seventy-five tons of feed and other personal property.

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#### FLOYD JENKINS.

Among the younger members of the farming fraternity of Brown county, Nebraska, is the gentleman whose name introduces this article. He has set a high mark of efficiency in the following of his chosen profession and means to be a successful farmer in the best sense of the term. Familiar with the conditions that attend the tilling of the soil in what was once the eastern verge of the great Amer-

ican desert, and having passed through storm and drouth, he knows Nebraska farming from beginning to finish, and under his cultivation the soil smiles and puts forth abundantly.

Mr. Jenkins is a son of Benjamin Jenkins and was born on a farm in Carroll county, Illinois, February 23, 1879. His father is an old settler in Nebraska, a sketch of whose life and career appears on another page. Floyd Jenkins is the third member of a family of ten children born to his parents, and his youth and early manhood were spent in this part of Nebraska. Plenty of hard work was dealt out to him, and but little schooling, as the country was very new and the schoolmaster, as yet, hardly abroad in the land. At twenty-three he left home and taking upon himself the burden of his own support began life as a farm laborer in Burt county, Nebraska, where he worked for about a year. His next move was to buy a farm in Brown county, settling on a homestead in section 24, township 30, range 23, where he has six hundred and forty acres in addition to two hundred acres of deeded land.

Mr. Jenkins was married in 1903 to Miss Pearl Homan, daughter of Palmer Homan, an old settler in this state, and a man highly respected for his sterling worth and industrious habits. Mrs. Jenkins is the mother of one child, Goldia.

After their marriage the young couple devoted themselves to the improvement of their place and have converted it into one of the best to be found in the county. It comprises some eight hundred and forty acres, as above stated, one hundred and twenty being under the plow and the balance devoted to meadow and pasturage. Here they have a good house, a roomy barn and other farm buildings with such machinery as the successful operation of the place may demand. Mr. Jenkins is independent in politics.

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#### A. H. MATTSON.

Among the most successful men in Phelps county, Nebraska, may be mentioned A. H. Mattson, a prominent farmer and stockman of Laird township, and a leading citizen of this locality, a portrait of whom appears on another page.

Mr. Mattson is a native of Sweden. He lived near Oneida, Knox county, Illinois, and came to Nebraska in 1885, locating on one hundred and sixty acres in section 17. He built a comfortable home, and soon afterwards



A. H. MATTSON.



bought the adjoining one hundred and sixty acres, also homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, on which he now lives, adjoining Loomis on the northeast. He has resided on this farm for eighteen years, and now owns eight hundred acres of land located in Buffalo county, which he uses for pasture and hay land. Since settling here he has been a heavy buyer and shipper of stock, also a breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He has had a drove of forty head of thoroughbred cattle on his home farm, and from two to four hundred graded cattle in the past. He raises and also buys and sells stock for the market, so that his herds vary constantly. For years he has had control of the hog market at Loomis, shipping from one hundred and fifty to three hundred cars per year. He has been partly succeeded in this business by his son, Ed Mattson, also a resident of Loomis. Mr. Mattson prefers the Poland Chinas to any other breed of hogs, both for shipping and farm use, as they are the easiest to fatten and get ready for market, and it takes less feed to keep them than other breeds. He also has a preference for Shorthorn cattle as good feeders, milkers, beef and all general purposes. He has been very successful in his ventures, both farming and stock raising and shipping. His possessions consist of a seven hundred and twenty-acre farm in Phelps county, besides the ranch of eight hundred acres located in Buffalo county, and has his place well improved. He has lately sold two hundred and forty acres of land, leaving twelve hundred and eighty acres he now owns.

Mr. Mattson was married to Miss Carrie Bjorgland, who died, and our subject was married again, taking to wife Anna Johnson. Mr. Mattson has one son and two daughters, namely: Ed, mentioned in the foregoing; Mrs. Charles Sansted, of Holdrege, and Hannah, who lives at home. The last daughter, Hannah, is by the second wife, the other two from the first marriage.

During his business career here Mr. Mattson has won the respect and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact through business dealings, and is recognized as one of the sharpest business men and best citizens of the county.

#### WILLIAM FOSKET.

William Fosket, retired, is one of the old settlers and former prominent ranchmen of Box Butte county, where he has lived for many years past, and built up a valuable

property through his industry and energy. Mr. Fosket now resides in Hemingford, where he has a comfortable home, and is held in high esteem by his fellow-men.

Mr. Fosket was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1844, on a farm. His father, Alvin Fosket, was of Scotch-Irish stock, a native of New York, and he married Miss Maria Shaw, of Pennsylvania German descent. Our subject grew to manhood in Mason county, Illinois, where he attended the country schools and helped in the work of carrying on the home farm up to 1864, then enlisted in Company C, Second Illinois Cavalry, and went to Florida with his regiment, where he saw hard service, and also in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, in actual service up to the close of the war. He was mustered out in San Antonio, Texas, and after leaving the army returned to his old home in Illinois, where he followed farming for a number of years. In 1871 he came to Gage county, Nebraska, settling on a homestead located south of Lincoln, and there started to build up a farm and home, going through the experiences of the early pioneers in that section. He sold this place out prior to moving to Perth, Nebraska, where he was engaged in the livery business for fourteen years, and in 1885 came west to what is now Box Butte county, settling on a claim twelve miles northeast of Hemingford. There his first house was a dugout, in which he lived for one year, then built a sod house, hauling all his supplies from Hay Springs. He spent seventeen years on this ranch, and was in the cattle and horse business principally, controlling three sections of land at the time he left the locality. He had put good buildings and improvements on the property, and made a great success of the enterprise, and in 1906 sold out the ranch for a good round figure. In 1902 he had taken up his residence in the town of Hemingford, and has since resided here. For the past thirty-five years Mr. Fosket has been an auctioneer, and is widely known all through this section of the state. He has also for many years past dealt in horses, buying and shipping out to the different eastern and western markets.

While living in Mason county, Illinois, Mr. Fosket was married to Miss Mary Piper, whose father, Ed T. Piper, was a well known physician and army surgeon. Mr. and Mrs. Fosket are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Addie, married, now the wife of Ralph Jackson; Grove D., Orrian, Blanche, Almeda and Earl.

Mr. Fosket is one of the leading pioneers of both eastern and western Nebraska, and

has done his share in the building up of both sections, helping to establish schools and has always taken an active interest in local public affairs. In political views he favors the Republican party, and is a strong party man.

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#### FIRTH BOOTH.

Firth Booth, one of the prominent farmers of Lodgepole precinct, Cheyenne county, who resides on his fine estate in section 29, township 14, range 47, is one of the earliest pioneers of that locality, and has during his residence there passed through all the changes that have taken place in the county, watching its growth and development from the time of its early settlement. During his residence here he has manifested true public spirit and gained the esteem and respect of his associates by his industry and persistent labors.

Mr. Booth is a native of England, born in 1852. He grew up in his native country, and spent the first nineteen years of his life in the village of his birth. The parents resided there until death. Our subject quit England in 1872 and started for the new world, taking passage on a steamer bound for the United States. His first employment was as a machinist in the locomotive works at Paterson, New Jersey, where he remained for about one year. In 1874 he came west and settled in Wisconsin and remained for a number of years, engaged in farming in Waukesha county. He then came to Nebraska, arriving in Cheyenne county in January, 1880, and shortly after took up a homestead in section 20, township 14, range 47, where he spent a number of years, and developed a good farm. He next moved to section 29 in the same township, where he has built a large, commodious home. He is now proprietor of a ranch consisting of over three thousand acres, all lying along or near Lodgepole creek, nearly all of it being in one body, admirably situated for farm and ranching purposes. He has three hundred and twenty acres under irrigation and raises splendid crops of potatoes and grain. There is also a fine lot of hay land and pasture, and he handles at times one hundred and fifty head of cattle each year and from twenty-five to fifty horses. He owns in all about three sections of grazing land, and has one of the finest places in the county. He has a complete set of good ranch buildings, fences, etc., and is considered one of the wealthiest men of this section. He is probably the earli-

est settler in the valley between Sidney and Lodgepole who has remained on his land.

In 1888 Mr. Booth was married to Miss Essie L. Loomis, a native of Metamora, Woodford county, Illinois. Our subject and his estimable wife have a family of eight children, all living at home at the present time. They are named as follows: James Eli, George M., Esther Ann, Louise, Leah Elizabeth, Firth, Jr., Paul and Eunice Lockwood. They are a happy and congenial family and have a pleasant and comfortable home, surrounded by a large circle of warm friends and acquaintances.

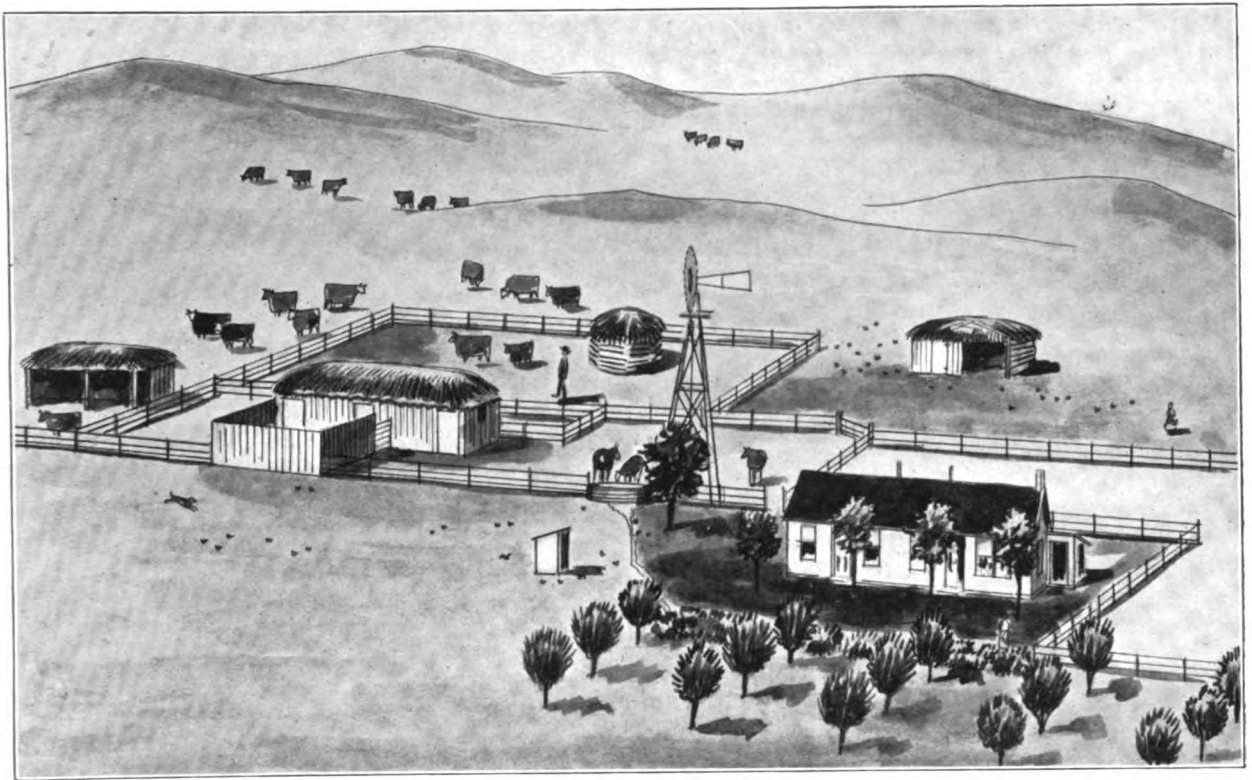
Mr. Booth is prominent in affairs of his township and county, and is among the leading public-spirited citizens who have always been found ready and willing to lend their best efforts for the improvement of conditions in their immediate community. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

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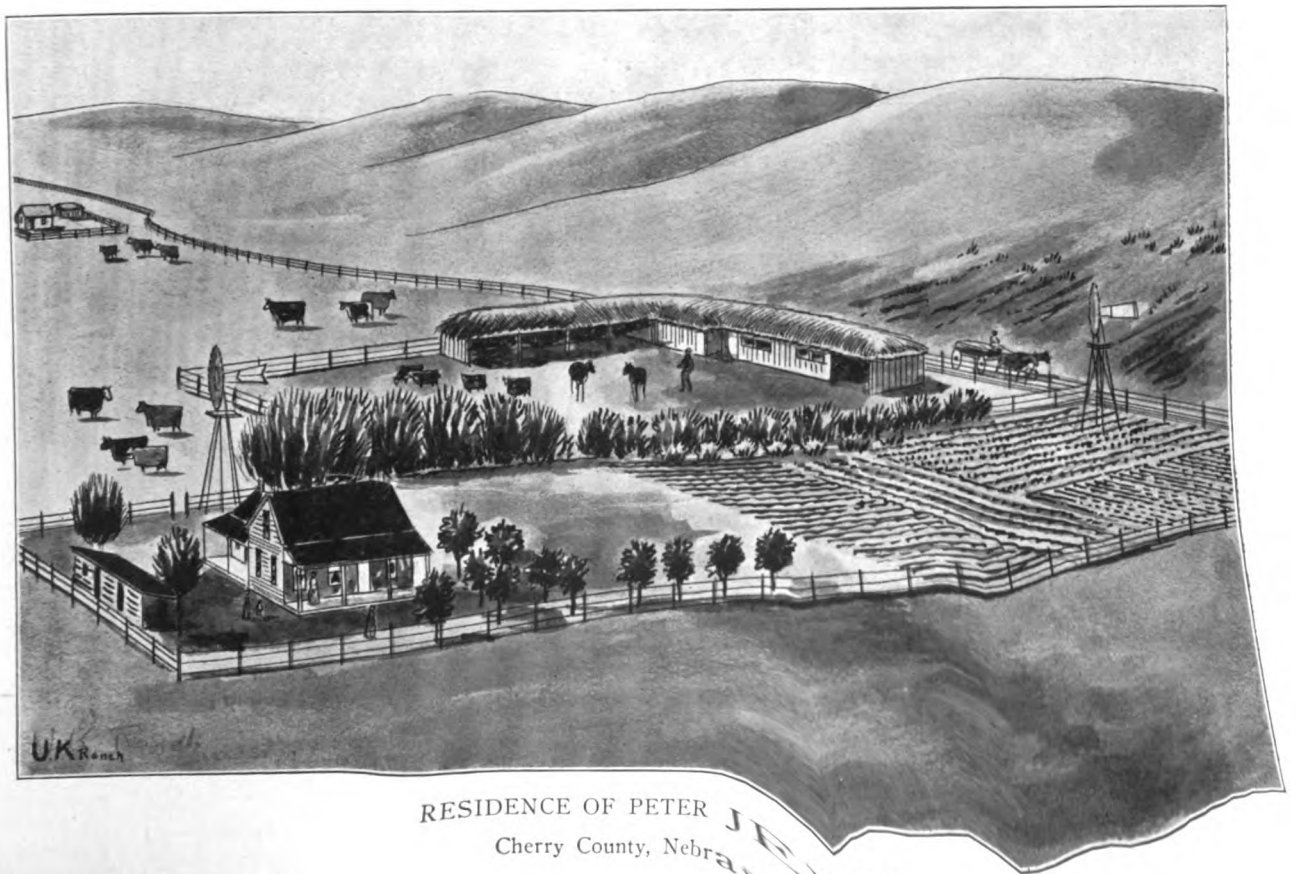
#### REV. BAZEL HUNT.

Prominent among the leading citizens of Cherry county is the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. Mr. Hunt is well known all over this part of the country as an old-timer and one who has done everything in his power to aid in the upbuilding of this region, giving liberally of his time and influence in every instance when he could be of assistance to his fellow-men.

Mr. Hunt was born in Harrison county, Missouri, September 10, 1851. His father, Joseph Hunt, was a farmer and nurseryman, and his mother was Flora Ensley, both of American stock. There was a family of ten children, of whom he was the seventh in order of birth. He was reared in his native state, and his early years were spent in assisting his parents in the work of their farm, attending the country schools during the winter months. He started for himself at the age of fourteen years, at which time his father and mother both died, and he had to aid in taking care of the younger children. Mr. Hunt first came to Cherry county in 1890, landing here November 13, and his object in coming was to establish a home and farm of his own. He settled on Missouri Flats, thirteen miles south of Merriman, and his first dwelling place was a dugout, so familiar to the pioneers of this state. He soon afterwards built a sod house 36x20 feet in size, which was of large proportions compared with the usual settler's home. During the first years he handled ox



RESIDENCE OF B. HUNT,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF PETER JERMAN,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.





teams and did freighting, working out on ranches in the vicinity, at the same time building up his farm, and succeeded in proving up on his claim. He then invested in land twelve miles west of Cody and lived there for four years, later taking up a Kinkaid homestead, which he now lives on, in section 9, township 34, range 35. This was unimproved property, and their first home was a tent. He soon had a good house erected, and all other farm buildings, putting down a good well and fencing his land, etc. He farms twenty acres, raising good crops.

Mr. Hunt is of a strongly religious nature and early became interested in religious work. He was licensed as a local preacher in Missouri and in 1896 was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal conference at Chadron as a circuit preacher in this section. He has since preached at Conley Flats in addition to serving his denomination at Merriman, Cody and La Vaca at different times. He is beloved by all in every community in which he has worked. A view of the family residence will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Hunt was married February 12, 1871, to Miss Melinda V. Koger, of Worth county, Missouri, and they have a family of ten children, named as follows: Mary, Ulysses, Barbara, Jessie R., James L., Amy, Ransom, Delsina, Alcy and Lulu.

Mr. Hunt is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the Odd Fellows lodges.

LUDWIG P. WALTER.

To the men of perseverance and stalwart determination who went to Nebraska when that region was in the early stages of development as an agricultural and commercial section, the present prosperity enjoyed there is due. Among the early settlers of Cherry county, who has been intimately identified with its development and has gained an enviable reputation as a citizen, may be mentioned Ludwig P. Walter, a successful and leading farmer and ranchman of his precinct.

Mr. Walter was born in Germany, in Wurtemberg, in 1857. He was reared there and served in the German army the time required by every loyal subject. When he was fifteen years of age he came to America, but returned to Germany and remained until he was twenty-five years old, then made his second trip to this country.

Our subject was married in 1884 at Taylor, Loup county, Nebraska, to Miss Paulina

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Lotzen, a native of West Prussia, Germany, and she was raised there. After their marriage they located on their present homestead, coming into the region with a team and covered wagon, as did most of the pioneer settlers here. At that time Long Pine and Ainsworth were the nearest trading points, and many trips had to be made to those towns for supplies, the journey taking considerable time, the nights being spent in camping out along the way under their wagon, and many times Mrs. Walter and her children were forced to spend the night in a storm which overtook them. During the first years they were able to raise fairly good crops, but as soon as the dry seasons struck the country they met with severe losses, one year losing their entire crops. In one particular instance they had forty acres of corn standing in the finest shape and in one day the hot winds totally destroyed the crop. They experienced many hardships and privations in order to keep their homestead, and were obliged to dispose of a big drove of hogs, selling the best shoats for fifty cents each in order to get a little money, and because he had nothing to feed them on. They lived for many years in a sod house which they had built when first coming here, and subsequently built others of the same material. Of late they have erected a fine frame dwelling. Mr. Walter worked out at anything he could find to do, railroading, etc., during the years 1894-95, the family living at Halsey while he was employed as a section hand. He kept on trying to farm, gradually got into the stock business, and constantly improved his ranch as he was able. In the early days he has made trips taking seven or eight days in search of poles for a barn roof, and when the hard times were being experienced in his vicinity he burned chips for fuel. He also had different severe fires, losing fence posts, hay, grass, trees, etc. His ranch now contains eleven hundred and twenty acres, situated on the Loup river. He has sixty acres cultivated and raises good crops, having a nice bunch of stock. There is a fine grove of trees which he himself planted, and many fruit trees are growing near their residence. There are several running springs and the water is pumped by windmills for all purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter have five children, named as follows: Elma A., now a teacher in the schools in Thomas county; Katie, married to Mr. Florey, and Frank, Mabel and Raymond. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are strong believers in the education of their children. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are strong believers in the education of their children. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are strong believers in the education of their children. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are strong believers in the education of their children.

there were only four families in the section, and during those times their only church services were held in a sod building. Since then they have seen the county grow to be one of the most fertile and thriving communities, and have the satisfaction of feeling that they have been a part and parcel of this growth.

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#### PETER JERMAN.

Peter Jerman, one of the prosperous ranchmen of Cherry county, is an old settler of Merriman precinct, and has a wide circle of acquaintances in the community in which he resides. He has built up a good home by his industry and honest dealings, and enjoys a comfortable income from the fruits of his labors.

Mr. Jerman was born in Jackson county, Iowa, March 10, 1852. His father, Peter Jerman, Sr., a French Canadian, was a miner. He was accidentally killed four months before our subject was born, leaving a wife (who was Mary Ann Flathers, of Irish descent), and a family of two small children to support. Our subject lived with his uncle, Thomas S. Flathers, in Center county, until he was thirteen years of age, then struck out and hustled for himself, making his own way ever since. During his early life he attended school three months in the year, having to return three-fourths of a mile at noon to do the chores and get his lunch. He severely froze his feet the winter he was ten years old. He took a man's place in the harvest field at nine years of age, following farm work in different parts of Iowa; part of the time being spent grubbing and clearing new land, which was rather rough work for a boy of his years. He was also employed on a railroad for nine months, after which he went to farming and continued at that for two years. At the end of this time he gave it up and went to work for a lime manufacturer in Iowa, having charge of three lime kilns at Maquoketa, remaining at that work for the following eight years. In 1885 he first landed in Cherry county, and located on sections 18 and 19, township 33, range 36, on the Niobrara river. When he struck this place all the capital he had was one cow and a calf, one pig and eight dollars in cash. He lived here for nearly three years, proved up on a pre-emption, and then took his present homestead in section 29, township 34, range 37, where he has lived continuously ever since. This farm comprises eight hundred acres of good land, including homestead claims, and

he has a hundred acres under cultivation, and on this raises "banner" crops. Most of his land excepting the new homestead is valley land. He has sixty head of cattle and other stock. The place is well improved with buildings and fences, has a large number of young trees planted, and all machinery for conducting a model ranch and farm. In addition to his ranching Mr. Jerman has for a number of years been employed on section work for the Northwestern Railroad at Merriman.

Mr. Jerman was married November 1, 1875, to Miss Mary Ann Greener, born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1856. Her father, Joseph A. Greener, was born in Bohemia, was reared there until twenty years of age and then came to this country, where he was married in Garrone, Jackson county, Iowa, to Rosa A. Clark, of American stock. Mr. and Mrs. Jerman have five children, named as follows: Joseph W., Mary R., a successful teacher of Cherry county; Flora E., wife of E. G. Ward; Florence G., wife of Ira Rose; and Francis. Mr. Jerman and his family are now in position to enjoy the fruits of their hard labor. They have a pleasant home and farm, and he is glad now that he stuck to Nebraska, although he has seen some hard times, often felt discouraged and ready to give up, but is satisfied that he could not have done as well in any other place.

He takes a commendable interest in all local affairs and has served his community as constable for a number of years. He has never held any political office, as he says he has had too many other things to engage his attention. He is a Democrat, and with the family an adherent of the Catholic faith. On another page is shown a view of the residence of Mr. Jerman and family.

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#### JOHN H. LACY.

John H. Lacy, one of the foremost business men of Harrison, is a member of the firm of Lacy & Dieckman, handling hardware, harness, lumber, grain, coal and machinery, and they conduct one of the largest stores of its kind in Sioux county, Nebraska.

Mr. Lacy was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1867, on a farm. His father, Patrick, was also a native of that country, of Irish blood, and his mother was Elsie Hudgin, born and reared in Montreal. When our subject was a lad of about eight years the family left Canada and settled in Iowa, where he was raised and educated in the country schools, assisting his father in the work of carrying on the home





A. G. JOHNSON.

farm. When he became of age he went to Ida county, in western Iowa, and there worked on farms for about six years, and at the end of that time began farming on his own account and remaining there for about two years.

Mr. Lacy came to Sioux county in 1895, taking up a homestead located seven miles northwest of Harrison, and proved up on his land, improved it in good shape and putting up good buildings. The farm contained one hundred and sixty acres of good land and he lived on that place for about seven years. He was principally engaged in raising small grains and also in the stock business on a small scale, and did fairly well, but finally gave it up and bought a ranch farm in Kansas and spent one year and a half in that state. In 1903 he came back to Nebraska and purchased his present business, and has made his home here continuously since that time. The firm have improved the store considerably, putting in a large stock of goods and have built up a good trade. (A sketch of the life of Mr. Lacy's partner, John Dieckman, who came into the business in 1906, will be found in this volume on another page.)

Our subject is also owner of a Kinkaid homestead consisting of four hundred and eighty acres in section 6, township 31, range 55. He has put over three thousand dollars' worth of improvements on this place and is still engaged in farming and ranching to quite an extent.

In 1892 Mr. Lacy was united in marriage to Matilda Dieckman, a sister of his partner. Mrs. Lacy's father, Henry Dieckman, is an old settler and well known resident of this county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lacy, namely: John H., William H., Elsie and Chester.

Mr. Lacy takes a commendable interest in all local political and school affairs, and has held school office for many years and done his full share as a citizen. He is a Democrat.

#### A. E. JOHNSON AND A. G. JOHNSON.

Albert E. Johnson, President, and A. G. Johnson, Cashier of the Farmers' State Bank of Loomis, Phelps county, Nebraska, are conspicuous examples of the success attending the Swede settlers who come to this country to carve out for themselves a home and fortune. This bank was organized in 1900, and purchased by the two gentlemen above mentioned in 1905. The entire management falls upon A. G. Johnson, who was educated in the pub-

lic schools. He qualified himself as a thorough accountant by a correspondent course with Bryant and Stratton College, and by strict application and hard work became an expert in his line of work.

The father of our subjects was a native of Sweden who came to America when a young man, settling in Kane county, Illinois. He was married in Sweden previous to coming to America but all of his children were born in America. In 1880 they came to Nebraska, locating in Phelps county, homesteading a quarter section in section 6, Laird township, and so well did they plan and work that at the death of the father, which occurred April 24, 1901, he left four hundred eighty acres of fine land, each son thus receiving an ample estate.

As an instance of the prosperity of this county, A. G. Johnson states that in 1896 the total deposits in Loomis banks was \$6,000, and at the present writing, the deposits amount to over \$250,000. The stockholders of the Farmers State Bank are James McClymont, President; A. G. Johnson, Cashier; Lynn Snodgrass, Vice-President; A. L. Johnson and Albert E. Johnson.

A portrait of Mr. A. G. Johnson will be found on another page of this volume

#### T. B. CAMPBELL.

T. B. Campbell, the popular and efficient train dispatcher for the Republican Valley division, resides at McCook, Nebraska, and is well known all through this locality as a citizen of true worth.

Mr. Campbell was born at Sheppard, Isabella county, Michigan, in 1858, and removed to Mansfield, Ohio, with his parents when a small boy. His father, Samuel J. Campbell, was county clerk of Isabella county and a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and family originally coming from the north of Ireland, where our subject's grandfather, John Campbell, was born. His mother was Jane A. Barnett, daughter of James Barnett, an old resident of Philadelphia, who was a manufacturer of edge tools. The Barnetts came from Holland to this country, locating in New York, and were in the Revolutionary war. A brother of our subject, J. W. Campbell, is cashier of the Frisco Railway, located at Memphis, Tennessee, and another brother, B. Campbell, is a banker at Yuma, Colorado. When he was eighteen our subject went to Pennsylvania, obtaining employment with the Railroad at Mansfield,

Ohio, in 1876, and ran from there to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Two years later he went to the superintendent's office, where he learned train dispatching, and the following year was attacked with malaria fever and was compelled to go west, and settled in Nebraska, and since that time his health has been perfect. During the year 1880, from April 25 to June 1, he was on the construction force of the B. & M. Railway from Lister to Table Rock, and at this time the telegraph outfit was moved from Pawnee City to Fremont Butte, five miles south of Akron. In 1882 there was one passenger train per day each way, and now there are in all eight heavy passenger trains in a day. Between 1882 and now the freight record is: Then one freight train per day, and now there are four or five each day, and one of the trains now would have made four of that time, and this business has increased easily twenty-four per cent. in twenty-six years. Today there are more operators in the McCook office than there was in 1882 on the whole line. At that time T. G. Rees was chief dispatcher and J. F. Forbes, J. F. Kenyon and our subject were trick men between Hastings and Denver. Today there are nine trick men, two chief dispatchers and one relief man.

The most exciting experience that Mr. Campbell ever had in his work was in March, 1886, when twelve cars loaded with coal were blown out of the Akron yards onto the main line and sent east on the down grade. The first intimation he had of this accident was a message from Hyde, Colorado, that these cars had just passed there at sixty-five miles an hour. The St. Louis passenger for Denver, with every seat taken, should just at that moment be taking water at Haigler. Engineer Hoag was in charge, who in the strike of 1887 was chairman, for the B. & M. division. Mr. Campbell called Haigler and No. 39 had just pulled out. This passenger train was sixteen miles east of Wray and the freight cars running wild thirty-four miles west, so our subject laid his plans at once. He called the agent at Wray and told him to get the night operator at once, and for the agent to go to the west switch, and the night man to the east switch, and put whichever train came first onto the siding and let the other one through on the main line. He also ordered the section men at Wray to go to the curve or siding and to ditch the freight cars if the passenger train did not get on the siding and clear. The wind was blowing at a terrific rate, so that the section men had just before been obliged to abandon their work, but they obeyed the orders.

The first to come was the passenger at full speed. The night operator threw the switch and signaled to take it without a slow-down. In it rushed, and at that moment the runaway cars rounded the curve at a terrific rate, and the agent gave them the main line, and in a moment they had cleared the station and rushed on down the track. The engineer, conductor and passengers were horror-struck when they saw the terrible engine of destruction pass them and realized what they had escaped by a few seconds, for the whole train would have been ground to atoms, and hardly a person could have hoped to escape a horrible death. It was just twenty-one minutes from the first message to the time of safety. The superintendent stood by our subject breathless during this time, watching him operate the wires, and both seemed to grow years older in those few moments. An east bound freight was put on sidings at Benkelman, and the engine took after the runaways, when they went by. They overhauled the cars in an eight mile run and the fireman jumped from the foot-board to the car and going to the farther end applied the brakes and brought the cars in without any mishap. Years later this incident was written up for Harper's Magazine by Spearman, and was regarded as one of the hairbreadth escapes among railroad incidents.

Mr. Campbell was married in 1881 to Miss Ella M. Alter, of Parnassus, Pennsylvania, whose family were well-known pioneer settlers in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have three children, named as follows: Harry A., with the B. & M. Ry., employed as **timekeeper**; Mrs. E. J. Kates, residing at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and Ruth, at home.

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#### CLARENCE A. RIPLEY.

Charles A. Ripley, one of the pioneers of Keya Paha county, has served his county in different capacities for many years, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Ripley was born in Lockbridge, Jefferson county, Iowa, February 20, 1858, the eldest in a family of three children. His father, Wm. E. Ripley, now deceased, was a well-known merchant descended from Yankee stock; his mother, Miss Isabella Vanwinkle, was born in Indiana of American parents. The family removed to Osceola county, Iowa, where the boy remained until twenty-two years of age when he returned to Jefferson county and entered the employ of the C. B. & Q. Ry., as telegraph operator at Lockridge, remaining

with that company for three years. In 1882 he was married to Miss Hester L. Cutshall, daughter of Eli Cutshall, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, an old settler in Buchanan county, Iowa. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ripley, named as follows: Jessie B., Bessie M., William E., Hazel D., Madge E., Sterling M., and Genevieve. After his marriage Mr. Ripley farmed in Iowa for two years, and in 1884 came to Keya Paha county and took a homestead in section 14, township 32, range 21, and for seven years led the life of a farmer.

In 1891 he moved to Springview and established a livery business, continuing in this for a year when he was appointed postmaster of the village, holding this office for about six years. In the fall of 1899 he was elected county clerk on the Republican ticket, and twice re-elected, performing his duties faithfully and well. Mr. Ripley is a public spirited citizen, takes an active part in both local and state politics, and has represented his county at several state congressional conventions. He has been engaged in the abstract and real estate business and in August, 1907, purchased a lumber yard in Springview, to which he is devoting his energy; he also has extensive farming interests, owning several bodies of land aggregating one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, of which three hundred and forty acres are under cultivation. He is recognized as an able and efficient business man who well deserves a place among the makers and builders of Keya Paha county. He is actively interested in the Masonic, the Pythian and the Woodmen lodges of Springview.

AUGUST G. NEUMANN.

Among those who have passed through all the early Nebraska times in building up a home and establishing a reputation for themselves, this gentleman deserves special mention as a worthy and substantial citizen of his community. Mr. Neumann is an active public-spirited man, and has held many important positions since becoming a resident of Deuel county, many years ago.

Our subject was born in the Province of Rosen, Germany, in 1854. When he was an infant his parents came to America, the father settling in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and there he was raised and educated, attending the common schools and assisting his parents in the work on the home farm. When a young man of twenty-five years he came to Nebraska, locating in Sidney, and purchased a ranch near

Lodgepole, making that his home for eight years, engaging in the sheep business and carried it on all of that time, during the first four years living all alone, roughing it most of the time, camping out winter and summer. After leaving that ranch he came to Deuel county, settling on a ranch three and a half miles southeast of Chappell, and there began raising cattle and horses. He put up good buildings, planted trees and fenced the place, improving it as rapidly as possible, and finally became owner of two thousand six hundred acres, which lies along Lodgepole Creek for a distance of two miles, making it an ideally situated ranch. He occupied the place up to 1893, then moved to Chappell and took possession of the old Johnson House, and was proprietor and manager of the hotel for thirteen years. He became a familiar figure in public affairs, and was known far and wide to the traveling public as a genial and popular host, his house being liberally patronized by all the commercial men going through this part of the state. Mr. Neumann was married in 1884 to Miss Mary Barrett, whose father, Harry Barrett, was a pioneer in Western Nebraska, and who helped in the construction of the Union Pacific Railway when it was built. Our subject is the father of four children, who are named as follows: Guy, Grace, Harry and Mary.

Politically Mr. Neumann is a Republican, and is now serving as County Commissioner, this being his second term. During 1885-'87 he held the same office in Cheyenne county. He has helped establish the schools in his community, and held various school offices, at present being a member of the School Board of Chappell.

HON. W. G. COIE.

Honorable W. G. Coie, residing in Hays township, Kearney county, retired farmer, is proprietor of a fine estate adjoining Minden, where his family occupy a beautiful new residence. Mr. Coie was elected on the Democratic and Peoples party to represent Kearney county in the state legislature for 1896 and 1897. He has always been active in political affairs here, having been assessor of Sherman township clerk for five years, and also township clerk for several terms.

Mr. Coie is a native of Columbiana county, Ohio. His father, Robert Coie, was born in Donegal, Ireland, and came to America when a young man, settling in Ohio, where he met and married Miss Mary Elder, who resided



in Coshocton county. She was one of a family of nineteen children, her father also a native of Ireland. In 1872 our subject came to Nebraska, locating at North Bend. He came here from Iowa, where he had farmed in Munroe county and later in Ringgold county. His brother, John Coie, was a member of the Iowa state legislature elected on the Republican ticket from Ringgold county to represent his district. One brother lives in Columbiana county, Ohio, and two others, Thomas and Samuel, served in the Union army for four years, the latter dying during the war. He was wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro.

In 1884 Mr. Coie came to Sherman township, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of school land and farmed there up to 1906, at which time he met with a serious accident through being kicked by a horse. He then sold out his farm and moved to his present place. While farming, he dealt largely in stock, making a specialty of pure bred hogs and fine horses and cattle, and was the owner of a number of as fine animals as could be found in this part of the state.

In 1873 Mr. Coie was married to Miss Margarette J. Dunlop, of Mount Ayr, Iowa. They are the parents of five children, namely: Nannie, William R., Mabel O., a teacher in the Minden schools; Mary and Una. The family are members of the United Presbyterian church, and are highly esteemed throughout the community as worthy citizens and good neighbors.

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#### WILLIAM H. KETCHAM.

William H. Ketcham, an enterprising and energetic business man and worthy citizen of Crawford, Nebraska, is one of the pioneers in this section of the country.

Mr. Ketcham is a native of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, born in 1841. His father, Lorenzo Ketcham, was a prominent man of Northumberland, of American descent; his mother's maiden name was Catherine Crissman. He was reared in his native state until he reached the age of fourteen years, then went with his parents to Washington city and from thence to Philadelphia, where he learned the printer's trade. He afterwards worked on newspapers in different cities, including New York, Pittsburg, Louisville, Chicago and St. Louis, and for twelve years worked on the morning papers in different cities. In 1875 he settled in Indiana where he started a paper called *The Gosport Gazette*, and ran this for

four years, then went to Kansas for a short time. In 1881 he came to Pawnee county and established the *Argus Tabarock*, but soon sold out and moved into Holt county, locating in Stuart and there started the *Stuart Ledger*, which was the first paper printed at that place. He was editor and proprietor for about four years, and built up a large circulation and made a success of the enterprise.

In 1886 Mr. Ketcham landed in Crawford, and began working on a newspaper, the *Crescent*, which he ran for a year, then established what is now called "*The Tribune*." This is one of the principal papers of the town and has a wide circulation, surviving twenty-nine competitors since its start. Mr. Ketcham has a complete, up-to-date job and printing office and does all kinds of work in this line.

In 1898 our subject was appointed postmaster of Crawford under President McKinley, and re-appointed at the end of his term, but resigned to devote his entire time to the management of his business. He takes an active interest in matters of local importance, politically and otherwise, has always been a strong Republican, and an ardent anti-railroad and corporation control man.

Mr. Ketcham was married in 1871 to Miss Sierra Navader Brannock, a native of California. They have a family of four children, namely: Roy, Nellie, Willie and Harry.

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#### C. A. EDWARDS.

Among the leading public spirited citizens of Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, the name of C. A. Edwards merits a foremost place. He is a business man of more than ordinary ability and has gained the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has had to do since locating in Nebraska.

Mr. Edwards was born in Moline, Ill. He was educated at Valparaiso, Indiana, and from 1894 to 1902 held the position of manager and engineer of the Gothenburg Water Power and Irrigation Company, located at Gothenburg, Nebraska. He built for this company twenty miles of irrigation ditch, also the orchard and alfalfa ditch at Cozad. In 1902 the Gothenburg company sold out all their interest to the Platte Valley Cattle Company. From 1887 to 1891 he was county surveyor of Dawson county, and he was the engineer in the building of the Kearney & Black Hills railway, from the former place to Callaway. Prior to coming to Nebraska our subject was a resident engineer on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and

Northern railway. He has platted many of the town sites through the western part of the state of Nebraska, and he has calls from all over this part of the state for his services. He has followed his profession as civil engineer and surveyor for the past twenty-four years in this part of the country, first coming to Nebraska in 1885, when he located at Guernsey, near Sumner. In 1902 he was elected county surveyor of Buffalo county, also city surveyor of Kearney, and has filled both of these positions with credit, and met with marked success in every undertaking. Mr. Edwards is also interested in agricultural pursuits to some extent, and is the owner of a fine farm in Dawson county. He was married April 14, 1885, to Miss Alvina Lulen, a native of Dows, Iowa. They have five children—Florence, Gordon, Herbert, Gladys and Frank, all at home.

E. A. CARRIER.

E. A. Carrier, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 16, township 20, range 51, is one of the substantial farmers and highly esteemed citizens of his community. He is a pioneer of his county, and has devoted his entire career to farming and ranching, making a success of the business.

Mr. Carrier was born in New York state February 11th, 1859, and lived there until he was seven years old, when his parents emigrated to Wisconsin. They farmed there about three years, then came to the eastern part of Nebraska, where our subject was reared. When he was twelve years old, his father died, and in 1887 E. A. left his mother's home and came to Cheyenne county, taking up a homestead on section 14, township 18, range 50, which he proved up on, developed it into a good farm, and then sold. He then acquired by purchase a quarter section of land on section 16, township 20, range 51, which he has improved in good shape. All of this is under ditch, and consists principally of hay land. He has good buildings, plenty of water and every convenience of modern farming.

The father and mother of our subject are both dead. On November 30th, 1880, he was united in marriage at Arlington, Neb., to Melissa Lamberson, who was born and reared in Stark county, Ohio. To them have been born seven children, named as follows: Laura, married to Robt. E. Davis, they living at Bayard; C. C., who is married, and R. L. S., Myron, Florence, Myrtle and Julia, who are living at home.

They have a very pleasant home and form a most interesting and congenial family circle. Mr. Carrier is a man of exemplary character, most pleasant and cheerful disposition, held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen. He is director of School District No. 44.

ED. COLLINS.

Among the leading merchants of Merriman, the gentleman above named is accorded a first place by reason of his industry and integrity, through which he has built up a splendid patronage and gained the esteem and respect of all with whom he has ever had any dealings. Mr. Collins has made Nebraska his home since his early boyhood, and is thoroughly familiar with the entire western part of the state, and is one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Collins is a native of Ulster county, New York, born December 29, 1869, on a farm. He is a son of T. H. and Louisa (DePew) Collins (the latter dying in New York while Edward was a small child). T. H. Collins came to western Nebraska in the spring of 1885 with his family of three children, taking up a homestead in Dawes county. The family drove from Sidney on the Fort Robinson and Black Hills trail into that county to their homestead, the trip consuming many days and nights, the latter spent in camping out in a tent. Mr. Collins built one of the first frame houses ever put up in this region. In 1890 our subject started out for himself, going to Bessimer, Wyoming, where he worked at the printer's trade, then went to Casper and was employed on the Casper Derrick, remaining there for two years. He next went to Whitney, Nebraska, his old home town, where he opened a store and was in business there for a number of years. In 1900 he sold out this store and came to Merriman, purchasing the general store of Frank E. Coffee, who had established the enterprise about two years previously. Mr. Collins has built up a large trade and carries a complete and up-to-date line of goods. His store occupies a floor space 24x74, his success being due to his good management and thorough knowledge of the business.

On June 13, 1894, Mr. Collins was married to Miss Grace Canfield, at Whitney. Her father, S. G. Canfield, was a pioneer in Dawes county, and a prominent citizen and politician, having served as county judge of Dawes county. Mrs. Collins was a teacher prior to her marriage, a graduate of the Chadron

schools. Four children came to bless this marriage, named as follows: Edna, Florence, Harold and Doris, the first three born in Dawes county, and the youngest in Cherry county.

Mr. Collins takes an active part in all local affairs, and is a member of the town board. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Merriam.

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#### W. P. HUNNICUTT.

W. P. Hunnicutt, who resides on section 31, Laird township, is one of the prosperous farmers of Phelps county, Nebraska, and has gained a valuable estate and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen through his industry and enterprising labor.

Mr. Hunnicutt is a native of Indiana, reared and educated in Randolph county, where he assisted his father in running his farm, and from his experience in that and other states prior to coming to Nebraska, is of the opinion that the latter is superior to almost any place as a farming region. In Indiana the soil is nearly all clay and wears out quickly, while the greater of this state has loamy soil and is richer and lasts better, and one man here can do as much as two men there. He first came to Nebraska in 1882, and in the fall of 1884 purchased his present farm. Since locating on this place he has gone in mostly for grain raising, but always keeps a number of head of good stock—from thirty to fifty head of Red Polled cattle and about fourteen fine Norman horses for use on his farm. He also runs from fifty to one hundred hogs most of the time. He prefers the Red Polled cattle as best for all general purposes, being good milkers, beefers and gentle, having no horns. Mr. Hunnicutt raises fine crops of corn, the grain averaging forty to sixty bushels per acre, and oats from thirty-five to sixty bushels. Wheat is also a good crop with him, yielding twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, and A1 in quality. For three years, from 1882 to 1885, he farmed in Seward county, but likes it better here than there. He has three sons who assist him in carrying on his farm, and each cultivates one hundred and eighty acres of land, keeping it in first-class shape, where in Indiana it would take four or more men to work the same number of acres. When Mr. Hunnicutt first located on his place there was only forty acres broken up, and only two frame houses between his place and Holdrege, and the development and growth of this region has been very rapid since that time. He has a fine large grass pasture. He also has a nice ten-acre patch of alfalfa.

Mr. Hunnicutt was married in January, 1885, at Louisville, Indiana, to Miss Susan Binford, of Henry county, Indiana, and they have a family of three sons, namely: Frank B., Charles A. and Jonathan Raymond, all at home with their parents. The good wife died September 28, 1908, mourned by all the family and a host of warm friends. She was a model mother and home-maker and is intensely missed by the members of the home.

Mr. Hunnicutt's father was a native of Virginia, settling in Indiana when a boy, and died there in January, 1907, at the advanced age of ninety-one.

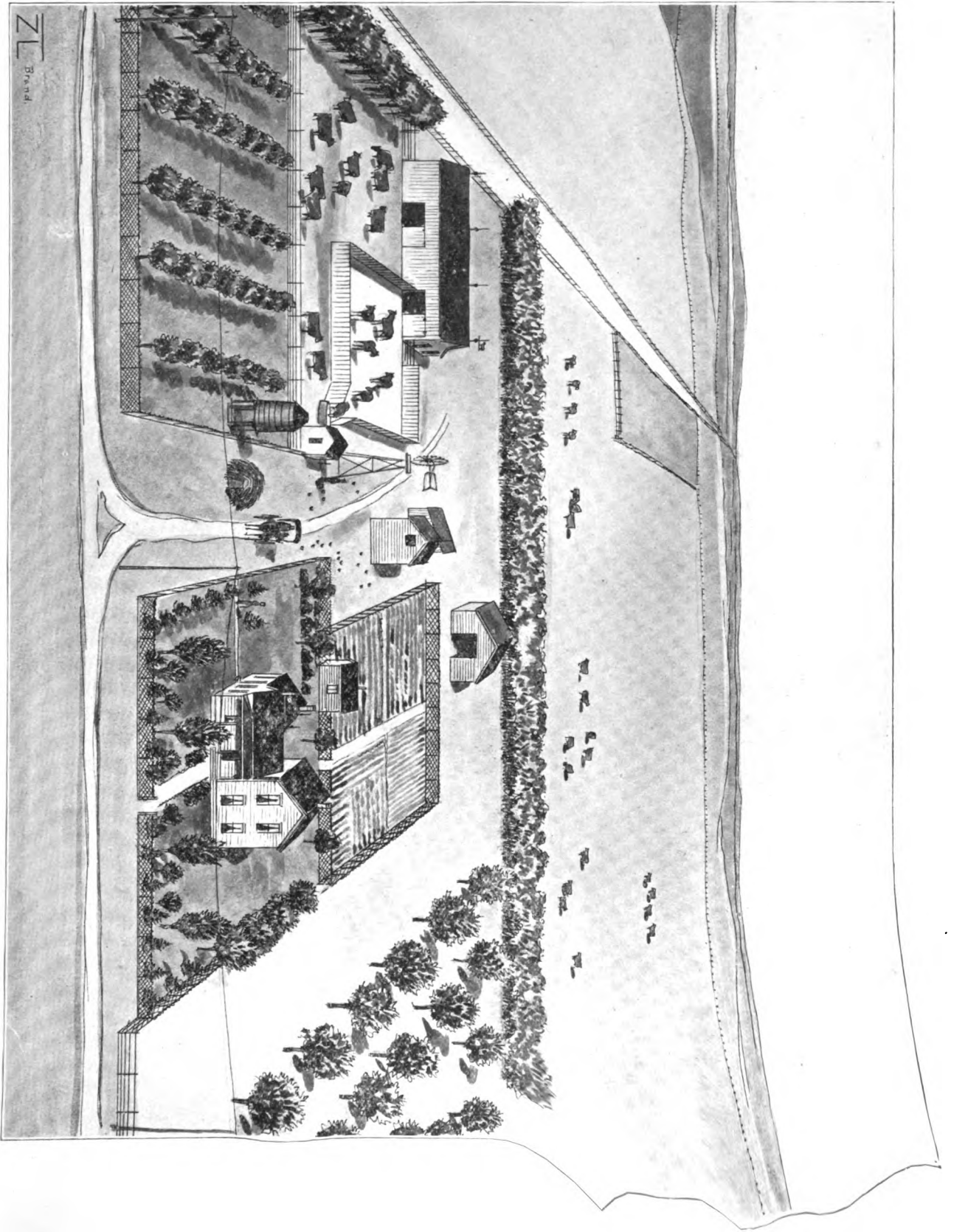
Our subject belongs to the Independent People's party, and was for some years on the county central committee, attending all the conventions as a delegate. He was also on the district school board for nineteen years. He and his family are members of the M. E. church at Pleasant View, and Mr. Hunnicutt acts as a trustee of that church, also is superintendent of the Sabbath school. He is one of the foremost citizens in all matters of local importance, and recognized as a leading public-spirited member of the community.

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#### CALVIN E. HAGERMAN.

Calvin E. Hagerman is one of the older residents of Brown county, Nebraska, and is widely known around Ainsworth as a man who is to be respected alike for his plain and honest character, his upright life and his long service in the Union army during the war of the great Rebellion, when he bore arms for liberty and law. Now that his day is nearing the sunset of life it is his privilege to look backward over a long and useful career and to feel that he has done something for the world and the welfare of man.

Mr. Hagerman was born on a farm in the state of New York, February 18, 1833; his parents were also born in that state, though his father came of English ancestry, while his mother was of German descent. He was one of a family of eighteen children that blessed their union, eleven of whom reached maturity. He was reared in Michigan, whither his parents removed in 1836, being numbered among the first pioneers of the state. He was reared in Lenawee county, of that state, and secured limited school privileges until he was ten years of age; schools and teachers were not plentiful in a new country, and the young lad was early thrown on his own resources. While still a boy he made a trip in 1852 to Wisconsin, working on farms but returned to Lenawee



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Brand

RESIDENCE OF CALVIN E. HAGERMAN,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



county, to remain until he was twenty-three years of age. In 1856 he made a permanent settlement in Bad Axe county, now Vernon county, Wisconsin, and for three years was in the employ of a brother in that state. In the meantime the country had gone wild over the stories of gold in the Colorado mountains, and our subject started for Pike's Peak in search of this fabulous wealth. But like many another craze, the closer he drew to the scene the less real it appeared and meeting over five hundred teams returning, before he reached the mountains, he had determined, after camping three days on Turkey Creek, near the Kansas-Colo- rado line, to turn back, as the chances seemed all against him. It was during this delay he enjoyed his first buffalo hunt. Starting out on foot, he met a herd coming his way. Hid- ing in the grass, he waited until they were in range, and then fired at a big bull but the shot missed. However, a second shot grazed the bull, which enraged him, and he started to hunt the hunter. The enraged bull was rapidly nearing the young hunter, who discovered at this juncture that his gun was useless. This was a serious matter, as he had only a hunting knife left with which to defend himself. For- tunately for our subject, the herd alarmed by the strange actions of the bull, stampeded, and in the wild scramble which followed, the bull was turned from his course. A bullet having lodged in the barrel of Mr. Hagerman's gun, he was unable to shoot at the now fleeing ani- mals.

Shortly after this he went to Missouri, where he passed a year and a half. Then for the third time went to Wisconsin. This was in 1861, and in the meantime the war for the Union had broken out, and Mr. Hagerman was among the first to enlist from Wisconsin, becoming a member of Company A, Wiscon- sin Volunteer Artillery. The battery very soon saw active service at Cumberland Gap and near the Cumberland and Kanawha. It passed through the Vicksburg campaign, and took part in the battles of Port Gibson, Champion Hill, and Black river, being sent the next year to the relief of the Red River expedition. Throughout the war they were employed much of the time in hard and dangerous cam- paigning. The captain of the company, J. T. Foster, of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, became the colonel of the battery, and achieved a reputa- tion as one of the very ablest artillery officers in the service. About the time of his discharge Mr. Hagerman was sent to New York as one of the detail in charge of a body of rebel pris- oners. He was discharged at Madison, Wis- consin, on the expiration of his enlistment, in

1864. The company started out with an equip- ment of light brass guns, but were soon sup- plied with twenty-pounders, and before the close of the war had two full batteries of the heavier cannon.

When Mr. Hagerman returned to civil life he found work in a Wisconsin saw mill, and later was engaged in farming for several years. For a period of three years he lived in Iowa, and about 1880 settled on the Platte river in Nebraska. In 1882 he located in Brown county, having filed on a claim in Sep- tember, 1881, and partially constructed a sod house. They drove across country from the Platte, the trip occupying from February 9 to March 1, the day they reached their home- stead in what was then almost an unbroken wilderness for miles around.

Mr. Hagerman was married November 2, 1861, to Miss Sarah J. Crandall, a native of St. Lawrence county, New York, a daughter of Ezekiel Crandall, and a descendant of an old American family; the mother, Jane Coburn, was of German descent. Her father was a farmer, and is remembered as an honorable and upright man. Mr. and Mrs. Hagerman became the parents of the following children: Leona, Elmer (dead), Hattie, wife of George A. Smith, Oran (dead), Edgar, Melvin, Worthy and Grace, wife of Leve Lindquist.

When Mr. Hagerman and his family came into Brown county to make their new home they drove overland from the Platte. The journey across the prairie was a hard one at this time of the year. They rested on the trip for three days at O'Neill before proceeding on their journey through the rain and snow. On arrival at their destination they found the only improvement on the place consisted of a sod house with but half a roof and no floor. A start had been made, however, and after some six years the sod house was replaced with a better home. Mr. Hagerman was always im- proving and today has a fine establishment. He began with ox teams, and at first all the money he secured was from the sale of cedar posts, which he cut in the canyons and sold at the railroad station. At the present writing, 1909, Mr. Hagerman owns nearly a section of land, of which some three hundred and twenty acres are under active cultivation, and here it is said that he has the finest set of farm build- ings in the county. The farm house is a fine two-story adding two-story structure, with one and imposing. Here he has cultivated a con- siderable apple tree orchard, one hundred and eighty with admiration by all who see it, and many cherry and plum trees. The small fruits are plenty, and his front lawn is regarded as the finest in the county.

ornamented as it is with deciduous trees and evergreens, interspersed with flower beds. He has a supply tank for irrigating and the house is equipped with two telephone lines. The genial hosts dispense their hearty hospitality in true western style. A full page view of this elegant country place is to be found on another page of this work.

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#### LIND NELSON.

Lind Nelson, one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Franklin, retired, has been a resident of western Nebraska for over thirty-five years. He has acquired a valuable property through his industry and thrift, supplemented by good management and honest dealings, and well merits the success he has attained.

Mr. Nelson was born in Christianstadt, Sweden, in 1849, and in 1869 came to the United States, locating in Sangamon county, Illinois. He farmed there up to 1872, then came to Nebraska, locating in Nemaha county and lived there for six years; then to Gage county, where he bought a farm which he lived on up to 1900. In 1895 he was elected sheriff of Gage county and served for two terms. The first time he ran for office the Republican majority in Beatrice was seven hundred, and the cry was to defeat a foreigner. Our subject went out among the Bohemians and Germans, who were Democrats, and succeeded in getting enough votes to offset his opponents and succeeded in capturing the office, and the following term was elected without any trouble at all, the cry being to "let that Swede alone," proving a most efficient and popular official. He farmed two hundred acres, buying, feeding and shipping stock, and also raised grains, all of which he fed out on his farm and bought more besides. In 1899 he purchased four hundred and twenty-seven acres situated on the river one mile east of the Franklin depot, and engaged in mixed farming and stock feeding, running from three to four hundred cattle each year, and the same number of hogs. In one year his profits from this source alone was six thousand dollars.

Mr. Nelson is a splendid specimen of the Swedes who have made prosperity for themselves and the state of Nebraska by their perseverance and earnest efforts to get ahead. He is a finely developed man of large frame, enjoying perfect health, genial and generous in disposition, well liked by everyone with whom he comes in contact.

Our subject was married in 1874 to Miss

Anna Miller, of Nemaha county, daughter of Simon Miller, a pioneer of that locality, originally from Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: Carl, cashier of the State Bank, of Franklin; L. C., formerly of Cody, Wyoming, connected with Buffalo Bill, and now at Belle Fourche, South Dakota; John, owner of a three hundred and twenty-acre farm at Elsie, Nebraska; Austin, cashier of the State bank, at Naponee; George, at home; Lena, also living at home, and Bessie, wife of C. C. Butler, of San Francisco. All of the children are graduates of the Beatrice or Franklin high schools, and are bright, intelligent young people, highly esteemed throughout their home community. The family are members of the Christian church at Franklin.

For three terms Mr. Nelson was supervisor of Glenwood township, and on the school board at O'Dell for eleven years. He is an active Republican and takes a keen interest in all affairs of a political or educational nature in his locality. He is a Mason and has been a member of that lodge for over thirty years, and is also an Odd Fellow.

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#### THOMAS H. McCANDLESS.

Thomas H. McCandless, a well-known resident of Hemingford, Nebraska, was for some years engaged in ranching in Box Butte county. He is well known throughout that section and is held in high esteem by his associates. Mr. McCandless is now engaged in the practice of law at Hemingford, and also handles real estate, and is in the newspaper business to some extent.

Mr. McCandless was born in Mercer county, Illinois, in 1856. His father, William, was a farmer, and was a soldier in the Civil war, and was killed during the battle of Stone River at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The father married Miss Sarah Ann Duncan, of Pennsylvania.

Our subject was reared in Illinois, and was educated in the common schools, as a boy helping in the work of carrying on the home farm, after the death of his father being compelled to help support his mother and the family. When he reached the age of twenty he went to Iowa, locating in Page county, where he remained for four years, then to Leadville, Colorado, engaging in newspaper work at the latter place, working on the Herald Democrat and other newspapers for many years. He spent one year in Cripple Creek, Colorado, and then came to Box Butte county in 1897, arriving here in July. He immediately went on a ranch and was engaged in ranching up to 1905.



In 1906 Mr. McCandless located in Hemingford and engaged in his present business, handling real estate all through this section, and also practicing law.

Our subject's mother came to this county in 1886, accompanied by one son, Wm. J. McCandless, a younger brother of Thomas, who was then a land locater in this section. William became well known in the locality, and went through pioneer experiences, also following the profession of a lawyer, and is well known throughout the county, his death occurring in 1895, after witnessing Box Butte county's early development and growth.

PERRY A. YEAST.

In presenting to the public a history of Nebraska, the list would not be complete without having mentioned the name of the gentleman above. Mr. Yeast is one of the leading old settlers and prominent ranchmen of western Nebraska, having spent the past twenty years and more in the vicinity of his present homestead. He has always been engaged in ranching on an extensive scale, and has made a complete success of the work.

Perry A. Yeast is a native of McDonough county, Illinois, born in December, 1861, on a farm. His father was Adam Yeast, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and was an early pioneer in Illinois. Our subject grew up in his native county, where he followed farming, assisting his father on the home place, and at the age of eighteen left home and came to Nebraska, locating in Saline county, forty miles from Lincoln. In 1883 he moved to Keith county, locating on the Platte river, and there went into the cattle business, working as a cowboy, rounding up herds of cattle, and seeing every phase of frontier life. About 1887, he came to Grant county, locating south of Hyannis, and has also spent some time in the vicinity of old Alkali Lake, twenty miles southwest of Hyannis. While there he did a great deal of hunting, as game of all kinds was plentiful in the early days in Nebraska, and during his first year's residence on his present ranch a buffalo was killed on the place. He also freighted during those years, hauling stuff a distance of ninety miles, from Ogallala.

At one time Mr. Yeast went into Iowa and bought a farm, starting in the cattle feeding business there and ran the place for several years. He has also bought and sold numerous ranches, and assisted in the establishing of

Wyoming, where he ran cattle and made a success, having built up and operated three ranches in that state. He began in the stock raising business as soon as he settled permanently in Grant county on his homestead, which he improved in fine shape and still owns. In 1888 he began building up the Farm Valley Ranch, situated twenty miles southwest of Hyannis, mentioned above, which is also at present a valuable piece of land. Aside from his own extensive ranching interests, owning in all three thousand four hundred acres, he manages and operates two ranches in Cherry county, which are the property of the Standard Cattle Company, which contain in all about eighteen thousand acres of land.

Mr. Yeast married, in 1883, Miss Nancy Markland, daughter of Wm. R. Markland, who is an early settler of Saline county, where he still occupies his original homestead, taken in the early Nebraskan days. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Yeast, namely: Lillie, Frank and Ruth.

Mr. Yeast may be truly called a veteran ranchman, and during the time he has been in this vicinity has done his full share in the building up of the region.

MELVILLE E. PRATT.

What may be accomplished by industry, good management and honest dealings is demonstrated by the life of the gentleman whose name heads this review. For many years past he has been a resident of Keya Paha county, and by honest endeavor has acquired a valuable estate and an enviable reputation. He is an agriculturist of intelligence and capability, operating his farm in a thorough and painstaking manner.

Mr. Pratt was born in Solon, Iowa, July 24, 1862. His father, Charles Pratt, was born in Maine, and came to Solon in the early days of that vicinity, where he was a prominent merchant, until 1890, when he disposed of his business and moved to Iowa City, where he died in 1906. He had settled in Johnson county, Iowa, in 1840, and during the gold fever in the early fifties, went to California.

He married Miss Annie N. True, a native of Maine, and they had a family of six children, of whom our subject is the second member. At the age of twenty-one he started in their locality for himself, working on farms herding cattle. He went to Montana in 1884, and worked for a time, then returned to Iowa in 1891. He first saw Keya Paha county, coming here in his father's farm for four years, and locating on section 20, town-

ship 35, range 18, on which he "squatted" for eight years before filing on it as a homestead. When he landed here he had very little money, but has worked hard and now owns four hundred acres of good land, cultivating fifty acres of it. He keeps twenty horses and thirty mules, and has raised a good many of the latter animals for the market during the last eight years. Prior to that time he dealt extensively in sheep, but gave them up as he thought mules could be made more profitable. His place is well improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and he is one of the foremost farmers in his section of the country, and has done his full share in developing the county and community. We present a picture of Mr. Pratt's place on another page.

Although Mr. Pratt is a strong Republican and takes a commendable interest in local affairs, he has never held any office.

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#### JAMES EDWARD ESTLACK.

A man's part has been played in the making of Rock county, and conversion of the shining prairies of Nebraska into fertile and well kept farms by him whose name begins this article, and whose home is in Kirkwood precinct. Plain and unpretending in his manner, he is honest and straightforward in his character, industrious in his habit, and has proved himself reliable at every point as does become a man.

Mr. Estlack was born in Morrow county, Ohio, April 7, 1859, and the farm on which he first saw the light was set in the depths of the towering beech woods. His father, Erwin Peter Estlack, was a farmer through a long and useful life; was of Dutch descent, and a native of Pennsylvania. His wife, Martha A. (Roach) Estlack, was born of Irish parentage, though native to American soil. They had a family of eight children, of whom Edward was the fifth. The year following his birth the family left Ohio and settled in Benton county, Iowa, making their home near Blairstown, where the father died. When he was eight years old the mother, with her family went to Sioux City, where presently a very exciting experience was had with the Sioux City and Pacific railroad. Their coming to that place had preceded the coming to the railroad, and when the right of way for the first road was laid out it passed directly through the center of their little home. No agreement for compensation was reached, and suddenly the railroad hands swooped down on their house, and set it bodily out of the right of way. After this somewhat rough and ready

experience the family spent three years in Sioux City, and then settled in Clay county, South Dakota, where the grasshopper plague fell on them in all its malignancy. No headway could be made against so complete destruction, and they returned to Sioux City, where James Edward Estlack mastered the butcher's trade, and was in the employ of one man for a period of fourteen years. Rheumatism compelled a change of vocation, and for some six years he was engaged as express driver and messenger. Then for a time he was in the restaurant business for himself at Yankton, South Dakota, and in 1901 came into Rock county, Nebraska.

In 1902 Mr. Estlack was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary Ellen Turpin, a pioneer settler of Rock county, and the widow of Robert N. Turpin, who came to what is now Rock county in 1878.

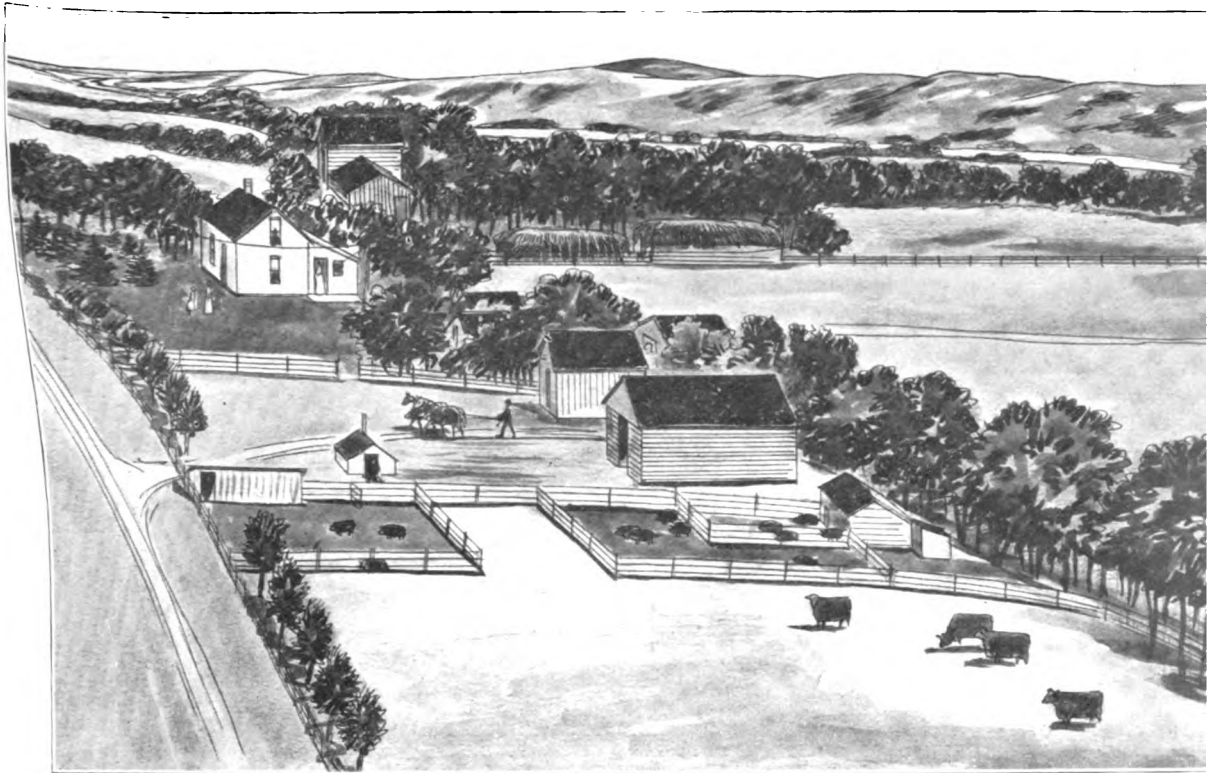
Mr. Estlack now possesses a well-tilled farm of three hundred and ten acres, in the cultivation of which he takes much pleasure. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres farther to the west, and is pushing rapidly to the front as one of the leading stockmen and grain farmers of this western country. A view of the residence is to be found on another page. As a man and a citizen, Mr. Estlack enjoys the respect and confidence of the public, and taking, as he does, an intelligent and active interest in political affairs, his influence is exerted for the welfare of the town and state. He has been a lifelong Republican.

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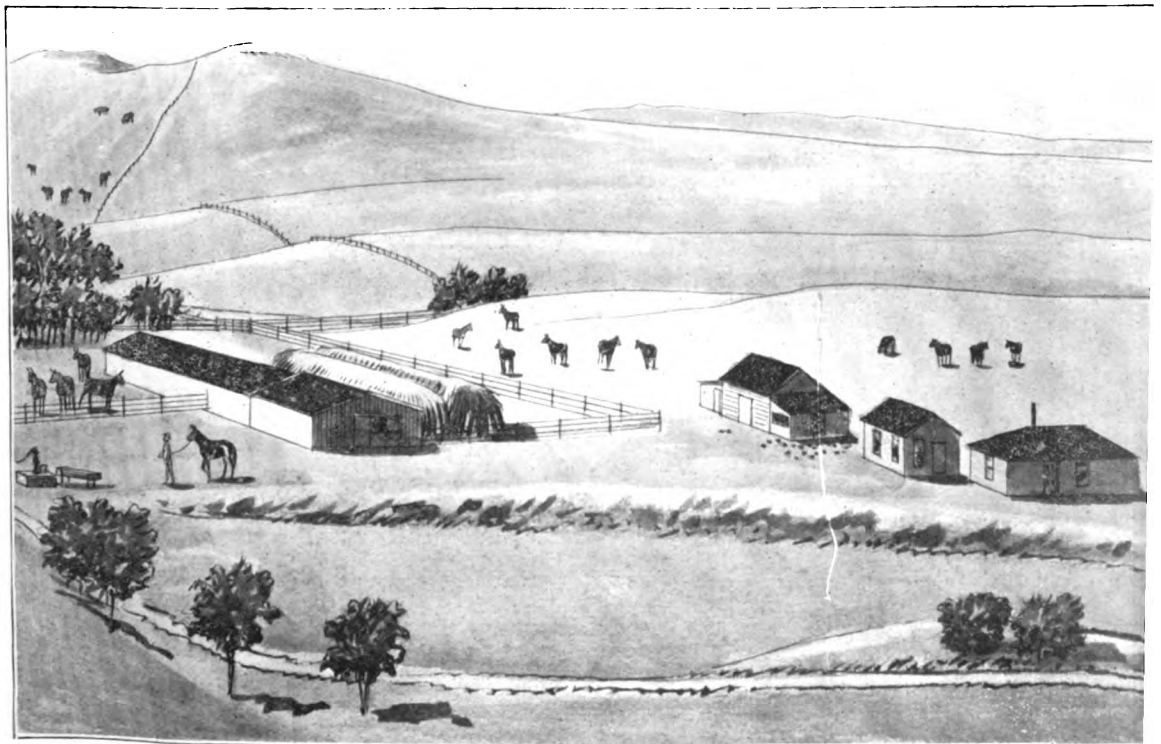
#### PAGE T. FRANCIS.

Perseverance and diligence are the stepping stones to success. These characteristics, supplemented by honesty and good citizenship, are among the many attributes possessed by the gentleman herein named. Mr. Francis has resided in different parts of the state of Nebraska for the past forty years, and is one of the representative men of the west, highly esteemed by all who have met him either in a business or social way.

Mr. Francis is a native of Maine, born on the 12th of February, 1843. His parents, Samuel and Naomi (True) Francis, lived in Androscoggin county, where the former owned and operated a farm for many years. Our subject grew up in his native state and at the age of eighteen years enlisted in the Third Maine infantry. He participated in the first battle at Bull Run, and was with the army of the Potomac for the first two years. He was in the Peninsula campaign, and was severely wounded at Fair Oaks, being discharged soon after on ac-



RESIDENCE OF J. E. ESTLACK,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF M. E. PRATT,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



count of these wounds. In 1863 he re-enlisted in the Thirtieth Maine regiment and saw service in Louisiana. He was with General Banks, up the Red river, and was again wounded at Cain River Crossing, and transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, and during the balance of the war served in Pennsylvania, hunting deserters and clerking on court martials.

In 1867 Mr. Francis came west, locating in Otoe county, Nebraska, as a pioneer. He bought government land, and soon sold this out and came further west, settling in Webster county in 1870, where he remained for two years then moved to Redwillow county. He hunted buffalo all through this section, and became thoroughly familiar with all of the country. He went into the Black Hills from Sidney on the Union Pacific, from 1876 to 1880, and during the entire winter of '76 slept out doors under his wagon. He had always made his Redwillow farm his home up to 1895, and then came to Dawes county where he took charge of the ditching of the Crawford Irrigation & Water Power Company, and ever since that time has been identified with that work. He is at present acting under the secretary of state, and board of irrigation. In the early days Mr. Francis freighted lumber from Nebraska City to Lincoln before the railroad had reached this part of the country.

Mr. Francis was married in 1882 to Miss Betsy Johnson, and to them have been born four children, namely: Frank, a sheep rancher in Montana; Ruth, working as a teacher in Chadron; and Bonnie and Grace, at home.

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BENJAMIN JENKINS.

Benjamin Jenkins, Ainsworth, Nebraska, was very active in the settlement of Brown county, and is widely known as an earnest and reliable citizen, an energetic and hustling farmer, and a man who is to be relied upon and trusted in any and every circumstance. Coming here when northern Nebraska was a wilderness, and the coyotes close neighbors, he has seen the wilderness, and the wild beasts vanish, while blooded stock and alfalfa came into the land.

Mr. Jenkins was born in New York in 1849, on a farm on which his parents had lived for many years. Coming of an old American family the best traditions of the east are preserved in his career. He was the only child of his parents, and when he was some four years old, his mother removed to Illinois and settled in Carroll county. His father had already died in New York. There he was reared to manhood, and given such educational advantages as the

rural schools of the day afforded, finishing with a year at a more pretentious military school. In 1870 he was married to Miss Nora Green, a daughter of an old American family, though her mother's people were Irish. This union has been blessed with eleven children: Lizzie, who married Louis Pouton; Frank, Floyd, Lydia, Maude Ethel, Nellie, Daisy, Clara Belle, Elmer, Earl and Harry. The first three of the children were born in Illinois; the others were Nebraska born. Mr. Jenkins lived in Illinois for nine years after his marriage, and was employed part of this time by "the Diamond Jo" line, a noted Mississippi river transportation company. Before leaving that State he was also engaged in farming for three years. In 1878 he came to Nebraska, and lived for some three years in Hamilton and Merrick counties, before his removal to Brown county, which occurred in 1884. He made the trip across the State in a covered wagon, and had many unique experiences on the way. He secured his present farm property as a tree claim. He began operations here on another farm, but finally made permanent settlement where he is found today. Here he has lived some fifteen years, and out of somewhat hard and unfavorable conditions has reaped a rich reward. He owns a half section of land, about two hundred acres of which are under a high degree of cultivation and the balance devoted to pasture and meadow, and commands the respect and confidence of the community as a fair and straightforward man and a citizen of good repute.

In politics Mr. Jenkins is a Democrat.

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P. L. MAIRS.

P. L. Mairs, who is owner of a good ranch, is an old settler in Kimball county. He was born in Sullivan county, Missouri, on July 17, 1862, and was the fourth member in a family of six children, having two brothers and three sisters. His father and mother were both born in Ireland, came to America when quite young and were married in Virginia, the father coming to the United States about 1840, settling in Jackson county, West Virginia, and afterwards went to Kansas and located in Ness county, where he died in 1904. Our subject grew up in Missouri, following farming there up to 1900, then came to Kimball county, Nebraska, and at once settled on a homestead on section 18, township 12, range 53, securing in all one thousand two hundred acres, which is the home ranch. Here he cultivates about two hundred and fifty acres, and has met with splendid success.

Mr. Mairs is progressive in his methods of operating his ranch, and has many improvements in the way of farm machinery, every kind of good buildings, etc. He deals extensively in sheep, running from four thousand to six thousand each year, and derives a handsome income from the same. He runs from one thousand five hundred to two thousand on each of his three improved ranches, marketing his sheep at Omaha.

Mr. Mairs was married in Kirksville, Missouri, February 24, 1885, to Miss Ida Wilks, who is a native of Missouri. They have two children, Charles Allen, who has taken up a homestead on section 12, township 12, range 54, adjoining his father's home place, farming in summer, teaching school in winter; also Elsie Lee, who is attending school. Mrs. Mairs' mother is a resident of Kimball, living with a daughter. Mr. Mairs has two sisters living in Kansas, one in Oklahoma; one brother in Missouri and the other brother in Kansas. Mr. Mairs and his family occupy a comfortable residence in Kimball, but he gives his entire time to active management of his ranch. He is a Republican and strong party man, is well and favorably known, and since coming to this vicinity has taken an active part in local affairs and has left his impress on the history of his county. He is a member of the county committee, chosen in 1905. He was active in establishing a county high school, the first in Nebraska.

#### JOHN B. TILLINGHAST.

John B. Tillinghast, an influential and reputable pioneer of Loup county, lives on his comfortable home farm in section 8, township 21, range 17, where he located in the year 1883. Mr. Tillinghast was born in the town of Exeter, Washington county, Rhode Island, in 1853, his parents being Clark and Sarah (Brown) Tillinghast. His father was a farmer by occupation and was of old English stock, and he reared five boys, Clark, Frank, John, Thomas and Byron; also four girls, May, Sarah, Annie and Nellie. John and Thomas are the only ones that came west. Thomas remained until 1895, then went to Mississippi.

John B. Tillinghast was reared and educated in Rhode Island, and, later, followed farming in Rhode Island. He came west to Loup county in 1883, and located on his present farm, and he has worked hard to improve his fine ranch of three hundred and twenty acres. He drove here with team and covered wagon and camped out several weeks on the way. His first buildings

were built of sod, in the pioneer style, and he passed through many of the hard and rough experiences that always come in the history of the pioneer. Drouth and hail storms worked havoc with his crops several years and then, to add to his troubles, fire came and destroyed his barns and harnesses, etc. But Mr. Tillinghast has weathered the storms of adversity and hardship and is now enjoying the well-earned fruits of his hard labor, and intelligent planning.

Our subject has always been interested in the political movements of his community, and he has, by word and deed, sanctioned everything that tended toward the betterment of the vicinity in which he lives. He is an honored and a respected citizen. Mr. Tillinghast is surely one of the old-timers and it is a pleasure to meet him and hear his interesting reminiscences of early days.

#### JOHN R. CHALLOUD.

John R. Chaloud, whose biography forms an interesting page in the history of the early settlement of Nebraska, is a resident of section 22, township 28, range 29, Cherry county, where he has become widely and favorably known. He has developed a fine farm and ranch there, is one of the energetic and prosperous citizens, and enjoys a pleasant home and many warm friends.

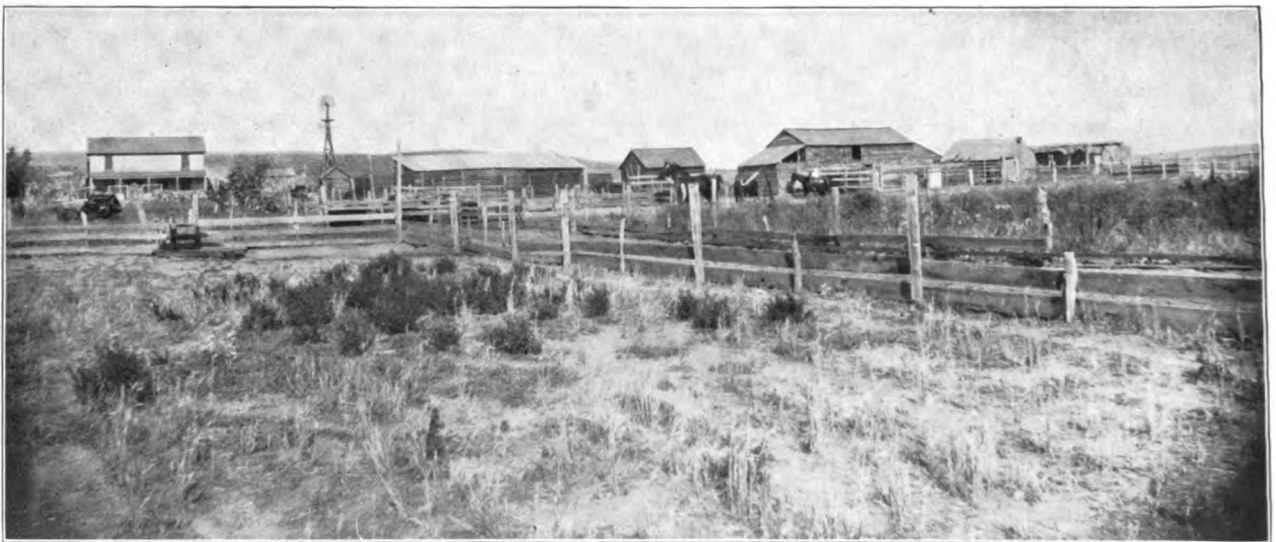
Mr. Chaloud was born in the province of Moravia, which is a province of Austria, in 1872. His father was of German stock, born in Moravia, and when John was a child of three years the family came to America, settling at first in Colfax county, Nebraska, and were among the pioneers in eastern Nebraska. The father took a homestead and begun to build up a home, our subject attending the common schools as a boy, and assisting his parents in the farm work. When he was fourteen years old he left home and secured employment on farms and ranches in the vicinity of their home, and for the first four years gave all his earnings to his family. He came to Cherry county in 1887, and worked out on ranches for fourteen years, beginning as a stock ranger, and working himself up to be foreman of big ranches. He rode all over the western part of the state as a cowboy, camping out on the plains both winter and summer, and knew every bit of the country as well as a scout, in his work of rounding up cattle. He trailed herds of cattle from Wyoming and Colorado into Nebraska, and has seen as much of western ranching life as any man of his age here. In 1903 he started in business for himself, his first location being on Goose Creek, where he lived for two years, then came to his







S. L. JAMES AND FAMILY.



RANCH OF S. L. JAMES  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

present northwest ranch, which is situated twelve miles hard to build up and develop a good ranch, and is now proprietor of one thousand two hundred acres which is all fenced, with good buildings and improvements. He has a fine grove of trees which he planted, also plenty of fruit trees for home use, and farms a small portion of his land, raising small grain and vegetables for his family. There is a good supply of water from wells, with wind mills, and everything is in the finest shape possible. His surroundings are very pleasant, and he is justly recognized as one of the leading ranchmen of his township.

Mr. Chaloud lived a bachelor existence up to 1906, on January 26th of that year taking as wife Miss Helen Anderson, born in Sweden, and daughter of Herman Anderson, a prominent old settler in Omaha. Two children have been born to them, Delmer Luverne and Vera Christine.

Our subject takes a leading part in township affairs and has done his share as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### STEVEN L. JAMES.

Steven L. James, a successful and prominent ranchman and farmer of section 18, township 25, range 31, Cherry county, Nebraska, was born in Alleghany county, North Carolina, close to the Virginia line, in 1853. His parents, James Y. James and Elizabeth (Scott) James, were of old American blood, farmers by occupation, and our subject was reared on the home farm, remaining with his parents up to 1880. In that year he emigrated to Texas, and settled on rented land and tried to open a farm. He first started to raise cotton, but was unable to make a success of it, and after remaining there for seven years and not getting on very well gave up the struggle and came north to Nebraska, filing on a pre-emption and tree claim in Cherry county. The first five years were spent in working hard to get his ranch started, breaking up land, and also working out in the vicinity to help in getting a living, and went through all the pioneer experiences.

In 1893 Mr. James took a homestead, built a sod house and started to develop the farm and ranch where he now resides, using a pair of oxen for all his work, and while he did pretty well, saw many hard times. He kept at it, however, and added improvements as he was able, and each year was able to raise some crops. He worked faithfully, gradually adding more land to his original possessions, until he is now proprietor of a fine ranch of six hundred and forty

acres deeded and besides this deeded land controls and operates quite a big tract of leased land and also has a Kincaid homestead, engaging in cattle raising and mixed farming. He has built up a good home, with fine improvements, orchards, etc., and is numbered among the well-to-do and progressive ranchmen of his community.

Mr. James was married in Grayson county, Virginia, to Virginia Boyer, daughter of John Boyer and Jane (Fielder) Boyer, both of whom died in Grayson county, on their old homestead. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. James, named as follows: Enice, Fay B., Loy, Lillian and Cora. Both sons are homesteaders and have good farms near the father's ranch, and are also extensively engaged in the stock business, and are energetic and successful ranchers.

Mr. James is a leading citizen, active in local affairs, and is a prominent member of the Independent party. Portraits of Mr. James and his family, together with a ranch scene on his property will be found on another page.

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#### JOHN H. DIECKMAN.

Among the prominent settlers of western Nebraska we mention the name of John H. Dieckman as being one of the best known from the fact that he has spent the past fourteen years of his career in this region, and during that time has devoted his best efforts to aiding in the development of the natural resources of Sioux county, and helped to build up the community in which he chose his home. He is now a resident of Harrison, where he occupies a pleasant home and is a partner in the firm of Lacy & Dieckman, handling hardware, harness, lumber, coal, machinery of all kinds, grain, etc.

Mr. Dieckman was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1871, and came to America with his parents, the family settling in Chicago, where they remained for about five years. They next moved to Iowa, and lived in Ida county up to 1895, then came to Nebraska, locating in Harrison, landing here on January 11th, of that year. John located on a homestead situated four miles southwest of Harrison, where he started a farm, "batching" it in a rude shack and began to improve the claim. He lived on this homestead for five years, then moved to Harrison and purchased a livery business which he conducted for about five years, then sold out the establishment and returned to his ranch and farmed for two years. He moved back to Harrison at the end of that time and went into the hardware and lumber

business as a partner of John H. Lacy, and together they have built up a good trade, and are doing well. Both gentlemen are first-class business men, and well liked by all with whom they have to do in a business or social way.

Mr. Dieckman was married in 1904 to Myrtle Pontius. Mrs. Dieckman is a daughter of E. F. Pontius, one of the old settlers of this region, and he is at present serving as county clerk of this county. Our subject is the father of one child, Frank.

Politically Mr. Dieckman is a Democrat. He is a member of the town board of Harrison, and takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs.

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#### CHARLES A. WEIR.

Charles A. Weir, of North Platte, is prominently known in railway circles in the western part of the state of Nebraska. He is conductor on the Union Pacific railway, western division. His father, James Weir, was connected with this road, at the beginning of its construction, and remained in this department up to the winter of 1886. Weir Siding was named after him. Prior to coming here he was in Canada on the Grand Trunk railway, having come there from Ireland, where he was born in 1826. Our subject's grandfather, James Weir, died in 1898, aged one hundred and nine years, at Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Weir was born at Julesburg, in 1868, and at the age of twenty began railroading at Sterling, Colorado, with the Union Pacific railway in 1884, employed as section foreman, then went west in the train service, and has been conductor on that road for the past ten years. He is a member of the Order of Railway Conductors, and past chief conductor of that lodge. He has five brothers, all of whom are, or have been, railway men nearly all their lives. W. J. Weir is trainmaster on the Midland Valley railway at Fort Smith, Arkansas; Frank Weir, conductor on the El Paso & N. W. Railway, of Texas; Andrew Weir, retired conductor, residing at Colorado Springs; Joseph Weir, retired railway man, now a farmer at Sterling, Colorado, where the father also resides; Robert Weir, with the Union Pacific, now conductor at Denver. Our subject's wife, who was Miss Kelker, of Pueblo, Colorado, had six brothers who were all railroad men, and two sisters who married engineers. Four members of her family have met death through railway accidents. One brother, John Kelker, is master mechanic at Lima, Ohio. Mrs. Weir is a daughter of John Kelker, born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Her father as a young man went to the Baldwin Locomotive Works, at Phil-

adelphia, and became a traveling salesman. He took the first engines to the Rio Grand railway at Pueblo, and afterwards entered the service of that road, and for twenty-five years, up to 1903, was master mechanic of the first district of the Rio Grand system. He is now eighty years of age, hale and hearty, living at Pueblo. Mr. and Mrs. Weir have two children, namely: George and Elizabeth. Mr. Weir's mother was, prior to her marriage, Elizabeth Granger, born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Weir was a delegate to the National Convention of Railway Trainmen, held at Galesburg, Illinois, in 1895. He is a prominent Mason and at present senior warden of No. 32 lodge at North Platte, having passed all chairs. He has served with the Union Pacific company for twenty years, and has never received a demerit mark, and is justly proud of his record.

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#### CHARLES J. PORTREY.

Charles J. Portrey, a Nebraskan born and bred, is a typical westerner. He is an intelligent and progressive citizen of Cheyenne county, and classed among the successful farmers of Brownson precinct. He is a gentleman of firm characteristics and his high standing as a worthy citizen is well merited.

Mr. Portrey was born in Richardson county, February 20, 1865. His parents, Charles and Catherine (Santo) Portrey, were natives of Ohio, of French and Italian lineage respectively, though their parents were born in Germany. Both are now deceased. When our subject was five years of age the family moved to Kansas and made that state their home for many years. When he was about twenty-three years of age he left home and drifted around through Colorado, Wyoming and the western states, finally locating in Idaho Springs, Colorado, where he spent about nine years, engaged in mining. In 1898 he came back to Nebraska, and settled in Cheyenne county, locating on the southwest quarter of section 12, township 14, range 51, where he filed on a homestead, and on March 6, 1905, added an additional half section under the Kincaid law, all located in Lodgepole valley. He farms one hundred and sixty acres, raising good crops of small grains and has plenty of pasture and hay land for about eighty head of stock. Mr. Portrey has succeeded in building up a good home, having erected a good set of buildings and put many improvements on the land since coming here. His residence is situated near Brownson station on the Union Pacific railroad.

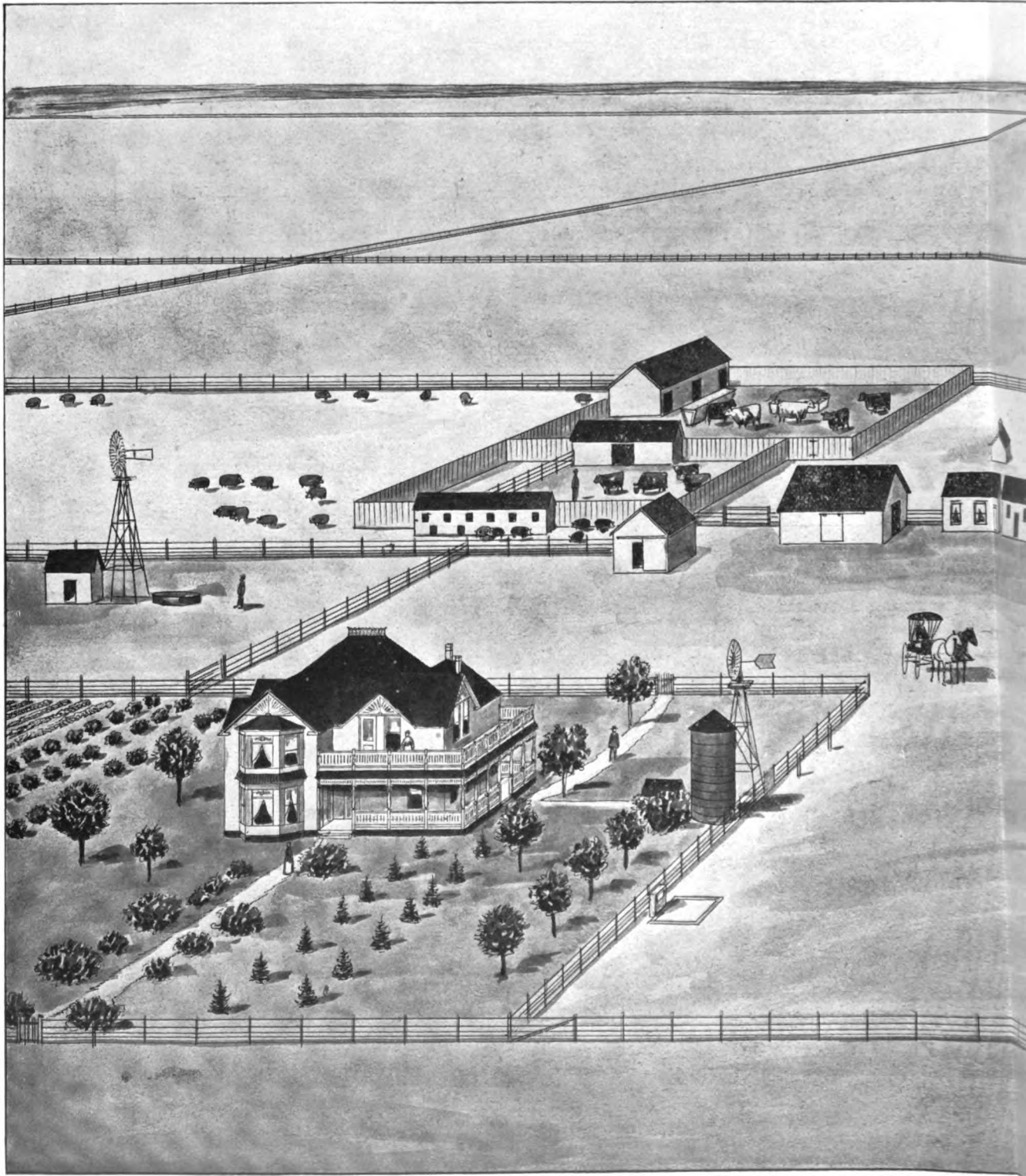
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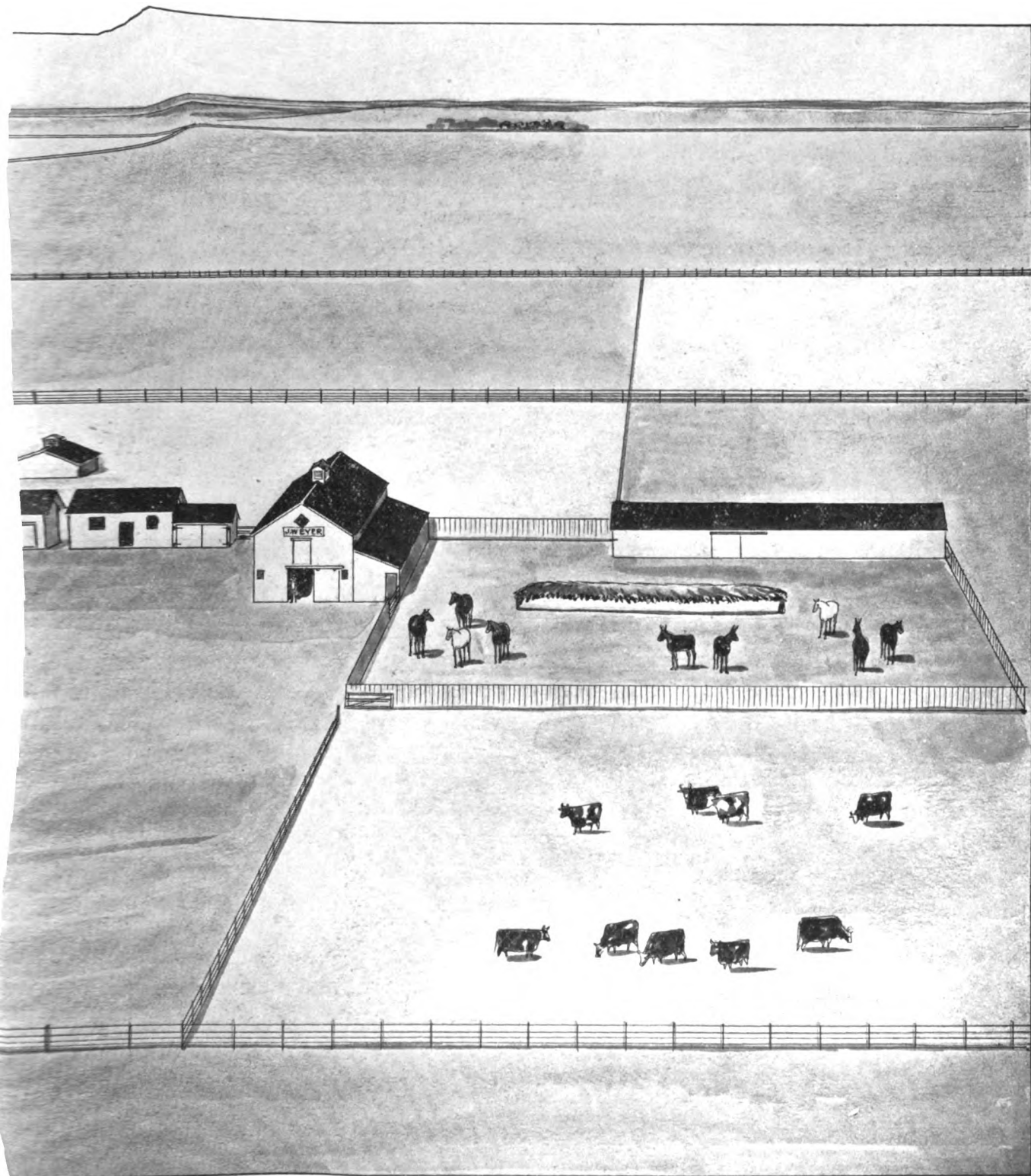
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RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH  
Section 22, Township 30. Range 2



J.H. WEYER.  
Farm, Brown County, Nebraska.





Mr. Portrey was married to Miss Eva Andrews on February 30, 1893, at Idaho Springs, Colorado. Mrs. Portrey was born in Wisconsin, a daughter of Warren and Sarah (Ray) Andrews. Her parents now reside at Morrell, Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Portrey, named as follows: Pence, Charles, Frank, Nellie, Gertrude, Viola and a baby. Four are at present attending school, and all live at home, forming an interesting and congenial family. Our subject is a man of energetic and industrious habits, prominent in all local affairs, always lending his best efforts for the improvement of conditions in his locality. In political views he is a staunch Socialist, using every effort to increase the membership of that party.

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#### JAMES H. DAVIS.

Prominent among the old settlers in western Nebraska who have aided in the development and growth of this section from its early days, is the gentleman above named. Mr. Davis resides in Gordon, Sheridan county, where he is well and favorably known as an enterprising business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Davis was born in Union City, Darke county, Ohio, in 1856. His father, Andrew C. Davis, was of American stock, born in the south, and a railroad man by occupation. There was a family of eight children, our subject being the fifth in order of birth, and he was raised in Ohio and Indiana.

In 1883 he struck out for the west, spending a year in Kansas, then came to Valentine, Nebraska, driving from there by team to Gordon, where he arrived September 30th, of the year 1884. He located on a homestead four and a half miles northwest of the small town of Gordon, and there lived during the winter of 1884-'85, having a hard time to make a living those first days. He worked at freighting, teaming from Valentine to Gordon, and experienced many rough times. He lived in a sod house which he had put up on his place, and batched it for two years, and altogether spent five years on this farm. He then moved to Gordon and established a mercantile business and has since been engaged in this enterprise with the exception of two years. He engaged in the restaurant and hotel business at different times, also dealt in stock for a time, but finally went back to the mercantile business and he now has a fine general store with a good stock and is doing a large business. He had a hard time to get along during the years from 1892 to 1900, but times grad-

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ually got better and he has succeeded in a marked degree, enjoying an extensive trade all through this section.

In 1890 Mr. Davis was married to Miss Carrie Parker, whose parents were among the early settlers in this region.

Mr. Davis has done his full share in building up the town of Gordon, and takes an active interest in all that tends to its value as a commercial center. He has served on the town board for three years, and is a leading spirit in all local affairs. He is a strong Bryan man, and has always voted the Democratic and Fusion tickets.

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#### JOHN WEYER.

John Weyer, an honored veteran of the civil war out of which he came with scars and honor, is a Brown county pioneer settler and now a resident of Buffalo precinct, east of Ainsworth, where his high character and useful career command public respect and confidence. Locating in this region in the very early days, he has passed through all the vicissitudes that belong to the frontier, but with grim determination he has held on, and long since passed from penury and want to comfort and plenty. In his declining years he is enjoying a competence which he wrested from the soil by hard and unremitting labor, and many there are to say him "well done."

John Weyer was born on a farm in Canton Berne, Switzerland, August 19, 1839, and was reared to an agricultural life in which his father, Benedict Weyer, had won success. In 1850 the family emigrated to America, sailing from Havre, France, and after a voyage of thirty-five days, landed in New York. The father settled with his family in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on a farm in what was then very largely a new country. Here the young lad grew strong and sturdy, and imbibed from his first associations a great devotion to the welfare of his adopted country, and on the breaking out of the great rebellion was ready to take up arms to protect the union. Accordingly he enlisted in Company K, 80th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and for three years was in the western army, seeing hard and dangerous service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and elsewhere, participating in the great battles of Corinth and Iuka and the siege of Vicksburg. He was also engaged in many skirmishes that in a less mighty struggle would have been dignified by the name of battles. In the spring of 1865 he was discharged, being at the time of the expiration of his enlistment on the

"March to the Sea" and on arrival at Savannah he received his mustering-out papers.

The war-worn veteran, young in years but old in the lore of camps, returned to his old home, and in the spring of the same year went to Benton county, Iowa, where he resumed the peaceful vocation of farming. For three years he made his home in Benton county, and for fifteen years was a resident of Webster county, where he farmed on his own land. There he was married in 1870 to Miss Elizabeth Switzer, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, but reared in Bureau county, Illinois. Her father, Morris Switzer, was born in Switzerland, and made agriculture his life-long vocation. To this union have come five children: Edwin, Etta Lovelea, wife of George Wheeler, Brown county; John LeRoy, Stephen M. and Frank Elmer.

In February, 1884, Mr. Weyer and family came to Nebraska, and effected a location on what is now their comfortable and well cultivated homestead, and at once constructed a small frame house, sufficient to meet their immediate needs, and devoted themselves to the preparation of the claim for cultivation the ensuing season. Here Mr. Weyer and his family passed through many trials, and only strength of character and persistent purpose enabled them to win out at the last. Several crops were lost in dry seasons, and more than once he has had to drive his cattle thirty miles into the sand hills that they might not perish for want of grass which in the flats was parched and dry. While still in Iowa he was burned out, losing all his household goods and furniture, but that seemed almost a tame experience compared with what befell on his attempt to make a home in Nebraska.

Now Mr. Weyer owns a ranch of sixteen hundred acres of as rich land as lies in Nebraska, and is largely engaged in both grain and stock raising. In 1906, he had four hundred acres under active cultivation. Here he has erected what is conceded to be the finest country residence in Brown county if not in western Nebraska. It is supplied with flowing water, bath, and other conveniences; heated by steam in winter and has a small steam engine installed for use on washdays and other times when hand power would otherwise have to be used. Other buildings on the place are a large barn, a cow-shed, hog-house, two granaries and several smaller buildings. He is well provided with the machinery needed to carry on the cultivation of his broad acres. Without question he is a thoroughly modern and up-to-date farmer, a wide awake and progressive citizen, and generally one of the leading men of this community. He is Republican in politics, a member of the

Modern Woodman of America, and with the family a communicant of the German Reform church. A double page view of Mr. Weyer's splendid place will be found elsewhere in this volume.

#### DALLAS HENDERSON.

As an old settler of Buffalo county, and an agriculturist of untiring energy and perseverance and a worthy citizen, the gentleman here named needs no introduction to the people of his locality. He has spent over thirty years of his life in their midst, has gained a host of staunch friends, and incidentally acquired a good home and placed himself in position to enjoy his declining years in peace and quiet. He is a resident of Centre township, section 9, township 9, range 15.

Mr. Henderson was born in Centre township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, and is a son of Abraham and Elenor Henderson, who were the first settlers on the "Divide," on which the Indians were then roaming in large numbers. The Hendersons came from Missouri, and started a farm here on which our subject grew up, attending the public schools, and later the Military Academy at Kearney and the Normal University at Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1898 he enlisted in Company 1, First Nebraska Infantry, and was with the second expedition to the Philippines. There he took part in the capture of Manilla by land forces, and was with the company in defending Manilla against the attack by insurgents, also the San Juan fight, lasting from 9 o'clock a. m. to 6 p. m. of the second day. The 1st Nebraska regiment was in the detachment that advanced to the water works. Mr. Henderson was also in the expedition which marched against Mololos, the insurgent capitol, and took part in all the battles of this campaign, from Manilla to Mololos. After a year's service there our subject entered the educational department and taught in the schools for four years, and he opened the first government night school in Manilla. He had seven hundred and fifty pupils, and five American assistant teachers, also two native assistants. He was principal of the day school with an enrollment of four hundred and fifty pupils, and had two American and four native teachers under him. Mr. Henderson considers the Philipinos a fine race with great capacity for acquiring the language and good imitative powers, but absolutely no initiative qualities. They would develop splendid clerical ability under proper training, and in time will equal the Japanese as students. After remaining two years in Manilla our subject was sent to San Fernando, which is

the largest city in the province, and there was appointed principal which position he retained for two years, having one thousand eight hundred pupils, twelve native and two American teachers as assistants. While in the Orient Mr. Henderson traveled all over the Philippines, also Japan and China during the time of the Boxer troubles, and there saw the "army of the nations."

In 1903 Mr. Henderson returned to the states, and back to Nebraska, where he has since remained. He bought a fine tract of land on which he built a comfortable two-story frame residence, and put up substantial barns and has improved the place in fine shape. He was married in 1904 to Miss Mayme B. Williams. They are the parents of one child—Laura Marie. Mr. Henderson is an active Republican, and one of the public-spirited citizens of his community.

JOHN J. HARVEY.

In the person of the gentleman above named we find one of the leading old timers of Dawes county, Nebraska. Mr. Harvey came here when the country was in the earliest stages of development, and he has been an important factor in its growth, aiding materially in the upbuilding of its agricultural and commercial resources. He resides in the town of Crawford, where he held the office of city marshal for seven years up to May 1, 1908, and is esteemed and respected by the entire community.

Mr. Harvey was born in Missouri, near Roanoke, in 1852. He is a son of John H. Harvey, a farmer of Virginian stock, and Eliza A. Markland, a native of Kentucky. He was reared in his home county, assisting his parents in the work of carrying on the home farm, and had the misfortune to lose his father by death when he was a boy. At the age of eighteen he left Missouri and went to Montana where he freighted and worked with the Circle Dot Cattle Company up to 1874. In that year he went back to Missouri and remained for eleven years, engaged in the mercantile business at Armstrong. Mr. Harvey came to Nebraska April 18, 1886, taking up a pre-emption five miles from where Crawford now stands, putting up a dug-out in which he lived with his family for some time, he having married ten years before. He proved up on this land and then began railroading on the C. & N. W. Ry. and followed this work off and on up to 1900. Mr. Harvey moved to Crawford in 1900, with his family, and was appointed city marshal in the spring of 1901, serving for seven years. He has a wide acquaintance all over

Dawes and the adjoining counties and is one of the leading public spirited men of the community, having always been active in local affairs.

Mr. Harvey was married in April, 1876, to Miss Lillie D. Phelps, daughter of William P. and Lizzie Finnell Phelps, of American stock. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey nine children have been born, five of whom are now living, named as follows: George, Ethel, Lee, Guy and Alicia.

A. S. ENNIS.

A. S. Ennis, the gentleman who is the subject of this review, is a young man of great push and natural ability in his line of work, is a promising business man who bids fair to be one of the leading contractors of western Nebraska. He located in Toledo, Tama county, Iowa, and came west to look the country over, locating in McCook, at Alma, taking the contract there for all the work of stone, brick and plastering to be done on the twenty-five thousand dollar high school, which is now completed, and is one of the finest buildings of its kind in this part of Nebraska. He also had the mason work on the Danbury high school, costing seven thousand dollars, and was the man who got the contract for all the stone, brick and plastering work to be done on the McCook high school, which is to cost forty-five thousand dollars. This building is to be completed by August 15, 1907, and will be a large and fine building, of which the city may be justly proud. He has also put up a large store building at Orleans, Nebraska, costing ten thousand dollars, and a bank in Marion, Nebraska, making in all five big contracts which he secured in this year. Prior to his moving to Nebraska, he together with his brother had many big contracts all over the state of Iowa, and also in Illinois, and they were very successful in every instance, giving the best of satisfaction in every way. He has decided to remain here permanently, and will shortly build a fine residence.

Mr. Ennis was married in Iowa, to Miss Selma Studebaker, and they have one child.

Mr. Ennis is a member of the Woodmen Lodge of McCook, and a worthy citizen of the town, highly respected by all who know him.

GEO. H. WILLIAMS.

Geo. H. Williams was born in Rice county, Minnesota, October 2, 1875, on a farm. His father, Edwin C. Williams, is one of the prominent old settlers and pioneers of Keith county, Nebraska, having settled there with his fam-

ily in 1885, his sketch appearing elsewhere in this volume. The mother was Roxalina Woodworth in her youth.

Our subject was ten years old when the family came to Keith county, where he was reared, helping his father on the farm and receiving a limited education. He was in partnership more or less with his father in the cattle business, and located his present homestead on section 34, township 16, range 41, in 1899. He planted trees early and some are now twelve or fourteen inches in diameter and adorn and beautify the premises. Our subject has been industrious and progressive and has made a fine success. He has eight hundred acres with about seventy-five acres under cultivation, and also has other leased land which is needed in his extensive stock raising on which he runs a hundred head of cattle and twenty-five horses.

Geo. H. Williams was married May 22, 1899, to Miss Lena M. Thies, daughter of Peter Thies, a leading old settler of the county and whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Miss Thies taught school in the early days and has been deeply interested in the educational work of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been blessed with three children: Lucy, Marguerite and Edwin.

Mr. Williams has always taken a deep interest in affairs of general importance in his locality and has held various offices of trust and responsibility. He stands high in the regard of his fellows as a successful and progressive farmer and a public spirited member of the community; he is Republican in political beliefs.

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#### T. W. CAMPBELL.

The gentleman here named occupies a first place among the prosperous ranchmen of western Nebraska, and has built up a valuable estate in section 22, Deuel county, where he is well and favorably known.

Mr. Campbell was born in Mills county, Iowa, in 1858, and raised on a farm in that locality. His father, Adam Campbell, was a native of Kentucky, of English-Scotch descent, and was a farmer by occupation. His mother, who was Sarah E. Rankin before her marriage, was also a native of Kentucky. Our subject is the seventh member in a family of ten children, and when he was sixteen years of age his parents moved to Kansas, and he remained with them until he was twenty-six. His father was engaged in the stock business in Kansas, and our subject started in this line for himself at that time, in Norton county. In the fall of 1885

he came to Deuel county, Nebraska, with his family, and located on his present homestead, driving the entire distance, and bringing thirty-two head of cattle with them. Previous to this time, in the spring of that year, he had made a trip here looking for a ranch location, and had picked out this place. He went to work at once, built a sod house and barns and began improving the place. During the first year he was obliged to haul all his supplies for the family use and also for his ranch from Ogallala, a distance of eighty miles away, which was also his postoffice. The road for a part of the way was of heavy sand, which led through a wild country, the trips being hard to make and consumed quite a long time. Part of the way there were no roads at all, he being the first to travel that way, together with two other men who had settled in the hills during the same year. The neighbors were very far apart, and the settlers often went forty miles to see friends. When he first came here there was a great deal more grass in the valleys than in these days. He at first tried to farm some, but soon saw that it would not pay and devoted all his attention to the stock business, always having had plenty of range for pasture and good hay valleys. He has found this good cattle country, and although he had been troubled considerably with cattle rustlers in the early days, they have not bothered him much of late years. At one time they took twenty-one head from him, but he had been used to wild countries, Kansas having been newly settled when the family moved there.

Mr. Campbell now has a ranch of one thousand and forty acres of deeded lands, most of this being valley lands. He runs four hundred head of cattle and about one hundred head of horses, and he, together with his son, does all the work of operating this place with the exception of the haying season. He also keeps a few goats, and these pay out fairly well. He is well satisfied with this region and would not care to sell out until he gets what he thinks his place is worth. Would not care to go east to live, as here the family have always enjoyed the best of health and have everything that goes to make up a comfortable and pleasant rural home.

Mr. Campbell was married March 4, 1883, to Miss Josephine F. Stonehocker, born in Iowa. Her father, Perry Stonehocker, was a farmer, of German descent, also her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have five children, named as follows: William T., Sarah E., Jesse O., Mabel F., and Perry, the two oldest born in Kansas, and the younger children in Nebraska. For four years after settling here there was no school in their vicinity, but there is now a good school one-quarter of a mile from their home, and their



T. W. CAMPBELL AND FAMILY.



nearest mail station is Mumper postoffice. Mr. Campbell is a Democrat, but has never held any office except local, as he has devoted his entire time and attention to the building up of his farm and home.

May 26, 1908, Mr. Campbell suffered the sad loss of his wife. Three of the children are living with him, and two are married, one living in California and the other adjoining his estate in Deuel county, Nebraska. On another page we present a picture of Mr. Campbell and family.

#### AUGUST E. ANDERSON.

August E. Anderson, one of the prosperous business men of Holdrege, Nebraska, has gained his success by the exercise of business tact, supplemented by the strictest integrity of word and deed. He occupies a comfortable and pleasant home in Holdrege, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen.

Mr. Anderson is a native of Helsingborg, Sweden, where he was raised until he was nineteen years of age. His father, Andreas Anderson, came to America in 1882 and homesteaded land on section 24, Laird township, residing on that place up to about 1901. His death occurred in 1905, aged eighty-five years. Our subject's mother, who was Christine Erickson, was a native of Sweden, and is now a resident of Holdrege, aged sixty-nine. One brother, Charles Anderson, went to Colorado where he studied mining, working his way through the best schools there, obtaining the degree of M. E. He afterwards went to Mexico where he engaged in mining, and through his business qualities and knowledge of the subject has made a success. He is now cashier of the United States Banking Company at Parral, Mexico. Another brother, Oscar Anderson, owns and operates a general store at Stamford, Nebraska, and although still a very young man, is a successful merchant and has established a large trade throughout that section of the country. Mr. Anderson also has one sister, who is the wife of C. L. Granlund, deputy county treasurer of Phelps county, formerly county treasurer for two terms. Mr. Granlund and our subject now own a hardware store in Holdrege which engages their time. This partnership was formed in January, 1907.

Mr. Anderson went to Loomis in 1886, in the year the town started. He first engaged in buying grain for the Scott Elevator Company, and continued at that business up to 1893, then formed a partnership with J. W. Jackson, en-

gaging in the lumber business at Loomis. Since locating at Loomis he has been one of the active citizens of the county. He has been successful in business, and also owns land in Kansas. In January, 1907, he removed to Holdrege, where he now resides.

Mr. Anderson has always been a strong Republican, active in party politics. For the past four years he has been a member of the county central committee.

#### JACOB U. BRUNS.

Jacob U. Bruns, who is proprietor of a fine estate in section 8, is one of the prominent and successful ranchmen of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has made this region his home for over twenty years past, and is well-known throughout the locality as a progressive and up-to-date farmer and one of the well-to-do citizens of the community in which he resides.

Mr. Bruns was born in Germany, December 25, 1859, and came to America when about ten years of age, the family settling in Hancock county, Illinois. There were ten children in his father's family, Jacob being the second in order of birth, and they settled on a farm where he grew up, while a mere boy learning to do all sorts of hard farm work. He received a common school education, and remained in Illinois until he was about twenty-seven years of age, then came west, locating in Cheyenne county, landing here in March of the year 1886. He at once filed on a homestead situated in section 8, township 15, range 47, and went to work to build up a good home. He has succeeded remarkably well, although during the hard times that have struck the region has met with many discouragements and reverses financially, but finally was able to add many improvements to his farm, also has added to his original homestead so that he now owns a fine ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, which is used partly for farming and partly as a ranch. He has about one hundred and thirty acres cultivated, plenty of hayland and pasture, and runs one hundred head of cattle and a small bunch of horses. He has good buildings of all kinds on the place, and altogether one of the best equipped ranches in the vicinity.

Mr. Bruns was married on March 2, 1886, at Carthage, Illinois, to Hannah M. Wenhoner, who was born in Germany, and came to this country in 1879. Both of Mrs. Bruns' parents are dead, but our subject's father is still living in Hancock county, Illinois, the mother's death having occurred June 19, 1892.



Mr. and Mrs. Bruns have a family of six children, who are named as follows: Ubbe J., Anna J., now wife of Harry Thompson, they residing in the county; Herman J., Trintje, Metha J. and Mary J.

The family have a pleasant home, and are among the highly esteemed residents of the community. Politically, Mr. Bruns is a Republican, and he takes an active interest in local affairs.

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#### HERBERT A. DANIELS.

Herbert A. Daniels, one of the extensive and prosperous ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska, is an old settler in that region. He is a man of wide experience, and by good management and industry, supplemented by honest dealings, has acquired a valuable property and become recognized as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his county. He resides in section 26, township 29, range 29, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home located on Beaver Lake, Cherry county.

Mr. Daniels was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1863, where his father farmed for many years. The latter, David Daniels, was of Scotch blood, born in this country, and he married Mary Potter, who came of old Yankee stock. Our subject was reared in his native state until he was thirteen years of age, then went to Council Bluffs where he spent two years, and in 1878 came to Kearney county, Nebraska. This was a drouth year, when everything was burned out by the hot winds, and he became discouraged at the prospects and only remained one year, returning to Illinois and later went to Wisconsin and Iowa, drifting around for three or four years. Also spent some time in Arkansas and did not locate permanently until 1886, then struck Cherry county, where he has remained ever since. He first located on Watts Lake, and when he landed there his sole capital was four dollars and fifty cents; but he went to work, put up a sod house and barn and begun to break up land for crops. His first team was a pair of oxen, and for several years he lived alone, doing his own cooking and getting along as best he could. During the early days he witnessed prairie fires, and about 1888 was entirely burned out, losing crops, tools, grain, etc., suffering a severe loss, as he had a hard time to get along anyway. He has fought fires for two or three days at a time, and used every possible means of saving his property, together with others who worked hard with him, but usually were compelled to abandon their efforts and see everything swallowed up in the destroying fire.

Mr. Daniels has a ranch of one thousand six hundred acres, a portion of which is leased land, which he uses principally as a stock ranch. He has plenty of good water on the place, with beautiful lakes filled with fish and game, and owns one of the finest homes in his locality. His property is situated near Beaver Lake, to which location he came in 1904, having sold his homestead on Watts Lake in the preceding year.

In 1905 Mr. Daniels married Miss Lizzie Hays, whose parents were pioneers in Cherry county. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Daniels taught school in this county, and is a lady of superior education and charm. They have one child, May, aged sixteen months.

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#### JOHN J. JOHNSON.

Some of America's best citizens claim their nativity in far off lands across the sea, and their immigration to the home of the stars and stripes has added many strong, sturdy characters to our population. Such a one is John J. Johnson, who first saw the light in Sweden, May 21, 1859. Very soon after attaining his majority he sailed for the United States, taking up his abode in Michigan where he remained for nine months. He then went to Chicago and engaged in various enterprises in that great city for about three and a half years. Then the call of the west came upon him and he came to what is now Kimball county, then Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and in November, 1885, located a homestead on the northwest quarter of section 34, township 15, range 53. He also took a timber claim in section 28 and it was not long until he purchased all of section 27, township 15, range 53, which is now the home ranch.

Mr. Johnson has proven one of the most successful farmers of Kimball county, and his industry has placed him in a most prosperous condition. He bought all of section thirty-four, except fifty-nine acres, and now owns, all told, one thousand three hundred and sixty-one acres. Mr. Johnson also owns a store at Dix postoffice, and was postmaster from 1897 to 1900. His home ranch is well improved with a nice dwelling and good buildings for stock. On this ranch there are only about one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, much of Mr. Johnson's attention being directed in caring for his herd of mixed breed of cattle, numbering about one hundred and twenty head, in addition to a small bunch of horses. At stockraising he has been very successful, and has built up a good home and ranch. He has watched with untiring interest the growth of the western country.

The subject of our sketch was united in mar-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN J. JOHNSON.



riage June 27, 1899, with Ida C. Standberg, also a native of Sweden. The wedding was a happy one and was nicely celebrated at the Standberg home place near Sextorp postoffice. This union has been blessed with four children: Hilde Marie, Carl August, Alma Elizabeth and Lenart Julius, all of whom are still at home. Mrs. Johnson's parents, who were old settlers in Cheyenne county, have both been called from earth to their eternal rest and this is also true of Mr. Johnson's father. His mother still lives in Sweden. Our subject stands high in the good opinion of his neighbors and he is recognized by all as a broad-gauged, public-spirited citizen. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, of whose interests he is an active supporter. He is treasurer of school district No. 1, and has helped establish and build up the schools of this region. He has also served as assessor for two terms, and has taken an active interest in the affairs of the community.

On another page of this volume will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

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#### NORBERT FROHNAPFEL.

The gentleman above named is one of the leading business men and prosperous citizens of Hemingford, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the merchandise business, and has built up a good trade throughout Box Butte county.

Mr. Frohnafel was born in Hesse-Nassau Province, in the town of Fulda, Germany, in 1874. He grew up on his parents' farm there, and received a common school education, learning the tailor's trade when a young man, and followed it in Germany for several years, coming to America when he was seventeen years of age. After landing in New York he came west to Hemingford, arriving here April 23, 1892. He afterwards worked in Chadron, Crawford, and Fort Robinson, and while at the latter place enlisted in the United States army, serving for five years and nine months in the Eighth Infantry Band, at the same time following his trade. While he was in army service he was at Fort Russell, Fort Duquesne, Utah, and at Jackson Hole, Idaho, and was discharged from the service November 28, 1898. After retiring from the army he opened and ran a tailor shop at Cheyenne, Wyoming, for one year, and in 1900 returned to Hemingford and opened a shop here, remaining just a year. He next went to Alliance where he engaged in the work there, also clerking for W. D. Rumer and W. W. Norton. In July, 1903, he came back to Hemingford and erected a store building, and is now

engaged in the general merchandise business, occupying a floor space of twenty-four by eighty-four feet, carrying a complete line of goods. He has a large patronage in this section, and is one of the leading merchants, well-liked for his honest dealings and business ability. He is also engaged in the hotel and livery business at the present time.

On May 27, 1898, Mr. Frohnafel was married to Miss Lizzie Ehlers, of German descent.

Our subject is a strong Republican, actively interested in party affairs.

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#### W. H. COLTRIN.

W. H. Coltrin, whose biography, forms an interesting page in the history of the early settlement of Nebraska, is a resident of Bloomington township, Franklin county, where he is widely known and highly esteemed. He has developed a fine farm and home there, and is one of the energetic and progressive farmers, well meriting his success and enviable reputation.

Mr. Coltrin is a native of Ohio, where he was born in 1842. His father was Elisha Coltrin, who settled in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in 1852, going there from Berea, Ohio. In 1861 our subject enlisted in the Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry and served up to 1864 with Company B, Seventeenth Army Corps, under General McPherson and then General Blaf. He was at Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, Vicksburg, Corinth, Kenesaw Mountain, siege of Atlanta, and other battles until July 22, 1863, then was taken prisoner and thrust in Andersonville prison where he remained for two months, going through all the horrors of that place. He was then exchanged and rejoined his regiment, taking part in the march to the sea, and was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia. After leaving the army he worked at brick masonry for some time, and in 1872 he came to Nebraska, homesteading in Hanover township, Adams county, on one hundred and sixty acres of land which he farmed up to 1886. There he was active in county affairs, serving on the county committee, and attending all the county and state conventions as a delegate. He was on the school board, also the township board, and for several years served as township clerk, being elected on the Republican ticket. He has always been active in Grand Army of the Republic circles, and a leading citizen wherever he has made his home. In 1886 he left Adams county and went to Brown county, where he bought a ranch of eight hundred acres, also renting a lot of government land, running from four to five hundred head of cat-

tle, good grade stock, and some thoroughbred Galloways, and made a success of the stock business. In 1903 he purchased his present home of one hundred and fifty-eight acres, improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and is one of the leading farmers of the locality. He considers the state of Nebraska far ahead of Illinois, and the Republican valley, his present home, as the very best part of the whole state.

Mr. Coltrin was married in 1882, to Miss Mary Sinclair, and this union has been blessed with eight children: William H. is engaged in railroad work; Charles is attending Franklin Academy; Clara and Sarah are teachers. Mary, Dollie, Francis and Martha are the other children. Our subject and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### MARTIN J. WEBER.

Martin J. Weber, one of the early settlers in Dawes county, Nebraska, is well-known throughout the community in which he resides as a successful and prosperous business man and citizen of true worth. He has always taken a deep interest in the development of the locality in which he has chosen to reside, and he is widely known and universally respected and esteemed.

Mr. Weber was born at Hansler's Landing, on the Genesee river, New York, in 1863. His father, Frank Weber, was born in Germany, a furniture dealer by trade, and his mother was an American girl, of German blood. Our subject grew up in New York, and at the age of eighteen came west to Nebraska, arriving here in 1880. He enlisted in the United States regular army and served for five years, coming to Fort Robinson in the year 1880, and saw service at Forts D. A. Russell, Fred Steele and Jefferson Barracks, being discharged at Fort Robinson in the latter part of 1884. He entered the service as a recruit, and when he received his discharge he held the position of first sergeant of his troops, and had a brilliant record as a soldier.

After leaving the army service he started ranching on the White river, and followed this work up to 1905. He has been all over the northwestern part of Nebraska, and in the early days camped out altogether, never knowing what it was to sleep in a bed for many months at a time. He was often out in heavy blizzards and rain storms for hours and days at a time, and experienced much suffering from exposure, but in spite of all these hardships, enjoyed the wild life of the west. He had taken up a homestead in the first days of coming here on which he

proved up, and had altogether eight hundred acres of land well improved with buildings when he sold the place out in 1905. In 1905 he established his present business, feed and grain store and elevator, and has built up a nice trade and made a marked success in this work.

Mr. Weber was married in 1884 to Miss Mary Bendixon, whose parents are old settlers in Chadron. They have a family of three children, namely: May, who is a teacher in the Crawford high school; Roy, attending the high school, and Frank, at home.

Mr. Weber has always been prominent in local affairs and lent his aid in all matters that tended to the advancement of educational and commercial interests of his locality. He is a Republican, and was county commissioner in Sioux county for six years, and helped to establish the first schools in that county.

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#### JOHN S. MYERS.

John S. Myers, who is a prosperous and successful member of the farming community of Liberty precinct, Perkins county, takes high rank among the thrifty and honorable agriculturists of this part of Nebraska. He was born in Indiana in 1855, and grew to the age of seven years on the homestead in Putnam county. His grandparents came from the old country, his father being of English and German descent, while his mother was of French-Scotch blood. His father was a farmer by occupation, and when he was a child the family settled in Illinois, living in Champaign county for two years. There the father followed railroading, and from the time John was eleven years until he reached the age of twenty-eight, he also worked at railroading, being on construction work all over the state of Illinois. He spent some time at carpenter work there, and also as a clerk in the mercantile business in Christian county.

In March, 1886, Mr. Myers came to Perkins county, Nebraska, took up a homestead on section 8, township 10, range 38, and started to build up a home for himself. During the first months here he worked in a lumber yard in Grant, employed by the firm of Russell & Patton, also worked for the Brule Lumber Co. He came here with practically no start, and was compelled to work out, following his trade as a carpenter, also clerked in different stores for two years, in order to make a living and get a little money ahead and improve his farm. He has the distinction of having built the first house in the old town of Grant. He was appointed postmaster at Grant in 1893, and held that office up to 1897,

then went back to his farm. He has lived on it continuously since that time, and now has eight hundred acres, well stocked and improved with good buildings, etc. Of this he farms two hundred and eighty acres, and uses the rest as a stock farm, having plenty of pasture and hayland.

Mr. Myers was married in 1882, at Clayton, Adams county, Illinois, to Miss Louise C. Conn, and to them have been born two children, T. Wayne and Porter H.

Politically, Mr. Myers is a Democrat, and has always devoted considerable time to the upbuilding of his locality and the good of his fellowmen. He has served in different capacities, holding the office of township assessor during one year. Mr. Myers is now "building up" a second farm, this being for his son, Porter H., who was married November 15, 1908.

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#### BENJAMIN F. PRICE.

Benjamin F. Price, a capable and prosperous farmer, is a gentleman possessed of a broad mind and excellent business ability, and has been prominent in agricultural circles in Box Butte county for over twenty years. He was born in Berrien county, Michigan, in 1862. His father, John P. Price, was a farmer all his life descended from Welsh-Irish stock, who married Katherine Hines, of Pennsylvania-Dutch blood.

Our subject was reared and educated in his native county, and grew up on his father's farm, where he had plenty of hard work to do during his boyhood years, receiving his education at the country schools. Both parents died before he reached the age of fourteen years, and he was obliged to hustle for himself from that time on, following farm work, hiring out by the month in the vicinity of his home, and he remained in Michigan until he was twenty-three years old. In the spring of 1886 he came west, and located in Box Butte county, filing on a homestead in Nonpareil precinct. When he landed here he had nothing to start with excepting \$160.00. This money he had brought with him from Michigan, and he used it in opening up his farm, at once building a ten by twelve frame shanty in which he lived for a time, then built a sod house and held down his claim until proving up on it. During this time he lived all alone, "batching it," and experienced some pretty hard times in getting a start. He occupied this place up to 1901, then sold out and went back to his native state where he spent nine months, then returned to Nebraska and purchased his present farm, situated in section 11, township 27, range 50. During the time he lived on his first farm in this

region, he had several total failures of crops, and in the eight years he was there only raised enough grain to thresh twice.

Mr. Price now owns a ranch of eight hundred and sixty acres, farming seventy-five acres of it, and keeping the rest for hay and pasture for his stock, as he raises cattle and horses for the market. He has erected good buildings, has a good well with windmills, tanks, etc., and every corner of his place kept in the best possible shape. Our subject has met with fine success in his agricultural ventures, and is numbered among the well-to-do men of his locality who have always taken an active part in the history of this region from its early development and done their full share as an old settler in helping to build up the schools in his locality.

Mr. Price resides about three miles from the town of Hemingford, which place is his post-office address. A picture of Mr. Price's ranch residence appears on another page.

In 1890 Mr. Price was united in marriage to Miss Luzilla Best, also of Michigan, her parents being pioneer settlers of Box Butte county. The marriage was celebrated near Alliance, Nebraska. Two children were born of this union, Gail, aged eleven years; and Merle, aged six years.

Soon after Mr. and Mrs. Price were married they took stock, and found that their sole possessions in the way of personal property was a team of horses and one or two cows, and they experienced a great deal of hardship and privation during the hard times which swept their locality in the dry years, from 1891 to 1896. For a time they gave it up, and went to Denver, where they spent a few months, but decided to come back and stick it through, and are now very glad that they did.

Politically, Mr. Price is a Democrat.

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#### ADAM FRICKEY.

Although one of the recent settlers in Phelps county, the gentleman herein named has gained the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact by his industrious habits, and honesty of dealing with his fellowmen. Mr. Frickey was born in 1854. His father, August Frickey, came from Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and settled in Illinois, where he farmed for many years.

Mr. Frickey came to Nebraska twenty-nine years ago, and later bought a farm in York county, in 1877, on which he lived for twenty-one years. He was engaged in the livery business at Benedict, and also in the horse business, dealing in imported animals. In 1905, our sub-

ject settled in Laird township, Phelps county, and here he has raised three as good crops as he ever saw any place, his wheat in 1906 running thirty bushels and corn from fifty to sixty bushels per acre. He states that farming is much easier here, the soil is better and there are less obstacles to contend with in wet weather, the roads are better, as a man can drive a load over them at any time without any trouble. He intends to start in raising registered red hogs soon, as he thinks this an ideal place for the raising of hogs and cattle. He took a trip through the west some years ago, and of all the places he encountered says there is no better than this county for farming and stock raising.

Mr. Frickey was married in 1878 to Miss Regalia Troutman. To Mr. and Mrs. Frickey six children have been born, four sons and two daughters, namely: Lillian, Warren, Earl, Scott, Ford and Lucile.

Politically, our subject is a stanch Republican.

#### JOSEPH HULINSKY.

Joseph Hulinsky, one of the best known men in Valley county, Nebraska, is also one of the oldest settlers in his locality, having located here with his parents in 1880, and has lived here ever since that time. He now resides in section 6, township 20, range 16, owning a nice property and enjoying a comfortable home.

Mr. Hulinsky was born in Austria in 1871, He, with his parents, came to America when he was a boy of eight years, the father, Albert Hulinsky, taking up a government tract as a homestead in Valley county, and proved up on it, and at the time of his death which occurred in 1898, he owned a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, all good land. The mother continued to live on the home farm until she also died, in 1905, when it went to the children.

Our subject is now proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres of farm land, on which he raises fine crops of corn, oats, wheat, etc. He also handles considerable stock each year, and has met with decided success in his different enterprises. He is a practical farmer, industrious and a good manager, as every appointment of his farm and home bears evidence, and is classed among the well-to-do citizens of his locality.

On another page will be found a picture of Mr. Hulinsky's residence, together with his family.

In 1898 Mr. Hulinsky was married to Miss Mary Hosticka, also a native of Austria, who came to America with her parents in 1881, the family settling in Valley county, Nebraska. Mr.

and Mrs. Hulinsky are the parents of four children, one son and three daughters, named as follows: Annie, Frank, Mary and Agnes. The family are devoted members of the Bohemian Catholic church of Valley county, Nebraska.

Our subject has always taken an active part in local affairs and has done his share in advancing the interests of his community. He has served as justice of the peace and township clerk, representing the Democratic party; has always voted that ticket since a young man, and is a supporter and admirer of William Jennings Bryan.

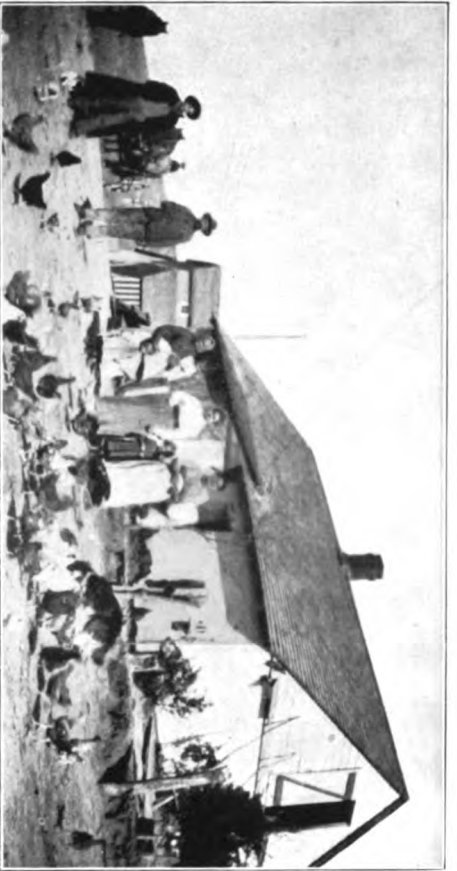
#### JOHN A. MACUMBER.

The above named gentleman is one of the prominent old-timers of Dawes county, Nebraska, where he has materially aided in the growth of that region. Mr. Macumber is familiarly known as "The Headlight of Bordeaux," the cognomen which was applied to him through the Alliance meeting. He is a warm friend and admirer of James C. Dahlman, the "cowboy mayor" of Omaha, with whom he became acquainted when he first came to this country.

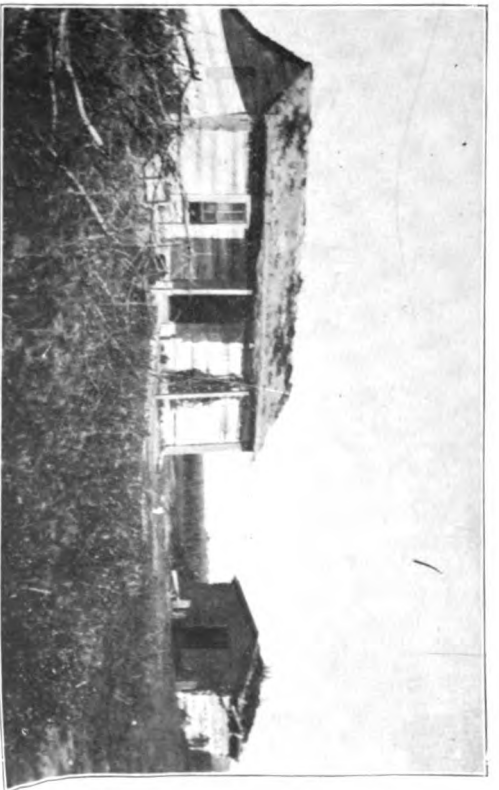
Mr. Macumber was born in Gallia county, Ohio, on April 8, 1852. His father, J. A. Macumber, was also a native of Gallia county, and died January 23, 1907, having settled in Madison county, Iowa, in 1853, when our subject was but one year of age, he having been a twin, and one of a family of eight children by the second marriage of his father who also had four children by a first marriage. The homestead in Iowa where they lived for many years is still owned by a nephew, Emory Calison, and it was there that the children all grew up. There John learned to do all sorts of hard farm work and assisted his parents in building up a good home and farm, going through pioneer experiences when they were obliged to suffer many hardships and privations, handle ox teams, etc., and at the age of twenty-one years started in for himself, following farm work. He owned a two hundred acre farm there, and went through the panic of 1873, coming out of the trouble in very good shape financially.

In 1886 Mr. Macumber came west, arriving in Dawes county in the month of March; went back to Iowa, sold his farm and returned with his family on the 8th of April, 1886. They located in section 34, township 34, range 48, on Bordeaux creek, this stream also running through his land. He has plenty of natural timber on the place, and ninety acres is irrigated, on which he raises fine crops, and in all has one hundred and

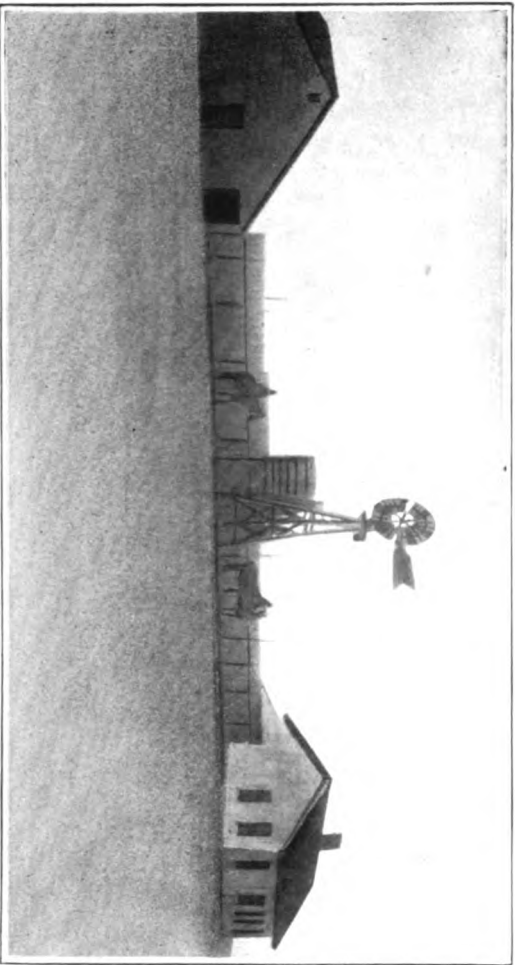




RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF JOSEPH HULINSKY.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN A. MACCUMBER.



RANCH RESIDENCE OF BEN. F. PRICE,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



JOHN A. MACCUMBER AND FAMILY



fifty acres under cultivation. The ranch consists of eight hundred acres, and is well supplied with good water, wild fruits, and he has many acres of good hayland and grass for pasture. The first dwelling put up on the farm was a dugout in which they lived for one year. The dry years followed soon after he located here and many were the losses and discouragements they experienced, and also in 1890 and 1891 they were occasioned much discomfort and anxiety through the Indian uprisings throughout this part of the state, but no one was injured. During the first years here he broke up all his land and did all the farm work with the help of two yoke of oxen, and used these faithful animals for five years. The ranch is now all fenced and well improved, free from all indebtedness, and he has one of the valuable pieces of property in the county, and a comfortable home.

Our subject was married while living in Iowa, April 20, 1873, to Miss Melissa Shearer, a native of Indiana, who settled in Illinois when a girl, with her parents, and in 1866 they moved to Iowa where they were among the pioneers of Madison county. Mr. and Mrs. Macumber are the parents of five children, named as follows: William H., Edward A., James W., J. A. Jr., and Alida B., all married except John A. Jr., who lives in South Dakota. James W. also lives in South Dakota. The balance of the family live in Dawes county, Nebraska.

Mr. Macumber is a staunch Democrat, inclining strongly toward Socialism, and has always worked along reform lines and been closely identified with all reform movements in his section for many years. He is a man of superior intelligence and progressive ideas, and one of the foremost citizens of his locality. A picture of the residence and family will be found on another page.

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#### ALBERT L. SCHNURR.

Albert L. Schnurr, who occupies a prominent place among the younger business men of Harrison, Nebraska, is a man of very pleasant personality, well liked for his straightforward character and genial disposition.

Mr. Schnurr was born at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in August, 1879. His father, William, was a shoe merchant at that place, a good business man and well known throughout that section of the country. He married Rose Rukgaber, who was born in Richmond, Virginia, and reared in Iowa. Our subject's grandparents on his father's side were natives of Germany. Albert was reared and educated in his native state, graduating from the

Mt. Pleasant high school in 1896, later attended the Mt. Pleasant academy and graduated from the commercial department of the Iowa Wesleyan University in 1898.

In 1899 Mr. Schnurr came to Omaha and entered the law office of W. A. Saunders, and studied law with that gentleman up to 1905, and in April of that year he came to Sioux county with the intention of engaging in the cattle business. He was admitted to the bar in 1906, and the following year was elected county judge of Sioux county, and is still serving in that capacity. He received the office by a vote of all parties, and against his own personal wishes in the matter, and has proven a most capable official.

Mr. Schnurr is secretary and treasurer of the Harrison Real Estate & Loan Company, and is also organizer and promoter of that concern, incorporated in 1906, with officers as follows: E. F. Pontius, president; John A. Anderson, vice president; A. L. Schnurr, secretary and treasurer; R. B. Schnurr, assistant secretary. This firm deals in real estate, ranch and farm lands. They have handled immense deals in town properties, and their responsibility and financial standing is unquestioned.

R. B. Schnurr, brother of our subject, was born in Iowa, April, 1886, and received practically the same training and education as Albert, coming to Harrison to locate permanently in June, 1907, when he associated himself with the firm as above mentioned.

Albert L. Schnurr is interested in considerable ranching property in this county, and he has been very successful since locating here, gaining an enviable reputation as a worthy and enterprising citizen of his community.

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#### FRED W. RINCKER.

Fred W. Rincker, owner of the book and music and stationery store at North Platte, came here in 1894, and has since resided at this place, where he has a pleasant home and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Rincker was born in McLain county, Illinois, in the town of Lexington, in 1857. He is a son of Dr. Rincker, a native of Germany, and early settler in Illinois, who received his education as a physician in his native country. Our subject was raised in Illinois, and began working on the railroad in 1880 at Cheyenne, Wyoming. He first was employed by the Union Pacific railway as a freight brakeman, continuing at this for two years, then was given the position of freight conductor, and in 1887 was appointed passenger conductor, holding this po-

sition continuously up to January 2, 1907. He was on the fast mail running from Cheyenne to Council Bluffs, from 1890 to 1894, and later on the limited train from North Platte to Cheyenne. Mr. Rincker is a member of the Order of Railway Conductors, and has been ever since 1883, filling all the offices in the local lodges, having held the post of chief conductor for several terms at different times. He was the second oldest conductor in the service up to 1907, and has never had an accident attributed to himself. He belongs to North Platte Masonic lodge.

Mr. Rincker was married in 1884 to Miss Hattie White, born in Yankton, South Dakota. Her father, Clarence Sylvester White, went there in 1850 and located at Sioux Falls, later at Yankton, where he was engaged in freighting in the early days, in partnership with Colonel Laurence, also associated with W. A. Paxton, of Omaha, and he was well known throughout the western states among all the pioneers. He used a large number of teams and men in this business, and was at the head of a large force when he was killed from ambush.

Mr. White built the first house in Yankton. He came originally from Vermont, first settling in Minnesota and driven out by the Indians, then moved to South Dakota. Mrs. Rincker's mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Elizabeth B. Welch, a native of Vermont. Two children were born to our subject and his wife, namely: Ernest W., and Charles A.

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#### EDWARD V. S. POMEROY.

Edward V. S. Pomeroy, one of the prominent citizens of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, resides in Brownson precinct. He was born in Pittsfield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, February 11, 1865, and grew up there. His father, Edward Pomeroy, was also a native of that state, lived there for many years, and died in 1889. Our subject's mother, who was Lucretia Van Sanvoord, was born and reared in New York state, and she still lives on the old homestead in Massachusetts.

Mr. Pomeroy left home in 1885, and came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county, where he pre-empted a claim in section 26, township 15, range 51, which is his present home. He immediately went to work and proved up on the land, built up a good home, and has gone through all the pioneer experiences of the early days in this section. He started with a very small capital, worked with untiring energy and succeeded in a marked degree. He is now proprietor of a ranch containing three thousand and forty acres of

deeded land, known as the "Montauk Ranch," and controls considerable leased land in addition to this.

He erected a fine two-story stone house in 1886, and has good substantial farm buildings and all necessary equipment for operating a model ranch, and is one of the leading ranchmen of his locality. He is a genuine lover of fine stock, and breeds good running horses, many of which have been trained for the race track and proved to be among the best racers on the turf, winning many ribbons in different events. He has a fine track on the ranch where his racers receive their first training for the racing events. He is also a lover of outdoor sports and in the earlier days of his ranching here devoted much time to hunting and fishing.

Mr. Pomeroy has about two hundred acres of land cultivated, and raises grains, fruits, etc. He deals quite extensively in the cattle business, running about two hundred and fifty head annually, and keeps from one to three hundred horses on his ranch at all times. His ranch is beautifully located on Lodgepole creek, the main part of it lying north of the stream on the table-land.

Mr. Pomeroy was married in New York city, April 27, 1887, to Mary A. Platt, of that state, whose parents lived there for many years. The mother is now dead, but the father still occupies the old home. Mr. Pomeroy and his good wife have two adopted children, whom they took into their hearts and home when small, and they are named Lucretia Ely, and Mary Ruthven Pomeroy. Mr. Pomeroy has devoted much of his time and efforts to the upbuilding of his locality and is prominent in local affairs. He is a Republican and stands firmly for his convictions. He is a member of the Episcopal church.

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#### GRANT BIXLER.

Grant Bixler, who holds a prominent place among the pioneer settlers of Cherry county, is a very successful stockman and farmer. Mr. Bixler was born near Minonk, Livingston county, Illinois, July 5, 1868, living there until he was seven years old. In 1875 the family moved to Panora, Iowa, later they moved to Berwin, in Guthrie county, where the father bought a farm. His father was Samuel Bixler, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, was a farmer, and served in the Forty-seventh Illinois for four years and nine months during the war. Though he fought in two battles he was never wounded, and is now living in Gordon. His mother was Miss Mary Desano, of English descent, born in Philadelphia,





**RESIDENCE OF SHERIFF G. A. EVANS,  
Taylor, Nebraska.**

where Mr. Bixler now has relatives living. He is the second child in a family of six, and started in life for himself when eighteen years of age, following farm work. In 1884 he came to Broken Bow, Custer county, remaining here four years, and in 1888 moved into Cherry county and took pre-emption which he sold and took a homestead, in section 26, township 35, range 37, still holding it as a ranch and has added to it until he now has six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, nearly all hay land excepting a small portion which is hilly range. On this ranch he runs about two hundred and fifty head of cattle and a number of horses. He is also owner of some town property and makes his home there during the winter. Excepting for about two years in which he was engaged in the livery business, he has engaged exclusively in stock raising.

Our subject was married to Miss Alice Pruden in 1897, whose father was a farmer of English descent. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bixler, named as follows: Lottie, Lottie, George, Clyde and Frost, all of whom were born in Cherry county.

When Mr. Bixler landed in Cherry county all he had in the world was a horse, saddle and the clothes he wore. He has seen hard times, for several years working for different ranchmen by the year for \$14 a month. He now has his ranch well improved, all fenced, and has about thirty acres of broken land, and some tame grasses started.

Mr. Bixler moved into town in order to give his children the benefit of the better schools. He has always worked hard and has met with success in the ranching business, but feels that his labor has not been in vain. In political faith he is a Republican, and is firm in his convictions. He is a member of the Merriman lodge of Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### GEORGE A. EVANS.

The subject of this review was born in Iowa, in 1863, and was reared on a farm, becoming accustomed to hard work of which there was plenty to do. His father, Hugh Evans, was born in Indiana, but was of Welsh ancestry. Our subject's mother was Susan Davis, native of Indiana.

George A. Evans started out for himself in 1884, engaging in agricultural pursuits. In 1886, he came west to Loup county, Nebraska, working for a while in Taylor, the county seat. In 1887 he took a pre-emption claim in Blaine county, on the Loup river, and in 1890 he located a homestead three miles west of Taylor.

In 1890 Mr. Evans was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Hooper, who was reared in Loup county, where her father was one of the earliest pioneers. Her mother was Miss Mahaley Kinser before marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have four daughters: Cristie, May, Ina and Blanche.

George Evans had only a team of horses when he made his start in Loup county, but he has proven a man of ability and enterprise by building up a fine farm and home. He bought the place where he now lives in 1898, and has three hundred and twenty acres with nice improvements, good house, barns and fine trees. For three years he engaged in the implement business in Taylor and was active in the upbuilding of that city. He has been one of the prominent pioneer settlers and old-timers of Loup county and has done his share in advancing the interests of that community.

George A. Evans has taken an active part in the politics of the county and has been honored with several offices in the gift of the people. He has been road overseer, assessor and has held other minor offices. For several years he was chairman of the county central committee of the Populist party. In 1901 he was elected sheriff of Loup county and was re-elected in 1903, 1905 and 1907, and is the present incumbent of that office.

On another page of this volume will be found a picture of Mr. Evans' place.

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#### JUSTIN E. PORTER.

Among the professional men of Dawes county, Nebraska, an able representative is found in the person of Justin E. Porter, an attorney of Crawford. He is a gentleman of broad mind and good practical training, and has built up for himself a good business and enviable reputation as a lawyer and public-spirited citizen. Mr. Porter is at present serving as county attorney, having been elected in 1904 and re-elected in 1906.

Mr. Porter is a native of Prince Edward Island, Canada, born in 1866, on December 25th, being a Christmas gift to his parents, who were of Scotch-Irish descent, his father a leather dealer in Canada. Our subject was reared and educated in that county, attending an Episcopal school and was graduated as a barrister in Winnipeg in 1891. In 1894 he came to Nebraska and settled in Crawford, where he opened a law office and has continued in that work ever since, building up a large and lucrative practice in Dawes and the adjoining counties. He has done



well since locating here, and has accumulated a good property by persistent and faithful efforts supplemented by good management, and is one of the leading attorneys of this region.

Mr. Porter is a Republican politically, and has taken an active part in party politics since locating here. He has been chairman of the county central committee for two years, and has acted as city attorney off and on for many years past.

Mr. Porter has a family of two children, namely: Waldo and Caroline.

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### S. C. GOULD.

The above gentleman, residing in Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, is the genial proprietor of "The Double Store," which carries the largest stock of general merchandise of any establishment of its kind in the county, amounting to \$35,000. Mr. Gould began as a clerk in this county, mostly under his father, G. H. Gould, who for years managed a large mercantile business in Republican, and the former started in business in 1897, with a capital of \$1,100, being successor of his father-in-law, Frank Shaffer, widely known as the pioneer settler and merchant of Alma.

Mr. Gould is a native of Iowa, born in 1870. His father, Garvin H. Gould, of Republican, Harlan county, is a native of Lincoln county, Maine, born December 19, 1845, and is a son of Joseph and Mary E. (Hamilton) Gould, the former born in 1815. He has one brother, Albert H. Gould, residing in Harlan county. The Gould family moved from Maine to Handy Hollow, New York, then to Yeoman's Mills, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, having been engaged for at least two generations in the lumbering business in Maine, New York and Pennsylvania. At the breaking out of the civil war Albert H. enlisted in the Eighty-sixth New York regiment, and served until April 2, 1862. He was at the first battle of Bull Run. His father, Joseph Gould, also belonged to the same company of soldiers.

After the war the latter came with his family to Marengo county, Iowa, and in 1871 came to Nebraska, locating in Harlan county, where he was one of the earliest settlers, his death occurring there in 1882. Gould Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Republican City, was named after him, and he was the first probate judge of Harlan county. His son, Garvin H. Gould, entered the Elmira Commercial College in 1884, and engaged there in the grocery business as Gould Bros., remaining there until 1869, then came west settling in Marengo county, Iowa,

and farmed for three years. At that time he came to Harlan county, taking a homestead in the Republican valley. He bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, also a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres two miles west of Republican City. In 1874 and 1875 he was appointed by the state aid society to distribute relief over the east half of Harlan county, and has served on the local school board almost continuously since 1872.

Mr. Gould's business extends over a section covering a radius of thirty-five to forty miles. He carries a full line of dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, and ladies' and gents' wearing apparel of the best quality and most up-to-date styles. His whole time and attention is given to the management of this business, and his strict honesty in business methods, and honorable and square dealings win him many friends. He is of a frank and genial personality, and is greatly admired and esteemed by the entire community.

Mr. Gould was married in 1895 to Miss Birdie Shaffer, daughter of Frank Shaffer, of Alma, whose sketch appears in this volume. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gould, namely: Clarence, Clayton and Harold. Mr. Gould was an only child, his mother's death occurring December 2, 1873, at Republican. Mr. Gould was educated at the Commercial College, located in Republican, having attended the county schools here during his boyhood years. He is one of the public spirited citizens of Alma, but has little time to devote to taking an active part in affairs. He is a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge, and a Knight of Pythias.

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### JOHN F. HORNBECK.

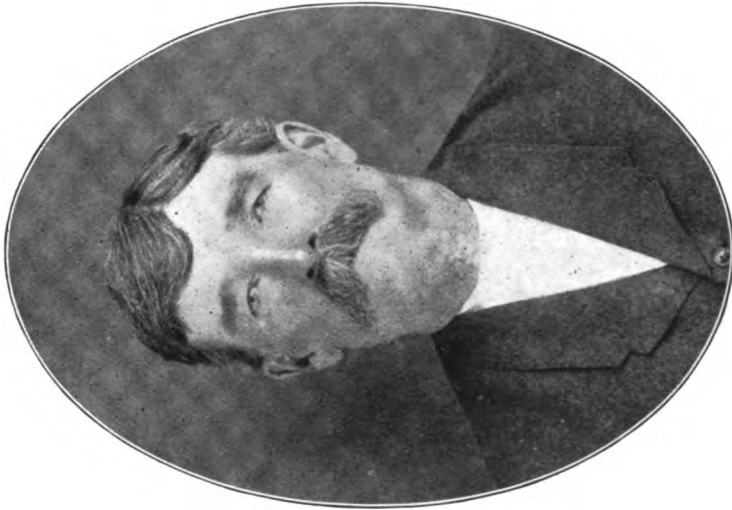
Among the most successful farmers of Phelps county, Nebraska, is the gentleman above named, who resides on section 35, in Laird township. He has a valuable estate and is one of the foremost citizens of his community.

Mr. Hornbeck is a native of Macon county, Illinois, born in 1854. His father, Abraham Hornbeck, was from Kentucky, and an early settler in Illinois, and there our subject was reared and educated. In 1888 he first came to this county and township, where he farmed on rented land up to 1900, and at that time purchased the place and erected a fine house, barn and other buildings on the place. He engaged in grain raising almost exclusively and was very successful from the start. The land has trebled in value since he bought it and he is perfectly satisfied with his efforts and the result of his hard work. He likes





MRS. B. J. BURT.



B. J. BURT.

this country much better than Illinois, and thinks it is better for a poor man to get along and make money, as once a renter there, always a renter, while here there is a better opportunity for a man to get ahead and own his own farm and home. The soil is also much easier worked here, one man being able to do as much as two can do in Illinois, while the crops are as good, and in most cases better. His wheat crop here runs thirty-five bushels to the acre, and corn sixty. He has also dealt in stock to quite an extent during the past few years, and finds this very profitable, keeping red hogs, and high grade Shorthorn cattle, with enough horses for his farming purposes. Besides working his own farm Mr. Hornbeck rents land adjoining, operating about four hundred acres in all.

Mr. Hornbeck has three children: Olive, owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land at Maywood, Nebraska; Carl, owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land at Trenton, Nebraska, and Cecil, who owns one hundred and sixty acres at Elwood, Nebraska.

Mr. Hornbeck is highly esteemed by all who have come in contact with him in a business or social way, and is one of the influential citizens of his community. He has gained an enviable reputation as an energetic and successful man, and is a fine example of what the settlers from Illinois in this region have accomplished. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

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#### JAMES C. FOSTER.

In the person of the gentleman above named we have one of the old-time Sand Hill ranchmen and cattlemen, who has been through all the early western Nebraska times, taking an active part in the upbuilding of that part of the state, and who has remained to see what time and progress has done to the country which was in its most primitive state when he settled there. Mr. Foster now resides in Oshkosh, moving into that town in 1907, and is retired from active work on his large ranch, now occupying one of the finest residences in town.

James C. Foster was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, March 5, 1847, and grew to manhood there. At the age of about seventeen he enlisted in Company B, First Battalion Infantry Volunteers of Pennsylvania, and later re-enlisted in the Seventy-fourth Regiment, and was mustered out at Clarksburg, West Virginia, in the fall of 1865. During his service as a soldier he was with his regiment on scouting expeditions, etc. His elder brother, Hiram T. Foster, had entered the army in 1861 and served for

three years, then re-enlisted and was killed in action while marching from Petersburg to Richmond, prior to Lee's surrender. The father of our subject had enlisted during the first part of the war, but before the time came for him to join his regiment, he was taken ill and died. Another brother, William M., was in service about two years, and was a prisoner in the famous Libby prison, suffering all the tortures that befall those unfortunates who fell into the hands of the rebels.

At the close of the war Mr. Foster returned home to Pennsylvania, and engaged in the lumbering business in Clearfield county, on headwaters of the Susquehanna river, and also on the Big Mahoning river, continuing in that line of work up to 1876, then came west, locating at Pawnee, Nance county, Nebraska. He spent about twelve years there, ranching most of the time, and for four years worked in the vicinity of the Indian schools for George Willard, a ranchman and farmer. He was proprietor of a ranch in Nance county, which he sold out, finally coming to Deuel county in 1886. Here he filed on a homestead on section 7, township 22, range 44, and became owner of eight hundred acres, which he improved in first-class shape, equipping it with every convenience and stocked with cattle, making it one of the most valuable estates in the county.

Mr. Foster married Miss Carrie M. Douglas, a native of Minnesota, their marriage occurring at Genoa, Nebraska, on May 2, 1881. They have six children, named as follows: Nettie, wife of Edward Miller, of Oshkosh; Rosalie, wife of Green Ross, living in Deuel county; Mary, Maude, William, and J. C., the four last named living at home on the ranch.

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#### B. J. BURT.

Of the prominent and leading old settlers of western Nebraska, none are held in higher esteem by their fellow citizens than B. J. Burt, who resides on section 12, township 14, range 59, of Kimball county.

Mr. Burt was born in Essex county, Massachusetts, on the 8th of September, 1844, and grew to manhood in that vicinity. He was one of a family of three children, two girls and himself, and his father lived to the ripe old age of eighty-seven, his death occurring in about 1903. Our subject left Massachusetts in 1869, coming to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and there followed the range as a cowman for a number of years, in 1887 coming to Kimball county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead on section 12, township

14, range 59, and also purchased railroad land in section 11. He proved up on his homestead and has made a good home out of it, putting up good buildings, fences, etc., and runs a large bunch of stock each year, having at the present time one hundred and fifty head of cattle and quite a bunch of horses. He has a fine grove of trees on his ranch, a good water supply, and everything necessary in the way of machinery and improvements. Mr. Burt has about fifty acres of irrigated land, the ditch running through the farm east and west. This practically insures a hay crop each year.

Mr. Burt was united in marriage October 28, 1891, to Miss Mary Ann Tracy, who was born in Iowa. She was a most estimable and charming lady, beloved by all who knew her, and departed this life on February 20, 1906, leaving a sorrowing family and many warm friends to mourn her death. She was the mother of three children, Isabelle Maude, Earl and Francis, all of whom were born on the home ranch in Kimball county, and now living with their father.

Mr. Burt is an active public-spirited citizen, well and favorably known throughout the region where he makes his home, and is one of the very few really old-timers left in this locality. He is a Republican and strong party man. At the present time he is serving as moderator of school district No. 7.

On another page of this volume will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Burt.

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#### WILLARD M. EVANS.

Willard M. Evans, a well-to-do farmer and ranchman and a leading citizen of Box Butte county, whose residence is located on section 14, township 28, range 51, presents in his own career a striking illustration of the field of opportunity this new western county abundantly offers the ambitious, as well as the rich results that have long waited on industry and integrity. He was born in Freetown, Courtland county, New York, in 1840, a son of Benjamin and Catherine (Familiar) Evans.

The boyhood days of Mr. Evans were spent in his native state, where he attended school and assisted his father in the cultivation of their farm. Realizing the opportunities the great western country offered the ambitious, Mr. Evans, at the age of twenty-five years, decided to seek his fortune there, and leaving his home came west into Michigan and Missouri, where he spent several years. It was in 1886 that he came to Nebraska, settling in Dawes county. For a time he did teaming and hauling from Hay Springs,

and assisted in some of the first work of constructing the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad through this part of the country.

Mr. Evans is now the proprietor of a fine ranch of from one thousand two hundred to one thousand four hundred acres of land located on the tableland south of the Niobrara river, three hundred acres of which he has under cultivation. The first building which our subject erected for his home was a sod house. Through years of adversity and prosperity he has held the handles of the plow, working out for himself a comfortable home. He did not escape the hardships with which so many of the early settlers of this western country had to contend. His ranch is now well fenced throughout, and the improvements with which it has been fitted are modern in every respect.

Our subject enlisted in Company F, Nineteenth New York Regiment, and during the civil war served in the army of the Potomac and on guard duty at Washington, and took part in many hard fought battles.

In 1866 Mr. Evans was married to Carrie Kellan, at Syracuse, New York. She was a daughter of E. L. and Dorothy Kellan, natives of Germany. Four children blessed this happy union, namely: Jennie C., Willie, who died in September, 1881; Charles H., and Lydia. Mr. Evans is a man whose career is a striking illustration of persistence, pluck and energy, and shows what possibilities this great western country have opened to those who could see an opportunity, and had the courage to embrace it.

Mr. Charles H. Evans, the only living son of Willard M. and Carrie Evans, was married June 15, 1908, to Miss Carrie Grant, daughter of William and Mary Grant, of Whitewood, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. William Grant are Americans by birth, being born in the state of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Evans live on a ranch which adjoins the ranch owned by Mr. Evans' father. They have built up a fine ranch and have a very comfortable home. His farm is considered one of the model farms of the community, as he has built some of the finest buildings in the county. Mr. Chas. H. Evans' biography appears elsewhere in this volume.

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#### WILLIAM H. HART.

The gentleman above named, who came to Nebraska when he was a boy, is today one of the representative farmers of Rock county, where he owns and operates a large tract of land. He has reached his present success through his own unaided efforts, and is numbered among the successful leading citizens of the county.

Mr. Hart was born in Guthrie county, Iowa, June 19, 1867. His father, Daniel Hart, is an old settler in Nebraska, having come here in 1879, with his family. Eight children completed his family circle, of whom our subject is the seventh member. They settled on the Niobrara river, in section 17, township 32, range 18, where they went through many pioneer hardships and privations in getting a home started. Their first building was a log house, and they lived in this for several years. During his young manhood our subject handled ox teams, which were generally in use at that time as it was almost impossible to keep horses on account of the prevalence of glanders in the section. All the supplies had to be hauled from Oakdale, a distance of over a hundred miles. It took eight days to make this trip and the way led over the roughest roads, often having great difficulty in getting to their destination.

Mr. Hart was familiar with all that part of Nebraska, and from boyhood has watched the growth of this section, aiding in its development and becoming one of the substantial citizens. He is now proprietor of a farm of five hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, and engaged in grain and stock raising.

In 1894 he was married to Miss Clara Wallace, a lady of American lineage, born in Iowa. Four children have come to bless this union, namely: Ethel, Belle, Roland and Amos.

Mr. Hart always takes a commendable interest in local public affairs, and lends his influence and aid in the upbuilding of the community where he has made his home. He and his family are highly respected, and their home is one of pleasant cheer and generous hospitality. His vote is usually cast for the Republican candidates; his lodge membership is with the Ancient Order United Workmen at Carnes, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Bassett.

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#### CARL WAGONER.

Carl Wagoner, one of the prominent early settlers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is one of the leading ranchmen of the region, also farms to quite an extent, and has met with marked success in his work. He is a gentleman of untiring energy, excellent business capacity and strict integrity, and well merits his high standing as a worthy citizen and well-known old-timer of western Nebraska.

Mr. Wagoner was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, on December 14, 1857. He lived in that vicinity until he was ten years of age, one of a family of eleven children, and the

parents are now living near Peru, this state. In 1864 the family left Ohio and came to Nebraska, settling in Nemaha county, where the father took up land and began farming, improving a place with the aid of his children, and our subject remained at home until 1884, at that time coming into Cheyenne county, homesteading on section 26, township 19, range 48. He went through all the old Nebraska times in getting started with a limited capital, and at times found it difficult to more than make a living on account of the failure of crops, etc., but managed to stick to his farm, and as the better times came on, succeeded in improving the farm in good shape, adding to his acreage as he was able, until he is now owner of a ranch containing one thousand eight hundred acres lying along the river. One thousand acres of the land is under cultivation, the home ranch being in the Sand Hills, while his buildings are on section 21, township 21, range 47. The place is known far and wide as the "Wagoner Ranch," and is one of the valuable properties in the county. He has about seventy acres of sugar beets at the present time, and plenty of grain, hay, etc. His stock includes from 1,200 to 1,500 head of cattle and 100 head of horses. The entire ranch is well equipped with every building and convenience.

In the early days it was necessary to go 25 miles to Camp Clark to get mail. This trip was made only about once a month, and in a busy time, once in two or three months. The nearest railroad town was Sidney, 35 miles away. The trip to town was made once a year, bringing supplies to last for that period. It was 25 miles to the nearest polling place, and churches and schools were unknown for many years in this country.

Mr. Wagoner was married in March, 1881, to Mary Ann Durell, the event occurring in Nemaha county. Mrs. Wagoner was born and reared in Beardstown, Illinois. Her father is dead, but her mother resides in Oklahoma, her parents coming to Nemaha county in 1864, residing near Auburn until 1903.

Our subject is a Republican politically, and active in local and county affairs.

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#### WILBUR A. McNALL.

The gentleman above mentioned is one of the prosperous younger members of the farming and ranching community of Cherry county, Nebraska, whose entire career has been passed in this state, he being born here in 1874, on a farm in Seward county, where his father was

a pioneer. The latter, Wilbur, sr., was well known in that vicinity, and died when our subject was a child of six years, his death deeply deplored as a worthy citizen and progressive farmer, who did all in his power to help build up the section where he chose his home. He married Miss Mary Jackson, who, several years after the death of her husband, married the second time, to Hiram Edgar.

When Wilbur was twelve years of age the family located in Cherry county, driving up the Loup River by team in a "prairie schooner," arriving in February, 1887, bringing with them a bunch of stock. They located on the North Loup, on section 8, township 26, range 27, and started to build up a home and ranch. Our subject lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, farming, using ox teams, and they lived in a sod house during those years. He began for himself in 1900, taking a homestead, on which he proved up in good time, improving it with buildings, and met with good success. He purchased an interest in his father's old ranch in 1895, and later bought the whole place, his parents removing to Valentine, where they now reside. When he first came to this region Johnstown was their nearest trading point, and remained so for several years, the towns being very far apart, and the pioneers were obliged to travel long distances for supplies, through wild prairie, when the country abounded in wild game, and Indians were by no means uncommon sights, and often met with exciting adventures.

In 1901 Mr. McNall married Miss Lillian Correll, born in Greenville county, Tennessee, where her parents settled many years ago. Mr. and Mrs. McNall have two daughters, Hazel and Thelma. The family have a very pleasant home, surrounded with all the comforts of rural life, and have a host of friends and acquaintances who enjoy their hospitality. The ranch consists of one thousand one hundred acres, with good buildings of all kinds, fine groves of trees and many fruit trees, all in the finest growing shape, and is one of the well-kept and best improved ranches in the county.

Mr. McNall has always done his share as an old settler, active in local affairs, and has held numerous township offices.

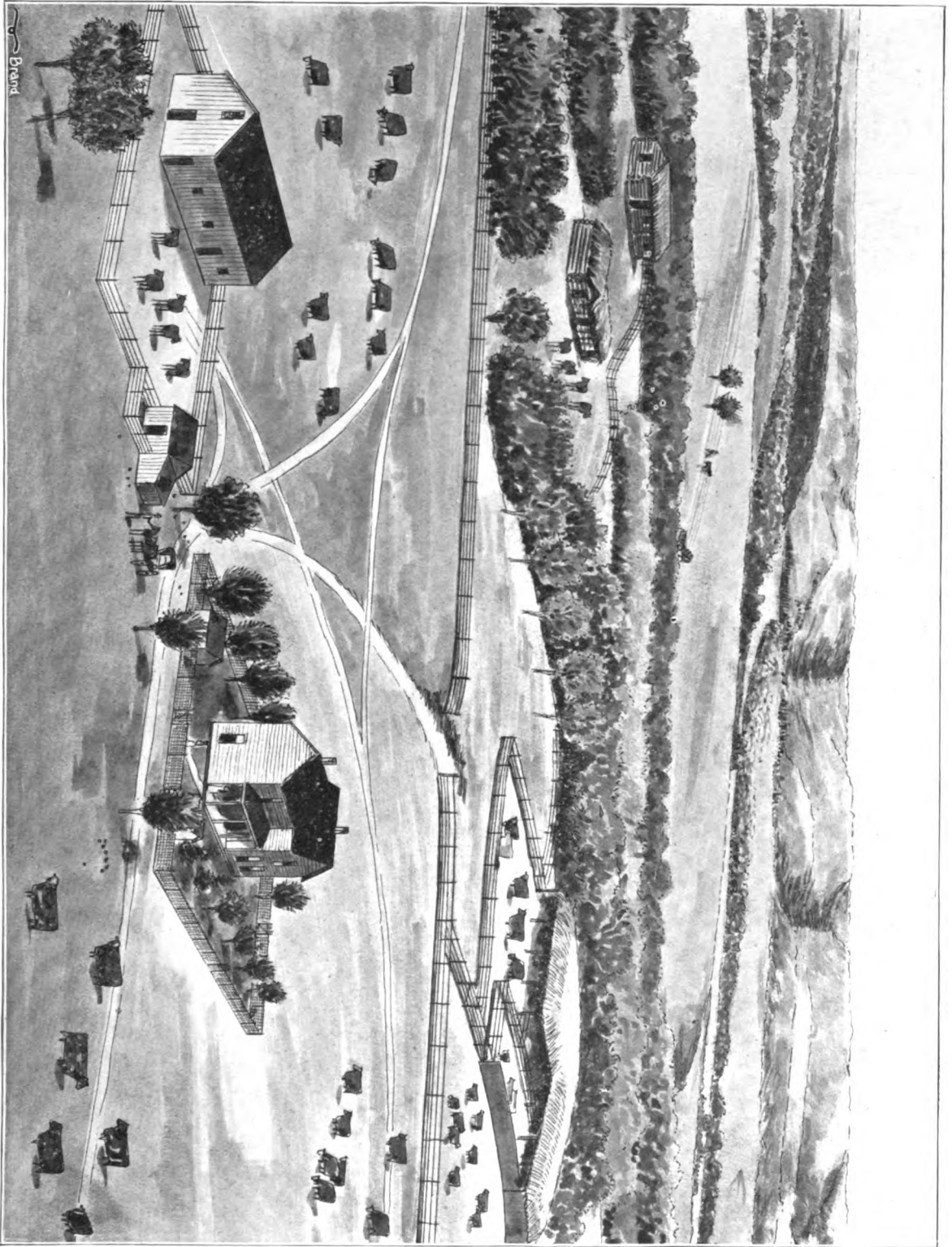
#### WILLIAM LESSIG.

For many years past Brown county has had a representative citizen in the person of William Lessig, the subject of this review. He has given the best years of his life to the

development of the farming, and incidentally, the financial interests of the community where he chose his home. Success has crowned his efforts and he is deserving of all that has come to him in his business career.

Mr. Lessig was born in the town of Fannettsburg, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, September 7, 1844. His father, Jacob Lessig, was a farmer of German descent, and his mother, Maria Moore, of Scotch-Irish stock. He was the eldest member of his father's family of six children, and was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, remaining there until after the war. Having served with the militia sixty days, in May, 1863, he enlisted in Company B, 22d Pennsylvania Cavalry, and afterwards was with the 2nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, being one of those who saw service with the Army of the Potomac. He was in the siege of Petersburg and Richmond, through the Wilderness and at Cold Harbor. During the last three years of this war he saw much hard service all the time, participating in many battles, and remaining with his company until he was mustered out at City Point and received an honorable discharge at Philadelphia in 1866. After the close of the war he followed the carpenter's trade in his native town until 1879, when he came west, locating at Great Bend, Barton county, Kansas. Finding no work at his trade there he went to Leadville, Colorado, where he spent five years in the mines, the smelters, the stamp mills, prospecting and working at his trade; he then returned to Pennsylvania, working at different employments for a year. In March, 1887, he again migrated west and came to Omaha, where he worked at his trade until July, 1888, having spent the winter at home, working as a carpenter; but becoming dissatisfied with life in the city, he came to Brown county and settled on a farm, near the mouth of Plum Creek, where he lived for a year, before securing his present farm in section 12, township 32, range 23, where he erected his first dwelling, a log shanty, which was his home until 1901. By this time he had accumulated a substantial amount, and began to improve his property, building a large two story house, barns, and cow sheds and stocking up the place with a herd of cattle. He is now the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of good land, part of which is irrigated and engages principally in stock raising. He has had experience in farming on the "Table," in Garfield precinct, where he spent some little time. He now enjoys a pleasant home, surrounded by all the improvements and conveniences of modern farming, and is accorded a place among the foremost





Brand

RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM LESSIG,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



citizens of the community in which he resides. A view of the residence and surroundings, is to be found on another page.

Mr. Lessig was married November 12, 1868, to Miss Sarah A. Jones, a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where her parents, Samuel and Mary (Davis) died. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lessig, namely: Frank, Ortha, wife of Gaylord W. Hurlburt, Jacob, Ethel, Samuel J. and an infant.

Mr. Lessig takes an active interest in all matters looking to educational advancement of his community, and has been instrumental in organizing different schools and assisting in the betterment of the social affairs of the locality. He is a Republican, and for the past seven years has been committeeman in his township. With his family, he is a member of the Methodist church.

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#### A. A. WYATT.

A. A. Wyatt, sheriff of Minden, elected in 1902, and re-elected in 1904, is one of the most popular citizens in this section. He is known all through Kearney county as a man of broad and liberal mind, and esteemed by all who know him for his active public spirit and a gentleman of strict integrity in every way.

Mr. Wyatt is a native of McDonough county, Illinois, born in 1842. His father, Captain J. J. Wyatt, was a pioneer in that section, and a soldier in the Civil war, captain of Company I, 62nd Illinois infantry, serving through the entire war, his death occurring immediately after the close of the war in 1865. Capt. Wyatt was one of the underground railway conductors who assisted many negroes to escape to Canada during those times. He was a Kentuckian, his family originally coming from Virginia, and his wife was Elizabeth Mayfield, of Tennessee. Three sons fought with him in the late war, one having lost his life in the service of his country. Our subject enlisted on May 24, 1861, in the 16th Illinois Infantry, and followed a soldier's fortunes through the entire war, taking part in the Army of the Cumberland, at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, and was with Sherman on his famous March to the Sea. He took part in the Grand Review at Washington. Mr. Wyatt came to Nebraska in July, 1878, and located in Phelps county, taking a homestead in Prairie township, and there farmed one hundred and sixty acres for several years. He then moved to Holdredge, and in 1879 was elected sheriff of Phelps county,

servng for one term. He next went on the Burlington and Missouri Railway and for twelve years was engineer on that road. In 1900 he came to Kearney county, locating at Wilcox, and was appointed deputy sheriff, serving for two years.

Mr. Wyatt was married at Roseville, Illinois, in 1871, to Miss Mary J. Sears, of Guernsey county, Ohio.

Mr. Wyatt is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic in Minden, and has gone through all the chairs.

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#### CEPHAS ROSS.

Cephas Ross is well known among the residents of Dawes county, Nebraska, as one of the leading old settlers in this region. Mr. Ross now lives in section 19, township 33, range 51, where he has a comfortable and pleasant home surrounded by many warm friends and good neighbors. His health fails him at times and then he boards in Crawford, Nebraska. He spends a good deal of his time with his son Hiram, who owns a homestead adjoining the father's estate.

Mr. Ross is a native of Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, born in 1838. His father, John Ross, was a miller by trade, of American stock, his ancestors coming to the United States from the north of Ireland. Our subject's mother, who was Elizabeth Stoker, was of German-Welsh descent. He grew up in Pennsylvania on a farm, and at the age of twenty-three years enlisted in Company A, First New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry. He saw service in the Army of the Potomac and participated in a number of engagements during the civil war. After the close of the war he returned to his old home and engaged in farming on his own account, following this up to 1885. He had a nice farm of sixty-three acres, and was successful in operating it, but decided to go west, so sold out and came to Nebraska in 1886. He arrived at Chadron in March of that year, and took up his homestead in Dawes county. He at once went to work building up his farm and now owns one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, and for a number of years has been engaged in stock raising on a liberal scale. His place is well improved with good house and farm buildings, and he has been very successful in his undertakings since coming here, excepting that in September, 1904, his dwelling and the contents were destroyed by fire, and also in July, 1908, another fire destroyed his barns, sheds, corrals and a large quantity of hay. In 1906 he suffered the

misfortune of a severe illness, and since that time has disposed of his interest in the stock on his ranch to his son, Hiram, who now operates the land, and the father boards with his son most of the time when not boarding in Crawford, but Mr. Ross still owns his land.

In November, 1865, Mr. Ross was married to Miss Johanna Carr, of Hartsville, Pennsylvania, who died there in 1882. In 1894 he married the second time. He has a family of three children, namely; Harvey and Hiram by his first wife, and May, by his second marriage.

Mr. Ross has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs. He was elected county commisisoner in 1891 and served for one term. Politically he is a Republican.

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### GEORGE E. FOWLER.

George E. Fowler, one of the energetic and aspiring young farmers of Brown county, Nebraska, who is taking a prominent part in the agricultural development of the country adjacent to the town of Ainsworth, has chosen a vocation in which lie many of the most pleasant features of life. Its independent character pleases him, and he is ready to meet its demand for hard work and close application. Its free out of door activities stimulate his sturdy manhood and the winds that sweep across these broad Nebraska prairies are welcome, as they tell a story of liberty, competence and opportunity not surpassed anywhere in the wide world.

George E. Fowler was born on a farm in Jasper county, Iowa, October 15, 1867, and from his early youth was familiar with hard work. His father was a farmer during his active life and an early settler in Brown county. He is still living in Ainsworth, a sketch of his career appearing elsewhere in this work. Of the five children born to his parents, George E. Fowler is the third in order of birth, and one of three now living. The father brought his family to Brown county in the spring of 1883, and made a homestead of the northwest quarter of section 20, township 30, range 22, and here the subject of this narration grew into manhood, having enough hard work to occupy his mind and strengthen his sinews. When he came into the county there were no schools in the town, the first being established in the winter of 1883 and 1884. The young George helped his father build up the family homestead and put the family fortunes on a solid foundation. He

passed through some hard times at home, and found it difficult to maintain a stand against the disasters that followed in the wake of the drouth, but he remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, and in after years had no regrets that he did so.

George E. Fowler and Miss Mary E. Barrett were married February 24, 1897. She was more commonly known under the nickname of "Lydia." She was born in Indiana, where her mother died when "Lydia," the nickname by which Mrs. Fowler was commonly known, was nine years old. Her father, I. B. Barrett, was auditor of Bartholomew county, Indiana, at the time of death in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have one child, Frank, born February 3, 1902.

Mrs. Fowler came to Nebraska in 1887 to join her sister, Mrs. Dr. G. O. Remy, who had cared for her after the death of her mother. Illness for three years prevented her going west at the time the Doctor and his wife migrated to the frontier.

After their marriage the young couple lived for some two years on old Fowler homestead, but in 1899 built a house on their own land, where they have now a neat and attractive farm of one hundred and sixty acres. About ninety acres are under the plow, and the balance devoted to pasturage. In addition to his general farming Mr. Fowler is making much of stock raising, and more and more is throwing means and energy in that line.

The family belong to the Congregational Church and Mr. Fowler affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, of Ainsworth. In political faith he is Republican.

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### E. G. WALLIN.

E. G. Wallin was born in Sweden, March 30, 1857. Coming to America, in 1880, he made his home in New York City for six years, but during that time he made a six months visit to his native land. In June, 1886, he came west to Nebraska, settling in Kimball (then Cheyenne) county. He took a pre-emption claim and homestead, and also a Kincaid homestead later. His home is located on the southeast quarter of section 4, township 15, range 53, where he has surrounded himself with many evidences of wealth, prosperity and comfort. He has been very successful with his farming operations and cultivates a considerable portion of his land, having also a nice bunch of cattle and horses. He has good improvements and his farm is well equipped in

every way. In early life Mr. Wallin was an upholsterer by trade and he has followed that business more or less in this country, for some time being engaged thereat in Denver, Colorado.

March 12, 1881, in New York City, Mr. Wallin and Miss Charlotte Lindberg were married. She was a native of Sweden and came to America in August, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Wallin have six children, all at home: Ernest, Prince, Morgan, Hulda, Alfred and Herbert. The parents of Mr. and Mrs. Wallin are all dead. Of two children in his father's family, our subject is the sole survivor.

Mr. E. G. Wallin has taken an active part in the local political matters of his community and is an advocate of the principles of the Republican party. He has been county assessor of Kimball county several different times and is regarded as a safe and capable official. He knows well by experience the hardships of the early days in this western country, and many times his good wife had the care of the place alone while he worked out. Many times she was forced to buy water and get wood from the timber. They had no team, and much credit is due Mrs. Wallin as well as our subject for the success they have attained.

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#### REV. JOHN A. SCAMAHORN.

Rev. John A. Scamahorn, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Gordon, is among the well known ministers of this part of the state of Nebraska. He has traveled over most of the state in an official capacity, and has gained a host of friends, highly esteemed by all.

Rev. Scamahorn was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, September 25, 1831. His father, Rev. Jacob Scamahorn, was a minister in the United Brethren Church for forty years, also a native of Ohio, of Holland Dutch extraction, the Scamahorn family having settled in New York in 1600. Our subject's mother was of Irish descent, and he was the second child in their family of three. His parents moved to Indiana in 1850, and settled in Spencer county. He began working on a farm during his young manhood days, and in 1861 enlisted in Company C, 42nd Indiana Volunteers, as a private, and with his regiment was ordered south, serving in the Army of the Cumberland. He followed a soldier's life for four years, and was in many skirmishes and saw hard service. He was all through Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama, was captured at Stone

River, Tenn. and afterwards exchanged. Was in the battle of Chickamauga, taken prisoner and held for fifteen months, but managed to escape from prison and rejoin his regiment. He was promoted from private to orderly sergeant, then lieutenant, then became captain of his company and later major. After the war had closed and he had received an honorable discharge, he entered the Hartsville University and spent one year and then was licensed as a minister in the United Brethren Church, serving with them for two years. He was elected to the Indiana Legislature from Spencer county, serving one term, from 1866 to 1868. In 1870 he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has served a total of thirty-nine years in the ministry. He held several important charges in the Indiana conference. In 1884 he came to Nebraska at the head of a colony of 105 people from Indiana, settling in the vicinity of Gordon, Sheridan county, and soon afterwards organized the first Methodist Episcopal society in northwestern Nebraska, filling a number of charges in that part of the state, also serving as presiding elder in the Chadron district of the Northwestern Nebraska Conference. In 1903 he took his superannuated relation in the conference, but still does a great deal of active work for the church. He was one of those who took an active part in the settlement of Gordon in the early days, and named the town, having been its first postmaster.

Rev. Scamahorn was married in 1853 to Miss Margaretta McCollum, who died during the civil war. They had three children but none lived through their infancy. He was married the second time in 1866 to Mrs. Mary C. Radcliff, whose husband was killed in the battle of Chickamauga.

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#### HORACE GREELEY MILLER.

The gentleman herein named occupies a foremost place among the prominent citizens of Brown County, Nebraska. Mr. Miller is an old settler in this vicinity, and here he has become well known for his square dealing in a business way and by devoting many years of his life to his work, he well merits the success which he has attained. Mr. Miller was born in Union county, Indiana, August 12, 1834. His father, Martin Miller, was of mixed nationality, American born, settling in Indiana with his parents when he was but ten years old. Our subject's mother, whose maiden

name was Cassandra Yeaman, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1805 of American stock; she became the mother of seven boys, of whom Horace Greeley is the fourth in order of birth. He was reared in the county in which he was born, attending the public schools and in his boyhood years became accustomed to hard farm work, going through many pioneer experiences even at that time. He learned the miller's trade when a young man, following in the footsteps of his father with whom he entered into partnership in the business, continuing together until 1864. From that time to 1871 our subject ran the business alone, and then selling the mill, came to Hebron, Thayer county, Nebraska, there engaging in the same vocation. In 1874 he witnessed the grasshopper raids in that region through which he met with heavy losses. He afterwards built several mills for different parties in that vicinity, doing his share in the building up of the country.

In the fall of 1875 he spent some time in Nuckolls county, where he conducted a store at Spring Valley, now Hardy Station, on the Union Pacific; thence he moved to Brown county in 1882, driving across country by team, he and his family camping out on the way in a tent, driving a few head of cattle with them. He located at the junction of Bone and Pine creeks, built a dugout and lot cabin combined, in which they lived up to 1896, when it was destroyed by fire. In 1885 he began the erection of a burr-mill, which in 1891 he remodeled and improved, installing the roller system, now making patent flour. He also runs a saw mill in connection, running both by water power from Pine creek in which he has a good dam.

In 1882 Mr. Miller took up a homestead in section 5, township 31, range 20, the tract on which the mill stands, and engaged in grain and stock raising, at both of which he has made a success. When he first reached Brown county, his capital was seventy-five dollars in money, his household goods and a few head of stock. Mr. Miller has been a pioneer in several states, always pushing out to the borders of civilization.

Mr. Miller was married February 7, 1861, to Miss Barbara E. Miller, of American stock, born in Union county, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a family of seven children of whom three are living: Winfield S., Minnie, wife of Alonzo S. Barker, farming near Mr. Miller's place, and Moulton. While living in Nuckolls county, Mr. Miller took quite an active part in politics, and served as county commissioner for three years. In establishing the postoffice of Winfield to accommodate the neighborhood sur-

rounding the mill, Mr. Miller was appointed postmaster, an office he efficiently fills. He is Republican in political faith.

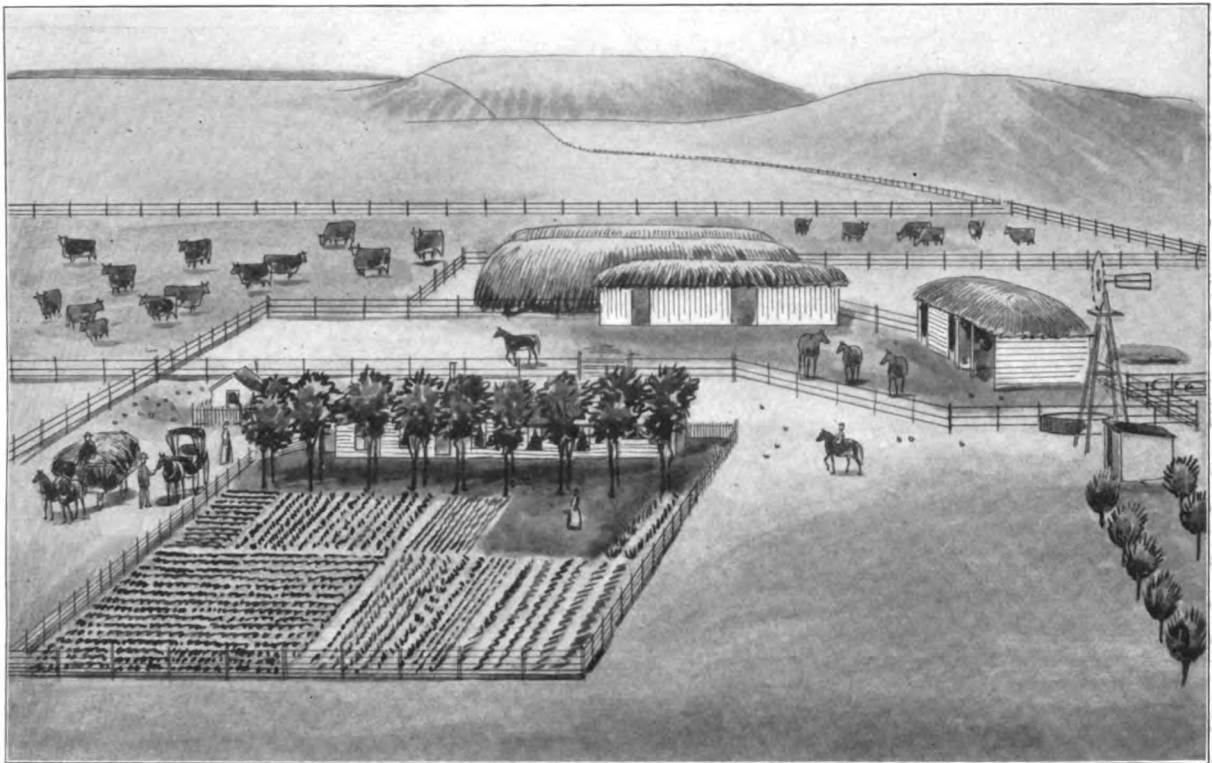
A picture of Mr. Miller's residence and the mill will be found elsewhere in this volume.

#### THOMAS LINDBERG.

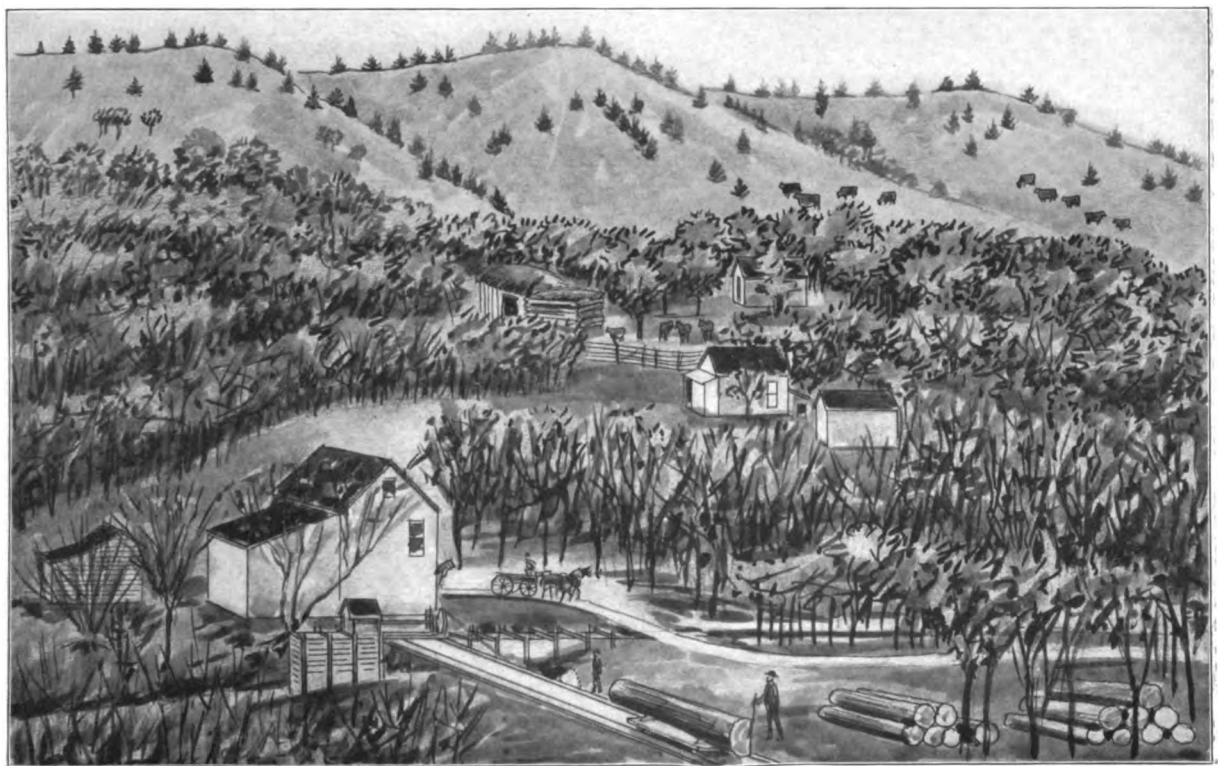
Among the early settlers in western Nebraska who have watched the growth and aided in the development of this region from its start, the gentleman above named holds a first place. Mr. Lindberg lives on section 2, township 34, range 33, Cherry county, where he has built up a good home and farm, and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Lindberg was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, August 30, 1859, son of Peter Lindberg, a harnessmaker by trade, and the youngest of a family of five children. He grew up in his native town, and at the age of eighteen went to sea, sailing to England, and afterwards made a trip all through Europe. He had learned his father's trade and worked at that from time to time. In 1878 he came to America, sailing from Liverpool in the steamship Baltic, landing in Portland, Maine, and from there came west stopping at Omaha where he worked for a few months, then began work on the railroad south from that city. He next went to Chicago and remained for five years teaming there; later he was employed in Boston, Philadelphia and Hoboken, New Jersey. In 1887 he enlisted in the United States army at Park Row, New York City, and assigned to Company A, Eighth Infantry, serving at Fort Niobrara for a time. During the Indian outbreak at Pine Ridge in 1891, he was with his regiment there and also at Rosebud, Wounded Knee, and Fort McKinley, Wyoming, receiving an honorable discharge June 26, 1891, having marched one hundred and sixty miles through the mountains, often camping in the snow.

Mr. Lindberg had married prior to his discharge and on his return from the army rented garden ground near Hanson's bridge, east of Valentine, which was not profitable. He then rented a farm for two years in Nenzel precinct and in 1901 filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, since then taking up his additional four hundred and eighty acres. Mrs. Lindberg, prior to her marriage, had taken up a timber claim on which the family now resides. During the first years he worked on the section to support his family, and saw many hard times, but conditions have improved and they are now



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS LINDBERG.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



MILL AND RESIDENCE OF H. G. MILLER,  
Winfield, Brown County, Nebraska.





independent. He has been successful since starting here, gradually adding to his land until he is now proprietor of eight hundred acres, cultivating one hundred and ten acres of it and the balance in hay and pasture land. He has good wells and windmills, and his ranch is well improved and one of the most valuable properties in this region. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found elsewhere in this work.

On August 11, 1890, our subject was married to Miss Johanna Zirfas, a native of the village Baden, Nassau, Germany. Mrs. Lindberg has presented her husband with three children, namely: Mary, born May 29, 1891, Peter, born May 28, 1895, and Joseph, April 7, 1900. They are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Lindberg affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America and Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Cody.

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#### C. K. DAVIES.

C. K. Davies, residing in Kearney, Nebraska, is one of the best known citizens of Buffalo county. He came to Nebraska with his parents when a boy, and has never lived out of the state since 1867. Mr. Davies was born at Denver, Colorado, in 1862. His father, W. D. Davies, was a well known breeder of stock, and came to Nebraska from Denver. Our subject was for many years in the Shorthorn breeding business at Columbus, Nebraska, and in 1904 came to Buffalo county, establishing himself at Kearney. He has never exhibited his herd, but has sold many animals to farmers from all over western Nebraska, as when purchasing any of his stock they are sure of getting the very best that can be had. At the head of his herd is the "Goldendrop" strain. He paid \$500 for the bull "Fame's Heir," sired by Imported Golden Fame, dam Imported Milkmaid. His Lancaster cow is the favorite in his herd, and the sum of \$200 was paid for her daughter before she was a year old. Mr. Davies refused \$200 for her last bull calf, which promises to be one of the best of his kind. The best breeders from all over Iowa and Nebraska buy cows from Mr. Davies' herd, and he now has a herd of about one hundred and twenty-five, and runs a large dairy, from which he furnishes most of the milk and cream used in Kearney. He prefers the Shorthorn cattle for all purposes. He states that western breeders have to cross their Herefords with Shorthorn stock, otherwise their herd will run out in a short time. The Shorthorn is A-1 for beef as well as milk, and this makes them the most desirable for both

farmers and stockmen, and a Shorthorn bull will improve any strain or breed of cattle.

At one time Mr. Davies was engaged in breeding Duroc Jersey hogs on quite a large scale, and is considered one of the best judges in this locality of these animals. He has no use for a pampered show pig, but selects those that have developed naturally, and followed that line in his work, his animals taking many prizes wherever they were shown. He was offered \$100 for Madam Banker, but refused to sell. The state industrial school select their stock of pure-bred hogs from his drove, which is the best evidence of their superiority over any others here.

Mr. Davies has also been a breeder of horses, and his judgment of thoroughbreds is considered among the best. He owned Kitty Fenland, and at the state fair in 1903 she was first in her class, and her colt also took first prize. Both these animals were sold to James Barr, the leading horse breeder in Nebraska, to whom our subject also sold his eight hundred and eighty-acre ranch at Lomax, Nebraska.

Mr. Davies has four sons, and all are interested in the stock business, following naturally in the footsteps of their father. George, who is but twelve years of age, reared and cared for an animal which was pronounced by the best judges in the state to be the most fit thoroughbred ever shown as a yearling. This son also has a bunch of Rosecomb Leghorn chickens that are not surpassed by any in the state. The other sons are Sumner, Alden and Jay.

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#### ANDREW MCGINLEY.

Prominent among the early settlers of western Nebraska is the gentleman above named, who has taken part in the history of this region from the beginning, and has done his full share in its development. He was among the first of those to introduce the system of irrigation in this part of the country. He went through many hardships and privations, and during the year 1876 was never inside a house from November until the following May. Mr. McGinley also had many exciting encounters with the Indians, and can relate many interesting anecdotes of the frontiersman's life in the pioneer days.

Our subject was born in county Donegal, Ireland, in December of the year 1838. His parents were of Scotch-Irish blood. The father, William, was a blacksmith by occupation, who married Annie Porter. The whole family came to America in 1850, landing at St. Johns, New Brunswick, and soon afterwards came to Maine, where our subject was reared and educated. In

the year 1857 Andrew went to work in the lumber woods of Maine and continued at that work for a number of years. In 1868 he came to Colorado, and teamed south from Cheyenne, being employed by the Union Pacific railway company, getting out ties for that road. The following year he did the same work for the Cheyenne and Denver railway. In 1870 he left the railroad and went into the stock business in Colorado, working as a cowboy on a ranch of his own, and spent five years in that vicinity. He worked as a freighter in connection with his stock raising operations, and this brought him into the western part of Nebraska. He located on a ranch twenty-five miles southeast of Harrison, in 1879, and made that his home up to 1899, and succeeded in building up an extensive ranch which was situated on the Niobrara river. He sold out this property in that year for \$20,000. The place contained about two thousand five hundred acres, a large portion of which was irrigated land, and was a valuable piece of land. His partner, W. C. Stovers, was a well-known ranchman and old settler, and these two men were in partnership for over twenty years.

In 1899 Mr. McGinley came to Harrison and bought his present farm, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, and here he has a nice place, with good improvements in the way of buildings, fences, etc.

Mr. McGinley was married in 1865 to Miss Laura Haven, daughter of Joseph Haven, a farmer of Hartson, Maine. Mrs. McGinley was born in Hartson, Maine, of Yankee stock. Our subject has always taken a leading part in the affairs of his community, and has held numerous offices, serving as county commissioner when Sioux county was first organized, and was also one of the men who helped form the county. He is a Republican.

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#### ORIAL C. GASKILL.

Among the prominent ranchmen and stock raisers of Rock county, the gentleman above named holds an enviable reputation. He is among the oldest settlers in this section of the country, and has aided materially in the growth and success of the region where he chose his home.

Mr. Gaskill is a native of Ohio, born in 1848. His father, Thomas R. Gaskill, was a tanner by trade, and a native of the eastern states. Our subject is the second member in his father's family of five children, and was reared in Ohio until the age of fifteen years, when the whole family left that state and

moved to Wisconsin, in the fall of 1863, remaining there for five years. He quit school before coming west, and had only had the advantages of a common school education. After leaving Wisconsin the family settled in Worth county, Iowa, and there he remained at home with his parents for three years, when he went to farming for himself. He followed this occupation for about three years, then purchased a farm in Wright county and worked this for six years. In 1884 he came to Nebraska and located in Brown county, settling in what is now Rock county, eight miles northeast of the present site of Bassett. There he took up a homestead and remained on it for ten years, improving the place wonderfully with buildings, fences, etc. He went through some hard times while on that farm, losing crops by the drouths, hailstorms, and other conditions, and became disheartened, so he sold out his holdings there and moved on his present farm, situated in section 9, township 32, range 18, located on the banks of the Niobrara River. Here he has built up a pleasant home and fine farm. He has three hundred and sixty acres of land and engages in stock raising principally, and finds this one of the best places he has ever seen for that line of work. He has a valuable property, and well merits the success which he has attained through his hard labors.

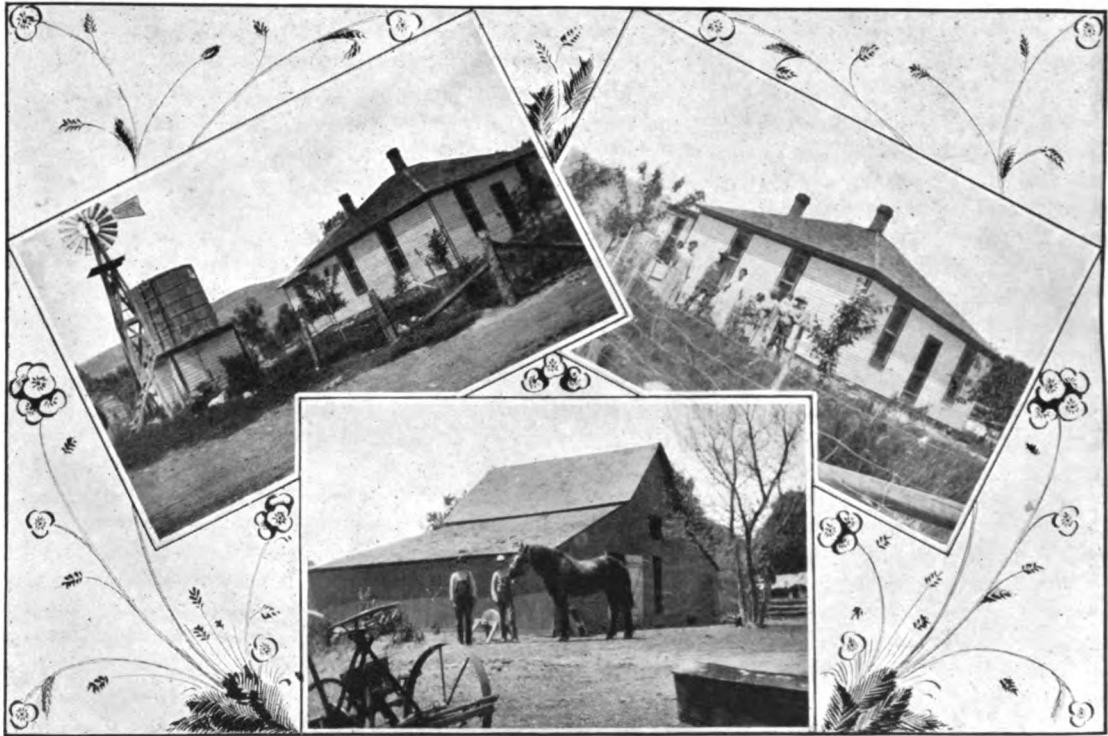
While living in Iowa, Mr. Gaskill was married in 1878 to Miss Marion Boswell, an American girl. Their marriage has been blessed with three children, namely; Arthur A., Lizzie and George. All of Mr. Gaskill's time is devoted to the care and supervision of his farm and home, and he has the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen. He is a Republican politically.

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#### ELINON M. ROSE.

Elinon M. Rose, whose handsome home and well-kept farm lies on section 10, township 14, range 51, Cheyenne county, where he is owner of one hundred and sixty acres, beautifully located on Lodgepole Creek, is one of the energetic and persevering citizens of his community, and an old settler in Nebraska. He came to this part of the state in the early days of its development, and has secured for himself a good home and competence in this fertile and productive region. Mr. Rose is a gentleman of broad mind and good practical training, and he has gained an enviable reputation as a gentleman of sterling qualities, esteemed and admired by all who know him.





VIEWS ON RANCH OF FRANK BLACK,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.

Mr. Rose was born in Jasper county, Iowa, October 3, 1868, removing with his parents, Francis M. and Tabiatha (Flock) Rose, to Shelby county, that state, when he was about twelve years of age. His parents were highly respected residents of Cheyenne county, coming in 1885, and there they resided for twenty-two years, and now are living at Miller, Buffalo county, Nebraska. Our subject followed in April, 1886, and lived with his parents for about four years, then filed on a claim in section 4, township 14, range 46, upon which he proved up and sold in September, 1908. He purchased his present farm in March, 1907, an excellent property all fenced and with an unfailing supply of water in Lodgepole creek for stock and irrigation. He was very successful from the start, and although met with some discouragements, has, in the main, done exceedingly well, and is recognized as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers of his locality, a good business man and good manager. About sixty acres of his farm are cultivated, and he raises all kinds of small grains, using the balance for pasture and ranching purposes. The dwelling is of unusually neat architecture being one of the prettiest residences in the Lodgepole valley. The grove south of the house is one of the tallest in the region.

Mr. Rose was united in marriage March 20, 1902, to Miss Phebe Stewart, whose parents, Augustus N. and Martha (Coats) Stewart, now reside in Keith county, Nebraska. Four children have been born of this union, who are named as follows: Velma Vesta, Viola Mildred, Vernon Lester and Georgia Anna (deceased); they form a most interesting and charming family, their home being one of the most hospitable in this section. Mr. Rose occupies a foremost position in the affairs of his locality, is active in local politics, and liked by all who know him. Politically he is a strong Republican. Our subject and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

#### ORVILLE R. IVINS.

The gentleman above named is prominent among the younger professional men of Crawford, Nebraska. Mr. Ivins is engaged in the practice of dentistry here, and has gained a large clientage through his skill and genial personality.

Mr. Ivins is a native of Dunlap, Iowa, born in 1880, of American parents. His father, Cyrus Ivins, was a well-known resident of Dunlap, and a successful business man, working as a traveling salesman through the state of Nebraska during the early pioneer days when the region was very sparsely settled. His mother was

Martha (Johnson) Ivins. In 1885 the family moved to Fremont, Nebraska, where our subject was reared and educated, attending school in Omaha in 1894. In 1898 he enlisted in the Third Nebraska regiment and went to Cuba with his company, where he saw service in the Spanish-American war. After his return from the Spanish-American war he returned to Nebraska and began his study of dentistry, taking a course at the Omaha Dental College, which is a part of the University of Omaha. He was a brilliant student and graduated from that institution in 1903 establishing an office at Crawford in the same year, where he has built up a good practice and is considered one of the rising young men of the town.

In 1904 Mr. Ivins was married to Miss Myrtle Hogel, whose father, J. H. Hogel, is a well known old resident of Crawford. Mr. and Mrs. Ivins have one child, Myrtle Louise.

Mr. Ivins was elected a member of the city council in 1906, and is now serving on the village board. He is a Republican in politics.

#### FRANK BLACK.

Frank Black, for the past twenty-five years a resident of Dawes county, Nebraska, has identified himself with the interests of Western Nebraska, and by building up a fine farm and lending his influence for good citizenship he has become one of the deservedly successful and prosperous citizens of his locality.

Mr. Black was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1854. His father, Lafayette Black, was a native of Ohio, and among the pioneer settlers in Iowa. He married Annie Johnson, born in Kentucky. She is now seventy-four years of age and is living in Gentry county, Missouri. Our subject grew up in the latter state, where the family settled when he was about six years of age. He received but a limited schooling, attending the country schools, and much of his time was spent in assisting his parents in performing the farm work and helping build up their home. At the age of twenty he left home and started in for himself, following farm work for two or three years, spending some time in Madison and Henry counties, Iowa, and in the fall of 1876 came back to Missouri, where he was married and began farming on his own account in the same county with his parents. He remained there for eight years, then came to Nebraska with the Sweat colony, arriving at Valentine on April 6th, 1884, and teaming from that place to where he located, spending one month or more on the trip from Missouri. He took up a homestead, his present home, in section 23,

township 32, range 48, and built a log cabin on the place, finishing same with a dirt roof, and occupied this for two years, then building a good log house. He owned some ox teams and these he used in breaking up his farm and hauling timber for different purposes. The first crop he put in was a sod crop of corn, potatoes and vegetables, and had a very good yield. He went through the drouth years, but never had an entire failure of crops, although was often obliged to haul wood and sell it to obtain a living and make up for his short crops. He continued to build up his farm, however, and through industry and perseverance succeeded in getting together a nice property, constantly adding to his acreage, until he is now owner of a fine ranch of 1,000 acres located on Big Bordeaux Creek, and besides this controls altogether two thousand six hundred acres. The farm is well supplied with natural timber, wild fruits and good water, and he has it well improved with good buildings, and about twenty miles of fence. He raises considerable corn, and handles a great deal of stock each year. On another page we present an interesting picture showing views on Mr. Black's ranch.

In January, 1879, Mr. Black was married to Miss Mary A. Green, daughter of Henry and Matilda Freeman Green, both born in London, England, who came to America in 1860, and were early settlers in Missouri. To Mr. and Mrs. Black the following children have been born: Sarah May, Thomas, Victoria, Samuel, Annie, Laura, William, Maude, Dickie and Ida. George died at three years of age.

Mr. Black takes a keen interest in local public affairs, at all times lending his aid and influence for good government and the bettering of conditions in his community. He is a Republican.

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#### JOHN DOE.

John Doe, residing on section 36, Laird township, is one of the successful agriculturists of Phelps county, Nebraska. He is a man of energetic will and industrious habits and richly deserves the success which he has attained here, and commands the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Doe is a native of Illinois. His father originally came from Bangor, Maine, and his mother was a native of Troy, New York, the family coming west when our subject was a child and settling in Illinois, where he grew up. The father later came to Nebraska, his death occurring in Phelps county in 1900, and the mother still lives here.

Father and son farmed in Bureau county for many years, the former living on one farm for forty years. This farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres, and while they were there raised good crops and accumulated quite a snug little property, but after coming to Nebraska found that the opportunities were much better here, and crops just as good as in Illinois, and climate more agreeable. Mr. Doe is engaged mostly in grain raising, and his wheat crops are of the best. He keeps only enough stock for farming and domestic purposes, and finds grain raising very profitable. For the past fourteen years he has owned and operated a threshing outfit, and threshes all over this part of the country, deriving a nice income from this source. He is enthusiastic regarding wheat raising, and thinks that winter wheat, if properly planted and taken care of, will make any man money. He came to his present farm in 1892, having purchased it six years previously, at that time the land being mostly wild, and he has broken it all up and now has it in a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Doe has never married.

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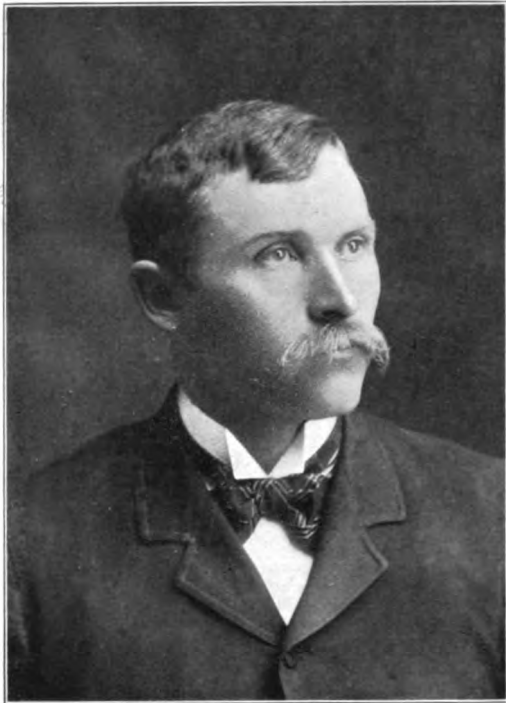
#### JOHN M. SAMUELSON.

John M. Samuelson, who lives on section 16, township 15, range 40, in Keith county, Nebraska, occupies an enviable position among the old timers and successful ranchers of the county. He was born in the province of Smolan, Sweden, June 23, 1853, his father being a mechanic and carpenter. Our subject grew up in his native land, where at an early age, he learned the cabinet maker's trade, which business he followed in various parts of Sweden and Norway. He in the prosecution of his craft and was for some years connected with the government work of the two countries named, going at one time as far as Trondjam, Norway.

In 1887, with his wife and five children, he came to America, sailing from Gottenburg for Hull, England, on the 14th of July; four days later he embarked at Liverpool in the Arabic and after a voyage of thirteen days, landed in New York the last day of July. Thence he came west to Nebraska, reaching Ogallala, August 5th, where he joined a brother and followed cabinet making for two years. During 1890 and 1891 he lived in the city of Denver, Colorado, plying his trade, after which he returned to Keith county, settling on a farm two and one-half miles northwest of Ogallala, where he entered a homestead on section 26, township 14, range 39. Here he put up good buildings and thoroughly improved the homestead, living there un-







MR. AND MRS. FRED GUILDNER,  
(From photos taken when they were married.)

til 1897, when he proved up on the homestead and came to his present farm in section 16, township 15, range 40. He has a splendid ranch of two hundred and sixty acres of fine land, all of which is irrigable; it is thoroughly improved with good house, barns, sheds, granary, corn-crib, two wells and wind mills and a nice grove of forest trees. He has taken special pains in growing a fine orchard of apple, cherry and peach trees. He also has some wild plum trees and an abundance of small fruit. His farm is one of the best in Keith county.

Mr. Samuelson was married in Sweden, in March, 1875, to Miss Anna Johnson, who was also a native of the province of Smolan, in that country. Mr. and Mrs. Samuelson have had six children: Matilda, wife of Clarence Mahafy, ranching near Ogallala; Charles J., who is mentioned below; Francis Oscar, engaged in farming four miles northeast of Ogallala; Theodore, a blacksmith in the county seat; Martin, a teacher at Dodge, Nebraska, and Gustave, who still resides with the old folks at home.

Mr. Samuelson had but little of this world's goods to start on when he landed in Keith county, having but \$60 in money and being burdened with debts amounting to ninety dollars. But he was full of grit and determination to win and he has made a fine success of life. He has occupied a prominent place in the affairs of his community and is known everywhere as an upright and progressive citizen. He is a Republican in political affiliations and a member of the Lutheran church.

Charles J. Samuelson, son of our subject, is farming for himself on five hundred acres of his own land and has proven to be a successful farmer. Charles J. has a finely improved farm, on which he has good buildings, an orchard of splendid trees and all necessary improvements. He settled on his land in 1903 and his industry and good management have, in four years, established him on the road to wealth and prosperity.

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#### JOHN BERNEY.

John Berney, county judge of Wheeler county, Nebraska, is one of the foremost men of his section. He was elected to his present office on the Republican ticket in 1905, and re-elected in 1907 to same office, and is now serving his second term.

Mr. Berney is a native of Sheffield, Illinois, born in 1871. His father, James B., was born in 1842, in Scotland, at the age of four years coming to the United States with his parents, who settled in New York state. Our subject's

mother was Mary Henderson, born in New York state, of Irish descent, and she was the mother of nine children, John being the eldest of the brood. Both parents are still living and own a ranch of eight hundred acres in Wheeler county. When our subject was a young man of eighteen years he left Illinois and came west, settling in Platte county, Nebraska, where he bought a small farm. After operating that place for several years he sold out and moved to Boone county, where he worked at the printer's trade and remained there up to 1904. He next came to this county and established the Wheeler County Independent, at Bartlett, the county seat, the only county newspaper published in Wheeler county, Nebraska. In 1905 Mr. Berney was elected to his present position, and he is one of the most popular public officials the county has ever had, able and efficient in every respect.

Mr. Berney is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is active in every movement introduced for the improvement of his locality. He is familiar with every part of his county, well liked and a man of sterling character and honesty of purpose. He is enthusiastic regarding the possibilities of this section and thinks the opportunities for the average man are better here than in the eastern states, also considers western Nebraska superior to any other part of the state as an agricultural section, on account of the healthful climate, good water supply, etc. Mr. Berney has never married.

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#### FRED GUILDNER.

Fred Guildner, a prominent farmer of Liberty precinct, resides on his well-improved farm of eight hundred acres, and conducts the same in accordance with modern methods and scientific principles. He is one of the old settlers of western Nebraska, and has done his full share in the building up of his locality, incidentally accumulating for himself a fine estate and valuable property in Perkins county.

Mr. Guildner was born in the town of Erford, Germany, in 1860. When he was a small boy his father died, and the mother came to America with her family when he was seven years of age and for a time they lived in New York City, then emigrated to Wisconsin where our subject was raised and educated. As a young man he spent considerable time in the lumber business in Wisconsin, working in the lumber regions near Lake Superior. In 1881 he came to Nebraska, settling in Hamilton county, and lived there for four years. There he began in the well business and followed it up to 1885, then came to Perkins

county. Ogallala was his nearest railroad town. He took a pre-emption, proved up on that, and also had a timber claim which he filed on in 1884 but did not prove up on it until 1891. When he came into the country he drove through the vast country, where the settlers were few and far between. He at once built a sod house and went through the usual experiences of the pioneers in the far west. He had no water for domestic use, and was obliged to haul all his water and supplies from Ogallala, a distance of twenty-five miles.

Mr. Guildner had a hard time getting started, breaking up his land for crops, and in 1893-'94 had heavy losses due to drouths, etc. As the times grew better he was able to improve his place considerably, and in 1898 took his present homestead in section 23, township 10, range 38, and now has one of the finest ranches in the section. He farms about two hundred acres and has the rest in pasture and hayland for quite a large bunch of stock which he runs each year. He has good buildings of all kinds, having a fine story and a half house, fourteen by twenty-two and twelve by fourteen feet, which he moved from Grant, seven miles. This was one of the buildings sold in Grant during the hard times. Altogether he now has one of the pleasantest rural homes to be seen in the locality. Along with his farming Mr. Guildner has continued the well drilling business from the time he began in 1881 up to the spring of 1908. He has put down wells all over this and adjacent counties and also in Colorado and has done his share as an old settler in building up the country.

In 1892 Mr. Guildner was married to Miss Sarah Purinton, who is a daughter of Charles Purinton, one of the well known pioneers of Perkins county. Our subject has a family of seven children, namely: Harry, Lewis, Virgil, Percy, Marian, Charles and Gretchen, who form a most charming and interesting group. Mr. Guildner is a Populist in political views. He was elected township assessor in 1908, and has always taken an active interest in local affairs.

On another page we present portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Guildner from a photograph taken at about the time of their marriage.

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#### CHARLES H. EVANS.

Charles H. Evans, whose home is located in section 11, township 28, range 51, Box Butte county, Nebraska, is still in his early manhood, and his industry, economical habits and upright life are a credit to his race and blood. He was born on a farm in Michigan in 1876. His father,

Willard Evans, a prominent old settler of Box Butte county, and a sketch of whose life appears on another page of this volume, is a native of the state of New York.

When our subject was four years old, the family moved to Missouri, where they settled on a farm and remained in that state for seven years. In 1886 the family came to Box Butte county, Nebraska, and it was in this county, which Mr. Evans has made his home, that he grew into manhood. He received his education attending the county schools, and for two years was a student at the Chadron Academy. He assisted his father in making a comfortable home for the family in Box Butte county, and in 1900 he secured some land of his own. From time to time he secured adjoining tracts of land, until he now has four quarter sections of deeded land. His ranch is located near the Niobrara river, and is well fenced and cross fenced. He has a homestead of three quarters in sections 10 and 11, that he took in 1907. He has erected substantial buildings, has a barn thirty by sixty feet, and a fine dwelling. He has from two hundred and sixty to three hundred acres of land under cultivation, making the raising of small grain and potatoes a specialty. He also raises hogs, cattle and horses on a large scale.

Mr. Evans gives the closest attention to his work, and is becoming widely known as one of the progressive and up-to-date tillers of the soil in this county. His ranch is well handled, and he is proving himself a thoroughly alert and vigorous farmer, and a business man of much sagacity as well. The many warm friends that he has made wish him well, and predict for him a bright future.

Mr. Evans was married June 15, 1908, to Miss Carrie Grant, daughter of William and Mary Grant, of Whitewood, South Dakota. Her parents are natives of Kentucky.

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#### MATTHEW G. WALLS.

Matthew G. Walls is one of the enterprising business men of Springview.

He was born on a farm in Putnam county, Missouri, June 10, 1856. His father, Robert C. Walls, was born in Indiana, of parents who emigrated from Ireland, locating in Missouri, where our subject was reared. At the age of twenty-two he struck out farther west, going as far as Morton county, Kansas, and remained in this part of the country three years, being there during the time of the Indian massacre in western Kansas, experiencing some very exciting times. He then went to Lancaster county, Ne-

braska, and settled down to farming, remaining there until 1884, when he moved to Oklahoma about the time the "boomers" were moving off, and was among the men who saw Oklahoma before that territory had begun its development. He afterwards visited the Ozark mountains in Missouri, remaining there one summer before returning to Kansas, while for a year he engaged in mining at Pittsburg. In 1886 Mr. Walls first saw Keya Paha county, taking a homestead in section 10, township 32, range 21, where he built his first log cabin.

On June 20, 1878, he was married to Miss Effie Stalcup, whose father was an old settler in Kansas, of Swedish descent. They have one child, Inez, who is now Mrs. Lloyd Harris, of Ripple, Colorado.

After settling in Keya Paha county Mr. Walls spent his first years hauling posts, freighting, etc., and then went to farming, which he followed for the next fifteen years. During this time he experienced many hardships and privations, witnessing the drouth periods, through them losing two entire crops successively and others by hail, wind and storms. In 1902 our subject sold his farm and moved to Springview, there opening a restaurant and confectionery store, and is still engaged in this business, handling groceries, confections, ice cream, etc., and has a flourishing trade in this line.

Mr. Walls is counted one of the solid business men of Springview, takes an active interest in all affairs pertaining to town matters, and has always done his full share towards the development of the financial interests of the community where he has chosen his home. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

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#### J. W. NUNN.

J. W. Nunn, known throughout his community as an energetic and progressive farmer, has been a resident of Cheyenne county for the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Nunn was born in Lewis county, Missouri, January 1, 1864, and at the age of five years went with his parents to Saline county, that state. There were fourteen children in his father's family, and he was the ninth in order of birth, and has three brothers and two sisters still living. The father's death occurred on the home ranch September 21, 1907, and the mother died February 14, 1906. Both were highly respected old settlers of Cheyenne county, having passed through all the early Nebraska times, coming here in 1884, accompanied by our subject, they homesteading a piece of land which was afterwards sold.

Mr. Nunn now has his home ranch on section 28, township 19, range 51, owning a ranch of one thousand six hundred acres situated on Pumpkin Creek. He has a small part of it cultivated, but is engaged principally in the stock business, having at the present time one hundred and forty cattle. His place is well improved in every way, and he is a prosperous and successful citizen of his township.

Mr. Nunn was united in marriage on March 10, 1897, at Middle Creek, Cheyenne county, to Miss Grace Dugger, daughter of Wm. C. Dugger, a well-known and highly esteemed resident of that locality. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Nunn, named as follows: Alvin, Herbert (deceased), Esther, Henry and Francis, all bright and interesting youngsters, and the family have a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Nunn is treasurer of the telephone line of Bridgeport. He takes an active interest in local and school affairs, and is serving as moderator of District No. 106.

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#### ROBERT H. KOONTZ.

Among the residents of Cherry county, Nebraska, none is more highly respected and esteemed than the subject of this review, Robert H. Koontz.

Mr. Koontz was born in Washington, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1861, and came to Council Bluffs when but two years of age. His father, also Robert H. Koontz, was by profession a lawyer, of German descent, and died suddenly just as the family were all ready to move to Iowa. His mother, who was Miss Mary A. Hunter, of Scotch-Irish descent, died in 1901; an only brother had passed away prior to this. Robert H. Koontz started out to make his own way at eighteen years of age, obtaining employment in hotels, and at anything he could find to do, and in March, 1885, came to Cherry county, locating six miles west of Merriman, remaining there until 1899, when he sold out. He had been very successful and made some money in farming and stock raising, but was obliged to give up all hard work on account of failing health. Our subject and Mr. A. Madder were the first white men to settle in this locality; together they passed through all the pioneer experiences with its very hard times, but overcame all difficulties and are now in comfortable circumstances and enjoy pleasant homes with hosts of friends and neighbors.

In 1887 Mr. Koontz contracted a nervous trouble brought on by helping to lift a cow which had been stuck in the quicksands. After

assisting at this work he was compelled to ride seven miles to his home in his wet garments and the next morning the disease started in his right foot and gradually affected his entire body, so that he is now almost an invalid. This affliction began twelve years ago, and although he has tried numerous doctors and all kinds of remedies has never been able to get any relief. He has the sympathy of every person in his locality in his affliction, and his neighbors and friends are always ready and willing to do everything in their power to assist him in every way possible. Since his illness he has moved to town and gone out of the stock business entirely.

Mr. Koontz was married in 1884 to Miss Minerva Veria, who died twenty years later, leaving no children. In 1906 he was married to Mrs. Carrie (Hunter) Brown, a native of Monroe county, Iowa, born in 1882. Her father, Frank Hunter, now living in Valentine, was of American stock, by trade an electrical and stationary engineer, and her mother was Louisa Allen, of Scotch descent. One son, Robert H. Koontz, third, has been born of the second marriage. In political faith, Mr. Koontz is a Republican, as were his father and grandfather before him.

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#### ALBERT R. KENNEDY.

Albert R. Kennedy, an old settler and prosperous ranchman of Sioux county, Nebraska, resides at Crawford, Dawes county, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the grocery and meat market business. He is well known throughout the county, and has the esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Kennedy was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1857. His mother's people were English. When he was about three years of age the family came to the United States, locating in eastern Iowa where he was reared and educated, attending the common schools and putting in his spare time in farming. After he reached the age of twenty-one he begun farming in Cedar county and followed this up to 1884, then established himself in business at Greenfield, Iowa. In 1888 he came to Nebraska, settling on a homestead in Sioux county. He was the second settler in township 32, range 57, and went through all the hardships that fell to the lot of the pioneers of that section. He was obliged to haul water for ten miles to supply his family, they occupying a small frame shack twelve by sixteen. He steadily built up his farm and home, and added to it until he owned three hundred and twenty acres. In 1893 he moved to Crawford, and for a time was engaged in the

butcher business for others here. Later he started in business for himself, opening up a store in a room twelve by twenty-four, with a stock of groceries. He soon gained a wide patronage, and increased his trade to such an extent that he now occupies one of the finest store buildings, twenty-five by one hundred, in the town of Crawford, carrying a complete line of groceries, meats, confectionery, etc. He is a thoroughly up-to-date business man and has met with marked success.

Mr. Kennedy was married September 6, 1880, at Springdale, Iowa, to Miss Sarah A. Schooley. They have a family of six children, named as follows: Carroll, Nannah, Earl, Clara, Virgil and Avis.

Mr. Kennedy still owns his homestead ranch on which he runs a large bunch of cattle, and his children also own considerable land in the vicinity of his farm. Mr. Kennedy was the man who put down the first well in the township he settled in. He has been a member of the city council for one term, and takes a commendable interest in all local affairs.

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#### JOHN M. LARSON.

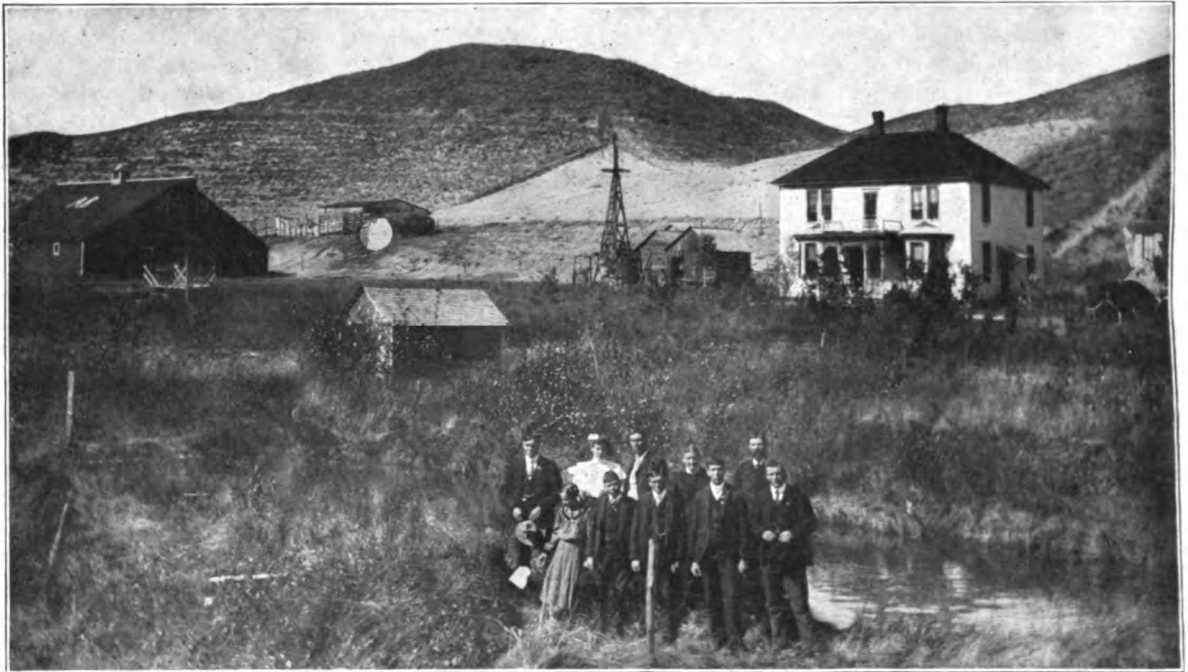
The gentleman above named resides on section 13, northeast, Sheridan township, and is one of the prosperous farmers of that region. He is a native of Sweden, and came to this country when a boy of fifteen. He landed in New York in 1852, and went to Andover, Illinois, where he settled on a farm, and farmed in Henry county, Illinois, for many years, having a farm of one hundred and sixty acres there.

In 1861, on September 1st, he enlisted in the Forty-third Illinois Infantry, Company C, and served for three years and twenty-six days, receiving an honorable discharge on December 26th, at Little Rock, Arkansas. He saw all phases of a soldier's life, and had participated in many battles and skirmishes, being at Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson, Pittsburg Landing, at Corinth, Iuka, Jackson and Vicksburg during all of the siege. Later was under Major General Steele through Arkansas and Louisiana; at Texas, Duvall Bluff, Brownsville, following the rebels all the time, and fighting every day. At the battle of Pittsburg Landing he was shot in the neck.

After the war he returned to Illinois and farmed up to 1884, then came to Nebraska locating in this county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land from the railway company, paying three dollars and a half per acre. He built up his farm and improved his







RANCH SCENE—ALEX BURR AND FAMILY.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

property in 1883 putting up a fine story and a half frame house and large barn later. His farm is in first-class shape, and he raises good crops, running quite a good deal of stock all the time.

Mr. Larson was married to Miss Lena Peterson, born in Sweden. She came to America in 1868. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born the following children: Albert, living at Holdrege, engaged in the automobile business; William, a farmer, living at home; Gilbert, who operates a corn shelling and threshing machine; one daughter, Mrs. Phoebe Nye, of Rawhide, Nevada; and Amos at home.

Mr. Larson is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Holdrege, and one of the popular citizens of his community. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### ALEXANDER BURR.

Alexander Burr, known throughout Cherry county as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy, is a resident of section 26, township 28, range 36, where he owns and operates an extensive ranch. He has been identified with the up-building of that locality for many years, and while acquiring his valuable estate has also gained for himself an enviable reputation.

Mr. Burr is a native of Canada, born in Ontario, in 1846. He is of Scotch descent, both parents having been born and reared in Scotland, his mother's name being Isabella Gerry, and his father, also named Alexander, a farmer by occupation. Our subject grew up in Canada where he saw plenty of hard farm work, remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age, then started out for himself, following farm work. He came to the United States in 1870, locating in Detroit, Michigan, and from there went to Kansas, where he was among the earliest settlers. Much of his time was spent in working on the railroad in that part of the country, and he remained there up to 1888, during that time making two visits back to his boyhood home in Canada. He farmed in Kansas part of the time, going through many crop failures caused by dry weather and suffering from the pest known as "grasshopper periods" which were frequent in the west in the early years.

In 1887 Mr. Burr came to western Nebraska, driving from Kansas with a team, camping out along the way. The trip took eighteen days, and he and his family experienced many difficulties and suffered from exposure during the journey, but the people of those days knew how to brave many hardships without murmuring, and they finally reached their destination, locating in Box Butte county, about eighteen miles west of

where Alliance now stands, and their nearest railroad station was Hay Springs, Sheridan county. Their first buildings were of sod, and our subject went to work to raise crops, improving the place in Box Butte county and lived on it for seven years. He was elected county commissioner of that county and served for one term, and also held the office of assessor for three years, doing his full share in the affairs of his community, and was one of the leading pioneers of that locality. He farmed a little, but was engaged principally in stock raising, and did fairly well.

Mr. Burr first came to Cherry county in 1894, locating on section 25, township 28, range 36, twenty-eight miles north of the town of Whitman, Grant county, remained there for several years, building up a good ranch, then moved to his present location in section 26, settling here in 1901. He is now owner of a good ranch, has it fitted up with good buildings and improvements, and has a splendid system of overflowing wells, which makes the place one of the most valuable in the locality. He has plenty of hay land and range for his stock, and has planted many trees, having a fine grove, and also many fruit trees, small fruits, and good garden. He has all of his children well provided for on good ranches, and has stocked them up with one hundred head of cattle each, giving them a good start as they commence life for themselves.

Mr. Burr was married in Kansas in 1872 to Miss Adelia Armsbury, whose parents were pioneers there, coming from the New England states. Mrs. Burr died the 20th of August, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Burr were the parents of the following children: Alex C., Elmer L., James N., Frank G., Lewis, John H., and Isabella. Pullman postoffice was established about 1887, and for the past four years the postoffice has been located on Mr. Burr's ranch, and he is postmaster also.

In local affairs our subject has always taken an active part, and has held many public offices, being elected county commissioner of Cherry county, serving for one term, also was assessor for three years. He is a staunch Bryan Democrat, and stands firmly for his convictions. A picture of a ranch scene on Mr. Burr's property will be found on another page.

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#### JESSE P. GRIFFITH.

Jesse P. Griffith, a prosperous and much respected farmer of Perkins county, deserves the abundant success that has come to him as the reward of industry, economy and thrift. He was born April 14, 1839, in Clay county, Illi-

nois, on a farm. The family were Kentuckians, both parents born and reared in Newcastle, settling in Illinois as pioneers, where Jesse grew to manhood. In 1861 he enlisted in the Twelfth Illinois Infantry, and later served in the Thirteenth Illinois Infantry, and served in the army. In 1867 he went to Missouri, and there was married to Isadore (Stearns) Carder, daughter of Williams and Margaret Larimore Stearns, both of the state of Virginia. Our subject and his wife settled on a farm in Missouri, lived there for several years, then went to South Dakota. After some years there Mr. Griffith came to Nebraska, settling in Thayer county in 1886, and lived for one year, then moved to what is now Perkins county. He secured employment on the construction of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway, then being put through the section, and took up a homestead, settling on section 27, township 10, range 39, on May 10, 1887. The first summer the family lived in a tent, then put up a sod house in which they spent several years. Then came on the drouth years and while he met with some losses, did fairly well, and was able to get along comfortably. He was always able to raise a good corn crop, and gradually succeeded in building up his place, putting up better buildings, and getting considerable land under cultivation. He now has a good farm of four hundred and eighty acres, and has eighty of this devoted to diversified farming, also runs considerable stock.

There are nine children in our subject's family, named as follows: John, Eliza, Justin, Samuel, Whistler, Lovie and Katherine, and two sons of Mrs. Griffith by a former marriage: James Carder and Joseph Carder.

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#### ISAAH FOWLER.

Isaiah Fowler, an honored veteran of the civil war, and a highly esteemed citizen of Ainsworth, Brown county, Nebraska, was born on a farm in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1834, and during the course of a long and active life has demonstrated the possession in a marked degree of those high qualities and upright motives that make the good American. He is familiar with the experiences of life on the frontier, and knows the privations that go along with pioneering; and he has also enjoyed helping in the development of both Iowa and Nebraska into prosperous and orderly communities. Now as his years advance he has the confidence and respect of all who know him; his years, character and patriotic service demand no less.

Garret Fowler, the father of Isaiah, was a native American, and followed farming all his life in Ohio. His wife was also of American lineage, so that in the veins of our Ainsworth Fowler flow currents of patriotic power that have spoken on many a field of struggle for the higher and better life of the land.

Isaiah Fowler was the sixth in a family of ten or eleven children that blessed the marriage bond of his parents, and was reared on the Ohio farm to a life of hard work, and early taught to help and bear his full share of the common burden. He attended union schools, though the family means were limited, and he had to do with but little school training. He was married in his native state in 1859 to Miss Marian McClintoc, her father being a native of Ireland, and her mother of Germany. She became the mother of five children, three of whom are living: George and Walter, who are now pursuing the occupation of farming, and Adaline, who is living at home, comforting the declining years of her aged parents.

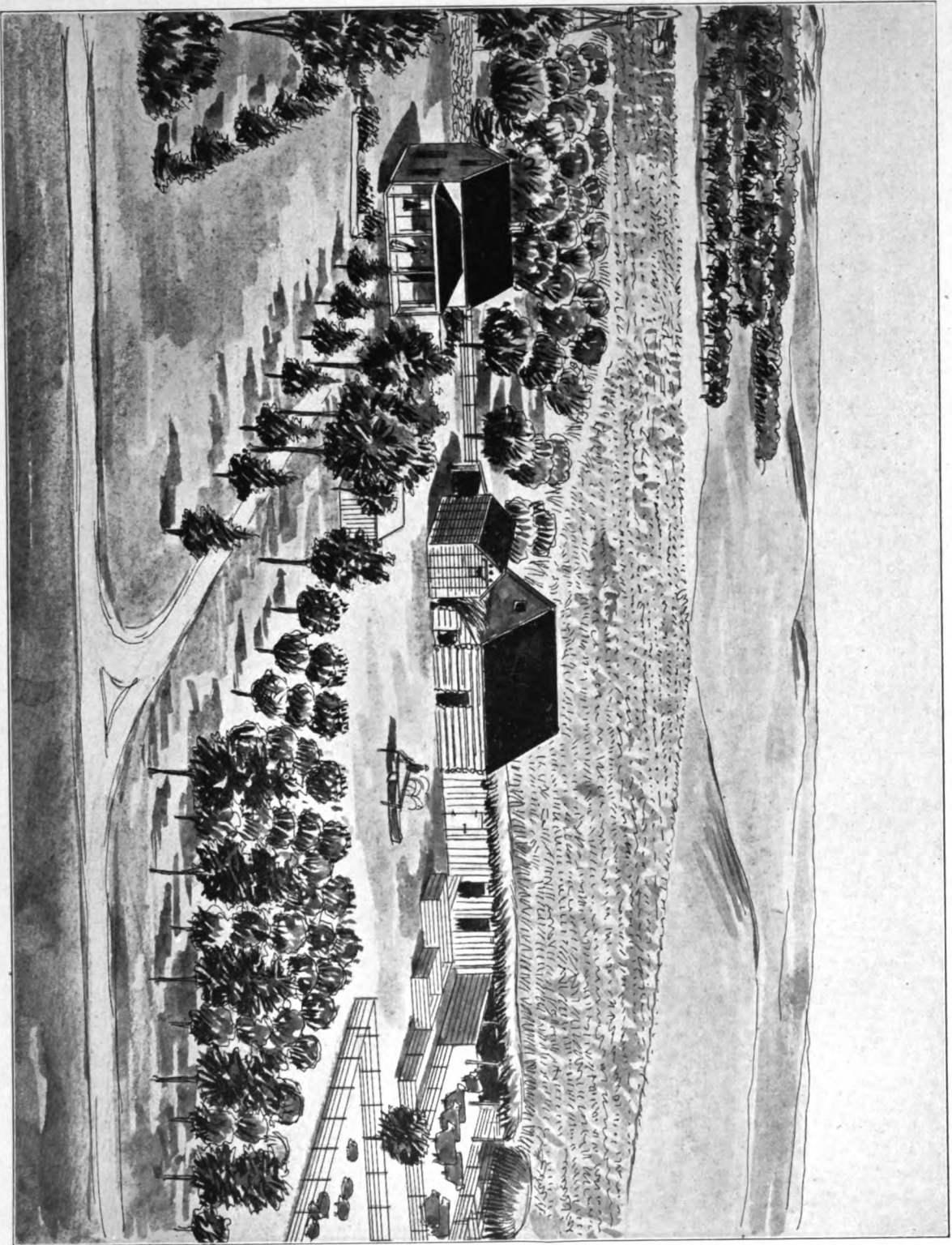
When our subject became of age, he left home to engage in life for himself, and in 1862 enlisted in the Federal army, becoming a member of Company F, Ninety-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a command that saw much active and hard service in Kentucky, Tennessee, and in contiguous territory for three long years.

After being mustered out in 1865, Mr. Fowler spent a little time in his old home community, but in the fall of the same year journeyed west to Jasper county, Iowa, where he secured a farm, and for eighteen years was actively engaged in its cultivation. In 1883 he moved still farther to the westward, and became a resident of Brown county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead, and built up a very fine farm, winning for himself a most creditable standing as a citizen, a farmer and a man. In 1899 he sold out his real estate and buying in Ainsworth, has established a home there where he is enjoying that well earned ease and comfort that should properly attend the closing of a most honorable and industrious career. He is a member of the Congregational church and in political faith a Republican.

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#### ABRAHAM PENSE.

Abraham Pense, long and prominently known to the residents of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, as one of the worthy citizens and leading public spirited men of this region, resides on his well-improved farm in section 24, township 34, range 22. Mr. Pense was born in Page



RESIDENCE OF ABRAHAM PENSE,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.





county, Virginia, November 27, 1832. His father, Peter Pense, was a farmer by occupation, of German descent, and died when our subject was a lad of ten years. His mother, whose maiden name was Sophia Aleshire, was born, married and lived her entire life in Page county, dying there about 1896. She was the mother of fourteen children, Abraham being one of a pair of twins; he was reared and educated in his native county on a farm, and put in many days of hard work there while still a mere boy. He hoed corn many days when a child, receiving for this work six and seven cents per day.

In 1857 Mr. Pense came west, locating in Cedar county, Iowa, where he started a farm and also worked out by the day and month, to make a living. He went into horticulture, working for Hammond & Humphrey, nurserymen, where he learned grafting and horticulture to quite an extent, and followed this for some time. August 7, 1862 he enlisted at Tipton, Illinois, in Company B, Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and saw service along the Mississippi river at Vicksburg and other places. Owing to impaired health because of fever and ague he was on detached service nearly all of the time, guarding the Indian prisoners at Davenport, Iowa, up to the close of the war.

Mr. Pense had five brothers serving in the confederate army, four of whom were killed, or died of exposure incident to camp life. After the war our subject returned to Iowa, again engaging in horticulture, remaining there up to 1887, when he sold his property there, which consisted of an eighty-acre farm near Roland, in Story county, purchased in 1875. He then came to Nebraska, settling on his present homestead in Keya Paha county, May 17, 1884, where he built a log house, in which he still lives, having covered it with weather-boarding. He went through the usual experiences of the pioneers of this region, losing his cattle, five of which died the first spring. He had a hard time to get started, and suffered heavy losses from drouths, storms, and other causes, and often became heartily discouraged, but stuck to it, and now owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, eighty of which are cultivated and the balance in hay and pasture. He has a fine orchard containing all kinds of fruits, and his farm is one of the best-kept in his locality.

Mr. Pense was married in Iowa, August 15, 1862, eight days after he enlisted in the army, to Miss Sarah Eliza Humphrey, who was born in Tipton, Cedar county, Iowa. Her father, Aaron Humphrey, was a preacher there, and a native of Connecticut. It required courage for a bride of a week to see her young husband march away to battle and possible death.

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Mrs. Pense was a woman of much intelligence and good education, having taken a course at the State University, located at Iowa City. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Pense, named as follows: Ernest E., married and living near Bonesteel, South Dakota, father of six children; Ada, deceased; Severn A., also married and living in South Dakota, father of three children; Etta V., married to Joseph S. Bingham, and mother of six children, residing in Keya Paha county; Lenna, married to William Hastings, also living near her old home with one child; George W., residing with his family near Mullen postoffice, South Dakota; Joy, a teacher in the county schools; and Mary and Lillie E., both dead.

Mr. Pense is a Populist, and is active in all local affairs. He has held office at different times, and also served on the school board. The first school organized in this vicinity was held in his house during the first two or three terms. Mr. Pense was reared in the German Baptist church and was at one time a member of the Odd Fellows and Good Templars; the latter organization he joined while in the army to avoid being urged to spend his time and money in drink. A view of his residence, orchards and groves, is to be found on another page.

#### JULIAN E. PHINNEY, M. D.

The medical profession of Sioux county has no more able representative than Dr. Julian E. Phinney, who has spent nearly all his life in the state of Nebraska, coming here with his parents when a child of five years of age.

Dr. Phinney was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, in 1860, on the farm of his father, Calvin E. Phinney. The latter was a native of Ohio; and he married Catherine Olp, of Pennsylvania, of German blood. The father died in 1873; the mother is still living at Utica, Nebraska, aged seventy-three years. The family came west and settled in Utica, Nebraska, in 1865, and were among the pioneers of that region. There our subject was raised and received his early education attending the common schools, and when a young man of twenty-six entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, graduating from that institution as a physician in 1889. Our subject's father served about five years in the civil war, acting as a scout a good part of the time.

After his graduation, our subject immediately begun the practice of his profession, establishing an office at Utica, and remained there for three years, building up a good practice. In 1893 he removed to Harrison, and has extended

his patronage by his skilful labors as a physician and surgeon, throughout the whole county. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality, honest and sincere in word and deed, and has gained the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen, professionally and socially. His practice extends a distance of thirty miles from Harrison, and often he has been compelled to go into Wyoming to attend some patient who desired his services.

Dr. Phinney was united in marriage December 24, 1889, at Utica, Nebraska, to Miss Minnie Learned, of Utica, Nebraska. To them have been born the following children: Ernest J., Frank, Brownlee, Pearl and Ruby. Dr. Phinney and his son Ernest are joint owners of a large ranch in South Dakota, on which they keep a large number of horses and cattle. Our subject has devoted his entire attention to his professional duties, and his success is well merited.

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#### JOHN E. LAMB, SR.

For over a quarter of a century John E. Lamb has resided in Nebraska, and has become well-known all over Rock county as a prosperous and progressive agriculturist. He was among the first to settle in this section and has watched the growth and development of this region from its early organization.

Mr. Lamb was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in 1849. His father, Curtis Lamb, was a farmer, of American parentage, born in the eastern states, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Nancy Pycan. In 1850 the former started for California, spending the winter at Council Bluffs and in Woodbury county, Iowa, where he was a pioneer settler. He built the third house in Sioux City, and this is still standing, a rude log hut, twenty-eight miles from the city. He was born in Indiana in 1818, and is still living. He has always been a strong Republican, and in his younger days was a prominent politician. There were twelve children in the family, of whom our subject is the fourth member. He was raised and educated in Woodbury county, Iowa, on his father's farm, where he was early taught to do all kinds of hard labor. At the age of twenty years he struck out for himself. He spent two years in Kansas, then returned to Iowa, settling in Linn county. He remained there for several years, and in 1879 came to Nebraska, settling in Knox county, where he took a homestead and lived for six years, proving up and building his farm and home up. He put up his first dwelling, which was a dugout, and the only light which entered the place came through half a window which he

built in the side of the hut. He started in with a team and wagon, and twenty-six dollars in money. He was very successful on that place, and got a good start through his energy and perseverance, then came to Rock county in 1886, taking up a tree claim in southeast section 34, township 32, range 18. This was entirely unimproved and he at once set out to build up a home. His first work was to build a house sixteen by twenty. He continued to improve the place, getting it partly under cultivation, and raised good crops on it. He never experienced any of the hardships and losses through the dry years that fell to the lot of so many of the old settlers, and altogether has been extremely fortunate in every venture since coming here. Prior to locating here he had made a trip to the Black Hills by team. He went through the hills, then through South Dakota, coming back through Nebraska along the Niobrara river. This was in the seventies, and before there were any settlers in this section, and not a railroad within many miles of this region. His farm now contains six hundred and forty acres of fine land, and he is engaged in stock raising and mixed farming. He has a splendid bearing orchard on his place which supplies the family with all kinds of delicious fruit, and has also many fine forest trees all over his farm.

Mr. Lamb was married at the age of twenty, while living in Iowa, to Miss Elizabeth A. Wright. They have a family of five boys, named as follows: John E., Jr., Curtis M., E. Dewitt, Warren D., and Willie E. They have a pleasant and comfortable home, and all of our subject's time is spent in improving this and surrounding himself and family with all the comforts of a rural home. He is an Independent voter.

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#### GEORGE C. FISCHER.

George C. Fischer, who, as a land owner of Cheyenne county, has done his share toward the development of the agricultural resources of that region, is a widely known and universally respected citizen. He is a man of wide experience, and his good business judgment and integrity have placed him among the prosperous men of his precinct.

Mr. Fisher was born in Switzerland on April 24, 1845, and in that year his parents emigrated to America with the family, sailing from Havre to New Orleans, then went by river to Nashville, Tennessee, thence by wagon to Morgan county, Tennessee, where they lived until he was fifteen years of age. At that time they



moved to Nashville, living there three years. Prior to their migration to Highland, Madison county, Illinois, where they lived for many years. In 1884 our subject came to Nebraska, taking up a homestead in section 12, township 12, range 50, and settled permanently on the land the following year, where he has lived constantly ever since. This was raw prairie, but he at once began improving and developing, and has made it one of the valuable estates in the locality, putting up good buildings and improvements of all kinds. He now owns about three hundred and twenty acres of good land, farming one hundred acres, and using the balance as hay and pasture land for his stock, of which he has a large number. He has at different times during the early years in this region met with losses, and had a hard time to get along, but has worked hard and faithfully, and is now recognized as one of the progressive and substantial farmers and ranchmen of his county, prospering through good management and strict attention to the details of his farming, and enjoys a comfortable rural home. Mr. Fischer was married in Madison county, Illinois, on the 30th of December, 1869, to Bertha Bossart, who is now the mother of seven living children; one daughter, Mary, died August 31, 1897. They are named as follows: John Henry, Bertha, Lena, Edward, Eliza, Rosa and Amelia. Lena is now the wife of Edward Collins, and Rose married Elmer Bowman, both living in Cheyenne county, while Eliza married Will Young, at present residing near Crook, Colorado. John H. Fischer, the eldest, born January 13, 1873, is living at home, assisting his father in carrying on the home farm.

Mr. Fischer is a respected citizen of his township; in political sentiment he adheres to the Republican party.

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#### THOMAS QUINN.

Thomas Quinn, occupying a leading position in Hooker county, is one of the old timers there who has played an important part in its development and growth. He resides on his well-kept and valuable estate.

Mr. Quinn is a native born Nebraskan, and was the first baby boy born in McPherson county, June 17, 1884, being born in a wagon. His father, John B. Quinn, was an old settler in that locality, coming there in 1883, he having been born and reared in Ireland. He married Margaret Elliott, also a native of Ireland, in Iowa, in 1882, then struck out for Nebraska to build a home for themselves, traveling by team to their new location. They raised a family of three children: William J., Anna M., and our subject,

Thomas. Their first location after coming to Nebraska was on a homestead in sections 1 and 2, township 20, range 35, McPherson county, and there for three years, Mrs. J. B. Quinn never saw a woman. He worked hard on the home farm, having erected sod buildings, and on December 17, 1899, the father departed this life, leaving to his widow and their children a good ranch and an untarnished reputation as a worthy public-spirited citizen. He had served as county commissioner for three or four terms in McPherson county. The nearest trading point to the ranch for four years was North Platte, a distance of seventy miles. They were extensively engaged in stock raising, the sons assisting their father in this work up to the time of his death, when Thomas took full charge of the ranch, also filed on a homestead of his own in section 35, township 21, range 35, and has improved the place in fine shape.

Our subject's mother is the owner of a ranch comprising fourteen quarter sections, and besides this she and the children own three Kincaid homesteads, making one of the largest and most valuable estates in the county, and indeed, in that part of the state. On the ranch there are from eight hundred to one thousand tons of hay cut each year, furnishing support for over eight hundred head of cattle.

In 1906 Mr. Thomas Quinn was married to Mabel Sanders, daughter of W. T. Burnham, (Sanders being her step-father's name). She taught school in Hooker county for some time prior to her marriage, and is a lady of good education and charming personality. Our subject has one child, Myra Josephine, now a baby of two years.

While Mr. Quinn takes a commendable interest in public affairs locally, he devotes the larger part of his time to his family and home. His ranch is beautifully situated in the vicinity of Cody Lake, and the old Colonel Wm. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) ranch is comprised in his property.

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#### JOHN R. LEE.

Among the leading old settlers in western Nebraska who has always done his full share in the development of the locality where he chose his home, and who has spent much of his fortune in aiding the public good, we mention the name of John R. Lee, now a resident of section 32, township 27, range 28, Cherry county. Mr. Lee has held many local offices since coming here, was the first postmaster of Brownlee and the first school director, justice of the peace, notary public and road overseer, and has always been

held in the highest esteem as a good citizen and accommodating neighbor, and is one of the most popular men of his locality today.

Mr. Lee was born in Ireland, in the town of Monaghan, in 1838. His father, Thomas, was of English blood, a farmer by occupation, who married Ann Martin, of Scotch-Irish descent, they coming to America with their family in 1849. As a small boy our subject attended school in Ireland, and after arriving in the United States he finished his education in the common schools, his parents settling in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania. They lived there up to 1854, then came to Wisconsin where they spent three years, and next to eastern Nebraska. Soon after landing here John begun work as a freighter, and during the early days here hunted all over the state, shooting buffalo on the plains in the western part of Nebraska, and also worked as an Indian trader for three years, much of his time being spent with the redskins in their camps, and he learned to speak their language as fluently as his own. He was always honest in his dealings with them, and they considered him a friend and was glad to have him come amongst them.

In 1877 Mr. Lee went into the Black Hills and did government work at Fort Laramie, for several years leading the typical frontier life, traveling all over the plains and for months at a time did not sleep in a house. He was an eye witness of several battles between the Pawnee and Sioux Indians, himself taking part in some of these engagements. He has traveled all over Wyoming and Colorado, and since those years has been all over the United States, engaged in different enterprises, and is a man of most interesting personality, well-read and intelligent, with whom it is a privilege and pleasure to converse, as he relates some of the most wonderful tales of life in the west during its early settlement.

Mr. Lee finally returned to Nebraska, settling in Saunders county at Wahoo, which town he named, and was the first white man to build a house there. He opened a store and blacksmith shop, and kept the first postoffice at the place, making it his home for about six years, and during that time was instrumental in having the county seat removed to Wahoo. In 1886 he came to Cherry county, landing here in July of that year, his first location being northeast of Brownlee, where he lived for about a year, then moved into the town. He was the organizer of the town of Brownlee, naming the place after a Mr. Brown who was the first man to file on the land where the town was started, and himself, making the two names (Brown and Lee) into one. He established a general store there and continued in the business for eight years, also was postmaster of Brownlee. About this time

he brought a large bunch of cattle in the county and started in the ranching business, still making his home in the town with his family for about fifteen years, then moved to his present ranch on North Loup river. Here he is owner of nearly seven thousand acres, which is one of the most extensive ranches in Cherry county, nearly all of it good hay land, and stocked with a large herd of cattle and horses.

While living at Wahoo Mr. Lee was united in marriage to Miss Mary D. Olson, born in Denmark. They have a family of six children, all filling honorable positions in the world, named as follows: Robert S., William M., Charles J., Mary Alice, Henry H., and Roy. Of late years Mr. Lee has given the active management of the ranch over to his sons, who are all good ranch men and capable business men.

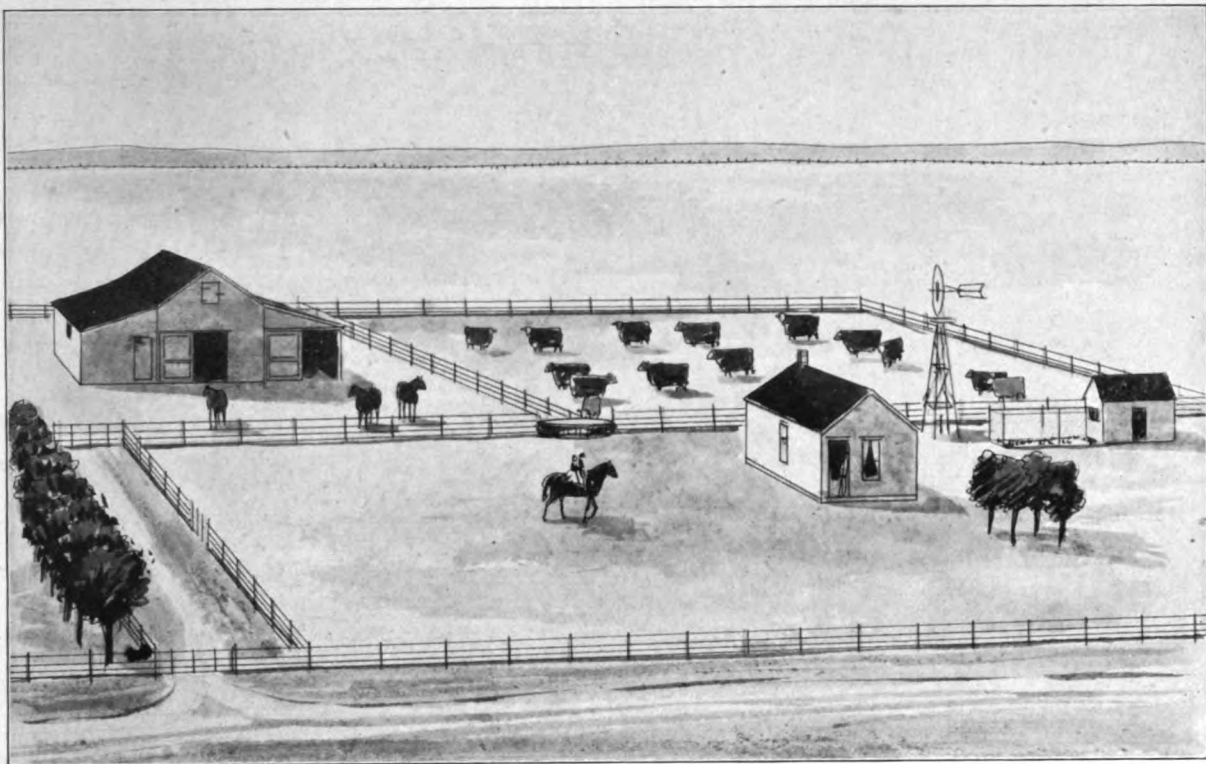
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#### WILLIAM S. BACON.

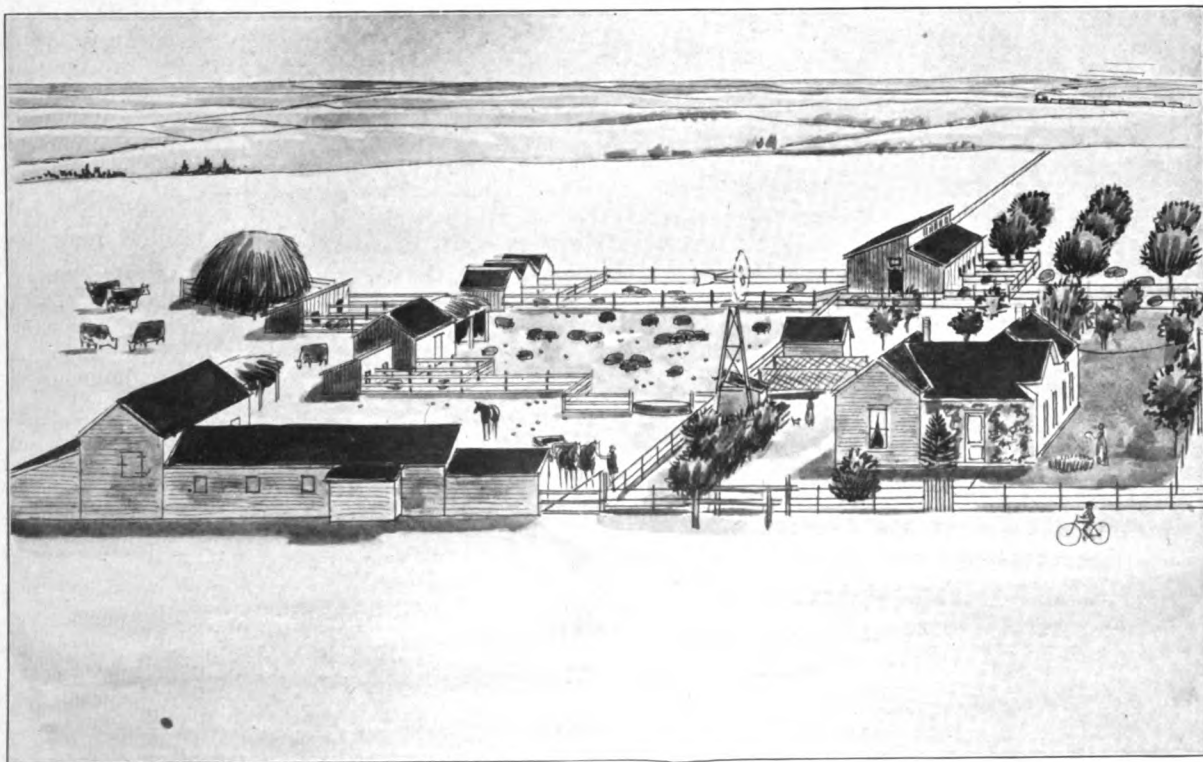
William S. Bacon, among the early settlers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, has a well improved farm on section 8, township 34, range 24, Norden precinct, and is well known as an industrious and energetic man, highly respected and esteemed in his community.

Mr. Bacon was born in Sheffield, England, December 18, 1849. His father, William Bacon, came to this country in 1856 with his wife and child. The father was a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church, and his wife prior to her marriage was Miss Susanna Wamsley, also of English birth. The family settled on the Monongahela river in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in the village of Rock Run, and there our subject was reared and educated until the age of twenty-one, at which time he started out for himself, working in the coal mines, following that work for twenty-one years. He did very well at the mining and accumulated quite a comfortable amount of property, then left Pennsylvania and came west, settling in Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1887. There he bought a farm and lived on it for two years, in 1889 moving to Keya Paha county, locating on a farm in section 4, township 34, range 24. He made many improvements, and succeeded in building up a good home and farm, and spent seventeen years on that place.

In 1906 Mr. Bacon took up his present farm as a homestead, the tract comprising three hundred and twenty acres, on which he is adding improvements all the time, and as it is beautifully situated, he will have one of the valuable estates in this section. A view of his dwelling, new barn and outbuildings is to be found on another page.



RESIDENCE OF W. S. BACON,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM CHESTER,  
Brown County, Nebraska.





Mr. Bacon was married in 1873, in Pennsylvania, to Miss Nancy J. Melki, and they have a family of five children, named as follows: Anna, wife of W. C. Jones, of Bruce, South Dakota; Oella, wife of Jacob Swim, of Keya Paha county; Pearl, who married Porter Billings, living near home; James, now at Bruce, South Dakota, and Linnie, wife of John Todd, of Homer, South Dakota.

Mr. Bacon is Republican in politics; he holds membership in the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men.

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FRANK SHAFFER.

The gentleman above named came to Harlan county, Nebraska, in 1873. In the spring of that year he built the first house on what is now the site of the town of Alma, and in April a town site company was organized with Mr. Shaffer as president, Judge A. N. Cook, Captain Murray, Mr. Richmond, Mr. VanNess, Jack Young and Peter Londeville on the committee. They laid out one hundred and sixty acres, and staked off forty acres, and to those who would build they presented a lot. During the following year a blacksmith shop was put up by Mr. Broadmore, and a store by Sappington & Moore. The town began to grow gradually, Mr. Guyer building a store in 1874, and he was appointed the first postmaster. In the same year the county was organized and Alma was made the county seat, a big fight being made over this. In 1883 the railroad was put through the town, the population then being about three hundred, and from that time on the place grew more rapidly. Mr. Shaffer was then in the livery, hotel and implement business. He built the largest hotel west of Hastings, called the Shaffer House, and was the only implement dealer in this county up to 1875. He had a large trade all over this section, selling an immense amount of machinery to the settlers who came to the state and engaged in farming, hauling goods from Beatrice, which is seventy-five miles east of Lowell and from Lowell fifty-five miles east. He continued in this business up to 1886, then sold his implement store to A. B. Laferty, and the latter was engaged in business here until 1908. Our subject sold his livery barn in 1888, and in the same year rented the hotel to J. B. Hamlon, and subsequently the place was destroyed by fire and a new hotel put up. In 1873 Mr. Shaffer killed a huge buffalo on the spot where the postoffice now stands. He bought farms all over this county, and owned

about twenty-two hundred acres at one time, devoting his entire time and attention to the farming and stock raising business. He raised, bought and shipped a great deal of stock. The Alma opera house was built and is now the property of our subject. He started the largest general store establishment in Alma in 1877, which was at that time the largest store in western Nebraska, operating it up to 1887. This was the Double Store, now owned and operated by his son-in-law, S. C. Gould, whose personal history appears on another page of this volume. Our subject now is engaged in farming west of Alma. The farm consists of one hundred and eighty acres of river bottom land and timber and fourteen acres of land in Alma, on which he resides. He is a successful breeder of Poland China pure bred hogs, and sells his stock at private sales. He also feeds from fifty to sixty head of cattle each winter. He breeds standard horses, and produces some fine animals. One month he sold five hundred and sixty-four dollars' worth of hogs, and is of the opinion that the hog business is much more profitable than cattle, as a man can turn hogs from three to four times per year, and this state is an ideal place in which to raise and fatten them cheaply and quickly.

Mr. Shaffer is a native of Pennsylvania. He is a son of Jacob Shaffer, a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, who settled in Iowa and owned a large tract of land, including the site where Waterloo now stands. Our subject lived in Butler county, Iowa, prior to coming to Nebraska, and there held the office of deputy sheriff, at Parkersburg, which town he laid out, and was engaged in the livery business, also running a hotel from 1886 to 1872. He enlisted at Waterloo in Company C, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, serving for three years and three months, and was appointed sergeant and elected first lieutenant, but was so young would not qualify. Four brothers who entered the service were all killed. Our subject was ordered east with his regiment, and was at the famous battle of Shiloh, at Pittsburg Landing, on the Red River expedition (after Banks's defeat), under General A. J. Smith, when eighty men in his regiment were killed at Pleasant Hill. He was at Vicksburg, and later in Alabama at the battle of Nashville, then in the Atlanta campaign. He was mustered out at Trenton, Iowa, in September, 1865.

Mr. Shaffer was married in 1872 to Miss Jennie Gutchus, daughter of Morris Gutchus, who at one time owned one hundred and sixty acres of the land on which the city of Chicago



now stands, selling it for seventeen hundred dollars, and later moved to Iowa. Mr. Shaffer has ten children, namely: Elmer, a farmer in Prairie Dog township, Harlan county; Ed, a farmer in Floyd, Iowa; John, residing in Alma; Charles, living at home with his parents; Alma, wife of S. C. Gould, a merchant at Alma; Mrs. Mary Yokeman, Butler, Marvin, Jennie and Ethol.

Mr. Shaffer was second commander of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Alma, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the latter for the past thirty-five years. Also an Ancient Order of United Workmen and yeoman and deputy yeoman of all Nebraska south of the Platte river. He is a Republican politically, but would never accept any office.

#### WILLIAM CHESTER.

Among the leading old timers in Brown county, Nebraska, Mr. Chester is given a first place. Mr. Chester is a native of Wisconsin; born in the village of Pewaukee, Waukesha county, December 2, 1858. He is a son of William Chester, an old settler in that region, and a mason by trade. There was a family of eight children, of whom our subject is youngest; he was raised in his native county, and from boyhood became accustomed to hard work, assisting his parents in the support of the family. He had little schooling, and is an entirely self-made man. Starting out for himself at the age of twenty-five years, he came to western Nebraska in company with his brother, Urial Chester (deceased), and took up a homestead in section 3, township 27, range 22, Brown county, on which he put up a sod house and farm buildings, in which he lived for fifteen years. They were extensively engaged in stock raising from the start, beginning with very small capital and gradually increasing their farm and holdings. He followed the life of a ranchman for twenty years, and had a well stocked, finely improved property at the end of that time, and was one of the prosperous men of the region. In 1904 he and his brother sold the ranch for a comfortable sum and retired to Long Pine. Here William Chester bought three hundred and eighty acres adjoining the village and engages extensively in raising hogs. The place is equipped with a comfortable house, numerous barns, hog houses and sheds and has a growing thrifty young orchard. A fine view of the premises is to be found on another page.

Mr. Chester was married in Long Pine, May 26, 1891, to Miss Lillie Wanker, a native of Clark county, Iowa. Her father, Ignatius Wanker, was

a farmer and old settler in Nebraska, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester have two children named Marcus and Lila.

In politics he is Republican and is a member of the clan of Royal Highlanders of Long Pine.

#### JOHN G. ANDERSON.

The gentleman here named has for the past thirty years resided at North Platte, where he is well known as a man of industry and a citizen of true worth. Mr. Anderson is connected with the Union Pacific Railway and is one of the genial and trusted employes of that company.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1852. He came to this country when a boy and located at Chicago, Illinois, where he began working as a railroad man in his young manhood. He was employed by the Northwestern road for six years, and afterwards by the Burlington, making his headquarters at Aurora, Illinois, from 1870 to 1874. In 1876 he came to Nebraska, locating at North Platte, Lincoln county, and associated himself with the Union Pacific in 1877, and three years later was made conductor on a freight train, holding that position for ten years, then was given the position of passenger conductor and continued at this ever since. He is now running on the Los Angeles Limited, and has a splendid record all through his career as a trainman. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Order of Railway Conductors and a prominent Mason in the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, also a Shriner at Omaha.

In 1880 Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Mary B. Rose, a native of Sweden, and they have one daughter, Bessie, wife of F. W. Placek.

Mr. Anderson is a fine specimen of the successful Swede, popular with his fellows, and held in the highest esteem as a citizen in his community and well known and liked throughout railway circles in this section of the country.

#### JOHN N. BRUER.

Among the prominent old settlers of Dawes county, John N. Bruer is accorded a foremost place. He has been a resident of Crawford for many years past and is well known and highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Bruer is a native of the state of Ohio, born at Toledo in 1861. His father, Jacob



Bruer, was born in Germany and followed the career of a sailor during his younger days, coming to America in about the year 1858. When our subject was a lad of twelve years he left home and started out to make his own way in the world. He went to Iowa, locating in Carroll county, and worked out on farms in that vicinity up to 1878, then went west to Colorado, obtaining employment on a railroad, which occupation he followed for a year. He next entered the government service, located at Fort Russell, Wyoming, remaining there for about a year. In 1880 he started in the ranching business in Nebraska, settling on the Niobrara river, in what is now Dawes county, and followed ranching up to 1890. He also took up a homestead and proved up on his land. He did well at the work, but went through some hard times and led rather a rough life, as did so many of the settlers here in those days. He spent many nights in camping out on the prairie, and when he located here there were only two ranches established between the Platte river and Pine Ridge agency. He came to Crawford in 1890 and started in business, still retaining his ranching interests and personally superintending the management of his property. Mr. Bruer is engaged in the real estate and saloon business.

Mr. Bruer was married in 1887 to Miss Minnie Rich, an estimable lady of German descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Bruer six children have been born, namely: Elinora, Flora, John H., Clara, Willie and Minnie. The family occupy a pleasant home and are well liked and popular throughout the community.

Mr. Bruer has always taken an active interest in all local affairs, and has done his share in the building up of his locality and the development of educational and commercial interests there. He is a Democrat in politics.

#### WILLIAM HALSTEAD.

As a citizen of integrity and true worth, and a man of industrious and energetic character, the gentleman above named is well known to the residents of Brown county, Nebraska. Mr. Halstead was born in Lynn county, Iowa, March 20, 1858, of American stock. His father, J. M. Halstead, is a carpenter by trade, and was a homesteader and early settler in Brown county, Nebraska, now residing at Cripple Creek, Colorado. The Halstead family was among the pioneer settlers who landed in America from the old country dur-

ing the early colonial days. Our subject was the eldest member in his father's family of five children, and was reared in Iowa on a farm, where he grew up accustomed to hard work during his boyhood years. At the age of eighteen he began railroading in his native state, and it was while he was engaged in this work that he had the misfortune to lose his right leg in an accident which occurred on the C., R. I. & P. Railway. This unfitted him for a railroad career, and he went to work in a brick yard, remaining for one year, and became an expert brick thrower. In 1880 he came west, locating in Dodge county, Nebraska, and the next four or five years were spent on a farm there; then he left that place and moved to the northwestern part of Brown county, taking up a homestead where he lived for eight years, at the same time proving up on a tree claim in the same locality. His first dwelling place was of the familiar dugout variety, and the second building he erected was a log house. Progress was slow at the start, as he had no capital to begin with, and the first years were spent hauling hay for ten miles over unbroken roads, through all sorts of weather, for an income. He also cut and hauled posts to help eke out a living for himself and family. During these years he never shaved, but allowed his whiskers to grow to considerable length, and many times during the severely cold weather he was obliged to thaw the ice off his face before he was able to eat his meals. However, he stuck to this place through all kinds of hard luck up to 1889, and then moved on his present homestead located in section 32, township 30, range 22. This property was improved with a log house and barn, and he at once began putting up fences and planting trees and making necessary improvements. His farm now comprises one hundred and sixty acres of land, one-half of which is in a high state of cultivation, and on this he raises fine crops. He rents other land, so that in all he has three hundred acres in operation, together with half a section of hay land.

Mr. Halstead was married in Avoca, Iowa, July 24, 1880, to Miss Mary Ella Plum, a native of the state of Illinois, born of American stock, her father being an old soldier and one of the pioneer settlers in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Halstead have a family of thirteen children, who are named as follows: Harp, Hazel, for three years a teacher in Brown county, now engaged in teaching in Montana; Hollis, Hal and Hugh (twins), Mary, Heath, Harold, Harry, Hope, William Harvey and Helen. All excepting the two eldest chil-



dren were born and reared in Brown county.

Mr. Halstead has telephone connection in his house and everything which goes to make up a pleasant and comfortable home. Much of his time is spent in literary work, and he is a writer of no mean ability. He is a Democrat politically, a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and with his wife has taken the degree of honor of that order.

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#### CONSTANT GUENIN.

The highly cultivated fields of Nebraska and well equipped ranch properties bear little semblance to the land as it was in the time of the pioneer settler, when he found it a vast wilderness or barren prairie, perhaps covered in parts with brush or submerged. None of it was in shape for cultivation, and yet many of those who went to that country under these unpromising conditions have remained to become the owners of some of the finest farms in the state. Deuel county was one of the most unseemly farming regions of the state, and it is now one of the most prosperous. Among those who have brought about this most pleasing condition is the gentleman above named, Constant Guenin, who has a pleasant and comfortable home in Sugh-rue precinct. Mr. Guenin has opened up and developed a fine estate, and is one of the well-known and highly esteemed citizens of his locality.

Our subject is a native of Switzerland, born April 6, 1867, and grew to the age of twenty-five years there, following the life of an agriculturist during his boyhood and as a young man. He landed in America in 1892, settling at first in Scott county, Kansas, where he spent one year, then came to Deuel county, and in September, 1893, filed on homestead rights, built a dwelling and proved up on his claim. He went through many hardships in getting his home started, meeting with discouragements and partial failure of crops during the first few years, but stuck bravely to his work and gradually improved the land, erecting good buildings, etc. His home ranch is now on section 20, township 15, range 43, and he is the owner of sixteen hundred acres, which he uses mostly as a stock ranch. He has about sixty acres under cultivation, and has a large bunch of stock, at present running two hundred cattle and a number of horses. His house is a comfortable one and he has started fine shade and fruit trees and has many improvements which make it an ideal rural home.

He has also a complete set of farm buildings and all necessary machinery and equipment for conducting a modern farm.

Mr. Guenin was married while still living in Switzerland to Miss Anna Guenin, the event occurring on January 10, 1891, and the young pair struck out for America to seek their fortune the following year. Mr. Guenin's father is dead, but his mother still lives in her native land, while both parents of Mrs. Guenin are dead. To our subject and his wife have been born the following children: Mark, born in April, 1892; George, born in March, 1896; Morris, born in February, 1899; Walter, born in November, 1900, and Helen, born in May, 1904, all living at home. Mr. Guenin is a wideawake citizen of his community and politically is identified with the Republican party.

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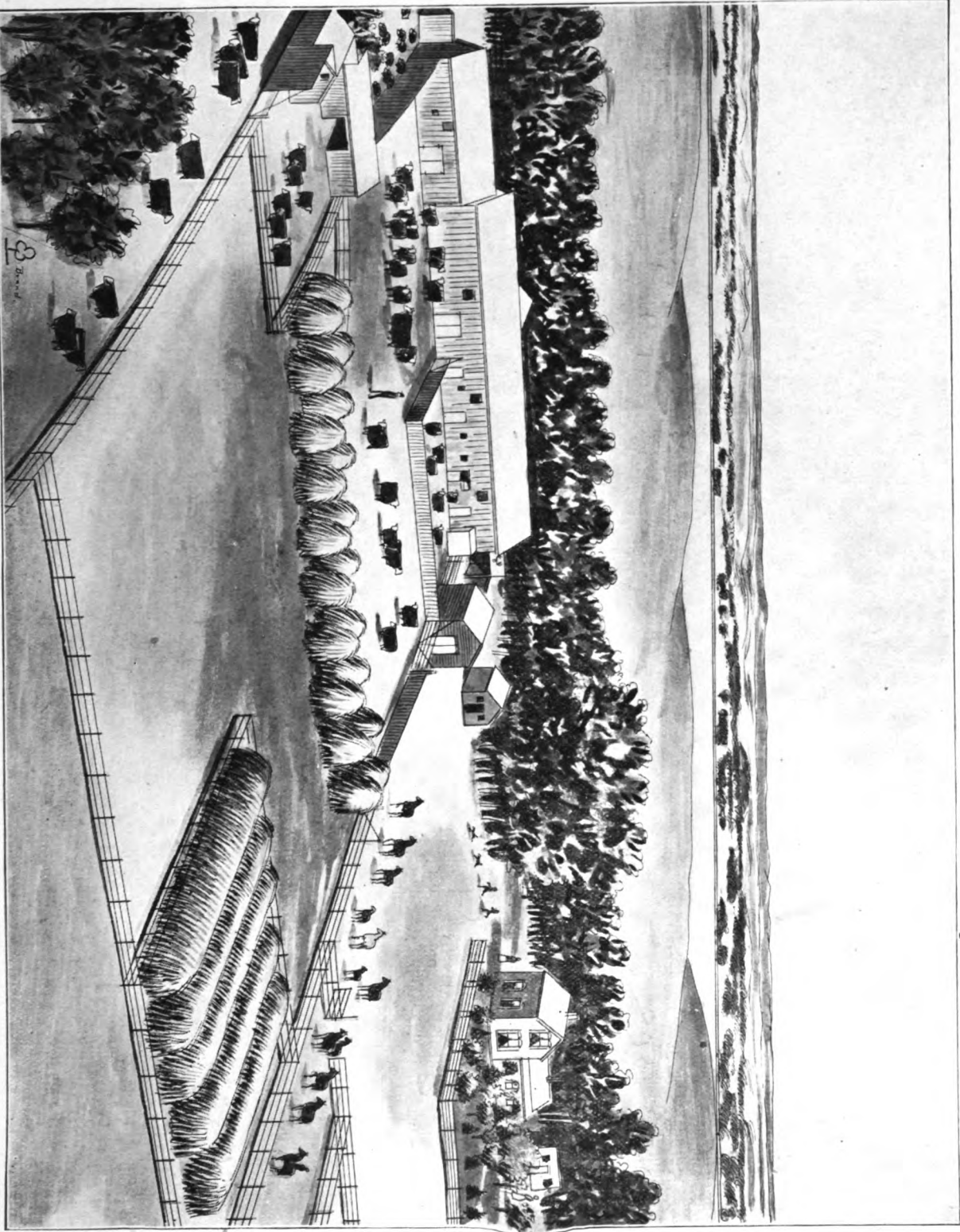
#### RALPH LEWIS.

Ralph Lewis, residing on section 29, township 35, range 19, is one of the old settlers and worthy citizens of Keya Paha county. Mr. Lewis was born in Farmersville, New York, April 3, 1842, and was raised and educated on his father's farm. The latter, Caleb Lewis, was born in Rhode Island, and his family were all killed at the Wyoming massacre except his father and grandmother. He died in 1856 at the age of sixty-six years.

Our subject's mother, who was prior to her marriage Miss Johanna Wade, was a descendant of the Wade family of Ohio, whose ancestors came to America and landed near Newark, New Jersey, in the seventeenth century.

In a family of eleven children our subject was the tenth member, and at the age of nineteen years he started out for himself, enlisting in Company D, Sixty-fourth New York Regiment, in the Army of the Potomac, and served for three years and three months, later enlisting in Hancock's corps, known as United States Veteran Volunteers, serving for one year. He took part in fourteen battles and many skirmishes.

After the war he began farming in New York, and continued at that up to 1878. He was employed in team contracting in McKean county, Pennsylvania, until the spring of 1882 and for the following year was employed in Warren county. Migrating west, he arrived in Keya Paha county in April, 1883. Here he took up a homestead and pre-emption on the north one-half of section 29, township 35, range 19, and also took a tree claim, and still lives in that section. He went through the usual



"CLOVER LEAF FARM," RESIDENCE OF RALPH LEWIS,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.





pioneer experiences, and lost considerable stock during the raids by the cattle rustlers, as he lived right on the line over which they drove their stolen stock. Mr. Lewis was one of the vigilantes during those times, and was one of the foremost in trying to suppress these thieves. He built up his place steadily and early planted trees, now having about one hundred and sixty acres of fine forest trees, including the natural timber on the river. His ranch, known as Clover Leaf Ranch, consists of sixteen hundred and forty acres of good land, and of this he cultivates two hundred acres, keeping the balance for hay and pasture. He runs over three hundred head of Hereford cattle and forty horses and uses a great deal of the grain raised on his farm at home. His place is well fenced and cross-fenced, and he has a complete set of good farm buildings, altogether owning one of the most valuable estates in the county. We present a page view of his extensive buildings, fine two-story dwelling with its tasteful surroundings, which gives some idea of the beautiful scenery of the region as well.

Mr. Lewis was married April 3, 1866, to Miss Emma Otto, born in Allegheny county, New York, July 25, 1844. To them have come the following children: Stilman O., Frank A., Harry O., Mary L. (wife of Frank J. Rhoades), Guy W. and Ernestine, wife of James Runyan, all now settled within eight miles of the old homestead. Seventeen grandchildren may be gathered into a family reunion, a record creditable beyond the usual family.

Mr. Lewis is a Populist, or "Old Abe Lincoln Republican." He has never taken a very active part in politics, except to act as delegate to county and national conventions, although he lends his influence and aid in the interest of good government. He was elected the first treasurer of Keya Paha county after its organization, but has not held office since that time, preferring to spend his time in the building up and improving of his home and farm.

#### MISS MARY SHADIE.

The estimable lady who bears the above name is well known and greatly esteemed by all who know her. Miss Shadie has been a resident of Crawford, Dawes county, Nebraska, from the time the town was first started, and has since that time been one of the prominent citizens and an important factor in the development of its business interests.

Miss Shadie is a native of Knox county,

Maine, and was reared and educated in the state of her birth. In 1884 she came west to Chicago and from there went to Pine Ridge Agency, where she taught the Indian school for two years, then came to Nebraska. At that time all traveling was done by team, and she was obliged to drive through the country from Valentine, camping out for two nights on the trip. Miss Shadie moved to Crawford in 1886, and taught school for a year, and in August of the following year opened one of the first millinery stores in the place, buying out a Mrs. Russell, who had run a small store for a short time. She put in a first-class stock of goods and built up a good trade, running the business alone for a number of years. In 1903 she purchased an interest in the Crawford Mercantile Company, of Crawford, and three years later increased her interest in the business, so that she is now one of the principal stockholders in the company, and the firm is doing a splendid business. This store carries a large stock of dry goods, shoes, millinery, etc., and is a thoroughly up-to-date and first-class establishment, their trade extending throughout Dawes and the adjoining counties.

Miss Shadie is an alert and active business woman of marked force of character and a lady of tact and good business judgment, which is fully evidenced by her success in the work to which she has given her entire time and energy for so many years, and is one of the highly esteemed and worthy citizens of her community.

#### JOHN A. NUGENT.

John A. Nugent, who for four years was the popular postmaster at Carns, Nebraska, is well known all over the county as a prominent citizen and capable business man.

Mr. Nugent is a Canadian by birth, and he is a son of Edward Nugent, a mechanic by trade, and an old settler in Gentry, Missouri. Our subject was born April 1, 1863, in Hamilton, and came across the border with his parents when a child, settling in Gentry county, Missouri, on a farm, where he was raised and educated, assisting his father in the farm work. The latter died when John was six years of age, and two years later he was obliged to get out and hustle for himself. He has made his own way ever since, remaining in Missouri up to 1881, then came to Nebraska and settled in Clay county. Three years later he moved to Rock county, following farm work, being employed by the month



until he was twenty years old, then learned the printing business, and afterwards was editor of the Bassett Herald for one year. He was appointed deputy county clerk of Rock county, and he transcribed the Brown county records of Rock county when the latter was organized. In 1889 he went to Washington, where he remained for a year, then came back to Rock county and acted as principal of the Newport schools for two years. In 1891 he was elected county superintendent of schools, and re-elected in 1893, serving for four years in this capacity. After this he opened up a farm and lived on it for three years, and also spent one year in White Cloud, Michigan. In April, 1903, he took charge, as manager, of E. L. Myers Mercantile Company at Carns, and in that year, on May 25th, was appointed postmaster. He combined the two businesses and handled a large amount of merchandise each year. He resides on his homestead, which he took in section 23, township 32, range 19, in Rock county, and the farm comprises two hundred and sixty acres, situated on the Niobrara river. He is a hustler of the first water, and it is through his industry and good management that he has acquired the comfortable competence which he enjoys, and he well merits much praise for his success.

On May 2, 1902, Mr. Nugent was married to Miss Ruth Kershner. They have one child, named Jennie.

Mr. Nugent is a strong Republican and deeply interested in all party affairs. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge at Carns.

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#### WARREN L. JEWELL.

Warren L. Jewell, who takes a leading part as an agriculturist in the affairs of Box Butte county, Nebraska, where his ranch of many broad acres shows him to be both industrious and persistent, was born in Stratford, near Bridgeport, Connecticut, June 19, 1858. His father, George Jewell, was a butcher by trade and came of Holland Dutch stock. His mother, who was Elizabeth (Lewis) Jewell, was of English descent. The start of the Jewell family in America is dated from the settlement of three brothers, who located on the Hudson river back in colonial days.

The boyhood days of Mr. Jewell were spent in Connecticut, where he received his education attending the common schools. Here he remained until 1876, when he left his home, and coming west into Iowa, entered the drug

business in Des Moines as a clerk. After gaining the necessary experience in this line he started in business for himself, opening a store in the same city. Here he remained for about ten years, during which time he engaged in different business enterprises. He also spent some time in Hamilton and Green counties, Iowa, where he was engaged in the mercantile business.

The subject of this narrative came to Box Butte county in 1887, and the following year took a pre-emption claim on which he proved up. He had a dugout for two years, and lived the life of a bachelor for the first five years here. In 1892 Mr. Jewell and Miss Hattie Bass were united in marriage. Her father, Moses Bass, was a pioneer of Box Butte county. Her mother, Elvira (Moberly) Bass, was a native of Missouri. One boy, George O., was born to this union.

In 1895 Mr. Jewell returned to Iowa, where he spent four years in farming. He returned to Box Butte county in 1899. In 1902 he settled on the place which is his present home in section 2, township 27, range 52. He has added many acres of adjoining land to his original entry, and now has a ranch of eleven hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has constructed five miles of fence. He cultivates one hundred acres, and engages extensively in the raising of horses, sheep, hogs, cattle, small grain and potatoes. He did not escape the periods of drought and the many hardships which confronted the early settlers in this western country, but met the years of adversity with a determination which has resulted in grand success.

Mr. Jewell votes the Republican ticket. He is prominently identified with the history of Box Butte county and has always taken a keen interest in local affairs. He devotes his time very closely to his ranch, and his many warm friends consider that he has done wonderfully well, and that his career in Box Butte county is to be regarded as a marked success.

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#### FRANK H. KING.

In Frank H. King, of King precinct, Cheyenne county, we have one of the oldest settlers in that region, and a leading citizen of the locality in which he lives.

Mr. King was born in Wisconsin, September 2, 1855, and when a small boy his parents moved to Iowa, where they lived for two years, then to Missouri, where he remained until of age. He left home at that time and

spent two years in Texas. He "trailed" a large bunch of cattle from Texas into this country, it taking about three months with two Texas cow ponies; then returning to Missouri and going into the Black Hills. This was in 1876, and he traveled through the wild country by wagon, going through Kearney. One summer was spent in the hills, and it was about this time that the country was stirred by the incidents surrounding the killing of "Wild Bill." He next went to Red Cloud Agency, remaining there during the winter of 1877, this at that time being a part of Cheyenne county before its division. About 1885 he took a pre-emption and timber claim, and a short time later homesteaded on sections 5 and 6, township 19, range 49, proving up on all three. During the early years he passed through all kinds of hardships and privation in getting started, and no one is better acquainted with the early history of the state than himself. He is a genuine old-timer, who has through all time had the greatest faith in western Nebraska, evidenced by his continued residence here through the years of drouth and all hard times, and has come out successful and prosperous. He has a finely equipped ranch and farm, owning in all over six hundred acres of River ranch, which is under ditch, besides other land in the vicinity. One hundred acres are in alfalfa, and he cultivates one hundred and seventy-five acres in crops, also a fine large hay ranch. He has a large tract of leased school land which he uses for pasture for a large bunch of cattle and horses. He is owner of the old Brown Creek Ranch, which is famous for having had the first house built on it north of the river. There is every kind of improvement on the ranch, and he has a fine grove of trees, making it altogether one of the finest and most valuable in the region.

On February 8, 1885, Mr. King was married to Grace Raynes, at Humansville, Missouri. She was born in Washington, D. C., and when she first settled in Nebraska on the Platte River Ranch she was the only woman within a radius of forty miles, which was a rather unique experience for one reared in a city. The father of both Mr. and Mrs. King is dead, while their mothers still live. Six children, all of whom are living at home, were born to our subject and his estimable wife, and are named as follows: Harry R., Fred A., Grace C., Hazel, Frank H., Jr., and Kathryn, a baby. They occupy a fine ranch house, and usually spend the summers there while the winters are spent in Sidney, where they have a handsome residence, and where the children have received their education.

From 1898 to 1902 Mr. King held the office of sheriff of Cheyenne county. He has always taken an active part in county and state affairs, voting the straight Republican ticket. King precinct in Cheyenne county was named after him.

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#### FRED DUERFELDT.

Among the successful and prosperous citizens of Gordon, Nebraska, Fred Duerfeldt is counted as worthy a prominent place. He is engaged in the lumber business here, and has built up an extensive trade through his strict integrity and honest dealings.

Mr. Duerfeldt was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1868, on his father's farm. He is a son of Fred Duerfeldt, Sr., a native of Germany, and his mother was also born in Germany, coming to this country when young people, both having died when our subject was a young lad. There was a family of nine children and he was the fifth in order of birth. He was reared in his native county and since he was eight years old has been compelled to hustle for himself and also assist in supporting his younger brothers and sisters. In 1886 he first came to Sheridan county, remaining here for two years, then went to Wyoming where he followed the life of a cowboy on different ranches, being employed by the Swan Land & Cattle Company for three years. He afterwards returned to Gordon and worked on a ranch thirty miles from town, employed by W. A. Margrave as foreman for eight years, putting in altogether ten years in his employ.

In 1901 Mr. Duerfeldt came to Gordon and established a lumber yard, buying out one of his competitors. This yard is now owned by Margrave & Duerfeldt, and in addition to handling lumber, they deal in tank manufacturing, and it has come to be one of the largest business enterprises of Gordon.

Mr. Duerfeldt was married in 1894 to Miss Mary E. Margrave, her father, T. E. Margrave being one of the old settlers in Sheridan county, and a pioneer ranchman. He is the senior member of the firm of Margrave & Duerfeldt. Mr. and Mrs. Duerfeldt have had a family of five children, one of whom, Frederick T., is dead, the others named as follows: George M., Catherine, Clifford and Leonard.

In political faith Mr. Duerfeldt is a Republican, and takes an active part in all local and county affairs of his party. He is now serving as a member of the town board, and for eight

years held the office of assessor in the Spring Lake precinct. He is also president and manager of the Gordon Telephone company, and occupies a high station as a citizen and man of affairs here.

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CHARLES T. BRADY.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the old-timers, and well-to-do farmers of his precinct, and his career has been interesting since he settled in the western country. He has not come to his present comfort and ease without passing through many trials and much privation in the early days. He is at present residing on section 1, and has taken an active part in the growth and development of this western country for twenty-five years past.

Charles T. Brady was born in Hills county, Texas, in the town of Hillsborough, in 1866. His father, Alexander, was a farmer and ranchman in that county, and he married Elizabeth Todd, whose parents were plantation owners and had always resided in the south, being thoroughly familiar with the old slave days in that country. The family moved to Missouri when our subject was a baby, and he grew up there to the age of six, then they came to Nebraska, settling in the southern part of the state, homesteading in Nuckolls county where they spent about seven years. Our subject next located on the Loup River, in Custer county, where Charles started to work for himself, remaining in that vicinity for a year, then came up on the Platte River to Lincoln county, where he worked as a horse breaker and cowboy for a time. His next move was to what is now known as McPherson county, locating there about 1882, where he engaged in ranching and led a typical cowboy existence, part of the time camping out on the plains, both in winter and summer, and seeing all sorts of rough life. He took a ranch of his own in McPherson county and made that his home up to 1892, running his own place, also doing considerable work for John Bratt & Co. He sold his ranch and moved to Grant county in 1894, locating twelve miles south of Whitman, where he run a herd of cattle, and remained there for about twelve years, and built up a good place, but finally left and moved to Pullman, Nebraska, where he worked as a mail carrier, for about a year and a half. He came to his present location in 1904, at first being employed by the Standard Cattle Company, then established his own ranch, which is situated in section 1,

township 26, range 34. Here he has all good buildings, the ranch all fenced and in good condition. He farms a small part of the place, but nearly his whole section is devoted to ranching purposes, running quite a large number of stock.

Some interesting pictures will be found on another page of scenes on the ranch property of Mr. Brady.

In 1896 Mr. Brady married Miss Lottie Whitton, daughter of J. F. Whitton, a pioneer in Nebraska and Kansas, and whose sketch appears in this volume. They have a family of five children, named as follows: Esther, Florence, Victor and Ruth, and Elizabeth, and form an interesting and charming group. The family is held in high esteem by all who know them, and they have a happy and pleasant home.

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EUGENE A. BIGELOW.

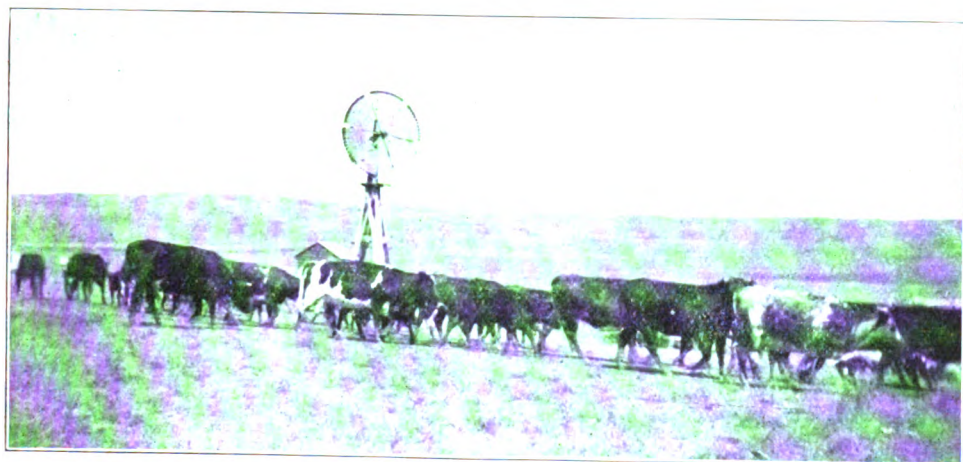
The gentleman above named is one of the oldest settlers of Sioux county, and one who has always taken an active part in its development since its earliest days. He has been prominent in the political affairs of his community, and is well-known all over this section of the state.

Mr. Bigelow was born in LeClair, Scott county, Iowa, in 1854. He is a son of Benjamin F. Bigelow, a farmer and stonemason, who spent many years of his career in Iowa. One brother, Payson B., has given a review of his life for this volume also, which will be found on another page. Eugene was raised in his native state, and grew up there to the age of eleven years, then with his parents moved to Jasper county, and later to Adair county, remaining in Iowa up to 1888, following farming all of that time, most of the time working rented land. He came to Sioux county in the latter year (1888), starting at the bottom of the ladder, with very small capital, taking up a pre-emption and later a homestead, and proved up on both; and in 1904 filed on additional land as a Kincaid homestead, the latter located in section 18, township 32, range 56. His first building here was a rough shanty, in which he "batched it" until his family (whom he had left in Iowa) could join him, then he erected a log house which they occupied for a number of years. During the first several years the two brothers were in partnership, their start being five head of cattle and sixty dollars in money on landing in the county. The first fall they were here Eugene





RESIDENCE ON RANCH OF CHARLES T. BRADY,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



STOCK SCENE ON RANCH OF CHARLES T. BRADY,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.





had the misfortune to break a leg, and he was laid up by this accident all of that winter. He gradually improved his place and succeeded in building up a good home and is now proprietor of a ranch of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, all deeded land, besides four hundred and eighty acres of Kincaid land, altogether controlling about one thousand nine hundred acres, all well fenced and improved with good buildings, etc. He uses one hundred and sixty acres for farming purposes and runs a large number of cattle, having plenty of good pasture and hayland.

Mr. Bigelow was married at Newton, Iowa, in 1883, to Miss Elizabeth C. Cope, a native of Illinois. Her father, Levi, was a wagon-maker by trade, who emigrated to Jasper county, Iowa, and lived in that vicinity for many years; then went to South Dakota where he died in 1903. Five children have been born as a result of this union, who are named as follows: Mabel L., Lee Franklin, Delmar, Cleo, and Ray. Mr. Bigelow and his family spend the summers on their fine ranch, and in the winter occupy a handsome residence in Harrison, where their children have better advantages for attending the city schools. Mr. Bigelow has for a number of years been an auctioneer, "crying" sales all over the county, and is well-known by every man in this section. In 1901 he was elected county commissioner, served his time and was then re-elected, still acting in that capacity. He is a Republican.

#### F. W. HARRIS.

F. W. Harris, whose name is familiar to nearly all the residents of Franklin county, is a worthy representative of the progressive farmer of western Nebraska. He was one of the earliest settlers in this county, coming here in 1884, and has lived here continuously since that time. Mr. Harris resides in Bloomington, where he has a nice home and is highly respected and esteemed by his fellowmen. Mr. Harris is a native of Brattleboro, Vermont, born in 1848, and is a son of Olive Milton Harris, born at Marlborough, Massachusetts, and his mother, who was Miss Minerva A. Easterbrook, born at Brattleboro; the latter descended from the Wells family, which settled on Long Island in 1644. The family removed to Pamfret township, Chautauqua county, New York, where they lived for sixteen years, then came to Bureau county, Illinois, where they lived for nineteen years. Here our sub-

ject farmed during his young manhood, and from his experience in the east and here, considers Nebraska far superior to any place he has been, as the climate here is better and the soil easier to work. The Republican Valley is one of the best feeding countries known, and in the future the farmers here will have to farm less land and till it more carefully, raising the grade of stock, as the land here is getting too high priced to keep poor stock and for careless farming.

In 1899 Mr. Harris bought the quarter section he lives on, adjoining the town of Bloomington on the north, for which he paid two thousand dollars, and could now easily obtain ten thousand dollars for it, but does not wish to sell. He keeps a drove of from seventy-five to one hundred pure bred Poland China hogs, which he disposes of at private sale to the farmers in this county and vicinity. In 1906 his sales of hogs amounted to \$800. He does not exhibit his stock, but fixes fair prices and any statement he makes in regard to his animals can be absolutely relied upon. His hogs are of the old substantial Tecumseh strain, crossed by Expansion, which is one of the best. He also has some of the Perfection E. L. and also keeps quite a herd of cattle, milking from twelve to fifteen cows all the time, selling to the Bloomington trade.

Mr. Harris has always done his part in local public affairs, serving as road overseer in his precinct for some years, also as township assessor several terms. In 1897 he was elected county clerk, serving for four years. He was nominated for the office on the Fusion ticket and elected by a large majority.

Mr. Harris was united in marriage in 1876 in Bureau county, Illinois, to Miss Maggie Gingrich, daughter of Otto and Anna Gingrich, both natives of Germany, born near Hesselhornstadt, who came to America in 1850, locating in Illinois, where they built up a fine farm and home. Mrs. Harris has a brother living in Washington township, engaged in farming, E. J. Gingrich, by name, also one brother Otto Gingrich, living just over the line in Kansas, directly south of Riverton, Neb., also a farmer, who has lately built a fine new house and barn. Mr. Harris and his wife are the parents of the following children: Ora, wife of L. G. Bevis, of the firm of Bevis Bros., loan brokers, of Mt. Ayr, Iowa; Lucy, at home, and Otto, of Bloomington, operating the home farm.

The family is highly esteemed by all who know them, and Mr. and Mrs. Harris are enjoying the declining years of their life surrounded by all the comforts of modern times,

which were gained from long years of labor during the pioneer days. They are genial, contented and happy, and richly merit the success which has come to them.

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### JOHN H. CANNON.

The well regulated farms and ranches in Keith county contribute largely to the wealth of that region, and the gentleman whose name introduces this review is proprietor of one of the valuable estates situated on section 22, township 13, range 39, in Paxton precinct. He is prominent in local affairs, and one of the substantial and esteemed citizens of his community.

John H. Cannon first saw the light in New Holland, Pickaway county, Ohio, July 18, 1843. He is the son of Minas M. and Mary (Dawson) Cannon, who were old settlers in Ohio, the former a carpenter by trade, who died at Camp Point, Illinois, in 1869, and the latter departing this life in Ohio when John was a child four years of age. The father settled in Brown county, Illinois, as a pioneer, in 1850, and there our subject was reared and educated, following farm work until 1861; in that year he enlisted in Company E, Sixteenth Volunteer Infantry, serving for three months in state service, and re-enlisting May 24, 1861 at Kelly's Ferry, Tennessee, and serving for three years. He served in Missouri with his regiment for several months and later was with the Army of the Cumberland through the Chattanooga and Nashville campaigns, participating in the engagements around Atlanta and served under Sherman in the march to the sea. On December 23, 1863 he re-enlisted as a veteran, remained in the army until the close of the war and in all his service received but one slight wound, an injury to his thumb. He was in the ranks at the grand review and returned to his home in Illinois full of honors.

In 1865 Mr. Cannon went to Quincy, Illinois, and followed railroading on the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific railway, employed in train service for twenty-one years. He came to Nebraska in May, 1886, settling in Keith county, where he filed on a homestead situated seven miles southwest of Ogallala, and there started a farm, building a sod house, breaking up land for crops, planting trees, and improving the place as best he could during the first years; while meeting at times with losses through failures of crops, he was on the whole very successful. He also filed on a tree claim two miles nearer town, proving up on both

tracts. Since locating here he has followed ranching and farming constantly, and now owns four hundred and eighty acres, all of which is irrigable, having one hundred and fifty under cultivation, and a large herd of cattle and other stock. He has a good house, substantial barns, wells and wind mills. In 1905, during April, he had the misfortune to lose his barn by fire, but replaced it with another and better building, although the loss was a heavy one to him. In February, 1906, he sold the homestead.

In 1866 Mr. Cannon was married to Miss Georgia Wright. One child was born to them, Clarence, who married Miss Emma Reed, and resides in Green River, Wyoming. They have three children. The wife and mother died in Illinois in 1871.

In 1873 he married again, taking as a wife, Miss Maria E. Giddings, daughter of Austin R. and Aletha C. (Keller) Giddings, natives of Ohio and North Carolina respectively. Mr. Giddings was a nephew of Joshua Orr, for many years a senator from Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Cannon have one adopted daughter, Grace L., who is a successful teacher in the Keith county schools.

Mr. Cannon is a loyal Republican, and has always been prominent in county and national politics, holding local office at various times, and for ten years served as justice of the peace in his township.

The family are members of the Methodist church, while Mr. Cannon holds membership in the Grand Army and the Workmen.

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### HORATIO G. NEWCOMB.

Horatio G. Newcomb, one of the leading old settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, is known throughout that locality as a gentleman of good business capacity and active public spirit. He is a resident of Crawford, where he has been one of the prominent citizens and foremost business men for many years.

Mr. Newcomb was born in Franklin county, Vermont, in 1848, where his father was engaged in the butcher business. The latter was a native of Boston and married Charlott Sixby, born in St. Armond, Province of Quebec, of German stock, she dying when our subject was but three years of age. He was reared in Montpelier, and while a young man learned the butcher's trade, working for different parties in his home town for several years. For a time he traveled extensively, going across the Isthmus of Panama, and all along the coast of

Central America, and saw a great deal of that country about which he relates many interesting incidents. He also spent three years on cow ranches in California, and in 1875 went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he worked as a cow puncher for T. A. Kent, a large ranchman and banker of Cheyenne. He also was employed by Hy. Kelly and Butcher Phillips for some time, and became very familiar with that part of the country. In 1877 he started a ranch of his own on Reshaw Creek, Wyoming, and ran that for two years, then sold out to Hamilton, Hall & McCrary and acted as ranch foreman for them for some time. He next moved to the Platte river, where he lived up to 1883, when he started in the sheep business on a large scale, and in that year was unfortunate enough to lose 2,000 head of sheep, so he gave that up and went to Fort Laramie where he owned and ran a hotel for three years. There he served as deputy sheriff for three years.

In 1887 he left Fort Laramie, as the place was being abandoned, then had a ranch at Lusk, Wyoming. He was among the early settlers at Chugwater, Wyoming, and there went through rough experiences in that new country. He landed in Crawford, December 17, 1889, and followed the saloon business up to 1900, then got the Klondike fever, so went to that country and remained a year prospecting and looking over the country. He had a rough time while there, from July 10th to September 15th, covering one thousand two hundred miles on foot, and soon got enough of that place and came back to Crawford, where he has since remained, engaging in the saloon business ever since.

Since coming to this country Mr. Newcomb has seen all the pioneer experiences of the early days, witnessing the immigration into the Black Hills, and has been a potent factor in the building up of the region where he chose his home.

In 1875 Mr. Newcomb was married to Miss Martha Holsapple, a native of the state of New York, whose parents were early settlers there from Canada, her father being a farmer and cabinet maker. To Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb two children were born, namely: Jay F. and Jessie.

#### SAMUEL S. FAIRHEAD.

Samuel Fairhead is one of the most progressive and enterprising ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska. He resides in section 11, township 34, range 37, where he is the pro-

prietor of a fine ranch and comfortable home and enjoys his well deserved success and high standing as a citizen.

Mr. Fairhead was born in Sidney, New South Wales, Australia, and was of English stock. The family lived in Australia until 1860 when they returned to England, living in the shire of Suffolk, where the father died in about 1870. At the age of thirteen, Samuel went to London, and secured employment as clerk, receiving at the age of sixteen years one pound sterling per month, large wages for a boy at that time. Resigning his position as clerk he embarked with his older brother, James, to Canada, living in Ontario for thirty years. The brother, James, engaged in the ice business from which he has accumulated a good fortune. In 1885 our subject, in company with two brothers, Joseph and Garrold, came to Cherry county, Nebraska. When he landed here he did not know the first thing about farming or the care of stock, so went to work on the railroad, which was then in the course of construction, driving a team, working as far up as Buffalo Gap. He was unfamiliar with the value of land around here, and after a time went back to Canada and worked there a while, but was not satisfied with conditions there and became anxious to again go back to the frontier, so ten years later he returned to Cherry county, and since that time has never lived away from this locality. On his last arrival here he had just forty dollars in cash, and for five years worked on ranches in this vicinity, saving his money, and by being careful and industrious got a pretty fair start, although had he been able to begin earlier he would have been much better off today than he is. He only regrets that he did not stay in Cherry county when he first came here, instead of returning to Canada. He now owns a ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, well improved with good buildings and fences, and keeps one hundred head of cattle and some horses. He has accumulated all this property in nine years, which is doing very well, and speaks well for his good judgment and business ability.

Mr. Fairhead was married in Toronto, Canada, July 23, 1874 to Miss Fannie Long, who was a native of Ontario, born in 1854, of English stock. Mr. and Mrs. Fairhead have two children, namely: Alvin S., a plumber by trade, working all over the southwest, is married and now living in California; and Laura M., married to Percy St. Jean, of French descent, living in Idaho.

Mr. Fairhead takes a commendable interest in all public affairs of local importance, has at

different times held offices of trust, and at present is serving as roadmaster for his township. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Merriman, and with his wife, a communicant of the Methodist church.

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#### ELHANAN W. CARPENTER.

One of the beautiful country places to be found in the farming districts of Dawes county, where everything about the premises bespeaks care and pride in its appearance, is found in that of the gentleman above mentioned. Mr. Carpenter's home presents a beautiful sight to the eye of the visitor in this section, having a comfortable and handsome house, fine lawns and beautiful shade trees all around it, also a fine fish pond, and everything about his home shows careful attention and good management.

Mr. Carpenter was born in Chenango county, New York state, April 13, 1833. His father, Jesse K., was a blacksmith, a native of Windsor, Vermont, and a veteran of the war of 1812, who married Polly Beckwith, also born in Vermont, in 1800.

When our subject was a young boy his family came to Indiana, settling in Parke county, where they were among the pioneers, and there he grew up until he was about fifteen years of age, when his parents moved to Illinois. After living there a short time they came to Iowa, and again went through pioneer experiences in Clayton county and Elhanan remained in that vicinity up to 1855, when he moved to Washington county, and lived up to 1885, again leading the early settler's life in that region. In the latter county he started a farm, and built up a good home and made a success of his venture. He was the owner of one hundred and twelve acres, and helped to establish schools, and aided in every way possible the advancement of the section, serving in numerous capacities as a public official, and was well and favorably known to all as a worthy citizen of the locality. In 1861 he enlisted in Company F, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, and saw service in the Army of the Cumberland, at the siege of Vicksburg, and in all participated in twenty-one hard-fought battles. He was all through Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi with his regiment and encountered many thrilling incidents while in the service. At the battle of Shiloh he had three balls put through his hat at different places inside of fifteen minutes, and at another

time a ball was fired so close that it tore through his trousers while in the line of battle. He was held a prisoner at Andersonville for nine months and eighteen days, and only released at the close of the war, and his experiences while at that terrible prison are most interesting to hear. He received his discharge at Davenport, Iowa, in 1865.

After returning from the war Mr. Carpenter farmed for a number of years, then sold his farm in Iowa and came to Dawes county, Nebraska, landing in this part of the state in 1885. He had been through the locality the year before and was favorably impressed with the location, so he settled on section 28, township 34, range 47, as a homestead. Here his first building was a dugout, in which he lived for four or five years, and opened up a farm, purchasing good machinery and expending quite a sum for equipment, but was only able to raise one crop. The first year he planted some corn and this showed a yield of sixty bushels to the acre, then came on the dry seasons and he was unable to get a crop of any kind of grain. He gradually worked into the cattle business and devoted his efforts to building up that branch of the business, and met with good success. His ranch now consists of eight hundred acres, all of which is fenced, and he has good buildings, house, barns and every improvement in his buildings to make easy the work of operating his place to the best advantage. He has a fine fish pond which he had built in his front yard, and this is a pleasant sight for all who passes to view. His place is well supplied with timber, furnishing him with plenty of fuel and posts.

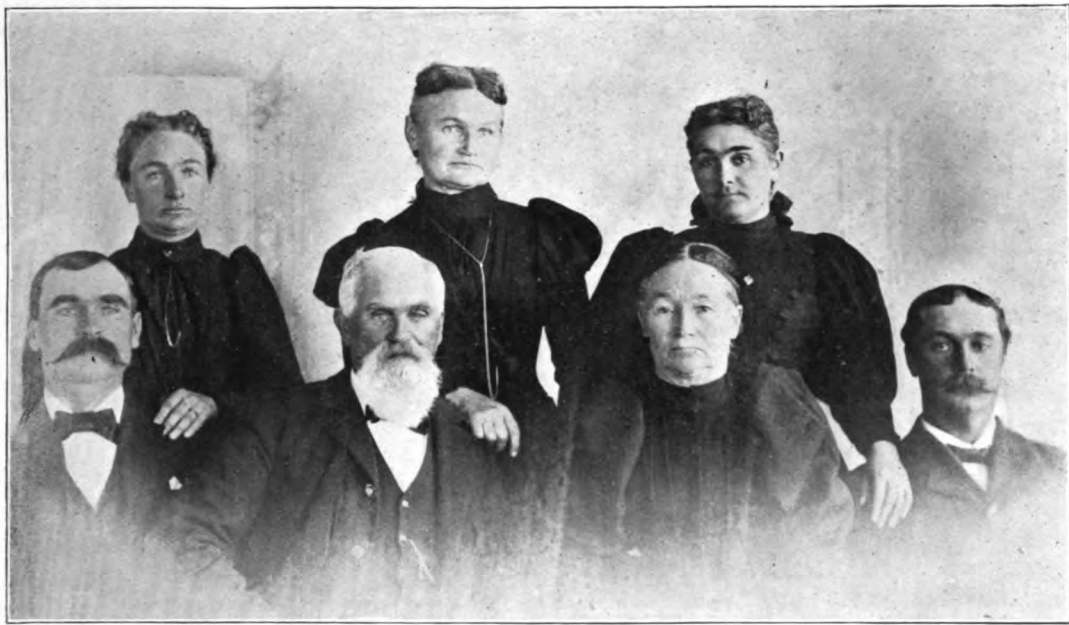
Mr. Carpenter was married in Washington county, Iowa, in 1856, to Miss Charlotte Layton, who was born and raised in Maine, of Yankee blood. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have a family of five children living named as follows: Marian, Martha, Della G., Stephen W., and Edwin Francis. They have three children dead: Mary P., Ann N. and Daniel W. Portraits of E. W. Carpenter and family will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### ALBERT S. ENYEART.

Albert S. Enyeart is a man who is widely and favorably known in Box Butte county as a farmer and stockraiser of much skill and high personal character. He was born in Wabash county, Indiana, in 1860, a son of William J. and Amy (Slyter) Enyeart, and was the eleventh of a family of thirteen children. His





E. W. CARPENTER AND FAMILY.





father was born in Ohio of Pennsylvania Dutch stock and was a pioneer of Indiana, where he cleared the place upon which our subject was born. His mother, who was a Quaker of Scotch and Welsh descent of Vermont, was also a native of Ohio.

In 1866 the family moved to Missouri and settled in Sheridan county. Here our subject attended the country schools, and spent the early years of his life assisting his father in the work of making a home in that state. He was the youngest living son of the family and remained at home, and for several years rented his father's farm. In 1892 Mr. Albert S. Enyeart came to Box Butte county, Nebraska, and located on a farm near Marsland, which he rented. Here he remained for two months. He then bought a farm in section 5, and homesteaded a claim in section 6, township 27, range 50, where he has made his home ever since. There were no other improvements on the place but a sod shanty and stable when he secured possession. He started the work of building a frame house, but owing to repeated loss of crops and lack of capital, he was unable to complete the work he had started, and for seven years lived in the sod shanty. However, he was not discouraged by these reverses, and his faith in this western country remained unbroken. He went to work with a determination to succeed, and as the result of his untiring efforts, and the practice of thrift and economy, he has attained a success of which he may well be proud. From time to time he added adjoining tracts of land to his original entry, which he has worked hard to improve, and now has a well appointed ranch of two thousand five hundred acres of good land together with about one thousand acres of leased land. He has built a substantial and commodious house, together with a good barn, forty by fifty feet, with a nine foot basement, erected at a cost of \$1,000, irrespective of his own labor. He has fifteen miles of fences on his place. He also engages extensively in the raising of live stock, and is the owner of one hundred head of horses and eighty head of cattle. He engages largely in raising small grain, and makes potatoes a specialty.

In 1882 occurred the wedding ceremonies of Mr. Enyeart and Miss Alice Bonds. Her father, Creed A. Bonds, a native of Virginia, was a farmer, and a man who gave his life for his country, having died while in the service of the union army at St. Louis. Her mother, Elizabeth (Grace) Bonds, was born in Indiana. Eight children came to bless this union.—Earl T., U. May, Winnifred B., Herbert E., William J., Thomas Ross, Alice Fay and Izetta Amy.

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In 1897 Mrs. Enyeart passed away at their home in Nebraska. In 1898 Mr. Enyeart contracted a second marriage with Belle Martin, whose parents were pioneers of Illinois, where she was born and reared, and where she resided at the time of her marriage.

In political matters Mr. Enyeart adheres to Republican principles. He is a man who has always been prominently identified with matters of local interest, and since the age of twenty-one years has held local offices of importance. Through years of adversity and prosperity he has left no stone unturned in working out for himself a comfortable home, and giving his energies to the upbuilding of the locality in which he lives. Upright and honorable in all his dealings he has manifested on all occasions a high integrity and a strict adherence to principle.

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#### OTTO KURZ.

In reviewing the history of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, the citizens who have contributed to her welfare must be given special mention, and a prominent place among this number is the gentleman above named. Mr. Kurz is a pioneer settler, and is perhaps one of the best known and most highly esteemed men of his locality. He is a prosperous farmer and large land-owner, and has gained his success by the exercise of business tact, supplemented by the strictest integrity of word and deed. He has a comfortable stone dwelling in Bronson precinct, and enjoys the comfort and contentment of a peaceful rural home.

Otto Kurz was born in Germany, at New Barnim, near Berlin, on March 14th, 1853, and grew up there, receiving a limited schooling as a boy, and at the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to the builders trade, at which he worked until coming to America at the age of twenty-eight years. Sailing from Bremen late in October, after a stormy passage of seven days, he landed in New York, early in November, 1881. He came directly west, joining his brother at St. Louis, where he remained one year working at his trade. He then went to Scribner, Dodge county, Nebraska, and then in 1883, he came to Cheyenne county, where he secured work in a butcher shop at Sidney, and was thus employed for some eight years. In 1891 he took up a homestead on the south-east quarter of section 8, township 13, range 50, and has followed ranching ever since. He owns a quarter of good land, leasing a section of school land, and is engaged principally in

stock raising, running about fifty head of cattle and twenty-five head of horses. He has a fine set of stone ranch buildings of all descriptions, and his place shows every evidence of good management and thrift in its operation.

Mr. Kurz was married on the 6th day of June, 1891, in Cheyenne county, to Mrs. Caroline (Marder) Wolf, who was born in Germany on August 21st, 1865; she resided there until at the age of twenty-one years she emigrated to the United States, coming directly to Nebraska, and settling in Cheyenne county. Mr. and Mrs. Kurz have a family of eight children named as follows: John, Pauline, Frank, Emma, Otto, Caroline, Catherine and Annie.

In political views Mr. Kurz is a Democrat, and he takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs.

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#### ARTHUR E. MOON.

One of the reliable and successful citizens and business men of Taylor, Loup county, Nebraska, is Arthur E. Moon, who is a contractor and builder. He is a native of the state of New York, being born in Schuyler county in the year 1859. His great grandfather was a veteran in the revolutionary war and his grandfather saw service in the war of 1812. Our subject's father was Sylvester A. Moon, a native of the state of New York. His mother, born in New York state, was Fanny Wickson in her youth.

Arthur E. Moon was reared and educated in his native state, coming west to Nebraska in 1879. His parents came at the same time and were among the oldest settlers. The father died in 1887, and the mother died in 1901. Our subject settled on land near Kent, on the North Loup river, after driving from Grand Island, from which city he hauled freight, etc., camping nights under the wagon in all kinds of weather.

Mr. Moon was married in 1882 to Miss Clara B. Truax, born in Nebraska, in Nemaha county, 1863. Her father, James M. Truax, was one of the pioneers of that county and was an honored and loyal citizen, having been a veteran of the civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Moon have seven children: Flora, now a teacher; Mabel, married; Harry, James, Fanny and Emma, both born in Indian Territory; and Wilbur, born in Taylor, Nebraska, all born in Taylor, Nebraska excepting Fannie and Emma.

In 1893, our subject left the farm and fol-

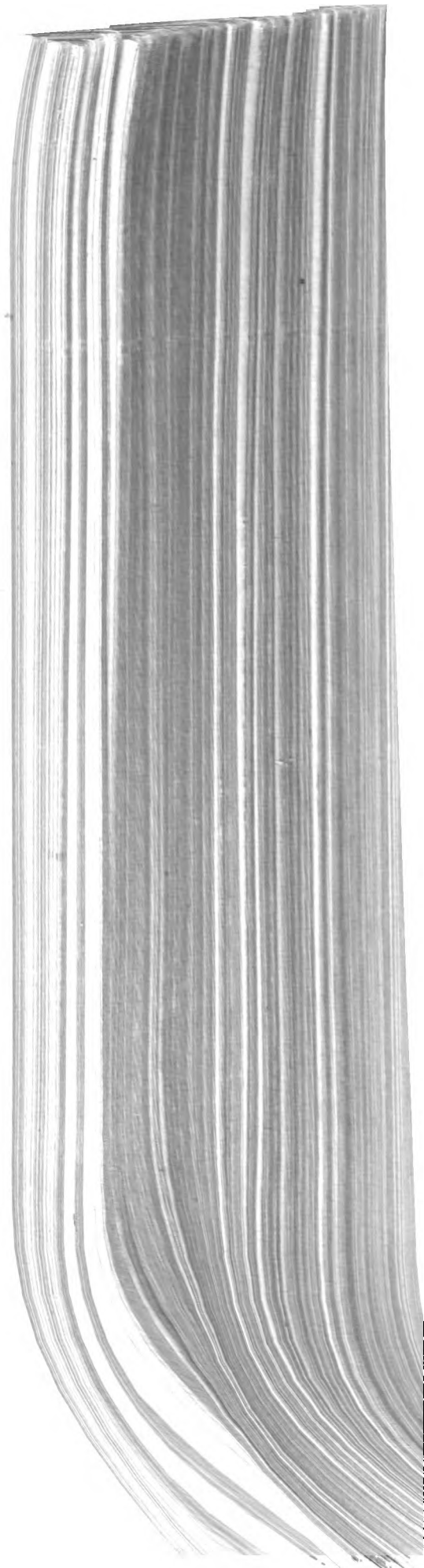
lowed his trade of carpenter, going to Indian Territory where he was employed on government works and remaining in that section of the southwest for eight years. In 1901 he returned to Loup county and located his home in Taylor, the county-seat. He has been engaged in the business of contracting and building and the evidences of his operations may be found in all parts of the county. Mr. Moon is a man of conscientious principles, is public-spirited and enterprising, and is widely and favorably known.

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#### PROFESSOR ADOLPHE D'ALLEMAND.

Professor Adolphe d'Allemand, of Arapahoe, Furnas county, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in Nebraska, coming to Plattsmouth in 1870 from Kilkenny College, Ireland, where he has been an instructor in the French and German languages for fourteen years. Prof. d'Allemand is a native of Strasburg, France, now Germany, and was born January 27th, 1836. He received his education at the Strasburg College, and at Munich, Bavaria, and is a son of Indas d'Allemand, who for twenty years was connected with the Bible Society, in London, England. On the revision of the Bible he was a distinguished Greek and Hebrew Sanscript scholar, and wrote a great deal on these subjects. After locating in Arapahoe, our subject owned, edited and published the "Pioneer" in that town for twelve years. After he came to Plattsmouth, he taught in the Academy there, and in 1872 was elected principal of the Plattsmouth High School, which position he held for one year before coming to Arapahoe. In 1884 he was elected superintendent of the county schools of Furnas county, serving for three terms, up to 1890. In the meantime, during the year 1874, he had taken a homestead pre-emption and tree claim, four hundred eighty acres.

Professor d'Allemand was elected secretary and treasurer of the Farmers' National Alliance and was for two years state master, workman of the Knights of Labor. In 1891 he was a candidate for state superintendent of education, and was elected regent of the State University in 1892, but was counted out and never held office. He is also a Mason of high degree, having been a member of this order since 1870, and is Past Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment, Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Nebraska. When the Populist party was organized, Professor d'Allemand was an active worker in its development, and





SCENE IN OPERATING ROOM IN DR. A. A. MUNN'S KEARNEY VETERINARY HOSPITAL.

campaigned for the cause in French and English all through Nebraska. He has also been very successful in his farming operations, assisted by a large family, and engages principally in stock raising and mixed farming, but is now practically retired from active business. He holds the office of president of the Farmers' Co-operative Grain Association, which company he helped to organize in 1904. He also built one of the largest and best elevators here, capacity sixteen thousand bushels, which has been of great benefit to the farmers in this locality. He is secretary of the Farmers' Business Association, organized in 1890, to ship their own hogs and cattle, and since its organization the regular stock buyers have left town. This association pays no dividends, but gets operating expenses out of the profits, the farmers getting all the rest.

Prof. d'Allemand also holds the office of secretary of the Arapahoe Creamery Company, organized in 1898. This has been very profitable, paying the stockholders seven per cent. and has been of great benefit to those who are in the dairy business. The Beatrice Creamery concern took Prof. d'Allemand all over the western part of Nebraska, speaking French and German for them to the residents of that part of the state.

Prof. d'Allemand was married in England, at St. Helen, to Miss Marion Wood, daughter of Thomas and Helen Edgar Wood, both of the Highlands, Scotland. They have a family of nine children, named as follows: Charles, now living at Des Moines, Iowa; Fred, of Louisville, Colo.; Nellie, wife of William Hellmann, now mayor of Arapahoe; Albert, also a merchant of Arapahoe; David, of Loveland, Colorado, farmer by occupation; Alfred, also a merchant of Arapahoe; Louise, wife of W. S. Curry, of this town; Ubert, a farmer living in this vicinity; and Benoit, connected with the United States Forestry department at Santa Barbara, California, now at Garden City, supervising two hundred thousand acres of land. Altogether the descendants of Professor d'Allemand number forty members. He is an active worker in the Episcopal church, and is classed among the eminent and useful men in western Nebraska.

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#### WILLIAM M. LEE.

In the person of the above gentleman we have a representative native born Nebraskan, and he is one of the prosperous and well-known farmers among the younger residents

of section 6, township 27, range 28, Cherry county.

William M. Lee was born in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1880. His father, J. R. Lee, is one of the early settlers in western Nebraska, whose sketch appears in this volume on another page. When William was a boy about eight years of age the family came to the western part of the state, settling at Brownlee, and there he was reared and educated, receiving a very good schooling through attending the grammar schools in the latter place, also became familiar with different kinds of work, farming and ranching at different times during his younger years. He started out for himself in 1902, settling on his present ranch, which is situated four miles north of Brownlee, and had nothing to begin with in the way of capital except his strong hands and brave spirit. He eventually proved up on the claim, working hard to improve the place, and has a ranch consisting of one thousand nine hundred and twenty acres, all of which is fenced, a complete set of good buildings and improvements. He cultivates about fifty acres, but engages principally in ranching, running quite a large bunch of cattle and other stock. For so young a man Mr. Lee has accumulated a remarkably valuable property, due entirely to his thrift and good management. He has passed through some few disappointments in the way of crop failures, but knows absolutely nothing of the hardships which assailed those who came to the region in the beginning of its development as a farming community.

In 1902 Mr. Lee was married to Miss Cora Campbell, daughter of S. G. Campbell, who is an old settler here, and formerly were pioneers in Dawes county, Nebraska where she was reared. Her mother's maiden name was Lizzie Kesterson. Mr. and Mrs. Lee are the parents of one child, Caldona, aged five years and a very bright youngster. They have a pleasant and comfortable home, and are surrounded by congenial neighbors, well liked by all.

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#### DR. A. A. MUNN.

A. A. Munn, of Kearney, Nebraska, is a rising young veterinary surgeon of that locality. He is a gentleman of excellent education, and applies himself closely to the study of his profession, meeting with much success in his practice. He is a conscientious and thoroughly reliable man, and in the comparatively short time he has been in that vicinity has gained the respect and esteem of everyone with whom he

has come in contact, either professionally or in a social way.

Dr. Munn is a native of Canada, born July 29, 1879. His father, Duncan Munn, was one of the old time captains and bridge superintendents of Ontario, Canada, who later on located on a ranch at Cambridge, Nebraska, where he engaged in raising thoroughbred stock. An uncle of our subject, named Thomas Andrews, also of Cambridge, has one of the finest herds of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle in the west, having come to this state from Canada in the early days. He is a gentleman of wide experience in the breeding and raising of cattle, and has established a wide reputation as an authority in that line of business throughout the United States.

Our subject is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, Canada, having completed his studies at that institution in 1904. He immediately began practicing in Nebraska, and has built up a large patronage throughout this section of the country, his work extending from Minden and Kearney to the Colorado state line. He enjoys a large practice among the owners of the best thoroughbred animals and also the graded herds, and he is regarded by all to whom he has given his services as a man of superior knowledge in his line of business, and has one of the finest hospitals in the state. He first located in Furnas county, later moving to Kearney. He is considered by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his community. In 1905 Mr. Munn was appointed assistant state veterinarian for Nebraska, which place he still holds, and this fact speaks greatly in his favor for so young a man. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Brotherhood of Protective Order of Elks, Eagles, Foresters, Woodmen of America and Highlanders.

Dr. Munn was married June 2, 1907, to Nellie Hull, daughter of H. J. Hull, state oil inspector.

On one of the illustrated pages of this volume we present the picture of a scene in the operating room in Dr. Munn's Kearney veterinary hospital.

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#### JAMES L. HOGLE.

James L. Hogle, classed among the old-timers of Dawes county, Nebraska, is also one of the earliest settlers in western Nebraska. He has passed through many experiences on the frontier and endured many hardships in the early days, and as a result of his energy and

perseverance has built up a comfortable estate and enjoys a pleasant home and numerous friends throughout his community.

Mr. Hogle was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1860, of German stock. His parents were both born in Canada, and he was reared and educated fifty miles from Montreal. His father died when he was a child two years old, and he lived with his mother on a farm until he was twenty, then was married to Miss Eliza Holsapple, also a native of Canada. The young couple came to the United States, going to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and landing there on May 20th, 1880, where they remained for a short time. Mr. Hogle then moved to Fort Laramie and engaged in the hotel business which he run successfully for some time. He next moved to Lusk, Wyoming, and spent nine years in that state. In 1889 he came to Crawford and established his present business. For five years he was proprietor of the Gate City Hotel, and this was one of the leading hotels in the place. He ran a first-class house and it was patronized by the best people, being the popular stopping place for commercial travelers, his success being largely due to his genial and pleasant personality which is so necessary to a man in the hotel business. Mr. Hogle has other interests in this vicinity, owning a large ranch situated ten miles east of Crawford, on Ash Creek, besides his residence and business property here, and he is counted one of the prosperous citizens of the town.

Mr. Hogle is an influential citizen of his community, taking a keen interest in all local affairs, but although he has many times been urged to accept office has repeatedly refused to serve, preferring to lead a private life and devoting his entire time to business. He is a Democrat.

Mr. Hogle's family consists of himself, wife, and one child, Myrtle, now Mrs. Ivins, wife of the leading dentist at Crawford, Nebraska.

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#### WM. PARKER CARR.

William Parker Carr, retired, a prominent citizen of Alma, Harlan county, Nebraska, came to this county before it was organized, in 1871, and has seen this section grow from a wilderness to one of the most prosperous communities in western Nebraska. He came here from Cheyenne, Wyoming, by train to Kearney, driving from the latter place with a team and wagon, locating in Prairie Dog township, where he took up a homestead and pre-empted and farmed for sixteen years.



Mr. Carr was born in Antrim, New Hampshire, in 1831. He is a son of William and Martha (Parker) Carr. His father served at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, when the British were expected to attack that place in the war of 1812. His grandfather, William Carr, also served for over seven years in the Revolutionary war. The Carrs are of Scotch-Irish descent, coming to New Hampshire long before the latter war, and the Parker family were originally from England, coming to America in the early pioneer days of New England. Our subject was raised in the vicinity of his birthplace, and first came to Nebraska in 1853, crossing Bennett's Ferry with a freight outfit. Friel Nuckolls (after whom Nuckolls county was named), had a contract to supply corn to the troops at Forts Kearney and Laramie, and our subject together with Gideon Bennett, took a sub-contract, and made one trip with twenty-six wagons at Fort Laramie, completing the journey with perfect safety, going over the old California trail. They made two trips to Fort Kearney the same season. At that time corn was worth thirteen dollars per bushel at the former point, and nine dollars at the latter. In 1854 they had a contract to move the Otoe and Missouri Indians from Otoe, Nebraska, and from Rhulo, and outfitted there and worked the whole of both tribes, seven hundred in all, to the Blue, near Beatrice, on the Otoe Reservation. The outfit carried flour, bacon and blankets, and all supplies for the Indians. They traveled one day and issued five beeves and a large amount of flour, laying there until this supply was all eaten up, then would move the Indians on empty stomachs, telling them when the next feed would be, and they would move rapidly to the designated place. They carried about sixty head of beef, and kept a guard of fifteen men around the supplies, to keep the Indians from stealing the stuff. Mr. Carr could speak the language of the Otoes, Missouri and Iowa tribes, and got on very well with the savages. At the Otoe reservation he had to break one hundred and sixty acres in 1854, receiving for this work six dollars per acre. The Indian agent traveled with the tribes all through the expedition, and our subject spent all of 1855 on this reservation. In the following year the free soil agitation raged in Kansas near the reservation, and in these times no man ever opened his door wide until he was assured that it was a friend he was to admit, as the country was full of rough characters and unfriendly Indians. In 1856 while returning from a point in Kansas, Mr. Carr passed the camp of Jim Lane and three hundred abolitionists, forty miles from the Otoe, and a little later about fifty South Carolinians

forced Mr. Carr to lead them to Lane's camp, but seeing the latter's strength they released their captive and fled. Mr. Carr remained in this region up to 1861, then enlisted in the Second Kansas Cavalry, and served for two years under General Curtis, mostly in scouting at the battle of Carthage and other fights. In 1862 he was discharged owing to disability, and went back to Kansas near the Otoe reservation where he was connected with the Overland Stage Company on the California trail for five years. These stages were robbed four times within four miles of the station, but our subject's stage was never robbed, although on one occasion, in 1864, on the Little Blue River, when he had one lady and two men passengers, with two guards with the United States mail, he was chased by a party of from twenty to twenty-five Indians, who were all on fleet-footed ponies. He pitted his four horses against these savages, lashing them into a run and they followed him so near the station that the guards heard the firing and came to his assistance, when the Indians retreated. One guard, a boy of fourteen, all this time had stood on top of the stage, firing repeatedly at the Indians. One bullet from the Indians' guns struck the near wheeler's bridle and brought the horse to his knees, but only for a second when he regained his feet and sped onward. Another whizzed past the hind boot of the coach carrying the mail and lodged in the seat directly behind the driver, and the lamp which was fastened beside him was hit and smashed to pieces. It was an exciting chase, but no serious results followed, and it has remained a strong memory in our subject's mind of those wild days. In 1853 he carried the mail from Nebraska City to Fort Kearney. The carrier who had traveled this route before he took it, had disappeared and never been heard from after starting out on a trip to the latter point. Soon after he started on these trips, one night the mule driven by our subject gave indication that there were Indians very near, and he rode for dear life and reached his destination safely. For some time he carried mail in Nevada, traveling between Rhulo and Hamilton City. He also spent some time at Bitter Creek, Wyoming, where he worked three teams and three men during the building of the Union Pacific railway, receiving eighteen dollars per day for his services. He contracted under Tom Majors, well known to all westerners of the pioneer days, and also was employed by the Union Pacific company in bridge building, for which he received six dollars per day.

In 1867 Mr. Carr and Jos. Reed had charge of the stage horses at a ranch located on the

Smoky River in Kansas. They had a negro who shod the horses. At one time twenty or twenty-five Indians appeared at the stables and showed fight, when our subject and his companion escaped through a back door of the barns, running to a buffalo wallow which was about eighteen inches deep in the open prairie, thinking the Indians would steal the horses and take their departure, but instead they came after the three men and tried their best to capture them, but were held at bay until darkness came on, when they managed to crawl to a place of safety. The negro was shot through the forehead during the early part of the fight, and his body was placed in front of the other two men serving as an additional guard, and strange as it may seem, he came to after a time and did not object to the defensive use he had been put to. Much of Mr. Carr's time during these years was spent in the service of the government in driving stage, and he worked at this in Salt Lake, California and Nevada. He knew of the richness of the lands through the Republican Valley, as in 1863 he had hunted there before the Indian raid of that time, securing buffalo, elk and deer for Ben Holliday, the stage contractor, from Atchison, Kansas, to San Francisco, so when the party was organized in Cheyenne to settle in Harlan county, Nebraska, he readily joined it. He located in Alma in 1888, and was the first corner elected in Harlan county. He also owned a fine farm in Alma township.

Mr. Carr was married in Harlan county, in 1873, to Miss Harriet Lucinda Ellenberger, a native of Iowa. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carr, namely: Mary Elizabeth, wife of Owen Carroll, a farmer of Prairie Dog township, this county, and James Jerome Carr, a resident of Alma. Mr. Carr has been a member of the Masonic lodge since 1857, and is also a prominent Grand Army of the Republic man.

#### JAMES HUGHES.

James Hughes is a man whose name will figure as one of those who has watched the development and growth of the locality in which he makes his home, and where he has resided for many years past. Mr. Hughes was born near Howard, Center county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1847. His father, Thomas Hughes, who married Nancy Gardener, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in Ireland and came to the United States when a young man, and after reaching the new world was for many years

general overseer and foreman in the immense iron works at Howard. He also held responsible positions in the coal and iron mines at that place, and lived in Howard at the time of his death, which occurred in 1860. Our subject is the third member in a family of ten children, and was raised in the town of his birth. At the age of fourteen years he entered the army enlisting at Howard in Company E, Fifth Pennsylvania regiment, on June 8, 1861, and was mustered in at the state capital. They were ordered south, and joined the Army of the Potomac, serving in all the campaigns of that body of soldiers, enduring much hard service. He also belonged to the Pennsylvania Reserves, and was one of the bravest men in the company, always at the front of the line and in the thickest of the fights. At one time he was one of a detail of eighteen soldiers on a scouting expedition, the night before the battle of Antietam and out of this number he was one of only three that lived to tell the story of the encounter. Lieutenant Petrican, in charge of the detail, being one of the slain. He remained with his company and served his country until after the battle at Fredericksburg under Burnside's, and in February, 1864, was honorably discharged at Washington, returning to peaceful pursuits with the consciousness of duty well done, in spending three years of his life in the noblest war that men ever fought. After leaving the army he went to West Union, Iowa, remaining one year, then on to Bates county, Missouri, for six months. Here he suffered so severely from an attack of the ague that he was unable to remain, and traveled on to the western plains where he freighted from Hayes City on the Kansas Pacific railway in Kansas, to Camp Supply, Indian Territory, following this work for one year. At this time the country was overrun with buffalo and Mr. Hughes joined a hunting party, handling thousands of dollars worth of hides during the three years he remained at that occupation in that part of the country. He was compelled to live on the open plains in order to recover his health, which had been severely impaired through an attack of typhoid fever, and it was during this time that he lived the free and adventurous life of the plainsman, hunting buffalo all over the state of Kansas.

His next move was to Nebraska City, where he remained for two years, then he came on to Brown county in 1882, and on June 15th, located on a pre-emption claim north of Niobrara river in what is now Keya Paha county, also took a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 2, township 29, range 22. He settled on this before the railroad had reached

Ainsworth, and at once went to work in establishing a home, building a sod house and gradually improving his farm. He now has a grove of ten thousand trees planted on his homestead with three hundred fruit trees, all nicely growing. He has since taken up a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres with forty acres of deeded land, improved with good buildings, in section 14, township 24, range 21, near Long Pine.

In January, 1867, Mr. Hughes was married at West Union, Iowa, to Miss Emily F. Nestlerode, who was born at Beach Creek, Pennsylvania, of German stock, and died September 20, 1902. Ten children were born to them, of whom seven are now living: Anna, wife of Charles Briggs, Nebraska City; Nancy, who married John Tscherner, of Chadron; Josephine, wife of Frank Weid of Chicago; Mitchel; George; Blanche, who married William Wiltse, who is in business at San Francisco, and James.

Mr. Hughes is a Republican in political faith. He has always taken a deep interest in all public affairs and is an upright citizen, enjoying an enviable reputation as one of the foremost men of his community. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order at Long Pine, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Grand Army of the Republic, at Ainsworth. In Iowa he was formerly a member of the Odd Fellows.

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#### JOHN PIKE.

John Pike, whose pleasant home in Loss Creek precinct bespeaks painstaking care in its management, is a pioneer settler of Deuel county and a well known agriculturist, stockman and business man of that region. He has met with pronounced success in his different lines of work, has accumulated a fine property, and enjoys the well merited prosperity and the respect and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Pike is a native of Bourbon county, Kansas, born February 4, 1858, and is a typical western man. He was raised and educated in that state, the family living there up to 1879, when father, mother and five sons (of whom our subject was the second in order of birth), moved to McLean county, Illinois. The father died in Kearney, Nebraska, in 1898, while the mother is still living at that place. Mr. Pike came into Perkins county, Nebraska, in 1891, remained in that vicinity for about two years, then came to Deuel county and homesteaded on section 35, township 18, range 43, proved up on the claim.

and then sold out. He afterwards took a Kincaid claim on section 11, township 17, range 43, acquiring four hundred and eighty acres, and this is now the home ranch. He has improved it in good shape, has fifty acres cultivated, and runs some stock. One brother, Albert Pike, owns a ranch which adjoins his land on the south, and he has also met with decided success as a farmer and ranchman.

Mr. Pike is one of the prominent and well-to-do bachelors of Deuel county. He is quite heavily interested in the real estate business in Oshkosh, owns a fine building located on one of the best business lots in the town, and has met with considerable success in this line. In his township he is one of the leading public-spirited citizens, taking an active part in school affairs, and has held the office of moderator of district No. 23. Politically, he is a Democrat, and although he has never sought public preferment, has held numerous local offices. He is vice-president of the Antelope Valley Telephone Company, which he helped organize. He was also instrumental in the organization of the Antelope Valley Horse Company, and has been its treasurer for two years.

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#### FRANK CILEK, JR.

Prominent among the successful business men of Gordon, Nebraska, is the gentleman above named. Mr. Cilek is engaged in the retail meat trade, and has one of the finest and best equipped markets in Gordon. He has built up a good trade through his strict honesty, and his market is one of the best patronized here, catering to the best class of people.

Mr. Cilek was born in Harvard county, Nebraska, in 1882, and is a son of Frank Cilek, who came to Sheridan county in 1889, now a farmer in Dawes county. He had a family of four children, and our subject is the second member. He grew up in Dawes county, assisting his father in the hard work always to be found in carrying on a farm, and there received a good training for his later years. In 1901 he returned to his old home in Harvard county, and there worked at teaming, and in the butcher business at St. Paul, Nebraska, for some time. He then went west and spent a year traveling through California and Oregon, and in 1903 came to Gordon, where he worked in a meat market here. In 1906 Mr. Cilek bought a half interest in this business, and since that time has taken over the entire management of the place, and is well liked by everyone with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way.

Mr. Cilek is a young man of sterling character, industrious and energetic, and well deserves the success he has met with since beginning in business. His market is a model of its kind and he enjoys a good patronage.

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#### WILLIAM H. SELLERS.

William H. Sellers, residing on section 6, township 31, range 35, is one of the old settlers of that region, and by his efforts he has aided materially in the development of the agricultural resources of Cherry county. He is a gentleman of good character, worthy citizen and kind neighbor, and has a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Sellers was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, November 18, 1846, and reared and educated on his father's farm, moving to Vermillion county, Illinois, with his parents in 1861 where they remained for twenty years. His father was Cyrus Sellers, a native of Pennsylvania, born of American stock, for many years a forgerman and later a farmer. Our subject is the third member in a family of five children, and at the age of eighteen years began working for himself and also assisted in the support of his parents until he was twenty-nine years old.

In 1880 he moved to Harlan county, Nebraska, where droughts ruined his crops so that he was unable to make even a living and, leaving there, he went to Otoe county, where he farmed for three years, followed by two years' residence in Holt county. In 1886, he first came to Cherry county, where he took a homestead on the Niobrara river above the mouth of Bear creek, on which he lived for eight years, making some improvements, his one and a half-story log house being at that time the largest in this region and the favorite resort for dances and frolics. He soon afterwards sold this and then took up a tree claim which he improved with buildings. After proving up on this and securing title, he sold at a good figure and in 1904 took his present homestead of four hundred and eighty acres, of which he is making a fine place, putting up good buildings, enclosing all with substantial fences and having a goodly portion under cultivation. He has trees, brome grass and alfalfa growing thrifty, and keeps considerable stock.

When he first came to Cherry county he had a hard time getting started, losing several successive crops through severe storms and drouth, but has done well since the good years came on and likes the region immensely now. His first house was a dugout, and the family lived in this for a time, before a good log house could be erected.

In 1875 Mr. Sellers was married to Miss Hanna Alice Crane, born in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1858. Five children were born to them, namely: Nora H., wife of George W. Seiler; Guy W., Charles P., Erastus Lee, and Artie Leela, the three elder born in Illinois and the younger two in Nebraska. Mrs. Sellers died February 12, 1891, and in her loss the family suffered a sad bereavement and she was sincerely mourned as a good mother and wife by them.

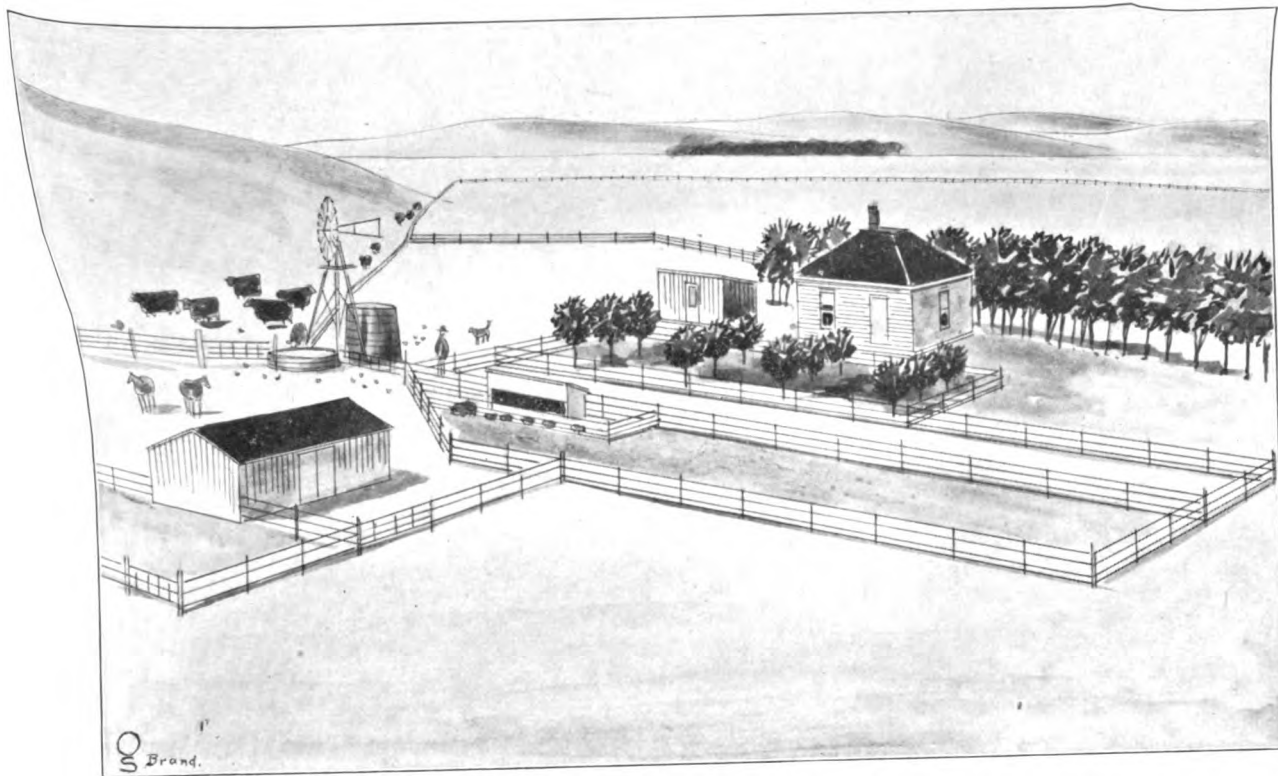
Mr. Sellers is one of the foremost citizens of his locality in all matters of public interest, and does all he possibly can to advance the best interests of his community. He is generally a Democrat, but votes for the best man in local elections. When General Grant was a candidate for president the first time, our subject cast a vote for him, showing a liberal spirit, such as all Americans should cultivate, and which makes for better citizenship.

On another page of this work will be found a view of the residence of Mr. Sellers.

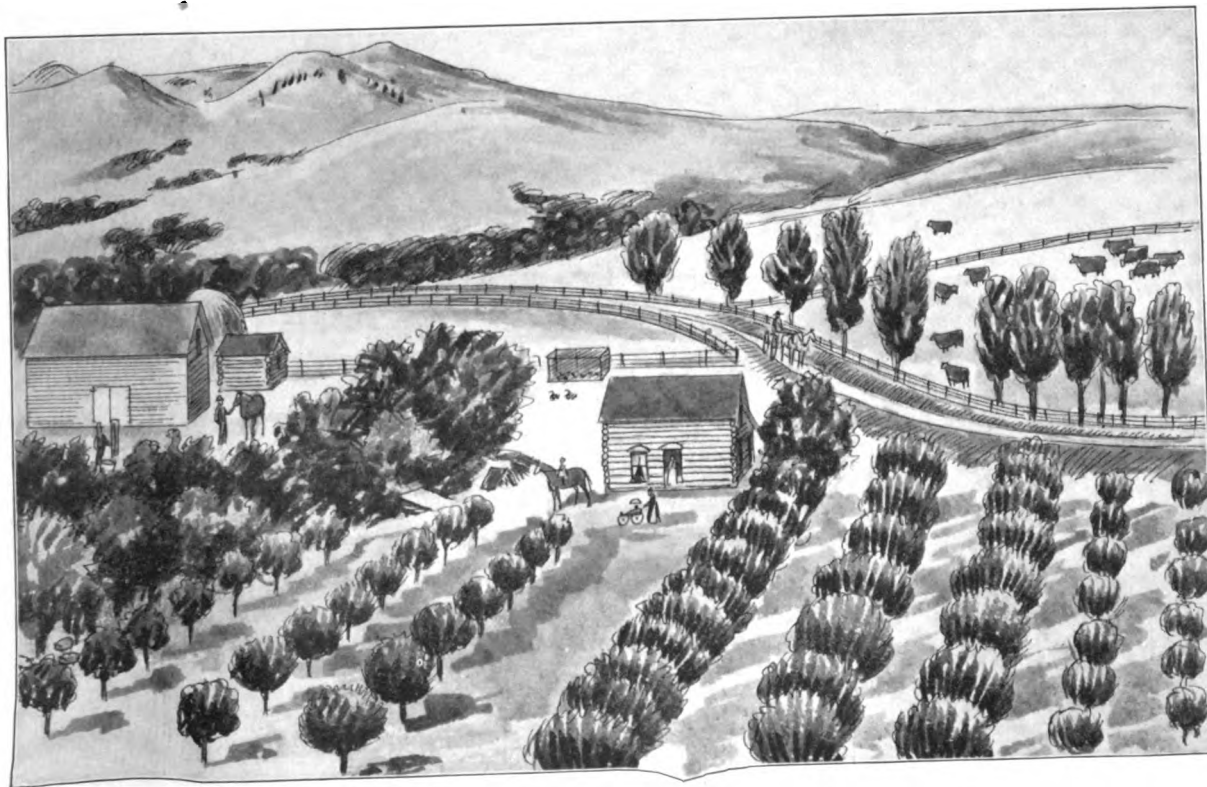
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#### JOHN D. BEEMAN.

The gentleman whose life history is here presented is widely known as one of the oldest settlers and most influential citizens of Keya Paha county. Mr. Beeman was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, July 16, 1853, and reared and educated on a farm where he endured a great amount of hard farm work as a boy. When seven years of age he moved with his parents to Crawford county, Iowa, remaining there until 1867; then the family came to Nebraska, settling in Antelope county. The father, Aaron N. Beeman, was of American stock, and devoted his entire time to farming; our subject's mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Nancy Powers, born in Indiana; she had a family of seven children, of whom our subject was the fifth member. He began life for himself when seventeen years of age, harvesting in Dakota for a season, then followed threshing below Sioux Falls. In the spring he secured a position on a steamer running between St. Louis and Fort Benton. In 1873, the boat attempted to make a third trip which, owing to low water, was not finished until the next season, the boat being frozen in sixty miles above Fort Burford. After three years on the river he secured a place as cook for General Custer, but after a month, secured a place as a scout and followed that vocation for over eighteen months, quitting the service about a year before the battle of Wounded Knee. Had it not been for his brother-in-law's influencing him to come to Keya Paha, Mr. Beeman would have been in that fa-



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM H. SELLERS,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN BEEMAN,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



mous battle and might have been one of the number killed. He came into Keya Paha county in the summer of 1879, locating on section 23, township 32, range 20, and still occupies this farm. There are about sixty acres of natural timber on the place, out of which he hauled cedar posts in the early days to Neligh, where he sold them for twenty-five cents each, a method of supplying provisions for the family, quite common in those days. He sold off his home place seven thousand of these posts. Mr. Beeman gradually improved his place and added to the acreage, now owning two hundred acres, all low farming and hayland except forty acres. He has under cultivation about sixty acres, on which he raises good crops, and keeps about fifty hogs, with enough cows and horses for farm use. He has an orchard of seven hundred and fifteen fruit trees, all in fine growing order, and from these he gets all the fruit he can use and also sells considerable in the home market. Nearly the entire tract is irrigated by a good stream, so a dry year has no terrors for the owner of this fine estate. There is still an abundance of fine timber on the place that is increasing rather than diminishing.

On July 4, 1883, Mr. Beeman was married to Miss Susan Rickman, whose parents, Samuel N. and Mary (Mash) Rickman, were early settlers in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Beeman have been born the following children: Albert D., Nancy, wife of Ebba Jackson, of Herring, South Dakota; Gussie and Nellie, the two latter still living at home at the present time.

Mr. Beeman is the oldest settler in Keya Paha county at this time, and has always taken a leading part in its development and growth, and witnessed its advancement from practically a wilderness to its present prosperity. He has always voted the Republican ticket and taken a commendable interest in local affairs in his community, but has never sought office.

A picture of Mr. Beeman's place appears on another page of this volume.

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#### GEORGE W. DAVIS.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a prominent ranchman of Sioux county, Nebraska. He was one of the early settlers of that region, and has made many friends since his residence here, by all of whom he is highly esteemed.

Mr. Davis was born in Jackson county, Iowa, in 1863. His parents lived on the Mississippi river, at the town of Bellevue, and there George was reared and educated. His father, Henry, was of German descent, the mother being of

Irish birth. The father was a soldier in the Civil war, and met his death at the battle of Vicksburg, on July 4, 1863.

Our subject's mother, whose maiden name was Katherine O'Connor, after being left a widow, raised her family of children, of whom our subject was the second member, and had a hard struggle to get along. She died in 1871, in Jackson county, Iowa. After the mother's death, George was sent to the Soldiers' Orphans Home at Davenport, Iowa, until he was thirteen years of age, when he left that institution and struck out for himself, from that time on making his own way in the world.

Mr. Davis came to Cambridge, Nebraska, where he spent two years, then became a cow-puncher on a ranch in that vicinity and later worked on a ranch near North Platte city, being employed by several different cow outfits, subsequently working mostly along the South Loup river. In the spring of 1881, Mr. Davis and a partner came to a ranch near where the town of Crawford now stands and remained there for about a year. In the following year he trailed a large bunch of cattle in Montana, and during that trip was obliged to live almost entirely on buffalo meat. He saw every phase of the frontiersman's life in those early days, when his cow-punching experiences reached from the city of North Platte, Nebraska, to Tongue river, Montana. In 1883, our subject located near Chadron, connecting himself with the Half Diamond E. outfit, and remained with the company for about a year, and the following three years were spent in Montana employed by different ranching outfits.

Mr. Davis finally got tired of roaming around and decided to settle down permanently, so returned to Nebraska and took up a homestead twenty-five miles northwest of Harrison, in the fall of 1888. He proved up on his land in due time and operated his ranch for sixteen years, then purchased a tract of land situated four and a half miles south of Harrison, and here he has improved a good farm and ranch, having five hundred and twenty acres, engaging in cattle raising principally. He has put up good buildings and improvements, all of his place is fenced and cross fenced, with good wells and windmills.

Mr. Davis was married March 26, 1890, to Miss Elizabeth Sutton, daughter of Lewis C. Sutton, who was a veteran of the Civil war, his death occurring in 1882, at Jerseyville, Illinois. Mrs. Davis' mother was Helen Terrill, of Henry county, Missouri, and now lives at Jerseyville, Illinois. As a result of the above marriage, three children were born, who are named as follows: Cora, Lewis and Helen. Mrs. Davis' grandmother was among the early settlers in Sioux county, driving overland when coming here, from



Greenfield, Iowa, in a wagon containing all their possessions.

Mr. Davis occupies a foremost position as one of the leading old-timers of his locality, and has aided very materially in the development of this region.

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#### WILLIAM LISCO.

William Lisco, residing in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is a genuine old-timer of that region, and one of the picturesque type of western pioneer cattlemen who was prominently connected with the early life on the plains. He has been largely interested in ranches owned by the Lisco Brothers, which are now merged into the concern known as the Pine Creek Land and Cattle Company.

Mr. Lisco was born in Canada in 1851, coming into the states when quite small, his parents settling in New York at first, and remaining for several years. They then went to Iowa, and next to Nebraska, landing in this state in 1872. Our subject was in Colorado for about two years, and in 1876 came into Cheyenne county, arriving here in February of that year. He was subsequently employed on different big ranches in the vicinity, following the range up to 1885, then located on a homestead on section 29, township 18, range 46, this tract being situated on the Platte river, the home ranch consisting of four hundred and eighty acres. He started in the ranching business at once, and succeeded in a marked degree, building up a good place, and gradually extending his possessions until he is now classed among the wealthy men of the county. Besides his ranching interests he engages in farming on a small scale, having about forty acres in crops, and the balance in hay land. At the present time he is running seventy head of cattle and fifty head of horses. Two hundred and eighty acres are under ditch, and all of his ranch is valuable land.

Mr. Lisco was married at Chappell, Deuel county, Nebraska, in 1896, to Miss Myrtle Norton. They had one child, Gladys, born in 1898, and the mother died here in 1904.

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#### JAMES J. COOPER.

One of the leading old-timers of the state of Nebraska may be found in the person of James J. Cooper, the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. He settled in Rock county where he now resides in 1884, and has seen all the changes which have taken place since the early days, and done his full share towards mak-

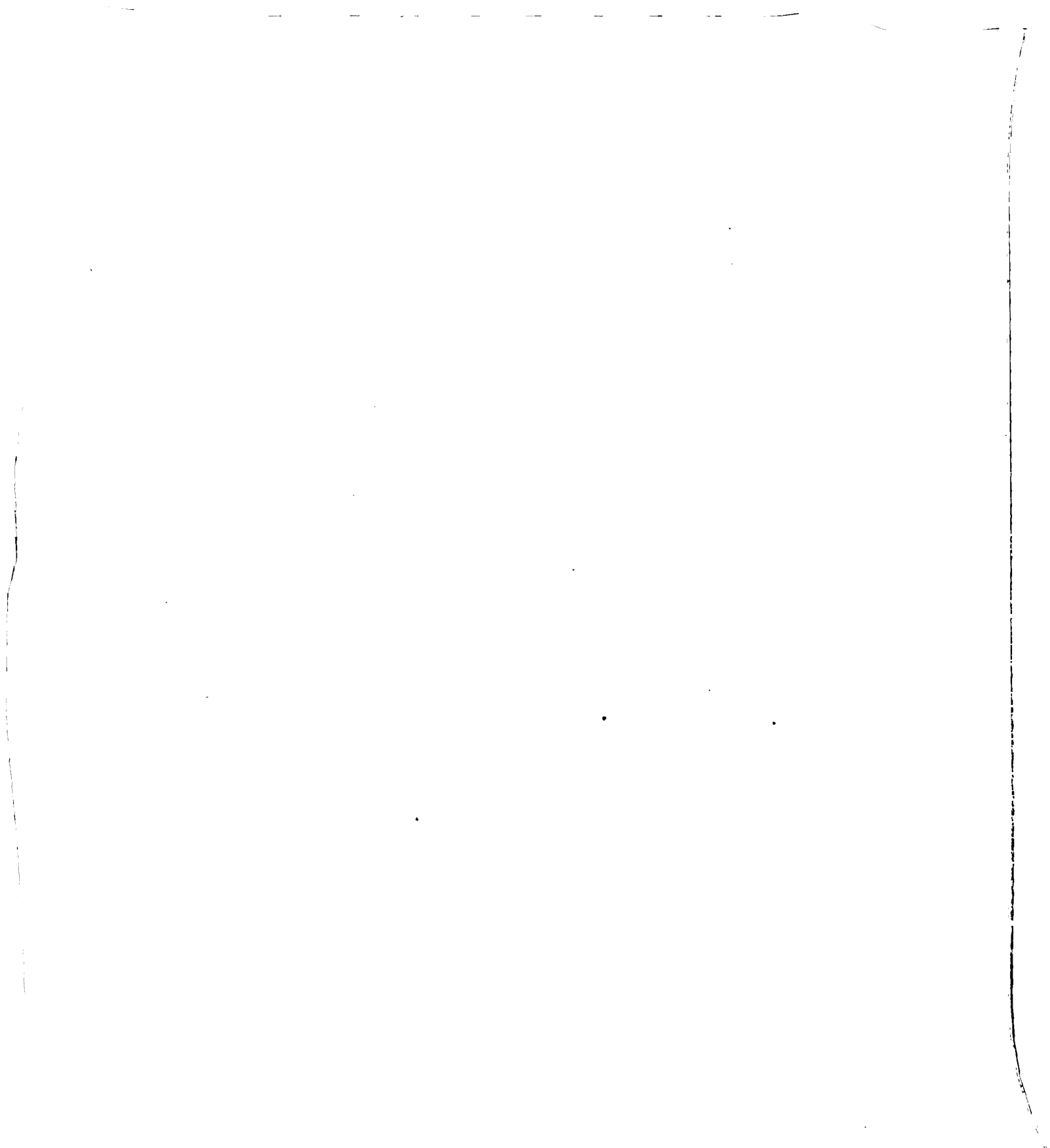
ing the history of this part of the state of Nebraska.

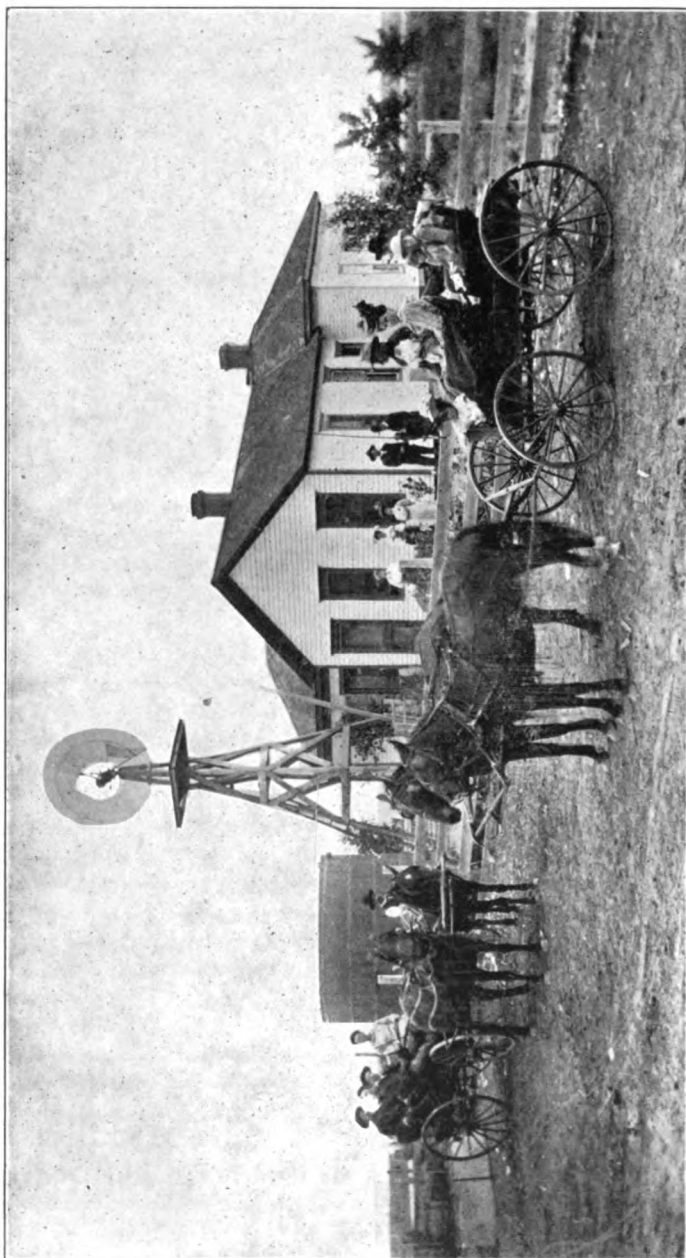
Mr. Cooper was born in West Troy, New York, March 10, 1838. He is a son of James Cooper, who was a cattle driver and farmer, and his mother was of Scotch descent, her maiden name being Sarah Kinkade. When our subject was two and a half years old the family moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they were among the pioneer settlers. He is the youngest member in a family of seven children, and was reared and educated in St. Lawrence county on his father's farm, where he assisted his father and brothers in carrying on the farm work. He spent eleven winters in the pineries, and in his young manhood learned the millwright's trade in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, following that occupation for twenty-two years. He lived in different parts of the Badger state during those years, employed in equipping a large number of the mills in that state.

When the war broke out our subject enlisted during 1861 in the Thirty-fifth New York Volunteer Infantry, and saw service with the Army of the Potomac. He participated in twenty-two big battles during his service as a soldier, besides numerous skirmishes. He saw three stands of colors shot to pieces from the heads of this regiment. When he entered the regiment he went in with one thousand men, to which were added six hundred recruits, and when the regiment disbanded there were but four hundred and eighty left. During different battles men on both sides of him were shot down and killed, while he escaped without receiving any severe wounds through all the time he spent in the army, which was over two years.

In 1884 he came to Nebraska and located in Rock county, taking up a tree claim in section 33, township 32, range 18, and proved up on it. He has improved one timber claim, put up a number of buildings, and acquired three hundred and twenty acres of land, all fenced with over forty-five acres of plow land. This he sold in the fall of 1907, after a series of accidents, including a stroke of lightning and a headlong fall from a hay stack, incapacitating him for manual labor. He has been very successful since coming to Rock county, both at farming and the carpenter's trade, having put up many houses in the town of Stuart, and a number of school-houses in the county. He was employed in the building of the Rock county courthouse, in 1893, the one which was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Cooper was married November 17, 1866, at DePere, to Miss Christina Bandow, whose parents came to American shores from Prussia in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have a family of four children, two of whom, the oldest and





RESIDENCE OF WILL M. STEVENS.

youngest, are living: Myrtle, widow of William Bullard, and Henry. James and Lilly are deceased. The family live in a comfortable cottage in Bassett, whither they removed after the sale of the farm. Mr. Cooper is a Republican in politics, and with his family is a member of The Church of God.

WILLIAM M. STEVENS.

Energetic effort and intelligence go hand in hand in the building up of one's fortune, regardless of the vocation to which they are applied. One of the well developed and highly improved estates of Perkins county is that owned and operated by William M. Stevens, who resides in Sawyer precinct, and the possessor of three thousand and forty acres, situated five miles northwest of Madrid. The comfortable circumstances enjoyed by this gentleman have been brought about by the exercise of judicious labor and painstaking care, and every appointment of the place bespeaks good taste and splendid business ability.

William M. Stevens was born in Hancock county, Illinois, in 1861, his birthplace being the town of Hamilton. His father, Joseph, was a merchant, born in Maine, an early settler in Butler county, this state, his family being the second to settle in David City, locating in Butler county in the fall of 1870. The mother was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Philadelphia. During the first week of their residence in Butler county a band of seven hundred Indians came through that part of the country, and there was some uneasiness regarding their presence there, although they were at peace with the settlers and made no disturbance.

Our subject was raised on the frontier, going through all the pioneer times, witnessing grasshopper raids, drouths, etc., and saw every phase of life on the plains. In 1885 he came to Perkins county and took a homestead on section 24, township 11, range 38, and started to build up a farm. Ogallala was then the nearest trading point and postoffice. In the spring of the following year Mr. Stevens built a sod shanty twelve by fourteen feet, and in this began his bachelor existence, continuing to live alone for five years. During the first few years he worked at whatever he could get to do in the vicinity of his homestead, being employed at contract work on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, constructing six miles of the road during the winter of 1886-87. He went through team experience, and as late as the fall of 1890 drove into Deuel county with a team of oxen. When the drouths struck the section he left

farm and went to eastern Nebraska, and also spent one season in Montana.

Mr. Stevens located on his present homestead, which is situated on section 26, township 11, range 38, in the spring of 1891. Here he has put many improvements in the way of good buildings, fences, etc., and is engaged in mixed stock raising and farming, for the past few years devoting his time and efforts principally to the former. For the past six years he has held an auction annually, selling off considerable stock which he raises constantly, and these sales are largely attended from all parts of the country near him, as he has the reputation of handling high-grade animals, and is known to be a good judge of stock.

Mr. Stevens was married in 1890, to Mrs. Mary Beatty, who was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania. The family consists of the following children: Cora and John, both married and living near the home ranch; these two are Mrs. Stevens' children by a former marriage. Harry, Minnie, Morgan, Kittie, Leonora, Lela and Grace, all of whom are willing assistants to their parents in running the ranch. In 1905, the wife and mother departed this life, and since her death, which was deeply lamented by her sorrowing family and a host of warm friends, Minnie has had charge of the home.

A picture of Mr. Stevens' residence will be found on another page.

HON. VICTOR ANDERSON.

Hon. Victor Anderson, who represented his county in the legislature from 1901 to 1905, elected on the Fusion ticket, is one of the prominent men of that region. He has resided in this part of the state of Nebraska for many years, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen.

Mr. Anderson was born in Kane county, Illinois, in the city of St. Charles. His father, N. P. A. Anderson, was a native of Smoland, Sweden, who settled in Illinois, and later in Iowa. He was a man of good education and followed farming as an occupation, coming to Nebraska in 1875, taking up the homestead on which our subject now lives. He died at the age of seventy years, his death occurring May 23, 1906, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He left a family of three children. Our subject's mother, Mary S. Anderson, died on the farm February 7, 1908. One son, Emil, also lives with them as well as a sister of our subject, Josie, and they operate a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, renting out three hundred and twenty acres. He is proprietor altogether of six hun-

dred and forty acres of land, all cultivated and well improved, handling also a large number of cattle and some pure-bred Poland China hogs, also raising considerable wheat and corn. Among the farm equipment is a modern automobile. He is a most successful farmer and employs modern methods in operating his land. In 1902 his wheat yield was thirty-eight bushels per acre, and his corn crop ran sixty bushels per acre in 1889. He raises about ten thousand bushels of grain each good crop year, and uses the greater part of it on his farm. He keeps from seventy-five to one hundred head of hogs on an average. Our subject became a stockholder and director in the Kearney County Lumber Company in 1907, and still is interested in the business.

In 1904 Mr. Anderson was nominated for senator from Kearney, Phelps and Harlan counties. He is at present acting as president of the Kearney County Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, having been elected to this office in 1904. He has been director of his school district since coming of age. Mr. Anderson is a very popular young man, of off-hand, sociable manners, and one of the most intelligent and progressive citizens in this section of the country. He has a host of warm friends and admirers, and highly esteemed as a man of excellent character and good business judgment. He belongs to the Swedish Lutheran church, and gives freely of his time and support.

#### GEORGE H. PRUDEN.

George H. Pruden, proprietor of a valuable ranch in Merriman precinct, Cherry county, is comparatively a recent settler in this locality, but has become very well known as a worthy citizen and prosperous ranchman. He is a man of strict integrity and persistent industry, and well merits his high standing and financial success.

Mr. Pruden was born in Sidney, Ohio, October 20, 1869. His father, Peter W. Pruden, was a farmer of American stock who came to Nebraska in 1888. During the civil war he served three years in Company F, Eighty-third Illinois regiment, and was in many different battles and skirmishes. After locating in Nebraska he farmed near Chadron for some years until the drouth struck that locality, and his crops were ruined and he lost everything he had. He died January 23, 1903, leaving a wife who still lives in Nebraska, and a family of seven children of whom our subject is the fourth member. At the age of eighteen he started out to make his own living, working on different ranches in the vicinity of his home for twelve dollars and a

half a month, and was very glad to get that. He also broke horses for ranchmen, and was able to earn fifteen dollars per month by this labor, continuing in this work for the following nine years, then together with his brothers, established himself in the cattle business. They succeeded very well in this venture, and now have a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, besides each having good homestead lands.

In November, 1890, Mr. Pruden came to Cherry county, and on landing here, there was altogether in the possession of the family just one hundred dollars in cash, and added to this small start, for the first two years their crops were a total failure. During the first winter they were obliged to buy the potatoes for the family supply, and paid one dollar per bushel for them. However, they stuck together, our subject and his brothers securing work by the day or month, and in this manner supported the family, and after the hard times had passed they were very successful in their farming operations and accumulated a nice property, now being counted among the prominent and substantial residents of Cherry county, all interested in the ranching business. The ranch is improved with a complete set of good farm buildings, all fenced and fitted with all the equipment necessary for conducting a model ranch. They have a fine drove of three hundred head of cattle, and quite a number of horses. October 7, 1907, Mr. Pruden purchased a meat market in Merrimac, which he operates in connection with his ranch.

In 1903 Mr. Pruden was married to Miss Martha K. Herbaugh, a native of Nebraska, born in 1880. Her father, John W. Herbaugh, served in the Civil war for four years, as a member of an Indiana regiment. Mr. and Mrs. Pruden have one child, John Clark Pruden.

Mr. Pruden is a Republican, but takes no active part in politics, devoting his entire time and attention to the building up of his home, surrounding himself and family with all the comforts and conveniences of a model farm home.

#### IRA A. HAMMOND.

Among the leading old-timers of the state of Nebraska, none is better known or more highly respected than the subject of this review, Ira A. Hammond. Mr. Hammond is a native of Tama county, Iowa, born November 15, 1858. His father, Matthew Hammond, born in Vermont, was of American lineage. He came to Tama county, Iowa, about 1856, and while here, served as postmaster of the postoffice which was located on his farm. The family consisted of twelve children, of whom our subject was the tenth

member in order of birth. He was raised in Tama county until four years of age, then his parents moved to McDonough county, Illinois, where Ira grew to manhood. He was taught to do all kinds of hard farm labor, attending the country schools during the winter months, and in this way received a common school education. He lived with his parents assisting them until the death of his father, which occurred in 1890, then supported his mother until her death, in 1902. In 1885, Mr. Hammond came to Brown county, settling on a farm two and one-half miles west of Johnstown. Here he built a dug-out, or sod house, which was the first building ever erected on his farm, and in this he lived for some time. He lived here up to 1891, when he sold out his property and moved to Ainsworth, plying his trade as a mason, at which occupation he has worked constantly since coming to Ainsworth. After two years in Ainsworth he rented a farm and worked this besides working at his trade when there was masonry to do. In 1901 he bought his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres, the north half of section 31, township 30, range 22. This property is improved with a good set of farm buildings, fences, etc., and he engages in stock raising and mixed farming. In the early days he often had a hard struggle to get along, but he has steadily pushed forward, has a comfortable home and now enjoys a nice income from the fruits of his labor.

In the spring of 1907, Mr. Hammond began the manufacture of concrete brick and cement blocks, and is extensively engaged in concrete paving in Ainsworth and elsewhere in Brown county.

Mr. Hammond was married December 25, 1889, to Miss Mary C. Murray, born in Illinois, whose father, John Murray, is a farmer and old settler in Brown county. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond are the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Vernie L., Leslie M., Mary E. (deceased), Grace I., and Fred.

Mr. Hammond votes the Republican ticket, and takes a commendable interest in all party affairs. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Ainsworth.

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MORGAN J. WILLIAMS.

A typical pioneer of western Nebraska is represented by the gentleman above named, Morgan J. Williams. He has lived many years in this section of the country and has been a part of the growth and development of this region building up for himself a substantial home and fortune by his perseverance and thrift, and has

liam Jennings Bryan the second time in 1900, but he did not get there. He has been on the village board for seven years, and takes a leading part in his community.

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#### HENRY C. HENDERSON.

Henry C. Henderson, an agriculturist of prominence in Cheyenne county, resides in Bronson precinct, and is one of those substantial citizens whose integrity and industry, thrift and economy, have added so much to the material wealth and growth of Nebraska. Agriculture forms the basis of wealth in that part of the country, as, indeed, in most sections of the United States. It is, therefore, of great importance that the class of people who inhabit the great farming regions of the country should represent those elements of sterling worth so prominently displayed by the majority of the early settlers and their descendants. Mr. Henderson is a veteran of the Civil war, a worthy citizen and a good neighbor, and richly deserves all the success which has come to him.

Mr. Henderson was born in Vermillion township, Vermillion county, Illinois, on the 21st of June, 1842, and lived in that vicinity for fifty years. He enlisted in Vermillion county, in Company C, Seventy-third Illinois Volunteers, on July 5, 1862, and was mustered in, nine days later, at Indianapolis, Indiana. During active service at the battle of Chickamauga, he was seriously wounded and was sent to the hospital, where he remained for six months, and then was transferred into the Veteran Reserve Corps, from which he was mustered out July 5, 1865, just three years to a day from the date of his enlistment.

Our subject returned to Illinois after being discharged from the army, and farmed there up to 1892, then came west to Buffalo county, Nebraska, farming in Valley precinct about twelve years in that locality before removing to Cheyenne county, where he has since resided. Reaching Sidney March 20, 1905, he filed on a homestead in section 18, township 13, range 50, and began to develop a home. The place is well situated and contains as fine land as is to be found in this region. One of the natural curiosities of the region, Tower Butte, is situated but a few rods from the dwelling, and is one of the landmarks of the region.

Mr. Henderson was married in Vermillion county, Illinois, March 7, 1872, to Mary F. Jones, a widow, whose maiden name was Lough. Mrs. Henderson was born in Ritchie county, West Virginia, in 1849, and she had one child by her

first marriage, Dora M., who married Abraham Long, and resides in Kimball county. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have a family of six children, who are named as follows: Druzilla E., now Mrs. Charles Stafford, of Sidney; John R. Henderson, now living in Kimball county; James F. Henderson, of Buffalo county; Donna M., wife of William Davis, of Kimball county; E. C. Henderson, of Cheyenne county. One son, Nathaniel Beeson, is living at home, and assists his father in carrying on the home ranch. While living in Illinois the family were all members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and Mr. Henderson was a comrade in the Grand Army of the Republic. He is a Republican in politics.

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#### PETER REHDER.

Peter Rehder, a prominent farmer and stockman living on section 20, township 22, range 15, is well known throughout Garfield county as a progressive and successful agriculturist, highly esteemed by all with whom he has had to do.

Mr. Rehder is a native of Germany, born in 1854. He grew up in his native country, and in 1881 left home and struck out for the new world, arriving in America in May, 1881. After landing in New York he came across the country locating in Davenport, Iowa, where he remained for a time, then emigrated to Nebraska in 1885, on account of the land there being cheaper and the better chances a poor man had for gaining a competence, locating in Garfield county on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he succeeded in developing a good farm, engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, and now owns about two hundred and fifty acres of good land, half of it under cultivation, raising splendid crops of corn and oats, with some wheat and rye. He has a good supply of water from deep bored wells, and his place is well improved with good buildings and a comfortable residence, fine groves, orchards, etc.

Mr. Rehder is of the opinion that the average man here is much better off financially than in Iowa, as the land here costs less and crops grow just as well with less labor, one man taking care of a hundred acres as easily as he could fifty in Iowa. Since locating here he has had fair success every year with the exception of 1894, when his crops were burned out by the hot winds, and that year everyone suffered some bad luck; but after the coming of the better years he was very fortunate, and has accumulated a nice property. The only disadvantage here is the poor schools, but these are now being improved wonderfully, and it will only be a short time before they will







FRED W. JOHANSEN.

be as good as can be found anywhere. The school section embraces about twelve square miles.

Mr. Rehder raises and feeds stock for the market, mostly cattle and hogs. He has a small orchard, and for the past two years, 1906 and 1907, has had excellent crops of apples. The trees do not do so very well here, but he states that with good care and close attention they can be made to produce very fair crops, and there are plenty of blackberries growing wild in the vicinity of his farm, which is sufficient for their home use.

Mr. Rehder is a typical German farmer, honest and industrious and a hard worker. He has made considerable money since settling here, and is classed among the wealthy residents of his section.

In 1884 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Mohr, also a native of Germany, who came to America with her parents in 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Rehder four children have been born, two of whom, Fritz, aged fourteen, and Rudolph, aged seven, are still living. Two daughters died in 1892.

The family are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Rehder is a Democrat, but has never held office, as he has never had any time to worry over politics, preferring to devote his whole attention to the building up of his home.

CHRISTIAN M. PEDERSEN.

Christian M. Pedersen, a progressive farmer and ranchman of Cherry county, is owner of a fine estate of eight hundred and eighty acres in township 28, range 29. His residence is on section 22, of the above township, and he is the proprietor of one of the most valuable ranches in the section as a result of his good business ability and untiring energy.

Mr. Pedersen was born in Denmark, on a farm, in 1869. His father was a carpenter by trade, and followed that in connection with his farm work, and was also handy at many different occupations, making a good living for his family. Our subject was reared in his native village, as a boy learning the miller's trade, and, in 1891, came to America, arriving in New York city on December 13th of that year. He went directly west to Nebraska, settling in Nuckolls county, but only remained for about eight months, then came up the North Loup and next to Thedford. He secured employment on a ranch and followed that work up to 1894, when he moved to Sweet Lake and filed on a homestead, later went to

homestead on Goose creek, Cherry county, and proved up on the latter place. He "batched it" during all this time and worked throughout the region, operating a well outfit which he purchased, and became familiar with many of the old settlers in the county and surrounding country. Two springs were spent in Wyoming and Montana shearing sheep, and during these times he managed to lay by considerable money, finally returning to Nebraska and spending about two years in Brownlee, where he was engaged in the well business. In 1904 he went into South Dakota, driving through the country with a team and covered wagon, locating near the mouth of Belle Fourche river on the Cheyenne river, but did not like the country and only spent one summer there, then came back to Nebraska with his family, settling on his present homestead, which is situated nine miles northwest of Brownlee. Here he has improved a good place, having two hundred acres broken up which he uses for grain raising, and is constantly breaking more ground, as he intends to devote most of his time to farming. He has good buildings, wells, windmills, several miles of fence, and keeps quite a bunch of stock. When he took the ranch there was simply an old sod house which was ready to tumble down, and he has lately erected a good residence, and has every kind of farm machinery and improvement for the proper operation of a model farm and ranch.

In 1901 Mr. Pedersen was married to Miss Kate L. Auguston, whose father was born in Denmark and her mother in New York state, of German stock. Three children have been born to them, John, Herman and Peder. Mr. Pedersen is classed among the leading old-timers in the region, as he has taken an active part in the development of the commercial and agricultural interests for the past eighteen years.

FREDERICK WILLIAM JOHANSEN.

F. W. Johansen, a prominent business man of Hay Springs, Nebraska, is a young man of exceptional energy and ability, and his success in the enterprises in which he has been engaged from time to time is due to these characteristics combined with his sound business judgment. A portrait of him is presented on another page.

Mr. Johansen was born on a farm near Yankton, South Dakota, on the 24th day of June, 1876. His father, Christian A. Johansen, of Danish descent, is a ranchman and farmer in Sheridan county, Nebraska, having settled there in the spring of 1885, with his family, his wife's maiden name having been Anna Wortman, whose

parents were of German descent. There were ten children in his father's family and Fred is one of the twins, his twin brother's name being Ferdinand J. Johansen.

Fred was raised on a farm and ranch combined, in Sheridan county, attending the country schools during his boyhood, and later the normal school at Rushville. After leaving school he followed teaching for three years in Sheridan county, then went to Chadron, Nebraska, where he attended the academy for a year and following that, five terms at Fremont Normal College, graduating from that institution in the scientific course with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1899.

He again took up teaching and taught in Sheridan and Dawes counties. After this he returned to the Fremont Normal College and received the degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy, graduating in the didactic course in 1902. He was then principal of the public schools of Gresham, Nebraska, in the year 1902-03. In the summer of 1903 he established an implement store at Hay Springs and realizes a profitable trade from the surrounding townships. He also sells many pianos, and is a successful real estate dealer.

In the fall of 1903, the People's party tendered him the nomination for county superintendent of public instruction. There were three tickets in the field that fall, namely: Republican, Democratic and People's party, consequently his chances for election were few. Although not elected, he was the youngest of all candidates and was often termed the "Boy Candidate."

The following year, on September 3, 1904, he purchased the Hay Springs Leader, a weekly newspaper, and changed its name to the Hay Springs Enterprise. This paper was established in January, 1887, and has changed hands several times, and it has been run under different names also. This paper is of the Democratic and Populist faith, and is one of the reliable mediums of this section.

F. W. Johansen is a man of marked character, showing a determination to do right in all cases whatsoever. He has always been much opposed to intemperance and he now enjoys, above everything else, the distinction of having been the first person in Sheridan county to start and to sign a remonstrance against the liquor traffic. He now lives in a quiet, progressive town, which has had no saloon for the past three years, and there is none at present in all Sheridan county. Mr. Johansen delights in Christian work also; at present he is one of the deacons of the Congregational church, and superintendent of the Sunday-school. He has served the Christian Endeavor as president for a number of years, and was among the first to organize Sheridan County

Sunday-School Association, and has served it at different times as secretary, treasurer and president; the same is true of the Sheridan County Anti-Saloon League. He was its first secretary and foremost organizer. For three years he was scribe of the Congregational churches of north-west Nebraska.

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#### ERASMUS PETERSON.

A striking example of what may be accomplished by the exercise of industry, perseverance and good management, is found in the life of the gentleman here named: Mr. Peterson had a very small start, and he is now one of the successful and prosperous agriculturists of Sheridan county, Nebraska, highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Peterson was born in Denmark in 1857 and was raised on a farm there. His father and mother never left the old country, and he remained with them, the sixth member in their family of eight children, until 1873, when he struck out for himself and crossed the ocean, locating in Kasson, Dodge county, Minnesota. He had partly learned the mason's trade in his native land, and he followed it in Minnesota for nearly nine years. In 1882 he went to South Dakota, settling in Yankton, where he worked for two years, and in the fall of 1884 first came to Nebraska. The following spring he took up a claim in section 13, township 31, range 46, and the first summer lived in a covered wagon, later building a log house, in which he lives, having sided it over and plastered it inside, making a very comfortable dwelling. He went to work breaking up his farm and put in twenty acres of corn and raised a good crop. By the time the dry years came on he was farming quite heavily, and for three years his crops were a total loss, so that he never cut them. He became discouraged and went to work for the Homestake mines, following his trade of a mason for nearly seven years. During the last four years he has gone back to farming, and raised good crops, but still does quite a lot of mason work. He has added to his homestead until he now owns eight hundred acres of good, rolling farm land, and of this he cultivates about two hundred acres, keeping about one hundred head of cattle and twenty-six horses. He has experienced his share of hard times in the earlier days and would not care to go through the homesteader's life again, although the first years in this section were the best the family ever saw. At one time he would have sold out if he could have persuaded his wife to sign the papers, but is glad he stuck to it, and now intends to make this his permanent home.

He has every convenience on his farm and in his home, with telephone connection and rural mail delivery.

He was married in Yankton, in 1885, to Miss Flora Johansen, a native of Effingham, Illinois, who moved to Yankton with her parents in 1873. Her father, Christian A. Johansen, was born in Denmark, and came to this country at the age of eighteen years. He was a farmer and cooper in the old country. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have one child living, Charles, who resides with his parents. He graduated, in 1908, from the high school at Hay Springs. They have lost two children, one who died in infancy, and Roy, at the age of sixteen, the death of the latter being caused by the kick of a horse. Mrs. Peterson is a great money maker, as well as her husband, keeping her own bank account. She sells large quantities of poultry, eggs, butter, etc.

Mr. Peterson is a strong Democrat and an ardent admirer of the Bryan faction. He has never held any except local offices, and states that he is not even boss of his own house. The family have a pleasant home, and enjoy the friendship of a host of people in their locality, who frequently partake of their general hospitality.

FERD. J. JOHANSEN.

Ferd. J. Johansen, one of the leading business men and highly esteemed citizens of the thriving town of Hay Springs, Nebraska, is a young man of exceptional business ability. He is, a man of enterprising spirit and strict integrity, and has gained the confidence and respect of his associates.

Mr. Johansen was born near Yankton, South Dakota, June 24, 1876, and was reared in Sheridan county from the time he was nine years old, attending the common schools and later the Rushville Normal and Chadron Academy, graduating from the Fremont Normal College in 1899. After leaving school our subject taught school in Sheridan and Dawes counties for several years.

In 1899, Mr. Johansen became manager of the Hay Springs Creamery Company, and from that gradually drifted into the produce business and later into the general merchandise business. On October 1, 1906, he formed a partnership with Herman E. Clements in establishing a large general store, and they have built up a good trade and made a success of the venture. Mr. Johansen is also agent for the DeLaval Separator Company, also for a threshing machine company, and for the Waltham automobile.

In 1901 Mr. Johansen was married to

Levina May Bolin, daughter of Elridge Bolin, an old settler in this county, who, prior to her marriage, was a teacher in the schools in this county, and a graduate of the Hay Springs high school, class of '99. Mr. and Mrs. Johansen have a family of four children, who are named as follows: Enona Dell, Ethelyn Flora, Burnetta May and Viva Anna Johansen.

Mr. Johansen is a young man of great promise, and has already accomplished a great measure of success in the different enterprises with which he has been associated. He is an active member of the Peoples party.

CHRISTIAN A. JOHANSEN.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a native of Denmark, born in 1841. He is a son of Peter Johansen, a Dane, who came to America in 1859, settling in Illinois, where he remained up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1865. Our subject is the fifth member in a family of twelve children, of whom but eight were living at the time the family came to this country. At the age of twenty-one he started in on a farm for himself, as he had always assisted his father in the work on his various farms and was early accustomed to this business. He remained in Illinois, living near his father's farm up to 1873, when he left that state and went to Yankton, South Dakota, where he took a farm and operated it until 1886, but he had hard times there, grasshoppers destroying his crops during the first years and sustaining many financial losses. He liked Dakota and would have remained there, but for the fact that he wanted to get where his children could get free land as they grew up, so bought a relinquishment in Sheridan county, Nebraska, on which he filed as a pre-emption and began to build a home. There was an old sod house on the place when he came, but this soon went to pieces and he then put up a frame house, putting in a large basement and made a very comfortable dwelling. He began breaking up the land and put in some crops and just got nicely started when the dry years came along and caused him severe losses which put him back considerably.

Mr. Johansen was married in 1862 to Miss Anna Wortman, a native of Ohio, born in 1843, of German descent, whose parents come to this country when they were both very young. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johansen, who are named as follows: Flora, Edward, Caroline, Alice, Ferd J. and Fred W. (twins), Dora, Emma, Albert and Arthur, all of whom live near their parents' homestead except one.

daughter, who resides in Iowa, and all are on the telephone lines.

Mr. Johansen has had the experiences of a pioneer settler in two new countries, both in Dakota and here, and states that were he young again he would not mind trying it over. He had a large family to support, and his labors were hard and they suffered much hardship during some years, but his heart was in the work and they were happy together, and through all the trials he enjoyed himself and has no fault to find with those times. He has done well and accumulated a fine estate, his farm now comprising three hundred and twenty acres of good farming land, cultivating about two hundred acres, and runs sixty head of stock. He does not feed much through the winter, but roughs them through, and also keeps some stock on shares. In addition to operating his own land he leases a school section which he uses for hay and pasture for his stock. He milks a good many cows, and derives a snug income from this source, and it was due to this that he was enabled to get through the dry seasons with so little financial loss and suffering. He also manufactured a large amount of cheese which he shipped and for which he received a good price. He has improved his farm, and has good buildings and fences, also a large number of trees growing nicely. He says that he hardly knows where he saw the hardest times, whether in South Dakota or Nebraska. In the former state he did not have much to start with, but it was harder to make a living, and since coming to Nebraska, has had more money but always had a large family to support. His children have been a great help to him since growing up, however, and at one time he had seven children engaged in teaching in Sheridan county.

Mr. Johansen is an independent voter in local affairs, but in national matters leans toward the Populists. Although he takes a keen interest in all matters of county and state he has never had time to devote to party work, and never cared to seek office.

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#### JOHN SAUERWEIN.

Among the successful self-made men of Box Butte county, Nebraska, may be mentioned John Sauerwein, who came to the United States from his mother country, Germany, when he was a young man twenty-three years old, and since his residence here has displayed an enterprising spirit and the exercise of good judgment by the manner in which he has forged ahead, that commands the respect and esteem of all who know

him. He now resides in section 13, township 27, range 50, and is one of the prosperous farmers of his locality.

Mr. Sauerwein was born in 1860, in the Province of Hessen, Germany, on a farm. His father, Jacob, farmed all his life in his native land, assisted by his sons, who lived at home up to 1883, and after his father's death, which occurred in 1877, our subject carried on the home farm alone, and was the mainstay and support of his mother. Mr. Sauerwein left his native land in 1883 and started out to seek his fortune in the new world, and after landing in New York went to Pennsylvania, where he worked in the mining regions, employed in the car shops as a carpenter and at odd jobs around the plant.

Our subject came to Nebraska, locating in the eastern part of the state and followed farm work for about six months, then in the fall of 1885 came to Dawes county, making his first settlement seventeen miles west of Hemingford, on the Niobrara river. There he built a log house and worked in the timber regions, hauling wood, etc. He handled ox teams and worked on his place, and for seven years hauled water from the Niobrara river. He lived in Dawes county for about eleven years and succeeded in building up a good farm and ranch and accumulating a nice property there, although he suffered many failures of crops during the dry years, and during several seasons was only able to raise enough of the different grains he planted, to get the seed back. He sold his place there and moved to Box Butte county in 1896. Here he bought the place he now occupies and has built up a fine farm and ranch, owning altogether seven hundred and eighty acres, and farms about one hundred and sixty of it, using the balance as hay and grass pasture for his stock, as he runs quite a large herd of cattle on the ranch. He also raises quite an amount of small grain and makes raising potatoes a specialty.

Mr. Sauerwein was married in 1886 to Mary Marchen, a native of Germany, who came to America as a young girl. Mr. and Mrs. Sauerwein had a family of four children, namely: Jacob, Amelia, Anna and Susie. In 1893, the mother departed this life, and after three years, our subject married the second time, taking as his wife Emma Hoffman, daughter of Rudolph Hoffman, one of the oldest settlers in Dawes county. She was reared and educated in Germany. Of this union seven children were born, named as follows: Birdie, Eliza, Minnie, Fritz, Hattie, Ruth and Albert.

Mr. Sauerwein is of the Seventh Day Adventist religion and has followed this faith closely, adhering strictly to the rules of the sect by observing the seventh day of the week always

as the Sabbath day. Politically, our subject is a Republican, taking an active part in local affairs since he located here, and has served his township as road overseer for two years.

ELISHA C. RICE (DECEASED).

The gentleman above named was for many years one of the leading citizens of Keith county, and to his efforts were due much of the prosperity enjoyed in that region. He was a man of strong character, and during his lifetime enjoyed the esteem and respect of all with whom he came in contact, and his memory is cherished by a host of warm friends throughout the country.

Elisha C. Rice was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, January 31, 1834, and grew up in that state, during his young manhood being engaged in newspaper work. He was business manager of the "Norwich Morning Bulletin" for fifteen years, and later established an evening paper at Norwich, of which he was editor and proprietor. On account of ill health he came to Nebraska in 1885, locating in Keith county, in company with his father-in-law, John C. Palmer, and they were partners in establishing what was called the "Lone Tree Ranch," situated on the North Platte river. On this tract they put fine improvements, and the old "Lone Tree Ranch" will be long remembered by old settlers in these parts as a place of large cattle operations. The buildings are all on section 26, township 14, range 36, and the house on the place is today the largest ranch house in Keith county. The tract contains two thousand acres lying along the river, and is a valuable property.

About the year 1890 Mr. Palmer established a bank at Paxton, which was one of the first banking institutions in the county. Both he and Mr. Rice were active in building up the commercial resources of the region, and they were largely instrumental in getting the first church and Sunday-school established in the eastern part of the county.

Mr. Rice was married April 22, 1874, at Norwich, Connecticut, to Mrs. Susan A. Mason, only daughter of John C. Palmer, above mentioned, who, in his younger life, was a wholesale provision merchant at Norwich. His wife was Miss Louise Brown, and all are natives of Newport Rhode Island. Mr. Rice had been previously married and had three children, namely: Elmer P. Mason, Kittie L. Mason, now married and living at Springfield, Massachusetts, and Julia now deceased. To our subject and his good wife were born two children: Leon C. Rice, dentist and manager of the Ogallala and Ke



twenty-five by one hundred feet, carrying a large general stock of merchandise. He has a wide patronage from the farmers all through the county, and is one of the prosperous and successful business men of the place. In addition to conducting this enterprise he is interested in the land business, and owns thirty-two quarter sections in Sheridan and Cherry counties, and is engaged in farming to quite an extent.

Mr. Schmitt was married in 1880 to Miss Elizabeth Kirsch, born in Wisconsin. They have a family of eight children, named as follows: Carrie, Rose, Anna, Mamie, John, Helena, George and Raymond. The family have a pleasant and comfortable home in Gordon, and are well and favorably known.

Mr. Schmitt takes an active part in all local affairs, and has been a member of the town board for years, and is at present serving on the school board. He is numbered among the old settlers of this region, and his name will occupy a prominent place in the early history of Nebraska.

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#### JOHN L. SMITH.

Among the prominent old-timers of western Nebraska who have done their full share in the building up of the region in which they chose their home in the early days, the gentleman above mentioned is recognized as a leading spirit. Mr. Smith has a nice farm in section 32, township 35, range 24, of Keya Paha county, where he is prepared to enjoy the fruits of his many years of labor, surrounded by his family and a host of good friends.

Mr. Smith was born in Saginaw county, Michigan, February 14, 1865. His father, John L., Sr., was a farmer; the mother was Ermina Rhodes in youth. The father died in 1864, and shortly afterwards the latter married Ezra J. Smith, born in Buffalo, New York, who settled in eastern Nebraska in 1875. Our subject was reared in the eastern part of Nebraska on a farm, where he became inured to hard work during his boyhood years, remaining at home and coming with his parents to Keya Paha county in 1889. Here he took up and improved a homestead, which is his present home. Here he has built up a good farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, with one hundred and fifteen acres held under lease. He went through the dry years when for several seasons he was unable to raise a crop, and during that time was compelled to work out to make a living for himself. When he first took this place he had two cows as a start in the cattle business, which he had increased to seventy head at the

time he disposed of them to discontinue cattle raising. His dwelling is a commodious grout house, with substantial out-buildings, good well and windmill. A fine view of them is to be found in this work.

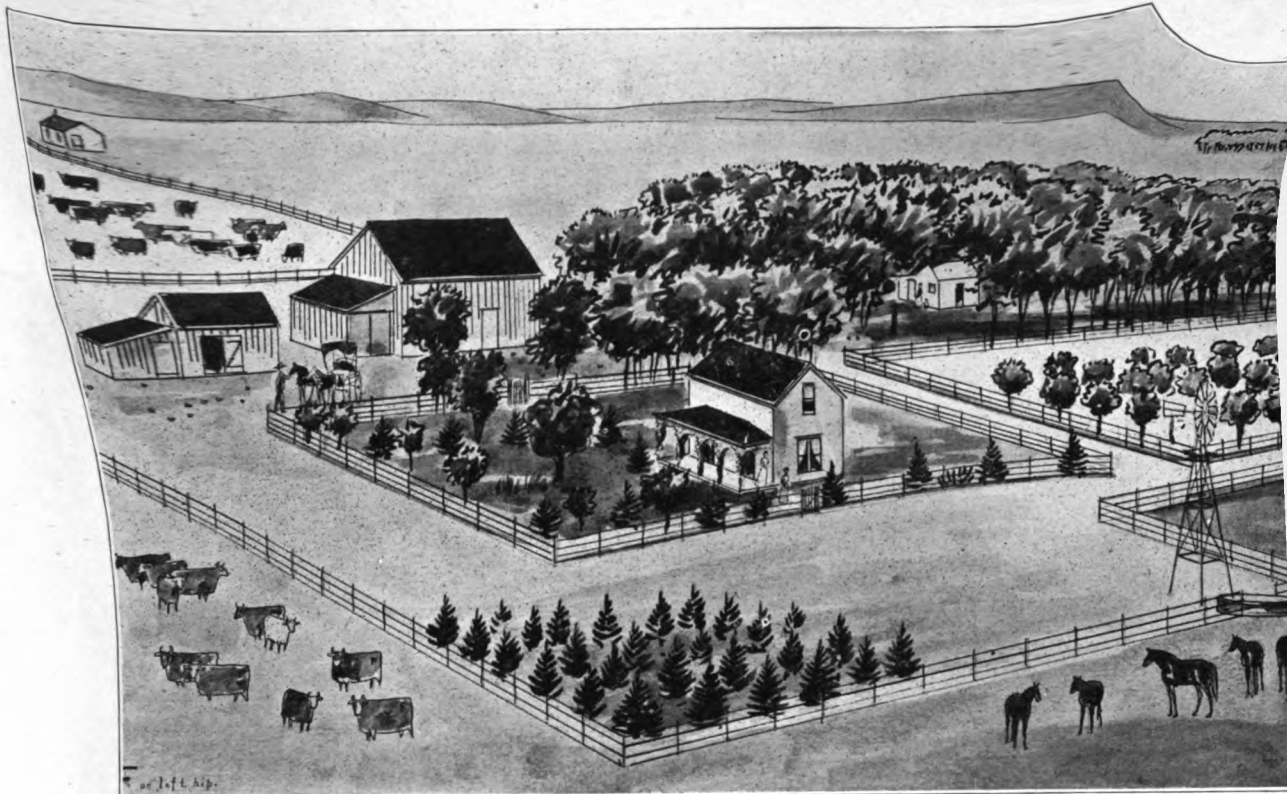
Mr. Smith is a strong Republican, and has held the office of assessor of his district for the past three terms.

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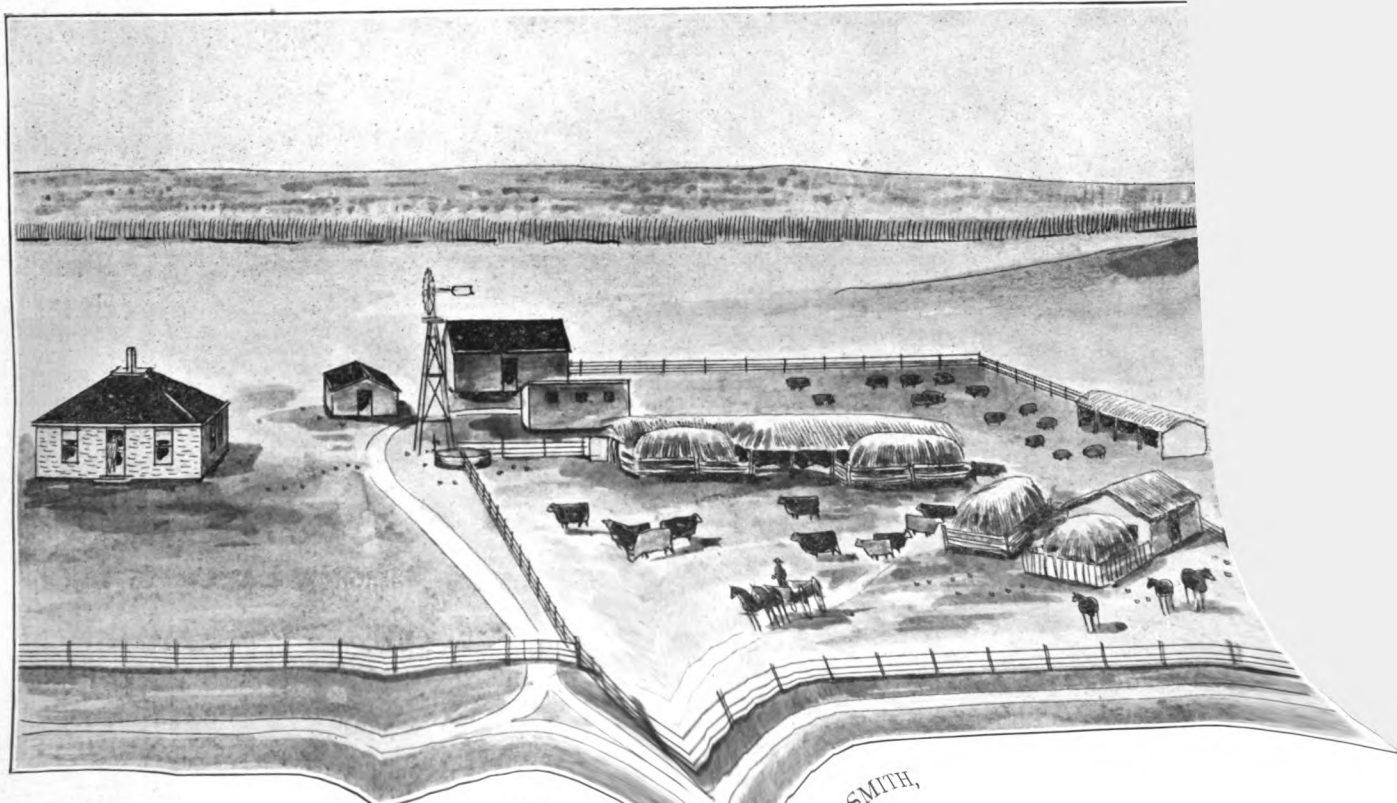
#### JOHN N. FERGUSON.

John N. Ferguson, one of the representative citizens of Brown county, Nebraska, was born in Richland county, Ohio, April 18, 1838. His father was a farmer of Scotch descent, and his mother, who was Margaret Snook, was of American blood, German descent. In a family of six children he was the second member, and when he was three years old the family came to Jefferson county, Iowa, where they were among the pioneers of that state. Our subject was reared on the frontier, where he became accustomed to all kinds of hard farm work, receiving but scant schooling in his boyhood days. At the age of twenty he went to Des Moines, where he attended school for a time. In 1861 he enlisted in Company D, Second Iowa Infantry, and saw service in Missouri during the first year of the war. He was at the battle of Belmont, and with Grant's army during the winter of 1862 and 1863, guarding prisoners at St. Louis. He also participated in the charge on Fort Donelson, at the battle of Shiloh, the advance on Corinth and later the battle there. He also took part in the Atlanta campaign, then through Savannah and to Washington in the grand review, and was mustered out in 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky. He served in the army for four years and three months, taking part in thirty-one battles, and in all that time received only one slight wound.

After the war closed he went into Montana and spent one year in the mining regions, then to Iowa, where he bought a farm in Taylor county and farmed for six years. In 1880 he came to Nebraska, bringing his family with him in a team and covered wagon, settling at Blue Springs, in Gage county, where he opened an office and was engaged in the real estate business for four years. In the spring of 1884 he purchased his present farm in section 8, township 31, range 24, moving his family here in the same way they had come into the state, by team and wagon, driving through during a season of heavy rain storms, much of the time compelled to camp out during the night. His was the first white family who came to Porter Valley, and for three or four years they occupied a rude



RESIDENCE OF JOHN N. FERGUSON,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE  
Keya Pal

W. JOHN L. SMITH,  
County, Nebraska.



sod shanty, at the end of which time they erected a log house. The dry years came on, but he managed to raise fairly good crops and got along pretty well, later engaging largely in stock raising. He has accumulated a splendid property, his ranch containing two thousand eight hundred and forty acres, which includes homesteads of his sons, Frank and Charles, and a section of leased school land. He has summer pasture for one thousand head of stock, and farms some of his land. He has erected a good set of farm buildings and has altogether one of the most valuable estates in Brown county. When he first came here Wood Lake had only one small store, and the town of Johnstown boasted of just a section house. He helped to build a house and organize the first school, and was for many years director, also treasurer for two or three terms.

Mr. Ferguson was married in Iowa, September 3, 1868, to Miss Alice Slatten, who died in October, 1879, leaving one child, Guy, now living in Kansas City, Missouri. Our subject married again, May 2, 1880, Miss Ida C. McCasky, daughter of Reuben McCasky, of Scotch descent, born in Pennsylvania, and an early settler in Ohio and Iowa. Five children were born of this union, namely: Francis V., Charles M., Nellie, Fred and Winnifred (deceased). Mr. Ferguson adheres to the Republican party and affiliates with the Masonic lodge at Wood Lake.

A fine view of his home appears elsewhere in this work.

ROBERT D. TAYLOR.

Probably no citizen of Franklin township, Franklin county, has shown a more active public spirit, or done more for the upbuilding of the better interests of his community, than the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. Taylor has resided in Franklin county for the past thirty years, where he has formed a wide acquaintance and is held in the highest esteem as a progressive agriculturist and worthy citizen. He is a man of unquestionable character, and well merits his success and enviable reputation.

Mr. Taylor is a native of Scotland, born in May, 1847. He grew up there, and during his young manhood was a conductor on the Caledonian railway there.

In 1878 he came to America, coming direct to Nebraska, after landing in New York, and bought his home place from the railroad company, paying five dollars and fifty cents acre for the land. The same land he now values at seventy-five and eighty dollars per acre. He owns two hundred and thirty-six acres in the home farm.

thousand acres, five hundred of which can be irrigated, and is counted among the prosperous and successful farmers of the county. The ranch is finely located and well supplied with good water and natural timber, and is a valuable property.

In 1889 Mr. Macomber was married at Conway, Iowa, to Miss Emma Rowland, who was born in Illinois. Mrs. Macomber died in 1901, leaving a family of two children, Arunah and Prudence.

Mr. Macomber is a Democrat in political views.

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#### JAMES G. JOHNSTON:

James G. Johnston, who for the past many years has been successfully pursuing agriculture in Phelps county, Nebraska, is a gentleman of energetic spirit and capable mind. Mr. Johnston has a pleasant home in Prairie township, and there is enjoying the fruits of a well-spent career.

Mr. Johnston is of Scotch-Irish descent, born in Pike county, Illinois. The family came from Fermaugh county, Ireland, in the early days. His father, Ezekiel Johnston, owned a good farm in Logan county, Illinois, on which he was reared, and as he is thoroughly familiar with farming conditions in that state, is capable of good judgment in comparing the two sections, preferring Phelps county as an agricultural and stock raising proposition. A young man can not get land in Illinois as they can here, and those who were tenants and remained there are tenants still, whereas tenants from there who settled in Nebraska now own fine farms. When he first came here, in 1887, he paid two thousand dollars for a quarter section, and the same land is now worth five or six times that amount. He brought with him good stock and has bred and handled Clydesdales and Shires ever since, also gone in for thoroughbred Poland China hogs and Shorthorn cattle. His farm comprises two hundred and eighty acres in section 26. The land is all improved, and he has a nice residence, barns, orchard and altogether owns one of the show places of the county. His thoroughbred horses have been famous, Jubilee Roberts taking first prize at the Nebraska State fair. He also owns Iams Roberts, who took second premium at the Harvest Jubilee held at Holdrege in 1903, and is the sire of two first prize winners at the same show. He is also sire of a two-year-old filly which beat a registered filly that sold for three hundred and forty dollars. His hogs are equally well-known, and he has some out of Old Expansion, and a number of fifty dollar pigs, keeping altogether about one hundred and fifty

hogs all the time. He keeps from five to eight brood mares all the time and breeds for the market, making more money from the colts than from the horses.

Mr. Johnston is a director in the Farmers Elevator Company, and was the only organizer and a director until recently of the Phelps County Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is an Independent in politics and has never sought public preferment. To show the advantage to the farmers of the organization of the Elevator Company, before this elevator was built, all they received for their product was thirty-six cents per bushel for wheat, and after the elevator was in operation the price jumped to fifty cents.

In 1884 Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Sarah E. Keys, a native of Pike county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnston the following children have been born: Elmer, Silas James, Ernest Paul, Ethel Bell, Susan Jane and Bertha May.

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#### C. K. LAWRENCE.

C. K. Lawrence is a bright and pushing young business man of Potter, Cheyenne county, where he is engaged in the lumber and hardware trade, and is bidding very successfully for his share of the public patronage. The firm is known as The Potter Lumber Company, and was established in 1907. For a number of years Mr. Lawrence was a well-known educator, and was engaged in teaching in this vicinity.

Our subject was born in Racine, Wisconsin, June 9, 1872, and during his boyhood lived in that city and Milwaukee with his parents, and received his early education there. The family located in eastern Nebraska in 1880, spending some time in Seward county, also made Lincoln their home for about twelve years, where he attended school most of the time. They next came to Cheyenne county, landing here about 1892, and bought a large tract of ranch land and engaged in the stock business, following the work for a number of years, but Mr. Lawrence finally sold out his interest to a brother, although he still owns about fifty head of horses which he runs on the ranch. He is a progressive and up-to-date business man, and is making a success in his line of work.

On June 9, 1904, Mr. Lawrence married Juanita Maud Rose, in Bayard, this county. The event was the occasion of a double wedding, a sister of Mr. Lawrence being married at the same time to Mr. Ben Wagner, of Redington. Mr. Lawrence's wife is a native of Shelby, Iowa, and both brides are charming and accomplished young women. The parents of Mrs. Lawrence





RESIDENCE AND FAMILY GROUP—A. H. SMITH,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



are now living at Miller, Nebraska. Our subject's father resides in Fremont, Nebraska.

Mr. Lawrence is active in local affairs, and is fast becoming one of the leading men of his town, and enjoys the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

FRED. H. ROBINSON.

Fred. H. Robinson through his long residence in Cherry county, Nebraska, and his wide experience in farming has become thoroughly versed in the growth and development of that region. He is one of the leading citizens in his community, and has acquired valuable possessions by his industry and good management, supplemented by honesty and integrity.

Mr. Robinson was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1864, and raised there. His father, Reverend Hugh G. Robinson, was connected with the English Endowment School Commission of England and Wales, and served on this commission for nearly twenty years. Later he was on the commission looking toward the higher education of Wales, and while in this position was associated with some of the best known and most prominent men of Europe. His mother, who was Miss Emma Chamblers, is a second cousin of Mrs. Wm. E. Gladstone. She is still living, and at the advanced age of eighty years is hale and hearty, and spends a large part of her time in climbing the mountains in Wales, where she resides. They had a family of nine children, all but one of whom are now living.

At eighteen years of age our subject left his parents' home and came to America, locating with Hughes' English Colony in Tennessee, remaining there for two years. In 1881 he went to Denver and was employed on different ranches there for three years, then came to Nebraska, and located northeast of Chadron, engaging at first in ranching, and later in farming to some extent. When the dry years came he lost what he had worked so hard to gain, and in 1891 gave up trying to farm and moved to Cherry county, taking a homestead near his present place, and engaged in the cattle business. Since coming here he has been very successful, and is now the proprietor of a ranch comprising fifteen thousand acres, two thousand of which is good hay land. He has about eight hundred head of cattle and sixty horses. When he first came to Nebraska he went through some hard times, living in a sod house where he "batched" it for several years. He was obliged to go one hundred and fifty miles for his supplies during those times, and although does not regret the time and hard labor spent

the building up of his home, he would not care to go through the same experiences again. His ranch has all the improvements of a model farm, and he has a fine grove of trees which he planted, plenty of water, and everything that goes to make up a comfortable rural home.

Mr. Robinson was married in 1896 to Bessie Taylor, born in Alabama in 1874, and raised in California. Her father, Captain M. F. Taylor, of good old American stock, was on General Robert E. Lee's staff during the civil war, and is now manager of W. R. Hearst's estate in California. Her mother was a daughter of Colonel Thornton. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have two children, namely: Butler B., and Frederick Hampden, both born and raised in this locality. Mr. Robinson is a Democrat, always voting for the best man on the ticket.

ANTHONY H. SMITH.

Among the early settlers in the western part of Nebraska who came here when the place was still practically a wilderness and out of its wild state has succeeded in building up a good home and valuable possessions, is the gentleman above named. Mr. Smith has spent many years of his life in this region, and has now reached an independent position after his hard struggles and endeavors to acquire a competence by industry and strict integrity, and is recognized as one of the leading old timers and worthy citizens of his locality.

Mr. Smith was born in Jackson county, Tennessee, in 1838. His father, Calvin M. Smith, was of American stock, who followed farming all his life, and he married Miss Susan Pennington, also of American blood. Our subject grew up in his native state until he was thirteen years of age, then, with his father, came to Iowa in 1851, where they were among the pioneers, leading frontiersmen's lives and building up a farm there. In 1870 Mr. Smith came to York county, Nebraska, and again went through pioneer experiences, remaining there for seven years, when he moved to Furnas county and took up a pre-emption and lived on it up to 1894, building up a good home and farm, and was most successful in his operations in that county. In the latter years he sold out his holdings in Furnas county, Nebraska, and came to Sheridan county, same state, settling in the Sand Hills forty miles east of Alliance, and started in the stock business ranching it for six years. In 1900 he came to Dawes county and purchased his present farm located in section 10, township 31 N., range 50 W., being a partly improved place.

ranch of one thousand four hundred acres, one hundred of which are under cultivation, and he is engaged in the ranching and stock business. He has some fine horses and a large herd of cattle. The place is admirably adapted to his business, as Indian Creek runs through the ranch, furnishing plenty of living water the year around for his stock.

Mr. Smith was married in Iowa, December 15, 1859, to Miss Missinda Criddlebaugh, who is a native of North Carolina, daughter of William Criddlebaugh, a farmer and shoemaker by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two children, Chelesta, born in 1860, and Celia, born in 1875. On another page we present a picture of the residence and family group.

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CHAS. H. NEWMAN.

Among those who have contributed to the prosperity of Sioux county, Nebraska, in no small degree, and whose pushing energy and well-directed industry have brought individual competence, may be mentioned the name of Charles H. Newman, whose valuable estate in section 12, township 30, range 56, evidences his success.

Mr. Newman is a native of Ontario, born on April 21, 1866. His parents were of English blood, born in Canada, the father a wagon-maker by trade. The family left Canada and came to the United States, settling in Greenville, Michigan, in 1871, and our subject grew up there until he was about ten years of age. At the age of ten years he left home and began working on a farm, and from that early age has made his own way in the world. The whole family moved to South Dakota in 1881, locating in Bon-Homme county, where they were among the pioneer settlers, and five years were spent in that vicinity. In 1886 our subject came to Chadron, Nebraska, walking through the country to Sioux county, and upon arriving here had just seven dollars in money in his pocket. He immediately went to work on a ranch as a cowboy and followed that work for several years, going through many hardships and privations, when for months at a time he slept on the ground through all kinds of rough weather. During a part of this time he worked at freighting, and managed to make a living and lay by a little money. He traveled on horseback all over the western part of Nebraska and into Wyoming, and for a time drove stage into Lander, Wyoming, from Casper, and transferred to the Rawlins line, and was in that vicinity of the country at the time of the Indian outbreak. In the year 1896 Mr. Newman filed

on a claim in the Sand Hills, situated thirty miles from Harrison, and there put up a rude shack and other rough buildings, and started in the live stock business. About eight years were spent on this ranch, and he then sold the place for eleven thousand five hundred dollars, left the country and opened a hardware store in Harrison, handling in addition to his hardware stock farming implements, and succeeded in building up a good trade, conducting the business for about two years. He sold out his interests in the business in 1904, and purchased the ranch on which he now resides, located in section 12, township 30, range 56. This place contains one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, all fenced, having in all about fourteen miles of good fencing. There are good buildings and improvements on the ranch, and he is extensively engaged in the stock and grain raising business, cultivating about one hundred acres, and running one hundred head of cattle, and other stock.

Mr. Newman was married September 14, 1898, to Miss Catherine Christensen, who was born and raised in South Dakota, whose parents were natives of Denmark, the father, Claus, coming to this country when a young man and settling in Sioux county, Nebraska, where he is well and favorably known as a worthy citizen and prosperous farmer, a sketch of his life appearing elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Newman have a family of four children, named as follows: Arthur, Lottie, Harry and William. Mr. Newman is one of the oldest settlers in the county, and has always taken an active part in local affairs tending to the betterment of conditions in his locality. In political views he is a Democrat.

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CHARLES A. SKOOG.

Charles A. Skoog, residing on the east one-half of section 15, Prairie township, is the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of fine land, six hundred and forty acres of this being in one block and the balance near by. Mr. Skoog has abiding faith in this country and his sterling qualities in a business and social way coupled with great thrift and industry, have made him a prosperous citizen. He came here at the age of eighteen, in 1876, with his father, Charles P. Skoog, and on coming of age, in 1878, homesteaded the quarter section of land on which his fine residence now stands, surrounded by a fine orchard and grove. He also took the adjoining quarter section as a tree claim, beginning with no capital, and there were some years of disappointment, hardships and struggles, which is the penalty paid in all

new settlements for the privilege of occupying the virgin soil. Mr. Skoog states that they did not know the country nor how to crop and till the soil until they had been here some time and learned by bitter trials and experience. Every one went in for small grains, with spring wheat as the leader, while mixed farming would have produced better results, as they now know.

During the first years our subject met with heavy losses, in 1880 one entire crop being destroyed, and another in 1894, but the last four years have been exceptionally good and he has been most successful. When the railway was being built in here in 1884, a number of Mr. Skoog's relatives and friends were tempted by the one thousand six hundred dollars and one thousand eight hundred dollar prices offered for their land, and sold out and moved to other parts, and the result proves his wisdom in remaining and refusing all offers. He has never offered an acre of his land for sale, but, as he prospered, has bought more at prices constantly increasing, showing his judgment in keeping what he had. He purchased a half section in 1898 and since that time another quarter and an eighty. This year—1906—has been one of the best for years, and his yield was twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, of A-1 quality, although there was no rain from April until after harvest, which shows how the soil here stands a prolonged dry spell. Again, in a very wet season crops are very good and do not drown out as in some sections of the country.

Mr. Skoog devotes a great deal of his attention to stock raising, always keeping a good grade of cattle, and he now has a few head. His imported Belgian horse, Sacratiff, cost three thousand dollars. Last year he searched the entire country for two imported fillies, and selected them from a number of others, paying one thousand and dollars for them. As yearlings they weighed one thousand four hundred and eighty and one thousand five hundred and ten pounds, and are both splendid animals. He now has twenty work horses on his farm, and a number of fine colts. He keeps about one hundred and fifty pure-bred Poland-China hogs.

For several years Mr. Skoog has owned one of the best threshing outfits and corn shellers, operating them each season with great success, contrary to the old adage, "Run a threshing machine until all your money is in." On this count he keeps a good share of his land in ture and does not farm on so large a scale. He was one of the organizers of and has been president for twelve years, of the Phelps County Mutual Insurance Company, fire and lightning. He is also a shareholder and director of the Farmers Elevator Company, and of the

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three years. His next move was to near Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he opened a farm and operated it for seven years. Then he first came to Keya Paha county, landing here in 1883, driving through the country with a team and wagon, camping out at night along the way. His wife came as far as Long Pine by train, and when she arrived there could find no hotel accommodations. Their first experiences in this section were very hard, as they were obliged to haul all supplies from Stuart, a distance of thirty miles. He located on section 21, township 32, range 19, building a log cabin in which he and his family lived for a year and a half. His first crop on this land was utterly ruined by hailstorms, and the following year met the same discouragement, then came the dry years, and for two years was unable to raise anything. However, he stuck to it, and kept on cultivating his land, and adding improvements gradually, until he now owns a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, with about seventy-five acres under cultivation on which he raises fine crops, and the balance is devoted to pasture and hay land. The whole place is fenced, and he is engaged largely in stock raising, running from forty to fifty head of cattle.

Mr. Riley was married in Des Moines in July, 1867, to Miss Matilda Powell, a native of Missouri, whose father was a farmer originally from Kentucky, and her mother of an old Virginia family, and who located in Iowa when she was twelve years of age. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Riley, who are named as follows: Mary, Edward H., Rose Ann (deceased), John P. (deceased), Elizabeth Julia, Thomas W., and Frank. During the past twenty-five years the whole family have never been off the farm but one night. Mr. Riley votes the Democratic ticket, and is a member of the Catholic church.

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#### D. K. ATKINS.

D. K. Atkins was a native of Iowa, his birth occurring in Davis County, February 1, 1871. His father, P. L. Atkins, was a farmer by occupation but after years of residence in the Hawkeye state, left and went with his family to Missouri in 1882, from thence in 1887, removing to Kimball county (then Cheyenne county), Nebraska. The father, the mother and two sons composed the little family that here started the foundations of solid and advancing fortunes. They homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 30, township 16, range 53, and in the fall of 1886 took a tree claim. After living on the old homestead for about twelve years they purchased and moved to a large ranch of nine hundred and

sixty acres, being the northwest quarter of section 2, township 15, range 54, and all of the school section adjoining. The father died December 12, 1907, and the widowed mother is now residing in the town of Kimball, Nebraska. Our subject lives at his original homestead on the southwest quarter of section 26, township 16, range 54, which he located in November, 1900, and he also owns all the balance of section 26, in which is his Kinkaid homestead.

D. K. Atkins was united in marriage, on April 15, 1900, at Potter, Nebraska, to Miss Minnie Brothers, daughter of Ben E. Brothers, an old settler, of whom more extended mention appears on another page. Three children have come to bless this union—Vernon D., Florence L. and Glen D. The home of the Atkins is an important factor in the social life of the community and Mr. Atkins is a prominent figure in all public affairs, being now director of School District No. 12. He is well and favorably known as a successful man and ranch operator. Mr. Atkins is administrator of his father's estate and attends to the management of the old home ranch. On our subject's home farm the visitor sees good buildings and improvements of all kinds: his herd of cattle numbers about one hundred head and he also runs a small bunch of horses. In politics Mr. Atkins trains with the party of Jefferson and is faithful in his adherence to Democratic principles.

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#### GUSTAV WENDLER.

In listing the self-made men of Cherry county, who have become well-to-do agriculturists and ranchmen and have aided materially in the development of the farming interests of this region, a prominent place is accorded the name of Gustav Wendler. For many years this gentleman has followed this line of work in section 33, township 29, range 28, and has met with pronounced success and is now known as one of the substantial citizens and well merits his high standing.

Mr. Wendler was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1860, and was reared on a farm. His father, Frededick Oswald Wendler, was a shoemaker and mason by trade, following that occupation during his lifetime, his death occurring when Gustav was thirteen years of age, and he has been on his own resources ever since. The mother, whose maiden name was Ernestine Geier, continued to live in their native province after her husband's death, and raised her little family, our subject remaining in Germany until he was twenty-three years of age, when he struck





HENRY DEANS.

out for the new world, landing in New York City, May 1, 1884. His first location was in Cedar county, Nebraska, spending six months in that vicinity, then went to Dickson county for three months, coming to Cherry county from there, settling thirty miles from Wood Lake. After filing on a homestead he was ten dollars in debt, but he worked hard and improved his place as his circumstances permitted, learning during these early days to master the English language. He met with hard luck at times, having all he could do to make a living, his dwelling for many years being a sod house, and he also used sod barns and other buildings. He broke up his first ground with a pair of bulls, and went through all the pioneer experiences witnessed by those who tried so hard to build up homes in the west. He gradually became more prosperous, starting in the stock business and in that way accumulated money more rapidly, which he put in land constantly, and now owns nine hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, with four hundred and eighty acres of Kinkaid homestead, which he uses exclusively as a stock ranch, running a large herd of cattle and other stock. He has most of his ranch fenced, has all good buildings, a nice residence thirty by forty-eight feet, fitted with many modern conveniences, substantial and commodious barns, etc., and a fine grove of trees surrounding his buildings. There are wells and windmills, which furnish a good supply of water for all purposes.

There were five children in our subject's father's family, namely: Gustav, first in order of birth, then Herman, Henry, Ida and Max, the latter coming to America with his family in 1908, and now resides with his brother Gustav.

Mr. Wendler is a man of sterling qualities of heart and mind, and a good neighbor, bearing an excellent reputation as a friend and citizen.

HENRY DEANS.

Henry Deans, a well-to-do farmer and stock-raiser of Dawes county, presents in his own career a striking illustration of the field of opportunity this western country offers the ambitious children of the old world, as well as the rich results that have long waited on industry and integrity. A portrait of him appears on another page. He was born in Roxburgshire, Scotland in 1849. His father, Peter Deans, was a gamekeeper. His mother, Agnes (Elliott) Deans, was a daughter of one of the Elliotts of Liddell.

When our subject was ten years of age family came to America, landing in Quebec,

ada, and settling in the province of Ontario, about thirty miles from Godrich. Here he spent the early years of his life, where he assisted his father in clearing one hundred acres of land.

In 1871, Mr. Deans decided to seek his own fortunes, and with this end in view came to Michigan, where he worked in the lumber woods for two years. He then became associated with the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company, assisting in the surveying. While working on the surveys of this road, our subject had many hard experiences. On a certain trip of over ninety miles, Indians had been hired to carry provisions, but soon after the start, however, the Indians deserted, leaving the provisions in the snow. Mr. Deans and his companions took one day's supply, and, expecting to find a camp but a short distance, made a start for that point. Upon their arrival, however, they were disappointed, for the camp which they had expected to find was no longer there. Starvation stared them in the face from Tuesday until the following Monday, one cup of tea being the limit of food or drink, and there being no other alternative they commenced to walk the ninety miles through deep snow and brush, arriving at the starting point exhausted and nearly starved to death. After spending a winter in Wisconsin and Michigan, and stopping for some time in Hancock, Michigan, Mr. Deans went to Cheyenne, Wyoming. He traveled extensively throughout the west. He spent winters in Wyoming and Nevada, and then became associated with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in California in the capacity of a foreman. He returned to Nevada, and after spending one summer on an alfalfa ranch, went into the Black Hills, working in a saw mill. In 1875 he made a trip to Lead City, but remained in the Black Hills until 1877. He then went into the Big Horn Mountains, where he spent but a short time, and returning to Lead City worked in a mining camp until 1884. During this period the Indians were very hostile in this section of the country. While on the trail to the Big Horn Mountains, just outside of the Black Hills, our subject found many men who had been murdered by the Indians, six being killed in one day.

After making a trip to the exposition in New Orleans, Mr. Deans returned north and settled in Dawes county, Nebraska, where he has a large ranch of six quarter sections of land. His residence is located in section 32, township 31, range 49. He cultivates one hundred and twenty acres. Mr. Deans engages extensively in stock raising, having a herd of one hundred and forty cattle and twenty horses. In 1887, Mr. Deans and Miss Anna Luth were united in marriage. She was a daughter



a prominent physician of Iowa. Four children came to bless this happy union: Clara, Henry, William, and one child deceased.

In politics Mr. Deans adheres strongly to Populist principles. He is prominently identified in matters of local interest, a popular and capable citizen, and a man of whom the people of the surrounding community are justifiably proud. Mr. Deans has had quite an experience in the gold mining business. For six years he was foreman or guard for the Homestake Mining Company for all the gold they retorted. This was a most responsible position and he was thoroughly capable to fill the place.

#### THEODORE SCHRACK.

For over a quarter of a century the gentleman whose name heads this review has been associated with the agricultural interests of Harlan county, Nebraska, and as an old settler and worthy citizen he is prominently known.

Mr. Schrack is a native of Clinton county, Pennsylvania. Later he settled at Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois. He was raised and educated in Illinois, and enlisted in Company B, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, served in the army of the Tennessee at Vicksburg all through the siege, and at Corinth prior to this siege. While at Collierville he was captured and taken to Andersonville prison, where he was incarcerated in that terrible place for four months and fourteen days, then paroled and taken to Jacksonville, Florida. He was exchanged and discharged at Clinton, Iowa, toward the close of the war. Our subject began farming in Blackhawk county, Iowa, after the close of the war, and in 1870 moved to Dallas county, Missouri. From there he went to Hickory county, and soon after struck Harlan county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead in Eldorado township, also a pre-emption, and began to build up a farm and home. He bought more land later until his ranch comprised four hundred and eighty acres, then sold this out and purchased one hundred and sixty acres near Alma, investing largely in property in that town, and is now owner of four houses and sixteen lots there. In the years 1873-'74 and '75 he experienced his hardest times going through grasshopper raids, and not having had much of a start, he became almost disheartened at his failures. In the year 1876 he lost everything, stables, farming implements, and his year's crop of grain by fire, and had to start all over again. However, he began again and by hard work and the utmost perseverance soon got on his feet and gained back his losses. He was always of the opinion that

where one loses is the place to find, and he worked on this principle with great success. The sod school house of his district was three miles distant from his home when he came to this township. This he helped build. He was made road overseer and held this office from 1875 to 1886. He was also superintendent of Sabbath school for five years, and was on the county board for two years. He remained on his homestead for thirty-one years, engaged principally in stock raising, as this county is one of the best for this industry to be found in western Nebraska. He also engaged largely in raising alfalfa when this grass was first introduced in this locality. He usually kept from one to two hundred head of hogs, and a large number of cattle, and found this branch of his work very profitable. In 1902 he moved into Alma, and had his first experience with windmills, as on his farm he had natural springs and hydraulic wells, with water all through his house and barns.

Mr. Schrack was married in Stephenson county, Illinois, in 1861 to Miss Catherine Meyers, daughter of Conrad Meyers, a Dunkard minister, who came to Illinois from Pennsylvania. Mrs. Schrack shared all her husband's hardships in the pioneer days in the west, and for weeks stayed alone in their home while he was obliged to be away working in order to make a living for the family. She died in April, 1904, aged sixty-four years. They had three children, named as follows: John E., residing in Alma; A. G. Schrack, of Caron, N. W. Canada, and Ervin D., now living on the homestead in Eldorado township, which he purchased from his father. In 1906 Mr. Schrack was married to Miss Rebecca McHoes, of Phelps county, Nebraska, who came to this state in 1883 from Fayette county, Iowa. She is a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Schrack is now one of the prosperous citizens of this locality, but he has passed through many discouragements, in 1889 suffering heavy losses on his farm. At one time fourteen of his best cows were killed through poison in the cornstalks, which was so prevalent that year, and also lost fifty hogs from cholera. All this tended to put him back, and he deserves much credit for the stick-to-it-iveness he has exhibited through all his misfortunes.

Mr. Schrack is an honored member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge in Alma, also of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has held the office of commander of the local post several times. In politics he is a Republican, having cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and takes a deep interest still in all local and state party affairs. Mr. Schrack had one brother, L. F. Schrack, who formerly lived

in Harlan county, and had since removed to Oklahoma, where his death occurred. Mr. Schrack has two brothers in Iowa, David and Jonas Schrack. He also has one sister there, Rebecca Betts.

JENS P. JENSEN.

Jens P. Jensen is a gentleman of active public spirit and sterling character who has taken a leading part in the upbuilding of the region where he chose his home some twenty-three years ago. Mr. Jensen is a typical representative of the westerner who has gone through many hardships and privations in building up a home and fortune by overcoming difficulties which would seem insurmountable to many who come of a less sturdy and independent race of people.

Mr. Jensen is a native of Denmark, born there in 1861, and reared on a farm. His father owned a good home and farm, and our subject grew up accustomed to doing all kinds of hard work. At the age of twenty-one years he decided to leave his native land and seek his fortune in the new world, accordingly set out on his journey, landing in New York City at Castle Garden in March, 1882. He was the first of his family to leave his native country, and he promised those he left behind to send for them if he found the new land all that it was pictured to be. After landing here he started west, locating in Douglass county, Nebraska, where he worked on different farms for two years, also spending one year in Washington county, where a sister and brother-in-law had settled a few months after he came to the United States.

In 1890 his parents also came over, settling in Washington county, Nebraska, and along about this time our subject traveled through the western part of the state and came through Valentine, looking for a place to locate. He was well pleased with the appearance of the country in Box Butte county, and settled on section 3, township 26, range 50, in the fall of 1885, building a cabin and started his farm. He owned a team of mules and besides breaking up his farm, worked at railroading on the Chicago & North-western line which was being extended through this region. He lived all alone and did his own cooking, "batching it" for a number of years. After just nicely getting started, the dry years overtook him, and he was unfortunate in losing several crops, in 1891, suffering a severe setback by the hard storms which swept that section, destroying his grain, and he became about disaged. He purchased a number of cows soon coming here, and during the hard times were almost his only means of support, and

products brought him *through many tight places.* He gradually worked *into the cattle business,* also raising horses, and *kept on buying land un-* til he owns about one *thousand seven hundred* and sixty acres, on which *he has built seven and* a half miles of fence, and *the whole place is im-* proved in fine shape.

In 1887 Mr. Jensen decided to join the ranks of "benedicts" and was united in marriage to Miss Anna Lund, also a native of Denmark, our subject having made a trip to his boyhood home for his bride, returning with her to his new home in the summer of the year 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen never had any children, but reared three adopted children, namely: Helga, Christine and Emma, all three sweet and beautiful girls and devoted to their adopted mother and father.

Mr. Jensen has held different local offices, serving as assessor, and being elected county commissioner in the fall of 1906 on the Populist ticket. He is also a member of the school board, and has been sitting in this body for the past twelve years.

EDWIN R. GOULD.

Edwin R. Gould, engaged in farming in Ainsworth precinct, Brown county, Nebraska, is a gentleman of wide experience who has become well known throughout this region as a worthy citizen and representative agriculturist.

Mr. Gould was born in Chautauqua county, New York, February 22, 1836, of English descent. He is the ninth member of a family of twelve children, and during his infancy his parents moved to Boone county, Illinois, where he was reared, receiving a common school education, and afterwards attending an academy at Poultney, Vermont, where he prepared for a college course, but circumstances were such that he was obliged to give up his college career. After leaving school he began teaching, and followed this intermittently for several years. He had been admitted a member of the Methodist Episcopal conference, preaching in Fayette and Benton counties, Iowa, for a time. During the last year of the war he enlisted in Company E, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, being mustered in at Marengo, Illinois, after honorably serving his country as a soldier in the noblest war ever fought: he was discharged at St. Louis, June 1865, and again took up his work in Benton county, Iowa. He remained there for a short time, then came to Saline county, Nebraska, where he settled on a homestead and lived a pioneer's life for eleven years. In 1882 he came on to Ainsworth and located on his present

homestead as a tree claim. He remained here for a short time only, then traveled north through Idaho and Oregon, where for seven years he spent his time preaching and exploring the country; finally drifting back to Brown county, Nebraska, he began to improve his farm and now has a very comfortable and pleasant home of one hundred and twenty acres of excellent farming land, on which a thrifty young orchard and grove are growing.

During his young manhood years Mr. Gould was one of the most clever and advanced men of his age, possessing an active and versatile mind which enabled him to successfully engage in almost any profession requiring more than ordinary intelligence and quick perception, and it was a severe disappointment to him that he was compelled to forego the advantage of a college education.

Mr. Gould was first married in Buchanan county, Iowa, April 2, 1866, to Miss Libbie Robinson, to whom two children were born. The surviving one, James B., is a resident of Brown county. The second marriage of Mr. Gould was solemnized at Ainsworth, April 4, 1907, Mrs. Anna Mowery, of Michigan, assuming the duties of helpmeet at that time. Politically Mr. Gould is a Republican.

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#### SYLVENUS AVERY.

Sylvenus Avery, residing in section 21, township 21, range 45, Deuel county, Nebraska, on Pioneer Ranch, as a native of the Green Mountains, Massachusetts, born March 13th, 1837. His parents moved to Canada in the same year he was born and remained there until he was seventeen years of age, then came to Michigan, locating in the northern part of that state. Mr. and Mrs. Avery were both of American stock, and had a family of thirteen children, of whom Sylvenus was the fourth member. Since growing up their children are scattered all over the country. Two were killed in the war of the Rebellion in taking Arlington Heights. Our subject left home at the age of seventeen, and since that time has never returned to his father's home where he was raised, but some of the family have visited him here. He began working on railroads, being employed in the work of grading, and continued at that business up to 1890. He first began on the railroad in Canada, and has always done his work by contract, never working for anyone else. He was following this occupation in the southern states when the Civil war broke out. In December, 1861, he went to Cuba where he worked on grades, and he has

the record of having laid the first steel rail on the island of Cuba. While in that country he heard of the Union Pacific road starting out from Omaha, so he went to that place and held the first plow used in the building of that road. This was in 1865, and Nebraska was still unsettled at that time, and Omaha was merely a small village. He helped put this road through, and afterwards assisted in the building of every railroad in the state of Nebraska. He has railroaded all over the western part of this state, also in sections of Wyoming and Colorado, working on the Chicago & North Western, when it was laid across Nebraska. In 1885 he went to Chadron and worked north of that place for a time, and was a resident of both Chadron and Valentine when they first started as towns, and were without officers of any kind. When the Burlington & Missouri railroad was put across this state he went to Lincoln and helped build it clear through, and while on this road made up his mind to quit the railroading business for all time, so in the fall of 1887 he came to this locality hunting, also looking about for a location for a cattle ranch. He looked the country over thoroughly and on this trip camped out one night where his house now stands. The following spring he settled on his homestead in section 21, township 21, range 45, Deuel county, Nebraska, and has lived on this place ever since, occupying a sod house for some years, and this still stands where it was built. The first years he tried farming, but lost over four thousand dollars, and then came to the conclusion that farming did not pay in this locality, so started in the cattle business on a small scale. He at once saw that he needed more land so he figured that the thing to do was to "get the land and the cattle will come," and followed this idea, which was correct. He had a hard time the first years, as the whole country was infested with cattle and horse thieves, but he was used to rough frontier life and knew something of how to handle them and did not have much trouble from this source.

Mr. Avery is now proprietor of four thousand acres of deeded land, all hay land, and he also purchased another ranch costing thirty thousand dollars, and runs about two thousand head of cattle and two hundred horses. He has as fine a bunch of stock as can be found in the hills, and is more than successful in handling his stock. His son Charles, who has been with him all his life, is now interested with him in the business, and when he gets done with the ranch Charles will get this property. They divide the work on the place, the father looking after the horses and the son after the cattle end of the business.

Mr. Avery's family consists of his wife and

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MRS. JOHN EWBank.



JOHN EW BANK.





three children, they having lost one son by death when six years of age. Those living are Charles, mentioned above, Ellen, now Mrs. Eldred, and Belle, wife of Richard Brennan. Mrs. Avery is a daughter of William Pierce, a native of New Jersey, of English descent, who, with her family came west in 1845, settling in Nebraska in 1857. Mr. Avery first met the lady who afterwards became his wife, while working on the Union Pacific railroad.

Mr. Avery has one of the most valuable estates in this section of the country, and would not sell his holdings for two hundred thousand dollars. He is perfectly contented here and will probably spend the balance of his life in this locality. His postoffice is Orlando, located in his house about seven years ago, and his son Charles is the postmaster. His nearest trading point is Alliance, Box Butte county, Nebraska, thirty miles distant. His shipping point is Lakeside, in Sheridan county, on the Burlington and Missouri railroad, twenty-five miles distant. Politically he is a Republican. He was raised a Democrat and always voted that ticket. He was a stanch Bryan man in 1896 and a great admirer of that gentleman for a time, but after meeting him he was sadly disappointed and since then has changed his political views. He does not take any active part in politics further than to aid his locality in voting bonds for railroads.

JAMES H. TEAFORD.

Prominent among the old settlers and ranchmen of Blaine county, Nebraska, stands the name of James H. Teaford. He is accorded a high place because of his excellent business traits acquired in early life on the farm and in the employ of one of the leading railroad corporations of the country. No one is more public spirited than he, and his progressive attitude relative to matters of a local nature, bring him to the front in the affairs of his community.

James H. Teaford was born on a farm near New Albany, Floyd county, Indiana, in 1849. His father, Jacob S., was a native of Virginia; his mother, Phoebe Hickman, before marriage, was born in Indiana.

When our subject was sixteen years old, the family moved to Illinois, settling in McDonough county, where he was reared to manhood, receiving a good common school education. He reared on a farm and, as with most farmers, became inured to hard and systematic work. attaining his majority he went to Hamburg, and engaged at clerking. Entering the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

Company he was made position for thirteen years, also performing some work as expressman and baggage man.

At Hamburg, in 1873, our subject was married to Miss Laura Mapes, a daughter of Thomas and Martha (Swinney) Mapes, who came from Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Teaford have four children, all grown to man and womanhood: Mrs. Gertrude Stewart, Ralph, Mrs. Mattie Stewart, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Samuel.

In the year 1888 Mr. Teaford came to Nebraska, and located on a homestead in Blaine county, in the North Loup river valley, two miles from the town of Purdum. Here he lived for eight years, building a sod house and, commencing with nothing but wild prairie land, he worked out a fine farm and comfortable home. Then he proved up on his homestead and soon after came to his present location where he purchased a farm of considerable size. He has eight hundred acres in his ranch, has constructed comfortable and commodious buildings and has made many valuable and up-to-date improvements. Our subject's son has considerable land, and, between them, they operate a large ranch of two thousand five hundred acres. This ranch with its excellent improvements, buildings, fences, groves and fine spring of water, is one of which its owner may be justly proud, and the visitor is impressed with the tokens of thrift and good management that present themselves at every hand for Mr. Teaford has been a successful farmer in every sense of the word and has laid broad and deep the foundations of wealth and prosperity. He has done his part among the old settlers in developing the material growth of his community and has been deeply interested in all matters of a local nature. He was county commissioner for two terms and has proven a capable official in various other political positions.

JOHN EW BANK.

John Ewbank, one of the well known and most highly esteemed citizens of Kimball county, Nebraska, has been a resident of that region for the past ten years. Prior to locating here he spent many years in western Nebraska, going through all the pioneer times in developing different farms, and has been an important factor in the growth of the localities where he has lived. He now resides about one mile north of the village of Kimball.

Mr. Ewbank was born in Yorkshire, England, August 15th, 1856, and grew to manhood there. Both parents spent their entire lives on their native land, and are now deceased. W

our subject was twenty-five years of age he struck out for the new world, and after landing in the United States settled in Wisconsin, remaining one year, then went to Custer county, Nebraska. He lived in that section for about six years, homesteaded, and proved up on a tract of land, then went to Wyoming, locating on a ranch situated a short distance northeast of Cheyenne, and followed ranching there for five years, going to Colorado in 1892. There he established a ranch in Weld county, and prospered in a marked degree, now having large interests, owning a big herd of cattle and about twelve thousand sheep. Mr. Ewbank came to Kimball county in 1899, purchased two thousand four hundred acres of land north of Kimball, now known as the "Ewbank Ranch." He has put sixty acres under cultivation, has seventy acres of good alfalfa, and raises small grains, fruit, etc. He has erected a fine house and other buildings, and has every improvement, his ranch being one of the best equipped in Kimball county.

Mr. Ewbank was married to Alice Ann Wilkinson, May 4th, 1889, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Mrs. Ewbank is a daughter of John Wilkinson, a well-known resident of Pine Bluff, Wyoming, his family coming from the same section in England as our subject. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank, seven of whom are living, named as follows: Mary Alice, Isabel Deborah, Margaret Elizabeth, John T., Robert J., Evalina Ada, and Helen Lenore. Mr. Ewbank is a member of the Kimball town school board, district No. 3, and takes an active interest in local affairs. He is a Republican.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Ewbank will be found elsewhere in this work.

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#### JOSHUA B. SONES.

For over twenty-two years the gentleman here named has been closely identified with the farming interests of Cherry county, and during this time he has acquired a valuable estate by dint of his industry and honesty, and is classed among the substantial and highly esteemed citizens of the locality in which he resides.

Mr. Sones was born in Sullivan county, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1847, and was reared there. His father, Isaac Sones, served in a Pennsylvania regiment during the Civil war, and was a farmer by occupation. Of a family of twelve children born to his parents, our subject was the sixth member in order of birth. At the age of fifteen years he began working out, his first employment being the hauling of iron ore. In

1874 he came west to Warren county, Iowa, rented land and farmed one year, then returned to Pennsylvania for eighteen months, during which time he was married and afterwards came west the second time in the spring of 1877, locating in Iowa near his former farm, and here remained for six years before moving to Nance county, Nebraska. Farming there for four years, he migrated to Cherry county, enduring many hardships before arriving at his destination. He was snowbound for five days on the way west, and suffered a great deal. After many difficulties in starting anew in the west he was just nicely settled and everything seemingly prospering when the dry years came on and he was compelled to sell part of his cattle and work out by the day in order to make a bare living for his family, at times hauling wood seven miles, with the proceeds of which he purchased scant provisions, at times paying fifty cents a bushel for potatoes. He lived in a sod house for a while, then in a dugout on his pre-emption which the family occupied for sixteen months, at the end of which time he erected a good log house which, with a frame addition makes a good farm residence. The family also owns a neat cottage in Gordon, which they occupy and where the children have been attending school since 1905. The family have seen the hardest of pioneer experiences but conditions have improved in this locality and of late years they have had good crops. Mr. Sones has been adding to his farm until he now owns nine hundred acres, stocked with two hundred head of cattle and a number of horses. His place is all fenced except a very small portion. He has good buildings and plenty of farm machinery, having under cultivation about one hundred and seventy-five acres, partly on leased land of which he controls nine hundred and sixty acres. He has seven acres of alfalfa growing.

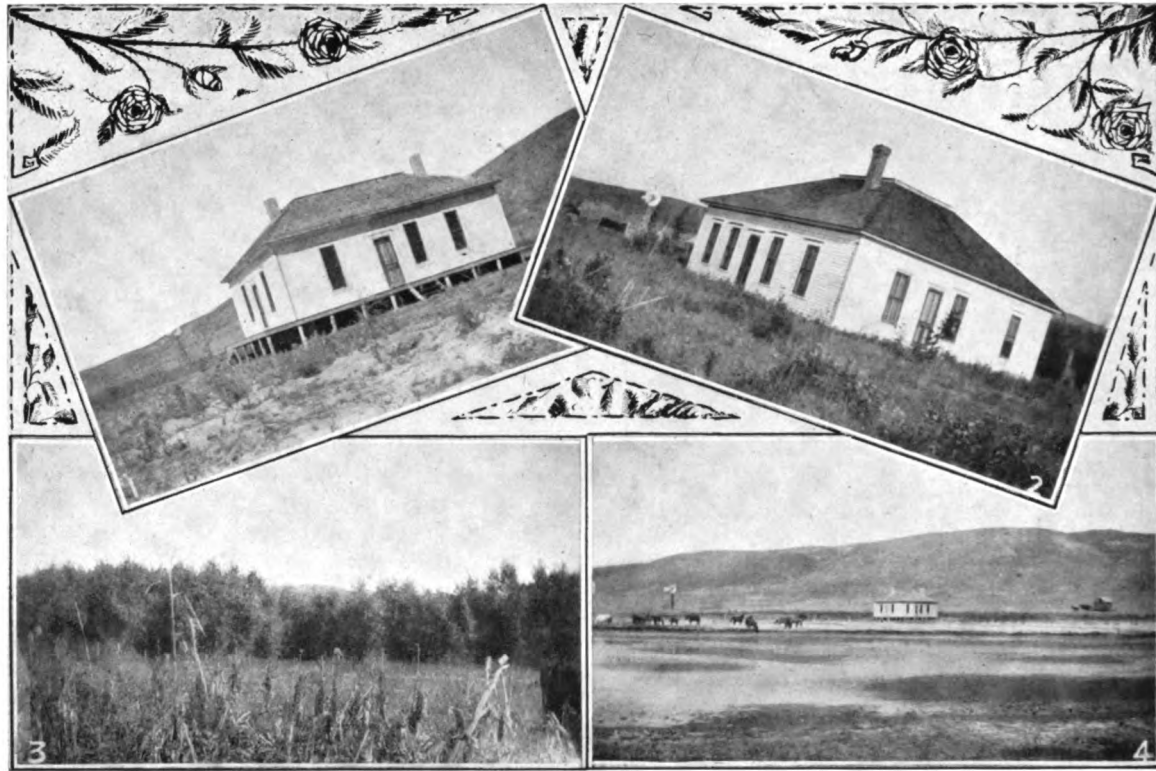
In January, 1876, Mr. Sones was married to Miss Mary Francis, born in Pennsylvania in 1855, of German parents. Mr. and Mrs. Sones have a family of seven children, who are named as follows: Annie (deceased), who married Ulysses Hunt; Arthur, John Burton, William (who died when the family first came here), Cora, Minnie, and Elsie. The family enjoy a pleasant home and are highly respected in the community.

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#### CHARLES SPEARMAN.

Charles Spearman, one of the foremost agriculturists of Dawes county, resides on his fine farm in section 7, township 32, range 51, where he has built up a good home and is widely known





"NORTH" AND "SOUTH," RANCHES OF GEORGE W. SWIGGART,

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Residence on North Ranch      | 2. Residence on South Ranch. |
| 3. View of Grove on South Ranch. | 4. Scene on North Ranch.     |

as an old settler and worthy citizens of his community.

Mr. Spearman was born in Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, Iowa, in 1858. His father, J. D. Spearman, was extensively engaged in the cattle business in Iowa for many years, and when our subject was twelve years of age the family moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, and during the trip they crossed the Missouri river on the ice, the river being frozen from bank to bank. There they went through pioneer experiences, and Charles attended the country schools, at the same time helping his parents build up their farm and home. When he reached the age of twenty-one he started in for himself, going to the southwestern part of Kansas where he spent one year, then to Springfield, Nebraska. He started in at railroading, running from Columbus to Fullerton, Nebraska, and next went to Oregon, where he remained up to the fall of 1884, engaged in general work. Mr. Spearman first located in Dawes county in 1885, settling near Crawford, where he lived for a time in a tent, and then a dugout, which he occupied for a period of six months, doing all sorts of work in order to make a living, and beginning his farm. He saw hard times, and worked at freighting, and hauled bones to Chadron, receiving nine dollars per ton for them. He located on his present farm in 1898, and has a ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, all deeded land, and is engaged in the stock raising business. He has two hundred and fifty acres of his ranch irrigated, and has made a success of the work he has undertaken. He has one hundred and twenty-five acres in alfalfa and harvests a large quantity each year.

In 1889 Mr. Spearman was appointed postmaster of Crawford and held the office for four years, and in 1893 was elected marshal serving for four years, and also was state water commissioner for three years. He has always taken an active part in public affairs, and to his efforts are due much of the success of this region as an agricultural and business section.

Mr. Spearman was married in 1881 to Miss Josephine Meyer, daughter of Frank Meyer, a farmer and old settler of Sarpy county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Spearman are the parents of the following children: James B., Cyrus, Grant, Eliza, Merle, Eunice and Francis.

GEORGE W. SWIGGART.

*During his career as a farmer and ranchman and one of the pioneers in western Nebraska, gentleman above mentioned has incidentally come one of the best known citizens of this*

section of the country. He came to this region during its earliest stages of development and has remained to see it changed into a splendid fertile farming and ranching community, and has the satisfaction of knowing that to his efforts part of this growth has been due. He now resides in section 4, township 21, range 36, on his Kincaid homestead where he occupies a pleasant rural home, and has a host of good friends by whom he is held in the highest esteem.

George W. Swiggart was born in 1857, in Sullivan county, Missouri. He is a son of George W., Sr., and Martha (Grimm) Swiggart, the former of German and the latter of English descent. The family came to Nebraska when our subject was an infant, first settling in Omaha, arriving there in 1860, and there George grew to manhood, attending the common schools, and he well remembers when the Union Pacific railway was built through and west of that vicinity. They went through every phase of pioneer life in the west, and had many bitter experiences during those days. At the age of eighteen George emigrated to the western part of the state, locating near McCook, in Redwillow county, and there again went through pioneer trials and privations, following ranch work, traveling all through that section of the country as a cowboy, rounding up cattle, etc.

Mr. Swiggart settled in Grant county, driving in with a team and covered wagon, locating on section 10, township 21, range 36. He erected a sod house and other necessary buildings, and at once started in the stock business, but had a hard time to get ahead, as the region was swept by prairie fires at regular intervals, and one year he lost nearly all of his bunch of cattle in this way. He kept improving the place as he grew better able, and added to his ranch so that he finally became owner of two thousand and forty acres, a large part of which he has lately sold to his sons. He has a good house, large barns and many improvements, and the entire place is fenced and cross fenced. He has about fourteen acres of heavy grove that he planted himself on his south ranch, which is a valuable part of the property. The place is devoted exclusively to stock raising and he keeps a large number of cattle which he uses for breeding and market purposes.

Mr. Swiggart has a family of seven children, named as follows: Ralph, Grace, Edith, Ora, Walter, Ray and Georgia, the last child by a second marriage, his first wife having a maiden name of Nebraska. Mr. Swiggart's Irish descent. Mr. Swiggart's first wife's maiden name was Lyda Worth, daughter of John Worth, of Washington county, Kansas, daughter of John

*mentioned a wife having a maiden name of Nebraska. Mr. Swiggart's first wife's maiden name was Lyda Worth, daughter of John Worth, of Washington county, Kansas, daughter of John*

Margaret (Dunlap) Worth, old settlers in Kansas.

Our subject was one of the organizers of the county in which he now resides, and was elected one of the first county commissioners, having held that office for twelve years. He has been a member of the school board for many years past, has helped organize many schools, and always given liberally of his time and money in aiding every movement toward the advancement of the best interests of his locality and the county. An interesting picture of several views of Mr. Swiggart's properties is presented on another page. Mr. Swiggart has traveled extensively through the west, and is thoroughly familiar with conditions existing in Wyoming, Montana and Colorado, having spent considerable time in those states while following his ranching interests.

#### PATRICK ROWLAN.

The gentleman above named resides in Cheyenne county, where he is the owner of a good ranch and one of the substantial and prosperous men of his locality.

Patrick Rowlan was born in Canada, growing up there to the age of nine years, then came to the United States with his parents, they settling in Kansas about 1873 and lived there until he was seventeen years old. In the fall of 1880 he went to Nevada and there followed freighting for a time, returning to Kansas after about one year, and then back to Nevada, this time purchasing a horse and cattle ranch in that state. He only remained about a year and a half, at the end of that time going to Wyoming. In 1893 Mr. Rowlan came to Cheyenne county and took a homestead on section 35, township 19, range 48, proved up on same and added more land to his original tract so that he now is owner of three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land besides controlling a section of leased school land. During the first few years he went through hard times in getting his ranch started, but gradually improved his place, erecting good buildings and getting a portion of it under cultivation, so that he now crops one hundred and fifty acres, has plenty of fine bottom hay land, etc.

Mr. Rowlan runs about four hundred and fifty head of cattle, and a bunch of seventy-five horses. His land is connected with Brown's Creek Ditch Company, and he also has a private ditch. He also owns and controls about one thousand acres situated fourteen miles northwest of his home ranch, besides some Bridgeport property. He has a handsome ranch house and substantial barns and every modern device in the

way of machinery for the proper operation of his ranch and farm.

Mr. Rowlan's father and mother are both dead, and he is the youngest of a family of eight children. He was married on May 19th, 1896, at Alliance, Nebraska, to Miss Annie C. Hogerty, who was born and reared in Illinois. They have a family of two children, Stella May and John Francis, both bright and interesting youngsters. Mr. Rowlan is well and favorably known to all the old residents in his vicinity, and is active in local affairs, at present serving as treasurer of school district 128. In political faith he is a Republican.

#### JOHN PAVLAT.

John Pavlat, one of the extensive and wealthy farmers of Lodge Pole precinct, is a prominent citizen of Cheyenne county. He has built up for himself a valuable estate and an enviable name as a man of sterling worth and active public spirit, well meriting his high standing and success.

The subject of this sketch was born in the village of Dobleb, Bohemia, on the 19th of June, 1846; he grew up there, and came to America in 1867, landing in New York on March 15th of that year, after a voyage of nine and one-half days. The first three years after coming to the new world he spent in Chicago at harnessmaking, and then went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he remained for about five years working at his trade; next moved to Hanover, Kansas, and for about eleven years followed his vocation in that state. He first saw Cheyenne county in the spring of 1887, arriving on the last day of April; he immediately filed on a homestead which was located in section 32, township 14, range 47, and has remained on that place ever since, leading a typical ranchman's existence, having gone through all the experiences that fell to the lot of the early settler in that region. He worked hard and faithfully, and succeeded in developing a good farm and ranch, now owning four hundred and eighty acres of good land. He cultivates about eighty acres and deals in stock quite heavily, running at the present time fifty head of cattle and twenty horses. His ranch has a good set of buildings, and every part of it shows good management and thrift in its operation. Besides his ranch property Mr. Pavlat owns considerable property in Lodgepole, which is his postoffice address. On Christmas day, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Tehel, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was born in Bohemia, coming to America when eight years of age with her parents. Her parents are both deceased, the moth-

er's demise occurring in the spring of 1908. Both of Mr. Pavlat's parents have also passed away. To our subject and his estimable wife the following children have been born: John, married and living at Sidney; Joseph, married, residing in Denver; Mary, wife of Joseph Bell, living in Oklahoma; Rosa, now Mrs. J. L. McIntosh, living at Sidney; Vlasta, now Mrs. Frank Doyle, living in Old Mexico; Libbie, now Mrs. Noah Walters, residing at Rock Springs; Richard, Jennie, Millard, Lilly, Henry and Frank, of whom the four youngest are living at home. Two children, Jennie and Ray, are now dead.

Mr. Pavlat has always taken an active interest in political affairs, both state and county. He has been school director of District No. 12 for the past few years, and prominent in township matters of importance. In politics he is a Democrat.

HARRY J. BOYLES.

Harry J. Boyles, residing in Gordon, Nebraska, is the genial and popular proprietor of a pool room which furnishes amusement and pastime to many of the younger members of Gordon families, and is a man well known and liked in the community.

Mr. Boyles was born in Bellefonte, Center county, Pennsylvania, in 1867. His father, Ebenezer Boyles, was a glassworker in Nebraska, and later moved to Nebraska, where he farmed for many years, taking up a homestead in Sheridan county, in 1886. Our subject was reared in his native state, and came west with his parents, the family settling four and a half miles east of the town of Gordon. Here they put up sod buildings and started in to improve the place. While living in Pennsylvania our subject had learned the glassworkers' trade and after coming west attended school in Denver two years, then went to San Francisco, where he worked at his trade. He next returned to Pennsylvania, where he remained for twelve years working in different parts of that state, following his trade all the time. This broke down his health and he was obliged to leave there, so came back to Nebraska to recuperate. Prior to this he had been to Findlay, Ohio, and also Shirley, Indiana, working at his trade, but did not like those places well enough to settle permanently. In all he spent twenty years as a glassworker, and in 1903 came to Gordon. He purchased his father's ranch, and operated this for one year, then he established a pool room in the town of Gordon, where he has been in June of the year, taking active management of this business in 1904. He runs a first-class place and has the best of the

patronage of the *best* citizens, enjoying the respect of all who know *him* in a business or social way.

Mr. Boyles was married in 1895 to Miss Elizabeth E. Pethnes, of French descent, whose father was a glassworker. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boyles, namely: Leonora, aged eleven, and Sarah, now four years old.

Mr. Boyles is classed among the old settlers here, having gone through the pioneer days with his parents, and at different times has worked all over this section of the country and become acquainted with many of the early settlers located here.

HENDERSON MURRAY.

Henderson Murray, a well-known old settler of western Nebraska, resides on his pleasant farm in Bloomington township, Franklin county. He came to this county in 1872, taking a homestead in Marion township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres which he broke up and on which he built a log house and farmed for a period of twenty-five years, then bought another one hundred and sixty acres there which he used for farming and hog raising purposes. He kept steadily at work and has accumulated a nice property, and is one of the solid and progressive citizens of his locality.

Mr. Murray was born in Campbell county, Tennessee, and his grandfather, Thomas Murray, was one of the first settlers in that state. Our subject's father, James D. Murray, married Susan Langley, who was a native of Surry county, North Carolina, daughter of Mathew and Patience (Osborn) Langley, who moved from there to Campbell county, Tennessee. Our subject's great grandfather, James Langley, served in a North Carolina regiment through the Revolutionary war, and received a severe wound in one of the battles. His father's ancestors were pioneers of Tennessee, and went through terrible experiences, especially fighting Indians, when at times women were known to take up arms. Our subject came to Cass county, Nebraska, when a boy, with his father, James D. Murray, who located in Rock Bluffs, where he became a member of the town board and occupied a prominent place among the leading citizens of his community, holding different local offices. Mr. Murray was united in marriage in 1875, to Miss Bridget Doherty, a native of Ireland, who came to America with her parents when a child, settling in Virginia, and later moving to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Murray have a family of seven children, who are named as follows:

Mr. Murray  
Miss Bridget  
to America  
the family  
of seven  
Stephen



Franklin; Horatio J., assistant cashier in the Exchange Bank of Franklin; Ernest E., with his father on the farm; William H., also at home, and Susan M., wife of Charles E. Shoemaker, of Franklin, and two dead. Our subject has been a Mason since 1868, and a prominent member of that organization. He is held in high esteem by all who know him, and is a man of high character and sterling qualities which gain him friends in every walk of life. Politically he is a Democrat. In 1891 he was elected county treasurer, and re-elected the following term, and has served as assessor of his township at different times.

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#### HÉRMAN SCHULTALBERS.

A striking example of what may be accomplished by the exercise of industry, perseverance and good management is found in reviewing the life history of the gentleman above named. He started his business career without means excepting a strong heart and willing hands, and is now classed among the foremost substantial citizens of Box Butte county. He is an old settler in that region; is a prosperous farmer, owns a fine farm, and is enjoying a comfortable and pleasant home.

Mr. Schultalbers was born in Hanover, Germany, July 3d, 1857. His father was a farmer and lived and died in Germany, as also did his mother. Our subject was reared in his native country until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he struck out for the new world, landing in Baltimore, December 23d, in the year 1882. He came directly west, to St. Louis, and joined a colony of German settlers in St. Louis county, Missouri, and there worked out by the month, spending about four years in that vicinity. He then came to Cuming county, Nebraska, worked one summer and came to Box Butte county, in 1886 and bought some land, picked out a location and filed on a tree claim, later took up a pre-emption in 1888 and a homestead in 1889, all on the same section, then returned to Missouri and worked for another year, at which time he came back to Nebraska and began to improve his land. He broke ground for crops, put up a sod shanty, and from the spring of 1889 began living in the house, steadily improving his place, doing all his work with the aid of a team of mules during the first years. He "batched it" up to 1894, and in that year returned to St. Louis and was married to Mary Moellerhaus, who was born and reared in Germany and came to America in the year 1894, being here only a short time before being married.

Mr. Schultalbers bought his present farm in

northwest quarter section 3, township 27, range 48, in 1886, and moved to the place with his bride after his marriage and begun building up the place as a permanent home. He has improved the farm splendidly, and now owns eight hundred acres of deeded land, also operating three hundred and twenty acres of leased land, all of which is fenced and kept in first-class condition. He farms about seventy acres and raises good crops, and even during the dry years was fortunate in always having a fair yield. In August, 1896, lightning struck his barn and completely destroyed the building, but he at once rebuilt it and was getting along well, when three years later during a severe electrical storm he was struck by lightning and was unconscious for quite a long time, but recovered, although the report soon became circulated that he had been killed. He was severely injured, by the shock, one-third of his body being entirely burned over, but he suffered no very permanent injury, being left a little deaf. At the same time one of his cows was struck and the animal was instantly killed within a few feet of where our subject stood.

Mr. Schultalbers' family consists of himself, wife and six children, who are named as follows: Mary, Lena, Rose, Henry, Freda and Annie.

Our subject is a strong Democrat, active in local politics, always working for the best interests of his locality. He has been on the school board for several years past.

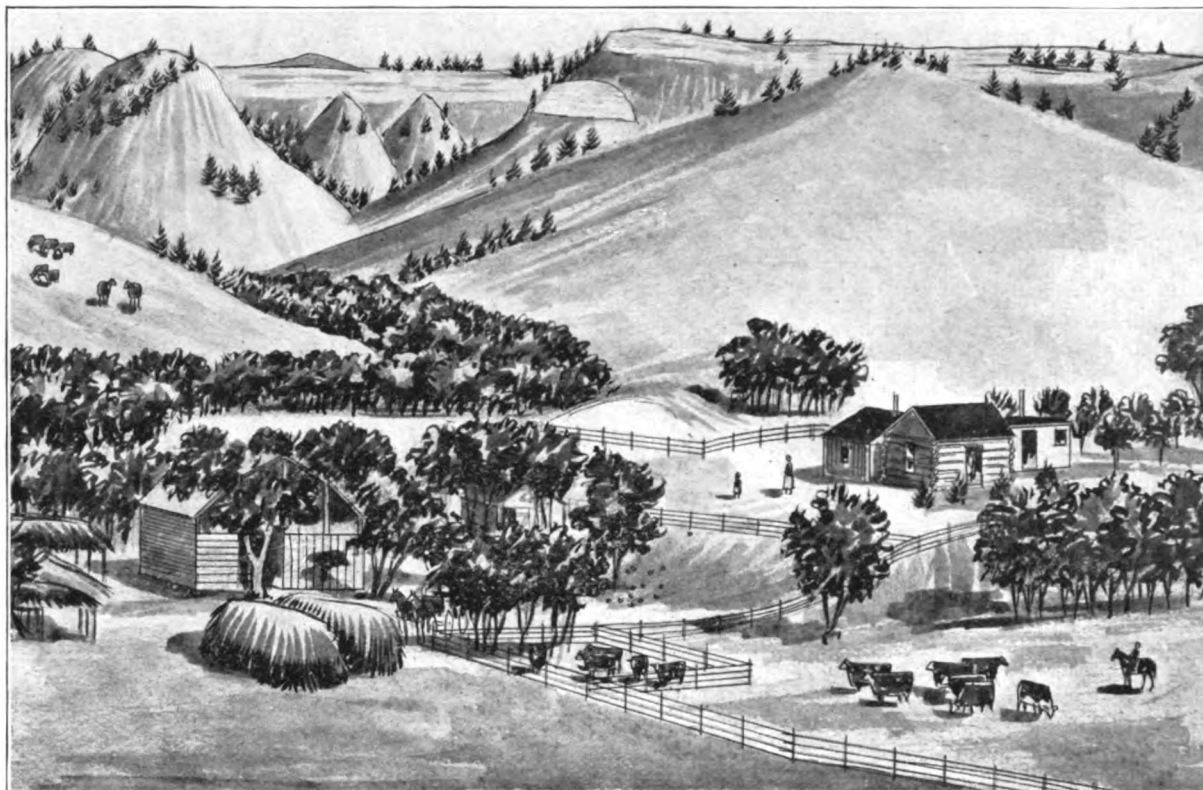
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#### H. H. BERRY.

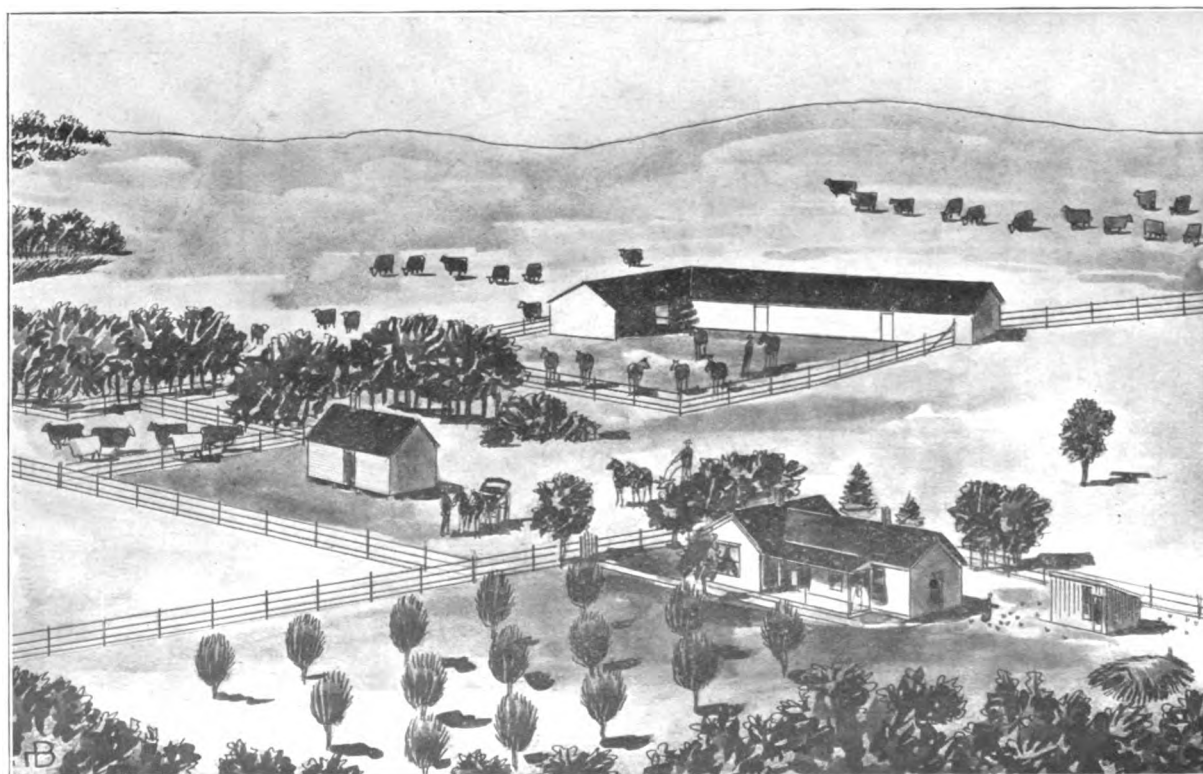
Among the prominent and successful business men of McCook, Nebraska, we wish to mention the name of H. H. Berry, the subject of this review. He is well known all over the surrounding country as a man of ability, industrious and a citizen of true worth.

Mr. Berry is a native of Illinois and was born in 1845. His father, Keeling Berry, was an old settler in Illinois, locating there in 1822. He was a native of old Virginia, where the family were early settlers. At the breaking out of the war our subject determined to aid his country in the fight for liberty and freedom, but waited until 1864 and enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Regiment at Virginia, Cass county, Illinois, and served until the close of the war. In 1884 he came west, locating in McCook, where he took charge of a dry goods department in one of the leading stores, continuing in this position for three and a half years. He then established himself in the grocery busi-





RESIDENCE OF CHARLES LARUE,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. BRILL,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

ness and remained at that for two years, then started in the real estate business, in which he has continued up to the present time. He is also a capable auctioneer, and is well known all over Redwillow and the adjoining counties where he has acted in that capacity. He has been judge of probate court for the past sixteen years, and has held the office of police judge for over fourteen years, and has proved himself a popular and efficient public official.

Mr. Berry was married in 1870 to Miss Amanda L. Mitchell, a native of Illinois. They have six children, who are named as follows: Carl R., with Colorado Iron & Fuel Company as master mechanic, located at Sunrise, Wyoming; Everly N., a druggist at Parsons, Kansas; Floyd M., connected with the Burlington & Missouri railway at McCook; Elbert W., with the Maxwell Company, Chicago; Chester B. was assistant train despatcher on the Burlington & Missouri railroad for a time and now in the train service at McCook; Mildred F., living at home with her parents.

Mr. Berry is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church at McCook, and now is and for many years has been local minister here. He is also a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has filled all the offices in that lodge in the past. He has always voted the Republican ticket, and takes an active interest in all party affairs.

CHARLES LA RUE.

Charles LaRue, residing on section 34, township 33, range 23, Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is one of the leading old settlers in this county, and has always been foremost in helping to develop the region where he chose his home.

Mr. LaRue was born on a farm in Grant county, Indiana, April 3, 1823. His father, Britton LaRue, was of French-American blood, and followed farming and sawmilling all his life, and Charles also worked at this for many years, beginning when a young man. The mother died when he was so young he does not remember her, and at the age of fourteen started to make his own way in the world. He followed freighting and mine work in different states, also spent a part of his time in hunting in Colorado, Wyoming, Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and other western states, and during those years killed an immense number of buffalo, deer, antelope and other game. For fourteen years he wandered all over the western states and saw much of nearer life in the west, crossing, during that time, every stream between the Rio Grande and Canadian border, finally settling in Keya Paha county, Nebraska.

county in 1882, where he took up a homestead, on which he now resides. When he landed here he had only ten dollars in money, and a team and wagon. He went to work at once building up his place, and now is proprietor of five hundred acres of good land, farming one hundred and twenty-five acres of this, and runs about seventy head of cattle and the same number of hogs. His land was well covered with timber, and before he was able to build had to clear it off, putting up a log house, which is still a part of the family dwelling. His land has two and a quarter miles of river front. The garden tract is irrigated. There are twenty acres of alfalfa, producing large crops of that excellent forage plant. He has seen hard times occasionally since coming here, and often did not know where their next meal was coming from. He worked out to support his family, but although it was often discouraging, he never felt like giving up, but stuck to it, and has been most successful. At one time he went to Canada to look for land, but came back satisfied to remain here.

Mr. LaRue was married in Gosper county to Miss Harriet Board, October 25, 1879, and they have eight children, namely: Clyde, Ethel, wife of Fred Hutton, of Rock county; Marion, Lester, Bertha, wife of Bert McDonald, of Wyoming; Leon, Angeline and Therese.

Mr. LaRue is a straight, unadulterated Democrat. He has been on the school board for the past twelve years, and active in school affairs. He is a member of the Odd Fellows. Mr. LaRue is an interesting storyteller and his account of the many stirring incidents of his life read like romance. Since settling on his present farm he has killed five of the last six deer to cross the place. We present a view of the home and picturesque surroundings on another page.

SAM SWINBANK.

Sam Swinbank, a thrifty and energetic resident of the township of section 13, township 32, range 52, where his business ability has put him well to the front in the ranks of progressive farmers, was born in Westmoreland, England, in 1860. His father, John Swinbank, was a farmer in his native land, and came to this country with his family in 1875. There were eight children, of whom our subject was the fifth in order of birth, and he attended the common schools in England as a lad, growing to manhood in Kane county, Illinois, where the family landed in America. He remained his parents until he was twenty-three years of age, assisting them in carrying on the farm, then settling in Keya Paha county, Nebraska.

came to Nebraska in the fall of 1886, settling half a mile south of Whitney. There he started a farm, and through failure of crops and other misfortunes, lost every cent, only succeeding in raising one crop in five years. While on that place he kept "bachelor's hall," and had a hard time to get along, meeting many discouragements so familiar to the old settlers in this region.

Mr. Swinbank then gave up farming and started in the stock business, borrowing money for a beginning, and met with better success. He located in Sioux county, in section 14, township 34, range 53, where he built a dugout for his first dwelling place and lived in it for two years. He built up the place in good shape and remained for twelve years, and made a success, purchasing his present farm in 1902. This is situated in section 13, township 32, range 52, which is a well improved property, and he is in the stock raising business, dealing mostly in horses. He has a fine house, supplied with every convenience, with a complete tank and water works system, and uses this as a wintering place, as he also has a large ranch in Sioux county. His ranch consists of six hundred and forty acres here, two hundred of which are irrigated, and he raises large quantities of alfalfa, wild hay, etc.

Mr. Swinbank was married while living in Sioux county, in 1894, to Miss Katie Raben. Mrs. Swinbank's father was an early settler in that county, also well-known ranchman of the section. Mr. and Mrs. Swinbank have two children, John Chester and Ruth Marguerite.

Politically, our subject is no party man, advocating good government and voting for the best man on any ticket.

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#### JOHN W. BRILL.

John W. Brill, one of the oldest settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, is one of the best-known residents in this region. He was one of the first men to take out papers filing on government land in this section of the country, and has resided here continuously ever since, building up a good home and farm, and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Brill was born in the town of Franklin, Franklin county, Vermont, April 24, 1838. His father, Thomas Brill, was a farmer by occupation and carpenter by trade, who came of old Yankee stock. Our subject was reared and educated in Vermont, and at the age of twenty-one years started out to make his own way in the world, following farm work as an occupation. He came west in June, 1861, settling in Rice

county, Minnesota, and was among the pioneers of that state, remaining there for five years. The journey was made by lake from Ogdensburg to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the propeller "Ogdensburg," by rail thence across the state to McGregor, Iowa, where they proceeded by boat to Redwing, Minnesota, from which point they went overland forty miles to Rice county. At the close of the war he moved to Blue Earth county, securing land in the Winnebago reservation, and remained there up to 1879, at that place forming the acquaintance of Charles Cowley, with whom he came to Nebraska in that year, driving through the country by team, their families following later on also by team and covered wagons. Mr. Brill located on a pre-emption on Plum creek and a tree claim on the tableland. He, spending most of his time on the latter, which lay in section 5, township 30, range 23, Brown county. His first house was a log cabin, built by himself, and his first team was a yoke of oxen, and these he used for several years in breaking up his land and starting his farm. During the years 1894 and 1895 his crops were total failures, and he had heavy losses. He recovered from these as soon as the good years came on, and built up and improved his land until he was the proprietor of as good a ranch as could be found in that locality. In November, 1905, he sold out his place for \$4,000, and then located on Evergreen creek, where he owns a section of land, and each of his two sons also owns a section of land in the vicinity of their father's property. They run two hundred head of cattle and twenty horses all the time, constantly improving their herds. During the early days of his residence in this part of the state Mr. Brill hauled all family supplies from Neligh, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles from his home, the distance being reduced as the railroad proceeded westward until their supplies could be secured within a few miles of home. He cut cedar posts and hauled them all this distance to pay for the provisions needed, camping out nights under his wagon during the trip back and forth, through both summer and winter weather. He has seen his share of pioneer life, and is now content to enjoy the fruits of his hard labor in days gone by.

An engraving of the residence will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Brill was married in Vermont, November 10, 1859, to Miss Helen Coffrin, a native of the town of Morristown, Vermont. Seven children were born to them, three of whom are now living, namely: Nellie R., wife of Alfred Marcuson, of Los Angeles, California. He is largely interested in water power, electric light and other utilities in Lower California. They have one daughter,

Emma Grace; John W. and George. Mr. Brill is a stanch Republican in political affiliations, never having voted any other ticket since attaining his majority.

HENRY STROHM.

Henry Strohm, a representative farmer and agriculturist of Rock county, Nebraska, resides on his valuable estate in Long Pine precinct. He is among the early settlers in this locality, and can recount with accuracy many of the pioneer experiences of the settlers of this county who braved the hardships and privations, becoming permanent settlers and prosperous farmers. The above mentioned gentleman has succeeded in acquiring a good farm and home and gained the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Strohm was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, April 24, 1860. His father, George Strohm, was born in France on the Rhine, and after serving about fourteen years in the French army emigrated for America about 1846 and made his home in Wisconsin some five or six years later. The mother of our subject, Mary Mogal in maidenhood, was born in Germany, near the Rhine, and of her nine children, Henry is sixth. He was reared on his parents' farm in Wisconsin, receiving a common school education in the country schools there. He was early taught to do all kinds of hard farm work and the training he received at home fitted him for the hard labor he encountered in later years. At the age of twenty he left home and moved to Tama county, Iowa, where he remained for two years. He then went to Hamilton county, Iowa, remaining about two years before returning to the former place, where he lived for another twelvemonth.

In 1884 he came to Nebraska, and at Valentine filed on a pre-emption claim on the White river. He remained there for a short time only, then came on to what is now Rock county, driving overland, camping out nights under his wagon. He traded for a relinquishment on which there was a log house, covered it with a dirt roof, and where he lived with his family for a time. During these first years he had but one horse, one cow, a heifer, and a few chickens with which to make a start as a stock man. Prior to locating on his present farm, Mr. Hastings had made several trips to Colorado by team, coming by way of Colorado Springs and Hastings, Kansas, but preferring Nebraska, settled on the where he now resides. When he located there were no improvements whatever, the log house above mentioned, which has

been replaced with a substantial dwelling, good buildings and fences. He has planted trees and now has a fine orchard started. Rock creek runs through his farm, and this stream furnishes plenty of good water the year round for his stock. The farm comprises a homestead entry of one hundred and sixty acres and four hundred acres of deeded land, of which seventy acres are under cultivation. He is largely engaged in stock raising and dairying, running eighty-five head of cattle with ten or a dozen milch cows. At one time he, together with J. R. Hughes, owned and operated a threshing outfit, and carried on this business for three years in the early days, covering a territory of some thirty miles square, throughout which they became thoroughly acquainted. He was obliged in the early days to haul wood to help make a living for his family, and turned his hand to whatever he could find to do.

In 1887 Mr. Strohm was married to Miss Mattie A. May, whose father, Thomas May, was among the early settlers in Rock county, having come here in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Strohm have two children, Lura and Etha.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Strohm uses his influence and vote for the candidates of that party. He is a member of the Workmen's lodge at Carnes.

CHARLES W. HICKOX.

Charles W. Hickox is a native of Ohio, born in Summit county, born January 25, 1839. His father, Watson Hickox, who was American born, was in business as a clothier, and came to Illinois in 1840; the mother, Sarah Scott, was a native of the state of New York.

Charles W. Hickox was reared on a farm in Lee county, Illinois, until he was fourteen years of age, when the family moved to Waukesha and thence to Richland county, Wisconsin, where they were among the early pioneers. Our subject spent a number of years in the timber of northern Wisconsin, lumbering and logging, and learned woodcraft thoroughly. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry, and was sent south, joining eastern army corps. He saw three years and three months of active service, being in twenty-six engagements. He was severely wounded in the battle of Rappahannock Station and was confined in the hospital until he was discharged from the service.

After his discharge, Mr. Hickox returned to Wisconsin and was married August 11, 1864, Miss Julia Dean, a native of Ohio, daughter of Charles W. and Ellinor (See

father was also a native of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hickox have had six children: Myrtle, wife of Joseph Moyer, living west of Brule; and Ellinor, married to Nathaniel Prebble, of Mitchell, Scott's Bluff county; Roy, Ernest, Mary and Rosie.

In 1880, our subject moved to Nebraska, coming overland by team and covered wagon to Lancaster county, and settling on a farm where he lived for seven years. They then came to Keith county, locating on their present farm in section 18, township 13, range 38, where they located a splendid little farm of one hundred and sixty acres, almost all of it under cultivation. Mr. Hickox is a thorough farmer and has made a fine success in agricultural lines, although he has had many losses, especially in the years of drouth. Of late years, owing to advancing age, Mr. Hickox has been living a somewhat retired life, not being able to personally perform the hard work of the farm. He has a good force of helpers in his sons and attends to the management while they perform the work. He is now enjoying the golden fruits of years of toil and his later days find him in peace and possessed of a comfortable competency. Mr. Hickox is among the earliest settlers of his community and has won many friends by his public spirit and excellent traits of character. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Ogallala post, Grand Army of the Republic. In Wisconsin the family were members of the close communion Baptist church.

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#### SHERMAN G. WRIGHT.

Among the younger ranchmen of Cherry and Grant counties, Nebraska, an able representative is found in the person above mentioned. He is proprietor of an extensive ranch, and one of the substantial citizens of his locality. His career has been devoted to outdoor pursuits, and he is thoroughly conversant with modern methods of operating his estate, conducting it in a thorough and painstaking manner. Since locating in this vicinity he has gained many friends, and well merits his success and good name. His home is in section 34, township 27, range 37.

Mr. Wright is a native of Vernon county, Missouri, born in 1872. His father, George Wright, was a farmer and prominent pioneer in Missouri, later settling in Cherry county, coming here in 1888, when that region was in the early stages of its development. Both parents were born of American citizens, the mother's maiden name being Mary Charles. The family lived in

Missouri until our subject was fifteen years of age, then moved to Nebraska, at first settling in Custer county, remaining there until April of the following year, when they came to Cherry county. In making the journey to this state from Missouri, they came by team, with a covered wagon containing all their goods, camping out at night along the way, and they were thirty days on the road.

After spending about two years in this vicinity, Sherman began working on his own account, following ranching and hunting for a living, and in this way became thoroughly familiar with the country in his travels on the range and in making long hunting trips. When he was twenty-one he filed on a homestead situated twenty miles north of Whitman, and in 1893 he began to establish a ranch, his location being one of the very best in the region, having a fine range and large tract of fertile valley for his stock. He batched it for about ten years, living alone in a sod house, put up sod stables and sheds, and at once started to gather a good herd of cattle together. He was successful from the first, and has now become owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of land, and he operates four hundred acres of leased land besides his own ranch, which he uses for range and pasture.

In 1898 Mr. Wright was married to Lila Peacock, daughter of William and Mary Dixon Peacock, her father a native of England and her mother of Michigan, but both reared in Ohio. Our subject has a family of three children, who are named as follows: Grace, Claude and Clarence. All were born and reared in Cherry county. The family occupies the ranch in Cherry county as a summer residence, but during the school months reside in Whitman, in order to give the children the benefit of the city schools.

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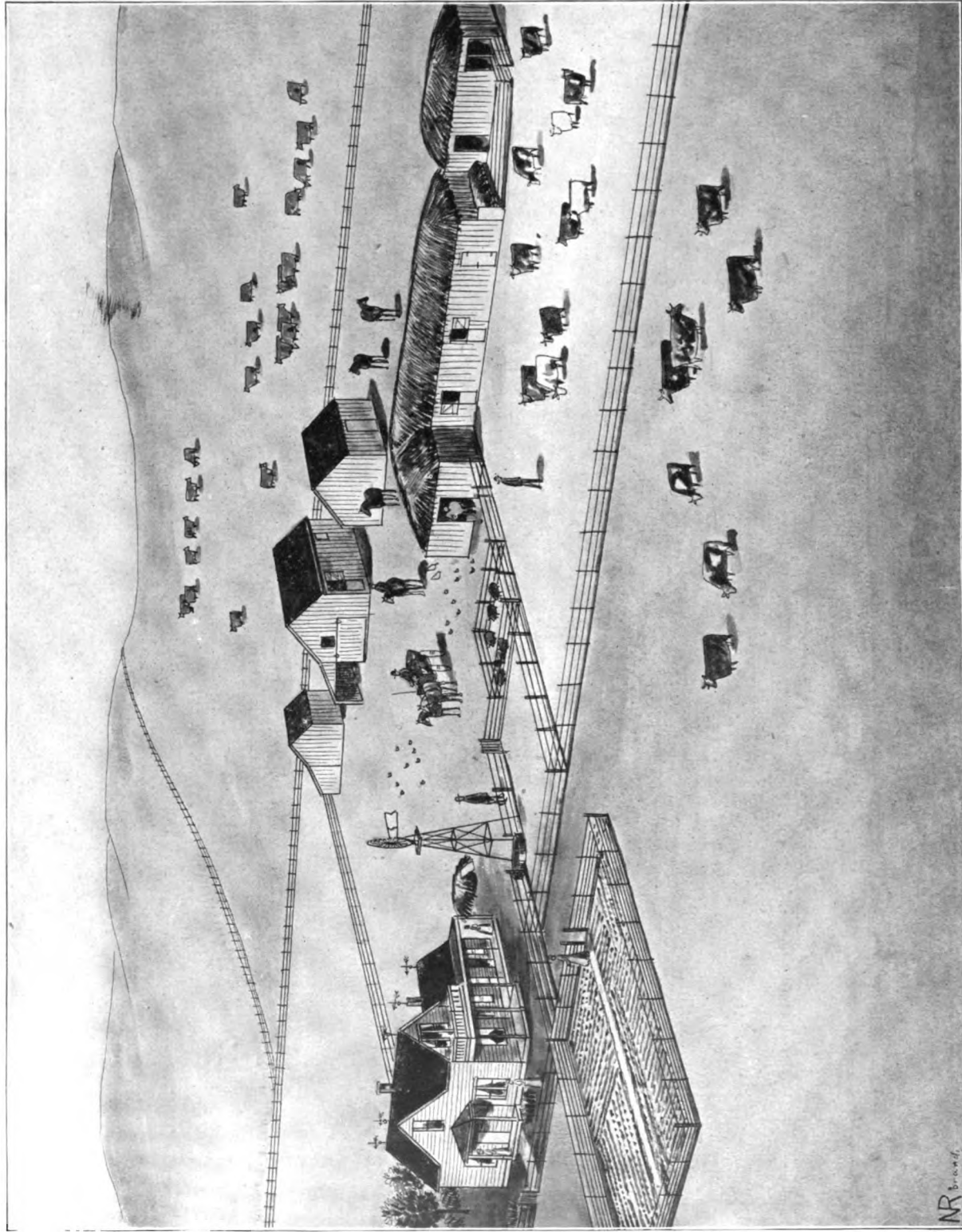
#### BURTON E. WHITE.

Burton E. White, one of the prominent business men of Merriman, Nebraska, and long associated with the commercial and business interests of Cherry county, has built up an enviable reputation for integrity and ability.

Mr. White was born in Buchanan county, Iowa, May 26, 1865. His father, John E. White, was a farmer and an old settler in western Nebraska. His mother's maiden name was Mabel L. Peterson. There was a family of eight children, our subject being the eldest, and all but one are now living. They were reared in Iowa, our subject being his father's main stay in the work of carrying on their farm. When he was about eight years old the family moved to







RESIDENCE OF CHARLES ROBERTS,  
Section 20, Township 33, Range 40. Cherry County, Nebraska.

Jewel county, Kansas, remaining three years, witnessing the grasshopper raids. Returning to Montgomery county, Iowa, the family remained until 1885, when they came to Dawes county, locating seven miles northwest of Hay Springs, there going through sod shanty experiences and the usual pioneer hardships. The father soon built a log cabin and begun to improve the homestead he had taken up in that vicinity. The family came into the county by team and covered wagon, driving from Iowa. They started on the journey April 22, 1886, and arrived at their destination June 2d, having had many uncomfortable experiences during the trip. In 1887 the father pre-empted a claim of one hundred and sixty acres which he later sold.

During the first two years after starting in here Mr. White, the subject of this sketch farmed for his father and taught school during the winters. He taught the first school that was established in that region, located at the head of Bordeaux creek, which opened in the fall of 1887. He also clerked in a general store at Hay Springs, and since then has been in the mercantile business constantly. In 1896 he came to Merriman, and on June 1st took charge of the branch store of Mills Brothers, of Gordon, remaining in that position for six years. He then entered into partnership with Edward Collins (whose sketch appears in this work), and remained with him for three years, then on June 22, 1905, started in the general merchandise business for himself. He has a good location, large floor space, and carries a fine stock of goods, enjoying a large patronage throughout the surrounding country.

Mr. White was first married June 12, 1889, to Miss Ann Hahn, to whom seven children were born. The living are: Mabel, John, Alberta, Stella and Graydon. On March 4, 1902, Mr. White married Miss Faith Hail, who is the mother of a daughter, Fern. They have a pleasant home and are well liked by all who know them. Mr. White has always been a great lover of sport, and hunted all kinds of game in the early days through Nebraska, Wyoming, the Dakotas and Colorado. During his younger days he was a member of Company F, Second Regiment Nebraska National Guards, acting as captain of that body; was serving as lieutenant at the time they took part in the Indian war of 1890-'91, doing patrol duty along the state line. He was a member of the southwestern Iowa baseball league and took a leading part in many games played in Nebraska and Iowa. He still loves to twirl a ball with the boys.

Mr. White has always taken an active leading part in all local public affairs, and one of the foremost citizens in building up his

community. On August 18, 1896, he was appointed postmaster, in which office he is still incumbent. He, with his family, is a member of the Methodist church, and fraternizes with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America and its auxiliary degree.

CHARLES ROBERTS.

Charles Roberts, a prominent resident of Cherry county, Nebraska, is an old settler in this state, and through his efforts in his locality has added materially in bringing that region into one of thrift and prosperity. He is proprietor of a well improved estate, and is one of the well-to-do men of his community.

Mr. Roberts was born in Denmark, January 3, 1848, and reared on a farm until he was twenty years of age. His father and mother never left Denmark. He is the second member in a family of three children. In 1868 he left his parents' home, sailing from Hamburg to Hull, crossed England and sailed from Liverpool to New York, landing May 11, after a voyage of seventeen days. Coming to Wisconsin, he remained for six months, and in the fall of that year he came to Omaha, where he remained until the spring of 1871. He worked that summer in Iowa and started for the south, passing through Chicago at the time of the great fire. He worked in Mississippi and Arkansas for a time, and in 1874 he settled in Howard county, opening a general merchandise store there, and was engaged in this business for eight years at the time the grasshopper raids were so frequent in that part of the state, and on account of the crops being ruined his trade fell off so that he lost everything and was obliged to close out his store. From here he went to Brown county and farmed there for three years, and in 1884 he sold his property there and took a homestead, his present home, in section 20, township 33, range 40, in Cherry county, and the following year moved on this farm, driving the entire distance with a team, his family coming on later by train. Here he went through the drouth periods, and for three years was unable to raise a crop, and the family had a hard time to make a living, but he stuck to it, and when conditions changed and the better years came he raised good crops and succeeded in building up his farm, improving it all the time, gradually adding to his property by buying when land was cheap, until he now owns and operates eleven quarter sections, or about five hundred acres of this. He has a large drove of cattle. He has built

story, eight-room house and commodious barns, granaries, etc., and has all the machinery necessary for properly operating the farm to best advantage, and his success only demonstrates what may be done by strict attention to business and honest hard labor. A view of the family residence will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Roberts was married in Howard county, November 27, 1875, to Miss Elsie Petersen, born in Denmark, who came to this country when a young girl to join a brother and sister who had preceded her. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have a family of eight children, named as follows: Otto (deceased), Fannie, Alvania, wife of Ralph Culp; Louisa, Otto, Walter, Hattie and William. The family is highly respected and classed among the enterprising and industrious citizens of the community. In politics they are Democrats.

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#### ED. F. CARPENTER.

Ed. F. Carpenter, an extensive and wealthy farmer of section 30, township 34, range 47, is a well-known citizen of Dawes county. He has built for himself a valuable estate and an enviable reputation, and well merits his high standing and success.

Mr. Carpenter was born in Washington county, Iowa, in 1867. His father, Elhanan W. Carpenter, is an old settler in Nebraska, coming here in 1886, and his mother was Miss Charlotte Laten, prior to her marriage.

Our subject was reared in Iowa, and was taught to do all kinds of hard farm work as a boy, attending school in the country and receiving a limited early education. He remained with his parents until some little time after they settled in this state, then started out for himself. The father settled on a ranch in section 28, township 34, range 47, and erected a rude dug-out for his family, and later a log cabin in which they lived for about eight years. They had the troubles of the majority of pioneers in this section, visited by drouths, etc., and had a hard time in getting started in their farming operations. In 1897 our subject located on land of his own and opened up a ranch. He remained on that place for some time, then moved to his present homestead, in section 30. Here he has built a good home, barns and other buildings, and has made a great success of his undertaking. He has seventeen quarter sections of deeded land, besides operating eight quarter sections of leased land. He is extensively engaged in the cattle business, also raises a large number of horses each year. His ranch is all fenced, and has

plenty of good living water for his stock, natural timber, etc. His ranch joins that of his father, E. W. Carpenter.

Mr. Carpenter was married in June, 1898, to Miss Lilly M. Augustine, whose father, John Augustine, is a prominent farmer of Marshall county, Iowa, where Mrs. Carpenter was reared. Our subject has one child, Bernice.

Mr. Carpenter is actively awake to the interests of his community, and aids materially in its advancement. He votes the Republican ticket, and is a strong party man.

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#### JOHN SHEARER, DECEASED.

For over twenty years the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been associated with the agricultural interests of Dawes county, and as an old settler and one of her worthy citizens he was prominently known. Mr. Shearer was proprietor of one of the fine farms of that locality and accumulated his property and gained his good name by his persistent and honest labors. He resided in section 34 up to the time of his death, which occurred in May, 1903, and he was sincerely mourned by a host of warm friends and relatives.

Mr. Shearer was born in Grant county, Indiana, in 1849. His father, John Shearer, was a farmer of Irish stock, and his mother was of German stock, both born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and from there moved to Grant county, Indiana, where the whole family of fourteen children were born. They moved to Mercer county, Illinois, and then to Fort Madison, Iowa, where the parents died. Our subject grew up in the east, but during his younger days traveled considerably all through the western states, and finally located in Dawes county about 1885, filing on the homestead which he occupied for so many years. This was located in section 34, township 34, range 48, and was entirely unimproved property, but he went to work to build it up, but it was up-hill work, as the drouths overtook him during the first years there, and several crops were total losses. He had a few cows and chickens, and the products from these formed the principal food for his family. Since the demise of Mr. Shearer times have changed for the better. His family have been able to raise good crops, and they have gone into the stock raising business on quite a large scale, have steadily forged ahead and his widow is entirely free from debt on their farm. They have a good home and farm and have put up a complete set of good buildings and added many improvements. There are one hundred and sixty acres in the farm,

which is located on Big Bordeaux creek, and the place is supplied with plenty of natural timber, wild fruits, etc. Mrs. Shearer has a fine orchard started, and the good order prevailing in every part of the farm bespeaks good management and thoroughness of purpose.

Mr. Shearer's wife was Miss Mary Derrick, of Randolph county, Missouri, daughter of John D. Derrick, a native of Germany who was a farmer, and came to the United States when a young man and spent a great deal of time in traveling all over the country. Mrs. Shearer's mother was Sarah Ann Hurd, of Pennsylvania-Dutch blood, and the family settled in Randolph county, Missouri, in 1868, where the wife of our subject was born. In 1887 she came to Dawes county with her parents, where she met Mr. Shearer and their marriage resulted. Four children were born to them, as follows: Bessie, now aged eighteen; Homer, aged sixteen; Nellie, thirteen, and Sadie, ten years of age.

J. A. DeCOW.

Dr. J. A. DeCow, of Holdrege, Nebraska, veterinary surgeon, is well-known throughout Phelps county as a man thoroughly familiar with his profession and capable in all branches of the work.

Dr. DeCow is a native of western Ontario, born in 1876. He is a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, at Toronto, Canada, and after leaving school located at Holdrege in 1905, and since coming here has built up a large practice, traveling all over Phelps, Harlan and Kearney counties. He has been most successful, and likes this part of the country, as the stock here is exceptionally good, every farmer having good grades. The horses are splendid for the road and as draughts, and the cattle are gradually improving through the importation of thoroughbreds, while the hogs are also A-1. His father, Daniel DeCow, is a large breeder of Shropshire sheep, and this last year sold twenty-two ewes and rams for \$740. He is an authority on these animals, and has devoted eighteen years to the sheep business, also deals quite extensively in horses.

Dr. DeCow practiced for two years and four months in the veterinary department of the British army, and in this way secured a vast deal of experience which has been of immeasurable value to him in following his profession. He has traveled over Canada, South Africa and Great Britain, and thinks this country the best of all.

Dr. DeCow is a young man of sterling qualities, thoroughly equipped for the practice of his profession.

his profession, and in the short time that he has been in this locality has gained the esteem and confidence of a host of people, who all join in wishing him the greatest success in his work.

He was married January 25, 1908, to Miss Lena Jorgensen, of Holdrege, Nebraska. Her parents are old settlers in Nebraska, coming as early as 1888, she being four years old at the time. Her parents came direct from Denmark.

CHARLES M. REBBECK.

Charles M. Rebbeck, the popular and energetic proprietor of the restaurant at Gordon, Nebraska, was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1865. His father, Frederick Rebbeck, was a tailor by trade, and came to America with his family in 1871. Our subject is the oldest of six children, and on landing in the United States they struck out for the west, settling in Hillsdale, Michigan, where the mother still lives.

In 1885 Mr. Rebbeck left his parents' home and started out for himself, spending one year in Chicago, where he was connected with a wholesale and retail grocery house, then came on to Nebraska, locating in Gordon in 1886. He worked on ranches in this vicinity for two years, then took up a homestead situated fourteen miles northwest of the town, where he at once put up a sod shanty and remained there until he had proved up on his claim. During the years 1888 to 1891 he was mail carrier, traveling from Albany, Nebraska, to Wounded Knee postoffice in South Dakota, and was at the place where Wounded Knee battle was fought in 1890, the postoffice having been abandoned shortly before this event took place. He became thoroughly familiar with the country, and was afterwards employed as a scout for the Nebraska National Guards during that uprising, and was an eye witness of the battle.

After this Mr. Rebbeck spent one year on a farm, and in February, 1894, bought the Albany store in Sheridan county, and ran this business up to October, 1904. During this time he was also the local representative of the Kimball Bros. Marble Works, of Lincoln, and he was the man who sold the Wounded Knee monument to the relatives of the Indians who were killed in the battle at that place. This monument now stands on the old battle ground, and is a lasting tribute of respect and love from the loyal redskins of that section of the country, having been erected on May 30, 1901.

In 1904, Mr. Rebbeck sold out his mercantile business and moved to the town of Gordon for better school advantages for his children.

he has opened a restaurant and confectionery store, and does the largest business in this line of any one in Gordon. He has been engaged in the stock business for a time, while living at Albany, and shipped a large number of cattle and horses.

On December 29, 1891, our subject was married to Miss Paulina Polzin, daughter of Richard Polzin, a farmer and old settler in Richardson county, Nebraska, she having settled on a homestead in this county during the early days, where she met the man who subsequently became her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Rebbeck are the parents of four children, namely: Jerene, Theresa, Amelia and Fred.

Mr. Rebbeck is widely known throughout this section of the country as a man of active public spirit, counted among the oldest settlers who has assisted in the building up of the region from its early days. He is a hard working and industrious citizen, well liked by all who know him. He has held different local offices, and served as justice of the peace for ten years in Wounded Knee precinct. Politically, he is a Bryan Democrat.

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#### GEORGE W. SISLER.

George W. Sisler, an old-timer of Cherry county, Nebraska, lives on his valuable estate situated in section 12, township 34, range 30. He was born on a farm in West Virginia, July 24, 1853, a son of Jacob and Margaret (Teets) Sisler, and was reared and educated in his native state, learning in his boyhood to do all kinds of hard farm work. Their home was in the timber country, and he helped his father to clear and open up a farm and build up a home. At the age of seventeen his father died and he then started out to make his own way in the world, following farming on the old home place for six years. In 1880 he left West Virginia, settling in Sibley county, Minnesota. There he farmed for two years, then returned to his old home, remaining until February, 1884, when he again went to Minnesota. His next move was to Cherry county, where he landed in October, 1886, filed on a homestead northwest of his present residence on the 27th of that month. He immediately went to work on his place, putting up a sod shanty, and using a team of oxen to break up his first piece of land. In the winter of 1887, a severe storm and blizzard struck his locality, and he sheltered his seven head of cattle in his sod shanty to protect them from the severe weather, fearing that he might lose them if left out in the open. He had only two rooms,

and the family lived in one and the stock was kept in the other. To such straits as this were the early settlers subjected, hardships almost incredible to be endured. He was obliged at that time to haul his wood and provisions for twenty miles, from Valentine. One of his worst hardships was to get stuck in the Niobrara river with a load of wood in the winter time when the ice was floating, and was compelled to get out in his bare feet and float the load to shore. These were hard times to him, and he experienced much suffering and privation with his family until the country was more thickly settled and a trading post established near his home. There he went through the drouth periods and other financial losses, but stuck to the farm until he attained success.

In 1901, he sold his first possession and moved to his present place, where he has a fine farm of four hundred acres of deeded land located on Minnechaduza creek. This is improved with the necessary buildings, and as fine a grove of trees as is to be found in the county. Wild plums grow in abundance on the place and a fine young orchard will, in a few years, be bearing in abundance. A view of the residence will be found elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Sisler was married in November, 1874, to Miss Rosa Glass, a daughter of Moses and Lena (Kimmel) Glass. They are the parents of ten children, seven of whom are now living, named as follows: Margaret L., wife of William Mowan; Nora V., wife of William Ayers; Sarah C., wife of Samuel Swinger, all three living in Washington; Ada B., wife of John Brown, of Mississippi; Mary V.; John M., who has a six-hundred-acre homestead south of Crookston, and Jesse L. The family have a pleasant home and a host of warm friends in their community. Mr. Sisler has held different school offices, and takes an active leading part in building up the schools in his locality. He votes the Prohibition ticket, and is an earnest advocate of the principles of that party. Together with his family, he is a member of the Dunkard church.

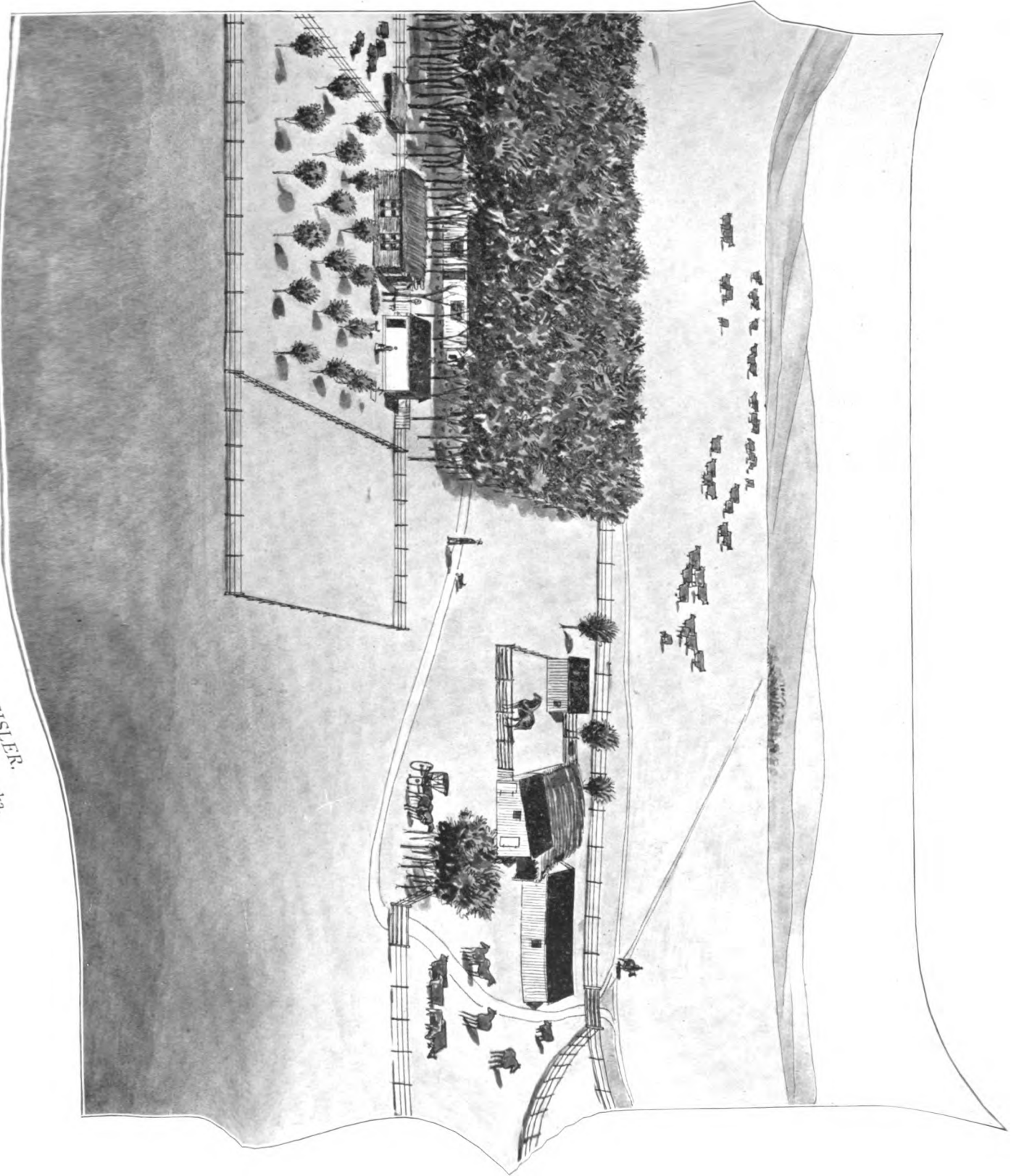
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#### WILLIAM ELI FRY.

William Eli Fry, the subject of this review, is one of the representative farmers of Brown county and a man who has done his full part in promoting the development of the agricultural interests of the community in which he lives.

Mr. Fry was born in Harrison county, Iowa, April 8, 1869. His father and mother were farmers, both of American stock. Of eight children, William Eli is the fourth member. He





RANCH RESIDENCE OF GEO. W. SISLER.  
Section 12, Township 34, Range 30, Cherry County, Nebraska.





was reared in Iowa, receiving a common school education, assisting his father in the hard work always to be found on a farm, out of school hours, becoming from early life inured to hard labor. In 1889 he came to Brown county, Nebraska, and settled on a tract of land on the Calamus river in the southern part of the county. Here he put up a rough sod house and "batched" it for several years. Going extensively into the cattle business, he remained on this range for nine years, when he received a good offer and sold out his herd. He spent the following summer in the mining camps and fruit districts of Colorado, looking for a place to locate, but decided that the opportunities offered there were not nearly so good as in Nebraska. Returning to Brown county in the fall of 1889, he purchased his present home, located in section 10, township 29, range 22, which was partly improved with a house and a nice grove of young trees. Here he made a success from the start, and is now proprietor of a farm of seven hundred and twenty acres, with three hundred and twenty acres of this under cultivation, on which he raises fine crops. The balance of his farm is in meadow and grazing land. He has his place all improved with good barns, sheds, windmills, fences, etc. One hundred and sixty acres of the land lies northeast of Ainsworth, and on this he has also erected a good set of buildings and improvements. Everything is in the most perfect order, evidencing thrift, industry and good business judgment in its operation.

On March 29, 1895, Mr. Fry was married to Miss Lillian Lewis, whose father is an old settler in Brown county. Here she followed teaching for some years prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have two children, namely: Leo, born in 1897, and Murle, born in 1902. They are a happy little family, and enjoy a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Fry is a Democrat in political faith, and Mrs. Fry is a member of the Methodist church of Ainsworth.

GEORGE H. WORTH.

George H. Worth has made a good record as a prominent settler of Loup county, Nebraska, where he settled April 29, 1884. Through the pioneer struggles he has done his part in all upbuilding of the general interests of the county and has won the respect and confidence of his friends and neighbors.

George H. Worth was born in Henry Illinois, in 1857. His father, John Worth, a native of England and came to America

the Civil war, settling first in Illinois and later in Iowa, where he was one of the early pioneers. Our subject's mother's maiden name was Ann Dugdill before marriage and she was also a native of England.

Our subject was reared on an Iowa farm, living in three different counties. He worked at home until he was twenty-three years old, helping his father build up a good home and farm, and in 1880 took the management of the home-place.

Mr. Worth was married December 23, 1880, to Miss Lucinda Swift, the marriage being performed in Creston, Iowa. The bride's parents were Charles F. and Unice (Hurlbert) Swift. Mr. and Mrs. Worth have a family of seven children living and six dead: Grace A., Elizabeth, Nellie, Ralph, born in a tent, Walter, Edwin and George Dewey, all living. Calista A., John A., Freddie, Robert O., Lester H. and Harriet are deceased. Several of the children are accomplished musicians, playing the violin and organ, and taking a leading part in all local musical entertainments.

In 1884, our subject and family drove through from Crawford county, Iowa, in covered wagons to his present farm in Loup county, Nebraska, coming in company with several other families. His parents came also and lived and died in the county. Our subject took a homestead and settled down to pioneer farming, living in a tent the first summer, where the son Ralph was born. He owned a team of horses and a yoke of cattle, but otherwise had only limited means to start with. Mr. Worth and Ashley B. Coolley, one of the oldest settlers, built the first bridge across the Loup river in this vicinity. He built the usual sod shanty and put in all the sod crop he possibly could, and this was mostly sod corn, but he raised a fine garden and had a good supply of vegetables. North Loup was the trading point for all the surrounding country and his place was the stopping place for the settlers coming up and down the river. The years passed with varying experiences and the returns from the farm were not large and during the drouth years our subject had to employ his time at different things in order to make a living. He hunted and trapped, bagging many prairie chickens in his long tramps over the country. He marketed a part of his game at Ainsworth, fifty miles away, and he obtained good prices for everything he could bring in. He proved up on his homestead in 1903 and now has an additional homestead in Kinkaid, where he makes his home. His farm embraces all told, about two thousand two hundred and eighty acres, belonging to the family, and it is one of the best farms in this part of the country. The North Loup

*COULD NOT BE  
WORTH, WAS  
BRORE*

river runs for a mile along the boundary of the farm. There is a fine spring on the place and groves of forest trees with some fruit. Mr. Worth is extensively engaged in the live stock business, carrying large herds of cattle, horses and hogs and ships to the different markets in the east.

Mr. Worth has always exhibited an active interest in all political matters and has held various offices of honor and trust within the gift of the people. He assisted in the organization of the school district and for years was a school officer.

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#### ANDY L. STEPHENSON.

Andy L. Stephenson, whose fine farm in Perkins county is a credit to his locality, is a man of untiring energy, and is classed among the wealthy and substantial agriculturists of that county. He settled here during the pioneer days, witnessed the drouth years, but never had a failure. As the hard times came on he gradually worked into the stock raising business, and has made a splendid success of his different enterprises.

Mr. Stephenson was born in Madison county, Kentucky, in 1850, on a farm. Both his parents were natives of that state, and his great-grandfather was an early settler there, he being killed by the Indians. This was one of the historical events of those days, the house being attacked by the redskins, and on being fired at from the inside of the house they all fled except one chief. This savage attacked Mr. James and they fought for some time, the Indian being killed, but Mr. James was severely wounded and never recovered from his injuries, his death occurring during that year.

Our subject was reared in Gentry county, where the family settled about 1852, and his entire early life was spent on the frontier. He started for himself at the age of twenty-one, buying part of his father's farm, and worked that up to 1886, then came to Perkins county and took a homestead on section 18, township 9, range 39. He built a dugout and went through the usual pioneer experiences in getting his farm started. His nearest railroad town and trading post was Ogalalla, thirty miles away. All the water he used had to be hauled a distance of six miles. He worked hard and proved up on his claim, then moved to his present location, where he has a fine ranch of eight hundred acres of deeded land and one section leased, cultivating one hundred and seventy acres. He has good improve-

ments, substantial buildings of all kinds. He has built ten miles of fence on his ranch. During the first years here when he was just getting started on his homestead, he owned a good team of horses, and had the misfortune to lose them by lightning. He was unable to buy another team, so his neighbors got together and bought him a team and presented them to him.

In 1871 Mr. Stephenson married Martha Swearingen, who was born in Iowa. She is a daughter of Thomas Swearingen, an old settler in Missouri, and a colonel in the Civil war. Six children were born to our subject, namely: Minnie, Lulu, John, Thomas, Dale, and Florence, now deceased.

Mr. Stephenson is a Democrat. He has been active in local politics, serving as road overseer and district treasurer, and also helped greatly in building up the schools of the locality.

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#### H. B. KAUFFMAN.

H. B. Kauffman, who owns a valuable estate on section 18, township 14, range 58, is one of the prosperous and highly esteemed citizens of Kimball county. He was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and first saw the light on November 9, 1855. His father still lives in Bedford county, but his mother has been dead for some years. There were three sons in his father's family, but one besides our subject now living.

When Mr. Kauffman was twenty-seven years of age he left Pennsylvania and emigrated to Missouri, spending about six months there and went to South Dakota, traveling in a prairie schooner, having with him his wife and their household goods. They remained in that state for five years, thirty miles west of Yankton, and then moved to Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, where he was proprietor of the Pine Bluffs hotel, and also was connected with the Union Pacific Railway Company for six years, making Pine Bluffs his home up to 1897. In 1903 he came to Nebraska and took a Kinkaid homestead in Kimball county, locating on section 18, township 14, range 58. Here he has four hundred and eighty acres homesteaded, and besides this has one hundred and sixty acres of deeded land in the same section, making in all a whole section. He has about fifty acres cultivated, and runs quite a large bunch of stock. His place is improved in good shape, and every corner of the same shows good management and care in its operation.

While living in his native county he was married to Annie Chrisman, who was also born





RANCH OF KARL F. GROSS,  
Grant County, Nebraska.

and raised there, the event occurring in 1880, and Mrs. Kauffman has proven a true helpmeet to her husband in every sense of the word. They are the parents of two children, Enda, now the wife of Frank Bloom, they residing on section 34, of township 13, range 58, Kimball county. They have two children, Rayona and Harry. Our subject's son, Raymond C., is also married and living on leased land, in school section 36, township 13, range 58, and is the father of one child, Fern Elizabeth. His wife's maiden name was Florence Extrom, of Pine Bluffs.

Mr. Kauffman is a Bryan Democrat, and strong party man. He is director of school district No. 7. He was elected county commissioner of Kimball county, Nebraska, and has held the office for three years. He takes an active interest in local affairs.

GEORGE DICKINSON.

George Dickinson, whose valuable and well kept farm home is in section 32, township 14, range 48, Lodgepole precinct, Cheyenne county, where he owns three hundred and twenty acres, is one of the young men who were reared in that region, a true Nebraskan in spirit, and one who has made for himself a good home in this fertile and productive section of the state. He is the son of Friend Dickinson, one of the prominent old-timers of western Nebraska, who now resides in Lodgepole, of whom more extensive mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Our subject was born in Sidney, Nebraska, on October 28, 1878, and has never lived outside Cheyenne county. He has seen the many changes that have taken place in that region and watched the growth and development, and since attaining to manhood has done much to aid in the upbuilding of the locality. He is proprietor of a half section of good farm land, situated in section 32, township 14, range 47, known as the "Dickinson Ranch." He engages in stock raising on quite a large scale, farms about thirty-five acres, and has the place well improved, with a complete set of substantial ranch buildings. The ranch is beautifully located on Lodgepole creek, and is one of the most attractive spots in the section.

Mr. Dickinson was married on January 1905, to Miss Fannie Kilgore, who was in Arkansas in 1888, and came into Cheyenne county with her parents in 1892, they through pioneer experiences in this region. Both of Mrs. Dickinson's parents are and reside a short distance east of Lodgepole.

Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson have two children, namely, George and Nellie. Charles Dickinson, a brother of our subject, lives on the ranch. He was married to Pearl Kilgore, a sister of his brother's wife, on April 8, 1907. George Dickinson takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and is a strong Democrat in political views.

KARL F. GROSS.

Karl F. Gross, known throughout his precinct and the surrounding country as a prosperous farmer and ranchman, has been a resident of Deuel and Grant counties for the past eighteen years, and incidentally has aided materially in its development. He owns a valuable estate and has gained the same by dint of well directed industry supplemented by the strictest honesty and well merits his success and high standing.

Mr. Gross was born in Baden, Germany, in 1860. His father was a farmer in that country and lived and died there, Karl living at home and also followed farming during his boyhood up to his twentieth year, then struck out for himself, taking passage on an emigrant ship for America, landing in New York City in February, 1880. He traveled west to Iowa, locating in Lynn county, and worked on farms in that vicinity for five years, then came to Nebraska, settling in Omaha, and followed different occupations, for the most part employed in street car barns and packing houses.

He next moved to Logan county and followed ranching for about two years, then went to Deuel county and took up a pre-emption, tree claim and homestead and began to improve the ranch. At that time, in 1890, his nearest trading point was Hyannis, a distance of thirty miles, and the postoffice was twenty miles away. He put up sod buildings, beginning on a very small scale to improve his claim, at first trying to farm, but soon worked into the cattle business, and for eleven years worked faithfully to build up the ranch, succeeding well, although he met with numerous disappointments and losses at different times, in one instance losing all his hay crop and barns by fire. In spite of all hardships and discouragements he stuck to his ranch, and accumulated a nice property. In 1901 he sold his ranch in Deuel county to M. C. Hubbel for a good sum and he then took a trip to New York City and Germany, returning in 1902 to Grant county, Nebraska, and purchasing a

large ranch which is located two miles west of Hyannis. He purchased this property outright for a good round sum and is finely located. Here he has twelve quarter sections and he devotes the entire place to cattle raising. This is one of the most extensive cattle ranches in the county, and he has it improved in splendid shape with good buildings, handsome residence, etc. While living in Deuel county our subject had considerable experience with horse thieves. At one time they took seven head and at another forty-eight head of fine horses. But he succeeded in getting them all back and capturing the band of robbers, and one of the party was sent to the penitentiary for five years.

Mr. Gross was married in 1885 to Josephine Parks, she being of American stock, her father, Morgan S., being one of the pioneers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a well known and highly respected citizen of that vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Gross have never had any children of their own, but in 1895 adopted a little girl, Erma, who is now eighteen years old. A picture of Mr. Gross's ranch will be found on another page of this work.

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#### JOSIAH ZERBE, DECEASED.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been identified with the agricultural interests of western Nebraska for over a quarter of a century, and was well known as a prosperous and successful citizen.

Mr. Zerbe was a descendant of French ancestors, and was born in 1838 in Pennsylvania, his family having been pioneer settlers in that state. His grandfather, Daniel Zerbe, came to American shores from France in 1776, to take part in the Revolutionary war, and his son Thomas is our subject's father, his mother having been Miss Elizabeth Garmen prior to her marriage.

Our subject came to Nebraska, from Shamokin, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, locating in Harlan county in 1879, homesteading in Prairie Dog township, afterwards purchasing adjoining lands, and now is proprietor of four hundred and forty acres, all in one block, having sold off considerable land which he formerly owned. He has been engaged principally in the stock business, handling a large number of cattle, hogs and horses. For several years he was engaged in the butcher business in Alma and resided in that town for ten years. At one time he was burned out and lost all his effects, as he had no insurance

on his property. When he started here he had only fifteen dollars in money, and by his industry and perseverance has been very successful in farming and stock raising. He feeds about one hundred cattle and hogs, and uses all his corn and hay on his place.

Mr. Zerbe was appointed the first marshal of Alma in the early days, and served in this capacity for several years. He was a member of the city council for four terms, and president of the board all of this time. He was also mayor of the town for four terms in succession, elected three times by those in favor of saloons, and once by the local option people, who recognized the fact that he had been fair and honest in his dealings as mayor. He was acting as mayor of Alma during the bad years, and by his careful management of the town finances made work for all the people there, and won their confidence by his strict integrity and fair treatment in all matters.

In 1872 Mr. Zerbe married Miss Angelina Reed, a native of Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, daughter of Moses and Marion Kantner Reed, this family having been pioneers of Pennsylvania. Mr. Zerbe had three daughters from a former marriage, namely: Martha, widow of Andrew Kachalries, of Alma; Elizabeth, wife of N. D. Feese, a farmer living near Alma; Ida, now Mrs. Albert Bove, whose husband is a leading merchant of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Zerbe is a member of the Evangelical church and a trustee of that church. He belongs to the Masonic order, having been a member of the blue lodge in Pennsylvania. In political faith he is a Republican. Mr. Zerbe died August 8, 1908, mourned by the family and a large number of friends and acquaintances.

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#### SAM. A. CARLSON.

Sam. A. Carlson, an old and prominent resident of Phelps county, Nebraska, resides on his well improved farm in section 2, Prairie township, on which he settled in 1877. Mr. Carlson was born in Sweden, and came to America in 1870, settling in Chicago, where he worked for a time, then in other places until he finally landed in this vicinity.

After striking Nebraska Mr. Carlson at once settled on a homestead and tree claim, later selling the latter. He broke up the wild land on his farm, built a house and for some years had a hard time to get along on account of the dry years and bad weather generally. He kept at it, however, and gradually improved







JOHN O'NEIL.

his place, putting up good buildings, and of late years has raised good crops and been very successful. His wheat has shown a yield of thirty bushels per acre and corn fifty, and besides farming he engages in stock raising to some extent. He has a good many draught horses all the time on his farm, and enough cattle for his own use, besides hogs and other stock. He is counted one of the best farmers of the township, and as he has plenty of help with his force of seven sons, is not obliged to hire any work done, which is of immense saving to him.

Mr. Carlson was united in marriage to Miss Emily Samuelson, a native of Sweden. They have a family of eight children, named as follows: Nora, Roger, Carl, Theodore, Lawrence, Leroy, Eddie and Albert.

Mr. Carlson and his family are members of the Lutheran church of Holdrege, and he has served as treasurer for the past fifteen years. He was one of the organizers of the church. He is also moderator of his district school. In political faith he is a Republican.

Mr. Carlson has gone through many hardships in the building up of his home and farm here, but has overcome all the struggles and adversities of the pioneer life, and success has crowned his efforts in the possession of a fine estate and happy home surrounded by his family and friends, and richly deserves it all.

PETER SCHAEFER, DECEASED.

To the early settlers of Sioux county the name of Peter Schaefer is well known. He located on a homestead in 1894, where the region was but slightly developed, and there was little in sight to reward the struggles and hardships through which he must pass, but he was possessed of indomitable will and stanch courage, and he took up his work with success as his watchword. For many years he labored faithfully and at his demise his widow took up the management of the farm and is now the owner of one of the best estates in the county, and in the management and labors of the place she has been assisted by her sons and daughters, and the family is well known throughout the locality and highly esteemed.

Peter Schaefer was born in Ausendorf, Prussia, April 1, 1847. His father, John, was a laborer; his mother, who was Susan, was a native of Praesen, Germany. His subject grew up in his native land working as a laborer, and in 1869 came to America, in New York, from whence he went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he spent

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years, engaged most of the time in working for the Baldwin Locomotive Works. His health began to fail and from there he came west. He settled first in Seward county, Nebraska, on a farm, and remained on that place for seventeen years, succeeding in building up a good home and developing a farm, and in 1894 came to Sioux county, taking up a homestead, utterly unimproved land, and started to farm. He had poor success at first, and worked hard in trying to raise crops. Two years after locating here he died, in 1896, and his wife and children were obliged to take the management of the farm. The sons worked faithfully to help their mother in carrying on the place, and steadily improved it with good buildings and fences, and they now have everything in the finest possible shape, and are doing splendidly. Mrs. Schaefer has bought more land and the ranch now comprises sixteen hundred acres, which is situated on Sow Bellie creek. Three hundred acres of this land can be irrigated when there is a dry season, and they have considerable timber, also many fruit trees bearing good fruit, which they have planted themselves and are in fine growing condition. They also have a quantity of wild fruits along the creek. The ranch is pleasantly situated, there are many acres of hay land, also large alfalfa fields, and it is considered one of the model ranches of Sioux county.

Our subject was married in 1871 to Miss Anna Margaret Liebert, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Schaefer was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1850. Both her parents were born, lived and died in that country. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer, named as follows: Peter (dead), Anna and Nicholas, born in Philadelphia, and Mary, Peter, Susie (deceased), Fred, Margaret, John and Joseph, born in Nebraska. They are all bright and intelligent children, and have been a great help and comfort to their mother, giving their best aid in the carrying on of the home place since the death of their father, whose death was a great affliction to his family and the many friends in the vicinity.

JOHN O'NEIL.

The gentleman above named is one of the very oldest settlers in Deuel county, Nebraska, and is familiarly known as "The Father of Chappell," having made that town his home for the past quarter of a century, and since his earliest residence here he has been one of the leading citizens who by his influence and personal aid has helped in a wonderful degree the development of the region. Of late year

Mr. O'Neil has devoted his time to the real estate business, although he has practically retired from active business cares. He is an enthusiastic admirer of his adopted country, and while he has traveled considerably during his career and seen many different parts of the United States, he is always anxious to get back home and declares there is no place to compare with it. A portrait of Mr. O'Neil will be found on another page of this volume.

John O'Neil was born in New York City in 1853. He is of Irish descent, both father and mother being born in Ireland, coming to America in their youth, where the former followed the moulder's trade, and there our subject grew up, attending the public schools, and later the Bailey College, taking up a commercial course, and graduated from the same in 1879. In his boyhood he came to Illinois, settling in Whiteside county, where he grew to manhood, following farm work for several years. When he was seventeen years of age he began the study of telegraphy, and as soon as he mastered the profession secured a position at Converse, Indiana, as railroad operator, living there for a number of years, and later holding positions in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois, and came to Nebraska in 1880, locating first at Omaha, then in Lincoln, remaining there up to 1881, when he came to Chappell and opened the first telegraph station, working as operator and agent. Four years later he entered the land department of the Union Pacific railway, and handled this business for the company all over the Chappell district, representing the United States government, also handling school lands throughout the region for twenty-four years. During the past many years here Mr. O'Neil has been largely interested in ranching and stock raising, also in the general mercantile business. He has the distinction of having erected the first building in Chappell, and was one of the few here when the county was organized and laid out. He also selected the original town site of Chappell in 1884 and the following year laid out the O'Neil addition. He ran a store here for some years, building up an extensive cowboy trade.

When Deuel county was organized in 1888 he took a leading part in the affairs and assisted in the establishment of schools, holding school office for many years afterwards. In 1901 he was elected county judge, and at the expiration of his first term was re-elected, serving in all two full terms.

Mr. O'Neil was married in 1886 to Miss E. Allie Warner, who was born in Madison county, New York, where she was reared. They have one daughter, Mabel Alice, born January 17, 1896. Prior to her marriage Mrs. O'Neil

taught school in Chappell, and was the teacher of the first school established in that town. She was also a homesteader, proving up on a pre-emption in 1886. She has always been one of the foremost ladies of the community, taking active part in the affairs of her circle, and is a most estimable lady. Mr. O'Neil was made a Mason in 1891 and has taken an active part in the affairs of that lodge, now being worshipful master, serving his second term.

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#### EDWIN CASE.

Edwin Case, one of the older settlers of the western part of Nebraska, who has long since made his mark in the affairs of Sioux county, is widely known throughout his locality as a hard-working farmer and a worthy and estimable citizen. His entire career has been passed in mechanical pursuits, and since coming to this region he has taken a leading part in its development, incidentally building up a valuable estate for himself by strictest integrity and perseverance. He has a pleasant home in section 34, township 32, range 55.

Mr. Case was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1836. His parents were of American stock, the father, Uri Case, following the trade of carpenter and joiner during his lifetime. Our subject was raised in Ohio until he was sixteen years of age, when the family moved to Michigan, settling at Edwardsburg, and there Edwin was married to Miss Helen Covey, who is a daughter of Luther H. Covey and Julia A. Covey, well known pioneers of that state, the father being a wagonmaker by trade.

After the breaking out of the war our subject enlisted in the Ninth New York Heavy Artillery, Volunteer Company B, in 1863, and was sent with his regiment to the fortifications at Washington, D. C. Later he was at Cold Harbor, Virginia, Monocacy, Maryland, and Winchester, Virginia, seeing actual service in all these places. During the action at Winchester, Virginia, he was so severely wounded that he was obliged to leave his company and remained disabled until after the close of the war.

In 1868 Mr. Case returned to Michigan and there followed the carpenter's trade and furniture and undertaking business for a number of years at Edwardsburg. In 1878 he started in the furniture and undertaking business at the city named and followed that for over twenty years, and during that time twice sold out his establishment, but each time again went into business at a new stand in the same town. Finally his health failed, and he was compelled

to give up his work and seek another climate, so he came to Nebraska and located seven miles northeast from Harrison, where he has succeeded in developing a good farm on his Kincaid homestead of four hundred acres, all good land, which is devoted to mixed farming and stock raising. He has erected a complete set of substantial farm buildings, putting them up himself, as he is skilled in mechanical work. He enjoys that work more than farming, which he has adopted for his health's sake. He has improved his health in a great measure and thinks the west is a great country.

Mr. Case and his wife and one daughter, Bessie A., occupy a pleasant and comfortable rural home, and have a host of warm friends in their community. Bessie A., his daughter, has a section of good land adjoining her father's and it is well improved, having lots of good timber on the place. She settled here two years before her father and mother came, on a Kincaid homestead.

#### CHARLES H. STEWART.

Charles H. Stewart was a resident of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, for the past twenty-five years, associated with the agricultural interests of that section of the state, and helped the growth of that county while it was yet a part of Brown county, always assisting in the advancement of all matters tending to its improvement and commercial value. Mr. Stewart is now a resident of Sioux county, where he lives on section 35, township 32, range 56.

He is a native of Ray county, Missouri, born in 1851. He is a son of William A. Stewart, a farmer, and Caroline (Smith) Stewart, both of American stock. He is the fourth member in his parents' family of thirteen children, and was raised in the state of his birth, receiving a common school education and learning to do all kinds of hard farm work. At the age of twenty-three years he worked in the woods, and also farmed for two years. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and settled in Brown county, taking a homestead in section 9, township 32, range 19. His first building was a log shanty, and he batched it there for five years, but did not lose faith in northwest Nebraska. Since the good years began he has been successful in his farming operations, and is also engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, and now owns a fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, all fenced and cross

He has a substantial farm house, 36x40, and has raised one

and a half story high, and a splendid set of farm buildings with all improvements necessary for conducting a model farm. All this has been accomplished by his unaided efforts, supplemented by hard work and good management, and he is well known all over the county as a prosperous farmer and worthy citizen. He is a firm believer in improved stock. In 1907 he purchased a small herd of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, consisting of eighteen cows and one bull, all registered.

October 10, 1888, Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Margaretta Draine, whose parents are old settlers in Keya Paha county. Eight children complete their family, named as follows: Harold, Arthur, Donald, Amy, Alta, Elsie, Clyde and Glen.

Mr. Stewart takes an active interest in local affairs, and has been on the Republican central committee for six years. He has served his locality in different capacities at various times, and is one of the worthy and influential men of the county. In October, 1908, partly on account of his daughter's health and partly to take advantage of the better school facilities, Mr. Stewart moved to Sioux county, but he still owns his farm in Keya Paha county.

#### SAMUEL H. GOUCHER.

Samuel H. Goucher, one of the most potent factors in the development of the commercial and agricultural resources of Cherry county, is also one of the oldest settlers in this part of the state, where he owns a valuable estate which he has gained by careful management and honest industry, well meriting his high standing as a citizen.

Mr. Goucher was born in Ripley county, Indiana, February 4, 1854. His parents moved first to Illinois, where they resided one year, and then to Harrison county, Missouri, in about 1856. His father, David Goucher, served in the Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry for four and a half years during the war. Samuel H. was the eldest member of seven children in his father's family, and started out for himself at the age of twenty-one, working out by the day for neighbors and living at home until he was twenty-four. In 1878 he moved on a farm and worked for himself until 1886, when he came to Cherry county, Nebraska, driving over the old Kearney trail with a team and covered wagon, and located near where he now resides. He built the first log house on the place and lived in this place for a long time. He at once began farming and was just nicely start

ed when the dry years came and all his crops were lost. He was compelled to work out by the day to make a living for his family, and was employed on a ranch for five years near his farm. These were his hardest times. All he was able to earn by working on farms in the neighborhood was twenty dollars per month and the work then was much harder to do before the farms were equipped with all the modern machinery which is in use today. His farm of eight hundred acres, which is located in section 31, township 33, range 37, is well improved and well stocked. He has erected all good farm buildings, and enjoys a comfortable and pleasant home, and is classed among the leading agriculturists of his township.

Mr. Goucher was married August 7, 1877, to Miss Ida Zerbe, born in Ohio in 1862. Her father, William Zerbe, is a native of Pennsylvania, engaged in farming and stock raising, and her mother, who was Mary Gilbert, was born in Ohio of English-German descent. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Goucher, nine of whom are living, namely: Nora E., wife of William Kyte; Floyd H., Roby W., Zora Etta, wife of Bert Nichols; Ora Ocy Belle, Meda M., Leona Pearl, Bert and Berlie.

Mr. Goucher has never sought political preferment, but attends strictly to his farm duties, and is known as a gentleman of good citizenship and honest principles. He is a Republican.

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#### MERLIN D. BARNES.

Merlin D. Barnes, a progressive and intelligent young business man of Cody, Nebraska, has become one of the well known and highly esteemed citizens of that place.

Mr. Barnes was born in Butler county, Iowa, February 25, 1882. His father, Moses Barnes, came to Cherry county with his family in 1900, where he in partnership with his son, our subject, established a hardware and furniture store in Cody, of which the latter is now sole proprietor, the former having returned to Iowa, where he now resides. Mr. Barnes is the eldest of two children, and was raised and educated at Dumont, Iowa, where he worked on a farm while still a boy. Since opening up his present establishment in Cody he has built up a large trade and made a success of the mercantile business. He has a store 48x60 and carries a complete stock of hardware, furniture and machinery, and is recog-

nized as one of the enterprising and progressive merchants of the town. While his father lived here he was active in commercial and political affairs and served for a time on the town board.

Mr. Barnes was married September 27, 1903, to Miss Florence Jackson, daughter of Joseph Jackson, a prominent ranchman of Cherry county, who owns and operates a large ranch two miles southeast of the town of Cody. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have one child, Rena.

Mr. Barnes is a member of the Cody camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### HENRY H. LIBBY.

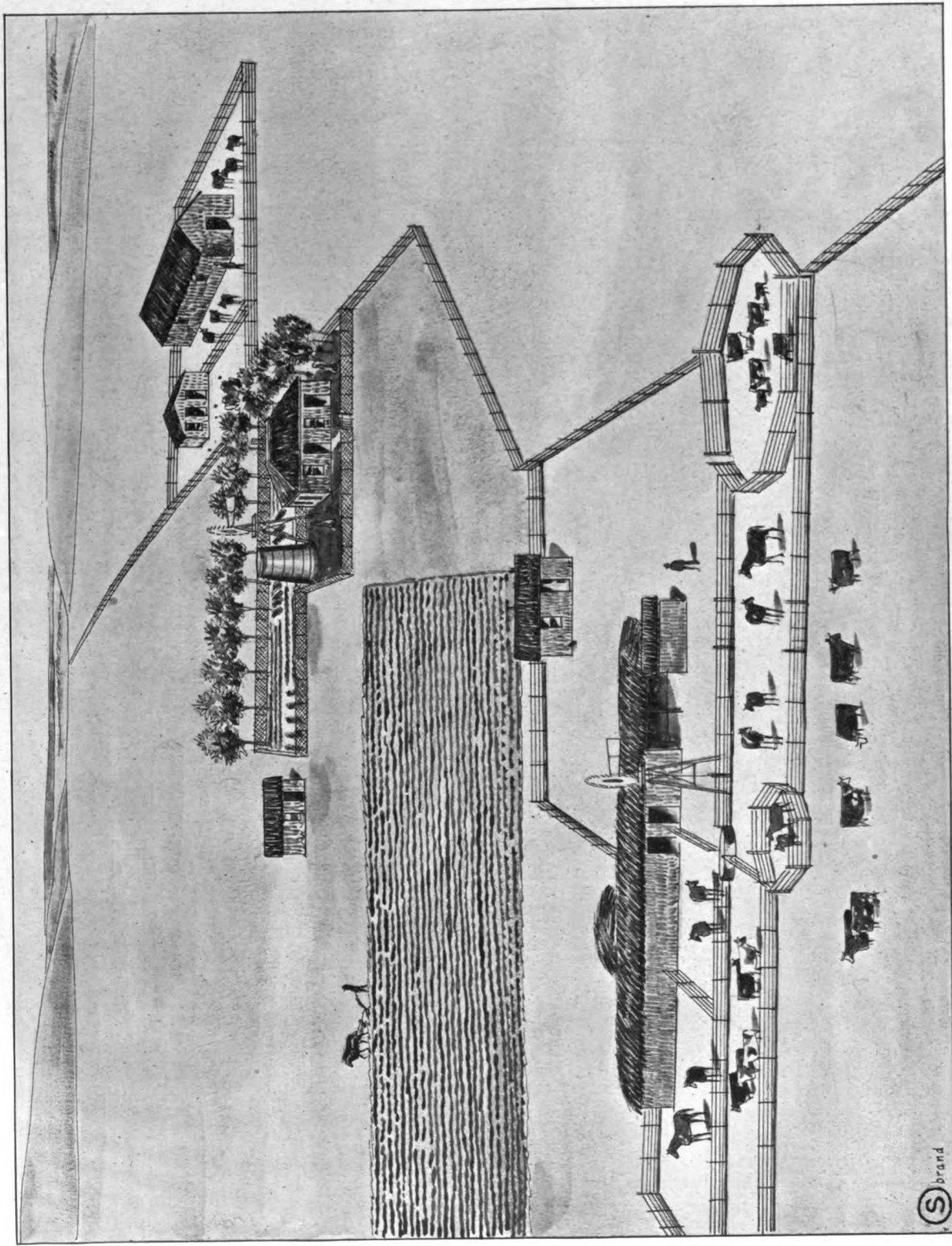
The gentleman whose name heads this review is a typical western rancher and farmer, genial and generous in disposition, and he has been most successful in his career, gaining a comfortable fortune, and building up a good home in the region to which he came many years ago. He resides in section 36, township 14, range 47, Lodgepole precinct, and is well and favorably known throughout Cheyenne county.

Henry H. Libby was born at Gardiner, on the Kennebec river, Maine, May 7, 1852. His parents moved to Massachusetts when he was an infant, and he was reared and educated in the public schools of Amherst, remaining there until he was twenty years of age. He then came to Sidney, Nebraska, and engaged in the meat business, following that work intermittently for about ten years. During the early days in this section he also freighted through the country, making numerous trips into the Black Hills during 1876-77. He finally drifted into ranching and cattle raising in 1879, purchasing his original ranch of six hundred and forty acres in section 36, township 14, range 47, and still occupies this place. The ranch is known as "The Meadows," and when first purchased there was not a tree on the place; now it is splendidly improved with good buildings, wells, windmills, fences and groves, being beautifully situated on Lodgepole creek. It is one of the most valuable properties in the county. He runs about two hundred head of cattle and sixty horses, and has been for many years past one of the largest dealers in stock, raising and shipping, principally cattle, out of Cheyenne county.

Mr. Libby has made many visits back to the east, both on business and pleasure trips, but is loyal to the home of his adoption, and is one of the few men left in this vicinity whose







RESIDENCE OF CHARLES H. GAY,  
Section 18, Township 31, Range 39, Cherry County, Nebraska.

...

residence in this region dates back as far as his own.

In 1886 our subject married Miss Mary Bull, at Amherst, Massachusetts, who was a native of Pittsfield, that state. Both her parents and her husband's are now deceased. Two children have been born of this union, namely: Roy H., now attending school at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is in his senior year and has merited the first lieutenantcy of the Cadets. The daughter, Barbara, is the life and delight of her fond parents. The family enjoy a pleasant home, and it is one of the bright spots in the traveler's itinerary.

D. C. BLISS.

D. C. Bliss, engaged in the nursery business, occupies a fine residence surrounded by beautiful grounds which adjoins the town of Minden. He has been in the nursery business since 1883, at which time he moved to Minden, and grows and handles all kinds of trees, and deals only in the very best varieties. He is well known all over Nebraska, and the products of his nursery are shipped to every part of this state as well as through the adjoining western states. He is a thorough judge of his business, and any one obtaining plants and trees from him is sure to receive the very best that it is possible to get.

Mr. Bliss was born in Jefferson county, New York, in 1843. His father, David B. Bliss, came to Wisconsin in 1845, traveling by way of the Great Lakes, the journey consuming four weeks, and reached Sheboygan on July 4, of the latter year. At that time our subject was two years old, and he grew up there, following teaching for some years, in 1864 enlisting in Company G, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, serving up to the close of the war, and was mustered out at Madison, Wisconsin. He located in LaSalle county, Illinois, shortly after this, where he engaged in teaching and farming, remaining there up to 1874, then came west, settling in York county, Nebraska, and lived there until 1883, then moved to Minden, where he has remained ever since.

Mr. Bliss was married in LaSalle county, Illinois, in 1868, to Miss Sophia C. Hart, and they have a family of three children, who are named as follows: Dr. H. O. Bliss, practicing dentistry at Bridgeport, Nebraska; Jennie, now engaged in photography, running a studio at Minden, Nebraska. She is a graduate of the College of Photography at Ham, Illinois; Dr. R. W. Bliss, practicing

medicine and surgeon, connected with the Omaha Medical College, also on the staff of two hospitals in Omaha and a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, class of 1903, and also a graduate of the Nebraska State University. He has practiced at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, for some time, and later at the Cook County Hospital of that city, and is a physician of prominence and a skillful surgeon. Mr. Bliss and his family are members of the Presbyterian church here, and highly esteemed as worthy citizens and good neighbors.

Mr. Bliss traces his ancestry to English extraction. All the Bliss families in America sprang from three brothers and one sister, who came to this country previous to 1640: Thomas Bliss was born at Belle Stone Parish, Devonshire, England, 1580; John Bliss, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1640; Ebenezer Bliss was born in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 1683; Ebenezer Bliss was born in Longmeadow, Massachusetts in 1725; Rev. Enos Bliss, born in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 1765; David B. Bliss, born in Watertown, New York, in 1808; and David Cleveland Bliss was born in Loraine, New York, in 1843.

David C. Bliss, our subject, has two sons, Dr. Harley Orin Bliss, who was born in York, Nebraska, in 1875, and Dr. Rodney W. Bliss, who was born in York in 1878.

A daughter of Thomas Bliss was tried for witchcraft in 1645. Margarette Bliss, the wife of Thomas Bliss, was a very remarkable woman. After her husband's death she supported a family of twelve children. She owned a small tract of land about a mile square. That tract is now in the center of Springfield, Massachusetts, and worth millions of dollars.

CHARLES H. GAY.

Charles H. Gay, one of the earliest settlers in western Nebraska, resides on his large ranch in section 18, township 31, range 39, Cherry county, and is classed among the leading citizens of this region.

Mr. Gay was born in Cleveland, Ohio, May 22, 1837, and was reared in East Randolph, Orange county, Vermont, where his parents moved when he was a small child. His forefathers were among the early settlers in America, a great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war and a grandfather, Captain Bradford F. Story, served in the Mexican war. Charles H. Gay was the oldest of his parents' seven children, and at the age of fourteen

years started out for himself, firing on a switch engine, and for two years followed this work. Later he fired in Wisconsin for several years, and at the age of eighteen was an engineer on the railroad. He continued at railroading for twenty years, then quit the business and came to Nebraska, settling in Holt county, where he stayed for four years. He next went to Sheridan county, taking up a tree claim in 1883, moving onto the claim May 31, 1884. There he started a farm and ran it for four years, then moved to near Irwin and remained for a few years. During the dry years he sold this place and in 1900 settled on his present home, where he has a range four miles long and about two miles wide, keeping about two hundred head of stock and one hundred and twenty-five cattle and seventy-five horses. Mr. Gay drove through from Holt county when he came here, as this was before the railroad was begun west of Valentine, and the entire country around was in a wild state. He was a soldier in the late war, enlisting in 1864 in Minnesota, and served four years and four months.

In 1874 Mr. Gay was first married to Rachel Comers. Three children were born to them, namely: Frank E., William B. and Henry W. Mrs. Gay died in 1872 and he was married the second time, to Alice Sutcliffe, they having the following children: Geneva M., Ellen E., Sarah E. (dead), Edward Joseph and Edna Josephine (twins), and Maude (deceased), all of his second family growing up in Nebraska.

Mr. Gay is a Republican and takes an active part in politics. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found on another page of this work.

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#### JOHN A. BUTLER.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the earliest settlers in the western part of Nebraska, and who came to this region when the country was practically a wilderness, when Indians and tough characters were thick here and he has seen the development of the agricultural and commercial resources from the very beginning. Mr. Butler resides in section 33, township 33, range 47, Dawes county, and is well-known and highly respected as a good neighbor and worthy citizen.

Mr. Butler was born in Gentry county, Missouri, in 1858. His father, Madison Butler, was a pioneer in northwestern Missouri, a southerner by birth, from old Virginia, and a man of superior intellect and ability as a farmer and citizen. He married Miss Eliza Brown, of Ken-

tucky, and of American ancestry. Our subject was reared and educated in Missouri, remaining at home up to the time of his twenty-sixth year. His father died about the year 1882, and the mother and children kept up the home farm from that time on. He then came to Nebraska, freighting from Valentine, arriving in Dawes county, April 19, 1884, and settled here, locating on a homestead on Bordeaux creek, camping out on the ground for a few days after landing here. His wife was with him, also their child and a younger brother and for several months they all lived in a tent. Shortly after coming here Mr. Butler made a second trip to Valentine. His first crop was corn, oats and potatoes, which yielded a fine crop the first year, but on a small scale. He kept steadily building up his place, putting up a log house, and the farm buildings which he erected twenty years ago are still in good condition: of late he has built a fine frame house near them. He has gone through many hard times since coming here, and often met with discouragement and loss, but stuck to it, and has built up a fine farm and good home, the farm now containing four hundred and eighty acres, one hundred of which is in a high state of cultivation, and the rest in bottom land and pasture. He has it all fenced, plenty of natural timber, and raises nice crops of wheat and corn, the latter in some seasons running fifty bushels to the acre. He has fine alfalfa fields, also a fine young orchard coming along nicely.

Mr. Butler was married, in 1881, to Sitha J. Wilson, daughter of an early settler in Dawes county. Mr. and Mrs. Butler are the parents of seven children, namely: Edward, Pearl, Ella, Thomas J., Sally, Naomi and Bessie.

Mr. Butler has always been active in school and local affairs, has served as school treasurer for about fifteen years. He was also census taker in 1900, and constable some years ago. He is a Republican in politics.

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#### MATHIAS HEDLUND.

Mathias Hedlund, residing on section 31, Divide township, is the owner of a fine four-hundred-acre-farm, splendidly improved with good buildings, and his grove of shade trees is one of the finest in the section. Mr. Hedlund was born in Jafleborgs Lane, Sweden, in 1832. He was reared there, never attending any school, but his mother taught him his letters and how to read and write. His father and mother, Olaf and Elizabeth (Johnson) Hedlund, never left the land of their birth, the former dying there in 1844.

Mr. Hedlund came to America in 1857, settling in Knox county, Illinois, later moving to Henry county, where he farmed for some time. He had no capital to start with, but worked hard and through industry and perseverance gained a large measure of success. He had worked on farms in Sweden, and so was familiar with that work, although the methods of doing the work are widely different in the two countries. In 1886 he sold his farm in Illinois and came to Nebraska, and his verdict is that this is a better country all around for a poor man than Illinois. He has helped and encouraged many Swedes who were rich men's tenants in Illinois to come here, and although they went through many hard times in the early days, both they and their children are now well to do, and own fine estates. When Mr. Hedlund first settled in Illinois the settlers went through the same struggles and adversity that they have here. He was the first of the Swede settlers to invest in land in Phelps county, purchasing his present farm for three dollars per acre from the railway in 1876, ten years before he finally came here to live. A brother, Olaf Hedlund, came to this county in 1876, taking up a homestead and tree claim, and held it up to three years ago, when he sold it at the high prices now prevalent in this vicinity. He now resides at North Platte, and is well known all over this section of the country, being prominent in the Lutheran church, the only ruler in the county, and in all church matters is the leader. He has preached as a local preacher all these years, and now at the age of seventy-six years the people flock to hear him as they did years ago. He has always taken an active part in relieving the poor and oppressed, and is beloved by all. His son, P. O. Hedlund, was for many years the foremost man in Phelps county in public affairs, and at different times has held office, serving as county treasurer, county clerk and county surveyor. At the present time he holds an important position in the land department of the Union Pacific railway.

Mr. Hedlund has done a great deal toward introducing thoroughbred draught horses here, bringing in a number of imported sires, and he now owns Nebraska Chief, one of the best animals in the country and a prize winner at the Holdrege Jubilee in 1906. He has also a fine herd of thoroughbred cattle, and takes a great deal of pride in his stock. Mr. Hedlund has done remarkably well since locating here, and although he lost \$25,000 through the misdeeds of others he has paid every dollar of the money, and is still a rich man, happy and content to do right in every way, and still helping those who need it in every way in his power. He is now seventy-six years of age. hale, hearty and

cheerful, well liked by everyone. He now rents out his farm and with his wife is enjoying the evening of their days in peaceful quiet on the homestead place.

Mr. Hedlund was married in Illinois, in 1859, to Miss Betsy Auckrland, who was born in 1830, in Sweden. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hedlund, namely: Emma, now Mrs. Westberg, of Holdrege, and Mrs. Ida England, of Osborn, DeKalb county, Missouri.

While living in Illinois Mr. Hedlund helped to organize the Lutheran church, and was a deacon in that church the entire time of his residence there. He is now a deacon in the Holdrege church. Politically, he is a Republican.

HORACE HOMER HEATH.

Horace Homer Heath, one of the leading and responsible residents of this region, is an early settler in Dawes county, Nebraska, where he has accumulated a competence through honest industry and perseverance, coming to western Nebraska when the country was new and watching its development and growth from the earliest days.

Mr. Heath was born in McHenry county, Illinois, in 1845. His father, Elisha Heath, was a farmer of American descent, and our subject was reared on the homestead in his native state where he learned to perform all sorts of hard labor as a boy. He lived at home until he reached the age of twenty-two years, then started out for himself, working out on farms in that vicinity until he was sixteen years old, his work consisting of breaking up wild prairie land and clearing up new country. He then went into Iowa where he followed the same line of work, and later owned a farm in that state up to the time of coming to Burt county, Nebraska. He first settled in the latter county, but only lived there a short time, then came to Dawes county early in 1888, taking up a pre-emption and beginning in a very small way, as he had not much capital. He put up a rude shanty on his pre-emption and began to build it up, purchasing his present farm soon after, which is located in section 15, township 32, range 52. He has spent most of his time since then on this farm, and has built up a nice home, erecting a good set of buildings, fences, etc. He raises and ships stock and also engages in mixed farming. Eight acres of his farm is irrigated land. While living in Burt county he had the misfortune to be burned out twice, both times losing everything except a part of his household goods, and this a severe loss to him, as he had a hard time

getting along anyway, the first six years being unable to raise but one good crop.

Mr. Heath was married, in 1871, to Miss Elizabeth Tuttle, of Burt county, Nebraska. Three children have come to bless their union, named as follows: Edwin, Jessie and Walter.

The family is held in the highest esteem in their community, and have a happy and comfortable home, well supplied with every convenience of a rural life. Mr. Heath is a Republican.

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#### FRANKLIN J. COIL, Sr.

Franklin J. Coil, Sr., holds such a place in the esteem and confidence of the people of Dawes county that a work such as this would be sadly deficient if a sketch of his life did not appear in its pages. He was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1857, and is a son of Jackson G. and Sarah (Morgan) Coil, pioneer settlers of both Iowa and Nebraska.

The family settled in Burt county, Nebraska, in 1867, where our subject's father bought land the year previous at 60 cents per acre, and which is now worth as high as \$100 per acre. He engaged extensively in farming and stock raising. Here our subject received the early training in the tilling of the soil and the raising of stock which has placed him among the most successful ranchmen of this western country.

Mr. Coil and Miss Sarah Richardson were united in marriage in 1877. Her father, Levi Richardson, was one of the first settlers of Burt county, Nebraska, and an early settler in Dawes county, to which place he came in 1886. Here he died in 1905. Her mother's maiden name was Emma Armstrong. Mrs. Coil's parents were both natives of Ohio. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Coil was blessed with twelve children, namely: George, Charles, Frank, William, Fred, Sarah, Morris, Mary, Robert and Alice. Burt and Ellis are deceased.

After his marriage Mr. Coil bought a farm for himself, and remained in Burt county until 1895. He had made a trip to Dawes county in 1886, where he filed and proved up a claim, but it was not until 1895 that he moved his family to their present home, which is located in section 12, township 30, range 50.

Mr. Coil, Sr., is now the proprietor of a ranch comprising an area of one thousand acres of choice land, while some of his children have land amounting to one thousand five hundred acres in this vicinity. He has greatly improved his ranch, having fenced and cross-fenced it, and has erected a substantial and commodious residence. He has about two hundred acres under

cultivation. Mr. Coil is recognized as being the premier stockraiser of this part of Dawes county, and has been associated with the Agricultural College of Lincoln, where he was instrumental in the introduction of Russian dry weather grains. He engages extensively in the raising of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. In 1906 he topped the Omaha market for cattle, and in 1907 his cattle sold for export. He has attained an exceptional success in the raising of cattle and sheep, and takes great pride in the fact that his stock is the finest to be found in any section of the country. He has had a wide experience in feeding cattle and sheep, and has the reputation of turning out the best grades that can be had.

In politics, Mr. Coil, Sr., always adhered strongly to Republican principles. Since coming to Dawes county he has been prominently identified in local affairs, and is at present committeeman of the precinct in which he lives, and school director. He is also president of the Highland Center Telephone Company.

Mr. Coil's progress towards a competency and financial independence has been rapid. He has never been afraid of the hardest work, and by the exercise of thrift and prudence he has attained a success which should be a fitting example to the young men who read this sketch of his useful career. He belongs to many fraternal orders, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, and is also postmaster at Hough postoffice located in his residence. His son, F. J. Coil, Jr., was united in marriage October 9, 1907, to Miss Rosalie McLain, born in Iowa, daughter of F. T. McLain and Rosa (Minkler) McLain, of American stock, both being among the first settlers in Iowa and coming to Dawes county, Nebraska, in 1902. Frank, Jr., owns a fine ranch joining his father's, and he is one of the rising young men of Dawes county today and is destined to win prominence and success in all his endeavors.

Some interesting pictures of the Coil properties will be found on another page.

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#### WILLIAM LISTER.

Among the old settlers of western Nebraska whose names will figure prominently in the history of this section of the country, the above named gentleman holds a foremost place. He has done everything in his power to aid in the upbuilding of the community in which he resides, and is well known all through this region as a man of strict integrity and good business judgment.

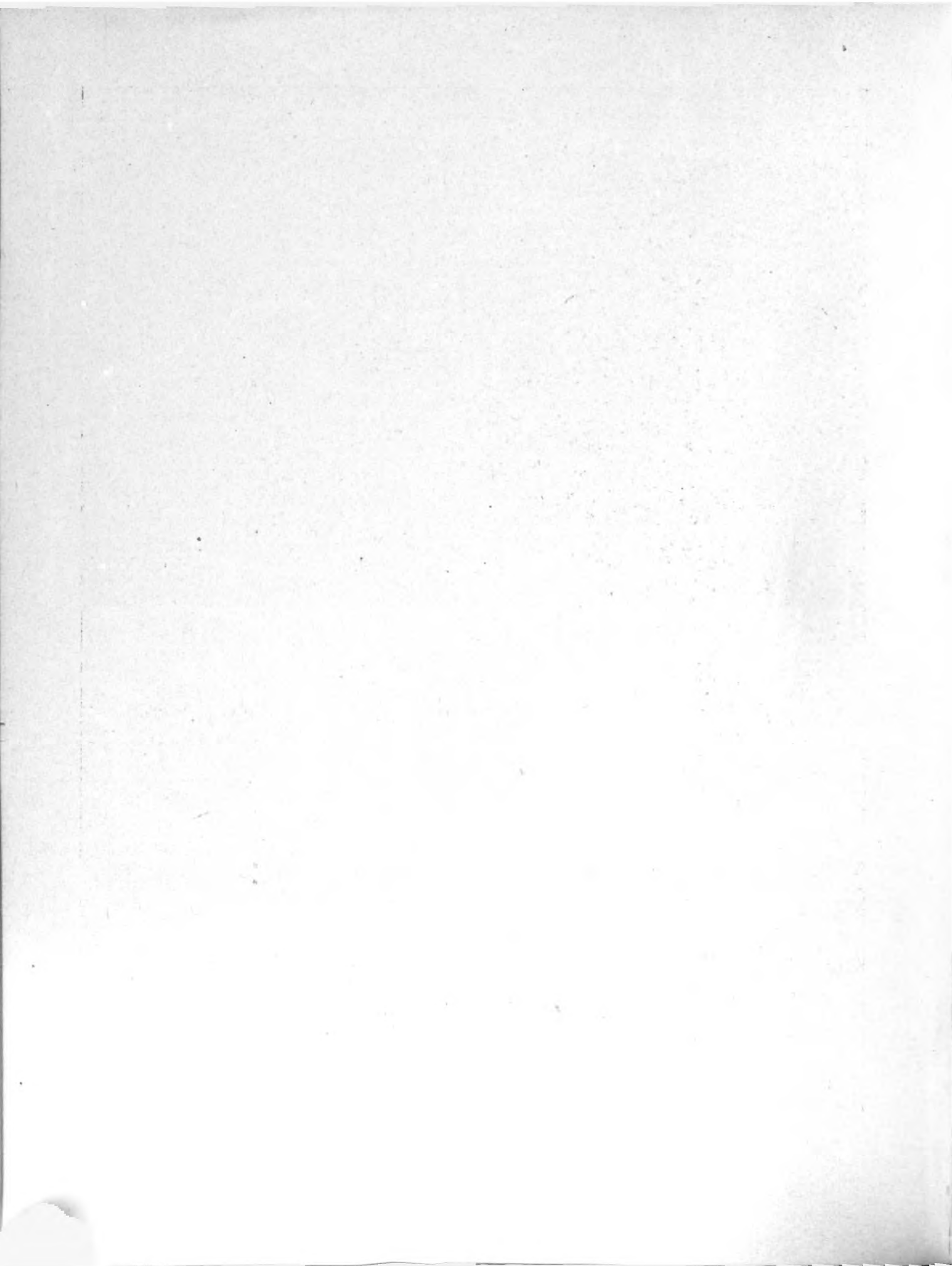
Mr. Lister was born in Iroquois county,





1. RANCH OF FRANK  
 2. J. G. COIL, DECE  
 5. RANCH OF FRANK

FRANK J. COIL, SR., DAWES COUNTY, NEBRASKA.  
 FRANK J. COIL, SR.  
 FATHER OF FRANK J. COIL, SR.  
 FRANK J. COIL, JR.  
 COIL, JR., DAWES COUNTY, NEBRASKA.





Illinois, in 1859, and is a son of Rieley Lister, a farmer of American stock. Our subject was the eldest in his father's family, and was raised in his native state, his younger days being occupied in assisting his parents in the farm work until he was twenty-three years of age. He then came west to Nebraska and located in Kearney county where he remained only a short time, then went on to Wyoming. In the fall of 1883 he returned to this state and settled at Ainsworth, and there established himself in the harness business carrying on this store for three years, then sold out his property in December of that year and moved to Hay Springs in March of 1887. At the latter place he opened a harness shop and store with a good stock of goods, and operated this up to 1895.

After disposing of his harness store he went into the sheep business, having a ranch nine miles southeast of Hay Springs, and for four years continued in this line of work. He next moved back to Hay Springs and went into business there, establishing a hardware and implement store which he ran for seventeen months, then sold out.

Mr. Lister was married, in 1888, to Miss Emma M. Zanhiser, whose parents came here from Pennsylvania, she being of German descent. They have one child, Arthur, aged seventeen years.

W. S. SAUNDERS.

W. S. Saunders, who is known throughout Deuel county as a prosperous agriculturist and ranchman, resides on his fine estate in section 17, township 18, range 44. He is a gentleman of excellent business judgment, and has become the possessor of valuable property by dint of his industry, economy and honesty.

Mr. Saunders was born in Kentucky in 1842. He was reared there, receiving a limited schooling, and lived at home until 1855, when he went into Iowa, settling in Henry county. He remained there up to 1863, then enlisted in Company D, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, serving up to 1865. He was in the Vicksburg campaign, also with Price in his campaign, and saw hard service with his regiment. He was mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, in 1865. After leaving the army he followed farming in Iowa up to 1889, then came to Nebraska, homesteading on section 27, township 18, range 44, in Deuel county, which is now his home ranch. Here through pioneer experiences, living in Deuel county, during the first years, and with his family, he went through hardships and privation while getting his houses started.

but worked hard to improve his farm, and succeeded in establishing a good home. He now has one thousand two hundred acres, and about one hundred and twenty of this is under cultivation, with the balance used for hay and pasture for a large herd of cattle and horses. He has a good house, large barns, well, and all necessary improvements for the proper operation of the ranch, also nice groves, etc. He personally attends to the management of the place, has met with pronounced success in his chosen work, and is classed among the solid and substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Saunders was married to Miss Mary R. Jenkins, in Iowa, in 1866. They have seven children, who are named as follows: Elmer, Orva, William, Clarence and Chester, all married and living in Deuel County; May, wife of N. G. Brewer, they living in Cheyenne county, and Pearl, single and living at the home ranch.

Our subject is a man of active public spirit, and has gained prominence as a citizen of true worth.

NELSON F. BRUCE.

Among the old settlers in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, none occupies a more prominent place than the above mentioned gentleman, Nelson F. Bruce. He is one of the pioneers who teamed into the county from Wisner, Nebraska, and since his coming to this section has done his full share in the upbuilding of the community.

Mr. Bruce was born in Wisconsin in 1857, on his father's farm. He is a son of Jeduthen Bruce, of Scotch blood, and a pioneer settler in Keya Paha county, coming here in 1884. He remained here until his death, which occurred in 1901. The mother of our subject was of English descent, and of her family of three children he was the youngest member. He was reared in the state of his birth, assisting his father in the farm work, and attending the public schools, remaining in that locality until 1881, when he came to Nebraska, locating in Madison county where he lived for one year. In 1882 he removed to Keya Paha county, where he took up some government land and opened a farm, putting up a log house in which he made his home for ten or fifteen years. When he struck this county all he had was fifteen cents in money and a well developed case of "mumps." His first team was a yoke of oxen, with which he broke up his first piece of ground. He went through many hardships losing several crops through the drought, and experienced all the trials and privations which the early settlers in this locality were

jected to, but he persevered in his efforts, and gradually overcame all difficulties until he is now proprietor of a three hundred and twenty-acre farm, of which one hundred and twenty-five acres are in a high state of cultivation. The Pine Camp postoffice was established in 1884 and ten years later he was appointed postmaster and has held this position ever since, proving a most popular and efficient public official, obliging and esteemed by all patrons. He has built up a fine home and gained a valuable property, due to his untiring energy and industrious habits, and well deserves the success which he has attained.

Mr. Bruce was married in 1892 to Miss Florence Cool, daughter of Fred Cool, an old settler in Keya Paha county. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce have three children, namely: May, Esther and Rex.

For the past ten years our subject has held the position of county surveyor, and was justice of the peace for many years, and he is widely known all over the county as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### CHRISTIAN JENSEN.

Christian Jensen, the subject of this review, is a man of untiring energy, honest principle and good business management, and is the owner of a valuable estate in Cherry county.

Mr. Jensen was born in Denmark, January 17, 1857, and lived there until nearly twenty-one years of age, working on farms during his boyhood years. He is the only member of a family of ten children who ever left Denmark. Sailing from Copenhagen on a White Star liner September 15, he landed in New York October 1, 1876. Going to Essex county, New York, he secured employment in the iron mines, where he remained for two years, and then came to Omaha, Nebraska, farming near there for six years on rented land. At the end of this time moved to Holt county, where he farmed for three years on a homestead claim which he commuted and then sold out. His next move was to Sioux county, where he remained for a time, and then took a homestead in Holt county, which he also commuted and then took a pre-emption in Sioux county but was unable to prove up, so turned it into a homestead and lived out his time on it. Here he had just got nicely started when the dry years came and he was able to raise only two crops, having to buy seed every spring, not getting even next year's seed off of it. However, he remained here and farmed it for eleven years. During this time his wife worked for the railroad to assist him in making a living. She, together

with a neighbor, cooked for three months for one hundred and twenty-five men who were employed in building the railroad through the locality. These were the hardest times our subject ever experienced, and they were certainly bad enough. In 1897 he moved to Cherry county, locating near where he now lives, remaining on that farm for six years, and at the end of this time took his present homestead of four hundred and eighty acres under the Kincaid act. This is situated in section 8, township 31, range 37. Here he has done very well since starting in the cattle business, engaged also in a small way in mixed farming. He has accumulated a nice property, having had practically nothing to start with, as one dollar and seventy-five cents was all the money he had in the world when he landed in New York from the old country. He has had all the pioneer life he wants, and is satisfied to take things easy from now on.

In October, 1876, Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Annie Andersen, born in Denmark, in 1850, whence her parents never emigrated. Five children resulted from this union, three dying unnamed; the living are: Andrew Julius, who married Della Nichols, and Carl A., who married Burdickte M. Peterson. Both sons are settled in homes of their own, living near their parents, and are engaged in the stock business.

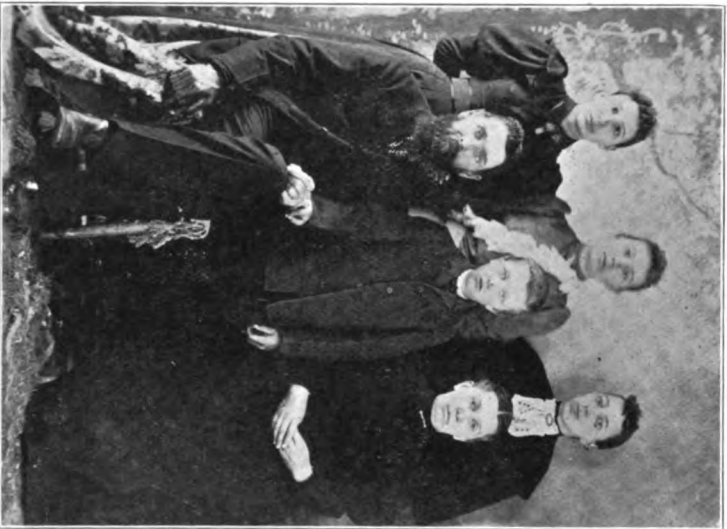
Mr. Jensen has planted a fine grove of trees, the shrubs alone costing him \$138.00, and out of this expenditure he has been able to raise only ten or a dozen trees. He is a Republican, but always votes for the best man in local politics. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Lutheran church.

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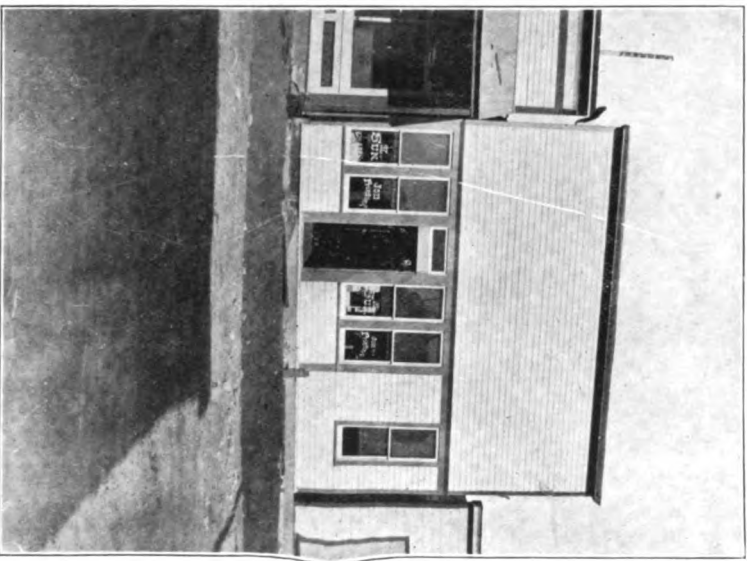
#### JOHN GRAHAM.

John Graham, for many years a resident of section 17, township 24, range 27, Thomas county, is a prosperous ranchman and commands the respect of a large circle of acquaintances. He is a gentleman of untiring energy and is possessed of sterling characteristics, and one who has prospered remarkably well in his chosen calling.

Mr. Graham was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1843. His father, Andrew Graham, was a native of Scotland, and he married Jane Coleman, born and reared in Ireland, and together they came to the new world to carve out a fortune and build up a home for themselves. Their family of four children was reared in New York state. When John was an infant his parents went to Wisconsin and after a short time there both died, and he went back



JOHN GRAHAM AND FAMILY.



NEWSPAPER OFFICE OF JOHN H. NEWLIN,  
Harrison, Nebraska.



to his native state and was reared by an uncle. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-ninth New York Infantry, and saw service through the south; was at Richmond and Petersburg, and at the battle of Five Forks was wounded, which put an end to his career as a soldier. After leaving the army he returned home, and in the spring of 1866 went to Fayette county, Iowa, spent ten years there, following farming, and next lived for ten years in Allamakee county on a farm.

Mr. Graham came to Nebraska in 1886, settling in Nuckolls county, and for two years pioneered there, then came to Thomas county and took a pre-emption which he improved in good shape, leaving that place in 1889 and coming to his present location which he took as a homestead, situated on section 17, township 24, range 27. He worked hard on this farm, went through hard times, but succeeded in building up a good home and now owns six hundred and forty acres, of which he cultivates about forty acres, using the balance as a stock ranch. He has erected good buildings, has many acres of good pasture and hayland, good fences, etc., and when he took the place it was simply raw prairie land, with but small improvements.

In 1867 Mr. Graham married Mary A. Pratt, daughter of Oren and Susan Chesley Pratt, pioneers in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Graham had four children: Lester L., Susan, Louisa and Cora, and in 1907, the wife and mother departed this life, deeply mourned by her devoted family and a host of warm friends.

Mr. Graham has always taken a leading part in neighborhood affairs, and in the management of his schools, etc., serving as the first superintendent in his district. He is active also in church work and for fifteen years has acted as Sunday-school superintendent, believing in the highest education, and anxious that the local schools should be up to the highest standard. A picture of John Graham and family will be found elsewhere in this volume.

JAMES K. REID.

James K. Reid, an enterprising and prosperous citizen of Hay Springs, Nebraska, is a young man of sterling character who commands the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Reid was born in 1874, in the Sullivan, state of Indiana. His father, W. Reid, came to Sheridan county in 1884, where he took up a homestead. He built a dugout, taking out of earth and raising it four feet above

*the town of  
Sheridan  
in March.  
He feet  
ground.*

and the family lived in this for several years. He, together with J. H. Crowder, who was a resident of Gordon, organized a colony that came from the vicinity of Sullivan, Indiana, in 1885, and the former was prominent in the settlement of that part of Sheridan county, remaining on his homestead until he proved up, building up a good farm, then moved forty miles south of the village of Gordon and started a cattle ranch. He was successful in this enterprise, and lived on the ranch up to 1892, raised his family, and then sold out his holdings and moved to Gordon, where he entered the mercantile business, establishing a general store in partnership with the Rev. John E. Scamahorn. In 1903 he came to Hay Springs to reside, having retired from all active business. During all of this time our subject lived at home with his parents, assisting his father in whatever business he was engaged in, and received a good practical education and becoming familiar with the commercial and financial conditions of this section of the country. In 1900 he associated himself with the Maverick Loan & Trust Company, of Gordon, Nebraska, and opened a real estate office for this concern in Hay Springs. He is a graduate of the Gordon high school, and afterwards spent three years at the State University at Lincoln.

Mr. Reid was married in 1904 to Miss Madge McQueen, whose father, William B. McQueen, is an old settler in Nebraska. His sketch appears elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Reid is active in all local affairs, and his father also has always taken an active part in county politics. He is at present serving as county commissioner of Sheridan county, and is chairman of the village board.

JOHN H. NEWLIN.

John H. Newlin, of Harrison, Nebraska, has been a resident of Sioux county for the past eighteen years, and during that time has become familiar with the entire country around, gaining an enviable reputation as a public-spirited citizen and worthy member of society in his community.

Mr. Newlin was born in Ripley, Brown county, Ohio, in 1853, of American stock. His father, Nathaniel Newlin, was a cooper and farmer, and was born and reared in his native state. He moved to Illinois, where our subject was educated in the common schools, and the family lived there until John was a lad of fifteen years, then moved to Guthrie county, Iowa, in 1866. They farmed there for about nine years, then subject went to Abilene, Kansas, in 1877, spent four years, returning to Iowa in 1881.

where he spent several years engaged in teaching school and farming. In 1890, Mr. Newlin first came to Sioux county, and filed on a homestead in section 15, township 33, range 55, improved it and proved up. His location was seventeen miles northeast of Harrison, and he started with practically nothing, both himself and wife teaching school in order to save money for improving their home. They went through hard times, but managed to get ahead a little, and in 1896 moved off the farm and went to Guthrie Center, Iowa, where they remained for about a year, and in July, 1897, went to Wyoming, where they lived for six years on a rented ranch. In 1903 Mr. Newlin moved to Harrison, and in February of the following year purchased the Harrison Sun, a weekly paper established May 11, 1900, by Colonel W. H. Ketcham. Since 1903, Mr. Newlin has edited the paper and been sole proprietor of the concern, and in 1905 consolidated that paper with the Harrison Press-Journal, the latter being the oldest paper in Sioux county at that time, established in 1888 by W. E. Patterson. The first name of this paper was the Sioux County Journal. Our subject is now owner of the only paper published in Sioux county, and this publication enjoys a wide circulation in the surrounding country.

In 1890 Mr. Newlin was married to Miss Ella Conner, daughter of William W. and Nancy (Carson) Conner, who were old settlers of Cass county, Nebraska, and well-known throughout that region, settling there in the year 1856. The mother died December, 1878; father died July, 1879. To Mr. and Mrs. Newlin have been born the following children: Jessie E., Bessie M., and Nellie B., the latter deceased. Our subject and his wife rank among the foremost old-timers of the county, who have assisted materially in the development of the commercial and agricultural resources of this region. Mr. Newlin has always done his share in local affairs, and is one of the leading men of his times. A picture of Mr. Newlin's newspaper office appears on another page of this work.

#### F. KEMP HEATH.

F. Kemp Heath, who is one of the rising young business men of Cody, Nebraska, has already taken a leading place among the merchants of that place, where he has gained the confidence and esteem of all who have any dealings with him.

Mr. Heath was born in David City, Butler county, Nebraska, August 21, 1880. He is a son of Elver L. Heath, editor of The Cody Cow-

boy, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. His mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Ella C. Bailey, of Shenandoah, Iowa, and he was her third child, there being six in the family. When he was five years old his parents moved to Rushville, settling on a farm there, where he was brought up to do all kinds of hard farm work. He received a good education, and at seventeen began teaching school, which profession he followed for several years, for some time occupying the position of principal of the Cody school. He attended the state university at Lincoln for two years, and while there made his own way through school, as he had done since a mere lad. After leaving the schools in Cody he began working in his father's printing office, and was on the newspaper staff of the Cody Cowboy up to April 1, 1906.

Mr. Heath is a young man of superior intelligence and quick perception, always a brilliant student, and is well versed in land laws, practicing before the department of the interior in land cases. In April, 1906, he was appointed postmaster at Cody and is now acting in that capacity. He also has a grocery store which he conducts personally, and has built up a good trade. He intends to pursue the study of law later, and the prediction is that he will, in the future, be one of the prominent public men of this section, as he is very ambitious and energetic, giving the best efforts of his nature to whatever he undertakes. Mr. Heath is a Republican politically, and takes an active part in local affairs.

On March 1, 1904, Mr. Heath was married to Miss Margaret Kaiser, daughter of Fred Kaiser, an old settler at Custer, South Dakota, where she was reared. To Mr. and Mrs. Heath one child has been born, named Helen. Mr. Heath is a member of the Cody lodge of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

#### PETER K. CHRISTENSEN.

Peter K. Christensen, a leading old timer of Western Nebraska, has been an important factor in the development and growth of that part of the country since its early settlement. He came to this region in 1888, has accumulated a competence by his industry and perseverance, now owning a fine farm and is regarded as one of the well-to-do men of Box Butte county, highly esteemed by everyone who knows him.

Mr. Christensen is a native of Denmark, born in 1866. His father was a miller by trade who spent his entire life in his native land, and died there when our subject was a boy two and a half



years old. Peter grew up on the home farm and secured employment on other farms in the vicinity of his home when old enough and remained there up to 1887, when he, with his mother and the rest of the family, emigrated to America. They landed in Baltimore, and came west to the eastern part of North Dakota, where they spent one year, then moved to Washington county, Nebraska, where they remained for one year. On coming here the mother first settled in Box Butte county, and the following year Peter left Washington county and secured work on a farm near his mother's place, remaining there up to 1889. He then settled on his present farm as a homestead, putting up a sod house twelve by twenty-two feet, doing all the work of building it alone. He had no team and was obliged to carry all the sod used for the house in his arms a distance of about twenty-five or thirty yards. Just as soon he had his farm nicely started the drouths began to strike his locality and he suffered the loss of several crops, losing some also through the hail storms which swept the section, and these failures put him back considerably. He purchased a team of two small black horses and a colt, for which he paid \$190.00, and with these broke up land and tried hard to get along. In 1891 he decided to start in the cattle business, so purchased a few head, and from that small beginning kept on increasing his herd, and buying more land as he became able, until he now owns a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres. He farms one hundred acres of this, and keeps the balance for hay and pasture for his stock. He has his ranch all fenced and improved with good buildings, a comfortable house and commodious barns, and has plenty of good water supplied from wells and pumped with windmills.

Mr. Christensen was married here in 1890 to Miss Mattie Christine Rasmussen, also a native of Denmark, and they are the parents of seven children, named as follows: Mattie, Hilga, and Elinora (twins), Esther (now deceased), Ina, Olga and Bryan, all born and reared on the home farm.

Mr. Christensen has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs of his locality, and has held the office of road overseer for six years. He has also been a member of the school board and served as treasurer for three years. Politically he is an Independent voter.

AUGUST BOEHMER.

August Boehmer, one of the pioneer of Perkins county, and classed as one of substantial farmers and stockmen of this locality, is the owner of seven quarters of the most valuable localities of

good farm and ranch land in Perkins county, and here he has gained a good income and the respect and esteem of his fellowmen by his integrity and industry.

Mr. Boehmer was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1848, and was raised on a farm. His father was born in Germany, grew up there and served his allotted time in the German army, and was one of the soldiers in the campaign to Paris.

During his boyhood our subject followed farming, and in 1881 came to America. He settled at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where he remained for one year, and after farming near that town for years, moved to Perkins county, where he took a homestead on section 34, township 12, range 39. His first dwelling was a dug-out, and in this he lived for quite a while, trying hard to improve his farm in the face of many difficulties and discouragements. He was compelled to haul water thirteen miles for use in the household, and kept this up for two years. When the dry years came on he had several crop failures, and found it hard to make a living and do much toward improving his property, but as the better times struck the locality he managed to get ahead, added to his acreage and gradually put up substantial buildings. He has a fine house, commodious barns and sheds, wells, windmills, fences, etc., and also has fine groves of trees which he planted in the early years. About three hundred and twenty acres of his farm is under cultivation, and he raises good crops of grain, etc. All of his present property has been accumulated through thrift and good management, as he came here with but little, and after filing on his homestead and getting started was over two hundred dollars in debt. Mr. Boehmer was married while still living in Germany, to Miss Amelia Opets, and together they have shared the joys and hardships of a pioneer life. They have an interesting family of five children, who are named as follows: August, Paulina, Alvine, Lizzie and Martha.

LEWIS E. HASTINGS.

Prominent among railway men in the western states is the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. Hastings is passenger conductor on the Union Pacific railway, residing at North Platte, Nebraska, and is also chief of the Order of Railway Conductors for North Platte Division of No. 32, coming to the Union Pacific company in 1887.

Mr. Hastings is a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and was raised there. He is a son of L. W. Hastings, editor of the Aurora Republic.



for twenty-one years, from 1872 to 1893, himself a strong Republican active in political circles in his section of the country. He is a strong advocate of the opportunities to be found in the west, and in his paper he at all times aims to help develop and people the states throughout the west. He served in the Civil war for four years and four months, and was master mate and afterwards ensign in the navy. He was on the Commonwealth when it was sunk, and took part in different naval engagements. His family was the sixth family to settle in Hamilton county, Nebraska, coming there in 1869. Our subject is his father's only child, and his mother was Miss Minerva Mathews, daughter of John Mathews,

Mr. Hastings began his railway work in 1881, at Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1887 he came to North Platte as conductor on the Union Pacific, and has been in that position ever since, and at different times has filled all the offices in the Order of Railway Conductors in the local lodge. He has been very successful in his work, and during his long career as a trainman has never had an accident or a man hurt. He is regarded as one of the most expert in his work and is often selected for special runs of the fast trains on account of his nerve and cool head.

Mr. Hastings was married in 1896, to Miss Eva Singleton, daughter of John Singleton, foreman of the Union Pacific machine shops at North Platte, whose sketch appears in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings have a family of three children, namely: John Loren, Lewis Royer and Minerva.

On January 1, 1906, our subject was appointed one of the board of examiners for the promotion of firemen and brakemen for the whole Union Pacific road system. This takes eight months of his time each year, as the board begins its inspection at Omaha and goes over the whole line. The other member is S. S. Morris, chief dispatcher at Cheyenne.

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#### WARREN RUCKER.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the old timers of western Nebraska, who has done his full part in assisting in the development of the region where he chose his home. Mr. Rucker resides on a valuable estate in Dawes county, where he has built up a good home and farm by dint of his industry and good management, and is counted among the prosperous citizens and successful farmers of his locality, well known throughout the county as a public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Rucker is a native of Monroe county, Ohio, born in 1841 on a farm. His father, Lemuel B. Rucker, originally came from Green Briar county, Virginia, settling in southeastern Ohio as a pioneer. He married Miss Lucy Blake, born in Maine, who came with her parents to Ohio when she was a girl of twelve years, and grew to womanhood there. Our subject was reared and educated in Ohio, and when he was about twenty years of age enlisted in Company D, Forty-second Ohio Infantry, and saw hard service in the middle and western states. He was all through Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, and in the rear at Vicksburg with General Sherman, and later participated in the battle of Vicksburg. He served for one year as a nurse in the army, and was mustered out in 1864 at Camp Chase, Ohio, near Columbus. After leaving the army he went back home and spent a year, then to Illinois and soon moved to Gentry county, Missouri, where he remained for twelve years, following farming there, and owning a farm of one hundred acres. He moved to Colfax county, Nebraska, in 1884, where he purchased a farm and lived for three years. Next he came to Dawes county and filed on a homestead in section 33, township 33, range 47, which was then all wild prairie land, and he started at once to improve the place and build up a farm. His first building was a dug-out and sod shanty, and he lived in it for several years, starting out on a very small scale, having brought with him three horses, three cows and a few hogs, which was his start in the stock business, in which he has been more or less engaged since coming here. The first years were rather hard ones for him, going through the drouths, each year putting out large crops but getting hardly any returns. He often became discouraged, but stuck to the place, and finally succeeded in improving it in good shape, adding to his acreage constantly until he now owns a ranch of seven hundred acres, beautifully located on Little Bordeaux Creek, where he has plenty of hay and pasture land, and about one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, on which he raises splendid crops. He runs quite a large number of horses and cattle. The ranch is well supplied with natural timber, wild fruits, living water, and everything that goes to make up a model farm and ranch.

Mr. Rucker was married in 1867 near Pontiac, Illinois, to Miss Nancy A. Rucker, his first wife. His second wife was Mrs. Cannady, daughter of John Creighton, born in Illinois, and moved to Missouri. Her father was a prominent politician in his section of the country and held numerous county offices in Harrison county, Missouri, and he was also a veteran of the Civil war. He died in 1873, at Denver, Missouri. Mrs.

Rucker's mother was Elizabeth Mitchell, of Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Rucker have had three children, namely: Julia Emaline, born in Colfax county, Nebraska, Arlie Oscar Rucker and Lucy Rucker, both born in Dawes county, Nebraska. Lucy, the last named, is now deceased.

Mr. Rucker has held local office, serving as assessor for several years, also as justice of the peace, and has always taken an active interest in school work in his locality, and was on the school board for years. He is a Prohibitionist.

H. A. KNIGHT.

H. A. Knight is a prominent and much respected resident of Holdrege, Phelps county, and owns a valuable estate a short distance east of the town of Holdrege, part of his property indeed, being within the city limits.

Mr. Knight was born in McDonough county, Illinois, in 1851 on the three hundred and twenty-acre-farm on which his father, Milton Knight, settled as a pioneer in that part of Illinois. He was born in the log cabin on his father's farm, reared and educated there, farming with his father up to 1905, when he came to Nebraska, and his experience there and later here make his opinion of agriculture in these two sections of value. He considers this county far superior to Illinois land for tilling, as it is looser soil and holds the moisture better. Before locating here he sold his land in Illinois for one hundred and thirty-five dollars per acre, and is confident that the good land here will in a few years sell for prices equal to the best in Illinois. In fact, he prefers the land here, and, besides, this is a much healthier climate, more sunshine, better water, etc., and with good churches, schools and neighbors will be equal to any section of the country as a commercial and social locality. Mr. Knight has about forty acres in alfalfa, and will put in more of this grass as it grows finely here, but can not be raised with any degree of success in Illinois. In that state he was known all over for the quality of the hogs which he shipped to the Chicago market. He kept about six hundred head all the time, and preferred a cross of Poland Chinas and Chester Whites for breeding and feeding. During four months of 1906 he has sold over a thousand dollars' worth of hogs, and finds this a most profitable branch of his work. Mr. Knight is an active, intelligent and successful business man and farmer, and employs modern methods in his farming and stock-raising enterprises, believing in the progressive to-date way of doing business. His hog-raising consists of three hundred and twenty a-

chasing this two years ago for fifty dollars per acre, and he has lately refused one hundred dollars per acre for it, showing the rapid advance in land values here. He also owned three hundred and twenty acres in Sheridan township, north of Holdrege, and sold one hundred and sixty acres of this at an advance of one-third in the price in two years. Besides these lands he owns four hundred and eighty acres in the northern part of the county near the Platte River bridge, and on some of this he has planted alfalfa and gets a good crop each year. He has his home place improved with a good house, barns, etc., and has a lot of good horses, cattle and other stock which he brought with him from Illinois. His harvest of 1905 amounted to seventeen thousand bushels of small grains, and in 1906 twenty thousand bushels, wheat running thirty bushels to the acre, and corn sixty.

Mr. Knight is originally of New England stock, his family settling in Illinois years ago, when that state was new. He was married in 1883 to Miss C. J. Allison, a native of Illinois, of Pennsylvania stock. To Mr. and Mrs. Knight five children have been born named as follows: H. A. Knight, Jr., Florence and Helen, living; and two, not living, who were named Annette M. and Ruth W.

Mr. Knight moved to Holdrege in the fall of 1907, and bought his present fine residence in the best residential part of the city. He has retired from active farming, but still retains about one thousand acres of farm lands in Nebraska and other states.

DAVE LITZ.

Dave Litz, one of the early settlers and prosperous farmers of western Nebraska, lives on his extensive and well-tilled farm of six hundred and forty acres located in Bassett precinct, Rock county. Here he has succeeded in building up a good farm and home and has gained the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Litz is a native of Monroe county, Indiana, born November 13, 1860, of German stock. His father, Andrew J. Litz, was a farmer, who died in Indiana in 1882, leaving a wife and six children, of whom our subject is the eldest member. He was reared in his native state, and in 1883 came west settling in Rock county on a homestead, situated in section 32, township 30, range 19. Here he started to establish a home. His first building was a sod house with no floor in it. His first team was a yoke of oxen, and after using them for some time he traded them for a horse.

span of horses, giving besides the oxen \$100 in cash. During the fall of 1883 he husked corn on the banks of the Missouri river to make a living for himself and family, and also worked in the roundhouse at Long Pine. Four or five of his crops were destroyed in succession through the drouths, and he lost some stock from the same cause; this was when times were hardest for him, when it required all of a man's courage to remain. Since conditions in this section have changed for the better he has been very successful, and has gradually added to his original place until he is the owner of a farm of six hundred and forty acres, and of this he has one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. He has lately built a new two-story dwelling fitted with all modern conveniences of rural life, while the whole place is one of comfort and plenty. He has a large barn built to accommodate one hundred head of stock, good granary, corn cribs, hog pens, etc., with over seven miles of fence on his place. He has a fine grove of forest trees on his farm, and a large orchard. Everything is kept up in the best condition making one of the pleasantest places in the locality.

Mr. Litz was married May 10, 1883, to Miss Sarah Roberts, born of American stock. They have a family of three bright children, namely: Pearl, Nora and Needa.

Mr. Litz has always taken an active interest in public affairs in his county and state, and is a strong Bryan man, and a firm believer in the righteousness of the Democratic party. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America camp at Bassett.

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#### JOHN D. RICHARDS.

John D. Richards is one of the earliest settlers in this part of the state of Nebraska, and during his long residence here has closely identified himself with the history of this region. He has succeeded in building a fine home and ranch, and has an enviable reputation as a citizen. He first came to this locality during the time the big cattle men were trying to drive out the smaller ranchmen, and when he first arrived here he thought it was about the worst place to which he ever emigrated.

Mr. Richards was born in Canton, Ohio, September 26, 1848. His father, Adam Richards, was also a native of Ohio, by trade a wagonmaker and farmer, and with his wife and family of seven children, moved to Williams county, Ohio, when our subject was ten years old. There he was reared and educated, starting out for himself when but fourteen years of age, by enlisting in the One Hundred and Eighty-second

Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war. He was one of those who, in the campaign in Tennessee under "Dad" Thomas, saw a great deal of hard service all through the war and he was mustered out at Camp Chase, Ohio, after the declaration of peace. When the war was over he went to the lumber woods in northern Michigan, where he worked for two years, going thence to California in 1870. He lived there for about three years mining and ranching and then traveled north to Oregon, where he engaged in cattle and horse raising, continuing in this for eight years. From there he went to the Big Horn basin in Wyoming, where he took up ranching for a time, carrying a large herd of cattle and horses. He then moved to Sioux county, Nebraska, in 1888, engaging in cattle and horse breeding at that point and also started farming, but he quickly saw that would not pay and discontinued that branch of agriculture. In 1890 he located on Gordon creek forty miles south of Merriman in township 29, range 38, which place he still holds, and of the nine hundred and sixty acres of this property about five hundred and sixty acres are good hay land. He also owns a ranch of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres north of this tract in township 31, range 38, on which he runs about five hundred head of cattle and a number of horses, using the south range in the winter and the north range during the summer season. About one hundred and forty acres of his land is seeded with alfalfa, and from this he cuts three or four crops each year, making a profitable addition to his income. He has a valuable estate, well improved, and after the rough times he went through on the frontier, is prepared to enjoy the balance of his time in a pleasant home surrounded by comfort and plenty.

Mr. Richards was never married but has a sister who keeps house for him. He is entitled to a good sized pension, but has never applied for it, not needing any aid from the government. Two brothers were also in the army with him. In political sentiment he is a Republican, and a member of Brewer post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Gordon.

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#### WILLIS D. SMITH.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is a prominent old timer of Deuel county, Nebraska, being one of the very first settlers on the table land. His home is on section 18, township 12, range 44, where he is the owner of a fine estate, and is held in the highest esteem as a worthy citizen and leading public-spirited man.

Mr. Smith was born in Lawton, Van Buren county, Michigan, on August 20, 1859, and grew up in that state. His father was Geo. P. Smith, who settled in Deuel county about 1886, was a homesteader and prominent citizen, holding the office of county judge about the years 1890-'91. He died here February 13, 1905. Our subject settled in Nebraska in 1883, living for a short time in Saunders county, later in Saline and Phelps counties, and finally came to Deuel county in the spring of 1886. He at once filed on a homestead on section 12, township 13, range 45, went through pioneer experiences on the place, but proved up and sold out in 1896. He is now located on section 18, township 12, range 44, the home place containing one thousand and four hundred and forty acres, part of which is his father's old homestead, which land he has bought, all of which is well improved, with about seventy-five acres under cultivation. During late years he has been extensively engaged in the stock raising business, and at the present time is running about one hundred and fifty cattle and a bunch of horses, and is called one of the wealthy and most successful men of his locality.

Mr. Smith was married in Phelps county, on November 10, 1884, to Miss Emma J. Beadle, who is a native of Pennsylvania. To them have been born the following children: Maud, wife of George Peters, now living in Cheyenne county; Minnie, who is a school teacher in the public schools of Deuel county; Mabel, Maggie, Annie, Grant D., William McKinley, and Ray, all of the latter living at home and assisting in the work of carrying on the ranch. The family have a comfortable and pleasant home, and all are well liked in the community. Mr. Smith is active in local affairs, serving at the present time as treasurer of school district No. 39. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, and venerable consul of the Modern Woodmen. In political faith he is a Republican and takes a leading part in county and national politics.

WILLIAM SOUTHER.

William Souther, one of the best known of the old settlers of western Nebraska, is a business man of more than ordinary capacity. He has conducted numerous large enterprises during his career, and is possessed of wide experience and a character of the highest integrity. He has done a great deal toward making the town of Crawford what it is today, aiding in every way possible in promoting its commercial development, and is one of the solid and substantial citizens of Dawes county.

Mr. Souther was born in Fryeburg, Maine, in 1854, of old American stock, his father having been John W. Souther, a lumberman of that country, and his mother Miss Katherine Cameron, from Vermont. Our subject grew up in his native state, as a young man attending Bowdoin College for some time, at Brunswick, Maine, and is an alumnus of the different literary societies there. After completing his education he went into the lumber woods of Maine, where he spent ten years, also did farming, and for a year was in the Wisconsin lumber districts. In the spring of 1883 he went west to Oregon and Washington, where he engaged in the sheep business, and spent three years in that region. In the spring of 1886 he became superintendent for the New Hampshire Cattle Company, and ranched with them up to 1893, this being all cattle business. He next became interested in the mercantile business in Crawford, and also in Lusk, Wyoming, and while at the latter place was in partnership with John H. Barron, the two building a syndicate block in Crawford, and for three years were extensively engaged in the mercantile work. In 1891 they were burned out at Crawford and lost a large amount of money, then for a time Mr. Souther was associated with the firm of Pratt & Ferris, a large cattle concern, with headquarters at Big Red, Wyoming, and at the same time was interested in the sheep business in that state. Mr. Souther has made Crawford his home town more or less ever since coming west, and that city claims him as one of their leading men. He has a large ranch near Crawford, one thousand three hundred and forty acres, with nearly five hundred of it under irrigation, and on this place he feeds a large number of cattle each year. Besides his different enterprises in the west, including a wheat farm in North Dakota, Mr. Souther has large lumbering interests in Maine, which net him considerable property.

In 1892 Mr. Souther was married to Miss Mabel Graham MacIntosh, of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Mrs. Souther is a daughter of Charles MacIntosh, a carriage-maker there. To Mr. and Mrs. Souther have been born the following children: John Barron, Susan Page, Grace and Mabel.

Mr. Souther is a strong Republican, active in party politics.

LEOPOLD MOELLER.

Leopold Moeller, one of the leading agriculturists of Box Butte county, is a resident of township 28, range 49, where he has improved a large farm and enjoys the comforts of life. He is a man of industrious habits.

held in the highest esteem by his associates.

Mr. Moeller was born in the Kingdom of Prussia, Germany, May 20, 1855. His father, John Moeller, was a farmer, who lived and died in his native land. The mother came to America in 1889 with our subject, and died here March 19, 1895.

Leopold Moeller has served in the army in Germany for three years, and worked out as a servant for a rich man in that country, spending fifteen years in that business. Two brothers came to America in 1883, and our subject decided to follow, and landed in New York in 1889, at Castle Garden, coming directly to Nebraska, locating on a government claim in Box Butte county near where his brothers had settled, and the same year he arrived here was married to Miss Alexandrina Kahlenberg, a native of Hesse, Nassau, Germany.

Mr. Moeller had a good start when he landed here, as he had brought \$1,100.00 with him, and he filed on a homestead on southeast quarter of section 8, township 28, range 49, put up a sod shanty, bought a team of oxen and an old breaking plow and lumber wagon, then started farming. He drove to this locality from Hay Springs, which, at that time, was the nearest railroad point. The first year he lived here hail destroyed all the stuff he had planted, and the first crop he raised was in 1891, when he received a fair yield. After that the drouths caused severe losses each year and the only thing he was able to raise for feed was the Russian thistle for his stock, besides a few corn stalks and potatoes for his family. He found that it was useless to try to farm, so started in the cattle business, at first on a small scale, but kept gradually spreading out in this line, buying more land as he grew better able, and is now owner of six quarter sections, operating besides this a section of leased school land. He runs over a hundred head of cattle and just enough horses for farming purposes, and his entire ranch is well improved with good buildings, etc. He has one hundred acres cultivated, and is considered one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Moeller have a family of two children, Frank, aged seventeen years, and Johannah C., thirteen years old.

Politically, Mr. Moeller is an Independent.

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#### MICHAEL B. O'DONOGHUE.

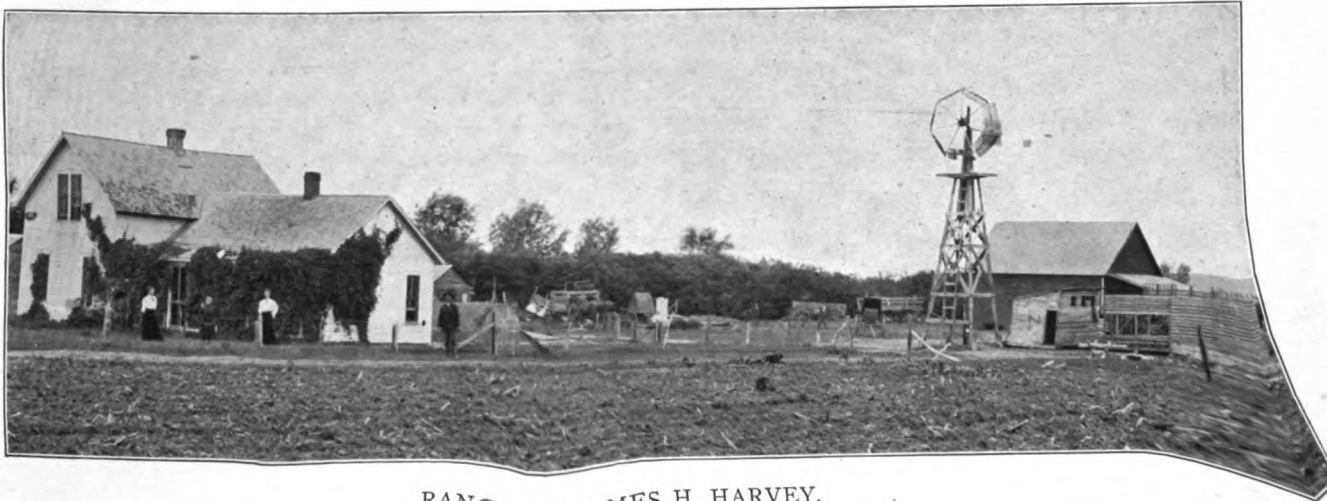
Michael B. O'Donoghue, residing on section 29, township 22, range 14, Garfield county, Nebraska, on his Kincaid homestead, was born in Newmarket, Cork county, Ireland, September

27, 1835, grew up in that country and on account of the Fenian troubles of 1860 and '65, in which he held a prominent part, was forced to leave his native land. The young men of his neighborhood were all organized for the cause of the republic of Ireland, and, as is well known, this movement was a complete failure, and those who escaped after the government got after them, were very fortunate, and the ones who were caught received sentences of from five to fifteen years in prison. Our subject was smuggled out of the country by friends on board the American vessel, the Jeremiah Thompson, the second officer in charge of the ship being a Mr. West, who was a good friend of his. The ship landed in New York in the fall of 1865, and our subject went at once to Boston, where he worked at his trade as a tailor until 1880, and when an Irish colonization society was formed about this time in that city, he joined that body of men and all came west, many of these persons being well known throughout this region by the older settlers. They settled in Nebraska in April of 1880, and our subject took up a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in township 24, range 14, one year later homesteading a quarter section adjoining his original tract, making three hundred and twenty acres which he proved up in due time. After the Kincaid law had been passed he took up one hundred and sixty acres more under that act, making a total of four hundred and eighty acres which he owned but has since sold his old farm, only retaining his Kincaid homestead. From the first he engaged in grain raising, also the stock business to quite an extent during the early days, but of late years he has not kept very many cattle, as the government land became scarcer, nearly all of it having been settled on and fenced in. During the first fifteen years Mr. O'Donoghue was in this state he had thousands of acres available for pasture for his herds, but all has been taken up by homesteaders. He relates many interesting anecdotes of the early times in this region when wild deer were plentiful, but as the settlers came in very rapidly the country became quickly cleared up and the wild game was killed off in large numbers. In the '80's many beavers and plenty of otter were seen in the vicinity of Cedar Creek, which stream heads near his land and empties into the Platte river near Cedar Rapids. There were large hordes of Indians in this region when our subject first located here, but neither he or any of the other settlers had any serious trouble with them. Mr. O'Donoghue has worked hard and faithfully since coming here and accumulated a nice property. When he left Boston he was a poor man, but through industry and good management is now independently well off, hav-





HOMESTEAD RANCH OF M. B. O'DONOGHUE,  
Garfield County, Nebraska.

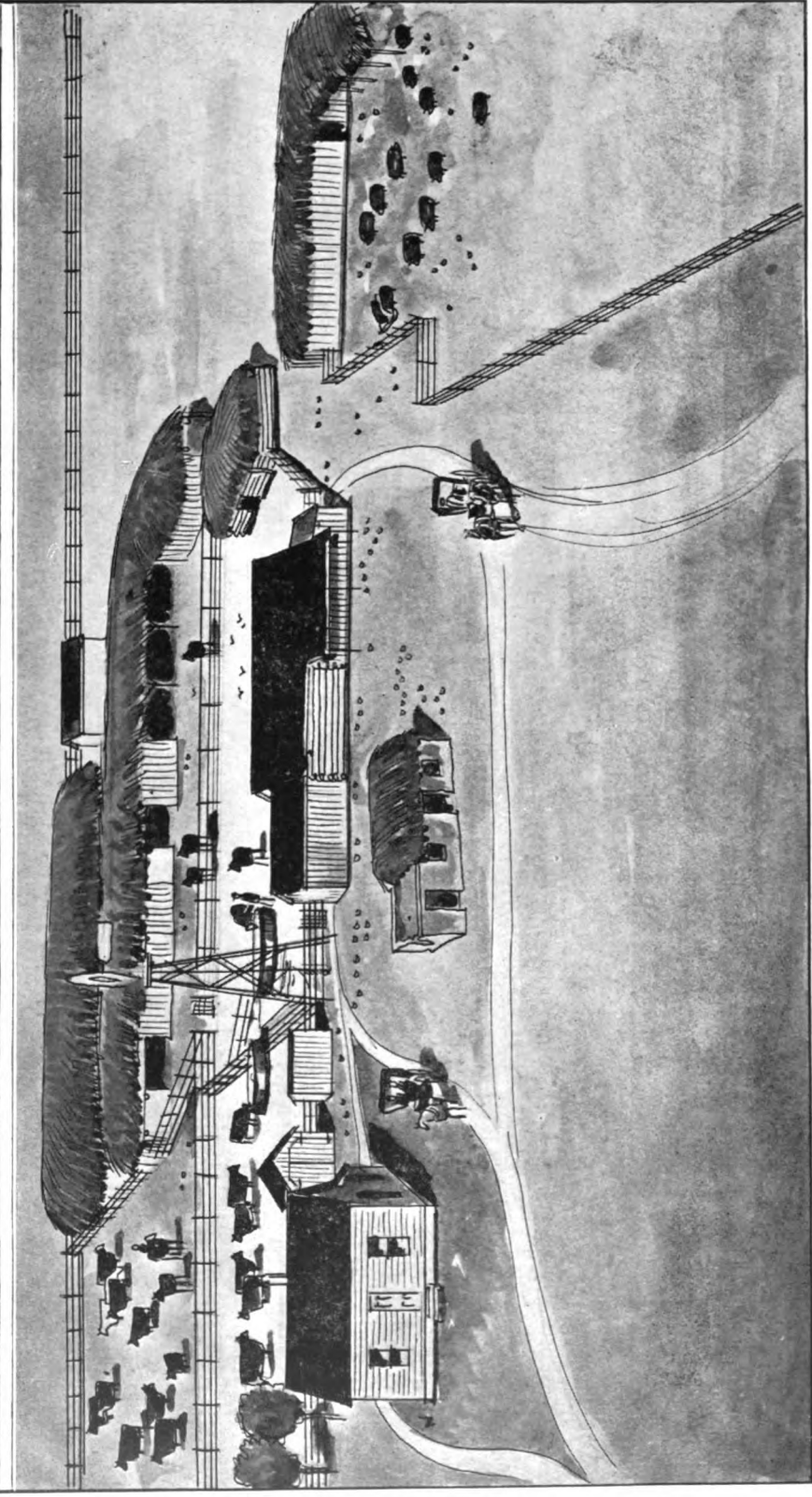
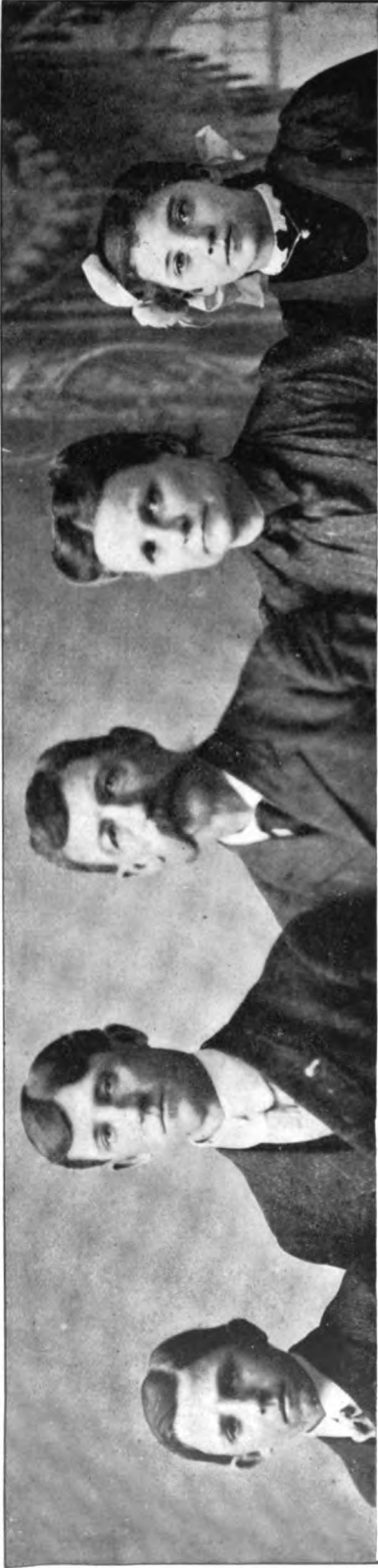


RANCH OF JAMES H. HARVEY,  
Loup County, Nebraska.









RESIDENCE AND FAMILY GROUP—ALLISON S. GRAEFF,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

ing a fine farm, also a good substantial bank account. He is enthusiastic in his praise of this country as an agricultural region, and what he has accomplished is a fair sample of what any poor man willing to work can do in this region.

Mr. O'Donoghue was married in 1858 to Ellen Noonan, born and reared in the same county in Ireland with our subject. Five children were born of this union, two of whom are now living, named as follows: Ellen, wife of H. H. Johnes, a prominent farmer of this county. Kate, wife of E. Johnson, a carpenter of Omaha; Julia (deceased), who was Mrs. Jesse Ishmeid, of Oregon; Mary (deceased), and one who died in infancy. The family are all devout members of the Catholic church of Erina. Our subject is a staunch advocate of the Independent party and has always taken an active interest in affairs of his locality. He served as justice of the peace when he first came here after the organization of Garfield county, and has always acted for the best government for the good of the community. A picture of the "Homestead Ranch" of Mr. O'Donoghue appears on another page of this volume.

ALLISON S. GRAEFF.

One of the most important farmers of Cherry county is Allison S. Graeff, who is a leading old settler in this locality.

Mr. Graeff was born near Stroudstown, in Berks county, Pennsylvania, November 12, 1855. His father, Solomon Graeff, and his mother, Lavina (Unger) were of Pennsylvania-German stock and who reared a large family of children, all trained to assist their parents with the hard work always found on the farm. At the age of twenty-one years our subject started out for himself to seek a home in the far west. He came to Richardson county, Nebraska, in November, 1876, but in March following he returned to Woodhull, Henry county, Illinois, where he remained for ten years. The first two years he worked as a farm hand, then he went to farming on rented land. It was here, in 1880, that he was married to Miss Celinda Onderkirk, daughter of Richard Bond Onderkirk, a native of Germany, and who married Frances Thurman. Five children have been born to this union, named as follows: Arthur, Oscar, Gussie, Luella and one that died unnamed. The first three named are the only ones living at present.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Graeff came to Cherry county and located on section 35, township 35, range 28, building a sod house in which the family lived for several years, going back to town in which through

the usual drouth periods in which he lost several crops both by drouth and hail. However, in 1906, Mr. Graeff suffered a much greater misfortune than any mere property loss could ever be, in the death of his youngest child, Luella May, who was accidentally killed in a runaway on September 6, 1906. This sad affair was a heavy blow to Mr. and Mrs. Graeff, and the more so because it might have been avoided. In 1901 a fire occurred in which he lost his stable and sheds with their contents. When he came to Cherry county his capital was a team, wagon, one cultivator, a plow, but with this small equipment and in spite of all the hardships that a pioneer has to contend with he has prospered and now owns a fine farm of nine hundred and sixty acres, with good buildings, well, windmill, and other improvements. His farm is all fenced and he has about two hundred acres of good land under cultivation.

Mr. Graeff has watched the growth of Cherry county almost since its start, and his name will occupy a prominent place in the history of this community. During the Indian outbreak in 1891, he remained on his farm, being one of the very few who did not flee the country.

Our subject is a Democrat in political views and was reared a member of the German Reform church. Mrs. Graeff and the children are members of the Methodist church. Arthur is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Valentine.

A view of the family residence and surrounding farm buildings is one of the interesting illustrations to be found on another page in this work.

JAMES H. HARVEY.

James H. Harvey is a native of Hampshire county, West Virginia, where he was born in 1848. He was a son of Gazaway Harvey, also a native of West Virginia. Our subject's mother's name before marriage was Junkins. She was of Irish descent, her father having emigrated from Ireland when he was a boy six weeks old.

James H. Harvey came west with his father's family in 1852 to Iowa, where they were among the earliest pioneers of the state where the son was reared to manhood. October 10, 1863, he enlisted in the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, Company going south with his regiment to St. Louis and on into Arkansas, continuing through the campaign in the south country with his company. saw lots of hard and active service and mustered out on February 3, 1866, after which he returned to Iowa where he remained for years.

In 1880 the subject of our sketch came west, locating in Loup county, Nebraska. His brother Benj. J. Harvey, was in Loup county at the time, and was one of the first settlers on the Loup river; he still lives here with his family.

James H. Harvey located on a homestead, built a sod house and lived in it for three years and then built a better home. He has worked hard at the development of his farm and now has four hundred and eighty-one acres of first-class bottom land, improved in nice shape, with good buildings, fences, etc. He is especially proud of his fine orchard of numerous kinds of fruit trees, apples, plums, cherries and a variety of small fruits.

On another page will be found a picture of Mr. Harvey's ranch.

James H. Harvey and Miss Kittie B. Taylor were married August 15, 1883, and have a family of six children: James C., John L., Nellie, Harry, Ruth and Wm. McKinley. Mrs. Harvey's father, Edward Taylor, was one of the pioneer settlers of the county, and the city of Taylor, the county seat, takes its name from her father.

Our subject has been public spirited and has taken an influential position among his fellows, and is universally respected by all who know him. He held the office of county commissioner for one term and also other offices in his district. Mr. Harvey is very genial and hospitable and always extends the kindest and most courteous treatment to all comers.

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#### SAMUEL H. NESBIT.

Samuel H. Nesbit, a well-known citizen of Brown county, Nebraska, is a prosperous and well-to-do farmer of his community. His home is in section 22, township 29, range 22, where he is extensively engaged in stock and grain raising. Mr. Nesbit was born in Lewis county, Missouri, September 1, 1870, a son of Adam and Martha (Ramsey) Nesbit, natives of Virginia and Kentucky respectively. The father, a farmer, settled in Lewis county, Missouri, with his family in the early days, and here our subject, the sixth of nine children, was reared, receiving his education in the common schools of his native county. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, and in the spring of 1892 came to Brown county and entered a mercantile establishment in Ainsworth, clerking for this concern the following five years. He then went to Colorado and spent a year and a half in that state, three months of this time on the geodetic survey, five employed in a flouring mill and the balance of the time

in the dry goods establishment of Moore and Beckens at Grand Junction. He returned to Nebraska, going to Oakdale, Antelope county, working in a mercantile establishment for a short time, before returning to Missouri, where he again followed clerking, in which he had become proficient. In 1900 he returned to Brown county and, in company with two others, purchased the farm on which he is at present residing. The place consisting of four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land and three hundred and twenty acres homestead property, was but slightly improved and he began erecting substantial buildings, house, barn, granaries, fences, etc. In 1907 he built a large, commodious barn and the year following erected a comfortable two-story addition to the dwelling. He is very successful in his farming enterprises and successful in his breeding and care of cattle of which he has a fine herd. In this ranch he had associated with him two partners, A. O. Smith, of Bassett, Nebraska, and O. B. Ripley, at Dayton, Oregon, the property being under the personal supervision and management of Mr. Nesbit, who has lately purchased the interest of Mr. Smith. The land is devoted to stock and grain raising, two hundred acres being under cultivation.

On June 6, 1900 Mr. Nesbit was married to Miss Elsie B. Dillon, who was born near Oakdale, Nebraska, where she was reared and educated. Miss Dillon's father, A. B. Dillon, comes of American stock; he is a farmer and as time permits plies his trade of mason. He is prominent in fraternal circles and has served as deputy grand master of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which order he is a prominent member for the past few years. Mr. and Mrs. Nesbit are the parents of two children, namely: Burniece D. and Marvin.

Mr. Nesbit always does his share towards the advancement of the commercial and educational affairs in his locality, and is highly respected by all who know him. In politics he is Democratic and fraternally a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen; together with his wife he has attained the Degree of Honor of that organization.

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#### NELS THORSTONSON.

Nels Thorstonson, who for the past twenty-five years and more has resided in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, has during this time acquired a fine property as the result of his industry and good management. He is widely known in his locality as a worthy citizen and progressive farmer, and occupies a pleasant home in Potter precinct and is in the front ranks of the leading





HOKEN OLSON AND FAMILY.

residents of his community politically and socially.

Mr. Thorstonson was born in the county of Eidsskongen, Norway, August 29, 1861. After passing his boyhood in his native land, receiving a common school education and the training of the children of the middle class in that country, at the age of twenty years he left home to seek his fortunes in the new world where everyone has an equal chance to gain a home and competency. Sailing from Christiana, November 26, 1881, to Hull, England, he crossed that country and emigrated at Liverpool on an American line steamer. When half way across the Atlantic a furious storm arose lasting for six days, during which the passengers were locked in the hold. The breaking of a propeller compelled a return to England, and after repairs they proceeded on their voyage, which in all lasted six weeks. After landing in Philadelphia, he came directly west to Nebraska, and located in Sidney, whence he walked through a blizzard to section 12, township 14, range 52, where he filed on a homestead, and here he has resided ever since, bending every effort to gain a comfortable home and competence for his old age. Part of the house in which he now lives is the first building erected on his homestead after arriving here, to which he has added, making a large and comfortable home. He endured all the pioneer hardships and privations in developing his farm, but stuck to the work bravely and gradually improving the ranch and adding to his acreage until he is now proprietor of an entire section of good land, situated on Lodgepole creek, comprising one of the valuable properties of the county. He cultivates only a small portion of the place, engaging on a large scale in cattle raising, running one hundred head annually, and also keeps seventeen horses for farming purpose. A hundred acres of the section are irrigable, for which Lodgepole creek supplies an abundance of water. Mr. Thorstonson has been very successful, and has also been one of the leading men of his community in political and school affairs.

Since Mr. Thorstonson came to this country he has lost both of his parents, but returned to the old country in September, 1899, visiting his aged mother for three months in the old home. He was married August 30, 1885, at Potter, Nebraska, to Miss Benthine Peterson, who is a native of Denmark, born April 18, 1859, coming to this country when a woman of twenty-four years of age. Mrs. Thorstonson's parents are also dead, her mother passing away in 1908.

Our subject and his good wife are the parents of three children, all at home, named Fendlay, Hilma and Palmer. Potter is Mr. Thorstonson's home.

Thorstonson's nearest trading point and mail station. He has held the office of commissioner for several years. He is a Republican in political views, was reared in the Lutheran church and joined the Modern Woodmen of America at Potter.

HOKEN OLSON.

Hoken Olson, of whom it may be said that he is one of the leading citizens and pioneer settlers of Deuel county, is a resident of section 20, township 4, range 44, where he is engaged in operating a fine farm. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, is well versed in his chosen calling and has met with success. He is highly esteemed as a citizen, and has gained the confidence of his fellowmen by his uprightness and honest dealings.

Mr. Olson was born on March 22, 1856, on a farm in Sweden. He grew to manhood in that country, following farm work, and at the age of twenty-five struck out for the United States to seek his fortune, leaving his parents in Sweden, where they spent their entire lives, both having since died. Our subject landed in America in April, 1881, and located at first in Henry county, Ill., but only remained one year then came to Nebraska, stopping at Kearney. He spent some time in both Phelps and Buffalo counties, finally locating permanently in Deuel county, which was then called Cheyenne county. Mr. Olson paid taxes in Cheyenne county, proving up at Sidney, Nebraska. In April, 1885, he took a homestead on section 18, township 14, range 44, started to build a home, and proved up on the land in due time. He bought an additional tract later on, and is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres, having about one hundred acres cultivated and the place all improved in good shape with a complete set of good ranch buildings, fences, etc. He runs quite a number of cattle, and is one of the progressive stockmen and farmers of his locality. During the early years of his residence in Nebraska, Mr. Olson passed through all the pioneer experiences in getting his farm started, and has seen every side of frontier life. He has gone through good, bad and indifferent times, but has prospered, and is now in a position to enjoy the fruits of his labors, having a pleasant home and valuable estate, all of which has been gained by his own efforts.

Mr. Olson was married at Ogallala, Neb., August 6, 1886, to Miss Hilda C. Johnson, they are the parents of four living children named as follows: Ellen, Emil, Lillie and Herbert, all at home. Four children have been by death.



Politically Mr. Olson is a Republican, and takes a commendable interest in party affairs in his locality. He has held various local offices and done his part in the upbuilding of the locality in which he lives. On another page in this work will be found an engraving in connection with this sketch, showing portraits of Mr. Olson and his family.

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#### THOMAS J. JOHNSON.

Among the old timers of western Nebraska who have been an important factor in the development and growth of that section of the country, the gentleman above named deserves a prominent place. Mr. Johnson is a native of the state of Nebraska, born in Omaha June 25, 1857. His father, Honorable Harrison Johnson, was a native of Hillsboro, Illinois, of old American stock, of Dutch-Irish descent, who lived in Council Bluffs many years, when it was known as Kanessville, prior to moving to Omaha. While here he hauled all the brick used in building the Union Pacific general offices. He served in the legislature of Nebraska, representing Douglas county for two or three terms and was well known in political circles throughout the state, and a leader in the Democratic party in eastern Nebraska. He was an old settler in Brown county, coming here in 1881, taking up a homestead on Plum creek, near Johnstown, where he served as the first postmaster here, at what was called "Evergreen Postoffice." He was one of the men who helped to open up this country for settlement, and run a land locating agency for some years. Our subject's mother, whose maiden name was Minerva Hambright, was a native of Lexington, Kentucky, where she was reared, educated and married. In a family of ten children our subject was the only one to locate permanently in Brown county, where he and his father and one brother, Harry, settled in 1881. The first named taking up a homestead in section 5, township 30, range 23. There he put up a log house and lived in it for seventeen years, going through the drouth periods and suffering heavy losses through failure of crops, etc., and for three years he supported his family by hunting grouse, deer and other game. He still takes hunting trips into the west and has many trophies to attest his skill with the rifle and fowling piece.

In 1899 Mr. Johnson bought fifty good grade heifers on time, and in this way got a good start after the dry years. The first year after starting in the stock business he raised thirty-six calves, and he now turns off a carload of cattle and one or more of hogs each year, running at

the present time from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty head of cattle, one hundred and sixty hogs and thirty horses. He now has a ranch of two thousand four hundred acres, all fenced. Four to five hundred acres of this is cultivated and the rest in grass and hayland, all of which is deeded land except a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres. A view of the place will be found on another page.

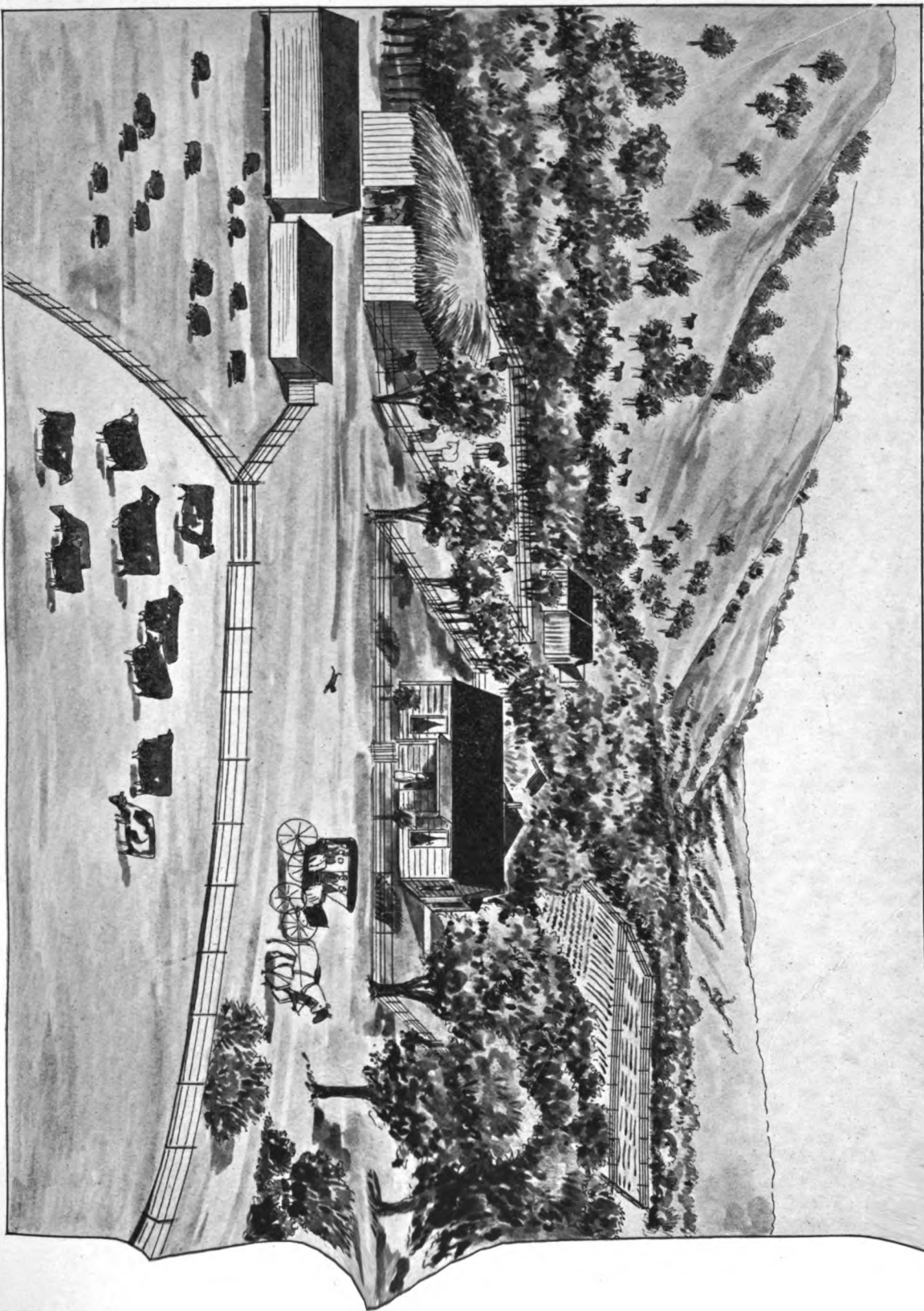
On January 1, 1884, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Lura B. Stevenson, born at Kenton, Ohio, in 1867. She is a daughter of Charles W. Stevenson, an old soldier, carpenter by trade and old settler in Howard county in 1871 and in Brown county, in 1882. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, named as follows: Eva M., Thomas J., Jr., Bessie E., Charles W., William C., Maud L., and Helen G. Mr. Johnson has been a stanch Republican for many years past, and is active in all local party affairs. He is a prominent member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Johnstown lodge, having been delegate to the state convention at Lincoln, and an alternate to the national convention at Peoria, Illinois, in 1908. Mrs. Johnson and daughters are members of the Royal Neighbors. The family all belong to the United Brethren church of Johnstown, in which they take an active interest.

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#### ALBERT B. PERSINGER.

Albert B. Persinger, one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, went to that locality when it was in its most undeveloped state, and has remained to build up a fine property and become recognized as one of the substantial citizens of that part of the country. He resides in Chappel precinct, Deuel county, and is one of the largest landowners in that county, owning and controlling four thousand five hundred acres, in and around section 4, township 14, range 46, Deuel county, and ranges over fifteen thousand acres.

Mr. Persinger was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on May 7, 1851, and lived in his home county up to the age of twenty-five years. During his young manhood he followed newspaper work, and was publisher and editor of several papers in Alabama, among them the Northport Spectator, published at Northport, the Mountain Eagle, published at Jasper, the Birmingham Iron Age, and others. Later on he became agent for the Drake line of steamboats, running from Tuscaloosa to Mobile, and remained at that work for a number of years.



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS J. JOHNSON,  
Brown County, Nebraska.

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He came west in 1876, locating at first in Weld county, Colorado, where he was engaged in ranching for a time, then came to Sidney, Nebraska, and starting a grocery and grain business, both wholesale and retail, principally for the Black Hills trade, and continued in that enterprise for about five years, building up a good trade, his patrons coming from many miles around. During the early years here Mr. Persinger passed through all the experiences of the western life, meeting with good, bad and indifferent times, but through it all stuck to his purpose and has built up a comfortable home and fortune by his strict business dealings and integrity. On his ranch he runs five hundred head of cattle and fifty horses.

Personally our subject is a genuine western man, broadminded and of good judgment in all respects. He is at present occupying the home ranch alone, his wife having died in 1901. The daughter, Mary E., is the wife of Dr. George H. Searcy, recently located at Spokane, Washington. In political views Mr. Persinger is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in the affairs of his home community, also in state and national politics. He is well up in the Masonic order, holding membership in the blue lodge at Chappel and the chapter and commandery at North Platte.

ANSON NEWBERRY.

This gentleman has worked long and hard, and denied himself many things in days gone by that he might become prosperous and thoroughly oned among the leading citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska, the scene of his early struggles and long labors, where he now holds the esteem of all who know him. Mr. Newberry is now living retired in Cody, where he owns a fine residence and enjoys the comforts and happiness of a pleasant home.

Mr. Newberry is a native of Grant county, Wisconsin, born September 11, 1848. His father, James Newberry, was a farmer of American descent, and our subject was raised in the country where he had plenty of hard farm work to do. At the age of twenty-one he came west, locating in Madison county, Nebraska, taking up some farm land. He put up a sod shanty and lived in this for some time, and remained in that county for thirteen years, going through grasshopper experience and losing three crops through these pests. Mr. Newberry came to Cherry county in 1885, settling along the Niobrara River, southeast of Cody. Here he built a log cabin with a sod roof, and started in the stock business, living on that place for two years.

He went north of Cody, where he lived on a ranch of six hundred and forty acres. He built up this place, putting up good farm buildings, three wells and three windmills, and remained on the ranch up to 1902. He was very successful in his enterprise there, and sold the place for a good sum then moved to Cody, where he bought his present home, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the village of Cody, on which he has erected a neat and comfortable dwelling. When Mr. Newberry first came to Cherry county he drove through the country from Madison county with a team and covered wagon, driving a bunch of cattle. He had come all the way from Wisconsin to the latter county in the same way, and so his experience was not altogether new, although they encountered much hardship and discomfort from the mode of travel. When they first struck Madison county the region was swept by a three days' blizzard, a chilly reception, causing them much suffering.

Mr. Newberry was married, in 1871, to Miss Jane Snider, born in Columbus, Ohio. Her father, a native of Germany, came to America when a young man, taking in marriage Julia A. Sears, of Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Newberry four children have been born, two of whom, John J. and Melve, are living, the remaining two, Julia A. and Laura Belle, having died during childhood.

Mr. Newberry has always been foremost in every enterprise which tended to the development of the resources of the section in which he chose his home, and well merits his high standing and the success which he has attained. In political sentiment he is a Republican, and fraternally affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILLIAM B. McQUEEN.

William B. McQueen, one of the prominent business men of Hay Springs, Nebraska, is a gentleman of exceptional business ability, and well known throughout Sheridan county as a worthy citizen. Mr. McQueen was born in the south of Scotland in 1855. His father, James McQueen, was a shoemaker who for many years had made the village of Balmaclellan his home and his family of nine children was raised there. Our subject was the fourth member in order of birth, and received a good education, after leaving school going in one of the mercantile establishments in Manchester, England, where he learned the dry goods business thoroughly. He then was employed as a traveling salesman.

for a wholesale dry goods house for some time. In 1881 he left his native land and came to the United States, after landing in New York striking out at once for the west, settling in Neligh, Antelope county, Nebraska. There he taught school, part of the time farmed, and clerked, remaining in that locality up to 1889, and in that year came to Rushville where he helped organize the First National bank. He was made cashier at the beginning and held that position until 1890. He proved up on a homestead in Antelope county, and the family lived in a sod shanty there for some time.

Mr. McQueen first came to Hay Springs in 1890, and was one of the organizers of the Northwestern State bank, with officers as follows: President, Charles Weston; vice-president, L. J. Schill; cashier, William B. McQueen. The bank did a large business from the time of its establishment, and in 1904 erected the home building, which is one of the finest to be found in this section of the country. The front is constructed of South Dakota sand stone, and the style of architecture is especially attractive. It has tile floors, electric burglar alarms, the most modern fixtures and everything is in the very best shape. The clearings for the fall of 1906 amounted to about twenty thousand dollars per day. Capital stock and surplus is forty-five thousand dollars; also connected with the Gordon State bank of Gordon, and the Union bank of Rushville, Nebraska.

Mr. McQueen was married in Scotland June 8, 1881, to Miss Jessie McKeand, and on their wedding day the young couple set out for the new world. Six children have been born to them, namely: Madge, Anna, Josephine, Wilma, Charles W., and Jessie, all of whom were born and raised in Nebraska. Mr. McQueen is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in all local party affairs, attending numerous conventions, although he has never sought any office.

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#### DOLEN & BOWEN.

The above firm, composed of James C. Dolen and T. J. Bowen, are among the prominent residents of Marion township, Franklin county, Nebraska. They are engaged in the ranching business, and own one of the best ranches in the vicinity, consisting of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, on which they run a large bunch of cattle and hogs. These gentlemen have built up a fine property, and through good management and industry have been most successful in their enterprises here. James C. Dolen was born in Missouri in May, 1858, and came to

Gage county, Nebraska, with his father, Benjamin Dolen, in 1863, from Kentucky. When they settled here there was only one house in Beatrice, and very few settlers in the vicinity. The uplands then were not of much account, and the pioneers all settled on the streams, the earth in the higher land showing great cracks from the drouths. Along in the eighties the rains filled all the lagoons and good crops were produced, as they have been in these latter years. Benjamin Dolen was one of the men largely instrumental in building up the locality, and took a prominent part in driving out the Indians from these parts and in the Indian wars here, remaining in Gage county where he farmed up to 1904.

Mr. T. J. Bowen is a native of southern Ohio, born in 1852, and also came to Gage county, settling there in 1895. He had formerly lived in Kansas, where he was in the stock business. He married Miss Harriett Dolen in 1882, and they have a family of four children, named as follows: James and John, who have assisted their father in the work on the ranch, but are now moving to Kansas where they purchased eight hundred acres of land and will start a ranch for themselves. The third son, Shelby, and one daughter Dena will remain with their parents.

Dolen & Bowen located in Franklin county in 1904, buying the Caster ranch from L. P. Whiting, located in the vicinity of section 15, Marion township. This is a splendidly located ranch on the head of Lovely creek, fed by bountiful springs, and with good pasture land for a large herd of cattle. They feed annually about five hundred cattle, and from four to five hundred hogs. In March, 1906, they sold one shipment of three hundred and five cattle, and on the day these were shipped there were thirty-seven carloads sent from Franklin to the different markets, showing what an important live stock center this county is.

The firm has built a nice two-story residence, and have plenty of good barns, hog pens, and all necessary buildings, with all the ranch fenced and cross fenced. They are doing well, and are among the prosperous and progressive citizens of this locality.

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#### F. M. HALL.

F. M. Hall, familiarly known as "Matt" by his intimate friends and associates, is one of the representative farmers and ranchmen of Sioux county, Nebraska, and a prominent old timer of that region. His home is on section 32, township 33, range 55, and he is a gentleman of sterling character, and well merits the rich measure

of success which has come to him by virtue of his industry and good management.

Mr. Hall is a native of Hardin county, Iowa, born in 1867, on a farm. His father, Samuel Hall, was of American stock, a farmer all his life. Our subject was raised in his native county until he was nine years of age, when the family settled in Webster county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood, receiving a limited schooling, and putting in all his time on the home farm. In 1887 they came to Sioux county, Nebraska, our subject being nineteen years of age, settling in Hat Creek valley, where the father filed on a homestead and tree claim, and Matt assisted in developing the place into a good farm. Their first dwelling after locating here was a tent, in which they spent several months, then they made a dugout, next a slab house, and finally put up a comfortable log house. Our subject started out for himself about 1893, taking a homestead on which he proved up in due time, and later filed on Kincaid homestead situated in section 32, township 33, range 55, where he has built up a good home. He spent two years in Missouri, engaged in farming, making the journey from Nebraska to that state with a team and covered wagon, and returning to Sioux county in the same way in 1896. He has steadily improved his ranch since that time, adding more land to his original claim, so he is now proprietor of one thousand four hundred acres, all fenced, with one hundred acres irrigated, and plenty of hay, alfalfa and pasture. He has put up all good buildings, and has a splendid supply of running water from Spring creek, which runs through the ranch. His chief business is stock raising, in which he has met with remarkable success.

Mr. Hall married, in 1893, Sarah Rickard, whose father, Lewis Rickard, is a well-known farmer and an old settler in this county. Her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth McMillan. Seven children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife, named as follows: Nellie, Floyd, Frank and Edward, living, and Claire, Ralph and Ruth, deceased.

Mr. Hall takes an active interest in all local and neighborhood affairs, and has held the office of county surveyor for four years. He is a Republican politically, and lends his influence for good government.

EPHRAIM H. CANNON.

The gentleman above named, residing in Phelps county, is one of the most intelligent and industrious farmers whose methods have helped in a marked degree to the success of the industry.

to make western Nebraska farming a success, and consequently, to enhance the value of all lands in his own and other sections of the state. Mr. Cannon comes of thrifty and energetic stock, the Cannons having settled in North Carolina in the early days, later in Kentucky and next to Missouri, then Alabama, where our subject was born. When he was an infant his parents moved to Illinois, where he grew up and received his education. As a young man he followed farming for twenty years, residing on eighty acres in Logan county, Illinois, and it was there he learned that work and plenty of it goes with the making of good crops; that shallow ploughing will produce better crops of winter wheat, also corn, than deep ploughing, as the first four inches contains the richness and substance of the soil, and if one turns up the deep layers the grain is started in the poorer soil with the best hidden below. When the root first leaves the kernel it is strong and pointed, and will burrow into the hard subsoil, and if there is too great a depth of loose soil the root becomes softer so it will not penetrate the subsoil but sprout out on top of it, hence, becomes an easy prey to drouth.

Comparing his twenty years of farming in Illinois with the same period here, Mr. Cannon would not exchange his acres here for the same land there, where in Logan county it is selling for \$150 to \$200 per acre, and as for a place in which to bring up his family, he states that Nebraska is far ahead of Illinois. Tenants who were tenants there twenty years ago are still in the same condition, and no better off than they were then, and many are worse off. Three years ago Mr. Cannon paid a visit back to his old home, and saw three section men working on the railway at \$1.15 per day, who twenty years ago were renters and with the high price of land there young men have no chance, and even the sons of rich farmers were glad to clerk or get a job on the railway, as they cannot buy land and do not wish to start at the bottom but like to keep up in the style their parents have reared them in. On the other hand, every one of the farmers who came to Phelps county at the time our subject did are now rich men, owning farms worth from \$8,000 to \$30,000, and have reached a success here they could never have attained had they remained in Illinois. In 1886 Mr. Cannon paid \$2,250 for the one hundred and sixty acres he now lives on, and \$4,000 for the adjoining one hundred and sixty acres, and today could easily get \$32,000 for the land but has no desire to sell. It is as fine a farm as any one could wish for, and he has a fine resi-

barns, orchard and grove as there is in this part of the country, with every convenience known to modern farming, and it is situated only three miles from Holdrege. He has raised a good many thoroughbred cattle, and has done a great deal of feeding all the time. He is now enabled to enjoy the ease and comfort of an industrious, well-spent life surrounded by a family of ten children and a host of warm friends. Mrs. Cannon died in 1903, greatly mourned by her devoted family, and they had the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community in their sad loss. There are the following children in the family: A. S., C. W., and J. H. Cannon, who are following in their father's footsteps, and own nice farms of their own; A. B. Cannon is now renting a farm, but intends buying one soon; Frank O. and Roscoe are both at home assisting their father on the farm. The daughters are Katie, Mrs. E. F. Moon; Nellie, now married; Mary, now married, and Minnie, all at home.

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#### MILO CORBIN.

Milo Corbin, who holds an enviable place in the farming community in the vicinity of section 2, township 31, range 55, in Sioux county, has done his full share in the development of western Nebraska since locating here and has become widely known as a prosperous agriculturist and a gentleman of sterling character.

Mr. Corbin was born in Knox county, Illinois, in 1876. His father, John Corbin, was a farmer and followed that occupation during his lifetime. He married Emeline Carroll. Both are now deceased, and the couple were among the early settlers and homesteaders in Sioux county, where our subject was raised and educated, remaining with his parents and assisting in the farm work during his young manhood. They went through regular pioneer experiences and suffered from hardships and privations which fell to the lot of the early settlers in this region, and on account of being unable to raise any crops during the first several years they were forced into the stock business and were very successful along that line of work. In 1897 Milo left home and started for himself, filing on a homestead on which he proved up in due time, and remained on that place up to 1905, then came to his present location, which is situated eight miles east of Harrison, in section 2, township 31, range 55, and is now owner of three hundred and sixty acres, all good farm and ranch land.

He has improved it in good shape, putting up good buildings, fences, etc., and engages principally in the cattle and horse raising business.

Mr. Corbin is numbered among the well-to-do young farmers of his locality, and has gained his possessions through his own unaided efforts, by dint of industry and good management. During the early years he worked out as a freighter, making many trips into the Black Hills, also worked in the mines and on the range as a cowboy, going through all the experiences of a frontiersman, camping out on the plains in all sorts of weather, etc.

In 1901 Mr. Corbin was married to Minnie Phillips. She is a daughter of Jacob Phillips and Lavina (Shinn) Phillips, who were among the earliest settlers in Kansas. Her father still lives in Kansas, but her mother is dead. Mr. Corbin and his good wife have a family of five sons, sturdy fellows, who bid fair to become as good farmers and energetic ranchmen as their father. They are: Clarence, aged seven years; Ralph, aged six years; Cecil, five years; Melvin, aged two years, and Orvel, aged six months.

Mr. Corbin is thoroughly up-to-date in his methods of farming and operating his ranch, and is also popular in his community as a genial associate and worthy citizen. In political sentiments he stands firmly for the Republican party.

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#### GEORGE P. BOARDMAN.

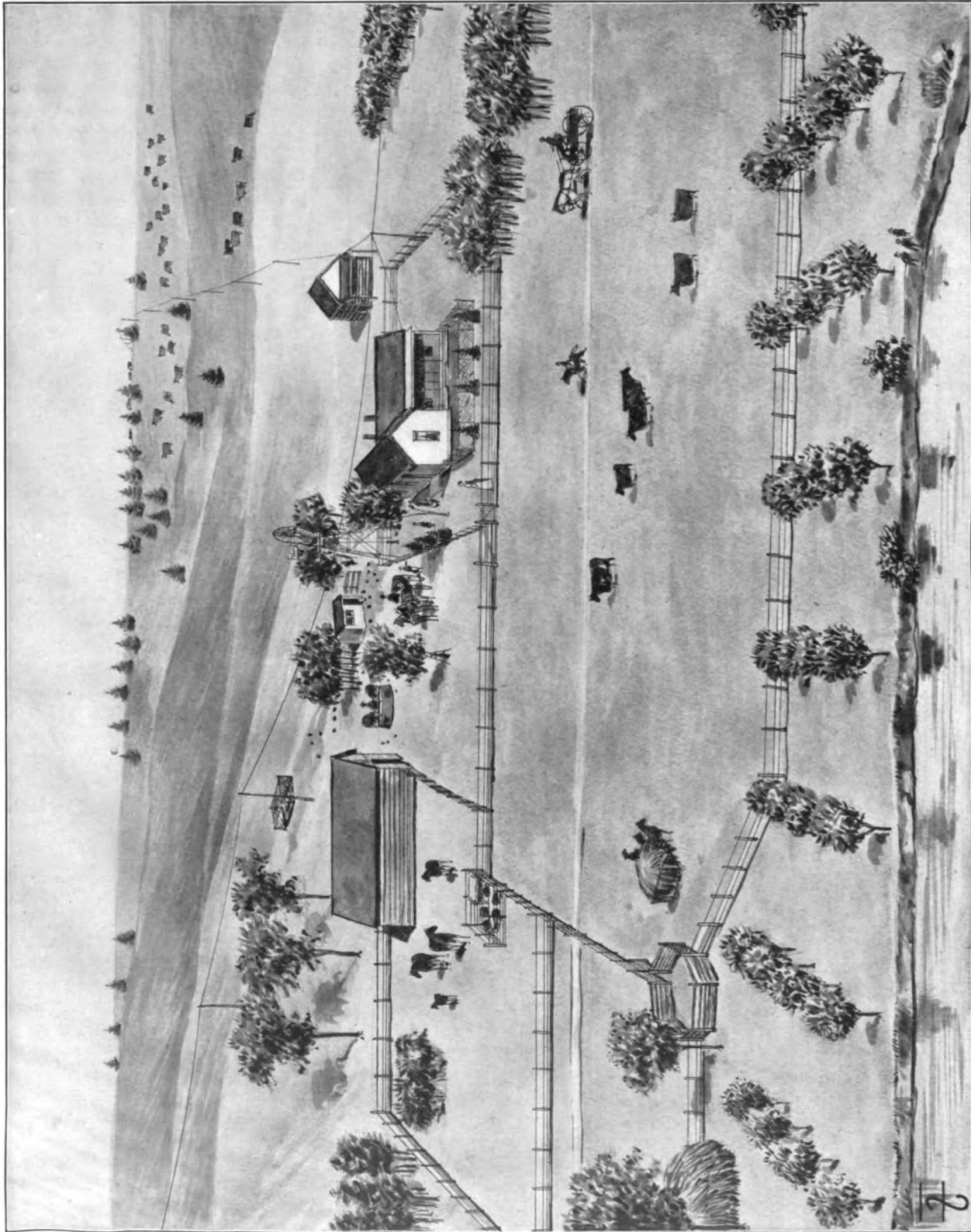
Among the younger residents of Keith county who have come to the front in a remarkable manner through industry and faithful effort, the gentleman above mentioned holds a prominent place. Mr. Boardman is engaged in the mercantile business at Paxton and is a young man of more than ordinary ability, highly esteemed by all with whom he comes in contact.

George P. Boardman was born in Lake county, California, June 2, 1880. His father, Oscar T. Boardman, was of American birth, a school teacher by profession; his wife was Viola Lapham in maidenhood. Our subject grew up in California, the family living in a number of different localities during his boyhood, much of his time being spent on a farm. He came to Paxton, Nebraska, in 1899, and worked as a clerk for two years, then attended Hastings Business College, and returning to the town resided for six years on a homestead northwest of Paxton. In the spring of



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"BAR S CROSS" RANCH, RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. BURGE.  
Section 4, Township 32, Range 30, Cherry County, Nebraska.

1908 he bought his present mercantile establishment, carries a complete line of goods and has built up a successful trade. He takes an active interest in all local affairs and has done much to aid in the upbuilding of the commercial resources of the section.

Mr. Boardman was married June 17, 1902, to Miss Grace Rice, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, daughter of Elisha Rice, deceased, a prominent old settler in Keith county, whose sketch appears in this volume on another page. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boardman—Dorothea, Deborah and Terry, the two youngest deceased. The family have a pleasant home and are among the well liked residents of their community. Mr. Boardman is a Republican in politics and a member of the Presbyterian church at Hastings.

GEORGE W. BURGE.

George W. Burge, who may be found at home on section 4, township 32, range 30, is one of the leading ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska, and has more than local standing as a farmer, stock dealer and a general business man of acknowledged ability and trustworthiness. He has made his way to the front by industry, thrift and honesty, common and familiar, but as necessary today as ever.

Mr. Burge was born on a farm in Fulton county, Indiana, September 12, 1865. His father, John Burge, was a very successful stock buyer and farmer and removed to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1880, where he died in June, 1907. He married Polly Phipps, a native of Indiana, on the banks of the Tippecanoe river. She died in Indiana in 1879, before the family moved west.

George W. Burge was the third child out of a family of seven children born to his parents, and was reared on the old Indiana farm, where he became thoroughly familiar with hard work and ready to apply himself to any respectable labor. His education was secured in the common schools of his native community, and was supplemented by a wide and keen observation of men and affairs. Starting out in life for himself when only fifteen years of age, he was employed in a printing office at Westerville, Nebraska, for two years which was published the Custer County office er. His next work was clerking in which he was engaged at the time marriage in 1885 to Miss Agnes Steadman of James S. and Katherine (Stuart) Boardman.

They were old settlers in Cherry county, and are familiar figures at the gatherings of the pioneer settlers, few having been here prior to their coming. Mr. and Mrs. Burge are the parents of a family of four children: Gordon, Kathryn, Ruth and Arleen. For three years after his marriage George W. Burge and his father were engaged in a general mercantile business; the son retired and went into farming. He had already secured a tree claim in Cherry county, and to this he added a homestead entry in 1888. On the homestead he made a sod house which served as the home for the family until after he proved up in due season. About 1892 he bought a farm on Wamaduzza creek, which he later sold and came to his present location in 1902. Here he has a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and twenty acres, together with some fourteen hundred acres of deeded land fronting for three miles on the Niobrara river. Two hundred acres are under cultivation—four hundred acres in hay land, one hundred and fifty acres in native forest and the rest in range. The entire place is fenced and well improved. He has a substantial and attractive dwelling, supplied with running water and other buildings of superior character. There is a promising orchard of one hundred apple trees, with various kinds of small fruits growing on the place. He has on his ranch some six hundred head of cattle, with the necessary supply of other stock. He is a Republican in his political affiliations, being a frequent delegate to the county conventions of his party. When the postoffice near the mouth of the Snake river was established in 1903 the department elected to name it in honor of Mr. Burge. A fine view of the family residence will be found on another page.

GEORGE W. BEAMER.

George W. Beamer, one of the leading citizens and old settlers of Cherry county, Nebraska, resides in La Vaca precinct, where he has a fine farm and home.

Mr. Beamer is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania, born January 24, 1850. His father, also George Beamer, was born in Bavaria, Germany, and came to America at the age of twelve years, settling at Erie, Pennsylvania, coming to Fayette county, Missouri, in 1854. There were ten children in his parents' family, of whom George was the eldest, and the age of twenty-two he started out for himself, following farming in Kansas and

county, Missouri, living most of the time in Kansas before locating in Nebraska. In 1887 he settled on the place which he still occupies, in section 31, township 31, range 37. He has a section of deeded land adjoining the Kincaid homestead of three hundred and twenty acres, half of this large tract being good farm land and the balance in hills, devoted to hay and pasture land. When he came here he had practically no capital to start with, and walked from Gordon to where he staked his claim, the first year using a cow and a horse as a team with which to haul sod and rock with which to build his house, and he was obliged to haul all the water for the household supply from a distance of two miles. He had a hard time in getting started, and met with a sad misfortune in the death of one daughter just one week after moving into their new sod house. The dry years caught him when he was trying to get ahead and this kept him back considerably, as his crops failed and he also went through the grasshopper raids the first year he settled here. He now owns a fine piece of property and is well satisfied with what he has done since locating here, and glad he stuck to it.

Mr. Beamer was married July 4, 1874, to Miss Luella Graham, a native of Sigourney, Keokuk county, Iowa, born in 1856. To Mr. and Mrs. Beamer the following children have been born: William, Estella (deceased) and Clara.

During the years Mr. Beamer spent in Kansas he saw harder times than he ever saw in Nebraska, and thinks this country far ahead of any place in which he has ever lived. He is a strong Bryan man, and first, last and always has been a free trader and states that he would be more than satisfied if he could see William J. Bryan at the head of the nation.

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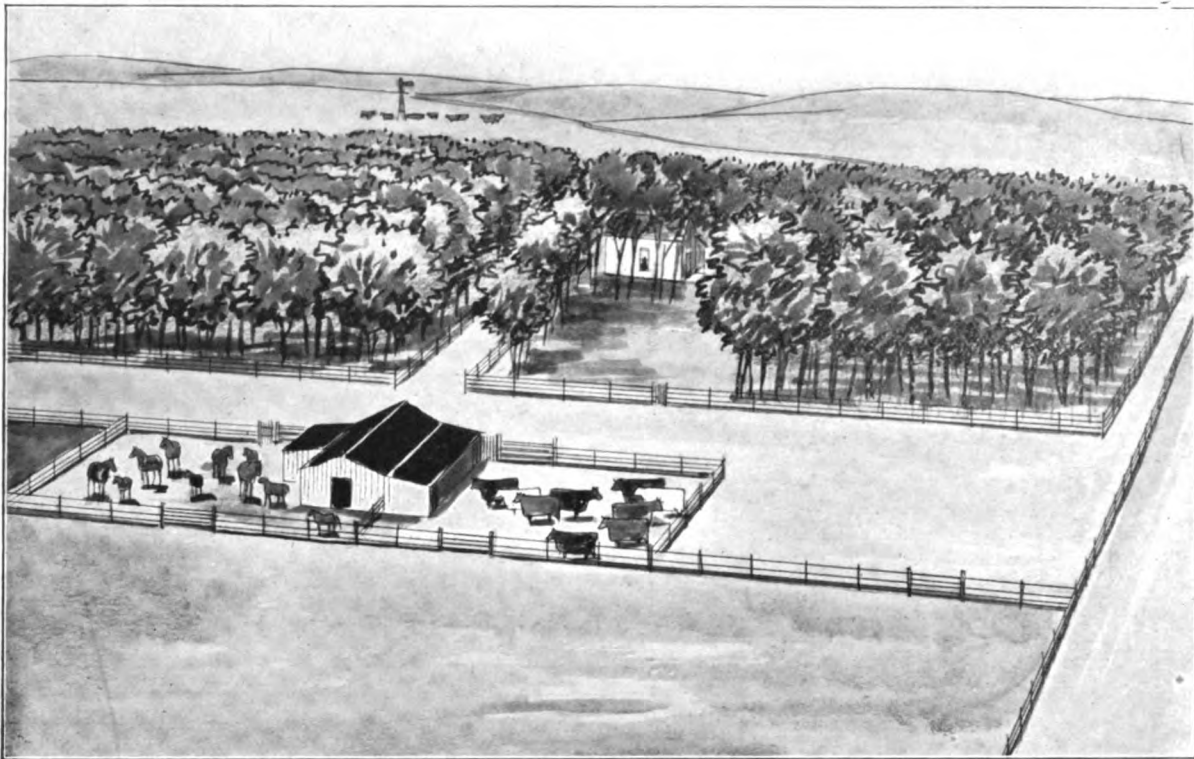
#### WILLIAM A. JAMISON.

William A. Jamison, one of the pioneers of this locality, who came to Brown county when it was in the first stages of its development, has by his praiseworthy example and honest dealings with all with whom he came in contact, become known throughout the community in which he resides as a citizen of true worth. Mr. Jamison was born in Le Clair, Iowa, January 27, 1861. His father, William W. Jamison, was a miller by trade, who married Wealthy Ann Pike, of German ancestry. Our subject is the second member in a family of six children, and came to Nebraska with

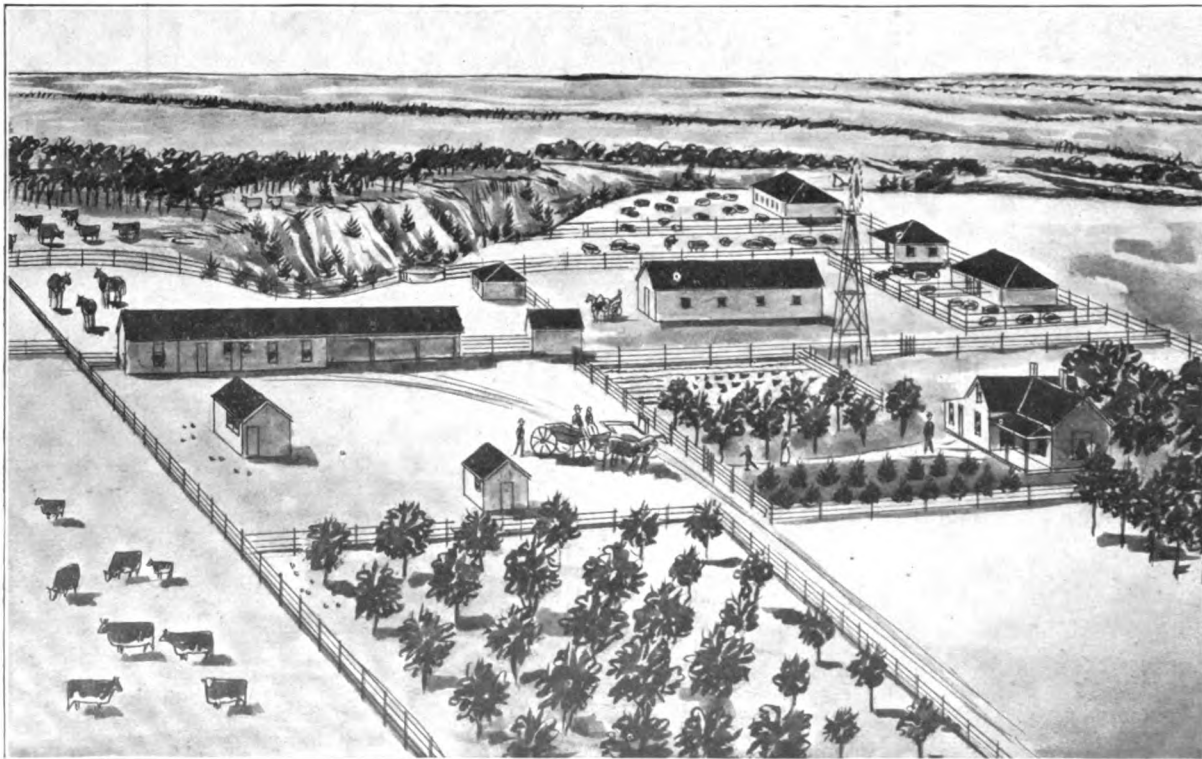
his parents in 1867, the family settling as pioneers in Saunders county, where his father took a homestead, living there until 1875. They then moved to Linwood, Nebraska, where the father worked at his trade in a mill at that point in order to support his family. At the age of sixteen our subject started out for himself, following farm work for the next seven years. In 1884 he came to Brown county, locating on a homestead in section 6, township 31, range 21. Here his first dwelling was a log stable which he built himself, and in which he lived until he was able to put up a better house. He had nothing to start with, and went through many hard times in getting his home established, but he worked faithfully, remaining on this homestead for six years, then moved two miles south to another farm, on which he lived for four years. Here the dry years struck him and he lost everything and found himself eight hundred dollars worse off than nothing when he stopped to figure up, so he gave up this place and in 1895 moved to his present farm in section 32, township 32, range 21, starting all over again. He went to work with a will, good crops came to reward his labors, and he has since had good success in all his undertakings. His farm, fronting two miles on Niobrara river, now consists of two thousand six hundred acres, all adjoining, with good buildings and all improvements necessary to facilitate in the operation of a model farm. A thousand acres are under cultivation, on which he raises bountiful crops of wheat, rye, oats, corn, millet and alfalfa, besides quantities of prairie hay. He engages in mixed farming and stock raising, of which he has made a pronounced success. When he first came to Brown county he drove here with a team and covered wagon containing his household goods, spending three weeks on the road, being subjected to many hardships and privations on the way. After starting he had bad luck and became heartily discouraged and was about to leave the country, but determined to give it another trial, and now he is very glad that he decided to remain, as he has done better here than he might have at any other place.

Mr. Jamison was married in Cass county, Nebraska, February 14, 1884, to Miss Ella Osborn, born at Eight-mile Grove, near Plattsmouth, Nebraska, April 29, 1862. Her father, Mansfield Osborn, who married Polly Russell, was a farmer and one of the early settlers in Nebraska, and among those who helped drive the Indians out of that part of the state. He had also seen service in the United States army, and was honorably discharged at Fort





RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL M. WOODWARD,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM A. JAMISON.  
Brown County, Nebraska.

Randall, Nebraska, settling in eastern Nebraska about 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Jamison are the parents of four children, who are named as follows: Irvin H., Malvin, Olive A. and Dell K., all born and reared in Brown county, Nebraska. The family is highly respected and enjoys a wide acquaintance in the community in which they reside. Mr. Jamison is universally esteemed as a friend and associate, and well deserves his enviable reputation as a citizen. Politically he is a Democrat and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America camp at Ainsworth. A picture of Mr. Jamison's place will be found on another page of this volume.

#### SAMUEL M. WOODWARD.

Samuel M. Woodward, proprietor of a fine farm in Cherry county, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in his locality, and has been closely identified with the development of the agricultural resources of this region. His fine estate bespeaks thrift and prosperity, and he is classed among the progressive and energetic farmers of his community, and well merits his high standing as a citizen.

Mr. Woodward was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, November 28, 1848, and reared there until he was twenty-one years of age. His father, Louis B. Woodward, was a native of Illinois, and he was a steamboat captain, running from Pittsburg to St. Louis. His mother was Miss Matilda McMillan, a native of Pennsylvania. Our subject is the younger of two children, and struck out for himself at the age of fourteen years. His father's death occurred at this time, and he was compelled to help support the family. His first employment was in a rolling mill, and the next few years were spent in this work and running machinery in a big box and trunk factory and planing mill. In 1869 he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and after a time there he went into Butler county and settled on section 18, township 16, range 2, remaining here until 1885 engaged in farming. He was one of the earliest settlers there, and when he landed there he paid the Union Pacific railway ten cents a mile for transportation. The nearest trading point at that time was Schuyler, Colfax county. In 1885 he came to Cherry county and took up his present farm as a homestead. Besides this he was entitled to eighty acres which he afterwards took up, and has since added to it until he now owns eight hundred and twenty acres of land, including five hundred and sixty acres of homestead land. Part of this is hay land, and much of it can be cultivated. This

farm is located in sections 5, 6 and 7, township 33, range 40, Cherry county. He is engaged principally in the stock business and keeps about seventy-five head of cattle and ten horses. A view of the residence and surroundings is shown on another page in this work. He was never affected very much by the drouth periods, as he was not at that time engaged in farming to any great extent, but while still in Butler county for five straight years he lost nearly all his crops through the grasshopper raids, and it took him some time to recover from the loss he sustained by these pests.

In 1873 Mr. Woodward was married to Miss Minerva Witherbe, of Welsh descent, born in Iowa. They have one son, Avery M., who is now assayer for the Homestake Mining Company at Lead City, South Dakota. This son married Margaret Phillips, of Salt Lake City, and they have one daughter named Irene. Avery M. Woodward is prominent in musical circles, is leader of the orchestra and secretary of the Black Hills Musical Association.

Mr. Woodward takes an active interest in local affairs and has served as assessor for about fourteen years, and was census enumerator in 1900. In political faith he is an active Republican.

#### WINFIELD SCOTT.

Winfield Scott, who enjoys a pleasant home and owns a valuable farm in section 21, township 22, range 15, Garfield county, is one of the well known old residents of this part of the state of Nebraska. He has gained an enviable reputation as a progressive farmer and worthy citizen, and is highly esteemed for his strict integrity and honest dealings by all with whom he has had to do.

Mr. Scott was born near Sterling, Illinois, in 1859, where he lived on a farm until he was a boy of nine years, the family then emigrating to Iowa, settling in Fremont county. There he grew to manhood, assisting his parents in carrying on the farm, and in this way gained a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Scott came to Nebraska in 1883, homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Garfield county, later bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining, and has lived here ever since, devoting all his time and energy to the development of his farm and building up his home. He spent but a short time in Iowa. He raises oats, corn, wheat and rye, and is also engaged to some extent



stock raising, dealing mostly in cattle and hogs. During the first years here he experienced his greatest difficulty in getting sufficient water, but several years since he has had deep wells dug, and now has a splendid supply of good clear water for his domestic and farming purposes. One well is one hundred and forty-seven feet deep, which is much less than the average depth of the wells in his locality, and from this he obtains all the water he can use. Mr. Scott is of the opinion that this is the best state for the man with limited capital to settle in, as his chances for success are much greater than in the east, where the land is much higher and the cost of living greatly increased. He has never had a total failure of crops, and there has not been a season in which he did not make some money, although, of course, some years were much more successful than others, but taking it altogether, one year with another, he has received a fair average crop. When he landed in Nebraska he was a poor man, but he has worked hard, and through good business judgment in his ventures he is now in comfortable circumstances, and is positive that had he remained in the east all his life he could not have accumulated the property that he has in the west. Mr. Scott is a plain, everyday farmer, well read and intelligent, and takes especial pride in his home life and is well thought of by all who know him.

In 1887 Mr. Scott was married to Miss Edna Watson, born and raised in Nebraska, a daughter of C. F. and Malinda (Williams) Watson, who came to Nebraska in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Scott are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Bertha, Wallace, Walter, Hiram, Edith and Jesse, who form a most interesting and intelligent group. In political sentiment Mr. Scott is a Republican but has never devoted much time to politics or held any office.

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#### SAMUEL A. WINSLOW.

The gentleman above named, numbered among the leading old timers of western Nebraska, resides on his fine farm in section 35, township 35, range 35. Mr. Winslow was born in the town of Fremont, Sullivan county, New York, December 3, 1841. His father, Moses Winslow, was a farmer, musician and stone mason, who followed all three pursuits at times, and died when our subject was a boy, leaving a family of nine children, he being the eighth mem-

ber in order of birth. He assisted in the support of the family until twenty years of age, then enlisted in Company H, Fifty-sixth New York volunteer infantry, and was sent south with his regiment, going first to Washington. This was in the spring of 1861, and later in the spring of 1862 he saw service with the army of the Potomac, taking part in a number of engagements, beginning at Savage Station and ending at Malvern Hill. In the same year he was taken sick, having contracted typhoid fever, securing his discharge from service, went to Wyoming, Jones county, Iowa, where he followed farming for a time. In 1883 Mr. Winslow moved to Charles Mix county, South Dakota, where he settled on a homestead, living in a sod shanty and going through pioneer experiences until he had paid out on his claim, returning his homestead rights. He remained there for five years; then came to Nebraska and located in Cherry county, taking a homestead along the Niobrara river. Here he built a log house and lived for fifteen years, building up a good home and farm, and in 1903 sold out and located on his present farm, in section 35, township 35, range 35. When he took this place it was excepting a sod hut, entirely unimproved land, and he went to work establishing a home, erecting good buildings, fences, etc. His ranch contains about eight hundred acres, one hundred and sixty acres of which is meadow land, and all under fence. He has one of the best farm houses to be found in this section of the country, beautifully finished and double plastered, with the outside cellar of arched stone. In 1908 he erected a commodious barn which, with other buildings, makes his farm equipment complete.

Mr. Winslow was married in Iowa November 11, 1869, to Miss Addie Miller, daughter of John T. and Charlotte (Morris) Miller. Three children have blessed this union, named as follows: Len, Cora M., wife of Charles O. Goodrich, and Fred M., and Mr. and Mrs. Winslow are grandparents of twelve children.

Mr. Winslow has served his community as justice of the peace and acted as precinct committeeman for the Republican party for some years. He is with his family a member of the Methodist church.

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#### GEORGE W. MESSENGER.

To be called a "leading old settler" is much praise to accord a citizen of any community, and this term when applied to the gentleman herein named, means more than is ordinarily meant when applying the term. Mr. Messenger has been a resident of western Nebraska for the

past twenty-five years, and has built up a valuable estate and incidentally gained an enviable reputation as a successful agriculturist and worthy citizen. He resides in section 4, township 32, range 47, where he enjoys a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings.

Mr. Messenger was born in Knox county, Ohio, in 1833, on a farm. His father, William H., was a native of Ohio, a mechanic by trade, and later became a pioneer in Iowa, where his death occurred near Weldon, in Washington county. Our subject grew up on a farm in Ohio, where he early learned to do all sorts of hard farm work, going from Ohio to Madison county, Wisconsin, staging across the latter state to Galena City, then down the river to Muscatine and again staging to Iowa City, as that was the mode of transportation at that time, railroads not being so much in evidence in those days as at present. There he went through pioneer experiences with his parents, and became thoroughly familiar with the frontiersman's life. He learned the carpenter's trade and followed that work from the time he was a mere boy, working as a cabinetmaker, furniture manufacturer, also as a millwright and wagonmaker at different times. He still has a number of farming tools which he uses that were made with his own hands while doing carpenter work in Iowa. In the spring of 1885 he moved to Dawes county, Nebraska, settling at Bordeaux station, and lived there for a few years following his trade. He bought his present farm, where he began as a stock raiser and ranchman, putting up his own buildings, house, barns, etc., and devoted all his time to improving his place. His ranch now consists of about twelve quarter sections of land, largely in hay and pasture, and he has every convenience for the proper operation of his farm. He has built a fine house, planned and executed by himself, of commodious size, the new addition being thirty by sixteen while the older wing is thirty by fourteen, fitted with every convenience, and it is the best built ranch house in the county. At the head of the ranch near Bordeaux creek is a spring which he has stoned up, and as this is very near the house, makes one of the finest clear water springs in the locality.

Mr. Messenger's ranch is one of the finest in Dawes county, all in the best possible shape, supplied with plenty of timber, fruits, such as apples, cherries, pears and small fruits, also different nut-bearing trees—walnuts, chestnuts, etc. He has a park on his place in which is a herd of eleven elk which he keeps as a curiosity, and they attract many visitors to the ranch. While Mr. Messenger lived at Bordeaux station he was engaged in different enterprises, buying and shipping large quantities of wood, etc.

In February, 1860, Mr. Messenger was united in marriage to Miss Anna Barrows, daughter of a prominent merchant at Windham, Johnson county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Messenger are the parents of three children, two of whom, Orval and Edyth, are living, while William died in 1895.

Our subject is an Independent voter, always supporting the best man up for office.

ANDREW BERGMAN.

Andrew Bergman, who was born in Sweden in 1852 and is now living in peace and plenty on his handsome and well appointed farm in Kimball county, Nebraska, is well entitled to the rich measure of success that has come to him through hard work and thrift. He has worked hard and faithfully for years and is now reaping the legitimate reward of honest effort and industry.

Mr. Bergman grew to the age of thirty years in his native land, coming to America in the summer of 1882, locating first in Brooklyn, New York, where for three years he followed his trade of stair building. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1885, and took up a homestead on section 18, township 16, range 54, also filed on a tree claim, and immediately began improving the place. He lived on his old homestead for some time, then purchased railroad land and ranched for a time. He was one of the first settlers in this part of Cheyenne county, now Kimball county, and his intention was to build up a good farm, in which he has succeeded admirably. He put down the first well in the locality, passed through all the early Nebraska times, often meeting with losses and failure of crops, but stuck to his original purpose, and is now prosperous, and one of the most highly esteemed men of his county. He has fifty acres of his farm cultivated, raising good crops, and runs a large bunch of cattle and horses, being one of the old-time stockmen of the section. In 1907 our subject came to his old homestead and erected a new house and built up a good home. During the first years our subject lived on his homestead he got only two crops in nine years. He had never put his hand to a plow or even put harness on a horse before he settled on his farm, having spent his time previous to this working at his trade. He had only four hundred and fifty dollars with which to make his start, but he has done well at ranching and has made a success. He had but one young cow when he started ranching and from

that small start he has raised all his herd. For the past ten years he has sold on an average of one carload of cattle each year. In 1907 he sold one hundred and twenty-five head of full grown cattle and fifty-seven calves, these being mostly the offspring of his first cow.

May 4, 1883, Mr. Bergman married Hannah Sjoblom in Brooklyn, New York. Miss Sjoblom was a native of Sweden, coming to America the preceding year. She was the third daughter in a family of four girls. Her parents came to America in 1887 and both died on our subject's homestead here. Mr. and Mrs. Bergman are the parents of seven living children, namely: Edwin A., Eric D., Elmer O., Carl E., Clarence Grant, Mabel Florence and Jessie G., all living at home. Two sons, Eric D. and Elmer O., are teachers in the public schools of their county, and all are most interesting and intelligent children.

Mr. Bergman is a loyal Republican and takes a commendable interest in the affairs of his community.

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#### H. D. WOLF.

H. D. Wolf occupies a foremost place among the energetic and prosperous farmers of Deuel county, where he owns a valuable estate. He has developed this farm by energetic labors supplemented by honest dealings, and is one of the highly esteemed men of his community. Mr. Wolf has passed through all the early Nebraska times, and is widely known through the western part of the state as having done much toward the upbuilding of the agricultural and commercial interests of the region.

Our subject was born in Germany on April 11th, 1849, making that his home until he was twenty-three years of age. He was the second member in a family of seven children, three of whom later came to America. His father and mother spent their entire lives on their native country, both now being deceased. He left Germany in 1872, coming directly to North Platte, Nebraska, after landing in this country, and lived in Lincoln county for one year, then went to Julesburg, Colorado, and was connected with the Union Pacific Railroad company there, also at North Platte, Ogallala and other points in the state, coming to what was then called Cheyenne county (now Deuel county), in the spring of 1878. He was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company for about nine years, working as section foreman for the greater part of that time.

Mr. Wolf finally homesteaded on section 18, township 13, range 45, proved up on his claim, and has since removed to section 17, which is his present location. He has acquired a ranch containing two thousand seven hundred acres, and is engaged principally in the stock business, running three hundred head of cattle, and about sixty horses. He farms fifty acres, raising some grain, etc., and has large tracts of hayland and pasture for his stock. He has a complete set of substantial ranch buildings and improvements of all kinds. Mr. Wolf is classed among the oldest cattlemen in the western part of Nebraska, as there were but very few ranches started in the region when he located here. He is one of the genuine old-timers, and is numbered among the wealthy and progressive men of the locality. Mr. Wolf was married at North Platte in 1875, to Mary Erickson, who was born in Germany, and came to America about 1869. They have an interesting family of six children, named as follows: Edward C., married and living at Big Springs, Nebraska; Frank H., married, residing at the same place; Dora A. and Nettie I., both at home; Minnie, wife of Robert McGrave, living in Big Springs, and Ella M., now Mrs. F. H. Hendrickson, living at Chappell.

Our subject takes an active interest in local affairs, and is a member of the school board in district No. 7. A portrait of Mr. Wolf will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### ALBRO L. HODGE.

Albro L. Hodge, one of the prominent early settlers in western Nebraska, is proprietor of an extensive farm in section 19, township 32, range 51, Dawes county, who has been an important factor in the development of the financial resources of his region and is widely and favorably known throughout that section. He is an active public-spirited citizen and his services to his county in many matters have been invaluable and of such a character as to be universally appreciated by all.

Mr. Hodge was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1856, on a farm seventy-five miles from Chicago. He is of American blood, and his father, Andrew J. Hodge, was a farmer by occupation. When our subject was nine years of age the family moved to Shenandoah, Page county, Iowa, where they settled on a farm and lived there for eight years, he working at home, and afterwards ran a bus line for a time. He also was employed by the American & Pacific Express Companies for five years, and ran on express routes from Burlington to Council Bluffs. In



H. D. WOLF.



the spring of 1887 he came to Dawes county, Nebraska, landing here on March 23d, and located forty miles south of Crawford, in Box Butte county, where he lived for two years proving up on a pre-emption. He built a sod house and went through pioneer experience, the country being but thinly settled and neighbors were few and far between. He next moved to a farm south of Glehn, Sioux county, on Deep creek, and remained on it for nine years, starting with no capital but his strong hands and willing heart, and succeeded in building up a good home and farm, which he sold at the end of that time for five thousand dollars. He engaged extensively in stock raising and mixed farming, and at one time had a whole township fenced. About 1901 he bought his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Dawes county, located in section 19, township 32, range 51, paying for the land one thousand dollars, and it is now worth many thousands. He has this rented out at present, and lives on his "Kincaid" in Sioux county. He has two hundred and ten acres irrigated and the place in A-1 shape, with good house, barns, granary, etc., all put up by himself as it was entirely unimproved property when he purchased it. He has been burned out twice, at one time losing his barn, and the other his house and furniture, and this was a serious set-back to him. He has had his share of pioneering, having opened up four different farms, and knows well the little discouragements that come to the settler in a new country, but has never given up, and his present prosperity is evidence of his determination and perseverance. Mr. Hodge now lives on his Kincaid homestead in Sioux county, two miles south of Glen postoffice, which he is improving rapidly with buildings; has a large saw mill on the place and quite a lot of fine timber. He has been active in local affairs in his community, and taken an active interest in politics, being an Independent voter.

In 1888 our subject was married to Miss Gertrude A. Miller, daughter of Benjamin H. and Lucy Paine Miller, who were old settlers in Dawes county, and who owned and operated a fine farm there for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Hodge are the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Addie, Russell, Hazel, Myrona and Grant. The family are highly esteemed in their community, and have a host of warm friends.

H. E. CULBERTSON.

Among the highly respected and industrious residents of the city of McCook may be mentioned the name of H. E. Culbertson, master

mechanic of the McCook Division of eight hundred miles of railway, from Hastings, Nebraska, to Denver, Colorado, comprising the Nebraska and Kansas branches, one of the longest on the system. Mr. Culbertson was appointed in September, 1906, and is a thoroughly capable official.

Mr. Culbertson is a native of Chicago, born in 1871. He is a son of Christian Culbertson, who came to the United States from Norway about the year 1865. He was raised in Chicago until about nine years ago, and came to Nebraska in 1881, the family locating at Hastings, Adams county. He was left an orphan at the age of six years and has made his own way in the world since he was nine years old, always having lived among strangers and never knowing the blessing of a parent's love from that tender age. He started in the railroad business in 1892. He began with the Burlington & Missouri railway, working as machinist helper, and from that obtained the position as night round-house foreman, following this for four years, then went to firing for the road. Next he was a locomotive engineer for five years between Hastings and Denver. He always took a deep interest in the work and devoted his entire attention to whatever he was engaged in doing, educating himself for better positions as he went along. He now holds the record as the youngest man in railway circles occupying the position of master mechanic. Every item in the way of mechanical operation is under the master mechanic's direction, and this includes engines of all kinds,—steam, gas, and electrical. For about two years he was road foreman of engines for the McCook division under R. B. Archibald, up to 1906, when he was appointed to his present position. He was general secretary for the B. L. E., of the C. B. & Q. Ry.'s entire system for the years 1905-6, and is a prominent member of the B. L. E. at this point. He is a young man of the right kind of ambition, full of his work and conscientious in its accomplishment, and one who when in one position studies diligently to fit himself for the next step which opportunity offers. Hence, with each of his rapid advancements he has filled the place with all his energy and industry, natural and acquired ability. He is ever of a pleasant and obliging disposition, which makes him popular with his superiors and beloved by those who are under him without any attempt on his part, for he is frank, just and straightforward in every action, looking every matter and man in the eye with courage and confidence which win him every battle. He is a young man who wins the eye and thoughts of those who are head of great concerns, and who recognize right stuff when they see it.



Mr. Culbertson was married in 1894 to Miss Eva Way, daughter of J. S. Way, of Hastings, Nebraska, a pioneer settler of Adams county, Nebraska, locating there in 1872, where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He was very successful in both undertakings, and became one of the leading men in his community, serving his county as supervisor on the county board for some years. He came west from Pennsylvania with his wife, also a native of that state, and they now reside at San Dimas. Mr. and Mrs. Culbertson have four children, namely: Harvey, Henry and Harold and Eva. The family is highly respected, and have a host of friends and acquaintances, and a pleasant and comfortable home. They are members of the M. E. church, and well liked in religious and social circles in their community. Mr. Culbertson is a member of the Maccabees in McCook, and takes a commendable interest in all educational and political matters.

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#### VACLAV VACIK.

Vaclav Vacik, a successful and well known farmer and ranchman of Colter precinct, lives on section 24, township 13, range 48, where he has a fine farm of over one thousand two hundred acres. He was an early settler in Cheyenne county, and has done his full share in the development of the agricultural interests of the community where he chose his home.

Mr. Vacik was born in the village of Strejkovice, Bohemia, February 28, 1851, and grew to the age of seventeen in his native land, coming to America at that time. He sailed from Bremen Haven and after a voyage of two weeks, landed in New York, January 16, 1868. He first settled in Chicago, remaining there ten years where he was employed by the Burlington railroad; he then went to Champaign county, Illinois, spending about two years on the John Alexander farm. From Champaign county he went to the southern part of the state and later he took a trip to Memphis, remaining there but ten days, and returning to Chicago, he again entered the employ of the Burlington, and remained one year.

He made a trip to Nebraska in 1875, and was very much impressed with the conditions existing, but did not permanently take up his residence here until 1877, first locating in Saline county, and ten years later came to Cheyenne county, arriving in April of that year. He filed on a homestead in section 24, township 13, range 48, and has made that his home ever since, constantly improving his farm and adding to his acreage, so that he is now proprietor of over

one thousand two hundred acres of good farm and range land. He has three hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, and runs a large herd of cattle and horses. He has done exceedingly well since coming here, and is considered one of the well-to-do and progressive citizens of his section. His ranch is well supplied with good buildings of every description, and all necessary improvements. Mr. Vacik was married in Chicago, October 11, 1874, to Mary Cervenka, who was born in Bohemia on the 4th day of July, 1854, and came to America with her parents in 1868; her father, Paul Cervenka, married Annie Skopeckova, and is now living in Saline county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Vacik were born the following children: James, born in Nebraska. Julia and Theresa are twins and were born in Chicago. Julia is the wife of Jerome Banta; Theresa married Michael McNiff; Joe, now deceased; Mary, who married Dan Dickinson, Annie, Paul, Jerry, Lloyd and Benjamin. The last six were all born in Nebraska. All of our subject's sons-in-law are railroad men connected with the Union Pacific railway. Two children died, one buried in Saline county, and the other in this county.

Politically Mr. Vacik is a Democrat, and he stands firmly for his convictions. The family worship in the Catholic church. Mrs. Vacik is a member of the Woodmen circle.

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#### JOSHUA CROSS.

The above named gentleman has for the past quarter of a century been closely identified with the farming and commercial interests of the western part of the state of Nebraska, and has watched the development and growth of this section from the early days. He resides in Bassett precinct, Rock county, where he has built up a pleasant, comfortable home through his energetic efforts and strict integrity.

Mr. Cross is a native of England, born on the north coast of Yorkshire in the fall of 1857. He is the sixth member of his father's family of twelve children, and was reared on his father's farm, where he was obliged to do all kinds of hard farm work. On reaching the age of twenty-three he left home and started out for himself, embarking at Liverpool on the Simasia for the new world, and after a voyage of nine days, landed in Quebec, whence he came across the border and west to Bureau county, Illinois; here he remained for one and a half years, working out on farms, after which he went to Cass county, Iowa, and farmed there for three years. He was not satisfied with conditions there, and



moving to Nebraska, locating in Rock county in 1884, where he settled on a pre-emption in section 35, township 30, range 19. Here he built a shanty and batched it for a short time, then married. Soon after starting on this farm he was burned out, losing his barn, filled with hay, a corn crib, some hogs and about one hundred and twenty chickens. This was a serious drawback to him, and it was some time before he recovered from this loss. Then he took a homestead in section 34, his present location, and since he has been here he has been successful in all undertakings. He now has a farm of four hundred acres, eighty of which are cultivated and the rest in grass and pasture. He engages principally in stock raising and dairying, and at present milks thirty cows, finding a ready market for his cream in Bassett. He has good buildings, and his place all fenced; on a portion of it he has planted a fine grove of trees which are growing splendidly.

Mr. Cross married Miss Effie Cormaney, whose father was an old settler in Rock county; they have been blessed with seven children, who are named as follows: Pearl, Merle, Bert, Alta, Charlie, Frank and Lizzie. The family is well regarded in the community and they enjoy a pleasant and happy rural home. In politics Mr. Cross is Democratic.

WILLIAM R. BOWMAN.

William R. Bowman, a prominent business man of Hay Springs, Nebraska, is a man of great energy and untiring industry, owing his present success to these characteristics and his sound business judgment. He is the proprietor of the leading drug store of the above town, and is well known as a worthy citizen of his community.

Mr. Bowman was born in Boone county, Indiana, in 1865. His father, William Bowman, was a leading physician and old settler in Stanton county, Nebraska, coming here in 1869, where his family of ten children, of whom our subject is the fifth member, was raised and educated, attending the Stanton common schools. At the age of twenty-one he started out for himself, learning the pharmacist's profession, and became a registered member of that body of workers in 1890.

In the spring of 1889 Mr. Bowman came west to Sheridan county, and there clerked for W. H. Smith at Hay Springs, remaining in the employ of this firm for several years, up to the spring of 1898. He then took up a homestead twenty-five miles southeast of Hay Springs and

proved up on this, building a sod shanty in which he lived for some time. In 1898 Mr. Bowman bought his present drug store, and since taking this place has increased the stock and built up a good trade, running a thoroughly up-to-date store. He has installed a telephone exchange, putting this in during the year 1903, extending all through the town of Hay Springs.

Mr. Bowman was married in 1892 to Miss Bertha Curtis, daughter of Volney Curtis, an old settler in Box Butte county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have one child, Gladys, born in this county. Mr. Bowman is actively interested in local public affairs, and in 1898 was elected county coroner and re-elected for two successive terms. He has also served as justice of the peace for some years. In politics he is a Republican.

OSCAR KARLSTRUM.

Oscar Karlstrum, residing on section 6, township 14, range 58, Kimball county, Nebraska, is one of the enterprising and prosperous agriculturists of that region. He has met with marked success since locating here, has a pleasant home and valuable estate, and enjoys the esteem and respect of his associates.

Mr. Karlstrum was born in Sweden, February 5, 1864, and reared in that country. His father and mother spent their entire lives in their native land, the former following farming for many years, and still lives on the homestead there.

Our subject is the third child in a family of six, having three brothers and two sisters. He came to America in 1885, settling in Phelps county, Nebraska, on arriving in the United States, and spent one year in that vicinity, then came to Kimball county (which at that time was part of Cheyenne county), homesteading a quarter section on southwest section 6, township 14, range 58, and which is now his home ranch. He proved up on the land and built it up in good shape, later buying other land in the vicinity and now is proprietor of nine hundred and sixty acres. He has put on this ranch good improvements, with substantial buildings of all kinds, and has nearly one hundred acres under cultivation. A large part of the place is used as hay-land and pasture for a herd of sixty cattle which he is running at the present time and will send to market later. Every appointment of the ranch is first class, and bespeaks his careful management and thrift in its operation. On September 7, 1887, Mr. Karlstrum was married in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Miss Mary

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who was born and reared in Sweden, coming to the United States a short time previous to her marriage. To them have been born the following children: George, Annie, Gust, Renhard, and Ethel, all living at home and forming a most charming family group. Mrs. Karlstrum's father is living in Sweden but her mother died there some years ago. Mr. Karlstrum has always given his best influence for the betterment of conditions in his locality, and takes a leading part in all affairs of neighborhood importance. He was elected assessor several years ago and he served as county commissioner for one term, vacating the office in 1908. At present he is acting as treasurer of school district number seven, and is also serving as road overseer in district number seven. In political views he is a Republican.

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### JOHN CASTEK.

John Castek, one of the prominent and successful farmers of Dawes county, Nebraska, comes of Bohemian stock, and is a worthy representative of the best traits of his race and blood. He was born on a farm in Moravia in 1863. His father was a carpenter who lived and died in his native land. Our subject grew up there until he was sixteen years of age, then came to America, landing in New York city in June, 1880, and came west at once to Colfax county, Nebraska, following farm work in the eastern part of the state for several years. In the spring of 1886 he moved to Dawes county, locating on his present farm, in section 31, township 31, range 48, and there built a dugout and batched for awhile. His first team were oxen, and he owned a half interest in a plow and wagon, with which the farm was broken up and crops put in. Soon after coming here the drouths struck the section, and as he was unable to raise anything on his land he tried to sell out, offering his place for two hundred dollars, but even at that price could get no buyer so was compelled to stay. He kept on trying to improve his farm, and in '89 had the finest prospects for a good crop and was getting ready to harvest, when a hail storm struck the region and completely ruined his crop. The next year he took out hail insurance and mortgaged his team to pay the assessment, and was again hailed out, but when he tried to collect damage, he was unable to get a cent, but he kept on carrying insurance for several years, but for some reason dropped it one year, and that very year he was again completely hailed out, having this experience for four years altogether. During late years he has raised good crops, and he has

plenty of hay and pasture for his cattle of which he keeps a large number, most of the time having two hundred head, besides running them for other farmers. He has about nine horses and his range is admirably adapted to stock raising of all kinds.

In 1889 Mr. Castek was married to Miss Anny Potmesil, and she died June 16, 1896, leaving a family of two children, Francis, born August 14, 1892; and John, born September 6, 1894. In 1898 Mr. Castek was married again, to Miss Jennie Kratochvil, born in Bohemia, daughter of Joseph Kratochvil. Mrs. Castek came to America in 1895 together with a sister, they coming to Chadron, Dawes county, Nebraska.

Mr. Castek spends all his time on his ranch building up his home, and is one of the well-to-do and progressive agriculturists in the county. He is a Republican, and keeps well up with the time in politics locally. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman and is full of social qualities that bring him many friends. On another page of this volume will be found a picture of their residence and also portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Castek.

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### GEORGE A. FENDRICH.

The above mentioned gentleman is one of the early settlers of Box Butte county, Nebraska, who foresaw the prosperity which attended that region and remained to enjoy the results of his many years of hard labor, and is now one of the most highly respected citizens of the community. He is the owner of a valuable estate, and farms on an extensive scale, residing on section 10, township 28, range 49, where he has erected a fine frame house, making him a comfortable and pleasant home.

George A. Fendrich was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1871. He grew up in that country and came to America in 1881. After landing in New York city he went west to Carroll county, Iowa, settling on a farm and lived there for five years. From there he moved to Box Butte county with his parents, driving from Hay Springs overland, the father filing on a homestead in section 10, where they built a sod house, planted a grove of trees, and began to farm. The first few years were very successful, but just as they got nicely started the dry years struck them and several crops were lost completely, and they had a hard time to make a living. Our subject left home several different times, first going to the Pacific coast: and worked in Spokane a couple of years: then into the Klondike region, where he



RESIDENCE OF JOHN CASTEK,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN CASTEK.



did very well, and returned in 1900 to Nebraska, bringing back with him quite a snug sum of money. He spent two winters and three summers in the Klondike, but has always retained this county as his home, and has now put him up a fine residence. George also spent about one year in Memphis, Tenn., in the street car business. His father died in 1899, and he then returned home and since that time has remained with his mother, carrying on the homestead. Their ranch consists of one thousand two hundred acres, one hundred and forty acres of which is under cultivation, all of it well fenced, and he is engaged in stock raising, dealing exclusively in cattle and horses. Mr. Fendrich's mother keeps house for him, and they have a pleasant and comfortable home, and are highly esteemed by their neighbors. The mother is about eighty years old, but is quite active in spite of her advanced age.

Mr. Fendrich is classed among the oldest settlers in this part of the state, is one of the leading men of his township, and takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs.

ED. L. WILLITS, DECEASED.

Ed. L. Willits, late of Alma, Nebraska, was a well known resident of Harlan county, and one of the leading citizens of the above city. He and his father, Wells Willits, were two of the first settlers in Alma, and foremost among its business men. Wells Willits came to Alma in July, 1878. At that time there were only two houses there, and he at once invested in property in the town site, purchasing two hundred and seventy-five lots in all, and in December of that year bought forty acres of land adjoining the town, and platted this. The following year he began to sell off these lots. During the spring the town began to boom and started to grow rapidly, and he was able to dispose of a great deal of his property at good figures. He took up a homestead near the town, and up to his death bought and sold property, and also farmed his ranch, and was counted one of the most prosperous and successful men in this locality. In 1879 Ed. L. Willits moved to Alma and established the firm of Willits & Co., and carried on a large general mercantile business until the time of his death. This was called "The People's Store," and was the pioneer store of town. In 1881 his father joined him in this enterprise, and they also started the Alma Creamery Company, and carried that on for many years. Ed. Willits was also the founder and first president of the Harlan County Bank, established in 1900.

Wells Willits, our subject's father, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1827, and at the age of twenty-one years located in Mercer county, Illinois. He attended Knox College at Galesburg, and in 1854 opened a general store in New Boston, Illinois, carrying on this business for twenty-one years, also operated a pork packing business for eighteen years. In 1878 he closed all his interests out and came to Nebraska, locating in Alma, and his son Ed entered his father's employ at an early age, and thus secured the training that fitted him for his successful career in later years. Eli Willits, his grandfather, was born on the Hocking River, in Ohio, and settled in Wayne county, Illinois, with his father, Jesse Willits, on a farm in 1812, and remained there up to 1833, when they removed to western Illinois, locating within four miles of the Mississippi river. Mr. Willits always took an active interest in public affairs, working hard in the early days to get the county seat at Alma, and also bent all his efforts and influence in trying to get all the rights and advantages for Alma during the railway fight. His widow and one son, John Metz Willits, reside on the homestead at Alma. His eldest son, Lee Conklin Willits, who lived at Los Angeles, California, died September 23, 1907.

In May, 1882, our subject was married to Miss Blanche Conklin, of Alma, daughter of I. J. Conklin. She died in 1897, leaving one son, Lee C. Willits, above mentioned. Mr. Willits was married again in 1898 to Miss Rebecca Metz, daughter of Joseph and Mary Frances Metz, of Alma. One son, John Metz Willits, was born May 14, 1902. Mr. Willits, our subject, died October 8, 1903. The family is highly respected and esteemed in the community, and in his death had the sympathy of the entire population. Mr. Willits kept all his business affairs moving during the hard years of 1894-95 and '96, giving employment and good wages to over thirty-five people in his store, creamery and bank, and also on his several large farms. He will always be spoken of as the best citizen and most capable business man of Alma's pioneer days. Mr. Willits was a Mason, and a prominent member of the order of the Eastern Star.

W. H. COWGILL.

Mr. Cowgill has one of the principal business enterprises in Holdrege, handling real abstract and insurance, and is recognized of the leading men in this line in Nebraska. H. Cowgill established his business in 1882.

*business enterprises in Holdrege, handling real abstract and insurance, and is recognized of the leading men in this line in Nebraska. H. Cowgill established his business in 1882.*

has been at the head of it ever since. He has branch offices at McCook and Moorefield. W. H. Cowgill is the state agent for the State Insurance Company, and they have local agents covering every portion of Nebraska. This company does over \$150,000 per year here, and the real estate end of Mr. Cowgill's business cannot be estimated, during the time that Mr. Cowgill has been in business.

Mr. Cowgill is the owner of a goodly quantity of large farming interests in this and adjoining counties. He came to Nebraska thirty-three years ago, locating in David City, in November, 1874, where he engaged in the real estate business. In 1904 he was one of the organizers, and is now president of the Phelps County Telephone company, which has a capital of \$50,000 paid in. This company took over the Independent telephone lines. The former company now have two thousand five hundred subscribers, and they are constantly improving the lines and service, and rapidly gaining in patronage. The company has exchanges at Holdrege, Loomis, Bertrand, Atlanta, Funk, Sacramento and Holcomb, besides fifty farmers' lines.

Mr. Cowgill is also a prominent Mason, Knight Templar and Knight of Pythias. He was a candidate for railway commissioner on the Democratic ticket in the election November 3, 1908.

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#### AUGUST BASCHKY, DECEASED.

August Baschky (deceased), who during his life time made an enviable record as a farmer and ranchman, the result of his own toil and economy, was born on a farm in Prussia, Germany, in 1846. His parents passed their lives in the old country, the father having been a prominent farmer. Our subject's early days were spent in his native country, where he received his education. Realizing the possibilities the new world offered the ambitious young man, he decided to seek his fortunes in this country, and in April, 1872, landed in America, settling in the state of Illinois. Here he employed his time tilling the soil.

In 1876 Mr. Baschky was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Froelke, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Becker) Froelke. Her parents were both born in Germany, the mother in Hanover, but came to this country before marriage. After his marriage, Mr. Baschky spent some time farming in Illinois, but in 1882 came to Madison county, Nebraska, and farmed there for two years. In 1885 he came to Dawes county, driving from Chadron, and at first lo-

cating four and a half miles northeast of Crawford. His first home in this part of the country was a dug out, his second a log cabin. During the years of hardships which confronted the early settlers in this western country he made his living logging and working out. His first years were trying ones indeed, he having had the misfortune of losing several horses and crops. In 1896 he moved his family to their present location in section 16, township 30, range 50, where he erected a substantial and commodious home and barns. Here he had three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, although his ranch altogether comprised an area of 760 acres, containing several acres of good timber land, and 160 acres of which are under cultivation. Through years of adversity and prosperity he held the hands of the plow, working out for himself a comfortable home, and giving his energies to the upbuilding of the locality in which he lived.

The marriage of Mr. Baschky was blessed with eight children, viz: Joseph, born December 8, 1876; Peter (deceased), born May 18, 1879; Louis, who follows the occupation of railroading, born March 3, 1882; Elizabeth (deceased), born March 9, 1884; Julius, born January 8, 1887; Edward, born January 26, 1889; Patrick, born February 13, 1894; and Veronica, born April 16, 1896. Joseph, the oldest boy, now runs the farm. A family group portrait will be found on another page.

During his life time Mr. Baschky enjoyed the respect and confidence of a host of warm friends, and his career will stand as an excellent example for any youth to follow. He passed away November 6, 1906.

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#### JENS PETER KRESTENSEN.

Jens Peter Krestensen, who came to Box Butte county, in the early days of its settlement, and who has striven through many failures and hardships to establish a home and accumulate a competence for himself in the new western country, is now proprietor of a valuable estate in section 7, township 26, range 50. He has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, serving his township as road overseer, and lending his best efforts at all times to advance the best interests of his community.

Mr. Krestensen was born in Denmark in 1860. His father was born, lived and died in Denmark, following the occupation of a farmer all his life, and our subject was reared on the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-two years, then came to America and settled in



AUGUST BASCHKY (DECEASED) AND FAMILY.





Omaha, Nebraska, where he remained for a year. He came to Box Butte county in the fall of 1889, and soon after coming here he started working on the new C. & N. W. railroad, which was being built through this section and into Wyoming. During the time he followed this work he had a good chance to become familiar with the rough life of a frontiersman, experiencing many hardships and privations in the thinly settled regions through which the road was to be built.

After finishing his work on the road he returned to Nebraska and filed on a pre-emption in township 26, range 50, and while starting his farm, worked out a good deal of the time in different livery barns at Nonpareil and Alliance, constantly improving his place as he was able, and finally proved up on the land.

In the fall of 1890 Mr. Krestensen made a trip to his native land, and while there was united in marriage to Miss Mattie Jensen, a native of that country. After spending a short time visiting in the vicinity of his boyhood home, he and his bride returned to this country, and came back to Nebraska and began farming in section 7, township 26, range 50. Their first house was a rude shack and they lived in it for about a year, then erected a comfortable sod house and occupied this for a good many years. Mr. Krestensen's farm now consists of over eight hundred acres of good land. He farms one hundred acres of this, raising fine crops of small grains, and the farm is all fenced and fitted with a complete set of good buildings. He is engaged principally in the stock business, raising cattle and horses for the market.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Krestensen, who are named as follows: Magnus, Clara and Anene, all in school in this district at the present time.

WILLIAM E. MINSHAL.

William E. Minshal, widely known in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, as a gentleman of first-class business ability and one of the foremost old settlers of that region, is proprietor of a flourishing meat, flour and feed store in Lodgepole, which enterprise he has carried on since 1903 with marked success. He has passed through all of the pioneer times in western Nebraska, and remained to see the prosperity which has come to those who came to the state in the beginning of its civilization, and is one of those who has aided materially in its upbuilding.

Mr. Minshal was born in Walworth Wisconsin, on June 17, 1849. remaining in

the age of seventeen years in that region. At that time the family moved to Johnson county, Missouri, and settled on a farm, where they resided until the spring of 1878. Our subject worked for the Union Pacific railway for about a year and a half, at Sidney, and then started in the grocery business, following that for over a year. He moved to Lodgepole in the fall of 1881, locating on a ranch in section 13, township 14, range 47, and there engaged in stock raising, building up a good ranch. He later took up a homestead in section 24 and owned this until a few years ago, when he sold it at a good profit, and purchased a good ranch of six hundred and forty acres, comprising section 14, township 14, range 47, devoting this to the raising of cattle and horses. Mr. Minshal was married February 21, 1875, in Missouri, to Rachel Brown. Mrs. Minshal was born in Keokuk county, Iowa. Five children have been born to our subject and his good wife, named as follows: Charles, married and living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, employed as a machinist in the Union Pacific shops. Bertha, married to Dave Douglas, now living in Denver, Colo. George, now residing in Cheyenne, Wyoming, while Mabel and Rachel, the last two daughters are living at home with the parents.

Mr. Minshal takes an active interest in state and county affairs, and is one of the leading men of Lodgepole. Politically he is a Democrat and a member of the Methodist church.

MRS. LYDIA MILKS.

The management of an extensive tract of land has fallen to the lot of the lady above mentioned, and the prosperity apparent is evidence of her ability and good judgment. Mrs. Milks is one of the early settlers in Brown county, where she has spent the best part of her life in building up her farm and home. She has had the care of a family of children, and exerted her energies for their support and education, and is now the owner of a valuable ranch.

Mrs. Milks was born in Olin, Jones county, Iowa, in 1864. Her father, John Bothwell, was a native of Scotland, and her mother of Yankee stock. She was raised and educated in Jones county, attending the common schools and later moved to Nebraska, locating in Cherry county in May, 1885. She married B. W. Milks. The home was ninety miles south of Valentine. Their first dwelling was a house built of sods, with a sod roof, and in this place all but their youngest child was born. They proved up on the homestead, remaining on it for twelve or thirteen years, and in 1899 moved to Lakeland, Brown

county, settling on a ranch on Moon Lake, where their children would have a better chance to attend good schools. Mrs. Milks lived on this ranch until 1905, and she has had the entire management of the place, the ranch comprising one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, stocked with horses and cattle, and improved with good buildings. There was a fine grove of trees on this place, the grove including twenty-five acres, which added greatly to the value of the ranch.

At first this place only contained three hundred and twenty acres, and it was added to gradually and improved, until a comfortable home has been built up, which at present is under the management of Mrs. Milks' son and daughter, she now living on three hundred and twenty acres of land located near Ainsworth, which she purchased after getting the ranch established and running in good shape. She has improved this property until it is now one of the most valuable in this locality, the farm being used for a dairy and hay farm. Mrs. Milks deserves much praise for the success which she has attained through her own unaided efforts, for many years doing a man's work in running the farm, besides raising her family of children and directing their education. Few men have accomplished as much as she. Her family consists of eight children, as follows: Clyde D., Clarence L., Burney B., Gertrude May, Vera E., Lillian T., Percy L., and Gerald R.

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#### JAMES H. LYON.

James H. Lyon, the popular and efficient postmaster of Harlan, Nebraska, is well known throughout Cherry county as a successful and prosperous farmer and business man. He is a man of sterling character and has an extensive acquaintance, universally esteemed and respected in his community.

Mr. Lyon was born in Marion county, Ohio, April 7, 1847, of German descent. His parents were settlers in Virginia, and when our subject was eight years old came to Iowa with their family of ten children, where they farmed in Wapello county. In 1864 he enlisted in the army and served a year and a half under General Steele near Little Rock, Arkansas; he was mustered out at Duvall's Bluff and returned to his home and assisted his father in the farm work. In 1869 he started on a farm for himself in Wapello, renting land on which he lived for a number of years. He was a settler in Iowa long before the Burlington road was built through that section of the country. In 1883 he moved

to Osceola county, Iowa, and farmed for two years, then came to Nebraska, driving through with a team and wagon. He stopped in Holt county from spring to fall and then came on and located near where his present home is situated, taking a pre-emption. When he had filed on his place all he had left was three dollars in money. They were about the only settlers in the locality, and from September 11th to November 16th, his wife never saw another white woman.

He went to farming, breaking up his land and putting up a rough log shanty, and had pretty good success until the dry years came along. He often had hard times through the drouth periods and at times both he and his wife were compelled to work out in order to make a living. Their house was shared with another family part of the time, and all were obliged to pick up bones and haul them to Gordon, receiving eight dollars per ton, to obtain money with which to buy flour and other provisions. After the first few years they had better luck and raised good crops, sticking bravely to it through many discouragements and hardships. He and his son together own two thousand acres of land now, and run sixty head of cattle and about forty horses.

In 1868 Mr. Lyon was married to Miss Esther J. Anderson, daughter of James M. and Nancy J. (Tilford) Anderson, both natives of Indiana, where Mrs. Lyon was born and reared. One child was born to them, Walter, who married Ida V. Miller, and is living on a homestead near his parents' home.

Mr. Lyon was appointed postmaster of Harlan in 1905. He is one of the public-spirited citizens of his county, a Populist and Bryan man.

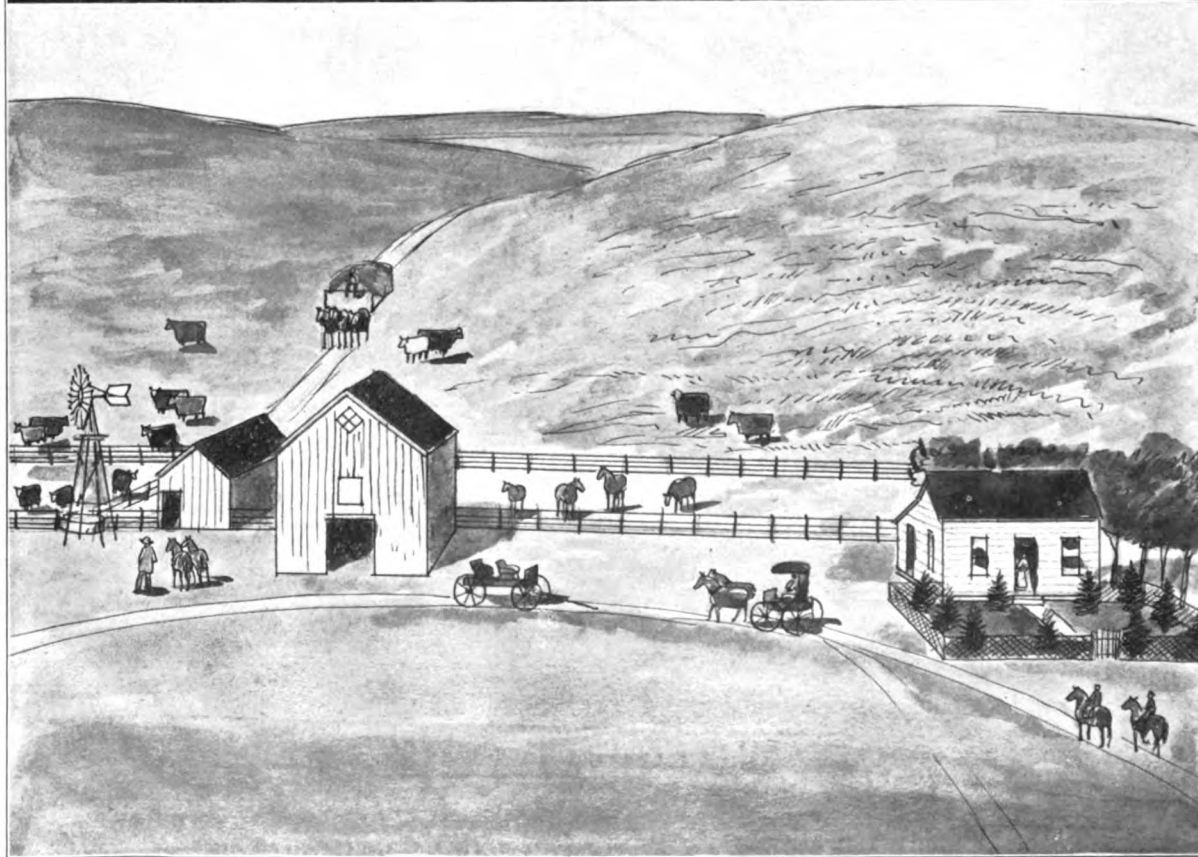
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#### CHARLES R. RUSSELL.

Charles R. Russell, who is engaged in ranching on a large scale in section 11, township 23, range 28, is one of the pioneers of Thomas county, Nebraska. He has a wide acquaintance and is universally respected and esteemed.

Mr. Russell was born in Sheridan, Lucas county, Iowa, in 1868. He is a son of Irvin W. Russell, of whom a sketch appears in this volume. Charles grew up in Iowa, reared on a farm, and in 1887 came to Nebraska with his parents, the father settling on a homestead, and for two years after coming here our subject helped him open his farm and ranch, the family going through the usual pioneer experiences. They came ahead of the railroad, and Charles Russell was one of those who saw the first





RESIDENCE AND FAMILY GROUP—BERNARD DENAEYER,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

train pull into Thedford, and has seen every change which has taken place in the region since that time, watching it grow from practically raw prairie land into its present highly improved state, and has himself been an important factor in this success. He took a homestead about 1890 and begun a farm and ranch for himself, "batching" it for four years, also filed on a pre-emption two miles east of Thedford. In all he has proved up on a homestead, pre-emption and tree claim, and has met with splendid success in his ranching ventures. He finally came to his present location, having a ranch of nine hundred and twenty acres, all deeded land, lying along the Middle Loup river. He purchased his father's old ranch and now operates that place. He has planted a fine fruit orchard, having apples, cherries, wild plums, grapes, strawberries, gooseberries and raspberries, and altogether has seven acres of fine trees on the place, furnishing an abundant supply of fruits for his own use and which he finds a ready market for in his locality. He has fifty acres of good clover, large pastures, and engages principally in stock raising, running a large bunch of cattle and some horses. He has a valuable property and is one of the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Russell was married on February 14, 1892, to Miss Nannie D. Edwards, daughter of James A. Edwards, an old settler in this section. To them have been born three children, namely: Ethel M., Charles R., and Vera Dell.

Mr. Russell was a resident of this township when the first Sabbath school was started. He has done his share as an old settler, taking a leading part in township affairs, and has served in different capacities, acting as assessor for several years and holding other offices.

BERNARD DENAEYER.

Prominent among the progressive ranchmen of Cherry county is the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. He has been a resident of Nebraska for the past twenty years or more, and has done his share in the development of this section, building up a valuable estate in section 34, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Denaeyer is a native of Belgium, born in the village of Junet, November 14, 1865. Here he lived until coming to America with his parents in the fall of 1878. Sailing from Antwerp in a vessel of the Red Star line, he landed in New York November 14th, the voyage of two weeks, and shortly after the mining region near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. After a family settled in Pennsylvania.

working for about a year and a half at McDonald station and Smithton. Mr. Denaeyer started for the west, finding work in the mines at Collinsville, Illinois, Pittsburg, Kansas, Gold Hill, Missouri, and What-Cheer, Iowa, for a time working at Marhah, Colorado. On his way eastward he stopped in Cherry county and took up a claim which he later abandoned. After journeying for a time in Kansas and Missouri mining towns, he returned to What-Cheer, where he followed mining some seven or eight years. In 1899 he started anew in Cherry county, taking up a homestead in section 2, township 31, range 26, to which he has since added through the Kincaid act, and now is proprietor of eight hundred acres, mostly low hay land. He cuts about four hundred tons of hay each season, and of this he bales two hundred tons for sale and finds a ready market for his product. He has improved his farm with good buildings, fences, and planted trees, and it is one of the best tracts of land in the locality. He has had rather bad luck with his stock since settling on this place, losing \$1,000 worth of horses in 1905, and two years previous had lost cattle worth the same amount. One year after paying two dollars per ton for bailing hay he could not sell the product for enough to pay the bailers.

Mr. Denaeyer was married in Iowa, September 25, 1884, to Miss Della Bohy, a native of the same village as her husband, she having come to America with her parents, Emanuel and Dorie (Heck) Bohy, in 1881. Six children have been born to them, named as follows: Barney, deceased; Julia, wife of Henry Ormesher, living near Valentine; Annie, Della, Ida, Bernard, Jr., all except the latter born in Iowa.

The family is highly respected in their community, and have many friends and acquaintances who often enjoy the hospitality of their pleasant home. Mr. Denaeyer devotes his whole time to his home, and has never had leisure to take any active part in political affairs, although he votes the Independent ticket. Mr. Denaeyer's parents have retired from active life, have sold their ranch and are now residing near Valentine. One of the interesting illustrations in this work is a view of the family residence, which is shown on another page.

HON. HENRY MOHRMAN.

Honorable Henry Mohrman, who enjoys the comforts of a pleasant rural home in the township, is one of the best known men in Franklin county. He is one of the old settlers in western Nebraska, and his labors here have been many.

become a part of the state's history. His life has been one of many experiences, and he is honored as a public-spirited citizen and leading resident of his county. Mr. Mohrman was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1863. He came to America in 1868 with his mother and rest of family, the family settling in Nemaha county, and afterwards moving to Richardson county, where they bought a farm for twelve dollars per acre. Both parents are now deceased, the father's death occurring in 1868 at the age of forty-three, and the mother's in 1901, aged seventy-seven years.

In 1886 our subject started out for himself, renting a farm in Richardson county, remaining there up to 1892, when he bought the one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives, having added to this farm until he owns at the present time four hundred and eighty acres. In 1905 he erected a fine residence on the estate, and he has one of the most valuable places in the vicinity, engaging in mixed farming and stock raising. He has thirty head of thoroughbred shorthorn cattle, nearly all raised by himself, beginning in 1898 with one high grade cow of the imported Daisy strain. These animals are all fine stock, and he has had splendid success with them, selling the calves at weaning time at from forty to sixty dollars each. He keeps about a hundred hogs, and raises quite a good deal of wheat and corn. His wheat has reached as high as forty bushels per acre, and corn up to sixty. He has some fine alfalfa fields, and farms under the most improved methods, obtaining the best results possible. Mr. Mohrman was married in 1895 to Miss Anna Kruse, daughter of John and Fulke (Minits) Kruse, of Macon township, who came to this locality in 1886 from Province Hanover, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Mohrman have the following children: Mary, Fred, Natie, Annie, John and Martha. Our subject himself was an only son, but he has one sister, now Mrs. August Lunzman, of Nemaha county, Nebraska. The family are members of the Lutheran church. In 1894 Mr. Mohrman was elected on the Republican ticket to represent the people of his county in the state legislature of 1895.

He has held different local offices in his township, and is one of the active men in public affairs, taking a keen interest in party politics.

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#### FERDINAND WOLLESEN.

Ferdinand Wollesen, a prominent old timer of Dawes county, has done his part in the up-building of his section, and has through hard work and constant effort succeeded in establish-

ing a comfortable home and well-tilled farm, which is located in section 14, township 32, range 47.

Mr. Wollesen was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, in 1843. His father, Christian Wollesen, was a teacher all his life, spending all his life in his native land. Our subject was raised and educated in Germany, living at home until he was sixteen years of age, then learned the miller's trade and followed that work there for five years. He then travelled all over Germany, engaged in different enterprises. When he reached the age of twenty-two years he entered the German army and served for two years. In 1868 he left his native land and came to the United States; after landing in New York city, came west to Davenport, Iowa, and there followed farming for about six years, then went to Tama county and farmed for a time. He next railroaded on the F. E. & M. V. railroad.

He came to Nebraska in 1887 and worked on the section, acting as foreman at Andrews for one year, then settled in Inas, Wyoming, where he ran a boarding house for six years. He returned to Nebraska, and purchased his present farm in 1892. Since settling here he has devoted most of his attention to the stock business, and has been very successful in building up his ranch and home. He owns a thousand acres located near the head of Little Bordeaux creek, and has good buildings, fences, etc., with everything in good order about the ranch. He farms one hundred and twenty-five acres and raises good crops, and is progressive in his stock raising and farming operations.

In 1881 Mr. Wollesen was married to Mrs. Christian Peters, of German descent, and who came to America with her parents in 1863, settling in Gladbrook, Iowa. Mr. Wollesen has one son, Carl, aged twenty-six, and three step-children, William Peters, Henry Peters, and Chris Peters.

Although he takes no active interest in politics he votes an Independent ticket and lends his influence for the good of his locality.

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#### GILBERT HAASE.

Gilbert Haase, one of the prosperous and substantial business men of Kearney, Nebraska, resides with his family in a comfortable and pleasant home in the above city. He has made Kearney his home for the past twenty-six years, and has done his full share toward the development of the financial interests of the community where he has chosen his residence. He has a wide reputation as a successful and worthy citizen.



Mr. Haase is a native of Galena, Illinois, born in 1863. He is a son of Edward Haase, now associated with his son in business here. He was reared at Galena until he reached the age of eighteen. He came to Nebraska in 1881, located at Kearney in 1883 and clerked for four years, then established a general grocery and queensware store, and has built up a large business in that time, his trade extending all through Buffalo and the adjoining counties. He carries a large and complete stock of the finest goods, and has gained his patrons through his honest dealings and strict attention to business. He served on the city council for one term, and has for a term of three years served on the school board. In 1905 he was elected city treasurer, and is now county treasurer having run a large number of votes ahead of his ticket. In politics he is a Democrat, and at the last city election was the only man on his ticket that was elected to office. He has been a member of the Masonic lodge since 1896. He has been master of blue lodge three years, high priest of chapter and eminent commander of Knights Templar.

Mr. Haase was married to Miss Mary L. Carson, May 21, 1888, who was a native of Iowa. He has six children—four boys and two girls: Gilbert, Jr., Hazel, Raymond, Donald, Howard and Marie. The family are active members of Baptist church.

JOHN E. WALKER.

John E. Walker, father of Walker Brothers & Company, owners of extensive ranching property in Cherry county, Nebraska, resides on section 33, township 35, range 35. Mr. Walker is a native of Ontario, Canada, born April 1, 1849. His father, Peter Walker, was a farmer, who came to the United States in 1854 with his wife, who was Martha Snell, a native of New York, and their family of children, when our subject was a child five years old. They settled in Clayton, Iowa, and there John E. was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education, and early learning the work of carrying on a farm in assisting his father.

In 1874 Mr. Walker came to Butler county, Nebraska, and purchased a tract of railroad land, where he went through grasshopper experiences, hail storms and drouths. He spent eight years in that locality, then becoming discouraged, left the place in the spring of 1885 and moved to Sheridan county, driving over the country. Butler county by team and covered wagon was a familiar mode of travel to him. This was driven from Iowa to Nebraska when located in

Butler county. He had been over this section of the country the year previous, and had selected a homestead six miles northeast of Gordon, in section 4, township 33, range 41, where he put up a sod house and began the work of establishing a home and farm. Here he had hard times at first, as the dry years followed and he met with heavy losses in the failure of crops, but he proved up on his homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and improved the place with good buildings. He came to his present ranch in 1900, having sold his holdings in Sheridan county, and here established a stock ranch, raising cattle and horses. This ranch contains eighteen quarter sections, all of which he and his family control, and he has one of the best equipped and most valuable ranches in this county.

Mr. Walker has always been active in promoting the best interests of the community in which he lives, and has done his share in the building up of its resources. He is a man of wide experience, and a first-class business man and successful stockman. He takes an active interest in politics, voting the Republican ticket, and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of the county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and chief patriarch of the encampment at Gordon; with his wife, he is also a member of the Rebekah degree.

While living in Iowa our subject was married to Miss Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Casper Miller, a native of Germany. The mother dying when she was an infant, she was reared in the village of Frankville, Iowa, where the father was a blacksmith. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have four children, named as follows: Charles L., Wayne W., Ese L. and Evva M., the last named being a teacher of Cherry county.

WILLIAM DARROW.

Energetic efforts and intelligence go hand in hand in the building up of one's fortune, regardless of the vocation to which they are applied. One of the well-developed and highly improved estates of Dawes county is that owned and operated by William Darrow, who resides in section 33, township 32 and range 51, and is the possessor of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of land. The comfortable circumstances of this gentleman have been brought about by the exercise of judicious labor and painstaking care, and every appointment of his place bespeaks thrift and good management.

Mr. Darrow is a native of Livingston county, New York, born in 1847. He is a son of William and Nancy (Weller) Darrow, and was reared

and educated on his parents' farm, attending the common schools while assisting his father in performing the usual hard work required on a farm and he grew up used to plenty of labor. His father and mother both died in New York state.

In the spring of 1880 our subject came west and located in Cedar county, Nebraska, and was among the pioneers in that section, where he remained for four years, then moved to Dawes county. He drove through the country with a team and wagon from Valentine, camping out at night under his wagon, and was two weeks on the road. He immediately located on a homestead in section 33, township 32, range 51, and now has the distinction of being the only homesteader still living on his original homestead, who settled here as early as 1884. He put up a log cabin the first summer and lived in that for a few years, constantly building up his place and adding improvements, buying adjoining lands when they were for sale cheap, and is now proprietor of a farm of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres. He is extensively engaged in stock raising, doing but little farming.

Mr. Darrow was married in 1871 to Miss Helen Porter, daughter of George and Nancy (Buckley) Porter, farmers near Stafford, Genesee county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Darrow are the parents of three children, who are named as follows: George, Lewis and Minnie.

Mr. Darrow is a man who has always been active in public affairs in his locality, and takes a prominent part in all matters which tend to the betterment of conditions for the people. He was elected county commissioner on the Republican ticket in 1903, and re-elected in 1906, now serving his second term. He has held various local offices, and is one of the leading old timers of the region, highly esteemed by his fellowmen.

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#### ISAAC ROBBINS.

Isaac Robbins, whose residence is located in section 34, township 31, range 49, Dawes county, Nebraska, where he owns a fine and well appointed ranch which he has reclaimed from the wild prairie, and where he is known as an earnest and hard working cultivator of the soil, and withal a most upright and honorable citizen, was born on a farm in Brown county, Ohio, in 1849. His father, Hiram Robbins, who was a farmer, was a native of the state of New York. His mother, Barbara (Stotlar) Robbins, who came of Dutch stock, was born in Pennsylvania.

Our subject was one of the pioneers of Illinois, the family having moved to that state in 1853. They settled on a farm in Mercer county.

Here he was reared and educated, assisting his father in the work of building up and improving their farm. In 1872 he left his home to seek his own fortunes, and for two years worked in Illinois.

In 1874, Mr. Robbins and Miss Mary Deborde were united in marriage. She was a daughter of George and Martha (Brush) Deborde. Her father was a farmer, of French descent, born in Kentucky. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Robbins was blessed with eleven children, nine of whom are living: Nellie, Hattie, Albert, Ora, Alvie, Oliver, Edyth, Edna and Lloyd. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Robbins moved to Hardin county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he remained for seven years, devoting his time and attention to his farm. It was in 1888 that he came to Dawes county, Nebraska, where he took a homestead in section 34, township 31, range 49. The first season here our subject lived in a log cabin. He put up a building of a story and a half, sixteen by twenty feet. During the drouth periods, which were so common in this section of our country, he made a living by working out. One season his crops were destroyed by hail, but his faith in western Nebraska remained unbroken, and the success which he has met goes to show that his judgment was not in error. He now has a ranch of three hundred and twenty acres of good land and has over two hundred and forty acres under cultivation. Altogether the family own one thousand two hundred and forty acres of land. He has erected a comfortable house, substantial barn and sheds, and has a good well and wind mill. The ranch is well fenced and cross fenced.

From the time Mr. Robbins first came to this locality he has watched with interest the growth and development of Dawes county, and has taken a lively interest in all local affairs. In politics he is an independent voter. Every responsibility resting upon him as a man and a citizen has been faithfully met, and he has a host of friends who wish him well. A family group portrait is presented on another page of this volume.

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#### ISRAEL R. BRAY.

In compiling a list of the successful and prosperous business men of Hay Springs, Nebraska, a foremost place is accorded the name of Israel R. Bray, who resides in a pleasant home in the above town, surrounded by many warm personal friends.

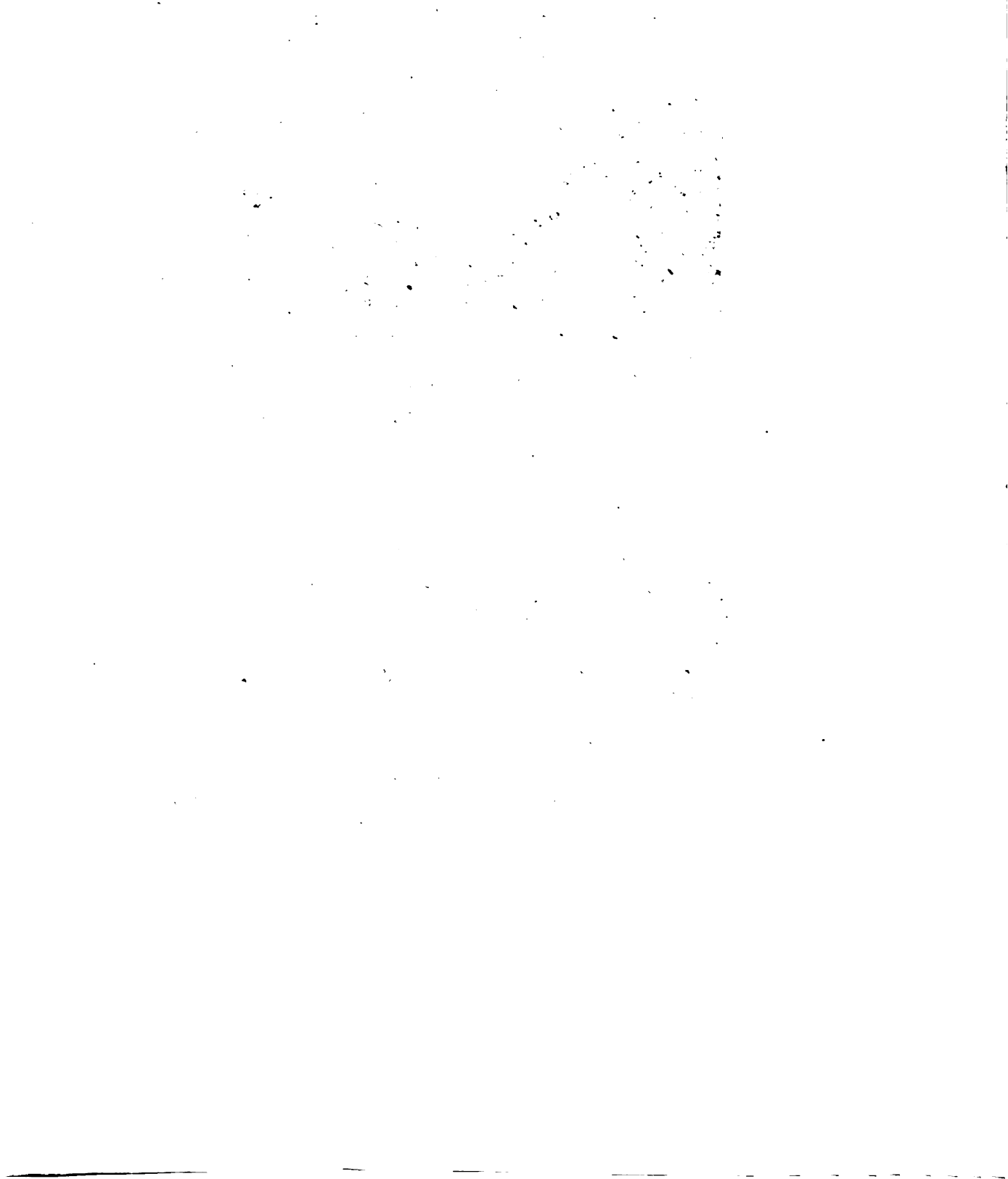
Mr. Bray was born in Green county, Wisconsin, in 1851. His father, Eliphalet Bray, was a farmer of American stock, with a family of ten



FAMILY GROUP,  
Showing the Children of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Robbins, of Dawes County, Nebraska.

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children, our subject being the eighth in order of birth. He grew up in his native state, and at the age of nineteen came to Nebraska, locating in Hamilton county, where he took up a pre-emption. He built a sod house, or rather shanty, and lived in this vicinity for the following fourteen years, going through all the rough pioneer experiences, suffering from the drouth periods, grasshopper raids, etc. His first teams were oxen, and he used them for a number of years in breaking up his farm and doing all his work.

In 1884 Mr. Bray first came to Sheridan county, settling on a homestead twelve miles south of Hay Springs. There he built a dugout and started with absolutely no capital, remaining until he had proved up on his claim. Here he went through another series of hardships and discouragements in the loss of several crops, and saw many hard times, but he persevered and eventually built up a good home and farm. He has six hundred and forty acres, with one hundred and ten of this under cultivation, and a good set of farm buildings, fences, etc. He moved to Hay Springs in 1902, and for a year and a half was in the hotel business, then established a hardware store, handling implements and also grain. He has an elevator with a capacity of fifteen thousand bushels. He has built up a good trade in his hardware store, occupying a large building and sheds, and has associated with him in this enterprise R. E. Montgomery.

In 1877 Mr. Bray was married to Miss Catherine Moore, daughter of Jacob Moore, an old settler in Nebraska, who came here from Iowa, in 1875. Two children were born to them, named Jessie and Nellie. In 1879 Mrs. Bray died. Mr. Bray married the second time in 1890, taking in wedlock Miss Elizabeth Parrish, and one child resulted from this union, namely: Blanche, aged sixteen years.

Mr. Bray is a Republican and an active party man. He was twice elected county commissioner, the first time in 1898, and the second time in 1901.

GUS. NORBERG.

Gus. Norberg, prominent as an old settler in Phelps county, Nebraska, is one of the enterprising business and professional men of his locality. He is well known throughout this section of the country as an attorney of note, and has done his full share in the upbuilding and development of the commercial and educational resources of this region.

Mr. Norberg was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1853. He is a son of E. U.

(Brita) Norberg, the former having been a native of Sweden who came to America and settled in Michigan in 1842, then to Henry county, Illinois, two years later, in company with the Bishop Hill colony of Swedes, who joined interests on the community plan and were obliged to disband in 1862, their success being impeded by bad management.

E. U. Norberg was a man of good education, a college graduate in Sweden, and he was appointed secretary of the colony and had charge of the grain department, strongly opposing the management which resulted in disaster to the members of the colony.

In 1883 our subject came to Nebraska and settled in Holdrege, where he opened a law office and began his practice in this locality. He has built up an enviable reputation as a shrewd and capable attorney and has the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. From 1887 to 1891 he held the office of county attorney, elected on the Republican ticket, and has always been an active public-spirited citizen of his community. Mr. Norberg was educated at Urbana University of Ohio. He was admitted to the bar at Chicago in 1883, and has practiced ever since.

Mr. Norberg is an active member of the Knights of Pythias, and was grand chancellor for that order in Nebraska during 1897.

JOHN M. DELATOUR.

John M. Delatour, one of the younger members of the business community of Deuel county, Nebraska, was born in Helena, Arkansas, on August 27, 1874. Mr. Delatour's father and mother, with their three children, came to Furnas county, Nebraska, in 1882, the former trailing cattle into Box Butte county in 1884, taking with him our subject, then a boy of ten, and both worked on round ups in western Nebraska, coming to Deuel county and afterwards settling on Blue Creek, in Cheyenne canyon, where the father and son, with some helpers, pre-empted a school section. In 1887 the whole family came to Deuel county, where they were among the first comers. The section was very sparsely settled, the country utterly wild and unimproved land, and all mail, provisions, etc., had to be hauled from North Platte, these being extremely long and tedious trips. Also, they afterwards were compelled to get their supplies from the Old Wolf Ferry, in Keith county, previously hauled there from Ogallala. Father and sons remained in Deuel county and carried on the ranch, gradually getting in the stock business, and succeeded in building up a fine pro-

and Illi- Mrs.

erty, our subject starting in for himself in 1898, situated on Blue creek, near the home ranch. He left his ranch in 1908 and removed to Oshkosh, Nebraska, where he engaged in the real estate and loan business in partnership with A. B. Wynes, under the firm name of Delatour & Wynes, and they are doing a nice trade in farm lands, etc., throughout their part of the state.

Mr. Delatour remembers distinctly the killing of practically the last buffalo by the Pine Ridge Agency Indians, which occurred at the Gusher Spring, which lies at the big bend of the Blue creek. Gusher Spring is a natural spring which throws a large volume of water, and is an old camping ground of the Indians. Our subject is a most interesting talker, and can recount many tales of interest regarding life here as he has found it, and of the early days. His father is still living on Blue creek, but the mother died in 1897 at Ogallala. Three brothers also reside in Deuel county, two of whom are ranch owners and the other now holding the office of county clerk of the county.

Mr. Delatour was married to Minnie B. Taylor, at Ash Hollow, Deuel county, on October 18, 1899. Mrs. Delatour is a native of Nebraska, a typical western woman and of most charming personality. They have two children, Lucy, born April 28, 1901, and John J., born July 3, 1907.

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#### VALENTINE WOHLHETER.

Among those who have braved the storms of adversity and hardships of the early western days and have passed through many hard and bitter experiences in building up a home for themselves in Nebraska, the gentleman whose name heads this review stands among the foremost. He is now comfortably situated and has made a success by virtue of honest endeavor and strict attention to his work. Mr. Wohlheter resides in section 12, township 33, range 55, Sioux county.

Valentine Wohlheter was born in the village of Rencenheim, Germany, in 1838. His father followed farming as a career, and he grew up in his native land, learning to do all kinds of hard farm work as a boy, living at home until he was nineteen years of age, then came to America, landing in New York city in July, 1857. He came west, locating in Illinois. During the second year of the Civil war he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Volunteer Infantry, was sent south with his regiment, and saw hard service in Tennessee, at Vicksburg and Memphis, was with General Sherman all the

way to Washington and took part in the grand review. At the close of the war he returned to Illinois and made that his home for about a year, then went to Elgin, Iowa, and engaged in the mercantile business, operating a general store for thirteen years. He did well and accumulated quite a little property, but decided to try farming, and bought a place and farmed up to 1888, when he left Iowa and came to Nebraska, taking up a homestead, filing on his claim in August of that year. His family joined him in the late fall, and he put up a dwelling, half dugout and board shanty, and they started their home in the wilderness. During the first few years he met with bad luck in the loss of crops, and so gradually worked into the cattle business, doing little farming. His sons worked at railroad construction and on the ranges and helped their parents all they could, and so they managed to get along fairly well, but in eight years only was able to raise two good crops.

Mr. Wohlheter settled on the place he now occupies in the fall of 1896. Here he has a ranch of one thousand six hundred acres, part of which is owned by his sons, and they have made it one of the best ranches in the region, having it all fenced and fitted with good buildings and improvements of every kind. Hat creek runs through the land, and a fifty-acre tract is under cultivation.

Mr. Wohlheter was married in 1868, to Miss Caroline Sorg, who was born in France, where her father was a prominent merchant, the family coming to the United States in 1848. The mother, whose maiden name was Fredericka Cochler, was also born and reared in France. The family settled in Iowa, where Mr. Sorg followed farming, also carried on a mercantile business at Elgin, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wohlheter are the parents of two children: Leonis, born in 1869, and Eugene, born in 1873, the latter now having charge of the home ranch and assisting his father in its operation. He is married and has two children, Vera and Helen.

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#### HENRY OLSON.

Henry Olson, prominent as an old settler of Deuel county, Nebraska, and a well-to-do farmer and business man, enjoying the highest esteem of his fellowmen, is an energetic man of integrity and progressiveness. He was one of the first settlers on the table land here, and has passed through all the old Nebraska times, helping in the development of its agricultural and commercial resources, deserving a foremost position in the ranks of Deuel county's public-spirited citizens.



HENRY OLSON.





Mr. Olson was born in Sweden and reared there, coming to the United States in 1881, settling at first in Saunders county, where he spent about four years, then came to Deuel county, landing in this region on the tenth of May, 1885. He at once filed on a homestead on section 29, township 14, range 44, proving up on a quarter section, later bought an additional quarter in the locality, now owning in all nearly four hundred acres, of which about one-half is devoted to farming, raising small grain, etc. He has a number of good horses, and has a well equipped farm, with every convenience, having two complete sets of farm buildings, also wells, fences, etc. When a youth in Sweden our subject learned the carpenters' and builders' trade, and since coming to this country has worked considerably in this line. He has erected many houses in the county, and helped to build some of the first dwellings in Chappell, when that town was started.

While still living in Sweden, Mr. Olson was married to Miss Bento North, their marriage occurring on March 5, 1880, and together they came to the new world to establish a home. To them were born two children, Alta, who married James Maffat, now living on section 30, township 14, range 44, their farm joining Mrs. Maffat's father's place. They have one child, Harold, a lad of two years. One son, Edward Wilhelm Olson, is living at home and assists his father in carrying on the farm. Mrs. Olson died on the homestead on January 27, 1893, and her death was a deep loss to her family and friends, who esteemed her immeasurably as a model wife and mother. Mr. Olson has seen much of the hard side of life on the western plains, but has worked faithfully and has reaped a fitting reward for his labors in the accumulation of a comfortable property, all of which has been gained through his honesty and individual efforts. A portrait of Mr. Olson will be found elsewhere in this work.

WILLIAM A. CONNELL.

One of the prominent and successful agriculturists of Keya Paha county who came to this section when the country was in the first stages of its development, and who has watched its growth from its early days, is to be found in the person of William A. Connell. He resides on section 28, township 33, range 17, where he has built up a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Connell was born in St. Louis, Missouri, August 23, 1851. He is a son of William F. Connell, one of the best known shorthand writers in that city, and a native of Washington City, born of Irish-American stock. The

our subject, Sarah Hopkins, was a Virginian, and he is the only child of his parents. He was raised and educated in Washington until nine years of age, then the family moved to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where he grew up and at the age of fifteen went to the pine woods and followed the lumbering business for nine years. While working at that he was severely injured and was obliged to quit the business, so took up farming, going to Shelby county, Iowa. There he took an eighty acre farm and operated it for four years, at which time he wandered to Texas and traveled all over that country, returning north, and settling in Nebraska, in 1883. He located in Keya Paha county, close to the Niobrara river, and began building up a farm. His first house was a sod shanty, and he lived in this for twelve years. He had a hard time in getting started, and suffered much loss during the dry years, and was hailed out several times. For seven years his crops were failures nearly all the time, and when not a total loss he only secured enough to enable him to make a scanty living. He stuck to his farm, however, and when the better times came, gradually made improvements and got into stock raising, which he found more profitable than farming at that time. He purchased his present home in 1905, comprising one thousand four hundred sixty-eight acres, part of which lies along the river, and on this he has put up good buildings on the "table" one mile from the river and has made it a very valuable property.

In the year after coming to Keya Paha county Mr. Connell was married to Miss Floretta F. Lowe, born in Middlebury, Wisconsin, a daughter of Henry and Ann (Adams) Lowe, the former a native of England and the latter of Prince Edward's Island. Her parents were old settlers in this county. From this marriage six children resulted, namely: Frank C., Jessie F., Robert Harrison, Lorena, Charles H. and William A. R., all of whom are living, and the family is highly esteemed in the community.

Mr. Connell is a Republican and was elected county commissioner in 1891, in 1903 and again in 1906, serving in that capacity at the present time. He is a member of the Royal Highlanders at Brocksburg.

GEORGE M. ANDERSON.

George M. Anderson, who was for three years the president of the Newport Mariaville Telephone Company, an institution organized and very largely built by him, is one of the most representative farmers of Kirkwood precinct, Rock county, Nebraska, and as a local

*three and one of the most representative farmers of Kirkwood precinct, Rock county, Nebraska, and as a local*

and faithful worker in the interests of the Democratic party has many friends over the state.

Mr. Anderson was born on a farm in Athens county, Ohio, January 29, 1859, and was reared to an agricultural life, to which his parents, Humphrey and Frances (Brown) Anderson, were also born and bred. Of the children born to his parents, he is the eldest of three who are now living. He has three half brothers. Humphrey Anderson, the father, died September 1, 1906, at his home in Missouri. When George M. Anderson had reached the age of twenty-three years he left his Ohio home and was engaged in farming for about four years in Guthrie county, Iowa, where considerable success attended his efforts. He was married in Ohio, January 5, 1881, to Miss Lydia Daniels, whose parents were English born and bred. Eight children have come to bless this union: Herbert, Carl and Harl, twins; Roscoe, Eugene, Arthur, Chester and Marcus. The mother died October 7, 1907, leaving the family disconsolate.

In 1886 the Andersons moved still farther to the west, and journeyed from their Iowa home to a new location in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, being twenty days on the way, and bringing with them seven head of cattle. Making a pre-emption settlement on what seemed a desirable location, they put up a sod house, in which they were at home for the ensuing four years. In 1891 Mr. Anderson was attracted by the rush to South Dakota, and thought he might do well there as it seemed to promise relief from some of the troubles that attended him in Keya Paha county. Accordingly he went to Gregory county, South Dakota, where he remained until 1895, but the loss of three successive crops by repeated drouths proved too much for his endurance, and he returned to this state, having hardly more with which to start anew than his unbroken courage and good strong arms. After making his land entries, and building a sod house, he found himself with less than ten dollars, and winter rapidly advancing. That fall he worked for fifty cents a day and was glad to secure employment even at that low wage. The passing of the years has worked him well, and today he is reckoned among the most solid and substantial citizens of the county. In 1895 he bought his present farm, and today is the proprietor of a landed estate consisting of five hundred and sixty acres, on which he has erected good buildings and has secured an ample supply of farm machinery. A view of the residence with its accompanying buildings is to be found on another page. He is working somewhat from an exclusive grain farming to stock raising as well, and is seeking to develop diversified interests, believing the farmer best off who can turn in the most directions to

meet the fluctuations of a varying market. He has served his precinct as assessor for four years; is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Newport and the Ancient Order of United Woodmen of Mariaville, in which he is financier and his management of the funds of the order is highly praised by his brother workmen.

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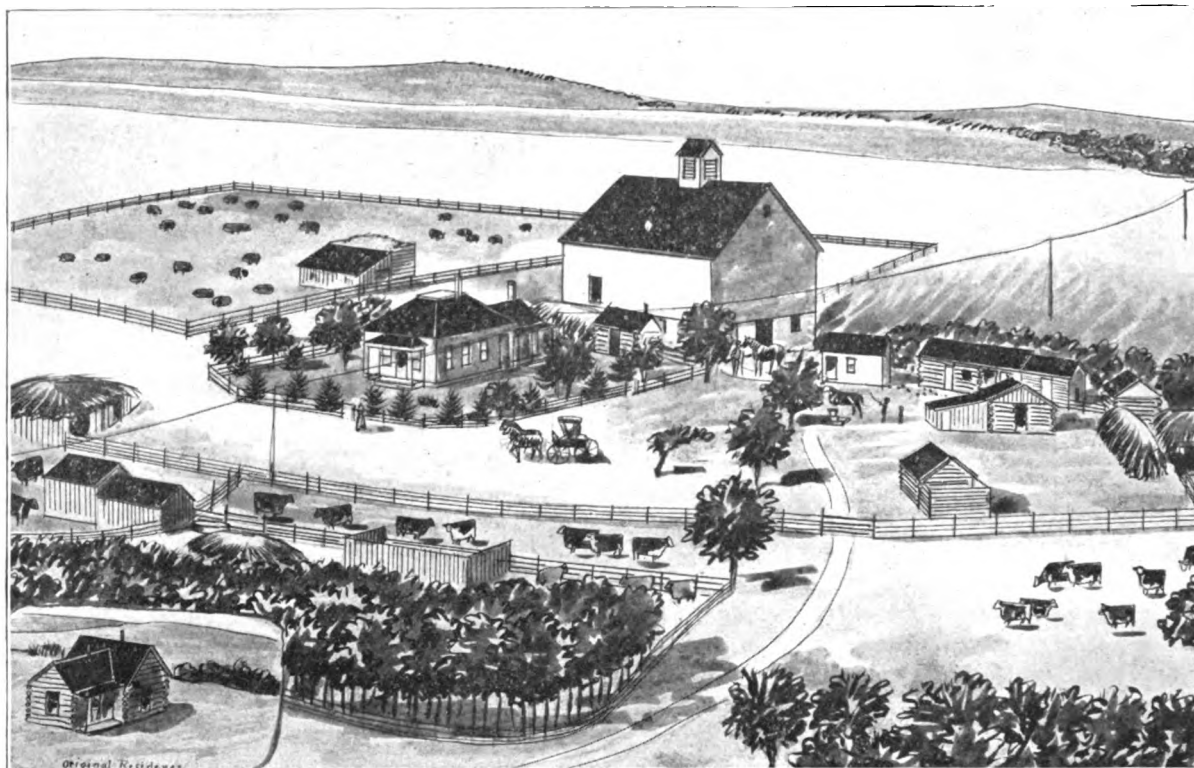
#### THEODORE P. GREEN.

Among the leading citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska, the gentleman herein named occupies a prominent place. Mr. Green resides in section 27, township 32, range 39, where he has a fine farm and pleasant home.

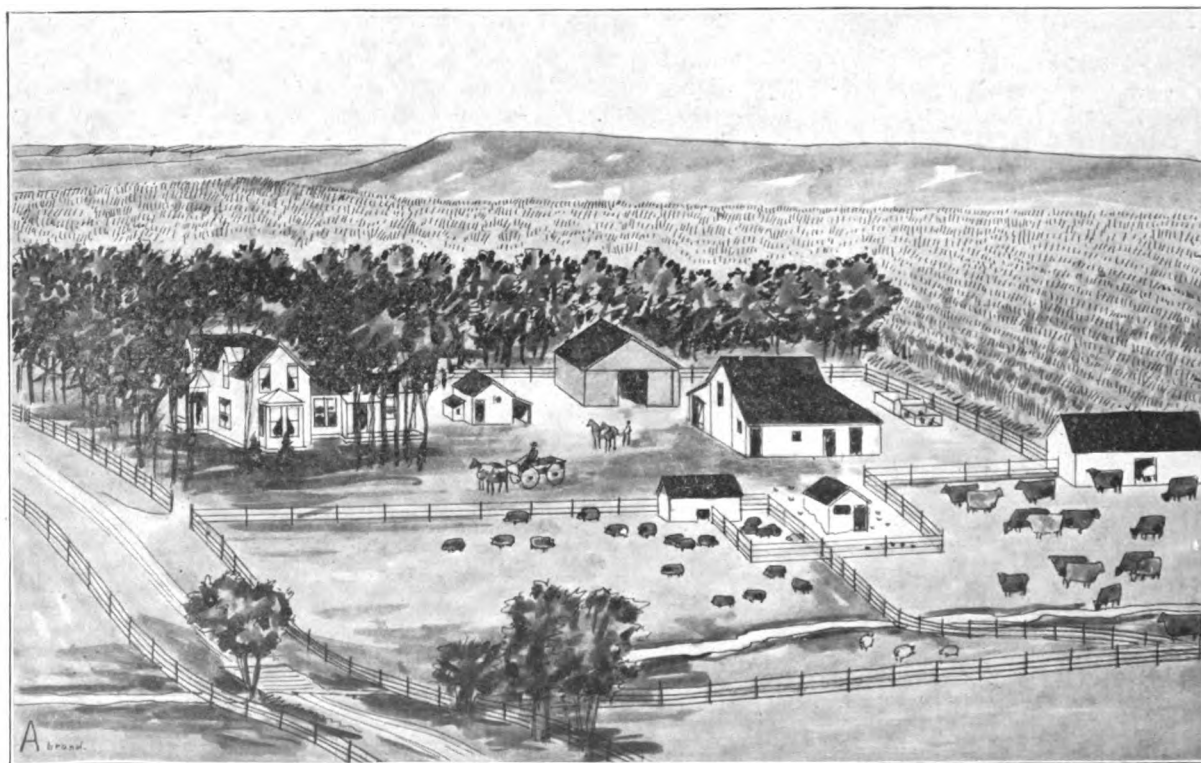
Mr. Green was born in Lincoln county, Ohio, May 29, 1846. His father, George W. Green, was a Virginian, a farmer by occupation, and in 1851 moved to Champaign county, Illinois, where he lived for twelve years with his family, consisting of his wife and eight children, of whom our subject is the seventh in order of birth. There he was reared and educated, coming to Nebraska with his parents in 1864, where they took up a homestead in Sarpy, about twenty-five miles southwest of Omaha. When Theodore was eighteen years of age he started out for himself, following farm work part of the time and learned blacksmithing at St. Joseph, later taking up the machinists' and finally the carpenters' trade. In 1870 he rented land and opened a farm for himself in Sarpy county, remaining on it for six years, then went to California, working on the Petrie ranch for five years. At the end of that time he returned to Sarpy county, again taking a farm, working as a carpenter part of the time, and in 1885 moved to Cherry county, locating eight miles east of Gordon. He lived on that place for two years and a half, then moved to another place two miles east of that place, where he remained for a short time. Four years were spent in Douglas county and in Omaha and then he returned to this locality, settling on his second homestead, but he could not make a living during the dry years, so changed his filing for land situated on Rice creek. He later sold that and bought land near, and in 1904 took up his present place of six hundred and forty acres, one-fourth of which is deeded land. This is partly farming land, with plenty of grazing and hay land. He cuts about fifty tons of hay each season, and engages principally in farming, although he keeps a large bunch of horses.

Mr. Green was married February 5, 1887, to Miss Cynthia Crabtree, born in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1867. She is a daughter of John M. Crabtree, who served as lieutenant in the





RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM SIGEA.  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE M. ANDERSON,  
Rock County, Nebraska.

Black Hawk war. He married Nancy M. King. Mr. and Mrs. Green have a family of five children, who are named as follows: Cora L., now Mrs. Frank Sweet; Melvin E., Della L., Leonard L., and Mary Alice, all born and reared in Nebraska.

Politically, Mr. Green is an independent voter, with a leaning toward the Bryan party in national affairs. He is also prominent in educational matters in his locality, and has been school director since coming to Nebraska.

G. B. EDMUND ESTLER.

The pen of the writer lingers lovingly over the story of the bright and capable young men who have come to this country from foreign lands with scarcely the endowment of the speech of its people, and by grim determination and sheer pluck have hammered out for themselves a fair name and goodly possessions in the course of a few years. Their only possessions were a strong right arm and an honest heart, and over and over again, ten thousand times, is the story told in the lives of the German settler of the western states.

G. B. Edmund Estler, a prosperous and successful farmer of Sioux county, Nebraska, presents in his own career an excellent example of this story. He was born in Dresden, Saxony, Germany, in 1876. His father was a piano-maker in his native land. He married Louisa Wolters, born and raised in the same locality with him in Saxony. The couple came to the United States with their little family in 1878, settling in Kansas, where they were among the pioneers. Our subject spent his boyhood in that state, and remained there until he was nine years of age, then went to New York city, where he began working in a grocery store as a clerk and errand boy, following that occupation up to 1898, then again struck out for the west, this time locating in Sioux county, taking up his present farm as a homestead. He filed on this land March 10th, of that year, and was the seventh settler to take up a claim in that vicinity. He had very little start his farm with, and after his arrival bought two horses and a cow. During the first eight years he had a hard time to get along, making but little more than a bare living. He had several crop failures caused by drouths, and was also haled out in 1900, but stuck to the place through all the hard years, and eventually succeeded in establishing a home and building up a good farm. The place is situated on section 1, township 31, range 55, and his residence is in section 1, townshi

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55. His ranch now contains three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is fenced, and he has sixty acres under cultivation. He has erected good buildings, drilled deep wells and has wind-mills with supply tanks which provide plenty of good water for all purposes on the farm. His home and ranch is one of the well-kept and most pleasant places to be found in his locality, every appointment showing good management and painstaking care in its operation. In 1903 he had the misfortune to be burned out, losing a barn filled with feed, and other property to the amount of \$300.

Mr. Estler is a public-spirited citizen and active in local affairs, having served as road overseer for two terms. In politics, he is non-partisan.

WILLIAM SIGEA.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentlemen above named has acquired a well developed farm, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming. He is of a progressive nature, and has had a wide experience and every detail of the work on his farm is carefully looked after and personally supervised by him. He resides in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where he is highly respected as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Sigea is a native of Hillsdale, Michigan, born July 29, 1859. His father was a baker by trade, who was born in Germany and came to America about the time of our Civil war. He settled in Hillsdale with his wife, who was Mary Stroub, also a native of the fatherland. Mr. Sigea was killed by Indians near Denver, in 1861, while freighting on the plains. The mother of our subject died when he was fifteen years old, and he lived with his stepfather until he reached the age of twenty-two, the family having moved to Iowa, locating near Council Bluffs. Seeing that his stepfather did not intend to give him an equal share as promised he left home and in 1881 went to Minnesota and engaged in the livery business at Fergus Falls, continuing in this for three years, then moved to Pottawattamie county, Iowa, where he spent two years, following farming as an occupation. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and settled in Keya Paha county. He shipped his belongings to Bassett, bringing a few farm tools with him, and went to work on a farm, putting up a house built of rough logs, topped with a dirt roof. Here the family went through all the hardships of a pioneer life, losing two through the drouths, and often becoming heartened, but he stuck to his farm, grad

adding to his possessions, and improving the place with a comfortable house, fitted up with all modern conveniences, and a fine set of farm buildings. He is the owner of nine hundred and sixty acres of deeded land and has built up a good home and valuable estate. In June, 1907, Mr. Sigea built one of the largest and finest barns in Keya Paha county, with concrete basement stables, an ornament to any farm. The dwelling, with its outbuildings, furnishes one of the illustrations of this work.

Mr. Sigea was married near Crescent, Nebraska, April 24, 1884, to Miss Annette B. Paris, whose father, a native of France, was a miller and shoemaker by trade, who settled near Crescent in 1876, where he lived at the time of his death, February 7, 1887; the mother, Eliza Selzer, was of German blood, and is now residing in Keya Paha county. Mr. and Mrs. Sigea have had four children: Millie A., born in Iowa and wife of Clarence A. Lambert, living on an adjoining ranch; August, Clarence and Clinton, the three younger children being born where they now live.

In political sentiments Mr. Sigea is a Democrat, and he affiliates with the Ancient Order of United Woodmen fraternity at Carnes.

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#### BEN LITZ.

Among the old settlers in Nebraska who braved the hardships and privations of a pioneer life in order to carve out a name and fortune to bestow upon their posterity, the gentlemen above named occupies a foremost place. He has succeeded in building up a comfortable competence, and is highly esteemed by his fellowmen.

Mr. Litz is a native of Monroe county, Indiana, born on a farm February 28, 1867, the third member in a family of seven children, all boys. He remained at home until he reached the age of seventeen years, when he took upon himself the burden of his support. The father died in the early seventies; the family settled in Lucas county, Iowa, in 1884, but only remained there for two years. In the fall of 1885 Ben Litz came to Nebraska and took a homestead in section 28, township 30, range 19, in Rock county, and "batched it" for a short time. He at once put up a sod house, and lived in that for the following five years. When he first came here he had very little to start with. His mother moved here with him, but she soon after died, leaving him alone. He remained on that place and proved up, and afterwards sold his holdings there, settling in section 14, his present home, where he has had bountiful crops and now has a

farm of four hundred and eighty acres, improved with a neat cottage residence, a good set of farm buildings, and sufficient fences. He is engaged principally in stock raising and dairying, finding a profitable enterprise in shipping cream to the cities east. His farm is worth, at a conservative estimate, \$15,000, but he is well satisfied with his home and does not care to sell. The place has increased in value wonderfully since he first came here, as at that time it could have been bought for \$1,000. He has planted a fine grove of trees, and everything on the whole farm bears evidence of good care and good management in its operation.

In the fall of 1892 Mr. Litz was married to Miss Kate Likins, whose parents settled in Rock county prior to the completion of the railroad to the region; the family experienced all the pioneer privations that befell the early settlers in this section of the country. Her father, Samuel Likins, endured many hardships to establish a home for his family in the west. Shortly after coming, their horses were all stolen by the Indians, necessitating the father's walking a hundred and fifty miles to Niobrara City for the family's supply of flour, which he carried on his shoulders that long and weary way. This is but a sample of the fortitude and endurance of the pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. Litz have a family of three children, namely: Lena, Leonard and Nettie. In politics our subject is a Democrat and is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Bassett.

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#### THOMAS W. HULL.

Thomas W. Hull, residing in Grant, Nebraska, is one of the well known "old-timers" of Perkins county, and has been a potent factor in the development of the agricultural resources of that locality. He is now engaged in the real estate business and is a leading citizen in commercial and political affairs in his town.

Mr. Hull was born in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1856. His parents were of American stock, his father being a carpenter by trade and a prominent pioneer of Perkins county, settling there in 1885. He was among the first homesteaders in the section, later served as county judge for two terms, and at his death, which occurred in 1906, there was a feeling among the residents of his community that they had lost one of the foremost pioneers. Our subject grew up in Illinois, assisting his father in carrying on the farm, and attended the common schools. At the age of twenty-five years he started out for himself. He came to eastern Nebraska, and farmed there for about four years, then moved



to what is now Perkins county, then known as Keith county. He settled on a claim seven miles south of Grant, and there followed stock raising, farming, and during the first years worked at whatever he could get to do to make a living and make money to improve his homestead. He lived in a sod house for several years, and followed a typical frontier life. In the fall of 1891 he was elected sheriff of the county and was re-elected at the expiration of his term, and during that time moved to Grant, but later returned to the ranch and made that his home up to 1906, then went back to town to live. He succeeded in acquiring six hundred acres, then sold his holdings, after improving it in fine shape. In the real estate business he has built up a good patronage, handling land all over the county, and promoting the public good in every way possible.

Mr. Hull married Miss Martha E. Hannah, a native of Illinois, in 1881. They have one son, Roy, who is now grown up and married, and is in business at Grant, Nebraska. Politically Mr. Hull is an Independent.

GEORGE W. SNIDER.

The subject of this sketch, George W. Snider, is regarded as one of the most successful of the old settlers. He was born in Clark county, Illinois, on a farm near the town of Westfield, in 1846. His father, David Snider, was a native of New Albany, Indiana, and was of American nationality. His mother, Sophia Evinger, was born in Indiana and her people were Germans. Mr. Snider's father and mother both died in Illinois. He lived on the farm in Clark county for many years, at times working out for the neighboring farmers when a boy, dropping corn in the old fashioned way and getting twenty-five cents for planting ten acres. When he grew older he was employed to plant thirty acres and was paid one dollar and fifty cents for the work. This was regarded as very good pay at that time. He often carried eggs to town, selling them for three cents a dozen. In those days the people were obliged to pay one dollar and twenty cents per gallon for kerosene. Mr. Snider took charge of the home farm when he was fourteen years old and managed it as successful as a man of mature years. Two of his older brothers went to the war in 1861. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years old, leaving it at that time to go into the grocery business at Westfield, Illinois, his home town, with W. A. Snider. They conducted this business for eight years, all of that time he

being a deputy  
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Westfield, Illinois, his home town, with  
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postmaster. In 1876 he went to Charleston, Illinois, and, taking H. E. Bradley, his brother-in-law, for a partner, again opened a grocery store in that city. He conducted this business for ten years, making a success of this as he had with the other store in Westfield.

In 1888 he left Charleston for Terre Haute, Indiana, at which place he engaged in the furniture business, which he conducted for several months. After selling this business he went to Madrid, Nebraska, where, in February, 1889, he became a partner and cashier of the Bank of Madrid, which position he held from 1889 to 1896, giving great satisfaction to the officers and stockholders of the bank, which was one of the strong financial institutions of Perkins county. He was also prominent in politics while in Madrid, holding the positions of notary public and village treasurer. He always voted with the Republican party and at one time he was instrumental in carrying an election for his party, which would otherwise have been defeated. He was one of the men who foresaw the great possibilities of the region and was actively connected with a county fair association which did much to build up the town of Madrid, where he held an interest in a creamery and flouring mill in 1889.

He later became interested in real estate and helped to lay out the town of Wauneta, in Chase county, Nebraska, in 1888, and moved to that town in 1900, engaging in the stock business. He has platted an addition to West Wauneta and done much to improve the town. This town has electric lights and, through the efforts of Mr. Snider and other enterprising citizens of the town, will soon have an up-to-date water plant installed, as the best water power in Nebraska is on the Frenchman river within the town. He also sold farm machinery and buggies. He remained in this town for about eighteen months, leaving it for Denver, Colorado, where he stayed for a short time and then went to Glenwood Springs. He remained here about a year in the hope of benefiting his wife, who was in poor health.

In 1902 he came to Ogallala and, with Mrs. Jennie Forsythe, a sister-in-law, and Malcolm McClain, he established the first state bank in the county. Mr. Snider was president of this institution for several years, selling his interest in 1905. He then went to California for recreation and travel, remaining there for about a year. He established and was interested in a grocery business at Los Angeles, California, which is now owned by a nephew. In 1906 he returned to Ogallala, becoming interested in the real and insurance business in which he was successful. He is also interested in the

and chattel loan business, which, with his farms, has occupied all his time.

Mr. Snider has taken a leading part in the politics of his county and state and is regarded as one of the most progressive citizens of the county, in the development of which he has taken so prominent a part. He has held several offices of trust and has always given entire satisfaction to those whom he has served. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is one of the trustees, also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and has served as a notary public since 1889. During the panic of 1893 our subject's bank and the banks of two of his competitors were the only ones that kept their doors open in that part of the country. After the panic he was instrumental in helping to secure aid to Perkins county's poor people.

On March 12, 1874, Mr. Snider married Dora M. Fisher, daughter of W. W. Fisher, of Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Fisher was a prominent business man of Charleston. In 1876 our subject moved to Charleston and March 12, 1876, a son named Harry E. was born to Mr. and Mrs. Snider and on March 1, 1879, the little one was called to join the angels above. Mr. and Mrs. Snider were father and mother to a nephew of Mrs. Snyder, George W. Kennedy. They took him to their home when he was nine years old and sent him to school until he was a young man and then set him up in business. He is post master and owns a large store at Colegrove, California, near Los Angeles.

In 1900 Mrs. Forsythe, a sister of Mrs. Snider, was left a widow with a little girl one year old. Mr. and Mrs. Snider took them to live with them and Mr. Snider has looked after their interests ever since, and has been a father to little "Marie", who thinks as much of him as if he was her own father. They all have a beautiful home at Ogallala, where our subject spends his time looking after his farms of five hundred acres, loaning money and selling his lots at Wauneta; does odd jobs in insurance and real estate business, is enjoying good health and takes life as easy as he can.

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#### OSCAR STARR.

Oscar Starr, one of the old-time settlers in western Nebraska, resides on his well-improved farm in section 4, township 33, range 35, Cherry county. He has always done his full share in the upbuilding of the community in which he lives, and is highly esteemed as a man of sterling character and strict integrity.

Mr. Starr was born in Vernon county, Wis-

consin, June 4, 1866. His father, Comfort Starr, was a farmer by occupation, and one of the pioneers of eastern Nebraska. He drove in this state with a team and covered wagon containing his household goods, in 1876, locating in Butler county, where his death occurred in the fall of 1878. Our subject settled in Cherry county in 1887 and remained there up to the early spring of 1908, when he moved to Mt. Vernon, Washington. He had nothing to start with, and took up a homestead on Niobrara river, his first building being a log shack. He got a team of bulls and began to break up his farm, batching it for the first two years. He gradually built up his place and proved up on it, and then moved down on the river bank. After getting started he added to his acreage, and now has a ranch of six hundred and eighty acres, one hundred of which is cultivated. He has good buildings, plenty of water, and has made a fine place of it. He has seen many hard times, and often became discouraged during the drouth periods and other failures of crops.

Mr. Starr was married in 1890 to Miss Hattie Maybee, daughter of William Maybee, a pioneer in Holt and Cherry counties. Mr. and Mrs. Starr have a family of seven children, named as follows: William, May, Lovie, Roy, Laura, Murray and Cora.

Politically Mr. Starr is a staunch Republican, and has held numerous local offices, and was serving as justice of the peace at the time of his removal to the coast. He is always active in affairs of interest to his community, and lends his time and influence to the betterment of home conditions. Mr. Starr has always been an enthusiastic huntsman, and has been all over this part of the country and the reservations in South Dakota, camping out for weeks at a time, and has brought down some fine specimens of game of all kinds.

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#### LOUIS N. HOLLINGSWORTH.

Louis N. Hollingsworth, a leading old settler of Buffalo county, who has gained an enviable reputation as a progressive agriculturist and worthy citizen, resides on his fine farm on section 8, in Center township, where he has a pleasant home. He has been a resident of this locality for the past twenty years, and is closely identified with the history of the development and growth of the agricultural and commercial interests of this region.

Mr. Hollingsworth is a native of Iowa, where he was born in 1857. He was raised there, on a farm, and spent about all his life in Iowa, until 1887. In 1887 he came to Buffalo county from Green county, Iowa, and here purchased the



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FRANK P. MORAN AND FAMILY.

eighty-acre farm he now lives on, and has added to this farm other lands adjoining until he now owns two hundred and forty acres. During the first years he met with much discouragement in the failure of crops, but since 1895 he has raised splendid crops, his wheat averaging twenty bushels per acre, and for the last four years thirty bushels, one piece containing ten acres going as high as forty bushels per acre. This Wood river bottom land cannot be beaten any place; there is no sand, and all is good rich soil and no wash-out. In addition to his farming operations Mr. Hollingsworth feeds a good many cattle, during the winter running twenty-five head of fine Hereford milch cows. He has a fine large barn with ample stable room for his horses and cattle. Our subject considers that the splendid alfalfa produced here, with corn and all kinds of grain, makes Buffalo county one of the best farming sections to be found. He is one of the best and most careful farmers in the county, and his opinion is of weight in giving a statement of this kind. Mr. Hollingsworth and family occupy a fine residence, which is situated on a rise of ground from which is obtained a commanding view of the Wood River valley for miles east and west, the town of Kearney, a distance of seven miles, being plainly visible.

Mr. Hollingsworth was united in marriage in 1882 to Miss Jane Downs, who was raised in Madison county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth the following children have been born: Verlie, Louie, Walter, Frank, Ethel and Roy. They are graduates of the Kearney high school, and have been of great assistance to their parents in the farm and domestic work. Louie is now teaching; Roy is in high school, and Frank and Ethel are attending the State Normal.

JOHN ANDERSON.

John Anderson, residing on section 13 on the banks of Bordeaux creek, is well-known to all in this part of Dawes county as a man of sterling character and strict integrity in word and deed, who has aided in the development of his community from the time of his settling here, in 1891, and he is one of the public-spirited citizens of his precinct. Mr. Anderson has built up a good farm and has a pleasant and comfortable home.

Our subject is a native of the village of Schleswig, Germany, born in 1851. His father was a laborer all his life, working out in his native province at whatever he could find to do, and was able to support his family in fairly good shape, giving his children an opportunity to at-

tend the school and each learn a trade, as is the universal custom in that country. Our subject learned the stone cutter's trade and worked at that for four years in his native land. In 1883 he came to America, and after landing in New York city, came directly west to Bryant, Iowa. He had been married in Germany and brought his wife with him. After locating in Iowa he went to work for the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company as a section hand, and after a couple of years was promoted to the position of foreman, taking charge of Sec. No. 76 at Bordeaux Station, and he continued at railroad work for several years. In 1891 he filed on a homestead in section 13, township 32, range 47, built a house of logs and started a farm. He had not much to begin with, but owned a cow and calf and two horses, and managed to break up a little ground and put in a crop. The first years he had hard times in getting along, being put back considerable by the drouths, although he never had but one entire failure, while others in his vicinity lost everything. He was often able to when a fair crop when his nearest neighbors' crops were utterly ruined, so he gradually succeeded in building up his farm, and added more land to his first quarter, until he now owns one thousand five hundred acres altogether, all of which he has fenced, and one hundred and twenty acres of it under cultivation. He has erected a good house and commodious barns, and keeps everything about the place in first-class order, showing good management and thrift at every turn.

Mr. Anderson's wife was, prior to her marriage, Katherine Peterson, born and reared in Germany, where he married her in 1879, and they have one living child, Harvey Henry, aged twenty-seven years. They have lost three children, Hartwig, Jennie and a baby, not named.

Mr. Anderson takes an active part in local affairs of his community, and has done his share in building up the schools and bettering conditions generally in his locality. He has been school treasurer for fifteen years, and also school director for one year. Politically he is a Democrat, but votes an Independent ticket.

FRANK P. MORAN.

In giving to the public the life history of the gentleman above mentioned we are submitting the name of one of the oldest settlers of Grant county, Nebraska. He came to that region when it was in the first stages of development, and in no small degree aided in its up-building, giving liberally of his personal help and promoting its growth along agricultural, ranching and stock-raising lines.

and commercial lines. Mr. Moran resides in section 35, township 22, range 36, where he is owner of a pleasant home and valuable estate.

Frank P. Moran was born in Marion county, West Virginia, on July 9, 1852. His father, Robert, was a colonel in the Civil war, and had a brilliant record as a soldier. Robert Moran, the father, was the owner of a large tannery in Marion county, West Virginia, and a prominent man in his community. He married Sarah Pride, also a native of that state.

Our subject was reared and educated in his native county, spending most of his boyhood years on the home farm. At the age of twenty-one he left his parents' home and worked out for five years near home, and in 1879 came west to Nebraska, landing at Columbus, Platte county, on February 18th of that year. He located on his father's ranch and started in the cattle business, also begun farming, living on the ranch for eight years, and did exceedingly well. He was married in Platte county, in 1884, to Mary A. Snyder. Her father, C. J. Snyder, was an old settler in that vicinity and one of the first homesteaders there.

In 1886 Mr. Moran came with his family to Grant county, arriving here in the spring of the year. He filed on a homestead in section 34, township 22, range 36, and also took up a tree claim adjoining, all located eighteen miles south of Whitman. In coming to that region in Grant county he teamed all the way from Platte county, Nebraska, his nearest postoffice after settling here being North Platte, a distance of eighty miles. He did his trading at North Platte for quite awhile.

His first buildings were of sod, and he began ranching, having fair success, and was able to improve his place to some extent. He planted many trees during the early years, and now has one of the finest groves in his county, his residence being surrounded by a fine grove, making it one of the most sightly places in the vicinity. Mr. Moran's ranch consists of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, all deeded land, and on the place is a valley two miles in length and half a mile wide, making the finest pasture imaginable for his stock.

Mr. Moran had a family of twelve children, as follows: Alice G., born in 1884, Leslie R., 1888, Sarah E., 1890, Vera L., 1891, Robert P., 1892, Milford G., 1897, W. J. Bryan, 1899, Dorothy B., 1901, Victor M., 1904, and Vernon D., 1906. They are a very bright and intelligent group, and form one of the most happy family circles to be found in many days' travel. Two children, Clarence and Otho, are dead. A picture of Mr. Moran and family will be found on another page.

Our subject is active in local political affairs, also takes a leading part in school matters, and has held office in his township for many years.

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#### JAMES S. SCOFIELD.

James S. Scofield, numbered among the pioneers of Dawes county, Nebraska, has built up a fine farm and ranch in section 14, township 31, range 51, surrounded by the comforts of life and esteemed by his associates. His father located there in the early days, and by thrift and good management became owner of well cultivated tracts of land, and in whom the citizens found worthy support.

Mr. Scofield is a native of Harrison county, Iowa, born in 1868. His father, Eugene Scofield, was born in New York state, of old American stock, and was a pioneer in Dawes county, coming here in 1885 and settling on the farm our subject now owns, located in section 14. The family came here from Iowa, where they lived for several years, the father having run a milling business there. After arriving here they put up a log cabin, finishing it with a sod roof and dirt floor, and went through all the pioneer experiences. They first engaged in the cattle business and continued in that almost exclusively up to 1893, and since then have run a sheep ranch. The ranch comprises one thousand eight hundred acres, and this is kept up in the best possible shape, improved with good buildings, fences, etc. The father died here September 13, 1891, aged fifty-three years.

Our subject was united in marriage in 1898 to Miss Minnie Darrow, daughter of William and Helen Darrow, who came to this county as a pioneer and have one of the fine estates in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Scofield are the parents of three children, namely: Theron, Esther and Myrtle, the latter now deceased.

Mr. Scofield has always taken a commendable interest in local public affairs, and has aided materially in the development and growth of the commercial and educational conditions here. He has never sought public preferment, and is deservedly held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen.

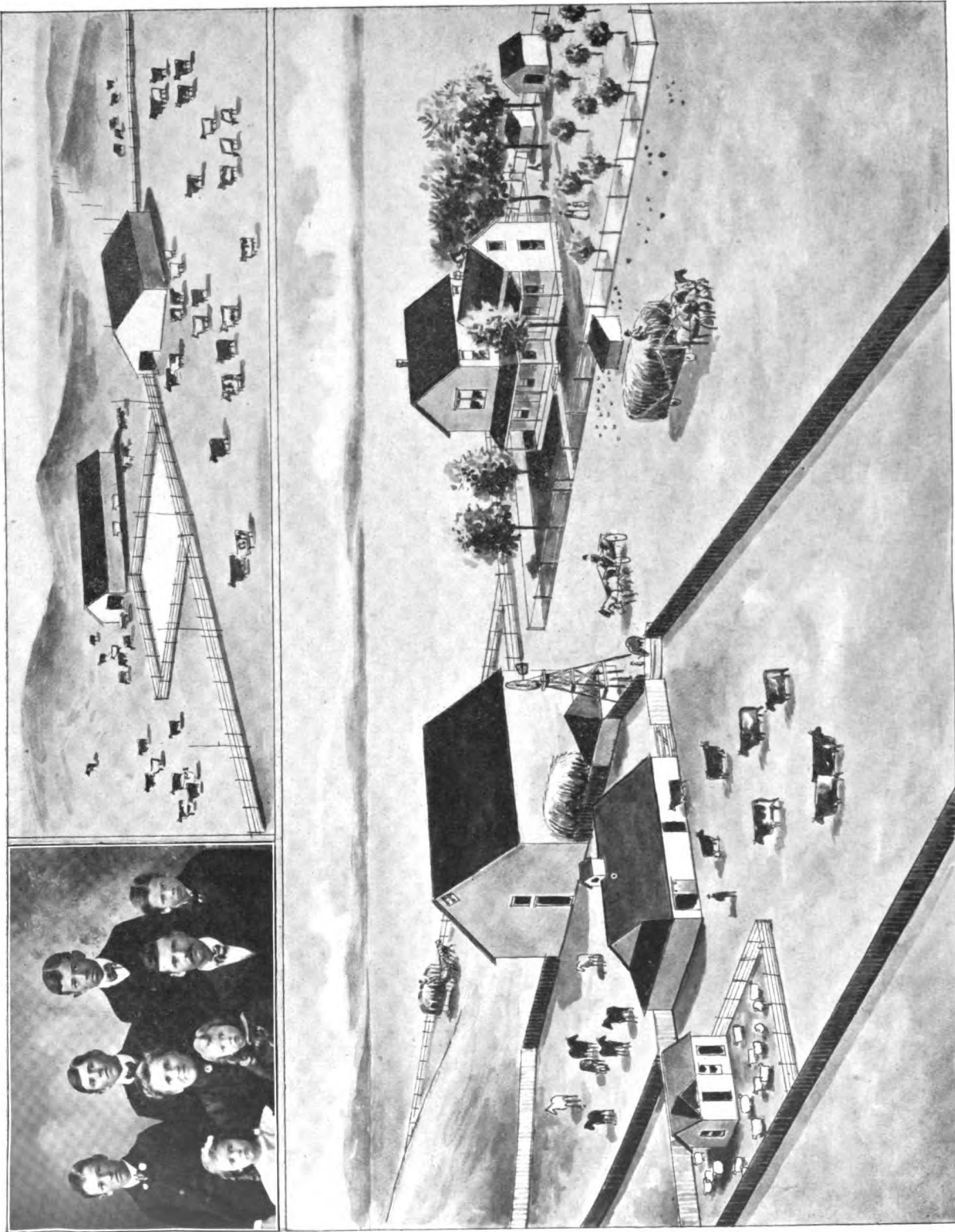
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#### DR. J. A. ANDREWS.

Dr. J. A. Andrews, a leading physician of Holdrege, Phelps county, Nebraska, located here in 1903, and has built up a large practice. He has just built a large hospital equipped with all surgical, therapeutical and medical improvements







FAMILY GROUP AND RESIDENCE OF J. P. KREYCIK,  
Section 32, Township 32, Range 26, Cherry County, Nebraska.

## COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY, RE

and appliances, which is one of the most complete of its kind in the west. The building is of brick, twenty-five by eighty-six feet in size, two-story and basement, and is of beautiful architectural design, and a credit to the city. Dr. Andrews has his residence in the building, and the best of trained nurses are constantly in attendance. This is a great boon to Holdrege and western Nebraska, as it is the only up-to-date hospital in this section.

Before locating in Holdrege Dr. Andrews had an office at Eustis, Nebraska, where for ten years he had a large practice, which extended for seventy-five miles around the country. He is well known throughout the entire state as an able surgeon and general practitioner, and also an active citizen along all lines of progress. He is of attractive personality, strong physique, outspoken and frank, with strong social tendencies, and is greatly esteemed by all. As a member of the state legislature in 1901, he was recognized as an able member of that body. He is an effective friend, and a foe to be reckoned with.

Dr. J. A. Andrews is a native of Iowa. He graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1893, and for a time practiced in that city. His prior education was at Simpson College, Iowa. His brother, Hon. W. E. Andrews, is now auditor for the United States treasury at Washington, D. C., having been a member of Congress from this district for one term, and was the first Republican elected after the Populist victories in Nebraska. He was previously a professor in the Hastings College, at Hastings, Nebraska, then private secretary for Governor Crounce, of Nebraska.

Dr. Andrews is a member of the State Medical Society and was first vice-president of that body for one term. He is also a member of the American Medical Association, the Missouri Valley and the Republican Valley Medical Associations, also of the Highline Medical Association. He is a Mason, also an Odd Fellow and a Woodman. In politics he is an ardent Republican.

In 1901 Dr. Andrews was united in marriage to Miss Lulah Trott, of Kearney, Nebraska.

### JOSEPH P. KREYCIK.

Joseph P. Kreycik, who is classed among the intelligent and progressive ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska, is a resident of section 32, township 32, range 26, where his new residence is located. He has been in Nebraska since 1878, and during the years of his residence here has become one of the important factors in the development of that region. He is the owner of

Mr. Kreycik is worshipful master of Wood Lake lodge, No. 221, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and a charter member of camp No. 221, Ancient Order of United Workmen, of the same village. He has been a member of the school board for some years, and held different school offices. He is a Populist in political faith, having voted that ticket since the organization of the party. He has done his share in the upbuilding of the commercial and agricultural interests of the community in which he resides, and is one of the substantial men here.

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#### PETER P. SHADE.

Peter P. Shade, one of the best known pioneers of Nebraska, is proprietor of an excellent farm adjoining Ainsworth in Brown county.

Mr. Shade was born in Fayette county, Illinois, July 6, 1849. His father, William Shade, was a farmer by occupation, and came to Illinois from Pennsylvania in the early days, bringing with him his family of two children; five children were born in Illinois, of whom our subject is the youngest. He was reared and educated on his father's farm and started life for himself at the age of twelve years, learning the shoemaker's trade at Moweena, which occupation he followed for six years, and then went back to farming. At first he begun on rented land in Moultrie county and worked this for several years. In 1873 he came to Nebraska, locating on a homestead in Adams county, near Hastings. He had practically nothing to start with, and the first five years were very hard ones for him. The first year he settled here his crops failed, being utterly ruined by the grasshopper raids, which devastated the entire country round. The same condition of things existed the following year. His first house was a dugout, and in this he lived for some years, then built a sod house and kept at work improving his farm, trying hard to overcome the discouragements and hardships which he encountered.

He remained on this homestead until the fall of 1884, and then sold out his holdings and came to Brown county, settling on a farm three miles east of Ainsworth. He proved up on this, erected good buildings and continued to reside there until October, 1907, when he sold and invested in a twenty-four-acre tract adjoining Ainsworth, where he has built a fine house and barn, fitted with all the necessary improvements for running a model farm. He has planted one hundred and thirty fruit trees and a number of forest trees and evergreens.

On October 21, 1870, Mr. Shade was married

at Sullivan, Illinois, to Miss Mary E. Dieter, a native of Medina, Ohio. She came to Christian county, Illinois, with her parents in 1865, the family settling in this locality. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shade, of whom but one is now living, Maude E., a graduate of the Ainsworth high school, now the wife of Ralph Carpenter, living four miles south of Johnstown.

Mr. Shade has done his full share as an old settler, and is recognized as one of the leading residents of the county in which he makes his home. He is a man whom it is not easy to forget if once met with, being above the ordinary in intelligence and individuality of character. He has the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen, and his name will figure prominently in the history of Nebraska. In politics he is a Democrat.

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#### HENRY J. DAVIS.

Henry J. Davis, classed among the substantial and prosperous farmers of Court House Rock precinct, Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, is an old settler in western Nebraska, and has passed through all the old Nebraska times, good, bad and indifferent, remaining to enjoy the prosperity which has come to those who spent many years in helping develop the agricultural resources of that region. He has acquired valuable property by his labors and good management, and enjoys comfortable surroundings and an enviable reputation as a citizen.

Mr. Davis was born in Oakland county, Michigan, January 15, 1856, and grew to the age of five years, then with his parents moved to Saratoga county, New York, where they lived for about nine years. The family then came to Stephenson county, Illinois, remaining there but a short time, then into Hardin and Franklin counties, Iowa. The father, William Davis, was a farmer, and followed that calling in Iowa up to 1887, at that time coming to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county, where he took up a pre-emption. This is now our subject's home ranch. Both his father and mother, who was Julia Valentine in maidenhood, are now deceased, the mother's death occurring in this county in 1894, the father following in 1901.

Mr. Davis has a fine ranch, engaging almost exclusively in running cattle and horses. He has plenty of pasture for his stock, also meadows and groves, with a good set of buildings on the place.

Mr. Davis was married in Webb City, Web-

ster county, Iowa, in 1893, to Miss Emma Gaudy. His wife died in Sidney in the fall of 1895, leaving one child, Vera, now attending school in Iowa Falls, Iowa. In political faith our subject is a strong Democrat and is active in local affairs.

JERRY FERREL.

• One of the highest tributes to be paid a citizen is to say that he is a leading old settler. During the many years of his residence in a community he has been placed in communication with many of the inhabitants of his home neighborhood, and his career has been open to their criticisms one way or the other. The gentleman above named is classed among the pioneers of Sheridan county, Nebraska, and as a resident of Hay Springs, former agriculturist of enterprise and integrity he has passed favorable criticism and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Ferrel is a native of Wayne county, Iowa, born June 23, 1861. His father, John Ferrel, was a farmer and early settler in Iowa, having taken up a tract of government land there in 1852. In a family of nine children our subject was the sixth member, and he together with his brothers and sisters grew up on the frontier, where he early learned to do all sorts of hard farm labor, during the winter months attending the country schools. He left home at the age of twenty-two and came west, locating in O'Neil, Holt county, Nebraska, where he followed the carpenter's trade there up to 1884. At that time that section was a tough country, full of rough characters who made that their headquarters during the pioneer days of that region.

Mr. Ferrel came to Sheridan county during June of the latter year, driving through from O'Neil with a team and covered wagon, settling on a pre-emption situated three and one-half miles west of Hay Springs. Here he built a log house and batched it, going through the usual pioneer experiences, freighting from Bordeaux saw mill to Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota. He remained here proving up on his claim, and spent the year of '85 working at his trade in Pine Ridge Agency, and the following year in this work at Hay Springs. After this he clerked in a hardware store for eighteen years, learning the tinner's trade and mastering every detail of the hardware business, and also establishing a furniture store here, which he owned and managed for twelve years. He sold out his holdings in 1906, and brought back

his energy and industry is now seen in his fine farm and home. He has six hundred and forty acres with about three hundred acres under cultivation and all improved in good shape. He has raised all kinds of grain including wheat, oats and corn and has always made a special business of raising cattle and horses of the best registered breeds. Mr. Sawyer imported the first Percheron stallion into this country.

Ever since coming to the county, Mr. Sawyer has taken an active interest in all that pertained to the welfare of his adopted state and he could be counted among the progressive citizens. Fred, his oldest son, has lived with his father for the last thirty years and is an up-to-date agriculturist and stockman having grown up with the country. Frank, Fred and George, the three sons, came to the county with their father.

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#### GEORGE A. JANSSEN.

George A. Janssen, a leading old settler in Nebraska, resides on his well improved farm situated in section 25, township 35, range 29, Cherry county. He was born in Hanover, Germany, November 5, 1855, where his father, Gerhard Janssen, conducted a meat market his entire business career, dying there in 1865, when our subject was ten years of age. From that time he has made his own way in the world, first being apprenticed to a baker; he mastered his trade there, working at it for six years, until 1876, he left his native land and came to America, settling in Grundy county, Iowa, where he resided one year. He then went to Sioux City, where he lived for three years, employed at his trade for a few months, followed by farm work in Bremer county. In 1886 he came on to Nebraska, settling in the homestead where he now resides. He built a sod house, part of which still remains, and lived in this for twelve years, batching it a short time. His first work was done with a yoke of oxen with which he broke and cultivated the land, but the dry years came on and his crops were completely destroyed two years in succession, producing not even enough for seed. By perseverance he met all difficulties and succeeded in a marked degree, adding to his farm gradually, until now he is proprietor of six hundred and forty acres of good land, one hundred and fifty of this cultivated and the balance in pasture and grass land. Mr. Janssen has a comfortable residence and a large barn. He has a fine house, twenty-two by sixteen, built partly

of concrete, as are chicken house, tool house, hog house and other buildings, all constructed by Mr. Janssen's own hand. There are a number of other commodious buildings of frame construction, making a well equipped farm. Being well provided with concrete houses and yards Mr. Janssen engages in poultry raising on a large scale. He has a fine grove of mulberry trees, also a nice cherry orchard and other fruits, with everything kept up in the best possible condition.

He has had severe losses since coming to these parts, in 1890 losing his barn and contents, including four horses, farm machinery, hay, grain, corn, etc., by fire, and the following years lost his crops through hail storms, but he was never disheartened, still persevered and is now satisfied with what he has accomplished.

In 1888 Mr. Janssen was married to Mrs. Johanna (Holm) Bolmiera, a native of Bremen, Germany, she having two children by a former husband, namely Fred and Johannes. Mr. and Mrs. Janssen have a family of five children, named as follows: Lizzie, Wilhelm, Mary, Lonnie and Johanna.

Mr. and Mrs. Janssen are members of the Lutheran church.

A view of the residence of Mr. Janssen will be found on another page in this work.

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#### LEROY D. TICE.

Leroy D. Tice, one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, has a fine farm in La Vaca precinct, Cherry county, and is a worthy citizen of his community. Mr. Tice was born in Marion county, Iowa, May 6, 1856, and raised on a farm there, his parents settling in that region in 1844. He lived at home until he was twenty-seven years old, then went to Oregon, where he spent two years carrying chain on the government survey; returning to Iowa and farming his father's place up to 1888. He came to Nebraska, locating on section 2, township 31, range 40, the place which he now occupies. He was farming during the dry years, but not to any very great extent, so did not suffer any very heavy losses, and has never had a total failure of crops since coming here. He has bought only thirteen bushels of seed wheat in all the time he has been here, which is a very good record. He has added to his land constantly, so that he now owns eight hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, besides a homestead. Of this he farms about one hundred acres, and on the balance runs some fifty cattle and half as many horses. His place



George A. Janssen.

RESIDENCE OF GEORGE A. JANSSEN,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mrs. George A. Janssen.





is well kept, improved with good buildings, all fenced, and is one of the valuable estates in this locality. In the summer of 1907 he erected a large concrete block house supplied with bath and running water, and he also has a water system for irrigating garden and lawn.

Mr. Tice was married in 1884 to Miss Katherine Griffin, daughter of James Griffin, born in Ireland, and who came to America when a young man, her mother also being a native of the Emerald Isle. Mr. and Mrs. Tice have three children, namely: James D., Edward D., and Mary A.

Mr. Tice thinks this is one of the finest countries he ever saw, and is contented to make his future home here. He has always done all in his power to help in building up the region, and takes an active part in school and local affairs, for the past sixteen years serving as school director. He is a Democrat, and a great admirer and supporter of the peerless leader of Nebraska.

JOHN A. WILSON.

John A. Wilson, a prominent farmer of Box Butte county, resides on section 21, township 27, range 47, and conducts personally his well improved ranch of about two thousand acres in accordance with modern methods and scientific principles. He is a constant and thorough reader, and applies the information thus obtained to practical use in the operation of his large estate.

Mr. Wilson was born in Harding, Shelby county, Ohio, on September 23, 1859. His father, Hiram Wilson, was a grandson of Col. Wilson, an early settler in that county, who located on government land in 1700. Prior to her marriage, our subject's mother was Curtis Kelsey, born and raised near Rutland, Vermont, daughter of a prominent politician who was a state official in Vermont for many years. Our subject grew up in central Iowa, where his parents had settled in 1867 and lived as pioneers. His schooling was very limited, as the nearest school from their homestead was eight miles away. At the age of twenty-one years he left home and struck out for himself, farming on rented land for several years, but became convinced that this was unsuccessful and gave it up. During this time he had given much time to the study of agriculture and had put it to practical test on his farm, receiving second prize for some potatoes which he exhibited, also securing first prize for corn in Boone county, Iowa.

In 1885 Mr. Wilson came to Nebraska and filed on a pre-emption situated eighteen miles northeast of Alliance, leaving his family in Iowa until he found a home for them, and the following year, in 1886, they joined him there. He had built a sod shanty and began to break up land for crops with his team of horses, and also used these for hauling supplies from Hay Springs, following the usual custom of travelers of that time, in camping out at night under his wagon. His first crop was sod potatoes and corn, and he also worked out in the neighborhood of his home in breaking up land for other settlers in order to make a living for his family. During the dry years he went through many hard experiences, some seasons not being able to raise even seed for the following year from all he had put in the ground, and during these times he made a living by buying eggs through the country and selling them over again at the nearby markets. He had to borrow money to carry this business on, and kept at it for five years, his egg sales sometimes running as high as four hundred dollars a month. As the times grew better he did well, was able to purchase more land, buying in both Box Butte and Sheridan counties, and re-selling much of it, making considerable money through these speculations. In 1893 he began raising blooded horses, and has owned some of the finest animals in Nebraska. Mr. Wilson now owns a ranch of three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, and besides this he controls two thousand acres, engaging on a very large scale in the cattle business. He has the place well improved with fine buildings, several miles of fence, and everything necessary for conducting a model ranch, cultivating about one hundred acres.

Our subject is also the inventor of a pitman for use on mowers and binders, which take up lost motion, and this has been considered by experts to be a great success. He is besides this, the owner and inventor of a recipe used for the treatment of all kinds of wood which prolongs its usefulness for many years. Wheels which have been subjected to this treatment never need their tires set.

Mr. Wilson was united in marriage in 1880, to Miss Emogene F. Schadle, daughter of Joseph N. and Mary (Smith) Schadle, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Wilson had the sad misfortune to lose his wife, while undergoing an operation at Lincoln, Nebraska, April 16, 1908. A child was born of this union, a daughter named Eva F. Wilson, who still remains her father and is helping him with a devoted and filial affection that is truly commendable. The family are well known and highly respected.

teemed in their community and enjoy one of the most pleasant homes in their locality.

Mr. Wilson was elected postmaster of Box Butte postoffice in the early days, now changed to Marple postoffice, and has served in that capacity for many years. He has been connected with the mail service here since 1886.

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#### CHRIS. HANSEN.

Chris. Hansen, whose fine ranch in Box Butte county is a credit to his locality, is a man of untiring energy, and is classed among the substantial agriculturists of the community in which he lives. He has cleared a large portion of wild prairie land for cultivation, and become the owner of a ranch of over one thousand four hundred and forty acres. He is a thorough farmer and up-to-date business man.

Mr. Hansen was born in Denmark in 1865, son of a farmer and miller, who died when our subject was five years of age. Chris. was reared and educated in Denmark, being apprenticed to a blacksmith when a young boy, following that trade in his native country for a number of years, and in 1884 came to America, landing in New York city June 8th of that year when nineteen years of age. He went to Canada shortly after arriving here, there being employed on the Canadian Pacific railroad in the Rocky mountains, helping lay that road across the Columbia river. He spent about a year and a half in the west, and while in that region passed through many exciting and interesting experiences with the Indians in that country who were very hostile to the whites at that time. After getting through with that work, Mr. Hansen went to Omaha and worked at ice business one winter, then bought a pair of horses and did teaming, also railroaded near Omaha. He next went to Blair, Nebraska, settling on rented land and did farming for a short time, coming to Box Butte county in 1888, and taking up a pre-emption on which he proved up in due time, also filed on a homestead after proving up on his pre-emption. He still occupies the pre-emption, which is situated in section 7, township 26, range 50, and his first buildings were of sod, beginning as all of the pioneers did, with a very small capital and going through the drouth periods when he lost a number of crops, when he was hardly able to raise enough for feed for his few head of stock and provisions for his family. He had one cow and a few chickens, and these helped furnish him with food. He kept at his farm work, and after a time did well, rais-

ing good crops and improving his ranch, and he now gives most of his time to stock raising, only cultivating about one hundred and forty-five acres, on which he raises small grain, potatoes, corn, etc.

In 1887 Mr. Hansen was united in marriage to Anna Mary Peterson, also a native of Denmark, who came to this country in the spring of that year. Four children have been born of this union, who are named as follows: Hans, Marie, Elinora and Grace, all born and reared in this county.

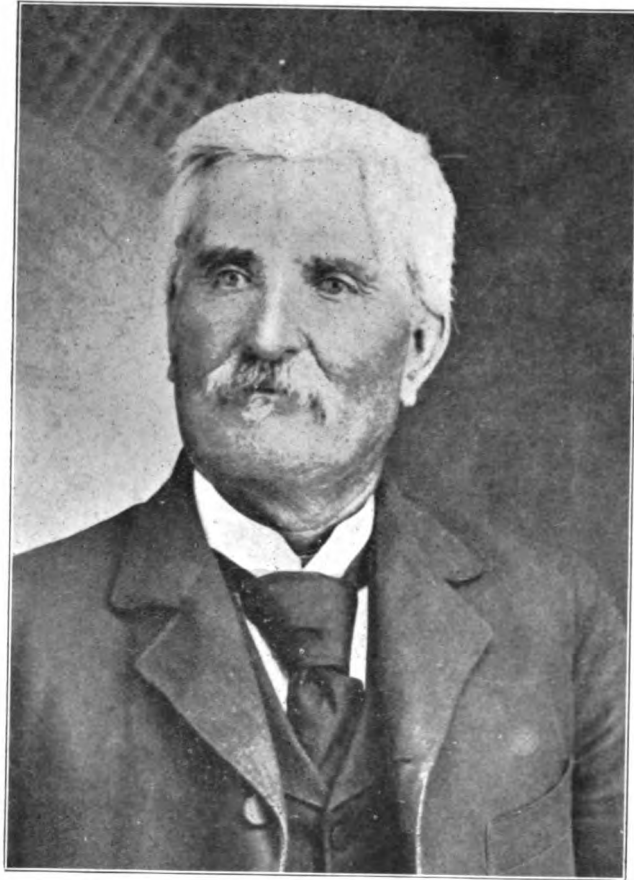
Mr. Hansen is classed among the oldest settlers in this section of the state, and has always taken an active part in neighborhood affairs from the early days of its settlement. He is well acquainted all through his precinct, and has served as township assessor for five years. Politically he is a Populist.

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#### JOHN M. DYER.

The gentleman whose name heads this review was born in Cass county, Iowa, August 31, 1858, and is a son of John Dyer, a blacksmith and farmer, of American stock; the mother was Mary A. Porter prior to her marriage. Of a family of nine children our subject is the second member, and he was reared on his father's farm, following the plow from the time he was thirteen years old and being accustomed to all kinds of hard work. He struck out for himself when he reached the age of twenty-one, following farm work. For four years he farmed, on rented land, living at home. About the year 1883 he established a mercantile business at Reno, Iowa, in partnership with R. F. Breen, and they carried this on for two years being moderately successful, then disposed of the store and come to Nebraska, locating in Keya Paha county, settling on a farm in section 30, township 33, range 18, and began improving this land. He also operated a blacksmith shop which he ran for twelve years. His first dwelling was a log house, and later built a sod addition to this; he took up a homestead in section 14, township 33, range 18, where he lived for ten years in a sod house. During these days he worked at all kinds of things, driving ox teams and working out by the day, and remained on this place up to 1897, when he bought his present farm of about one thousand three hundred acres, with an equal amount under lease; he has never sold a foot of land that he has ever owned. He has been engaged largely in stock raising and has done an immense business in this line. He has im-

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R. V. BEACH.

proved his ranch, putting up a fine large three-story house, besides substantial farm buildings, including granary, corn cribs, sheds, barn, etc. His place is located on the Niobrara river, and he has over two hundred acres of timber. About sixty-five acres of his farm is cultivated, with two hundred acres of bottom hay land.

Mr. Dyer was married in Keya Paha county July 28, 1885, to Miss Belle Charlton, daughter of John H. and Hettie (Baird) Charlton, who were old settlers in Keya Paha county. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer have a family of six children, who are as follows: Beulah, John Burnie, Ward M., Hattie Hazel, Audrey E. and Marvel H. Their eldest daughter is one of the successful teachers of the county since the fall of 1906. They are a happy family, and all enjoy the most robust health, never having had occasion to call a physician in their home. Mr. Dyer is a man pre-eminently fitted to enjoy a home and family, and they are well known as a devoted family, well liked by everyone who knows them, and are esteemed citizens. In politics Mr. Dyer is a Populist. In the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge at Carnes he served as the first master workman on the institution of that organization there. Mr. Dyer takes a commendable interest in all politics, both local and state in his party. He has been an attendant at the state and county conventions for many years past.

R. V. BEACH.

Among the men who have played an important part in the development of Deuel county, none are held in higher esteem than the man whose name heads this article. The life of Mr. Beach has been a busy one, and he has served his fellowmen as soldier, teacher, preacher, farmer and as a government official. We present a portrait of him on another page.

R. V. Beach was born in Delaware county, Ohio, October 29, 1842. In 1847 his father and mother, with the family of six children, removed to Illinois. Here our subject grew to manhood, and it was while living in Illinois that the great Civil war broke out. Mr. Beach, who was but twenty years of age, like thousands of other patriotic young Americans, quickly answered the nation's call and enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in 1862. Mr. Beach saw much active service and participated in the siege of Vicksburg, then later he participated in the campaign in Western Tennessee and then in Mississippi. It was in Gunter and Town,

Mississippi, June 11, 1864, that he was captured by Forest's and Lee's forces, and was immediately hurried to Andersonville prison. In Andersonville he experienced all the horrors of that awful place; later he was transferred to Savannah prison, then to Millen prison and still later he was transferred to the military prison at Florence, South Carolina, having been confined a total of nine months. The experience of Mr. Beach while in the several southern prisons would fill a volume in itself. The darkest page in the career of the short lived southern confederacy is that wherein is recorded the treatment accorded the unfortunate soldiers who were taken prisoners of war. Mr. Beach was mustered out as a paroled prisoner, at Springfield, Illinois, July 1, 1865. Two brothers of Mr. Beach were in the Civil war and both came out without injury other than that which comes from exposure and hardship undergone in the service.

After the war our subject returned to Illinois, where he entered Grand Prairie Seminary, remaining in school for one year. After leaving school, he went to Linn county, Iowa. He remained in Iowa one year, teaching one term of school, then in the spring of 1867, he went to Delaware county, Ohio. In Delaware county he taught school one term, then returned to Illinois. He remained in Illinois until the fall of 1870. Mr. Beach was ordained a minister of the gospel at Oswego, Illinois, where he remained and served as minister in the Methodist church for a little over one year, then, in the fall of 1870, came to Nebraska, settling in Butler county, where he homesteaded and proved up on a claim. He lived in Butler county until coming to Deuel county in 1887, where he located on a farm; there he followed preaching, teaching and farming. Mr. Beach has taught fifteen terms of school and has served as county superintendent of schools of Butler county. He owns a fine farm in section 10, township 12, range 42, consisting of eighty acres.

In the spring of 1906, Mr. Beach was appointed postmaster of Big Springs, and at once removed to that place and has since resided there.

Mr. Beach was married at Aurora, Illinois, October 10, 1870, to Miss Melinda M. Edwards, born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Beach are the parents of four children, as follows: Blanche E., married to B. C. Kemp and living in Big Spring; Ethel R., deceased; Madge the wife of O. B. Bower and living at Chappin Warren B., who is serving as assistant master at Big Spring. Mr. Beach is well and favorably known

Deuel county as a man of sterling character, and during his life as preacher, teacher, soldier, farmer and lecturer, has accumulated a vast amount of experience that has rounded out his education and he is today one of the best posted men in western Nebraska.

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#### F. H. PORTER.

F. H. Porter, editor and proprietor of The Holdrege Citizen, the leading Republican paper of Phelps county, is well known and highly esteemed by all throughout this region. He was born in Oswego county, New York, in 1860, and reared there and made it his home until 1870.

In 1872 Mr. Porter came to Nebraska. He graduated from Doan College at Crete, Nebraska, 1886, and went into the newspaper business in 1887, buying The Western Wave. The Holdrege Citizen was started in 1884 as a Republican organ, and in 1886 this was absorbed by the Citizens Publishing Company, a stock company, with Eric Johnson as editor. In March, 1891, our subject acquired the paper and job office, and in March of 1897 absorbed the Political Forum. The Holdrege Citizen is a weekly paper, a strong advocate of the Republican party policy, and a general local family paper. It has a large circulation, and is one of the most reliable newspapers in the county. The job office in connection with the paper is an up-to-date plant, fitted with all modern appliances and equipment for neat and prompt service, and Mr. Porter gives his special attention to this branch of the work. He has always been one of the foremost citizens of his region, and a useful and worthy member of the community in which he lives, standing for the advancement and betterment of his home county at all times.

Mr. Porter sold his interest in The Holdrege Citizen October 1, 1908, and at the present time is unemployed. He was married April 24, 1890, to Miss Luella C. Alsworth, who was born in western Iowa. Her father, Samuel C. Alsworth, was a pioneer of Nebraska.

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#### URIAH BROMWICH.

Uriah Bromwich was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1853, and at that time the present great city was but a mere village. The father, Uriah, was a merchant in that small metropolis and died there in August, 1854. He was a native

of England. Our subject's mother, Jane (Bullis) Bromwich, was born in London, England.

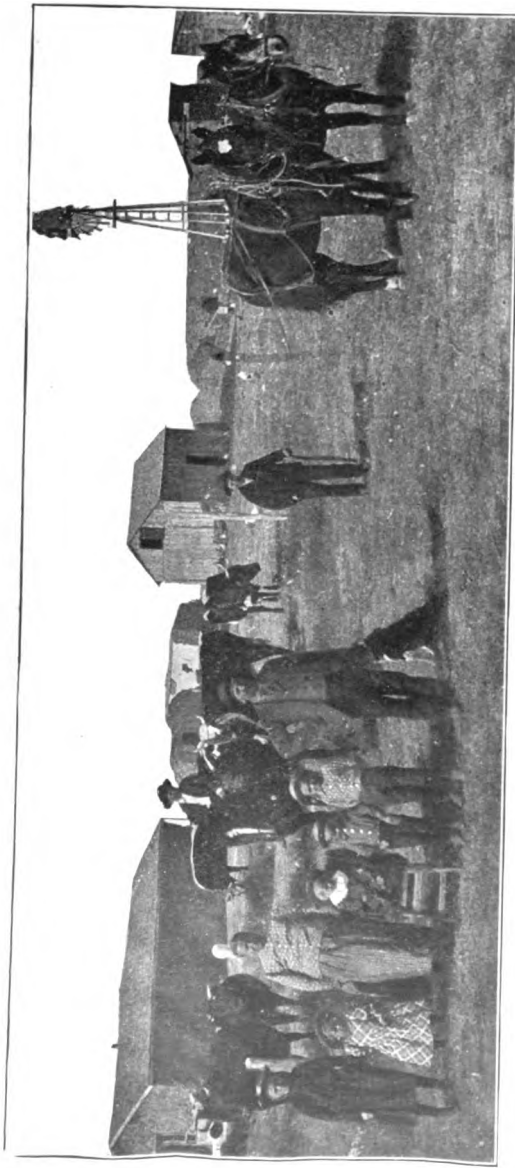
Uriah Bromwich was taken to Wisconsin and when he was five years old the family moved to Freeborn county, Minnesota, where he was reared and educated on a farm, remaining till he was twenty-five years of age. Our subject was on the frontier for years and was within thirty miles of New Ulm at the time the terrible Indian massacre took place at that town. There were but few white families in the country in those days and our subject had many dangerous and trying experiences.

April 9, 1876, in Minnesota, Uriah Bromwich and Miss Ellenora Fay were united in the holy bonds of wedlock. The bride was a daughter of Nathan Fay, one of Loup county's pioneer settlers, whose biography appears in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Bromwich have four children living—Arthur, Willie, Retta and Joy. They have lost three children—Walter D., Elva J. and Nathan E. They reared one adopted child, Eva Body.

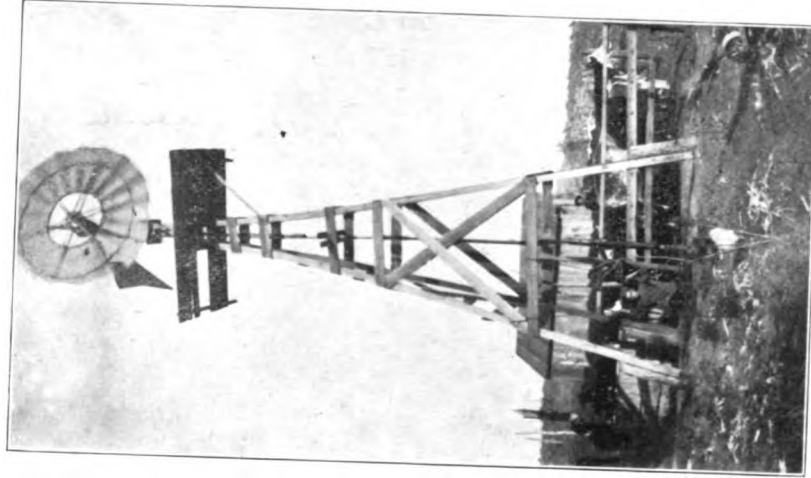
Mr. Bromwich drove through to Nebraska from Minnesota in a covered wagon in 1879, locating in Loup county on a pre-emption claim, on which he proved up and took a homestead in Custer county, where he now lives. The country was new and the nearest railroad town was Grand Island, one hundred miles distant. Our subject had learned the blacksmith's trade, and he followed this occupation for the first three years. His first building was a sod shanty and he lived in this until he became able to construct a comfortable log house. Farming operations were pushed as rapidly as possible and the family reaped good crops on the sod. Mr. Bromwich remembers that excellent watermelons were grown on new breaking. But the good years were followed by bad ones and it was discouraging indeed to experience the total loss of crops on one hundred and fifty acres in 1890 and almost total loss in other years, with again complete failure in 1893. One of the most disastrous visitations was July 9, 1904, when a tornado swept over the country. It destroyed his large barn and seriously damaged his house. The storm seemed bent on destroying everything on his farm, the windmill was torn down and machinery was scattered over acres of his land. His binder was lifted bodily and hung up in a tree eight feet from the ground, but strange to say the machine has been in use ever since and has done good work. One horse was injured. Many articles were actually twisted out of all resemblance to their former shape, and lumber and trees were shat-



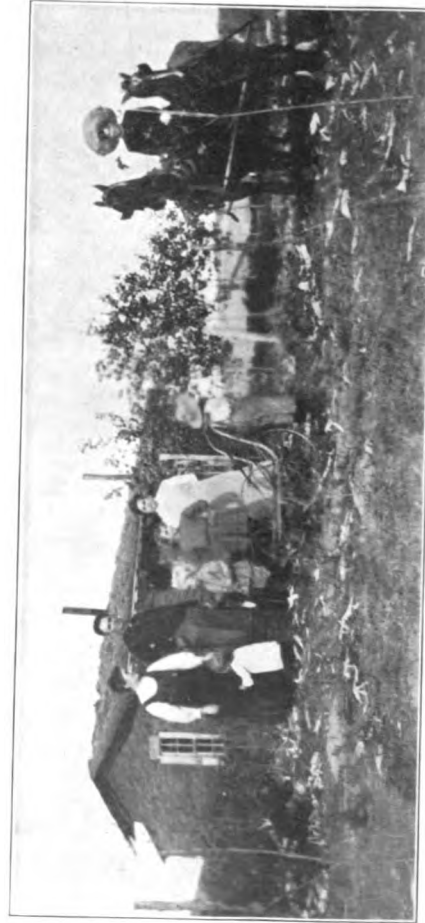




RANCH AND FAMILY—ROBERT KITTELMAN,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



CORRAL AND STOCK WELL ON RANCH OF A. B. SUMMERS,  
Garfield County, Nebraska.



RANCH SCENE AND FAMILY OF A. B. SUMMERS,  
Garfield County, Nebraska.

tered into splinters. The storm performed many curious freaks that cannot be accounted for—some barrels almost empty and directly in the path of the tornado were not moved at all, and splinters of lumber and trees were driven into the sides of the house where they can still be seen. This was perhaps the most terrifying experience in our subject's life. But Mr. Bromwich has accomplished grand success in spite of the many distressing hardships of his farm life and early pioneer days. He has a lovely farm of three hundred and sixty acres, well improved with good frame house, barns, sheds, well and windmill and fences. He cultivates about one hundred and forty acres. Mr. Bromwich stands well in the community and is favorably known as a man of push and enterprise.

ALBERT B. SUMMERS.

Among the representative pioneers of western Nebraska, the gentleman above named occupies a prominent place, and he has spent many years of his life in this section and has succeeded in building up an enviable reputation and competence through his strict integrity and good business judgment, and is recognized as one of the wealthy and influential residents of Garfield county, well known and highly respected by all. Mr. Summers lives in section 19, township 22, range 15, where he has a nice home and is surrounded by many good friends and kindly neighbors.

Mr. Summers was born in Michigan, January 15, 1862. He is the son of David and Caroline (Aldrich) Summers, of German descent. Our subject spent a number of years at Detroit, Michigan, where he was a student in the commercial college. In 1882 he first came to Nebraska, took up a claim of four hundred and eighty acres of government land, consisting of a pre-emption of one hundred and sixty acres, the same amount of homestead land and a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres. He immediately set to work to develop his farm, and on the whole met with great success in all his ventures. He has since added another one hundred and sixty acres to his farm, now owning in all six hundred and forty acres of good land. He farms along modern lines, and is an up-to-date, progressive agriculturist, engaging to quite an extent in stock raising. He has a large part of his land devoted to the culture of small grains, raising corn, wheat, oats and barley. He has occasionally met with failures during the dry

years, losing several crops, but altogether considers himself very fortunate in his farming operations. His place is well improved with good buildings and well supplied with good water, having deep water wells with three hundred feet of supply tanks and a number of windmills to pump the water to different parts of his farm and for household use. Every corner of the place shows good management and industry, bearing evidence to his energy and thrift. He is of the opinion that this state is far ahead of the state of Michigan, taking the expense of living and labor into consideration, and that it is away ahead of any state in the Union for the average farmer who is obliged to begin on a small capital.

Mr. Summers was married in June, 1899, to Miss Ida M. Erington, a native of Ohio, who settled in Nebraska with her parents in 1892. Her father now owns a fine farm in Garfield county, located fifteen miles northeast of Burwell. Mr. and Mrs. Summers are the parents of five children, namely: Gladys, David, Eldon, Ethel and one who died in infancy. The family are members of the Christian church and highly esteemed members of society in their section.

Politically Mr. Summers is a Democrat, although he has never devoted any time to taking an active part in politics. On another page an interesting picture is presented showing the family group and scenes on Mr. Summers's property.

JOHN A. BAIRN.

John A. Bairn is a native of the province of Elesburg, Sweden, born near Gottenberg, January 16, 1859. His father was a farmer by occupation and lived and died in Sweden.

John A. Bairn was reared in his native land, remaining there until 1881 when he came to America, by the usual route from Gottenberg to Hull, England, and thence to Liverpool, where he embarked, landing in the city of Quebec after a voyage of eleven days. Coming westward he located in Rice county, Minnesota, where he remained engaged in farming until 1885, when he removed to Deuel county, Nebraska. When he came, the country was new and there were very few settlers, and these were widely scattered. Our subject settled on land three miles north of the North Platte river, near the Keith county line. His first house was built of sod and for several years he lived alone in this primitive dwelling. After five years he proved up on his homestead.

stead and in 1900 bought his present farm in section 4, township 15, range 41, and commenced making improvements. In spite of the serious hard times and the varying fortunes of pioneer life Mr. Bairn has made a splendid success. He constructed a good stone home, has good barns and general improvements and has established himself on a prosperous plane of life. His early years here were full of hard work and worry to support the family and to make his farm grow in value and importance. Now he has a splendid ranch of six hundred and forty acres, including a recent Kincaid homestead, cultivating about fifty acres and giving the rest of his attention to the stock raising business. Mrs. Bairn has a fine tract of three hundred and twenty acres, watered by Clear creek, improved with a good stone house and substantial barns.

John A. Bairn was married in 1887 to Miss Emma Johnson, a native of Sweden. This marriage has been blessed with seven children: Charles Oscar, Annie Henrietta, James Adolph, John Arthur, Carl Edward, Tekla and Clara.

Mr. Bairn is one of the staunch Republicans of the county and has been influential in the movements of his party. He has exhibited a keen interest in local affairs and he has held local offices in both Deuel and Keith counties. He has always been public-spirited and progressive and as a leading old settler has contributed a large share to the material advancement of the locality in which he lives. The family was reared in the Lutheran church.

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#### WILLIAM SCHAPER.

For over thirty years the citizens of Kearney county have had in their midst a worthy citizen in the person of the gentleman above named. He has been identified with the development and growth of this section of the state of Nebraska from its beginning, and has succeeded in building up a good home for himself and an enviable reputation, highly esteemed by his fellowmen.

Mr. Schaper was born in the province of Saxony, Germany, in 1843, and came to America in 1870. After landing in this country he came to New York, and three years later to Illinois, locating in Chicago, where he spent a few years, then to Nebraska in 1874, settling in Liberty township, this county, where he took up a homestead of eighty acres and also a tree claim. He proved up on these and since then has added to his acreage, pur-

chasing three hundred and twenty acres in sections 21 and 22, one hundred and sixty acres in section 34, also eighty and one hundred and sixty besides this, so he is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres, all well improved. He is assisted in his farming operations by his sons, William and Otto, and they have one of the most valuable estates in this region. In 1902 Mr. Schaper moved into the town of Minden, he having purchased the opera house block here in 1899, containing offices and stores. This has a frontage of sixty-six feet, one hundred feet deep, built of solid brick, and the opera house seats eight hundred people. Mr. Schaper also owns and occupies a fine residence in Minden, and he devotes his time to his home and the management of his property here. His sons run the farm, on which they produce grain and alfalfa, raising large crops of wheat and corn. The father is a successful, solid, typical German business man, level-headed and industrious, and his sons are equally successful and respected with their father in the community.

Mr. Schaper was married in 1873 to Miss Betty Miller, a native of Germany, who came to this country January 10, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Schaper have three daughters in their family, besides the two sons mentioned above.

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#### MURRAY S. STARR.

Murray S. Starr, for the past quarter of a century a prominent resident of western Nebraska, lives on his finely improved estate in section 4, township 33, range 35, Cherry county. He is numbered among the old-timers of this region, and is well and favorably known throughout this section of the country as a man of sterling character and a successful and prosperous agriculturist.

Mr. Starr was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, February 11, 1868. He is a son of Comfort Starr, an old settler in eastern Nebraska, and a brother of Oscar Starr, whose sketch will be found on another page of this work. Our subject was reared in Nebraska, and came to Brown county in 1883. He followed farming as an occupation from his early boyhood, starting at work for himself at the age of eight years, receiving two dollars per month doing light chores for a farmer. In 1895 he took up a homestead in Brown county and proved up on it, remaining there for seven years, having previously come to Cherry county in 1888, and together with a brother engaged in breaking prairie, then took up an-

other homestead in 1893. In Brown county he witnessed the drouth periods, and did gardening to make a living for himself and his family, building up his place and working hard until he had proved up on it. Two years were spent in Washington county, and then he returned to this section, where he has secured four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, three hundred and twenty acres of which lie in the hills south of the Niobrara river. The home place lying along the Niobrara river has one of the finest groves of large cottonwoods to be found in the county. He has it in first-class condition, improved with a good set of buildings, fences and all the farming machinery for use on a model farm, and owns one of the valuable estates of this region.

Mr. Starr was married in Brown county to Miss Maud Wilson, July 2, 1893. She is a daughter of F. M. Wilson, one of the pioneers in Brown county. Her mother was Lucy Ann Fager. Mr. and Mrs. Starr have a family of three children, as follows: Orval, born May 6, 1894; Gaynelle, born January 20, 1896, and Lloyd, September 27, 1902. Mr. Starr with his family is a member of the Methodist church, while politically he supports the principles of the Republican party.

EDWARD A. MACUMBER.

Among the prosperous young farmers of Dawes county, Nebraska, the gentleman whose name heads this personal review deserves much praise for his strict attention to duty and perseverance in establishing a comfortable home and valuable property through hard and persistent efforts. Mr. Macumber is still a very young man, but has already gained an enviable reputation as a worthy and substantial citizen of his community and commands the respect and esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Macumber was born in Madison county, Iowa, on a farm, in 1875. He is a son of John Macumber, an old settler in Dawes county, and both parents were of American blood, the father being reared in Madison county, Iowa, and the mother in Mercer county, Illinois. Our subject grew up in Iowa until he was about eleven years of age, then the family came to Dawes county, where they have since resided, Edward remaining at home with his parents until he reached the age of seventeen, then started out for himself, working on ranches in the vicinity of his home and leading a cowboy's life here, also in South Dakota and Wyoming. He came to his present farm

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about 1899, and it had but few improvements then, but he has built it up in good shape and has a fine ranch and home, owning in all a tract of three hundred and twenty acres. Twenty acres are in alfalfa and he raises splendid crops of this grass and runs quite a herd of stock each year. The place is located on Bordeaux creek, in section 34, township 33, range 48, and is a very valuable piece of property.

Mr. Macumber was united in marriage in 1899 to Miss Maggie Richardson, daughter of A. J. Richardson, who came to Nebraska as foreman of a big cattle company in 1882, and made this section his home from that time on.

Our subject is active in local affairs, and has served on the school board in different capacities. Politically he is a Democrat.

RICHARD S. BLACK.

Richard S. Black, whose extensive farming operations mark him as one of the well-to-do and energetic citizens of his locality, resides on section 31, Lake township, Phelps county. He was born near Rushville, Schuyler county, Illinois, in 1849, and reared there. In 1863 he enlisted in the Sixty-second Illinois Infantry and served up to the end of the war. He was in the army of Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana, under General Steele, and at the battles of Little Rock, Memphis, Tennessee, and many large actions and smaller skirmishes, and during all the time he served as a soldier was in actual service. He was twice wounded, once at Memphis, Tennessee, and once at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory.

After the war our subject returned to Schuyler county, where he farmed up to 1878, then came to Nebraska in 1879. His father was John L. Black, who was also a native of Schuyler county, and was the first white child born in his township. His father, Richard S. Black, came from Kentucky, where he was one of the first settlers in that locality. From his experience in both states, our subject states that Nebraska is by far the better country for farming and stock raising purposes. The crops are as good here and the land easier farmed than in Illinois. Mr. Black has kept ordinary stock for farm purposes. He has a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, taken in 1881, where he still lives, and owns one hundred and sixty acres in Harlan county. He has a fine large farm residence on his place, commodious barns and all things necessary for his stock, etc., a beautiful orchard and grove and well kept lawn



fully planted with flowers and shrubbery. It is one of the prettiest homes in the vicinity, and everything bespeaks prosperity and care.

Mr. Black was supervisor of Lake township, and as such on the county board for eight years. He has filled all local offices and served on the school board ever since the organization of that body. He is a Democrat and takes a keen interest in local and county politics.

Mr. Black was united in marriage in 1876 at Rushville, Illinois, to Miss Harriet A. Dunlavy, daughter of James Dunlavy. Mr. and Mrs. Black are the parents of eight children, who are named as follows: Howard, a farmer, who resides in Harlan county; Claude, of Harlan county, also a farmer; Atwell, farmer, residing in Harlan county; Richard S., the fourth of this name in direct line. One daughter, Clara, is the wife of Hall Elliott, of Harlan county; Katie and Ruth, all living at home at the present time, and Mamie, who is married to Henry Talmage. Our subject's mother was Nancy Peckenpaugh, of Illinois, whose parents were pioneers of Schuyler county, Illinois.

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#### JAMES C. WOOD.

James C. Wood, who is a prominent farmer of Dawes county, is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of this part of Nebraska, residing on section 27, township 29, range 50.

Mr. Wood was born in Oxford county, Ontario, Canada, forty miles east of London, July 5, 1846. His father, James H., was a farmer of English descent. The Wood family originated from three brothers—one who settled on Long Island, another in New York and the third in Pennsylvania. Our subject comes from the family which settled on Long Island. His mother, Mary S. (Underwood) Wood, was a native of Canada.

At the age of nineteen years he left his home and came south into Fayette county, Illinois, where his father purchased a farm. Here his mother died and shortly afterward he came west to Iowa. In 1879 he settled in Furnas county, Nebraska, and was one of the pioneers of eastern Nebraska. He farmed there for a while, and in 1880 went into the mountains of Colorado, where he purchased a ranch, returning three years later to his old home in Nebraska. Some time later he took up a homestead in Dawes county, locating on the Niobrara river, where he did some irrigating. He is now the proprietor of a Kincaid homestead, comprising an area of four hundred acres

of good land. He spent two years with the Burlington Railroad Company in the capacity of a carpenter and two years running a steam pump, taking an active part in constructing the Burlington road into Dawes county.

Mr. Wood was married July 5, 1887, to Miss Jennie Vincent, daughter of Hiram and Mary Ann Vincent, of Iowa. Mrs. Wood's father was a farmer in Iowa, of American stock. The Vincent family was formerly from Indiana. Mrs. Wood taught school several years in Iowa and taught some in Furnas county, Nebraska.

Since taking up his residence in Dawes county Mr. Wood has always been identified prominently in local affairs, having served as road overseer, and has also held the office of assessor for three years. He will ever be referred to among the prominent old settlers of Dawes county as one of their worthiest associates. All of his neighbors speak well of him. He is strictly Republican in politics.

Mrs. Wood has been a great help to Mr. Wood in farm work as well as domestic work, she being an expert in handling farm machinery always taken an active part in the Sunday schools of the district and is a leader in the literary societies. Mr. and Mrs. Wood are in the possession of one of the oldest books on record in this part of the country, the Life of Christ, dating back to 1723. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Wood will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### ROBERT KITTELMAN.

Robert Kittelman, an able representative of the farming community, is an old-time resident of Box Butte county, Nebraska. He has developed a fine farm, is a man of energy and thrift, who by his strict integrity has become one of the highly esteemed and respected citizens of his locality.

Mr. Kittelman was born in Germany in 1856, the son of Wilhelm Kittelman, a tailor by trade. His mother was Anna Farson, and both parents came to this country in 1883, the mother dying in 1902, while the father is still living in Alliance, Nebraska. Our subject grew up in Germany and served for three years in the German army, coming to the United States in 1881, two years ahead of his parents, and after landing in New York city came directly west to Cuming county, Nebraska. The first nine months he worked on a farm, then began railroading, and continued at the work up to 1885, at that time settling in Box Butte county. He and John O'Mara



MR. AND MRS. J. C. WOOD.





were the first white men to settle in this region, and they took up homesteads in section 33, township 27, range 47, on which our subject lived for some years and later located in section 34, township 28, range 47, putting up a dugout in which he and his family, consisting of wife and two sons, lived for a number of years. His first team was a pair of oxen, and with these he broke up land and planted crops, remaining on the place for thirteen years, and during the early days made a living by teaming from Pine Ridge hauling timber and fuel, and during these trips was obliged to sleep out nights on the ground under his wagon. Many times he has camped out on the snow-covered ground in the severest weather.

In 1899 Mr. Kittelman settled on his present farm, and he has a ranch of six hundred and forty acres here, two hundred and fifty of which is used for farming purposes, and all of it fenced and improved with good buildings and everything necessary in the way of machinery and tools for conducting a model ranch and farm. Besides this deeded land he controls five quarter sections of leased land, keeping a large portion of it for pasture and hay land, and runs quite a herd of stock—about eighty-seven head of cattle and twenty-six horses. In 1903 a large barn, 136x16 feet, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. This was filled with farming implements, including three sets of double harness, a large number of chickens and geese, etc., and was a severe loss to our subject.

Mr. Kittelman was married in 1882 to Miss Ernestine Shrother, and of this union thirteen children have resulted, ten of whom are living and named as follows: Rinehold, Moritz, Anna, Robert, Gernhard, Willie, Eda, Paul, Pauline and Clarence, all born and raised in this county. Adolph, Gustave and Bronu are deceased. Mrs. Kittelman died here May 1, 1907, and in the same year our subject was married again, taking as his second wife Mrs. Marie Gaylor, a widow, native of Germany, who came to America in 1894. Mrs. Gaylor was mother of two children before her marriage to Mr. Kittelman—Anna, aged fourteen years, and Otto, twelve years old. On another page will be found a picture of the family and ranch property.

Mr. Kittelman has done exceedingly well since locating in this region, but his cash when he landed here was thirty-seven cents. He is enthusiastic regarding the opportunities of this section of the country, and, although he has passed through many bitter experiences, still thinks that it is the best place

he ever struck for a poor man to build up a good home and lay by a competence. He has been one of the leading men of his community since coming here, assisting in local affairs, and has held school office for a number of years. Politically he is a Republican.

JOSEPH BARKER.

Among the early settlers in western Nebraska who have watched the growth of this section from the time it was practically a vast wilderness, and who has given liberally of his time, money and influence in building up the region, the name of the gentleman above mentioned deserves a prominent place. Mr. Barker came here when he was one of the few settlers in Dawes county, and has seen the country grow from a wild region to its present prosperity, and is proud of the fact that he has been a part of this growth.

Mr. Barker was born in Carbon county, Pennsylvania, in 1853. His father, Solomon Barker, was a farmer, laborer and teamster, and his family had lived in Pennsylvania for generations. Our subject was reared and educated in his native state, living at home until he was sixteen years old, then struck out for himself. He had worked in the coal mines driving a mule team from the time he was eight years of age, and was well versed in the hardships and experiences of this life. He learned the blacksmith's trade after leaving home and worked at that for ten years, then quit that work and for three years ran a hoisting engine. He was employed by one mining company, the Cox Bros. & Company, for eleven years.

In 1883 Mr. Barker left the east and came to Nebraska, locating in Gage county, but only remained there for six months, and in the fall of 1884 he landed in Dawes county, teaming from the former place and camping out nights along the road. He settled on section 28, township 31, range 51, and started to build up a home, his family following him here the next year, they coming by stage from Sidney, and during this trip their stage was attacked by highwaymen. Their first building was a log house without a floor. His start was a very small beginning, as he had only fifty dollars in money, no team nor tools, but he managed to get along and proved up on his homestead, later taking a homestead in section 23, township 31, range 51. He had a dugout on the latter place, and the family through many hardships and privations, got out

never became discouraged and finally succeeded in building up their farm in good shape. In 1896 Mr. Barker went to Cambria, Wyoming, and there worked at his trade, employed by Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins, remaining there for a time, but returned to Nebraska and located on his former homestead on Ash creek. Here he has plenty of natural timber, good water and every kind of wild fruit, and has a fine farm and home. He owns seven hundred and sixty acres, farming sixty acres of this, and has the rest in pasture. He is engaged in stock raising to quite an extent, running about forty cattle and twelve horses.

Mr. Barker was married in 1877 to Miss Fannie Wenner and they had one son, Charles. Mrs. Barker died September 23, 1903, and her death was sincerely mourned by her husband and son and a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

On March 3, 1907, Mr. Barker was married again to Mrs. Mary J. Barker, daughter of William and Alice Casebier, old settlers in Nebraska, who came here in the early days, the father being a freighter. One child has been born to this union, Clayton F. Mrs. Barker had one child by her first marriage, Joseph W., and she was the widow of Charles Barker when our subject married her.

Mr. Barker has always taken an active interest in local affairs, has become identified with the new party movement and aided in the organization of the new forces, although he does not seek public office. He is held in the highest esteem by his associates, and is one of the solid and substantial men of his community.

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#### AUGUSTUS L. SISSON.

Among those who have contributed largely to the prosperity of Brown county, Nebraska, and whose patient industry and well directed energy have brought individual competence, may be mentioned August Sisson, whose estate lies in section 6, township 30, range 21.

Mr. Sisson is a native of the state of Ohio, born in Geauga county, August 27, 1850. His father, Lorenzo Sisson, was a farmer, of American stock, and died in 1870 while the family still lived in Ohio. After his death Mrs. Sisson moved to Shelby county, Iowa, with her three children, and remained there for several years, then came in 1880 to Brown county, Nebraska, where the family was one of the early settlers in that state. Our subject is the second of his mother's children, and during his boyhood years learned to do all kinds of hard

farm and dairy work, in which they were engaged. In 1880 he purchased a small farm in Shelby county, Iowa, but within the year sold this out and came to Brown county, where he settled on section 29, township 31, range 21. He also took a pre-emption, and the first building he put up was a log house with a dirt floor. He immediately began cultivating his land, and bought a drove of thirty head of cattle, of which he lost twenty-eight head in the winter of 1880-81 from the storms and severe weather which prevailed throughout this section. The family went through many hardships and privations during these first years, being compelled to live on nothing but hulled corn for one whole week. He spent his time in cutting cedar posts and hauling them to Long Pine, where he sold them, in this manner obtaining money to buy provisions. Although he went through very hard times here he stuck to this farm until 1891, and then bought the Boone creek mill and the farm on which it was located. He went to work improving the farm, putting up buildings and fences, and began operating the mill, grinding flour, feed, etc., and for a time did a large business, but when the dry years came he had a hard time to get enough to do to pay for running it. In the early days there were no railroads near his farm, and in 1880 he was obliged to make a trip to Oakdale, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, to get a load of corn. He made the trip there all right, but on his return journey he was almost home when the wagon tipped over into Oak creek, losing the whole load. In the spring of that year Jasper Stanley, who was an employe, made a trip to Atkinson, a distance of fifty miles, for a load of corn, consuming seventeen days for the journey, such was the condition of the roads. When he got as far as Boone creek on his return journey the river had risen so high that he was unable to cross with the team. He hitched the team securely, as he thought, and swam across the stream with a sack of flour on his back, but before he could recross the creek his horses had broken loose and got at the corn and ate so much that two of them died. About this time supplies had gotten very low at home and he was obliged to make a hasty trip for another load of feed to keep them going. These are only two out of many incidents and difficulties which beset the early settlers in this locality, but they were all brave-hearted and sturdy people, and it took more than these trifles to discourage them. Mr. Sisson is now the owner of a six hundred and forty-acre farm and engages in both farming and stock raising. The residence

burned December 4, 1907, and he immediately built a modern home on the north side of the creek. This new house is supplied with running water and other modern conveniences.

On February 25, 1872, Mr. Sisson was married to Miss Minnie Swett, born in Iowa, a daughter of Alanson Swett, an old settler in Nebraska, a sketch of whose life will be found on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Sisson are the parents of eight children, named as follows: Ada, wife of Philip Parsons, of California; Frank, Ralph, Edyth, wife of Arthur Toliver, of Ainsworth; Arthur, Lee, Marie and Carl.

Mr. Sisson has been a member of the reform parties in politics. He is a gentleman of intelligence and a public-spirited citizen, esteemed and respected by his associates.

C. F. SNYDER.

C. F. Snyder, who occupies a prominent place among the younger members of the farming community of Kimball county, is proprietor of a valuable estate. He is associated with his brother, W. J. Snyder, and they are among the progressive and well-to-do worthy citizens of their locality.

Our subject was born in Otis, Laporte county, Indiana, July 20, 1876, and lived there until he was seven years of age, when the whole family came to Nebraska, settling in Douglas county. W. J. Snyder, his brother, was born in Laporte county in 1878. There the father bought land and built up a good farm and home, still residing on the place, the mother's death having occurred in Omaha in 1908. Our subject remained in Douglas county up to 1895, helping his father on the home ranch, then located on a farm in Washington county, which he operated up to 1902. At that time he came to Kimball county and purchased the Newell ranch, situated on section 30, township 15, range 57, this place containing in all five hundred and eighty acres. He also purchased the old Fred Baker place, containing three hundred and twenty acres, using the two as a stock ranch. He has been very successful in his enterprises, having a fine bunch of horses of about one hundred head; also runs a large herd of Hereford cattle, owning some very fine animals of both kinds. A large part of his ranch is used for hay and pasture, and besides this he has a dairy farm in connection with his other stock raising business, having a good income from this source. Mr. Snyder purchased the L. C. Kinney ranch

of six hundred and seventy-seven acres, which is situated on sections 1 and 31, townships 14 and 15, ranges 57 and 58, which is now the home ranch. The large ranching business is managed jointly by our subject and his brother, W. J., the latter born in the same town with C. F., and who has followed practically the same career with his brother. He was married in Omaha, July 29, 1906, to Miss Marie Blaze, and they have one child, Roger Charles. Our subject was married in March, 1896, at Omaha, to Miss Rosa Bauer, who was born in Germany and came to America two years previous to her marriage. They have three children, Harry, Minnie and Annie.

W. F. Snyder, the father of C. F. and W. J. Snyder, was born in Germany, August 9, 1843, and came to the United States when about seven years of age, his parents settling in Michigan City, Indiana, where they raised their family. He came to Nebraska, locating in Douglas county, and was one of the pioneers of that section. He was married at Laporte, Indiana, on August 30, 1875, to Miss Minnie Rogert, and had three children, all boys, the subject of this review being the eldest of the family. The youngest son, H. A. Snyder, is now a resident of Omaha. W. F. Snyder was a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting in Company K, Eighty-third Indiana Infantry, as a private, on October 8, 1862, going as a substitute for his father, who was unable to fill draft. He served under Sherman and was mustered out at Fort Schuyler, New York Harbor, on the 29th of May, 1864. He made Douglas county his home up to 1908, then came to live with his sons on their ranch. He is a sturdy old gentleman, still hale and hearty, and is a representative western ranchman. Since coming west both our subject and his brother, W. J., have taken an active part in developing the country. They are both well and favorably known and are among the progressive citizens of the county. Our subject is now postmaster of Bushnell. He is also serving as constable and has been a member of the school board since 1902. W. J. Snyder is now road overseer.

RICHARD GREENLAND.

Richard Greenland claims nativity in the state of Pennsylvania, where he was born on a farm in Huntingdon county in 1856. His great-grandfather was born in Ireland. His subject's father was Ezra Greenland, of Pennsylvania. His mother, Elizabeth

(Maddon) Greenland, was also of Irish ancestry, born in Pennsylvania.

Richard Greenland was married March 15, 1883, to Miss Mary Adelle Harvey, daughter of Benjamin Harvey, an old settler of Loup county, Nebraska, of the days when the Indians still roamed the prairies. Mr. and Mrs. Greenland have had seven children, only two living, Frank and Albert.

The subject of our sketch was reared on a farm in Pennsylvania, doing farm work and receiving only a limited schooling. At the age of twenty he left his native state and came west to Chicago, where he remained for a short time and then he came to Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked out for two years. In 1878 he went to Ogallala and commenced ranching, working on various ranches in western Nebraska. He had a number of years of experience as a cowboy, camping out and roughing it in many sections of the west. In 1883 he settled on his present farm, a homestead, put up a sod shanty, and, with practically nothing, commenced laying the foundations of the splendid ranch home he now occupies. He has six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, with good improvements, and he meets with fine success in farming and stock raising. He has one of the finest groves of forest trees that can be found anywhere in the county, some of the trees being planted by our subject twenty-one years ago. Mr. Greenland came to this country in a very early day, first in 1874, and took a pre-emption claim on the North Loup river, in Loup county, and remained for several months. Later he was taken sick with typhoid fever and was obliged to give up his claim. He is among the earliest pioneers of western Nebraska and has witnessed the wonderful growth of the state with pleased interest. Mr. Greenland is an independent in politics and he believes in supporting the men and party that represent those principles which conduce most to the general good. He was county commissioner for three years, being first elected in 1890.

He has held other offices and has proven capable and trustworthy, winning the respect and confidence of the community in which he lives.

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#### HARRIS JOHNSON, DECEASED.

The gentleman herein named was one of the prosperous farmers of Cherry county, owning a farm on section 28, township 33, range 33, where he has a well improved place. Mr. Johnson was born in Moline, Illinois, in 1866,

and is a son of Charles and Hannah (Gustavson) Johnson, natives of Sweden, who came to this country when young people. When our subject was two years old his parents moved to Hamilton county, Iowa, and there their family of eight children was reared. At the age of twenty-one Harris left home and located in Cherry county, where he followed ranching for some years in the hope of benefiting his health. There he was married and he and his wife both worked on one ranch for five and a half years. In 1898 he purchased a tract on the Niobrara river, and later took an additional homestead of four hundred and eighty acres, all grazing land, and was engaged in the stock business, running about fifty head all the time. Owing to failing health he went to Colorado, hoping to recuperate, but passed away at Colorado Springs on February 29, 1908.

In 1891 he married Miss Ida Hook, daughter of John F. Hook, whose sketch appears in this work. Mrs. Johnson was born in Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1864. They have one daughter, named Alice.

For a number of years Mr. Johnson served as school director in his district, and always took an active interest in all educational matters. He was a Republican and prominent in party affairs.

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#### JAMES F. McPARLAND.

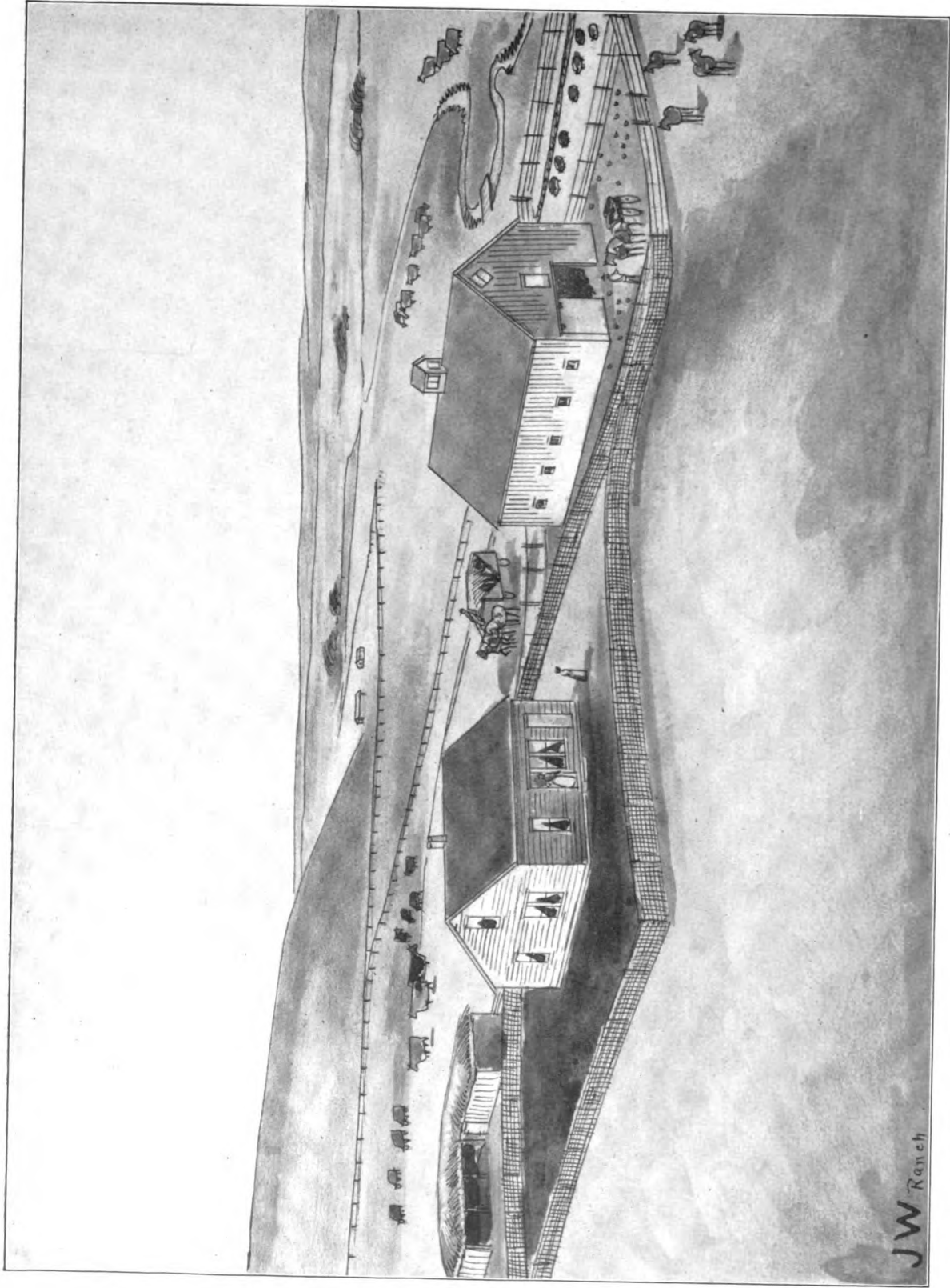
James F. McParland, residing in Rushville, Nebraska, is one of the influential citizens and successful business men of Sheridan county.

Mr. McParland was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1862. His father was also a native of Scotland, and his mother of Scotch blood, born in Ireland. They had a family of seven children, our subject being the second youngest, and he left home at the age of thirteen to make his own way in the world. He came to this country in 1875, and after arriving at New York city obtained employment and remained there for two years, clerking in a hotel. After that he went to Cleveland, where he spent three years, then to southwestern Minnesota. There he took charge of a farm, which he ran for two years. He next went into business for himself, running an elevator and grain business at Adrian, Minnesota, for eight years, and was also engaged in the lumber business there.

In 1889 Mr. McParland came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, arriving here in April, locating at Rushville, where he went into the







RESIDENCE OF FRANK HIPPLE.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

real estate business, dealing principally in land in neighboring states. He established his present office in 1901, and has built up a wide acquaintance, handling many large deals in real estate during his business career here. Mr. McParland has traveled extensively, investigating all the important irrigation projects in the west, journeying through Washington, Oregon, Utah, Idaho and California, and hunting out localities where irrigation projects were possible. Politically he is a Republican, and takes an active part in party affairs. In 1905 he was elected county commissioner, now serving in that capacity, and is a popular and efficient official, acting as chairman of the board. For several years he was a member of the town board, and is prominent in all local and county political circles.

Mr. McParland was married on May 31, 1889, to Miss Annie Hughes, daughter of John Hughes, who was one of the oldest settlers in northeastern Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. McParland have been born the following children: Mary, Gladys, Beatrice and James F. The family is highly esteemed in the community, and have one of the most pleasant homes here.

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#### FRANK J. HIPPLE.

Frank J. Hipple, who may be truly classed among the self-made men of Cherry county, is proprietor of a well improved ranch in Minichaduza precinct. He has devoted his entire time and attention to the building up of his home and has met with pronounced success, well meriting his present prosperity.

Mr. Hipple was born in the village of Stolzenhagen, province of East Prussia, Germany, December 14, 1865. His father, John Hipple, was a farmer there, coming to America with his family of three children, our subject at that time being the youngest, and fifteen years of age. They sailed from Hamburg in the White Star liner Cassius, landing in New York city January 8, 1881. They immediately started for the southwest, settling in Little Rock, Arkansas, near where the father still resides, at Subiaco Convent, not far from Spielerville. Our subject studied two years at Koenigsberg, in the old country, with the view of entering the priesthood, as his brother has done. At the age of twenty-two he started in for himself, engaging in cotton raising for seven to Valentine, Nebraska, whence he drove to Georgia and filed on a homestead the

At the age of twenty-two he started in for himself, engaging in cotton raising for seven to Valentine, Nebraska, whence he drove to Georgia and filed on a homestead the

ing week. He at once put up a dugout and began to break up his place. On reaching here he had only sixteen dollars, and of this he paid fourteen dollars in land office fees, which left him a capital of two dollars for his start in life. He worked out for a year to maintain himself in provisions. He afterwards relinquished on that place and filed on his present homestead, situated in section 34, township 35, range 30, Cherry county. Here he has established a good ranch, containing nine hundred and sixty acres, half of deeded land and half of Kincaid homestead, while his wife also owns four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land. In addition Mr. Hipple holds a lease on a half section of school land. His place is located on the Minichaduza creek, and he engages principally in stock raising, running from one hundred to two hundred head of cattle, fifty horses and other stock. Of late years he has been able to raise fairly good crops of grain, cultivating about one hundred acres at times. During the drouth periods he became discouraged with this branch of the business after losing four crops in succession. A view of the family residence and surroundings will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Hipple was married December 24, 1900, to Mrs. Tillie De Bords, whose parents, Herman and Julia Hanson, were natives of Norway and early settlers in eastern Nebraska. Mrs. Hipple, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, was the first of her parents' children born in America. She was first married in Sioux City, Iowa, March 25, 1886, bearing two children, Lulu and Clarence.

Our subject is active in all matters of local importance and does all in his power to aid in the educational and commercial advancement of his locality. He has held school office at different times. Politically he is a Republican and in religious faith a member of the Catholic church.

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#### DOMINIC HAAS.

Many a brave pioneer has come to the western plains with nothing but a strong heart and willing hands, and from a start of nothing has carved out for himself a fortune and home, and is now prepared to enjoy the remaining years of his career in comfort and plenty, surrounded by his family and a host of warm friends, esteemed and respected by all.

Dominic Haas was born in Luxembur Germany, in 1864. His father, Peter, was



farmer, and spent his entire life in Germany, but his wife, who was Margaret Bartholome, came to America, where she lived with her sons, our subject and his brother Peter, who is associated with him in the ranching business, the mother's death occurring in Sioux county in 1889. Dominic and Peter were raised in their native land, and when reaching manhood struck out for the new world, bringing with them their mother, landing in New York city in 1889, and came directly west to Nebraska, locating in Sioux county, taking as a homestead what is now his home ranch, situated in section 7, township 33, range 54. Their first team was a pair of oxen, with which they broke up land and put in sod crops. The first dwelling was a log cabin, and they worked hard to improve their place, and had a hard time in getting started, losing several crops, but soon gave up trying to farm and worked into the stock business, both he and his brother working out in the vicinity of their home at railroad construction and on the range in order to lay by a little money. At the same time he put up good buildings as he became better able, fenced his land, and little by little improved his place, although they suffered many hardships and privations during the early years. They now have seventeen hundred and twenty acres, situated on Hat creek, cultivating about forty acres, and well stocked with cattle and other live stock. His brother Peter is now in the east taking medical treatment and hopes to return soon.

Mr. Haas was married in 1904 to Miss Kate Birnbaumer, whose father, Joseph, was a prominent farmer and old settler in Iowa. Her mother was Eva Weber, of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Haas are the parents of two children, Nick, aged two years, and John, aged one year.

Mr. Haas has always been active in local affairs, and helped in establishing the schools of his locality, doing his full share in aiding the progress and promoting the general welfare of his community.

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#### HON. WILLIAM NEVILLE.

The gentleman above named, now residing in Arizona, was for many years a prominent resident of North Platte, Nebraska. He was well known as a leading attorney and practiced his profession in this section up to 1903.

Mr. Neville was born near Nashville, Illinois, in 1843, and moved from there to Chester, Illinois, in 1851. He was educated at

McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois, and afterwards taught school for a time. When about nineteen years old he enlisted in an Illinois regiment and served a year in the Civil war.

He was elected to the Illinois legislature from Randolph, Perry and Monroe counties in the fall of 1872 and moved to Omaha at the close of the second session in 1874. He was elected to the Nebraska legislature from Omaha as a Democrat in 1876. He moved to North Platte at the close of the session in 1877.

He was register of the United States land office at North Platte, Nebraska, from 1885 to 1890, and judge of the thirteenth judicial district from 1891 to 1895. In 1896 he was elected supreme judge for Nebraska on the fusion ticket, the office being contingent upon an amendment to the constitution which was declared not carried. In 1898 he was president of the Nebraska state board at the Omaha and Transmississippi Exposition. In 1899 he was elected to congress on the fusion ticket to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. W. L. Greene, and represented the sixth Nebraska district in the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh congresses. He was mayor of North Platte for one term.

He moved to Douglas, Arizona, on account of his health in 1903, just after the close of the fifty-seventh congress, and in 1904 was elected to the Arizona legislature.

In 1882 Mr. Neville married Miss Mollie Ann Keith, daughter of M. C. Keith, a pioneer stockman and ranch owner of northwestern Nebraska. Mrs. Mollie Keith Neville died at North Platte in 1884, just after the birth of their only child, M. Keith Neville, who now resides in North Platte, Nebraska. M. C. Keith died in 1899, and left M. Keith Neville a large fortune.

In 1886 Judge William Neville married his second wife, Irene Morrison Rector, who died in January, 1906, leaving a daughter, Irene Thecla Neville, who is now attending school in Washington, D. C.

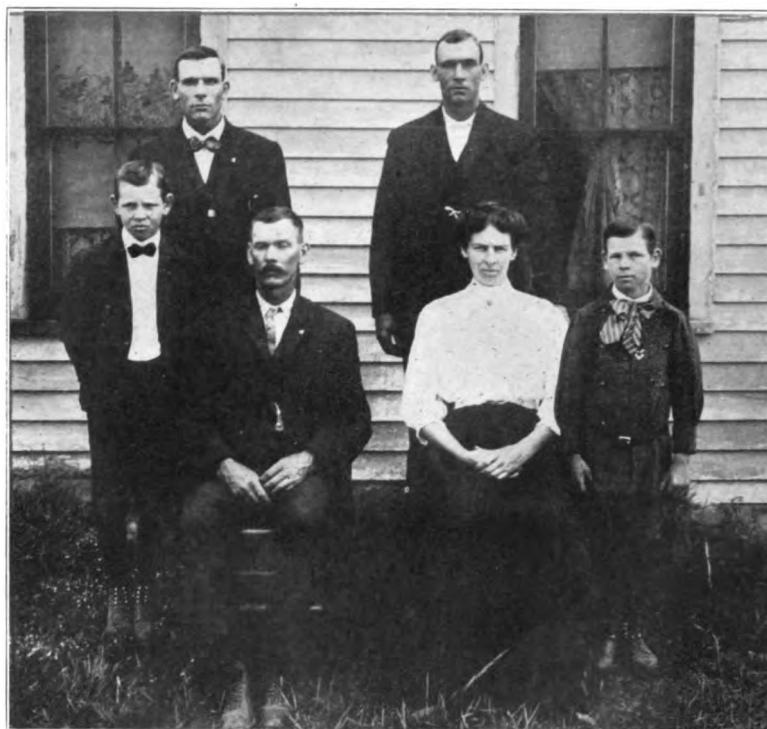
Mr. Neville is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, of the Improved Order of Red Men and of Cochise Aerie of Eagles.

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#### EDWARD L. SCHMIDT.

Edward L. Schmidt, one of the most energetic and successful farmers of Sioux county, Nebraska, resides on his fine farm in section 21, township 32, range 54. He is a young man of good business judgment and has won an





C. H. BRITTON AND FAMILY.



SCENE ON RANCH OF C. H. BRITTON,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.

enviable reputation in his community as a prosperous farmer and worthy citizen.

Mr. Schmidt was born in Kearney county, Nebraska, in 1877, on a farm. His father, Edward Schmidt, was a well known farmer and old settler in that county, coming here from Germany in 1869 and locating in that region, filing on a homestead in section 21, township 7, range 14, in Kearney county. Our subject's mother was Pauline Brown, a native of Russia, born of German parents. Edward grew up on his father's farm and assisted his parents in the work of carrying on the home place, living there until he was twenty-one years of age. He left home in 1898 and started for himself, coming to Sioux county, where he homesteaded his present farm in sections 20 and 21, township 32, range 54. Here he started farming in a small way, building a little shack in which he lived for a couple of years. During the first year he lost what few crops he put in through the dry weather, but after that was very successful in raising fair crops of small grains, potatoes, etc., and has done very well in his farming operations since then. His farm consists of four hundred acres, sixty acres of which is under cultivation, and he has forty acres of good timber land, which is each year growing more valuable. He has built up a good home, has good barns and improvements on the place, and from a start of almost nothing has accumulated a nice property and is now able to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

In January, 1906, the Unit postoffice was established on Mr. Schmidt's farm, and he is now serving as postmaster, also conducting a general merchandise store, handling a line of groceries, etc.

Mr. Schmidt was married in January, 1900, to Miss Lissie Klahn, born in Germany, daughter of Carl Klahn, one of the early settlers of Kearney county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have a family of five children, namely: Emma, William, Carl, Tillie and Mary.

JAMES H. MONAHAN.

Among the progressive and energetic younger members of the ranching community of Grant county who have contributed wealth and prosperity of that region, the most place is accorded the gentleman named. For many years past he has been engaged in the building up of an extensive ranch, and while doing this has also gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and active public-spirited gentleman.

Mr. Monahan resides in Hyannis, where he is well known politically, having held the office of county treasurer for one term, receiving his election in 1897. He has also served as county commissioner, elected in 1903 and re-elected in 1906, still serving his county in that capacity, and proving a most efficient and popular public official.

James H. Monahan was born in Fremont county, Iowa, in 1872. He was reared on his father's farm, the latter being a native of Ireland, who came to this country while a young man, settling in Iowa as a pioneer. When our subject was a boy of fifteen the family came to Nebraska, settling eleven miles northwest of Whitman, James securing employment on a ranch as a cowboy, following that work for several years and gaining a wide knowledge of frontier life, becoming thoroughly familiar with the country all through western Nebraska. In 1897 he made a permanent settlement on section 4, township 24, range 37, Grant county, and began to establish a ranch of his own. He worked hard and faithfully, and succeeded splendidly, now being proprietor of a fine ranch containing thirty-one hundred acres, all deeded land, and besides this he operates two quarter sections of school land which he uses as a range. He has erected good buildings on the place, including a commodious dwelling, barns, sheds, etc., and every cent he is now worth has been accumulated through his own untiring efforts and good management, as he had absolutely nothing to start with. For a time Mr. Monahan ran a store in Hyannis, during 1895 and 1896, and is well known in that town as a good business man and substantial citizen.

On November 3, 1907, Mr. Monahan was married to Cora McCawley. Her father, John McCawley, a prominent citizen of Grant county, is a leading politician, now occupying the position of county judge. He married Edna Hagan. Mr. Monahan has one child, Earl, aged eight years, and reared in this county. The family occupy a foremost place in the social and school affairs of their township, and are popular members of the community. He is a Republican in political views.

CHESTER H. BRITTON.

Chester H. Britton, whose upright and honorable career should be an encouragement to the young men of the present generation, as they can see what thrift and industry, has

esty and integrity can always accomplish, was born in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1861. His father, Major L. Britton, who was a native of New Hampshire, was a printer for several years, but gave this up to follow the occupation of farmer. His mother, Martha (Brasher) Britton, was born in America of German parentage.

Our subject was reared on his father's farm in Warren county, Iowa, where he attended the common schools, at the same time assisting his father in tilling the soil. At the age of twenty-one years he left home, and with the money his father gave him he rented a farm and made a start for himself. He spent three years in farming his place but this first venture proved a failure, and he lost all he had. Not discouraged by these reverses he came west in March, 1886, and took up a claim in section 7, township 30, range 50, Dawes county, Nebraska, on which he later proved up. His first building in this new western country was a log cabin. Soon after this he took a homestead in section 12, township 30, range 51, where he erected substantial building and greatly improved the claim. From time to time he secured adjoining land, and now has one of the best ranches in Dawes county, comprising an area of seventeen hundred and sixty acres, which he fenced and cross fenced, which is situated on the high tableland. He cultivated two hundred acres, and has several acres of good timber land. His present residence is very substantial and commodious, and he has fine barns and sheds in which to house his stock, two wells and wind mills, and a cistern. In 1891 he built a saw mill. His mill was destroyed by fire, but not discouraged by this disaster he rebuilt, and now has a very good mill.

Mr. Britton engages extensively in stock raising, making a specialty of cattle, horses and sheep. For the past fourteen years he has been engaged in the threshing business, having a steam power machine for which he paid \$3,000 and threshes from seventy to one hundred thousand bushels of grain each year. Our subject has witnessed the periods of drouths which are so well known to the early settlers in this western country, but he has had the good fortune of never having what could be called a complete failure of crops.

Mr. Britton and Miss Nannie McIntosh were united in marriage in 1882. Her father, Daniel McIntosh, was a farmer and a native of Scotland. Her mother was Nancy (Dowd) McIntosh. Three children blessed this union, Howard, Charles and Nannie, deceased. Mrs. Britton died in 1890. Several years after Mr. Britton contracted a second marriage with

Miss Minnie Hayden. She was reared in Dawes county, her father, Belemis Hayden, having settled here in 1887. Burt and Clarence were the two children born to this union.

As a man who figures prominently in matters of local interest Mr. Britton stands well, for he has always taken an active interest in the improvement and development of Dawes county. He was one of the men who were instrumental in the organization of the Farmers Independent Telephone Company, in which he is a stockholder, and of which company he holds the office of president. Considering the little capital he had to work with and his small start, his friends consider that he has done wonderfully well, and that his career in Dawes county is to be regarded as a marked success. He is a Republican in politics.

Engravings in connection with this sketch are part of the interesting illustrations in this work.

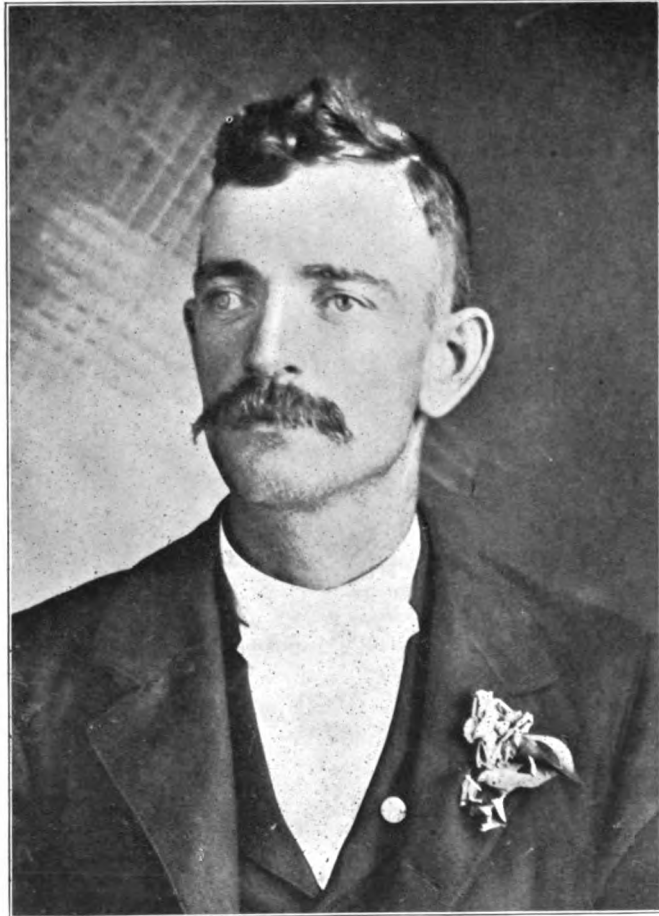
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#### JESSE W. GARNER.

Among the younger "old settlers" of western Nebraska we mention the name of Jesse W. Garner, who resides on his valuable estate situated in section 3, township 33, range 35, of Cherry county.

Mr. Garner was born in Wilkes county, North Carolina, October 11, 1870. His father, Isaac Garner, was a farmer and homesteader in Cherry county, coming here in 1892 from North Carolina, where he was reared and served in the southern army under impressment, his sympathies being with the north. Our subject's mother was Miss Adelaide Caudle, of old southern blood, and he was the second member in her family of four children. When he was seven years of age the family came to Dodge county as pioneers, and there he was reared and educated, attending the country schools. When twenty years old he moved to Cherry county, and was here throughout the Indian troubles of 1890-91, witnessing many exciting incidents of that time. He located on a homestead west of Cody, and also took up a tree claim near there, batching it for six years and leading a regular pioneer existence. His first buildings were all of sod, and he started in to build up his farm, on which he proved up, then left the place and moved to his present farm in 1902, located on the Niobrara river. Here he has established a fine estate, and has improved the place with good buildings, fences and up-to-date machinery. He has one hundred and twenty acres cultivated, and altogether operates eight hun-





ORON B. BOWER.



dred and eighty acres of land, engaging in ranching and stock raising. Together with his brother he owns upwards of two thousand acres of valuable farm and ranch lands.

Mr. Garner was married in 1896 to Miss Rosa Maybee, daughter of William and Rachel (Mapes) Maybee, pioneer homesteaders in Cherry county. Mr. and Mrs. Garner are the parents of three children, namely: Lee, Roxy and Rose. The family is highly esteemed in their home community, and are popular and well liked by all who know them.

Mr. Garner is a Republican, active in local political circles, and lends his influence for the principles of that party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

ORON B. BOWER.

Oron B. Bower is a well known resident of Chappell, where he has spent many years of his career, and has helped in a marked degree in the upbuilding of that region. He was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania, in 1867, his parents settling in Transfer, that state, where he lived until he was thirteen years of age. His father was a cooper by trade, farming also part of the time, and in 1880 came with his family to Nebraska, locating seven miles from Grand Island, where they lived for five years, then they came west to Big Springs, homesteading in Perkins county. Here they went through all the experiences of the early pioneers in the region, having sod house and dugout experience, and made that their home for a number of years. They were obliged to haul the water supply for domestic purposes a distance of seventeen miles, and were the first family to dig a well in the neighborhood.

Our subject lived at home until he was thirty years of age, when he took a homestead in the vicinity and proved up on it, later proved up on a tree claim and pre-emption, as did his father also, each using all three rights. In 1897 Oron moved to Big Springs, but as the times were very hard owing to unfavorable crop conditions he was compelled to go to work on the section, and followed that for three years, again going back to farming in 1900, taking a farm near Big Springs, on which he lived for two years. In 1902 he went to Burg, following farm work there for about four years, locating in 1906 at Chappell, where he purchased a livery barn and began up a business. He has improved the and increased his patronage greatly since ing the place, having a good barn with

ment floor, the only one so constructed in western Nebraska fitted with modern appliances. In equipment and service this barn is not surpassed anywhere. He also owns the Chappell dray line and has licenses for two teams, doing a profitable business. In 1909 he put in automobile service, which makes this barn up-to-date in every particular.

Mr. Bower was married in 1897 to Miss Madge S. Beach, daughter of Riley Beach, a prominent old settler in Deuel county, a sketch of whom appears on another page, locating there in 1886. He is now postmaster at Big Springs. He is a veteran of the Civil war and well known in political circles in the county and vicinity. Our subject has a family of four children, namely: Lloyd, Russell, Margaret and Randall. They have a pleasant home and are popular members of their community. A portrait of Mr. Bower will be found elsewhere in this volume.

HENRY EHMKE.

Henry Ehmke for many years past has been one of the most successful agriculturists of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He opened up a farm from wild prairie land and has been intimately associated with the development of that region, and by his untiring perseverance and integrity has gained a valuable property and enviable reputation as a citizen and farmer.

Mr. Ehmke was born in the village of Doerwerden, Hanover, Germany, September 2, 1845. He grew to manhood in his native country, following farming during his younger days, and when about forty years of age came to America. Sailing from Bremer Haven on the "Emms" August 27, 1884, after a voyage of fourteen days he landed in New York and came direct to Nebraska. After a fortnight in Omaha and three months in Columbus and an equal time in Grand Island, he came to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1885. He at once took up a homestead in section 4, township 15, range 50, and has made that his home ever since, owning at the present time over three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity, which is devoted to farming and stock raising. He has about one hundred and thirty acres under cultivation, and runs quite a large herd of stock. He has put up good buildings and improvements and has his ranch in the best possible shape. Mr. Ehmke has always been an active supporter of every movement for the benefit of his county and state, and has aided in every matter of local importance.

with a livery barn and began up a business. He has improved the and increased his patronage greatly since ing the place, having a good barn with

in true public spirit, and is one of the substantial and helpful men of his locality.

During our subject's boyhood in his native land he enlisted in the Hanoverian army in 1866 and served for about five years, taking part in the action of Hanover against Prussia in that year and again during a two years' service in the German army in the war against France in 1870-71. During his career as a soldier he participated in twenty-one battles.

Mr. Ehmke was married at Columbus, Nebraska, in 1884, to Miss Carrie Ensminger, a native of Germany, who came to the United States in 1878. Seven children were born of their union, named as follows: Mary, married to Emmet Sanders, now living in Cheyenne county; William, Wilhelmina, Henry, Margaret, Carrie and Herman, the last six all living at home, and are of great help to their parents in carrying on the extensive farm.

Politically our subject is a Democrat and lends his influence for the best interests of his party. He was reared in the Lutheran church.

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#### THUE P. JENSEN.

Among the prominent citizens and representative farmers and ranchmen of Dawes county, Thue P. Jensen occupies a foremost place, as he has spent many years of his life in this section and has built up a good home and an enviable reputation as an energetic worker and good business man. He resides in section 11, township 34, range 48, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Jensen was born in Denmark in 1862. He grew up on a farm, and when eleven years of age was left an orphan and from that time on made his own way in the world, working on farms in the vicinity of his native town up to the time he was twenty years of age. In the spring of 1882 he came to America, and after landing in New York city went to Wheeling, West Virginia, where he spent one year. He next settled in Clinton, Iowa, there doing any kind of work that came to hand, but only remained for six months, then went back to Wheeling, where he obtained employment in a nail mill in that city. In the spring of 1884 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and there worked in a stone quarry for three years. In 1887 he came west again, locating in Dawes county, and here took up eighty acres as a pre-emption, and proved up on the land, living in a dugout which he built, for some time. This was a small hut, 14x14, but he was reasonably comfortable in it, and after being here a while

he took up a homestead and proved up on that. His first team after coming here was a pair of small ponies, and with these he broke up his land and used them for all purposes on his farm. He next settled on a rented ranch in section 12, and remained for two years, and after that kept moving around constantly, although always living in this part of the county. In 1898 he settled on his present homestead, situated in section 11, township 34, range 48, which was then only partly improved property, to which he has since added a comfortable house, barns and other farm buildings. His ranch now consists of three thousand acres, all deeded land, and besides he operates some leased land. The ranch is all fenced, and is on the White River, which supplies all the good water he needs for his stock and every purpose. He farms about one hundred acres, raising small grains, and also a large piece of alfalfa.

Mr. Jensen was married while living in Cleveland, in 1886, to Miss Signa Johnson, and they are the parents of six children, namely: Annie, Willie, Burt, Mark, George and Nellie.

Mr. Jensen is a good neighbor and worthy citizen, and has aided in building up his community, giving liberally of his time and money in advancing its best interests at all times. He is now holding school office, and has acted as treasurer of his school for several years. In his political views he is an Independent.

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#### BEERS BROTHERS.

The Beers Brothers are among the well-known old settlers in Dawes county, Nebraska. The father of the family, Abel Beers, was born in Easton, Fairfield county, Connecticut. He was of English stock, his ancestors coming from Sheffield, England, in 1636, settling in Connecticut, where Abel was reared and educated, and was married July 4, 1851, to Miss Sarah H. Bearsley, who was born in Easton, of American stock. Ten children were born to the couple, and they were named as follows: Isaac, Gladden, Ida and Alfred (who died in infancy), Leslie, Eva, Nellie, Lillyetta, who died at the age of twenty-eight, May 9, 1891; Noah and Charles, all of whom were born and reared in New England. The father was a farmer by occupation, and was a general handy man—mechanic, shoemaker, etc., as well as a good writer and composer, and he had written and published two books which were widely read.

In 1877, the father and one son, Leslie,

came to Parker, South Dakota, landing <sup>there</sup> in January of that year, and settled on a <sup>home-</sup>stead on which they lived for seven <sup>years,</sup> proved upon the land, also owned considerable property in the town of Parker. While in that section of the country they went through many pioneer experiences, handling ox teams, freighting, etc., and "batched it" in a sod shanty, which they put up on the place. In 1884 both came to Dawes county, Nebraska, teaming out from Valentine, and located on section 26, township 32, range 51, and at once built a small frame house on the homestead. The following year all of the family came west to join them except three sisters and two brothers, and as a family all worked together in building up the farm and home. They got along well and had a good start and things running smoothly until 1888, when in some way their stable caught fire and burned up, together with fifty tons of hay, and this was a serious setback to them, although they did not give up courage, but went right on, as in those days the settlers were not easily discouraged. They lived on this place for thirteen years, and during this time each one of the boys took up homesteads and proved up on them, in this way adding to their original holdings, and they next bought and moved to section 24, township 31, range 51, on West Ash creek. Here they have built up a splendid farm, have plenty of pine, ash and cottonwood timber, and good water the year round. They have put up a twenty-five horse power saw mill, and are also building a feed mill on their farm now. They have a ranch of over a thousand acres, and it is one ties in the county.

The father died December 21, 1901, and the of the best improved and most valuable proper-mother died May 16, 1908, while on a visit east, and left his three sons partners in the ranching interests, namely: Charles, Noah and Leslie.

In 1903, on March 15th, Charles Beers was united in marriage to Miss Dorothy M. Patterson, whose father is an old settler in Sioux county. Besides farming, Charles followed the brickmaking business for twelve years at Chadron, Nebraska; Casper, Wyoming; Cripple Creek, Colorado; and Edgemont, South Dakota. He has three children, Charles Lester, Dorothy S. and Alice W.

Noah Beers was married January 7, 1906, to Miss Sadie C. Benson. All of his time has been given to the farm.

Leslie has traveled all through the <sup>Black Hills, and for a time was night foreman</sup> storage battery plant at Lead City, <sup>South Dakota.</sup> He has lately resigned that <sup>position</sup>.

and is at home on the farm. It may be truly said that the Beers Brothers are "hustlers" and are destined to make splendid success of their business.

BERT L. GENUNG.

The gentleman above named is one of the prosperous farmers of Keya Paha county, residing on section 18, township 32, range 18, in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where he has built up a comfortable and pleasant home and enjoys the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends.

Mr. Genung was born near Hastings, Mills county, Iowa, September 10, 1875. His father, Lewis T. Genung, is a prominent attorney in Hastings, of American stock, and a man of wide repute as a politician, well known in Democratic circles for the past twenty years. He now resides at Glenwood, Iowa. He has held county offices at various times, and was a nominee for congress in 1896. Our subject was reared and educated in the town of his birth and resided there until he was twenty-six years old, when he came to Keya Paha county in 1901. Here he took charge of the "L T" ranch, located in section 18, township 32, range 19, which is a tract of land comprising seven thousand acres, all fenced, thirty-five hundred of this being deeded land and the remainder leased. This is located on the Niobrara river, and extends back for six miles. When Mr. Genung came here the place was utterly without improvements, and he went to work in building up the farm, put up a number of buildings, including two houses, and a good, substantial set of farm buildings. One hundred and sixty acres of this is cultivated, but he engages principally in stock raising, and through his good management and hard labor he has made this property one of the most valuable estates in the section. The ranch was at one time headquarters of "Doc" Middleton's gang; here he lived for some time, and several caves have been found in the vicinity which were used by him and his companions as hiding places for themselves and stolen stock.

On September, 20, 1899, Mr. Genung was married to Miss Minnie Fisher, who prior to her marriage was a school teacher in Iowa. Her father, George Fisher, was a farmer and old settler in that state; her mother was in maidenhood Viola Carey. Mr. and Mrs. Genung have two children: Mabel J. and Louise Ruth. Among the younger members of the farm

ing community around Carnes Mr. Genung is recognized as a rising agriculturist, who through his progressive methods will become one of the prominent and influential citizens of this locality. In politics he is a Democrat.

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#### JOHN D. SHARP.

John D. Sharp, one of the old-timers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, resides on his pleasant farm in section 21, township 35, range 24, which he has made his home since 1903. Mr. Sharp has been a resident of this county since 1884, formerly living on section 33, in the same township and range, where he made substantial improvements.

Mr. Sharp was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, April 17, 1856. His father, William C. Sharp, was a farmer, and an old settler in Nebraska, coming here with his family in 1865, settling in Cuming county, where our subject grew up familiar with all the hardships and the rough life of a frontiersman's existence. His mother was Miss Margaret Ingram before her marriage; she presented her husband with a family of seven children, John D., being the second member. He started out to make his own way in the world when about twenty years of age, farming on rented land in Cummings county. He worked this for a few years, and in 1884 came to Keya Paha county, having previously been all through the region as far west as the Black Hills country and being favorably impressed with the conditions which he found. He was familiar with the country before it was made a state, and from its earliest beginning has taken part in the history of its upbuilding and rapid growth, giving his aid in every way possible where he saw a chance to improve the agricultural and educational opportunities. After locating in Keya Paha county he took up a homestead in section 33, and proved up, building a house, planting trees, etc., and during the first years often had a hard time to get along and make a living, as the dry years came on and he lost several crops which put him back considerably. He moved to his present ranch in 1903, where he has five hundred and sixty acres, all fenced, with good buildings and other improvements, and here he is engaged in stock raising and mixed farming, and has done well here. He has five acres of forest trees nicely growing and half an acre of orchard of apples, plums, cherries and crabs. On another page will be found a picture of the place.

Mr. Sharp was married in Cuming

county, November 4, 1879, to Miss Nellie Smith, daughter of Ezra Smith, a farmer and old settler in Keya Paha county, formerly of Cuming county and originally from Michigan. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Sharp was a school teacher in Cuming county, where she met the man who afterwards became her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have a family of four children, named as follows: Ray L., Blanche, Alta and Rex W.

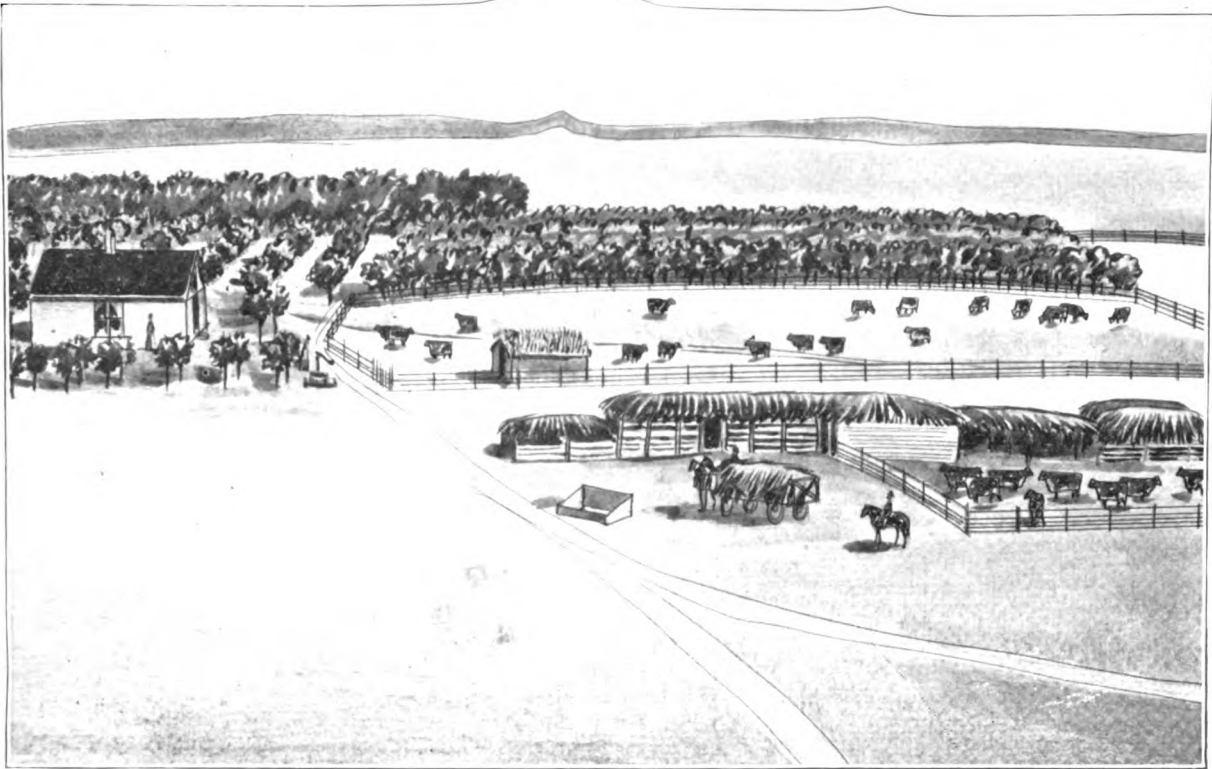
Mr. Sharp has always taken a commendable interest in local public affairs in his community, and has added strength to every worthy movement in the interest of his locality. Politically he is a Populist.

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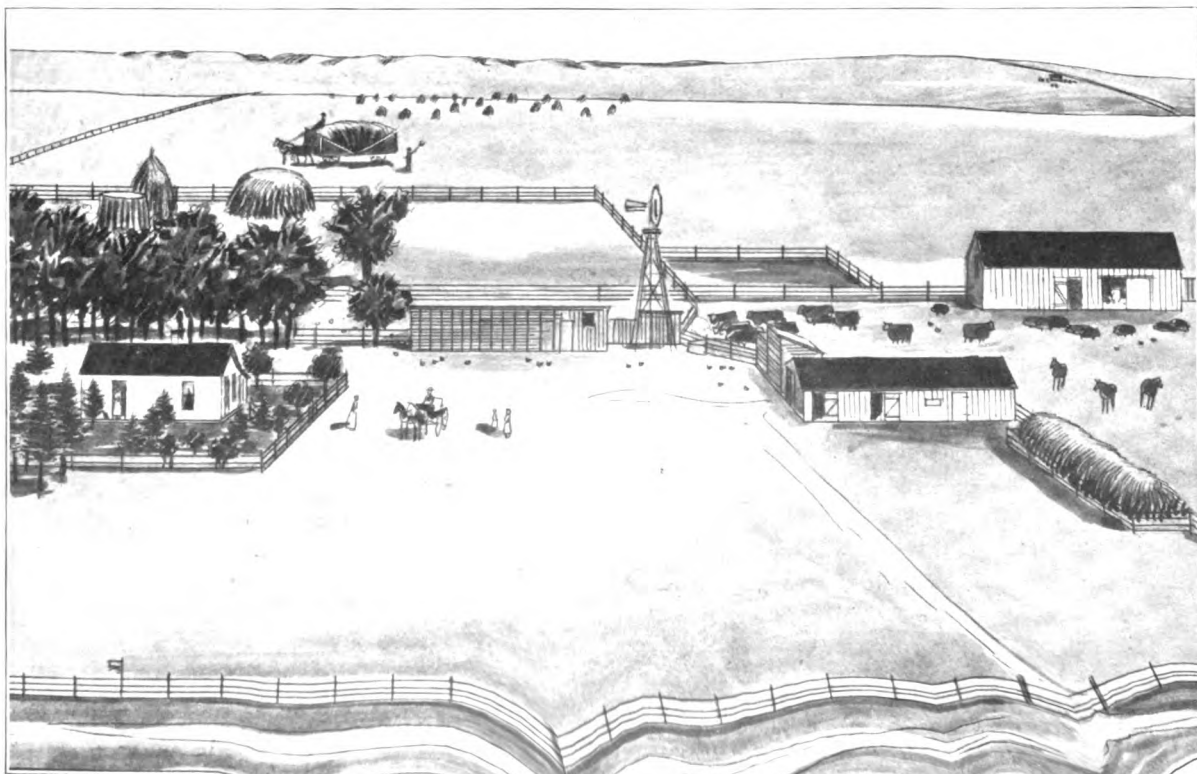
#### CHARLES P. BRESEE.

Charles P. Bresee, residing in Rushville, Nebraska, was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1861. His father, David Bresee, was a gunsmith, and an old soldier, his death occurring in 1876, in eastern Nebraska. He was of Holland Dutch stock, and his wife, who was Mary Ann Lavrick, was of English descent, born in Canada. When our subject was sixteen years of age he came to western Nebraska with a party of prospectors and miners, going to the Black Hills. He was with the first outfit, traveling with wagons which went over the Black Hills trail, and he saw all of this country, including Sheridan county, long before any white man now living had made a permanent settlement here. On this trip they traveled along the old trail which runs through Gordon, Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota. He remained in the Black Hills for two months, and in 1879 again came here, prospecting, mining, etc., also going through Idaho, Wyoming and the Dakotas freighting. For six years he followed a frontiersman's life and tells many interesting occurrences in connection with his early experiences here. In 1884 Mr. Bresee settled on a homestead near Gordon, remaining until he had proved up, then went on a ranch in Cherry county for two years. He first came to Rushville in 1889, where he began in the grain business, and he built the first elevator in this country, which is now owned by Nye, Schnider, Fowler & Co.

For one year, Mr. Bresee was engaged in the milling business in Gordon, and then opened up a real estate office here. During 1892-'93 he witnessed hard times, as did all the settlers here. He has been in this line of work since that time, and also handled loans up to 1903, when he helped organize the



RESIDENCE OF JOHN D. SHARP,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF E. A. HOPKINS,  
Rock County, Nebraska.





Maverick Loan & Trust Company, of which This concern he is secretary and treasurer. firm has offices at Gordon, Hay Springs and Rushville, and have an extensive patronage all through this section of the country.

In 1885, Mr. Bresee was married in Butler county, Nebraska, to Miss Anna N. Edgar, whose parents were early settlers in Wisconsin. Five children complete the family circle, named as follows: Almeda, Frank, Gertie, Alvin and Marjorie.

Mr. Bresee served his county for two terms, from 1895 to 1899, and in 1905 was elected a member of the state senate on the Republican ticket.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS.

The gentleman named in this personal history is well known in Rock county as a successful business man and worthy citizen. He has made Nebraska his home for many years, and at present resides in Long Pine precinct, where he is numbered among the leading men of the locality.

Mr. Hopkins was born near Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, January 8, 1861. His father, Richard Hopkins, was a farmer, a native of England, now living in Guthrie county, Iowa. Our subject is the second child in a family of three, and was reared and educated in Iowa where his parents moved when he was a small boy. He assisted his father in the farm work, and early became accustomed to all kinds of hard labor, attending school during the winter months. He started in for himself at the age of twenty-two years, coming to Nebraska in 1884, locating in Bassett. He filed on a homestead in section 14, township 31, range 19, and began improving his farm, on which he later proved up and secured title. For two years he clerked in the post office at Bassett, and then settled on his farm permanently in 1887. The place was entirely unimproved, but he persevered, finally attaining success in all his undertakings; gradually adding to his land, he is now the owner of five hundred and eighty acres of well improved land, with good buildings, a fine orchard, and beautiful grove of trees surrounding his house. He has endured hardships, particularly during the dry years, when his crops were utter failures, and he was most on the point of giving up the place, but persevered and eventually won success. We present a view of the home and grounds elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Hopkins was married June 3, 1885, to Miss Mary Castle, daughter of Zera and Sussanna (Stevens) Castle; her father was a carpenter by occupation, and came of an old American family. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins have four children, who are named as follows: Stella, Fred, Ruth and Blanché, all of whom were born on the farm where they now reside.

Mr. Hopkins has always taken an active part in all local affairs, assisting materially in the betterment of conditions in his locality, and done his full share toward the development and growth of the community where he has chosen his home. He is an Independent voter, and has held the office of assessor and census taker in his locality. When he first settled in Bassett, it was a town of about a dozen buildings, and it is now a thriving business center. He holds membership in the Bassett lodge of Workmen.

CYRUS N. ROYSE.

Cyrus N. Royse, who, as a land-owner of Rock county, Nebraska, has done his share toward the development of the agricultural resources of that region, is a widely known and universally respected citizen. He is a man of wide experience, and his good judgment in matters of business and integrity have placed him among the prosperous men of his township.

Mr. Royse was born in Washington county, Indiana, in 1855. His father was a farmer and both his parents were of American stock. The family included six children, four boys and two girls, and our subject was the youngest member. He was reared and educated in Indiana, the home of his birth, and during his boyhood years he was taught all the hard work to be found in carrying on a farm, and from the time he reached the age of thirteen he has done a man's work. His father died when he was fifteen years old, and he had to get out and hustle in order to assist in the support of the family, and pay off the mortgage on their farm. He left home at the age of twenty-four years to work for himself, and followed farming, hiring out by the month in the vicinity of his home. In 1883 he came west, and settled in Pawnee county, Nebraska, where he remained for one year, then came on to Rock county, and settled on a homestead in north west section 20, township 31, range 19, where he went to work building up a home and farm. He first put up a small frame house and began breaking the land to raise crops. In the



of 1884 he worked out at husking corn near Norfolk, and his wife assisted him in every way possible, helping him in the work of hauling wood, cutting posts, etc.

He gradually increased his holdings and now owns a farm of six hundred and forty acres of good land. Eighty acres of this is in a high state of cultivation, and on this he raises banner crops of grain, corn, etc. He is engaged to quite an extent in stock raising and dairying, and now keeps twenty-two milch cows. He recently built a fine large barn on his place, size forty by fifty feet, and has a commodious house, and all necessary farm buildings, and all the modern farming implements with which to carry on a model farm. At the time he located here there was not a tree in sight and he went to work and planted a large number of forest trees, and has a beautiful grove now growing on his place.

Mr. Royse was married in 1883 to Miss Rose Green, whose father, Jonah Green, was a miller by trade, of American blood. The family is widely known and highly respected throughout the community in which they reside. Mr. Royse is active in local public affairs, and stands firmly for the principles of the Democratic party.

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#### SKETCH OF SHERIDAN COUNTY.

BY CHARLES P. BRESEE.

Comparatively few white men had seen what is now Sheridan county when the writer, in April, 1877, first entered its borders. The country at that time was covered with short, curly buffalo grass, the salt grass only appearing in valleys, giving the hills and ridges a smooth, bald appearance. The Sioux Indians had full possession of the country, which was indeed a magnificent hunting ground, fairly teeming with antelope and deer, and some few elk still remained. Ducks and geese were abundant and some grouse were to be found upon the prairie. No white man at that time lived within its borders and to the prospector passing through it seemed that a generation would perhaps pass away before it would ever be inhabited by the white man. But with the opening of the Black Hills the Sioux Indians were soon gathered in by the United States government and located on the Pine Ridge reservation, which joins Sheridan county immediately on the north, and which agency is only some two miles distant from what is now the northern border. However, soon after the

establishment of the reservation, a strip of land some five miles wide and ten miles long, which is now a part of Sheridan county, was set aside by the government under pretense of keeping bootleggers away from the agency, but was in all probability really accomplished by the post traders that independent stores might not be put in too close. This strip was known as the "extension" and was held by the government and used only by a few favored cattlemen until it was thrown open to settlement in 1904, and immediately became a part of Sheridan county, as it was fully within her borders. This is a splendid strip of agricultural land and was covered with squatters in forty-eight hours after being opened. However, the one section lying immediately south of the agency was taken by one Charles Nines, who proposed to open a store on his homestead, and at once the interested parties on the reservation brought such pressure to bear on President Roosevelt that he again set aside this one section and the same is yet withheld from settlement.

Almost before the government had placed the Sioux Indians on the reservation the hardy cattleman pushed to the front and in the fall of 1878 Newman and Hunter both established ranches in what is now Sheridan county, and while it is true that the Newman ranch buildings were just in the edge of what is now Cherry county, close by the old Gordon rifle pits, yet his range was almost wholly within the limits of Sheridan county. These two ranches continued to monopolize almost the entire territory until the coming of settlers in 1883, when they were crowded out by the settlers, although a number of their cowboys are still residents of Sheridan and Cherry counties. John Riggs, who was foreman of the Hunter ranch, became the first sheriff of Sheridan county, and is at the present time living on a beautiful farm situated on the Niobrara river, some fifteen miles southeast of Rushville and near the site of the old Hunter ranch. T. B. Irwin, who was foreman of the Newman ranch, was for many years a resident of western Cherry county, where he owned and operated a large cattle ranch of his own. Ed. T. Ross, one of the wild and woolly cowboys of the Newman ranch, now resides at Gordon and is one of the most prominent and wealthy cattlemen of that section. Several more of the old-time cow punchers at present reside in Cherry county, while quite a number of the old-time range riders now sleep beneath Sheridan county soil.

Sheridan county was organized in June, 1885, with James Loofborrow as clerk. Its

first general election was held in November, 1885, and its first elective officers were: Abel Hill, clerk; John Riggs, sheriff; S. S. Murphy, superintendent; Chris Mosler, treasurer; C. Patterson, county judge, and W. H. Westover, county attorney.

From the time the territory was taken from the Indians until 1883 its entire population consisted of a few cattlemen and three or four squaw men scattered along its northern borders, but in 1883 a few hardy pioneers pushed their way into its present territory and following close on their heels came the Indiana colony, headed by Major John A. Scamahorn, settling in its eastern borders, where now stands the town of Gordon. From that moment on the tide of civilization poured in until in 1885 nearly every quarter section of land north of the Niobrara river was occupied by a homesteader. Then came the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri River Valley railroad, crossing the northern part of the county from east to west and the towns of Gordon, Rushville and Hay Springs sprang up like magic, and by October, 1886, there were within its borders nearly fifteen thousand people, and what eight years before had been the hunting ground of the most warlike tribe of Indians in America had in this short space of time become a happy community of civilized people.

For years a fierce county seat fight was waged between the towns of Hay Springs and Rushville, but Rushville was finally successful and is the present county seat, with a population of some seven hundred people.

Sheridan county is sixty-nine miles long by thirty-six miles wide. The Niobrara river runs through the county from west to east about midway. North of the river the soil is a rich limestone loam similar in texture to the famous blue grass region of Kentucky, and is one of the finest farming regions in the west. South of the Niobrara river the greater portion of the country is sand hills and is occupied by cattlemen, but has numerous lakes and hay valleys, while the hills are covered with luxuriant grass, affording a paradise for ranchmen, and while this portion of the county is thinly populated, yet it is a rich country and produces some of the finest cattle in the west. The Burlington & Missouri railroad runs entirely through the southern part of the county, along which are located the stations of Bingham, Lakeside, Ellsworth and Reno.

The northern portion of the county is watered by several creeks which flow in a westerly direction, emptying into the White river in South Dakota. There is little timber in the county except along its northern border.

where pine trees once covered the hills and the streams are fringed with elm, ash, box elder and cottonwood. It is fast becoming the greatest potato country in the west and produces immense crops of all kinds of small grain, and corn of the earlier varieties is successfully raised. Its output of cattle and horses is large and no better stock country can be found anywhere in the world. Water is pure and abundant at an average depth of about thirty feet. Its mean altitude is about thirty-five hundred feet, and while its rainfall is only about twenty-four inches per year, yet this practically all falls in the growing season and is sufficient to produce bountiful crops. Land is cheap and abundant and untold thousands may yet find homes within the borders of Sheridan county.

A. M. WILSON.

Among the capable and industrious men who hold responsible positions in McCook, Nebraska, none is more highly respected than the subject of this review, A. M. Wilson, who is superintendent of the electric light company here. He has held this position since 1894 and has been connected with the concern for fourteen years.

Mr. Wilson is a native of Missouri. His father, J. W. Wilson, settled in Keokuk, Iowa, in 1859, and moved to Omaha two years later. At the breaking out of the war, he enlisted and served for three years in a Nebraska regiment, taking an active part in the battle of Gettysburg, and was with the army of the Potomac. He was shot and severely wounded during a hard-fought battle. He was a native of Terre Haute, Indiana, and after being discharged came back to Nebraska but afterwards moved to Kansas, where he died. During his young manhood, our subject learned the electrical work at Tarkio, Missouri, and came from there to Nebraska, afterwards working all over the western states. In 1894 he settled in McCook, and began with the company he is still with. This plant has a two hundred and twenty horse power boiler, six dynamos, 2-30 K. W. and 4-15 K. W. S. The electrical capacity is ten hundred and twenty-eight amperes. It runs about three thousand lights, and is a private plant. It has the meter system. The plant has been increased seventy-five per cent. in three years, in order to keep up with the growth and demands of the city. Mr. Wilson has three men working under him all the time, and besides gives up his

entire time and attention to the work. The company will soon install a day system to meet the growing demand for its light, and it now enjoys the reputation of being one of the best plants in the state for even the continuous service.

Mr. Wilson married Miss May Colling, daughter of Nicholas Colling, an old settler of Indianola, Nebraska, who came west from Illinois in 1872. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who are named as follows: Florence, Ethel, Francis, Royal, Mina and Merna.

Mr. Wilson is a Republican in political faith, and takes an active interest in all local and state affairs. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge of McCook.

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#### EBER A. SMITH.

Eber A. Smith, one of the most prominent farmers and stockmen of Deuel county, and a man of untiring energy and good business management, resides on section 12, township 13, range 45. He has in all one thousand eight hundred acres, and is one of the wealthiest men of the locality. He has been a resident of Deuel county since 1886, and is widely known, and universally respected and esteemed.

Mr. Smith was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, on the second day of August, 1845. He grew to manhood there, receiving a good education, and worked as a clerk in a general merchandise store at Lawton and Paw Paw for a number of years. In April, 1865, he enlisted in Company F, Twelfth Michigan Infantry, served with his regiment for two months, then was mustered out on account of illness which compelled him to leave his regiment. He returned to Michigan, and secured employment as a solicitor, traveling for eight or nine years, covering territory in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, arriving in Deuel county in July, and immediately took a homestead on section 12, township 13, range 45, proved up on a quarter section, and went through all the early Nebraska times in getting started. He witnessed the drouth years, when he was unable to raise any crops, and often became thoroughly discouraged, but never thought of giving up his farm, and as the better years came on he was able to add improvements gradually and bought land adjoining his original homestead, so that he now has one of the finest properties in the region. He has about two

hundred acres under cultivation, and plenty of hayland and pasture for a large bunch of stock. He is now breaking up about one thousand acres, using for the purpose one of the late model steam plows, and has every kind of improved machinery to make the operation of a large farm easy compared with the way farmers were obliged to do in the early days. He has good buildings of all kinds, a good grove and many fine trees surrounding his residence. He devotes his entire time to the improvement of his farm, and every part of it evidences his good management and business ability.

Mr. Smith was married May 12th, 1869, to Mary B. Beach, at Medina, Michigan. Mrs. Smith was also a native of Washtenaw county, that state, and the parents of both our subject and his wife were pioneers there. There are three children living, who are a credit to their parents, named as follows: Frank A., now a professor in the University of Wyoming; Fred E., who is a graduate of the University of Wyoming and of the Denver Law School. He is now married and living on a farm joining his father's ranch. Another son, Roy D., is at home.

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#### CHARLES E. LEAR.

Charles E. Lear was born in Rock Island, Illinois, October 9, 1859.

His father, William Lear, was a millwright by trade, and in his business capacity made three trips to Pike's Peak, the first in 1859, erecting saw mills, stamping and quartz mills which he operated for a time. He died in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1896. His wife was Caroline Coleman in maidenhood. Our subject was the eldest of his father's family, and was raised and educated in Jasper county, Iowa, finishing his education at Hazeldell Academy, Newton, Iowa. After graduating he began teaching school, which calling he followed for two years. In 1883 he came to Keya Paha county and settled on a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 30, township 34, range 20, and also took a timber claim southeast of this location. His first house was a log cabin of one room, the roof of which was made of boards with tar paper and sod.

In 1885 he was elected county clerk, serving for four years, and enjoys the distinction of being the first clerk of the Keya Paha county. Previous to the time of coming here Mr. Lear had studied law, and in 1888 he was admitted to the bar in Nebraska, was elected and served as county attorney for four successive terms. He devoted his time to the practice of law, including

## COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY, RE

the real estate and collection business, and also to the introduction of blooded stock in this locality, importing fine blooded Durham bulls and Percheron stallions into Keya Paha county. He is also interested in the culture of different kinds of grasses, and in addition to all this, he still finds time to personally direct the management of his three ranches comprising about four thousand acres, which are given over to stock raising, running over three hundred head of cattle and forty horses all the time.

In 1883 our subject was married to Miss Emma Tomlinson, daughter of Thomas and Jane (Miller) Tomlinson. Previous to her marriage she was a school teacher in Iowa. She died October 28, 1889, leaving two children, Forrest and Everett. She was sincerely mourned by her family as a loving wife and mother, and was esteemed by all who knew her. In 1894 Mr. Lear was married to Miss Effie Manifold, who was a native of Ohio. Her father, Boyd B. Manifold, died in Ohio, the mother, Gertrude (Stalcup), is now living in Caldwell, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Lear have one child, Gertrude, born December 21, 1900. Mr. Lear has been a Populist since 1893. He is a member of the Masonic and Pythian orders of Springview.

### REV. SYLVANUS JOHNSON.

The gentleman above named is an old settler of Nebraska, who has assisted in the development and growth of that state for many years past. He is a resident of Georgia, Cherry county, lately retired from all active business, and is well known and highly esteemed by his fellowmen as a stanch Christian and God-fearing man, who has always labored earnestly for the cause of the righteous.

Mr. Johnson was, born in Meigs county, Ohio, December 23, 1831. His father, Isaac Johnson, of American stock, was a hatter by trade, and followed the calling of a minister in the United Brethren Society, for many years preaching the gospel throughout the section in which he lived; later on moving to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1837. He traveled over the country on horseback, preaching the gospel, a contemporary with Peter Cartwright and other pioneer evangelists. Our subject's mother, Miss Chloe S. Baker, was of English descent, her great-grandfather having been an English sailor and an early settler in Massachusetts. Of a family of eleven children our subject was the third member, and came to Illinois with his parents when he was seven years of age. He was raised on a farm and he learned to do all kinds of hard labor, many

Mr. Johnson was first married in 1856 to Miss Elizabeth Bates, who died in 1858, leaving one child, Marinda J., who married James Kirkpatrick and died January 5, 1903. In 1861 our subject married Miss Celinda Morpew, to whom seven children were born, named as follows: Arminda, widow of W. H. Lance, and a teacher for some years, now conducting a millinery and ladies' furnishings establishment at Georgia; Charles, deceased; James A. W., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Lemuel, deceased; Clara, wife of Elvin Elliott; Ellen, wife of Paul H. Danofski; and William, deceased.

Mr. Johnson has been four times a pioneer, going through the hardships on the frontier in that many different regions. He served as postmaster of Kilgore for a year or two, giving the best of satisfaction to all patrons of the office.

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#### HARRY I. WHITESELL.

Mr. Harry I. Whitesell is one of the leading pioneers of Garfield county, who has always expressed himself to the effect that a man's chance for making money in western Nebraska with a small amount of capital to start with, is much better than anywhere in the eastern states, and says that the only excuse for a man being poor here is his own dislike for work; that anyone willing to work can come to Nebraska without a dollar, and in six years' time can become independently well off. Mr. Whitesell is a practical farmer, and a good manager, as his farm bears evidence by its well-kept appearance and splendidly tilled fields. Mr. Whitesell is prominently known throughout his county and is highly esteemed by all as a worthy citizen and good neighbor. He resides in section 24, township 22, range 15.

Mr. Whitesell is a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1859. He comes of sturdy German stock, reared on his father's farm, receiving his education through the country schools of his native state. He declares that his success in life is due to his early training, for his father taught him early in life that it was only by his own efforts that he would become wealthy or even attain a competence, and this teaching has clung to him through all his later years and acted as a spur to his labors.

Mr. Whitesell came to Nebraska in 1882, settling in Dodge county, where he was engaged in the sheep business for several years, going to Holt county from there and remain-

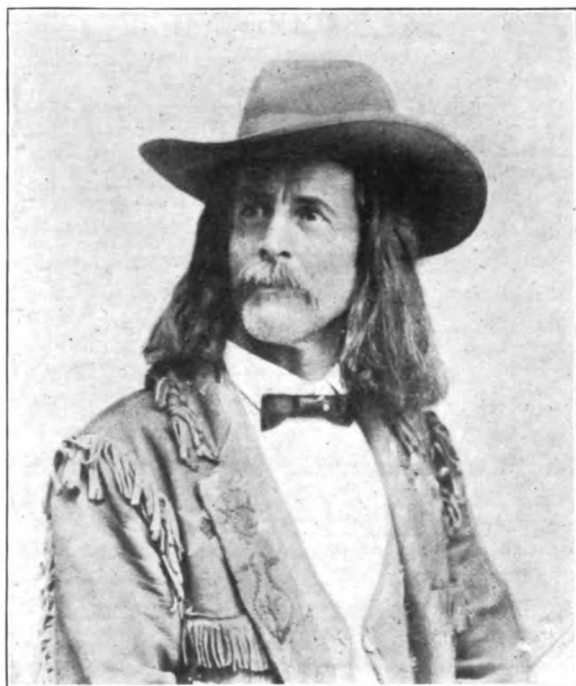
ing up to 1892. He then came to Garfield county and pre-empted a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he soon afterwards disposed of. He next landed in the southeastern part of the county, where he took up a homestead, later buying more land until he owns altogether one thousand two hundred acres, all of which is good pasture and farm land, four hundred acres of it being under cultivation. He engages in the culture of corn, oats, wheat and also barley and rye to some extent. He has good barns and other farm buildings, and a fine residence. During the first few years, in fact, up to within the past ten or twelve years, his greatest trouble arose from lack of water, but he now has a fine supply for all purposes, furnished from deep wells which he drilled, and this is of the purest quality. Mr. Whitesell formerly raised a good many cattle, but of late years has not kept any large number, although he raises several carloads of hogs for the market each year, finding more profit in them than from cattle raising. He raises all the grain and hay which he feeds on his place, growing a great deal of alfalfa, which is the best feed possible for all stock, and also finds that the land in his vicinity is particularly well adapted for the raising of English blue grass, which is something entirely new in this part of the country. Mr. Whitesell leases land to farmers who have not enough hay on their own farms, and the yield on his range is from two to three tons per acre, all of it the very best quality.

In 1890 Mr. Whitesell was married to Mrs. Martha (Sterling) Butterfield, a native of Pennsylvania also, of German stock, a daughter of John C. and Rhoda (Parshall) Sterling. They are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: Mabel, Laura, John, Grace, Rhoda, Martha and William. The last two named were twins, and both are deceased. Our subject and his family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, highly respected by all, and form a most intelligent group. Mr. Whitesell is a Republican, and was precinct clerk for seven terms. He has also served as road overseer.

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#### CAPTAIN AMBERSON G. SHAW.

One of the leading citizens of Valentine is the subject of this sketch, Amberson G. Shaw, a well known figure who has held a unique place on the frontier and in the settlement of the west.



CAPTAIN A. G. SHAW.





Mr. Shaw was born in Brown county, Ohio, November 27, 1842. His father, Sylvester Shaw, was a veterinary surgeon and farmer, and was a son of Russell Shaw, who was one of the first pioneers of Ohio, for whom Russellville was named. Our subject's mother, Miss Elizabeth F. Hatfield, was of English descent, born and reared on the river Dee. She was the mother of nine children, of whom Amberson G. Shaw was the youngest.

At the breaking out of the war Mr. Shaw enlisted in Company B, Eleventh Ohio Cavalry, serving in Missouri, and was sent west through the Indian country, seeing service from Omaha to South Pass in the Rocky mountains. He was in the government service for three and a half years, and in 1865 in Omaha he received an honorable discharge, after which he did freighting from Omaha to Fort Laramie for two years, then working for two years as telegraph operator at Horseshoe, Wyoming. He has the distinction of sending the only dispatch ever sent to Fort Phil Kearney for relief, at the time of the Indian massacre near there. After quitting this position he spent two years on a ranch south of Fort Laramie. In the meantime he had married into the Sioux nation, when he, together with E. W. Raymond, were instrumental in getting the Sioux tribe on to the Rosebud reservation from Fort Laramie, and subsequently was employed as a carpenter on the reservation for twenty years. Part of this time, however, he worked as a scout, serving under General Miles and Crook, and was one of those on the ground the day after the Custer massacre had taken place. Through his knowledge of the Sioux language he has been employed as interpreter for numerous parties of Indians engaged to travel with wild west shows, and in this capacity has visited all the principal cities of Europe and America; is well known for his skill as a fancy shot with rifle and revolver and the throwing of knives, in which he has few equals. In 1884 Mr. Shaw came to Valentine with his family and here established the first photograph gallery in this town. He has always been active in lending his influence and assistance wherever needed, and is closely identified with the development and growth of this locality. In the early days he served as justice of the peace for four terms. This was during the wild days of Valentine, and he had many tough and lawless characters to handle.

Mr. Shaw was married March 16, 1865, to Miss Pauline Sarah Augusta Petrattive of Wisconsin. Two children have resulted from this union, Valentine Queen and Richard Frederick.

By a former marriage Mr. Shaw had four children named as follows: Dallas, an Episcopal minister; Byron B., Annette and Valentine I.

Mr. Shaw is a comrade of Colonel Wood post, No. 208, Grand Army of the Republic, of Valentine and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In political sentiment Mr. Shaw is an Independent. A portrait of Mr. Shaw will be found on another page in this work.

J. O. VALLETTE, M. D.

Dr. J. O. Vallette, a prominent resident of Alma, Nebraska, is well known and held in the highest esteem by all in this locality. He was a leading physician near Chicago, and has an enviable reputation, which he has built up by successful practice and faithful attention to duty. He has retired from practice since 1888. Dr. Vallette is a son of Jeremiah Vallette, a native of Rhode Island, known as the best agriculturist of his day. His grandfather, also Jeremiah Vallette, served in the Revolutionary war, and his mother was Miss Abiah Mott, daughter of an old settler in Connecticut. Both families are well known throughout those sections of the country, and their names figure in the early history of both states. Our subject received his education at Hahnemann College at Chicago, and after coming west taught school near Chicago for several years. He was born and raised in Stockbridge, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and spent his boyhood years at that place. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Infantry and was physician to Colonel Brunson, serving mostly in Kentucky.

In 1883 the family came to Illinois, moving on a farm which is now a part of the great city, and our subject has watched the growth of Chicago from the time it had but four thousand people. After receiving his diploma as a doctor he began practising in Illinois, and followed the profession at Wheaton for twenty-four years. In 1883 he came to Harlan county and located on a homestead in Eldorado township, having come west on account of throat trouble. The climate here greatly benefited him, and he continued the practice of medicine, finally giving it up in 1888. He is now ninety-two years of age, enjoying perfect health of body and mind, takes an active interest in current events, and is one of the best informed men in this locality.

Dr. Vallette was married to Miss Clarinda A. Walker, of New York state, and they have one son, Ed E., a resident of Alma. For several years Dr. Vallette ran a general store in western Illinois, and his son clerked in this establishment.

Dr. Vallette is a man of public spirit and has always taken an active part in all affairs of local and state matters, and has been one of those who have helped to make the success of this section of the state. Dr. Vallette owns a farm of one hundred and seventy-eight acres in Eldorado township.

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#### ALONZO M. BRINCKERHOFF.

Alonzo M. Brinckerhoff, a prominent farmer residing on a valuable estate situated in section 21, township 32, range 20, Rock county, Nebraska, was born in Amboy, Lee county, Illinois, July 28, 1862. His father was a native of New York state, being born in Oneida county in 1822, and was of Holland stock, his mother also being of Holland ancestry, the Brinckerhoff family having come to America in about the year 1600. Our subject had one sister, named Sarah, she being born in New York. The family moved to Iowa in 1866, living the last four years in Greene county. They came to Rock county, Nebraska, in 1878, and in the spring of 1879 located on his present farm in Brinckerhoff precinct. In coming from Iowa the daughter and her husband, Mr. John H. Putnam, and several other people drove through with team and wagon from Greene county. When they arrived here his father had three horses, twelve head of cattle and some household goods, which was about the extent of his capital. He took up a tree claim and a homestead and began to break up the farm with a yoke of cattle; and during the first years he had a hard time getting along, owing to the wilderness of the country and the lack of modern farming tools. Neligh, a hundred miles distant, was the nearest milling place, and Atkinson, fifty miles distant, was the nearest city having a grocery store; and they were obliged to make these long trips to supply the family with provisions, taking several days for the journey, camping out at night under the wagon. They remained here increasing their holdings until 1900, when our subject bought the place consisting of five quarter sections of land, and stocked with sixty head of cattle and thirty-five head of horses. It fronts a mile and a half on the Niobrara river, and since purchasing the

property he has widened the boundaries until he now owns one thousand acres, a portion of which is river bottom, with two hundred and eighty acres under cultivation and about sixty acres of natural timber. He also has a fine orchard covering five acres of ground, nicely growing, and a complete set of substantial farm buildings. The place now supports about one hundred and forty head of cattle, thirty of them being milch cows, furnishing a goodly supply of cream for shipment each week.

Mr. Brinckerhoff was married in November 1887, to Miss Almeda Dunnaway, born in Wisconsin in 1868. They have a family of seven children, named as follows: Gilbert, Annie, Mary, Crystal, Alonzo M., the third, John and Almeda. The father, A. M. Brinckerhoff, Sr., passed away from earthly toil in January, 1908.

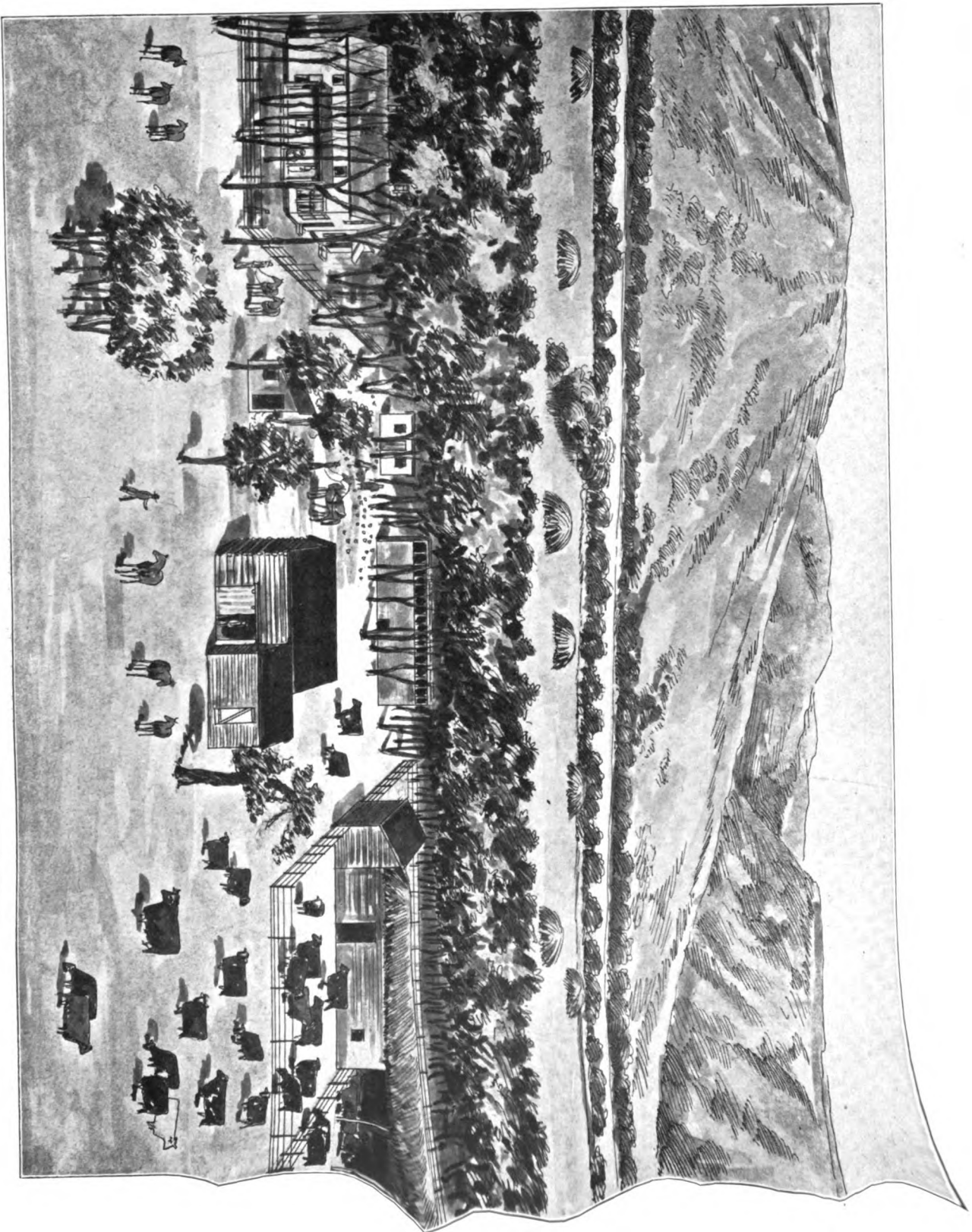
Mr. Brinckerhoff, as was his father, is a staunch Democrat, the latter having served as county commissioner of Brown county, when Rock was a part of Brown county. Alonzo M. Brinckerhoff, Sr., was a railroad engineer on the Illinois Central during the war, and later was employed on other parts of the road. Mrs. Brinckerhoff is a member of the Baptist church. Mr. Brinckerhoff is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. A view of the Brinckerhoff home and its picturesque surroundings is shown elsewhere in this volume.

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#### JOHN W. O'MARA.

John W. O'Mara, an old-time resident of Box Butte county, Nebraska, owns a well improved farm of extensive proportions, and is recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that region. He has passed through the experiences that usually fall to the lot of the pioneers of all new countries, and has been an earnest and faithful citizen and well merits his high station and enviable reputation as a worthy member of his community.

Mr. O'Mara was born in Warren county, Indiana, in 1862, on a farm. His father, Patrick O'Mara, is a native of Ireland, as was also his mother, who was Mary Bowen, and she died when John was but three years old, since which time his father has been both mother and father to him. Our subject was reared in Indiana, and at the age of twenty, the family came to Illinois, where they lived for some years. In 1885 Mr. O'Mara came to Nebraska with two sons, John and William, locating on section 18, township 27, range 47, and they put up a sod shanty and began farming. They owned a good team and did freighting from Hay Springs. Many times did our



"TWIN OAK FARM," RESIDENCE OF ALONZO M. BRINCKERHOFF,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



subject camp out at night under his wagon in hauling timber from Pine Ridge, as he was handy to make a living and stick to the homestead until proving up. Our subject got along very nicely and was doing well up to the time the drouths struck that region, and then his crops failed for several seasons and at last he was compelled to go into the Black Hills, where he obtained employment at railroad construction work and followed that for some time. However, he never gave up his farm, and after the good years came on he succeeded in adding many improvements and gradually increased his acreage until he is now proprietor of one thousand acres. At one time he owned two thousand acres, but disposed of part of it at a good profit. His ranch is all fenced and he has erected a good set of buildings, has a fine well and windmills, etc. One hundred and sixty acres are under cultivation, and he is engaged in mixed farming and stock raising.

Mr. O'Mara is numbered among the old settlers of his region, and has aided materially in the progress and growth of that part of the state by always taking an active interest in all local affairs. In political views he is a Democrat.

FRANK M. BOWMAN.

Frank M. Bowman, a well known resident of Cherry county, Nebraska, has for the past three years been foreman of the Metz ranch. This is one of the finest equipped ranches in this county, located four miles north of Cody, and is a grand hunting resort, the McGanzer Club House being located on its premises. Mr. Bowman has the handling of the whole place, and is a first class manager and one of the best ranchmen in this section of the country.

Mr. Bowman is a native of Boone county, Indiana, born June 8, 1860. His father, Dr. W. L. Bowman, of American stock, is a prominent physician at Stanton, Nebraska. His mother, who was Mary Wylie, is a native of Ohio. There was a family of ten children, our subject being the third in order of birth, and he was reared in his home county until seven years of age when his parents came to Stanton county, Nebraska. They were among the pioneer families in the eastern part of the state, and went through the usual pioneer experiences, living in a dugout, and handling ox teams while starting their home in country. Our subject and an older brother, Webster B., lived at Alliance for several years. Most of his youth was spent on a farm, and at

the age of twenty he started out for himself, going to Colorado, where he spent two years on ranches, then came to Holt county in 1883 and took a homestead and proved up on it.

He remained on his farm for several years, and went through many hard times in getting started, witnessing the grasshopper raids and losing a number of crops from this and other causes, but gradually got ahead and managed to build up a comfortable home. In 1887 he opened up a grocery store at Stanton, then became foreman of Charles H. Chase's home ranch near Stanton, occupying this position for two years. In 1903 he came to Cherry county and began in his present work, where he has made a decided success and proved a most valuable man for the position. In August, 1904, he filed on a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres in sections 28 and 34, township 35, range 33, on which he proved up in 1909. He has built a substantial house, barn and outbuildings, erected a windmill and made other improvements, which will provide him a comfortable home when he decides to retire to it.

Mr. Bowman is numbered among the earliest settlers in this region, his parents having driven into the state by team and covered wagon, and he has taken an active part in the development of this region since locating here.

Mr. Bowman was married April 2, 1883, to Miss Emma Breden, daughter of John and Nancy (Forbes) Breden, the father a minister in the United Brethren church. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bowman, namely: Ray, Frankie, and May. Mr. Bowman is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen.

ADAM H. SCHLASMAN.

Adam H. Schlasman was born in Lisbon Linn county, Iowa, in 1855, of which state his father was one of the early pioneer farmers, a man of high character and splendid reputation. The parents were Jonathan and Eve (Banie) Schlasman, natives of Pennsylvania, and were of Dutch descent.

When our subject was fifteen years old the family moved to Kansas, settling in Pottawatomie county, where they were among the earliest pioneers. Here Adam H. was reared on the farm, assisting his father and receiving advantages for an education. At the age of twenty-five he started out for himself, and leaving his frontier home, went north to Nebraska, then on to Montana, spending about



four years at the city of Bozeman. In 1885 he returned to Nebraska and settled in the north-west corner of Blaine county on the North Loup river. He built a sod house and "batched it" for several years, seeing hardships in the way of loss of crops by drouth and hail storms. He now has a lovely home and farm of four hundred and eighty acres and successfully carries it on. He cultivates about two hundred acres of his land, raising good crops and is enjoying a comfortable competency.

In 1894 Mr. Schlasman was united in marriage with Mrs. Maggie A. McKee, daughter of William F. Reed and Susianna (Shafer) Reed, pioneers of western Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Schlasman have one child, Susianna E., and one step-daughter, Margaret McKee.

Adam H. Schlasman was among the oldest settlers of this vicinity and has done his part as a leading pioneer in adding to the material advancement of the locality in which he lives. He is a Democrat in politics and has been active in the councils of his party. In 1887 he was elected sheriff of Blaine county and held the office for four years, and carried the first and only prisoner to the penitentiary that was ever sent up from Blaine county. He was a careful and efficient public officer and won universal respect and approval among his constituents for rigid enforcement of the law and the conscientious performance of his duties. He held other offices, among them being that of justice of the peace, which office he now holds. Mr. Schlasman is widely known in the county and is regarded as one of the progressive citizens of the community. He has been constable, road overseer and precinct assessor, and has given good satisfaction as a public official.

#### CHARLES EPPLER.

Charles Eppler, one of the most influential and wealthy agriculturists of Perkins county, resides on his elegant farm, his dwelling being located on section 2, township 11, range 38. He has accumulated his fortune by push and energy, and his high station as a farmer and citizen is well deserved. He was born in the town of Decatur, Illinois, on July 8, 1861.

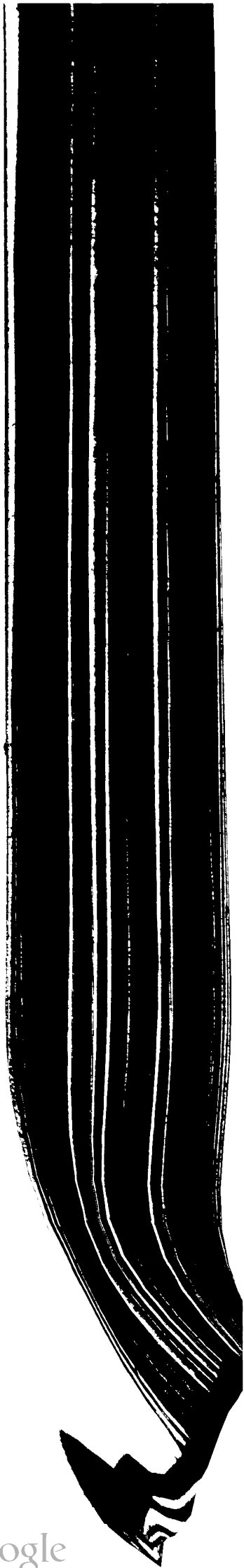
The father of our subject, Hiram Eppler, was born in Pennsylvania, of German stock, and he married Rose Queary, a native of Illinois, of French descent. The family settled in Illinois as pioneers, and there our subject was raised and educated. At the age of about seventeen years he went into business for himself in the town of Macon. His father

died when he was six years old, and from that time on he had to hustle for himself, and early learned the hard lessons of life, in addition to making his own living, being obliged to help support his mother. He first started in the draying business, doing teaming and anything that he could find to do, and continued in this work for several years in Illinois. In 1887 he left there and came to Nebraska, settling on a homestead, on which he erected a sod house, twelve by fourteen feet in size, in which he spent one winter with his family. He had little to start with and necessarily was obliged to go slow in the way of adding improvements to his place, but managed to make a living and get along fairly well up to 1890, when the bad times struck the locality, and he suffered crop losses during '93, '94 and '95, and at the end of that time was one thousand dollars in debt, with a mortgage on his home, and things looked pretty discouraging to him. The last straw seemed to be a blind horse, and Mr. Eppler fully decided to leave the country and try it somewhere else, so turned his blind horse loose and determined to follow the direction the horse took. After circling around for a little while the animal came back to where Mr. Eppler was waiting and watching, and refused to go away, so this seemed to him to be an indication that he had better remain in the country, which he did, and results have proved that this was a wise move and he has never regretted the action.

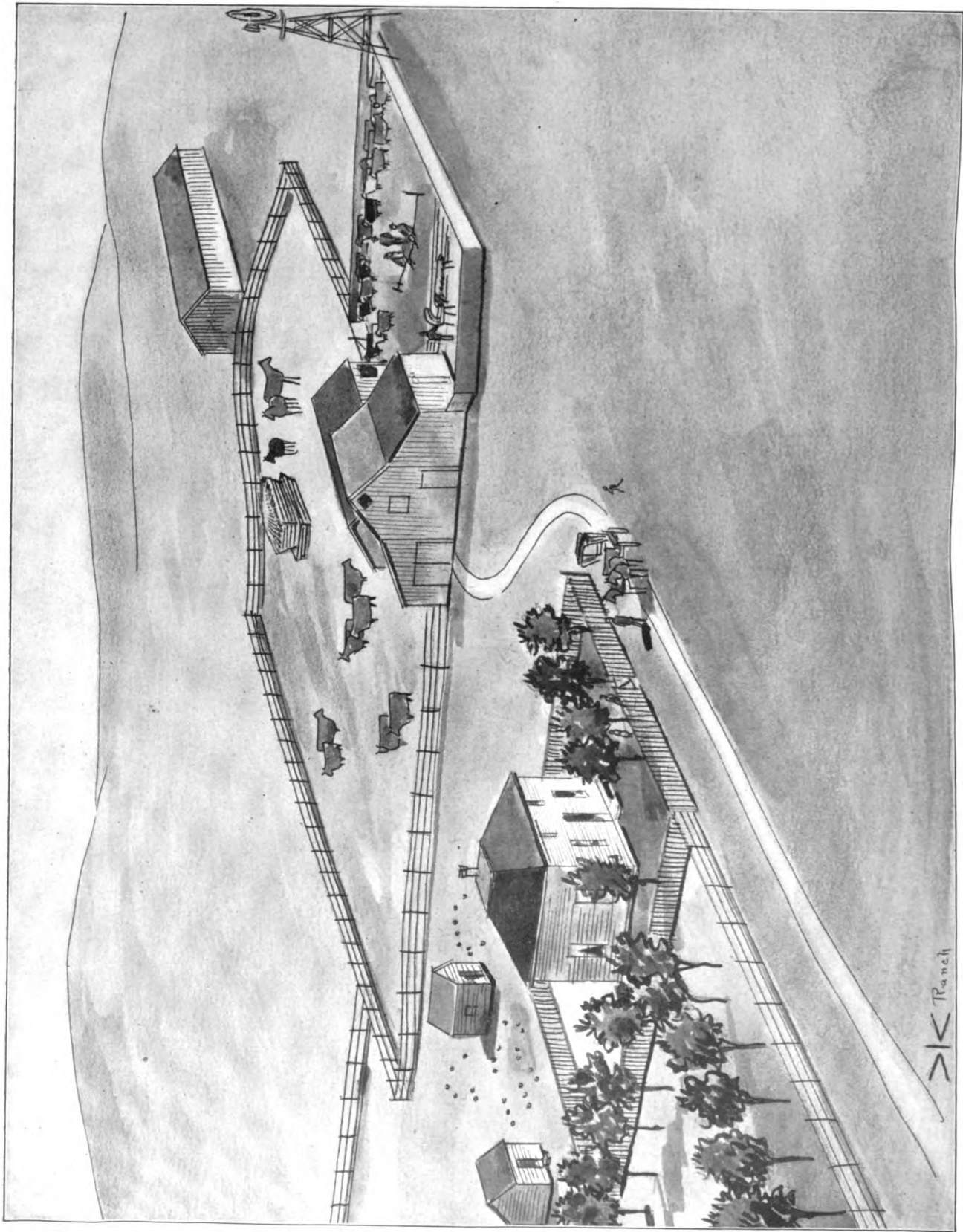
As the years went by conditions improved considerably and he was able to build up his farm in good shape, added substantial buildings, paid off his debts, and prospered in every way. He now has a ranch of one thousand six hundred acres of deeded land, all in first-class order with fences, groves, etc. The place is well stocked with cattle, horses and other live stock, and he is doing splendidly, owning besides his ranching interests a good building on the main street in Grant Village and a substantial bank account.

In 1883 our subject was married at Decatur, Illinois, to Miss Maggie Plottner, born in the east, of German stock. Five children have blessed their union, named as follows: Fred, Grace, Rilla, and Hiram, besides Beatrice, who died in 1900, aged six years. The others are intelligent young people, well equipped for life's battle, receiving a good education and thorough training. They have a happy and peaceful home and are popular in their community.

Mr. Eppler has always done his full share in helping build up and develop the resources of his adopted country, and has been







RESIDENCE OF CHARLES S. REECE.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

instrumental in establishing different schools here. He has served as justice of the peace for a time and held other local offices. In politics he is an Independent voter.

CHARLES S. REECE.

Charles S. Reece, who makes section 6, township 30, range 28, the scene of his industrial activities, and the home that is dearer than all the world, was born in Andrew county, Missouri, on a farm, March 12, 1871, and comes of a lineage long identified with the best life of the south. His parents were born and reared in North Carolina, where his ancestors had long played a prominent part in industry, politics and society. His father, Alvis F. Reece, was a farmer, who was brought into Missouri by his parents while still young, and there he lived and died. Malvina Mackey, his wife, and the mother of the subject of this article, was reared to a rural life, and proved a worthy helpmeet to her honest and industrious husband. They were the parents of seven children, of whom Charles S. was the fifth in order of birth.

Charles S. Reece remained at home in Missouri until he reached the age of fifteen years, when he accompanied the family in its removal to Lincoln county, Kansas, where they spent the two years following in farming. Upon the death of his father, Charles S., now a well-grown lad of seventeen years, took upon himself the responsibility of the family fortunes, and with his mother set himself to a hard contest with an unkindly fate. In 1888 they removed to Cherry county, Nebraska, and settled on a homestead on the Snake river. They found shelter in a sod house, and did their first farm work with a team composed of a horse and an ox, but later on he secured two oxen. Nicely started in the stock business, between May 7th and 10th, 1892, his entire herd of cattle perished in a terrible storm that swept for four days over the prairies. When he became of age, Mr. Reece took a homestead for himself in section 6, township 30, range 28, and at once began building up a stock farm. He has today twenty-seven hundred and twenty acres of good land and every modern improvement. His house is twenty-eight by twenty-eight feet, and the barns are large and roomy. There are three wells, equipped with separate windmills, and a generous garden with such fruits as the permits.

Mr. Reece was engaged in teaching from 1890 to 1896, being employed

at  
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those years in only three districts. For two successive seasons he held the contract to furnish hay at Fort Niobrara, which he met to the perfect satisfaction of the army officials at that point. In March, 1898, he was appointed deputy county clerk, and was elected clerk in 1901, being re-elected in 1903, and serving two full terms in that position, to the eminent satisfaction of all who had to do business with him. In both elections he carried every precinct in Cherry county, with only three exceptions.

The marriage of Charles S. Reece and Miss Harriet E. Thackrey occurred September 7, 1902. She was a daughter of Samuel and Ellinor (Grecian) Thackrey, farming people at Manhattan, Kansas, and descendants of long established American families. To this union have come three children: Francis M. and Helen G., who was born in Valentine, Nebraska, and Leona R.

Mr. Reece is an active and public spirited citizen, and ever ready to take hold of any business enterprise that looks to the good of the community. He was one of the incorporators of the Stockmen's Telephone Company, and for two years was its president. At the various farmers' institutes he is a prominent figure, and has given many valuable addresses, which have proved of deep interest to all concerned with the problems of agriculture as presented to practical life on the Nebraska prairies. Mr. and Mrs. Reece are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Valentine, where Mr. Reece holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America. One of the interesting illustrations in this work shows a view of the residence of Mr. Reece.

SAMUEL P. JONES.

Samuel P. Jones, who for the past twenty-three years has resided in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and during that time has acquired a fine property as a result of his industry and good management, is widely known in his locality as a substantial citizen, and highly esteemed by all who know him. He has a pleasant home in Eagle precinct, and is one of the prominent public-spirited men of his community.

Mr. Jones was born in Pennsylvania, October 13, 1861, and two years of his life were spent there. His parents then moved into Iowa and made that state their home for twenty-three years. About 1886 Mr. Jones came to Nebraska, traveling by wagon through the wild country, and located in Cheyenne

county, taking a homestead of eighty acres in section 34, township 17, range 47. There they went through all the experiences that fell to the people of those early days in that region in building up a home in the wilderness, suffering every form of hardship and privation, but after all sorts of discouragements have come out victorious and now own a fine ranch and have a pleasant and comfortable home. Mr. Jones has a fine ranch of thirteen hundred acres in Eagle precinct, with a fine stone dwelling on section 34, township 17, range 47, and on this runs about four hundred cattle. He also engaged in mixed farming, cultivating four hundred acres, and has thirty acres of good alfalfa hay. He is owner of a fine strain of roadsters and few in the country can show him a clean pair of heels; he is also engaged at present in breeding mules.

Mr. Jones was married in Oskaloosa, Iowa, December 27, 1888, to Mary E. Evans, a native of Mahaska county, Iowa, born April 27, 1866. After their marriage our subject returned to Cheyenne county with his bride, and together they started out to make a home and accumulate a competence, and well have they succeeded, as a glimpse of their well appointed ranch would show any observer. To them have been born the following children: Mary Jane, born in 1890; Margaret Sarah, born in 1891; Ina Pearl, in 1893; Thomas S., born in 1896, died in 1907; Bessie May, born in 1898, and Harriet Ann, born January 2, 1908. The parents of our subject, Thomas S. and Sarah J. Jones, both of English nationality, are now deceased, as are also Mrs. Jones' parents, who were Evan J. and Mary (Edwards) Evans.

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#### GEORGE E. SHEPARD.

George E. Shepard, residing in Logan township, Franklin county, is a successful and prosperous farmer and stockman of that vicinity who has built up a fine estate through industry and good management, and is one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his community.

Mr. Shepard was born in 1856 in Hennepin, Illinois. His father, Thomas W. Shepard, settled in Illinois in 1833, having moved there from Indiana. Our subject grew up in Illinois, and in all spent thirty-five years in that state. He was in the farming and stock raising business in Putnam county, and came to Nebraska in 1893, having purchased part of his land here in 1885. He started in farming here, getting high grade stock on his place, and now has from ninety to one hundred good Shorthorn

cattle, each year selling a number of thoroughbred bull calves to farmers throughout the locality. He also deals in high grade Poland China hogs, for which he finds a ready market. Only enough horses are kept on his farm for his own use, and he engages in mixed farming on quite a large scale, his crop of wheat usually amounting to four thousand bushels and corn up to five or six thousand. He feeds all of the corn he raises, and often is compelled to buy more. His farm comprises five hundred and eighty acres, three hundred and twenty acres being pasture, which makes a pretty good sized place.

Mr. Shepard states that this country is far ahead of Illinois for farming and stock raising, and from his long experience in both states he is in a position to know whereof he speaks. On the same investment here twenty per cent. is earned, against about four per cent. in Illinois. In 1906 and 1907 he paid a visit to his old friends in the latter state, and found them practically standing still, while here those who came a few years ago and took up land have steadily forged ahead and are now in very comfortable circumstances.

In 1881 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Devereux, of Downer's Grove, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Shepard have been born the following children: Charles E., who is married and lives on a farm in Furnas county, owned by our subject; Thomas W., Percy, Dave, Will, married; Frank, also married, and Ellen, the last named is the wife of Otto Lynch, of Macon, this county. Five of these children are from Mr. Shepard's present marriage and two from a former.

Mr. Shepard is an active man of his township, and for fourteen years served as clerk of the school board. He is president of the Franklin county fair association, which was organized thirty-two years ago, he having acted in this capacity for the past three years. Mr. Shepard is an active politician, has served on the Republican central committee for his township, and lends his influence for the bettering of conditions in his community. He was assessor for one term, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen and associates.

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#### A. S. CANNON.

A. S. Cannon, a prominent and well-to-do farmer and leading citizen of Phelps county, resides on section 32, Lake township, where he has a pleasant home and highly improved farm. He has a valuable estate and is one of

the substantial men of his locality and held in the highest esteem by all.

Mr. Cannon was born in Illinois. He is a son of E. H. Cannon, of Prairie township, a sketch of whom appears in this work on another page. Our subject located in Lake township in 1896, at that time purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of improved property, and has been engaged in mixed farming and stock raising since that time. He has made a success of the work in all its branches, and applies every modern method in his operations, succeeding in obtaining the best possible results from his labor. He usually has a drove of fifty head of pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs, and thirty-five high grade cattle, and takes especial pride in keeping up the standard of his herd. In addition to his farming operations. Mr. Cannon owned and operated a threshing outfit, and carried on this work all through his locality during the season, but he has since sold that business and outfit.

Mr. Cannon takes an active interest in all local affairs, and is one of the politically prominent men in his section. He has served as supervisor of his township, and a member of the county board, being on the claims committee, elected in 1903 for an unexpired term and re-elected the following year. He was clerk of Lake township for five years prior to 1903, and has gained the confidence and respect of his fellowmen by his thoroughly honest dealings and integrity. He is now, and has been for the past ten years, secretary of the Phelps County Insurance Company, a very successful concern. Mr. Cannon is an Independent in politics, and a wide-awake, active young man, with any amount "of go-ahead-iveness" in his make-up, and a first class business man.

Mr. Cannon was married in 1896 to Miss Nellie Carpenter, of Harlan county, daughter of A. Carpenter. To Mr. and Mrs. Cannon have been born four children, namely: Virgil, Roscoe, Denzil and Mary. The family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM H. MAIDEN.

William H. Maiden holds a prominent place among the foremost agriculturists of Dawes county, Nebraska. His home is on section 5, township 34, range 47, where he has been located for many years past, and appointed home and well cultivated fields well speak the man of taste and progress, one stands higher in the estimation of his fellowmen and no

lowmen and associates than he. He is among the leading old settlers in this region who has take an active part in the development of the section from its very beginning, and richly deserves the success which has come to him.

Mr. Maiden was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1848. His father, George Maiden, was a farmer and old settler in Illinois, and was one of those who lived in that section of the country at the time of the Black Hawk massacre. He married Sarah Templeton, American born, of Scotch blood.

In 1856 the family moved to Tama county, Iowa, and there our subject grew to manhood, remaining at home with his parents up to the time of his twenty-first birthday, assisting in the farm work, and attending the country schools, where he received a fair education, for those early days. He left home in 1877 and came into the Black Hills, working for different freighting outfits in that vicinity, and part of the time being manager of the mail route from Fort Pierre to Deadwood, remaining here up to 1880. He then returned to Iowa, where he was married to Miss Dora E. Derrick, whose father, John C. Derrick, was a farmer of German descent, and her mother was Adelia Kellogg, raised in New York state. One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Maiden, William J., now twenty-one years of age and living on a farm adjoining that of his father.

Mr. Maiden and his family lived in Iowa up to the spring of 1886, farming there in Carroll county, then came to Dawes county, Nebraska, and settled on his present homestead, landing here on March 8th. This farm was located in section 5, township 34, range 47, and he at once began to build up a home, putting up a dugout, in which they lived for two years, then built a better house of the same kind and lived in that for nine years. During the first years they went through many hard times, witnessing the drouths, and was obliged to work in the roundhouse at Chadron and any odd work he could get to do in order to support his family. He kept on improving his place, however, and has now a ranch of eight hundred acres, about seventy acres of which is in alfalfa and plow land, with the balance in hay and pasture, as he engages extensively in the stock business, raising a large number of cattle and horses for market each season. The ranch is located on White river, and is well supplied with natural timber of all kinds, and he has it well improved, all fenced, and every-

thing in first-class order.  
Mr. Maiden is a strong Democrat and ardent admirer of William Jennings Bryan.



and takes a keen interest in local and national politics. He has served as school director for four years, also as school treasurer for five years.

#### EUGENE F. MOON.

Eugene F. Moon, one of the successful and progressive agriculturists of Prairie township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is owner of a well-improved farm and highly esteemed in his community as an energetic and industrious citizen. Mr. Moon was born in Michigan, 1869. His father, Horace Moon, formerly of Prairie township, now of Holdrege, was supervisor for several years in the township, and came here from Van Buren county, Michigan. The mother, Susan Ensign, was also a native of that county.

In 1890 our subject began on his own account, settling on a one hundred and sixty acre farm in Albany township, Harlan county, which was owned by his father, and there he made a success from the start, purchasing the farm, which he afterwards sold. While living on that place he had plenty of pasture and kept about sixty head of cattle and a large drove of hogs. The year he sold this farm his corn crop went as high as sixty bushels per acre, which was a pretty good yield. He now rents eighty acres, farming two hundred and forty acres in all, and keeps twelve horses, and sixty hogs. These he finds pay best of anything on the farm, and he has had excellent success in every enterprise of this nature.

Mr. Moon was married in 1893 to Miss Katie Cannon, daughter of E. H. Cannon, whose sketch appears in this book. Mr. and Mrs. Moon are the parents of four children, named as follows: Jessie, Otis, Claude and Elsie.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Holdrege and are held in high esteem by all. In political faith Mr. Moon is an Independent.

#### GARNER M. COLE.

Among the old settlers of Brown county, Nebraska, none is better known or more highly respected than the subject of this review. Mr. Cole was born in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, December 23, 1869. His father, Ishmael Cole, was a farmer and an old settler in Seward county, Nebraska, who came of old Yankee stock. Our subject was partly reared in Wisconsin, and grew up accustomed to hard

farm work. When he was seven years old, his parents moved to Seward county, and were among the old pioneer settlers of that state. Here they spent some eight years, then settled on a farm near Ainsworth, and remained there until 1883, at that time moving to Chadron, Nebraska, where his father homesteaded and proved up, living on the farm for four years. Our subject started out for himself when fourteen years of age, working on different farms all over Brown, Keya Paha and Cherry counties, and for four years was engaged in the livery business in Ainsworth. At the end of this time he settled on a homestead in section 28, township 31, range 21, Brown county, here proved up and gradually added to it, until he now has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. The estate is a valuable one, well improved with a good house and all farm buildings. It is located on Oak creek, which furnishes a good supply of water the year round. There is a fine natural growth of timber on the land, mostly of oak and ash, which makes it one of the most desirable places in the locality.

Mr. Cole was married in October, 1900, to Miss Pearl E. Swett, a native of Iowa. Her father, Alanson Swett (of whom a sketch appears in this volume), an old settler in Brown county, lives on an adjoining farm. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cole, who are named as follows: Kennerd, Laura and Glenn.

Mr. Cole has a wide circle of acquaintances and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. He is a Socialist in political sentiments, and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America camp at Ainsworth.

#### LEWIS M. RIESCHE.

That diversified farming may be carried on successfully in Dawes county, Nebraska, has been demonstrated beyond doubt by the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. For many years Mr. Riesche has followed farming and has built up a fine farm and comfortable home, stuck to his farm through many discouragements and come out ahead, and he is now recognized as one of the foremost citizens of his locality, highly esteemed and respected by all.

Mr. Riesche is a native of Newport, Kentucky, born in 1858, of German descent. His father, who was a blacksmith by trade, was born in Germany, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Louisa Taschner. Our subject was raised in Kentucky and in



LEWIS M. RIESCHE AND FAMILY.





early youth learned the cigarmaker's trade and followed that work for ten years in Cincinnati and Newport, Kentucky. In 1883 he came to Nebraska, locating in Lyons, Burt county, and there worked on farms for three years, then moved to Dawes county, landing here in June, 1886, and settling on his present homestead in section 5, township 30, range 48. He first put up a rough frame building as a dwelling place; and later a log cabin was added to it, and he "batched" it for several years. The dry years soon came on and he lost four or five crops in succession, and was also hailed out one season, and it seemed to him that he could not get a start. However, he stuck to the place, and steadily improved it with fences, good buildings, and kept on trying to raise crops, until he has seventy acres under cultivation, and about one hundred and seventy acres in hay and pasture land, and keeps quite a number of head of stock.

Mr. Riesche was united in marriage in June, 1899, to Mrs. Jane Rimmer, whose parents were old settlers in Nebraska. Mrs. Riesche was a widow with one child, Isaac Osborne Rimmer, and one child has also been born to our subject, a daughter named Mary, born in July, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Riesche have one adopted son, James Henry Riesche.

Mr. Riesche takes an active interest in local affairs and has served as a township official at different times, now holding the office of moderator of school district No. 78, in which he lives. A picture of Mr. Riesche and family will be found on another page of this volume.

V. A. KLEIN.

V. A. Klein, one of the leading business men of Lodgepole, Nebraska, is a prominent citizen of that thriving town. He has been a resident of Cheyenne county for many years, and has become closely identified with the commercial and social interests of the locality where he makes his home. Mr. Klein is a gentleman of sterling worth, and well merits his success and high standing in the community. He is well known in musical circles, taking a deep interest in that subject, and is leader of the Klein orchestra, also of the Lodgepole band, both of which he organized.

Mr. Klein was born in Frauenthal, Bohemia, on September 10, 1862, receiving a fair education as a boy, and during his young hood worked with his father and brothers in their flour mill. In November, 1882, he left his native land and came to America with his wife and children.

parents, the family locating in Rosedale, Kansas, where our subject remained for about five years, during which time he lived mostly in Kansas City, and was connected with different musical organizations, doing orchestral and brass band work. In March, 1887, he came to Cheyenne county and homesteaded in section 2, township 12, range 48, which place he later sold. The father died in Rosedale in the spring of the year, 1887, the entire family moving to Nebraska with our subject. There were four brothers and two sisters who settled in that region, one other brother locating in Burt county, Nebraska. He was a Catholic priest, and the entire family were devout Roman Catholics. For a time our subject was employed as a clerk in the Pacific hotel in Sidney, and at the end of two years went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he spent several years engaged in different business enterprises, all of the time being more or less engaged in music, and was a member of the leading orchestra and band in Cheyenne.

In 1898 Mr. Klein returned to Nebraska, engaging in business in Sidney, coming here as instructor of the Sidney brass band. He only remained a short time, then moved to Lodgepole, and started in the saloon business, which he followed for two years, then established a mercantile business, and has continued at it ever since. He has built up a fine trade, and is now proprietor of a constantly increasing trade, having a nice large store and carrying a complete line of general merchandise. Besides his business enterprises Mr. Klein owns a good ranch and farm situated twelve miles south of Lodgepole.

Our subject was married in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1891, to Florence A. Scherer, who was born in Montgomery county, Ill., in 1868, coming to Cheyenne county with her father and family in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Klein are the parents of two children, Ethel M., aged sixteen, and Clara E., aged fourteen, both living at home.

Mr. Klein is an active man in public affairs in his community, and is at present acting as treasurer of Lodgepole village. Politically he is a Republican.

FRANK MAYFIELD.

Should the reader ask for a representative old settler of Dawes county, and who has grown up in a new country and acquired valuable property by dint of his own energy and despite the trials and privations which attend it.

tended him in the early days, we would give the name of the gentleman mentioned above.

Mr. Mayfield was born in Richardson county, Nebraska territory, in 1860. His father, George Mayfield, as a young man learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some years, and later followed farming, and he was married to Miss Ellen Cash, of English stock, as was himself. Our subject was reared and educated in his native state on his father's farm, where he learned to perform all kinds of hard work as a boy, and when twenty-six years of age left home to make his own way. He came to Dawes county in February, 1887, and located on section 13, township 31, range 51, as a pre-emption, later filed homestead papers. Here he built a log house, and has lived on the place ever since, adding to his original holdings until he owns four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land besides controlling one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. He lives on West Ash creek, and his farm is well supplied with all kinds of timber, running water the year round, wild fruits, and he also has planted fruit trees and small fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, etc. He is engaged in mixed farming, diversifying his crops and attaining marked success.

Mr. Mayfield was married in 1882 to Miss Ruby Bacon. Mrs. Mayfield is a daughter of Henry and Lura (Davison) Bacon, pioneers of this county, and well known throughout this section, but now residents of Olympia, Washington. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mayfield, who are named as follows: Thora, Di., Lura, Walter and Ralph, the two latter bright sturdy boys of ten and twelve years old, who almost run the farm now, as Mr. Mayfield had a bad accident happen to him November 25, 1907, while gathering corn. The team became frightened, ran off and ran over him, breaking his left jaw bone and knocking one eye out and cutting his face badly; but he has recovered to a great extent after such a close call to death.

Mr. Mayfield has always been active in local affairs, and has given much of his time and influence in helping to build up and develop the commercial resources of his section. Politically he is a Republican.

#### DAVE L. WILLIAMS.

Prominent among the younger ranchmen of Loup county is Dave L. Williams, whose name stands at the head of this review. He was born in Hamilton county, Nebraska, December 28, 1875, on the farm of his parents. His father,

T. W. Williams, whose sketch appears in this volume, was an old settler in Nebraska and of Loup county. His mother was Mary (Lewis) Williams, and both of his parents were born in Wales, coming to America when they were children.

In the spring of 1876 the whole family came to Loup county and located on a homestead. St. Paul and Grand Island were the nearest trading points and all goods and material had to be hauled from one or the other of those places. Our subject was raised on the frontier and can remember when deer and antelope were plentiful, and occasionally an elk was seen. Dave worked with his father on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age, helping to improve the home of the family, and then, in the spring of 1896, he went into the sand hills of Rock county, working for the A. D. Cattle Company for ten years. He spent ten years as a cowboy in the county of Rock, and was all over Brown, Cherry and Keya Paha. Our subject bought his present farm while he was still in the sand hill country, but did not move upon it till in 1906, since which time he has made many improvements. He has two hundred acres, with forty acres under cultivation, the balance being devoted to pasture and grass land, which he needs for his cattle and horses to graze on. Mr. Williams still does considerable ranching business and has a bunch of cattle in the sand hill country. His home farm is one mile south of Taylor, the county seat of Loup county, Nebraska. Having come to the county in 1876, Mr. Williams became one of the very earliest settlers and he has done his part in adding to the material advancement of the community.

Dave L. Williams was married to Miss Mary Harvey in 1900. The bride's parents, Benjamin and Sadie (Ham) Harvey, were pioneer settlers of Loup county. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been blessed with three children: Gladys, Vera and Dorris.

#### OSCAR W. McDANIEL.

Oscar W. McDaniel occupies a prominent place among the large ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska, his residence being on section 4, township 29, range 26, where he has built up a fine estate, operating a large tract of land, and has gained a wide reputation as a successful and prosperous citizen.

Mr. McDaniel was born in Radford, Montgomery county, Virginia, April 16, 1866. His father, Jacob McDaniel, of Scotch-Irish descent, was a harness maker by trade, and in

later years a farmer. He served four years in the Confederate army, was captured and held prisoner at Camp Douglas, near Chicago. The mother, Mary E. (Bradbury), was of remote German ancestry. One of her grandfathers was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. The McDaniel family moved to Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1874, where they still reside. Our subject was the oldest in a family of seven and began life for himself at the age of twenty-one, farming one year in Sarpy county. In 1887 he came to Cherry county, took up a claim where he now lives and engages during spare time in drilling wells. Since then he has taken up additional land and bought more, at the present time owning a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, most of which is hay land. He has started in the stock raising business recently, and finds this more profitable than farming. He has continued to follow his old-time business of well drilling, and has done this work all over the eastern part of Cherry county, at which he has met with flattering success. He started in his career here with only twenty-four dollars in money and a team of horses, and has accumulated a fine property through his industrious and energetic habits. He is an expert machinist and was employed from May, 1898, to June, 1899, in the locomotive works of the Burlington at Havelock, near Lincoln. For one term he engaged in teaching in a district near home.

Mr. McDaniel was married February 13, 1889, to Miss Mary E. Rockwell, born in Illinois in 1867, of Scotch-Irish descent. Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel have a family of three children, namely: Ethel, born in 1889; Dwight, 1893, and Ida, in 1900, all born and raised on their present homestead.

Mr. McDaniel has always done his full share in the building up of his locality, and is regarded as one of the leading citizens in his community. He is a Democrat, but has never held any but local office. He is a member of Wood Lake lodge, No. 221, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and also lodge No. 221, Ancient Order United Workmen, of the same place.

Mr. McDaniel's ranch is very fertile, producing more hay than he needs for the cattle he keeps. This he sells to less fortunate ranchmen who feed large herds on his place, on which they are supplied with water from three never-failing wells. He probably holds the record for potato production in Nebraska, having dug two hundred and fifty bushels from a quarter acre of ground. He knows of no one who has surpassed him. A view of the family residence is shown on another page in this work.

#### WILLIAM W. WOOD.

William W. Wood, for many years a well known and highly respected citizen of Rushville, Nebraska, built up an enviable reputation as a barrister, his practice extending throughout Sheridan and adjoining counties. He is now a resident of Alliance, Nebraska, where he is register of the United States land office. Mr. Wood is among the old settlers in this section of the country, having driven here by team in the early days, and has taken an active part in all the events of importance since the early days of this portion of Nebraska.

Mr. Wood is a native of Jefferson county, New York, born in 1850. His father, Daniel Wood, was a farmer, who during his young days had followed the life of a sailor on the Great Lakes, continuing in this work up to 1858, then begun farming. Our subject was one of a family of four children, and when he was ten years old the family came to Wisconsin, settling in Eau Claire county, where he grew to manhood, assisting his parents in the work of carrying on their farm. He attended the Eau Claire high school, and later graduated from the University of Wisconsin, receiving his diploma in 1876. He taught school there for three years, then came to Kearney county, Nebraska, in 1879, locating at Minden. During the time he was engaged in teaching school he studied law and was admitted to the bar in Kearney in 1879. He first began his practice at Minden, and was elected superintendent of schools in that county, serving for five years, and in connection with this work followed teaching together with law work. In 1882 he formed a partnership with John M. Stuart in the law business and three years later came to Sheridan county. Here he took up a homestead and proved up on it, living in a log house for some time. He soon afterwards moved to Rushville, and in the fall of 1885 opened his first law office here, which was in a tent. He has since that time practiced law constantly, and built up an extensive and lucrative practice. He is also interested in the stock business, owning a small ranch on Pine creek, which he has operated for the past four years.

Mr. Wood was married in 1884 to Miss Belle M. Alexander, daughter of William Alexander, a pioneer settler in Pawnee county. Mrs. Wood was born in Iowa, of Irish parents. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Wilma M., and she was the first white child born in Rushville. Miss Wood took a four-year course

in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln, graduating with the class of 1908.

In 1900 Mr. Wood was elected county attorney of Sheridan county, and served one term, and in March, 1907, was appointed register of the United States land office at Alliance, Nebraska, and moved to that city. He is a Republican and has always voted that ticket.

#### JAMES RILEY SWIM.

Among the successful agriculturists of Keya Paha county who came to western Nebraska in the early days of its development and who through his perseverance and industry has built up a fine estate, we mention the name of James Riley Swim, who resides on section 23, township 33, range 23.

Mr. Swim was born in Lee county, Iowa, December 9, 1845. His father was Alexander Swim, a Kentuckian, farmer by occupation, and his mother, who was Miss Elizabeth Phelps, was also a native of Kentucky. Of a family of ten children our subject was the seventh member, and was reared and educated in Polk county, Iowa. He assisted his father and brothers in the farm work, and received a sturdy, practical training, remaining on the home farm until he was eighteen years of age, then enlisted in the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, Company B, and followed the fortunes of a soldier in the Civil war for a year and a half. He participated in many skirmishes and was at the thirteen days' siege of Spanish Fort in Alabama. After he was discharged from the war he began farming in Polk county, and a year later went to Marion county, remaining fourteen years, and in 1879 came to Douglas county, Nebraska, where he resided for four years, then came to Keya Paha county in October, 1883, where he proved up on a homestead. He lived in a log house for several years, and spent his time in improving his farm and home. In 1887 he went back to Dodge county and remained there two and a half years, following farming, then returned to Keya Paha county on his homestead. He is now proprietor of a farm of three hundred and sixty acres, all of which is fenced, with eighty acres in a high state of cultivation. His farm is well covered with natural timber, and there is plenty of running water on it. He has put up a substantial set of farm buildings, and has a valuable estate.

On March 22, 1867, Mr. Swim was married to Mrs. Eliza Nokes, of Marion county, Iowa, whose parents, Elias and Sarah M. Fuller, were of American blood and old settlers in that state

Mr. Swim was formerly a member of the Grand Army of the Republic at Norden until its charter was abandoned owing to lack of membership and also the growing importance of the Masonic fraternity in the community. Our subject is a man of active public spirit. He has held numerous school offices and takes a commendable interest in local affairs. In political faith he is a Republican and belongs to the Masonic order. A view of Mr. Swim's premises is to be found in this volume on another page.

#### HUGH BOYER, DECEASED.

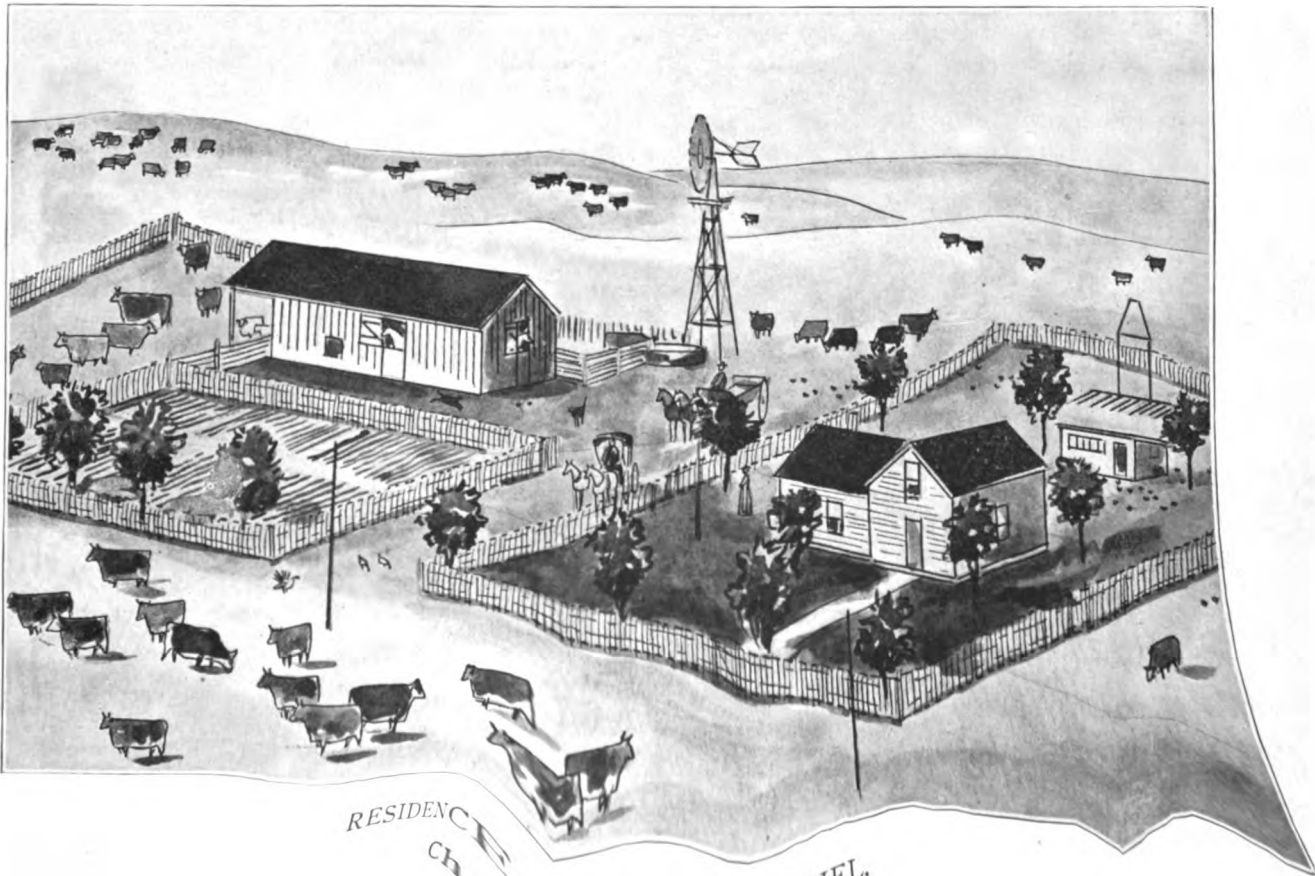
The gentleman whose name heads this personal history, now deceased, during his lifetime held a high position among the leading citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska. He was engaged in agriculture for many years in that section of the country, made a great success of the work, and while building up a good home and ranch for his family, also aided in a large measure in the development and growth of his locality, giving his personal aid and influence to every movement for its advancement. Mr. Boyer raised a large family, all of whom are now grown and filling honorable positions in the world, several of the sons' names appearing in this volume.

Hugh Boyer was born on a farm in Grayson county, Virginia, in 1837. His father, John Boyer, followed farming all his life. He was of Dutch origin. His mother's maiden name was Jane Fielder. Our subject was reared in his native state, as a young man owning a good farm, which he carried on successfully. In 1865 he was married in his native county to Margaret James, also of Dutch blood, and to them were born nine children, who are named as follows: John, Reid, Fields, Boyd, Charles, Mack, Crumley, Roby and William.

Mr. Boyer left the east and emigrated to the western states with his family in 1882, settling in Madison county, Nebraska, where he farmed up to 1886, then removed to Cherry county, traveling by team through the wild country to their new home. They had covered wagons for the family to ride in and also bringing all their goods that way. They had a long and tedious journey, obliged to camp out along the road nights, and had several interesting experiences on the trip. Immediately after arriving at their destination Mr. Boyer filed on a homestead in section 17, township 25, range 32, put up a sod shanty for a dwelling house and started to open a ranch, and there they went through the hardships and failures that fell to the lot of nearly all of the



RESIDENCE OF J. R. SWIM,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE  
OF OSCAR W. McDANIEL,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.





early settlers in the region, and kept hard at work, and after many years succeeded in improving a nice property and became one of the well-to-do men of his community. At the time of his death, March 2, 1906, he was proprietor of a ranch of eleven hundred and twenty acres, and which is one of the best of its kind in the county.

Mr. Boyer was county surveyor for one term; also justice of the peace for several years.

MICHAEL A. BANNON.

Michael A. Bannon is one of the well-to-do men and also one of the best known farmers of Sioux county, as a man who has devoted his career to the pursuit of farming and has met with deserved success in his line of work. He has developed a fine farm and is a gentleman of enviable reputation, enjoying a pleasant home. He resides on section 20, township 32, range 54.

Mr. Bannon was born in Monahan county, in the north of Ireland, in 1852, and came to this country with his parents when a small boy. The mother died when Michael was fifteen years old, and the father with his family settled in New Orleans and remained there for a time, where he died when our subject was an infant. Then the family came to northeastern Iowa and lived on a farm, where our subject grew up, starting out for himself when little more than a child, working out by the day and month for farmers in that vicinity. At the age of seventeen years he went to Montana and spent four and a half years, working as a gold miner at Helena, then returned to Iowa. For twelve years he lived in Clay county, engaged in farming and in 1885, first came to Nebraska, settling in Sioux county, locating in Hat Creek Valley. There he filed on a homestead and began to improve his farm, breaking up the land with two teams which he brought with him from Iowa. His first building was a log cabin, and he lived in it for fifteen years, working at freighting, and doing anything he could find to do in order to get ahead and build up his home, making long trips through the country and camping out at night under his wagon, suffering exposure in the severe weather, and going through all the pioneer experiences. However, he stuck to his farm and succeeded in improving it in good shape and made it his home for fifteen years, and at the time he left the place he owned a ranch of five hundred and sixty acres on which he run a large herd of stock, also

engaged in farming on a large scale. In 1901 Mr. Bannon came to his present location, in search of more range land for his cattle raising operations. He finally selected this tract of land, and he with his sons now own about two thousand seven hundred acres. He has made a splendid success here, and has a fine ranch and comfortable home.

Mr. Bannon was united in marriage in 1871 to Miss Anna McGraw, a native of Massachusetts, and they are the parents of the following children: Frank, William, Thomas, George, John, Margaret, Robert and Nellie.

Mr. Bannon is one of the leading old timers of this section of the state, and has done his full share in the upbuilding of this region. Coming here in an early day, he has done a great deal to build up Crawford, in Dawes county, and Harrison, in Sioux county, Nebraska. In political sentiment he is an Independent.

ANDREW KELLER.

Andrew Keller, a highly esteemed citizen of Lake township, Phelps county, is the proprietor of a fine two hundred and forty acre farm, where he has built up a pleasant and comfortable home. He has acquired a valuable estate, and supplied himself and family with all the comforts of a rural home, and is one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Mr. Keller is a native of Bavaria, Germany, and came to the United States in 1883. His father was Michael Keller, owner of large land interests. Our subject came to Phelps county in 1880, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres, on which he built a fine house, barns, and all necessary farm buildings, fenced his land, and has one of the finest orchards and groves in the vicinity. He was possessed of sufficient means to build up a good home and add all improvements when he came here, unlike many of the early settlers who was obliged to start with nothing, and this enabled him to escape much of the hardships and discouragements of a pioneer experience. Mr. Keller has been all over the United States, and likes this part of Nebraska better than any place he has seen, as the land is very productive, the climate healthful, the water A1, which is a combination of conditions not often to be found.

He has been successful here from the beginning, and is well satisfied with the result of his labors. He is interested in stock, raising a large number of cattle, also hogs and horses. Mr. Keller is married and has three



children. A brother of our subject, Joseph, resides at Defiance, Ohio, and two others, Richard and Dato, are in Washington. His grandfather, Conrad Keller, was a very wealthy man in the old country, owning three mills, besides farms and town property, which was all under the control of the status of landlords in Germany at that time. Politically Mr. Keller is an Independent.

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#### JOHN SERRES.

There is no one on whom the title of "a leading old settler" is bestowed with greater truth than the gentleman above mentioned. Mr. Serres is one of the wealthy ranchmen of western Nebraska, having a fine estate in Sioux county which has been developed and put in the very best condition by his hard labors and constant attention to his duty of building up a fortune, and incidentally, he has gained an enviable reputation as one of the foremost citizens of his community by his active public spirit.

John Serres was born in Luxemburg, Germany, in 1852. His father, Andrew, was a farmer all his life, and lived and died in his native land. John remained at home until he was twenty years of age, working on the farm, and in 1872 came to this country, utterly without means and not versed in the language or American customs, but was determined to succeed and whatever drawbacks he afterwards encountered did not daunt his courage. After landing in New York city he went to Wisconsin, locating in Washington county, and there followed farm work for about twelve years, spending some of that time in Michigan and in the Wisconsin lumber woods. About 1880 he went to Milwaukee, where he was employed for a time, eventually securing work on the street railway, as a driver and conductor. He was married in Milwaukee in 1881, to Katherine Ruffing, whose father, Michael Ruffing, was a shoemaker by trade, and spent many years in that city, his death occurring there in 1893. Her mother's parents were natives of Germany, Annie Mary Pung being her maiden name.

Mr. Serres went to South Dakota in 1885, arriving there in March of that year. In company with his brother, Stephen, he took a team and drove into Nebraska, having a most dangerous journey through the wild country, coming through Valentine and landing in Sioux county. He picked out a location and filed on land in Hat Creek Valley, where the brothers built two log cabins, and bought several head of cattle from some settlers in that

vicinity. Their nearest trading point was a distance of fifty miles from their claim, and it took five days in which to make the trip and return, driving ox teams. He opened land and began farming, doing breaking for people who lived in the neighborhood, but soon the hard times struck him, his crops failed and everything went against him. Provisions soared so high that it was all he could do to make a living, being obliged to pay four cents a pound for potatoes, with pork at eighteen cents a pound and flour four dollars a hundred pounds. In 1896 he had a fine field of flax, with the crop growing nicely, when some big cattlemen in the vicinity turned a drove of stock into the grain, utterly destroying the crop. This was the way the larger ranch owners showed their hostility to the smaller farmers who came into the region, hoping to discourage them so they would abandon their claims, and leave the field clear for their own herds. This incident was a severe loss to our subject, as it was really his first crop. After that time, for several years he had fairly good success, then came the dry years, when he was unable to raise anything, even losing the seed he planted, so he determined to engage in the stock business and got together a few cattle, which was the beginning of his career as a ranchman. For a number of years, part of his time was spent in working on the railroad doing construction work, in order to make a living for his family. However, after a time he met with better luck, and gradually added to his original possessions, until he is now owner of a thousand-acre ranch, all fenced and cross-fenced, supplied with water for all his needs from springs on the ranch, and he has one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, raising large quantities of grain each year. One season his crop amounted to over two thousand bushels. The ranch is well equipped with a complete set of substantial buildings, and is one of the best improved places in the county.

Mr. Serres is the father of seven children, namely: Emma Margaret and Hattie, born in Milwaukee; Lena Katherine, Elizabeth Mary, John Stephen, Rose Theresa, and Edward John, born in Sioux county, the two eldest married.

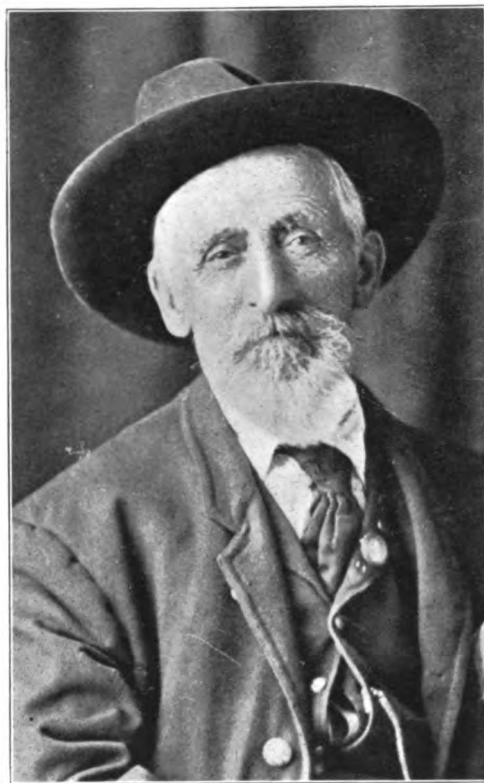
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#### JOHN LAW.

John Law, one of the genuine old-timers of Deuel county, Nebraska, has retired from active farm work, although he lives on the home ranch in Swan precinct, where he has spent many years and succeeded in building up a



MRS. JOHN LAW.



JOHN LAW.



good estate and valuable ranch. He has now reached the venerable age of eighty years, but is still in the enjoyment of good health and is a genial old gentleman, held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Law was born in England, April 23, 1828, and lived there up to 1845, then came to America with his mother, to join the father who had gone on to prepare a home for them in the new country. They settled in Jersey City, New Jersey, and lived there about fifteen years, then went to Livingston county, Illinois. In September, 1862, John enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and saw active service up to December, 1865. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and took part in the following battles: Siege of Atlanta, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, Resaca, and was through the Carolinas and saw service in Kentucky, northern Alabama and Georgia. He was mustered out of the army at Washington, D. C., returned to Illinois and remained there up to 1885, then came to Deuel county, Nebraska, taking a homestead on section 10, township 12, range 44, which is his home ranch and on which he now resides.

Mr. Law was married to Hannah Hodges, in Jersey City, New Jersey, on the first day of January, 1850. Mrs. Law was born in New Jersey in 1826, and is the senior of her husband by two years, the lady now being eighty-two, and a very charming gentlewoman, loved and admired by all who know her.

Mr. and Mrs. Law are the parents of eleven children, eight of whom are still living, as follows: James, married; Charles, who is a widower; Lottie, married; Sophie and Sarah, twins, the former single and the latter married; Millie, married; George H. (whose sketch appears in this volume), and Daisy, married. All are filling honorable positions in life, and are esteemed citizens of their respective localities. A portrait of Mr. Law appears elsewhere in this work.

CLARK N. DITTO.

Clark N. Ditto, a leading citizen of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is classed among the successful and progressive farmers of western Nebraska. He is a gentleman highly esteemed by his fellowmen, and his high standing is well merited.

Mr. Ditto is a native of Clinton Ohio, and was born in 1844. His father was a farmer by occupation, born of stock, and his mother, Miss Priscilla was a Virginian of English descent. Of a

family of eight children our subject was the fourth member, and was raised and educated in the county of his birth, attending the country schools, where he received a good foundation training which well fitted him for the events of his future years. He enlisted in the army at the age of seventeen years, joining Company M, Second Ohio Cavalry, and with his regiment went into Kentucky and Tennessee. He was one of those who took part in the siege of Knoxville under General Burnside, and in all served for two years and ten months in the service of his country, experiencing many exciting times, and seeing hard service all through.

At the close of the war he entered the employ of a produce firm, and later was engaged in the mercantile business for a time. In 1868 he came west to Illinois, settling in Champaign county, where he spent eighteen years following farming. He then went to Iowa, where he remained for one year, then came on to Nebraska, locating in what is now Keya Paha county, going to farming at once. He built a dugout and lived in this for several years, going through the regular pioneer existence and encountering all the hardships and discouragements in the shape of drouths, storms, grasshopper raids, etc. His farm was situated in section 29, township northeast 34, range 17, and he kept at work improving his place, building up a home, and is now owner of two hundred and forty acres of good land. One hundred and twenty acres of this is cultivated, and the rest in pasture and grass, all of it fenced and cross-fenced. He has planted numerous small fruits, such as currants, and berries of all kinds, and also has nice orchards which bear fine fruits.

In 1894 Mr. Ditto was married to Mrs. Ellen Ross, of this county, whose father, Barnett Smith, was an Englishman, a farmer, and mason by trade. Mrs. Ross was a widow with five children—Robert, Cecil, Percy, Herbert and Mabel. The family came to Keya Paha county in 1883, and were among the old settlers in this part of the state.

One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ditto, a girl named Anna S., born in 1897. Mr. Ditto is prominent in all matters of local interest, and does his share in the advancement of educational and commercial affairs in his locality.

EDWIN C. WILLIAMS.

Edwin C. Williams, who lives on a fine ranch in section 28, township 16, range 41, is one of the most influential of the old-timers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska. He has lived a long, useful

life, serving his country with unselfish patriotism and making a record in his community as a man of strong principles and successful business methods.

Mr. Williams was born on a farm in Chautauqua county, New York, August 13, 1841, and was of old American and Yankee stock. His father, George D. Williams, was a shoemaker and farmer. His mother was Susan Dutton, of Connecticut ancestry; she died in Nebraska at the residence of her son.

The subject of our sketch was reared in New York state until he was twelve years of age, when the family came west to Wisconsin, settling in Portage county, where the father died. February 14, 1864, our subject enlisted in Company D, Third Wisconsin Infantry, being sent south with his regiment to join in the Atlanta campaign. He marched through Georgia and was with Sherman through the Carolinas. While on this campaign, on March 16, 1865, at the battle of Averysboro, North Carolina, he was severely wounded in the right leg, which had to be amputated. Ten minutes after he was wounded his regiment was relieved and never saw active service again. Such were the fortunes of war, that, after serving through the entire Atlanta campaign to almost the close of the war, Mr. Williams was wounded and lost his limb in the last ten minutes of fighting; he was discharged September 1, 1865, at Prairie DuChien, Wisconsin.

After the war was over our subject returned to Wisconsin, and July 4, 1868, was married to Miss Roxalina Woodworth, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania. Her father, John Woodworth, died when she was an infant. Her mother was Lovina Acres in her youth and the parents were descendants of eastern people. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been blessed with four children: Etta May, married Charles Gorman; Lottie Maud, married Harry Robins; George Henry, and Susie Lovina, wife of Michael John Thies, all living in Keith county and doing well.

In the summer of 1869 Mr. Williams came with his family to Rice county, Minnesota, and made his home there for some sixteen years, owning one hundred and sixty acres of land in East Prairie, about half way between Owatonna and Faribault. He sold his Rice county farm in 1885 and came west to the North Platte river valley in Nebraska, and settled on his present homestead. The country was very new and his farm was nothing but raw prairie land. He lived in a small board shanty until he could build a stone house, his present residence; he is the only one left of several Minnesota people who settled here in

those early days. And they were days of hard times for the pioneers; all supplies had to be hauled from Ogallala, a long, hard trip, somewhat dangerous because the North Platte river had to be forded, there being at that time no bridges. Now Mr. Williams has a nice comfortable home and fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, with sixty acres under cultivation. The land is located on Clear creek which furnishes running water the year around and there is to be seen a fine orchard of fruit trees and all the up-to-date improvements necessary to the successful operation of a farm. Our subject used to run large herds of cattle, but of late years he has been curtailing his business and is now living a somewhat retired life.

Mr. Williams has been active in political affairs, was elected county commissioner in 1889, and has served his community in a number of minor offices. He is Republican in politics, and while in Minnesota was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

#### A. O. STOCKTON.

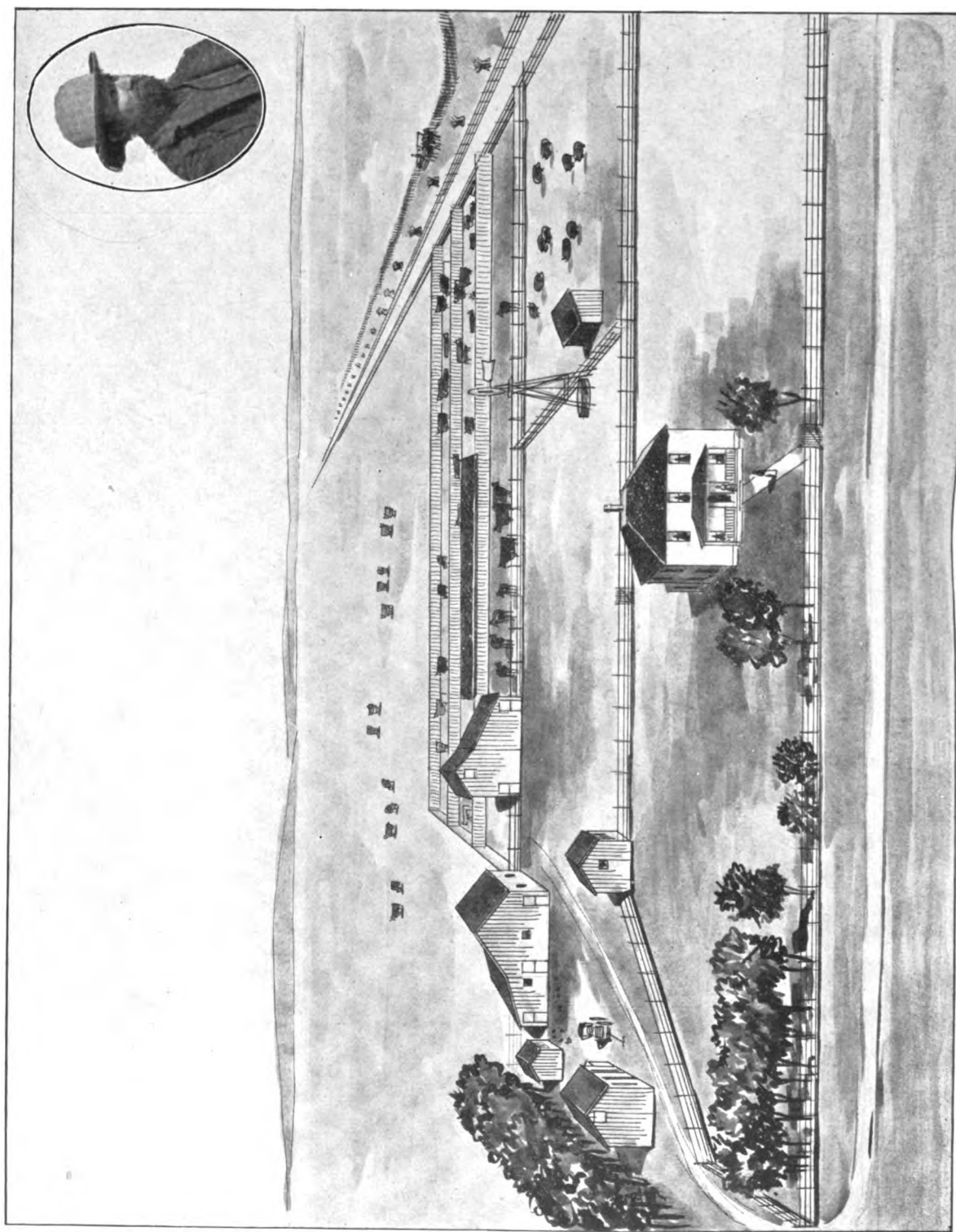
A. O. Stockton, one of the enterprising and prosperous old residents of Perkins county, owns a valuable estate on section 21, township 9, range 39. He settled in the county in 1886, and is one of the best known men in the country, highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and progressive agriculturist.

Mr. Stockton was born in Platte county, Missouri, on a farm in 1848. His father was a native of Ohio and his mother of Indiana, they coming west about 1840, settling in Missouri, where our subject grew up. Our subject lived at home up to 1886, then came to Nebraska, driving to Perkins county from Ogallala, and settled on section 19, township 9, range 39. He put up a dugout at first, and lived in that for five years, going through all the pioneer experiences in starting his farm, and often had a hard time to make a living. He returned to Missouri about 1892 and began farming on a seventy-five acre farm, remaining for four years, then sold the place and came back to Perkins county. He located on a pre-emption on section 21, and has since added to the place, now owning four hundred and eighty acres, nearly one hundred of which is now cultivated, and the entire ranch fitted with good improvements. He engages in stock raising and farming, has a good income from the farm, and is one of the solid and substantial agriculturists of his township.

In 1872 Mr. Stockton was married to Mary







ESTATE OF MIFLIN P. BROSIUS (deceased).  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mifflin P. Brosius.



L. Ballard. They have five children, named as follows: Owen, Myrtle, now Mrs. Blayny; Grace, now Mrs. O'Connor; Florence, and Bryan. One son, Martin, is deceased. Mr. Stockton is active in local affairs, always taking a deep interest in and aiding to the best of his ability any movement for the good of his community.

MIFFLIN P. BROSIUS, DECEASED.

Mifflin P. Brosius was, for many years prior to his demise, one of the leading citizens and agriculturists of Cherry county. The farm residence is on section 11, township 34, range 28, one of the largest and best constructed dwellings on the north table surrounded by barns and outbuildings far above the average.

Mr. Brosius was born on a farm in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1855. His father, Jesse Brosius, was of German descent, and his mother was Miss Elizabeth Taylor. Our subject was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, whence he migrated to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in March, 1877. In November of that year he came to Louisville, Cass county, Nebraska, working at the painters' trade, at the same time operating a market garden and poultry yard. On March 21, 1883, he arrived in Cherry county, where he had filed on a homestead September 27, 1882. His first buildings were a sod house, with a log barn, and he lived in this house for nine years. The farm now comprises six hundred and forty acres, which is divided in two pieces, improved with fine farm buildings, machinery, fences, and everything necessary to facilitate the work of a thrifty farmer. A large part of the land is set out to small fruits, which yield a snug income to the owners.

Mr. Brosius went through many privations in the building up of his present estate, including drouth periods, grasshopper raids, hail and other misfortunes that fell to the lot of the old settlers of this locality. When he arrived in Cherry county his possessions were as follows: a blind team, wagon, one cow and his household goods, together with one dollar and a quarter of borrowed money. The first summer was spent in a tent, but as winter came on he was compelled to find something more comfortable and put up his first building, which was a sod house, twenty-four by sixteen feet, with a kitchen addition. The first crop which he raised on his farm was a sod crop of potatoes and corn.

On April 12, 1877, he was married to Miss Eliza Guss, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, whose

father, Samuel Guss, was of German descent. He was a harnessmaker by trade, being also engaged in farming and the livery business. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brosius, named as follows: Jesse, married and now living on a ranch; Nettie, dead; Clara, married; Will, who runs the farm for his mother; Viola, Walter, Harrison, dead, Ralph, Laura, dead, and Leroy. Six grandchildren complete the family circle.

Mr. Brosius died April 29, 1903, and was deeply mourned by his family and a large circle of friends as an exemplary husband, father, neighbor and citizen, universally respected and esteemed by his fellowmen. Originally a Republican, he later affiliated with the Populists and fraternally was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Degree of Honor. A portrait of Mr. Brosius will be found elsewhere in this work.

WILLIAM S. BARKER.

William S. Barker, mayor of Valentine, is an efficient and popular city official, as well as editor of one of the leading publications of northwestern Nebraska.

He is a native of Oskaloosa, Iowa, born April 15, 1865. His parents, Charles E. and Sarah J. (Ginn) Barker, are both of English descent. The family came to Burt county in 1865, settling on a farm, and were among the pioneer settlers at Tekamah. Here our subject was reared and educated, attending the Tekamah high school, assisting his father on the farm out of school hours. At the age of nineteen he came to Valentine and for about three years worked at the printers' trade, having begun his apprenticeship while in Tekamah. About 1887 Mr. Barker purchased the Cherry County Republican, a weekly paper, the name of which he changed to "The Republican." This is one of the first papers established in Valentine. There were only two others, "The Valentine Reporter", and "The Minnechaduzza Republican," having been published prior to "The Cherry County Republican." During the first year he did all of his own work, writing, composing, printing and using a small hand press. Now his business occupies a space twenty-five by eighty feet, he has a steam plant, power press, and employs two or three assistants all the time. Business in the art preservative has steadily increased until he now does all kinds of fancy calendar and job printing under the name of "Barker Art Printery." Since Mr. Barker established his business

he has had twenty-one out of twenty-two competitors go out of business after a more or less stormy career; only one paper in town, besides his own, has survived the struggle for existence in this cold and unappreciative world.

Mr. Barker is a Republican, and takes an active interest in politics, supporting heartily the party nominees, but would never accept an office for himself, preferring to be free from political obligations and at liberty to express himself as he sees fit, unhampered by the fetters which usually keep the office-holder in their grasp. He has, however, served as mayor in the town board at Valentine since 1906.

Mr. Barker was married June 25, 1889, to Miss Jennie L. Keister, a native of Pennsylvania, and daughter of William A. Keister, of that state. One daughter, Bernadine A., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Barker. They are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Barker affiliates with the Knights of Pythias, the Ancient Order of Workmen, and the Modern Woodmen of America of Valentine.

#### D. S. HARDIN.

Among the leading business men of Alma the above mentioned gentleman, subject of this history, occupies a prominent place. He is one of the foremost attorneys of Harlan county, Nebraska, and is also engaged in the real estate and collection business.

Mr. Hardin was born in Champaign county, Illinois, in 1855. He was raised there, and attended the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, graduating with the class of '80. In 1880, after leaving college, he came to Nebraska and located in Beatrice, was admitted to the bar in 1883, and since that time has practiced the profession he chose, and been very successful and gained an enviable reputation in this part of the state. In the year of 1893 he moved to Alma, and since then has been engaged in the practice of law there, also doing a large business in real estate and collections. He is the owner of a large amount of land in this and adjoining counties, all of which he rents out. His places are stocked with grade cattle and hogs, also horses, and he devotes a portion of the farms to mixed farming, and thinks this is the best place he has ever seen for farming and stock raising. A steer can be raised here for about one-fourth of what it costs in Iowa, and the price obtained is just as high. Hogs are raised cheaper and better here than in that state, or other parts of the country, and therefore a man can make much more money in this section in these lines of business. He has widely advertised these features

of the state, and done much towards getting new settlers in this locality each year, the population having increased more than double in the past four years.

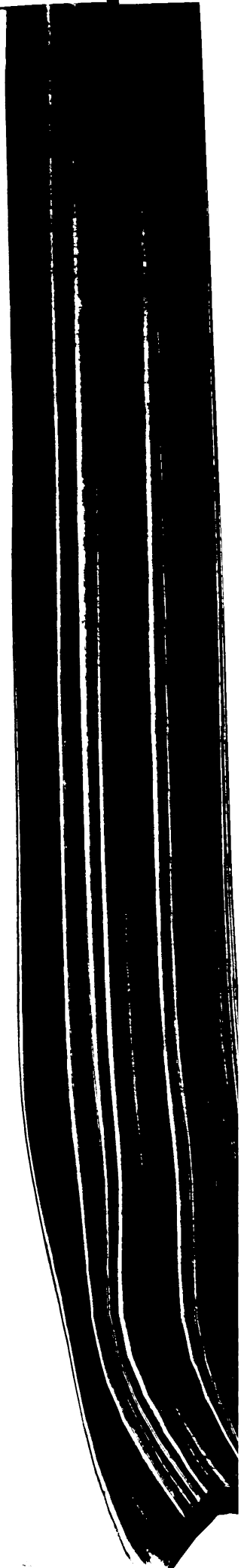
Mr. Hardin was married in 1883 to Miss Lucia Marks, of Eldorado, Iowa. They have two sons, Harry and Charles, now attending the State University, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and three younger children at home. Mr. Hardin is a member of the Masonic lodge at Alma. In political faith he is a Republican.

#### WILLIAM L. MILLER.

Among the representative farmers and ranchmen of Sioux county, who have aided materially in the development of that region striving to advance the best interests of his community whenever possible, a prominent place is accorded William L. Miller, who resides on his well-improved estate in section 22, of township 33, range 55. He is a gentleman of energetic character, and well merits his high standing.

William L. Miller was born in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1852, in the town of St. Andrews, near the state line of Maine. His father, William, was a shoemaker by trade, and he married Annie Austin, a native of Canada. Our subject grew up in Washington county, Maine, attending the common schools as a boy, and at the age of fifteen began working for his own living, ever since that time having taken care of himself. He was in the lumber woods in Maine, also worked in saw mills, etc., for many years, and followed farming off and on during his young manhood. From Maine he went west, locating in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1884, and spent two years in that city.

Mr. Miller came to Nebraska in 1886, landing in Sioux county by team, driving all the way from Cheyenne. At that time Harrison was merely a tent town, and settlers had just begun to straggle into the locality. He picked out a homestead on section 22, township 33, range 55, started to build up a home, and also filed on a pre-emption, which he proved up on as well as his homestead. His first house was built of logs, and his first team a pair of mules, with which he broke up land for crops and did all his work. His first crops were a failure on account of the unfavorable conditions and dry weather, and he was obliged to obtain work in the Black Hills to earn money and make a living for his family. As the times grew better he gradually improved his place, later bought more land, and is now proprietor of a ranch consisting of eight hundred acres, fitted with good buildings, and has





HOWARD G. FURMAN.

quite a large part under irrigation, raising grain and stock. The place is all fenced, and he has considerable timber on it.

Mr. Miller was united in marriage in 1874, at Calais, Maine, to Miss Maria Coburn, born at Calais, and daughter of James Coburn, a sailor, who married Elizabeth Lane, the relatives of both Mrs. Miller's parents following the sea as an occupation. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, namely: Evelyn S., Robert J., and Annie E., born in Maine; William A., born in Cheyenne, and Arthur F. and Minnie V., born in Sioux county. The family have a pleasant home, and a host of friends in their community.

In political sentiments Mr. Miller is a Democrat, but has never sought office, devoting all his time to his home and ranch.

HOWARD G. FURMAN.

Howard G. Furman, who has won an enviable reputation as one of the most successful and extensive raisers of cattle in western Nebraska, was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1848. His parents, Alfred and Elizabeth (Gustin) Furman, were both natives of the same state. At the age of nineteen years he left his home and came west into Nebraska, where he spent some time railroading, carrying mail and hunting. He then went into Wyoming, and carried the first mail from Laramie City to Fort Sanders. He spent three years in the west, traveling up into Montana, where he built a boat and came down the Missouri river to Sioux City, returning to his home in Pennsylvania. After two years he came west again and went at freighting into the Black Hills from Sidney, Nebraska, and Ft. Pierre, South Dakota, Deadwood, Sidney, Pine Ridge and other places. He experienced many troubles with the Indians in this locality, and during an engagement while on one of these trips he received a shot in the shoulder, while his mules were ruined for hard work. In 1881 he went into Idaho, assisted in the construction of a railroad in Oregon, and traveled through parts of Utah.

Mr. Furman came to Dawes county, Nebraska, in 1884, locating on a ranch on the Niobrara river in section 29, township 29, range 50. A log cabin was his first home in this county, where he engaged in the stock business. From time to time he purchased adjacent lands, until at the present time he has a ranch comprising sixty-three deeded acres besides some leased land. He has left quarters. He has left no stone in an effort to make his ranch a model

first house, which was built as a dugout and was a common dwelling place for most of the pioneers in this section. He lived in the dugout for some time, then built a log house and "batched it." He landed here in the spring of 1886, and the snow was on the ground about a foot deep, and he almost froze the first night he was here, and was unable to stay in his dugout, so footed it to some friends who lived on the creek.

When he arrived here he had no money, and made a living the first month by picking buffalo bones, and in this work cleared seven dollars per day. He had worked as a barber during his youth and so soon moved to Crawford, then a small town of tents only and opened up the first barber shop in the place, setting up in business in a big tent, using it also as a dwelling place and store room for groceries. When he was not busy at his trade he worked at other odd jobs. His price was twenty-five cents for a shave and fifty cents for a hair cut. On Sunday his tent was used for church services, and as so many of his customers were waiting for shaves that he kept right on at his work while the services were being conducted in the opposite side of the tent, neither interfering with the other.

Soon after this he worked as a clerk in Eastman & Doer's store. Quitting them he went to clerk for H. F. Clough, general merchant, the man to whom he had sold the buffalo bones the first two months he was in the country. In the fall of 1886, in partnership with H. F. Clough, he opened a hardware store, also in a tent, their first stock of goods costing two hundred and eighty dollars. Their present stock invoices about nine thousand dollars. They carried this on all winter, and had a carload of stoves shipped in, which they sold out faster than they could black them and set them up. They did a rushing business, and he remained in the hardware business for twenty-two years. He has succeeded from the first, and in 1887 put up his present building, occupying the same location for the past twenty-two years. His partner did not last long in the business, losing all his property, and after that Mr. McDowell entered into partnership with one Camp Ellis, the latter buying out Clough's interest in the business, Mr. Ellis remaining with our subject up to the time of his death, which occurred September 1, 1905, and was succeeded by R. G. Smith, who is still connected with the business. Mr. McDowell, besides his business interests in Crawford, owns one thousand five hundred and twenty acres of deeded land located within two miles of Crawford, a large part of which

is irrigated. He is also half owner of two thousand six hundred acres located four miles from Crawford, and on this land raises horses, sheep and cattle. Mr. McDowell was one of the first to install a system of irrigation in this vicinity and was the means of inducing others to follow his plan.

Mr. McDowell was married in 1899, on April 11th, to Miss Effie Gorton, whose father was a pioneer in this section. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell are the parents of three children, namely: Harold, Esther and Katherine. The family are popular members of society in their community, and enjoy a pleasant home surrounded by a host of warm friends and kind neighbors.

Our subject has been on the school board for the past nine years, and still holds office in that body. He is a Democrat in political views.

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#### ALANSON R. SWETT.

Among the old settlers and those who have helped in the development and growth of Brown county almost since its organization, none is better known or more highly respected and esteemed than the gentleman whose name heads this review.

Mr. Swett was born on a farm in Ohio, February 18, 1831. His father, Trustrum Swett, was a cooper by trade, born in Vermont of old American stock, and died when Alanson was six years old. His mother, Miss Pattie Smith, was a native of Connecticut, whose father was one of the patriots who fought in the battle of Bunker Hill and was severely wounded after grounding his arms. The British after receiving the surrender fell upon the unarmed prisoners with saber and pistol despatching many in their tracks. Mr. Smith defended his head with his arms until both were nearly severed after which a blow in the head felled him. Seeing an unconscious movement of his leg they shot at him with their pistols, but luckily missed him. When they were gone he dragged himself to a house by the roadside covered with blood and had his wounds dressed, eventually recovering from the effects of the terrible struggle he had gone through. Our subject is the child of his mother's second marriage, and when he reached the age of eleven his mother moved to Iowa, settling in Wapello county on a farm. He remained there until twenty years of age when he followed the rush for the gold fields of California, spending one year in those regions before returning to Iowa. In the spring of 1852 he went to

Council Bluffs, Iowa, remaining there one year, then moved to Shelby county, where he followed farming for thirty years, building up a good home and valuable property, and was among the oldest settlers in that part of the country. Here he owned two farms, putting in many years of hard work in improving them, and was very successful in his undertakings. In 1883 he sold out his property there and came to Brown county, one of his daughters having lived here for some time. He settled on a homestead and began a regular pioneer's existence, erecting good substantial buildings, and for the next five or six years worked hard in establishing his home, and it was during this time that he suffered a sad misfortune in the death of his wife. Everything seemed to go wrong; crops failed, and he became terribly discouraged, gave up farming, and moved to Ainsworth, living there for about four years. In 1899 he settled on his present homestead on Oak creek, located in section 28, township 31, range 21, where he has a well improved farm, well equipped for successful operation.

Mr. Swett was married in Iowa in December, 1852, to Miss Jane Tinsley, a native of the state of Kentucky who was of good old southern blood, and came to Iowa with her parents when she was a small girl. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Swett, of whom six are now living, named as follows: Minnie, now Mrs. A. L. Sisson; Ervin, living in Madison county; Clara, now Mrs. Ned Jones of Keya Paha county; Elsie, married to A. W. Barton, of Shelby county, Iowa; Otis, who runs his father's farm and business; and Pearl, wife of G. M. Cole, who reside on a farm adjoining her father's. Mr. Swett is a gentleman of active public spirit and has a host of friends, all of whom accord him a high station as a business man and worthy citizen. In politics he was originally a Democrat, later a Populist and is today an avowed Socialist in economic beliefs.

P. L. O'BRIEN.

Among the residents of western Nebraska who have made North Platte their home for the past thirty-five years, the gentleman above named is worthy of a prominent place. Mr. O'Brien is highly esteemed in his community for his honesty and integrity, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a citizen.

Mr. O'Brien was born in Troy, New York state, 1851. He was there until the age of four or five years and then went to Chicago, where he was reared. He first came to Nebraska in 1871 and entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company, working as a brakeman for some time, then was a freight conductor for the company. In 1883 he was appointed to the position of passenger conductor, and now acts in that capacity on the Overland Limited No. 1 and 2, his run being from Cheyenne to North Platte, Nebraska. Mr. O'Brien has a clean record all through his career as a railroad man, and has gained the confidence of his superior officers through his faithfulness to duty and strict attention to their interests.

In 1883 Mr. O'Brien was married to Miss Malinda E. Norton. Her father was killed in the Civil war and the mother died in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien have had four children: Chester A., deceased; George Percy, in the Union Pacific machine shops; Doris Ruth, and Darrow Norton, the two last named attending school.

W. T. YOUNG.

W. T. Young, one of the best known residents of Kimball county, Nebraska, has spent many years of his life in the pursuit of farming, and has met with pronounced success in his development of a fine farm in section 34, township 15, range 57. He has resided there during the past twenty-five years, and is classed among the prominent old settlers of that region.

Mr. Young was born in Bloomington, Monroe county, Indiana, on February 20, 1853, where he lived until he was about twelve years of age, then moved to Wapello county, Iowa, accompanying his parents, three brothers and four sisters, and there they settled as pioneers, living there up to 1874, farming all of the time. In 1874 he went to Colorado, where he worked at ranching. From there he went to Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, in 1883, remaining for several years, coming to Kimball county, in 1886, landing in this vicinity in April of that year. His first location was on a homestead on section 34, township 15, range 57, and he proved up on a quarter section of land, later taking Kincaid homestead in the same section. He now owns in all one thousand acres, all good farm and range land, and of this he has seventy-five acres devoted to grain raising, with the balance in hay and pasture, and runs about one hundred head of cattle and one hundred horses, and is a progressive and up-to-date ranchman and farmer in every respect. He has put good buildings and improvements on his place, having a commodious and hand-



some dwelling with every kind of farm buildings, good fences, wells and windmills, etc., and altogether owns one of the valuable estates in the county. He also has about sixty acres under irrigation.

Mr. Young was married in Iowa, February 3, 1883, to Miss Anna Plowman, who is a native of Van Buren county, Iowa. Her father is now deceased, but her mother still resides in Iowa at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Stella, William T., a graduate of the State University, now a rising young electrical engineer at Armour, South Dakota. Grover, who died October 7, 1906; August, Gertrude and Roy, living at home. Both our subject's parents are deceased.

Mr. Young is a leading citizen of his community and has held numerous local offices. He is a staunch Republican and strong party man, having served as road overseer and constable. He takes great interest in all public questions and especially educational matters, having taken an active part in establishing and building up schools. He has been a member of the school board for eight years. Mr. Young has passed through many interesting experiences during the pioneer days. His first house on the farm was of sod. When the splendid improvements are seen today on his place, the change that has occurred stands out in bold relief.

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#### D. S. BEYNON.

D. S. Beynon, the genial and popular postmaster of Burwell, has been a resident of Garfield county since 1886, and is one of the best known old timers of the county.

Mr. Beynon was born in Albia, Iowa, December 5, 1856. He is of Welsh descent, his parents coming from Wales to this country in 1850, settling first in Ohio, and also spent one year in Pennsylvania. Later they moved to Iowa, where they were among the early settlers, locating in Monroe county in 1852. The father was a farmer and miner. They settled on government land in Iowa, filing on one hundred and twenty acres, which they developed into a good farm, and succeeded in building up a good home. Our subject is the third member in a family of ten children, of whom three brothers and two sisters are still living. He grew up on the home farm until he was twenty-one years old, and then left home and struck out for himself, coming to Nebraska and settling at Willow Springs, Garfield county. He first worked at freighting,

following that for a year, then started in the drug business and carried on a store at that place for about a year, when he left there and came to Burwell, at the same time the railroad was being built through this section. Here he opened another drug store, all the time keeping up his studies in pharmacy, and passed the examination as a registered pharmacist in 1890. He has been very successful in his enterprise and built up a fine trade throughout this vicinity. He has a fine line of goods, and runs a thoroughly first-class, up-to-date establishment, carrying in addition to drugs a full line of paints, oils, etc. When Mr. Beynon first came here he intended to take up some government land, but after getting started in business neglected to do so, and he is now very sorry he did not take up a claim as he would have made money by so doing. At that time he could have bought land for a few dollars an acre, and it would be worth many times the amount of its original cost.

Mr. Beynon has always taken an active interest in local matters. He was appointed postmaster in 1897, when Burwell was a fourth-class office, and he remained in the position up to the present time, now serving his first term as a third-class postmaster. He has been a member of the town board for several years, also has been on the school board for ten years. In 1889 he was appointed sheriff, and during his service captured Nicholas Foley, the criminal and desperate character who was afterwards taken from a deputy sheriff by a mob and lynched for having murdered Mrs. Ada Clark, of Antelope county, Nebraska.

On December 3, 1883, our subject was united in marriage to Miss Christina J. Corneli, born in Iowa, of German descent, whose parents were well-to-do farmers in Iowa, where her girlhood years were spent. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beynon, four of whom are now living, namely: Rebecca, John, Hazel, and Helyn. One daughter, Etta, died in 1890, at the age of one year and six months. The family are prominent members of the Congregational church of Burwell and highly esteemed by all. Mr. Beynon is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is also a Mason. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### OSCAR L. WILSON, M. D.

Dr. Oscar L. Wilson, a prominent and widely known physician of Sheridan county, Nebraska, resides in Rushville. He is highly esteemed throughout this locality as a skillful practitioner, and has gained the confidence

of all with whom he has had to do in a professional or business way.

Dr. Wilson is a native of Ladoga, Montgomery county, Indiana, born in 1857. His father, O. B. Wilson, was a Kentuckian, minister by occupation, and his mother was also born in Kentucky. In a family of six children our subject was the fourth member, and he was raised in his native state, attending the common schools, and later the Ladoga academy, beginning his study of medicine in 1876. In 1880 he set up an office in Rosedale, Indiana, and practiced for a year, then went to Charleston, Illinois, where he followed his profession for thirteen years, and in July of 1895 came to Nebraska, locating in Rushville. This was in the midst of the hard times which prevailed throughout this section of the country, but he opened his office at once and began working up a clientage. His reason for settling here was on account of his wife's health, as he had left a good practice in Charleston, Illinois, to try this climate. For several years times were hard, but in 1897 things changed for the better, and since then he has steadily worked upward and now enjoys an extensive practice all through the central part of this county.

Dr. Wilson was for a time interested in the stock business here, but now devotes all his attention to his profession. When he first landed in Nebraska he had not intended settling permanently in Rushville, but liked it on account of the healthy climate, and as his wife's health gradually improved and his practice began to grow, they decided to make this their home.

In 1884 Dr. Wilson was married to Miss Mary Balch in Janesville, Illinois. Four children came to bless this union, named as follows: James L., Mary M., Beatrice S., and George B.

Dr. Wilson is a man of active public spirit, lending his influence and aid in all matters that tend to the improvement of conditions in his community. He is at present serving on the town board, and takes an active part in local affairs. He is a Republican.

FRED ABLEY.

The gentleman above mentioned was one of the first settlers in Box Butte county, Nebraska. When he first struck this region in 1886, settlers were very few and he had the choice of location, picking out a homestead which he considered as nicely situated as any in the county, and he still occupies this place, which is located in section 13, township 26, range 50. Here he has a fine home and well developed farm, and

has always assisted to the best of his ability in building up this part of the county and aided materially in its growth and progress.

Mr. Abley was born in Switzerland, in 1840. His father was Fredolin Abley, a butcher by trade, who left the old country with his family when our subject was a boy of four years of age, the father dying on board ship during their voyage to America. The mother with her three children, settled first in Milwaukee and lived there until her death, which occurred in 1851. After his mother's death our subject started out for himself, going to Michigan and locating in Berrien county, where he secured employment in the saw mills. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, 6th Michigan Infantry, and with his regiment was ordered south. He was in active service through Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. He was at the battle of Fort Gaines and Fort Jackson, also at New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, Mobile Bay and the Spanish Fort. Our subject was promoted to corporal during his first enlistment for three years and was mustered out in February, 1864. The same year he re-enlisted in his old regiment to serve during the war, and in August, 1865, he received his discharge at Jackson, Michigan. He received a serious wound while at Fort Morgan, Alabama, while putting guns on the fort, and has never fully recovered from the effects of this injury.

After the close of the war Mr. Abley returned to Michigan and there engaged in farming up to the spring of 1886, owning a farm of fifty-six acres and made a success of it, building up a good home and farm. He decided to go west, so he sold his farm there and came to Nebraska, settling in Box Butte county in 1886, "batching it" the first year,—his family not coming out until 1887. His first dwelling was a dug-out, and in this he lived for one year. All his supplies had to be hauled from Hay Springs, seventy or eighty miles distant, and he also did considerable freighting throughout the section. He broke up land and started his farm in good shape and was very successful in his farming work for some years, then as the drouths struck the region in 1890, the following three years were hard ones as the crops failed and he had a hard time to get along, but he never gave up the struggle and by perseverance and industry built up a good farm. He owns four hundred and eighty acres, fifty of this being highly cultivated, all of it fenced and well improved with good buildings, etc. He is engaged quite extensively in the stock business, keeping a large number of cattle and horses.

Mr. Abley was married on December 5,

1867, to Mary Stratton, whose father was a farmer and a veteran of the war of 1812. He married Mary Burns, of New Hampshire, whose great-grandfather, Samuel Stratton, was in the famous battle of Bunker Hill, and met his death in that action. Her maternal grandfather also was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was killed during the service in the early part of the war. To Mr. and Mrs. Abley three children were born, two of whom, Emery and Amos, are now living. Cliff H. died December 6, 1897, aged twenty-seven years, and was an earnest worker in the Salvation Army at Deadwood, South Dakota.

Mr. Abley has held different school offices in his district, and has served as United States census taker. He is a Republican and a strong party man.

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#### JOHN R. AYRES.

John R. Ayres, an old settler in the western part of Nebraska, has done his full share in the upbuilding of this region, and his name will go down in history as one of those who spent the best years of his life in assisting to develop the commercial and agricultural resources of the section in which he resides. He has now retired from all active business and enjoys his comfortable home and the society of a host of friends in Valentine, Cherry county.

Mr. Ayres was born in Louisa county, Iowa, in 1846, before Iowa was admitted to the statehood. His father, Michael Ayres, was a pioneer farmer in that state, where he raised his family of three children, of whom our subject is the youngest, his mother dying when he was but eighteen months old. While he was a young lad his father moved to Carroll county, Illinois, settling on a farm, where he grew up accustomed to hard work and at the age of twenty started out for himself, farming on shares for several years.

In May, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Forty-second Volunteer Infantry, and served in the war for about seven months, then left the army and returned to Illinois. In 1867 he went to Iowa and settled in Buchanan county, remaining there for nineteen years, having during that time purchased a large farm there. He first came to Nebraska in 1887, taking up a pre-emption and tree claim in Cherry county, located northwest of Crookston. Here he went through sod shanty experiences, breaking up his prairie and opening his farm with a team of cows and oxen combined. He had a hard time in getting started being overtaken by the dry years, and one year losing two hundred and fifty acres of crops

in three days on account of the fierce hot winds which swept the section. In 1897 he moved to section 25, township 35, range 30, and after living there for a time moved to Valentine, leaving his son to run his farm. He has a fine estate, well improved ranch of six hundred and eighty acres and since his retirement his sons have succeeded in carrying on the business successfully, although they have met with some heavy losses and discouragements at different times. One experience was when a herd of thirty-one horses and mules were stolen from their farm. A part of the animals were recovered and the thief is now doing time in the penitentiary, but the loss of time and money was very large.

Mr. Ayres was married in 1868, in Illinois, to Miss Fannie Soules. Ten children resulted from this union, who are named as follows: James, Ira, Elmer, William, Harry, Sarah, Clara, Albert and George and Henry, of whom the eldest and youngest are deceased.

Mr. Ayres has always been an active public-spirited citizen and takes a leading part in all affairs of local interest. He is a Populist in political belief and was one of the organizers of that party in this section. He is a member of Colonel Wood post, No. 208, Grand Army of the Republic, of Valentine.

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#### GEORGE H. DAVENPORT.

Among the younger members of the farming community of Dawes county, Nebraska, who have succeeded in building up a good home and farm, and who enjoys the esteem of his fellowmen, is the gentleman above named.

Mr. Davenport was born in Dekalb county, Missouri, in 1881, and is a son of John R. Davenport, deceased, a native of the state of New Jersey, and grew up there, learning the harnessmaker's trade as a young man and followed that work for a good many years. When the war broke out he enlisted in the army and served for three years in the Civil war, and served with the regulars for five years after that time. After the war he returned to New Jersey, was married in 1877 to Miss Clarinda Goff, a native of Texas, and they were the parents of the following children: Alice, George (our subject), Agnes, Claude, Lucy and Esther, the last mentioned now deceased. The family settled in Missouri in 1877 and remained there up to 1888, then moved to Dawes county, Nebraska, where the father took up government land and remained until proving up. The first building he put up was a log house in which the family lived for several years. They went through many hardships





CHARLES H. BRITTON'S PIONEER "DUG-OUT",  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.

and privations during the first years here, witnessing the drouths and some years being unable to raise any crops at all, and were obliged to get work to do on farms and ranches in the vicinity of their home, and trying in every way to make a living. They kept on building up their farm and got through all right without losing their farm, although at times it seemed rather up-hill work and they became discouraged. The better years finally struck them and they were able to get ahead a little, and improve their farm and home, and succeeded in a marked degree, accumulating a nice property, consisting of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, besides some two hundred and forty acres of leased land, all of which is fenced and in first-class shape. There are good buildings on the place, and our subject engages in mixed farming and stock raising with his mother, they owning the place together.

The father died in 1905, leaving the mother and our subject in control of the farm, he being the eldest son, now twenty-seven years of age. The farm in its every appointment speaks his good judgment and industry.

CHARLES H. BRITTON.

Charles H. Britton, one of the truly self-made men of Box Butte county, has prospered as an agriculturist and is the owner of a well improved estate in township 26, range 47. He has become widely known as an energetic and successful farmer and worthy citizen, and his success and good name are well merited as a reward for his strict integrity and honest dealings with all with whom he has had to do.

Mr. Britton was born in Putnam, Livingston county, Michigan, in 1840, on a farm. He is a son of Claudius, Jr., and Sarah (Beeman) Britton, both born and reared in the East and married there.

Our subject was reared and educated there, also was married in 1866 to Miss Jennie Hinchey, making it his home up to 1878, learning the brickmaker's trade when eighteen years of age and following that occupation for some years, operating a brick making business of his own for a time, and later spent seven years in Crawford county, Iowa, at the same work. In 1885 he came to what is now Box Butte county, arriving here in March of that year. He took a pre-emption and tree claim and also filed on a homestead in 1886 and proved up due time, these places being located thirty miles from Alliance. The first year "batched it," and in 1886 his family joined here, all living in a tent the first summer, but

ing a dugout in the fall, in which they lived for quite a few months. Mr. Britton worked out in the vicinity of his home, breaking land for his neighbors, also putting in some crops on his farm the first year, and received a good yield, but later suffered severely from the drouths and other causes. He has passed through all the pioneer experiences, making long trips to the nearest town for supplies and camping out at night on the frozen ground, and does not care to return to those days.

In 1890 Mr. Britton's wife died, and although this sadly discouraged him he remained on his farm and built up a good home. Better times soon overtook him and he was able to buy more land, now owning a ranch of fourteen quarter sections of deeded land, besides controlling a section of leased school land. Most of his time is devoted to the sheep business, of which he has made a great success. He also keeps about thirty-six horses, and about fifty head of cattle.

Mr. Britton is recognized throughout his locality as one of the leading citizens and oldest settlers in his section of the state, and filed the first pre-emption claims, also made the first tree claim filing in his township in 1885, also took a homestead in 1886.

Mr. Britton has one child, a daughter, Zellicie, aged forty-one years, and he also has five grandchildren. On another page of this volume will be found an interesting picture of Mr. Britton.

ALBERT G. BUMP.

Albert G. Bump, a prominent resident of McCook, Nebraska, is one of the substantial citizens and successful business men of the place.

Mr. Bump is a native of Mahaska county, Iowa, born near Oskaloosa, as was also his father, the latter's father having been one of the early settlers in Iowa, locating there in the forties. He was born in Elmira, New York, and came west, farming for a time, then went into business at New Sharon, Iowa. Our subject's mother was Miss Dorcas Gaston, daughter of Robert W. Gaston, who settled in Iowa in the early forties, having been one of the pioneer settlers in Richmond Virginia. His father, Rev. James Gaston, was a minister in the Disciples Church, and a man of fine education. In 1885 our subject was connected with the Burlington & Missouri railway, as a conductor on that road, and in 1892 he quit that and went to California in the interest of the Southern California railway, remaining until 1897, then came back to McCook and was with the Burlington & Missouri again for nine years, then resided in McCook and his posi-

tion with that company to enter into business for himself. He was chief conductor of the Order of Railroad Conductors in 1900 and 1901, No. 95, for two terms. He was very successful in his work on the railroad, but concluded that western Nebraska had the finest climate and best prospects for advancement of any business enterprise of any part of the country he had yet seen, and decided to enter the business world, so he started in the real estate business, dealing in concrete and cement contracting of all descriptions, in 1905 purchasing a cement plant and organizing the McCook Stone & Cement Company. He enlarged the work by the erection of a new building, and owns the site on which it is located. The capacity of this concern is four hundred blocks daily of the very best material, which is shipped to all parts of western Nebraska. In this business he has an associate, J. O. Hammond. They have had large contracts for cement walks, and have put in about twenty thousand feet in McCook, and the coming year will lay at least sixty thousand feet in this city alone.

Mr. Bump married Miss Mollie B. Adamson, daughter of Evan Adamson, of Adams Grove, Iowa, one of the earliest settlers in that locality, who came from Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Bump have no family. Mr. Bump is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is a Republican.

#### THOMAS W. PRESTON, DECEASED.

Thomas W. Preston, a prosperous farmer of Sheridan county, was born in Knox county, Illinois, in 1842, and was reared and educated there. His father, Milo Preston, a German-Irish native of West Virginia, was a farmer and among the early settlers of Illinois. Our subject is the second in a family of seven, and started out for himself when nineteen years old, enlisting in Company B, Fifth Iowa Infantry, at the outbreak of the war. After serving three years he was wounded and discharged. Two brothers were also in the war, both of whom are living at this writing.

In 1865 Mr. Preston was married to Miss Elizabeth Shaw, born in Iowa in 1845, and in 1880 she died, leaving three children—William, May and Minnie—all of whom are now living. In 1883 our subject married Miss Della Witherbe, born in 1857 in Michigan and raised in Nebraska since she was ten years old. Her father, Francis Witherbe, now lives in the Black Hills, at Custer, South Dakota. Four children were born of this union, named as follows: Maude, Marjory, Frank and Anna, all born and raised in this locality except Maude, who was born in David City, Butler county, Nebraska.

After the war closed Mr. Preston moved to Iowa, farming it there for two years, and in 1867 settled in Butler county, Nebraska, when antelope were running where Lincoln now stands. Here he farmed it for sixteen years, going through even harder times than he ever saw in Sheridan county, being many miles from a railroad for several years. In 1885 he struck out for Sheridan county, driving the distance with team and wagon. Having very little capital to start with, he pre-empted on southeast section 35, township 31, range 43, which he still owned and lived on. Afterwards he proved up on a Kincaid homestead. After farming for nine years he ran out of seed and quit, then commenced stock buying and raising stock.

Mr. Preston owned eleven hundred and twenty acres, farming about one hundred and forty acres and using the balance for hay and grazing, running about eighty to one hundred and fifty head of stock. He was constantly improving his ranch and had he started in the cattle trade earlier instead of farming he said he would have been much better off. At the time he started in Butler county his only capital was a team, wagon and one dollar and fifty cents, and here he experienced his hardest times, being compelled to go forty miles from home, where he obtained a job husking corn, for which he received every seventh bushel, and from the sale of this he managed to support his family. In view of this, Mr. Preston was well satisfied with what he accomplished, and declared he would not live anywhere except on the frontier.

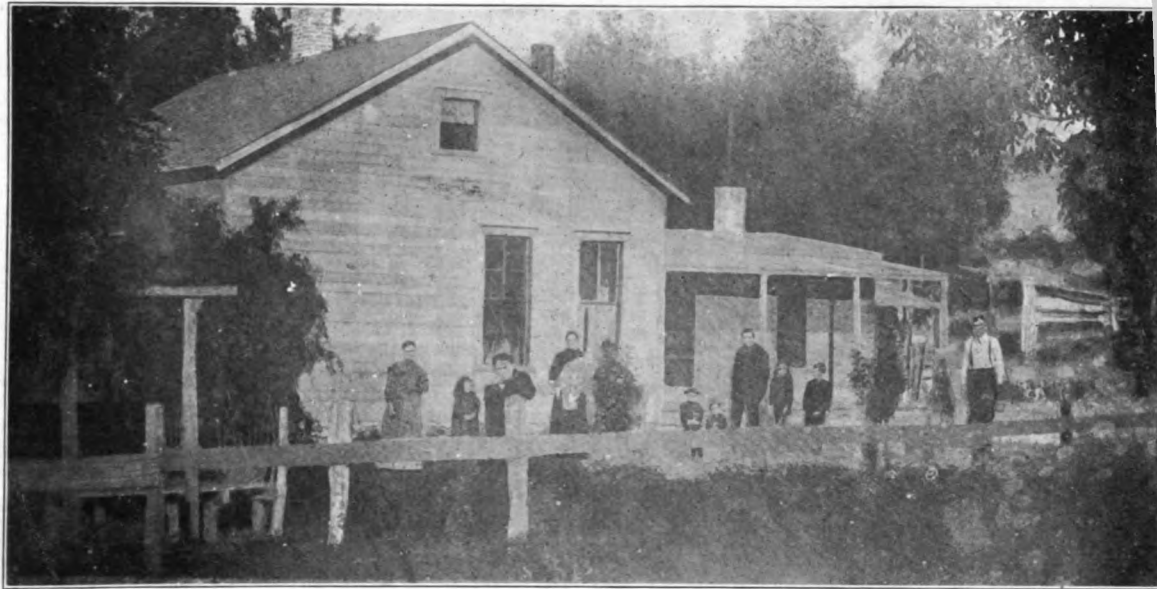
In 1894 he visited Iowa and saw all the old friends there, but could not be prevailed upon to stay for more than two nights, as he said "it was too thickly settled for him." Mr. Preston departed this life the 4th day of April, 1908, near the age of sixty-six years, leaving a wife and four children to mourn the loss of a true and affectionate husband and father.

In political faith Mr. Preston was a Republican. On another page is presented a picture from an old photograph showing Mr. Preston's property.

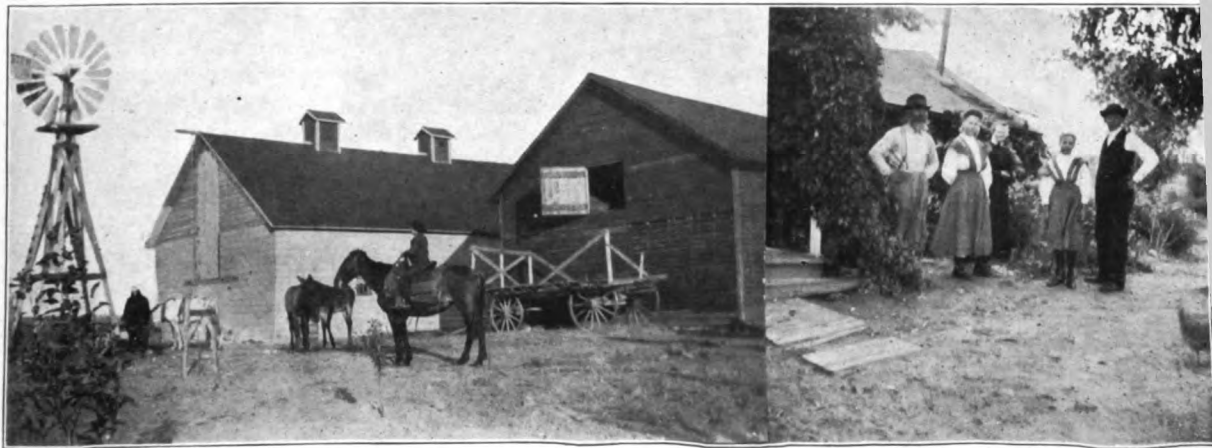
#### MILTON E. SMITH.

Not many years ago this part of Nebraska was looked upon as a dry and arid waste in the summer, and as a snow-swept and ice-bound wilderness in the winter, but today Rock county has vast resources of its own, and its business interests are assuming much importance. Such towns as Newport and Bassett would not discredit any region, and the





PROPERTY OF THOS. W. PRESTON (deceased).  
REPRODUCED FROM AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH FURNISHED BY MRS. DELLA PRESTON.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF CHARLES F. REINERT.



men who have made them are among the bright and wideawake Americans who put their mark anywhere with their name as the sign of achievement. Among the men who do and dare, and have redeemed this part of the state from the wilderness, is the gentleman whose name introduces this article, and is a prominent figure at Newport and indeed throughout Rock county.

Mr. Smith was born in Branch county, Michigan, January 1, 1863, a son of Calbert R. and Lucille (Dickenson) Smith, both descendants of long established American families. The father was a farmer and was born and reared in the state of New York, of which state his parents were also natives. C. R. Smith was the father of nine children, of whom the subject of this article was sixth in the order of birth. He lived many years in Branch county, and here his family was mainly educated and prepared for the work of life.

When Milton E. Smith had reached the age of twenty-two years he left home and struck out into the world to care for himself. From the time he was twenty he taught school until he was twenty-five years of age, and won a very favorable reputation as a teacher. However, the school room was not to be his permanent field of labor, as we find him in 1887 going to the Black Hills in South Dakota as a civil engineer in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, and remained in the service of that corporation for some three years. For nearly a year and a half he was engaged in office work for the railroad in the Black Hills, and spent about a year in doing construction work, operating from Whitewood, South Dakota. It was in the spring of 1893 that Mr. Smith came to Newport prepared to grapple with the problems of business in the awakening community. He saw the possibilities of the town and county, and was ready to take part in any laudable enterprise that might open to him. His brother, A. O. Smith, had established a general store some years before, in which our subject had been interested from the start. Its rapid growth and development seemed to demand the presence of both brothers, and accordingly he came to the city, and when A. O. was elected county treasurer in 1895, Milton E. took full charge of the store. The building in which this enterprise has been carried on is sixty by seventy feet, and almost everything demanded in the county trade is handled here except dry goods and groceries. Especially full stocks of farm supplies, furniture and undertaking are carried, and the store commands a wide trade. Their two-story warehouse, forty by eighty feet, is stored

came to his present location and settled on an unimproved homestead on the Calamus river, fourteen miles from Burwell. He has three hundred and twenty acres of land, with about one hundred acres under cultivation. He has quite a number of good buildings, a stone barn twenty-eight by fifty feet, twelve feet high, a horse barn twenty-four by forty feet, and a hog shed twenty by fifty feet; also three wells and windmills. The farm is fenced and cross-fenced in excellent shape and everything is up-to-date in all respects. Mr. Reinert takes particular pains in raising hogs and has been quite successful. He is also quite extensively engaged in the creamery business, and makes a fine income from that branch of his business.

Charles F. Reinert is prominent among the old settlers and is respected as a man who has done his part in adding to the material development of the community in which he lives.

On one of the illustrated pages will be found a group portrait showing the family and residence.

#### JOHN OLDERSHAW.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentleman here named has acquired a well developed farm and good ranch, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming. He is of a progressive nature, has had a wide experience in farming, and every detail of his work is carefully looked after and personally supervised. Mr. Oldershaw's pleasant home is in Bronson precinct, Cheyenne county.

John Oldershaw was born in Lincolnshire, England, August 5, 1852, a son of Burrell and Elizabeth (Lowe) Oldershaw. He grew up there, following the usual occupations of the middle classes, receiving a limited schooling, and at the age of thirty years left his native land for the United States, sailing from Liverpool on the "City of Richmond." After a voyage of twelve days he landed in New York in 1882. He came directly west, spending a year in Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, then came on to Cheyenne county. He had followed farming in England, working with his father; he therefore decided to engage in that vocation here, and started to work on the M. M. Fitch ranch, remaining for six months; then, securing a position with the Union Pacific Railroad Company as car repairer, in the Sidney shops. He was with that company for about eighteen years. He purchased a quarter section of land in section 30, township 15,

range 50, during this time. This he sold. He came to his present location in 1904, filing on a homestead in section 6, township 14, range 50, which is now his ranch home, containing three hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Oldershaw has about fifty acres under cultivation, and runs quite a herd of stock. He has a set of good farm buildings, and is one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers and ranchmen of his section.

On the 22d day of February, 1882, prior to his sailing for the new world, Mr. Oldershaw was married to Miss Suzanna Edis, a daughter of Thomas Holland and Sarah (Cornor) Edis, the former a carpenter by trade. Mrs. Oldershaw is also a native of England, where her mother still resides. Her father and both her husband's parents died there within the past few years. Mr. and Mrs. Oldershaw have a family of three daughters, namely: Jennie, now a teacher in the public schools at Potter, Nebraska; Edith and Minnie are graduates of the Sidney high school, class of 1908. The former is teaching near Potter and the latter taking a post-graduate course to finish the twelfth grade.

Mr. Oldershaw has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, and in political views he is an Independent. The family are all communicants of the Episcopal church. Mr. Oldershaw affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his estimable wife holds membership in the Royal Neighbors.

#### WILLIAM J. COFFMAN, DECEASED.

William J. Coffman, deceased, for many years one of the leading farmers and ranchmen of Thomas county, met with remarkable success in those lines and enjoyed a foremost place among the worthy citizens of his community. His death occurred on August 6, 1903, and was deeply deplored by his sorrowing family and a host of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Coffman was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1857. His father, John, of German stock, was a native of Indiana, and his mother was Jane Campbell, of Yankee stock, raised in the east. When William was twenty years old he came to Clay county, Nebraska, where he lived for three years, following farming, and from there went to Missouri and Iowa, where he spent about a year, mostly on a visit. He then returned to Clay county, Nebraska, and remained three more years. He then came to Thedford in 1887 and took up his present ranch as a homestead, which is situ-

ated on section 10, township 24, range 27, which was entirely unimproved land. He had but a very limited amount of cash to start his farm, and almost his entire start amounted to one horse and an ox team. There was no water on the place, and he was obliged to haul his first supply a distance of two and a half miles. He broke up land for his crops with his ox team, and was able to raise a little grain and a few vegetables during the first summer, and for several years went through very hard times. Two seasons his crops were a total failure, and during those times there was nothing to be seen for miles around except dry grass and sand hills. Mrs. Coffman states that she distinctly remembers when the sand hills were absolutely bare of any grass or hay, and it was only in the low wet places that one could see any signs of verdure. However, they went to work with a will, never giving up courage, but constantly added improvements little by little, and finally succeeded in raising good crops, also got together some stock and were able to lay by a little money, the family having three Kincaid homesteads adjoining their father's original homestead, and at present the ranch consists of twenty-four hundred acres, all fenced in good shape, plenty of timber, fruit and shade trees, etc., and there is a good supply of water from wells which are supplied with windmills. The ranch has a comfortable house and good buildings of every description, and is one of the most valuable estates in the county.

Mr. Coffman was married in 1878 at Hastings, Nebraska, to Miss Marantha J. Barnes, daughter of Anath Barnes, a well known pioneer farmer of western Nebraska. Five children were born to them, namely: Edward, Anath, Francis, Cecil and Arnim. Edward and Anath are both owners of fine homesteads in this vicinity. During 1907 the family suffered a serious fire loss, the fire consuming a considerable amount of hay, etc., amounting to three or four hundred dollars.

Mr. Coffman is counted among the earliest settlers of Thomas county. He went through all the pioneer times, watching the growth and development of the locality into its present state of fertility and progress, and himself took an important part in this success. Besides his farm and ranching interests he owned considerable property in Thedford, and during the school sessions his children occupy one of his residences in that city. For a number of years prior to his demise Mr. Coffman was active in local affairs, serving as county commissioner for two terms, also as sheriff for one term. He was elected district assessor and held the office for five years.

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In politics

he was a staunch Democrat and attended numerous conventions as a delegate. His death was a severe loss to the community, as he always stood bravely for the right and never shirked a duty as a good citizen and sympathetic neighbor.

### FRED L. WINELAND.

Fred L. Wineland, proprietor of Mule Shoe ranch, breeder of thoroughbred Polled Hereford cattle, horses, mules, jacks, pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs and White Leghorn chickens, is an enterprising and prosperous resident of Franklin township, Franklin county, Nebraska, and a highly esteemed citizen of that region. He is one of the best known men in the county along the above lines, and has built up an enviable reputation as a stockman and breeder of thoroughbred animals. His postoffice is Riverton, and shipping station Franklin. Mr. Wineland came to his present ranch in 1893, and now owns three hundred and twenty acres in section 22, and pastures a thousand acres in the locality. In 1898 he began his Polled Hereford herd of thoroughbred cattle, which was then the only herd in Nebraska, and one of three bunches in the United States, starting with "Old McKinley," a common Hereford bull, and getting polled calves up to 1906, when he bought "Medford," a polled Hereford bull purchased of Gammon & Sons, of Des Moines, Iowa. He now has a herd of forty pure-bred cows, which he has raised in the last eight years, and has also sold a few animals, but he intends to keep on building up the herd right along. At the county fairs his cattle have taken first prize in their respective classes, and sweepstakes on the herd in 1906, against this and the adjoining counties. The polled Herefords are the same as the Hereford, only are all hornless, which are safer and feed better, with no shrinkage from dehorning. Mr. Wineland also buys and feeds cattle for the market, and handles a great many cattle each year.

He is now breeding thirty mares to imported Spanish jack "Lissido," and has two young jacks from this sire. He has a number of jennets that have taken first prize at the Nebraska State Fair, also sweepstakes. These were bred in Kentucky. He has a fine drove of pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs, twenty-five in number, and has some splendid animals, selling them right along to the best breeders in this part of the state. Our subject has invented a chute for use in dehorning cattle, on which he dehorned, with a saw, seventy-seven animals in one hour, beating the world's rec-

ord by twenty-five. He is now placing this device on the market and expects to make a good thing out of it.

His father, G. W. Wineland, was a pioneer of Lancaster county, this state, a breeder of standard bred horses for many years, now retired, and a member of the city council at Lincoln. He came from Lenawee county, Michigan, and is a veteran of the Civil war, enlisting in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Indiana Infantry, serving all through the war. Our subject's grandfather was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was with Perry in the Lake Erie victory. G. W. Wineland married Luella Lowe, whose grandfather, Captain Lowe, belonged to the New York troops. In 1892 Mr. Wineland married Miss Ethel Lowe, of Custer county, Nebraska, daughter of B. W. and Edith (Gaylor) Lowe, who came to that county from Lenawee county, Michigan, and settled on a ranch. Mrs. Wineland died April 13, 1906, leaving her husband with two children, Harold and Howard, both now attending school.

#### THOMAS B. MILLER

No old settler has done more to give Loup county a substantial reputation than Thomas B. Miller. He is a breeder of thoroughbred cattle and his methods have brought him prosperity and a competence.

Thomas B. Miller was born in Delaware county, Indiana, September 26, 1859. His father, Harvey Miller, was born in the Shenandoah valley, in Virginia, on a farm adjoining the home of General Robert E. Lee. Abraham Miller, the grandfather of the subject of our sketch, owned this adjoining farm and was a personal friend and neighbor of General Lee. Abraham Miller's father was George Miller, a native of Germany. Thomas B. Miller's mother was Jane Moffett, born at Moffett, Tennessee, which town was named after her father, and Mr. Miller's great-grandmother was Mary Donaldson, a native of Ireland, County Armagh. Thomas B. Miller's parents were pioneer settlers of Indiana and lived about a mile and a half from the village of Alexandria, where Thomas B. attended high school.

October 31, 1878, at Alexandria, Indiana, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Emma M. Perry, daughter of Aaron Perry, who was a blacksmith and contractor. Her mother was Sarah (Howard) Perry. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Miller has been blessed with ten children, three of whom are dead. Those living are: George W., Mary M., mar-

ried and living in Indiana; Harvey L., a farmer in Blaine county; Ethel, married and a resident of Blaine county, Nebraska, in which she was the first-born white female child; Thomas Radle, Joy F. and Timothy C.

Thomas B. Miller followed the occupation of farming in Indiana for a few years, living close to the old Erie canal. In the spring of 1885 he came west into Nebraska as far as the end of the railroad at North Loup. He then, in company with Bill Stevens, an old settler, went by team to Taylor, and then rode up the river in company with A. J. Robinault, and filed on a homestead and timber claim in Blaine county, Nebraska. He built a sod house and a sod barn and then for ten or twelve years engaged in freighting from North Loup, Ord, Broken Bow and Dunning. He took a construction contract in 1886 on the new line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad west of Dunning. Mr. Miller had a great amount of business on his hands in those days and camped out with his work in both winter and summer. He relates about getting lost one cold night when they had to stop and camp; the teams got rest, but he and his men had to run about on the prairie till sunup to keep warm.

The years of drouth were very severe on Mr. Miller and he lost a great deal of money during that time, but better days dawned and great energy and perseverance won at last. Mr. Miller proved up on his homestead and timber claim. In 1892 he bought the farm of three hundred and twenty acres where he now lives and he has added very thorough and complete improvements. There is a fine grove of trees and the place is fenced and cross-fenced, and in 1904 Mr. Miller built a fine brick home and later, in 1906, constructed a large barn. He keeps about one hundred and thirty-five acres under cultivation, the balance of the farm being used for pasture, as his principal attention is given to stock raising.

Mr. Miller has been closely identified with all the public movements in his community and has always taken an active part in political matters. He has held the office of justice of the peace, and in early days was chairman of the association formed for the purpose of preventing the organization of Blaine county. Mrs. Miller is postmistress of Moulton postoffice, which is located on her husband's farm.

For years Mr. Miller was engaged in raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle for purely beef purposes. But as the country settled up and the cattle ranges became more confined, Mr. Miller could see that the farmers and



THOMAS B. MILLER, HOMESTEAD RANCH, 1884.



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS B. MILLER (Erected in 1902).  
Loup County, Nebraska.





ranchmen must adopt other kinds of stock. He argued that the milk strain of cattle must be introduced so that milk and cream could be made a source of income from the more confined grazing. Mr. Miller sold off all his beef breed of Herefords and has shipped in the first and largest herd of Holstein cattle ever brought into the county.

The Holstein cattle hold the best record for milk and butter producers of any breed. The returns from each individual animal is the best of any breed. Mr. Miller has a fine herd of registered Holstein cattle and will soon have many such milch cows and stock to sell. On another page will be found an interesting picture showing some of Mr. Miller's property.

LUKE M. BATES.

Luke M. Bates, subject of this sketch, is one of the rising young men of the times in Cherry county, Nebraska.

Mr. Bates was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1877, and is the son of John M. and Sarah (Glazier) Bates, both descendants from New England families, who took part in the Revolutionary war. The father, a clergyman of the Episcopal church, is one of the pioneers of northwestern Nebraska, and is well known and is highly respected all over this part of the country. His first service in this part of the state was in 1887, when as a missionary he traveled a distance of three hundred miles along this line of the railroad then under construction.

Mr. Bates and family came to Kansas in 1883, and later moved to Nebraska, where Luke was educated, finishing at the academy at Kearney, Nebraska. In 1899 he graduated from the law department of the University of Nebraska and was admitted to the bar of the supreme court in the same year. He at once located at Long Pine and began the practice of law, at which he engaged in 1906, when in February he was appointed register of the United States land office at Valentine, assuming the duties of office in March.

From 1899 to 1905 Mr. Bates was editor of the Long Pine Journal, which he made felt in the political arena of western Nebraska. In 1900 he was elected attorney of Brown county, which office he efficiently filled two years, and in 1906 was elected county commissioner, but resigned to accept his present office under federal appointment.

In 1902 Mr. Bates was married to Miss Odessa Kiner, whose father, S. H. Kiner, is a prominent old-timer in Long Pine. One daughter, Helen, has been born to them, and

importance. He was supervisor of Lincoln township for two years, and served on the county board for some time. He was also justice of the peace for three terms, a member of the school board for a long time, and treasurer for seven years. In political faith he is an independent voter.

#### WILLIAM H. ZIMMERMAN.

For the past quarter of a century the gentleman above named has been closely identified with the development and civilization of Sioux county, Nebraska. He is proprietor of one of the finest estates in that region, his residence being in section 27, township 33, range 55, where he enjoys a pleasant home and many friends, a fitting reward for his many years of hard labor and effort.

William H. Zimmerman was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1848, on a farm. His father, Samuel, was of German descent, a miller by trade, and the family spent quite a long time in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where our subject grew up. He learned the miller's trade as a boy and worked at it for several years, also was on the public works for a time at Riddleburg Furnace, Pennsylvania. In 1885 he left the east and came to Nebraska, locating in Sioux county, teaming from Blair, camping out during the journey, and finally picking out a homestead on section 27, township 33, range 55. During the first years he followed railroad work in South Dakota and to the west of Chadron, also helped build the Chadron roundhouse. Finally with his family he settled on his farm permanently, erecting a good log house and adding improvements as he was able, and has of late erected a fine frame residence, modern and up-to-date. He worked his farm during the summers, and for five winters worked in the coal mines in Wyoming in order to lay by a little money. When the dry years came along he suffered severe losses from crop failures, and finally gave up trying to farm, working into the stock business, and from that time on met with better success. He has built up a splendid ranch, consisting of eleven hundred and sixty acres, having plenty of good pasture range and hay land for his cattle, Sow Bellie creek running through the place. He has about seventy-five acres irrigated and raises good crops of small grain, etc.

In 1873 Mr. Zimmerman was married to Miss Maggie A. Snyder in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, whose father, Adam, was a farmer in that vicinity, and she was raised there. Eight children have resulted from this

union—George E. (deceased), Myrtle, Samuel I., Lillie, Eli D., Emery E., Clarence S. and Grover C.

Since locating in this region the family has experienced all the joys and sorrows of pioneer life in the west, and have seen much suffering and privation. One incident in particular occurred in the year 1895, when the roof of their house was blown off during a wind-storm, taking away the entire upstairs of their house. Mr. Zimmerman has done his share in the upbuilding of the locality, and aided materially in establishing the schools there. He has held the office of precinct assessor for five years. Politically he is a Democrat, and an earnest worker for party principles.

#### HON. E. W. ROBERTS.

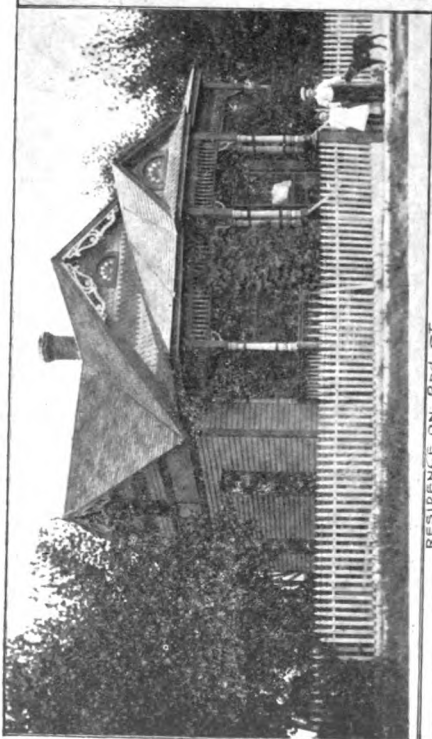
Prominent among the residents of Holdrege is the gentleman above named, who has lived in this locality since 1883 and has built up a pleasant home and an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen, public official, business man and contractor, esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Roberts was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he was reared and educated. Our subject came to Holdrege in the fall of 1883, at the time the town was first started, and at once engaged in the contracting business, at which he has worked ever since. He has erected all of the finest buildings here, and put up the last school building, the high school, costing twenty-three thousand dollars; also the Johnson store building, the Nelson block, the City National Bank and First National Bank, the Hampton Hotel and nearly all of the brick buildings in the business section of the city. He has built most of the finest residence buildings in Holdrege, and his work wherever found is of the best, and is greatly admired by all who view it. He uses the best material in the construction of all his work, and through his honesty and integrity has won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has had dealings.

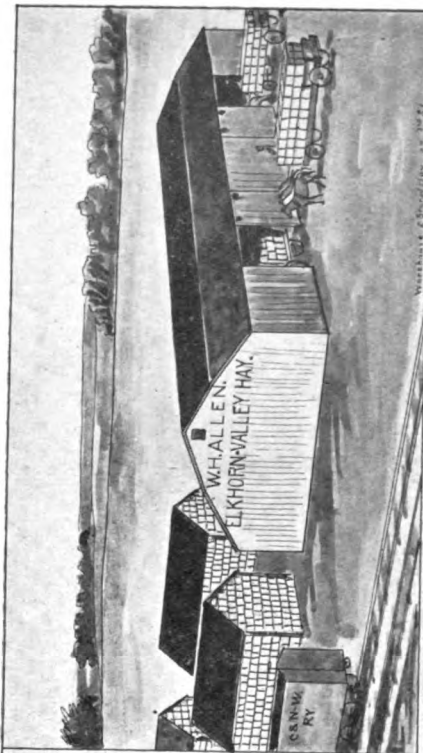
For the past eighteen years Mr. Roberts has been chairman of the county board. He has been a member of the city council for eight years, and president of that body several terms. He also has been a member of the school board for fifteen years, ever since the city was first organized, and resigned some time ago. He was a candidate for the state legislature in 1906 and elected to represent Phelps county on the Republican ticket.

Mr. Roberts was married to Miss Mary Child. They have a family of children named

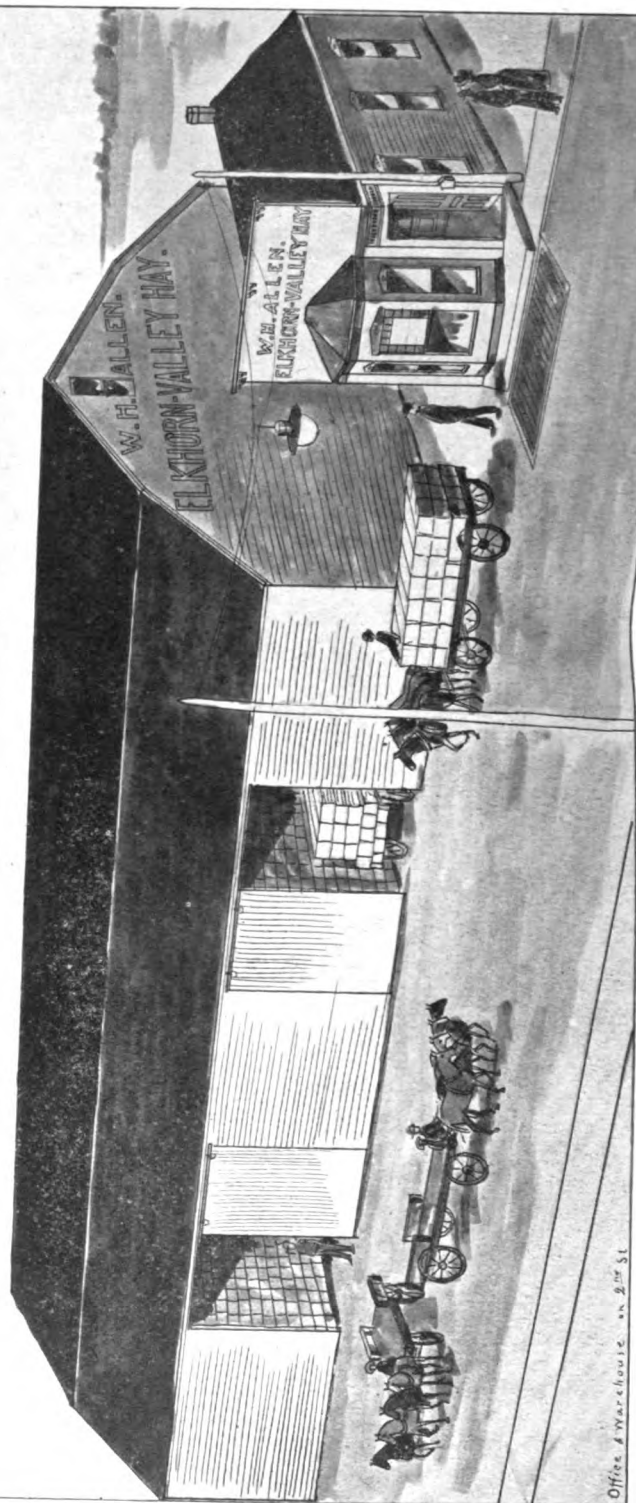




RESIDENCE ON 2ND ST.



W. H. ALLEN, ELKHORN VALLEY HAY.



Office & Warehouse on 2nd St.

RESIDENCE AND BUSINESS PROPERTY OF W. H. ALLEN,  
Newport, Nebraska.

as follows: Reynold, who served in the First Nebraska regiment during the war with the Philippines, corporal in Company I, and after the war went back there as a teacher, residing near Manila; Arthur, who was in the United States army, and is at present in the Philippines, connected with a railway company there; Ray, residing at Boise City, Idaho; May, living at home. The family are members of the Congregational church and earnest workers for that faith.

#### WILLIAM J. A. RAUM.

The above named gentleman is one of the earliest settlers in Sioux county, Nebraska, where he has succeeded in building up a valuable estate by dint of honest industry and perseverance, many times becoming discouraged through failures and loss, but never giving up, and he has been richly rewarded for his determination to succeed. Mr. Raum resides on section 23, township 32, range 53, and is held in the highest esteem by his associates and friends.

Mr. Raum was born in the town of Shipensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1847. His father, J. A. Raum, was a farmer and hotel keeper, of American stock, from one of the oldest American families. He married Miss Mary Bailey, also of good old American blood, born at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Both parents' ancestors fought in the early American wars, and their names figure prominently in the history of the earlier days.

Our subject served in the Civil war with Company D, Second Pennsylvania regiment. He received a severe wound at the battle of Cold Harbor, June 2, 1864, and was discharged from the army on November 2, of that year on account of disability. During his career as a soldier he fought with his regiment at the battle of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, and was also in the army of the Potomac.

After leaving the war Mr. Raum returned to his native state and worked on the railroad as a fireman and engineer for the following seven years. In 1876 he came to Nebraska, settling in Lancaster county, where he took up a homestead and pioneered there for several years. He next moved to Frontier county, where he farmed for three years, then to Sioux county, landing here October 1, 1881, driving from Frontier county with a team and wagon containing his household goods. He first settled on government land and started to build up a farm, remaining there for three years. Soon afterwards he settled on his present farm, in section 23, township 32, range 53,

being nine miles northwest of Crawford, where he has lived for many years, engaged extensively in stock raising and farming. His ranch contains nine hundred acres, the place being well supplied with timber, plenty of good running water the year round, and good soil.

Mr. Raum was united in marriage in October, 1872, to Miss Virginia Ross, whose father, James R. Ross, was an old settler in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Raum are the parents of five children, namely: William, Clarence, Edwin, Henry and Mabel.

Mr. Raum is one of the leading public-spirited citizens of his locality, and takes a prominent part in local and county affairs. He has served as county clerk of Sioux county for four years, and represented his county as delegate to different state conventions. In political views he is a Democrat.

#### WILLIAM H. ALLEN.

The development of Newport, Rock county, as a trading center for this portion of Nebraska, has been assisted in no small degree by the earnest and pushing career of Mr. Allen. Beginning here with the most limited resources he has worked and struggled to make a name and a standing for himself; and his career well illustrates the value of character as a business asset of no slight importance. Men have tried him, they have come to understand him, and his integrity and business ability are unquestioned.

Mr. Allen was born in Coles county, Illinois, May 23, 1869, a son of Francis W. and Matilda J. (Gardner) Allen. Both the Allens and the Gardners belong to good American lineage, and count among their forebears some honored men who have done the country good service. Francis W. Allen devoted his life to farming, and was a pioneer settler in Kansas, migrating to Cowley county in 1882. Our subject was the second child in a family of four children born to his parents.

William H. Allen was partially reared and educated in Kansas, whither his parents removed as before stated. In 1891 he left home to care for himself, and the following year opened a wholesale hay business in Newport, Nebraska, being among the very first to take up this line of trade. He had so little money that he was able to do business only on the closest margin. His business, however, rapidly assumed large proportions, and it was found that he was handling more hay than almost any man on the market—and up to the present time his patronage has been equal to the occasion as the output has increased.

Mr. Allen has not confined himself to a trade in hay alone, but is engaged in a hardware and agricultural implement business at Atkinson, which he established in May, 1902, and which has more than met all his expectations. In 1906, however, he received such flattering offers for the plant that he disposed of it, and opened a branch house at Stuart for handling hay and baling accessories under the firm name of Shaal & Allen, a business that has prospered from its inception. He is general manager of the Newport, Hammond and Southern telephone line, manager of the Newport Heat and Light Company, and owns a fourth interest in a similar plant at Atkinson.

Mr. Allen was married December 20, 1893, to Miss Alta M. Miller. Her father, Daniel S. Miller, is an old settler in Rock county and is regarded as one of its most honorable and reliable citizens. Her mother's maiden name was Ann Eliza Duboise. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have two children: William Harold and Florence May. Mr. Allen is an enlightened and public-spirited citizen, and has served on the town board. He is a Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masonic order at Long Pine, the Odd Fellows and the Workmen at Newport, the Modern Woodmen at Atkinson and the Elks at Norfolk.

Mr. Allen has a neat cottage home on Second street, a view of which may be seen on another page of this work, together with views of two of his large hay warehouses.

#### JOHN H. FERNAU, DECEASED.

John H. Fernau (deceased), who resided in Brown county, Nebraska, was one of the leading old-timers of this locality. Mr. Fernau was born in Germany, September 9, 1836. His father was by trade a shoemaker, and left Germany with his family when our subject was a child one year old, coming to the United States, where they settled on a farm in New York state. They lived there until their family had grown up, educating the children in the common schools, and teaching them to do all kinds of hard farm work. When John was sixteen years old he, with his parents, came west, locating in Washington county, Wisconsin, where they bought a farm and here he remained until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he started in life on his own account, following farm work, securing employment on farms in the neighborhood of his parents' home.

At the breaking out of the war he enlisted in Company B, Forty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, and with his company was ordered to Tennes-

see. Here the regiment took part in the battle of Nashville and succeeding engagements in the west.

At the close of the war he received an honorable discharge, and went back to his old home in Wisconsin, where his parents still resided, and followed farming there up to 1868, when he went to Buchanan county, Iowa, where he opened up a farm and was among the pioneer settlers in that county. He remained there for sixteen years, and although he met with very good success, became dissatisfied and moved on to Brown county in 1884, taking up a homestead in section 9, township 30, range 21. Here he at once went to work erecting buildings and adding improvements to his place, and from the start was very successful in everything he undertook. He had some discouragements, and went through the usual pioneer's experiences, doing his full share toward building up the farming interests in this locality.

On September 3, 1861, Mr. Fernau was married to Miss Caroline C. Fry, in Wisconsin. She was born in Alsace, Germany, then a province of France, and came to this country with her parents when but two years old. Mr. and Mrs. Fernau had six children, named as follows: Lizzie, wife of Gus Swartz; Levina, who married George Orchid; John; Polly, now Mrs. John Berger; Joe, and Lottie, wife of Harry Lane.

In 1899 Mr. Fernau sold his homestead to his son, Joe, and purchased land adjoining, on which he erected a fine set of farm buildings, and established another farm which he steadily improved.

At the time of his death, April 4, 1907, Mr. Fernau was possessed of two hundred and forty acres of fine agricultural and grazing land. He took a keen interest in all matters pertaining to his locality, and was one of those who aid their influence for the betterment of the people around him. Politically he was a Republican and was a member of the Lutheran church.

#### WILLIAM B BISHER.

William B. Bisher is a native of Ohio and was born in the year 1869. His father, Lewis Bisher, was also a native of Ohio and was one of the pioneers of Loup county, Nebraska. Our subject's mother, Sarah (Waits) Bisher, was also a native of Ohio.

When William B. Bisher was ten years old the whole family moved to Indiana, where he was reared on a farm. In 1888 the family came west, settling near to Taylor, the county



seat of Loup county, Nebraska. Our subject began working out by the month, continuing to do so for ten years. He worked hard and faithfully to get some money ahead, but his fortune did not grow very rapidly, especially during the depressing times from 1890 to 1896, when he could earn only fifty cents to seventy-five cents per day. In 1900, he located a homestead in the sand hills of Garfield county, where he remained about a year, then purchasing a farm near Burwell, making his headquarters there for six years. In 1906, he bought the farm where he now lives, on section 31, township 21, range 18, and has been devoting his energies to making it one of the model places of the community. He has two hundred and four acres in the place, with about one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, and has a good house, barns, fences and other improvements. Industry and enterprise have been among his chief characteristics and his well directed efforts have brought him a very comfortable competence. He holds an honorable position in the regard of his fellows.

William B. Bisher was married in 1900 to Miss Kate Woods, whose father, Ross Woods, was one of the first pioneers on the North Loup river—her mother's maiden name was Fanny Olger. Mr. and Mrs. Bisher have six children: Willie, Lilly, Fannie, Mabel, Arthur and a baby, not named.

#### GEORGE KALB.

George Kalb, a resident of Swan precinct, Deuel county, is one of the earliest settlers in that region. He has not only witnessed the wonderful transformation of this country from a wild and uncultivated state to one of thrift and prosperity and a region rich in agriculture, but he has been a potent factor in its development, has acquired a valuable estate and the highest esteem with those with whom he has associated for many years. He has a home of comfort, and is one of the worthy and substantial citizens of his township.

Mr. Kalb was born in Meigs county, Ohio, on August 27, 1855. He was the eldest in his father's family of thirteen children, and grew to manhood on the home farm, attending the country schools, and early was taught to do all kinds of hard work which fitted him well for the hardships and efforts he encountered in later life. Both parents are now dead. The family moved to Richland county, Illinois, when he was about nine years of age, and there he remained until he was twenty-five years of age, then came to Platte county, Nebraska, and from there to Polk county. He

homesteaded on section 12, township 13, range 44, Cheyenne county (now Deuel county), in October, 1884, and settled on the land the following spring, which he has occupied ever since. He, together with his brother and several others, were almost the first settlers on the table land, and went through the usual experiences in getting their homes started. This was perfectly wild land, with some timber, and they were obliged to erect the rudest imaginable dwellings at first, either dugouts or sod houses, as there were no facilities for obtaining finished timber, etc. However, they were able to get along fairly well, broke up some land for sod crops, and proved up on the claim in due time. He took additional land in the vicinity and became owner of a whole section of deeded land, which is well improved and equipped with every convenience for the operation of a model farm. He has one hundred and seventy-five acres cultivated, and has quite a herd of cattle and horses. During the past ten years he has erected fine buildings and made extensive improvements, and now has a substantial home and farm.

Mr. Kalb was married at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on November 27, 1892, to Miss Lena Swartz, who is a native of Germany and came to this country about 1885. They have seven children, who are named as follows: Henry E., George G., Mary Catherine, John Jackson, Clara Daisy, Theodore and Margaret.

Our subject is a Democrat in politics, and lends his influence for the upbuilding of the better interests of his community, casting his votes for those who in his opinion will labor for the welfare of the people. He is a member of the school board in his district, and has held other local offices.

#### F. J. SCHUMACHER.

One of the business men and representatives may be found in the above named gentleman, engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business at Orleans, Harlan county, Nebraska. Mr. Schumacher has resided in that city for the past fifteen years, and through his industry and good business judgment has come to be recognized as one of the leading citizens of the county. Orleans is a beautiful little city with a population of one thousand two hundred, and is the most thriving and growing town on the Denver & St. Joseph line of the Burlington route. It has four daily passenger trains, and as many freights as traffic demands. There are two good, solid banks, and it boasts of having the largest and finest opera house in the Republican Valley. It has

two elevators, which last year shipped out three hundred cars of wheat, two hundred cars of corn, one hundred and fifty cars of cattle and one hundred and eighty cars of hogs. Many cattle and sheep are fed in this vicinity on account of the large acreage of alfalfa, making a good market for all crops raised here. It also has large flour and oat-meal mills, and will soon have a large alfalfa mill located here. A large percentage of the population of the surrounding country is of Swedish and German descent, typical of these nationalities, and they make good farmers, being distinguished for their industry and steadiness. The cultivation of alfalfa has made dairying an important industry, and the town is a great cream shipping point. The town has an eleven-grade high school and a fine seminary with an attendance of two hundred pupils each term. It has six churches, one of which is the most beautiful in point of structure between Omaha and Denver.

Mr. Schumacher is a native of Iowa and he located in the town of Nebraska in 1894, and settled in Orleans in the same year. He opened his present business in 1903 and has been very successful from the start, advertising this portion of Nebraska all over Iowa and Illinois, and has been instrumental in bringing in a great many settlers.

#### ROLLIN POLAND.

Rollin Poland, whose very complete and well appointed farm and ranch in section 35, township 32, range 35, shows him a progressive and industrious tiller of the soil, and whose high standing with his neighbors attests his real worth and character, is one of the leading citizens of Cherry county, and a good illustration of the successful Nebraskan settler, who has made his home in this state from an early date, and has had the courage to endure the hard conditions of early settlement, regardless of trial and trouble. It has taken courage to pass through pioneer days and hold on despite drouths and hailstorms and tornadoes and blizzards, but those who have done it have come into possession of a large patrimony of ease and comfort in the ownership of fruitful farms and ranches with cattle upon a thousand hills, and herds of horses and blooded swine. Mr. Poland has lived to possess and enjoy; and what he has is his by no accident but because he has earned it and is entitled to the fruits of his labors.

Rollin Poland was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, October 15, 1865, a son of George W. and Mary T. (Parrish) Poland, American born, but of Scotch descent. The father was

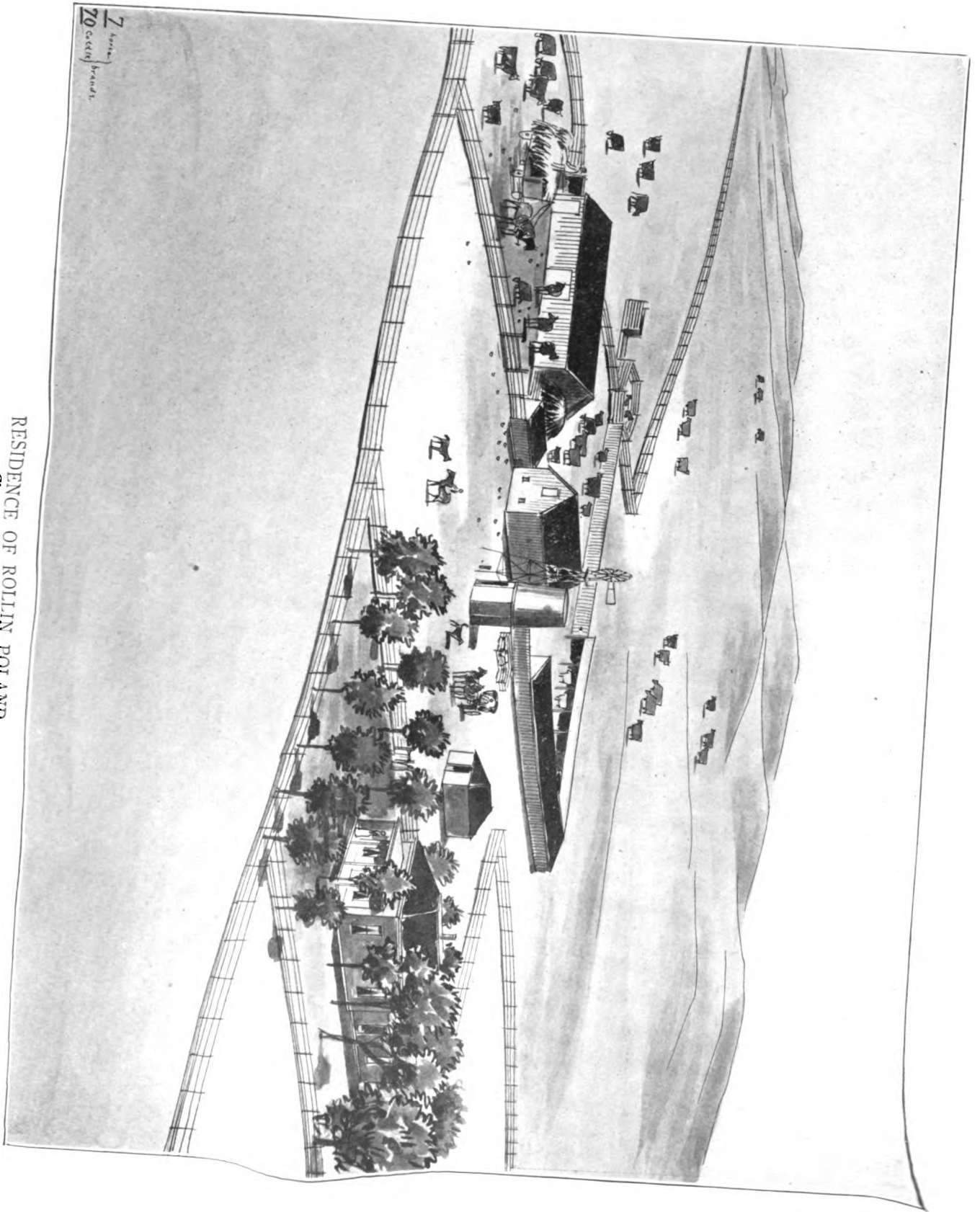
a native of New York, and served in the United States navy for three years. He had a family of six children, of whom two were girls, Rollin being the first born in the family circle.

When he was twenty-two years of age, the subject of this article took upon his own shoulders the burden of his own support, and leaving home was employed for a season at St. Louis, Minneapolis, and elsewhere along the Mississippi river on the government dykes. In 1891, after a brief visit home, he determined to see what the far west, as it was then pronounced, could do for him, and for that purpose appeared in Cherry county, Nebraska; here he was employed on the Churn ranch for four and a half years before he took up a homestead for himself, a tract of land which he still holds. By hard work and close management he has been able to increase his first original land holdings until he has become prosperous if not wealthy. His entire ranch now comprises eight hundred and twenty acres, of which but little is devoted to cultivation, Mr. Poland depending very largely upon the products of a stock farm for his profits. At the present writing he is keeping about two hundred and fifty cattle, and a smaller number of horses. His beginning consisted of two cows with calves and a team of horses lacking harness, wagon and farm implements, quite different from his present equipment.

Rollin Poland became a husband and the head of a household, January 1, 1895, when his matrimonial destinies were united with those of Miss Nettie B. Hook, who was born in Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1879. Her father, John Frank Hook, a sketch of whom appears in this volume, is now a resident of Cherry county. His wife, Martha Hill, the mother of Mrs. Poland, was also American born and bred. Mr. Poland has one child, Martha Ann.

In all political matters Mr. Poland is inclined to a strict independence, seeking for best men and wisest measures. In concerns of national importance he tends towards the Republican party, but insists that private judgment should determine in the last resort. With his measure of success in Nebraska he is well satisfied, and doubts if he could have accomplished any more with the means at his disposal anywhere in the land. Here he has a fine home, with water piped into the house, and light and heat and comfort in all its hospitable recesses. He began with nothing, and has made his own way to a considerable fortune. When he bought his first bill of groceries which to begin housekeeping it called for all the money he had left from buying and building, but Providence provided a way and their larder has never been empty. Mr. Poland has

RESIDENCE OF ROLLIN POLAND,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



Z  
70  
cents



some alfalfa growing on his land and it seems to have taken a strong hold on the soil. The district school is on his ranch, in which he is much interested. A view of the family residence and the surrounding buildings will be found elsewhere in this work.

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F. D. CODY.

The gentleman above named is a leading agriculturist of Sheridan county, Nebraska, where he has built up a comfortable home and farm in township 25, range 44.

Mr. Cody was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, in 1865, and raised in the town of Dubuque. He is a son of Edward Cody, who was born and raised in Ireland, coming to Canada in the pioneer days, and later to the United States, where he settled in Iowa about the year 1850. Our subject's mother was Miss Mary Devlin, born and raised in Ireland, who came to this country when a young girl. Mr. Cody started out for himself at the age of fourteen years. His father died in 1868, and he was taken to raise by some friends of the family, and he left their care as soon as he was able to take care of himself, and worked out on farms in Iowa for eight years. In 1887 he came to Nebraska in company with W. G. Wilson, securing employment on the Burlington & Missouri railroad, having worked with Mr. Wilson some little time before coming to this state. He took up a pre-emption after locating here, and proved up on it, still working for Mr. Wilson, and in all spent nine years on the road. He afterwards sold his pre-emption together with a tree claim, which he had taken up. He had planted over two thousand seven hundred trees and none of them grew, so his hard work and the expense for the shrubs were all in vain. After disposing of this place he took up another homestead and proved up on it, working out on neighboring ranches in the vicinity most of the time.

In 1904 Mr. Cody bought his present home of four hundred and eighty acres deeded land, and also has taken up an additional four hundred and eighty-acre homestead. He leases some land besides running his own farm, which he uses for hay land, as he has not enough on his place. He is engaged principally in cattle raising, and keeps about one hundred and twenty head, but does not handle horses to any great extent. He is just getting nicely started in the stock business, and is sorry he did not start in at this earlier, as he thinks he can make money at it, and make it much easier than by farming. He has his land all fenced, and a complete set of good farm buildings,

which makes his estate a valuable one. There is no government land left near his farm, all of this having been taken up.

Mr. Cody was married in 1900 to Miss Julia Dunn, born in Ireland. She, together with a sister came to this country in 1899, her parents still living in Ireland on a farm. Mr. and Mrs. Cody have two children: Thomas, born March 22, 1901, and Margaret, born October 29, 1903. Mrs. Cody owned a claim here which they lived on until proving up, and together they had a pretty fair start on getting married. The only drawback to the locality in which they reside is that it is situated so far from any school, the nearest one being four and one-half miles away, but Mr. Cody states that they will remain on the farm for awhile at least.

Mr. Cody is not a party man, but votes for the best man on the ticket, although he does not take any active part in politics. He has spent his time and given his whole attention to the building up of his home and farm, and feels well repaid for what he has done. His postoffice address is Lakeside, Nebraska.

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ALBERT A. NORMAN.

The gentleman herein named is one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, locating in Dawes county in 1886, and has since made that region his home, building up a good farm and valuable property. Mr. Norman has done his full share in the upbuilding of the locality, and is well and favorably known to all residing in this section of the state as a worthy gentleman and good citizen.

Mr. Norman was born in Scott county, Iowa, in 1860. His father, William S. Norman, born in Virginia, was a mechanic and farmer, who came to Iowa in the early stages of the development of that state, and went through pioneer experiences there with his family, where our subject was reared. The father later took up government land in Dawes county, Nebraska, and lived here for some years. During his young manhood our subject worked in the saw mills in eastern Iowa, spending most of his time between fourteen and twenty-one years in that work, then moved to the western part of the state, settling in Carroll county, Iowa, on a farm on which he remained for four years. He first landed in Dawes county in the spring of 1886, joining his father, who had come some little time previous. The son took up a homestead in section 35, township 33, range 48, and still occupies this farm. His first house was a log cabin, and when he landed here he had a team of

horses, wagon and one cow to start with. He began on a very small scale, and worked at anything that came to his hand in order to get a start, hauling wood for a living, and at the same time building up and improving his farm. He had fair success with his crops from the first, and although he was visited by the drouths he was always able to raise a good crop of potatoes and some garden stuff, and managed to get along very well.

He now owns a ranch of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land and leases one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, cultivating about one hundred acres, and has twenty-five acres of nicely growing alfalfa from which he cuts good crops each season. His place is located on Big Bordeaux creek, and has plenty of good clear running water the year round. His principal work is stock raising, dealing largely in horses and cattle.

Mr. Norman is active in public affairs in his locality, and among the leading citizens, lending his influence and aid for the good of his community. He is an Independent voter.

Mr. Norman was united in marriage December 24, 1884, while living in Carroll county, Iowa, to Miss Ida Gray, whose father, Jerome Gray, was a blacksmith by trade, and owner of a farm in that region. Her mother was Miss Jane Hill, of England, coming to America when sixteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Norman are the parents of two children, namely: Laura, married, wife of Myron Fisher, of Eagle Grove, Iowa, and Ernest, twelve years of age, living with his father and mother. Mr. Norman's father-in-law, Jerome Gray, lives with him and is quite active at the age of eighty years.

#### CHARLES H. WELLER.

Charles H. Weller, an enterprising and successful business man of Chadron, Nebraska, was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, in 1856. His father, William Weller, was a farmer of Pennsylvania Dutch origin, and his mother of Irish stock, the latter dying when our subject was four years old.

When he reached the age of ten he also lost his father and from that time on was compelled to shift for himself, and he managed to get enough to do at all sorts of employment to make a living, in 1870 moving to Iowa, where he followed farming for two years.

Mr. Weller first came to Nebraska in 1872, crossing the Missouri at Omaha, locating at St. Paul, where he farmed for a time, and in 1875 came through western Nebraska on a

government survey expedition, traveling through Cherry and Sheridan counties. He spent a year in this work, then went into the Black Hills with a large party of settlers, there being sixteen wagons and twenty-four men in the outfit. They struck Custer on July 4, 1886, there took up mining claims and worked them up to cold weather, then returned to St. Paul, where our subject spent the winter. In 1877 he went on another government survey and spent two years in the work, then began working as a cowboy in Nebraska and also in Wyoming, riding all over the western plains and following a frontiersman's life up to 1885. In 1886 he started in business at Harrison and remained there up to the spring of 1892, then located in Chadron, where he has since remained. Here he has carried on a saloon business and billiard room.

Mr. Weller was married in 1903 to Miss Minnie Rice, of Chadron, Nebraska, daughter of Alonzo and Jennie Rice, of American stock. They have no children.

Mr. Weller is numbered among the leading old-timers of this region, and has aided materially since first locating in this country in the development of the commercial interests of the locality. He is a business man of more than ordinary ability and has gained the respect and esteem of his fellowmen, all of whom admire him for his sterling character and strict integrity. Politically he is a Democrat. A picture of Mr. Weller's residence will be found on another page.

#### JOHN YOUNG.

For over a quarter of a century the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been associated with the agricultural interests of Phelps county, Nebraska, and as an old settler and one of its worthy citizens he is prominently known all through this section.

Mr. Young is a native of Jon Koping, Smoland, Sweden, born in 1854. He came to this country in 1872, accompanied by his father and mother. The family settled in Iroquois county, Illinois, where they took a farm and remained for six years, then moved to Nebraska, locating on a homestead in Industry township, Phelps county. Our subject also took a homestead directly adjoining his father's, and still lives on this farm. He built a sod house, and began breaking up his land for crops. He has gradually improved his place, and now owns four hundred and forty acres, renting a part of the land, and working the balance himself. His farm is well stocked, and he engages in mixed farming and stock



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES H. WELLER.





raising, generally keeping from fifty to one hundred hogs, which he ships to market. He has good graded cattle, and is just starting a thoroughbred Shorthorn herd. He also breeds horses for farm purposes, and has twenty-two head at the present time.

Mr. Young has had experience in farming in Illinois, and greatly prefers this state to Illinois, as the wet seasons there did more damage to crops than the dry weather ever does here. He has raised fine crops ever since starting with the exceptions of the drouth periods, when no one had any luck, and his corn crop is fine every year. He has raised as high as ten thousand bushels of grain in a single year, and states that he is well satisfied with the conditions in Nebraska.

In 1884 Mr. Young was married to Miss Emma Johnson, a native of Sweden. They have a family of nine children, who are named as follows: Frank W., farming on his own account, residing at home of our subject; Elmer E., who died in 1906, aged nineteen years; Annie, Carl, Harry, Esther, Alvin, Albert and Glenn. The family are all members of the Swedish Mission church at Loomis and are well and favorably known throughout the community.

Mr. Young takes a commendable interest in local affairs. He was a member of the county board for Industry township for two terms, and has been justice of peace and assessor, also a member of the school board for eighteen years, resigning this position and again accepting. In politics he is an Independent voter.

#### SAMUEL BLACK.

An old settler in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, who has done his full share in the building up of the commercial interests of his county, and built up for himself an enviable reputation as a business man and worthy citizen will be found in the person of the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. He resides in Norden, and is engaged in the livery business.

Mr. Black was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, January 10, 1842. He is a son of John Black, born in the north part of Ireland in 1816, and was a pioneer settler in Iowa county, Wisconsin, in 1855, and again in Burt county, Nebraska, in 1866; his death occurred in Tekamah in 1892. Our subject was the oldest of his father's family of eight children, four of whom are still living. At the age of thirteen years he moved to Wisconsin with his parents, where he remained until he was twenty-four years old, then came to Nebras-

ka, settling in Burt county in 1866, migrating with his parents. He remained at home for three years more, then started in farming for himself on a farm of eighty acres, but sold this after a short time. In 1884 he came to Keya Paha county, locating close to the town of Norden, taking a homestead and remaining on it until he had proved up. He put up a sod building, which was his home for several years. Here he went through the drouth periods, so familiar to the early settlers in this locality, experiencing many hardships and privations. These were his hardest times.

In 1896 he moved to Norden, built a hotel which he conducted successfully about ten years; the same year he established a livery business, also still retaining that branch of the work, and has a large and lucrative trade in Norden and the surrounding country. He disposed of his hotel property in 1905, and afterwards purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres located north of Norden, on which he has planted orchards and forest trees, and has cultivated fifty acres. The balance is in hay land, supplying a good crop each season.

In 1867 Mr. Black was married to Miss Mary Metzler, in Burt county, Nebraska. Four children were born to them, namely: John, born in 1872, married, and engaged in farming in Sioux county; Frank, farming in North Dakota; Maria, married to Levi Nettleton, also residing in North Dakota; Maude, a graduate in music from the Chicago Musical College, of which she has served as principal.

On February 22, 1888, Mr. Black was married the second time to Mrs. Catherine Wentworth, a daughter of John and Ann (Gardner) Carr, the former born in Ireland in 1814. Politically Mr. Black is a strong Republican.

#### HENRY H. LACY.

Henry H. Lacy, one of the enterprising and energetic citizens of Sioux county, Nebraska, and who takes high rank for his many manly and sterling qualities of heart and mind, was born at Iowa Center, Iowa, July 14, 1877, and is deservedly popular in his community as a worthy resident and public-spirited gentleman.

Mr. Lacy is a son of Patrick Lacy, born in Canada, who came to the United States in 1875, and settled in Iowa, and later was among the pioneers of Sioux county, Nebraska. He married Elsie Hudgin, also a native of Canada, and when our subject was an infant of three months the mother died. The father removed to Iowa and remained there until Henry was seventeen years of age, when the family came to Sioux

county and settled in Harrison, where they spent the winter of 1894, and the following spring located on a rented farm situated three miles northwest of Harrison. Father and son remained on that farm for about four years, then the latter filed on a homestead in section 14, township 32, range 57. He at once started to improve his claim, using a team of broncho ponies, and broke up some land and put in crops. He proved up on the place, built a good home and filed on a Kincaid eighty acres of land adjoining his original farm and is now owner of two hundred and forty acres. He cultivates about ninety acres of this, raising wheat, oats, corn, etc. He has done considerable experimenting with grasses and grains since coming here to ascertain those best suited to the soil of this region, and is a progressive and up-to-date agriculturist. His place is well supplied with good buildings, all fenced and cross-fenced, and he has a splendid supply of good water from deep water wells, fitted with windmills and tanks. Mr. Lacy keeps only enough stock for domestic puposes. He has acquired a nice property through his industry and good management, beginning with practically no capital but his own determination and energy. During the past two years he has suffered quite severe losses from hail storms, which have swept this section of the country.

Mr. Lacy was married in 1891 to Miss Bertha Dieckman, whose father was born in Germany, and came to America with his bride during the early days of the settlement of this region, locating in Sioux county in 1894, where they were among the pioneers and assisted materially in the development and upbuilding of that section. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy have a family of two children, Herbert, born April 20, 1904, and Robert, born January 26, 1906.

Mr. Lacy takes an active interest in local affairs and does his full share as a public-spirited citizen of his community.

#### BENJAMIN F. BROWN.

Benjamin F. Brown, residing on section 27, township 9, range 38, is truly one of the self-made men and prosperous citizens of Perkins county, Nebraska. He began with very little else save a strong heart and willing hands, and through industry and persistent effort has succeeded in accumulating a nice property, being considered one of the well-to-do and progressive agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Brown was born in Clairmont county, Ohio, in 1836. His grandfather, Joseph Brown, was born in France, and his father was a native of Ohio, who married Mary A. Meyers,

of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, they settling in Ohio as young people, where their family was reared. In 1852 they emigrated to Iowa, locating in Lee county, lived there for two years, then went to Clark county, where they followed farming and were among the pioneers. Our subject started for himself in Iowa, farming and breaking up prairie for people in the vicinity of his parents' home, and in 1884 came to Nance county, Nebraska. After spending three years there he came on to Perkins county, shipping to Curtis, and driving the balance of the way, having, as a start, four horses and a few tools. He located on a homestead on section 27, township 9, range 38, and began to build up a farm, putting up a sod shanty sixteen feet by thirty-two feet, in which he lived for several years. During the first months he was obliged to haul his water supply three miles to his place, and went all through the good, bad and indifferent times which fell to the lot of the early settler. The drouth years did not affect him very much, and he was able to raise some fair crops, but for the most part devoted his time to stock raising. He improved his farm in good shape, has added to his acreage until he is owner of a whole section of land, on which he has placed good buildings and every convenience for its proper operation, having a comfortable house, large barns, shed, shop, fences, etc. He has planted many trees, and has different kinds of fruit, etc.

Although Mr. Brown is now a man well along in years he does all his own work, raising many hogs and having a drove of about thirty horses and a bunch of cattle.

Our subject was married in Iowa to Mary Herold, daughter of Drury Herold, a well known farmer of that state. To them were born seven children, named as follows: William, Lafe, Mary C., Joe G., Frank H., Flora and Clarence. The mother died in 1884.

Politically Mr. Brown is a Republican, and takes a leading part in all local and county affairs, always lending his influence for good government and the best interests of his community.

#### WESLEY SEDA.

Wesley Seda, a thrifty and energetic resident of Cheyenne county, where his industry and business ability have put him well to the front of the procession, has passed through all the pioneer times of western Nebraska, and has gained for himself an honorable position as a worthy citizen and possesses the respect and esteem of his associates.

Mr. Seda was born in the village of Chrudim, Bohemia, September 28, 1865, and grew to manhood there, coming to America at the age of twenty-two years. He sailed from Hamburg to New York. After landing in this country he came directly west, settling in Cheyenne county, where he filed on a homestead in section 8, township 13, range 48, on which he lived for quite a number of years and succeeded in building up a good farm and home. He now makes his home in section 12, where he owns five hundred and sixty acres, and is largely engaged in farming, cultivating about two hundred acres. He also deals extensively in stock raising, running sixty head of cattle and ten horses. His ranch is improved with every necessary building, a fine new residence having been erected in 1908, and modern machinery, and is considered one of the prosperous and progressive farmers in his locality.

On July 22, 1893, Mr. Seda married Jennie Vannek, who was born in Bohemia in May, 1871, and came to the United States when a young girl, locating in Cheyenne county. Mr. and Mrs. Seda have a family of six children, as follows: Henry, Rosa, James, Sophia, Annie and Mary, all living at home.

Mr. Seda's parents resided in Cheyenne county for many years, both of whom are now dead. His wife's father is still living in the old country, at the advanced age of seventy-three years. The family are exceedingly hospitable, and have a host of friends in the community.

Politically he is a staunch Democrat, and is firm in his convictions.

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#### JAMES WILLIAM BEED.

In listing the self-made men of Cherry county, Nebraska, who have become well-to-do agriculturists and have aided materially in the development of the farming interests of this region, a prominent place is accorded the name of J. William Beed. For many years this gentleman has followed farming in this region, and has met with pronounced success. He is known as one of the substantial citizens of his precinct, and well merits his high standing.

Mr. Beed was born in Franklin county, Iowa, on October 22, 1863. His father, Thomas Beed, was a farmer, born in England, who came to this country in his young manhood, lived in Iowa for a time and was one of the pioneer settlers in eastern Nebraska, his death occurring at Battle Creek, this state. The

mother in maidenhood was Caroline Mann. There were nine children in his father's family, and he was the second member in order of birth. When he was nine years of age the family moved to Madison county, Nebraska, driving from Iowa by team, and it was in that section that he grew up. At the age of twelve years he started in for himself, working in different parts of Madison, and also in Burt county, and made several trips through western Nebraska before the railroad came in here. These were rough times, he being obliged to camp out often, and had many exciting experiences that were indelibly impressed upon his memory, of which he now tells many interesting tales of pioneer life in this state.

In 1884 Mr. Beed took up a homestead in section 33, township 35, range 30, of Cherry county, and after building a sod house, started in farming and building up a home. He "batched it" for four years, then married, and remained on the place up to 1905, when he took a homestead under the Kincaid law and now lives on this place. His farm contains nine hundred and forty acres of good land and he engages in horse breeding to a large extent, having about sixty in his herd. He cultivates only about one hundred acres. He has built up a good home and farm here, and is proprietor of a valuable tract of land which he has acquired alone through hard work and steady thrift. His residence is located on section 29, township 35, range 30, is well supplied with good water and a large number of trees.

In 1888 Mr. Beed was married to Miss Alice Grandon, whose father was an old settler in Cherry county. Mr. and Mrs. Beed have a family of three children, namely: Lonnie, Watson and Raymond.

Mr. Beed is a Republican in political sentiment, and has held different local offices in past years. He affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### MRS. ELIZABETH WIBERG.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wiberg, widow of Jonas Wiberg, who was a well known resident of township 21, range 14, Garfield county, lives on section 7, and personally superintends the management of this property with the help of her son, William D. Mrs. Wiberg is a practical farmer, as is also William, and the well tilled fields and attractive appearance of the whole farm bears evidence of their good management and business ability.

Jonas Wiberg was born in Sweden in 1823, of industrious and thrifty parents, and grew up taught to do all kinds of hard work on their

home farm, receiving a common school education. He came to America in 1869, his parents having died when he was a boy of seven years old, and from that time he made his own way in the world.

Mrs. Wiberg's maiden name was Elizabeth Johnson. She is a native of Norway, born in 1843. Her first husband was Oleff Johnson. One child, Ed Olson, blessed this union. He now lives in Nance county, Nebraska, where he owns a nice farm. Mrs. Wiberg lost her first husband in her native land, he having passed away in 1870. That same year, when she was twenty-six years of age, she left her native land, coming to America with a party of emigrants. Her father and mother never saw them again, as she was unable to visit them. They are now both dead.

Our subject was married to Mr. Wiberg January 1, 1875, near Clinton, Iowa, and they came to Nebraska from that state in 1883, settling in Wheeler county before it was divided. They first took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and started to build up a home and farm, but during the first few years had a hard time to get along and suffered many hardships and privations on the frontier, as they started without any capital to speak of and had only their strong hearts and willing hands to carve out a fortune for themselves. However, they were industrious and determined to win a home for themselves and family, and were not afraid to work hard for it. They were both accustomed to hard labor, as are all the sturdy children of the foreign countries who came here to build up a competence for themselves, and hard though the work here is, it is nothing compared with what they have to contend with there, at much less reward for their labor. They became well-to-do, having a tidy sum laid away for a rainy day, but were not classed among the wealthy residents of the county, though none were held in higher esteem than were Jonas Wiberg and his family.

Mr. Wiberg died October 26, 1902, leaving a family of fifteen children. He had seven children by his first marriage, namely: Gustaf, Christena, Eva, Frederick, Ida, Charles and Emma. The children of the second marriage are as follows: Mary, John, Sam, Anna, Belenda, William, Swen and Clara. Three children died in infancy. Mr. Wiberg was a prominent old-timer of Garfield county, regarded by everyone who knew him as a staunch friend, always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. He was a strong Democrat, and while he took a commendable interest in local politics, never sought public preferment ex-

cept to serve on the school board at different times. His family are all members of the German Lutheran church of Burwell. A picture of Mrs. Wiberg's ranch will be found on another page.

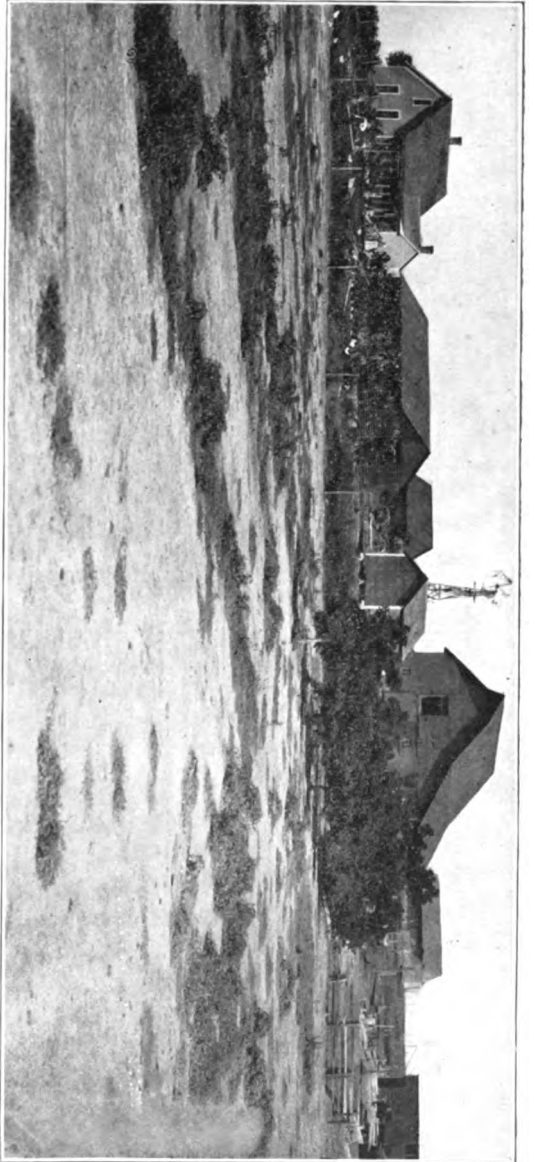
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### JOHN LONG KAY.

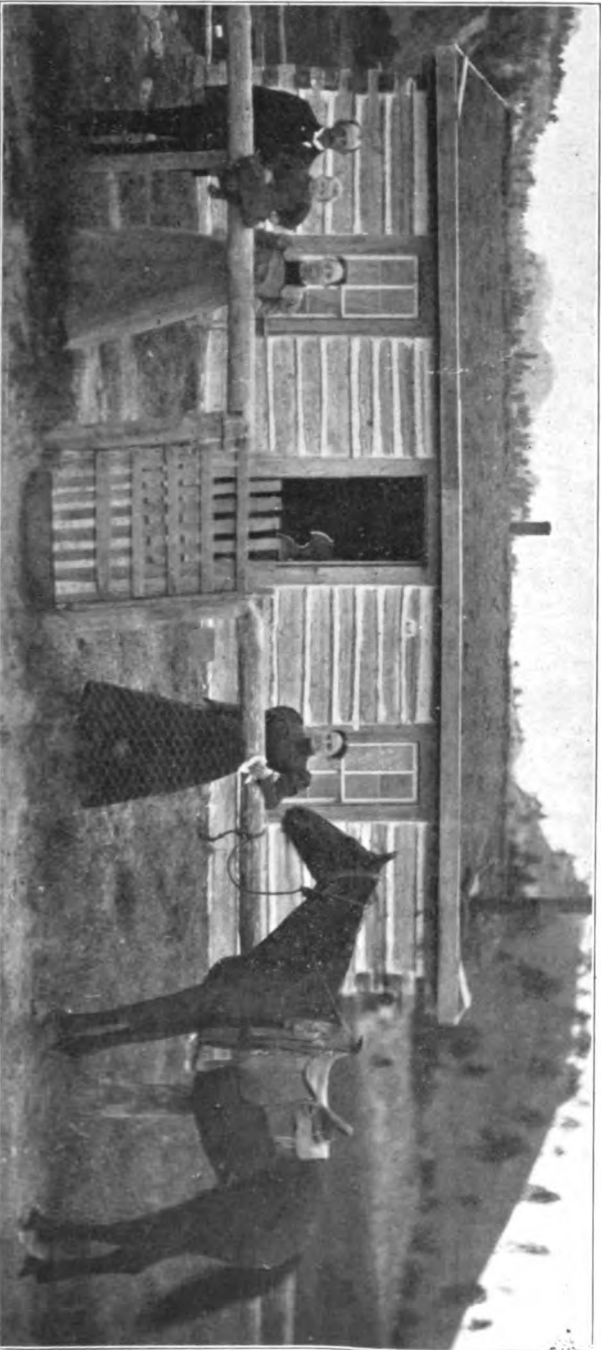
The gentleman above mentioned has been a resident of Sioux county, Nebraska, for the past many years, and was in this territory when the county was organized, and from that time on his name has been closely identified with every movement for the benefit of the region, and assisted materially in its development and growth. Mr. Kay resides in section 21, township 28, range 53, where he has a pleasant home and valuable estate.

Mr. Kay is a native of Linton, Yorkshire, England, born in 1858, on a farm. His father, Robert Kay, was a farmer all his life, dying in England in 1890, his mother in 1882; and our subject was raised and educated there, learning the woodturner's trade during his boyhood years, and followed that work during his life in England and later after coming to the United States. In 1883 he came to New Brunswick, landing at Halifax, and remained in that country for six months, then came to Lawrence, Massachusetts, and spent three months there in the weaving mill. In the spring of 1884 he came west to Minneapolis, and there worked at his trade for about six months. He next went to North Dakota and spent a short time in the harvest fields and in the fall of that year came to Iowa and followed farm work in Blackhawk county for about a year and a half.

In 1886 Mr. Kay came to Sioux county, and during the first summer Chadron was the nearest trading point. He settled on a pre-emption northwest of Harrison, and his first building on the place was a dugout. He started to work his farm, and later proved up on his claim. He worked out much of the time as a cowboy on cattle ranches in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, and was with the War Bonnet Live Stock Company as a cowpuncher for about eight years. In 1900 he located on his present farm, and here he has built up a fine ranch, called "Linton ranch," named after the town of his birth in England. The ranch consists of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, and the same amount of leased land, extending along the Niobrara river for some distance, furnishing splendid running water the year round for his stock. He has good improvements on the ranch, corrals, fences and



RANCH OF MRS. ELIZABETH WIERG,  
Garfield County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF JOHN L. KAY,  
Marsland, Nebraska.





good buildings, and everything in first-class shape. He runs a large herd of Hereford cattle, making a specialty of this kind of stock, and has made a success of his undertaking from the start. A picture of the residence will be found on another page.

In 1896 Mr. Kay was married to Miss E. D. Miller, daughter of D. D. Miller, a farmer from Iowa, who settled in Iowa in the early days. The father was born and raised in Ohio and the mother born in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Kay are the parents of one son, Dull Long, and have also an adopted daughter, Mary R.

Mr. Kay has served his district as assessor for two years, and takes an active and leading part in local affairs. In politics he is a Republican.

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#### HON. O. HULL.

The gentleman above named is one of the foremost citizens of Alma, Nebraska. For the past five years he has been lecturer for the Nebraska Farmers' Institute, treating on economic pork production and alfalfa culture, also soil tillage, advantages of a landed home and care and selection of seed corn, and is an acknowledged authority on these subjects. He is sent to every nook and corner of the state under the direction of the experimental station connected with the State University. He states that a marked advance is noted in improved methods of farming, the care and feeding of live stock, in the building up of the home and its surroundings, and all that goes to make a success in farming communities. This progress has a marked effect socially on the country neighborhoods, and from fifty to seventy-five per cent. of the farmers of Nebraska are actively interested in the farmers' institute lectures. Mr. Hull devotes the space from November 15th to March 15th of each year to this work, attending about four institutes every week.

Mr. Hull is a native of Sharon, Mercer county, Pennsylvania, and a son of Obadiah Hull, born in 1799, who came to Mahaska county, Iowa, locating on a farm there in 1858. Our subject's grandfather, Beshira Hull, served in the War of 1812, and his great-grandfather was Captain Isaac Hull, who commanded the Constitution during the war when the British ship Guerriere was captured, a famous action. This battle was fought August 19, 1812, and lasted from 5 o'clock to 7 p. m., when the Guerriere was compelled to surrender and was burned. The Constitution returned to Boston, Captain Hull resigned his commission and was succeeded by Captain Bainbridge, of

the battleship Constellation. Captain Hull had three sons—Beshira, our subject's grandfather, John and Samuel. Beshira married Miss Rhoda Higbee. The mother of our subject was Miss Mary Moffatt, of Ohio. His brother, Amaziah Hull, graduated from Bethany College and was a classmate of President Garfield at Hiram College, in Hiram, Ohio. Mr. Hull himself is a graduate of the normal school at Oskaloosa, Iowa, and after leaving school was engaged in teaching for seven years. He was master of a granger lodge, and from that time on has always taken an active interest in these matters, working along the lines of the Granger Alliance and Populist movements. In the state legislature he was chairman of the committee on expenditure and accounts, and a leader of his party. He represented Harlan county in the legislature for two terms, i. e., from 1894-95 and 1896-97, taking an active part, especially in the session of 1897. He was elected by the Populists, and from the very beginning was state lecturer and organizer for the alliance for two years 1890-91 and 1892. Our subject is at present engaged in raising pure-bred Poland China hogs, and has a fine herd of from thirty to sixty on hand all the time. He came to Nebraska in 1876, locating in Lancaster county, where he remained for sixteen years, then moved to Harlan county, settling on a farm one and a half miles north of Alma. He now owns a farm on which he makes his home, located near the town. Since coming to this county he has assisted in the introduction of alfalfa in this section, and worked in every way for the advancement of the commercial and educational interests of Harlan county and Nebraska, and is a man of ready intelligence, forceful and of great versatility as a public speaker.

He was married in 1873 to Miss Miranda Clark, daughter of John and Sophronia (Hull) Clark, early settlers in central Iowa. Mr. Hull is a member of the Christian church of Alma, his father having identified himself with this religious organization at the beginning of the movement, together with Alexander Campbell, Barton H. Stone and other pioneers. The father of Mr. Hull was an ardent abolitionist, and one of those who took part in conducting underground railways in Ohio before the civil war.

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#### HUGH HENDERSON.

Hugh Henderson, one of the old-timers and a pioneer settler in Brown county, Nebraska, is a man of keen business judgment, who has done his full share of work toward the devel-

opment of the financial interests of the locality in which he chose his home. Mr. Henderson was born in Pennsylvania, May 5, 1852. His father, William Henderson, was a farmer of old American stock, whose grandparents were of Dutch-Irish descent. Our subject came west with his parents and their family of five children, of whom he is the second member, settling in Bureau county, Illinois, during the war, and there he was raised and educated. While still a young lad he struck out for himself, coming to Merrick county, Nebraska, and locating on the Platte river, where he remained for five years, and in 1884 he moved to Brown county, settling on his present farm in section 17, which he took as a homestead. He drove the entire distance from Merrick county in a covered wagon containing their household goods, the trip consuming eight days, the family experiencing many hardships and discomforts during the journey. After locating on this farm he went to work and put up a rude house of logs and began to break the land and get it in condition for cultivation. The drouth periods came on and heavy losses were sustained through the destruction of crops, but the family was never reduced to actual suffering, as they managed to make a comfortable living and provide themselves with the necessaries of life. He has one hundred and twenty acres of good land, with about seventy acres under cultivation, besides operating three hundred acres of leased land. He has a complete set of good farm buildings, and has planted a large number of trees since coming here, and made many improvements which add greatly to the value of the estate. He has a well kept farm, and is classed among the substantial agriculturists of his township.

Mr. Henderson was married in Illinois on Thanksgiving day, 1875, to Miss Evaline Burns, an Ohioan of old American stock. Twelve children have resulted from this union, named as follows: Oliver, James, Kittie, Ed., Albert, Milton, Iva, Hazel, Raymond, Percy, Viola and Clyde. Mr. Henderson takes an active interest in all the affairs of his community and is ranked among the leading citizens of Brown county. In political faith he is a Democrat.

#### RICHARD L. DEGRAFF.

Richard L. DeGraff, an old settler and successful agriculturist of Dawes county, is probably better known throughout his section of the country than any other person there. He

has had an eventful and varied history, and has not come to his present comfort and ease without passing through many trials and much privation. He has resided in this county for the past twenty-five years, has developed one of the most valuable farms in the locality and gained the highest esteem of his fellow-men.

Mr. DeGraff was born in Dutchess county, New York, in 1838. When a few weeks old his parents moved to Prince Edward county, Ontario, Canada. The father, Nicholas, was of Dutch stock, born in Holland, while the mother, who was Miss Elizabeth Cole, of Scotch blood. Our subject was reared and educated in Canada, and at the age of seven-teen came to Wisconsin with relatives, where he worked in the lumber woods for seven years. In 1864 he enlisted in the Mississippi squadron and saw service up the Red river and into Louisiana, and was mustered out August 20, 1865.

In 1865 Mr. DeGraff, with his family, stopped at Ashland, Nebraska. He was then working on the Union Pacific Railway, and was one of those who helped construct that railroad from Fremont to North Platte, he doing contracting, furnishing wood, ties, poles, etc., and during those days many times waded across the Platte river. He was employed by the railway company for two years, and during this time had many encounters with the Indians, who roamed the region in large numbers. Skirmishes often occurred between the savages and the settlers and railroad men, and our subject took part in several of these encounters, relating many interesting incidents connected with the early days in this section. In 1867 he went to Iowa to escort his family to his new home, but the Indians were so hostile during that time that he was forced to remain there for quite a time, and finally decided to settle there, and did so, farming in different localities for about fifteen years, and from there moved to Missouri, where he bought a farm, later going to Kansas.

In 1884 he came to Dawes county, teaming here from Kansas with a covered wagon containing his goods. He located on his present farm July 6, 1884, in section 20, township 31, range 51, and went to work building up a home, his first dwelling being a dugout, so familiar to the settlers here. This had a roof made of poles and slab door, and the family occupied this up to 1890, when they erected a comfortable house. He also built good barns, and had his place well stocked with machinery, and in the year 1890, through some accident, the barn was burned down, destroying machinery, grain, six horses, harness, wagons, etc., caus-

ing a loss of some three thousand dollars. He had done considerable contracting in furnishing supplies for Fort Robinson and had made money, so that, although this was a serious misfortune to him, it did not cripple his finances to any great extent. He has been the means of getting many settlers in this region, and has done his share in the developing of its natural resources. Mr. DeGraff owns a farm of eight hundred acres, and has one hundred acres and more under cultivation, and the balance in pasture and hay land. He is engaged quite extensively in stock raising, running one hundred cattle and other stock. He is now one of the foremost citizens of his county, and has plenty to keep him in comfort and ease for the balance of his life, but he well remembers the time when he lived on nothing but buffalo meat all one winter. This was in 1866, and on one of his trips from Fort Laramie during this time he loaded his wagon with red cedar, which he sold at Alkali Springs, west of North Platte, for fifty dollars a load. Mr. DeGraff was at Fort Laramie in 1866 at the time General Taylor's treaty was made with the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. He shook hands with old Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, and made a trade with Spotted Tail in a few minutes after shaking hands, trading him a blanket with red stripes on it for a fine robe worth six blankets.

Mr. DeGraff was married in 1860 at New London, Wisconsin, to Miss Sarah Carey, of American stock, born in New York state. Mr. and Mrs. DeGraff have a family of three children, namely: Dora A., George H. and Edward S.

Our subject is an Independent in politics, and although he takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs, has never sought public preferment.

#### CHARLES E. TROGNITZ.

Charles E. Trognitz, a prominent citizen of Cheyenne county, is a native of Germany, born March 5, 1857, and grew to manhood in his native country, coming to America alone, landing in New York city in 1873. He remained there for a short time, then went to Brooklyn and spent thirteen months. He returned to Germany for a visit, then again crossed to the new world, this time coming directly west and locating in Omaha. He remained there to January, 1875, then joined a party of settlers who were going into the Black Hills, but he only traveled with them as far as Sidney and stopped there for six months,

doing different kinds of work. He secured work on a ranch owned by Bosler & Lawrence, on which they ran a large number of cattle, and stayed on that ranch up to the Indian outbreak in 1878, then left the place and went into the sand hills to locate abandoned government horses, wagons, mules, etc. The sand hills at that time were practically uninhabited, as on account of the bad water and other conditions the government camp had been abandoned.

After locating supplies there, our subject bought two yoke of cattle on Running Water creek, eighty miles east of the Black Hills stage crossing, from S. Neuman, and started into the sand hills to get the horses, etc., which he went in search of. These were left by the government employes about fourteen miles south of Running Snake creek, and upon undertaking the journey only took with him a few days' supplies. Just before he arrived at the creek he met an old messmate. He chatted with him a few moments, as he was very much surprised to meet any one but Indians and government scouts, as the soldiers had all left the locality. After a little time the man asked him which direction he was going, and Mr. Trognitz told him what he intended doing, etc. He said he happened to be going the same way, on his trip to the old Bosler ranch on Blue creek, and calculated to camp about six miles the other side of Snake river in the open prairie, so as to avoid a surprise by Indians. He then suggested carrying part of the provisions on his horse, and Mr. Trognitz agreeing, the flour and bacon was soon transferred to a place behind his saddle. No sooner was this done than he pointed to the southeast, calling our subject's attention to something in the distance, and when the latter turned to look the other set off with all speed and left him abandoned on the plains, with scarcely enough food to last him a day. This incident occurred in October, 1878, and is an experience he will never forget. He then took a trip for Mr. Neuman with a load of grain for Wounded Knee, and was caught in a heavy blizzard, was snowed under and had to dig out his wagon, and at different times his team gave out and he had to transfer his load to the top of the hills, and finally had to abandon the load and ride the mules to his destination, and found that he was supposed to have perished in the storm and men had been sent out to look for him.

During the same winter Mr. Trognitz had a contract to haul logs for the government at Pine Ridge agency, and in the spring sold his outfit and later bought some mules and out-

fit and began freighting to the Black Hills. He continued at this work up to the spring of 1881.

In June, 1880, he started in the restaurant business in Sidney, then took up a homestead at Lawrence Forks, Cheyenne county, and had several sections under control from that time on up to 1883, when he sold out to Lange Bros. and started in the livery business in Sidney, carrying that on for about four years.

He next engaged in the implement business, which he ran for about two years, then as he was elected sheriff of Cheyenne county, gave up his establishment. He had the distinction of having been the first man to erect a two-story building in Sidney.

Mr. Trognitz was elected sheriff of his county in the fall of 1889, and served up to 1894, then began ranching, and has been engaged in that line of work ever since. He now has a ranch of five hundred and forty acres, and runs about one hundred head of stock cattle and some horses. He has built up a valuable estate. During his career as sheriff Mr. Trognitz passed through the usual experiences in the wild western country, and was one of the most efficient officials the county ever had, and he recounts many interesting tales of those times. He was known as the "cowboy sheriff," and on the second day after entering upon the duties of his office captured a noted criminal, for whom there was a reward of \$1,000. In 1890 Mr. Trognitz was married to Florence McWilliams, at Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Trognitz was born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. One child resulted from their union, Carl James, living at home and attending school.

Mr. Trognitz is at the present time lessee and manager of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's stock yards. He is active in all affairs of state and county, and is a staunch member of the Republican party.

#### LAMBERT JOHNSON.

Lambert Johnson, one of the enterprising agriculturists and worthy citizens of section 22, township 15, range 53, is a young man of industrious habits, progressive and up-to-date in his chosen work, and owner of a good farm on section 22. Mr. Johnson has become successful through his strict integrity and honest dealings, building up a comfortable home and gaining the respect of his fellow-men and is known as one of the solid citizens of Kimball county. A portrait of him will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden and first

saw the light in 1874. His father was a farmer during his entire life, his death occurring in 1888. Lambert lived at home and assisted in carrying on the farm as a boy, leaving his native land when he was about fifteen years of age, bound for America. He landed in Baltimore and immediately started for the west, locating in Kimball county, Nebraska, at the first, and began working at whatever he could find to do on farms and ranches here, and also spent considerable time in Wyoming. He drifted from one place to another, and finally settled permanently in this vicinity in 1901, taking a homestead on section 22, township 15, range 53. He was practically without capital other than a strong heart and willing hands, and set about developing a farm. He put up a building of stone and dugout combined, and kept bachelor's hall for a number of years, constantly adding improvements and breaking up land for crops. He proved up on his homestead and afterward bought land adjoining as he became able, and now owns six hundred and forty acres, mostly in hay land and pasture, farming about sixty acres. He has erected a good house, commodious barns and other buildings, has his place all fenced, and keeps considerable stock. He is one of those thrifty sons of northern Europe who have done so much toward developing the west, starting with little and never yielding to discouragement and failure, but facing every trouble and hardship with the sturdy determination to conquer, and very few there are who have not made a complete success where many weaker natures have failed.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1907 to Miss Tensia Benson, also a native of Sweden, who came to this country but a short time prior to her marriage to our subject. They have a pleasant home and are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Mr. Johnson is a Republican in political views. He takes a commendable interest in matters pertaining to the good of his community and has done his full share in developing the neighborhood in which he lives.

#### D. C. CONGDON.

D. C. Congdon, a prominent railroad man of North Platte, Nebraska, came here in 1877 from Middletown, Connecticut, beginning with the Union Pacific as fireman. He became a freight engineer in 1881, and in 1891 was promoted to passenger engineer and has held this position with the company ever since, proving a most capable and efficient man.

Mr. Congdon was born in 1858 at Middle-

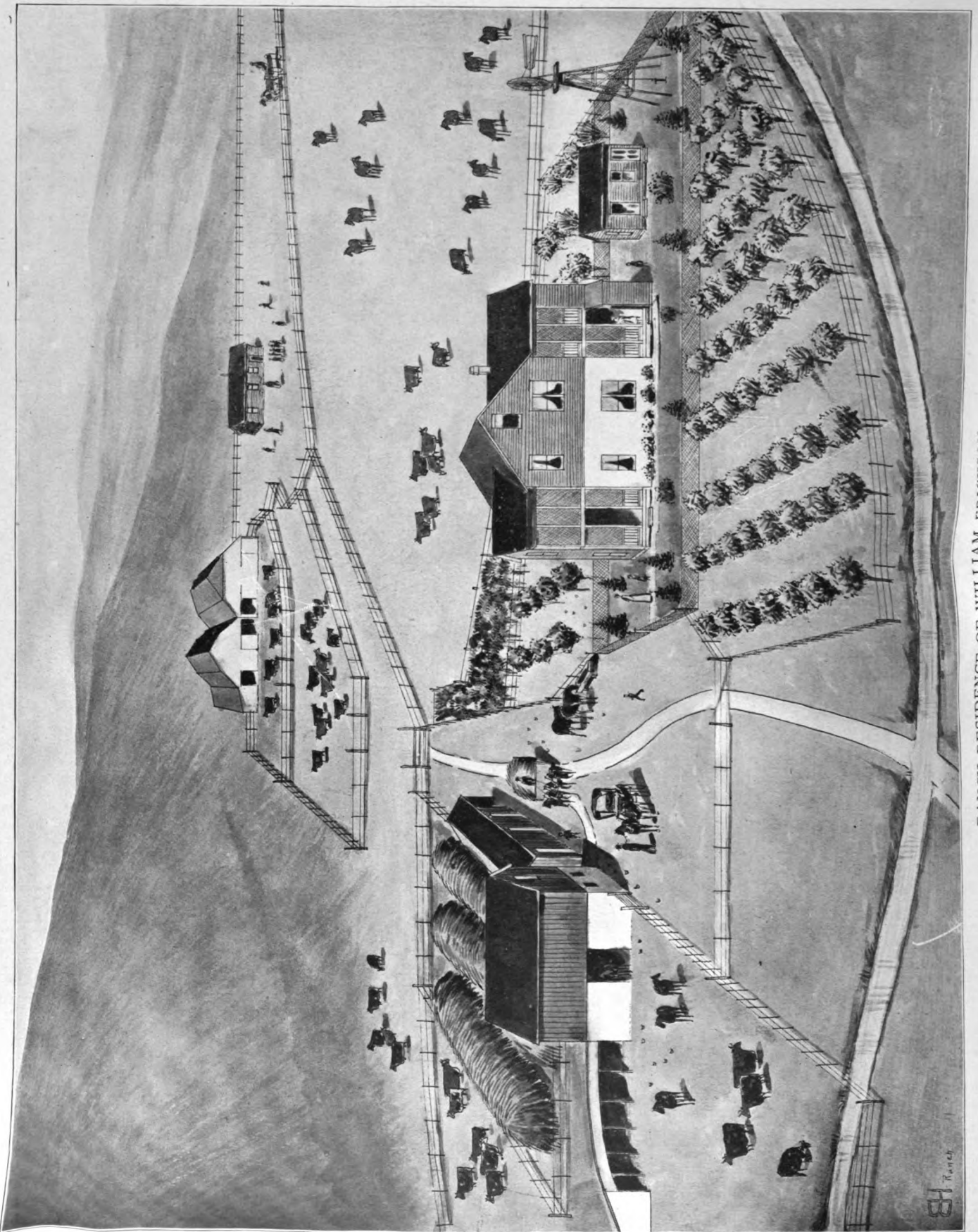


LAMBERT JOHNSON.









RANCH RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM ERICKSON,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

town, Connecticut, and is a son of Joseph and Emma (Miller) Congdon, of New England stock. Our subject's uncle, I. H. Congdon, was general master mechanic of the Union Pacific Railway when only forty miles of the road were built, and remained for twenty years in this position, with headquarters at Omaha. A brother of our subject, M. M. Congdon, was general foreman of the Union Pacific at North Platte up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1881 at this place. Another uncle, Albert Congdon, was master mechanic and later purchasing agent of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway for several years, then was appointed one of the directors of the Canada Southern Railway. R. S. Congdon, another uncle, was a conductor on the Illinois Central Railway almost from the beginning of that road's existence, and is now on the retired list of the company, residing at Council Bluffs, Iowa. One uncle was also a conductor in New Hampshire and still another one, L. O. Gassett, was master mechanic of the Lake Shore road at Cleveland, Ohio, prior to 1875. William Congdon, an uncle, was a pioneer engineer on the Lake Shore Railway. Nearly all the members of our subject's family have been connected with railroad work for many years past, and the name Congdon is familiar to every railroad man in most of the states in the Union. Mr. Congdon himself has a splendid record and successful career. He has never had a serious accident since he has taken charge of a train, and is a thorough master of his profession. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and highly esteemed by his fellow-men.

Mr. Congdon was married in 1882 in North Platte to Miss Dora Hughes, daughter of Thomas Hughes, a pioneer railroad man, beginning his career as an engineer in the days when coal was an unknown quantity in furnishing fuel for engines. He began at Norwich, Connecticut, and railroaded west to the state of Montana, for many years being conductor on a passenger train. He is now retired at the age of seventy-six years, and resides at Hastings. Mr. and Mrs. Congdon have one son, Guy J., with the Western Pacific at Salt Lake City, Utah. The family are members of the Episcopal church and universally esteemed in the community.

#### WILLIAM ERRICKSON.

William Errickson, a prominent citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska, resides on his ranch located in section 11, township 29, range 31,

where he owns one of the finest ranches in this section of the country. He is well known throughout the region as an old-time cowboy of western Nebraska, and during the early days has "punched cattle" all over these western plains.

Mr. Errickson, a native of Illinois, emigrated with his parents to Hamilton county, Iowa, in early childhood, remaining under the parental roof until 1876, when he came to Columbus, Nebraska, and drove stage to York on the Burlington and Missouri Railroad one year. In 1878 he came to western Nebraska and worked on different ranches in this region until filing on a homestead in 1884, situated on what is now familiarly known to people in these parts as the "Bachelor ranch." Excepting the summer of 1885, when he trailed cattle to Montana, he has remained on that place up to 1899, when he moved to his present ranch, which is located in the vicinity of Kennedy postoffice. Here he has worked faithfully and built up a model place, the ranch containing thirty-three hundred and eighty acres. He is extensively engaged in stock raising, running from six hundred and fifty to seven hundred head of cattle and one hundred and fifty horses. He is a man of great business ability, and recognized as one of the leading ranchmen in this part of the country. He has erected fine buildings on his property, including a splendid concrete house fifty-two by twenty-eight feet, commodious and fitted with modern conveniences, including bath room, running water and a heating plant. The outside is finished with front and rear porches, the main part being full two stories and garret in height. It is a handsome building, the lower story of concrete and the upper frame. One of his barns is an immense building, sixty by sixty feet, with a hay mow thirty-five by forty-eight feet in size. Mr. Errickson has expended much time, thought and money in the improvement of his ranch, and his efforts are certainly a credit to his taste, as there is no better appointed estate to be seen throughout this section. It extends from Gordon creek seven miles north to Boardman creek with a fine lake covering a hundred acres situated between. Seven wells, with as many windmills, furnish water to the portions of the ranch remote from lake and creeks. A view of the ranch residence and surroundings is shown on another page in this work.

In 1887 Mr. Errickson was married to Miss Margaret Gilbert, the second of a family of five girls, a native of Santiago, Chile, where her father, Rev. Nathaniel P. Gilbert, was serving as missionary. He was one of seven

brothers, all of whom won distinction at the bar, in the medical profession or in government service. The mother, Mary Perkins, was a daughter of Dr. Joseph Perkins, president of a medical college at Castleton, Vermont.

Mr. and Mrs. Errickson are the parents of seven children—Roy, George, Gilbert, Hazel, Francis, Gordon and John, all born and reared on the home ranch. Johnnie died in March, 1908, the first break in the family.

Mrs. Errickson coming of a distinguished family, inherits their mental ability. She is a woman of wide culture and a worker in church and school interests in her neighborhood. She taught the first school in the district, receiving less in payment than her expenses in securing the situation. She is the organizer and mainstay of the Sunday school in the sod chapel at Kennedy. Her grandmother was Margaret Ingersoll, sister of Rev. John Ingersoll, father of Robert G. Ingersoll.

#### HANS P. LARSON.

Hans P. Larson, a well known resident of Sheridan county, Nebraska, was born in Sweden, September 3, 1863, and raised on his father's farm. The latter died in 1869, and the family continued operating the farm, our subject assisting his mother in the farm work, and also doing carpenter work in the vicinity of his home. He was the eighth member in a family of nine children, and at the age of twenty years he came to America, settling in Illinois, where he remained for one year. The following year he came to Nebraska, locating in Madison county, and farmed there for two years. In 1885 he sent for his mother, who came from Sweden and joined him in Nebraska, and the following year they went to Colorado, where our subject took up a tree claim and pre-emption. He proved up on the pre-emption and sold the property, and in 1888 returned to Nebraska and took up the homestead where he lives at the present time. This is situated in section 1, township 24, range 46, Sheridan county. He put up one of the first buildings ever erected in that section, which was built of sods, and the family lived in it for several years. He began working for the railroad, and did freighting for several years, and liked this work very well, accumulating quite a little money, and states that he would just as soon go to work at it again if the opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Larson had a very small start when he first came to Nebraska and began in the stock business on a very small scale. He got

his first bunch in 1892, purchasing them on time, and for some years had a hard time in getting along. He gradually improved his farm, putting up good buildings, and in 1896 erected a comfortable, commodious barn, trading hay for the material to build it. In 1903 he put up a fine residence, and has his place well fenced and corraled. He has spent about four thousand dollars in buildings, and has as good a set of farm buildings as there is in this locality. He aims to keep about four hundred head of cattle, with about thirty-five horses for farm purposes and the market, which is about all that the place can support comfortably. Mr. Larson owns seventeen hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, and besides this leases a large tract, in all controlling about seven sections. He uses a large portion of his land for the production of hay, and cuts about four hundred tons on the valley land on his home place each year. He has tried farming at different times, but found that it did not pay, and for the last few years has given up the cultivation of all except about ten acres, which is used for home consumption.

Mr. Larson's farm is located one and a half miles from the school, and his boy of seven years rides to school. The nearest railroad station is at Reno, and Antioch is the nearest post-office.

In addition to his stock raising Mr. Larson has quite a large part of his land planted to tame grasses, and he also has a number of acres in alfalfa, which does very well. He has some sweet clover and brome, a grass planted which yields a fair crop. During the raids by the cattle rustlers he was instrumental in securing the arrest of a number of the thieves, and assisted in their conviction. He is of active public spirit, and has held different local offices on the Republican ticket, having served as constable in the early days.

Mr. Larson was married in 1898 to Miss Maude I. Jesse, a native of Iowa, born in 1875. She is a daughter of Samuel Jesse, born in England, who came to America in early pioneer days and settled in Iowa, being among the pioneers in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are the parents of three children, all born and raised on his present homestead. They are named as follows: Stanley Lawrence, born June 8, 1899; Stelma Flora, born December 14, 1901, and Theodore Gustave, born February 28, 1905.

Mr. Larson has been very successful in his line of work, and feels well satisfied with what he has accomplished. He has built up a good home and farm, and is contented to make this his home for some time to come.

## ZADOK F. ANTRIM.

Zadok F. Antrim, one of the best known pioneers of Sioux county, Nebraska, is a prosperous agriculturist of section 3, township 32, range 55, where he has spent the past seventeen years. He has followed farming nearly all his lifetime, and despite many discouragements during his early residence in this section has acquired a thoroughly improved farm and become one of the well-to-do men of that locality.

Mr. Antrim was born in Delaware county, Indiana, in 1853. His father, William Antrim, was a farmer of American birth and breeding, and he married Phoebe Stewart, born and raised in Indiana, of American blood. When our subject was an infant the family left Indiana and settled in Cass county, Iowa, on a farm, situated fifty miles from Council Bluffs, which was their nearest trading point and supply station. He grew up on the frontier, and in 1867 went with his parents to Missouri, where they settled on an entirely unimproved farm, and eventually succeeded in clearing it up and improving it in good shape. In 1885 he left home and emigrated to Sherman county, Kansas, there taking up a homestead, and batched it for about two years, and then was married to Carrie Clark, and together they succeeded in building up a good home and spent in all about seven years in that state, but were unable to get ahead rapidly enough to suit them, as he raised but one crop during all the time he lived on that place, and was compelled to work out most of the time to make a living for his family. They had gathered together a few head of cattle and some chickens, and from these obtained most of their living. They lived in a sod shanty, and also had sod stable and outbuildings. Finally he was obliged to give up the struggle and leave Kansas, so he decided to try Nebraska, and disposed of the farm and came to Sioux county, landing here in 1892, driving the entire distance with a team and wagon containing their household goods, the family coming by the same route, and their nights were spent in a tent which they pitched wherever they happened to strike. They were twenty-one days on the road, and passed through some severe storms during the journey. Upon arriving in this vicinity Mr. Antrim purchased his present farm, which is located on Hat creek, in section 3, township 32, range 55. He at once went to work and put up good buildings, erecting a comfortable log house and barn, and started his farm. This place is called the "O. K. ranch," and had been estab-

lished back in the seventies by Thomas J. Bingy. It was all good land, with quite a good deal of timber, plenty of fuel and good water. Since coming here Mr. Antrim has opened up about one hundred and fifty acres to cultivation, all of which is irrigated, and he has many trees and small fruit orchards planted, and the place abounds with berries, etc. Mr. Antrim has built a dam twenty-two feet high on Hat creek, which makes a reservoir for his irrigating system. There are fifteen hundred acres in the ranch, all fenced, and he has put good improvements of every description on it. He has met with many failures since locating here, the principal one being the loss of his barns with other property by fire in 1896.

Our subject and his estimable wife have a family of four children, named as follows: William F., Laura M., Model A. and Vern K. Mrs. Antrim's father, William Clark, was a well known farmer and old settler in Missouri, where she grew to womanhood.

Our subject has been one of the leading men of his community ever since settling here. He has always taken an active part in building up the schools and has held school office for seven years, having acted as treasurer and also director. Mr. Antrim has also served as township assessor for two terms, and justice of the peace for the same space of time. He is a Republican.

## DELBERT E. SHERMAN.

Among the enterprising and prosperous business men of Cherry county none is better known or more universally esteemed than the subject of this review.

Mr. Sherman was born in the city of Aurora, Illinois, in 1857. His father, L. W. Sherman, was a contractor and builder, a native of New York state, as was his mother, Miss Electa Bathrick. Our subject, the eldest of three children, was reared and educated in Boone, Iowa, where his parents had settled in 1861. At the age of thirteen years he became self-supporting, doing farm work for a period of several years before coming west to Custer county in 1879. Here he located one hundred miles from a railroad, working as a cowboy until 1882, during which time he traveled over the entire west end of the state in the saddle. On his return to Iowa that year he was married to Miss Elveretta Boyer, daughter of a prosperous farmer of that state. Two children have resulted from this union, namely, Elsie and Ethel.

Mr. Sherman with his wife returned to Custer county, where he resided for two years prior to his advent to Cherry county in 1884. He at once settled on a homestead six miles south of Valentine, perfecting his title in five years, occupying a roughly built log house having no floors. It is men and women who cheerfully endure such deprivations that constitute the bone and sinew of our western country.

In 1889 Mr. Sherman moved to Valentine and opened a harness shop, which he conducted some eight years, being one of the oldest business men of the town. In 1897 he was appointed postmaster of Valentine under McKinley and reappointed in 1898 when this was made a third-class office. In January, 1902, he was again appointed under Roosevelt, and in 1906 was reappointed for a term of four years.

Mr. Sherman has always held positions of trust since coming to Valentine, being at present a member of the school board, having served one term as deputy sheriff of the county some years before. He is always interested in all commercial and social affairs of the town, is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America.

Mr. Sherman has the distinction of introducing and operating the first threshing machine in Custer county.

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#### SAMUEL H. POWELL.

Samuel H. Powell, an enterprising business man of Burwell, engaged in the real estate business at that place, is one of the substantial citizens of Garfield county. He is well known throughout the county as a worthy member of society, and has spent many years of his life in this section of the country. He has built up a successful business and enjoys a comfortable competence as a result of his earnest endeavors and strict integrity.

Mr. Powell was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1862. His parents were natives of New York state, of Welsh and good old Yankee stock, and still live in Pennsylvania. Our subject was the youngest of four children and was reared on a farm, attending the common schools and later the high school, receiving a very good education, which well fitted him for a business career. In July, 1888, Mr. Powell came to Nebraska and established a drug business in Burwell, having associated with him F. A. Webster, and they developed a good business. He remained in that line of work up to 1893, then engaged in the insurance and real estate business, in which he has

continued ever since. He now has connected with him in this business W. P. Thorp, and the firm has met with marked success, dealing in land all over Garfield and the adjoining counties, and they are well known throughout the western part of the state and enjoy an enviable reputation as good business men and successful dealers. Mr. Powell is of the opinion that Nebraska is the best state of all for the poor man to start in, and says that any one having the energy and a small amount of ability, who will work hard and stick to it, can have no reason to complain, and is sure to gain a comfortable competence here. He has been successful in accumulating a nice property, and is well liked by all who have ever had dealings with him in a business or social way.

In 1891 Mr. Powell was married to Miss Ola M. Blair, a native of Marshalltown, Iowa, born of German parents, and raised and educated in her native state. To Mr. and Mrs. Powell the following children have been born: Lela, Frank, Mildred, Dorothy, Noah and Samuel. Mr. Powell is not a party man, but always votes for the best men, whether Democrat or Republican. In 1897 he was elected county treasurer on a petition and served for two years.

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#### JOHN CLINTON WALCOTT.

Among those who have taken part in the upbuilding of the western part of Nebraska from its early settlement, the gentleman above named occupies a first place, and his name is familiar to all of the old-timers in that section as a man of integrity and energetic labors, always doing his full share for the good of his community. Mr. Walcott resides in section 24, township 32, range 49, where he has a comfortable home and valuable property.

Mr. Walcott was born in the British West Indies in 1857. His father, Edward Walcott, was an Englishman, and he married Miss Anna Pasmore, also born in England. Our subject grew to manhood in the West Indies, where his father was employed by the government as a custom house official, and the son was educated there. He came to the United States when he was twenty years of age, locating in Iowa, remaining there for a number of years, then came on to Nebraska in 1887. He at once filed on a homestead in section 25, township 32, range 49, and put up a board shanty, in which he lived in one room, "batching" for some time, and during the first years was employed on railroad construction work whenever he could get it to do, filling in his odd time working on ranches and anything which came

handy, constantly building up his farm and home. For a time he did well, then the dry years came on and he had a hard time to get along, losing several crops in succession and was only able to make a living, and barely that, never raising a crop for seven years, living entirely from the product of a few cattle and some chickens. He stuck to his place, however, and gradually the times grew better and he improved the place, put up good buildings, fences, and kept buying more land, and is now the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres, part timber land, and runs a large number of cattle and other stock, and has done well. He has one hundred acres under cultivation, and raises splendid crops each season. There is a nice, clear stream running through his land, Chadron creek, and this furnishes an abundant supply of good living water for his stock and domestic use.

Mr. Walcott was united in marriage in 1892 to Miss Lizzie Morgan, daughter of Thomas Morgan, an early settler in Illinois, he dying when Mrs. Walcott was a child three years of age. Her mother was Miss Sarah Williams, whose parents were both born in Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Walcott are the parents of one son, Edward.

Mr. Walcott is a Republican and has been treasurer of the school district for many years.

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#### H. E. TECKER.

H. E. Tecker, of Franklin, is one of the earliest settlers in western Nebraska, having come here in 1878. He is a prominent farmer and stockman, and during the past thirty years has raised, bought, fed and shipped stock from this locality, dealing only in high-grade stock.

Mr. Tecker is a native of Illinois, where he grew up. His father, Herman Tecker, was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America about 1830, locating in Lake county, Illinois, where he spent many years. He was there engaged in farming and stock raising and feeding, and became very familiar with that country and in Chicago along this line of work, as he was a large shipper of cattle and hogs to that place. He remembers the city from its small beginning up to the size it has now grown.

The mother was Miss Ellen Elliott, a native of London, England. In 1884 our subject came to Franklin county, purchasing a one hundred and sixty-acre farm in Bloomington township, located on Center creek, and has since added to the place a farm adjoining the south part on the bottom lands, lying just south of Franklin; also in 1906 a farm north of the town, con-

sisting of six hundred acres. Has since sold one hundred and sixty acres and now owns four hundred and forty acres. Here he feeds from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of cattle and from one hundred and fifty to two hundred hogs each year, and intends going into the stock business on even a larger scale. He keeps only high-grade animals and finds it a profitable enterprise. He also engages in mixed farming, and raises one hundred and seventy-five to one hundred and eighty acres of corn and other feed annually, and buys considerable to keep his stock on. Thirty acres is used for an alfalfa patch, and he cuts several good crops of this each season. Mr. Tecker considers this a great feeding country, and on the same amount of money invested will make twenty per cent. here to four per cent. in Illinois.

In 1877 Mr. Tecker married Miss Mary Marferding, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They are the parents of eight children, namely: H. M., Harry, Walter, all of whom assist their father in the farming and stock business; Mrs. Blanch Austin, of Franklin; Mrs. Maud Rayburn, of Kansas City; Ruth, married to Steve Murray; Mabel and Mary, living at home. The family occupy a fine residence in Franklin and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Politically Mr. Tecker is a Republican and has taken an active part in public affairs in the town and county for many years.

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#### RALPH H. HAGBERG.

Among the well known railroad men of western Nebraska, the above mentioned gentleman occupies a prominent place. He resides in McCook, Redwillow county, and is recognized as one of the leading citizens of that thriving city.

Mr. Hagberg was born in Sweden, August 1, 1867, and came to America with his parents in 1870. His father, Alex. Hagberg, settled in Galesburg, Illinois, with his family in that year, remaining there for two years, then removed to eastern Nebraska, locating at Harvard. They lived there until 1872, then came on to Furnas county and took a homestead and pre-emption, also tree claim, situated near Arapahoe. This was then only a wilderness and very sparsely settled, there being only two families within a radius of twenty miles from the place they located on, they being at Elk creek. The father was a very active and hard-working man and one of the pioneers who aided materially in the development and growth of this section of the country by per-



suading many Swedish settlers to come to Nebraska from Illinois, telling them of the many advantages and opportunities to be found in this state. He was a Republican, active in party affairs, keeping abreast of the times in all public matters and promoting educational interests in every way he could. For many years he acted as assessor of Furnas county, and was a man much above the ordinary in intelligence and ability. He had received a very good education in Sweden and this was of great benefit to him and gained him the reputation of being one of the best informed men of the times. He was an active member of the Lutheran church, and the whole community sympathized with the family when his death occurred in 1904. In the early years in this state he was engaged in the live stock business, and made a marked success at this work. He left four children—Fred, a farmer of Clay Center, Kansas; Charles, who has been very successful in the mining business, located at West Point, California; Edith, now Mrs. Frank Marshall, of Arapahoe, Nebraska, and our subject, who since 1887 has been connected with railway work. In that year he began working for the Burlington & Missouri Railroad at Arapahoe, and the following year ran a section at Mascot, remaining at this for two years. In 1890 he was made foreman of the Oxford yards, and the year following was appointed foreman of construction on laying steel rails for the main line, and followed this for three years. In June, 1895, he became roadmaster at McCook, running from that place to Akron, and in 1904 was transferred to the portion east of McCook. He has made a good record for himself in all his work, and is a man of marked ability, gaining the whole confidence of his superiors.

Mr. Hagberg was married in 1899 to Miss Alma Rosanter, a native of Sweden, who came to this country when a young girl. They have no children.

Mr. Hagberg is a good citizen of the community where he has made his home, and a man who devotes his entire time and attention to the work he has chosen. In political faith he is a Republican.

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#### THOMAS PEACOCK, DECEASED.

This honorable name of a man who passed on to the better world, but leaving behind him the record of good and useful years, should not be omitted from any comprehensive roll of the makers of Brown and Rock counties, Nebraska. He was born in Buckinghamshire, near London,

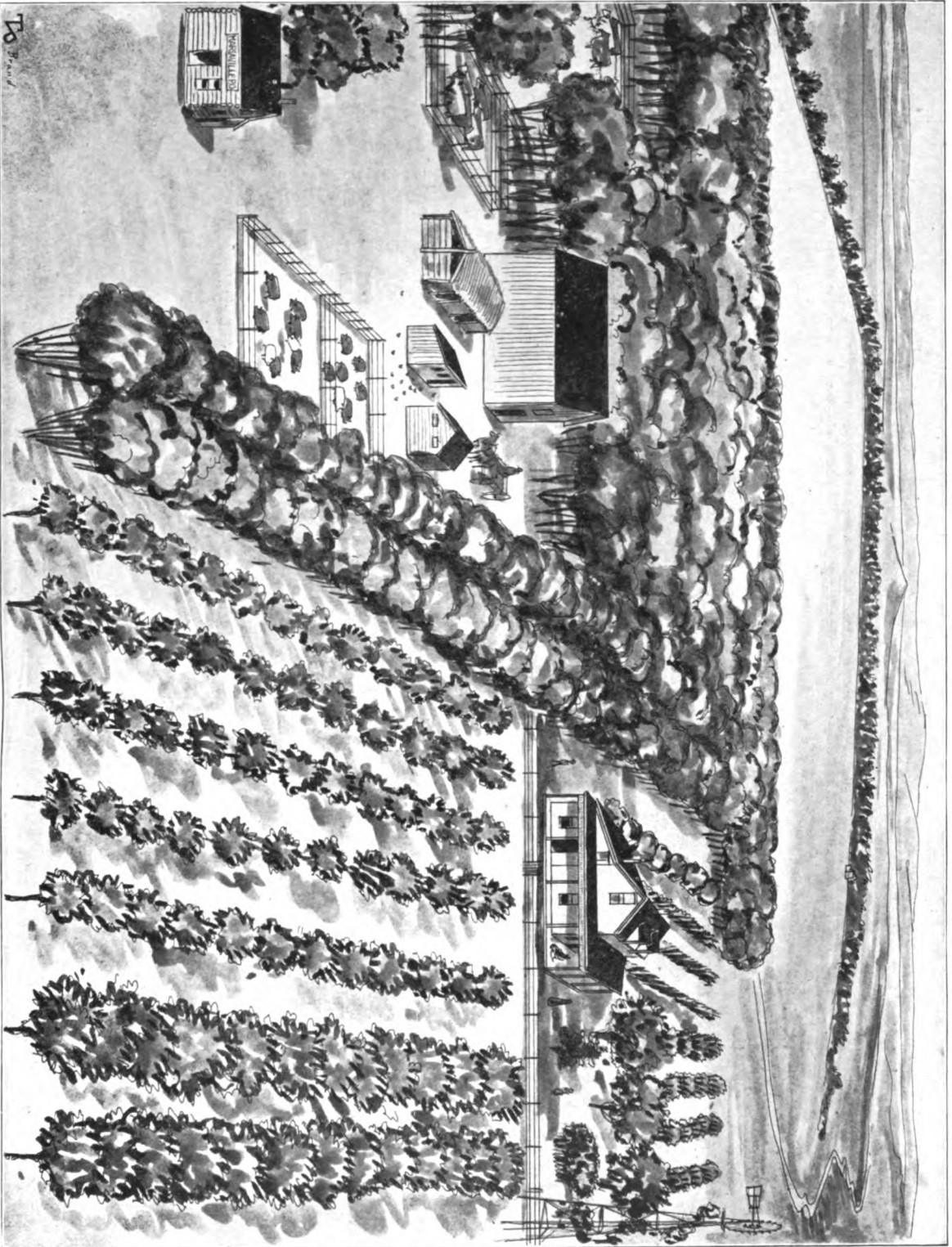
England, March 4, 1829, and came to this country when eighteen years old. His parents, James and Sarah (Mott) Peacock, were born and reared to a farming life, and to this noble labor Thomas Peacock always turned. His parents settled in Essex county, New York, in 1847, and there the young man made his home, and when a little older grown engaged in farming for himself. There he was married on September 26, 1854, to Miss Margaret M. Bogardus, a native of the state of New York, having first seen the light at Albany, October 27, 1837, where her father, David H. Bogardus, had long been engaged in the double occupation of farming and keeping hotel. He was of Holland ancestry, while her mother, Sally A. (Newbury) Bogardus, had an American lineage running through many generations.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Peacock were born nine children, of whom four are now living: David, at present on the old home farm; Margaret, wife of Hudson Brown, Gregory, South Dakota; Thomas, living in Newport, pastor of the Methodist church; and Hattie Maria, who married a real estate broker of Gregory, South Dakota. For the youngest of these was named the postoffice of Mariaville, Mr. Peacock at that time being postmaster, and she being the first white baby born on the prairie. This office, Mr. Peacock and his wife held from the spring of 1882 until the fall of 1893, when the latter resigned after Mr. Peacock's demise.

Mr. and Mrs. Peacock remained in New York for the nine years that followed their wedding, and in 1862 removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where they maintained their home for the next four years. They went back to their old New York home, but remained only a year, as the east had lost its charm. Coming to the west once more, they settled at Omro, Wisconsin, a town on the Fox river, then of considerable importance; but after a residence there of two years removed to Green county, Iowa, which became their home for nine years. In 1879 Mr. Peacock brought his family by covered wagon from Iowa to what is now Rock county, Nebraska, and settled on section 35 in Kirkwood precinct. During the summer they lived in a tent, but as the winter advanced, moved into a log house which they built during the fall. He proved up his homestead in due time, and at the time of his death his farm had become one of the more noted places in the county. He died at home October 18, 1892.

Mr. Peacock served as a soldier in the Union army during the civil war, and for two years wore the blue as a member of the Seventy-seventh New York Volunteer Infantry. His services were rendered in the army of the Potomac,





RESIDENCE OF THE LATE THOMAS PEACOCK,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



under command of General McClellan, and there he received injuries which produced disabilities necessitating his discharge.

Mr. Peacock took an active interest in political matters and did much work in the administration of local and public affairs in his own community. He helped organize Rock county and gave close attention to the formation of the school districts and the inauguration of public education. He was an active Republican.

The Peacock homestead forms an extensive estate of four hundred acres, with about sixty under active cultivation. There is a fine grove of forest trees, and over a hundred fruit trees, with sixty vines of improved varieties of grapes. One hundred and twenty acres are devoted to tree culture, and ample fuel for all purposes is furnished to the dwellers on the farm.

The subject of this biographical writing is remembered as an honorable man, a faithful husband and father, an industrious farmer, and a loyal and patriotic citizen of the county.

A view of the premises is to be found on another page, as well as a print of the original building which for many years served as postoffice and hotel. As many as seventy-five have been fed here at a single meal, colonists passing through to other parts of the west. The famous "rustler," Doc Middleton, has refreshed himself at their board and at the time of his capture the posse which had him in charge dined here on their way to the place of his incarceration.

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#### MERRICK E. ROBERTSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history resides on sections 19 and 30, township 35, range 30, Cherry county, Nebraska, where he has a fine estate and pleasant home. Mr. Robertson was born in Sullivan, Indiana, November 4, 1860, the second son of a family of five children. About two years later the family moved to Shelby county, settling on a farm, and in 1866 went to Edinboro, Johnson county, where the father engaged in merchandising. In 1874 the family returned to the Shelby county farm, where they resided at the time our subject started out for himself.

In 1885 Mr. Robertson came west, locating in Cherry county on August 5th of that year, and in October, filed on a homestead, where he now lives. He first built a sod house, such as was in general use among the pioneer settlers, and lived in this for the next nine years, "batching it", as many of the early settlers had to do. His first team was a yoke of oxen, and he spent his time when not occupied in farming, freighting in order to make a living, saving his money for improvements on his farm. For two sea-

sons he worked at brick manufacturing in Norfolk, Nebraska, using the proceeds of his labor to add to his property, now amounting to six hundred and forty acres of good land in sections 19 and 30. He has this all fenced and improved with good buildings, also a fine grove of trees, and plenty of good hay land. Minichaduza creek and Spring creek both run through a part of this ranch, the former of which he has dammed, making a fine fish and ice pond.

His farm is beautifully situated with a school nearby, of which he is director, he having always taken an active interest in building up the schools in his community. He had a hard time during the first years, and met with many discouragements through loss of crops, and with insufficient capital to develop his place. He was here during the Indian scare of 1891, but remained at home when so many of the settlers were driven from the section through fear of the savages.

October 1, 1896, Mr. Robertson was married to Miss Jessie Story, whose parents, William and Lydia (McKenney) Story, moved from Shelby county, Indiana, to Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have a family of three children, named as follows: Lilly, Sylvanus and Rosetta.

All of Mr. Robertson's time is spent in building up his ranch and home. He cultivates only a small portion of the land, but cuts over two hundred and fifty tons of hay every year, keeping sixty to seventy-five head of cattle and a few horses. He does not seek political preferment, although he is deeply interested in all affairs of local importance. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### JOHN NASLUND.

For over thirty years the gentleman whose name heads this review has been identified with the development of different parts of the state of Nebraska, and the past twenty-two years has been passed in Deuel county, where he gained a high station as a citizen, and incidentally became one of the substantial men of his community. He is the owner of a fine estate in Chappell precinct, Deuel county, and is one of the leading men of the community, taking an active part in every movement for its betterment.

Mr. Naslund was born in Sweden, on July 22nd, 1851. He was raised and educated there, assisting his parents in carrying on their little farm, and remained there up to 1879, then came to America. He located at Alton, Ills., but only remained a short time, then came to Omaha, landing there in June, 1879. From there he went to Iowa and spent about a year in that state at

Red Oak and later at Council Bluffs, then returned to Omaha, and afterwards made his home in York county for four years. In February, 1886, he arrived in Deuel county and took homestead rights on section 20, township 13, range 44, proved up on the place, then sold out. He is now living on section 2, township 12, range 45, which he bought from H. G. Span, an old-timer in Deuel county, and has built up a good farm, having 240 acres, and his son, John A. Naslund, owns the sections joining his father's farm on the east and south.

Mr. Naslund has passed through all the experiences of the pioneers of this section of Nebraska. He has been prosperous and successful during later years, although he had a hard time in his early residence here. He was among the very earliest settlers in the locality, and about the first to start farming. Of late years he has been engaged in the stock business on quite an extensive scale, and at the present time has a herd of one hundred and fifty cattle. He has the farm supplied with all modern conveniences, good buildings, and a thoroughly improved and well equipped estate. At the present time he has about eighty acres irrigated and four hundred more acres will soon be under irrigation. In 1907 the average yield per acre of winter wheat was forty-three bushels, the best yield in this region. In 1908 he had a yield of forty-one and one-fourth bushels to the acre. The farm is operated by himself and his son.

Before leaving Sweden our subject was married to Anna Olund and to them have been born three children, namely: John Albert, Henry W. and Lily Marie, all living on the home ranch. Mr. Naslund has done his full share in the improvement of his section of the county, assisting in building up the schools, and is now serving as moderator of district No. 29. In politics he is a Republican. His sons, John A. and Henry W. own an Advance steam threshing outfit, new, modern, and up-to-date, and do work all over this part of Nebraska and Colorado. For years Mr. Naslund has followed the trade of plasterer, and has been known for years as "John Naslund, the plasterer," being one of the first in this neighborhood.

#### THOMAS R. EVANS.

Prominent among the progressive agriculturists and business men of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is the gentleman above mentioned, Thomas R. Evans, who resides on section 22, township 33, range 23.

Mr. Evans was born in Denbighshire, Wales, Great Britain, February 26, 1843. His father,

Robert T. Evans, was a Congregational preacher, and came to America with his family in 1857. After filling a pulpit in the state of New York he migrated to Low Gap, Missouri, where he ministered to a congregation thirty-seven years, until killed by a cyclone in Livingston county, June 20, 1883. His mother, who was Miss Elinor W. Williams, survived her husband's death by several years, coming to Keya Paha county with our subject, where her death occurred in 1906 at the advanced age of ninety-two years. Mr. Evans was the only son of his parents, and grew to manhood in New York state, where he learned the shoemaker's trade and photography. In the spring of 1865 he came west, settling in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where he entered the mercantile business. He was later appointed postmaster of Waukesha, under Abraham Lincoln's administration. He spent eight years in all in Wisconsin, then came to Iowa, settling in Iowa county on a farm and started in to build up a home. He resided on this place for about seven years, his land comprising eighty acres, which he sold and moved to Missouri, where he remained for seven years, operating a farm.

After the cyclone of 1883 Mr. Evans, who was a deacon in the church, felt that he would have to make a new home for himself and family, also the people who lost all their effects and homes, so a meeting was called and he was elected as a delegate to select the spot for new homes, and he came to Nebraska, and selected Keya Paha county as one of the most desirable places he found. His own and thirteen other families came to western Keya Paha county, making up nearly a full train with the party, as they came on to Ainsworth. Mr. Evans located on section 20, township 33, range 23, where he put up a log house and went to work building up his home. He handled ox teams, opening up a large part of his farm with oxen and although he experienced all the hardships and privations of the early settlers in this locality he persevered and finally succeeded in establishing a comfortable farm and home, at the present time owning one hundred and sixty acres, after having divided his farm and giving part of it to his son. He has plenty of running water on his place, also natural timber and wild plum trees.

Mr. Evans surveyed the town site of Norden, and platted the town for the owner, and still owns a half interest in the site and a number of lots there.

Mr. Evans was married in Wisconsin in 1864 to Miss Mary Jane Parry, whose father, Ishmael Parry, was a farmer. Ten children were born of this marriage, named as follows: Robert (de-

ceased), Annie, Robert, Thomas, Ishmael, May, Llewellyn, Hugh, Ollie and Florence. His wife died February 6th, 1906, and is deeply mourned by her family and all who knew her.

Mr. Evans was elected county surveyor four terms, serving faithfully and well. He has dealt to considerable extent in real estate, and carried on a loan business for eastern capitalists in this section, and been engaged in a number of large enterprises aside from carrying on his farm. He is a man of active public spirit, and takes a commendable interest in local affairs. He is a strong Republican.

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#### WILLIAM HUFF.

William Huff, who resides in section 1, township 31, range 49, Dawes county, Nebraska, is one of the prosperous and successful citizens of his community. Mr. Huff has spent many years of his life in this locality, and is well and favorably known to all the residents of his township as a citizen of worth, and a progressive and energetic farmer.

William Huff was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1850. His father, Thomas Huff, was a native of Germany, and came to the United States in his young manhood, settling in Kentucky. He married Zilpha Hale, of Welsh descent, born in Kentucky, and they came to Nebraska in 1868, with their family of nine children, from Iowa, where they had lived until our subject was eighteen years of age. They began as pioneers in southeastern Nebraska, settling in Richardson county, where for a number of years our subject was engaged in trading among the Indians who then were scattered all through that part of the state in large numbers. He was also engaged in farming there for some years, and owned a farm of ninety acres up to 1885, when he disposed of his property and moved to Sheridan county, where he was among the early settlers and again went through pioneer experiences. He lived at Hay Springs for a time, then located three miles west of that town, where he worked on rented land, then filed on a homestead on the Niobrara river, southwest of Hay Springs, in Dawes county. There his nearest neighbor was two and a half miles distant, and the country was entirely unimproved, wild land, but he at once went to work and built a substantial frame house and started a farm. For three years he met with very good success, then the dry periods came on and he was unable to raise any crops and was obliged to work out for a living, hauling timber and wood off the land he now owns to get money for provisions for his family, and on two or three occasions he went into the Black

Hills to work for a time and try and get a little money ahead. In 1899 he finally sold out his homestead and moved to his present farm in section 1, and here he has a well improved farm and ranch of seven hundred and forty-two acres of deeded land besides operating six hundred and forty acres of leased school land. His property is located on Chadron creek at Box Springs and is well supplied with good living water and plenty of timber. He runs ninety head of cattle and about a dozen horses, and farms quite a large part of his land.

When Mr. Huff was twenty-five years of age he was married to Miss Frances Shaw, whose father, John Shaw, was a freighter and pioneer in Nebraska. Mrs. Huff's parents were of Irish birth and settled in this country when young people, locating in Nebraska in the early days, and our subject's wife was reared and educated there. Mr. and Mrs. Huff are the parents of the following children: Maude, Irene, Thomas, Anna, Mead and Katie.

Mr. Huff is a man of active public spirit, and has held numerous local offices. He has served on the school board of the district for ten years past.

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#### JAMES CURRY.

James Curry, a prominent resident of Box Butte county, Nebraska, owns a fine farm in section 23, township 26, range 50, and from a very humble start has succeeded in building up a valuable estate and has also borne his share of the burdens in building up his locality.

Mr. Curry was born at Ontario, Canada, in March, 1833. His father was a farmer, a native of Ireland, as was also his mother, they settling in Canada when young people, building up a good home and rearing their family of nine children. Our subject worked on the home farm during his boyhood, attending the country schools, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-six years old, then started to farm on his own account and followed that occupation in Canada up to 1866, when he came to the United States and located in Omaha. He only remained there a few months, then located near St. Paul, where he built a mill and operated it for a short time, and was among the pioneers in eastern Nebraska. In 1888 Mr. Curry first struck Box Butte county, and filed on his present farm, which is situated on section 23, township 26, range 50. His first dwelling was a sod house, and his first team was a pair of oxen, with which he broke up all of his land. He also hauled timber and fuel from Pine Ridge with these, camping out at night under his

wagon, and went through the regular frontiersman's experience. However, he has been extremely fortunate in never having had any total failures, once having lost some of his crops by hail storms and suffering to some extent from the drouths, but has never experienced the suffering and privation that has fallen to the lot of so many of the early settlers in this region, although his only possessions when he struck this county were his oxen and wagon and six cows. He first worked at clearing his farm, and has succeeded in building up a good home and valuable estate, accumulating about two thousand acres, of which he has sold over one thousand six hundred acres. His place is all fenced and well improved with good buildings, etc., and he keeps quite a large number of stock, mostly horses and cattle.

In 1857 Mr. Curry was married to Margaret Hiller, daughter of a farmer and early settler in Lampton, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Curry are the parents of nine children, five of whom are now living, namely: James, William, Margaret, Albert and Robert, and all of whom are settled in good homes in Sioux county.

Mr. Curry has held school offices for many years. He was elected justice of the peace several times but never served.

#### DANIEL STINARD.

Daniel Stinard, one of the most successful farmers of Cherry county, is one of the old settlers of this community.

Mr. Stinard was born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1853, and is a son of Augustus Stinard, a farmer who was also interested in several business enterprises. Our subject, the youngest of ten children, was reared and educated in his native state. Until the age of eighteen years he remained under the parental roof and then launched out for himself in the dairy business for a time, later entering the mercantile pursuits in Goshen, Orange county, and Mt. Vernon, in West Chester county, New York. He met with moderate success but finally determined to go west where prospects for greater achievements were brighter, and in 1884 came to Valentine, pre-empting and proving up a claim, after which he filed on a homestead on which he also proved his claim. While on his homestead he opened a store two miles east of Niobrara, which proved to be a very successful undertaking. He continued on the farm engaged in cattle and horse raising until 1893, when he came to Valentine and opened a clothing store, which he has been successfully conducting since that time, developing into one of the solid business men of the town. He is numbered among the substantial

old settlers of Cherry county, and has been honored by his fellow townsmen with one term as mayor of Valentine. He has built up an enviable reputation as one of the leading men of the community.

Mr. Stinard was married to Miss Mary E. Lawrence, daughter of Augustus Lawrence, of old American stock. They had six children, of whom but three are living, namely: Ida and Ada (twins), and Lucella.

Mr. Stinard is a staunch Republican.

#### MAGNUS JOHANSON.

Magnus Johanson, one of the old settlers of Kimball county, Nebraska, is known throughout that section as a prosperous and energetic farmer and worthy citizen, and well merits the high station which he holds. A portrait of him appears on another page.

Mr. Johanson was born in Sweden November 22nd, 1851. He was the fifth child in a family of eight, and was one of a pair of twins. He grew up in Sweden, following farming as a boy. Both parents lived and died in their native land, and when our subject was thirty-two years of age he came to America, landing in New York city, living in that state for about two years. He next went to Iowa and then came to Sidney, Nebraska. For several years he was on several different pieces of land, but had poor luck, and did not locate permanently for some time. In June, 1904, he homesteaded in section 2, township 16, range 54, and now has the entire section. He went through all the old Nebraska hard times, meeting with losses and discouragements, but never gave up hope, and finally was successful in building up a good home and improving his ranch in good shape. He has about one hundred acres cultivated, and runs forty head of cattle and a bunch of horses. His ranch is supplied with improvements of every kind, including good buildings, etc., and he is classed among the wealthy men of his locality.

On January 29th, 1894, Mr. Johanson was married to Miss Carolina Sanderson, a native of Sweden, who came to America in 1883. They have an interesting family of five children, all living at home and named as follows: Herbert Edwin, Carl Helmer, Bertha Amanda, Emil Alexander and Melvin M.

Our subject's twin brother, John Johanson, came to America in 1887, locating on section 14, township 16, range 54, Kimball county, and now owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres. He is married and has a family of seven children. The family occupy a pleasant home, and have a well improved ranch, and the father



MAGNUS JOHANSON.





is extensively engaged in the stock raising and farming business.

Magnus Johanson is prominent in local affairs, and has done much to forward the interests of his township. He is at present acting as moderator of school district No. 12. He is a staunch Republican.

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#### MRS. L. J. DOYLE.

The subject of this review, since April, 1906, has been associated in business with her husband, J. M. Doyle, proprietor of the Washington Hotel, at Holdrege, Nebraska. Mrs. Doyle was formerly the wife of F. D. Traverse, of Holdrege, and came to Holdrege from Pennsylvania, in 1880. She was at that time the widow of Jesse Evans, and the mother of one child, Henry Evans, now residing at Seattle, Washington, a successful builder and contractor of that place.

Mrs. Doyle is a native of Wayne county, Pennsylvania, born near the town of Sherman in 1853, and is a daughter of Henry and Margaret (Bush) Jayne, the latter at present residing in Prairie township, hale and hearty at the age of eighty-three years. The Jayne family came from England, settling in Long Island in 1660, and Henry Jayne had four great uncles, who fought in the Revolutionary war: Colonel William Jayne, on Washington's staff; Captain Timothy Jayne, who had forty-nine members of the Jayne family in his company of soldiers, all relatives, and all were captured at Fort Washington, only eighteen of whom returned, the others having died on the Jersey prison ship. Henry Jayne's father, Benarah Jayne, was in the war of 1812, and he himself served in the Civil war. Mrs. Doyle has one brother, Benjamin Jayne, of Goodland, Kansas, and two sisters, Mrs. Ella Dobson, of Holdrege, and Anna B. Scott, of Omaha.

Upon coming to Phelps county Mrs. Doyle took up a homestead, and at present is the owner of several fine farms in this vicinity, and since taking her first homestead she has been constantly engaged in farming operations, and has bought and sold farms and residences, always with a profit, and is a shrewd business woman. Prior to her marriage to Mr. Traverse, which took place in 1887, and since his death, in 1892, she was sole manager of her large interests. She bears testimony to the fact that her son, Henry, when only a boy, became a great help to her, and later was very successful in managing farms and raising stock, also in feeding and buying and selling stock of all kinds. Prior to his locating in Seattle, he was married to Miss Hattie Rowland, of Dubuque, Iowa, a niece of George Rowland, of Industry township. F. D. Traverse came to

Holdrege in 1884, and for four years served as postmaster under President Cleveland. He was county treasurer for two years, from 1890 to 1892 inclusive, and was engaged in the real estate and loan and insurance business, and gained a reputation as being one of the best business men here, always in the front rank of those who work for the upbuilding of Holdrege, and the development of this county. He was one of the "pushers" along all lines, an active member of the Democratic party, and his popularity was demonstrated by the fact that with only four hundred Democrats in Phelps county to one thousand eight hundred Republicans, he was elected treasurer, irrespective of party lines. He was a Mason, an active member in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was one of the organizers who also helped to build the Presbyterian church of Holdrege. He was proprietor of several fine farms, and personally operated and managed three hundred and twenty acres in Lake township, of which he was half owner. He was very successful in these lines, and after his death his widow sold cattle to the amount of \$4,000 which he had on these farms. His success in grain raising was equally pronounced, and he was a successful farmer and business man in every sense. He left a family of two children, namely: Margaret, married B. C. Baker, of Holdrege, a prominent piano dealer; and Frank D. Traverse, attending school at Holdrege.

In 1905 our subject was married to J. M. Doyle, well known all over the state, having been in the real estate, insurance and mercantile business for over twenty years, in Lincoln, Hastings and Alexandria. Mr. and Mrs. Doyle made a success of the hotel business, and run a first-class house patronized by only the best people.

Our subject is one of the best agriculturists in this locality, having in one year cleared \$1,879.25 from one hundred acres, hiring all the help in operating this land.

Mrs. Doyle is a prominent member of the Baptist church of Holdrege, and was one of the organizers of the church, and is an earnest worker in its interest. She is most successful in raising funds for its support, and devotes much of her time to the work of the upbuilding of the locality in which she chose her home. She is a very estimable lady, and enjoys a host of warm friends and acquaintances.

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#### J. H. CLEARMAN.

J. H. Clearman, of Minden, Kearney county, is prominently known as a successful and prosperous business man and worthy citizen of his locality. Mr. Clearman is proprietor of the New

York department store in Minden, with branches at Norman and Keene, both in Kearney county.

Mr. Clearman was born in 1859 at Springfield, Missouri. He came to Nebraska in 1884, locating at Sutton, where he was in business for many years. He then had branch stores at York, Harvard, Stanton, Upland, Clay Center, Hartwell, Wilcox, Keene, Norman, Chester and other points, and was very successful in his management of his large enterprises. He is a man who attends strictly to his business matters, and is thoroughly up-to-date in all his methods, and a hustler. His main store at Minden is a fine brick building forty-four by one hundred and forty-four, which he built in 1900. This has a full size basement, and the whole building is devoted to salesroom space. It is a modern, up-to-date store in every way, and he carries a full line of general merchandise. He has an immense trade steadily spreading out, now extending all over Kearney and the adjoining counties, and is favorably known by everyone in this section for his strict honesty in all business dealings. Both Bradstreet and Dun's give him the credit of being the only man to manage branch stores successfully all through the hard times of the past several years, and during the different panics that occasionally swept over the country. He operates on a strictly cash basis, and is a merchant and not a banker, being willing that the banks should carry the people's paper and accounts, but he only buys and sells for cash at the right prices. He is a great believer in the opportunities of Nebraska as a money-making state, and besides his residence and business property in Minden he owns an eight-hundred-acre ranch in Lincoln county, also other farm lands in different parts of Nebraska.

Mr. Clearman was married in 1884 to Miss Hattie Morgan, daughter of D. Morgan, a retired merchant and capitalist of Minden, and Mrs. Clearman assists her husband in the management of his mercantile affairs, and he realizes that this constant association and confidence and help are important factors in his success.

Mr. Clearman does not take a pronounced part in public affairs as an office seeker, but only as a citizen who is interested in the upbuilding of the state that has been his home for the past twenty-four years.

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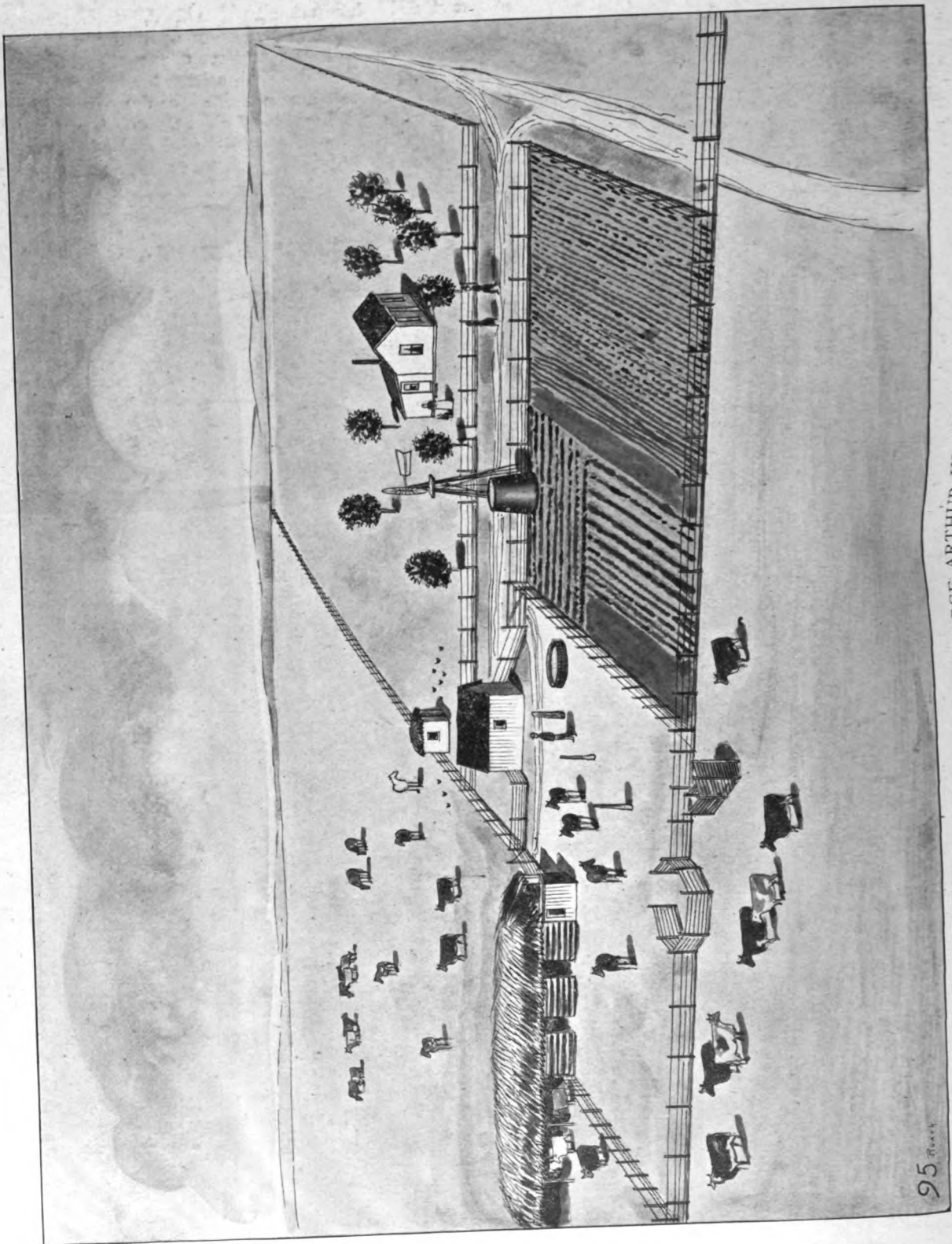
### JOHN F. STRONG.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the prosperous agriculturists of Sheridan county, where he has a valuable estate and pleasant home. Mr. Strong is a native of

Jefferson county, Iowa, born in 1849, near Fairfield. When he was two years old his parents moved to Lucas county, Iowa, and here he was raised on a farm until he was twenty. His father, Thomas L. Strong, was of Scotch-Irish descent, born and raised in Ohio. He was the first settler in his precinct in Lucas county, and built the first school house in that locality, which was named "The Strong School," and still bears that name. There were six children in his father's family, of whom he was the second member, and he remained at home up to 1869, then began working out on farms by the month, and continued at this for about five years. He then rented a farm and started in for himself and followed farming in Iowa for eighteen years, but never made much money at it, so in 1893 he decided to go where he could get free land, and came to the state of Nebraska. His first location was seven miles west of section 25, township 24, range 44, his present home, and here he tried farming, remaining on that place for seven years, and at the end of that time was poorer than when he came here. He kept a few head of stock, and this helped him out some, but he could not make any money at mixed farming, as the land was sandy, and when the dry time came on it blew out and took the crops along with it. In 1900 he sold that farm and bought his present home of one hundred and sixty acres. Nearly one hundred acres of this is good hayland, and here he went into the stock business. He had some seventy head of stock when he took this farm, and engaged exclusively in the stock raising business, and never had tried farming here. He soon afterwards took an additional four hundred and eighty acres, all of this being range land, and besides this leases the same number of acres of school land. His children also have a homestead which is located near his place, so he has plenty of hay and pasture land for his stock, and handles about two hundred head, doing all of the work of caring for this himself, except in haying time, and then is obliged to hire outside help. Mr. Strong is satisfied that he has done splendidly here, and much better than had he stayed in Iowa on rented land, but had he bought land there and held it for a raise, he might have made a good thing of it. When he first struck Nebraska he did not have much capital, and made a big mistake in trying to farm, but he had always followed that work and did not like to give it up, and in fact, likes it much better than stock raising, and may at some future time sell out his present range and buy a good farm.

In 1874 Mr. Strong was married to Miss Lorinda Wyland, a native of Elkhart county, Indiana. Her father, Israel Wyland, was of





RESIDENCE OF GEORGE ARTHUR HEATH,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

German descent, born in Ohio, settling in Indiana when he was twelve years old, and still resides in that state. His wife was a native of New Jersey, and died when her family of children were still quite young. Mr. and Mrs. Strong have five children, who are named as follows: Royston C., Bessie M., Della A., James F. and Dick W., two of whom are married and reside in Alliance, and the rest make this their home, their postoffice address being Lakeside, Nebraska. Mr. Strong is a gentleman of active public spirit and takes a keen interest in local and state affairs, but has never held any except local office. He cast his first vote for U. S. Grant, in 1872, and has always voted the Republican ticket.

#### CLARENCE A. FORSLING.

In the gentleman above named we have another one of the sturdy sons of Sweden, who left his native land and came to this country to help in the steady march of progress, and incidentally to build up for himself a home and fortune for his descendants. Mr. Forsling was born January 10th, 1870, and grew to the age of eleven years in the land of his birth, then came to America with his parents. A sketch of his brother, G. A., is given in this volume, also the family history.

Mr. Forsling first lived in Hardin county, Iowa, after striking the states, and made that his home for six years, later went to Chicago and secured employment with the Northwestern Railroad Company and was connected with that company for one year, then came to Phelps county, and later to Kimball county, Nebraska. He is the owner of several ranches, one situated on Lodgepole creek and one on the table land, owning altogether about four thousand acres, and engages in stock raising on an extensive scale, running about one hundred cattle and seventy-five horses. Besides his stock raising operations he raises large quantities of hay each year. He has a complete set of good buildings on his ranch, and every improvement for the operation of a model farm. Mr. Forsling is also engaged in the livery business, and a member of the firm of Forsling & Walker, pioneer real estate agents, with offices in Kimball. He owns and occupies a handsome residence in the town and is a prominent factor in all town and county affairs. In 1900 he was elected sheriff of the county, holding that office up to 1905. Politically he is a Republican. Mr. Forsling was married to Miss Rose Lynch, July 13th, 1898, at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Miss Lynch was born in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, her parents being a pioneer fam-

ily in the region, and among the very first settlers. Her mother is still living, but the father is dead. Four children have been born to our subject and his amiable wife, namely: John W., Lela, James C. and Mary, all living at home.

#### GEORGE ARTHUR HEATH.

George Arthur Heath, a progressive and enterprising farmer and stockman of Cherry county, Nebraska, is one of the early settlers of this region. He resides on his pleasant farm in section 18, township 33, range 34, known as "95 Ranch," where he has succeeded in building up one of the valuable estates of the locality, and is considered one of the substantial agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Heath was born in Canada July 14, 1864. His father, George Heath, lived on a farm near Libby Mills, and the family remained there until our subject was two and a half years old, then moved to the United States, locating at Steamboat Rock, Hardin county, Iowa. There were six children, of whom he was the oldest member, and at the age of eighteen years he started out for himself, securing employment on farms in the locality of his parents' home, and continued at this for three years. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in Cherry county, which place he now occupies. During the first three years he worked out through the winter and devoted his summers to building up his farm and breaking land. He had a hard time to get along and went through the dry years, but was very fortunate in never having had a total failure of crops since starting here. He has made all he had since coming to this locality, as he had no start at all except a strong heart and willing hands, and has worked hard to meet his payments on his land and to improve his place, but is now owner of a ranch and farm of four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land besides a homestead tract of four hundred and eighty acres additional. He farms one hundred and thirty acres and is engaged to a large extent in the stock business, running about one hundred head of cattle and twenty horses. A view of the family residence and surroundings will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Heath was first married February 7, 1892, to Miss Anna Mone, born in 1864, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, her parents being of Irish descent and early settlers in this locality. Two children were born of this marriage: Rosa and Nellie, and on September 22, 1899, the family suffered the loss of the wife and mother. Feb-

ruary 25, 1903, Mr. Heath married Miss Ella Milslagle, born in Iowa in 1863.

When our subject came to this section he was the second settler on Boiling Springs Flat, and has remained on this ever since. His entire time is devoted to his home and farm, and although he is a loyal Democrat he has never had any time to devote to taking an active part in politics.

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#### ALBARA D. BEEBE.

Albara D. Beebe, whose postoffice address is Ainsworth, Brown county, Nebraska, is widely known as a leading representative of the agricultural interests of this section of the state, and has won from rather unfavorable conditions by industry, thrift and prudence, a very considerable competence, which he is able to enjoy while still in the vigor of his manly strength and vital powers.

Mr. Beebe was born in Chardon Village, Geauga county, Ohio, November 14, 1849, and came of a family long settled in the state of New York, but of remote English extraction. His parents, Nelson and Caroline (Twung) Beebe, were devoted to the cultivation of the soil. They early felt the drawing of the west, and for some years made a home in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, but later removed to Waseca county, Minnesota, where from 1860 and on the paternal home was maintained, and where the subject of this writing and the only other member of the family, his brother, George, who is now a resident of Oregon, grew to manhood. There Nelson Beebe died, and his death was soon followed by that of his wife. Albara D. Beebe was thrown upon his own resources, and began life for himself as a worker in the grain warehouses at Wells, Minnesota, at the early age of eighteen years. He was quick to master the mysteries of grain buying and grading, and for some years was employed as a grain buyer. While a resident of Rushford, Minnesota, he was elected marshal, and held the office several years. While still in Minnesota he was married in Waseca county, and was blessed with three children, Charles, Albert and Clara. He contracted a second marriage in Nebraska, in 1880, when Miss Sarah Hastter became his wife. She is a native of Richland county, Ohio, and is a lady of many charms and social abilities. To this union there have come five children, George, Robert, Effie, Lloyd and Lawrence, all of whom were born in this state, and constitute a bright and interesting circle of young people.

For a time Mr. Beebe was engaged in the drug business at Rushford, but came to Nebraska

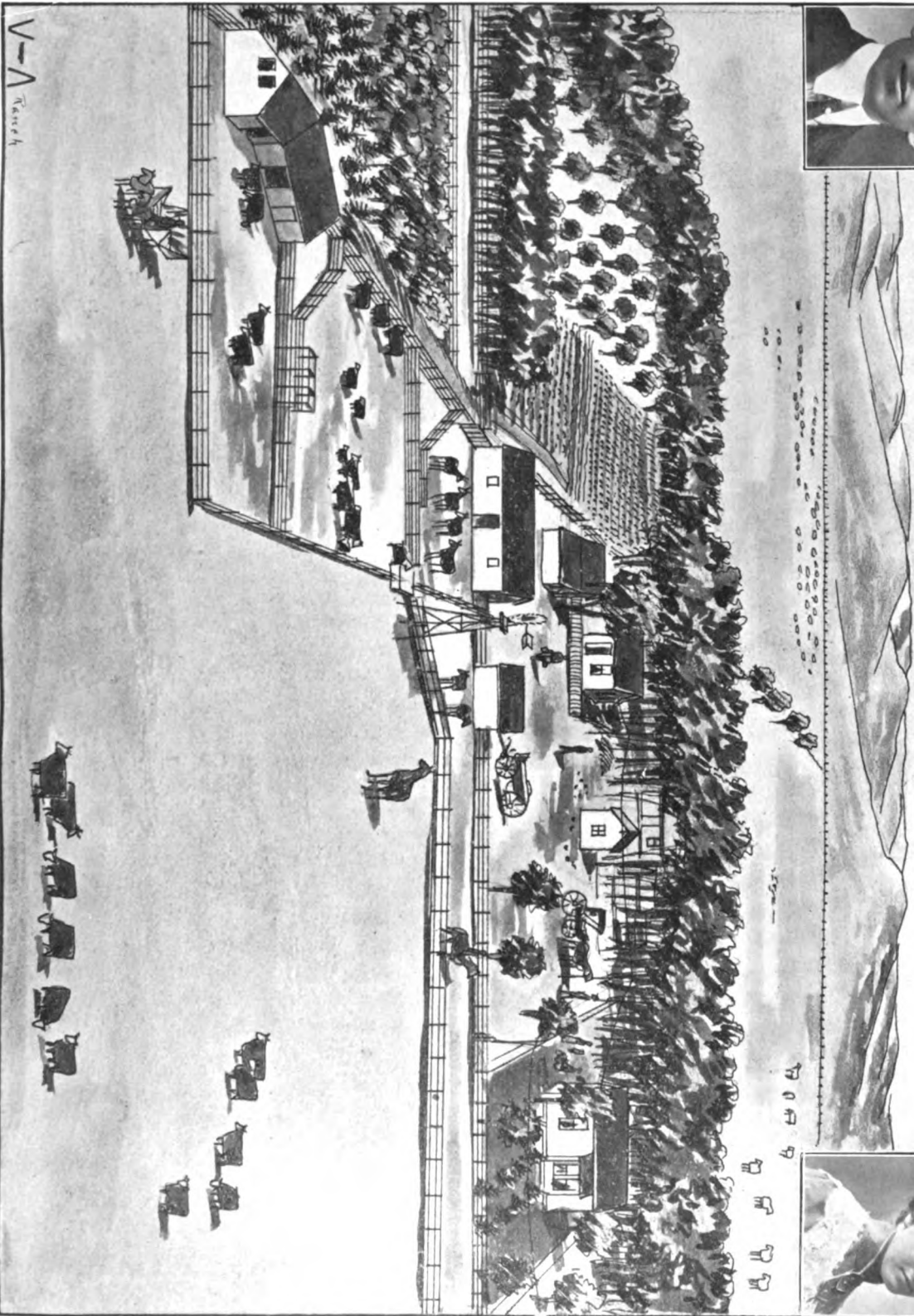
and made his home in Hall county for some two or three years. In 1882 he removed his family from Hall county to a claim which he had located the previous year, and described as part of section 14, township 30, range 21. The homecoming journey was not uneventful, being made across country with ox teams and a covered wagon. The house which became the first family home was built of logs, and had a shingle roof, the first of the kind between Longpine and Ainsworth. For two years it was without a board flooring, that being a luxury that could await the establishment of the family finances on a firmer footing. For some two years Mr. Beebe used oxen before he was able to supply himself with work horses. Take it altogether these were hard and toilsome days, but their memory can but make sweeter the present independence and ease. To maintain his family he worked out for a time, and hauled wood for a living. At one period he worked forty days for seventy-five cents a day and his dinner. Now these experiences seem almost a forgotten dream amid the privileges and comforts of his present well earned independence. He is the respected proprietor and operator of a choice half section of Brown county, all of which with the exception of about sixty acres is under active cultivation. Here he has erected a very comfortable and attractive two-story farm house, forty-eight by twenty-six feet, and a modern and well appointed barn forty-eight by thirty-two feet. He has brought into fine condition a charming grove as well as a good orchard. Here he has an ample supply of the best farm machinery, and is extensively engaged in stock raising. In the spring of 1906 he had some twenty head of horses, thirty head of cattle and one hundred and thirty-five hogs. He owns his entire plant clean and clear, and owes not a dollar to anybody. He has done his full share in the development of Brown county, and is known by all conversant with its history as one of its leading settlers and pioneer citizens. Although never taking an interest in party politics, he has been a patriotic and public-spirited participant in local affairs; and for more than fifteen years has been school director, and assessor for eight years.

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#### PHYLANDER H. YOUNG.

Phylander H. Young, a very successful ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska, whose home and business are to be found in section 24, township 31, range 29, is western born and bred, and thoroughly familiar with all the conditions of life in that vast region which he has made his home. His father, George Young, was a





Mr. P. H. Young.

GARDEN VALLEY RANCH AND RESIDENCE OF P. H. YOUNG.

Mrs. P. H. Young.



successful cattle feeder in Saline county, Missouri, where his mother, Virginia F. Gilliam, was born. His father was a native of Maryland, and the Youngs have long been identified with American affairs, tracing their lineage to a sire mentioned in colonial affairs in 1780.

Mr. Young was ninth in a family of ten and the youngest son of his parents. His earlier years were spent on the parental farm, but when he was nineteen years of age he left home, and for a time was employed in Lincoln, where he was connected with a wholesale grocery. From Lincoln, he went to Ogden, Utah, with a sheep "outfit," and for some months was engaged in trailing sheep from Ogden to Soda Springs, Idaho. For a time he was a fireman on the Southern Pacific railway, running between Ogden, Utah, and Carlin, Nevada. On a trip into Yellowstone Park he became stage driver for the trip and posed as an old guide, a bluff he successfully carried out. After his trip to the Yellowstone Park he again secured work ranching at St. Anthony, Idaho. He was employed as a horse ranger in Montana for one summer and in 1901, came to Thedford, Nebraska, with horses from Montana, which he trailed over to Dewey's Lake, where he remained for a month, and then went back to the old Missouri home, having contrived to pack into a few brief years about as many and as varied experiences as often fall to the lot of a young man. In March, 1902, he returned to Cherry county and finding a tract on Gordon creek that suited him purchased first about two thousand acres. In the following autumn his father also came to this part of the state, and together the two bought adjoining land from time to time until a tract of five thousand five hundred acres had been purchased, all of which has been fenced and very extensively improved. The property is known as Gordon Valley Ranch and extends for over ten miles along Gordon's creek. It is one of the most desirable tracts of land devoted to cattle raising in this entire region, and feeds annually upwards of a thousand cattle and about fifty mules. The improvements are better than the average, and the buildings compare favorably with those constructed in far older communities. The brand is V bar open A. The place is equipped with a fine set of scales and such other improvements as a modern and up-to-date cattle ranch demands. There are three fine groves on the ranch, eight good wells, over three of which have been erected windmills with accompanying tanks. One of the interesting illustrations in this work is a view of the residence and its surroundings.

Mr. Young was married October 15, 1905, to Miss Stella M. Crowe. Her father, J. W.

Crowe, a native of Nova Scotia, is an old settler, locating southwest of Merriman, Nebraska, in 1888. The mother, Catherine (House) Crowe, was born in Wisconsin. They are highly respected for their many sterling qualities of heart and mind. To Mr. and Mrs. Young have been born two daughters: Virginia Catherine, born August 3, 1906, and Laura Edna, December 2, 1907. They are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Young affiliates with the Masonic fraternity at Valentine.

#### WILLIAM I. WRAY.

William I. Wray, a representative citizen of Cherry county for the past twenty years, and a prosperous business man and former agriculturist, is a gentleman of sterling character, who commands the respect of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Wray was born on his father's farm in Jasper county, Iowa, February 25, 1870. The latter came to Nebraska with his family, settling in York county near the line of Holt county in the spring of 1879 and moved to Holt county in the spring of 1881, where he located on a homestead, remaining until the spring of 1888, when the family came to Cherry county and settled on a farm. Our subject started out for himself, working in Keya Paha county for about six months, going west in 1895 overland to Idaho and all through Wyoming, Nevada and Oregon, where he worked at freighting, mining, etc., and remaining three years. At the end of that time he came back to this county and farmed for one year, then engaged in the tubular well drilling business. Since starting in this work he has put down nearly two hundred wells in Cherry county alone. He has been very successful in this work, and has followed it for seven years, becoming well known all over the county and adjoining counties for his faithful work and strict attention to business.

December 15, 1898, Mr. Wray was married to Miss Cora A. Elliott, whose father, Nathaniel Elliott, is an old settler of Nebraska, now residing on the Niobrara river, twelve miles south of Georgia. His wife was Miss Sarah Keys prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Wray have a family of five children, who are named as follows: Flossy, Sylvia, Eddie, Violet and Olive.

Mr. Wray has a nice residence in Georgia, as well as a ranch home, the dwelling erected in the spring of 1908 on a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres, one and a half miles west of Georgia. The family is well known and highly esteemed as good citizens

and neighbors. Mr. Wray is a Republican, and takes a commendable interest in all affairs that tend to the advancement of educational and commercial opportunities in his community. He is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Odd Fellows lodges of Georgia.

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CAPT. W. H. BANWELL, M. D.

Capt. W. H. Banwell, one of the leading physicians of Orleans, Harlan county, Nebraska, has been engaged in the practice of medicine for many years in this locality.

Mr. Banwell was born in Andover, Ashtabula county, Ohio, September 10th, 1832, and is a son of Henry and Hannah Castle Banwell, both born and raised in Northamptonshire, England. He was educated in Springfield, Clark county, Ohio, and there studied medicine up to 1859. At the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in the Sixteenth Ohio Regiment, the second day after the firing on Ft. Sumter, and served four months, participating in several battles in West Virginia, then re-enlisted and served for four years in the Forty-fourth Ohio Regiment as a private under Colonel Samuel A. Gilbert. He received the appointment of second lieutenant in this company, and afterwards as first captain of Company B, serving until the close of the war. Then he enlisted in the Eighth Ohio Cavalry. He refused a captain's commission in this company and entered the secret service, serving four years and eight months. His last service was at Nashville, Tennessee, under Lieutenant Colonel Shafter, who died in 1906.

On this occasion Capt. Banwell followed after Champ Ferguson, who with a company of thirty soldiers rode through Tennessee and shot down Union men, he being one of those who caught and helped hang Ferguson, and in a recent letter General Shafter refers to this occurrence. He also served in the Twenty-third Army corps with the army of the Cumberland. His brother, Henry, was killed at the battle of Petersburg, Virginia, and his other brother, George, was with our subject all through the war. Captain Banwell was first at the killing of the rebel General Garnet at Carricks Ford. He was at Lookout Mountain and in battles around Nashville and Chickamauga, Antietam, Winchester, etc., and during all of this hard service he was never once wounded, and was always at the front of his regiment. At the closing of the war he resumed the study of medicine, graduating at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery July 1, 1871, soon after establishing

himself near Springfield, Ohio, where he continued to practice up to 1882. He was elected president of the Clark County Medical Association and held that position for a year, and in the fall of 1882 came to Harlan county, Nebraska, and took a homestead, where he has remained ever since. He has made Orleans his home for the past twenty-four years, practicing all over Harlan and the adjoining counties. His professional career extends over a period of thirty-five years. He is a man of active public spirit, taking a deep personal interest in all affairs of the community, both commercial and social. He has been a member of the Masonic lodge since 1864, and has taken all the degrees of that society. He is a Shriner in the veteran Masonic association of Nebraska, which means that he is over sixty years old and has been a Mason in good standing for over thirty years. He was master in Melrose lodge, No. 60, in Orleans for five years. Was for sixteen years a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has held the post of surgeon of the Burlington & Missouri Railway at Orleans for the past sixteen years.

Capt. Banwell was married in Clark county, Ohio, in 1867 to Miss Lucina E. Sprague, daughter of Darius Sprague, a leading farmer of Clark county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Banwell are the parents of three children, who are named as follows: Jessie, wife of Ed. L. Means, a banker and druggist of Orleans; Ollie, wife of Walter H. Green, cashier of the Massachusetts National Life Insurance Company, of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Colonel Hayes Banwell, residing at Arapahoe, Nebraska, cashier and manager of the Citizens State Bank at that place.

In addition to his professional work, Capt. Banwell is interested in a large tract of farming land situated near Orleans, to the management of which he gives his personal attention. In politics he is a strong Republican.

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JOSEPH LEOPOLD DE BOCK, DECEASED.

Joseph Leopold DeBock is well-known to nearly all the pioneers of western Nebraska as a leading citizen, and for many years prior to his demise was a resident of section 22, township 32, range 55, in Sioux county.

Mr. DeBock was born in Belgium, in 1842, and grew up in that country. His father, Carlos, was a farmer and nurseryman, and a very wealthy man, and Joseph received many advantages in the way of education and travel as a young man. At the age of twenty-five years

he came to the United States, settling at first in Michigan, where he worked in the pine woods for a time. He was a man of very strong character and iron constitution, and a hard worker, and his strength was tested to the utmost in his work, as many times he was obliged to stand all day in water while logging and doing that work. He finally drifted to Utah, where he lived for twelve years, engaged in the mining business, and owned a mine of his own, also manufactured charcoal. In 1884 he came to Nebraska, settling in Sioux county, driving in with two teams and covered wagon, camping out along the road, the trip taking three months, making this journey on account of his wife's failing health, and while on the trip she experienced much sickness, to which was added the discomfort of having to go through many storms and rough weather. On arriving in this region they located on Hat creek, where Mr. DeBock built a log cabin twelve by fifteen feet, and made a comfortable dwelling, in which they lived for a number of years. Chadron was their nearest trading post, a distance of sixty miles. He went to work to break up land for crops, and used the numerous springs on the places to irrigate his land, planted small fruits, and after they were in bearing peddled the fruit at Ft. Robinson, twenty miles away, also sold vegetables, and in this way got a start. He bought three cows, for which he paid forty dollars each, and these furnished them with plenty of milk, butter, etc., and also had some to sell. When the drouths struck the vicinity he suffered crop failures, but his irrigation system helped him out considerably, and he was able to add improvements, and gradually added to his ranch, owning at the time of his death, July 23d, 1903, four hundred and eighty acres, well improved with good buildings, etc., and stocked with cattle, hogs and some horses. Mr. DeBock put in many years of hard work in opening up his ranch, which was in the timber belt, and he did much grubbing and clearing. He also helped in developing the resources of his locality, and did much toward aiding the prosperity which has come to the county.

Mr. DeBock was married, in 1864, to Antoinette Connen, born at Green Bay, Wisconsin, where she was reared, her father being a farmer in that vicinity. Nine children were born to them, named as follows: Rose, Louis, Henry, Mary, Silva, Arnold, Leo, James and Roy. Since the father's death Mrs. DeBock has successfully carried on the home ranch, and is assisted by Leo, who bids fair to be as successful in the work as his father was. They have a pleasant home, and many friends in the community.

#### W. H. KOCHER.

W. H. Kocher is one of the leading business men of Holdrege, Nebraska, and for the past twenty years has been associated with the commercial interests of this community. He has a large and lucrative trade, having been engaged in the building and contracting business since 1887, and has gained a wide reputation as a master workman.

Mr. Kocher is a native of New York state and removed to Wisconsin with his parents at the age of six years. He was engaged in the builders' trade for nineteen years before coming to Nebraska, having resided for that length of time near Madison, Wisconsin, and was prominently known all through that section. He first came to Nebraska in 1887, at once establishing himself in this business, and ever since has devoted all his time to this work, meeting with the greatest success in every instance. He has made a specialty of putting up frame residences of the best class, and his work along this line is of the very highest order. The Ed. Titus' residence in Holdrege is a specimen of the work done by Mr. Kocher, which was built at a cost of about \$10,000. The city of Holdrege has, for its size, more such residences than any other city in western Nebraska, and for this it is indebted largely to the faithful and superior workmanship of our subject. He was one of the workmen who helped erect the Hampton House, the City National Bank, and other large buildings here. Mr. Kocher built a fine residence on East avenue for his own occupancy, which is presided over by his wife with much taste and intelligence for the home comfort of herself and husband, there being no other members in the family. Here they entertain their numerous friends, and everything is of the highest order and modern convenience.

Mr. and Mrs. Kocher are members and earnest workers in the Presbyterian church here, and in all social and religious circles they are held in the highest esteem. He is a strong Republican in political sentiment, but has always refused all office preferment.

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#### HERMAN C. RINCKER.

Among the successful self-made men of Dawes county may be truly noted Herman C. Rincker. He came to the new world from his mother country when but a boy, and since his residence here has displayed an enterprising spirit and the exercise of good judgment in a manner that commends him to all as a worthy citizen. He now resides in section 11, township

31, range 52, and is one of the prosperous farmers of his locality. He went to that region as a pioneer, has accumulated a fine property and applied himself closely to his calling. He is well versed in agricultural pursuits and possesses what years of experience teach to the observing only.

Mr. Rincker was born near Weisbaden, Germany, in 1849. His father, William T. Rincker, was a veterinarian, also engaged in the meat business, and our subject was a lad two years old when his parents left their native land and came to America, settling in Chicago, where they remained for a time, then went to McLean county, Illinois, locating in Lexington, where Herman was raised and educated. He became familiar with farm work as a boy, and drifted into different kinds of labor, building telegraph lines, etc. In 1875 he came to North Platte, where he did line work for a time, then was trainman on the Union Pacific railway for thirteen years, eleven years of this time having charge of a train as conductor. He left the railroad in 1888 and went to Fort Laramie, Wyoming, where he engaged in the meat business, remained a year, then returned to Nebraska and settled in Crawford in 1889, opening a meat market there and continued in the trade up to 1901, building up a good business and making money. He bought his present farm in 1894 situated three-quarters of a mile east of Crawford, and has spent six years on the place, improving it in fine shape. He owns three hundred and twenty acres, thirty of which are cultivated and forty of it under irrigation. He has a comfortable house, two-story, and twenty-four by twenty-six feet in size, fitted up with modern conveniences, and everything about the farm bespeaks thrift and industry.

Our subject was married in 1888 to Charlotte H. Diehl, whose father, John Diehl, fought and died in the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Rincker have a family of two children, namely: Edna and Clarence.

Mr. Rincker is a staunch Republican, and takes an active interest in local and county affairs.

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#### THE MISSES VAN ORSDOLL.

Much has been written of the hardships and privations endured by the men who are the pioneers of a new country, while but little is ever said of the fortitude and courage of the women. Their lot is immeasurably harder than that of the men, and owing to their confinement to the household and its many duties, see less of the stirring events that go far toward lessening the tedium of a lonely, sparsely settled land.

The west has had an attraction for many maidens, some of them teachers to whom the wide prairie meant the breath of life, some of them from other walks of life, while some came for health or adventure. Among this stream of emigration from the more thickly settled regions east of the Mississippi, came the Misses Van Orsdoll, of Columbia City, Indiana, daughters of Henry Van Orsdoll and nieces of J. W. Pike, who was a pioneer in Cherry county about 1883. Miss Maude visited the region in 1894, having been teaching in Iowa. In 1900 Miss Mary came, and with her, filed on homestead rights some six miles west of Valentine, erected the required buildings and proceeded to hold down their claims. In June, 1904, they filed on their additional rights under the Kincaid law, and will when the title is perfected, own two sections of fine land, much of it good hay flats, the rest in range. They proceeded to stock it with cattle, and with the assistance of hired help are managing to increase their herds at a satisfactory rate. They have not escaped the usual experiences of pioneers, Miss Maud losing her first dwelling by a cyclone. A second was erected at once. In another instance, thinking he had only a woman to deal with, one of the neighbors proceeded to cut hay on their land, expecting to haul it away. He soon learned his error and has not repeated the offense. Another was more successful, felling and stealing a fine hackberry grove that had sprung up on the place. This grove gave the name to Miss Mary's place, "Hackberry Hall," which was christened with hot coffee to make the naming complete.

After living for a time in the smaller claim house, Miss Maude erected in sight of the main road between Valentine and Crookston, one of the best furnished dwellings in the hills, and named it "Prairie Manor." A view of this building appears elsewhere in this work together with their earliest dwellings.

The ladies are more versatile than most men, and can turn their hands to carpentering, painting, excavation, building fence or breaking bronchos to ride or drive and training cattle to stand for the milking.

Both sisters have travelled much throughout the west as well as in the east, and have met on intimate terms many men of distinction. They were favored with an invitation by the state geologist of South Dakota to take a scientific trip through the Bad Lands. They are also intimately acquainted with most of the noted Indians, and speak quite fluently the language of the Sioux. Many are the specimens of Indian work they have secured which few can acquire, so strong a friendship have







MR. AND MRS. ALMON STUART.

the Indians for these girls from Indiana. Among the most notable trinkets in their possession are war clubs, the pipes of peace, an entire suit of Indian boy clothes, war bonnet, scabbards of note, pipe bags, ceremonial dancing moccasins, saddle blanket which appears on their favorite saddle horse in the illustration above mentioned, besides many minor trophies of their visit to the reservation. What has been accomplished in the sand hill country by these girls reared in luxury and ease in their eastern home, is an inspiration to others of their sex who would attain independence by their own effort, energy and indomitable will.

On another page of this volume we present an interesting view of the residence and ranch property of the Misses Van Orsdoll.

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#### ALMON STUART.

Almon Stuart, a prominent resident of Kearney county, Nebraska, has a pleasant home in Minden, where he resides with his family, highly esteemed by all who know him. Mr. Stuart was born in Watertown, New York, December 4th, 1821. He is a son of Asa Chapman Stuart, who fought in the war of 1812. The family moved to Michigan when our subject was a boy, and when a young man went to St. Joseph, Indiana, where he spent some time. The mother of our subject was Miss Elizabeth Sherman Wilcox, whose father was in the Revolutionary war. At the breaking out of the Civil war Mr. Stuart enlisted in the 9th Indiana Infantry, Company I, and served for three years. He was all through West Virginia and in the army of the Tennessee. He was twice wounded at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and once at the battle of Chickamauga, and still carries the ball that he received at the latter place, at the age of eighty-seven years. He fought in all the important battles of the west, and relates with interest many interesting occurrences of that time.

In 1878 Mr. Stuart came to Nebraska and took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Kearney county. He gave the township in which he settled its name when it was organized as Cosmos, and was elected supervisor, also served as a member of the county board for three terms, proving a very efficient official. He was assessor for some years, and an active public-spirited citizen. He is proud of the fact that for over thirty years he has not owed any man a cent, and is in the enjoyment of a comfortable competence which enables him and his wife to surround themselves

with all the comforts of life in their advanced years. They reside in their home in Minden surrounded by many warm friends, and do their best to make the lives of their family and the community peaceful and happy. For fifty-nine years Mr. and Mrs. Stuart have traveled the path of life together. They are agnostic in faith, if one may so call it, living consistent lives, with charity for all. On another page will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart.

Mr. Stuart was married August 13, 1849, to Miss Elizabeth Jaquith, a daughter of Asa Jaquith, a carpenter and joiner of old Yankee stock and who served his country in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart have four children, as follows: One son, Lincoln Almon, a member of the First Nebraska Regiment, under Colonel W. J. Bryan, in the Spanish war, now residing in Minden; Jesse Ovid Bion, engaged in the lumber business in Seattle, Washington; Helen Elizabeth Ada Slusser, residing in Minden; and Louisa Adeline Virginia Youngston, married.

Mr. Stuart is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and his wife of the Ladies Auxiliary of that post.

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#### ANDREW F. CHALBERG.

Andrew F. Chalberg, a prosperous agriculturist and stockman of Chappell precinct, has been a resident of Deuel county for the past twenty years, and during that time has gained a valuable estate for himself and the respect and esteem of his fellowmen.

Our subject was born in Sweden, in 1859. He grew to manhood there, following farming as a boy, remaining in Sweden until he was twenty-four years of age, then came to the United States, and was the only member of his family to leave their native land.

After arriving in this country Mr. Chalberg located in Muskegon, Michigan, and made that locality his home for about two years, drifting around afterwards for several years, and finally coming to Deuel county, Nebraska, in 1888. Here he filed on homestead rights on section 6, township 12, range 44, proved up on a quarter section, and afterwards took additional land on sections 5 and 6. He erected a rude building as a dwelling, and other farm sheds, and began the improvement of his farm. During the early part of his residence here he planted trees which are now a valuable feature of his place. At different times he met with disappointments in building up his homestead, but constantly added improvements as he was able, and now has the place all in fine shape.

Mr. Chalberg devotes about fifty acres to grain raising, and has plenty of good pasture and hayland for his stock, running about sixty head of cattle and some horses. He has been most successful in his farming ventures during later years, but during his early residence here the hardships endured were many and bitter. Conditions are now entirely different, and in the case of our subject's work all comforts of farm life are supplied and all machinery for lightening the farm labor is at hand.

On March 1st, 1891, our subject was married at Omaha, to Miss Amelia S. Anderson, who was born in Sweden, coming to America in 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Chalberg have four children, named as follows: Edward E., born February 11th, 1893, Elsie Sophia, born December 24th, 1894, Ester Caroline, born April 20th, 1902, and Ellen Mary, born October 17th, 1906. They are a happy and congenial family, and have a pleasant home and many friends.

Mr. Chalberg takes a commendable interest in local affairs and has aided in every way possible to advance the best interests of his community. He has built up a good home and has been a potent factor in the development of the agricultural resources of the locality. He is a Republican politically, and has held school offices.

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#### AL WILLERLING.

Al Willerling is widely known throughout Rock county and the northern part of Nebraska as one of the very first business men to make a permanent home and settlement in the thriving little city of Newport. Only one other business man of Newport is now here who was in that city and engaged in business at the time of his coming. He has met the people as they came to make their homes in the county, and by his accommodating spirit, honest methods and genial courtesy has won a host of friends who stand by him from the beginning.

Mr. Willerling was born on a farm in Defiance county, Ohio, September 26, 1858, a son of Herman and Mary (Ohlinger) Willerling, and was reared and educated in his native community. His father owned a tannery in addition to his farming operations, and divides all his time between the two occupations. His mother, born in this country, came of a German parentage, and the subject of this writing was her second child. In all, her family consisted of four children. When he was seventeen years old Al Willerling left home and sought work for himself in the pine woods of northern Michigan and from time to time he

was also employed in the iron mines of that region. In the winter of 1882 and 1883 Mr. Willerling was engaged as a cook for a surveying expedition that penetrated far into western Nebraska, then Sioux county, and in the course of these explorations saw much of what is now Dawes, Box Butte, Scott and Bluff counties as well as many other parts of the state. For a time he was cook at Fort Robinson. In 1884 he came to Stuart, and made a homestead entry in Holt county, on which he put up a sod house. In the course of these enterprises displaying much business ability, A. C. Powell, of Stuart, put him in charge of a general store at Atkinson, where for four years Mr. Willerling remained in his employ. In 1892 he went into partnership with J. W. Henderson, opening a general store in Newport, his partner retiring in his favor the following year. In 1902 he sold out, and for two years made his home in Leigh, Nebraska. In 1904 he set up in the wholesale hay business at Newport, and speedily became interested in several mercantile enterprises. He has a feed and confectionery store which is largely patronized, besides a ranch of seven hundred acres devoted exclusively to hay, of which he at times cuts six hundred tons in a season.

Mr. Willerling was married June 16, 1890, to Miss Mary Butler, daughter of Finley and Margaret Butler, old settlers of Holt county. In political matters he is a Democrat, and has long taken an active part in local affairs. He holds membership in the Odd Fellows, the Workmen and the Woodmen lodges of Newport.

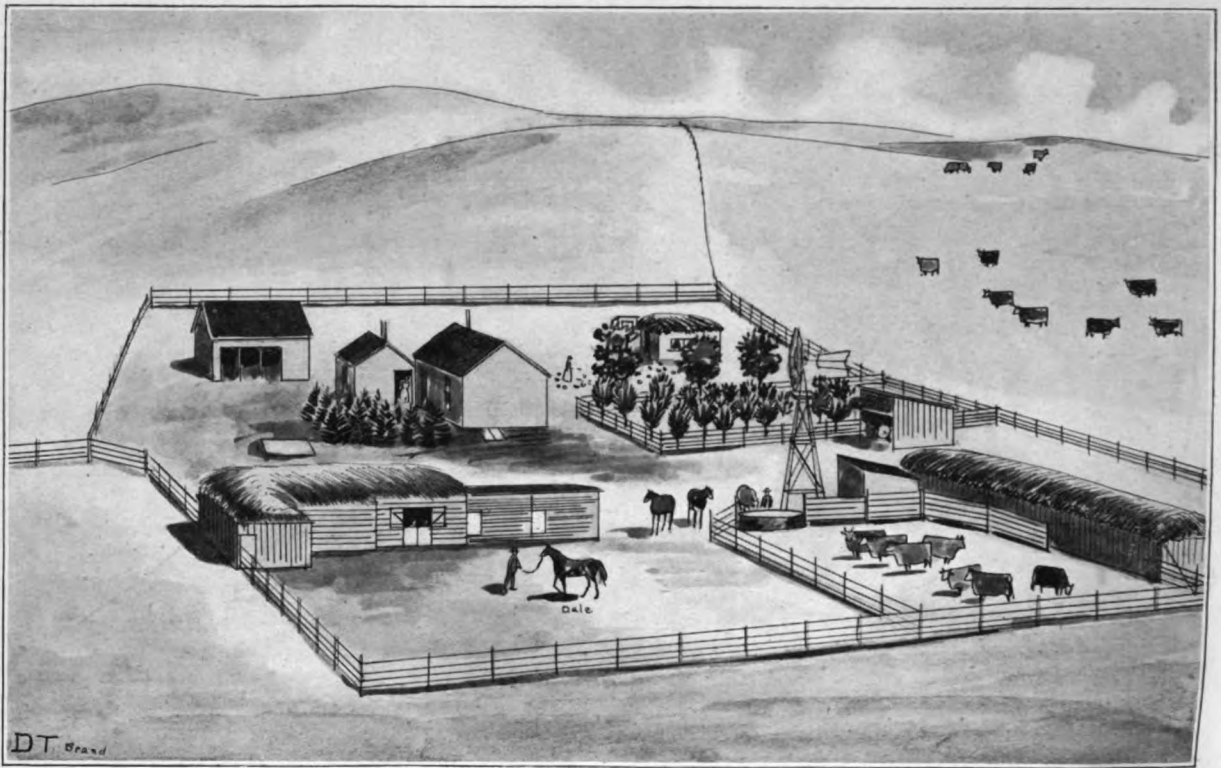
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#### GUSTAV CARLSON.

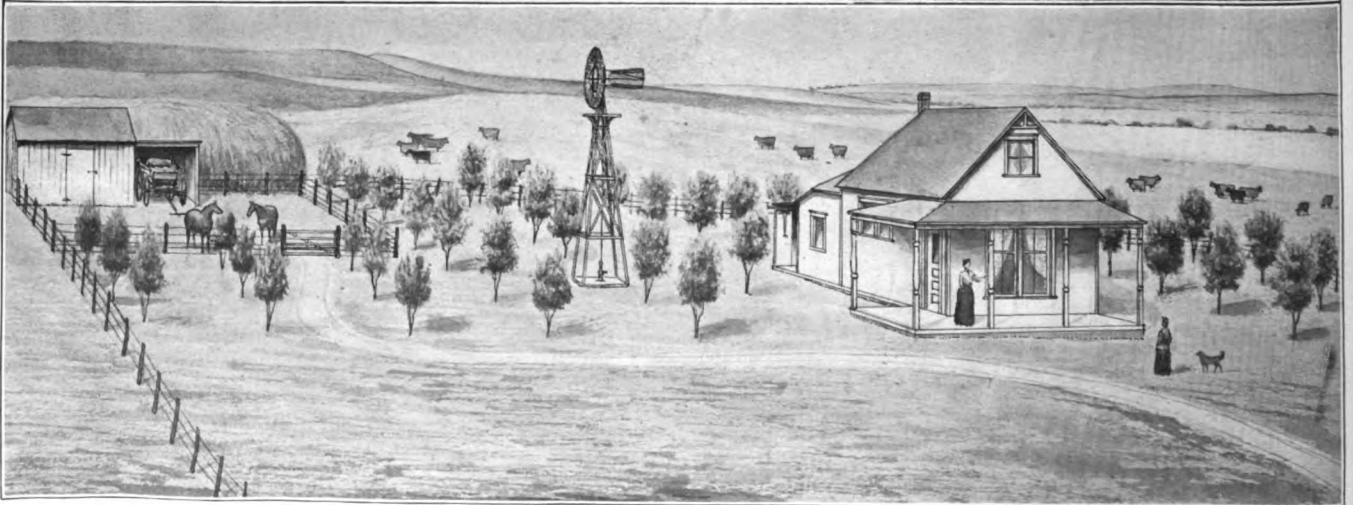
Gustav Carlson, one of the prominent citizens of Valentine, is among the early settlers of Cherry county, where he has gained an enviable reputation as a business man.

Mr. Carlson was born in Engelholm, a village in the southern part of Sweden, in 1848, the eldest in a family of nine children. He grew to manhood in Sweden, and learned the carpenter trade with his father, beginning at the early age of twelve years. When twenty-one he left his parents' home and followed his trade for a year and a half, as overseer of a large force of carpenters on a farm in Sweden. He came to America in 1871, landing in New York after a voyage of seven days. Going to Pennsylvania he secured employment with a railroad company, remaining in their service for two years. From there he went to Horns-





RESIDENCE OF DANIEL TRUAX,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE AND RANCH,  
Property of the Misses Van Orsdoll, located six miles west of Valentine, Nebraska.

ville, New York, where he worked at his former trade. Later he returned to Pennsylvania and entered the employ of George Lepert, a furniture manufacturer, with whom he worked as employee for ten years. Gradually rising in the work in that factory he soon became superintendent and had charge of all of the machinery for seven years.

In 1884 our subject came to Valentine and filed on a homestead eighteen miles northeast of the town. Here he built and lived in a sod house for a short time, during the building of a log house in which he lived the first years, farming while proving up on his homestead. He has since filed on a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres one mile south of Valentine.

In 1880 Mr. Carlson was married to Miss Amanda Anderson, a native of Sweden, who came to America with her parents when a child. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, namely, Alma, Amy, Effie, Hazel, Lloyd, Edgar and Levina.

In 1891 the family moved to Valentine where Mr. Carlson follows his trade, doing all kinds of carpenter and cabinet work. He has a fine shop twenty-two by one hundred and eight, and also does picture framing, plumbing, etc. He has erected nearly all of the principal buildings in Valentine, and was appointed superintendent of construction of the Cherry county court house.

In 1898 he started a hardware store but ran this for two years only, selling the business to return to his trade. In politics he is an Independent, takes an active interest in all local affairs, and is now on the town council serving his second term. Is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### CHARLES J. OSBORN.

Charles J. Osborn, an agriculturist of prominence in Cheyenne county, resides on his fine farm in Sidney precinct. He has been closely identified with the public affairs of his locality from the early stages of its development, serving in different capacities at various times, during the period 1894-'96 holding the office of county clerk, and has always taken an active part in county and state politics.

Mr. Osborn was born five miles from Hillsboro, in Montgomery county, Illinois, June 30th, 1862, a son of Samuel C. and Lydia (Kendrick) Osborn, who are now deceased. He lived on the home farm and received the usual schooling of the farmer lad in those times, remaining with his parents until 1885, when he came to Nebraska and lo-

cated in Cheyenne county, where he spent a few months, then turned back to the eastern part of the state for a time, returning to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1886, and he has made this section his home ever since. He filed on a homestead in section 22, township 16, range 49, which he later sold, filing on another claim in section 14, township 14, range 50, now owning four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, together with a full section, making a ranch of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, which is known as the "Idlewild Ranch and Dairy Farm." He is engaged to a large extent in dairying, and keeps a large number of cows, besides other stock. He was among the first to raise high-grade Shorthorn cattle in this part of the state, and has made a complete success of his venture.

Mr. Osborn farms about one hundred and thirty acres, raising corn and small grains. He has erected good buildings of all kinds, and every portion of the ranch bears evidence of good management and prosperity.

Mr. Osborn married Miss Iva Bewley, a native of Montgomery county, Illinois. The wedding occurred there November 4th, 1883, the twenty-fifth anniversary of which was duly celebrated in 1908 by all their neighbors and friends from Sidney and the surrounding country. The parents of Mrs. Osborn, Oliver H. and Sarepta (Meisenheimer) Bewley, have both passed away. Mr. Osborn's family consists of the following children: Leo E., engaged in the decorating and painting business, residing in Sidney. One son, Maynard Waldo, now living in Sidney, married Winnifred Bixby. Viola Blanche, Jesse R. and Clifford are still at home. They are a most interesting family, and have a pleasant home, surrounded by a large number of warm friends in their community.

Mr. Osborn and his wife are both active in neighborhood affairs, the former now acting as school moderator, while the latter holds the office of treasurer, school district No. 77. Mr. Osborn is independent of party lines, voting for principle and men rather than political affiliation. He is a member of the Methodist church of Sidney.

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#### DANIEL TRUAX.

Daniel Truax, a resident on section 34, township 32, range 34, is one who can say that he has seen Cherry county from its first development through storms, drouths, and wild Indian scares until it has become the prosperous and orderly community which is now presented to the world. It was a grand heroic

struggle, this building of an empire, this planting of civilization on these wind-swept and sun-kissed prairies, and strong, heroic characters were moulded and welded at its white heat. Who can ever tell the story of settlement or make the coming generation understand what privations and denials and endurance, the lofty courage went into the history of the pioneer days in Nebraska? We can be thankful that they lived, for we have great and noble states as their heritage to the good of the world. Mr. Truax did his full share in the development of the west, and his place among the men who made Cherry county is secure.

Daniel Truax was born in Fulton, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1843, and was reared on a farm cultivated by his father, John Truax. The father never came to the west, and indeed never left the county in which he was born and reared. His wife, the mother of Daniel, was Julia A. Malatte, and came of French descent. She was the mother of a family of eight children, of whom Daniel was third in order of birth.

When Daniel Truax donned the Union blue, and went into the Civil war as a member of Company C, Eighty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, he was twenty-one years of age, and began a career of which he and friends are justly proud. His regiment was attached to the First Brigade, Third Division of the Sixth corps of the Army of the East, and played an important part in the stirring events that attended the closing years of the great war. Mr. Truax served until the end of the war, and on the dawn of peace returned to his Pennsylvania home, and resumed the occupation of farming, which he had given up for the time to battle for his country, and for eleven years followed the plow in his native state. He was married June 16, 1865, to Miss Anna J. Truax, a native of Fulton county, Pennsylvania, where she was born May 6, 1844. Her people were American born, but came of German descent, and were industrious and home-keeping in the extreme. They clung closely to the old landmarks, and never left their native state to go west and grasp its great opportunities. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Truax became the parents of a family of seven children, David A., Laura F., and Joseph dead. The others, Harriet, E. Jane, and Joseph and Charles (twins), of whom the three eldest are dead. These children were all born in Fulton county, Pennsylvania, but were reared in Nebraska. In 1871 the Truax family removed to Carroll county, Illinois, and spent five years in farming; while as many more years were spent on an Iowa

farm in Hardin county. In 1885 Mr. Truax located in Cherry county, but it was two years later that he brought his family to Nebraska. He did not begin his career in this state under very favorable auspices, as he had only fifteen dollars and a few horses with which to enter upon his work. His first business transaction was to contract a seventy-dollar debt in the purchase of three cows, as the beginning of his herd of cattle. He passed through some very hard times when he began, and a severer strain in 1893 to 1896, the dry years of disastrous memory to so many settlers. Today he owns a half section of choice farm land and four hundred and eighty acres of homestead entry. His land is well improved, fenced, and is largely devoted to horse raising, of which he has about fifty head, with perhaps twenty cattle. He is interested in thoroughbreds and some seasons follows the races. Dale, at the head of his stud, is a most beautiful specimen of running stock. When he first came to this region, it was all wild and but thinly populated, there being only two section houses and a store in Cody. Mr. Truax is a Republican, and remembers with satisfaction and pride that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, when that eminent patriot was elected president for the second time. During the Indian rising of 1891 he thought it prudent to leave for a time, but soon returned and has never lost faith in Cherry county; he feels much pleasure in considering the very substantial results that have attended his labors.

A picture of Mr. Truax's place will be found on another page.

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#### THE PLATTE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, KEARNEY MILITARY ACADEMY.

The Platte Collegiate Institute, Kearney Military Academy, is one of the more noted educational institutions of the state of Nebraska, and in its comparatively brief history has made a record for itself for thoroughness of teaching, high standards of management, and splendid ideals of scholarship second to none in the west. The making of character is recognized as the ultimate of instruction, and a lofty life is held possible for every young man who comes, as all do, into close personal relations with the principal and his assistants. The academy is pleasantly located in the valley of the Platte river, about a mile and a half from the city of Kearney, and its situation is peculiarly favorable to the health and the spirits of its attendants.



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

The buildings are large and commodious and are in good condition.

The new Cochran Hall has just been completed at a cost of \$50,000. It is built of reinforced concrete, is equipped with all modern conveniences and requisites of a first-class school. It contains the rooms of the headmaster and family, study hall, chapel, hospital, office and dining room, and quarters for masters and eighty cadets.

Kearney Hall is built of brick, four stories high, and contains carpenter's and blacksmith's shops, laboratory, recitation rooms and quarters for masters.

Lewis Hall contains the gymnasium, a large well lighted room with about two thousand feet of floor space, completely equipped with apparatus, horizontal and parallel bars, traveling rings, trapeze, etc.

Cochran Hall contains quarters for forty cadets and two masters.

Each room accommodates two cadets, is heated by steam, lighted by electricity, and furnished with the usual bed-room furniture.

The grounds, which are thirty-five acres in extent, are level and afford excellent facilities for drill and for the various forms of athletics so essential to a complete education. Ample space is given for football, baseball, and other outdoor games, and two cement courts for tennis have been laid down this year.

This school was founded in 1892 by the Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, LL.D., for the purpose of providing a thorough preparatory training, either for college or business, for young men and boys at a moderate price.

The academy commends itself to those parents who desire for their boys a school whose location is easily accessible, in a country whose climate is unequaled for healthfulness, and one in which, while every care is taken to provide everything essential to the proper instruction and well being of the boy, such as may be found in the best schools of its type, non-essentials are kept down, in order to allow the management to put the fees at such a moderate price as to be within the reach of all.

The discipline and instruction are of the highest order, the boy is taught to work from right motives, every proper effort is made for his comfort and happiness, and the fact is never lost sight of, that the development upon right lines of the boy's character, is of as much importance as proficiency in studies, and this is more readily done, as the school is not so large in numbers, but that the boy must come into intimate personal relationship with the principal and instructors.

The various members of the teaching force are men and women of much natural ability, broad and thorough scholarship, and bring to their work an enkindling enthusiasm that awakes quick response in the youth before them. The discipline of such a school is stimulating and not repressive, stirring up to the doing of what is right and good, and only negative in a slight and lessening degree. A semi-military training has long been found most helpful in the formation of habits of punctuality, neatness and promptness. The daily drill gives physical exercise of the best sort, and the management makes its discipline a means to an end, and the performance of duty never becomes in its sight mechanical.

The academy makes an especial point of its manual training, and gives a course covering two years' work, strictly modern and up-to-date. The wood shop is fully equipped with benches, each one being supplied with a complete set of tools, and lathes for both wood and iron work.

The general course of study covers four years of work with a preparatory course for younger students. It includes the studies taught in the public schools up to the eighth grade, with the addition of a year in beginning Latin. It gives much attention to a reading course, which is intended to develop a taste for good reading. It has produced most satisfactory results.

A marked feature of the academy is its cadet organization, representing as it does the very best educational ideas of the day along this line, and subject to such improvement as the experience of similar schools elsewhere may suggest.

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 GEORGE D. CLARK.

Should the reader ask for the name of a representative old timer of western Nebraska, who has spent many years of his life in the building up of a farm and home in a country where but a few years ago there was a vast wilderness, and who is familiar with the early growth and development of this section, we would mention George D. Clark as a typical westerner, a man of sterling character and energetic force of will, who has helped to make the history of this locality. Mr. Clark now resides in section 25, township 31, range 49, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen and associates.

Mr. Clark was born in St. Lawrence county, New York state, in 1852. His parents lived on the banks of the St. Lawrence river, the

father being a tanner and harnessmaker by trade, who died after settling in Illinois, during the Civil war. The mother was Katherine Wilson, and both parents were of mixed nationality, of English and Irish stock. Our subject grew up in his native state until he was sixteen years of age, following farm work, and then learned the harnessmaker's trade after his father, and continued at that work for thirty years off and on. During his younger years Mr. Clark was quite an extensive traveler, having been all along the Pacific coast and the western states, and did not live long at any one place up to the year 1886, then came to Nebraska and settled in Dawes county. He located on a farm fifteen miles south of Chadron, and remained until proving up, then moved to his present place, taking this as a homestead, and also proved up on it. Here he went through pioneer experiences, witnessing the drouth periods, although he was more fortunate than many of his neighbors in that he never had a total failure of his crops, and was always able to make a comfortable living, besides constantly improving his place and building up his home and farm. He has been most successful in his different ventures, and steadily added to his possessions, now owning a ranch of eight hundred and eighty acres, and is engaged principally in stock raising, running a large number of cattle and horses. He does mixed farming, and finds time to still follow his trade as harnessmaker a little here at home.

In 1875 Mr. Clark was married to Isabelle Colton, whose father, Benjamin F. Colton, was a farmer in Michigan. In 1888 Mrs. Clark died, leaving a family of two children: Hattie and Frank. Mr. Clark was married again in 1903 to Mrs. Elizabeth Allen and has one child by the second marriage, namely: George Edward. Mrs. Clark had six children by her first marriage: Daisy, Joe, Fred, Fay, Margreta and Vernon.

Mr. Clark has always taken an active interest in local and county politics, and served his district in different capacities since locating here. He is a staunch Republican.

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#### P. A. NORTON.

Mr. Norton, one of the prominent citizens of North Platte, Nebraska, has been associated with the commerial interests of this locality for many years. He is an old settler in western Nebraska, and is well-known and highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Norton is a native of Cook county, Illinois, and is a son of Philip Norton, who was a

contractor connected with the building of the Union Pacific railway on the line which runs out of Omaha, constructed in 1865-'66 and '67, also in building this line further west. He died at Ogden, December 1st, in 1882, having been a contractor on the short line up to the time of his death, and having worked at this business nearly all his life. He was a native of Tipperary, Ireland, and came to this country when a youth, with his wife, who was Elizabeth Sheldona, born in England. Our subject was reared in Illinois, and on reaching his twenty-first year obtained employment with the Northwestern Railway Company, traveling all over the western part of the country, and was with the Union Pacific railway from 1874 to 1876. He continued at this work for several years, and in 1881 located in North Platte, where he has resided ever since. For four years he was foreman of the roundhouse in North Platte, and in 1887 was made engineer, in which position he has been successful and faithfully served the road. He has a splendid record in this capacity, and in all the time he was with the railway company never had an accident to his train.

Mr. Norton was married at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1880 to Miss Lizzie Holden, a native of Iowa City, daughter of James and Ann Murphy Holden, of that place, her father having been born in County Mayo, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Norton have one son, Philip James, who is connected with the Union Pacific railroad, holding a responsible position in the company's shops at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mr. Norton is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at North Platte, also the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Maccabees. He belongs to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, George W. Vrooman Lodge No. 88, of North Platte.

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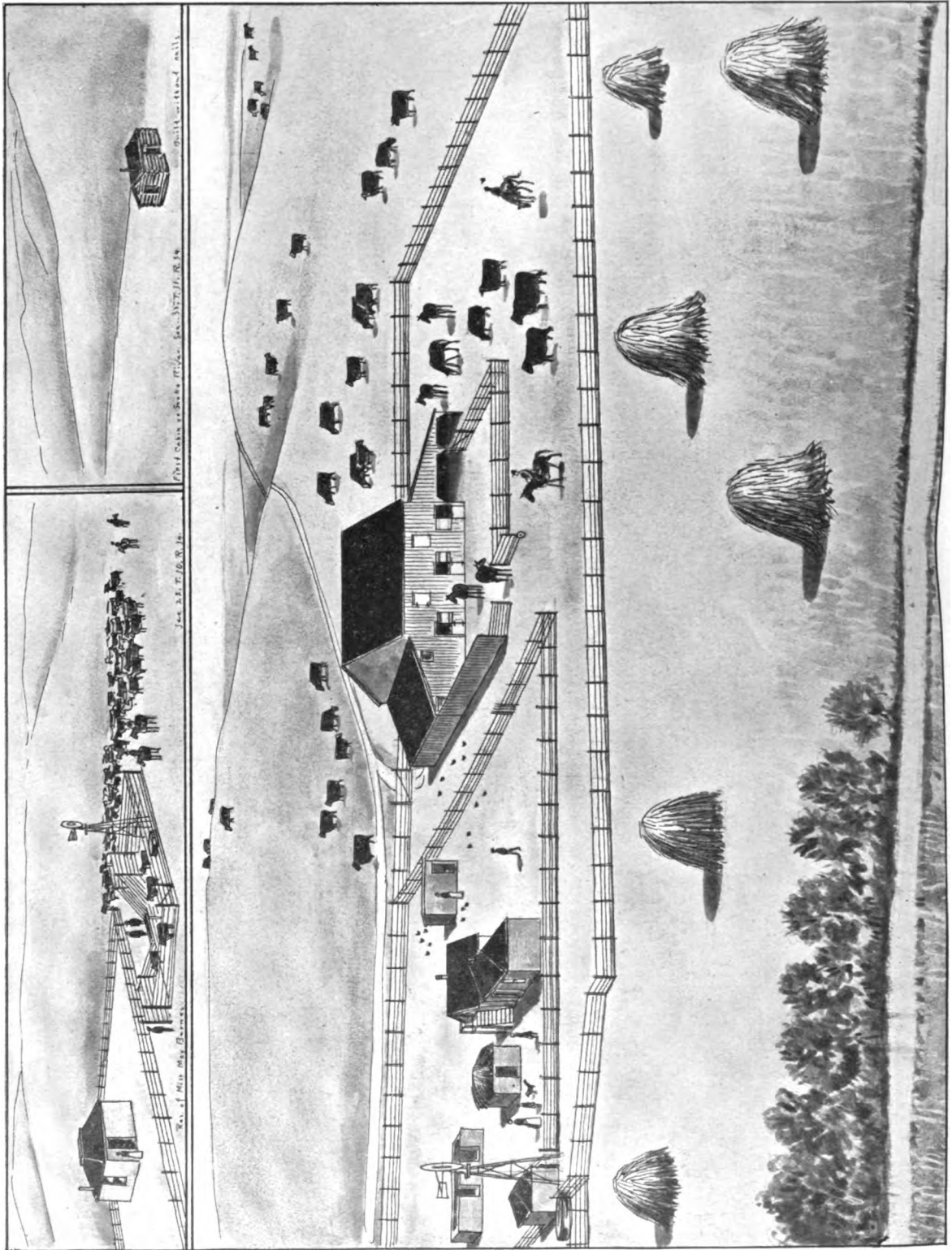
#### CARL HEUMIER.

Carl Heumier, a well-known ranchman and farmer of Sioux county, Nebraska, resides on section 21, township 32, range 54, where he is the owner of a valuable estate.

Mr. Heumier was born in Wilstock, Brandenburg, Germany, in 1852. His father was a spinner and weaver in the woolen factory in that town, and Carl grew up in his native town and worked as a day laborer and teamster to help support the family. When he came of age he entered the German army and served the regular three years required by the laws of the country.

In 1879 Mr. Heumier was married to Car-





RESIDENCE OF DAN BARNES.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

oline Gundlough, born and reared in the same town with our subject, and daughter of Fritz Gundlough, who was a day laborer and sheep herder; her mother's name was Sofa (Schrader) Gundlough.

In 1883 Mr. Heumier came to America, accompanied by his family. After landing in New York city he came directly west to Wisconsin, where he settled on a farm in Rock county and worked rented land for a number of years. Our subject first came to Sioux county in 1889, locating on "gumbo" land near Adelia. There he passed through many hard experiences, working out in the Black Hills in order to make a living as he had a hard time to get his farm in shape to raise crops, and the hard years came on when he had several failures and was at last compelled to give it up altogether. In 1894 he came to his present location, built a log house and started to improve his farm, also hauling cord wood and sold it to help keep his family. He opened up six acres of land around which he built a pole fence the first year, and his first crop on this was hailed out, but he did not give up heart and determined to win out and stick to his farm. He had a tough struggle, but has finally made a success of his undertaking by his perseverance and energy, and is proprietor of six hundred acres of land, seventy-five of which are cultivated and the balance in grass and pasture, also having a nice tract of timbered land. The place is well fitted up with good substantial buildings and all improvements, and his farm is one of the best kept and best equipped in his locality.

Mr. Heumier is the father of fifteen children, the three eldest born in Germany; four have died, leaving the following: Elvena, Augusta, Frieda, Annie, Martha, Minnie, Louisa, Charlie, Sofa, Herman and Marie.

The subject of this sketch is one of the old settlers of his community and has devoted much of his time and energy to building up and improving his locality, being an earnest advocate of good roads and assisting materially in every movement along these lines, and he has also aided greatly in establishing good schools in this section.

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#### DAN BARNES.

Among the men who came to Cherry county in the early days to build up a home in a new country where the opportunities were many for gathering a comfortable fortune, the gentleman above named was one of the first to settle in this section. He has spent many years in this work and now enjoys the fruits of his

industry and perseverance, highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Barnes was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, February 19, 1864. His father, Alvah E. Barnes, was a farmer of American stock, native of Ohio. When our subject was a young lad the family, consisting of five children, moved to Butler county, Iowa, where he was reared and educated. At the age of twenty years he started in farming on rented land, continuing for two years, then came to Nebraska, locating in Cherry county. He first settled on the Snake river, building a log house without nails, but only stayed there for two years and then took up his present farm as a homestead. During these first years he saw many ups and downs of pioneer life and often was compelled to work out in the neighborhood of his home, receiving seventy-five cents a day for his labor, and glad to get this, to support his family, and tide them through hard times. He hauled posts and bones for thirty miles to Cody, selling the posts for eight cents each in trade and only half that in cash. He had three horses and forty cents in cash when he first landed here, and with this start has gradually forged ahead until he now owns a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, a large portion of which is hay and grazing land, on which he runs two hundred and twenty-five head of cattle, all full-blooded Aberdeen Angus. He deals exclusively in this breed, and his herd is conceded to be the best to be found in all western Nebraska. This herd has been under careful breeding for the past twenty-three years, and was first started in this county by Mr. John Shores. There are some exceptionally fine animals among them, and all are the very best of their kind. Mr. Barnes also keeps quite a number of horses. His place is well improved with fences and good buildings, his barn alone costing \$850, built in 1903. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Barnes was married April 2, 1885, to Miss Ida Blaufuss, a native of Wisconsin, born in 1863. Her parents were both born and reared in Germany, coming to this country when quite young. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have a family of six children, all of whom were born and raised in this state. They are named as follows: May, Cecil, Alta, Bryan, Mildred and Clare. The main ambition of Mr. Barnes is to give his children a good education, and intends to do this even though he has no fortune to leave them. They are all bright and intelligent, eager to please their father in his wishes, and have always attended school regularly, riding seven miles to their district

school. One daughter is a teacher, devoting part of her time to this occupation and also attending school herself. Their home is in section 29, township 30, range 34.

Mr. Barnes has never taken any active part in politics although he has always voted the Democratic ticket. He is a member of the Cody lodge of Modern Woodmen of America. During the early days they had to go thirty-five miles for their mail and once during the Indian uprising the brothers did not have enough cash to buy a stamp to write an assuring letter home.

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### ISAAC N. MILLS.

Isaac N. Mills is an active and pushing farmer and business man whose home is on Buffalo Flats, Brown county, Nebraska, and whose name is closely associated with the settlement of this part of the state where his fortunes have been cast these many years. He was born on a farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1854, where his father, Alonzo Benjamin Mills, who came of German blood, was engaged in the practice of medicine. His mother, Helena Scott Mills, was born in Germany, and accompanied her parents to this country when she was twenty-one years old. The parents died on board the ship while making the voyage to this land of hope and promise, leaving the girl to proceed alone. Here she married and became the mother of a family of five boys, of whom Isaac N. was the second member. When he was five years old the family removed to Ohio, and there the husband and father died nine years later, having in the meantime spent several years in Pennsylvania, and going a second time to Ohio. After his death the bereaved widow returned again to Pennsylvania, where young Isaac was reared to farming and lumbering. While still a young man he became a husband and the head of a home by his marriage July 5, 1877, to Miss Martha Johnson, a native of New York state. Her father, Russell Johnson, was a blacksmith and served in the United States army, where he received injuries which caused his death in after years. To Mr. and Mrs. Mills have come two children, Elton, born in 1880, who married Florence Ferguson, and Alonzo, born in 1883, who married Grace Rickard.

Mr. Mills came west in the fall of 1879, and spent some time looking over the country and seeking a desirable location before concluding where to cast his lot. For some time he was in Merritt county, Nebraska, where he lost

five horses. Finally he decided to locate on what was known as Buffalo Flats, in Brown county, and in the north west quarter of section 2 he planted a tree that he might know the spot on his return. This was done while he was on a freighting expedition through the country, and was received with laughter by his companions who insisted that he would never see either the tree or the land again. Events proved, however, the wisdom of the action, and in due time the spot selected became the home of himself and family.

Mr. Mills made a temporary settlement on Long Pine creek, and there he got out the logs for his first house and barn. For three weeks he lived on the creek without bread, but secured plenty of game and had a delightful time in certain ways. In this rough and ready life he was able to take care of himself, and though he slept the first three nights under a tree, he presently put a little comfort and order around him, and made ready for the coming of his family in May, 1880. The log house was still unfurnished, and was lacking windows, but it made the beginning of a home for the family. His first motive power in the shape of teams was two bulls and a donkey, and when he attended the first Fourth of July celebration at Ainsworth he drove a bull and a cow for a team. At one time he was entirely without money, and all the food he had in the house of any kind was one batch of biscuits. He had done some work, and was promised his pay, but was disappointed in receiving it. He betook himself to the woods, where he cut cedar poles, and hauled them to Long Pine, where their sale enabled him to buy provisions for the family. Mr. Mills worked in the stock yards at Long Pine during the fall seasons that followed prolonged drouths. Then he bought an old threshing machine, and made some capital in operating it through the country. In 1880 he was engaged in freighting from Columbus to Albion, Nebraska, and while engaged in this line took the contract of moving a six thousand eight hundred pound safe to the latter point. This work he did in two days, making his first night at Genoa, and reaching Albion at the closing of the second day out, thus completing most successfully what he recalls as a terrific job. Before the safe was put in place it went through the floor into the cellar of the building in which it was first located.

It is pleasant to note that after many hard and laborious years, whose constant strain is that of privation and denial, Mr. Mills and his excellent family have now entered into the enjoyment of prosperity on a very liberal

scale. His farm comprises some two hundred acres, and with the exception of about fifteen acres it is all under cultivation. A modern and attractive farm house has replaced the old log and sod structure, which still stands and is used for a blacksmith shop. In 1907 he purchased a three-hundred-acre farm a short distance northwest of Long Pine on which his younger son is installed as manager. As would appear from the above narrative Mr. Mills is one of the oldest settlers of this region, and is widely known as a man of unbending integrity, unwearied industry, and a kind and neighborly heart. He is Independent in politics and with the family is a member of the Methodist church.

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#### JACOB DRESSLAR.

The place of the nativity of Jacob Dresslar is Morgan county, Indiana, where his birth occurred January 15, 1870. His father, John Dresslar, was of old American stock, but his far away ancestors came from Germany. Our subject's mother was born in Ohio and her name, in youth, was Martha McCoy.

Until he was fifteen years of age, Jacob Dresslar spent his life in Indiana, but at that time in his history the family came west to Nebraska, locating in Dawson county on land near Overton. This was in 1885, and they were among the earliest settlers. Here the family lived for four years, and then in 1889, moved to Keith county. Our subject remained with his father until 1896 and helped to build up the home place, where his father died in March, 1904. The father was prominent among the old settlers and was widely known and esteemed. With the aid of his sons he built up a beautiful home place, five miles south of Brule.

Our subject took a homestead in August, 1893, and commenced operations for himself, and here he resides today in a fine large modern house with capacious barns and outbuildings surrounding. He experienced the usual hard times of the pioneer, witnessed the years of drouth, when the crops were almost total losses, and sometimes it was very discouraging; but he did not give up. He kept hard at it, improving his land and made a success, finally proving up on his homestead. He has a splendidly improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, with a good house, barns and sheds; has a fine grove of forest trees, and the farm all well fenced. He has a fine orchard of cherry trees, twenty-five in number, one hundred plum trees, and has raspberries,

and other small fruits in abundance. All this had been done by our subject's own work and is due to his good management. He has certainly done his share toward the advancement of the community in which he has lived.

Jacob Dresslar was married, December 29, 1898, to Miss Emma Dorran, born in Braidwood, Grundy county, Illinois, a daughter of John Dorran, a native of England and a pioneer of Dawson county, Nebraska, where he located in the early days of 1879. He served during the Civil war in the Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Her mother, Harriet Raney, was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Dresslar have had two children: Howard and Thelma.

Jacob Dresslar is a Republican in his political affiliations and belief and has served his party in several official positions. He has been deputy assessor for several terms and has proven a capable and efficient public officer.

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#### HORACE E. GARDNER.

Horace E. Gardner, who ranks foremost among the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, is one of the prosperous farmers and ranchers and owner of a valuable estate in section 31, township 21, range 33, Hooker county, and highly esteemed as a worthy citizen of his community.

Mr. Gardner was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, in 1857. His parents were Americans of German descent and followed farming all their lives. Our subject was reared in his native county until he was fifteen years of age, then went into the lumber woods in northern Michigan and spent three winters employed in the lumber camps. In 1875 he emigrated to Iowa and secured employment with Chas. C. Orr & Co., in Sioux City, and remained there up to 1883, when he went to southeastern Kansas and spent about one year. He then went back to Sioux City and worked for his former employers, Orr & Company. In 1884 he came to Nebraska, landing in Valentine, and freighted from there to Gordon, finally settling on a farm eight miles northwest of that town. His first house was built of sods, and he began to farm. He soon became owner of several ox teams, with which he broke up a tract of land, and in due time proved up on his claim, then returned to Sioux City and remained for two years.

Our subject first came to Hooker county in 1901, settling on a ranch situated twenty



miles southwest of Mullen. This contains four hundred and eighty acres of good range land, and is located in what is called "Antelope Valley." He farms one hundred and ten acres, and uses the balance for ranching purposes, engaging in stock raising to quite an extent.

In 1879 Mr. Gardner was married to Miss Mehetabel Sager, at Sioux City, Iowa. Her father, Abraham Sager, was a farmer during his early life, and later was heavily interested in the lumber business at Wakesma, state of Michigan. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, who are named as follows: Fred, Sadie, Dennis, Mary, James and Oliver D.

The family have a pleasant home, and are well liked in their community. Mr. Gardner is a Bryan Democrat.

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#### W. A. FLOREY.

W. A. Florey, known throughout the community in which he resides as an energetic and prosperous farmer and stock raiser, lives on his valuable estate situated on section 12, township 34, range 41, which lies on the line between Sheridan and Cherry county.

Mr. Florey was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, in 1860, and was raised on a farm there. His father, George Anthony Florey, served in Company K, Thirty-fifth Wisconsin Regiment, during the Civil war, being enlisted for three years of service; was taken ill and died at Chicago while on the way home, where he was going to recruit his health, in the year 1864. He left a widow and two children, of whom our subject is the older. Our subject started in life for himself at the age of twenty, working in a cheese factory, and followed that work for several years, until he left Wisconsin for Nebraska. One year was spent in railroad work then he came to Sheridan county, settling in the locality in which he still resides, in 1886. He took a homestead and proved up, adding more land as he was able. His mother and younger brother came to Nebraska and they all lived together until the latter's health failed and he was obliged to return to Wisconsin, but the mother still lives here with her son, W. A. Mr. Florey farmed during the dry years, but his crops failed several seasons and when he was unable to raise enough seed for the following years stopped trying to farm and started in the cattle business. He gradually got ahead, and now owns one thousand seven hundred acres of land, and cuts annually about eight hundred tons of hay on his farm, having more hay than range land. He runs three hundred head of cattle and just enough horses to

handle his ranch. He has a good set of buildings on his place, and his land is fenced, and altogether he is proprietor of a fine estate, and is doing well in his work. When he first came here he had nothing to start with, and is well content with what he has done.

In 1903 Mr. Florey was married to Miss Hattie Wells, born in Manchester, Iowa, in 1873. Mrs. Florey is a daughter of Henry and Sarah Mervin Wells, both New Yorkers, who settled in Iowa many years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Florey have two children: Leonard W. Florey, born on June 20, 1904; and Elizabeth, born April 10, 1907.

Although Mr. Florey has never had time to devote to taking an active part in politics, he takes a commendable interest in local affairs of importance to his locality, and lends his influence for the benefit of the citizens of his community. He is a Republican.

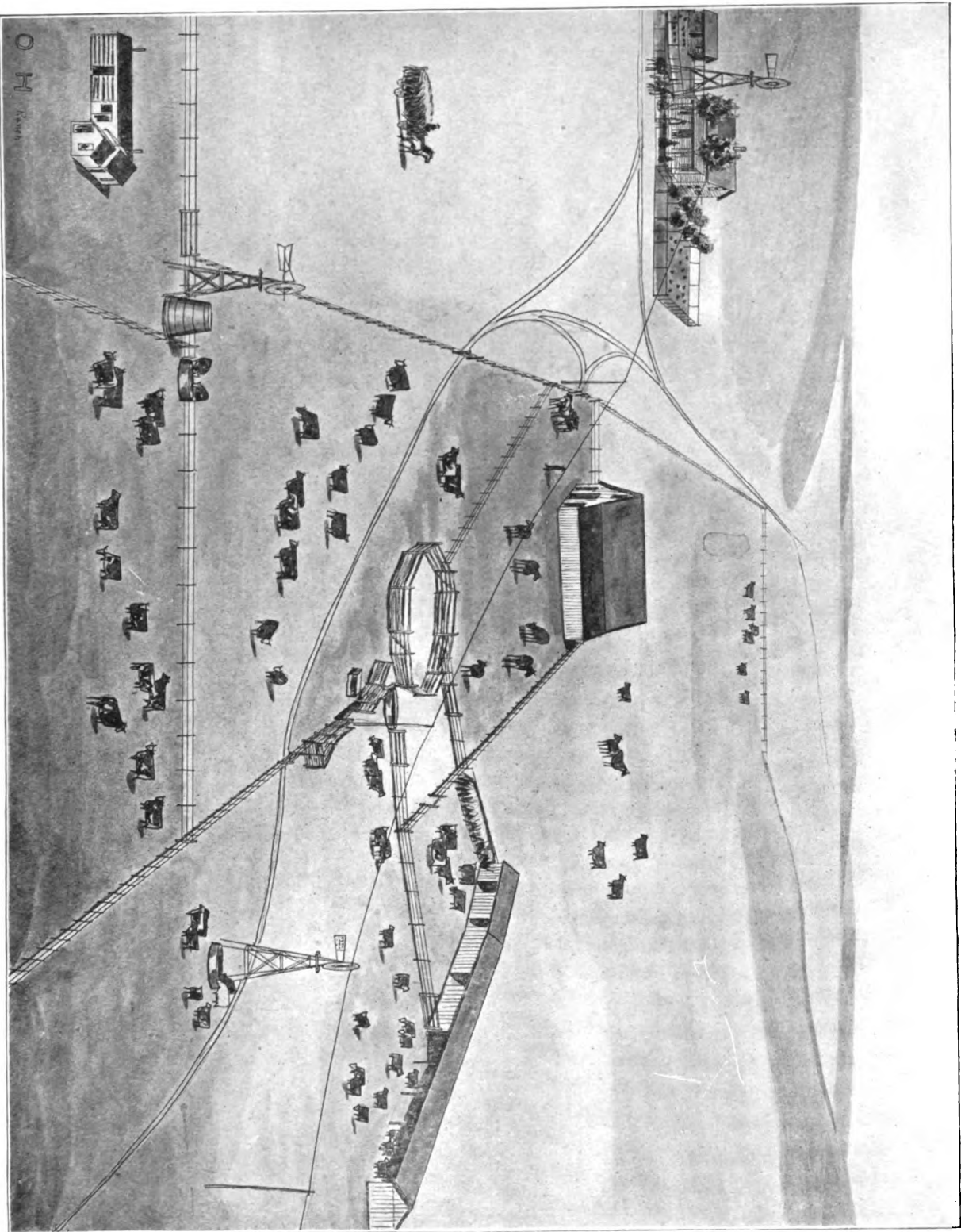
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#### GEORGE CHRISTOPHER.

George Christopher, now a resident of section 21, township 31, range 29, belongs to a race that has made most valuable contributions to the great volume of American citizenship, not so numerous because the home country is but a little tract of the earth, but industrious, frugal, upright and intelligent to a high degree. How much the west and northwest owe to the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, for the great flood of God-fearing and labor loving emigrants, may never be told, but the debt is very great, and the student of social and industrial conditions in those vast domains of the republic will never hesitate to acknowledge.

George Christopher was born in Lancaster county, Nebraska, July 2, 1876, and is a son of James and Marie (Hansen) Christopher, both of whom were born and bred in Denmark. The father came to the United States in 1864, sailing from Liverpool in the steamship America, landing at Portland, Maine. Coming west he was among the oldest settlers of Lancaster county, where he appeared in 1874. He helped on the construction of the first postoffice building in the city of Lincoln, where he is now living retired from active life, but having a keen and vivid memory of these far away days and scenes.

Mr. Christopher, the subject of this writing, remained at home, and participated in the family fortunes until he reached the age of twenty-one years, when he struck out in life for himself, and spent the ensuing three years in farm work in Gage county. In 1896



O. H. Ames

RANCH-RESIDENCE OF GEORGE CHRISTOPHER,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



he was married to Miss Elmina Ellis, whose sister is the wife of Aaron VanWinkle, a sketch of whom appears on another page. Paul, Ray and George are the young children who have come to bless this union.

The Christopher family removed to Cherry county in 1906, where the husband and father has speedily become one of the most important land owners and operators of the entire county. He bought outright sixteen hundred and eighty acres of land, has leased three sections of school land, and has a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres, making in all forty-two hundred and forty acres under his management. On this vast tract of land he is branching out quite extensively in stock raising, having at the present writing (1908) about eight hundred and fifty head of cattle, with one hundred and twenty head of horses. Here he has a good house, large and roomy barns, and a cattle shed three hundred and fifty feet long. Windmills of the most modern type provide ample water for the stock, and everything on the ranch seems to meet the most critical inspection. A fine view of the place is shown on another page of this work.

Mr. Christopher is a Republican, and has attended several county and state conventions of that party as a prominent and working delegate. While in Lancaster county he was a leading member of the party and his position as a representative Republican has been conceded in Cherry county from the moment of his arrival. He is a member of the Masonic order, affiliating with the lodge at Valentine.

#### BISHOP ANSON ROGERS GRAVES.

Rev. Anson Rogers Graves, Protestant Episcopal bishop of the missionary diocese of Kearney, comprising western Nebraska, was consecrated January 1, 1890, and has given eighteen years of his life work earnestly and successfully to this diocese. He was not discouraged by the great financial depression of 1892-'97, nor by the crop failures when from eighty to ninety thousand people left Nebraska. Happily, in recent years of bounteous harvests thousands of this number have returned, and are eagerly settling on the fertile lands of this section of the country. Above all else, the splendid school for boys, the Kearney Military Academy, founded by Bishop Graves in 1892 and carried by his efforts through the disastrous years that followed, is now blessed with great prosperity, so that

in addition to the fine buildings of the institution already erected, the year 1907 sees another building erected, entirely fire-proof and costing over fifty thousand dollars.

Anson Rogers Graves was born in Wells, Rutland county, Vermont, April 13, 1842. He worked his way through college, and was graduated at Hobart College in 1866 with the degree of A. M., and LL.D. was conferred on him by Hobart College and D. D. by Racine College. He married in April, 1877, Mary Totten Watrous, of Brattleboro, Vermont. He was assistant pastor in Grace church, Brooklyn; rector of St. Luke's, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska; assistant at Gethsemane church, Minneapolis, Minnesota; rector of All Saints, Northfield, Minnesota; All Saints, Littleton, New Hampshire; St. Peters, Bennington, Vermont, and rector for six years of Gethsemane church, Minneapolis. Bishop Graves is the author of various sermons and tracts, and is a man of superior education, greatly esteemed by all.

When Bishop Graves entered on his duties in this state, in 1890, there were three hundred and seventy-five communicants in his diocese. There are now over two thousand four hundred here. Then six clergymen carried on the work, now there are fifteen; then twelve churches, now thirty; church property was then estimated at forty thousand dollars, and now reaches three hundred thousand dollars; then there was no school here, and now we have the splendid academy with eighty thousand dollars in buildings and thirty-six thousand dollars endowment.

Bishop Grave's family consists of the following members: Rev. Fred D. Graves, of Alliance, Nebraska; Elliott V. Graves, instructor in athletics and manual training in Lawrence University, Wisconsin, who was on the football team of the Nebraska University, at Lincoln, and well known throughout the country. Margaret married to Rev. G. G. Bennett; Gertrude, David W. and Paul.

The bishop's duties are to oversee the work of the Episcopal church in his district, secure clergymen for the work and see that they are paid, secure funds in the east for schools, endowments and missionary work, hold the church properties and see that they are cared for, visit all the stations where work is carried on once or twice a year and look after vacancies when they occur. In speaking of his work the bishop said: "During my episcopate I have baptized three hundred and eight, confirmed three thousand five hundred and forty-five, married twenty-two couples; officiated at twenty-four burials, consecrated

six churches and dedicated many chapels, admitted thirty candidates for holy orders, ordained fourteen deacons, admitted one deaconess, ordained thirteen priests, received or found working in the field sixty-four clergymen, have lost by death, removal or deposition forty-four.

"Since I have been bishop there have been in our district 4,000 baptisms; 2,855 confirmations; 841 marriages; 1,328 burials by our clergy; 40,765 public services; and the money raised for all purposes \$317,596. For a district of thinly scattered people with only four parishes barely self-supporting, and not one really wealthy churchman in it, we think this is a good showing."

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#### THOMAS DOYLE.

Energetic efforts and intelligence go hand in hand in the building up of one's fortune, regardless of the vocation to which they are applied. One of the well-developed and highly improved estates of Sioux county is that owned and operated by Thomas Doyle, who resides in section 21, township 32, range 55, and is the possessor of nine hundred and sixty acres of land. The comfortable circumstances enjoyed by this gentleman have been brought about by the exercise of judicious labor and painstaking care, and every appointment of his place bespeaks good taste and refinement.

Thomas Doyle is a native of Tipperary county, Ireland, born in 1849, his parents spending their entire lives in that country. He grew to manhood in his native county, following farming as an occupation, and when he reached his thirtieth year determined to seek his fortune in the new world, so took passage for America, landing in New York city in July, 1881. He came west immediately, settling first in Dubuque, Iowa, spending about three years in that city. He then came to Nebraska and secured work at railroad construction, going into the Black Hills, and from there to Casper, Wyoming. He later traveled through Washington and Idaho, but made no permanent settlement, and finally returned to Nebraska in 1891, taking up a homestead in section 17, township 32, range 54. In 1880 he bought his present farm where he still lives, which is situated on West Hat creek. He at once began to improve his farm, put up substantial buildings and breaking up land for crops, and while he went through many hardships during the first few years, has succeeded splendidly. He has the ranch all fenced, and about one hundred acres under cultivation,

also has plenty of range and hay land. He is engaged in stock raising on a large scale, and is doing well, operating his property along progressive lines, and is recognized as one of the well-to-do ranchmen of his county. The place is well supplied with good running water, and there is considerable timber on it.

Mr. Doyle was married in 1880 to Catherine Dellaney, and two children were born to this union, but he had the sad misfortune to loose both children and mother in 1881.

Mr. Doyle was married in 1902, the second time, to Mary Spannin, born in America of German descent, and they are the parents of three children, named as follows: Kate, Mary and Thomas. The family occupy a pleasant home and enjoy the respect and esteem of all in their community. Our subject has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and is among the honored pioneers of this locality, and no man, from what the people say, stands more on his word and integrity than does Thomas Doyle.

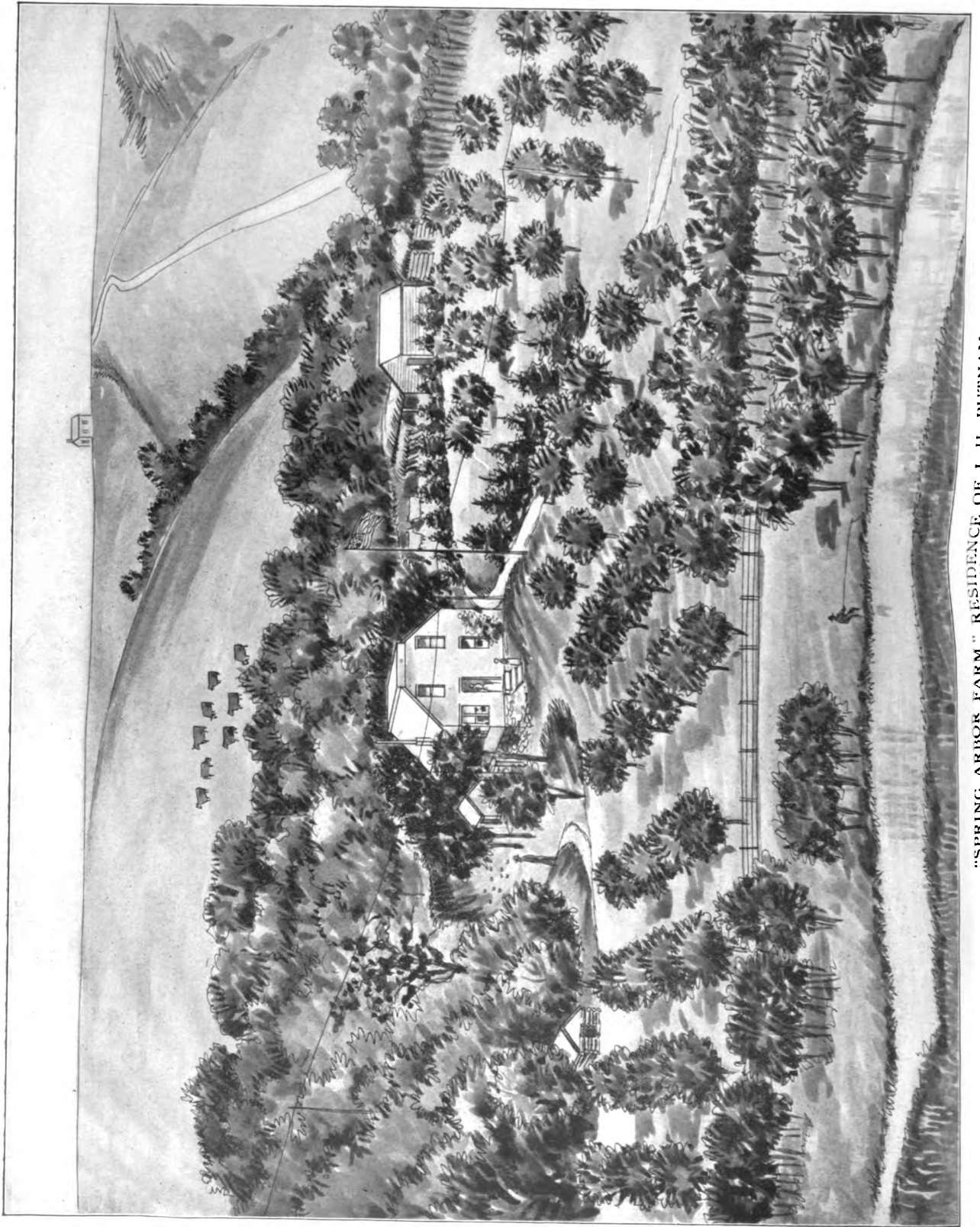
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#### JAMES McClymont.

James McClymont, of Industry township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is one of the most successful and prosperous agriculturists in this locality. He resides in section 5, township 5, range 19, where he has built up a fine farm and home, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. McClymont is a native of Knox county, Illinois, born in 1853, of Scotch descent, his father being Peter McClymont. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1889 and located on the farm where he now lives in 1889, originally purchasing a half section of land in section 5, township 5, range 19, and later adding the balance of this section and also one hundred and sixty acres which lies across the road from his place, making a fine farm of eight hundred acres. All of this is first-class farming land, and he is engaged in mixed farming and stock raising. He has been very successful in his grain crops, and is progressive in his methods of farming. He also is widely known as keeping only the best grades of stock, having a drove of from seventy-five to one hundred good grade Poland China hogs, and fifty to seventy-five white-faced cattle of the Hereford breed. Each winter he feeds and ships a few carloads of stock which nets him a good round sum. He keeps about twenty-five head of horses, preferring the full-blooded Percherons, and raises a number of fine colts. He is known throughout the





"SPRING ARBOR FARM," RESIDENCE OF J. H. PUTNAM,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



county as a successful, clear-headed and intelligent citizen, always casting his influence for good.

Mr. McClymont was married in March, 1878, to Miss Isabelle McDowell.

Mr. McClymont is now serving as district supervisor, comprising the townships of Industry, Laird and Rock Falls. He was elected in 1905, and is a faithful public official, always looking to the interests of the community which he stands for. He is a Republican, and has been a member of the school board for the last nineteen years. He has also been a deacon in the Congregational church at Loomis.

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### JOHN H. PUTNAM.

The gentleman here named is the oldest settler in Rock or Brown counties, and is well known throughout this section of the country as a successful and prosperous agriculturist. He has been the foremost among the pioneers who have aided materially in the upbuilding of the commercial and social interests of the region, and enjoys a deservedly high standing as a citizen.

Mr. Putnam was born in Clinton county, Michigan, May 7, 1843, and was raised there until 1852, when the family moved to Shiawassee county. His father, William R. Putnam, of good old American stock, was born in New Jersey in about 1810, and died in Michigan in 1881, universally esteemed and respected. There was a family of seven children, of whom our subject was the third member. He went out into the world to make his own way at the age of twenty-one, following farm work for three years in Michigan and Illinois, then taking up contracting and building as a trade. His principal work was building churches, and he did much of this in Iowa, where he located in 1868, remaining there for ten years, eight years of this time at Fort Dodge. In the fall of 1878 he moved to what is now Rock county, then unorganized, settling on a homestead on section 34, township 32, range 20, and lives on that place at the present time, to which he has given the name of Spring Arbor Farm. When he first came here there was not a family on Long Pine creek, the country was a wilderness, wild game was plentiful and as trapper and hunter he killed sixty-eight deer himself. He was here during the pony raids and cattle rustling, but was fortunate in never having lost any stock, although he had some heavy losses by drouths. He relates an interesting anecdote of an attempt of the famous Doc Middleton to steal his team while camp-

ing one night some distance from home. He and his father-in-law witnessed the hard winter of 1880-'81, but got along without receiving any assistance from the government. He stuck to his place through all the pioneer experiences that fell to the lot of the early settler, and now has a fine farm of seven hundred and sixty acres, all lying on Pine creek. One hundred and fifty acres is under cultivation, with fifteen acres including three of orchard that have been subjected to irrigation. He keeps sixty head of cattle and fifteen horses, besides other stock. His farm is splendidly improved with good buildings and fences, and he is numbered among the progressive and leading citizens of his community. At present he has partially retired from active farming, the business being carried on by his son.

While living in Iowa Mr. Putnam was married to Miss Sarah Brinckerhoff, of Grand Junction, whose parents, natives of New York, were early settlers in Rock county; both have since joined the great majority. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Putnam: Ira Wayne, Bessie, now Mrs. Charles Sawyer; William Dayton, Alonzo B., who runs the home farm; Clem and Agnes.

In 1883 Mr. Putnam organized the Camp-meeting Association and served as president a number of years. He is deeply interested in educational affairs, and contributed the labor to erect the school near his home. Here he organized a Sunday school, the first west of O'Neil, and acted as superintendent for twenty years. For four years Mr. Putnam has been president of the Agricultural Society of Rock county, and takes an active interest in all affairs of importance to the interests of his locality. He is an independent voter, and while in Iowa he was a member of the Congregational church.

A view of "Spring Arbor Farm" will be found on one of the illustrated pages of this volume.

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### THOMAS SHIPMAN.

Perseverance and diligence are the stepping stones to success, and these characteristics, supplemented by honesty and good citizenship, are the leading attributes possessed by the gentleman herein named. Mr. Shipman has been a resident of Dawes county, Nebraska, since the early settlement of this section, and has built up a comfortable farm and home here, and his name is closely identified with the upbuilding of this locality. He is

well known and highly respected throughout his community.

Mr. Shipman was born in Pike county, Illinois, in 1862. His father, Alfred Shipman, was a farmer, of American stock, he having married Miss Almira Durrell, of Ohio. Our subject was reared in his native state, attending the country school and helping his parents in the farm work, until he reached the age of eighteen. Then the whole family moved to Iowa in 1880, and in 1884 he came to Dawes county, with a party of three others, from Illinois, all traveling by team. Mr. Shipman located on section 27, township 32, range 52, and put up his first building, which was a log shack, and here "batched it" for seven years, driving ox teams, breaking up his land and building up his farm. He proved up on his pre-emption, and took a homestead in about 1888, proving up on that also, and remaining for several years. In 1904 he moved to his present farm in section 28, township 32, range 52. Here he has everything in first-class shape, with good buildings, fences and all machinery for use on his farm. The place consists of four hundred and eighty acres and he engages extensively in stock raising, besides cultivating one hundred and fifty acres. In the spring of 1907 he had a fire which destroyed his stable, corrals and feed, but he is now planning to build other barns, etc. He has been unfortunate in having been burned out three times since settling here, the fires being caused by sparks from railroad engines.

In 1892 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Barbara Cornell, daughter of Levi Cornell, an old settler in this county, now residing in the state of Washington. To Mr. and Mrs. Shipman have been born the following children: Harold, Ethel, Oliver, Hazel and Genevieve.

In politics Mr. Shipman is not party bound, but votes for the best man running.

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#### NICHOLAS SIMONS.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentleman herein named has acquired a well developed farm, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming surrounded by his family and a large circle of warm friends. Mr. Simons resides on section 21, township 34, range 23, Norden precinct, and has the satisfaction of knowing that his success has come to him by his own unaided efforts.

Mr. Simons was born in Fulton county,

New York, March 25, 1861. His father, Peter Simons, was a farmer by occupation, who came to this country from France, his native land, in about 1850, and died in New York in 1864. There were four children in his father's family, and he was the third in order of birth. When he reached the age of thirteen years his mother died, and as they had no relatives to look after them, the children were compelled to make their own way, and our subject worked on farms at times, also worked in the cotton factories, tobacco factories, and peddled goods through the country. At the age of nineteen he came west, locating in Crawford county, Iowa, where he followed farming for several years, and in 1886 came to Nebraska, settling in Keya Paha county. He at once put up a board shanty, and the following year built a sod house containing two rooms, in which the family lived for several years. The first years were hard ones to them, and oftentimes they endured privations and hardships, going through the drouth periods, when he was obliged to work out by the day to make a living. One year he put in fifteen acres of wheat, planting it four times, and each time the wind storms which swept the country would blow his seed out of the ground. He had a few head of stock, and managed to get along until the better years came on. His farm now consists of five hundred and sixty acres, and he engages in mixed farming and stock raising, mostly the latter. He has built a substantial house, barn and hen house, besides has wells and windmill with plenty of good water, and a fine grove of trees nicely growing. In 1901 he lost his health through overwork, and since then has not been able to do any hard labor.

Mr. Simons is a strong Republican, and although he takes a keen interest in local affairs, could never be induced to accept office. He has been active in helping to build up the schools in his locality, and done his full share in the development of its commercial and educational interests.

Mr. Simons was married April 18, 1883, in Crawford county, to Miss Katherine Sander, daughter of Peter and Gertrude (Peters) Sander, both born in Germany and coming to this country when very young. Mr. and Mrs. Simons are the parents of fourteen children, eleven of whom are living, named as follows: Mary, now Sister Adelia of St. Francis' Convent, Lafayette, Indiana; Annie, wife of William Langer, of Keya Paha county; Nicholas, John, Joseph, Katherine, Charles, George, Matilda, Dorothy and Agnes. Those who died were named Peter, Rose and Leo.

All but two of these children were born on the homestead in Nebraska. Mr. Simons is a Republican in politics and a communicant of the Catholic church.

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#### SIDNEY W. FORD.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a man of industrious habits, progressive and up-to-date in his methods of operating his fine farm, which lies in Madrid precinct, every appointment of which bespeaks his good management and individuality. He is one of the early settlers of Perkins county, and was very influential in shaping the affairs of the region during its development into a farming community.

Sidney W. Ford was born in Jackson county, Illinois, in 1861. His father, James Ford, was a native of Ohio, and he married Mary Paxton, also born and reared in that state. The family settled in Grundy county, Illinois, when Sidney was three years old, and there he grew up on a farm, receiving a limited schooling and being taught at an early age to do all kinds of hard farm work. He started out for himself when a youth of fifteen. Later, at the age of twenty-one, he rented land, remaining there up to 1886, when he came to Nebraska, locating in Perkins county on section 32, township 11, range 37. On coming to this region he shipped his goods to Ogalala, which was his nearest trading post, and drove from that place to his claim. His first dwelling was a frame shanty, and he lived in it for several years, then put up a sod house, steadily improving his farm and getting considerable of the land under cultivation. He was soon hit by the drouths and grasshopper periods, losing several crops from different causes, but remained there up to 1901, succeeding in building up a very productive farm, then came to his present homestead, which is situated on section 4, township 10, range 37. Here he has put on splendid improvements, having a handsome residence, good barns, the place entirely fenced and cross-fenced, and it is considered one of the best equipped ranches in the county. There are about nine hundred and sixty acres all in one piece, and he has two complete sets of buildings, engaging in mixed farming and stock raising.

Mr. Ford was united in marriage at Verona, Illinois, in February, 1883, to Miss Ann Jones, of Welsh descent. Five children have been born to them, who are named as

follows: Simon, Lloyd, Mary, Sarah E. and Minnie.

During his residence in this vicinity Mr. Ford has always manifested a true public spirit and has gained the respect and esteem of his associates through his straightforwardness and sterling character. He has been an important factor in the advancement of his locality. During the construction of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway through Perkins county he lent his aid in building the road.

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#### NELS W. OLSON.

The advantages offered in America for the young man of thrift and enterprise to gain a footing and build for himself a comfortable home and become an honored citizen has induced many sons of the Scandinavian peninsula to emigrate to the new world, and they are now found plying all trades and filling all professions. Agriculture comes in for her full share of these desirable citizens, and Cheyenne county, Nebraska, has many within her borders. The gentleman above named came from Sweden and has gained a high station in Sidney precinct, Cheyenne county, as a prosperous farmer and citizen of sterling character.

Nels W. Olson was born in the province of Skone, in the south part of Sweden, on May 18, 1871, and was reared there to the age of sixteen years. At that time he crossed from Christianstadt to Copenhagen, thence to Hamburg, whence he sailed for Baltimore, landing after a voyage of fifteen days. He located in Lincoln, Nebraska, and remained for one year, working in the track department of the Union Pacific railroad. He then came to Cheyenne county, and for several years after locating in this region worked for the Union Pacific Railway Company, again in the track department. He filed on a homestead in section 14, township 14, range 51, and later removed to section 36, where he now owns one thousand six hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land, and controls one thousand three hundred and sixty acres additional. He has built up a good home and ranch, having splendid buildings of every description and all improvements. Lodge Pole creek runs through the place, which has much fine hay land and twenty acres of alfalfa. He runs about one hundred and fifty cattle and has made a success of his enterprise, and is classed as one of the leading men of his community. Mr. Olson

makes a specialty of fine cattle, and has some splendid specimens of the Hereford breed.

On December 28, 1895, Mr. Olson was married to Miss Tillie Berg, in Laramie City, Wyoming. Of this union four children have been born, named as follows: Oscar Albin, Carl Lubbig, Gustaf Clarence and Annie Elizabeth. Mr. Olson's parents never left their native country, the father dying there in 1899, while the mother is still living. His wife's parents are both deceased. Mr. Olson is a Republican in politics; he was reared in the Lutheran church and affiliates with the Masonic order in Sidney.

#### WILHELM MARTENS.

The gentleman above named is one of the progressive agriculturists of western Nebraska, a hard worker and makes a close study of the soils in this region, although his financial means have not permitted him to carry on the experiments which he feels would eventually prove beneficial to the entire western part of the state. Mr. Martens is held in the highest esteem by all who know him, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a man of superior intellect and ability.

Wilhelm Martens was born in the town of Angern, Germany, in 1852. His father was a woodworker by trade, and lived and died in his native land. Our subject was reared and educated in the old country, receiving a better education than generally fell to the lot of the young German lads in those days, but he was a natural student and eager to absorb knowledge, and his parents were able to allow him to follow his natural inclinations. During his boyhood days he also learned the machinist's trade, and worked in machine shops in different large cities there. He remained in Germany up to 1881, constantly following his trade and keeping up his studies at the same time, and was married there in 1877 to Miss Anna Fehler, daughter of Wilhelm Fehler, a locksmith and manufacturer of weights and scales, also was employed by the German government as scale inspector or tester.

In April of the year 1881, Mr. Martens left his native land and came to America with his family, locating in South Bend, Indiana, and there followed his trade for three months, then went to Chicago and lived there for two years. He next went to Denison, Iowa, and bought an unimproved farm, all wild prairie land, and began farming, continuing on this place for four years, then traded the farm for a wagon shop and blacksmith shop in Denison, removing into the town, and there worked as

a woodworker, making wagons and all kinds of woodwork, also farm machinery. In 1888 he came to Dawes county, Nebraska, arriving here with very little money and nothing much to start with. He settled on a homestead in section 14, township 34, range 48, a tract of wild prairie land with no improvements. He, together with his wife and five small children, lived in a tent during the first year, then built a sod house and started to build up a home. He did well at first but the dry years soon struck them and they were unable to raise any crops, and his wife sickened and died, leaving him almost discouraged. They went through many hardships and much privation, but still stuck to the place, and soon things changed for the better and he was able to get together quite a little property and improve his farm with good buildings, etc.

Mr. Martens now owns a fine ranch of twenty-five hundred acres, with one hundred acres under cultivation and forty acres of fine alfalfa, the balance being in grass and pasture land. He has built about sixteen miles of fence, and has a good substantial house, built in 1897. This house is built of mud and stone for the walls, with sides and roof of tin cans which our subject picked up in the vicinity of his home, which are used almost as shingles would be on a roof, the whole house costing only about one hundred and fifty dollars to build. It is of commodious size, fourteen by twenty-six and fourteen by eighteen, and is a very comfortable dwelling. A picture of the family and the residence will be found on another page.

Mr. Martens and his children, Minnie, Wilhelm, Annie, Louisa, Amanda, Ernest and Paul, are all well liked by their neighbors and associates, and enjoy a pleasant home. When Mrs. Martens died her last words to her husband were, "Take care of the children," and well has he fulfilled this charge, being both father and mother to his little ones, and as they grew up kept them all near him through times of trouble and suffering. Mr. Martens was married again in 1907 to Mrs. Elizabeth Strigl, of German stock, born in Nauenburg, Germany, and coming to America in 1883.

In political views Mr. Martens is a Socialist, and takes a deep interest in all local and national politics. It was on account of his honesty to his political principles which caused him to leave Denison, Iowa, and come to Nebraska, as at that place his outspoken opinion regarding socialism and his loyalty to the cause of labor cost him his business and trade, and he was compelled to come to Dawes county a poor man, although he has never changed his mind about these matters.



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY—WM. MARTENS,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



## JAMES GREENWOOD.

In the person of the above mentioned gentleman we find one of the oldest settlers of Franklin county, recognized by all as a representative citizen of that locality who has seen the growth and progress of the region from its early settlement. Mr. Greenwood came to the county in 1871, and has been one of the foremost in aiding its development, commercially, educationally and socially. Mr. Greenwood is a native of Yorkshire, England, and came to America with his parents when but two years old, the family locating in the southwestern part of Wisconsin, where two sons still occupy the old homestead. Our subject grew up there and received a good education.

In 1869 he came to Nebraska, locating in Plattsmouth, where two companies were formed to locate town sites, Captain Murphy taking one company and starting Arapahoe, in Furnas county. (See sketch of this gentleman on another page.) The other company came with Mr. Greenwood, nine in all, and located at Franklin. The party consisted of our subject; George Fairfield, surveyor; Bill Wells, V. V. Leonard, A. M. Chase, Samuel Waugh, now of Lincoln; R. Baxter Wyndam, now an attorney of Plattsmouth; George Poisel, a teamster, and A. M. Weaver. The only homesteaders were V. V. Leonard and Mr. Greenwood, and the town was laid out on eighty acres. E. A. Kirkpatrick was one of the company, and he filed on the eighty, but the only one of this number who now resides in Franklin is our subject. He looked after the company's interests for a year, and in 1872 returned to Plattsmouth, coming back here later and engaging in the general merchandise business in partnership with George Buck. In 1872 George O'Bannon, a cowboy from Texas, started a grocery here, and our subject ran his store for four years, and after getting the county seat here the town boomed for a time. Then Bloomington got the county seat and Franklin property went down for a while. Mr. Greenwood and his partner moved their store to Bloomington, and in 1881 returned and reopened the business. The Congregational Academy had then been started here by Rev. C. S. Harrison, who now resides at York. This academy has been a great boon to Franklin, with its three large buildings, fine campus and large attendance of western Nebraska students. Through the influence of our subject, Mr. Buck and their associates, saloons have always been barred, and these gentlemen have given largely of their time

and property to the upbuilding on a temperance and educational basis of the town of Franklin. Mr. Buck now resides at Lincoln.

Franklin has prospered ever since the academy has been located here, attracting a good class of residents who have built up substantial homes and business places and have taken a pride in beautifying the park, streets and their private grounds, so that they now have a pretty and growing town. In 1873 George O'Bannon, the cowboy, jumped the town site of eighty acres and held it, so Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Buck took up an adjoining eighty for the town and laid it out, giving land for park, schools and churches, and also gave lots free to actual settlers. Mr. Greenwood was married in 1874 to Miss Emma E. Buck, now deceased. His second wife was Ruth Kenyon. Mr. Greenwood has the following children: Jennie; Grace; Joseph K., taking a course in the law department of Grinnell College, Iowa, and J. A., now a student at the Franklin Academy, and an athlete of no mean reputation; Lucille and David R. Mr. Greenwood was elected county commissioner and served for several terms, and has also been village trustee.

## MARTIN JOSEPH MANION.

Martin J. Manion, a popular and highly esteemed citizen of Box Butte county, Nebraska, was born in Dublin, Parish Kilfinch, Ireland, in 1850. He is a son of William Manion, a native of Ireland, who came to America in 1840, landing in New York on August 15th of that year, and he married Mary Foley, also born and reared in Ireland. After reaching this land they settled in Illinois, where the father followed farming for many years. Our subject was reared in Ireland and lived there until he was thirty-eight years of age. In 1890 he started for America from his native shore and landed at New Orleans, and then came north to Omaha, where he remained for a time. He then came to Box Butte county, buying a relinquishment on section 1, township 27, range 48, and after filing on this property was in debt to quite an extent, but he began to open a farm, purchasing two plug teams on first landing here, and during the first six months lived in a tent until he could put up some sort of a dwelling place, then built a sod house and occupied that for a number of years. He witnessed the drouth periods, losing several crops, and for five years the only thing he raised was good crops of Russian thistles, also some good



crops of potatoes. He was obliged to work out by the day and month a large portion of the time in order to make a living, hauling timber from Pine Ridge, camping out at night under his wagon, as did most of the travellers in those times, and often slept on the hard frozen ground wrapped in blankets, the snow many times covering the ground all around him. He made, in all, two hundred trips from the vicinity of his home and Pine Ridge. He did all kinds of hard work, breaking up land, etc., in order to make a little money, and all he received for a day's work was fifty cents, and was glad to get that. However, the better years soon came on and he was able to improve his farm, buying more land, and now owns a ranch of twelve hundred and eighty acres, running seventy horses and over two hundred cattle. He also devotes about two hundred acres to farming, and has his ranch all fenced, good buildings on it, etc.

Mr. Manion was married in 1870 to Jennie O'Mara, daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Bowen) O'Mara, both born and reared in Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Manion are the parents of six children, named as follows: Mayme, married, the wife of John Mahoney, of Nance county, Nebraska; William, Josephine, John, Thomas and Francis, who died in infancy. The family occupy a pleasant and comfortable home, and are highly esteemed by their neighbors and fellow citizens.

Mr. Manion is a Democrat and stands firmly for his convictions. He takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and has held school offices for several years past, and is now road overseer.

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#### CHARLES G. YOUNGQUIST.

Among the younger members of the farming community of Phelps county, Nebraska, none are better known or command a higher place as a progressive farmer and worthy citizen than the gentleman above named. Mr. Youngquist has been identified with the agricultural interests for the past ten years, and deserves special mention for the success he has attained in building up his farm and home, which is located in Industry township.

Mr. Youngquist is a native of Sweden and came to America with his parents when an infant. He came to Phelps county with his father in 1880. The latter, John S. Youngquist, who took a homestead in Laird township, subsequently added to his holdings there until he was proprietor of four hundred

and eighty acres in that locality. He was very successful at everything he undertook from the start, and is now living in Holdrege, retired from all active business. Prior to coming to Nebraska the family lived at Goodhue, Minnesota, but our subject states that he would not at any price exchange his property here for land in that state. He has always had the greatest faith in the opportunities of this country, and has proved this to be well founded by his own success.

Mr. Youngquist began on his present farm in 1898, and has been constantly adding to his acreage until he is now owner of a fine four-hundred-acre farm. Of this he has three hundred and fifty acres well tilled, and on this he raises fine crops each year. His corn crop in 1904 amounted to about seven thousand bushels, most of which is fed out on his farm, as he keeps about eighty to one hundred grade hogs and about the same number of cattle, with horses sufficient for his farm use. He has recently put up one of the finest farm residences to be found in this locality, and his farm is supplied with a complete set of substantial buildings and modern machinery with which to successfully operate it. He has accomplished all this in the past eighteen years through his own individual efforts and perseverance, which shows that Nebraska is the place for the industrious, wide-awake young farmer.

Mr. Youngquist was married in 1893 to Miss Emily Johnson, of Holdrege. They have a family of four children: William, Edna, Harold and Ellen.

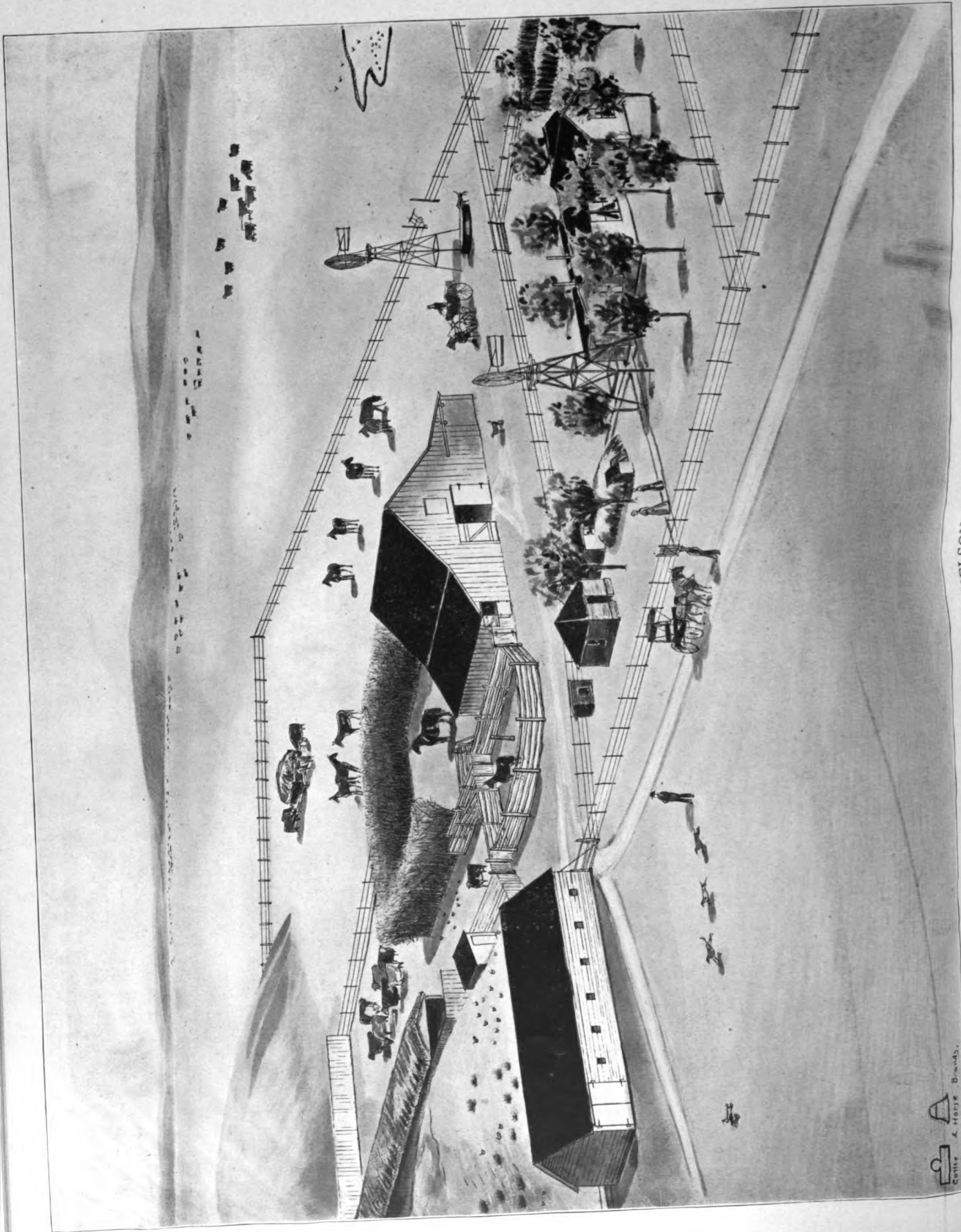
Mr. Youngquist takes a commendable interest in all public affairs in his community. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in his township, and a trustee of the same. He also is a member of the school board. In political faith he is a Republican. Our subject has bought a residence and property in Loomis, where he intends to settle and make his home. He will still oversee the operating of his farm.

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#### CARSON HENNINGS.

Carson Hennings, a practical farmer and thorough ranchman of western Nebraska, owns a valuable property in section 17, township 26, range 50, Box Butte county, is an old settler in this region, who has always done his full share in local affairs tending to the bettering of conditions in his locality. Mr. Hennings' farm is a notable exception to most





RANCH RESIDENCE OF NELSON S. ROWLEY,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

ENTIRE & HOUSE DRAWING  
A

farms in that his crops nearly always show up as among the very finest in the county on account of the thorough cultivation of the ground and his strict attention to the details of his operations.

Carson Hennings was born in Oldenburg, near Bremen, Germany, in 1859. His father, George Hennings, was a farmer, and our subject's boyhood was spent in assisting his parents in the work of carrying on the home farm, and attending the common schools where he received a thorough, old-fashioned training in the common branches of study, which stood him in good stead during his later years.

In 1885 he left home and started for America, landing in Baltimore in that year, and he came directly west, stopping in Cincinnati, where he remained for one year working in a dairy near that city. He was not exactly satisfied with the country there, so decided to try his fortunes farther west, coming to Grand Island, Nebraska, and looking around for a place to settle. He travelled over Box Butte county in his search and finally took up a homestead on section 17, township 26, range 50, and also a tree claim in section 25, township 25, range 52. In 1888 he returned to Germany for a visit, and there was married to Miss Anna Wemken, a native of that country. They returned to America and located in Box Butte county, on section 17, township 26, range 50, put up a sod shanty and began their home. His first team were oxen, and with these he broke land for a small crop. At the time the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was being built into Wyoming, and Mr. Hennings was employed by that company, and later when the Chicago & Northwestern people were building their road through this region he was one of those who helped put it through. For a time he was employed by the Homestake Mining Company, and in fact worked at anything he could find to do in order to get along and get started on his farm.

During the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896 the drouths worked havoc in his locality and he was unable to raise a decent crop. These failures were a severe setback to him, but as the years grew better he was able to add more land to his original farm and has built it up in fine shape, at the present time owning six hundred and forty acres, one hundred and thirty of which is devoted to diversified farming. He has good buildings and everything necessary for the proper operation of the farm, and also deals largely in stock, keeping about seventy-five head of cattle and has five horses for his farming purposes. He

keeps about twenty-five cows for dairy purposes, which bring him in a snug income.

Since locating here Mr. Hennings has been active in local and school affairs, has served on the school board for many years and is one of the leading public-spirited men of his section. He is a Republican but is not actively interested in politics, preferring to devote all of his time to his home and farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Hennings are the parents of six children, namely: Lena, Anna, John, Henry, Carl and George. The family is held in high esteem as good citizens and kind neighbors.

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#### NELSON S. ROWLEY.

Nelson S. Rowley, one of the prominent residents of Cherry county, Nebraska, is a very well known and highly esteemed member of this part of the state. He was born December 28, 1861, on a farm near Toronto, Canada, whither the family had moved from the states. His father, John Rowley, was a farmer of Yankee descent, and his mother was Miss Emily Goldsmith, both natives of the state of New York.

Our subject is one of a family of eleven, he being the sixth child. About 1865 his parents moved back to New York state, and some three years later went to Shiawasse and Clinton counties, Michigan, where they lived until Nelson was fifteen, at which time his father died. Then the mother and younger children came to Nebraska in 1877, locating at North Platte, where our subject began life as a cowboy, in this manner helping to support the family.

In the fall of 1880 he saw what is now Cherry county, but at that time was a part of Sioux county. As a young man Mr. Rowley rode over all the territory in this part of the state, many times being compelled to camp out, thus becoming familiar with Cherry county from one end to the other. In 1885 he filed pre-emption on section 30, township 30, range 31, his present residence, and has since followed the occupation of a rancher. In 1893 he filed under the homestead act on section 31, on which he lived five years and then moved back to his present home. In the summer of 1887 he grew lonesome for a touch of wild life again and started with his brother for the "old outfit." Going by rail to Rapid City, thence by stage to Spearfish, Mr. Rowley, accompanied by his brother, walked thence ninety miles through flooded streams and wet

prairies to the ranch on the head waters of Little Powder river.

Mr. Rowley was married, October 4, 1888, to Miss Ella Felch, who is a daughter of Benjamin F. and Clara (Bremmer) Felch, of Scotch and English descent, both old settlers of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Rowley have one adopted child, Maud E., who is being given the advantages of a higher education in the schools of Valentine and a convent. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Rowley filed on a homestead as Miss Felch, and in 1906 secured an additional four hundred and eighty acres under the Kincaid act.

Mr. Rowley has gone through many hardships and met with much discouragement and loss, having been burned out four times by prairie fires, thereby losing all his barns, sheds, hay and much live stock, and these were only the large losses he sustained, for within seven years in which these fires occurred he experienced many smaller losses also. However, he did not lose courage, and is now the owner of sixteen hundred acres of land, with fine buildings and improvements, well stocked with cattle and horses, and has a leasehold on thirteen hundred acres additional, on which he runs some six or seven hundred head of cattle, one hundred and seventy-five horses and other stock. Mr. Rowley's ranch is located in section 30, township 30, range 31, of Cherry county, Nebraska. He is one of the progressive men in this section of the state, is numbered among the old timers, and his name will figure in the history of Cherry county. Mr. Rowley was one of the witnesses of the Indian scare of 1888, and describes vividly the experiences of that terrible time, but did not take to flight as many of the neighbors did.

Our subject takes an active interest in local politics, and in 1896 was nominated for sheriff by the Populists of Cherry county. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Valentine. One of the interesting illustrations in this work is a view of the residence and surroundings. It will be found on another page.

#### JAMES R. BIRDWELL.

A prominent place among the list of prosperous and successful farmers of Cheyenne county is accorded the gentleman's name mentioned above. For many years he has been engaged in agriculture and conducts a large estate there.

James R. Birdwell is a native of Harrison county, Indiana, born November 26, 1863, a son of Thomas R. and Mary A. (Waters)

Birdwell. He made that locality his home until he was twenty-one years of age, living on a farm, and there he received a practical training as a boy and young man. His parents are still residing in Harrison county on the old homestead.

Our subject arrived in Nebraska in September, 1884, settling at first in Saunders county, and farmed there for three years, then came to Cheyenne county and filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 22, township 16, range 50, which is now the home ranch. He has improved this property well, cultivating one hundred and twenty-five acres and runs about twenty-five head of stock. The farm is supplied with good buildings, has a splendid water supply, and is well adapted to stock raising and farming.

Mr. Birdwell married in Saunders county, Nebraska, November 24, 1887, Miss Anna E. Potter, who was born in La Salle, Illinois, a daughter of Charles and Ella (Bancroft) Potter. She came to this state with her parents when she was a girl of eleven, where both of her parents died. Mr. and Mrs. Birdwell have four children, who are named as follows: Thomas G., Alvah, James H. and Charles R.

Mr. Birdwell is a Bryan Democrat with independent tendencies, and takes a commendable interest in local affairs. He is a member of the Dalton Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and of the Methodist church.

#### JOSEPH L. WHEELER.

Joseph L. Wheeler, an active and pushing business man and farmer of Long Pine, Nebraska, has won a reputation and a standing second to none for the possession of those manly traits that mark the true American, such as honesty, a sterling integrity and an industrious habit that will not tire nor grow weary until the end is accomplished. While still in the prime of life he has become quite fore-handed, and shows in the story of his own career what steady labor, wise calculation and unbending uprightness may accomplish. Mr. Wheeler was born on a farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, July 24, 1858, and is the oldest member of a family of eleven living children born to his parents. His father, J. T. Wheeler, is an old settler of Brown county, Nebraska, and his career forms the subject of an interesting sketch that appears on another page of this work.

When Joseph L. Wheeler was ten years of age his parents transferred themselves, their children and all their appurtenances to

Mahaska county, Iowa, where they maintained a home for the following ten years, after which they resided in Grand Island, Nebraska, for the five years following. In the fall of 1882 the subject of this writing came into Brown county, and for the ensuing five or six years divided his time between the work of helping the incoming farmers open and develop their claims and conducting the farming operations on the paternal homestead, and was of much assistance in the rearing of his younger brothers and sisters. On the 9th of February, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Berger, a native of Nebraska, and a daughter of Eli Berger, one of the pioneers in the settlement of Brown county. To this happy union were born two children, Bert and Flossy.

From 1894 to 1899 he conducted a meat market at Long Pine. Mr. Wheeler turned to farming for himself in 1899, after closing his meat market, and two years later bought the farm on which we find him at the present writing. It is situated on Willow creek, and is a part of section 7, township 30, range 20. It is a very choice tract of land, one hundred and sixty acres in extent, and though partially improved at the time of his purchase, has been modernized and brought to date by its progressive owner. New buildings have replaced the old, many fruit trees have been planted, and much small fruit is growing. He has one hundred and five acres under cultivation, and is making a marked success in his career as a Nebraska farmer. From the beginning Mr. Wheeler was always ready to push ahead by any honest enterprise. He broke bronchos, trained many a yoke of oxen to drive and never willingly let the "nimble nickle" go by unclaimed. He was formerly an active Populist during the prosperous days of that party, and is now in the ranks of the Democrats. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Long Pine.

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#### JUDGE WATSON R. TOWNE, DECEASED.

Judge Watson R. Towne, deceased, whose picture appears on another page, was probably one of the best known citizens of Cherry county. He was a resident of the county for more than a quarter of a century, and was closely identified with the history of its development.

Mr. Watson was born in Franklin, Vermont, in 1834. His father, Ephraim Towne, a native of Massachusetts, was a farmer of English stock, and his mother, Miss Jane

Willis, was a Canadian of Irish descent. They had a family of nine children, of whom our subject is the fifth, all reared and educated in Vermont. The boy secured a common school education and his time between school hours was devoted to hard farm work. At the age of twenty years he came to Chicago, securing employment with a commission firm with whom he remained for four years. Thence he went to Minnesota and joined the pioneers and for two years, with St. Paul as headquarters, engaged in trading with the Chippewa Indians in the Red river valley. In the fall of 1859 he came back to Chicago, and at the outbreak of the Civil war enlisted in the Chicago Dragoons, an independent company of cavalry which furnished its own horses, equipment, etc. Ordered to West Virginia, they participated in a number of engagements and skirmishes during the early months of the great conflict. After being mustered out he still longed for the excitement of a soldier's life, and went to Missouri as a scout, serving in the southwest until the year 1864. When the war was over he went to Colorado and there drove mule and bull teams, freighting in the mountains, leading the usual frontiersman's life until 1867, when he came to Nebraska and there worked for the government along the North Platte. In the fall of that year he left government service and freighted in Wyoming until the summer of 1870, at which time he came to Schuyler, Nebraska, and from then to the present has made this state his home, with the exception of nine years spent in Iowa.

Mr. Towne traversed the entire western part of the state on horseback. For three years he was live stock agent for the Elkhorn Valley railroad, and subsequently owned and operated a large sheep and cattle range on the Minnechaduza. In the fall of 1890 he located in Valentine, becoming one of the leading public-spirited citizens of the town, being honored in 1896 with the nomination and election to the county judgeship of Cherry county, an honor four times repeated, showing with what approval and esteem his decisions have been received by his constituents within his jurisdiction.

Mr. Towne was married in 1872 to Miss Olive O. Aldridge, who came of Canadian ancestry. Four children have been born to them, and they are named as follows: George W., Nellie O., Maude and Mabel.

Mr. Towne was universally esteemed and admired, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of his associates. His career illustrates the versatility and steady attributes that have made pioneers of the west what they are to-

day—qualities that have given force to our institutions and have made a garden out of a wilderness of barren plains.

### JAMES A. W. JOHNSON.

Among the prominent business men of Georgia, Cherry county, the gentleman above mentioned occupies a foremost place. Mr. Johnson is well known all over this section of the country, and is highly esteemed as a citizen of true worth.

Mr. Johnson was born in Cerro Gordo county, Iowa, March 16, 1867. He is a son of Sylvanus Johnson, whose sketch appears in this work on another page. Mr. Johnson is the third member in his parents' family of seven children and was raised in Iowa on his father's farm, where they lived the usual life of pioneers on the frontier of western Iowa, and later in Holt county, Nebraska, where they afterward settled. When he was twenty years old he came to Cherry county and begun as a homesteader, taking up a claim south of Georgia. The first days were spent in hauling wood to Valentine for a dollar and a half a load, using ox teams, and in teaching school in the neighborhood, in which he was successful. He put up a log house with sod roof and remained here until proving up on his claim. Here he engaged in stock raising, and also in the well-drilling business, putting in wells all over Cherry and Keya Paha counties. In 1900 Mr. Johnson left his farm and moved to Georgia, trading cattle for a store in town, where he is now engaged in the mercantile business, carrying a good stock of general merchandise. He sold the farm and later bought a large ranch of about seventeen hundred acres on which he runs a number of cattle, superintending its operation personally in addition to his other interests here. In 1900 he was appointed postmaster of Kilgore (Georgia station), succeeding his father in that office.

On January 25, 1887, Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Mary Wray, whose father was an old settler in Holt county, and later moved to Cherry county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have five children, namely: Estella, Sadie, Bessie, Leonard and Ethel.

Mr. Johnson is a prominent Republican, taking an active part in politics, serving on the central committee for ten or twelve years and has been serving as justice of the peace for an equal period of time. He has been delegate to both state and county conventions many times, and is one of the leading men of his community.

### JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Among the leading old settlers of Box Butte county, Nebraska, none is more widely known or more highly esteemed than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. For many years he has been closely identified with the agricultural interests of this region, and he has done his full share in bringing about the present prosperity enjoyed by the residents of that locality. He has a pleasant home and well improved farm in section 11, township 27, range 49.

Mr. Armstrong was born in the county of Fermanagh, province of Ulster, Ireland, on June 19, 1852. His father, John Armstrong, was also a native of that county and followed farming during his entire life, as did also his father before him. He married Elizabeth Wadsworth, of Huguenot stock. Our subject was reared and educated in his native land, attending the church education society school, and later the national school, receiving a better education than the average boy of his station, studying besides the common branches agriculture, botany, etc. When he was twenty-seven years of age he came to the United States. One brother had previously emigrated to this country and had located in Cuming county, Nebraska, and with him our subject spent a short time, later traveling to the Pacific coast and worked in the gold mines in that part of the country for about a year. In 1884 he came to Box Butte county for the first time, traveling all over this country on horseback, camping out nights on the ground. He also lived in Stanton county, but liked this region best of all on account of the price of land, and returned here, driving from Hay Springs with a team and wagon, carrying farm machinery, grain and seed, and driving four cows along. His first house was made of sod, in which he lived for about twelve years, occupying a homestead and tree claim which he filed on as soon as coming here. This land was situated seven miles northeast of Hemingford. He had a pretty good start, owning a team and several cattle, some hogs and chickens, which was a great deal more than most of the settlers had to begin with. He did well from the start and got through the dry years in good shape, as he did not try to farm any during those years. In 1899 he sold out his homestead and bought his present farm, which is located in section 11, township 27, range 49, the only reason for disposing of his former place being that this one offered better schooling advantages for his children. Here he has a fine estate consisting of ten quarter sections, all well improved, fitted with good buildings, wind mills, supply



tanks, etc. He cultivates four hundred acres, and runs about two hundred head of cattle and thirty-five horses each year.

Mr. Armstrong was married May 4, 1886, to Matilda Martz, who is a native of Prussia, born near Berlin, and came to America when a young girl with her parents, the family settling near Muscatine, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong have a family of five children, all boys, named as follows: Will S., aged nineteen years, a graduate of the Creighton College of Pharmacy; Paul E., eighteen years old, who attended the Chadron Academy and later the Bayls Business College at Omaha, Nebraska; John W., sixteen, living at home and attending school at Hemingford high school; Roy H., eleven, and Teddy F., two years of age, at home with their parents.

Mr. Armstrong is determined to give each of his children a good education to fit them for the battle of life. The three eldest each own about twelve hundred dollars' worth of cattle and horses on the home farm, and have their own particular lot of stock to take care of, teaching them responsibility and as an inducement to remain at home and help their parents in the operation of the home ranch. Our subject is enthusiastic about the opportunities offered in this region for any man willing to work, and states positively that there is no need or excuse for any one to want a home and good farm who is energetic and industrious.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong will be found on another page of this volume.

Our subject and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hemingford, Nebraska. He is a Republican, active in local affairs tending to the betterment of conditions in his locality.

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#### ANDREW GROVER WICKHAM.

Andrew Grover Wickham, residing in township 25, range 33, Cherry county, Nebraska, ten or twelve miles northwest of Mullen, is counted among the old-timers of Nebraska, and is one of those men who has ever been willing and ready to assist in the development of that locality and take a leading part in all school and public affairs.

Mr. Wickham is a native of Westville, Champaign county, Ohio, born in 1840. His parents were of English blood, and took an important part in old colonial affairs. The father, Minor T., was a farmer all his life, and he married Martha Brown, of a well known family, and she died when Andrew was a small

boy seven years old. He was reared and educated in Ohio, and in 1861 enlisted in the United States volunteer service, becoming a member of the Seventy-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and afterwards saw hard service for several years. He was at the battle of Stone River, Chickamauga, in the campaign of Atlanta, Savannah and at Nashville, and also was through North Carolina with his regiment, taking part in many skirmishes. While on a foraging expedition in North Carolina he was captured March 20, 1865, and held prisoner for ten days near the close of the war. After the close of the war he went to Indiana, arriving there in the fall of 1865, and began farming on rented land, remaining there for twenty-one years, and at the end of that time came to Nebraska, spending the winter of 1886 at Broken Bow, and in the spring of the year 1887 settled in the sand hills in Hooker county, nine miles southeast of Mullen. He drove through the country by team from Broken Bow, and after arriving at his claim at once erected a sod house, stable and sheds, and occupied his sod shanty for several years, proved up on his homestead and improved it in good shape. In 1891 his wife departed this life and he soon afterwards removed to Mullen, where he could give his children the benefit of the schools. While living on the farm he went through some hard times, experiencing every phase of pioneer life, suffering from prairie fires, in one instance having had his sod barns burned to the ground and losing all their possessions, also considerable hay, harness, etc.

In 1904 Mr. Wickham took a Kincaid homestead, which he is at present occupying and which is devoted to ranching. This is situated ten miles northwest of Mullen, in Cherry county, and he has this place in excellent condition, supplied with good buildings, fences and every improvement. He does a little farming.

In 1860, before enlisting in the army, Mr. Wickham was married in Ohio to Susanna Schaeffer, and they reared a family of thirteen children, all but two of whom are living at the present time. They are named as follows: William H., died in 1890 in Chicago; John Anson, Ida May, Violet, George, Emery, Ella, Jessie, Andrew, Ollie (deceased), Frank, Elmer and Arthur. Mr. Wickham has given to each child a good education, sending a number of them to Indiana to attend different schools, and they are a very bright and intelligent group. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Wickham will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Wickham was one of the first county commissioners in Hooker county at the time the county was organized, receiving his ap-

pointment through Governor Thayer. Our subject is prominent in affairs in his locality, taking an active part in all public matters.

#### TRUMAN FREELAND.

Truman Freeland, of whom a portrait appears elsewhere, is one of the first settlers of the western half of Nebraska, coming to the state when many homesteads were yet to be taken within fifty miles of Omaha; coming to the state when all that portion of Iowa west of Fort Dodge was mostly unsettled land, and no bridge yet spanned the Missouri river. Thousands of deer and antelope roamed over the country between Lincoln and Grand Island, and when he first saw the country north of the Platte and west of Columbus it was a wilderness, uninhabited except by Indians, buffalo, elk, deer and other wild animals roamed in countless numbers over the entire tract; there were also many beasts of prey, such as the mountain lion, buffalo, wolves, coyotes and wildcats. Otter, beaver, mink and other furbearing animals were numerous in all the streams, and Mr. Freeland states that beaver dams were often raised to a height of three and four feet, and that near where he now resides trees were felled by the beaver, that were more than twenty inches in diameter.

Mr. Freeland assisted in the construction of the first bridge thrown over the waters of the Platte and carried the chain when government surveys were made in what is now Custer and Loup counties.

He was the second settler of what is now Garfield county, C. H. Jones and family having settled in the county a few days before his arrival as an actual settler. He erected the first residence on the valley of the North Loup river west of Haskell creek, and twenty miles above it, having but one neighbor nearer than twenty miles. Mr. Freeland assisted in the construction of the first school house erected in the county, the building being placed on his pre-emption; Mrs. Freeland taught the first school held in the county. Mr. Freeland erected the first frame dwelling built of foreign lumber erected in Garfield county, hauling the material from Grand Island, a distance of nearly one hundred miles.

The subject of this sketch is decidedly a man of peace, and took but little part in the Indian troubles of pioneers days. Mr. Freeland received his education in the common schools of northern Illinois, and is a man of marked literary ability, his writings having

appeared in various publications throughout the United States, not one of his contributions having been rejected. He is now publishing a volume of poems entitled "My Thoughts and Yours," a few stanzas of which, by permission of the author, we print below, as they are very appropriate in this volume. Mr. Freeland was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, February 22, 1852, and came to Nebraska in 1869, where he has since resided. He settled in Howard county in May, 1872, and moved to Garfield county November 19, 1872, where he has since resided near Burwell, the county seat of Garfield county, which was all government land at that time, the nearest town being Grand Island. During the first few years the nearest trading point for the settlers in this region from which they could obtain groceries was Grand Island, located one hundred miles from their camp.

Mr. Freeland was married February 3, 1874, to Miss Almira J. Russell, a native of Vermont, of English descent. Mrs. Freeland was a teacher in the first public school established in Garfield county. She departed from this life the 22nd day of August, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Freeland have never had any children, but reared two which they adopted, a boy and a girl, Melvina and Earl.

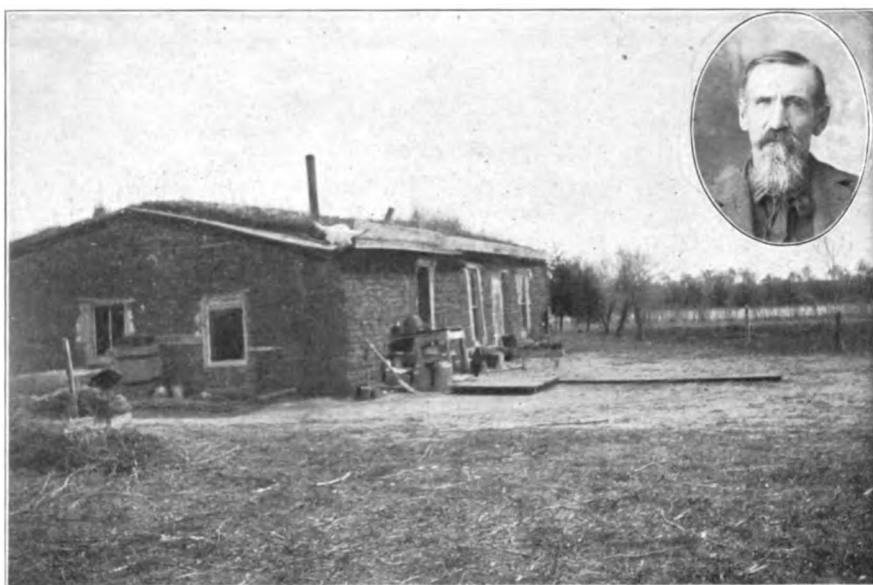
Mr. Freeland had always voted the Prohibitionist ticket up to several years ago, but has changed his political views of late years, and now leans toward the Socialistic cause. It can be truly said that he comes of genuine pioneer stock, his mother's father having been one of the pioneer settlers of Indiana, whose original purchase from the government included a portion of the battleground of Tippecanoe in Marshall county, Indiana. Mr. Freeland's mother came to Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1832, when that country was yet a wilderness, and is still living in good health with her son Truman in Garfield county, Nebraska.

#### HILLS OF NEBRASKA.

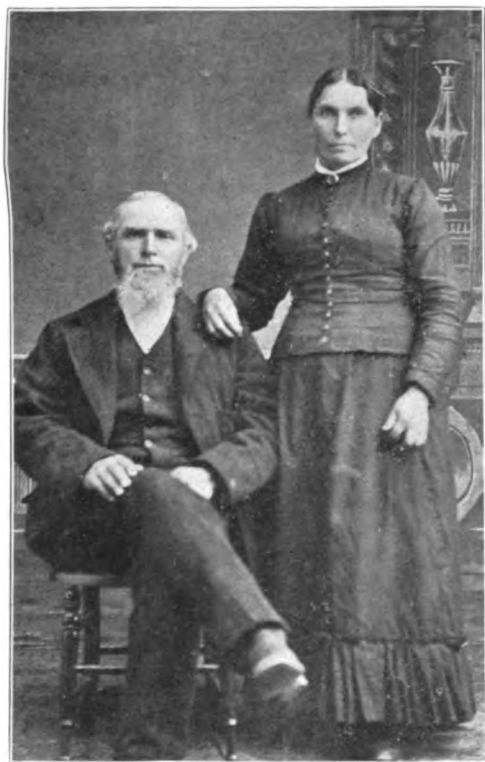
No human foot e'er pressed thy sides  
For centuries unknown,—  
Wild beasts upon thy high divides  
Unmolested roamed.

Once the home of finny tribes,  
Buried in the mighty deep—  
Tonight upon thy sloping sides  
Feathered songsters sleep.  
Monuments of God are ye,

Piled at the tomb of time,—  
Piled that man may wiser be  
Beholding thee—His work sublime.



RESIDENCE AND PORTRAIT OF TRUMAN FREELAND.  
(Author of "My Thoughts and Yours.")



ANDREW GROVER WICKHAM AND WIFE.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN ARMSTRONG.



HILLS OF GARFIELD COUNTY.  
(1872)

O'er all this rolling prairie land,  
Reigned perfect silence—solitude—  
O'er the billowy hills of sand  
And where the pines and cedars stood.

Spreading elms and cottonwood  
Along the river's brink were seen,  
And here and there the silent flood  
Rolled through a grassy plain.

In the valleys smooth and wide  
Roamed the buffalo, elk and deer;  
And gamboling on thy high divides,  
Were timid antelope everywhere.

WILLIAM S. BIXLER.

The above mentioned gentleman is well known to all the residents of McCook, Nebraska, as the genial and popular proprietor of the Bixler opera house. He is one of the younger citizens of McCook, who by his faith in the city and his liberal enterprise is adding materially to the fame of McCook as one of the coming prosperous cities of the west. In 1906 Mr. Bixler built and operated a large roller skating rink here, which was a popular amusement resort for the younger members of the community, and this year he has enlarged this rink so as to make it the largest and best equipped theater between Lincoln and Denver. The main floor is so constructed that it can be lowered evenly and used as a rink, thereby combining theater and rink. Everything is run in the very best manner, catering to all classes and tastes of this beautiful and cultured city. He has started right, and is determined to take every precaution to keep out worthless amusement companies, whose stock in trade is all in their show bills, producing only plays and operas that are worthy of the patronage of the very best class of people. These plays are limited to about four each month, and by this method his clients are not surfeited and are prepared to enjoy the occasional treats which he gives them. The McCook public has a well trained and critical taste in music and the drama, and to a less capable man it would be extremely difficult to always provide plays to their liking, but our subject strives hard to please the most particular, and in this he has the sympathy and active support of the best people of the city. The auditorium seats ten hundred and fifty-eight people, and its acoustic properties are splendid. The main building is sixty by one

hundred and forty feet, being fifty-four feet high over the stage, which is thirty-two by sixty, and forty feet high to rigging loft. The three drop curtains used in this playhouse would do credit to any theater in larger cities. The place is fitted up with four hundred electric lights, and there are five dressing rooms. This theater is used for religious services, lectures and political demonstrations, thus filling a great public need.

Mr. Bixler has lived in McCook since his boyhood, having come here with his father in 1884 from Pennsylvania, where the family lived near the Maryland line. His father, Hiram K. Bixler, owns a fine river bottom farm near McCook. Our subject was connected with the Burlington & Missouri Railway for seven years, and was chairman of the protective board of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen for all the territory west of the Missouri river. He was one of those who helped to get the first schedule of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad after the great strike of 1887.

Mr. Bixler was married to Miss Alice Coe, daughter of M. H. Coe, who settled in this county in 1884, now residing at Perry, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Bixler have one son and two daughters.

Mr. Bixler is a deservedly influential and popular resident of McCook, and one who is always foremost in promoting the interest of all that tends to the growth and advancement of the community in which he resides.

LOUIS MARTINSON, DECEASED.

Louis Martinson, who was numbered among the old and honored settlers of Kimball county, was a successful and fore-handed farmer of that region, was thoroughly identified with life on the frontier and knew its light and dark shades by experience. His estate is on section 36, township 16, range 55, where he had a well improved farm and was classed among the well-to-do citizens of his locality.

Mr. Martinson was born in Sweden, July 26, 1851. He was the youngest in a family of eleven children, all growing up in their native land. When our subject was a young man he came to America with his wife and five children. They landed in the United States May 6, 1887. They came to Nebraska, settling in Antelopeville, Cheyenne county, which is now a part of Kimball county. The father homesteaded on section 24, township 16, range 55, and began to improve a home and

farm. They went through all the pioneer experiences in getting their farm started, going through good, bad and indifferent times, often meeting with disappointments in the shape of crop failures and other discouragements that fell to the lot of the early settler in that section, but finally succeeding in putting improvements on their place and getting ahead.

At the time of his death, our subject had a ranch of eight hundred acres, about sixty acres under cultivation, and ran a large bunch of cattle and horses. His son Charlie owns four hundred and eighty acres, farms extensively and keeps a small herd of cattle and horses. Since his father's death he has had charge of the ranch.

Mr. Martinson was married in Sweden, in 1875, to Miss Ellen Jansen, who died July 4, 1908, on their homestead here. They were the parents of the following children: Hilda, wife of Walter Haycock, living in Kansas; Charlie A., mentioned above, single; Avery C., Millie, Peter, deceased; Helen, wife of James Wells, living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Harry:

Mr. Martinson was a Republican. He had held different local offices and always took an active interest in local affairs. He was also treasurer of school district No. 13. Since his death, which occurred October 1, 1908, his son Charles has assumed the management of the ranch which he now controls and operates. He was assessor for one term and school director for a time, and has taken an active part in local affairs.

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#### JOHN W. RADFORD.

John W. Radford, known throughout Kearney county as a prosperous and successful stockman and ranch owner, resides in Logan township, where he has a fine home and farm. He came to this place in 1887 and homesteaded where he now lives, taking forty acres, and the same year bought another one hundred and sixty acres, and has since added to it until he is now proprietor of six hundred and forty acres of fine ranch and farm land. He farmed in Iroquois county, Illinois, prior to coming here, bringing some stock with him from that state, and has since kept increasing and improving his herds, and now has about one hundred and fifty head of good grade cattle. He prefers the white faces, and has one thoroughbred white-faced male at the head of his herd, and has some fine animals among them.

Mr. Radford was born in England in the year 1850. His father, Robert Radford, was

born in Somersetshire, England, and came here in about the year 1885, settling in Logan township and living in this locality up to 1896, when he moved to Oregon, where he died in 1898. He was eighty-six years old, and was well known to the residents of this county as a man of good business judgment and industrious habits. The mother, whose maiden name was Mary Langdon, was also a native of Somersetshire, England.

Comparing this country with Illinois, where he farmed for twelve years, Mr. Radford states that he much prefers it here, as there is much more money to be made here, a man being able to do twice the amount of work and making dollars in Nebraska where he could only make cents in Illinois. He has a nice herd of Duroc Jersey red hogs, and has had marked success with them. He has tried the Poland China, but was unable to get as good results from that breed, and thinks the former are better for all purposes. He has about one hundred and fifty head on hand at present. He raises a number of mules and colts each year for market, and realizes good profits from this source. He has about eighty acres of good alfalfa and intends growing more right along.

Mr. Radford was united in marriage in 1883 to Miss Mary Sherrill, daughter of Jesse and Elizabeth Sherrill, who were from Kentucky and settled in Iroquois county. Mr. and Mrs. Radford have seven children, namely: Ben and Harry (twins), Letha, Lulu, Edna, Pearl and Nell. The family is highly esteemed in their community and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, our subject acting as treasurer and member of the church board. He is also school director in his district.

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#### DAVID V. MORGAN.

David V. Morgan, one of the well-to-do and probably one of the most prominent of the old settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, resides on his fine estate in section 21, township 31, range 48, where he has a pleasant and happy home, and is held in high esteem by his fellowmen.

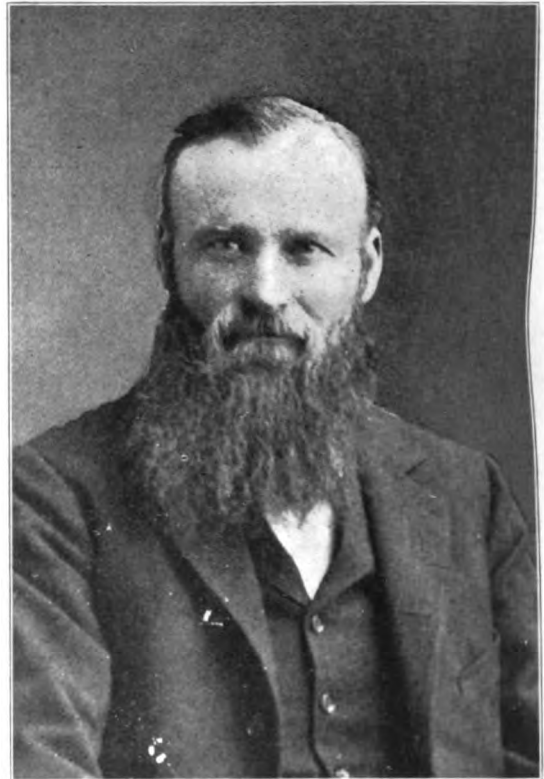
Mr. Morgan was born in Coal Valley, Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1860. His father, Thomas Morgan, was a coal miner, and the family lived in the mining districts in that vicinity, and the father was finally killed there in May, 1865, soon after the Civil war. He was a native of Wales, and came to this country in his young manhood, his wife also having been born in Wales. Our subject was reared in Illinois until he was nineteen years







MRS. HENRY RETHMEYER.



HENRY RETHMEYER.

of age, then came to Boone county, Iowa. He had traveled considerably through the middle and western states. He had worked in the coal mines from the time he was eleven years of age, spending altogether fifteen years in that work, and even after coming to this country worked for a few winters in the mines in Kansas and Iowa. When he first came to Dawes county he teamed from Valentine, and then afterwards freighted for several trips, hauling produce, etc. He located on the section where he now lives, where he put up his first house, which was made of logs, and there "batched it" for a time. He brought a good team of horses with him, and they were stolen from him, but he soon got another team and went to work building up his farm, breaking land, etc. During the first several years he dug fourteen wells, averaging two hundred feet deep each. The dry years overtook him and he suffered considerable loss at different times, but continued to build up his farm and improve the place, adding to his acreage constantly until he is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, besides operating quite a tract of leased land. He has been very successful, and is counted among the prosperous citizens of his locality, and is a man of sterling character and integrity.

Mr. Morgan was married on January 25, 1888, to Miss Anna Frazier, of Lehigh Valley, Iowa. Her father, Robert Frazier, was a miner, and both father and mother were natives of England and were reared there, where Mrs. Morgan was born. Six children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, and are named as follows: Lulu, Edith, Blanche, Hazel, Lawrence and Ellsworth.

Mr. Morgan is active in local public affairs, and is serving as road supervisor at the present time. He is also on the school board and has served his district in different capacities for several years. He is a Republican.

#### DANIEL A. HANEY.

Daniel A. Haney, one of the pioneer settlers of Grant county, Nebraska, has acquired a valuable property on the south line of the county, and is classed among the substantial ranchmen of his community, and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellowmen. He has watched the growth of the region from the earliest days of its settlement, and has taken an active part in its development as an old-time resident.

Mr. Haney was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, in 1863. His father, Isaac, was a well known farmer and ranchman, and an early settler in western Nebraska, and our subject was

raised and educated here. The family settled in this state in 1871, in Saline county, and Daniel grew up on the home farm, passing through all the pioneer experiences so familiar to the old settlers in this region. In 1884 he left home and went to Kansas, remaining there for several years, following ranching. He then returned to Nebraska and filed on a homestead in the southeastern part of Grant county, there putting up sod buildings and "batching it" for about three years. He started his ranch, breaking up some land for crops, trying hard to farm same, but found he was unable to do very well, so gradually got into the cattle business and rode the range for a number of years. He lived on that ranch up to 1906, and succeeded in building up a good property, owning in all one thousand acres, all of which is deeded land, well improved with every kind of ranch building, fences, corrals, etc., and all in first-class shape. In the latter year he built a handsome residence in Hyannis, and now makes that his home, although he personally superintends the operation of his ranch.

Mr. Haney was married in 1896 to Miss Minnie Goble, whose father, A. J. Goble, is a prominent old-timer and successful ranchman of Grant county. Four children have been born to our subject and his good wife, named as follows: Pearl, Jessie, Alma and Ethel. These form a charming and interesting group and they have one of the most pleasant and happy homes to be found.

#### HENRY RETHMEYER.

Henry Rethmeyer, a resident of Minden, Kearney county, is well and favorably known as a worthy citizen and good business man. He is a contractor and builder, and has followed this trade constantly since coming to Minden twenty-four years ago.

Mr. Rethmeyer was born in Cook county, Illinois, February 13, 1858. He is a son of Fred and Dorothy (Dullmeyer) Rethmeyer, who came to Illinois from Schamberg, Lippe, in 1854, settling in Cook county, where he followed farming for many years. He is now eighty-six years of age, and his wife seventy-nine, both hale and hearty. Since locating in Kearney county Mr. Rethmeyer has built a good many dwelling houses and barns, all over the county and also in the adjoining counties. He has done work in Adams and Clay counties, and erected the German parsonage at Grand Island. This is a beautiful residence, and he has put up many of the finest houses in his home town, of which his own

home is a good example. He employs four or five assistants and carries on a large business, giving the best of satisfaction with whatever he undertakes. He owns two houses here, and has met with pronounced success in his line, and has made all he is worth through industry and strict attention to his business, supplemented by honesty and good judgment. On the grounds surrounding his residence he has in full bearing a fine orchard of cherries, apples, plums, apricots, etc., showing that all of these fruits can be successfully grown in Nebraska if properly planted and cared for.

Mr. Rethmeyer was married in 1883 to Miss Mary Heimerdinger, who came from Stuttgart, Germany, in 1882. They are the parents of two children, namely: Mary, wife of John Stader, a farmer living in this county, and Julia, wife of J. Blackburn, who is engaged in the fruit business in Banning, California. Mr. Rethmeyer has four grandchildren—Edward, Onita and Hilda, in Kearney county, and Olpha May, in California.

In the summer of 1907 Mr. Rethmeyer went into the cement block business and does considerable contracting in the line of cement work. He does cement floor work, porch columns, baluster work, steps, etc.

On another page of this volume will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Rethmeyer.

#### ALLISON C. HARBERT.

Allison C. Harbert owns and operates a fine estate of seven hundred and twenty acres, located in section 20, township 34, range 42, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home. He is one of the leading agriculturists of Sheridan county, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Harbert is a native of Benton county, Iowa, born in 1866. He is a son of John D. Harbert, of American stock, born and raised in Ohio, now a resident of this county. There were three boys and four girls in his father's family, of whom he is the second member. At the age of twenty-one years he struck out for himself and came to Nebraska, locating on the homestead he now lives on. He first landed in Gordon, March 16, 1887, and was obliged to borrow money to file on his land. He went to work at once building up his place, and never worked out for any one in his life. His father had a homestead near his own, and he worked on that until he took his own farm, assisting his parents in carrying on their farm and supporting the family. During these first years he worked very hard to get a start, and the dry years from 1893 on were very disas-

trous to him, as he lost all his crops, and had to begin all over again when the good years came along. He began to raise better crops after a time, and has been very successful of late years, having gone into the stock business to quite an extent, and also cultivates a large part of his land.

Mr. Harbert was living on his present farm during the Indian scare of 1891, occupying a sod house, and here he stayed during all that time, but never met with any serious trouble from the savages. He lost all his household goods in 1888 by fire, and this was a severe loss to him, having to rebuild and fit up his home with new goods. He has "batched" it ever since coming here, never having been married.

Mr. Harbert is well satisfied with conditions in this region, and thinks western Nebraska the place to live. He has never taken an active part in politics, but votes the Republican ticket.

#### IRVIN E. MYERS.

Irvin E. Myers stands well among the younger settlers of Nebraska, and is pushing rapidly to the front at Newport, Rock county, where his sturdy manhood, manly character, and honorable methods give him prominence. His birth occurred on a farm in Erie county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1868, where his father, George W. Myers, was engaged in trade as a mason and also followed farming to some extent. Irvin, the youngest child in a family of three, was reared to manhood in Erie county, where he received a somewhat liberal education. When he was eighteen years of age he struck out for himself, and secured work in the Pennsylvania lumber woods, where for thirteen years his time was entirely demanded. The young man found, however, as thousands of others had found before him, that opportunity grew harder for every oncoming generation in the older regions, and that if a young person hoped to find place for himself in the work of the world he must "go west," and as Horace Greeley recommended, "grow up with the country." This he did in 1888, that year coming to Rock county, Nebraska, and making a homestead entry of a farm for himself, on which at first was a sod shanty for a home and such rude shelter for the stock as he could hastily construct. He did his farm work with oxen, and at the end of five years was able to "prove up" and finally secure title.

The wedding festivities of Irvin E. Myers and Miss Etta J. Hornby were celebrated May 1, 1895. She is a daughter of George C.

and Myra (Jones) Hornby, who were for years pioneers of Rock county, and are now living in South Dakota. She has taken part in the earlier settlement of this part of the state, and is now, while still a young woman, reckoned among the oldest pioneers of Rock county. To Mr. and Mrs. Myers have come two bright and charming children, Helen and Harold.

Mr. Myers brought his young family to Newport in 1898 that he might take a position as foreman of the E. L. Myers lumber yard, a position he held until the month of October, 1905. At that time he set up in business for himself in a store specially devoted to the handling of feed and merchandise, of which he disposed May 21, 1907.

Mr. Myers is a landed proprietor of standing and owns a section of land, three hundred and twenty acres in Rock county and an equal amount in Wheeler county, both tracts devoted to the production of hay. The Newport creamery, in which he was interested for a time, was largely indebted to him for its organization. In politics his influence is felt, and he is an active worker in the Republican party. He is a member of the Workmen and Royal Highlanders of Newport and the Modern Woodmen at Bassett.

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#### ISRAEL KIMBEL.

The farming community northwest of Oshkosh has an able representative in the person of Israel Kimbel. For many years he has been a resident of Deuel county, during which time he has been successful as an agriculturist and stockman, has gained an extensive acquaintance on account of his many sterling qualities, and is known as an energetic and prosperous farmer and worthy citizen.

Mr. Kimbel is a native of Missouri, born May 3, 1861, but made the state his only a short time, his parents removing to Iowa, where he grew up. He and the family came to Nebraska in 1888, landing here in Deuel county on March 7, during a heavy snowstorm, and drove out by team from Ogallala. In the same spring he took a homestead on section 13, township 17, range 45, proving up in due time, and members of his family now own land adjoining to the amount of about sixteen hundred acres. Mr. Kimbel cultivates three hundred acres and runs a small bunch of cattle and quite a number of fine horses, also a good drove of hogs. He has the entire ranch well improved, and has an abundant water supply, the home ranch being located on the Platte river bottom, seven miles west of the town

of Oshkosh. It is one of the best situated tracts lying along the river, and is a very valuable property. He started on the ranch in 1888 on wild prairie land, and lived in a tent the first six weeks until a sod house was built. Comparing the difference between that time and the present it shows Mr. Kimbel to be an energetic and worthy citizen.

Mr. Kimbel married Jennie A. Dowell, a native of Illinois, the event occurring in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on September 14, 1882. Both parents of Mrs. Kimbel are dead. Mrs. Kimbel's father was a pioneer in Montana, where Mrs. Kimbel spent thirteen years of her girlhood days. Later the family moved to Iowa. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kimbel, namely: William Leroy, single; Jessie, wife of Grover Crane, living near the home ranch; Pearl, wife of Verde Fought, they residing north of Oshkosh on a farm; Gertrude, Bessie and Maude, all at home. The entire family of our subject are well and favorably known throughout the locality, and their home is one of the most hospitable to be found. Mr. Kimbel is a thoroughly congenial gentleman, and bears the reputation of being a true sportsman among those who love to hunt, and has participated in many a fine hunting trip with a party of genial good fellows. Mr. Kimbel has done much in the way of assisting in the establishment of the schools in his locality, and taken an active interest in local affairs. In politics he is a Democrat.

Mrs. Kimbel's mother was born and raised in Illinois. Her father was a prominent and well-to-do farmer of Manard county, Illinois, seventy-five miles from Springfield. He had an extensive estate. Mrs. Kimbel's grandfather, William Dowell, was a Baptist minister, born in Kentucky. He made Illinois his home for many years, where he raised a family. Later he removed to Missouri.

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#### JOSEPH G. AKES.

In the gentleman above mentioned we have one of the leading old-timers of Dawes county, Nebraska. He came to this region when it was a wild prairie land and through his industrious habits and energy succeeded in building up one of the valuable estates of the locality, and has been intimately identified with the development and growth of this section from the pioneer days.

Mr. Akes was born in 1861 in Henry county, Iowa. His father, Granville S. Akes, was a farmer and mechanic, who came to Missouri with his family in 1865, settling in Gentry county, where our subject grew up, and was

educated in Missouri, attending the common schools. At the age of twenty-one he went to Mills county, Iowa, where he worked out on farms for two years, and on May 15, 1884, came to Nebraska and settled on his farm in what is now section 8, township 31, range 51, Dawes county. His first house here was a rude dug-out so familiar to the pioneers of those days, in which he "batched it" for several years. The country was then in a wild state, wild beasts roaming through the regions, and often he heard the coyotes howl through the lonely nights when he lived alone in his dugout. He had all the experiences of the pioneer, handling ox teams and freighting, while proving up on his farm and striving hard to win a home. He was in the ranching and farming business from the first, and made money, adding constantly to his acreage, and in 1907 when he sold out his farm, he was owner of eight hundred and eighty acres, of which over two hundred were cultivated and raising good crops. He had built a good house, barns and other farm buildings, corrals, planted trees, built fences, and had one of the best improved places in his locality. When he came here he teamed from Sidney to Valentine, camping out nights on the journey, and for a time after locating lived in a tent on his farm, and also used a covered wagon as a dwelling place.

On account of his ill health Mr. Akers was obliged to sell his ranch and moved to Crawford in March, 1907. Several years ago he was struck by lightning while working with a two-horse team hitched to a mower and the horses were instantly killed, while the shock injured his health for the remainder of his life.

In 1890 Mr. Akers was united in marriage to Miss Iva J. Barnes. She is a daughter of William G. Barnes, a well known sawmill and lumberman.

He is a Democrat.

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#### WILLIAM L. HOYT.

William Hoyt, one of the extensive ranchers of Sioux county, Nebraska, resides in section 17, township 31, range 57, and has been associated with the agricultural interests of the locality for the past twenty-one years. He is a gentleman of untiring energy and perseverance, and his character and reputation are beyond question.

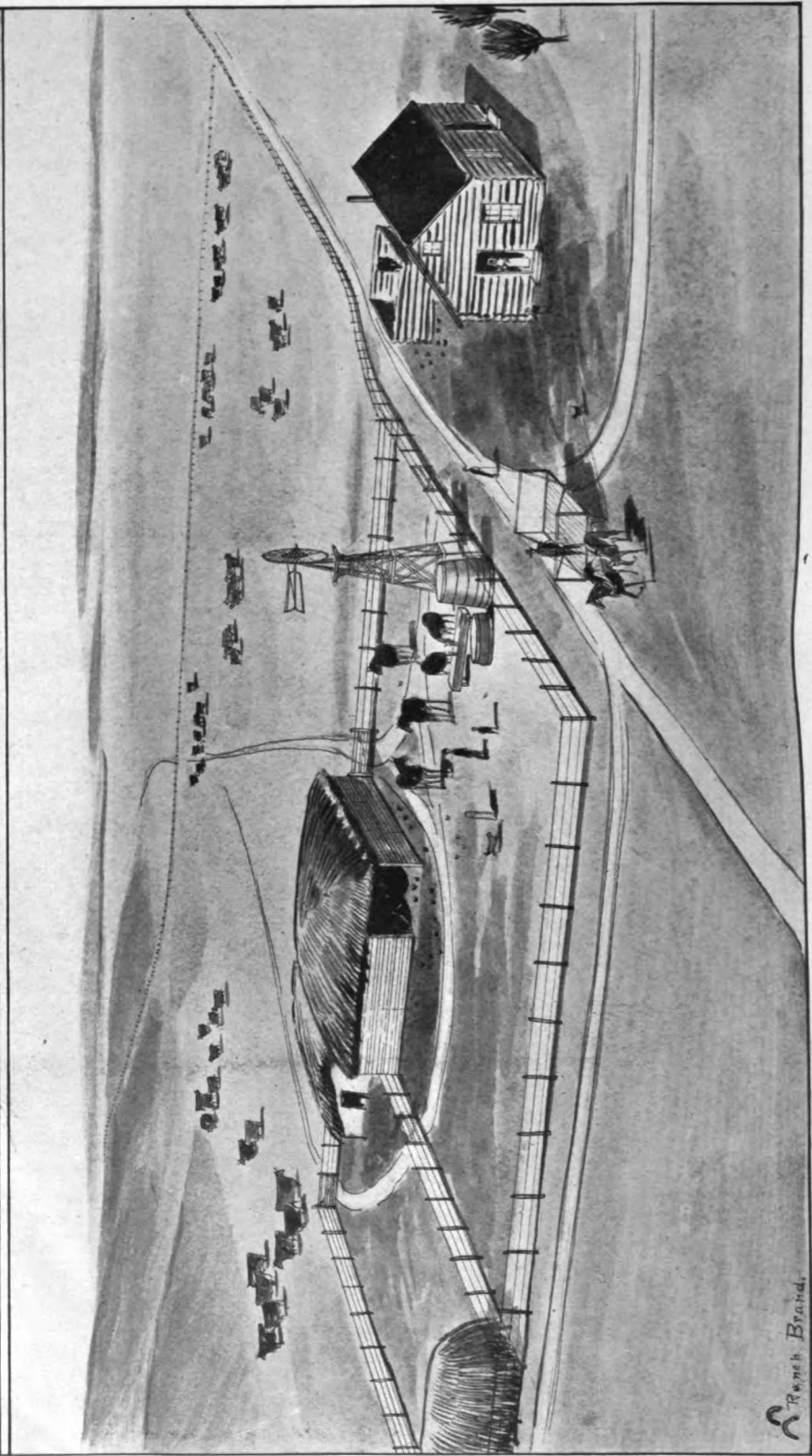
Mr. Hoyt was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1863. His father, Jacob N. Hoyt, was of American stock, and carried on a paper manufacturing business in the city of Cleveland for many years. The father married Mary Latti-

mer, who was born and reared in Delaware, Ohio, was also of American blood, and she died when our subject was three years old. Jacob N. Hoyt was born December 15, 1831, and his family was of English descent, and were early pioneers of the New England states, settling in Concord, New Hampshire. Jacob N. Hoyt was one of the early residents of Cleveland, going there in 1853, and was employed in the Cleveland postoffice as clerk for ten years. He was prominent in politics in that state, and was a prominent member of the Knights Templar and of the Masonic lodge. In the year 1865 he went into the paper manufacturing business and continued in that business until 1869, when he moved to Illinois. He located on a farm in Macon county, remaining there for fifteen years, then went west to Kane county, Illinois, where he was engaged in dairying and farming until his death, which occurred in May, 1907, Ed and Walter, our subject's younger brothers, falling heirs to the home property, where they still live.

In 1884 our subject struck out for himself, emigrating west, and located near Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he worked as cowboy on a large ranch, and there led a typical frontiersman's career, spending a large portion of his time on the plains, camping out wherever he happened to stop and was all over the country on horseback, often encountering many dangers such as are common to one following that mode of life. For a long time he was employed by R. S. Van Tassel, starting to work for that gentleman shortly after coming west, and it was while in his employ that he chose his location for himself.

In 1888 Mr. Hoyt filed on a pre-emption claim in this territory, still continuing his work on the range, dividing his time between the two, spending his summers on the ranch and the winters on his claim. He proved up on the land and managed to get along pretty well, in 1891-'92 starting in the livery business in Harrison, where he remained for about two years. Previous to this he had taken a tree claim and opened up a ranch of his own, got together a nice bunch of cattle, and constantly increased his herd, and in 1896 purchased additional land, which forms a part of his present ranch. He now owns twenty-one hundred and sixty acres, all deeded land, and controls in all eleven hundred and twenty acres of leased land. His ranch is beautifully situated on Running creek, close to Coffee Siding, and all of it is fenced and has good buildings, including comfortable house, large barns, sheds, corrals, etc. Mr. Hoyt is engaged exclusively in cattle and horse raising and has met with splendid success. He raises considerable hay and





Mr. W. A. Wilson (deceased)

RESIDENCE AND PROPERTY OF WILLIAM A. WILSON ESTATE,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mrs. W. A. Wilson.



has one hundred and seventy acres of finely irrigated hay land.

Our subject is a thorough business man and a representative westerner, having seen as much of the ranching business as any one in this region. He likes to recall the time when he rode the plains and still has his old saddle in which he rode for twenty years, and figures that he has traveled in that length of time over one hundred thousand miles. Mr. Hoyt is among the well-to-do men of his locality, and besides his fine farm and ranch land is owner of two residence properties in Harrison.

Mr. Hoyt was married in 1896 to Miss Rosa DeBock, daughter of Leopold M. and Nettie (Coonan) DeBock, whose sketch appears in this volume. He is one of the pioneers of this region, well and favorably known, and Mrs. Hoyt grew up in Nebraska. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt, Edith, born January 17, 1900, in Sioux county.

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#### WILLIAM A. WILSON, DECEASED.

William A. Wilson, deceased, was for many years prior to his demise a leading agriculturist and ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska. He became widely known as a man of large intellectual ability, and his name will be long remembered as one of the strong and capable settlers of western Nebraska.

Mr. Wilson was born in Hannibal, New York, February 2, 1863. His father, James G. Wilson, was a farmer by occupation, born of Irish-American stock, and his mother, Phoebe A. Perkins, of an old Vermont family. Our subject grew up in his native state, and at the age of twenty years came west and settled in Cherry county, Nebraska, taking up a homestead in the German precinct. There he lived in an old sod shanty, where he "batched it" for a short time. When he first came to this region he rode here from Antelope county, and this was a hard and dangerous journey in those days, as the country was very thinly settled and the Indians roamed at will all over this section. He began by building up his farm at once and spent many years on it. He had all the experiences of a pioneer life, went through the drouth periods and met severe losses and discouragements, but stuck bravely to his post and proved up on his homestead and pre-emption, principally engaged in stock raising during later years. He constantly added to his possessions until he owned a fine ranch of three hundred and twenty acres, all well improved, with one hundred and twenty acres cultivated, on which banner crops are raised. In 1898 he left the farm and moved to

Georgia, purchasing a house and five lots, besides an eighty-seven-acre tract on which he built a good house and barn, still running the ranch, and engaged in stock buying up to the time of his death, which occurred June 28, 1903. Mrs. Wilson has filed on a five hundred and twenty-acre Kincaid homestead in sections 19 and 20, township 34, range 30.

Mr. Wilson was married in Hannibal, New York, December 16, 1884, to Miss Nina V. Henthorn, born in Sterling, Cayuga county, New York, a daughter of William and Mary (Doyle) Henthorn, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Oswego county, New York. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, named as follows: Carrie, a teacher of Cherry county, born November 21, 1885; Seward, a graduate of the Nebraska Normal College at Wayne, born November 10, 1889; Vera, born October 31, 1892; Hazel, born December 21, 1899, and Cyrenius, born November 9, 1902. When Mr. Wilson brought his bride to Nebraska buffalo trails and wallows were plainly to be seen, while antelope, coyotes, swifts and prairie chickens were plentiful. A view of the residence of Mrs. Wilson is shown on another page in this work.

Mr. Wilson was among the first white men to settle in this region and took an active part in the development of the state from its early settlement. He was a leading man of affairs in his community, serving as president of the Farmers' Alliance; also president of the Farmers' Institute Association, and politically campaigned all over this part of the county in the interest of the Populist party, of which he was a leader. He was, with his family, a member of the Methodist church and affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### HARRY FINDLEY.

Harry Findley, residing in Alma township, Harlan county, is a well known pioneer of western Nebraska, coming to Adams county with his parents when a mere infant. He was born in Wapello county, Iowa, in 1873, his father settling on a homestead in Juniata township, Adams county, twelve miles west of Hastings, where the family lived up to 1885, when the father, Frank Findley, died at the age of fifty-two years. The mother still makes her home with our subject, who is the youngest of a family of nine children. The father owned two hundred and forty acres of good land in Adams county. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and was left an orphan when a babe. Our subject's moth-

er's people are from Germany, and on his father's side from Scotland.

In 1903 Mr. Findley bought the farm on which he now lives and erected a good residence and farm buildings. He has built up this farm and home, putting many improvements on the place, and has since been engaged in mixed farming. He raises thoroughbred red hogs, keeping about one hundred and fifty on hand all the time, and sells these at private sale in this and other counties. He has had excellent success in this line of work, his herd being headed by strains of Improver Juniors and Second, also Gold Dust, which are the best animals to be found anywhere. He keeps about fifty graded cattle, and is constantly improving his herd, but gives most of his time and attention to the proper care of his herd of Duroc Jersey hogs, which are his especial pride. His sales are attended by breeders and farmers from all over this section of the state, and he obtains A1 prices for his stock.

Mr. Findley was married in 1899 to Miss Estella Robinson, daughter of George W. Robinson, of Tekamah, Nebraska, who is an old settler in that locality. Mrs. Findley's mother died when she was a babe. Our subject has no children. A brother of Mr. Findley, Robert, lives in Omaha, and is engaged in the restaurant business. One sister, Mrs. Clare Robinson, also resides there, and another, Mrs. Lizzie Willis, wife of Lee Willis, lives in Alma township, this county. The third sister, Mrs. Lina Bowers, lives in Adams county. Mr. Findley has always been a Republican.

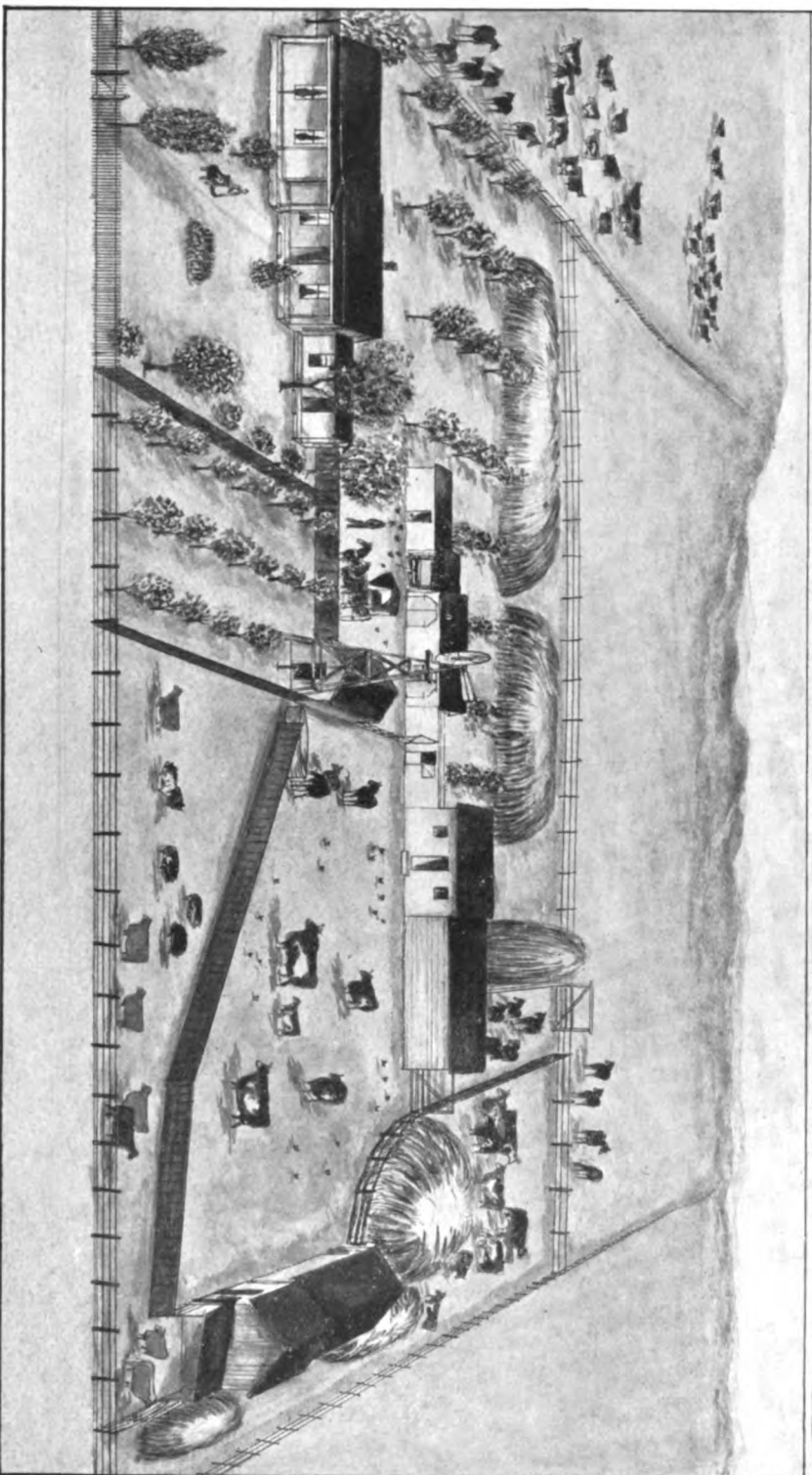
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#### JACOB MARTIN.

One of the best known of the old-timers of Cherry county is Jacob Martin, familiarly known as "Jake," who settled in this locality when it was practically a wilderness. He now resides on the southeast quarter of section 23, township 34, range 28.

Mr. Martin was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1859, where his father, Jacob Martin, Sr., was a farmer of Dutch extraction, whose parents were born in Holland, coming to this country early in life. Our subject, whose mother was Mary Butterbaugh Martin, is the fourth in a family of nine children, all reared in Pennsylvania, where he grew up accustomed to all kinds of hard farm work. At the age of twenty-one he left his parents' home and came west to Lanark, Carroll county, Illinois, working for two years on farms in that locality. He then came on to Valentine,

Nebraska, which was then a wild and lawless western town, arriving there at daybreak, May 7, 1883, just in time to see a band of cowboys shooting up the signs on the streets, which spectacle was something entirely new to eastern eyes. Had he not spent nearly all his money in coming he would have boarded the next train for the east. He filed on a claim May 8, on the place he now occupies, putting up a rude shanty, seven by twelve, of second-hand boards, roughly made and without any floor or windows, lighted, though, by the cracks between the boards. Soon after he built a better house of pine poles, which served as a residence for a number of years. Having no money, he exchanged labor for the use of a team to haul the poles and help to erect them. For some time he worked as a butcher, and was also employed by the government, freighting with ox teams, going through a regular pioneer existence, but withal succeeding very well at it. He at one time owned ten yoke of oxen and a carload of cattle, but the Texas fever broke out in his herd, killing all but one steer and two calves, and he was obliged to start afresh. Hiring out as a cook, he served at a government camp on Big White river in the Rosebud reservation. Here he saved his money and bought more cattle, again losing twenty-four head in a severe snowstorm, which left him only about ten head. In all he has lost one hundred and seventy-three head of cattle since coming to this state. However, he had plenty of grit and never gave up courage, but moved to Cherry county and started in the merry-go-round business, this venture also proving disastrous, his loss here footing up about thirteen hundred dollars. During 1890 and 1891 he worked in the Rocky mountains, then returned to Pennsylvania, where he worked in the mills for seven years. In the fall of 1899 he went to Yakima county, Washington, for two months and then found work in Seattle working on the street car line and at a sawmill planing the lumber for building the bridge streets of that place. From there he went to Vancouver by boat and at Calgary, Alberta, invested in railroad land, which he sold two years afterward, doubling his money. In 1890 he returned to this county, but being unable to sell out his homestead decided to remain and went to work improving and increasing his property. His farm now comprises twelve hundred acres, with two hundred acres under cultivation, all fenced, with good substantial farm buildings covering two acres of ground, four of these buildings being built entirely of cement and stone and all of his own construction. He has spent over a thousand dollars for water supply, drilling



Jacob Martin.

RESIDENCE OF JACOB MARTIN,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mrs. Jacob Martin.



wells to the depth of two hundred and twenty-five feet.

Mr. Martin tells many interesting experiences connected with the development of this county, one of which was when he returned to his cabin to find it in possession of two families, who could find no place else for shelter and took possession of his house. He had been away for ten days buying cattle at Norfolk and finding the house occupied shared it with his new neighbors until they could erect cabins for themselves.

Mr. Martin was married to Miss Eva Chaufy, October 23d, 1894. Her father, Henry Chaufy, an old settler of Cherry county, came from New York state, where he was born. He is now a resident of Oklahoma. The mother was Miss Effie Huntington. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of one daughter, Effie. Mr. Martin is a public spirited citizen, takes a keen interest in all the affairs of the county and state, having held local office at different times. He is an Independent voter. Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin are members of the Dunkard church. The hardships through which Mr. Martin has passed seem almost inconceivable. On one of his freighting trips in the Black Hills he endured three days without food, at one time slept for a week in water several inches deep. In 1899 his feet were crushed by a heavily laden wagon passing over them, from the effect of which he is suffering a partial paralysis, though now slowly recovering. Mr. and Mrs. Martin have travelled extensively, going in their travels as far as California and Oklahoma. On another page in this work will be found a view of the residence, with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Martin.

#### SAMUEL PIERSALL.

Samuel Piersall, whose name will be readily recalled by all familiar with the farming population around Ainsworth, is one of the prominent and successful agriculturists of Brown county, Nebraska.

Mr. Piersall was born on a farm near Pontiac, Michigan, May 22d, 1853. His father Thomas Piersall, was a mechanic of English and Dutch descent, born in New York state. Our subject was reared and educated in the state of Michigan, supporting himself from the time he was nine years old, by working at anything he could find to do. He spent several years in the lumber woods in that state, rafted on the rivers there, and followed a lumberman's life for eighteen years, from the cutting of the trees until the logs were sawed into lumber.

In 1886 he came to Brown county, and took a homestead in southeast quarter section 9, township 30, range 22, proved up on this claim and lived here for two and a half years. His first building was a shanty made of logs. After leaving this place he moved five miles northeast of Johnstown, remaining there for six years. In the spring of 1894 he settled on a farm in section 19, township 31, range 21. There he went through many hard times during the dry years. He stayed on this place for twelve years, and raised only six crops off the land during all that time. July 4th, 1897, when everything gave promise of a bountiful harvest, the worst hail storm ever known here, beat everything into the ground. Again, in 1898, when prospects for a good crop were the finest, a similar storm struck the vicinity and laid everything low. However, he persevered and stuck to his farm until March, 1906, when he moved to his present location. This place comprises one hundred and seventy-nine acres all in one piece, and two hundred and forty acres of leased land located east of the line, besides one hundred and sixty acres of fine hay land, also held under lease. Although he suffered heavy losses at different times during the bad years, the whole family worked industriously, and by their united efforts were able to make a good living, never wanting for the necessary comforts of life as other families did. Mr. Piersall tells of an experience in which he saved the life of John Anderson, living five miles northeast of Johnstown. The latter was engaged in sinking a well and was on a platform down in the earth some sixty feet from the surface, and over a hundred from the bottom of the well when the curbing gave way and the ground caved in on him. Mr. Piersall was at work near by, and he saw the trouble and hastened to his assistance. Others came to help in the work of rescue, and after several days of constant effort to extricate Mr. Anderson from his precarious condition, they received answers to their signals made by pounding, which showed them that he was still alive. The digging was continued with renewed vigor, and in about nine days he was rescued, not much worse for his incarceration, except weak from lack of food and sufficient air. The only thing that saved him was the fact that the curbing and staging in the well had supported the dirt so that he was not crushed and smothered by its falling on him. However, it was a terrible experience, and during all this time Mr. Piersall was unable to sleep nights, and had it not been for him Mr. Anderson would never have been taken out alive.

On June 18, 1876, Mr. Piersall was married to Miss Emalora Westover, born in Canada, a daughter of James E. and Emaline (Barnes) Westover. They have a family of twelve children, named as follows: William S., George F., Edith L., Myrtle B., Amos Dale, Emiline P., Earl, Ray, Charles E., Hazel L., Walter D. and Vera Alberta.

Mr. Piersall is now situated so that he can enjoy the fruits of his hard labor, and is well and favorably known all over the community in which he resides. He is an adherent of the People's party, a member of the Methodist church and affiliates with the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Ainsworth.

#### OLE OLSON.

Ole Olson, residing in township 21, range 15, Garfield county, is proprietor of a well developed and valuable farm in section 12, which he has operated successfully for the past twenty years. He is one of the well-to-do residents of his locality, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know of him.

Mr. Olson is a native of Sweden, born in 1847. He was raised and educated in his native land. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of eighteen or twenty years, then left home and struck out for himself, coming to America in 1867. In 1889 he came to Nebraska and took up a pre-emption of one hundred and sixty acres on which he proved up, later homesteading one hundred and sixty acres more in the same locality. He worked faithfully, and though often meeting with discouragements, sometimes having partial failure of crops, did not give up hope and kept on building up his farm and adding improvements as he was able, and also succeeded in putting some money away for a rainy day. He has a large portion of his farm under cultivation, growing oats, corn and other small grains, also raises some stock and marketing several carloads of hogs each year, which net him a nice sum. He is engaged to quite an extent in dairying, keeping a large herd of cows for that purpose, and also raises milch cows for the market. His place is well supplied with water for his stock and household use, all of which is obtained from a deep bored well, pumped by wind mills into large supply tanks placed at different points on his farm.

Mr. Olson was married in 1871 to Miss Frances Russell. Mrs. Olson was born and raised in Illinois, and came to Nebraska in 1889, where she met and married Mr. Olson. One child has been born of this marriage, Lillie, now aged twenty-six years.

Our subject is a Republican, but has never aspired to office, although he takes an active interest in local affairs which tend to improve conditions in his locality, and is always ready and willing to do his full share in aiding any movement to that end.

#### C. E. MAGNUSON.

Among the enterprising and prominent business men of Phelps county, Nebraska, none is better known or more universally esteemed and respected than the subject of this review. He is located at Loomis, and is one of the leading citizens of that place.

Mr. Magnuson is a native of Sweden, born in 1863. Mr. Magnuson's father, Carl J., was born in Kalmare Lan, Smoland, Sweden, in 1829, and came to American shores in 1865, locating on a farm in the above county, where he officiated as a minister of the Swedish Mission church. A large number of that congregation having settled in Phelps county, they sent for him to come to them, which he did, preaching for several years. From his boyhood our subject worked on his father's farm up until 1892. He was the only child of his parents, and the family came to Nebraska in 1879, his father homesteading one hundred and sixty acres in Laird township. He accumulated a large property, and at the present time is owner of five hundred and sixty acres of land in Phelps county. He resides in Loomis, retired from all active business interests.

Mr. Magnuson started in business in Loomis district in 1892. He, in partnership with C. L. Grandlund, opened a general merchandise establishment in a large brick store built by the former's father, Rev. C. J. Magnuson. Loomis district is one of the best and richest farming communities in western Nebraska. In 1898 Mr. Grandlund retired from the business on being elected treasurer of Phelps county. (A sketch of Mr. Grandlund appears in this book on another page.) Since then Mr. Magnuson has carried on the business alone, which has grown and developed from the beginning until it is now one of the leading general stores in Phelps county.

In 1892 Mr. Magnuson was married to Miss Emma Julia Burgland, of Kirkwood, Illinois. They have three children, named as follows: Verne, now attending the leading school in the city of Holdrege; DeEtte and Gladys, at school here at home. Mrs. Magnuson is of great assistance to her husband in his rapidly increasing business, taking full charge of the books of the establishment, besides attending to her home duties. She taught school six

years previous to her marriage, both in Illinois and Nebraska.

The family is highly respected in the community in which they reside, and have a host of warm friends and acquaintances. Mr. Magnuson is a Republican.

#### GEORGE O. WEISFLOG.

George O. Weisflog is a well-to-do young farmer of Cherry county, Nebraska, who has, through his thrift and industry, accumulated a competence in a comparatively short space of time. He was born December 18, 1870, in a small village in Pennsylvania, where his father, Herman Weisflog, was a shoe-maker, following this trade until 1885, when the family came to Nebraska and settled in Cherry county, being one of the pioneers in this locality. Both the mother and father of our subject were born and married in Germany, where their first four children were born. The subject of this sketch was the first of the family whose birth occurred in America. The greater part of his boyhood days were spent on the farm in Morgan county, Ohio. The family moved here from Pennsylvania. At the age of thirteen he and his brother Emile came to Nebraska. In the spring of 1883 they took up a claim in what is now called the German settlement. In two years the father, George, Oscar and Clara, followed the mother, with Henry and Annie remaining in Ohio until the fall of that year. They built a sod shanty in which they lived the first year, breaking up the land with ox teams which they used for three years in all their work. All the water for their family use and for stock had to be hauled four and a half miles, from the Niobrara river, while their nearest trading post was at Valentine, twenty miles away. During this time our subject was living with his father, but at the age of twenty-one years he took a pre-emption on which he proved up, then took a homestead, and still occupies the latter as his place of residence. His ranch now contains nine hundred and sixty acres, most of which is in grazing land, although he has one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation on which he raises fine crops. He has a good set of farm buildings, plenty of water and windmills, fences and all the farming implements necessary to carry on the work of his large estate.

Mr. Weisflog has gone through many hard experiences during the dry years; for two years in succession he raised practically nothing except grass and little of that. His farm is situated in section 33, township 34, range 30, where he has resided continuously since home-

steading it, excepting one year, 1905, when he had charge of a store at Gresham. Mr. Weisflog had a severe misfortune on September 28, 1901, when he lost his left arm in the accidental discharge of a gun which he was carrying.

On August 6, 1896, our subject was married to Miss Minnie Tonniges, a native of Seward county, whose parents were born in Germany and came to this country when young people. They settled in Cherry county in 1891, where the father died. Four children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Weisflog, named as follows: Willie, Artie, Viola and Leona.

Mr. Weisflog has always taken an active part in local affairs, and has held different offices. He is a Republican and strong party man. He holds membership in Camp No. 4207, Modern Woodmen of America, of Crookston.

#### G. A. FORSLING.

Among the younger members of the farming community in Kimball county, G. A. Forsling takes high rank for his successful operations during the past several years. He has a valuable estate on section 26, township 15, range 57, and is classed among the well-to-do and progressive farmers of the locality.

Mr. Forsling was born in Sweden, July 21st, 1877, and at the age of six years came to America with his parents, brothers and sisters. A history of two brothers, Clarence and Alfred, is given in another part of this volume; also a review of the family history.

They settled first in Chicago, then came to Phelps county, Nebraska, and landed in Kimball county about 1885. The father homesteaded on section 12, township 14, range 56, and there our subject grew up, assisted in carrying on the home ranch until the death of his father, October 16th, 1904. For sometime after the death of his father, he lived on and operated the home place, in the meantime securing his present location. This ranch contains one thousand five hundred and twenty acres of deeded and more or less leased land. He has about fifty acres under cultivation, while the balance is used for pasture and hay land for a large bunch of cattle and some horses. Their residence is on section 26, which is a Kincaid homestead owned by Mr. Forsling's mother. The ranch is well improved with good buildings and everything about the place shows good management and painstaking care in its operation. He is engaged principally in stock raising and dairying.

On April 15th, 1908, Mr. Forsling was mar-



ried to Miss Hilda Bergquist, the event taking place at Chappel, Nebraska. Mrs. Forsling was born in Colorado, coming to Nebraska with her parents, who were old settlers in western Nebraska, living near Chappell, Deuel county, for a number of years. Her father, F. W. Bergquist, was a Lutheran minister and a prominent man in his profession. Mrs. Forsling's parents are now living at Skandia, Kansas.

Mr. Forsling takes an active part in all affairs of public interest. He is now serving as treasurer of school district No. 21. He has also served as road overseer for two years, and has done his full part in improving and developing the country in which he lives. He is highly esteemed and is one of the representative men of western Nebraska.

#### MARTIN CHRISTENSEN.

Martin Christensen, one of the old settlers of Nebraska, occupies a prominent position in Cherry county, and enjoys the respect and esteem of his associates.

Mr. Christensen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1865, and his father Gottlieb Christensen, was a prominent citizen engaged in the stock buying business. Our subject was raised and educated in the town of his birth, and after leaving school learned the painter's trade, which occupation he followed in his native country until 1883, when he took passage for America, landing in Castle Garden, New York. After working at his trade in Chicago and Omaha for a time he came to Cherry county, Nebraska, spending several months here, then going to Omaha where he remained until the following year. In 1884 he returned to Fort Niobrara, where he secured a painting contract at the fort. The excellence of his work secured him further contracts at Forts Robinson, Sidney, and Niobrara and was employed by the government in various parts of Nebraska until 1890, at which time he settled in Valentine. Here he followed his trade constantly, and has erected a fine residence, and owns one of the finest equipped paint shops in Valentine, dealing in wall paper, paints, oils, varnishes, etc., and is doing a flourishing business.

Mr. Christensen was nominated by the Democratic party for county treasurer in 1892. He has held the office of chairman of the county central committee for the past ten years, and was one of the delegates who nominated William J. Bryan for president at the national convention in 1896.

In 1890 he was married to Miss Clara Evarts, whose father, Burt Evarts, was one of the first settlers in Valentine, taking up his

homestead in that part of Valentine, where the flourishing mill and water power plant are now located. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Christensen, who are named as follows: Marie, Albert, Carl, and Genevieve. Mrs. Christensen *nee* Evarts, died in 1898. He was married in 1899 to Miss Mary White, daughter of Bartlett White, a farmer and stock raiser near Valentine and they have three children as follows: Leo, Martin and Francis.

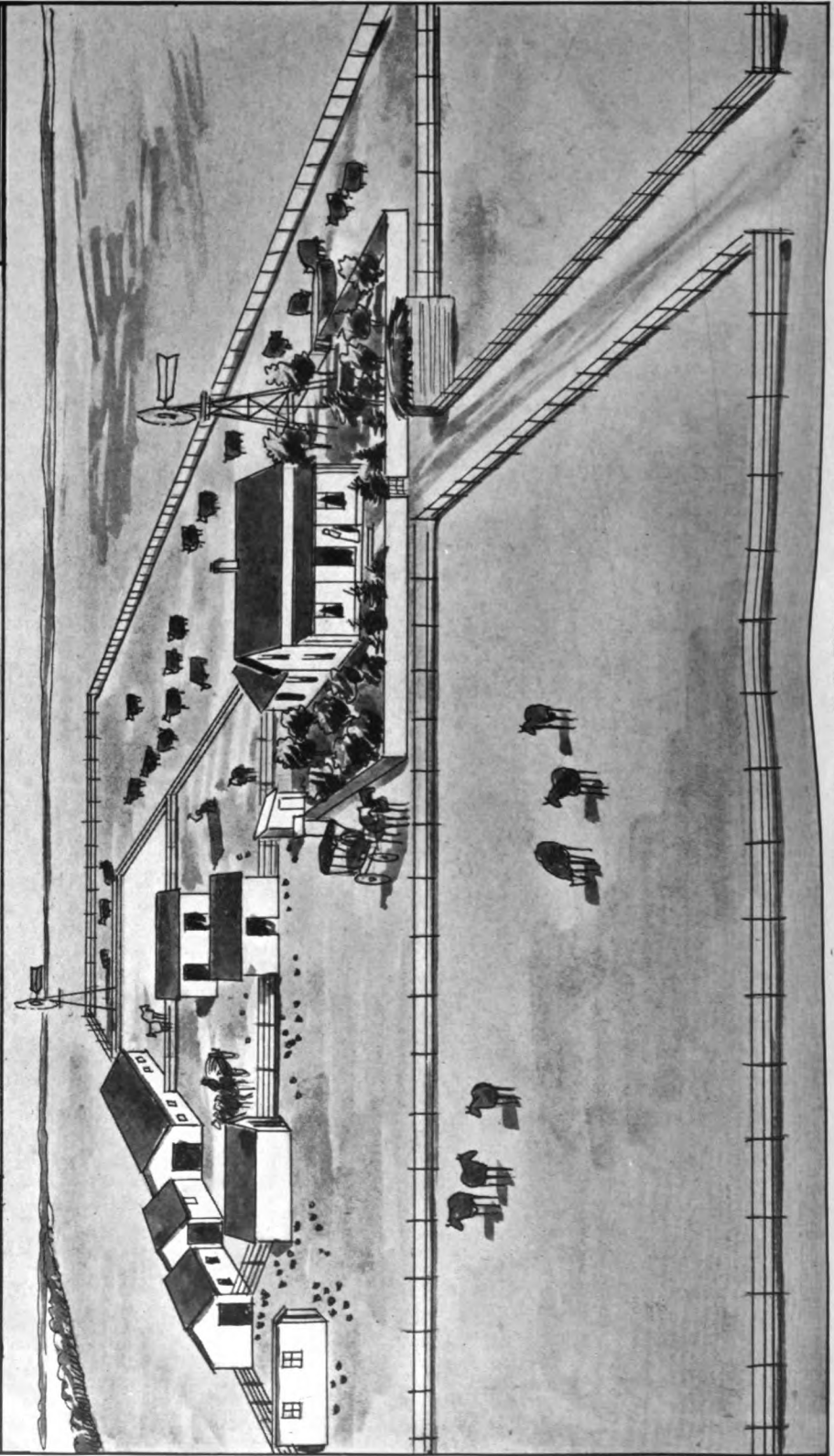
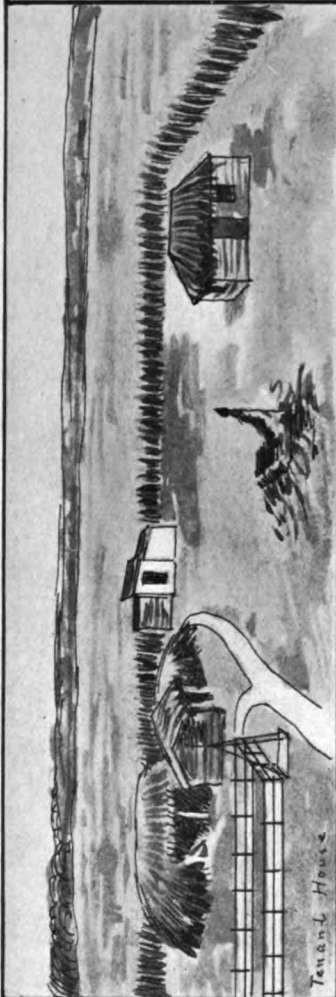
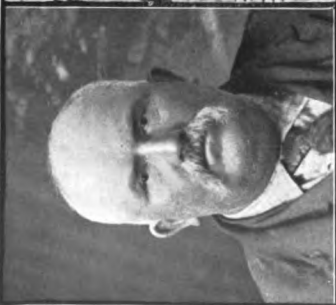
#### RICHARD M. DUNN.

Richard M. Dunn, one of the leading ranchmen and farmers of Sioux county, has a valuable estate in section 1, township 32, range 57, which he has improved in fine shape by his energetic labors and perseverance. He has spent the past twenty-one years in this locality and has become one of the foremost citizens, highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and a good business man, locating here in 1887.

Mr. Dunn is a native of Jefferson county, Iowa, born in 1863 on a farm. Both parents were born in Ireland, coming to this country in the early days and settling in Colorado in 1866, where the father, Patrick, followed the life of a pioneer cattleman and ranchman for many years. In Colorado they were located on a farm near Denver, and there Richard was raised, attending the country schools and helping the father in the work on their farm. The family lived on that place for twenty years, and then Richard came to Sioux county, Nebraska, locating on a pre-emption and homestead, the first location being on Squaw creek. At that time Harrison was merely a town of tents and the surrounding country practically a wilderness, with but few settlers in this region. When he landed here Mr. Dunn had a few head of cattle, and he immediately put up a log shack and "batched it" for twelve years. He first started in the cattle business during the early days of his settlement here, herding his own cattle and camping out at night in all sorts of rough weather, leading a typical frontiersman's existence. During the years 1897 and 1898 Mr. Dunn was engaged as foreman of the Guthrie ranch, near Douglas, Wyoming, for two years. In 1899 he came to his present homestead, and here he has erected good buildings and put on many improvements, owning all together about one thousand acres, situated in and about section 1, township 23, range 57. Eight hundred acres of this is used for ranching purposes, and the balance is under cultivation, devoted to the raising of grains, yielding good crops each season.

Mr. Dunn was married in 1891 to Eva Sher-





RESIDENCE OF B. F. HOBSON,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

B. F. Hobson

Mrs. B. F. Hobson

rill, whose father, John, is an old settler in this county. Her mother's maiden name was Lucy Reynolds. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunn: Henry, Lester, Margaret, Arthur and Vernon. The family is highly esteemed in their community, and take an active part in all social and school affairs in their neighborhood. Mr. Dunn is a loyal Republican, active in party politics.

#### BENJAMIN F. HOBSON.

Benjamin F. Hobson, whose pleasant and attractive farm home may be found in section 23, township 35, range 28, is widely known as one of the largest and most successful farmers and land owners of Cherry county, and his name is familiar to business men in all this region of Nebraska. The Hobsons are an old American family, and it's Cherry county representatives bring no shame on an honored name. They are true to the best principles of American citizenship, are linked in with whatever makes for a better community, whether in education, morals or business.

Mr. Hobson was born on a farm in Lee county, Iowa, January 20th, 1855, where his parents, William and Mary (Colwell) Hobson, were well and favorably known. The Colwells were an Irish family, and his mother was a native of the Emerald Isle. She was the mother of a family of nine children, two daughters and seven sons, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth. He was reared on the farm in Poweshiek county, Iowa, whither the family moved about 1858, and remained at home until he had reached the age of twenty-eight years, assisting his father, and bearing his full share of the family burdens. He was married February 27th, 1883, to Miss Adelia Janecroft. Her parents, John and Melissa (Murphy) Janecroft, were born and bred to a farming life, and were very successful in their chosen vocation. Mr. and Mrs. Hobson have become the happy parents of a family of ten children, Mary M. (Salmon), Elizabeth J. (Sharp), Grace V., a teacher in the Mission school on Rosebud reservation, Eliza A., Edna A., Belle, Frank, Fern, John and Eunice.

Mr. Hobson came to Cherry county, Nebraska, and filed on a homestead in December following his marriage, moving with his young wife to their new possessions in June, 1884. Their first dwelling was a board shanty, twelve by sixteen feet in its dimensions, to which was added a sixteen foot addition in the fall, but it was sufficient to meet the requirement of the Hobsons for the coming three years. These years

were not without their trials and troubles. Mr. Hobson kept on steadily improving the conditions of his home and business. He secured a more convenient and comfortable farm home, constructed various buildings, as they were needed, built some fence and broke some land. Among the many discouragements two crops failed entirely for want of rain, and hail destroyed everything six seasons. Forty-six head of cattle died on his hands from eating green corn stalks, and the first fall he spent in Cherry county was signalized by the loss of a span of mules in a great prairie fire. To-day he owns nine hundred and sixty acres of land, of which at least three hundred and fifty acres are under cultivation, and the rest is devoted to hay and pasture. Besides the house in which he lives, and the farm buildings around it, Mr. Hobson has another set of buildings on a distant part of the farm in which hired help may be housed. A view of the family residence and surroundings will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Hobson is a Republican, and takes a very active interest in local affairs. He has served as justice of the peace, as road overseer, and has been on the school board for years. He is also a member of the election board, and helped organize the first schools of the neighborhood. His knowledge of section, township and range lines is not excelled by any man in this region. He is a member of Minnechadua lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Valentine, where he also holds membership in the Modern Workmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Together with the hardships and discouragements of crop failures the settlers along the line of the reservation have from time to time been disturbed by Indian uprisings. In the spring of 1890 Mr. Hobson took his family further from the seat of troubles and drove to Jacob Martins, where a number of settlers were congregated for protection. The house being so crowded Mr. Hobson's family concluded not to remain and returned home. The Indians remaining unsettled, the family spent one week in Valentine and have had since no fear of disturbance.

#### MRS. ADDIE M. WOOD.

The lady whose name heads this review is a highly esteemed resident of this region, where she owns and operates an extensive ranch, and the prosperity and order which surrounds the whole place is ample evidence of her ability and good business judgment. Mrs. Wood is counted among the leading old

settlers of Dawes county, and she has always done her full share in aiding in the development and growth of the region in which she chose her home, and is one of its foremost citizens.

Mrs. Wood was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1862, and is a daughter of Reuben Marker, a native of Pennsylvania and farmer by occupation, who settled in Illinois and was one of the pioneers of that state, where our subject was reared and educated. When she reached the age of fifteen years her parents came to Iowa and settled in Floyd county. In 1879 she was married to Addison Wood, and they were blessed with four children, who are named as follows: Reuben and Robert (twins), twenty-three years of age, Vern, sixteen years old, and Clark, thirteen. All live with the mother, except Robert, who lives on his homestead adjoining his mother's estate.

In 1887 our subject came west with her family, locating on a farm near Hay Springs, where they lived for one year, and went through pioneer experiences, occupying a dug-out, in which they were fairly comfortable. They next moved to Box Butte county, where they filed on a pre-emption and started to build up a home and farm. In 1888 they came to Dawes county and settled on section 27, township 31, range 47, and again began as pioneers. Here they built a shanty and started out with no capital at all except strong hearts and willing hands. Their first team were oxen, although they got some good horses, but with the oxen they broke up some land and put in a crop the first year and were able to raise good crops for several years, then were overtaken by the drouth periods and well-nigh became discouraged by constant failures, when for five successive years they were unable to even raise sufficient feed for their chickens; but though often becoming discouraged, Mrs. Wood stuck to the farm and as times grew better was more successful, and gradually improved and built up the place. She has personally conducted this farm since 1896, and is a progressive and thorough agriculturist, and everything is in perfect order and bespeaks the energy and good management of the owner. Her ranch now consists of six hundred and eighty acres of good land, and one son owns a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. One hundred acres is under cultivation, and she is extensively engaged in stock raising, principally cattle, running sixty to seventy-five head annually. She has lately remodelled her house, putting in a fine basement. Mrs. Wood has been director of school district No. 46 for more than eight years.

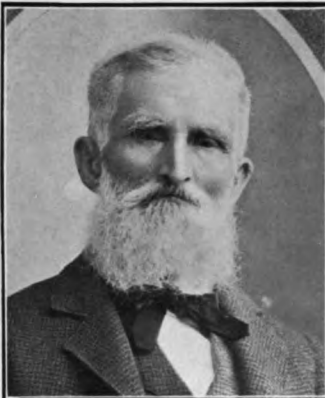
### THOMAS MOORE.

Among the prosperous farmers and early settlers of Phelps county, Nebraska, the subject of this review, Thomas Moore, occupies a high position. He resides in Sheridan township, where he has a fine farm and comfortable home, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

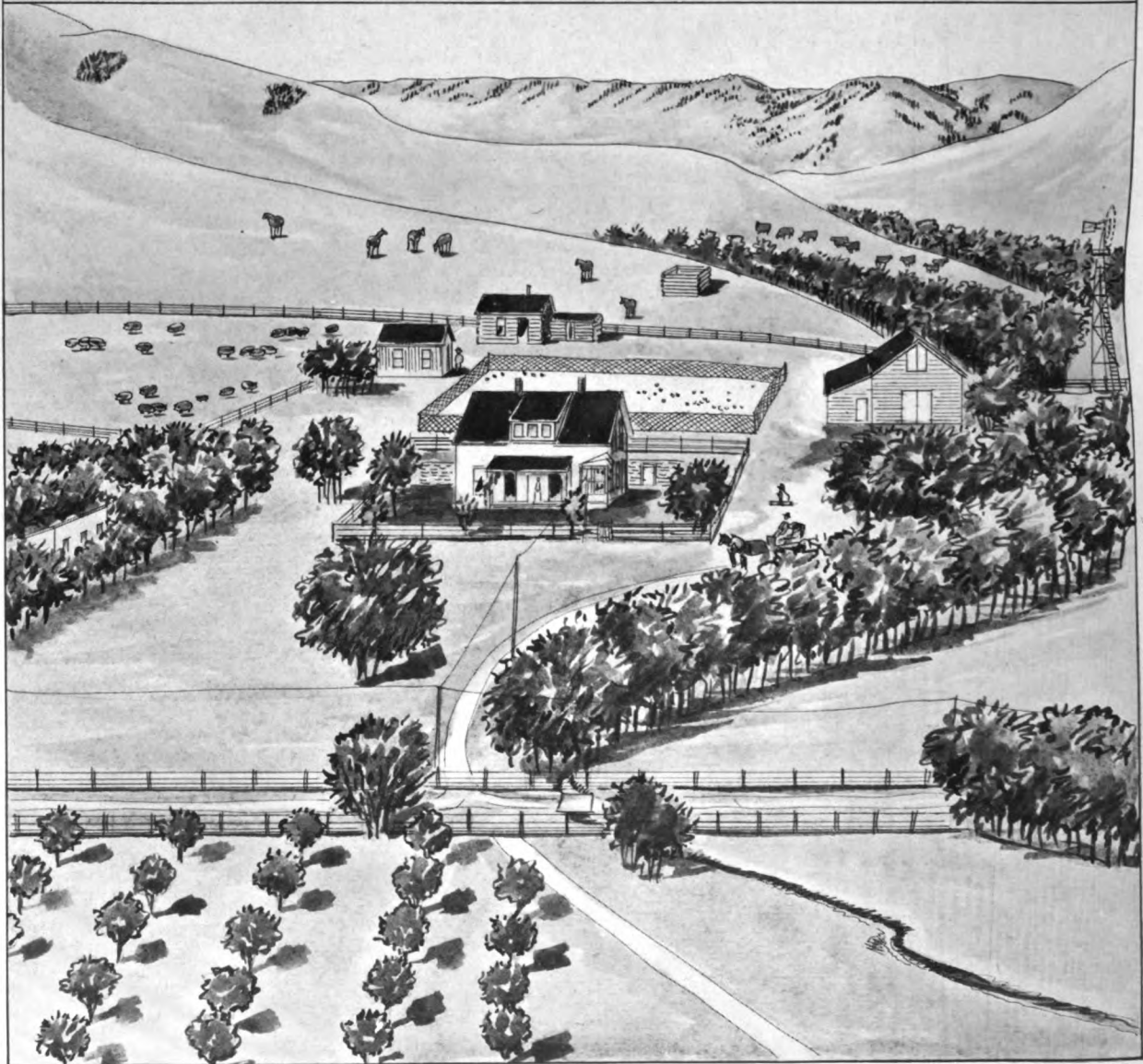
Mr. Moore is a native of county Antrim, Ireland, where he was reared until fifteen years of age, then came to the United States, settling in Illinois in 1863 and remained there for several years engaged in farming. He came to Phelps county in 1885 and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land from the railroad company, situated in section 27, Sheridan township, comprising the northeast quarter and has lived on this ever since. He at once went to breaking up the land, and built horse barns and farm buildings, adding improvements constantly. He also bought about the same time one hundred and sixty acres of school land in Laird township, but disposed of this ten years ago. He is engaged principally in grain raising, and last year his wheat crop tested sixty-three pounds to the bushel, and was the best on the market, averaging up equal to any place that he knows of. His first crop of corn in 1889 showed a yield of over four thousand bushels. He has farmed in Macon and Macoupon counties, Illinois, and states that a man can farm more land in Nebraska, and get an average crop as good, as in Illinois it is generally too wet, which is more harmful than the dry weather here. He keeps a number of grade cattle and some well-bred Percheron horses. He was for a time proprietor of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres located near Holyoke, Colorado, which is a valuable property, but he disposed of this in 1908. The farm on which he resides is almost adjoining the town of Holdrege, so that from his residence he can overlook that progressive place. The quality of his land and its nearness to Holdrege makes it very valuable, and his present success is a reward for his perseverance and industry, as he has stuck to this place through many hardships during the pioneer days.

Mr. Moore is a son of Robert and Mary (Murphy) Moore, both born in Scotland, settling in county Antrim, Ireland, after their marriage, and emigrating to America in 1863. They located in Illinois in the pioneer days of that state, where the father soon after died. The mother, with five sons and two daughters, still reside in Macon county, Illinois. Our subject was married to Hattie H. Stennett, of Logan county, Illinois, in 1892, and they have

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THOMAS A. WENTWORTH, Dec. ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD RESIDENCE of THOMAS A. WENTWORTH, Dec. MRS. THOMAS A. WENTWORTH



RESIDENCE OF A. A. WENTWORTH,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



five children. The family is held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Mr. Moore is a member of the Presbyterian church. Politically he is a Republican.

#### ARTICE A. WENTWORTH.

Among the earliest settlers in Keya Paha county, who have been largely instrumental in the growth of the financial and social interests of that region, a prominent place is given the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. He has always been found ready to further the interests of the community where he chose his home, and has gained a wide and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and substantial agriculturist of Pine precinct.

Mr. Wentworth was born on a farm near North Appleton, Maine, February 1, 1854, and was reared and educated there during his early years. His father, Thomas A. Wentworth, a native of Hope, Maine, came to Fontanelle, Washington county, Nebraska, in 1868, taking up a homestead there, where the family lived for some years, then moved to Burt county, and in 1887 settled in Keya Paha county, where the father died November 16, 1887. The mother, Nancy B. (Hall) was born near Magog, Maine. She resides in Keya Paha county with her son. Our subject is the second child in a family of eight; four were pioneers in Nebraska. When he was twenty-one years of age, he started out for himself, following farm work; purchasing a farm in Burt county, he continued on that place for several years, coming to Keya Paha county in 1883, where he located on a homestead in section 2, township 32, range 20, which he still owns. When he first settled here there was not a thing on the place except a little timber on the creeks. He put up a nice house and other improvements, and then bought his present home on section 24, where he has four hundred and eighty acres of good farming land, part of which is used for pasture. He keeps about eighty head of cattle, twenty horses, and each year markets eighty hogs. He has a good orchard on each farm, with apples and other fruits, and besides a lot of natural timber has planted a large number of forest trees. For eighteen years he lived in a log house, but now he has one of the finest country residences in the county. He has had a hard time in acquiring his present possessions, and during the dry years had heavy losses and often became discouraged. When he first landed here all he had was a team, wagon and a few tools, and three dollars in money, and was obliged to haul wood to Atkinson, which he traded for

flour and provisions. He has done his share in building up this region, and would not care to go through homesteaders' experience again. We present on another page a fine view of this beautiful country place with the new buildings and picturesque surroundings.

On July 11, 1878, Mr. Wentworth was married to Miss Ellen Hill, from Noble county, Indiana, a daughter of Edwin and Henrietta (Thorp) Hill. They are the parents of two children, namely: Fern E. and John Orson, both now living in Pueblo, Colorado, in the real estate business.

Mr. Wentworth is a Populist and strong Bryan man. He has always been active in local affairs, and in 1892 was elected county commissioner, serving for six years.

#### ARTHUR D. BAKER.

Arthur D. Baker, a highly respected resident of his township, has spent many years of his life in this region, and is one of the leading old settlers of Dawes county, where he has devoted his energies to the interest and welfare of his adopted town and county.

Mr. Baker was born in Waterloo, Blackhawk county, Iowa, January 24, 1857. He is a son of David Baker, of old Puritan stock, born in Maine, a farmer by occupation, who died here November 25, 1906. The mother, Rebecca Able, was a Quakeress, born in Ontario, Canada. Our subject was reared in Iowa until fourteen years of age, then with the rest of his family moved to Kansas, locating in Elk county, where his young manhood years were spent on a farm. In 1888 he left Kansas, driving overland in a covered wagon, and struck Nebraska, locating on a homestead in section 5, township 30, range 51. The trip took six weeks, and the time was full of incidents and rough experiences, camping out at night in the wagon beside the roadway. He immediately went to work building a log house, and occupied this for six years, employing his time in breaking up the farm, and cutting logs which he hauled to the town of Crawford and traded for flour and provisions. He went through many hard times, witnessing the drouth periods and other discouragements, but has never had a complete failure of crops. Success attended his efforts, however, and he is now in comfortable circumstances, being proprietor of four hundred acres of good land, about seventy acres of which is cultivated and the rest in pasture land and timber. There is an abundance of wild fruits on his place, and he has at different times cut lumber from the place for buildings, etc. He has a good house, barns and other buildings, and all his land is fenced. He has a num-

ber of good horses, and keeps quite a large herd of cattle and hogs.

In 1880 Mr. Baker was married to Miss Ellen Long, whose father, Peter L. Long, was a farmer in Elk county, Kansas, and her mother, Miss Annie Stuck, was of Pennsylvania German stock. Mr. and Mrs. Baker are the parents of the following children: Chester R., married, Arthur D., Jr., Charles O. and Florence E.

Mr. Baker is a staunch Republican. He has helped organize and establish schools in his section of the county, and was the first director in his district, serving in all for sixteen years in that capacity.

#### EMIL ZALESKY.

A striking example of what may be accomplished by persistent effort and good management is found in the life of the gentleman whose name is at the head of this article. For many years Mr. Zalesky has resided in Cheyenne county, and he has gained a valuable estate by his own efforts, and incidentally has become well known and is universally respected.

Mr. Zalesky was born in Hanover, Kansas, February 25th, 1879, and grew to the age of eight years in that locality, at that time coming with his parents to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county. The father took up a homestead, improved it in good shape, and our subject has also become owner of two hundred and eighty acres on section 12, township 13, range 48, which he has built up into a good farm and ranch. He has put good buildings on the ranch, and cultivates about one hundred acres, running also thirty head of stock. He is considered one of the well-to-do men of his community, and is progressive and up-to-date in his methods of operating his farm. His parents occupy a homestead on section 18, township 13, range 47 where they also have a valuable property.

Mr. Zalesky was married in Sidney, Nebraska, August 2d, 1905, to Agnes Henzl, who was born in Bohemia July 24th, 1882, and came to America with her parents in 1888. Her father, Anton Henzl, settled in Cheyenne county with his family, filed on a homestead in section 14, township 13, range 47, where he now has a good home and ranch of three hundred and twenty acres. He has about one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, and keeps about twenty-five head of stock. Mrs. Henzl died here on April 15th, 1907, leaving the following children: Agnes, wife of our subject, Joe, Frank, Josie, Mary, Tony, Jerry, John, James and Annie, all at home.

Mr. Zalesky and his good wife have two children, Emil and Blanche. In political views Mr. Zalesky is a Republican, and firm in his convictions. Like many of his countrymen, he was reared in the Catholic church.

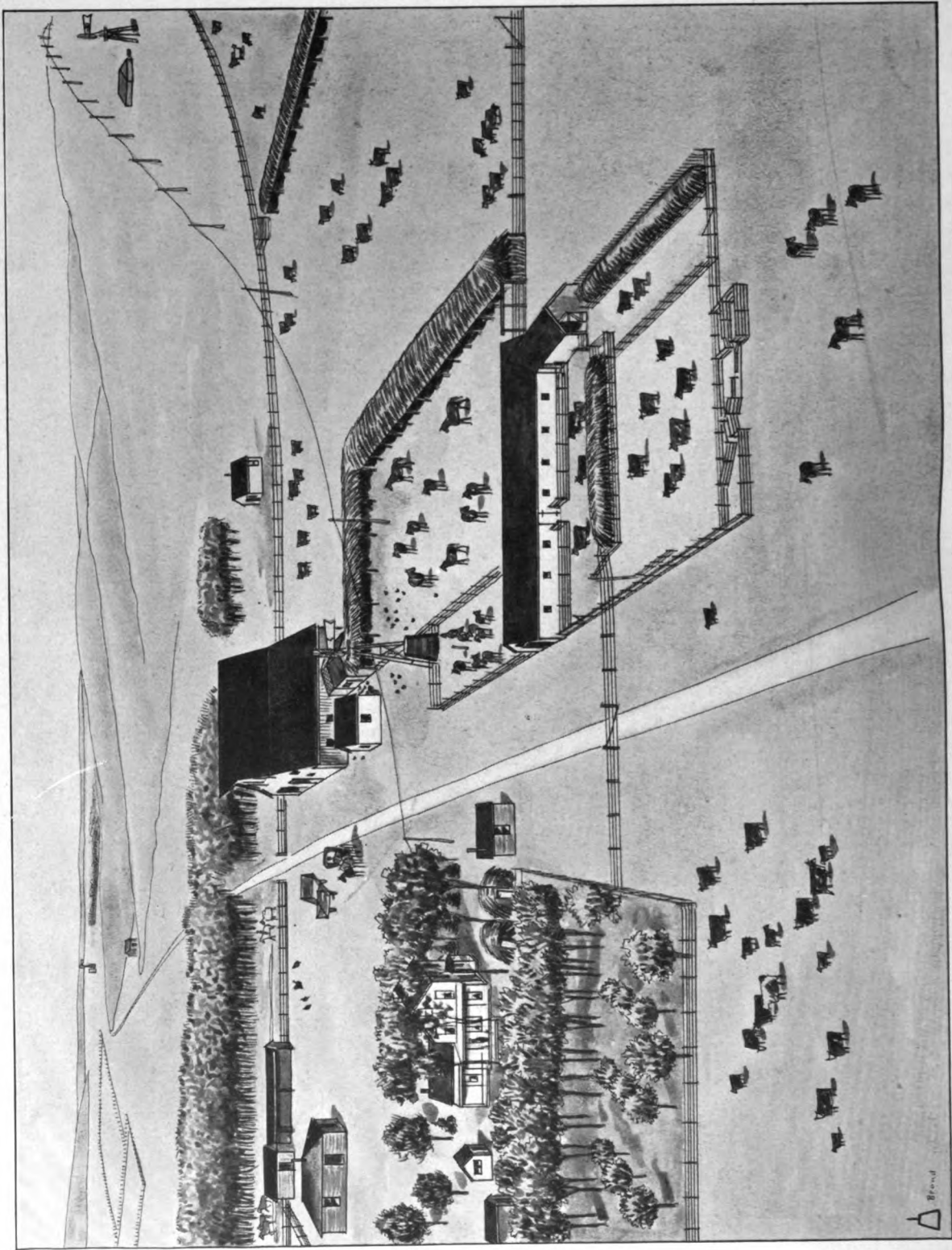
#### JAMES R. CHAPMAN.

James R. Chapman, a prominent old-timer of western Nebraska, resides on section 14, township 34, range 23, Keya Paha county, where he has built up a good home and farm and is well known throughout the locality as a leading citizen and successful farmer.

Mr. Chapman was born in County Cornwall, England, in 1861. His father, Richard Chapman, was a farmer, and lived and died in his native land. Our subject was the youngest in his parents' family, and was raised and educated in England, starting out to make his own way in the world at the age of nineteen. He came to America, landing in New York city, May 3d, 1880, and went direct to Platteville, Wisconsin, where he followed farm work for two years, then went to Calumet, Michigan, and worked in the copper mines for two years. He then returned to England for a five months' visit and again came to Wisconsin, in 1885 coming to Nebraska and locating in this county. He settled on a pre-emption in section 13, township 34, range 23, and put up his first building, which was a dugout slabbed on the inside, "batching it" there for a couple of years. The first year he broke up part of his land with a yoke of oxen and started farming, living on the place for three years, then went to the Black Hills and was in Lead City for three years, working in the mines there. The work there was very hard and extremely dangerous, and he had several narrow escapes from accidents and death, so decided to go back to Keya Paha county, which he did, and lived on his tree claim for five years. In July, 1900, he settled on his present homestead, situated in section 14, \_\_\_\_\_ township, which was an entirely unimproved piece of land. He put up a combination log and frame house and opened his farm, with eighty acres in cultivation and the balance of his section is used for hay and pasture for his stock, of which he has a large number. He went through the dry years and had heavy losses which set him back considerably, also was hailed out three times, but stuck to his place and now has a valuable piece of land, well improved.

Mr. Chapman was married in 1887 to Miss Eliza Switzer, whose father was an old settler here, originally from Ohio. Eight children

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"CHURN RANCH," PROPERTY OF SHADBOLT BROS. & FLEISCHMAN,  
Section 5, Township 31, Range 36, Cherry County, Nebraska.

△  
Brend

have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, named as follows: John, Victor, Margaret, James, Annie, Paul, Earl and Bessie.

Mr. Chapman helped build up the schools in his locality and did his share in the up-building of this region since coming here. Politically he is a Republican.

#### "THE CHURN RANCH."

Among the most successful ranch enterprises of Cherry county none has merited a wider reputation than that known in local parlance as "The Churn." The ranch house is situated on section 5, township 31, range 36, and is without doubt one of the largest and finest dwellings in the ranch region of western Nebraska. It was erected in 1902, is two stories high, containing fourteen rooms, including a large bath-room with running water to supply domestic needs. The barn is also one of the largest in the range country, and is but one of a number of large buildings and sheds with which the place is equipped. An elevated reservoir, served by its own windmill, gives water pressure sufficient to throw a stream above the house in case of fire. There is shed room for the sheltering of three thousand head of stock, with convenient corrals surrounding, and all supplied with an abundance of good water. Not the least attractive feature of the ranch is the groves, five in number, which have attained a growth far beyond the usual planting in the west. There are sixteen wells and windmills on the place affording an abundance of good water. The ranch contains something over four thousand acres, much of which is fine hay land with five hundred acres seeded to alfalfa, which in this region attains luxurious growth. There are at all times about two thousand head of cattle and two hundred head of horses on the place, all of a high grade of breeding. The company that established this ranch was organized January 1st, 1886, consisting of Shadbolt, Fleischman, Trowbridge & Gates, the latter of whom sold out to his three partners. Later Trowbridge sold to Hubert Shadbolt (brother of George E. Shadbolt), and the firm name was then changed to Shadbolt Bros. & Fleischman, William Fleischman still retaining his interest throughout the different changes of ownership.

The Shadbolt brothers were born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, Hubert, the elder, now residing at Emmetsburg, Iowa. He left home to make his own way in life at the age of sixteen, while George lived with his parents until completing his eighteenth year. After spending four years in Colorado, mostly follow-

ing the range, he travelled as far west as Oregon, looking the country over for a good location for an enterprise such as they have since organized, and finding nothing in the far west seemingly superior to Nebraska, came to Cherry county in 1886 and became a partner in organizing the ranch afterwards known as "The Churn."

William Fleischman is a native of Germany, and after immigration lived in Wisconsin a few years prior to joining the company organizing "The Churn," which he did January 1st, 1886.

Mr. George E. Shadbolt was married on December 14th, 1904, to Miss Anna Thompson. They have two daughters, Viola Theresa and Ella Leona.

The hospitality of "The Churn" is proverbial. Everywhere western hospitality is cordial, but that dispensed at the above ranch is the essence of the best, it being made the stopping place of freighters and travellers going to or from the railroad stations, as well as for those passing through the region east or west. An interesting picture of the "Churn Ranch" property will be found on another page of this volume.

#### CLARENCE E. PARK.

Clarence E. Park, who, within the past several years has acquired a valuable estate in section 6, township 34, range 42, is a gentleman of rare intelligence and much enterprise, and a worthy and highly esteemed resident of Sheridan county. Since coming to this section he has met with some discouragements in the way of financial losses, but in the main has prospered and is now recognized as one of the substantial agriculturists of his community.

Mr. Park was born in Sarpy county, Nebraska, in 1869. His father, Gilbert G. Park, was a native of Pennsylvania, farmer by occupation, and came west, settling in Nebraska in 1885, and located in Sheridan county, where he died in 1889, leaving a family of five children, of whom our subject was the third member in order of birth. He was raised on his father's farm in Sarpy county and in Omaha City while a youngster, but since fifteen years of age his life has been spent in Sheridan county. When he reached the age of twenty years he started out for himself, working out on a ranch in the vicinity of his home up to 1886, when he located on a homestead containing eighty acres of land in 1896 and later took an additional one hundred and sixty acres under the Kincaid act, and began to establish a farm and home. During the first years on his father's farm the drouth caused him severe

losses to crops, and he had a hard time in keeping up, but managed to get along and gradually conditions grew better and he was able to save a little money and add to his property. He now owns nine hundred and sixty acres of good land, deeded property, and of this he has fifty acres cultivated and about eight acres in alfalfa. He runs quite a bunch of stock, and now has seventy-five head on his place.

Mr. Park was married in 1891 to Miss Elizabeth C. Margrave, a native of Richardson county, Nebraska. Her father, Charles T. Margrave, is a farmer, who was born in Iowa and who has followed ranching since coming to Sheridan county, Nebraska. He now resides in this county, having located here in 1885 with his wife and three children, Elizabeth being the eldest. Mr. and Mrs. Park have a family of five children, named as follows: Beth, Sarah, Margaret, Jeannette and Charles, all born and raised in this county.

Mr. Park devotes his entire time and energy to the improvement and building up of his home and farm, and has never sought public preferment. He is a strong Prohibitionist and has never voted any other ticket.

#### JAMES H. WIKER.

James H. Wiker, an old timer in western Nebraska, now living in Davison precinct, Cheyenne county, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, December 11th, 1849. He was one of a family of twelve children, of whom ten are still living, he being the third in order of birth. The family moved to Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1858, where our subject was raised and educated, following farming during his boyhood.

In the spring of 1887 he came to Cheyenne county, bought one hundred and sixty acres of railroad land and began stock raising. He then went to Omaha and lived for eight years, employed at the stock yards and at carpentry, and at the end of that time, returned to Cheyenne county, filing on a homestead on section 6, township 16, range 50, now being proprietor of half a section of good farming and ranch land. He has about one hundred and fifty acres cultivated, and runs from fifty to seventy-five head of cattle and twenty-five horses. His place is well improved with good buildings and fences, well supplied with water, and altogether is one of the valuable estates in the county.

Mr. Wiker was married on January 27, 1877, in Muscatine county, Iowa, to Miss Barbara A. Smith, who is a native of the state of Ohio. They are the parents of one child, William H.

Wiker, born in December, 1879, now living at Spaulding, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the jewelry business.

In political sentiment Mr. Wiker is a staunch Republican and takes a deep interest in county, state and national affairs. He is prominent in local and school matters, serving at present as moderator of district No. 61.

#### CHARLES L. VAUGHT.

Charles L. Vaught is a native of Iowa, and was born on a farm in Jefferson county in 1861. His father, Jacob, was a native of Indiana and served as a veteran in the Civil war. The mother, Nancy Dole, was American born, but was of Dutch descent.

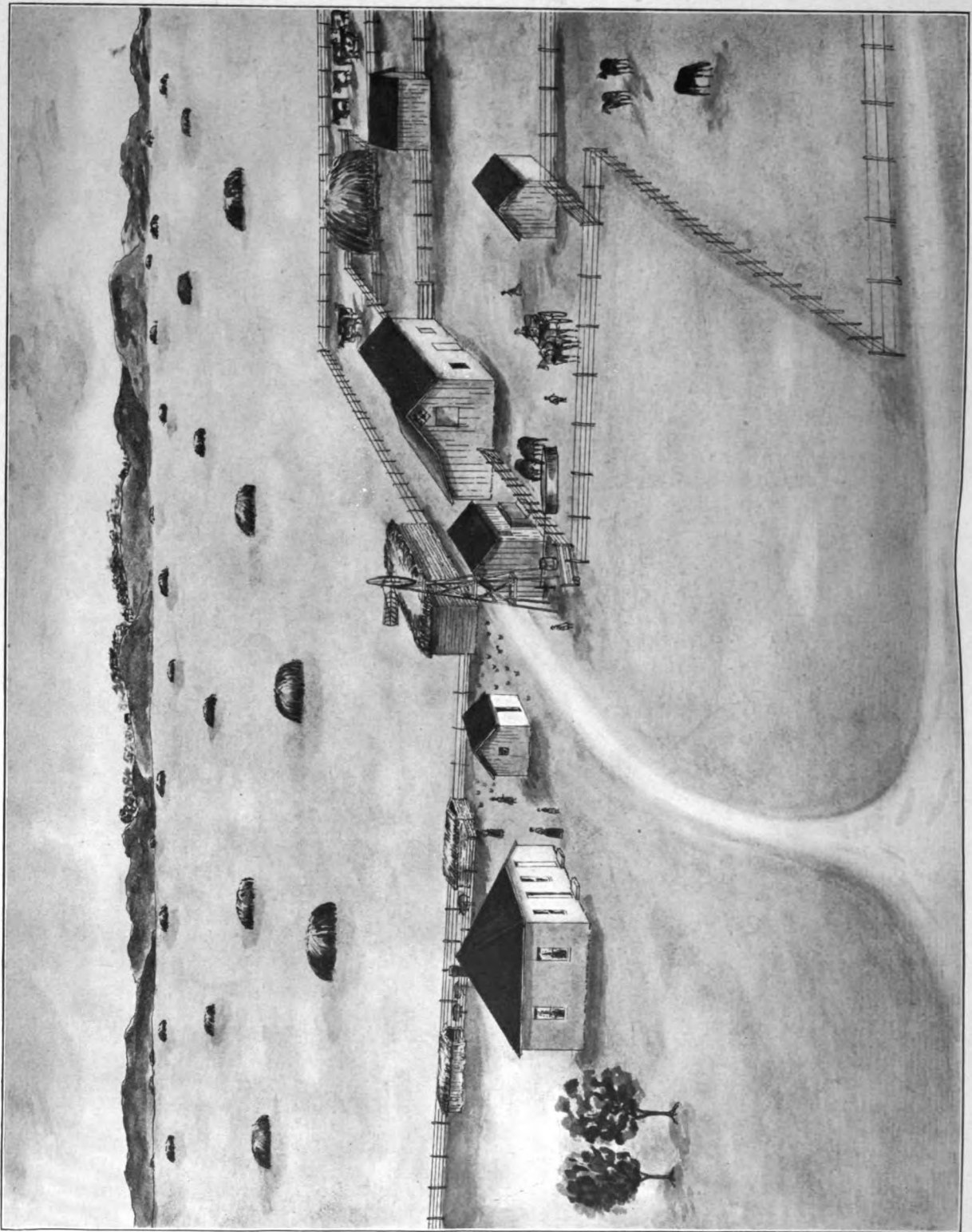
Our subject was reared in Iowa, in Jefferson and Jasper counties on a farm, assisting his father. He left home in 1883 and for a year worked out. Then in the spring of 1884, he came to Plum creek in Nebraska, on the Union Pacific Railroad, and from there he drove over to the Middle Loup river. He and a partner, who was with him, bought a ranch and our subject located a pre-emption claim and a tree claim west of Halsey, Nebraska. Then he worked for what is familiarly called a "cow outfit" for five years, roughing it and camping out with the cow boys. He was on the range all over western Nebraska, to Alliance on the west, and over Cherry county. He helped to organize Blaine county and took a leading part in the affairs of the early days. He located on his present ranch in 1891 and now has four hundred acres thoroughly improved. On the farm adjoining stands an old log house, built in 1872, one of the landmarks of the pioneer times. Our subject saw many hardships during his pioneer life and "batched" it for a number of years and was accustomed to privations of all kinds.

Charles L. Vaught was married December 12, 1893, to Carrie Perkins, daughter of Daniel Perkins. She was born in the state of Iowa. At the age of eight came to South Dakota with her parents, stayed one year, then moved to Custer county, Nebraska, remained there four years, then moved to Thomas county in 1887.

Mr. Vaught has a home to be proud of. His fine farm lies along the Middle Loup river, with plenty of water, grazing land and a soil that will raise splendid crops. He has plenty of timber for all purposes and has his farm fenced and cross-fenced in excellent shape. In spite of hard times and crop losses and the burning of two hundred tons of hay one season, and many other setbacks that came to him during these years, Mr. Vaught has maintained a







RESIDENCE OF JENS THOMSEN,  
Section 1, Township 34, Range 29, P. O. Crookston, Nebraska.

steady courage and good feeling and has won out in good shape. He is fine companion, a fluent conversationalist, and is always full of good cheer and friendliness. These characteristics have won for him a large circle of friends who always have a good word for Charlie Vaught.

### JENS THOMSEN.

Jens Thomsen, who resides on section 1, township 34, range 29, in Cherry county, is one of the leading old-timers in this section, who has always done his full share in the betterment of conditions throughout the community in which he lives. Mr. Thomsen was born in Denmark, July 29, 1856. His father, Thomas, was engaged in making wooden shoes for many years in his native land and died in Denmark in 1892.

There were seven children in his father's family, of whom Jens was the fourth member, all being reared in Denmark. In early life he worked out on farms in the vicinity of his home, and learned the brickmaker's trade, following this occupation for many years. When he was thirty-two years of age he left his home and came to America. After landing in New York city he came west to Omaha, Nebraska, where he secured work in the brick yards and remained for some time. He next went to Schuyler, Colfax county, and there engaged in ranching and farm work, but in the spring of 1890 returned to Omaha and again obtained work in the brick yards for one summer. During that fall he moved to the western part of Cherry county, establishing a brick yard, but owing to hard times could not sell the product of his first kiln. The following spring he returned to the brick yards at Omaha, where he found work for one season. During the years of hard times his debts accumulated and for money to purchase a team he was required to pay twenty-four per cent., which, running for four years, virtually caused him to pay double for his horses. It is over such obstacles as these that the early settlers have come through to success.

In 1892 Mr. Thomsen moved to Gordon, taking up a homestead in the western part of Cherry county. Here he lived in a sod shanty, and went through many hard experiences, losing crops by drouth and hail, everything seeming to be leagued against him for a time. He stuck to the farm, however, and proved up, then sold out and went to Valentine, where he rented a truck farm located south of the town. Here for seven years he devoted his time very successfully to garden-

ing, and with a good market in Valentine for his produce, of which he raised an excellent quality.

In the spring of 1906 he bought his present farm located northwest of Valentine, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, over one hundred of which are cultivated. Besides operating this he leases considerable land in the vicinity, and is engaged in dairying as well as grain and stock raising. It is equipped with good substantial buildings, windmill, tanks and so forth, making it one of the most desirable estates on the table.

Mr. Thomsen was married in 1891 to Miss Caroline Stopp, a native of Denmark, who came to this country in 1890. Nine children were born to them, named as follows: Thomas, Sophia, Minnie, Lauritz, Emma, Jens, Lina and Lily (twins), and Annie, all except the eldest born in Cherry county.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomsen are members of the Fraternal Union of America and of the Lutheran church.

A view of the family residence and its surroundings will be found elsewhere in this work.

### LORENZO J. WILSON.

The gentleman above mentioned is counted among the oldest settlers in Sioux county, Nebraska, and since locating here, in 1889, has taken a foremost part in the development of this region. Incidentally he has built up a good home and farm in section 21, township 33, range 57.

Mr. Wilson was born in Springfield, Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1860, descended of Dutch-Irish stock. His father, John P. Wilson, was a well known physician in Iowa, practicing there for many years, and died in Springfield when our subject was a small boy. Lorenzo Wilson's great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was captured by the British, held in irons for nine months, and nine months without irons, total eighteen months in prison. Until he died there plainly showed on his legs the cruel scars made by the irons he was bound in so long.

Our subject's mother was Frances A. Linville, of an old Quaker family, born in Pennsylvania.

Our subject grew up in Iowa, obtained a common school education, and was early obliged to make his own way in the world, starting for himself at the age of fourteen years, working on farms in the vicinity of his home town. In 1880 he came to Frontier county, Nebraska, where he remained for a short time. That part of the state was at that time

entirely undeveloped country, and he was not very favorably impressed with the region, so returned to Iowa and followed farming for nine years, where he managed his grandfather's farm. The latter, Isaac G. Wilson, was one of the pioneers in Iowa, and died there in 1887, at the age of ninety years. Mr. Wilson came to Nebraska to locate permanently in the summer of 1889, filing on a pre-emption and tree claim situated in section 21, township 33, range 57, and here built a log shack and "batched it" up to 1903, continuing to improve his farm in good shape. He was quite extensively engaged in the cattle business during the first years he was in this locality and made some money in his stock raising operations. Mr. Wilson is now in very comfortable circumstances, but passed through many hardships and privations during his early settlement here, being obliged to work as a cowboy when he roughed it, camping out on the ground in all sorts of severe weather for weeks at a time, and suffering from exposure. He is now the owner of a ranch of eight hundred and eighty acres, also leases six hundred and forty acres near his ranch, and besides this extensive place manages his mother's farm of six hundred and forty acres located in sections 15 and 21.

#### JOHN R. WORTHLEY.

Among the men who came to Nebraska in the early seventies is the subject of this sketch, John R. Worthley, now retired, residing at North Platte, Lincoln county.

Mr. Worthley was born at the top of Worthley Hill, near Manchester, New Hampshire, and was reared and educated there. In 1859 he obtained employment with the Hannibal & St. Joe Railway and was connected with that road during the Civil war. In 1868 he came to Nebraska and went to work for the Union Pacific Railway, being pit boss and machinist in the shops of the company at Omaha. He had learned the machinist's trade while still living in Manchester during his boyhood days. In 1873 he moved to Lincoln county, continuing at railroad work for eleven years, and then in 1885 he settled on a ranch located three miles north of North Platte, engaging in the live stock and milk business. He remained on this ranch up to 1905, then rented the place and moved to North Platte. The ranch comprised one thousand acres of good land, part bottom and part hill land, and is a valuable property. Mr. Worthley was very successful in its operation, and has been well

rewarded financially for the years of hard labor he put in there.

Mr. Worthley was married in 1861 to Miss Mary Parke, of Brookfield, Missouri, daughter of John and Sarah (Berry) Parke, who came west from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1840, settling in Iowa. A son of Mr. Worthley is connected with the Union Pacific Railway at Ogden, holding a responsible position with the company at that point.

The Worthleys came from England and Scotland to America during the seventeenth century, settling in New England, and the family name and history is among the first and best of the old New Englanders. Our subject's mother was Miss Phoebe Roby, whose family was one of the first to settle in New England.

Mr. Worthley is one of the leading citizens of North Platte, and a man who has always striven to identify himself with the best interests of his community, and is respected and esteemed by all who know him. He is a member of the Masonic blue lodge.

#### WILLIAM M. IODENCE.

William M. Iodence, one of the old settlers of the region where he chose his home in the early days, occupies a good home and valuable property in section 30, township 28, range 47, Box Butte county. He has done his share in the upbuilding of his locality, and is well and favorably known throughout this part of the state.

Mr. Iodence is a native of Christian county, Illinois, born on a farm in 1860. His father, Henry, was born in Germany and came to America when a boy twelve years of age, and is the only member of his family who ever left the mother country. He married Jane Miller, a native of Illinois, whose parents were Kentuckians and early settlers in Illinois. Our subject was raised in his birthplace until he was eighteen years of age, receiving his education in the country schools and helping his father work the home farm, and in 1878 the whole family came to Nebraska, settling in Seward county, where William started out for himself. He had a pretty good practical training in a business way, a fair education for those days, and made some money by teaching school in the vicinity of their home, also keeping up his own studies and constantly forging ahead. He soon afterwards began studying law at Seward, and was admitted to the Bar in 1887, and the same year located in this county, at Hemingford. He began practicing law at Hemingford, and was one of the first

attorneys to open an office in that town, and remained there for sixteen years, building up a good practice and an enviable reputation extending throughout Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux and Scotts Bluff counties. In 1897 he started purchasing land and laid the foundation of his present extensive ranch, moving to the place in 1903. He now has one of the most valuable estates and best improved ranches in this section, engaging almost exclusively in horse and cattle raising. He owns in all thirty-six hundred acres in sections 17, 18, 19, 20 and 30, in township 28, range 47, and also in sections 13, 23 and 26, in township 28, range 48.

Mr. Iodence was united in marriage at Seward, in 1885, to Mary Culliford, who was born in England in 1860 and came to America when a young girl. Her father, Thomas Culliford, was a well-to-do seed merchant of Bath, England. Mr. and Mrs. Iodence are the parents of two children, Charles Gladstone, aged twenty years, and Mary, eighteen years of age.

Mr. Iodence is a strong Democrat and has held public office, serving as county attorney, being elected in 1896.

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#### JOHN TIMM.

Among the prosperous citizens of Brown county who have spent many years in this locality is the subject of this review, John Timm, owner of a valuable estate in Garfield precinct.

Mr. Timm was born in Henerau, Holstein, Germany, January 16, 1854, and there raised on his father's farm. He is the fourth member in a family of six children, and lived at home assisting his parents on the farm until his father's death, when he left home and began a career for himself. In 1879 he came to America, sailing from Hamburg in November on the steamship Selesia, and landed in New York. He came to Valparaiso, Indiana, which he reached December 4, and where he remained for ten years, working on the railroad during this time. In 1889 he traveled farther west, locating in Brown county, Nebraska, and settled on his present farm in section 6, township 31, range 21, where he built a log house of one room, in which he lived for several years. His start was on a very small scale, consisting of one horse, one pony and one cow. He at once went to work breaking up the prairie land and improving his farm, and was getting along fairly well when, in 1897, he lost his entire crop by hail and suffered other losses the same year, so he was obliged to give up the place. He then took a homestead in section 1, township 31, range 21, put

up a shanty, and lived in this for five years, proving up on his claim. In 1905 he moved back to his first farm, where he built a fine new two-story house, a new barn, granary and other buildings, until he now has a ranch of one thousand acres, of which two hundred and twenty acres are cultivated, the remainder being in pasture and meadow. He engages principally in the cattle raising business, which he finds most profitable, and had he devoted his attention to this line of work in earlier years he would have been much better off, and would not have been affected so much by the dry years which caused him such heavy losses when he first came to Nebraska. In the spring of 1907 he rented the farm and purchasing a small place adjoining Ainsworth, is taking life easy in town.

Mr. Timm was married March 7, 1877, while living in Germany, to Miss Katie Storm, whose parents came on to America after their daughter had settled here, locating in Grand Island, Nebraska, where her father's death occurred in 1886. One child came to bless this union, Anna, born in Germany in 1879. She is now Mrs. Arthur Daniels, living in this locality. Mr. Timm is one of the old settlers in this part of the county, and has done his full share in the building up of the country, well meriting his high standing as a substantial business man and worthy citizen. He is independent in politics and a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### JAMES A. BROWN.

James A. Brown, proprietor of one of the most valuable estates in Franklin county, Nebraska, has been a resident of that locality for twenty-five years. He is prominently known throughout the western part of the state as one of the foremost farmers and stockmen in Nebraska, and after many years hard labor in building up his business is now prepared to enjoy the remaining years of his life in peace and comfort, surrounded by a host of good friends and acquaintances. He still looks after his farm and business. Mr. Brown is a native of Massachusetts, and was born in Rowe, four miles from the Hoosac Tunnel, in 1849. His father was Hezekiah Brown, son of Captain James Brown, who fought in the Revolutionary war.

Our subject was raised in the east and came to Iowa in 1876, where he was engaged in farming and stock raising for a number of years. In 1883 he located in Grant township, Franklin county, Nebraska, where he purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land,

also leasing six hundred and forty acres of school land, and began farming, continuing at this work up to the present time. During the years he has followed farming he met with marked success in every enterprise, and from his experience in other states, finds Nebraska far ahead of some eastern states.

Mr. Brown owns one thousand one hundred and twenty acres of good land in all, and has three houses and three large barns on his estate. He rents a part of the land now, having tenants living on the land. He has about one hundred and fifty cattle, all thoroughbred Shorthorns, and forty-five grades. The thoroughbreds are from stock brought here from Iowa by Dr. Finley, and the herd is one of the finest in this part of the state. He also has a great many Poland China hogs, and he feeds all the grain he raises on his place and then is compelled to buy some. Mr. Brown has one brother, John, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Grant township. Wm. D. lives at Rosehill, Kansas, and Ida in Massachusetts.

Our subject was married in 1889 to Ella Olson, who was born in Wisconsin. Mrs. Brown has two children from a former marriage, Ellery and Paul. Mr. Brown is a Republican, and takes an active interest in local affairs in his community. He has been a member of the school board for a number of years, and is one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his county, held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen.

#### WILLIAM W. STICKLER.

In compiling a list of the representative farmers and ranchmen of Keith county, Nebraska, a prominent place is accorded the name of William W. Stickler. For many years past he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in Paxton precinct, and has done his full share as an old settler towards the development of the better interests of his community, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him. He has a comfortable home on section 22, township 14, range 35, and is the owner of a good farm.

Mr. Stickler was born in the city of Joliet, Illinois, July 10, 1863. His father, Jacob, was a farmer, born in Pennsylvania, of German stock, who married Sarah Bentz, also of German parentage. Our subject grew up in Benton county, Indiana, where his parents moved when he was a small child, remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age, then emigrated to Lexington, Dawson county, Nebraska, where he spent a short time, then

came to Keith county. Here he filed on a homestead, taking possession May 1, 1886, the claim being located on section 12, township 12, range 37. When he landed in the region all the money he had in the world was thirteen dollars, and he worked out during the first summer, and earned money with which to put a few improvements on the place. His first team was of oxen, which he broke and used for two seasons. His first buildings were of sod, his shanty being a rude shack, and in this he lived, "batching it" for five years. Much of his time was spent working out in the vicinity of his homestead, and during these years he witnessed all the pioneer times, going through droughts, losing several crops by the dry seasons, also experienced severe hailstorms which destroyed what the droughts did not take. However, he stuck to his claim up to 1900, then sold out and moved to a rented farm, which was situated in the North Platte valley, remaining there for three years, when he purchased his present homestead on section 22, township 14, range 35. This was an old farm which had run to weeds, and he went to work improving it, putting up good buildings, fenced it, and now has everything in good shape. He has nice large hog pastures, keeping quite a drove of this stock, thirty acres of alfalfa, ten acres of sugar beets, the same amount in oats, and thirty acres of corn. This is for the present season of 1908.

Mr. Stickler was married on August 1, 1900, to Miss Lena Lark, born in Boone county, Iowa. To them have been born the following children: Mildred, Erma and Wilma. Mr. Stickler takes an active interest in local affairs, voting the Populist ticket. He is a member of the Paxton camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

#### LUTHER LYDELL.

Luther Lydell is a native of Missouri, and was born on the White river, in Berry county, May 11, 1873. His parents, Lyman Lydell and Laura (Scott) Lydell, were farmers by occupation and emigrated to Loup county, Nebraska, in 1879. They drove through from Missouri in a covered wagon in the orthodox emigrant way and located near the village of Taylor. During the first fall they lived in a tent, enduring many hardships and often having to fight prairie fires for hours in order to save their property from utter destruction. Once, when the father was away, a fire swept up, partly consuming the tent, and the most strenuous efforts of Mrs. Lydell and the children were necessary or everything would have

been destroyed. At this time the nearest railroad point was Central City, one hundred and twenty miles away, and many times Luther and his father camped out and slept on the ground on their long trips for supplies. They built a sod house and other buildings in the fall, and winter found them more comfortably situated. It was on this farm that Luther grew up and learned the ways of farming.

The subject of our sketch remained at home working for his father until the spring of 1892, when he struck out for himself, working out at different kinds of labor until the spring of 1895. At this time he drove overland with team and wagon to Walla Walla, Washington, enjoying on the trip many interesting experiences, camping out, hunting, etc. From 1897 to 1899 Mr. Lydell lived in Taylor and conducted a prosperous freighting business. He settled at his present farm in 1899, giving his principal attention to stock raising, at which he is making a good success. He is well and favorably known as a successful business man, farmer and stock raiser, and he has in many ways added to the material growth and solid improvement of the community.

In the spring of 1897 occurred the wedding of Mr. Lydell and Miss Minnie Clark, whose father was a pioneer of Illinois and a veteran of the Civil war. In an early day her father came to Loup county, Nebraska, where he died. Mrs. Lydell's mother was Katherine Ridgeway before her marriage.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lydell has been blessed with five children—Edna, Esther, Ruth, Ralph and Theresa—a most interesting group, and all go to school near their home.

#### ADAM S. GARMAN.

It would be impossible to give a sketch of the history of western Nebraska without including a sketch of the life of Adam S. Garman, who is one of the most prominent of the old settlers. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1849. His father, Peter Garman, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation. His mother, Mary Swartz, was also born in the Keystone state.

Mr. Garman lived in Pennsylvania for several years and received a good common school education. In 1871 he came to Illinois and settled in Fulton county, where he farmed. He then went to Iowa, where he spent one summer, after which he returned to Fulton county, going into the well drilling business, which he followed for eight years in Fulton and McDonough counties before coming to

Hall county, Nebraska, in 1883, where he farmed for four years.

In the spring of 1887 he came to Deuel county, Nebraska, and settled on a homestead thirty-five miles northwest from Ogallala. He built a sod house on the claim and after proving up he sold the homestead and returned to Hall county after seven years' absence. During the hard times of the early nineties Mrs. Garman taught school to keep the family in provisions while Mr. Garman attended to the heavier duties of the ranch.

He returned to Ogallala in 1899 and opened a restaurant, which he conducted for fifteen months. He opened his present fruit and confectionery store in 1900, and since that time he has added to the stock from time to time. He also buys and ships cream, and from a very small beginning he has built up a very successful business and is regarded as a good type of the old settler. He owns three lots and a comfortable residence in Ogallala.

He was married in 1879 to Miss Cristine Weese, who was born and reared in Fulton county, Illinois, where her father, Samuel Weese, a native of Tennessee, was a successful farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Garman have five children—Charles, Frank, Dolly, formerly a teacher, now the wife of Leroy Dodson, now living in Detroit; Sam, and Cora, bookkeeper and typewriter in the county judge's office.

Mr. Garman is a Republican and a member of the Lutheran church.

#### PETER RIEGE.

Prominent among Cherry county's old settlers is Peter Riege, who since the fall of 1883 has made this region his home and done his share in the developing of the agricultural resources of this section of the country. Mr. Riege lives in section 10, township 33, range 30, where he has built up a valuable property through his industry and good management.

Mr. Riege is a native of the village of Rosenweide, province of Hanover, Germany, born September 4, 1840. His father, Peter, Sr., was a gardener and laborer in the fatherland, where both he and his wife lived and died. There was a family of six children, our subject being the only one who grew to manhood. He was reared in his native country, following gardening until he was forty-one years old, when he came to America. Sailing from Hamburg, March 9, on the steamship Lessing, he landed in New York city March 27, and immediately started for the west, arriving in Platte county, Nebraska, where he had friends from the old



country. Here he rented land for three years, then left and moved to Cherry county, driving from Valentine with an ox team and wagon, in which he carried his household goods and farming tools. He located on the Niobrara river and put up a log house and the necessary sheds for the stock and then found himself two hundred dollars in debt. He worked hard, broke sod and planted his first crop, reaping a bountiful harvest. During the succeeding years he saw hard times and had a struggle to make a living for his family. By perseverance he added to his land, erected a better dwelling and several miles of fence. He is now proprietor of nine hundred and sixty acres in this county, and operates besides this one hundred and sixty acres adjoining, belonging to his son Herman. This place is well supplied with timber, and a large part is used for hay land, with quite a portion of it in a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Riege was married in Germany, April 15, 1864, to Miss Lizzie Richman. Her parents were also engaged in gardening in the old country, and lived and died there. Mr. and Mrs. Riege had a family of six children, three of whom are dead, the surviving three named as follows: August, now employed in San Francisco; Herman, who lives with his father and assists him in the management of the home farm, and William, who is farming four miles west of his father's farm. Mrs. Riege died February 28, 1886, only a few years after the advent of the family to Nebraska. All are members of the Lutheran church of German precinct.

When the family first came here they suffered many hardships, especially during the dry years, and when their crops failed had a hard time to get the necessary supplies, being often compelled to go without coffee for want of money to buy it, but in spite of many discouragements and hardships they prospered and now enjoy the fruits of their hard labors. In 1906 Herman visited his native village, where he remained three months among childhood scenes with relatives.

#### JOSEPH S. KALBLINGER.

Located very pleasantly in section 20, township 34, range 28, is to be found the somewhat notable gentleman whose name introduces this biographical writing. He has been identified with the history of Cherry county from a very early date, and his contributions to the making of northwestern Nebraska, while they have largely consisted of those unobtru-

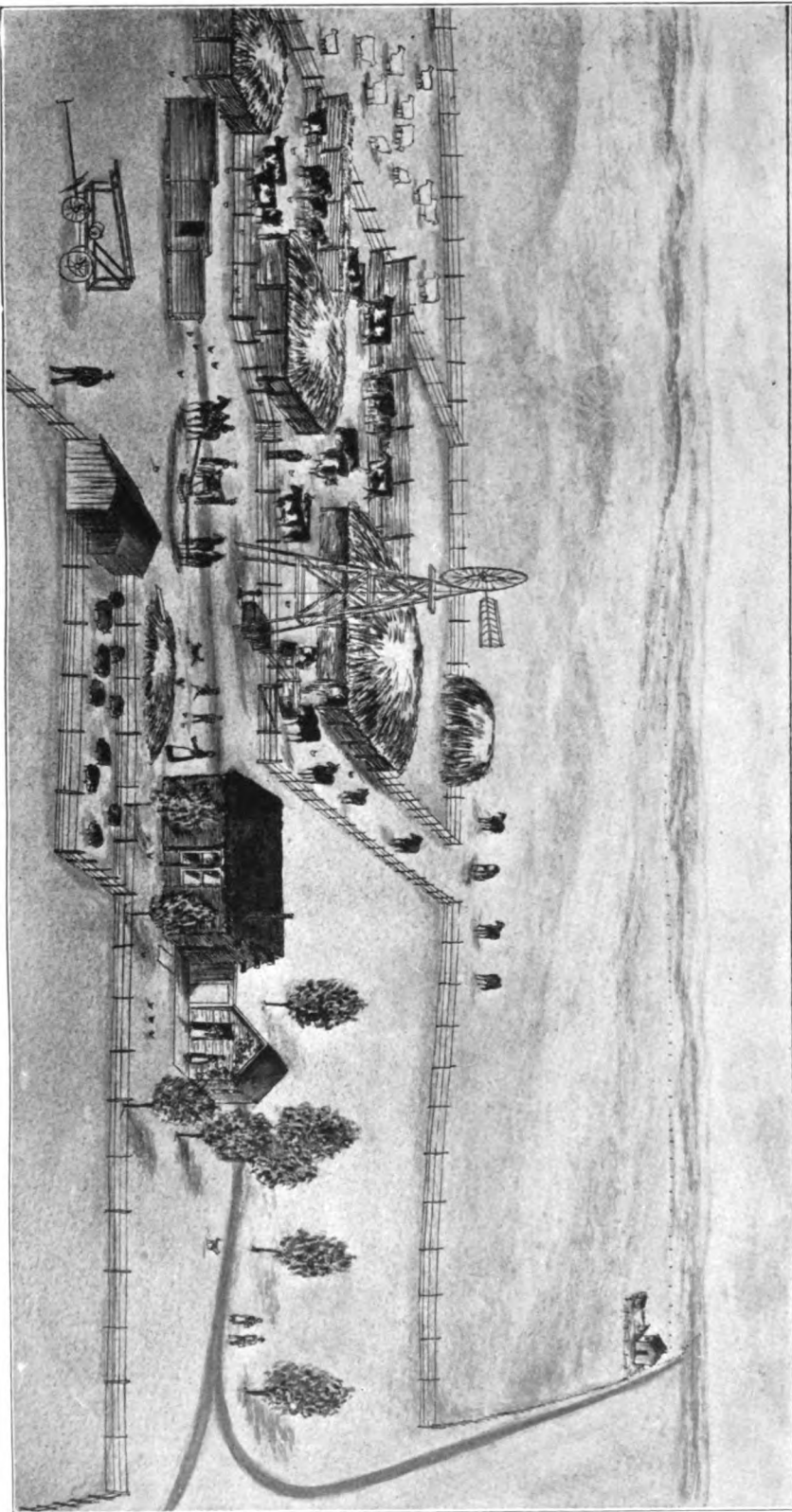
sive ways and habits of which little mention is ordinarily made, have been such industrious habits, such persistent and invariable honesty of purpose and force of character, and such an earnest desire to live the best American life, that he is widely known as one of the leading and influential early settlers of the county.

Mr. Kalblinger was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1858, his birthplace being a farm house, and his associations from the first being with agricultural interests. It is natural therefore that he should be a farmer, and that he should find success in life's endeavors in the tilling of the soil.

Andrew Kalblinger, the father of Joseph S., was born in Germany and found a home in the United States in 1855. His wife, Barbara, died when the subject of this sketch was six months old, leaving him the youngest of a family of seven children. The father did not long survive the loss of his wife, and with his death the young orphan became a member of the household of his uncle, where he remained until he had passed the age of six years. For the ensuing twelve years he made his home with John Heyls, of Prospect, Butler county, Pennsylvania, and when he was eighteen years of age betook himself to the oil country, where he was employed at Petroleum, Pennsylvania, as a tool dresser for some two years. In 1877 Mr. Kalblinger came into Nebraska and engaged in farming near Nebraska City for some six years. While here he was married in March, 1885, to Miss Sarah J. Mapel. Her father, William Mapel, was of German descent, and her mother, Martha (Jenkins) Mapel, belonged to an old American family. Mr. and Mrs. Kalblinger have a bright and interesting family of nine children—Eunice Maude, Nettie Belle, Andrew Joseph, Harold Ernest, William Melvin, Harry Clinton, Jennie Gladys, Roy Arlington and Guy Kitchner—all of whom were born in Nebraska.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Kalblinger came to Cherry county and filed on a claim on section 29, township 35, range 28, and built a sod house. Mrs. Kalblinger joined him in the fall following and their home has been in Cherry county ever since. In 1898 they bought the farm where we find them at this writing. Then he acquired a title to two hundred and eighty acres, consisting chiefly of raw prairie land, which they have greatly improved with the needed farm buildings, fences and the bringing of some fifty acres under cultivation. Mr. Kalblinger is largely engaged in dairying, and plans to do much more in this line in the very near future. So far as he knows he is the first to discover that western

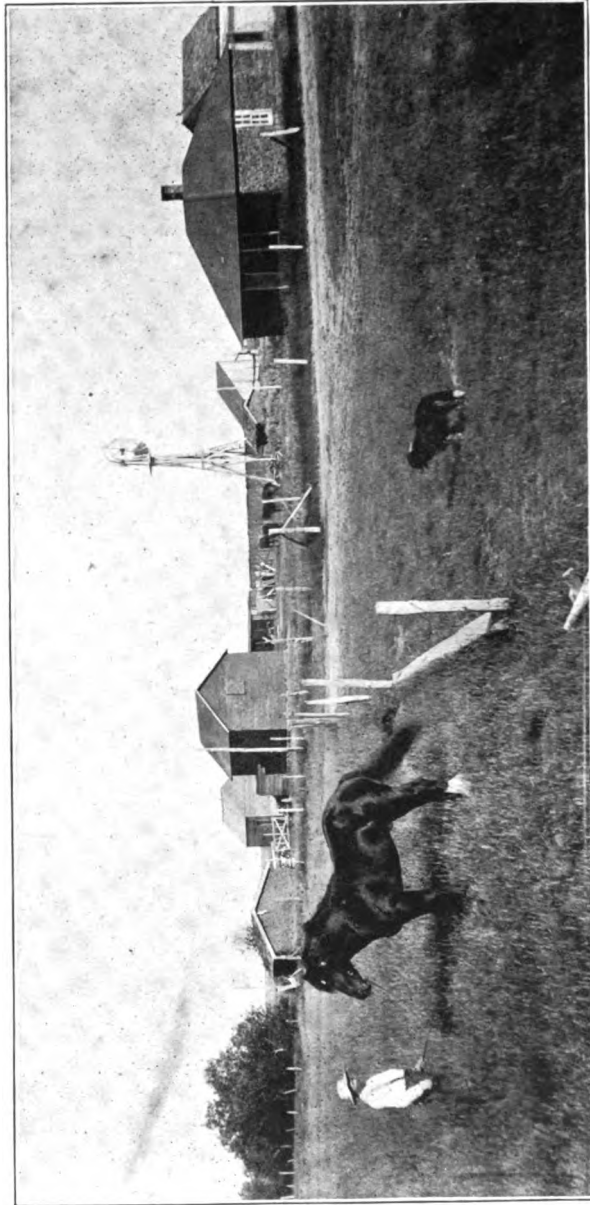




**RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF JOSEPH S. KALBINGER,**  
Cherry County, Nebraska.







RANCH OF THOMAS A. GREEN,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.

Nebraska is adapted to dairying and the first to ship cream as a farm product, consigning to the Hygia Creamery Company, of Omaha.

Mr. Kalblinger passed through the famous four dry seasons that proved so ruinous to the hopes and endeavors of thousands of the early settlers, and though facing much privation and suffering, did not give up. During the Indian scares the family slept two nights in Valentine and two nights the neighbors held fort in Mr. Kalblinger's big sod house in section 29, not knowing what minute they might be attacked. He now holds a fine standing in the local circles in which his useful life is passing. Politically he is a Republican, but has never sought or held office. He is noted as always speaking well of his neighbors, and one and all in turn bear high tribute as to his character and genuine worth. Mr. Kalblinger is a member of the Ancient Order United Workmen lodge at Valentine and together with his family is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

A view of the family residence will be found on another page in this work.

#### THOMAS A. GREEN.

Thomas A. Green, residing on section 5, township 26, range 50, of Box Butte county, Nebraska, is regarded as one of the leading citizens of his locality. He has always been one of the important factors in the upbuilding of his region, aiding materially in its development and growth from the time of its early settlement.

Thomas A. Green was born in Rutland county, Vermont, in 1858, and was raised and educated there. His father was of English descent and his mother of German descent, both born and reared in America. The father died at the good old age of eighty-six years and the mother died at the age of forty-eight.

When our subject was twenty-four years of age he learned the carpenter's trade, and worked at that for a number of years in his native state, leaving there in 1883 and starting for the west. He spent several years in Iowa, working at his trade near Council Bluffs.

He came to Box Butte county in 1885 and filed on a pre-emption and tree claim, on which he lived and proved up, and the following year took up a homestead in section 5, there erecting a sod cabin and began farming. When landing here he was obliged to go to North Platte for all his supplies, purchasing a team for this purpose, and also broke up some land, on which he planted a small crop.

When the Burlington Railroad was put

through this section he worked for three days for that company. Mr. Green saw many hard times from the drouth periods; he was hailed out also and lost three crops from these causes, one season being completely burned out by the hot winds. However, he kept on trying to improve his farm, also purchasing more land as he was able, and is now the owner of five full sections, over three sections of which is deeded land, all of it fenced and fitted up with many improvements. He farms one hundred and sixty acres and engages principally in the cattle and horse raising business, running sixty head of the former and one hundred and fifty of the latter. A picture of the ranch property appears on another page.

Mr. Green is an independent voter.

#### AUSTIN E. DIXON.

To the men of perseverance and stalwart determination who went to Nebraska when it was yet undeveloped as an agricultural and commercial region, the present prosperity enjoyed there is due. Among the early settlers of Harlan county who has been intimately identified with its development and has gained an enviable reputation as a citizen may be mentioned Austin E. Dixon, a prosperous and successful farmer of Alma township.

Mr. Dixon is a native of Licking county, Ohio, and came here from Boone county, Iowa, where he lived for a number of years as a young man. His father, Jacob Dixon, died when our subject was a young boy. His grandfather, Joseph Dixon, came to America when a young man from England, and fought in the Revolutionary war in the New England militia. There were eleven children in his father's family and he was the youngest, the family being scattered all over the United States and engaged in different enterprises, but he stuck to farming and stock raising all his life and is amply repaid for his efforts in the ownership of a fine farm and competent fortune, which will insure him comfort for the remainder of his days. When he first came to Nebraska in 1877 he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in Alma township, and has since bought more until he now owns three hundred and twenty acres of fine land, and has been very successful in every venture. Mr. Dixon served in the Civil war for eight months with the Eighteenth Missouri Regiment. He was at the last battle of Nashville, then through Alabama and North Carolina, the battle of Roundhead, and with the regiment in the grand review at Washington at the close of the war.

Our subject was united in marriage to Miss Christina Johnson, of Boone county, Iowa. They are the parents of three children, namely: Ernest S., who married Myrtle Prettyman, daughter of Lewis Prettyman, assistant county treasurer of Harlan county, residing at Alma. They have two children, Lewis and John. The second son, James M., married Emma Prettyman, sister to Myrtle, and both reside with their families on this section, having comfortable homes of their own. Mr. Dixon's only daughter, Mary A., lives at home with her parents, and she with her mother and father spent 1906 on the Pacific slope visiting Mr. Dixon's brothers who reside there. Mr. Dixon is a member of the Evangelical church and a highly respected citizen of his community. In political sentiment he is a Prohibitionist.

#### JAMES M. ALDERMAN.

James M. Alderman is a wholesale dealer in choice Elkhorn valley hay, with headquarters at Newport, Nebraska, and meets a constant demand for his goods from many quarters. A man of push and energy, he asks no favors as he meets the competition of trade. He is resourceful in emergencies, knows what he wants, and meets to the letter every engagement or representation that he makes. Newport counts him among its most enterprising and pushing citizens.

Mr. Alderman was born in Kansas City, Missouri, August 16, 1870, a son of James M., Sr., and Sarah J. (Kinder) Alderman. Alderman blood comes from Germany, though the parents of the subject of this writing were American-born. The senior Alderman was for a time a nurseryman in Brownville, Nebraska, where our subject was reared and educated. He is the fifth child in a family of seven sons and one daughter born to his parents.

When Mr. Alderman was twenty years of age he took upon himself the direction of his own life, and in the month of June, 1890, he came to Newport, Nebraska, with the intention of learning the telegraphic art. Here, however, he found his brother already well established in business, and the younger Alderman was appointed postmaster, a position which he held for some four years, proving very acceptable to the patrons of the office. When he finally left the postoffice he did so that he might go into another line of business that did not seem to be fully covered by any enterprise already established in Newport. In 1895 he went into the hay business, in which he has

increased his dealings every year. In the territory stretching from Wood Lake to Stuart he has bought hay very extensively, and has maintained offices at both Wood Lake and Bassett. For a time he worked in partnership with W. H. Allen, but of late years has operated alone. How extensive his operations have been may be judged from the fact that in 1907 he shipped from Newport alone over twelve hundred carloads of hay.

Mr. Alderman was married November 14, 1898, to Miss Grace Barr, whose father, John Barr, was at one time much interested in the oil business in Pennsylvania. The mother, who was Eva Mason prior to marriage, in after years became an old settler in Nebraska, and for a time lived in a sod house on a homestead claim, quite a contrast to the comfortable dwellings of the east. To Mr. and Mrs. Alderman have come three children to bless their union—Geneva, Donald and Anona.

Mr. Alderman is a staunch Democrat, is a member of the Royal Highlanders, and with his family is a communicant of the Episcopal church.

#### JOHN H. WILLER.

Among the leading old settlers and public-spirited citizens of Dawes county, Nebraska, the gentleman above mentioned deserves a foremost place. Mr. Willer has aided in no slight degree in the developing of the commercial resources of this region, and has done his full share in building up the schools and doing all in his power for the betterment of conditions socially and politically.

Mr. Willer is a native of Kendall county, Illinois, born on his father farm January 26, 1863. His father, William H. Willer, was born in Ireland and came to America when a boy, as also did his mother, whose maiden name was Anna Kelley. Our subject was reared in Illinois until he was twenty-one years of age, and in 1884 he left home and started out to make his own way in the world, working in that state at anything he could find to do for three years, in the tile factories and sawmills, etc. In 1887 he came to Crawford and took up a pre-emption and tree claim, proving up on them in due time. He built up his farm, and also helped build the Hall grist mill at Crawford, and was afterwards employed by the concern for seven years. In 1892 he filed on a homestead but did not settle on it until 1896, then proved up. He bought the west half of section 35, township 31, range 52, where he now resides. He now has a ranch of nine hundred and twenty acres,

and has one hundred acres of this in a high state of cultivation, raising splendid crops of small grain. His place is all fenced, and he has about sixteen miles of good fencing, with plenty of timber and running water on the ranch. He raises cattle, horses and hogs, running one hundred and nineteen head of cattle, fourteen horses and quite a number of hogs. Everything is kept up in the best condition possible, and bespeaks the thrift and industry of the owner.

In 1895 Mr. Willer was united in marriage to Miss Maud L. Marquis, daughter of Charles Marquis, who died when Mrs. Willer was a child, five years old, her mother is still living in New York state. To Mr. and Mrs. Willer three children have been born, namely: Herman, Clara and Bessie.

Mr. Willer has made a success of his ventures, and richly deserves his good fortune. He is a good citizen, well liked by all, and enjoys a happy and comfortable home. He is a reformer in his political views.

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#### W. O. RUSSELL.

W. O. Russell, a well known real estate dealer of McCook, Nebraska, is one of the prominent business men of the town. He is thoroughly versed in his line of work, and is a highly respected and worthy citizen, and one of the old settlers in this locality, having resided for the past thirty-six years in Redwillow and Furnas counties.

Mr. Russell is a native of Pennsylvania, and was raised there. His father, John C. Russell, served in the Civil war for three years and three months in the Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, and during this time was in the field all over Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, taking part in all the battles of these campaigns under the command of General A. J. Smith. During the time he was serving as a soldier his wife, accompanied by her son, the subject of this sketch, and one daughter, visited him at Island No. 10, and the impressions he received of an army in the field are still quite fresh in his memory. Our subject's mother was Miss Maria A. Prime, born in Indiana, and she has four brothers—George, Daniel, J. T. and Jacob Prime—all of whom settled in Furnas county, Nebraska, many years ago, two still living here and two in California. One son, John P. Russell, is road foreman of engines, located at Birmingham, Alabama, in the service of the Memphis & Northern Alabama Railway. Prior to

1888 he was connected with the Burlington & Missouri Railway at this point. Our subject's great-great-grandfather, Mr. Coleman, of Pennsylvania, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and was killed during battle. In 1884 the Russell family held a reunion in Furnas county at the home of Jacob M. Prime, and at this affair there were over seventy relatives present.

Mr. Russell came to Nebraska in 1872, locating one-half mile west of Edison, Furnas county. His father settled here with his family, coming from Hamilton county, Iowa, where he had farmed for many years, being a pioneer settler there, who, prior to this, had lived in Illinois. When the family came to Furnas county our subject was fourteen years old, and this was then almost a wilderness. There were but few settlers here, and the Indians were camped all along the Republican river, and the pioneers experienced many hard times and scares from the red skins, but never had any severe trouble through them. Lowell was then the trading point, and this was eighty to ninety miles distant from Edison. They went to farming their land and managed to get along very comfortably, hauling their supplies from Lowell, and often having a hard time in making the trip. In 1874 a bridge was built across the Platte river, and after this was completed they hauled wheat to Kearney, a distance of sixty-five miles. The second mowing machine in this district was owned by our subject's father. This was purchased in Lowell at a cost of one hundred and ten dollars. He also built the first wire fence in this section.

Mr. Russell has been sheriff of Redwillow county. He held this office during the years 1888 and 1889, and that was one of the busiest times in the history of the county, being the time of the great railway strike, and he was kept busy attending to the duties connected with his office, conducting a large number of foreclosures, etc. He was the man who started the first livery barn in McCook, in 1882, having moved into the town in the month of April of that year. He has resided here since that time, and also owns a fine farm in Redwillow county. He has served on the local school board, and is a charter member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Republican.

Mr. Russell married Miss Louisa McCorkle, of McCook, and they have three sons—Harrison, Lovel and Wray—living, and those dead are Ora O., William W. and James. The daughters living are Jessie E., Floyd A., Mary M. and Lottie May. Mr. Russell's father, also



his sisters, with the exception of one, who lives in Oatville, Kansas, all reside in California.

Our subject's father, J. C. Russell, has a history, as follows: His grandparents, Christopher and Isabella Russell, came from England to Pennsylvania in 1807. His father, William Russell, was born in England in 1799 and came to Pennsylvania in 1807. William Russell was married to Sarah Coleman in 1835. John S. Russell, our subject's (W. O. Russell's) father, was the son of that union, being born in 1838. When John C. Russell was eight years old the family moved to Ogle county, Illinois. The father, William, worked at carpentering for one dollar and a quarter a day for two years. Later the family moved to Bureau county, Illinois, and bought forty acres of prairie land, which was operated by his son while he (John C.) still followed the carpenter's trade. The son operated this farm for five years. They then sold and came to Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1852. The father, William, bought some land, which his son operated while he still clung to his former occupation, that of carpenter. John C. Russell worked the farm until about 1857. He was a great hunter and spent winters hunting deer, turkey, geese, ducks and quail. John C. Russell was married to Miss Marie Angeline Prime in 1857.

In 1862 he enlisted in the Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company K, Thirty-second Regiment, and served three years and thirteen days, during which time he participated in about fourteen hotly contested battles. In 1872 he came to Furnas county, Nebraska, with his family, among whom was his son, William O. Russell. They spent four weeks on the road with their teams and covered wagons, the same time taking care of a small herd of stock which they brought along with them. They located a homestead on the northeast quarter of section 34, township 3, range 22. He farmed here in Redwillow and Furnas counties until 1893, when he moved to California, where he now resides at Turlock. The first Republican convention was held on his homestead in a very early day, during the time when wild game was still plentiful on the prairies.

Our subject, William O. Russell, has three uncles, Samuel Russell, James C. Russell and Milton Fisher, all of whom are pioneers of this part of Nebraska. He also has four sisters—Eva A., Sarah R., Mary and Angeline; also three brothers, John P., Warren N. (deceased) and Roy.

Mary Prime, our subject's mother, was born in 1838 in Indiana. Her father, John Prime, and her mother, Rebecca (Hutto)

Prime, were both residents of that state. They came to Hamilton county in the early days and settled near Homer. Mary Prime had six brothers and two sisters—George, Daniel, Nathaniel, John V., William, Jacob, and the sisters, Mary Ann and Margarette.

#### CHARLES S. HAWK.

Prominent among the leading old settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, the gentleman whose name heads this personal history is entitled to a foremost place. Mr. Hawk is a man of active public spirit, always lending his aid and influence for the bettering of conditions in his community, and has served his district in the capacity of justice of the peace, and as school director for many years past. Mr. Hawk resides in township 30, range 47, where he has a pleasant home and valuable estate.

Mr. Hawk is a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, born in 1867. His father, William Hawk, was a farmer, also a native of Pennsylvania, born of German parentage, and he married Martha Speelman, also of German stock, born in that state. The family came to Ohio about 1872, settling on a farm in Darke county, where our subject was reared and educated, attending the country schools when he was not assisting in the farm work on the home place. At the age of nineteen years he left home and came to Washington county, Nebraska, locating near Blair, and there followed farm work for one summer. In the fall of 1887 he went to North Platte and did not settle permanently during the first two years in this section of the country. He worked at different occupations, being employed as a grocery clerk, hotel clerk and at other work, and then returned to Washington county and went back to farming in partnership with a brother, William L. Hawk, and continued at that during 1890, 1891 and 1892. He next moved to Thurston county, locating on the Omaha reservation, where he leased Indian lands and farmed for some time, leaving there in 1901, when he came to Dawes county and bought his present ranch. Here his buildings are on section 6, township 30, range 47, and his ranch consists of fifteen quarter sections, all adjoining in one solid body. Antelope postoffice is located on this ranch. He has one hundred acres under cultivation and thirty acres of fine alfalfa, with a splendid grove of ash and cottonwood trees. There is plenty of good water on the place, and he has three wells and windmills, com-

fortable house and good farm buildings. He has a nice orchard and lots of small fruits planted, and everything to make a model farm home. He has built fifteen miles of fence enclosing his ranch, and also cross fences. He is largely engaged in raising Hereford cattle and horses and mules, which he finds most profitable.

When our subject landed in Herman, Nebraska, March 3, 1887, he had a very common outfit of clothes and but ten dollars in cash. This was the extent of his worldly possessions. After spending two years in the North Platte country he returned to Washington county, Nebraska, going to the village of Herman. Like most farmer boys, while working on his father's ranch he had the ambition to move to the city and live the gentleman's life, wearing fine clothes and leaving the so-called dreaded farm work, but, after working as a clerk in a grocery store for a year, he found that city life was much more monotonous and tiresome than he had expected and that there were a great many more temptations and a great deal more strife there than back on the old farm, and he was anxious to return to the simple life of the country. Our subject was very fond of horses and cattle and decided to own some. So in the winter of 1889 and 1890, he and his brother William borrowed three hundred dollars from their father with which to make partial payments on horses and machinery in order that they might start to farming. They rented one hundred and eighty acres of land in Washington county, Nebraska, and farmed there for about a year with fair success. The next year William, our subject's brother, decided to quit farming, so our subject rented one hundred and sixty acres and "batched it" for about two years. During these two years he barely realized enough to pay rent and interest. Our subject then moved to Thurston county, Nebraska, and leased land on the Omaha Indian reservation. It was at this time that he went to Avoca, Iowa, and was married, and then he returned to his ranch, where with the assistance of his estimable helpmeet he began to accumulate a little money. After living there for eight years our subject decided to leave the reservation and buy a home in some other locality, so they sold out most of their belongings, realizing about six thousand dollars. They moved to Dawes county, Nebraska, where he purchased his present home, then amounting to nineteen hundred and eighty acres of land, and also one hundred head of cattle.

Not being satisfied with raising common grade cattle he went to Cumming county, Ne-

braska, and purchased sixty head of registered Hereford cattle, never regretting this purchase. Later in the same year he bought a Spanish jack. At this time he had twenty-six head of horses; now he has one hundred and five head of horses and mules, one hundred and fifty head of cattle, of which one hundred and twenty head are thoroughbreds. They sell their surplus stock every year and realize a fine profit. Our subject has added three hundred and twenty acres of new land to his ranch and also has not forgotten to improve the conveniences of their home, the house being piped for water, this doing away with the old pump and carrying of water. They still have some inconveniences to overcome, one being the distance of thirty miles which the two daughters have to go every week in order for them to take their music lessons.

Each member of the family has their little interest in the ranch, owning cattle and horses, and thus the interest in caring for the stock is kept up. Since coming to this section of the country our subject has seen material changes in the country, values of land being quadrupled. Our subject is a firm believer in the old tried and true maxim, "Honesty, practical economy and industry will lead to success."

In the spring of 1893 Mr. Hawk was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Beistline, daughter of Simon A. Beistline, a farmer of Pennsylvania German stock, who settled in Nebraska in 1894. To Mr. and Mrs. Hawk have been born three children, named as follows: Howard F., aged fourteen years; Stella G., aged twelve, and Ruth A., aged nine years.

Mr. Hawk is a Democrat and a strong party man.

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#### TAYLOR S. NORTHUP, DECEASED.

Taylor S. Northup was born in Sandy Hill, Washington county, New York, in the year 1831. His father, American-born, was a manufacturer of note in his day and made the first steel plow produced in America. Our subject's mother was Ruth Taylor before marriage, being of American nativity; her father was a farmer in New York state.

Taylor S. Northup was married in 1860 to Miss Helen Amigh, of Hudson, New York, where her father was a leading merchant. The noted Rev. Henry Ward Beecher officiated at the wedding. Mrs. Northup is a lady of scholarly attainments and of wide literary culture and was principal of Rutgers' College, New

York, for some time, and was the first woman in America to be appointed to a professorship of mathematics. She is a graduate of Utica Female Seminary, at Utica, New York, one of the celebrated institutions of learning in the eastern states.

Taylor S. Northup was reared in New York state, graduating from the high schools. He then took up work with his father and was foreman of the foundry until he went to Brooklyn, where he secured the contract for and built the main sewer in the city. He afterwards entered the government employ and was United States assessor for five years; then a custom house gauger for nine years, and for three years was mine superintendent at Nevada, New York. In 1893 he came west to Blaine county and went into the cattle business, remaining on a homestead until 1903. He then purchased the present farm on section 17, township 17, range 28, in Logan county, where he made a marked success at farming and stock raising. The farm of three hundred and twenty acres is located eight miles south of Gandy. Mr. Northup was one of the leading old settlers of Nebraska and was well and favorably known over several of the western countries. Mr. Northup died October 7, 1908, of heart failure.

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#### FRANK TELLER.

Frank Teller, long and prominently known in Perkins county, Nebraska, was born in Wayne county, New York, in 1852, coming of old American stock, his father being a native of New York state and his mother of good old Yankee ancestors. The former died in his native state, while the mother was for several years a resident of Nebraska, and died in Buffalo county in 1892.

Our subject made his native state his home until he was twelve years of age, when the family came to Illinois and lived there for nine years, he attending the common schools and following farm work as a boy. In 1871 they came to Nebraska and were among the earliest settlers in Lancaster county, locating on Rock creek. From the time Mr. Teller left New York state he had supported himself and helped take care of his mother, and on coming to Nebraska he began farming on a small place which he bought, succeeding in making a very good living. He distinctly remembers the town of Lincoln when it was a mere village and has watched the growth of different sections of the state from their earliest settlement by white men. He has passed through all the Nebraska times, witnessing grasshopper raids,

drouths and suffering hardships and privations of every kind in building up a home. In 1875 he went to Iowa, spent one year there, then was in Texas for about two years and in Indian Territory and Oklahoma for some little time, traveling from one state to another with a team and covered wagon, leading a typical nomadic existence for several years.

In 1881 Mr. Teller returned to Nebraska, settling in York county, and remained for four years, following farming. He left that section and moved to Perkins county, landing here in 1885, locating seven miles from the Colorado state line, taking up a homestead on section 30, township 10, range 40. Ogallala was his nearest trading point and postal station, and that town was thirty-five miles from his claim. He built a sod shanty, started to break up land for crops, and went through the drouth seasons during 1893, 1894 and 1895, being scarcely able to raise half a crop, but stuck to his place and finally proved up on it. A part of this time he went to Richardson county, where he was able to secure work, also spent a short time in Buffalo county, coming back to western Nebraska in 1899, and settling near his old homestead, remaining there up to 1903. He then located near Madrid and spent two years, purchasing his present farm on section 24, township 10, range 37, in 1905, and now has a quarter section of good land. He has improved this with good buildings, including a house costing one thousand dollars, of commodious size, substantial barns and other outbuildings, and engages in mixed farming and stock raising.

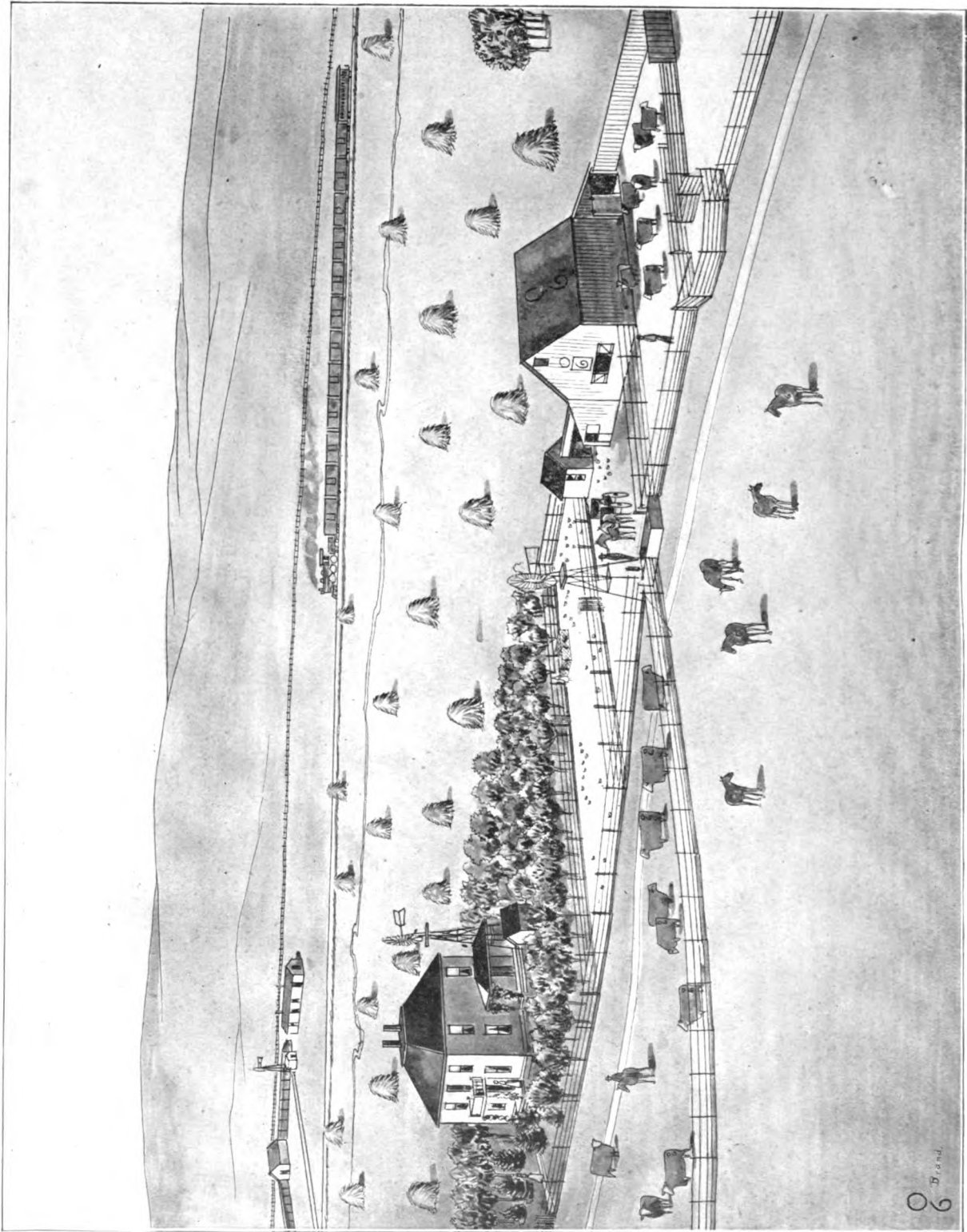
On January 20, 1887, Mr. Teller was married to Miss Lizzie Alexander, daughter of Samuel D. Alexander, who was an old homesteader in Perkins county and well known as a shoemaker, following that occupation for many years in the vicinity. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Teller—Edna Belle, Lloyd and Harlow.

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#### HENRY R. NEUMANN.

Henry R. Neumann, residing in Lodgepole precinct, Cheyenne county, is a typical representative of western Nebraska, and has the honor of having been born and reared in the county in which he now lives. His father, Henry, came to this region before the Union Pacific Railroad was put through this section and he is one of the genuine old-timers in this locality. His marriage to Miss Fedelia McMurray, of Sidney, in 1867, was the first wedding to be celebrated in the young town, and together they built up a good home and

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RESIDENCE OF G. O. FAIRHEAD.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

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reared their little family of three children, meeting with much sorrow in being obliged to lay to rest in death five other children who died in childhood. Those who grew to maturity were Rosebud, Henry and Ray, all being reared and educated in Cheyenne county. The family of Neumann is closely identified with all the early history of western Nebraska, Mr. Neumann traveling here overland immediately after the close of the Civil war, in which he was a soldier, and saw much hard large cottonwood trees in his yard, where the children of the two races played together. The father and mother retired from active life and moved from Nebraska to Denver, Colorado, in 1902, taking life easy in their declining years. During his active years he accumulated about four thousand acres of Nebraska land, most of which he sold before retiring. After our subject grew to manhood he bought the old homestead in section 31, township 14, range 47, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, on which is the substantial rock dwelling in which the family lived for years, with rock barn and other buildings. His fine ranch land is situated on Lodgepole creek, with a good supply of running water, making it well adapted to stock raising as well as farming. He farms about fifty acres, and deals in cattle, running about sixty head, and also half a hundred horses, and is one of the progressive and well-to-do ranchmen and highly esteemed citizens of his community.

Mr. Neumann was married to Pluma E. Dickinson, daughter of Friend Dickinson, a well known ranchman, owner of the ranch by the same name, located near Lodgepole, Nebraska, of whom an extended sketch appears on another page. Mrs. Neumann's mother died June 20, 1886, and the father at present resides in Lodgepole. The marriage of our subject and Miss Dickinson was celebrated on the bride's father's ranch on March 28, 1894, and was largely attended, by the friends of the contracting parties. In political views Mr. Neumann is a loyal Republican.

#### WILLIAM A. PETTYCREW.

William A. Pettycrew, a successful and prominent business man of Valentine, is one of the old settlers of Cherry county, and a man who has done his full share toward the upbuilding of the community. He well merits his high standing as a citizen and the success which has attended him.

Mr. Pettycrew was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1855, a son of James Pettycrew, of Scotch-Irish descent, who fol-

lowed farming and merchandising in Pennsylvania prior to his emigration to Iowa. Our subject, the fourth in a family of eleven children, was reared and educated in Iowa, residing there until he was thirty years old. He followed farming as an occupation, owning a farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres, which was well stocked and kept in a good state of cultivation. In 1885 he came to Cherry county, pre-empted a claim and after computing title took a homestead and tree claim situated six miles northwest of Valentine, where he remained until 1895, establishing a comfortable home on a farm comprising four hundred and eighty acres. After enduring and surviving the devastating drouths of the early nineties he decided to quit farming and enter the business world, so moved to Valentine in 1895, where he established a grocery store, later adding other departments until he is now the proprietor of one of the leading general stores here.

In 1878, Mr. Pettycrew was married to Miss Adelia E. Carpenter, who died leaving three children, namely: Archie D., Inez A. and Floyd M. In 1906 Mr. Pettycrew married Miss Fannie D. Muchmore, a successful teacher in Cherry county, and a very estimable lady.

Mr. Pettycrew enjoys an enviable reputation as a business man of great ability, and has the respect and confidence of all who know him.

#### GARROLD O. FAIRHEAD.

Garrold O. Fairhead is one of the old-timers who has seen his share of the hard times that fall to the lot of the pioneers in an undeveloped country. He has gone through many tough experiences, but in spite of everything has always managed to enjoy life, making the best of hard situations, never complaining at his lot, and now he has a comfortable home and is surrounded by hosts of friends in the locality where he chose his home.

Mr. Fairhead was born in England September 9, 1861, and came to Canada with his mother in 1873, where they remained for seven years, before Mr. Fairhead crossed the borderland to the United States. His father, James Fairhead, died while the family lived in England, and his mother's death occurred in 1901, in Nebraska. Our subject is the fifth member of a family of ten children. At the age of twelve years he started out to make his own living, working on farms during the summer months and attended schools in the winter months. He landed in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1880. There he followed farming for a time, then took charge of the C. C. Orr ranch

and remained on it four years. In the latter part of 1883 he came to Cherry county, locating sixteen miles southeast of Gordon on a homestead, holding this tract of land for several years. In making his start here he was compelled to sell one horse to buy the relinquishment on pre-emption land and later sold the other one, and with this money he bought six heifers, and this was his start in the cattle business. Since then he has done exceedingly well, in 1896 purchasing his present home of nine hundred and sixty acres, four hundred and eighty acres being a Kincaid homestead, besides operating a tract of leased land. He always has about five hundred cattle and twenty-five horses on the range. When he came to this country he was obliged to walk to Valentine and back again, there being no railroad through here at that time. There were no settlers on the Niobrara river and he had no neighbors, this part of the county then being almost a wilderness. Soon after this the dry years struck the locality and he lost all his crops, and in addition to this one of his horses was stolen which he later recovered east of Valentine. After these years he met with success in his work, his crops brought good returns, and he now has a well improved ranch, all fenced, and he has erected a fine two-story house costing three thousand dollars, and is proud of the fact that he has the finest hay meadow in this locality, extending two and a half miles along Bear creek. His place is fitted with all the machinery necessary for his ranch operations, and he is a thorough and systematic ranchman, owning a very valuable estate. A fine view of the residence will be found elsewhere in this book.

In 1888 Mr. Fairhead was married in Sioux City, Iowa, to Miss Julia Boden, a native of Ontario, Canada, of Scotch-English descent. Mr. and Mrs. Fairhead have four living children, named as follows: Gladys, Joy, Lee and Grace, two dying in early life.

In political faith Mr. Fairhead is a Republican, and although he takes no active part in county affairs, he is wide-awake and keeps abreast of the times in all matters of public interest. The family are members of the Methodist church.

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#### JOSEPH FICKEL.

Joseph Fickel, one of the prosperous farmers of Sheridan county, Nebraska, has resided on his well improved estate in section 23, township 34, range 41, for the past twenty-two years, and is well and favorably known all over this section of the country.

Mr. Fickel was born in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1859. He is a son of Eli Fickel, also a native of Ohio, and a farmer by occupation, who, with his wife and family of ten children, moved to Iowa, where our subject was raised on a farm, working with his father until he was twenty-six years of age, and then struck out for himself. In 1885 he left home and came to Sheridan county with three other young men, and located on the place where he now lives, he being the only one to settle permanently in this locality. When he first came here he drove through from Valentine to his homestead, and at that time there were very few settlers around here, the nearest neighbors living four miles away. He "batched it" for nearly fifteen years, and was so busy in building up and improving his place that he never felt lonesome or homesick. He had brought three horses with him and a supply of feed, and started to farming at once. He had good crops for several years, and was just getting nicely started when the dry years struck him. He could not raise anything, so quit farming and started in the stock business, and had such good success that he has continued in it since then. He has accumulated a nice property, constantly adding to his farm until he now owns one thousand seven hundred and sixty acres of land. He and his brother together own nineteen quarter sections, part farming and part pasture land, but do not cultivate very much of it, preferring to devote the time and attention to stock raising. Our subject has acquired all of his property through hard and persistent labor, and by buying when the land was cheap. It is now worth a good round sum, but he would not care to sell, as he is perfectly contented in this locality. He has seen his share of hard times since coming here, and would not care to go through a pioneer existence again, but feels that he did right in coming here, as he could not have gotten together as much property in Iowa as he has here, and when he lived in Iowa he was made aware of the fact that it was the landowner who made the money, so he decided to go into a country where he could get free land and grow up with the country.

Mr. Fickel was married in 1899 to Miss Esther Nelson, a native of Denmark, who came to America with her parents when but five years old. Her father, Hans Nelson, located in Sheridan county on a homestead in 1885, and is still living in Sheridan county. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fickel, namely: Martha and Dorothy, both born and raised in this locality.

Mr. Fickel is an independent voter, but leans toward the Democratic party.



## VICTOR C. CARLSON.

Victor C. Carlson, who occupies a prominent place among the younger members of the farming community of Phelps county, Nebraska, is proprietor of a valuable estate in Sheridan township. He has spent his entire career as a farmer in this state, and is a citizen of worth who commands the esteem of all with whom he has to do.

Mr. Carlson was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1867. He is a son of C. J. Carlson, who, at the age of sixty-seven years, is still residing on his five hundred and eighty-acre farm three miles north of the town of Holdrege, which adjoins his son's farm. The father came to America from Smoland, Sweden, in 1864, and settled in Henry county, Illinois, where he farmed successfully up to the time he came to Phelps county, in 1880, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres. He afterwards sold this place and bought one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives, which he has improved with good buildings—house, barns, etc., and has added to his original holdings until he has a farm of five hundred and sixty acres, all A1 land, which he, together with the help of his sons, still operate. He is a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church of Holdrege, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. When our subject reached his majority he went to Colorado and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, remaining there until 1894, when he sold this place and returned to Phelps county, purchasing the farm where he now lives, consisting then of eighty acres. He erected a good house and barns, and has steadily improved the place, adding to the acreage until he now owns four hundred acres of good farming land. His only brother, Fred B. Carlson, assists his father in the operation of the latter's farm. Our subject and brother also own seven hundred and twenty acres jointly in Cottonwood township, which is used for pasture land, and this they intend to convert into an alfalfa ranch at an early date. He also owns six hundred and forty acres of land across the road from this seven hundred and twenty acres. Our subject engages largely in stock raising, and has from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty Shorthorn cattle, and one hundred and ten pure bred Poland China hogs. He keeps a sufficient number of horses for farming purposes and also breeds horses and mules for the market. His brother, Fred, farms on a large scale with his father, and in 1905 harvested a crop of two hundred and twenty-five acres of corn, seventy-five of wheat, and thirty

of oats. For the year 1906 our subject put in three hundred and forty-five acres of wheat, and reaped a banner crop, and also had one hundred and fifty-five acres of corn in that same year. He has unlimited faith in the future of Nebraska farming and stock raising, and thinks this is the best country on earth for this purpose.

In 1893 Mr. Carlson was married at Akron, Colorado, to Miss Laura A. Anderson, daughter of Andrew M. Anderson. Five children have been born to them, who are named as follows: Lawrence, Warren, Wesley, Vernon and Vincent.

Mr. Carlson takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and was school director of district No. 20. In politics he is an independent voter.

## HENRY WARNEKE.

Henry Warneke, a very successful and fore-handed ranchman of Bowen precinct, has been a resident of Sioux county since its organization, having voted at the time the county was formed and has helped considerably to bring about the present prosperity of the region.

Mr. Warneke is a native of Germany, born in Hanover in 1857. His father, August, was a farmer and came to this country with his family in 1872, and is now living in Iowa, near Kingsley, Plymouth county. After landing in America Mr. Warneke came directly west, locating in Wisconsin, where he remained for eight years, then came to Sachs, Iowa. He started for himself in Iowa, at first engaging in the meat business at Odebolt, Iowa, following that line for some time, then bought cattle and grain at Odebolt, remaining in that part of the country up to 1886. In the fall of 1886 he came to Harrison, Nebraska, and opened a general mercantile store, his wife being the third white woman to settle in that place. He run that business for two years and did very well, then took up land and established the "Warneke Ranch," which is situated on Running Water creek at the head of the Niobrara river, southwest of Harrison, and close to the Wyoming line. At the time he went on this ranch it was entirely unimproved land, and he was obliged to start at the beginning, putting up buildings, fencing it, etc., and spent considerable money on it in getting it fitted up right. The ranch now contains three thousand acres, which extends for four miles along the river bank and is splendidly located for ranching purposes. He has put in two irrigation ditches, and has about four hundred acres of hay land under irrigation, also some cultivated.

The place is all fenced, and has a handsome residence which he built at an expense of three thousand dollars. This dwelling is fitted with all modern improvements and is one of the most imposing buildings in the county.

Mr. Warneke keeps about six hundred head of cattle, all of the Hereford breed. He has a large number of trees on the place, many of which he planted himself, and the ranch shows every indication of the best management and attention to details, presenting to the chance traveler through this section a most pleasing picture of rural comfort and elegance.

Mr. Warneke was married in Iowa in 1881, to Hannah Kellmer, whose parents settled in Iowa as pioneers, both having been born and raised in Schleswig, Holstein, Germany. To them have been born the following children, namely: Mildred, employed as a stenographer in the county clerk's office at Harrison; Edna, married and living in Chicago, and Mabel, occupying a position as clerk in Omaha. Mr. Warneke is a Republican, and stands firmly for his convictions.

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#### LESLIE W. CRANE.

Leslie W. Crane, a well-known ranchman and farmer on section 27, township 33, range 57, is a leading old settler of western Nebraska. He came here when this country was new and very thinly settled, and has stayed to enjoy the prosperity which has come to the region, now enjoying a pleasant home, and is classed among the truly worthy citizens of his community, who has always assisted materially in the development of his locality.

Mr. Crane was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, on a farm, in 1866. His parents were of American stock, and his father's father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, being a musician and was killed in battle. The mother, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Hawk, raised her family of four children, and after her husband's death, left the east and moved to Iowa, settling in the western part of Audubon county, in 1871, locating near Council Bluffs. As a boy, Leslie worked hard, doing a man's work on a farm when little more than a child, also attending the district schools during the winter seasons. In 1886 he left Iowa and emigrated further west, locating finally in Wyoming for one year, then he went to Leadville, Colorado, where he spent a while.

Mr. Crane first came to Nebraska in 1887, and landed in Sioux county in the spring of that year, locating in the Hat Creek basin, filing on a pre-emption. He made that place his home

for about ten years, during that time improving the farm and working out by the day and month to make a living and keep up his expenses on his pre-emption. Part of this time he worked as a ranchman, cowboy, and anything he could get to do, and many nights were spent out of doors, sleeping on the ground exposed to the inclement weather with no sort of a covering to protect him from the elements. For weeks at a time he did not know what it was to sleep in a bed or under a sheltering roof. He was obliged to travel over the region on horseback, making trips through Wyoming and into the Big Horn basin. One year was spent at Harrison, where he worked at general work, and went back and forth to his home to see after his cattle. In 1898 Mr. Crane located on his present ranch, and at the same time he took up an additional Kincaid homestead in sections 27, 33 and 34, in township 33, range 57. He has added to his possessions, improved the whole place, at the present time owning in all six hundred and forty acres of good farm and ranch land. Mr. Crane has quite a herd of cattle and horses and makes a snug sum each year by marketing several carloads of his stock, mostly horses. During the summer of 1906 our subject was hailed out, losing all his crops, which was a severe loss to him, although it was the only time he had a complete failure from any cause whatever, since coming to this region.

In 1891 Mr. Crane was united in marriage to Emma Sherrell. They have one child, Ellen, born the 24th of July, 1893.

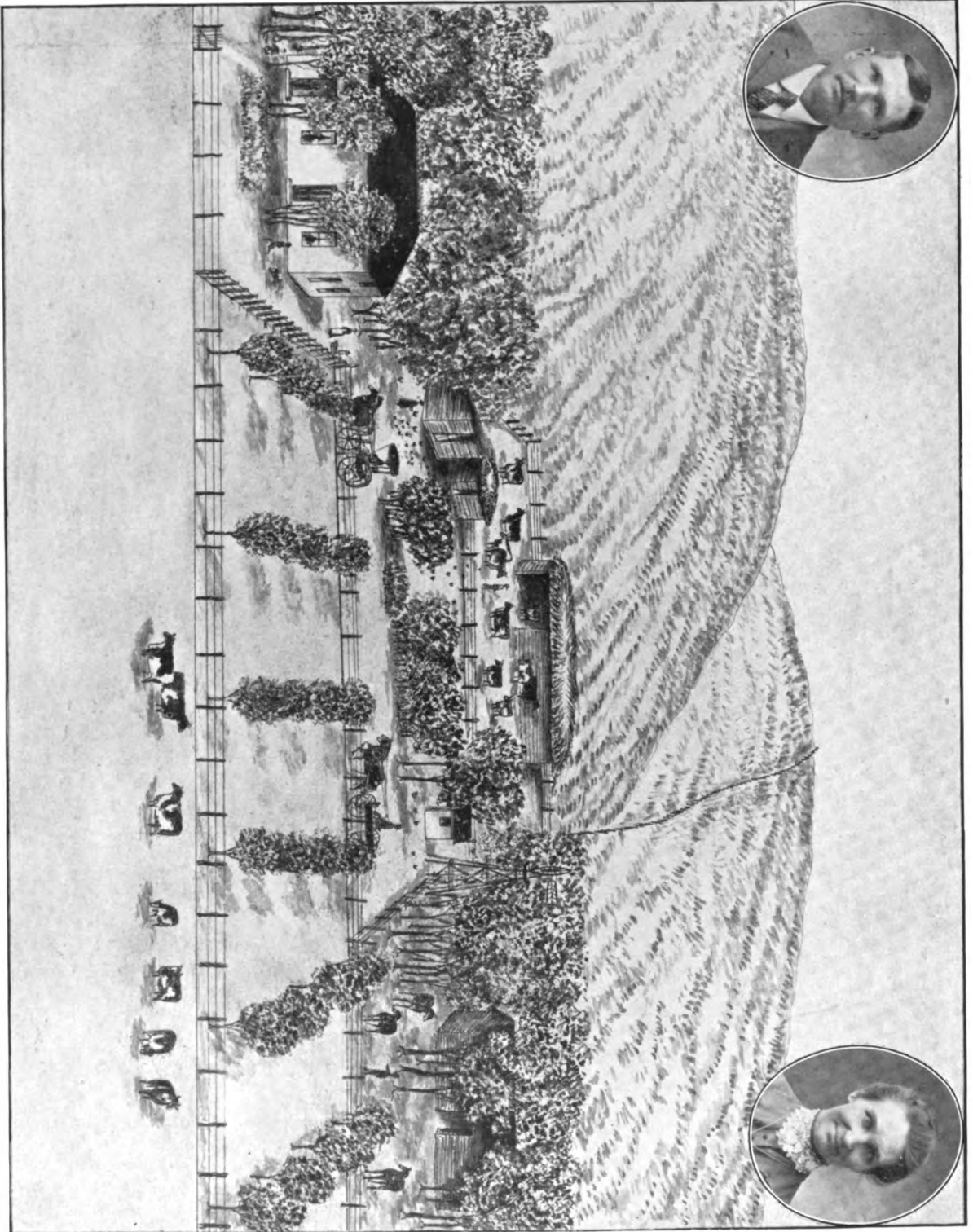
Mr. Crane is active in local and county affairs, and votes the Independent ticket, always trying to elect the best man on the ticket.

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#### JOHN H. BUSH.

John H. Bush, now of section 28, township 33, range 28, belongs to that large number of thoughtful and experienced men, widely informed as to affairs and public interests, and linked in with all forward movements that Germany has contributed to the welfare of the United States. He is most industrious in his daily habits, and thoroughly conscientious and upright in all his dealings with his friends and neighbors.

Mr. Bush was born in the village of Reichebach, province of Darmstadt, Germany, April 18, 1856, where his parents, Henry and Gretchen (Goetz) Bush, were engaged in farming. He was bred to that career himself, but early in life learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed for a number of years, working at that industry in Switzerland, France, Holland and England. In the last named country he was employed in the city of London, and became quite familiar



John H. Bush.

RESIDENCE OF JOHN H. BUSH,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mrs. John H. Bush.



with the great metropolis of the world. On the twenty-first day of May, 1881, he sailed from London in the steamship Canada, and after a voyage of fourteen days landed in the city of New York, where for the first time his feet pressed American soil. It seemed to him that he would do well to see what he could of this new world before settling down to make any portion of it his abiding place, so accordingly he traveled much, and followed several kinds of labor before we find him in Cherry county. He was a gardener on the Hudson river, and a farm laborer in the state sixty miles northwest of the city. He worked at Pittsburg, Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans, largely following his trade, and for some three years in Peoria, part of the time at 512 North Adams street. He followed shoe-making in Kansas, at Anthony, for a time, and on the 5th of May, 1888, came into Cherry county, bringing his wife, Mary (Baker) Bush, to whom he had been married in March of the previous year. Her father, Henry Baker, was of German blood. She was born at Cologne in the Rhine province. They sailed from Hamburg on the steamer Neckar, landing in New York where they lived some years. The mother died in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush have reared seven children: Frank, Albert, Elizabeth, Julius, Mary, George and Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush made their first settlement some fifty miles southwest of Valentine, where he secured a pre-emption claim on Bordman creek, making his home for a time in a sod house, and carrying on his farming operations with oxen. Mr. Bush soon built a considerable log house, which the young couple furnished suitably for the times, and prepared to enjoy their home. Their dreams, however, were shattered by the disaster of a fire which consumed the house and all its furniture, leaving them nothing but the clothes upon their backs, whereupon Mr. Bush disposed of his interests at that point, and settled on a homestead entry, where we find him at this writing. He began with one hundred and twenty acres, which his industry and hard work have since increased to a full section of choice land. Here his handsome gROUT house, built with his own hands, faces the Niobrara river, and the entire ranch shows the management of a successful farmer, a man not afraid of hard work and familiar with the best methods of modern tillage of the soil. He has a fine orchard, devotes part of his land to market gardening, and runs a dairy of fifteen to twenty cows.

Mr. Bush is highly respected and trusted and for a year was mail carrier on the route between

Valentine and Chesterfield postoffice. He has at times served his county as judge of elections. He is a member of the Valentine Camp No. 1757, Modern Woodmen of America. On another page will be found a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Bush, together with the residence.

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### SAMUEL TAYLOR.

Samuel Taylor, one of the practical and successful agriculturists of Brown county, has been a potent factor in the development of the farming interests of the community in which he resides. Mr. Taylor was born April 22, 1833, in Grayson county, Virginia, and is a son of Francis Taylor, a native of the state of Virginia, who died there in 1873 at the age of seventy-eight. Our subject is the seventh member of a family of thirteen children, and was reared and educated in Virginia. In 1855 he started out for himself, coming west to Nebraska City, but remained only a short time, going to Missouri, where he lived for the next fifteen to eighteen years. At the end of this period he moved to Monona county, Iowa, and rented a farm on which he lived for five years. He finally drifted back to Nebraska in 1885, settling on a homestead in Brown county, one mile from the mouth of Plum creek, and proved up on this claim. Then he went to Meadville, in Keya Paha county, where he received the appointment as postmaster under Cleveland's administration, which position he held for five years, still running his farm in connection with this work. After the expiration of his official term he came back to Brown county, near the mouth of Hazel creek, where he bought land on which he made his home for ten or eleven years. This is a splendid piece of property, covered with a fine growth of natural timber, and here he built up a pleasant home, adding many improvements, including irrigation of part of the land, and then took a homestead under the Kincaid law, where he erected a good set of buildings, and is residing on this property at the present time. He had a hard time in getting started in early days, and experienced many of the discouragements that fell to the lot of the pioneers in this locality, going through the drouth periods, when no crops could be raised, damage by severe hailstorms, and having a hard time to get along, but has gained success through persistence and hard labor, and enjoys a goodly share of prosperity. In 1858 Mr. Taylor was married to Miss Nancy Wilkinson, a native of Iowa, whose father was a farmer by occupation, and an old settler in that state. Mr.

and Mrs. Taylor have a family of four children, who are named as follows: George, Frank, Eliza, wife of Frank Stevenson, and Charlie. The family is well known in the community in which they reside, and is highly respected.

Mr. Taylor is a man of energetic character, and classed among the leading men in this part of the county. In political faith he is a staunch Democrat. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the Baptist church.

#### HARM A. FECHT.

In the person of Harm A. Fecht, mentioned above, we have another of the sturdy sons of Germany who left their native land in their young manhood and came to America to carve out for themselves a name and fortune in the land of liberty and freedom, and well has he succeeded, now being one of the prosperous and well-to-do ranchmen of Union Valley precinct, Cheyenne county, highly esteemed by his fellowmen as a good citizen and progressive farmer.

Mr. Fecht was born in the village of Wiesens, near Aurich, province of Hanover, Germany, on March 5, 1862, receiving a common school education, following farm work as a boy. There were five children in his father's family, and he was the fourth in order of birth. Both parents, Albert and Tatje (Huls) Fecht, spent their entire lives in Germany, and the children are now scattered in different parts of the country, our subject coming to America at the age of seventeen, sailing from Bremen Haven March 2d, on the Maine, since wrecked, and after a voyage of eleven days, landed in New York, with barely enough money to pay his way to Golden, Adams county, Illinois, where he joined a cousin, Herman Miller, who was living there. He immediately went to work to make his own way in the world, taking anything he could find to do. Later, he made his way to Hancock county, where, after two years at farm labor, he rented land, which he cultivated for about seven years. In the spring of 1888 he came to Cheyenne county and filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 2, township 16, range 48, on which he made final proof and received a patent from the government. Although he has seen some hard times during the bad years, and often found it difficult to make a living, he persevered, and gradually improved his place, putting up good buildings, fenced his land, and worked into the stock raising as he became more prosperous: he now owns one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of deeded land besides controlling under lease six hundred and forty acres of school land. He has about two

hundred acres under cultivation and raises good crops of corn and small grain. He also has plenty of hayland and pasture for his stock, running one hundred and fifty head of cattle and twenty horses. Mr. Fecht was married in the Lutheran church at Weyerts, Nebraska, September 26, 1889, to Miss Martha S. German, who was born in Illinois and came to Nebraska with her parents, Charles and Sophia German, who were early settlers in the region; the mother is now residing at Jacksonville, Illinois. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fecht, all of whom are living at home, named as follows: Henriette J. M., Anna H., Albert C., Viola E. L., and Arthur H.

The family has a fine six-room, two-story residence, with excellent barns and out buildings. They enjoy all the comforts of ranch life, and are among the leaders in neighborhood affairs, well liked by all. Mr. Fecht takes an active interest in all matters relating to state and local politics, and has served in different capacities on the township board. He is moderator of school district No. 54. Politically he is a Republican. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

#### PLACER TUCKER.

Placer Tucker, a large ranch owner and successful agriculturist of township 21, range 34, Hooker county, Nebraska, resides in section 28. Here he has spent many years of his career and has become a prominent member of his community, having taken an active part in its up-building from the early days of its settlement. He is a native born Nebraskan, and is a splendid representative of the western state.

Mr. Tucker was born in Thomas county in 1885. His parents were of American blood, his father, Clancy Tucker, a well-known ranchman and farmer who came to Hooker county with his family in 1881, traveling by team from North Platte, and after arriving here took up a location on Dismal river. During his first years in that locality the father was obliged to haul posts to North Platte, a distance of seventy-five miles, camping out nights under his wagon, in many instances, in order to make a living for his family. As soon as he got a little start he began in the stock business, settling on his present homestead in 1886, and there built up a permanent ranch and good home. He was elected county commissioner and held the office for several terms, also served as county surveyor, assessor, and took an important part in county affairs up to the time of his death, which occurred November 3, 1904, and the mother also



died September 2d, in the same year, they leaving a family of eight children, who are named as follows: Martha L., who was appointed post-mistress at the Eclipse station in 1905, the postal station having been established in that year on the home farm; Placer (the subject of this sketch), Waldron, Ora, Francis, Susie, Lester and Ezra.

Since his father's death Placer, with his brothers and sisters, has operated the home ranch, consisting of eight hundred acres of deeded land and one thousand two hundred and eighty of homestead, and besides this extensive place they lease one section of school land. The place is well supplied with clear running water the year around, and splendidly improved with good buildings and every convenience for its successful operation. Nearly all of the ranch is devoted to stock raising, but about eighty to one hundred acres is used for farming purposes. Placer Tucker was elected county surveyor of Hooker county in 1907, and now holds the position. He is a very satisfactory official and merits the high opinion in which he is held by the people.

#### FLETCHER N. WHIPS.

Fletcher N. Whips, one of the leading "old timers" of western Nebraska, resides on section 31, township 9, range 38, Perkins county, where he has a valuable estate. He is also a prominent veteran of the late war, and a man of wide reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Whips was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1847, of American stock. His father, Simon P. Whips, was born in Maryland, married Mary Ann France, a native of Ohio, they settling in Indiana on a farm, where our subject was reared. When he was a lad of fifteen years he enlisted in Company I, Thirty-fourth Indiana Volunteers, and went south with his regiment, saw active service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas. He was among the detachment that helped clean out the rebels all along the Mississippi river clear into Texas. During his service his regiment took part in the following engagements and sieges: Riddles Point and Island No. 10, Missouri; Fort Pillow, Tennessee; Grand Prairie and Duvalls Bluff, Arkansas; Yazoo Pass, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond, Big Black River, Champion Hill, Mississippi; Pleasant Hill, Spanish Lake, Louisiana, also Vermilion Bayou and Carrion Crow, Louisiana, and Palmetto Ranch, Texas. Besides these was at the siege of New Madrid, Missouri, Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi.

After being discharged from the army Mr. Whips returned to Indiana and entered school, afterwards spending five years in teaching in the public schools near his home. He came to Nebraska, locating in Butler county in 1872, and was one of the party who located the county seat of that county, lived as a pioneer and made it his home up to 1889, building up a good property and becoming one of the leading residents of his locality. During his residence in that part of the state he taught school at different times. He finally sold his farm and engaged in the hardware business at Octavia, ran it for five years, then disposed of it and came to Perkins county, purchasing his present homestead. Here he has one thousand one hundred and twenty acres, including some leased land. His place is fitted with good buildings of all kinds, fences and every convenience in the way of farm machinery, wells, wind mills, etc., and engages principally in stock raising, although he cultivates a portion of the land, raising small grains mostly.

In 1870, on September 4th, Mr. Whips was married to Miss Mary E. Goodwin, daughter of Rev. Smith Goodwin. Five children were born to them, who are named as follows: Mary E., Jennie B., Ruth, Sarah and Frank M., all of whom are grown up and married, and settled in homes of their own.

Mr. Whips is a Republican and takes an active part in politics in his county. While living in Butler county he held the office of county supervisor, and has held other important offices. He has been instrumental in a large measure in building up different localities where he has resided, and helped establish two schools and three different churches at different times.

#### ABIJAH B. OVERMAN.

Among the prominent citizens of Crookston, Nebraska, who is also one of the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, a first place is accorded the gentleman whose name heads this review.

Mr. Overman was born in Boone county, Iowa, December 23, 1863. His father, Levi H. Overman, is a well known farmer and old settler in Cherry county, locating here about the year 1886. He is of American stock, born near Terre Haute, Indiana, and the mother, whose maiden name was Susanna Eckles, is a native of Ohio. Our subject was reared in Iowa, and at the age of nineteen years came west to Nebraska, settling in Cherry county where he opened up a homestead in section 29, township 35, range 30. When he landed here he had one horse, four cows, and his household goods. He put up a rude sod shanty and broke up his first



piece of land with a team of cows, driving these animals like oxen. He had a hard time getting started and keeping his family in provisions, and spent many days working through the harvest for fifty cents per day. To get a start in poultry he planted ten acres of trees for a dozen chickens. Things looked dark to him for a long time, but he stuck to his farm and proved up on it, and after that bought a farm of four hundred and eighty acres on Minnechaduz creek, nine miles northwest of Crookston, remaining there for thirteen years; and while on this place was extensively engaged in stock raising and at times freighting through western Nebraska and South Dakota, many times camping out on bitterly cold winter nights under his wagon. In 1902, while on a trip through the country, he spent four days traveling through a severe storm, in all that time never being inside of a house, getting what comfort he could around a camp fire; this was on Cutmeat creek, South Dakota, and the second day he ran out of food and finally struck an Indian camp, where he secured some "jerked meat" and coffee and remained recuperating for one day.

Mr. Overman came to Crookston in 1904, and ran a saloon for two years, and in the fall of 1906 he opened a grocery store. He has a fine line of goods and a large floor space, carrying a complete stock of groceries and provisions and has a good trade throughout the surrounding country. He is a good business man, attending strictly to his business and does not seek public preferment in any way, never having held any office except local. Politically he is a Republican and is a charter member of Crookston lodge, Modern Woodmen of America.

In 1882 Mr. Overman was married to Miss Rosetta Lamb, daughter of Andrew J. and Edith (Griggsby) Lamb, of American stock. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Overman, of whom seven are living, named as follows: Herman, Laura, Guy, John, Olive, Susie and Della.

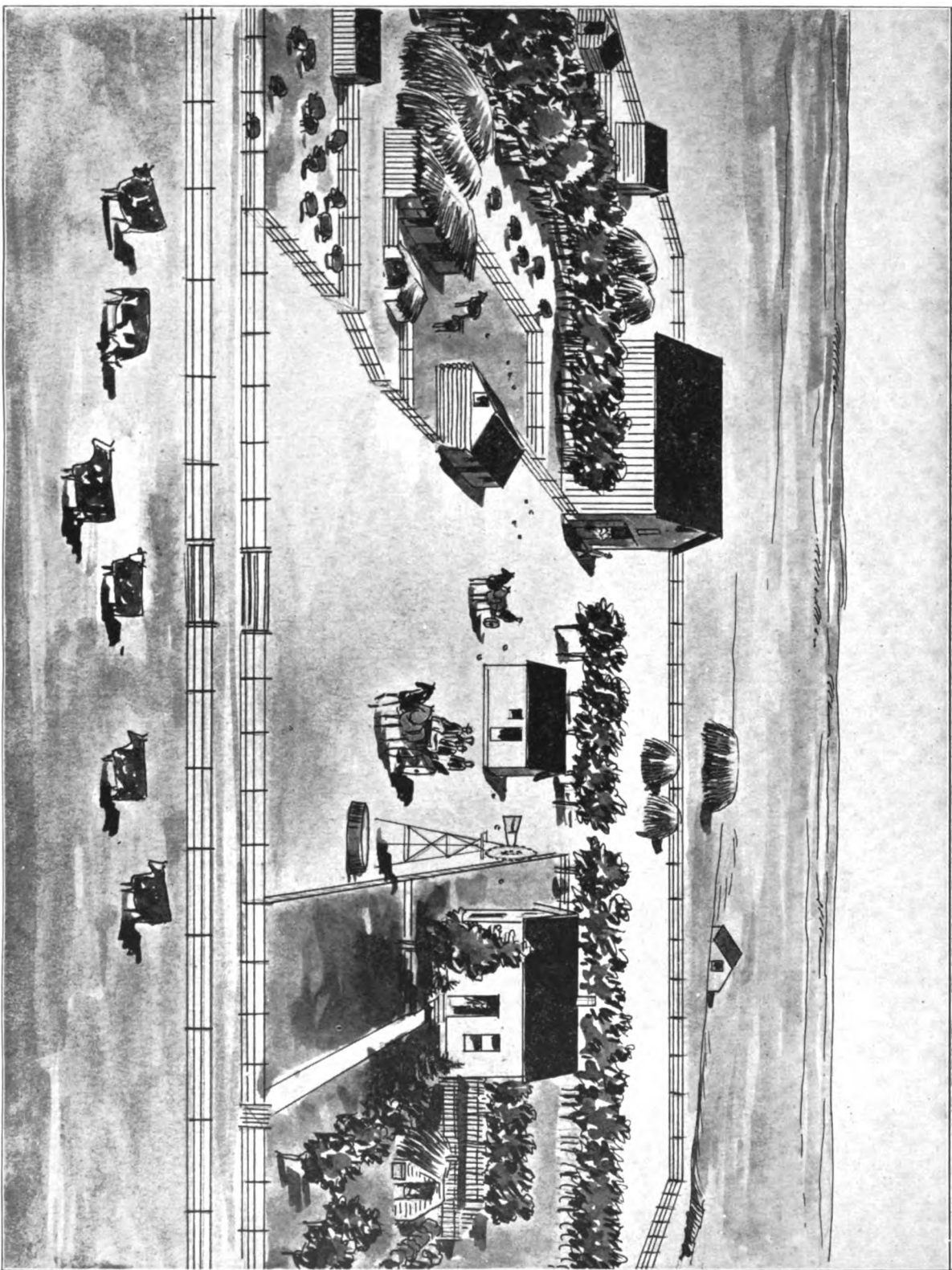
### JOHN NOVAK.

The gentleman above named resides on section 29, township 35, range 28, in Cherry county, Nebraska. Mr. Novak has lived in Nebraska for the past score of years or more, and has done his full part in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home.

Mr. Novak was born near Prague, Bohemia, under the Austrian government, February 24, 1844, a son of Joseph and Leby (Doorak) Novak. He grew to manhood there and came

to America with his parents in 1862. Landing in New York city the emigrants at once struck out for the west, settling near Eastport, Tama county, Iowa, on a farm where their young family grew up. He remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-eight years, then started out for himself, purchasing eighty acres of land. Not meeting with sufficient success he disposed of his land and for fourteen years was engaged in railroad work in the round house, repairing engines and as extra fireman. In 1884 he came to Cherry county and took up his present farm as a homestead and tree claim. He went through hard times in getting started, and at first was unable to build a home for himself, for two months occupying the log cabin of Jacob Martin, jointly with John Rychon and his family, so that there were sixteen persons in all under one roof, only twelve by fourteen in extent. The stable built for two horses was occupied by four horses and two cows. Mr. Novak at once began building his first house, which was a sod structure and his family lived in this for ten years. He had but very little capital to begin life here—a team of horses, a cow and a yoke of steers, all of which soon after his arrival died, part of them of Texas fever, a disease prevalent at that time. At one time his only live stock consisted of one calf, which had been given him during the time this disease was raging among the stock in this section of the country. This one calf was Mr. Novak's start in the cattle business, to which he has added largely since those hard times. Being devoid of implements his first breaking was done with plows borrowed, when the neighbors were not using them. Nowadays, he has a full equipment of the latest farm implements all his own. He had many severe losses through failures of crops on account of the drouths and hail, etc., but he persevered and through his industry has accumulated a fine property with a substantial house, a large barn, twenty-eight by thirty-two, and numerous outbuildings, all in good condition. He now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land, well improved, and has a fine grove of forest trees, an orchard including apple, pear, peach and plum trees and smaller fruits, such as grapes and berries. Mr. Novak began in Cherry county with seventy-five cents and at one time was reduced to two quarts of meal with two feet of snow on the ground. A chance service to a couple of soldiers replenished his empty pocketbook, and soon after a favor to a "squawman" supplied the family with a hundred pounds of flour. Since then times have never been hard again.

Mr. Novak was married in Tama county, Iowa, February 24, 1869, to Miss Kate Hencal,



RESIDENCE OF JOHN NOVAK.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



a native of Bohemia, and a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Marsi) Hencal. Five children have been born to them, namely: Mary, Joe, Julia, Willie and James. Mr. Novak is a Republican, and takes a leading part in all local affairs of importance. He was appointed postmaster of Britt postoffice in November, 1906, and accepted the position to prevent the closing of the postoffice, which is now located at his residence.

Mr. Novak is a member of the Presbyterian church, while Mrs. Novak is an adherent of the Catholic faith.

On another page of this work will be found a view of the residence of Mr. Novak.

#### JAMES M. POLLARD.

James M. Pollard, owner of the "Little Klondike Ranch," of Grant township, Franklin county, Nebraska, is one of the oldest settlers in this county. He has been a prominent member of the community since locating here, and one of the foremost in every movement to develop the resources of the locality. He was supervisor for district No. 6, elected to that office in 1903, and served a second term. He has held many local offices in the gift of the township, and has been a member of the school board for many years. Mr. Pollard was born in Waterville, Maine, where his ancestors settled in the early days. His father, George Pollard, died there, while the mother, after being left a widow, moved to Wisconsin late in the fifties with her two sons, our subject and his brother George, the latter still living there. Our subject grew up there, and in 1871 he took a trip through the western states, visiting western Nebraska, locating here in 1884, taking a homestead. Since then he has added to his possessions constantly and now owns five hundred and twenty acres, covering land in Thompson Creek valley near the forks of West and East Thompson creek, where it widens out into a fertile valley. During the first few years he had rather a hard time to get along, and was compelled to run in debt, but after getting a start was very successful and has made a good thing here. His place is called "The Little Klondike Ranch" because of the productiveness of the valley, his corn crop averaging forty, and as high as sixty bushels per acre, wheat from twenty to thirty-five. He cuts four crops of alfalfa in one season, and always gets three big yields, with an average of a ton per acre each crop. He has always been more or less engaged in stock raising, keeping only high grade stock, and has plenty of pasture for all his stock including from one hundred to one hundred and fifty cattle, and from two hundred to three hun-

dred Poland China hogs, selling a large number each year. Mr. Pollard has several acres of Russian mulberry trees, in which thousands of blackbirds live, and also has a fine orchard including apples, peaches, cherries and plums. He takes the greatest pride in building up his home and farm, and his efforts are well repaid in the well-kept place, which shows the best of care in its management. Mr. Pollard was married to Miss Jennie F. Taplin, daughter of William Taplin, of Cheboygan county, Wisconsin, who died in service during the Civil war. He was a member of the Twenty-seventh Infantry from that state, and was a highly esteemed citizen and brave soldier. Mr. and Mrs. Pollard have one child, Ivan M., aged sixteen years, who is at home with his parents. The family are members of the Baptist church, and active in the Spring Valley Union Sabbath school. Our subject is active in public affairs in his locality, and a strong Republican. In 1896 he ran on that ticket to represent his district in the state legislature. He is a Master Mason, also a member of the Fraternal Aid. Mr. Pollard is the possessor of the mane of a buffalo which he shot in the pioneer days of this region.

#### EDWARD SATEREN.

The gentleman herein named is well known by the residents of Dawes county, Nebraska, as one of the leading old settlers of his locality, and a man who has done his full share in the upbuilding of the agricultural and commercial interests of his community. Mr. Sateren resides in section 16, township 31, range 47, where he has a fine home and valuable estate, and enjoys the esteem and respect of his fellowmen.

Mr. Sateren was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, on a farm near Zumbrota, in the year 1860. He was raised there until he was about nineteen years of age, when his parents settled in Cuming county, Nebraska, where they were pioneers. The father, John Sateren, was born in Norway, and came to this country in 1849, where he was soon after married to Miss Mary A. Johnson, who had arrived in America in 1851, coming from Norway with her parents. After locating in Nebraska, our subject only spent one winter here, then returned to Minnesota where he remained for three and a half years, and in 1881 he came back to Cuming county and began farming, continuing at that work for a few years. In 1889 he came to Dawes county and leased school land, which he has farmed up to the present time, building a log cabin in which he lived up to 1904. When

he arrived here he had three horses, and he put in a crop on rented land, raising a sod crop of corn. The drouth periods soon came on and although he never had a total failure, his losses were heavy and he was unable to get ahead very fast, but was able to get a fair corn crop each year, which helped out considerably. He began in the stock business and gradually forged ahead and now owns three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land and leases five hundred and twenty acres of school land, operating all of this. He cultivates seventy-five acres himself and rents out one hundred and ten acres, and engages in the dairy business, which he finds very profitable. In the summer of 1907 he was unfortunate in losing his cattle shed, seventy by thirty feet, and quite a number of fence posts by a fire, and this was a serious loss to him, but he soon built up again. Mr. Sateren's mother lives with him, and is quite active at the age of seventy-seven years at her last birthday, April 17, 1908.

Mr. Sateren is a man of active public spirit, and is keenly alive at all times to the best interests of his community. He has held school office for many years, and assisted in building up the schools in his locality. He is a Republican and strong party man.

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#### FRANK PIERCE.

Frank Pierce, one of the well-known pioneer settlers of western Nebraska, resides on section 35, township 30, range 52, Dawes county, where he has built up a good home and farm and become one of the prosperous and highly esteemed citizens of his community.

Mr. Pierce was born in Nora, Illinois, in 1860, and is a son of Arleigh Pierce, a prominent physician of that section. His mother was Betsy Sweet Pierce. When our subject was a small boy his parents removed to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was reared and educated, attending the common schools. He came to Custer county, Nebraska, in 1881, and was one of the pioneers there, working for a large cattle company for a year, then returned to Wisconsin for three years. He next located in Iowa, where he remained for three years; then came to Dawes county, where he has since lived. He first settled on a farm six miles from Belmont, and there went through many hardships which are familiar to all settlers in a new country, living in a log cabin for some years. He started his farm and proved up on his pre-emption, remaining there up to 1893, when he moved to a homestead located three miles east of Belmont, on which he proved up, afterwards selling it at a good figure.

Our subject bought his present farm in 1902,

where he has put up good buildings, fences and all necessary improvements, making a fine farm and home. There is plenty of natural timber on the place, and clear springs of running water, and he has one of the finest places in his locality. He is progressive and up-to-date in his farming methods, and one of the successful and prosperous men in the county.

In 1887 Mr. Pierce was married to Miss Della Wheeler, whose parents were early settlers in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have a family of seven children, who are named as follows: Helen, Florence, Bessie, Howard, Arthur, Lillian and Ronald.

Mr. Pierce has helped in the building up of his territory, taking an active part in local and county political affairs, also lending his influence and financial aid in all matters for the development and growth of his community. Politically he is an Independent.

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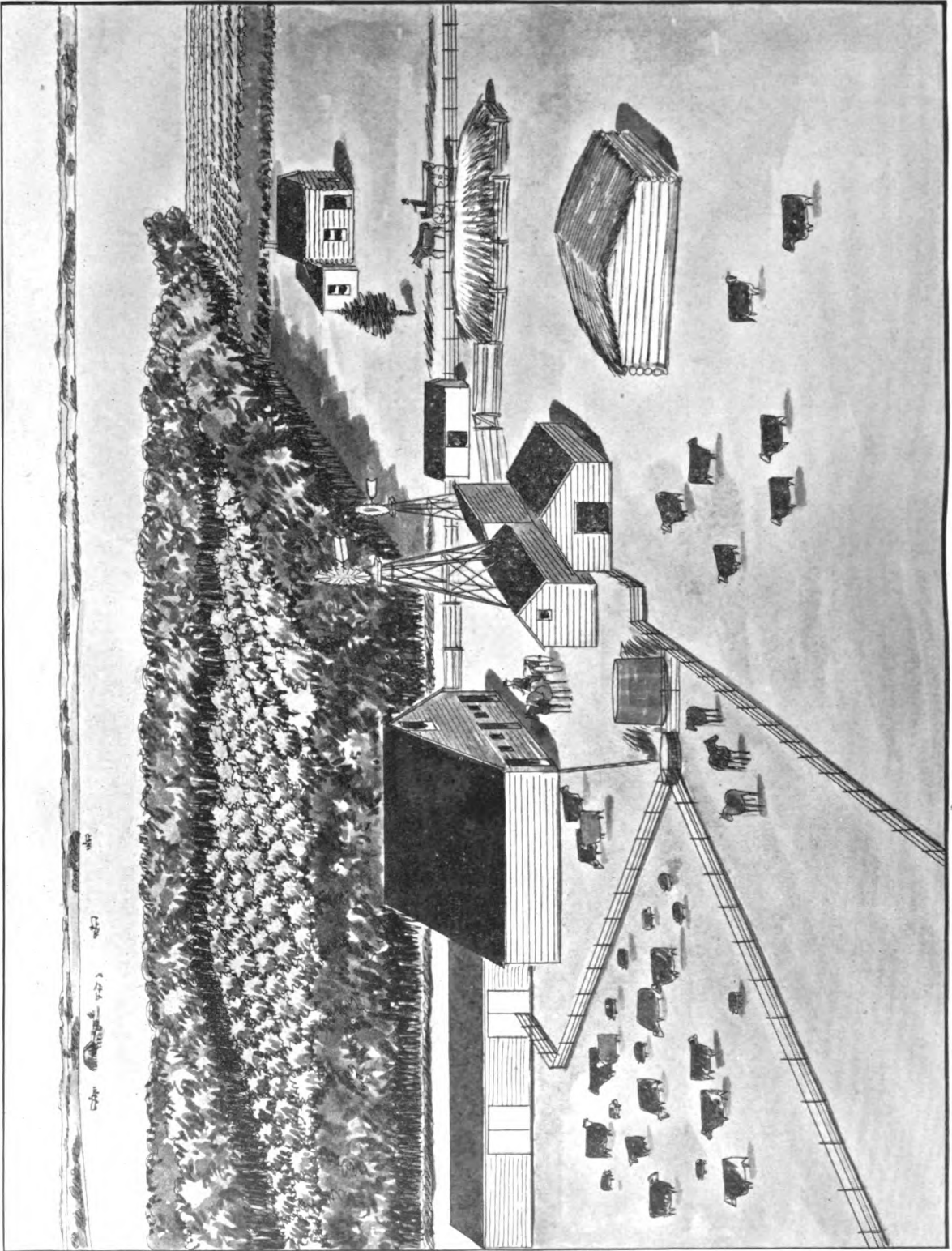
#### CHARLES A. HANSON.

Charles A. Hanson, one of the early settlers in Sheridan township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is a gentleman of unusual perseverance and thrift and has always been a potent factor in the development of the agricultural interests of that region.

Mr. Hanson was born in Boslund, Sweden, and came to this country in 1871. He re-visited his native land in 1906 in company with his brother, Fred Hanson, a prosperous farmer of Divide township, Phelps county, and states that after years of absence the country of their nativity was to them, as to all who so return, a disappointment to them. Their life in America has been so free and full of splendid opportunities and successes, especially to the Swedish settlers here, that while they properly cherish the fatherland, its customs and language of their ancestors, this land has become a home to them in every sense of the word, so that there is no desire left for any other. Mr. Hanson came to Phelps county in 1878 and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, where he now resides. In 1891 he bought a timber claim in section 2, and a year later purchased eighty acres lying opposite, so that he now owns four hundred acres of land. He is engaged principally in grain raising, and his crop in 1905 amounted to three thousand bushels of wheat and five thousand bushels of corn. He has gone through every pioneer's experience since locating here, and has seen some hard times, but does not regret his hard labors, for through them has come success and he now has a valuable estate surrounded by all the comforts and conveniences of a model rural home. He is the







RESIDENCE OF PETER GIPSON,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



proprietor of a one hundred and sixty-acre farm located in Sheridan county, which he rents out, and in all his holdings are five hundred and sixty acres. He keeps from forty to fifty hogs and common grade cattle, with enough horses for his farm work.

Mr. Hanson was married in 1882 to Miss Anna Johnson, of Sweden. They have five sons, Oscar, Joseph, Hilmer, Emil and Gustave, and one daughter, Emma. The family occupy a fine residence, and there is a beautiful grove of trees surrounding the place, with orchards and all kinds of small fruit for family use. Mr. Hanson has been a member of the school board for several years, and is secretary of the Lutheran church at Holdrege, also a deacon in that church. In political faith he is a Republican.

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#### PETER C. GIPSON.

Peter C. Gipson, who for the past twenty years has resided in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, and during that time has acquired a fine property as a result of his industry and good management, is widely known in his locality and held in the highest esteem as a farmer and citizen. He has a pleasant and substantial home in Pine precinct, and is recognized as one of the prominent men of his community.

Mr. Gipson was born on a farm in Denmark, January 3, 1857. His father came to America and died in Davenport, Iowa, where he was residing at the time. Our subject lived with his parents until he was sixteen years of age, then started for the new world, sailing from Liverpool to New York city in 1873. He came west and settled in Lorain county, Ohio, where for two years he worked in the stone quarries in Lorain, thirty miles west of Cleveland; thence he went to Woodbury county, Iowa, intending to go to the Black Hills, but hearing of the burning of wagon trains by troops to prevent settlement of the Black Hills at that time, he gave up the trip. He lived in Woodbury county up to 1885, and followed the work of a farmer. After this he went to Yankton, South Dakota, and was there for one year, then came to Nebraska and located in Keya Paha county in 1886, settling on a farm in section 5, township 32, range 19. He took a homestead and proved up on it, having built a log house which he lived in for several years. Here he experienced the usual hardships and privations of the early settler, going through the drouth periods, etc., and lost two crops successively. Since that time he has been very successful in his efforts, and has bent all his energies to building up his farm and improving his property. When he first struck the county he

was obliged to pay two hundred dollars for his land, which was considered to be the poorest ground in the whole neighborhood, but he stuck to it, and made a success of his venture, and has since bought land adjoining his farm after his neighbors gave up trying to farm. He has cultivated this land and now owns as good a farm as anyone in the locality, and is proprietor of over one thousand two hundred acres, all improved, fenced and cross-fenced. He has planted small fruits, and has a fine orchard of cherry, plum and apple trees in good bearing condition. There is a fine growth of natural timber on his farm besides groves planted around the dwelling, and altogether he has one of the best places in the section. He has been engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, and also raises splendid crops of grain, most of which he uses on his farm. He cultivates about two hundred and fifty acres, and the balance is used for hay and pasture lands for his stock. A view of the place is presented on one of the illustrated pages of this volume.

Mr. Gipson was married in 1884 to Miss Serena Jepson, born in Denmark, whose death occurred in this county in 1894. Four boys were born of this union, namely: Oscar, George, Charlie and Almer. Mr. Gipson is a Populist in politics, a member of the Lutheran church and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### FLOYD JONES.

Floyd Jones, a representative old settler and prominent agriculturist of Deuel county, is a resident of Lisco precinct, and owner of a fine estate comprising about eight hundred acres situated in the vicinity of section 14, township 17, range 45. He is widely known throughout the region as an energetic and thrifty citizen, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a progressive and thorough stockman.

Mr. Jones was born in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, on March 3, 1856. There were three children in his father's family, he being the eldest. The father was a native of New York state and the mother of Pennsylvania, the former now deceased and the latter still living. Our subject grew up in Wisconsin on a farm, receiving a limited schooling through attendance at the district schools during the seasons of year when farm work was rather dull, and he remained at home until about thirty years of age, then came to Nebraska, settling in what was then called Cheyenne county, and later known as Deuel county, where he now resides. He took a pre-emption and timber claim and proved up on the former only, going through the usual pio-

neer experiences during the first few years, witnessing the drouth periods, etc. He has added to his original holdings as his circumstances justified, and now has a valuable property, having much of his land in hay and grazing land for a large bunch of stock, running one hundred head of cattle and twenty horses. He has made a specialty of the stock business and has been most successful in this branch of work. His ranch is supplied with a complete set of good buildings and improvements of all kinds, and he is called one of the wealthy residents of his district. He started the ranch from the wild prairie land and has done wonderfully well.

In September, 1891, Mr. Jones was married in Chappell, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Henderson. Mrs. Jones was a native of Illinois, coming to Deuel county in 1888, and after her arrival here took up a pre-emption and also filed on a tree claim, proving up on both of those, and this land is now a part of the home ranch. She is a woman of more than ordinary intelligence, energetic and of charming personality, and, together with her husband, is much admired by all who know them. They have no children. Their ranch is beautifully located on the bluffs near the Platte river, and is one of the most sightly spots in the locality. Besides the home ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Jones have about nine hundred acres situated in other parts of Deuel county, which is used in connection with the home ranch.

Since locating in Deuel county Mr. Jones has been regarded as one of the leading citizens and public spirited men of the times, having been a potent factor in the development of the agricultural resources of this section. Politically he is a Democrat. Mrs. Jones' father (John Henderson) still lives in Illinois at the age of eighty-five, which anniversary he celebrated December 25, 1908. He is a hale and hearty old gentleman and still looks after his own affairs, which is of no small amount.

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#### PER ANDERSON.

The life of a pioneer is a hard one in any country and serves to bring out all the resourcefulness there is in a man, and, if he succeeds, he must have pluck and energy and sturdiness of character to back him. The subject of this sketch had these characteristics and has wrought his way to success at his chosen calling, farming.

Per Anderson came of good stock, being born in Sweden July 28, 1851, on a farm. Left without a father at eight and a half years

of age, he had to work hard at farming and in the mines of his native land.

Our subject was married in Sweden, in 1880, to Tilda Rassmussen, who was born in 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have five children, named: Gusta, Oscar, Hilda, Maud and Amanda.

Mr. Anderson came to America with his wife and one child in 1885, landing in New York city, and from thence came west to Nebraska, locating in Burt county, where he worked out for eleven months. Then he went to Blaine county, arriving there July 20, 1886, and locating on a homestead a day or two later about five miles north of the North Loup river. Our subject built a sod house, twelve by fourteen feet, and settled down to pioneer life. He had two cows which he used for a team the first year and then he got a team of colts which he worked when they were two years old. He broke up a little land and raised a sod-crop, which was about half destroyed by hail. In 1888, the crops were good and our subject kept on breaking more land with his team of cows. Then came the drouth years and several crops were almost complete losses, and the family had to depend on the cows and milking to make a living. Mr. Anderson kept on buying land, some of it on time; his cattle increased and the farm steadily improved. He also took a Kincaid homestead and sold his right when he sold his farm. On June 24, 1906, our subject sold out everything, cattle, land and improvements, realizing three thousand five hundred dollars. For six months after he lived with his son-in-law, and in December, 1906, he purchased the farm where he now lives. He has a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres of good land in Loup county near Taylor. He lives in a nice new house, just completed, and has about him all the evidences of success and prosperity. In 1907 he sold five hundred dollars' worth of corn from the farm and the whole crop that year brought him one thousand dollars. Mr. Anderson has been deeply interested in public affairs and has won the esteem of his neighbors for his sturdy and irreprouchable character.

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#### MOSES A. SWIFT.

Probably no one of the citizens of Lodge Pole precinct, Cheyenne county, has shown a more active spirit, or done more for the upbuilding of the better interests of his community than the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. Swift has resided in Cheyenne county for over twenty-three years, dur-

ing which time he has formed a wide acquaintance and is held in the highest esteem as an agriculturist and worthy citizen. He is a man of unquestionable character and well merits his success and enviable reputation.

Moses A. Swift was born in Brecksville, Cuyahoga county, Ohio, on July 8, 1839, and grew up there, receiving a common school education. On August 10, 1861, he enlisted in the United States regular army, at the New England hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, being assigned to Company B, Sixth United States Cavalry, and saw active service for three years, receiving his final discharge on August 11, 1864, at Washington, District of Columbia. He took part in the battle of the Wilderness and other engagements, also did detached duty at Fortress Monroe, where after recuperating from a six weeks' illness he was assigned to the dispensary, where he was continued on duty some eighteen months. After leaving the army he returned to his home place and remained there for a little over a year, then went to Montana, traveling by wagon and following the trail through the country via Bozeman Cut-off; the last settlement in Nebraska was Columbus and a lone blacksmith shop near Guide Rock. When he reached his destination he started to do work at placer mining at Helena, going in the winter to Red Mountain City, where he worked in the mines of the Liggett Company until July; thence he returned to Helena remaining until October 7th, when he turned his steps toward Ohio, on the way spending some time in Wisconsin. He remained in Ohio for one year, then emigrated to Fremont county, Iowa, where he followed threshing and corn shelling, then a profitable employment, for about eight years. In the fall of 1875, he left Iowa and moved to Sedgwick county, Kansas, farmed there for about nine years before coming to Cheyenne county. During President Harrison's administration Mr. Swift was postmaster at Lodge Pole, and at that time was also engaged in the retail meat business. He followed that work for a number of years, and in 1892 filed on a homestead in section 20, township 13, range 46, and has been engaged in ranching ever since. He has filed an additional homestead for one hundred and sixty acres of good land under the Kincaid law and on this keeps about one hundred and twenty-five head of stock. Interested with him in the stock business is his son, Ray Swift, who is a very energetic and industrious young man, owning a quarter section adjoining his father's original homestead in which he owns a reversionary interest.

On June 23, 1874, Mr. Swift was married

to Marcia Evarts, in Pottawattomie county, Iowa. She died April 3, 1882, leaving three children, Riley Clark, a railroad conductor, living at Nahant, South Dakota, Ray Richard, interested in ranching with his father, and Charles Henry, a physician of Nahant.

Our subject was married the second time to Gertrude Evarts, a native of Mexico, Oswego county, New York, and one child resulted from this union, Mary Marcia Swift, who is now attending high school at Kearney, Nebraska.

Mr. Swift has always been prominent in local and state affairs, and has had genuine western experiences, going through all the pioneer times in the west. He is a staunch Republican, and has always been one of the leading citizens of his community. Mr. Swift cast his first vote, in 1860, for Abraham Lincoln and has voted the Republican ticket ever since. While living at Tabor, Iowa, he joined the Masonic order, of which he was a member many years.

#### WILLIAM T. BULLIS.

Among the substantial business men and old settlers of Valentine, the gentleman whose name heads this review is probably one of the best known. He has been closely identified with the commercial interests of this locality for many years and has gained the respect and confidence of his fellowmen.

Mr. Bullis, the eldest in a family of nine children, was born August 22, 1838, in Niagara county, New York, on the banks of Lake Ontario. He is the son of Arnold Bullis, who removed at an early day to Lee county, Illinois, where our subject was reared and educated. During the war he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and saw service from Chattanooga to Atlanta, thence in the Fourteenth army corps with Sherman in the world-famous march to the sea and up through the Carolinas, followed by the most imposing military spectacle on the western hemisphere, if not on the globe, the grand review at Washington.

Mr. Bullis possessed an iron constitution, never knowing a sick day, and was always ready for duty from the time of his enlistment to the close of the war. After an honorable discharge he came back to his old home in Illinois, remaining for a time, then removed to Iowa in the fall of 1865, locating in Franklin county, where he farmed for ten years, acquiring in that time a fine one hundred and

twenty-acre farm. In 1886 he sold his farm and came to Cherry county, settling on a homestead fourteen miles northwest of Valentine. Here he remained for three years until appointed deputy sheriff, when he moved to Valentine, serving for four years. In 1890 he was appointed postmaster at Fort Niobrara, which office he held for two years, resigning to return to Valentine. Shortly after this he moved to Britt, and opened a general merchandise store, being instrumental in establishing a postoffice there, remaining in Britt for seven years. At the end of this time he sold out and again came back to Valentine, purchasing a fine house, and opened a pool hall in the building he at present occupies, of which he is the owner.

Mr. Bullis is a Republican in politics, and takes an active interest in all local affairs; he served as marshal of Valentine for about seven years in the early days.

In 1859 he was married to Miss Eliza Zorn, of German ancestry, who has presented him five children, named as follows: Melinda, William, a farmer; Charles, now in the livery business in Valentine; Nellie, and John, proprietor of an undertaking, furniture and hardware establishment in the Red Front store, Valentine. They are all married and well established in life, a comfort and credit to their parents.

Mr. Bullis is a member of Colonel Wood Post No. 208, Grand Army of the Republic, of Valentine. For over forty years he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity and was one of the organizers of the local lodge, of which he served some twelve years as worshipful master, having filled that position in the Iowa lodge. Through his long membership he is an honorary member of the state grand lodge.

#### HENRY A. COOK.

Among the early settlers of Keya Paha county, who have been instrumental largely in the growth of the financial and social interests of that region, a prominent place is given the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. He has always been found ready to further the interests of the community, where he chose his home, and has gained a wide and enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and substantial agriculturist of Burton precinct, where he has built up a fine farm and home, and boasts of the finest yard to be found in his county.

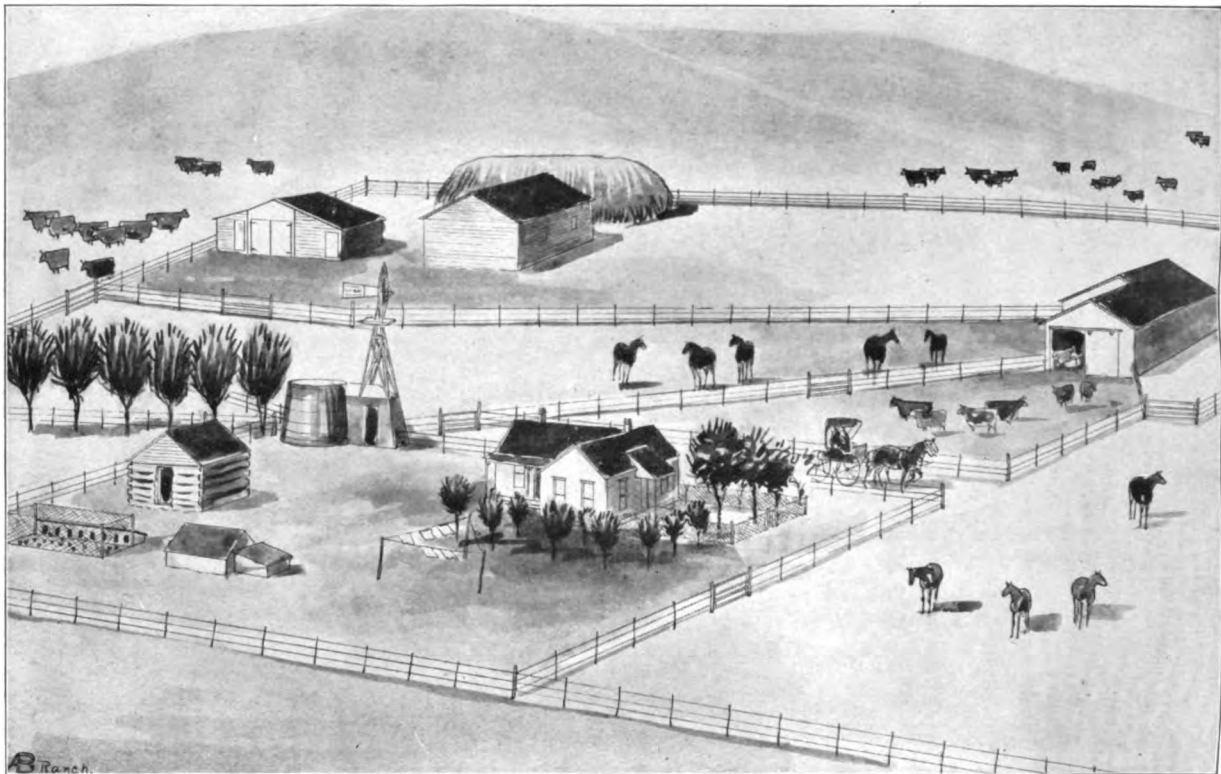
Mr. Cook was born in Schuylkill county,

Pennsylvania, February 10, 1862. His father, Louis Cook, was a farmer of German descent, also timber contractor, and at the present time lives on the place on which he was born. He married Sarah Headinger, of Welsh stock, whose ancestors came to America in 1772; they were the parents of ten children, of whom Henry A. was fifth in order of birth. He was reared on his father's farm, where he learned to do every kind of hard work, helping to grub and clear their place. At the age of seventeen years he left home and came to Carroll county, Iowa, where he followed farm work for three years, then went to Yankton, but remained but a short time. He next located in Cedar county, Nebraska, and there worked on a farm for three years, then came to Keya Paha county in 1885. Here he took a homestead on section 14, township 34, range 20, which he relinquished to the government after two years. He next took up a pre-emption on section 23, and still owns this place. He planted fifteen acres of trees of all kinds, including one hundred apple trees, eighteen cherry trees, besides crab-apple, peach, apricot, pear, German prunes, quince, mulberry and walnut trees, also hickory and chestnut. He has a fine shrubbery, the finest in fact in Keya Paha county, with cedars trimmed neatly as in Italian gardens. The entire place has a parklike appearance, with its many groves dividing the different lots. The garden contains gooseberries, currants, raspberries, grapes and strawberries, and altogether he has one of the finest orchards and fruit farms in this section of the country, much of the stock brought from the east, all of which are cared for by himself. He has thirty acres growing in alfalfa, from which a fine yield of hay is produced annually.

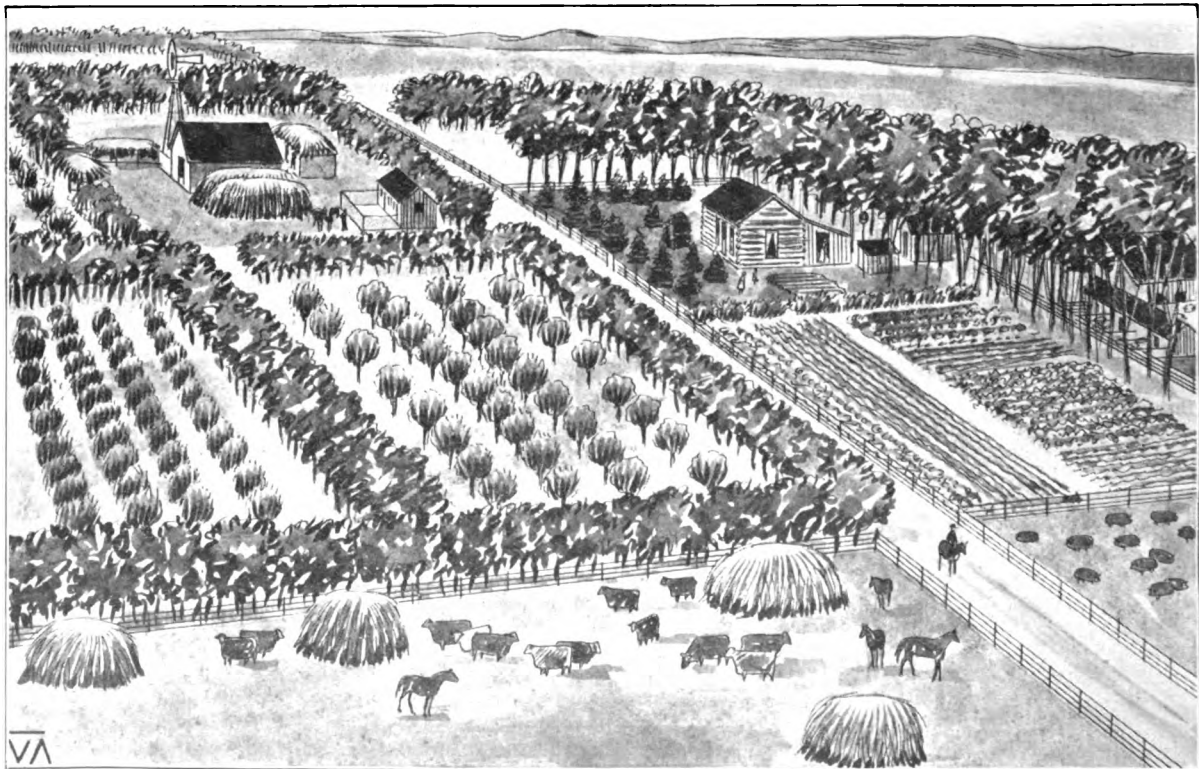
Mr. Cook's farm consists of nine hundred and sixty acres, two hundred acres under cultivation, and the balance used for hay and pasture for his stock. He keeps fifty cattle of his own and winters two hundred and fifty additional head; he raises annually about fifty hogs and twelve horses. He has erected substantial farm buildings, and has a pleasant and comfortable home for himself and family. A view of the home surroundings showing orchards, walnut plantation, garden and lots surrounded by tall groves is presented for inspection elsewhere in this work. Our subject has done his full share in the development of this region as an old settler, and his success and high station is a fitting reward for his labors.

Mr. Cook was married in Cedar county, July 13, 1887, to Miss Eva Withrow. Her





RANCH RESIDENCE OF O. B. WEISFLOG,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF HENRY A. COOK,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

father was of English descent, born in Kentucky, and her mother, Mary Wolf, of English-German stock; from the age of fourteen until the time of her marriage Mrs. Cook resided in California. To Mr. and Mrs. Cook the following children have been born: Fern V., Perry H., Pearl M., Bertie H., Russell O., Hazel V. and Kenneth R., all living at home at this writing

Mr. Cook is a Republican in politics and with his wife are members of the Methodist church. He affiliates with the Royal Highlanders. He has traveled much in the east as well as the west, including Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Canada and Michigan, but finds no place like Nebraska in general, and Keya Paha county in particular.

#### OSCAR B. WEISFLOG.

Oscar B. Weisflog, the subject of this personal history, resides on his well improved property located in section 35, township 34, range 30, Cherry county. He is an early settler of western Nebraska, and has watched the development and growth of this region from the start, lending his aid in the upbuilding of the community, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Weisflog was born in Bridgeville, Ohio, January 31, 1874, and is a son of Herman and Amelia (Grosser) Weisflog, who were early settlers in Nebraska. The father was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1835, coming to this country with his wife and four children when a young man. Our subject was reared in his native state until he was eleven years of age, then with his parents came to Cherry county, assisting them in carrying on the farm up to 1895. After leaving home he went to Wyoming, where he clerked at the post exchange at Fort D. A. Russell, but did not remain there for a very long time, as he was not satisfied with conditions and decided to return to Nebraska, arriving in Cherry county in 1896. For three years he was engaged in carpenter work in that vicinity and on Rosebud reservation, and during that time filed on his present homestead and proved up on it. Here he has built up a fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, farming twenty acres, and has good buildings and all improvements necessary to the proper running of a model ranch. He is engaged more in ranching than in farming, running a large bunch of stock, and is counted one of the prosperous and successful men in this region, having made every dollar of his fortune by his own unaided ef-

forts. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Weisflog has met with losses and discouragements. In March, 1888, the family was burned out by prairie fire, and at other times were compelled to fight this danger both night and day in order to save at least a part of their farm property. They saw many hard times, and during the early days were often without any food save hard biscuits and scanty other supplies to save them from hunger. Their water supply was also very scarce and the first two years they lived here were obliged to haul water five miles from the Niobrara river for both stock and household use. Their first possessions of live stock consisted of a yoke of oxen and one cow.

On June 19, 1902, Mr. Weisflog was married to Miss Maude H. L. Markl, a native of Chicago, daughter of Alois and Cecelia (Newgabauer) Markl, the former a native of Hungary, whence he came in early manhood. Mr. Weisflog is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Valentine.

#### PETER JOHNSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is the owner of a well improved estate situated in section 27, township 34, range 41. Mr. Johnson was born in Denmark in 1862, and came to America when eleven years of age. His father, John P. Johnson, came here in 1873 and now resides in Knox county. Our subject's mother died when he was a boy only five years old, and he was the second member in her family of five children, he being one of a pair of twins.

When he was eighteen years of age he started in on his own account, and went west locating at Pine Ridge, where he carried mail from Fort Robinson to Pine Ridge. He filed on his first land in 1884, settling on this land the following year and remained until he had proved up. This was a tree claim and pre-emption, and after a time he sold these out and took his present place as a homestead in 1887 and has engaged in farming. He lived here through the dry years and had a hard time to get along at that time, losing all his crops for several years in succession and becoming pretty well discouraged. However, the better time soon came along and he was able to raise good crops and caught up so he began to improve his place and has added to his farm until he now owns one thousand five hundred acres in three different tracts, cultivating about two hundred acres of this, and



using the balance for hay and grazing land for his stock, of which he keeps about one hundred head all the time. He has been living in the town of Gordon since 1901, keeping a man on his farm, as he wishes to give his children the advantage of the better schools, but personally superintends the management of his farm.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1891 to Miss Cena Nelson, daughter of Hans Nelson, then a resident of Cherry county, but now a resident of Sheridan county. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have six children, namely: Charles, born in 1891, Albert, born in 1894, Anna, born in 1897, Clara, in 1900, Eunice, 1903, and Richard, born in 1906, all reared in this locality. Mr. Johnson is well satisfied with conditions in this section of the country and has no desire to live anywhere else. He would not care to go through his earlier experiences again, although he states that those were his happiest days.

Politically Mr. Johnson is a Populist but does not pay much attention to politics. Says he is well satisfied with the present administration, and content to let others do the work of running the government.

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#### JAMES W. WOLVINGTON.

James W. Wolvington is one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, coming to this section of the country in the early stages of its development, and through industry and perseverance has succeeded in building up a comfortable home and valuable estate, and incidentally gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and progressive agriculturist. Mr. Wolvington resides in section 8, township 31, range 47.

Mr. Wolvington was born in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1858. His father, David Hamilton Wolvington, was of American blood, a painter by trade, and died when our subject was a small boy. He married Miss Helen Landry, born in Ohio, of American stock. At the age of nine years James started out to earn his own living, going out among strangers and working on farms for his board and with the chance of attending school at times when he was unable to find work to do, which was not often the case, and he grew up used to hard labor from the time of his early childhood. He had many rough and sad experiences in this occupation, and not until he was fourteen years old was he able to obtain any wages for his labors. He remained in the vicinity of Iowa City and Cedar Rapids up to 1889, work-

ing in the latter city for seven years, engaged with a transfer company.

In March of 1889 he came to Sheridan county, where he filed on a pre-emption of eighty acres, five miles southwest of Hay Springs, and built a dugout in which he lived the first summer. Here he started a farm and home, but sold out in the fall of the same year, taking up his present homestead in Dawes county, and building a sod shanty, in which he lived for many years. During the first few years he had a hard time in getting started, the drouths effecting his crops materially, and for several years he was barely able to make a living. He kept on working hard to improve his property, constantly adding to his farm, and now owns a ranch of one thousand eight hundred and eighty acres, all of which is fenced, having in all about fourteen miles of good fencing. He has built good barns, a large and comfortable house, and all improvements on the place, such as wells, two wind-mills, etc. He engages in farming and stock raising, cultivating about one hundred and sixty acres of his farm, with the rest in pasture and hay land.

In 1882 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hamilton, of Iowa, daughter of Ed. A. Hamilton, a blacksmith and farmer of that place, he having come to this country from Ireland in the early days. To Mr. and Mrs. Wolvington have been born the following children: Frank, Willie, Walter, Minnie, Earl, Pearl, Raymond, Mary, Theda and Freda (twins):

Mr. Wolvington is active in local affairs, and is director of his school district and acted as a member of the board for the past ten years. He is a Republican, and makes a success in any official capacity.

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#### JOHN T. STUART.

The above mentioned gentleman is one of the leading citizens of North Platte, where he resides with his family, enjoying the confidence and esteem of a host of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Stuart was born in Cazenovia, New York, in 1854. His father, Henry Stuart, was an engineer on the Lake Shore railway before that road was laid through to Chicago. In 1869 he became master mechanic at Wasatch on the Union Pacific railroad, his run being from that place to Evanston, remaining there for several years, then returned to Illinois.

In 1886 our subject came west, locating at North Platte, and commenced work with the Northern Pacific railway, being employed as

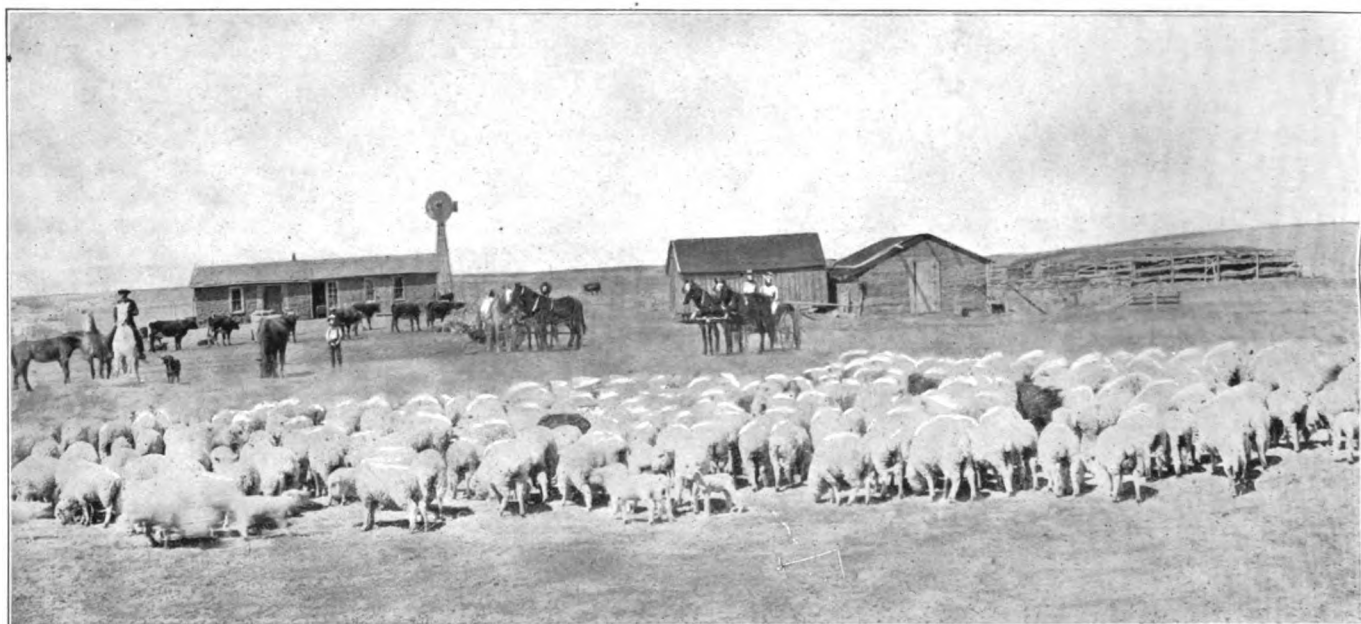
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"HOMESTEAD RANCH" OF HELMER RENSVOLD.

Box Butte County, Nebraska.

a fireman, and remained at that until 1890, when he took charge of an engine. He is a faithful and efficient engineer, fully trusted by his superior officers, and has been more than successful in the work he chose. In 1893 he became insurance secretary of the order of Locomotive Engineers, and still holds this position for local Lodge No. 88. In 1896 he was made general secretary of the same lodge, holding this office at the present time, and was elected as a delegate to the international convention at Memphis, held in 1906. He is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge at North Platte, and a prominent worker for its interest.

Mr. Stuart was married in 1885 to Miss Frank I. Meagher, of Aurora, Illinois. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, who are named as follows: Frank, a graduate of the North Platte high school, now attending Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa; he was captain of the high school cadets in 1905; two daughters, Irene and Maria, are with their parents in North Platte, and are very popular among the young people of the town. Mrs. Stuart's mother's name was Margaret Devine, a daughter of William Devine, who was a pioneer settler at Somonauk, on the Dixon & Galena road in Illinois.

Mr. Stuart is an active, intelligent man who keeps abreast of the time, and is conversant with all affairs of public interest, especially in matters pertaining to his business, and to the interests of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He and his family are members and active workers in the Episcopal church at North Platte, and they have a beautiful home and fine property in this city.

#### HELMER RENSVOLD.

Helmer Rensvold, one of the prominent early settlers of Box Butte county, Nebraska, is proprietor of an extensive farm in and about section 14, township 26, range 51. He is a man of excellent business qualifications and in whatever enterprise he has embarked he has met with unbounded success. He has also been an important factor in the development of the agricultural and commercial resources of that region, and is widely and favorably known throughout this and the adjoining counties.

Mr. Rensvold was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1866, on a farm. His father, Hogen R., was a native of Toten, Norway, as was also his mother, Karn Rensvold. Our subject grew up in Iowa, attending the country schools and during odd hours and vaca-

tions helped his parents carry on the home farm, and at the early age of fourteen years he was competent to take a man's place on the farm.

In 1885 the father came to Nebraska, leaving Helmer, with the balance of the family, to run the farm in Iowa, and this he did successfully for two years; at that time they all left the place and moved to Nebraska, coming to Hay Springs by train, and from there drove by team to the homestead on which the father was located, and where the latter died in the spring of 1889. Helmer filed on a homestead in the vicinity a short time after coming here. The family went through the usual pioneer experiences, beginning with very small capital, but by dint of hard work and perseverance succeeded in building up a good home and farm.

Mr. Rensvold now lives on section 14, township 26, range 51, owning altogether fourteen quarter sections of good land. During the first years in this part of the country he went through the drouth seasons and saw many hard times, and at one time a whole year passed in which he never saw ten dollars all in a bunch. He is engaged in the sheep ranching business on quite a large scale, having started in this enterprise in 1893 with a drove of about one hundred sheep, and has made money by the venture, and is increasing his flocks largely; also is going into the cattle business on a large scale. His farm is well improved, and he raises some small grain and has plenty of hay and pasture.

In June, 1891, Mr. Rensvold was married to Miss Bramine Kvernum, who is a native of Norway, coming to this country with a cousin in 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Rensvold have four children, who are named as follows: Hans P., Hilda, Carl, and a baby, Palmer.

Our subject takes an active part in local and school affairs, has been a member of the school board for a number of years, serving as director and moderator. He is a Republican in politics. An interesting picture of the "Homestead Ranch" of Mr. Rensvold will be found on another page.

#### FRED W. HUCKE.

Fred W. Huckle, proprietor of an extensive and well cultivated farm in section 19, township 27, range 49, Box Butte county, Nebraska, was born in Iowa county, Iowa, in 1869, son of a farmer who came to this country from Germany when a lad of ten years, his parents settling in Iowa as pioneers. They came to Nebraska, locating in Box Butte coun-

ty in the early days of its development, driving from Iowa with a team and covered wagon in 1885. The mother was born in Ohio of German parents. As a boy our subject worked out by the month in his native state, beginning to help support his parents at the age of fourteen years, and in 1886 he came to Box Butte county, Nebraska. After landing here he obtained work at freighting, from Hay Springs, also in winter logging in Pine Ridge, and also a portion of his time was spent in breaking up land for different farmers in their locality, as he had a good team of oxen which he bought on coming to this section of the country.

In 1891 Mr. Hucke filed on a homestead in section 4, township 27, range 50, "batching it" for one year, living in a dug-out and frame building combined. During the following year he was married to Miss Hester Ball, a native of Monroe county, Iowa, daughter of J. A. Ball, a well known farmer and ranchman who settled in this county in 1886. After his marriage Mr. Hucke started to farm, and his sole capital was fifty cents in money, two horses and a wagon, so he was obliged to go in debt to the extent of one hundred and sixty dollars. This was just about the time the dry years were coming on and he suffered loss of crops for several seasons, being compelled to work out by the day in order to make a living for his family, and through failures and discouragements he was slow in getting ahead very much, so left his farm and went west to Kansas in 1901, where he rented land and again tried farming, remaining for a year. This venture proved a failure and he gave up the fight, returning to Nebraska and again settling in Box Butte county, this time renting some land, and as the years were growing better all the time and he was able to raise good crops, he did very well and in 1903 purchased the farm. This was situated in section 5, township 27, range 49, and he has made money since locating there. He raises good crops, constantly improving his place by putting up good buildings, fences, etc. One hundred acres are cultivated, having about four hundred and eighty acres which he devotes to grazing and hay land for his stock, as he keeps about sixteen head of horses and forty cattle. When he came here he paid about seven hundred dollars per quarter for his land, and has since sold a part of it for three thousand two hundred dollars per quarter, which shows the rapid increase in value.

Mr. and Mrs. Hucke are the parents of five children, namely: Estella, Vern, Carl, Ina and Alta. The family are well liked and

highly respected in their community as worthy citizens and good neighbors.

Mr. Hucke is an Independent voter, and while he does not devote much time to politics, has at different times held local office, and has always done his share as a loyal citizen in helping to build up his locality.

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#### OLIVER P. BILLINGS, JR.

Oliver P. Billings, Jr., residing on section 24, is a prominent farmer of Keya Paha county. Mr. Billings was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1877, and is a son of Oliver P., an old settler in this county, born in Connecticut of good old American stock. He was a representative in the state legislature in 1898, and served one term, elected by the Populists. He has also held local office and has always taken a prominent part in politics, is well known throughout the state as a public speaker of note, and has stumped through Keya Paha county many times for his party. He has also served on different committees in the Populist party.

In 18— he was married to Nancy J. Smalley, of American blood, and they settled in this county in the early days with their little family of three children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Their first home was in Holt county, and they drove from there by team, a distance of two hundred miles, spending about two weeks on the trip, driving with them a bunch of cattle. Their first building was a dugout, and in this the family lived for two years, then built a log house, father and son handling ox teams and doing freighting through the country.

Here they went through the drouth periods, and during the hard times land could be bought for fifty dollars per quarter section, and they farmed all the land at this time they could handle, our subject starting to plow when but eight years of age. Together they handled two hundred acres of land and always had a crop, sometimes, however, not getting very much for their labor, and once losing their entire crop by hail.

Mr. Billings has been successful of late years in his farming operations and is now proprietor of a nine hundred and sixty-acre farm, two hundred of which is cultivated, the balance all fenced and used for pasture and hay land. He engages quite extensively in horse raising, and always has a large number of these animals on hand.

Mr. Billings was married in 1898 to Miss Pearl M. Bacon, daughter of William Bacon,

an old settler in Keya Paha county, originally from England, who married Nancy Melchi, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Mr. and Mrs. Billings have a family of three children, namely: Mabel, Jane and Ida.

In political faith Mr. Billings is a Socialist.

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#### ALFRED FORSLING.

Alfred Forsling, a prominent ranchman and all-round man of affairs in his section of the country, is proprietor of an extensive ranch situated on Lodgepole creek, known far and wide as the "Buckbrush Ranch," and one of the leading men of his county. His home is on section 36, township 15, range 57, Kimball county.

Mr. Forsling is a native of Sweden, born December 10, 1861. He is the second child in a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters, and grew to the age of eighteen years in his native land. He then came to the United States, locating in Chicago, stayed there for two years, then went on to Denver, Colorado, where he spent one year and returned to Chicago. In the summer of 1883 his father, mother and three brothers and a sister joined him, and the whole family emigrated to Phelps county, Nebraska, arriving there in the spring of 1884. They lived in that vicinity for about two years, then came to Kimball county, which was then a part of Cheyenne county, the father taking a homestead and beginning to establish a home here. Our subject did not come with the rest of the family, but went to Colorado, where he preempted a tract of land, proved up on it and sold out. He remained in Colorado for several years, then he, too, came to Kimball county in 1895, and located on school section 36, township 15, range 57, which is now the home ranch. He has built this up in good shape, putting up good buildings and adding improvements, and has broken up land so that he cultivates about seventy acres at the present time, raising good crops of grain, etc. The ranch contains nearly fifteen hundred acres, and is devoted principally to stock raising. Mr. Forsling running about three hundred head of cattle and one hundred and seventy-five head of horses.

Our subject was united in marriage to Ida M. Johnson, on March 12, 1890, in Holdrege, Nebraska. Mrs. Forsling was born in Sweden and came to America in 1881 all alone, both her parents being dead. Six children have been born to them, named as follows: Guy W., C. Luther, Elmer T., Agnes Beatrice, Ellen Amelia, and a baby born Aug-

ust 14, 1908. All are bright and intelligent children, and make a charming family group. They have a pleasant and comfortable home, and enjoy the friendship and acquaintance of a host of people, well liked by all.

Mr. Forsling is prominent in neighborhood affairs, is a director of district No. 21, also served as assessor of his county for two terms. During the years 1900-1901 he was county commissioner, being elected on the Republican ticket, and is a strong party man.

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#### HENRY A. WEISFLOG.

Among the early settlers of western Nebraska who has aided materially in the development and growth of the region in which he settled as a pioneer the gentleman above named deserves a foremost place. Mr. Weisflog resides on section 25, township 34, range 30, Cherry county, and has been identified with the county from the time the family located here, always aiding in any movement which was for the betterment of conditions in his locality.

Mr. Weisflog was born in Zanesville, Ohio, March 22, 1878. His father, Herman Weisflog, was born in Germany and came to this country when a young man, the family settling in Nebraska in 1885, in this county. The mother, Amelia Harmon, was also of German blood. When our subject was twenty-one years of age he started out for himself and took up a homestead in township 33, range 30, on which he lived for a time, then moved to his present home, where he put up good buildings and rapidly improved the place. He now has a ranch of six hundred and forty acres, much of it good tillable land, with a complete set of good farm buildings, and an abundant supply of water.

Mr. Weisflog was married November 9, 1904, to Miss Lizzie Porth, daughter of Chris Porth, a native of Germany and an old settler in Cherry county, coming west about 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Weisflog have one child, a daughter named Margaret. They are members of the Lutheran church.

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#### FRANK MASON.

Frank Mason is one of the leading citizens of Valley county, who owns a well improved farm in section 17, township 20, range 16, and has spent the past twenty years in this locality. Mr. Mason is a man of industrious habits, who has made many friends by his strict integrity and many sterling qualities of

heart and mind, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Mason was born in Austria in 1856, and grew up there until a young man, following a line of general work, anything he could get to do. In 1884 he left his native land and came to the United States to seek his fortune and build up a home. He first located in New York, spending several years there working as a cigar maker. He came west and located in Nebraska in 1888, settling in Valley county, where he began farming. He went through hard times during the first few years, experiencing many discouragements from poor crops and different causes, but stuck to his work and succeeded in building up a good farm, now owning two hundred and forty acres of good farming land, and is engaged to quite an extent in grain raising principally, and also cuts a big crop of hay each year. He keeps quite a herd of stock on his place, raising cattle and hogs for the market.

Mr. Mason was married in 1885, while living in New York city, to Annie Havacek, also a native of Austria, who came to this country in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Mason are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Frank, Annie, Mary, Rosie, Joe and Charles. The family are devoted members of the Bohemian Catholic church of Valley county, and well liked by all who know them.

Mr. Mason has always voted the Democratic ticket up to several years ago, but now leans toward the Independent party, voting for the best man up. He is an admirer of Mr. Bryan.

#### HERMAN WATT.

Among the large ranch owners and well-known stockmen of Kearney county, Nebraska, the name of Herman Watt occupies a foremost place. He has resided in this locality for the past twenty-five years and has built up a good farm and home through honest effort and industry. Mr. Watt is a man of marked ability, occupies a high position socially, and is highly esteemed as a citizen.

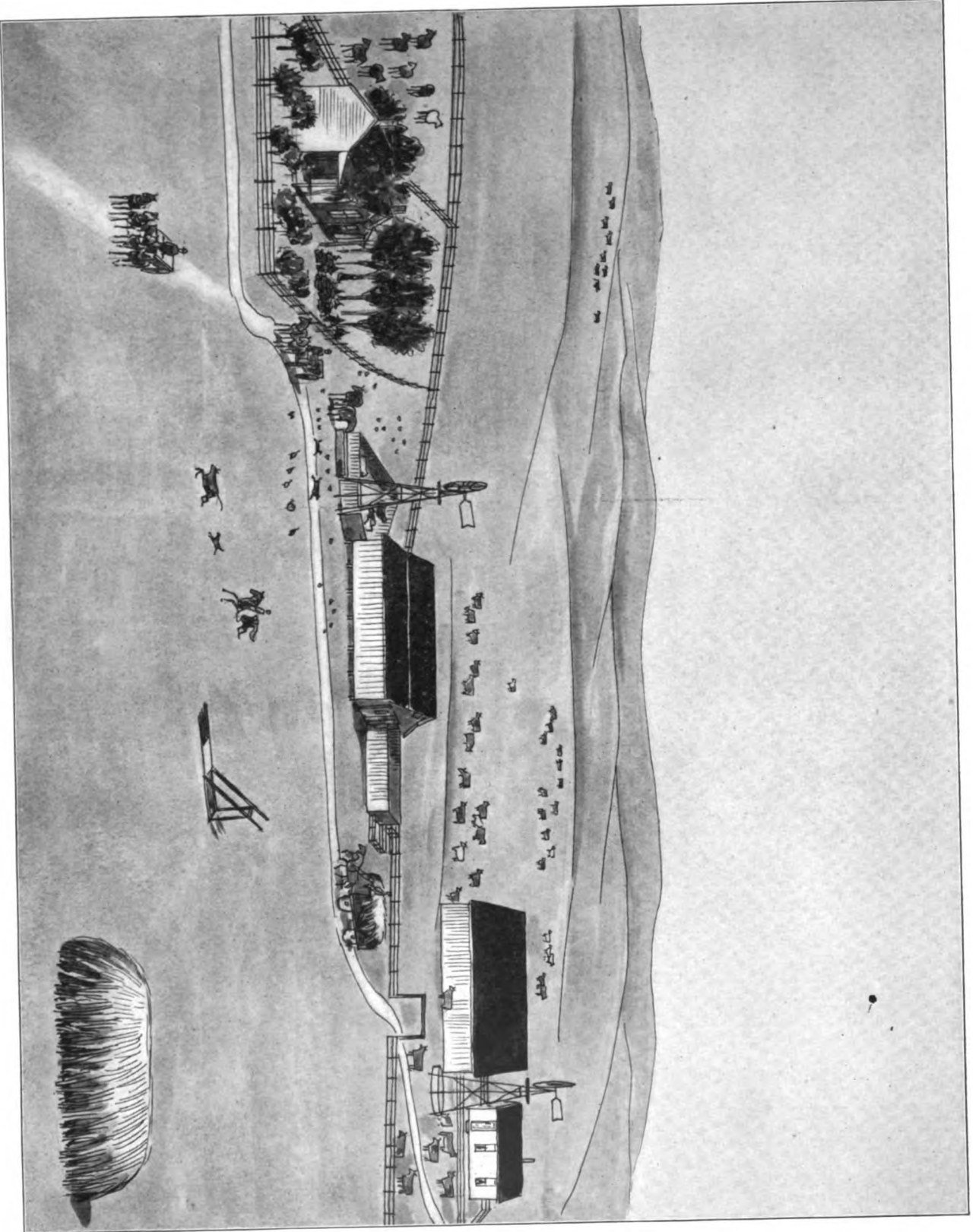
Mr. Watt was born in the year 1864. In 1884 our subject located in Logan township, engaging in stock raising and farming, and has accumulated a nice property, being proprietor of nine hundred and twenty acres of land, three hundred and twenty acres in section 26, Logan township, and the balance in Newark township. He has recently gone into the stock business on quite a heavy scale, running about a hundred cattle, all high grade stock. He has now two hundred and fifty

young pigs, which are the finest lot of hogs anyone ever saw. All are high grade Poland Chinas, averaging one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty pounds each, and certainly will be a nice lot when he markets them. Mr. Watt also handles quite a few horses, and has now about seventy, usually keeping from fifty to eighty on his farm. He has always had the best success with the Poland China breed of hogs. He raises plenty of grain on his farm, and feeds it all out besides buying some to meet his needs. In 1907 his wheat crop was four thousand bushels and corn crop three thousand. He has sixty acres of alfalfa and gets fine crops each season. In 1906-1907 during the winter, he fed and shipped two car loads of horses and two loads of cattle, and got a nice profit from their sale. His brother, W. R. Watt, of Minden, is one of the heaviest and most successful dealers in horses and mules in all western Nebraska. Neither our subject nor his brother are pioneers of Kearney county, but both are held in the highest esteem as business men of success, honesty and push, and deserve a high position among the worthy citizens of Kearney county.

#### FRANCIS H. HIGGIN.

Francis H. Higgin resides in section 10, township 32, range 27, Cherry county, where he has a large ranch, and is listed among the successful and prosperous men of the county. Mr. Higgin was born in Bancroft Hall in Lancashire, England, May 6, 1855. His father, also Francis H. Higgin, was a farmer and both of his parents died in England. Our subject, the third son, was raised and educated there and grew up with his seven brothers and sisters, assisting the family in the farm work, and in 1883 he started out to seek his fortune in the new world, landing in New York in the latter part of the year, and traveled across the United States until he reached Nebraska, where he located. This was his first experience in being away from his parents' roof, and it was a momentous trip for the young man among strangers in a strange land. He settled March 28, 1884, in Cherry county, taking a homestead in section 31, township 33, range 27, and still owns this tract of land. When he landed here this section was a barren country without any improved lands and very sparsely settled. He put up his first building himself, erecting a log house, and lived in this for some time, later putting up a sod house. His sole capital in money when he struck this county, after paying land fees, was three cents, and he was without any





RESIDENCE OF F. H. HIGGIN,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



provisions to start with, but managed to hustle around and get work in the neighborhood and supply himself with a few necessaries and so was able to get along for a time. These were very hard times to him, and he was almost discouraged during the first winter, but he kept hard at it and succeeded in establishing his home and farm. At first he stuck to farming and tried to cultivate his land and raise crops, but soon found that this did not pay. He gradually got into the stock business and made much more money at that, so quit farming and gave his entire time to stock raising. He had given up trying to farm just before the dry years came on, so he was not affected by the drouth periods so much, and with the exception of losing some horses he has done well since coming here. Has his place well improved with a complete set of substantial farm buildings, and has put up about fifteen miles of fence. He has spent a large amount of money in building up his farm, and bent every energy to make it one of the best ranches in this section. He has planted a large number of trees on his farm, and has a fine orchard. His ranch comprises two thousand five hundred and sixty acres, all good land, and has about three hundred of this broken, but does not aim to raise grain for market, using it all on his farm.

Mr. Higgin was married December 26, 1882, to Miss Alice Ormesher, of English birth, who came to America a month after marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Higgin have one child, Mary A. Higgin, living at home with her parents.

Mr. Higgin gives his entire time to the work on his farm, and has never held any office, but votes the Republican ticket, and takes a keen interest in all affairs of the county and section in which he lives. He is one of the leading citizens of his locality, and has added materially in the upbuilding of his community. One of the interesting illustrations in this work is a view of the residence of Mr. Higgin.

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#### THOMAS L. HOPKINS, JR.

Thomas L. Hopkins, Jr., a public spirited citizen and well known resident of Box Butte county, has a nice farm under first-class improvement, making for him a most creditable and desirable home. He is considered one of the old timers in this region, and has taken an active part in the development of the community in which he chose his home many years ago.

Mr. Hopkins was born in Dodge county,

Wisconsin, in 1874. His father, T. L. Hopkins, Sr., was a native of England who came to this country and settled when a young man, he having married a young woman who was also born and raised in England, a Miss Sarah Jackson.

Our subject grew up in Wisconsin and when he was thirteen years of age the whole family came to Nebraska, locating in Box Butte county. They settled near the Niobrara river, and there put up a rough sod building and began the regular pioneer experiences. The second winter they located here Thomas was obliged to walk a distance of three miles to the nearest school. They went through hard times, working at whatever they could find to do, and our subject did freighting, making long and tedious trips through the country, and many a night was spent lying on the ground in all kinds of bad weather. He put all his earnings into the family fund, and remained at home until he was twenty-one. During the dry years they were unable to do more than make a living and were unable to get ahead very much, and one year Thomas and some of his neighbors made a cross-country trip to O'Neil into eastern Nebraska, where they obtained a job husking corn, also working in the harvest fields, and anything they found to do, and thus made a little extra money.

When he reached his majority our subject filed on a homestead in section 23, township 28, range 48, and held down his claim, working out in Chadron part of the time until he was able to prove up on his land. He also took a business course at the Fremont Business College, spending two terms there, and when he returned to Chadron, had just twenty cents left in his pocket, so he was compelled to go to work to make a living for himself. This was in the spring of 1894, and he took charge of Putnam's ranch on the White river, and spent four years in that position. After leaving this ranch he settled on his homestead permanently, began farming, and met with good success in his work, all of which was gained through his own good management and hard labor, as he had absolutely no capital to start with. Mr. Hopkins' ranch consists of eleven quarter sections of deeded land, and he also leases seven quarters, all of which is fenced, and he has in all nine miles of good fencing on the place. He had erected good buildings, has a splendid supply of water, windmills, etc.

September 10, 1903, Mr. Hopkins was married to Myrta D. Bolin, whose father, Eldridge Bolin, is a farmer residing near Hay Springs.

Mrs. Hopkins was a teacher in the Hay Springs schools for three years, and also taught in other schools in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are the parents of two sons, namely: Roscoe, aged three years, and Ronald, aged two years.

Mr. Hopkins is a Republican, and has held precinct and school offices and since coming here has taken a commendable interest in neighborhood and county affairs.

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#### CHARLES L. LATTA.

Charles L. Latta, residing in Kennedy precinct, Cherry county, is one of the old timers of this region, having come here in 1887, and has done his full share in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home.

Mr. Latta is a native of Noble county, Indiana, born November 6, 1864, on a farm. His father, Robert S. Latta, followed farming, serving as minister in the Methodist church, of which he was for a time an itinerant preacher. He was a native of McLean county, Illinois, a man of superior mind with a vein of poetry in his nature which he was able to express in choice English. Of his many poems none perhaps excels in thought and expression "The Bells of Ligonier." The mother, Mary Trimbleson, was of English and Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Our subject is the youngest in a family of eight children, and was reared in Indiana, attending the country schools and assisting his parents in the farm work until he was sixteen years of age, then started out for himself, following farm work for a time near his home. In 1880 the family came to Nebraska, locating in Gage county, from which region Charles returned to Indiana in the spring of 1882, attending Purdue University at Lafayette until fall of 1885, three school years. In the winter of 1887 the family removed to Loup county, remaining until September, 1890, when they started overland to the Black Hills, settling near Custer City. Here they operated a saw mill and were doing well until the panic of 1893, which proved disastrous to many enterprises. Saving what they could from the wreck of their enterprise the family came to Cherry county in 1893, settling on Gordon creek, where the parents continued to reside until 1900. Our subject took up a homestead of four hundred acres in section 10, township 30, range 30, and proved up on it. He worked this place for himself, and then moved back on his father's ranch, running the two places, the latter situated in section 12, township 30, range 30. This latter tract containing one thousand one hundred and twenty acres Mr. Latta purchased, making a most desirable ranch, all located on Gordon creek. The places

are well improved and well stocked, running about two hundred head of cattle and twenty horses, one favorable feature of the region being its freedom from swamp fever.

On the 1st of March, 1896, Mr. Latta was married to Miss Daisy M. Stilwell, daughter of Elias Stilwell, an old settler in Cherry county, now residing on his ranch at the east end of Hackberry lake, where, in 1907, he erected a fine new residence. He first came to Nebraska in 1883, opening a harness shop in Wilsonville, removing to Cherry county two years later, plying his trade in Valentine many years. He was married in Kansas to Miss Emma Crees, of Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Latta have a family of four children, named as follows: Willie, Ralph, Oliver and Idell. School is a difficult problem in the sparsely settled ranch country. Being in no district whatever, Mrs. Latta has solved the problem by holding school daily for the usual term in their home.

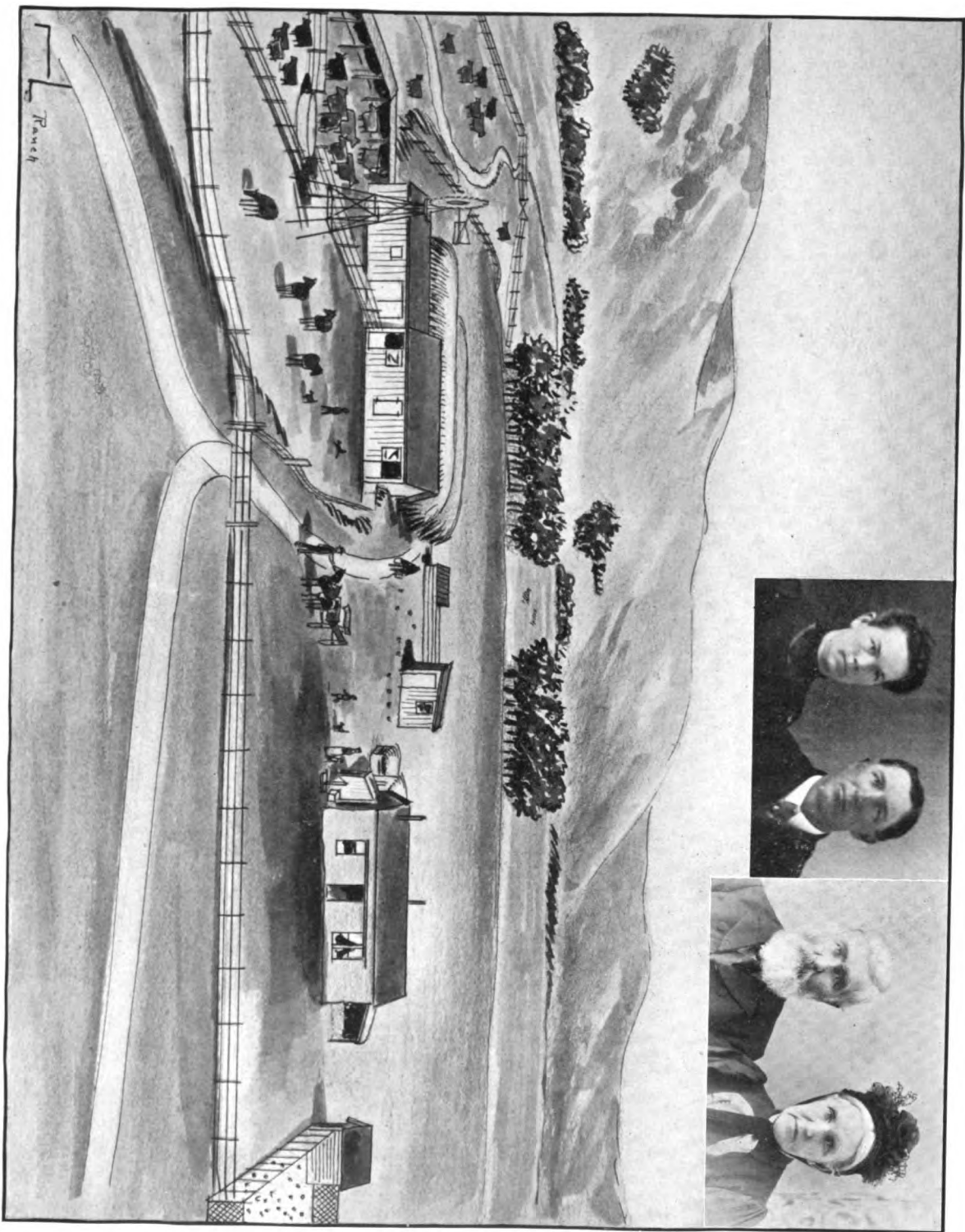
Mr. Latta devotes his entire time and attention to the building up of his home and ranch, and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and good neighbor in his locality. He is a Socialist and strong believer in the rights of that party. He is a member of the Valentine lodge Modern Woodmen of America.

A view of the residence with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Latta, also portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Latta, will be found on another page of this work.

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#### C. E. JOHNSON.

C. E. Johnson, known all over Henry county, Illinois, and the adjoining counties by reason of his large purchases of cattle as "Ed. Johnson," came to this section twenty years ago, locating on the south one-half of section 35, Centre township, owned at that time by J. H. Anderson, our subject's father-in-law, now deceased. Mr. Johnson has been engaged in the stock business since that time, and during that time has bought and re-sold many farms in this locality, on all of which he has made large profits. Besides the half section on which he now resides, he owns a quarter section in 36, and 33, also a whole section in Cottonwood township, Phelps county. During all of this time he has been engaged in buying cattle, sorting out the feeders and shipping some forty to fifty cars to market annually in some years. He now ships from ten to fifteen cars each year. Before coming to Nebraska he fed cattle in Illinois, and states that in his opinion Nebraska is far ahead of that state for feeding purposes, and that cattle can be



Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Latta, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Latta.  
RANCH RESIDENCE OF CHARLES L. LATTA,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.





fattened much quicker and cheaper in Nebraska than in Illinois.

Mr. Johnson is interested in South Dakota lands, owning one hundred and sixty acres in that state. He has a fine residence in this county, and has built up a comfortable home here, where the family is well known and highly esteemed. He was married in 1887 to Miss Emma C. Anderson. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, named as follows: Martin (adopted), Joseph, Burnie, Ruthy, Roy, Carl and Walter.

Politically Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

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### RUFUS S. JONES.

Rufus S. Jones, who has done his full share in helping the settlers build up the farming interests in Nebraska, is a resident of Brown county, where he is engaged extensively in stock and grain raising. Mr. Jones was born August 20, 1841, in Stark county, Illinois. He is a son of Sheridan Jones, a farmer of Welsh descent, and his mother was Miss Ann Meek, of old American stock. The family consisted of six children, the youngest being our subject. He was reared on his father's farm, remaining under the parental roof until his enlistment in Company I, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, seeing service in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, following a soldier's fortune for over a year, when he was discharged and returned home. He remained with his parents until 1871, then went to Iowa, settling in Clark county. Here he followed farming for the two years, when he grew discontented and wandered back to his old home in Illinois, remaining for ten years before turning again to the west. Coming to Brown county, he took up a homestead in section 32, township 32, range 21, and was among the first settlers in this locality, and from his farm not a single house could be seen in any direction. He had brought with him a team of horses, and went to work building a rude house out of logs. After this was completed he began breaking up his land, and at the same time continued working at his trade as a carpenter. He had a hard time in getting started, and when the drouth periods struck the locality for two years, he faithfully planted his crops but was unable to raise even enough for seed the next year. However, he stuck to it, and through sheer persistence, after experiencing all kinds of hardships and privations, succeeded in accumulating a nice property. His farm comprises three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, all improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and well stocked. There are a number of springs on the place and an abund-

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ance of timber in the canyons. He is engaged principally in stock-raising, which he finds very profitable.

In March, 1866, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Mercy Taylor, a native of Kentucky. They are the parents of seven children, all of whom were born in Illinois, and who are named as follows: Ralph E., Minnie L., Gertrude M., John L., Pearl C., Stella B. and Bert J.

Mr. Jones devotes his entire time and attention to the bulding up of his home and farm, and is a man of thorough and systematic methods in his work. He has gained success through his perseverance, industry and good management, and may be truly classed among the self-made men of this region. In politics he is thoroughly independent of party ties and the party lash.

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### THOMAS M. THORNTON.

Thomas M. Thornton, residing now with his son Benjamin on section 20, township 30, range 52, Dawes county, Nebraska, is one of the pioneer settlers of the western part of the state, and he has helped by every way in his power to build up the region where he chose his home in the early days of the state's history.

Mr. Thornton is a native of Pike county, Illinois, born in 1837 on his father's farm. He is the son of Joel Thornton, born in 1800 in Pike county, of English and Welsh descent. The father died May 5, 1876. Our subject's mother was Annie Honaker, of German stock, born in 1804, and died in Page county, Nebraska, in 1896.

The subject of our sketch enlisted August 12, 1862, in Company K, Iowa Infantry, and saw hard service during the war, engaging in thirty-two battles. He was severely wounded near Camden, on the Washita river, in Arkansas, April 7, 1864, and still carries the bullet in his leg. He was honorably discharged September 7, 1865.

Mr. Thornton came to Dawes county, Nebraska, May 17, 1888, settling on a farm nine or ten miles from Crawford, and there built up a fine ranch and home. He has been very successful since coming here and at one time owned five sections of good land in the western part of the county, where he was extensively engaged in stock raising. Of late he has sold out to his sons and their uncle, retaining for himself only about two hundred acres. The sons and their uncle, Mr. Abbots, own about eleven sections of land and they run from three hundred to five hundred head of cattle and from seventy-five to one hundred head of horses every year. They stand high as the leading stockmen of this part of the country. Their places are finely improved, supplied with several fine sets of buildings, three wind mills



and many miles of fencing, in all about thirty miles of three wires. The Thornton farms are well supplied with natural timber, wild fruits, etc., and there are streams of good running water the year round on the north farm.

Mr. Thornton was married at Montgomery Iowa, February 28, 1869, to Miss Augusta F. Abbots, of American stock. To them have been born the following children: Walter J., Freeman C., Lewis M. and Benjamin A., all living here and on adjoining lands.

Mr. Thornton takes a deep interest in all local affairs and is classed among the prominent and leading citizens of his county, highly esteemed by all who know him.

#### ROBERT H. McNAMEE.

Robert H. McNamee, the subject of this personal history, resides on section 33, township 31, range 26, in Cherry county, Nebraska, where he has built up a fine home and farm through his industry and good business management.

Mr. McNamee was born in Jackson county, Ohio, June 5, 1852, and was reared and educated on his father's farm. He is a son of Hiram and Mary (Henry) McNamee, the former of Scotch-Irish, and the latter of Irish descent, though both American born. In 1860 the family moved by wagon to Harrison county, Missouri, the journey of one thousand miles consuming two months' time, where they remained for twenty-five years. Our subject at the age of nineteen married and began farming on his own account, which he continued in Missouri until his advent to Nebraska. November 12, 1885, he moved into Brown county, settling near Bassett, after a journey of four hundred and fifty miles by wagon, consuming fourteen days, the mother and children coming by train. He only lived there for one and a half years, then located in Cherry county, where he has lived continuously ever since. He took up a homestead near the town of Merriman, residing in the west end of the county seven years, about six years of this time acting as foreman on a large ranch near Pine Ridge reservation. Selling this tract Mr. McNamee located near Wood Lake, where he built up a fine home, which he sold in 1890 and moved to Wood Lake, where he engaged in the hotel business, putting up a large building and equipping it in fine style for a village hotel. Ranching had greater charm for our subject, so he disposed of his hotel after twenty months and came into possession of his present tract of two thousand and forty acres, which was improved and nearly all fenced. This is in five different fields, and is a valuable piece of property. He keeps three hundred cattle, and besides

this runs stock for other people in the vicinity, in all pasturing about five hundred head. About eight hundred acres of this land is fine hay land, and he cuts a large crop each year, the surplus being sold.

Since coming to this state he has built up and improved three places, spending between four and five thousand dollars, building and furnishing the hotel, putting over two thousand five hundred dollars' worth of improvements on one ranch, and over two thousand in buildings, etc., on the ranch where he now resides.

Mr. McNamee was married March 19, 1871, to Miss Clara Butcher, born in Jackson county, Ohio, in 1850. They have eight children named as follows: Spencer R., Kenton B., Leonard P., Hesse E., Lolia, now Mrs. Arthur W. Richardson; Lillie, wife of W. T. Bailey; Hervey R., and Herman, of whom the five elder were born in Missouri, and the three younger in Nebraska.

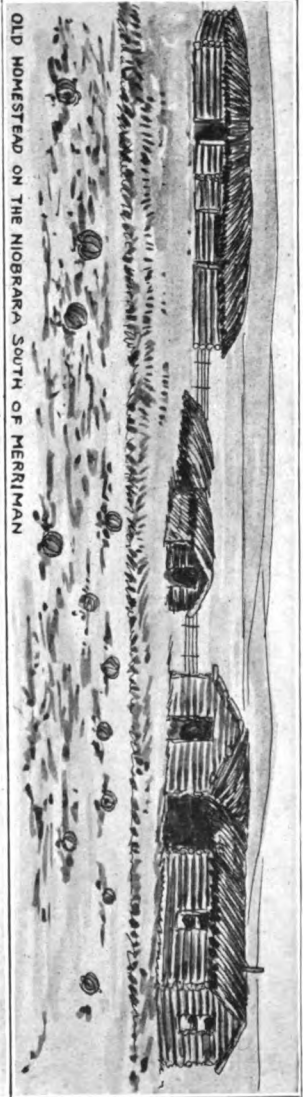
Mr. McNamee has always been active in politics, and has never missed a vote since coming of age. He adheres to the principles of the Republican party. He holds fellowship in the Wood Lake lodge of Modern Woodmen of America.

A view of the residence with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. McNamee will be found on another page of this work.

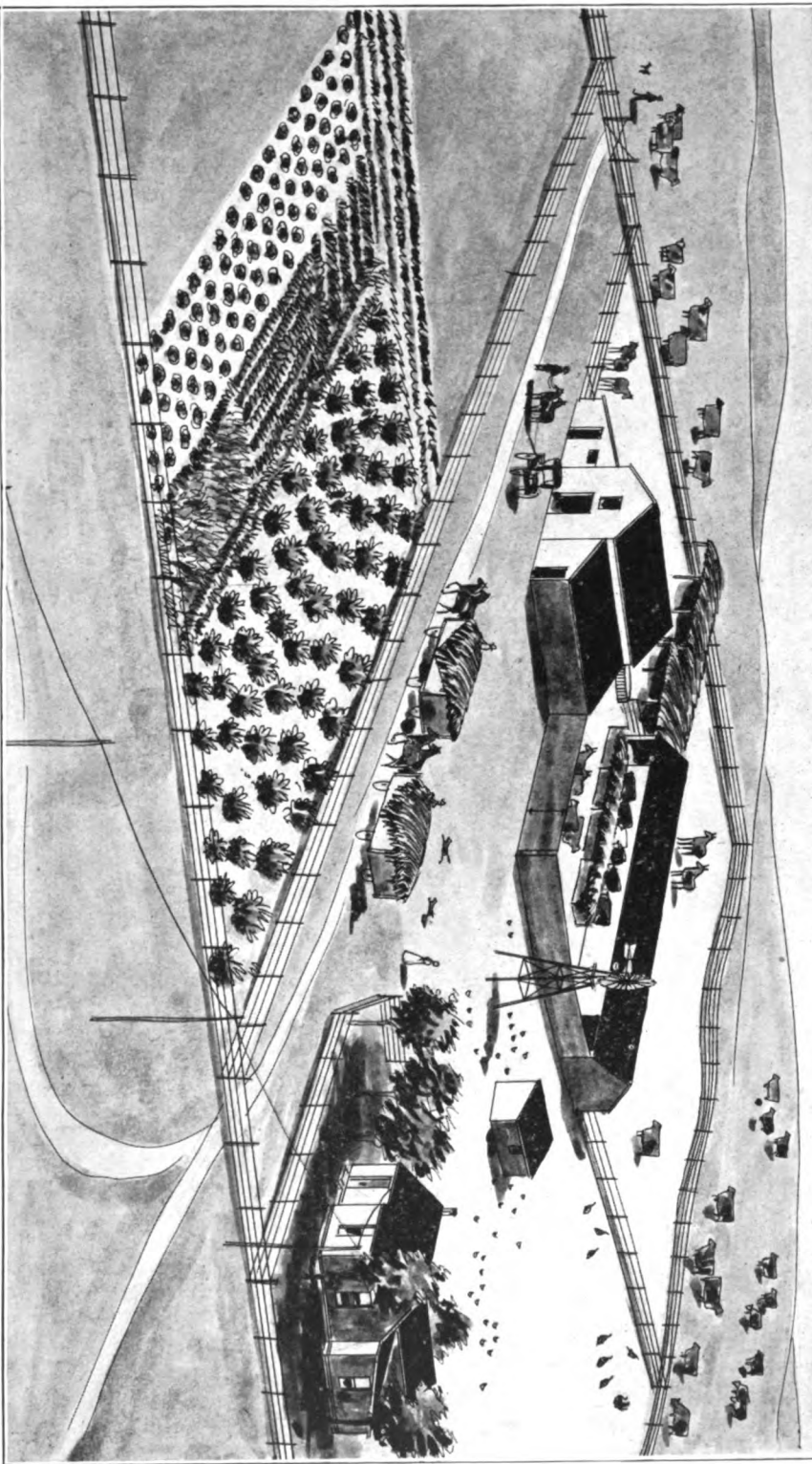
#### ALBERT HALEY.

Albert Haley, postmaster at Sparks, Cherry county, Nebraska, is well known throughout the vicinity in which he resides. Mr. Haley is among the early settlers in Sparks precinct, and has watched the growth and aided in the development of this region from its beginning, and is counted one of the leading worthy citizens of the place.

Mr. Haley was born in Fayette county, Illinois, September 30, 1866, on his father's farm. The latter, John Franklin Haley, was of Irish descent, born in Illinois and lived there all his life, his death occurring in 1880. The mother, whose maiden name was Mary J. George, was also born and raised in the prairie state, dying there in 1867. Albert was the youngest in his parents' family of three children, and on the death of his father, started out for himself when fifteen years of age, going to Nodaway county, Missouri, where he followed farm work for two years. Coming to Cherry county, he drove ox teams, did freighting, hauled posts, etc., handling five and six yoke of oxen at a time. He was thus employed for about three years, camping out nights winter and summer under his wagon, traveling all over this part of the coun-



OLD HOMESTEAD ON THE NIOBRARA SOUTH OF MERRIMAN



RESIDENCE OF ROBERT MCNAMEE.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



try when there was nobody but soldiers and cowboys here. At that time there was not a house on "the table" and only five or six along the river bottoms for thirty miles east of Fort Niobrara. In 1888 he settled on a homestead in section 14, township 34, range 25, and put up his first building, which was a log house with a sod roof. Here he built up a good home and farm, consisting of a quarter section all fenced, with ninety acres under cultivation when he sold the place in 1906. June 28, 1906, he sold out his farm and had shipped his goods to Missouri and started to drive with his family to that state. On the road he met C. F. Callen, owner of the Sparks store, and closed a deal for that emporium and has since been engaged in mercantile pursuit at that point, where he also serves as postmaster. For two years, while living on his farm, Mr. Haley drove the mail wagon from Sparks to Valentine and then disposed of his contract in this branch of government service.

In 1895 our subject was married to Miss Maud Allen, whose father, W. J. Allen, was an old settler in Cherry county. A sketch of him and his family appears elsewhere in this work. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Haley, namely: Jno. Floyd, Ervie P., Alma J., Martha E. and Everett Chauncey.

Mr. Haley is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in local party affairs.

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#### HERMAN G. MILLER.

The opportunities afforded honest industry to gain a footing in America were embraced by the gentleman whose name heads this article, and he is now one of the recognized substantial and influential agriculturists and ranchmen of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He came to that region in its early days of development, and has passed through all the strenuous Nebraska times, becoming by his labors in behalf of his adopted state one of the leading citizens and well-known supporters of all that goes to make up the locality a prominent section in the western part of the state.

H. G. Miller was born in the village of Papens, adjoining the city of Aurich, province of Hanover, Germany, October 14, 1845, and was the fourth child in a family of ten children, born to his parents, Gerd and Gische (Dirks) Miller; but five of these are living at this time. The family came to America in 1852, sailing from Bremen Haven, and after a voyage of eight weeks, landed in New York, thence they traveled by river, canal and lakes to Chicago. Here they took a flat boat down the canal to the Illinois river, which landed them at Peoria. At

Peoria they took a steamer for St. Louis, and at this point they secured passage on an up river boat, which carried them to Quincy, Illinois; from Quincy they went direct to Clayton township, Adams county, Illinois. The thirty miles from Quincy to Clayton township, were made in a covered wagon, which also carried their possessions. They arrived at their destination on September 2d. There they farmed for about thirty years, our subject working for himself after he grew to manhood, and in the spring of 1884 he came to Nebraska, locating first in Johnson county and two years later in Cheyenne county. He filed at once on a homestead on section 14, township 16, range 48, taking up one hundred and sixty acres. He went through hard times during the first few years, and met with many discouragements in the way of financial loss from failure of crops, through drouths, hail, prairie fires and grasshoppers, but never gave up hope, determined to succeed in spite of all obstacles. How well he has succeeded is evidenced by his fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, all fitted with good buildings and improvements, about one hundred and eighty acres being in a high state of cultivation; he engages in stock raising on quite a large scale, running about one hundred cattle and twenty-five head of horses.

Mr. Miller has an interesting career outside of his farming operations, having taught school for a number of years throughout Cheyenne county, and is well-known as a local educator, possessed of a good training, and a man of superior talents and broad character. He is also an auctioneer of wide repute, having acted in that capacity throughout the region, and is thoroughly familiar with the whole country from his travels in following his career as a teacher and auctioneer. For seven years he was a member of the Illinois National Guards, serving as lieutenant of Company I, participating in the East St. Louis railroad riots. Mr. Miller was secretary of the Bryan Political Club in Cheyenne county. He has also held various local offices, acting as justice of the peace, notary public, deputy county assessor, and is equally prominent in church and social life in the community. He served as superintendent of Sunday schools for some years, and is a trustee in the German Lutheran church near Weyerts, of which he is a member as are the other members of the family.

Mr. Miller has a pleasant home and interesting family. He was married in Adams county, Illinois, October 15, 1865, to Miss Trientje Behrens, who was born in Germany and came to the United States at the age of thirteen years with her parents, Ekke and Anche (Fecht) Behrens. Mr. Miller is the father of the

following children: Sophia, wife of Henry G. Henrichs; Minnie, living at home; George, a thresherman; Anna, wife of John Henrichs; Rena, wife of Chris Jurgens; Mary, married to John Jurgens, all living near the home ranch; Hannah (deceased); Ekke Berney, Dirk G. and Herman J. are living with their parents and assist in the operation of the home ranch.

In political views Mr. Miller is a loyal Democrat, and lends his influence for good local government.

### JAMES H. COOK.

James H. Cook, numbered among the old and honored settlers of Sioux county, Nebraska, was born at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1857. He was reared in that locality, having very poor schooling advantages, being only able to attend the common schools, but in after life his wide experience gave to him extensive knowledge of all affairs of state and nation, and today he is a well-read and intelligent gentleman with whom it is a pleasure to meet and converse. His father, Henry Cook, was an old sea captain, born in England, and all of his male ancestors for generations back were seafaring people.

When James was a lad of twelve years of age, he left home and went into southwestern Texas, where he secured work as a cowboy, and for years traveled over the plains of Texas and other western states, working as a rancher, scout and guide for the United States troops. He was with Captain McNally's celebrated Texas Rangers on trips at different times as guide and scout and his services were at times invaluable, as many desperate and lawless characters had often to be dealt with. He also acted as guide with the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth United States Cavalry, as a guide and had many thrilling experiences while acting in this capacity. During the late Indian campaigns near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, he was in the service of General Miles. These took place during the years 1890-91, and a number of those old Indian chiefs are still visitors at Mr. Cook's home, often bringing him valuable presents of beadwork, trinkets, etc., which help in a considerable degree to make his home one of the most interesting to the visitor in western Nebraska that is to be met with. He has many Indian relics, and with each of these is connected some interesting and historical anecdote.

During the time Mr. Cook acted as a guide, he traveled with the United States troops all over Arizona and New Mexico, and associated with the different classes of people, and in his roving has learned to

speak fluently the Spanish language, as well as several Indian dialects. In reviewing the incidents connected with his early western life, mention should not fail to be made of the fact that he helped lay out many of the famous cattle trails from Texas into the northern states, and he also has the distinction of having aided in surveying the first trail into Yellowstone Park.

In the year 1886 Mr. Cook came to the old cow ranch in Sioux county, which was established by Dr. Graham, in 1879, and was located about twenty-three miles south of Harrison. Dr. Graham and Edgar Bronson were the first men who brought cattle to Sioux county. Thus Mary C. Graham, who came to the ranch in the following year, was the first white woman to settle in Sioux county. She held the first religious services ever held in that part of the state, for the cowboys on the ranch. She has since made her home on the ranch, and for several years was postmistress and had charge of the United States weather station at Agate for several years. At the time our subject took hold of the ranch it was nothing but an old time western cow ranch, with shabby buildings and scarcely any improvements. He has installed an irrigation system, dug ditches and made a lovely garden spot of the ranch home. Trees have been set out with the design of beautifying the place, walks and driveways built, and the residence, grounds and ranch house would be a credit to any city and compares favorably with the finest homes, both inside and outside. Mr. Cook's private den, with the best collection of Indian relics in the west, is one of the most pleasant corners of the house. The ranch consists of about eight thousand acres, extending along the Niobrara river; and about one thousand acres of it are under cultivation. The most interesting feature of this ranch is its deposits of fossils. It contains the most extensive deposits of vertebrate mammals of any place in America. Scientists from all over the country have been there to get specimens and study the subject, and Mr. Cook has entertained many of the most noted scientists of both hemispheres on their visits to this part of the west.

John F. Cook, a brother of our subject, has been one of the managers of the ranch, coming here in 1887. Agate postoffice, the mail station of our subject, was established in 1893, John F. Cook being postmaster for several years since its establishment. Before coming to Agate Springs ranch, he traveled all over the western part of the United States from Old Mexico to British Columbia. He was for several years associated with the ranch operated by his brother in New Mexico, and while there he had an active hand in

the work of establishing law and order in that country. He is at present deputy state game warden and justice of the peace.

James H. Cook gave to the ranch its name calling it the "Agate Springs Ranch" on account of the many different kinds of agates found on the place. It is a wonderful spot and too much can not be said in describing its beauties and natural resources, Mr. Cook having made of it a model and ideal ranch home.

In 1886 Mr. Cook was married to Miss Katie Graham, daughter of Dr. E. B. Graham, of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Two sons were born to this union, namely: John, born in 1898, now attending school at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and Harold, born in 1888, who is a geologist and scientist, having been elected a member of the American Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and has the distinction of being the youngest member of that body, and, considering his youth, this is a great honor. He went to the University of Nebraska in 1907 and 1908, and while there was a member of the geology department and the state geological survey. At present he is a member of the American Museum of Natural History staff and will continue his studies at Columbia University.

In politics, although never a candidate for office, Mr. Cook has always taken an active part locally. He has had considerable influence at Washington through his acquaintance with prominent easterners whom he guided through the western states during his early career on hunting trips, etc.

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#### JOHN CLASEN.

The efforts put forth by the gentleman above named to make for himself a good home and comfortable competence have called out the heartiest praise of his fellowmen, and too much can not be said in his favor. Mr. Clasen has gone through many disappointments in his endeavors and often became discouraged, but through perseverance and hard work has overcome many obstacles and richly deserves the success he has attained.

Mr. Clasen was born in the village of Sassen, near Coblenz, in the Rhine Province, Germany, October 8, 1836. His father, Anton Clasen, was a farmer, and died in the fatherland in 1866, and the mother, who was Susanna Simon, died in the same year. Our subject grew up in Germany, following farming and cattle raising, also dealing in hogs and sheep to some extent, and during the war with France served in the German army in the pioneer corps and was stationed near Metz during the siege of that city. In April, 1872, he came to the United States, sail-

ing from Hull by way of London. After a twelve days' voyage on a steamer of the German line he landed in New York city, April 28, 1872. He started west on April 30, in that same year, and settled in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. After working here in a brick yard for a year he removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, settling in Stacyville, where he resided for fifteen years. He next moved to Milford, Iowa, where he made his home for five years. In 1892 he came to Cherry county, Nebraska, and took up his present farm as a homestead, which is situated in section 32, township 34, range 31, and started a home. He built a farm house and first met with misfortune in the loss of a team of fine horses. The dry years followed and he was unable to raise a crop, making it hard to support his family. But he endured all the hardships and is now proprietor of two hundred and eighty acres of good land, improved with a good house and farm buildings, well of good water, windmills and fences. He is assisted in his farm work by his son Tony, and running ninety head of cattle, twenty-four horses and other stock. From eighty to ninety acres of land are under cultivation, and on this they raise good crops, and are counted among the successful and prosperous farmers in their vicinity. Prior to emigrating Mr. Clasen worked in the coal mines of Essen, Germany, some two thousand feet below the surface, but feeling safer above ground he found three months of mining enough. In 1902 a bolt of lightning running along a wire fence near which Mr. Clasen was driving in his stock, prostrated him. This is a shock from which few men recover.

Mr. Clasen was married in Wisconsin in 1873 to Miss Katherine Cramer, a native of that state, daughter of Anton and Mary (Brust) Cramer, of German descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Clasen the following children have been born: Mary, wife of Anton Long, of Iowa; Pete (deceased); Matt and Joe, living in South Dakota; Anton, Lambert (deceased), Annie, Frank, Henry, Rose and Caroline.

Mr. Clasen is an adherent of the Republican party and a member of the Catholic church.

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#### ANSON B. McDOWELL.

Prominent among the progressive farmers of Sheridan county is the subject of this review, a young man of sterling character and good business judgment. He is energetic and industrious, and has gained a fine farm and pleasant home in section 2, township 33, range 41.

Mr. McDowell was born in Pennsylvania in 1871, and was raised there until he was fifteen years of age. His father, Cyrus F. McDowell,



was of Scotch-American descent, and served his country during the Civil war, and was later in the navy. Our subject is the eldest of three children, and came with his parents to Sheridan county, Nebraska, in 1885, and one year later learned the printer's trade. He worked on the first paper ever printed in Gordon, and followed this occupation for two years, after which he clerked in a store for one year. He then started at farming, and during his first year at this business the dry season came on and ruined all his crops, which caused him to lose nearly everything he had saved. After this he started in the cattle business, putting what capital he had left in this venture and succeeded from the start. He had a brother interested in a ranch, and they worked together, and in 1902 he bought his present home, each year becoming more extensively engaged in the stock business, until he now owns one thousand six hundred and eighty acres of good land and devotes nearly all his time and attention to this work, doing but very little farming. He has a fine herd of one hundred and twenty-five thoroughbred Shorthorns, and this is from a start of fifteen head of cattle. His farm is well improved with good buildings and all fenced, and he is counted among the successful ranchmen of his community.

Mr. McDowell was married in 1902 to Miss Genevra Bresee, who was born in Iowa, in 1869. Her father, David Bresee, was an early settler in Iowa, and later a pioneer settler in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell have no children. When he landed in Nebraska he was obliged to go in debt for the purchase price of his land, and he has steadily worked up, gradually adding to his farm until he is now owner of as valuable a piece of property as there is in this locality, his land being worth more than double the price he paid for it. His first impressions of Nebraska are very amusing, and he says he will never forget the time he first struck Valentine. He had never seen a tent until he landed here, and he was sure that every Indian he met was after his scalp. He is a Republican, and has held local office, always taking an active interest in all party politics.

#### IRVINE STREET.

Prominent among the well-known farmers of Phelps county, Nebraska, is Irvine Street, who resides in Westmark township. He has been a resident of this locality since 1885, and has passed through all the pioneer experiences that fell to the lot of the early settler in this state.

Mr. Street is a native of Iowa, born near the town of Martinsburg, Iowa, and was reared there, receiving a common school education. He

is a son of Joseph Street, who died near Creston, Iowa. He started out for himself when young, and in 1884 began working as a thresher in his home county, and since that time has followed this business constantly. He came to Nebraska in 1885, settling in Williamsburg township, Phelps county. He bought eighty acres of land in Westmark township the following year, and still lives on this homestead, where he has built up a good home and farm. His place is improved with a good set of farm buildings, comfortable house, and all conveniences of modern farm machinery. He engages in mixed farming and operates a threshing machine during the threshing season. He has been engaged in this work since first coming here, all over Phelps and the adjoining counties, and through this has become one of the best known men in this section. He is considered one of the best threshers in this part of the state, and no one is better qualified to judge of a machine and its work, or to operate it with better success than he. One brother, Byron Street, came to Nebraska with our subject, and was associated with him in this business up to the time of his death, which occurred February 21, 1905. In the opinion of Mr. Street, this country is away ahead of his native state on account of the healthy climate, and it is a much pleasanter place to live, as there is no mud here during the spring and fall months as in Iowa. Grain is a better crop here, and the corn crop as good or better than there. He states that he has threshed wheat yielding as high as fifty-one bushels to the acre in Nebraska, and the grain is nearly always of No. 1 quality, bright and up to standard weight.

Mr. Street married Miss Eva Brooks in 1890. She is a native of Illinois. They have one daughter, Leila. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Williamsburg. Mr. Street is a strong Republican.

#### HOMER A. PRIDDY.

Homer A. Priddy, who occupies a prominent place among the younger members of the ranching community of Sioux county, is one of the early settlers in that region who has built up a fine estate and gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and progressive ranchman. He has been one of the foremost men of his locality during the past many years, and has done his full share in the development of the resources of the country where he chose his home.

Mr. Priddy was born in Jasper county, Iowa, in 1861, on a farm. His father came of German stock, and his mother of English-Irish blood, she being a descendant of Sir Francis Drake, well known in the history of Great Britain. Our sub-







JOHN MICHAELSEN.



HENRY MICHAELSEN.



ject was raised in Iowa, as a boy learning all kinds of farm work, attending the common schools, and later the Greenfield high school, of which he is a graduate. He learned the trade of blacksmith at Greenfield and followed that occupation considerable during his entire career. While living at the latter place he was married to Miss Maggie Woods, daughter of William R. Woods, who had followed the trade of blacksmith from his boyhood days. Mrs. Priddy's mother was, prior to her marriage, Sarah Brinton, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock.

In 1888 our subject and his family came to Sioux county and filed on government land located on Monroe creek, and at that time there was but one white settler between that place and Harrison. He put up a log shanty twelve by fourteen feet, and started to develop a farm, having a team of mules and one horse. His entire cash capital was seventy-five dollars. He arrived in the region driving his mules, coming all the way from Iowa, camping out under the wagon, cooking their meals over camp fires. The first several years were hard ones, and they had difficulty in making a living, as several crops were utter failures, and Mr. Priddy finally opened a blacksmith shop in Harrison and followed his trade at that place for twelve years, driving to and from his homestead, and managed to make quite a little money in this way. During that time he improved his place in good shape and bought additional land, so that he is now owner of a fine ranch of one thousand two hundred acres, part of which is used as hay land, and the balance as range for his stock, as he runs quite a herd of cattle. There is plenty of running water the year around, and he has considerable natural timber on the place. He has good buildings, and about seven miles of fencing. His residence is on section 8, township 32, range 56.

Mr. Priddy and his estimable wife are the parents of five children, named as follows: Linley R., Dollie R., Karma D., Edouard T. and Noel M.

During the winters the family live in Harrison, where the children have a better opportunity for attending school. Our subject is active in local affairs, and for five years held the position of postmaster of Harrison, serving from 1902 to June, 1907. Politically he is a Republican and lends his influence for the best principles of his party. Mr. Priddy has a nice stream, Monroe creek, passing through his farm, well stocked with mountain trout, and it bids fair to be one of the best fishing places in the west. His place abounds in some fine wild game, such as deer, etc., and he is trying his best to protect them from the ravages of the hunters and sports.

## JOHN AND HENRY MICHAELSEN.

The two gentlemen whose names head this personal history reside in section 15, township 26, range 50, Box Butte county, Nebraska, and are leading old settlers of the western part of the state who have made this region their home for the past twenty-three years, and are well known and highly esteemed by all who know them for their thrift and energy, as well as for being thorough farmers and good business men. We take pleasure in presenting portraits of both these gentlemen on other pages of this work.

Both John and Henry Michaelsen were born in Hanover Province, Germany, Henry in 1845, and John in 1848, sons of farmers, the father having followed the trade of a harnessmaker for many years, and both parents lived and died in their native land. The two brothers served in the German army during the war of 1870 and 1871, fighting for their country as all loyal subjects were compelled to do. John came to America in 1881, and lived in New York one year, then settled in Wisconsin where he remained for a time, then drifted to Omaha and spent four years there employed at different kinds of work in that city, where his brother, Henry, joined him in 1883, coming directly from the old country. In 1885 they came to Box Butte county, where each filed on a homestead, and upon their arrival here John had just seventy-five cents and Henry but ten cents in money in their pockets, and this was their start in a business way. They began their homes, living in the open air for a time, then built a sod house, cooking their meals over a camp fire in old tin cans which they found, and during the early days had a struggle to make a living. However, they stuck to their purpose through all kinds of hardships and privations, and finally proved up on the land, gradually improving it with buildings, fences, etc., and together now own a fine ranch of about nine hundred and thirty acres. They raise cattle and horses principally, and are doing well, and are worthy citizens. But a short time after coming here they bought two cows. One of these died soon after they got it, and the other, for which they paid twenty-five dollars when she was a two-year-old, was the beginning of their entire herd. They kept the increase from this animal, while using her product for their living, and from her have sold over two hundred head, and after keeping her for fourteen years sold her for thirty dollars.

The brothers are now classed among the prosperous and enterprising residents of their locality, and have succeeded beyond their wildest hopes since locating in this section of the country.

## COLUMBUS A. DUNCAN.

Should the reader ask to see one of the very finest farms in Rock county, Nebraska, or become acquainted with one of the most thorough and capable farmers in all this region, he would be taken to the farm owned and operated by the gentleman with whose name this article begins. Here he would see careful cultivation of the soil, that thorough tillage without which success is not possible anywhere; the various farm buildings are modern and ample for all the needs of the day; the machinery that is needed saves labor and earns interest; the stock is of good grade, and year by year improves, and the farmer himself hale and hearty, now in the prime of life and at the maturity of his manly powers, "with his natural force unabated and his eye undimmed." A good farm to visit, and a pleasant gentleman to meet.

Columbus A. Duncan was born on a farm in Monroe county, Arkansas, March 6, 1855, the tenth child in a family of twelve children of Willis and Nancy (Matlock) Duncan, and inherits good American blood from both branches of his ancestry. In 1869 the family came to the north, to make a home in Watonwan county, Minnesota, where he grew to manhood and his education was completed in the public schools. The young Columbus from a very early age did what he could to help his parents and much hard work came to him as he grew older. When he attained his majority, he began for himself, and for some years followed farming in Minnesota. In 1877 he entered into marriage with Miss Mary Southerland, daughter of James and Martha (Green) Southerland. Her father was a farmer, and the family was well and favorably known in the state. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have had five children come to bless their union: Charles E., Walter S., Nettie L., Nellie V. and Wilma M.

Four years after their wedding Mr. and Mrs. Duncan came to Nebraska to make a home on government land, where their homestead rights might still be exercised. They made the journey from Minnesota to Rock county in a covered wagon and brought two cows with them. When Mr. Duncan arrived here he had only two dollars in money and a debt of twenty-five dollars behind him which had to be paid, but he was rich in courage and strength, and rejoiced to live and labor for his wife and two children. For a time a dug-out made a home for this little family, but after two years he was able to replace it with a better shelter. At first he worked for others where he could find work to do, cut posts for barter, at the railroad points, and, as might be imagined, made but slow headway, but he per-

severed. The second year he was here he secured an ox team, and prospects brightened for success. It was in vain, however, as a protracted drouth swept away all chance of a crop, and after the drouth came sickness in the family. Twenty years have rolled by since the Duncans arrived. They no longer suffer and toil and all but starve—that has forever passed. He owns, as already noted, one of the finest farms in northern Nebraska, consisting of five hundred and sixty acres, on which he erected ample buildings, and has provided a full stock of farm machinery, a good house, barns, and a grove of forest trees which gives what fuel the family needs. He also has about two hundred apple trees. In addition his son Charles owns a tract of eighty acres of land acquired under the Kincaid homestead law, and together father and son have a fine pasture of at least one hundred and twenty acres, while Mr. Duncan's home pasture embraces an entire quarter section.

Mr. Duncan helped to construct the railroad when it was put through Newport, thereby securing funds to support the family during the famine years.

In political matters he has affiliated with the Populist party. He has attended many conventions as a delegate, and is now chairman of the Rock county central committee. He is a member of the Mariaville lodge No. 399, Ancient Order of United Workmen, of which he is recorder and his son Charles is master workman. He has been president and general manager for a number of years of the Independent telephone line between Newport and Mariaville and has proved to be a very efficient officer. When Rock county was separated from Brown, Mr. Duncan was the first assessor of his precinct, an office he held a number of terms.

## CHARLES W. HUDSON.

Among the leading and substantial agriculturists of Cherry county, Nebraska, the gentleman whose name heads this review occupies a prominent place. Mr. Hudson lives on section 4, township 34, range 25, where he has one of the valuable estates in that locality, well improved, and enjoys a peaceful and happy home.

Mr. Hudson is a native of Nodaway county, Missouri, born September 20, 1857, the third in a family of eight children. His father, John Hudson, a carpenter by trade, was one of the early settlers and farmers in this county, coming here in 1883. He married Miss Rutelia Lamar, of American stock, Saturday, December 31, 1853, and to them were born a family of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. He was

reared in his native state, becoming inured to hard work during his boyhood years, and came with his parents to Cherry county where he helped his father to open his farm. He soon afterwards took a homestead and tree claim in the vicinity of his father's home, and with ox teams broke the prairie sod which he cultivated in addition to helping on his father's claim until 1892; when he made a home for himself, building a good house and other farm buildings, and he is now owner of three hundred and twenty acres, of which one hundred is under cultivation and the balance in prairie meadow and pasture. His farm is all fenced, has a bountiful supply of good water, from several wells, with windmills, and a fine young orchard. During the drouths in his locality he lost two crops, and from a patch of eighty acres of land one year got thirty-five bushels of corn. A severe hail in 1907 left nothing in its track. However, he kept his courage during the hard times, and has become one of the prosperous and successful farmers of Cherry county.

Mr. Hudson was married October 26, 1892, to Miss Hattie Berry, daughter of Preston Berry, a farmer and old settler in Knox county, Nebraska. He took up a claim in Holt county, where he died in 1873. He served in Company B, Tenth Iowa Volunteers, and was a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. The mother proved up on the Holt county claim and in 1882 came to Cherry county, where she purchased the ranch of her son-in-law at what is now known as Berry bridge and which she still owns. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, who are named as follows: Etta, Gladys, Edmund, Dorothy and John, all born and reared in this locality. The family is well-known and highly respected by all and enjoy a pleasant and comfortable home.

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#### PER MATTSON.

Per Mattson, whose successful career demonstrates what may be accomplished by persistent labor and honest dealings, is proprietor of a valuable farm in section 30, township 15, range 43, and is known throughout Deuel county as one of the worthy citizens of this locality.

Mr. Mattson was born in Sweden, December 10, 1864, and grew up there, receiving a limited schooling, working on his father's farm during his boyhood. In 1882 he, with his father, mother and brother, came to America, they settling at first in Pennsylvania, where they lived for two years, then came to Nebraska, landing in Deuel county in October, 1885. The father homesteaded in section 30, township 15, range

43, and this is now used as the home ranch. Here they went through pioneer experiences in establishing their home, going through hard times during the drouth seasons, often having a bitter struggle to get along, but worked hard to improve the homestead and finally succeeded in proving up on the claim. The family were among the very first settlers in the region, and have taken part in every movement which was started to develop the natural resources, remaining to enjoy the prosperity which has overtaken the locality. The father died in 1891, while our subject's mother makes her home with her son on the home ranch.

Mr. Mattson is now proprietor of a good farm, owning in all four hundred and eighty acres, considerable of which is under cultivation. He has a complete set of good farm buildings, a good well with windmill attached, and all conveniences and machinery necessary, and has a pleasant and comfortable home. He has a herd of about eighty cattle, and a good bunch of horses, with plenty of pasture and hay land, also good groves, etc. In 1908 he built a fine residence, and altogether has one of the best improved farms in the locality.

Mr. Mattson was united in marriage to Miss Emma Olson, on December 15, 1907. Mrs. Mattson was born and raised in Sweden, coming to America in 1891 and located in Chicago.

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#### C. F. McDOWELL.

For over a score of years the gentleman whose name heads this review has resided in Sheridan county, Nebraska, where he has built up a fine farm and comfortable home through his perseverance and industry, supplemented by his good business judgment and capability.

Mr. McDowell was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1841, and is a son of Isaiah McDowell, of Scotch-Irish descent, a native of eastern Pennsylvania, who settled in Mercer county when it was first opened up. He had a family of twelve children, and our subject was the tenth member, all raised on the home farm. When the war broke out our subject enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania Regiment and served up to 1863, and after being discharged, then entered the United States navy and served until the close of the war. Just after the close of the war he learned the cabinet-maker's trade and opened a shop, but was not successful and lost all the money he had in this venture. In 1869 he located in the "oil country" in his native state and lived there until 1885. He stayed in the oil regions for seventeen years, and managed to save up one thousand three hundred dollars, then came west and landed in Ne-



braska in 1885, locating in Sheridan county on his present homestead, and has since that time lived on this farm continuously. When he first moved on this place there were twelve pine poles on the farm, and the balance of his timber needed for a house had to be hauled a distance of twenty miles, so he started to build a sod house, and put up a rough dwelling and waited until the first train should come through this section so he could have the lumber hauled by freight for the roof. He was the first to receive lumber shipped over the new road into Gordon, and also got some of the first flour made at the Gordon mills. He had a hard time getting started on his farm and lost quite a sum of what he had saved when he came here. He just got nicely caught up when the dry years struck him and this put him back again so that he had to make another start. During the late years he has been very successful, engaging principally in stock raising and not trying to farm very much, and now owns a farm of four hundred and eighty acres, and has some of the best land in this section of the country.

Mr. McDowell was married in 1870 to Miss Ella Berlin, born in Clarion, Pennsylvania, in 1849. Her father, Nicholas Berlin, of German descent, was an old resident of Clarion county, who died at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell have a family of three children, named as follows: Anson B., Elizabeth and Milton B.

The family have a pleasant home and are well and favorably known throughout the entire community in which they reside. Mr. McDowell has spent many years here and has watched the development of this territory from its inception. He is one of the very first settlers in this locality and the only one within a radius of four miles to stay on his original homestead. He has done his full share in opening up the country and is familiar with conditions which have existed here since the early days and tells many interesting experiences which he has passed through. Mr. McDowell has never acted in any official capacity, nor has he ever served on a jury in his life. He is a Populist, but always votes for the best man in local affairs.

#### MICHAEL BRENNAN.

Michael Brennan, a farmer of ability and progressiveness, resides in section 12, township 31, range 48, and is one of the leading old settlers and respected citizens of Dawes county. He has watched the growth of that section from its early development, succeeded in building up a good home and farm, and may

be classed among the self-made men of his locality. He is now well-to-do and enjoys a pleasant home and peaceful surroundings.

Mr. Brennan was born in Carbon county, Pennsylvania, in 1845. He is of Irish descent, his father and mother both having been born in Ireland, coming to this country when young people and settling in Pennsylvania, where their family of children grew up, the father working in the coal mines for many years in that section. Our subject was also employed in the mines when but a young lad, and at the breaking out of the Civil war he enlisted in the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served for one year, taking part in many campaigns and battles.

After the war he returned to his home county and remained there for some time, then started west with his family, locating in Boone county, Iowa, and later in Green county, spending two years in the coal mines there.

Mr. Brennan first came to Dawes county in 1885, driving all the way from Iowa with a team and covered wagon containing his family and household goods, the trip taking a month on the road.

He located on a farm ten miles from Hay Springs and sixteen miles from Chadron, and put up his first building of sod and logs, in which the family lived for quite a time. Their start was very small, and they had a hard time to get along during the first few years, witnessing the dry years when nearly everything he planted failed him. One year he sowed one hundred bushels of seed wheat, and did not even get enough back for seed. During these hard times he left home and went into Hooker county, where he worked out on a farm in order to make a living for his family, and also spent some time in Wyoming in the coal mines. However, he stuck to his farm through it all, and has now built up a good home, has improved much of the land, put up good buildings, three windmills, and has one well three hundred and twenty feet deep. His ranch consists of about nine quarter sections of good land, nearly all fenced, and he runs a large number of horses and cattle, and also farms one hundred and seventy-five acres.

Mr. Brennan was married while still living in Pennsylvania, in 1870, to Miss Mary Walsh. Her father, James Walsh, was born in Ireland, and worked as a coal miner in Pennsylvania, and in his later years farmed there for many years. He married Elizabeth Hoben, a native of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Brennan was born January 10, 1855, and reared in that state. She is a good, kind-hearted lady, full



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY—MICHAEL BRENNAN.  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



SCENE ON RANCH—MICHAEL BRENNAN,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



of jolly good cheer and hearty sympathy with any one in distress. No one is ever turned away hungry from her door. Twelve children came to bless the union of our subject and his wife, namely: Mart, James, Charles, Lizzie, John, William, Thomas, Fred, Terry and Joe. Alice and Maggie, both deceased, the former being killed by a cow on the farm; the latter dying in infancy. An interesting picture is presented on another page showing Mr. Brennan's family and some of his ranch property.

#### C. H. WOODRUFF.

C. H. Woodruff, of Alma, Nebraska, owner of "Ash Grove Farm", located on the eastern outskirts of Alma, comprising three hundred and fifty acres of the finest river bottom and second bottom land, is one of the leading citizens of his locality. He has lately erected a handsome residence on this place, and is a gentleman of sterling qualities who enjoys a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Woodruff was born in 1849. His father, J. H. Woodruff, came to Ogle county, Illinois, in 1840, from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and in 1884 moved to Nebraska, settling in the village of Sutton, Clay county. He died at Alma in 1905, aged eighty-eight. He married Miss Frances Williams, of Illinois, born in Westfield, Massachusetts. One son, E. M., was a pioneer settler of Clay county, this state, and is now in the treasury department at Washington, District of Columbia. Our subject's mother is a descendant of Roger Williams of old colonial days.

In 1882 Mr. Woodruff, our subject, located at Sutton, Nebraska, living there for a time and then engaged in the general merchandise business at Keene, Kearney county, running this for five years. He also was at Norman for a time, and in 1894 came to Harlan county, starting a farm. He has since bought a number of farms here when land was cheap, and in 1903 realized on these and invested in his present fine property. He has one of the finest groves in the locality, and his place is all in a high state of cultivation, well improved with good buildings, fences, etc. The alfalfa crop and its possibilities bespeaks this farm a fortune. He now has seventy-five acres of alfalfa land. Mr. Woodruff has started a herd of Shorthorn cattle of the best strain—Scotch. The bull heading Mr. Woodruff's herd is Lord Linton. Also Lord Lancaster is a bull of Mr. Woodruff's breeding and raising. He will have fall and spring sales at Alma, Nebraska, in conjunction with F. A. Heath, of Naponee, making Alma one of the best Short-

horn markets in the country. He also has a herd of pure bred Poland China hogs, and raises a large number each year for the market.

September 10, 1879, our subject was united in marriage at Rockford, Illinois, to Miss Nettie Jewell. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff are the parents of the following children: May, Inez, Chester (deceased), Harry, Henry, Grace, Frank, Percy (deceased), and Bertha. Mr. Woodruff's son Henry is engaged in the stock business with his father, and they have jointly established a dairy business. They have a breed of dairy cattle in the country, and some fine animals for sale.

Mr. Woodruff is an active member of the Congregational church here, and his family are prominent in social circles, and all are highly esteemed in their community. In politics Mr. Woodruff is a Republican. Mrs. Woodruff died April 7, 1904, mourned by a large circle of friends.

#### OLAF SATEREN.

As a citizen of integrity and worth and a man of industrious and energetic character this gentleman is well known to the people of Dawes county. Mr. Sateren is counted among the oldest settlers on the "table," coming to Dawes county in the year 1885, before that section was organized under its present name. He has been largely instrumental in its development and growth, and richly deserves a prominent place as one of its foremost citizens. He resides in section 15, township 31, range 47, and has a very fine ranch.

Mr. Sateren was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, in 1856, and is a son of John Sateren, a native of Norway, who came to America when a young man, landing in New York in 1842, and who settled in Minnesota on a farm, where his family grew up. The mother was also born in Norway, and now lives with her son Edward, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven. Our subject helped his parents in the farm work from his early boyhood, and received his early education in the country schools, later attending school at Zumbrota, Minnesota, for some time. In 1877 he left home and came to Nebraska, locating in Cumming county, near Wisner, where he farmed for about three years, and also worked on the steamboats on the Missouri river, plying between Yankton and Bismarck.

In the spring of 1882 he went to Valentine, teaming from Long Pine, and there summered a bunch of cattle, camping out all through that summer and leading a typical

cowboy's existence. In the fall of that year he went to North Dakota and remained three months, spending the time in Wells county, and up near the Canadian line, where he worked at the threshing business. He next returned to Nebraska, going to Wisner, where he spent some time, and in the fall of 1885 took up a homestead situated in section 15, township 31, range 47, in Dawes county. There his first building was a board shanty, and he lived in this for a time, then put up a sod house. During the first year he worked in the woods, getting out timber and teaming, but after that time devoted his entire time to farming his homestead. He remained on the place continuously up to 1890, then went to Wyoming, where he spent one winter in the log camps north of Lusk. He also put in two years in the Sand Hills in Cherry county, where he worked at ranching. In 1900 he again went into North Dakota with a large drove of horses. He came back to Dawes county in 1901 and again began farming and building up his estate. He was successful in his ventures and gradually added to his acreage until he is now proprietor of a ranch of eight hundred acres, well improved and in first-class shape in every way.

Mr. Sateren has always taken an active interest in affairs of interest in his locality and aided every movement for the betterment of conditions in his community. He has served his district as road overseer, also acted as director of the district school, and is a worthy and influential citizen. Politically he is a Republican.

#### JULIUS A. RAUER.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is well known throughout Cherry county as possessing a broad and intelligent mind, taking a deep interest in all matters pertaining to the advancement of educational questions of this locality. Mr. Rauer resides on section 6, township 33, range 31, and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Rauer was born in Freiberg, Province of Silesia, Germany, April 6, 1865. His father, August Rauer, was a laborer in the old country and died when our subject was but a year and a half old; he remained with his mother, Mary (Ende), until he reached the age of twenty, then came to America, sailing from Antwerp on the Bergenland of the Red Star line, and landed in New York city in October, 1885, after a voyage of ten days. He located first at Mansville, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the coal mines for one year, then

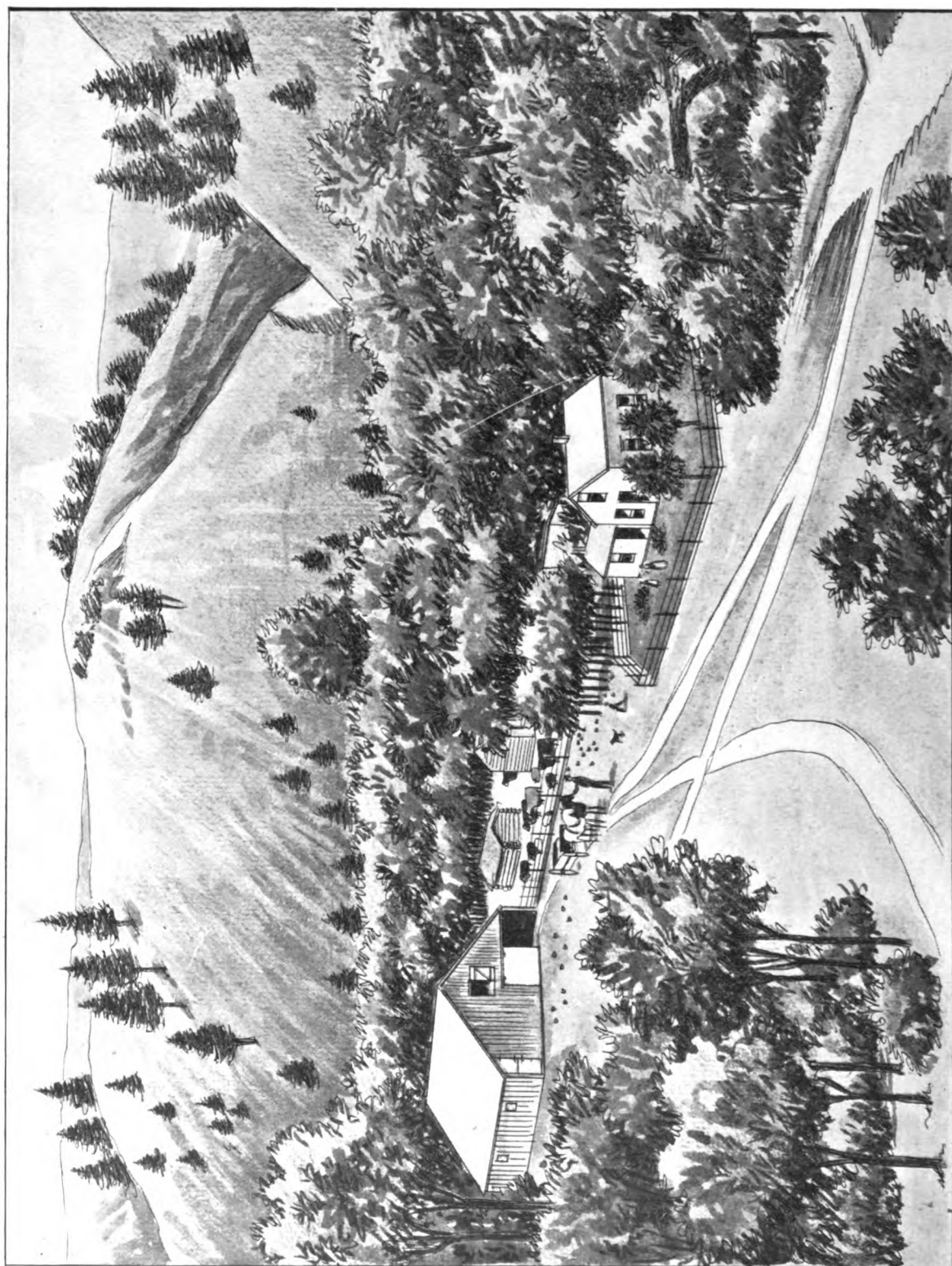
came west to Warren county, Iowa, and spent one winter working in the mines there. He next went to Omaha, securing work on the Burlington & Missouri railway in western Nebraska during March, April and May, 1887; he then came to Cherry county, and on May 15 of that year filed on the homestead which is his present home. During the first six months after coming he worked on the waterworks at Rock Springs and Green River in southwestern Wyoming in order to get a start. He built a sod house and a stable of the same material, breaking up his ground with a yoke of oxen which he used for a time before he was able to purchase horses. He went through the drouth periods and had a hard time getting a start, "batching it" for several years. In 1894 he sold off his chattels and went into the Black Hills and Big Horn mountains, and there followed ranching, mining, cutting ties, and anything he could get to do, remaining for three years. He returned to Nebraska and remained for two years, then went back to the mountains, where he spent a year and a half, and in 1902 came back to his farm and has lived on it constantly since that time. The house he had erected was destroyed by fire November 14, 1907. He has three hundred and sixty acres of good land and all well improved, and he is also part owner in a threshing outfit, which is run all over the neighborhood through the threshing season. Mr. Rauer has seen all the different phases of pioneer life, traveling from Omaha in a wagon and to the Big Horn mountains by the same means. When he first located here he was compelled to haul all the water for use on his farm from a creek two and a half miles away, and his nearest trading post was Valentine, a distance of twenty-eight miles from his home, or at Tuxton, nineteen miles distant. He is one of the old-timers, and has taken an active part in the history of the country from its beginning. Politically he is an independent voter, and is a member of the Georgia lodge, Modern Woodmen of America.

In June, 1903, Mr. Rauer was married to Mrs. Florence Bolles, born near Manchester, Iowa, daughter of George and Phoebe (Handcock) Draper. One son, Charles, was born of her first marriage.

#### W. R. VERNON.

Among the well-known railway men of the western part of Nebraska the subject of this review holds a prominent place. He has been in this line of work for many years past, and is thoroughly familiar with all branches of the business. He is a resident of North Platte,





FARM PROPERTY OF S. D. STUART,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



Nebraska, where he has built up a pleasant home.

Mr. Vernon is a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, and was raised there. His father, John Vernon, died March 17, 1903, at Boone, Iowa, where he had lived for forty-seven years. His mother was Miss Caroline Lambert, also of Muskingum county, Ohio. Our subject entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company at Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1880, and worked as a brakeman and conductor on that road for six years, traveling between Cheyenne and Sidney, and later from North Platte to Denver. In 1886 he moved to North Platte and was appointed yardmaster on February 15th of that year and has held that position continuously ever since. During the twenty-one years which he has held this position and had charge of the North Platte Union Pacific yards, not a person has been injured, nor has any animal or vehicle ever received a scratch, although the traffic over these tracks is very heavy. He has been a member of the Order of Railway Conductors since 1892, and held the office of secretary of that order, division 35, for ten years, serving up to 1904, and attended the Order of Railway Conductors' convention which was held at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in June, 1904. He is also a Mason.

Mr. Vernon was married November 7, 1873, to Miss Ida M. Templin, daughter of W. D. Templin, a veteran of the Civil war, member of Company D, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry, in which he was first lieutenant. He was in the Red River expedition, and on that expedition lost a limb. He served as mayor of Boonsborough, Iowa, and also held the position of agent at that place, and is one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon have five sons, all of whom are now active and useful young men, each a promising member of the profession he has chosen. They are named as follows: C. L., a brakeman on the Union Pacific Railway; John, and Charles, both following the same occupation; William, who was connected with the same road; Jessie, at present attending school. Harry was killed in an accident on the Union Pacific railway at Lodgepole, February 28, 1904. His son John was married September 18, 1907, to Miss Jennie McMichael. She died October 23, 1908.

#### SOLON D. STUART.

Solon D. Stuart, one of the truly self-made men of Keya Paha county, is a prosperous business man of this community.

Mr. Stuart was born on a farm in Caledonia

county, Vermont, July 6, 1856, of Scotch-German parentage and is the fifth in a family of seven. When a young boy his parents, Seth and Sarah (Harvey) Stuart, moved to Illinois, where they located on a farm in Stark county, and here he was reared and educated, receiving a common school education. In 1879 Mr. Stuart started out for himself, settling in Mahaska county, Iowa, where he followed farming for eight years.

In 1880 he was married to Miss Alice N. Guthrie, whose father, John D. Guthrie, was an American of Irish descent. To them four children have been born, namely, Inza F., Hazel L., Laura A. and Wayne. In 1885 our subject moved his little family to Keya Paha county, settling on a pre-emption in section 34, township 32, range 22. His start was very small, and his first home was a sod house in which he lived for two years. Here he experienced many hardships and privations, suffering from the drouth periods, and to support his family Mr. Stuart did contract work, three years of this time being spent in Iowa.

In 1900 Mr. Stuart came to Springview, where he opened a grocery and drygoods store, which he operated six years before exchanging it for a farm of four hundred and eighty acres on Turkey creek, three miles southwest of Springview. The buildings form a page of illustrations in our work. He has also done considerable contract and bridge work in this county.

Mr. Stuart is one of the oldest settlers in this county, a public spirited citizen, and has done his full share in the making of the history of Keya Paha county. In politics he is Republican.

#### JAMES W. COOK.

James W. Cook, one of the leading pioneer settlers in Nebraska, is a farmer by occupation, who has built up a good home and gained the respect and esteem of all who know him. Mr. Cook was born in Upper Canada, February 18, 1852, within twenty miles of London. His father, John Cook, was a farmer of Scotch descent, and came to Michigan with his family in 1861. His mother was Miss Louisa Whaley, born in England, who came to Canada with her parents at the age of eleven years. There were nine children in the family, of whom our subject is the third member in order of birth, and he was reared and educated in Michigan. In 1879 Mr. Cook came to Nebraska with his family, settling in Colfax county, purchasing a farm there, on which he resided up to 1899, the place comprising one hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid

six dollars per acre. After he had worked this for several years, improving the farm to some extent, he sold it for thirty-five dollars an acre. He had done exceedingly well on this farm, and accumulated quite a snug sum, and after the sale moved to Brown county, settling on his present ranch of six hundred and forty acres located in section 23, township 32, range 21. Part of this is used for grazing, and he has part under cultivation and raises banner crops on the land. Nearly all the hay and grain he raises is fed out on his farm, as he is extensively engaged in stock raising, giving particular attention to mules and hogs, which he finds more profitable than other stock. On the Niobrara river bottoms he has his best farming land, on which he raises splendid crops, having twenty-five acres of alfalfa. A fine brook running through the place supplies the family and stock with an abundance of water. When desired this is turned into a flume, which carries it to a water mill, which grinds all the feed needed for stock on the farm. A fine stone arch cave furnishes cold storage for milk, butter, etc. Mr. Cook was married in January, 1876, to Miss Stella Sherman. Two children were born, one of whom, Elgin, survives. In June, 1879, while the family lived in Colfax county, Mr. Cook's first wife died, and on June 19, 1888, he was married to Miss Mary Sebert, two children resulting from this union, Celia and William. Mr. Cook takes an active part in all county and local affairs, and has served his school district in various capacities at different times. In political sentiment he is a Republican. In religious faith the family are followers of Mrs. Eddy in Christian Science.

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#### R. F. DAILEY.

Another one of the prominent old-timers of western Nebraska, and a well-known cattleman who has passed through all the experiences of the pioneer of that region, is found in the person of the gentleman above named. He now resides on section 6, township 17, range 45, Lisco precinct, where he owns a valuable estate and is held in the highest esteem and respect by his fellowmen.

Mr. Dailey was born in Stevenson county, Illinois on April 17, 1857. He was the youngest child in a family of eleven, and with his brothers and sisters was raised on a farm, attending the country schools, where he received a somewhat limited schooling and remained at home until he was eighteen years of age. At that time he struck out for himself, going to Iowa, and spent ten years there, then went to Leavenworth, Kansas, remaining a year, coming to Greeley county, Nebraska, driving through the country by wagon train. After about a year in that locality he re-

turned to Kansas, then returned to Nebraska and settled in Deuel county, then Cheyenne county, in the fall of 1887, where he has since remained. He filed on a homestead on section 6, township 17, range 45, and during the first few years met with many discouragements in getting his ranch started. He witnessed the drouth years, when for four seasons he raised no crop of any kind. He went through sod-house experience and often had a hard time to get along, but by dint of honest labor and strict attention to his ranch work he was able to add improvements in the way of erecting good buildings, fencing his land, etc., and became possessor of one whole section of land, which he devotes to stock raising and farming. He now has a herd of about one hundred head of stock, cattle and horses, for which he has abundant pasture, and raises a large amount of hay each year.

Mr. Dailey was married in April, 1882, in Butler county, Iowa, to Miss Ellen Noonan, who is a native of New York state, her parents being pioneers in Iowa, where she was reared. The parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Dailey are dead. Seven children have been born to our subject and his wife, namely; Bernard F., Patrick, who died April 19, 1884, Winifred, John E., Margaret, Mary, and Robert, who died September 8, 1900. Mr. Dailey is the only member of his family to settle in Deuel county, while Mrs. Dailey has one sister living here.

Our subject is one of the substantial and highly esteemed citizens of his township, has been an important factor in its development, and has filled different local offices. In political sentiment he is a Democrat. When he first settled here he had to haul supplies thirty miles, and many nights camped out on the roads, his meals consisting of potatoes and bacon, using a molasses can for a coffee pot.

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#### JOHN G. STETTER.

Foremost among the early settlers in Nebraska is the subject of this review, who has seen the development and growth of Valentine from its start.

Mr. Stetter was born in Richmond, Virginia, August 1, 1856. His father, John G. Stetter, Sr., was born in Germany and came to this country when a young man, here following the occupation of a farmer and dairyman. Our subject lived with his parents in Virginia until he reached the age of twenty, when he struck out for himself, coming west to Fort Robinson, Nebraska, to what was then called Sioux county, driving by team across the country, camping out summer and winter in government service.

While at Camp Robinson he was he was appointed the first sheriff of the county, serving in this capacity for one year, when he was appointed head ambulance driver under General Crook. Later under Gen. E. V. Sumner, he saw service, driving teams all over the west where the country was literally overrun by renegades, horse thieves and stage robbers from the south. In Crook's expedition at Fort Robinson Mr. Stetter came to Fort Niobrara, where his brother handled the beef contract for the United States government and the same contract for the railroad, as the first railroad into Valentine was then in the course of construction.

In 1885 our subject was married to Miss Maggie Danley, who conducted the first Sabbath school in Dawes county, and they were the first couple ever married in that county. At this time he had the beef contract at Fort Robinson, and they lived in a dugout, where their first child, Leta A., was born, she being the first white child born in Dawes county. Miss Leta attended the Valentine high school, graduating with high honors, and entered the State University, graduating from that institution in 1906, and was elected principal of the Dewitt high school in 1906-'07, filling the same position at McCook in 1907-'08, teaching English literature, Latin and German. She is a brilliant writer and scholar and a young woman of rare talent and ability, of whom her father is justly proud. She is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa society.

In 1884 Mr. Stetter opened a saloon in Valentine, soon after closing this out and going into a meat market in Chadron, Nebraska, which he conducted until 1890, then returning to Valentine and again going into the saloon business. He is also the owner of saloons at both Cody, Nebraska, and Hot Springs, South Dakota. At one time he followed the fortunes of a prospector in the Black Hills country, and while there was nothing better to do, went on the stage as a comedian in the Gem Theater under the management of Al. Swarringer. He is a natural-born story teller and entertainer, a man of wonderful resource and conversational ability, and this fact has made it possible for him to mix with the greatest characters of the west in the early eighties. He has been intimately associated with men who stand high in the army and nation, among whom are General Miles, Major Woods, and others equally notable.

Mr. Stetter has resided in Valentine almost constantly since March, 1890, and after the death of his first wife, which occurred February 8, 1890, he was married May 20, 1896, to Miss Fanny Barling, who was born in England, and was a dressmaker in Valentine at the time of her marriage.

Mr. Stetter is a staunch Democrat, representing his community at different conventions, and takes an active part in all local and state politics.

#### GEORGE H. IRELAND.

Among the well-known residents of Sheridan county is George H. Ireland, a man of sterling character and active public spirit. He has resided in this locality many years and has become closely identified with its history. He has a well improved farm and pleasant home and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Ireland was born in Illinois June 29, 1850, and in his infancy came west to Iowa with his parents, who settled near Iowa City, where his father had land warrants from the Mexican war, taking the land for them. His father, Lemuel L. Ireland, was of American stock, born in Ohio, and had served for two years in the Mexican war. He tried to enlist in the Civil war, but was refused on account of his age. Our subject is the oldest in a family of nine children, and at the age of twenty-two he started out for himself. Previous to this he had worked out at different times, being employed on his uncle's farm for two years. He went to Adair county, Iowa, where he farmed for eleven years, and there saved considerable money. In March, 1887, he came west, landing in Gordon, Nebraska, and has lived here ever since. For the first two years he worked rented land, then located on his present homestead. The first year he settled on this farm he built a sod house, in which he lived up to 1906, when he moved into a fine cement block house, thirty-two by thirty-eight feet, and he now has one of the most pretentious dwellings to be seen anywhere in this locality. During the dry years he planted his crops faithfully and spent much hard labor cultivating them, but could not even raise enough for seed, and to support his family he was compelled to work out by the day. At the time of the Indian war in this part of the country, during the years 1890-'91, they lived in fear for their lives, but bravely stuck to their home, and came through it without having experienced any serious injury. He now owns six hundred and forty acres of good farming land and forty acres of timber, the latter being in the vicinity of Wounded Knee. Of this, he has under cultivation one hundred and fifty acres, and the balance is used for hay and grazing. He also keeps a large drove of stock, which nets him a nice sum each year. Of late years he has been very successful in his farming and stock raising operations, and has improved his place with good buildings, machinery, fences, etc.

Mr. Ireland was married in 1878 to Miss Alice C. Wilkinson, born in Illinois in 1854.

Her father, Wilson G. Wilkinson, was a farmer of American stock, born in Virginia, and her mother, Elizabeth Slaughter, was born in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Ireland have five children, namely: Roy, Earl and Pearl (twins), Ethel and Fred, all of whom were raised in this county.

In political faith Mr. Ireland is an independent voter, and takes an active interest in the affairs of his party. He has held local office at different times, and has gained the confidence of all who know him.

#### WILLIAM KADAS.

Should the reader ask for a representative German-American farmer of Cherry county, Nebraska, for a man who embodies in himself the best elements of the old German character who has quickly entered into the hopes and ambitions of modern America, the name that heads this sketch might well be given him. Mr. Kadas resides on his well-kept farm in section 31, township 35, range 34, where he has built up a comfortable home.

Mr. Kadas was born in the city of Alt Stettin on the Oder river, Germany, February 1, 1852. His father was a sharpshooter in the German army, and in 1848 received a severe wound at Verschen, Poland, while in the service of his country, from which he died in 1864. Our subject himself was in the Sixth Cavalry and served in the Franco-Prussian war, in 1871, receiving a slight wound in a skirmish at Sainte. His family were among the rich and influential Germans and he was never taught a trade, as all of the poorer classes in that country are obliged to do. When a young man he made a tour of Russia, England and France, and then embarked for the new world, coming to Wisconsin in 1873, where he began working on a farm and later was employed in a tannery at La Crosse. He came to Cherry county in 1885, and his first job after locating here was on the railroad as a section hand. He only worked at this a short time, and in the same year took up his present homestead and started a farm. He built a frame house of good size, sixteen by twenty-four, and went to work with a will in improving his property. He was one of the earliest settlers in this part of Cherry county, and has done his share in building up the region. He is well known all over the community, and commonly called by his friends and acquaintances "Dutch Bill," a sobriquet which was applied to him when he first worked on the section to distinguish him from "Calico," "Wild," and "Irish" Bills, there being four Williams at work at that time, and the name has stuck to him ever since. He has established a

good ranch, owning nine hundred and sixty acres of land, with one hundred and thirty cultivated and the rest in pasture and grazing land. His residence is fourteen by twenty, and he has a good barn twenty by eighty, with necessary sheds, with wells and windmills, and his whole place is under fence. A fine view of the residence and surroundings will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Kadas was married in 1871, while living in Germany, to Miss Mina Schueler, a native of Germany, where she died after giving birth to two sons, both of whom also died in the old country.

Mr. Kadas is a jolly, sociable man, well liked by everyone with whom he comes in contact. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Cody lodge, Modern Woodmen of America.

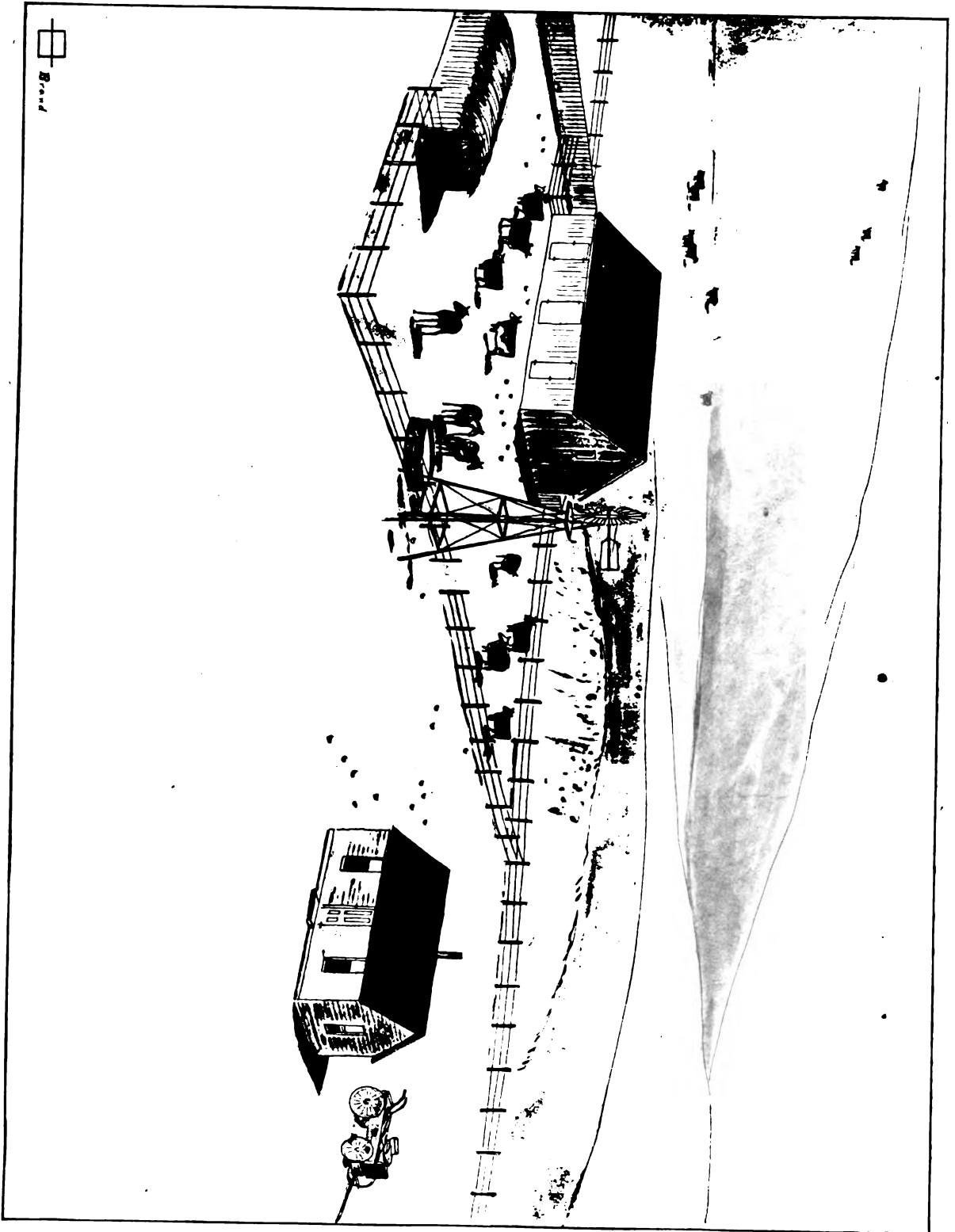
#### THOMAS M. FREEMAN.

In listing the self-made men of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, who have become well-to-do agriculturists, and have aided materially in the development of the farming interests of this region, a prominent place is accorded the name of T. M. Freeman. For many years this gentleman has followed farming in Cheyenne county, during which time he has met with pronounced success and is known as one of the substantial citizens and well merits his high standing.

Thomas M. Freeman was born in Champaign county, Illinois, on the 23d day of December, 1855. He was raised and educated there, living on his father's farm as a boy, attending the country schools and receiving a fair education for those days, while assisting his parents in carrying on the work on their farm.

He came to Wayne county, Nebraska, in 1885, spent about a year and a half there, then moved to Cheyenne county, landing here on May 18, 1887, immediately taking up a homestead in section 34, township 17, range 50, which is his present ranch, or the beginning of the extensive place he owns at this time, which consists of one thousand six hundred acres. He has developed a fine farm and ranch, erecting a splendid set of buildings, and has made a complete success of farming and ranching. He cultivates about two hundred acres, and runs about one hundred cattle and a large bunch of horses.

Mr. Freeman has passed through all the early Nebraska times, when he first located here there being but a few straggling settlers in the region where he chose his home, and he has watched its growth and development from its earliest stages. He is a true westerner in spirit and a genuine old-timer of the state, always tak-



Brand

RISIDENCE OF WILLIAM KADAS,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



ing an active interest in all that tends to the benefit of his locality. He is a stanch Republican in political faith.

The father of our subject is still residing in Champaign county, Illinois, also the other members of his family, but the mother has been laid to rest for about twenty years.

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#### ANDREW LEONARD.

Andrew Leonard, residing in Washington township, Franklin county, came to Nebraska in 1884 and purchased the farm on which he now lives, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres in section 1.

Mr. Leonard was born in Ireland in county Galway, where he was raised. His father, James Leonard, came from Ireland with his family, settling in Champaign county, Illinois, where they lived for many years. Our subject enlisted in the Fourth Illinois Cavalry and served for three years under Grant and Sherman. He took part in the battles at Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson, Bedford Landing, Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, at the siege of Vicksburg, and then went with his regiment to Natchez, and during all the times he participated in these different actions he was only wounded four times.

After the war closed Mr. Leonard returned to Illinois, and spent some years in that state. He located in Franklin county in 1884 and at once started to build up a good farm and home, and has met with pronounced success in his work here, has a comfortable home and is highly esteemed by all for his good qualities as a citizen, neighbor and patriot. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the family are devoted members of the Catholic church. Mr. Leonard has been a member of the school board in his district for many years, and has also served as assessor for his township.

Mr. Leonard was married to Miss Rose Kellogg, of Champaign county, Illinois, and to them have been born the following children: Thomas, a farmer and living at home; Andrew, residing at Salt Lake City, Utah; Ruskin, of Nuckolls county, Nebraska, and Dan, a farmer in this county.

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#### PETER BELGUM.

Peter Belgum, who owns a well improved farm in this section, has been a resident of Box Butte county for more than twenty years past, settling here in the year 1886. Mr. Belgum

was born in Norway in 1864, his native town being about one hundred miles from Christiana, where he grew up and was educated until he was twelve years of age, when his father came to this country with his family of three children, of whom our subject was one member, their ship landing in New York city June 28, 1877. They immediately struck out for the western states, and settled in Boone county, Nebraska, where they were among the first pioneers in that part of the state. The father built a house and opened up a farm and met with good success while on that place and the father still lives in Boone county. Our subject's mother died in the old country when he was about eight years old.

When our subject was twenty-one years of age he came west and began working for himself, settling in Box Butte county, where he filed on a homestead, and he still occupies this claim, which is situated in section 33, township 26, range 48. He put up a sod house and broke up land for crops with an ox team which he brought with him, and during the early days he also worked out by the day and week on neighboring farms, freighting, and anything he could find to do. He did construction work on the Burlington railway, which was being built from Broken Bow to Newcastle, South Dakota. He was able to get along pretty well in this way up to the time the poor years struck this locality, and then for eight years was unable to get ahead to any extent, barely making a living on account of failures of crops due to drouths, etc. He kept hard at it, however, and as the years grew better, conditions becoming more favorable, he began to build up his farm and add to his land, so that at the present time he is owner of half a section of good land and has a good farm, highly cultivated and well improved with buildings, etc., and engages to quite an extent in raising cattle and horses. Mr. Belgum also operates one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of leased land, which he uses for pasture and ranching purposes for his herds of cattle and horses.

During the early years in this region Mr. Belgum camped out at night under his wagon when making trips through the country, and went through all the pioneer's experiences and privations. The section was very sparsely populated, there being only a few houses on the road between his farm and Hay Springs when he first settled here.

Mr. Belgum was married in 1885 to Lena Olson, born in Norway. Five children came to bless this union, namely: Oscar, Julius, Tillie, Albert and Juliar, who died at the age of sixteen, in October, 1901. Mr. Belgum had the sad



misfortune to lose his good wife by death October 15, 1905.

Mr. Belgum has been on the school board for a number of years, and takes an active part in the upbuilding of his district.

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#### W. R. HARLAN.

Persistent industry and patient perseverance has placed this gentleman among the prosperous agriculturists of Phelps county, Nebraska. He came to Nebraska in 1880, locating in York county with his father, Dr. Elihu Harlan, who bought a farm there, which he still owns and resides on it at the present time, now aged eighty-three years. Dr. Harlan was born and brought up at Liberty, Union county, Indiana. He was a skillful physician and pharmacist, practicing his profession in Iowa for several years, but on coming to Nebraska gave it up for farming.

Our subject began his farming career in Iowa, and came to Nebraska, locating in the above county in an early day. He purchased a relinquishment and homesteaded in Union township on one hundred and sixty acres, farming this for five years. Here he lost by death his wife. She left one son, Elroy, sixteen years of age. After her death Mr. Harlan went to Colorado, where he bought some irrigated land, remaining there for some years. While in that state he married Miss Wilson, a native of Ohio, and one child has been born to them, named Ralph. He sold his property in Colorado at a good advance over what it cost him, and came back to Nebraska, investing in land near Loomis, Phelps county, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He also bought one hundred and sixty acres near Bertrand and recently disposed of this, and has purchased one hundred and sixty acres situated two miles northwest of Holdrege, which he intends to keep for a home and not to sell. This farm is improved with a fine house, barns and outbuildings, and has a fine grove of trees growing nicely. It is one of the best located and the finest home farms in the county. Two years ago this was sold for one thousand dollars, and the price Mr. Harlan paid for it was twelve thousand dollars, and at the present time he could take an advance over this figure should he wish to do so, showing the rapid appreciation of lands in Phelps county.

When Mr. Harlan came here he had no capital, and worked for five years on his father's farm. Since then he has made all he has by his own hard work and shrewd business methods in buying and selling lands. He has had wide experience in Iowa and Colorado, and strongly states that Nebraska is the "best ever"

and he considers the greater success of the last few years due to the fact that people have come to know better the country, its soil and requirements, as this was true in his own case. He now, after plowing, harrows down the land two or three times, making the soil fine and level so it will stand dry weather and still produce big crops. In 1906 on one piece of land he raised forty bushels of wheat to the acre, and a piece put in later made twenty-five bushels, but all of it went sixty-three pounds per bushel and was bright and A1 grain.

Mr. Harlan is a strong advocate of potato culture in Nebraska. In 1905, from a patch of forty-four acres, he raised four thousand bushels of potatoes, all fine stock. He has all of the best potato machinery and thoroughly understands the matter of growing this vegetable. One year in Iowa he raised one thousand bushels from a patch of ten acres, selling the entire crop at one dollar per bushel, and this year he is also getting the same price at the market in Holdrege. There is no better preparation for other crops than to use the land for potatoes the previous year, except that it sometimes makes the ground too strong for oats. More money can be made from the culture of potatoes than from any other crop, as one man can easily attend to forty or fifty acres. However, one should not plant here varieties that make many potatoes to the hill, as should there be a dry season the potatoes will be very small. The Ohio Acme, Daughter of Early Rose and Carmen No. 3 are the best kinds for this state, running about six large perfect potatoes to the hill.

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#### LEWIS M. MCCOY.

In reviewing the history of Dawes county, Nebraska, the citizens who have contributed to her welfare must be given special mention, and a prominent place among their number must be accorded the gentleman above named. Mr. McCoy is a pioneer settler, coming here in 1886, and is one of the best-known and most highly respected men in his region. He is a prosperous agriculturist and has built up a comfortable home and fine farm near Crawford, where he enjoys a peaceful and contented life.

Mr. McCoy is a native of Washington county, Indiana, born in 1848. His father, Isaac L. McCoy, was of Irish-Scotch descent, a stockman by occupation, who married Deliatha Stuart, born of English parents. When our subject was five years old the family moved to Iowa, settling near Burlington on a farm and were pioneers in that section, but did not remain there for long when they moved to Davis





MR. AND MRS. JAMES H. SKINNER.

county, living there for five years. They next went to Monroe county, and during this time our subject was acquiring a common school education and assisting his parents in the work of carrying on their farm. About 1871 he went to Kansas, where he spent two years, then came to Brownsville, Nebraska. He had traveled all through Nebraska while it was still a territory, and he and his father did freighting from Omaha to Denver, the former making the trip three times when the Indians were in a hostile state. From Brownsville Mr. McCoy went to Emerson, Iowa, where he was engaged in the hotel business for a time, and then to Kearney, Nebraska, where he remained for seven years. In 1886 he came to Dawes county, driving through the country with a covered wagon, and the first summer he was here lived in a tent, building a log house in the fall. He first settled on a pre-emption and later on a homestead. His first supplies were hauled from Chadron. Crawford was then merely a tent town. During the first years his nearest neighbor was five miles away, and Indians were numerous in his locality. He at that time owned three ox teams and hauled timber from his farm and for others in the vicinity, which he exchanged for provisions. He saw some hard times, being hauled out a few times and meeting other losses and discouragements. He engaged in the stock business a number of years ago, and is still following this and farming a part of his ranch of two thousand forty acres, all fenced and improved with good buildings, etc. There is a good grove of natural timber on the ranch, and good clear springs of running water, making it an ideal stock ranch.

Mr. McCoy was married in 1869, at Glenwood, Mills county, Iowa, to Miss Ellen Otis, whose father, Barnabas Otis, was a mechanic and machinist, and a prominent citizen of that county. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy have a family of six children, who are named as follows: Irving, Guy, Lulu, Bertha, Barney, and Ruby, all of whom are married and settled in homes of their own near the parental home. Mr. McCoy and his wife are grandparents to eleven children.

In politics our subject is a Democrat on reform movements and takes an active interest in all local and county affairs. He has held the office of justice of the peace for fifteen years, and is now a notary public.

#### JAMES H. SKINNER.

Foremost among the old settlers of western Nebraska who have aided materially by their influence and personal effort in developing that region, is the gentleman whose name heads this

review. Mr. Skinner was one of the first to take up homestead rights here, and the first public school was held in his home, as was also the first Sabbath school, of which his wife was the leading spirit. Mrs. Skinner was also the first school teacher in the district, and the first religious service in this vicinity was held at their home, both our subject and his wife taking an active part in all these affairs. Both Mr. Skinner and wife are of the Presbyterian faith. They went through all the pioneer experiences, suffering the many hardships and privations so familiar to the people who settled here when the country was new, inhabited chiefly by Indians, and with all kinds of wild beasts roaming the forests. From the earliest days of settlement in this part, our subject and his wife have watched the growth and development and during those years have managed to accumulate a nice property by dint of good management and earnest effort, and are now in position to enjoy their declining years in peace and comfort. They have a pleasant home in section 17, township 25, range 49, and are held in high esteem by all who know them.

James H. Skinner was born in Waterford, Erie county, Pennsylvania, April 13, 1835. His paternal grandfather was born in Ireland, came to America during the early settlement of Pennsylvania, where our subject's father was born and lived all his life. He married Mary Ann Certson, of Erie county, Pennsylvania. Our subject was raised in his native state and lived with his parents there until he reached the age of eighteen years, then left home and came to Illinois. He only remained a short time, then returned to his parents' home and began working as a carpenter and painter, following that occupation for some time.

Mr. Skinner was married in 1867, to Miss E. T. Durham, whose father, Ezra Durham, was a capitalist, of English descent, and her mother's maiden name was Lucinda Head. In 1884 the young couple settled in Michigan, at Maple Valley, and spent two years in that locality, then struck out for the west, coming to Nebraska April 2, 1886. Here Mr. Skinner filed on section 17, township 25, range 49, driving to his new home from Hay Springs, which was the nearest railway point, seventy or eighty miles distant. They were obliged to camp out at night, as the settlers' homes were few and far between, and had with them their entire possessions.

They put up a rude shanty as a dwelling, and started to make a home, having a hard time during the first years, meeting with every form of disappointment in the way of failure of crops and other discouragements, but never thought

of giving up, and finally succeeded in developing their farm in good shape, putting up substantial buildings and doing all the work of building up his home and farm with his own hands, aided by his faithful life companion, and today they own a fine estate of four hundred and eighty acres as a result of their perseverance and pluck.

Mr. and Mrs. Skinner have a family of six children, named as follows: Henry J., Eva, Edgar, May, Maud and Myrtle, constituting an interesting family. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Skinner will be found on another page of this volume.

Our subject has always done his full share as a public-spirited citizen, giving freely of his aid in every movement which has been started toward promoting the best interests of his community. He has held different local, offices justice of the peace, school director and road overseer. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### LEWIS L. MILLARD.

Lewis L. Millard, a prominent farmer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is one of the men who carries on a diversified system of agriculture in a most successful manner, with results that richly reward his thrift and industry. He resides on section 19, township 34, range 22, and is a splendid specimen of a clear-headed, progressive agriculturist, his well-kept farm bearing evidence of his tact and good management.

Mr. Millard was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, March 7, 1859. His father, George E. Millard, was a farmer and early settler in Johnson county, Nebraska, coming here in 1866 with his family. He was of old Welsh stock, born in America, and married Caroline Madison, born in New York, of American parents. Our subject was raised on the frontier, where he attended the country schools and assisted his parents in carrying on their farm, beginning this work when but seven years old. The family lived in Johnson county up to 1885, then settled in Merrick county, the father now residing in Scotts Bluff county.

At the age of twenty-six Lewis left home and struck out for himself, settling in Keya Paha county on a homestead located eight and a half miles northwest of Springview. Here he put up a rough sod shanty and remained on that farm with his family up to 1904, building up a good home and farm there, the place consisting of four hundred and eighty acres on which he had put good buildings, planted a large orchard, and carried on mixed farming on two hundred acres. He witnessed the drouth per-

iods, but never actually suffered from hardships, always being able to make a good living and enough to keep constantly improving his property.

In 1904 he sold out that farm and purchased his present homestead, where he has nine hundred and sixty acres, three hundred and fifty of which is under cultivation. He has a good house, barn, granary, windmills and tanks, and all the equipment necessary for operating a model farm. Since coming here he has also planted many fruit trees and has a fine grove of forest trees.

Mr. Millard is a blacksmith by trade, and for eighteen years had a shop on his farm and did considerable work for his neighbors and people living in his vicinity.

On September 20, 1883, our subject was married in Helena, Nebraska, to Miss Charlotte Montgomery, daughter of Thomas M. and Prudence (Pierce) Montgomery, both of American blood, the former a painter by trade, residing in Vigo county, Indiana, at the time of his death, which occurred in Florida, whither he had gone in search of health. Mr. and Mrs. Millard have a family of five children, namely: Walter, living in Colorado; Guy, in Long Pine; George, living in Keya Paha county; Gladys and Myron.

From the time of his early settlement in this section of the state, Mr. Millard has been active in advancing the commercial and educational interests of the region. He was one of the leaders in establishing the schools here and deserves much credit for the part he has always taken in the upbuilding of his community. Politically he is a Populist and takes an active interest in party affairs.

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#### JOHN J. MANDEVILLE.

John J. Mandeville is a native of Indiana, being born in Jasper county of that state, in 1857. His father, Giles, was descended from early colonial stock of Holland-Dutch blood. His mother, Mary (Krantz) Mandeville, was of Scotch stock and her family dates back to Revolutionary war times.

Our subject was reared on a farm in the state of Indiana until he attained manhood. His educational facilities were limited and in his young days he had but little schooling. He loved to go up into the woods and hunt for wild game and was a great hunter, his father's place at Beaver Lake being the headquarters of the hunters of a widespread country. Thus he acquired the spirit of the chase and hunted a great deal in his youth. He learned to read and write when he was twenty years old, and then

became a great student, reading all the books on history and literature he could find, and by this means he picked up a good education.

The marriage of Mr. Mandeville occurred in 1888, when he was wedded to Miss Ruth Boaz, daughter of Robert E. Boaz, a dentist and old settler of Dunning, Nebraska. Her mother was Miss Lucilla Wiley in her maiden days.

Mrs. Mandeville is a graduate of the Humboldt high school and has taught school and is a lady of culture and refinement. Her parents trace their ancestry back to English people who settled in Jamestown, Virginia, in the early history of the country. Mr. and Mrs. Mandeville have one child, Robert G., the first child born in the village of Dunning, Blaine county, Nebraska.

Our subject's early life was full of varying experiences and he traveled into several states, going to Lincoln, Nebraska, thence to Dakota and back to Indiana. In 1883 he came west to Holt county, Nebraska, where he followed hunting as a business. He filed on a pre-emption claim and proved up. He then lived at Atkinson, Nebraska, for several years, where he did an extensive game business. In 1887 he went to Dunning and engaged in the same business, meeting with good success. The same year he located a homestead near the town of Purdum and proved up on the land in 1889. Later he proved up on a tree claim and secured a tract of Kincaid land. He now has a splendid ranch, known as the "Dusky Heights Ranch," of eight hundred acres of deeded land and six hundred and forty acres under twenty-year school land leases. He also has forty acres near Dunning and five acres of timber on the Middle Loup river. His ranch is splendidly improved in every respect and he may be justly proud over the success that has been wrought by his industry and intelligence. He gives special care to his fine orchard containing three hundred peach trees, one hundred apple trees, also pear trees and an abundance of small fruit. As he looks about him, he can hardly realize that when he came to the country his start was only a shot gun, a dog, and thirty dollars in money. There is certainly a vast difference between his fortunes then and now; and he has made it all by his own effort. Of his land he cultivates about one hundred and twenty acres, the balance being devoted to stock grazing and hay purposes.

John J. Mandeville has filled an important place in the affairs of his community and has held numerous positions of trust and responsibility. He was appointed county treasurer in 1889; has been county surveyor for five or six terms and has been for years an officer of his school district which he helped to establish. Our

subject has been closely identified with all matters of local interest and no one can be more progressive and public-spirited than he. Through all the years of pioneer hardships, drouth, hail and hard times he has pushed his way upward till he attained the success that he so justly merits.

#### FRANK V. LOVENBURG.

Frank V. Lovenburg, residing on section 25, township 9, range 37, has for many years past been identified with the development and advancement of Perkins county and is proprietor of one of the valuable farms of that locality. He was one of the early pioneers here, and although considerable of his time has been spent away from the region, he has always looked upon it as his permanent home, and is a familiar personage to all who have called it their home since the early days.

Mr. Lovenburg was born in Tama county, Iowa, on a farm in 1863. His father and mother were both natives of Bohemia, coming to America during their youth, and settling in Iowa, where they resided up to 1870. They then went to Kansas, locating in Republic county, where our subject was reared and educated, spending his entire boyhood days on his father's farm until he was eighteen years of age, when he left home and has made his own way in life since that time. He went to Iowa and worked in the coal mining regions near Des Moines for two years, then returned to Kansas and was employed as a clerk in his father's store for a time. In the spring of 1887 he came into Nebraska, driving through the country with a team and covered wagon, and covering the entire distance from his former home in Kansas to this section in this way, spending the nights camping out under his wagon, the trip consuming nine days. He took a pre-emption on section 25, township 9, range 37, and proved up on it in due time. During the first few months he had no house to live in, but occupied his wagon as a dwelling, finally building a sod shanty in which he lived for two years. He went through hard times, having a rather difficult time to get started owing to unfavorable crop conditions, and in 1889 went back to his old home in Kansas, engaging in the livery business at Narka, Kansas, which he carried on for two years, but was not successful and lost money in the venture, so gave it up. He again returned to Perkins county, remaining for about a year, then went on the road as traveling salesman, and worked all over Kansas, Iowa and Dakota, and followed this business for about seven years, in the employ of the McCormick Harvester and Machine Company.



In 1897 Mr. Lovenburg again located at Narka, Kansas, and established himself in the implement business in partnership with his brother, William, and continued this for nine years, building up a successful trade. In 1906 they were burned out, suffering a severe loss, and after this misfortune gave up the business, and our subject came back to Perkins county, settling on his farm, and has since made it his home. Here he has four hundred and eighty acres, with about seventy acres used for grain raising, and the balance is devoted to the mule raising industry. He has some very fine young animals on his place, and is building up a good business in this line, being a thorough judge of his work and a capable business man. Mr. Lovenburg has good improvements on his ranch and everything is kept up in good shape, the whole appearance of the place bespeaking good management and thrift in its operation.

Our subject was married in 1887, to Miss Anthony Stranskey, who was born in Bohemia, she coming to America with her parents and settling in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Lovenburg have a family of seven children. Mr. Lovenburg takes a commendable interest in the affairs of his community, and has held different local offices.

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#### HERMAN E. MILLER.

Herman E. Miller, well-known as a leading farmer and public-spirited citizen not only in the vicinity of where his fine and admirable farm is to be found, but also throughout Sioux county and the adjoining country, where his many sterling qualities are familiar to all who know the prominent residents of the section. A portrait of Mr. Miller will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Miller was born in Trebto-on-Rege, Germany, in 1847 and lived there until he was ten years old. His father, Peter, was a farmer in that country, and brought his family to the United States in 1857, settling on a farm in Door county, Wisconsin, where our subject grew to manhood, assisting in carrying on the home farm and attending the country schools, where he received a limited schooling.

In 1874 Mr. Miller came to Central City, Nebraska, and farmed in that vicinity for about fourteen years, building up a good farm and improving it in good shape. He next moved to Sioux county, landing here in 1888, locating at first on Soldier's creek, six miles from Crawford. While living on that place his wife died, and soon afterwards our subject had the misfortune to be robbed by bandits and relieved of three hundred and sixty dollars in cash, and

was also swindled out of three thousand dollars in a contracting deal. He had hard times during that period, was unable to get ahead any, and finally left the place and moved to the Pine Ridge country, in 1900, and has remained in that vicinity ever since, living on three different farms and improving all to quite an extent, and has gone through many bitter experiences.

Mr. Miller finally settled permanently on the place he now occupies, which is situated in section 14, township 32, range 54, and here he has put on good improvements in the way of buildings, fences, etc. The place is well supplied with timber and fine trees of all kinds and well supplied also with good water for all purposes. The ranch contains four hundred and eighty acres, and he uses eighty acres as farm land, running a large number of stock on the balance of four hundred acres.

Although our subject has gone through many hardships and discouragements, he has succeeded in making the most of his opportunities and is at last the proprietor of a nice property. His handsome residence is connected by telephone with Crawford, and is supplied with every modern comfort and convenience, and is a model of rural progress.

Mr. Miller was married in 1870 to Bertha Miller, who was also born and raised in Germany. They have a family of eight children, namely—Theresa, Regina, Peter, Hannah, Magdalena, Antony, Annie and Eddie. The mother died in 1888. Our subject was married again the second time, taking as a helpmate, Mrs. Margaret Fricke, and they have a family of children as follows: Henry, Bertha, Agnes, Herbert, Anton and Emma, the last two mentioned being the children by a former marriage of Mrs. Miller.

Mr. Miller has done his full measure in development the commercial and agricultural interests of his community, but has steadily refused to take an active part in politics, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his home and farm.

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#### JOHN WEIRICH.

John Weirich, a well known farmer and ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska, is one of the leading old timers of that section of the state. He has spent many years in this region, and has contributed in no small degree to the welfare and assisted in the development of the farming resources of the locality in which he chose his home.

Mr. Weirich was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, on the present site of Streator, January 20, 1859. His father, Joseph Weirich, was a coal miner, born in the Kingdom of Prussia,





HERMAN E. MILLER.



RANCH OF F. B. JAMES,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



near the Rhine, and his mother was also a native of that country, both coming to the United States when young. There was a family of six children, of which our subject was the fifth. He lived in Illinois until ten years old, when the whole family came to Iowa and settled on a farm in Cass county. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, then started out for himself, following farming as an occupation. He bought a farm in Cass county and farmed that for three years, then came to Nebraska, settling in Cherry county in 1887, five and a half miles south of Crookston. Here he took up a pre-emption and proved up, remaining there for two years, then moved to Sarpy county in the hopes of benefiting his wife's health. Here he secured a farm which he operated in connection with his trade, harnessmaker, which he had learned when a youth in Iowa. He returned to Cherry county in 1899, taking up a homestead on section 21, township 34, range 31, and there started to build up a farm and home. He has improved the place with good buildings, engaging in stock raising and ranching, and has added to his original holdings until he now has in all eight hundred acres of land, all enclosed with good fence. He has accumulated a nice property as a result of his industry and thrift, and is one of the representative citizens of his community.

Mr. Weirich was married in 1884 to Miss Clara Hegedorn, daughter of Fred and Mary (Abel) Hegedorn, both born in Germany, emigrating before their marriage, which occurred in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Weirich have one child, Elinora A., wife of John H. Fisher, who owns a ranch on section 22, adjoining Mr. Weirich's on the east. To this couple have been born three children, Daniel, Della and an unnamed baby.

Mr. Weirich has voted the Republican ticket for many years, and is a strong party man, but does not take an active part in politics, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his home and ranch. All are members of the Baptist church.

#### FAY B. JAMES.

Fay B. James, a prosperous agriculturist and ranchman of section 18, township 25, range 31, Cherry county, is a leading citizen of that locality who has improved a fine ranch and met with marked success, incidentally gaining the respect and esteem of his associates by his sterling qualities and integrity of word and deed.

Mr. James was born in Grayson county, Vermont, in 1880, and reared in Texas and

Nebraska on a farm. A sketch of his father, S. L. James, appears in this volume. During his boyhood years our subject, with his parents, moved to Texas, and after spending several years in that state, came to Cherry county, Nebraska, arriving there in March, 1888, when that region was just being started and settlers were coming in slowly. There they went through all the pioneer experiences, helping materially in building up the locality, Fay living at home with his parents until 1901. Then he filed on a homestead in section 18, township 25, range 31, and started a ranch of his own, putting up necessary buildings and improving it as fast as he was able. He had some hardships, but got along in good shape, and is now owner of a ranch consisting of six hundred and forty acres, all fenced, which he uses as a stock ranch principally, although he does some farming.

In 1904 Mr. James was united in marriage to Miss Sallie Holland, of Texas, daughter of Lafayette Holland and Isabella (Parks) Holland, of American descent. Our subject and his estimable wife have two children, Clara and Vera. They have a pleasant home, and have a host of warm friends and good neighbors in their community. A picture is presented on another page showing a ranch scene on Mr. James' property.

#### GEORGE VASEY.

One of the most enthusiastic, intelligent and successful farmers in Harlan county is the gentleman above named, and by his thrift and industry has accumulated a valuable estate, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, on which he has a handsome house fitted up with every modern convenience, including heat, bath with hot and cold water connections, etc. His farm is located in Eldorado township, and the soil is all good river bottom and second bottom land, on which he is able to raise banner crops of all kinds. He is treasurer of the Harlan County Agricultural Association, with the fair grounds at Alma, and is one of the up-to-date, progressive men of his county.

Mr. Vasey is a native of Yorkshire, England, and was raised on his father's farm there, the latter coming to America with his family many years ago, and settling in Nebraska in 1885, where he died in 1893, at the age of seventy. Mr. Vasey farmed in Christian county, Illinois, for several years before locating here, and from there he moved to Gage county, this state, for six years. His experience with the methods and soils of those places have been of great value to him in his agricultural pursuits here, and he considers, taking everything into account, that the Republican Valley is far ahead

of any place he has ever seen. Since coming here he has made a special study of corn culture, and firmly believes in "thoroughbred corn," i. e., that each farmer should select the best possible seed and plant a patch by itself for seed, and in this patch he should pull out all the non-bearing stalks, as otherwise these will fertilize the others and much of the seed will thus be non-productive. It is his nature to study thoroughly whatever subject he has on hand, and in this way he reaches the best possible results in each part of his work.

Mr. Vasey first located in Harlan county in 1893, paying two thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars for his land, and at the present time it is worth more than fifteen thousand dollars, which is good evidence of the advance which has taken place throughout this part of the state in the past few years, due entirely to the efforts of such farmers and business men as our subject. He runs from fifty to one hundred high grade cattle on his farm, and about one hundred to two hundred hogs. He crosses Shorthorn cattle with the Red Polled, the former being his favorite for milk and beef. He feeds his calves flax meal, preparing them for market the first season, and sells them at an average price of fifty dollars per head, thus making a good profit, whereas he figures that keeping them for two or three years and then selling at seventy-five dollars per head is not making as much money. There are fine springs on his place for his stock, and he also has a splendid irrigation ditch in operation. To keep his farm free from grasshoppers he always keeps a number of guinea fowls, and finds this a very effective method of keeping those pests down.

Mr. Vasey was married in 1868 to Miss Margaret Tindell. To them have been born thirteen children. In 1895 Mr. Vasey was elected justice of the peace, and at present is serving as chairman of the Eldorado township board, having been a member of that board for some years. He is also on the school board, and one of the active members of that body.

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#### WILBER DEHAVEN.

The gentleman herein named is prominently known as a citizen of integrity and worth who has given much of his time and financial aid in the upbuilding of his section, and who has always been found standing on the side of right and doing his full share toward meeting and providing for the public welfare. Mr. DeHaven resides in section 13, township 30, range 47, Dawes county, where he has a pleasant home and valuable estate. He also has a homestead over

in Sioux county, Nebraska, where he spends a part of the time.

Mr. DeHaven was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1874. His father, Jehu DeHaven, was a farmer by occupation, and settled in Dawes county in 1885. Both he and his wife, who was Miss Margaret Beazell, were of American stock. They were among the pioneers in this region and raised their family here, going through all of the experiences familiar to the early settlers in western Nebraska. When our subject was two years of age they left Pennsylvania and settled in Marshall county, Iowa, where they farmed up to the time of locating in this county, where they took up a homestead south of Antelope Springs. Here their first building was a log cabin and they lived in this for about nine years, proving up on their land. Later they moved near Hay Springs to give the children the benefit of the better schools, and the mother still resides in that locality, the father having died in 1899.

At the age of nineteen years Mr. DeHaven started out to make his own way, going on a rented farm, on which he lived for some time, then began a home for himself. He took a homestead, and devoted all his time and energy to building it up and improving it, gradually adding to the place, and is now owner of a fine ranch consisting of four hundred and eighty acres, on which he engages in mixed farming and stock raising. His place is well improved, and he is one of the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of the section, highly esteemed by all as an energetic farmer and good business man.

Mr. DeHaven was married in 1895 to Miss Lulu Ferrel, daughter of Elijah Ferrel, an old settler in Sheridan county. The Ferrels were among the pioneers in that vicinity, locating there in 1884, and Mrs. DeHaven was raised and educated there. To Mr. and Mrs. DeHaven the following children have been born: Ida, aged eleven years; Delbert, aged eight years; Francis, aged four years; and an infant two months old.

Mr. DeHaven has served his township in different capacities, having been on the school board for some years, and is active in all local affairs. He is a Republican in political belief.

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#### CAPT. C. H. BARRETT.

The above gentleman is one of the prominent business men of McCook, Nebraska, and well-known as a leading builder, contractor and architect.

Mr. Barrett was born at Syracuse, New York, and is a son of Henry J. and Sarah Cum-

mings Barrett, both natives of New York state. His maternal grandfather was a soldier in the French army and served under Napoleon, and after coming to American shores was an administrator of a large estate near Syracuse, and was also a school teacher in that locality. At the breaking out of the Civil war Mr. Barrett enlisted in the Fourth Michigan regiment on May 16th. At this time the family lived at Tecumseh, Michigan, where they had settled. He served in Company G, as a private, then was promoted to corporal and soon afterwards sergeant. In the spring of 1865 the Fourth Michigan regiment was reorganized and he was commissioned as captain of Company C, which was composed of veterans from the old Fourth Michigan, all of whom had re-enlisted. This was a reward for meritorious conduct in action, and he was cordially congratulated by his superior officers a number of times, and is justly proud of this recognition. He was with the Army of the Potomac at the battle of Bull's Run, first and second, at Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Laurel Hill, and in skirmishes nearly all of the time he served as a soldier. He was also at Spottsylvania Court House, and at the surrender of Lee, and on the latter occasion three hours after negotiations had been completed the tree and rail had all been cut into pieces and carried away as mementoes of this greatest victory in the history of our country. After this he went with his regiment to Texas and mustered out February 26, 1866, under special orders in favor of veterans. In 1898 his son, Henry J. Barrett, enlisted at Washington, D. C., in Captain King's command for the Cuban war. He was in the trenches before Santiago, and re-enlisted in the Second United States Infantry. He died in 1905. Another son, Ed. Bunker Barrett, enlisted in the First Missouri regiment to serve in the Spanish war, and afterwards in the Second United States Cavalry and served in Cuba. He now resides near St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Barrett has two sons now living in Colorado and one in Oregon. One brother, Edwin Barrett, served in the Civil war with the Third Michigan Cavalry, and was killed in action. The men of this family were always among the first to respond to the call of their country for aid, and gladly gave their services wherever needed, all brave soldiers who risked their lives for the honor of their native land.

Mr. Barrett came west locating in Jackson, Missouri, where he served as marshal for two years, and afterwards as deputy sheriff for four years under Hon. Siebert, state auditor for Missouri. He then went to Colorado, settling eight miles from Denver, at the town of Ar-

mada, and after a short residence there he struck out for Nebraska and in 1902 came to McCook, where he has since continuously resided.

He has built up a lucrative trade here and has erected many of the finest residences in the city. He has gained the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen, and is recognized as one of the foremost citizens, always lending his influence to further the commercial and educational interests of the locality in which he chose his home.

Mr. Barrett is a Republican politically, and takes a deep interest in all local affairs. He is senior vice-commander of the Grand Army of the Republic post at McCook.

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#### HAMILTON HALL.

Hamilton Hall has been recognized as one of the foremost citizens of Box Butte county for the past twenty years and more, and through his long residence in this part of the state of Nebraska has helped to make the region what it now is, watching its progress and assisting in its growth by giving liberally of his time and financial aid. Mr. Hall has developed a fine ranch through his hard work, and is now one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Hamilton Hall was born in Montgomery county, Virginia, in 1859. His father, A. C. Hall, was a minister of the gospel in the Methodist Episcopal church and spent many years preaching in the eastern states. He married Miss May Cromer, of Montgomery county, Virginia. In 1864 the family came to Ohio, and there our subject grew up, his parents living at different places in that state during his boyhood years. He received a good education, and at the age of fourteen years started out for himself, following farm work and making his own way in the world from that time on. He finally left Ohio and drifted into Illinois, later spending some time in Oregon and in traveling through the western states.

In 1886 Mr. Hall first came to Box Butte county, locating near Lakeside, several miles east of Alliance. He took up a homestead on which he proved up and lived for four years. His first dwelling was a sod house, and for quite a while he lived alone in this, doing his own cooking, etc. In 1890 he moved into Dawes county, settling on the Niobrara river, east of Marsland, and here he engaged in ranching, starting first at raising cattle, and after a time began in the sheep business. He remained in that region for four years, then returned to Box Butte county and located on his present

ranch, erecting a good set of ranch buildings and improvements, such as barns, corrals, etc., with everything fixed up in first-class shape. His ranch is located in and adjacent to section 23, township 28, range 50, consisting of six full sections of land, all of which is fenced and cross fenced. He has four wells and windmills in operation, and gets a bountiful supply of good water both winter and summer. He has made a great success of his venture, and has gained all his property by hard labor and perseverance, his sole capital, when he landed here being about two dollars in cash, and during the first few years here he was obliged to work out by the day in the country in order to make a living and start his farm.

Mr. Hall was married in Nebraska in 1889 to Miss Elizabeth Grant, daughter of John A. and Jemima (Rockhold) Grant, of Perry county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Jonathan, Mary, Jemima, Ivy and Charles. The family are well known and highly esteemed in their community.

Mr. Hall stands foremost in his locality as one of the oldest settlers, and is an active public-spirited citizen. He is a Republican.

#### GEORGE E. DOUGLAS.

The life of the gentleman named herein furnishes an example worthy of emulation to the rising generation. Through good management, persistent effort, strict integrity and painstaking care in the details of farming, Mr. Douglas has acquired a valuable estate and is known throughout the locality in which he resides as one of the leading old settlers. His home is in section 5, township 24, range 47, Box Butte county, and is one of the hospitable and pleasant places one would wish to visit.

George E. Douglas was born in Washura county, Wisconsin, in 1856. His parents were of American stock, his father born in New York state. He settled on a farm in Wisconsin during the pioneer days of that state, and there our subject was raised and educated, and during his boyhood attended school in the old log school house so familiar to the settlers in the early days. About 1861 the family moved to Minnesota and settled near Mankato and lived there at the time of the Indian massacre which took place in 1862, and they were there through all the excitement of the different encounters with the redskins for several years.

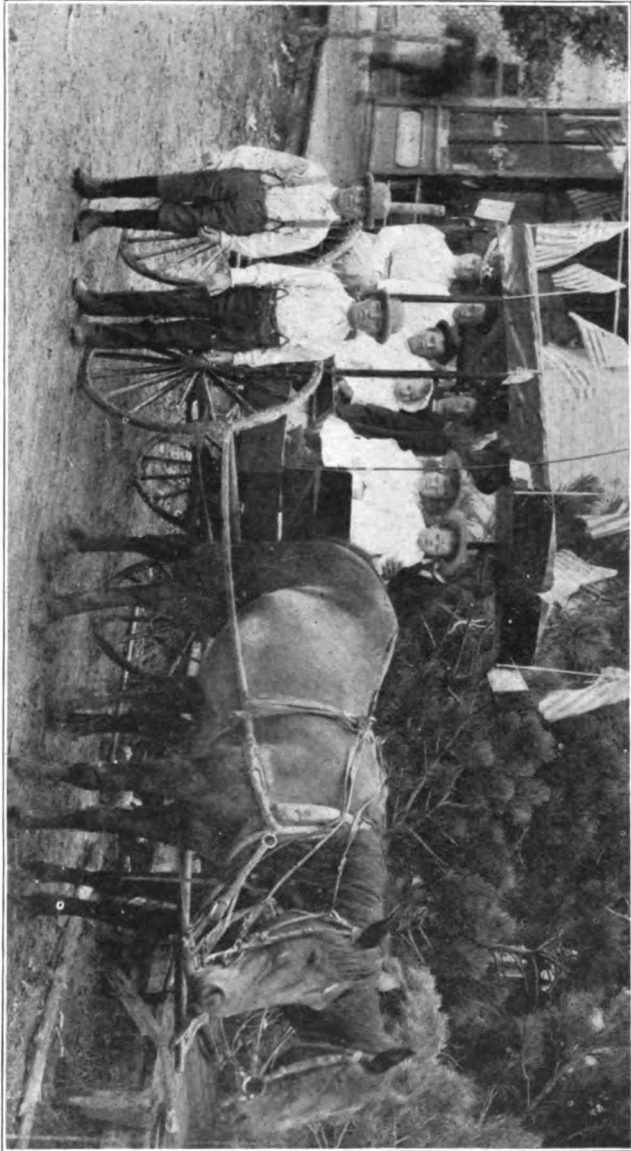
The father entered the service of his country, leaving the mother and her little family to keep the home going, and George, although a mere boy, was a great help to the family. When

he was fourteen years of age his mother died and he was soon afterwards obliged to strike out for himself and make his own way in the world, following farm work in Minnesota, also working on the railroad and as a sailor on the Mississippi river. When he was eighteen he went to Wisconsin and worked for his uncle, who owned and operated a farm and store at St. Cloud. From there he moved to Fort Dodge, Webster county, Iowa, and there farmed for about seven years.

Mr. Douglas first came to Nebraska in 1878, and located on the old Pawnee Indian reservation, now Nance county, remaining there for seven years. In 1885 he arrived in Box Butte county, teaming from the eastern part of the state through the wild country and on the trip ran across many wild deer, antelope, elk, wild horses, etc. His first location has been his home all these years. This is located in section 5, township 24, range 47, and he has built up a good farm and ranch, living for a number of years in a rough shanty and going through many bitter experiences. He was obliged to haul all supplies from Hay Springs, fifty miles distant, and for a number of years did all his teaming and farm work with ox teams. For several years he made a good living and was able to save a little money by selling household goods through the country, also handled all sorts of kitchen utensils, etc., using a large wagon containing his wares. In the earlier days this was a familiar sight to the settlers, and the visits of the "peddler" was eagerly looked for by all.

Mr. Douglas is now proprietor of a ranch of five hundred acres, and one son, George, owns a section of land adjoining the homestead. He also leases other land, and engages in mixed farming and stock raising, dealing exclusively in hogs and cattle. His place is well supplied with good buildings and every improvement for properly operating it as a stock farm. Our subject has always devoted a great deal of his time to the culture of small fruits, and has a fine orchard containing all kinds of trees in good bearing condition. He is an authority on this subject, and in 1907 he had charge of the Burlington exhibit car, which was sent all through eastern Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. Mr. Douglas himself has prepared many exhibits for different affairs, showing the products of his own farm mostly. He will make a long trip this year through the east, with Burlington route farm products exhibit car; crops grown under irrigation and dry farming. He has made several such trips before with wonderful success and to the great good of his country.

In the fall of 1878 our subject was married to Miss Ida R. Merrill, whose father, J. B. Mer-



GEORGE E. DOUGLAS AND FAMILY.





rill, was a well-known ranchman and farmer in the Pawnee Indian reservation. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas have a family of nine children, namely: George A., Augusta (married), Earl, Frank, Clarence, Charlie, Etta, Lizzie and Louis. Mr. Douglas lost his wife November 5, 1906, and has never married again.

Mr. Douglas is prominent in local affairs and takes an active part in county and national politics, always voting the Republican ticket. A picture of George E. Douglas and family is presented on another page of this volume.

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#### CORNELIUS HULSHIZER.

Among the early settlers of Nebraska who have labored for the upbuilding of that region, a prominent place is accorded the gentleman whose name heads this review.

Mr. Hulshizer was born on a farm in Ohio March 15, 1853. Godfrey Hulshizer, his father, a native of Germany, was by trade a miller, coming to this country when a young man, and his mother was Miss Phoebe Young, of English stock. Our subject is the seventh member in a family of eight children, there being also five half-brothers and sisters. The family came to Illinois, settling in Mason county, where he was reared and educated, assisting in the farm work until eighteen years of age, when he went to work for his father, who was at that time operating a mill. He followed this employment for about eight years, and at the end of that time had the trade thoroughly mastered. In 1872 he came west to Nebraska, spending two years in looking over the state and getting familiar with conditions here, and in 1874 located in Seward county, where he remained for nine years. He then came on to Brown county and took a homestead in section 30, township 32, range 20, where he put up a log house and built a shed out of hay in which to shelter his horses. His first years here were hard ones, and during that time he gained a livelihood by getting out timber, cord wood and posts, which were exchanged for provisions in town, these trips occasionally necessitating his being out late into the night. During the dry years all his crops were ruined and he found it hard to get along, but by perseverance and a determined will, he was able to overcome these difficulties, and succeeded to make a fairly comfortable living for his family. In 1896 he began to irrigate his land, and by this means is able to raise good crops. On a patch of six acres of ground one year he raised three hundred and sixty bushels of corn, this averaging sixty bushels to the acre, which is considered a pretty fair yield for that locality. His farm comprises six hundred

and forty acres, of which he has fifty acres under cultivation, and the remainder is hay and grazing land. He has it well stocked and improved.

On March 4, 1877, Mr. Hulshizer was married to Miss Harriet Gordon, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, whose father was one of the pioneer settlers in Seward county, settling there before the city of Lincoln was started. Mr. and Mrs. Hulshizer have three children, namely: Arthur, Roy, and Clarence. Mr. Hulshizer is one of the men who has always taken a deep interest in the educational affairs of the locality in which he resides, helping to build up good schools and using his influence toward the betterment of conditions in his community. He is Republican in politics.

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#### KASPAR WOLF.

Kaspar Wolf, one of the very earliest settlers in Cheyenne county, coming here in 1879, when the region was practically in an entirely undeveloped state, has remained to build up a fine property and become recognized as one of the leading citizens of his locality. He is proprietor of a large and well improved estate, devoted to ranching purposes principally and has made a splendid success in that line. His residence is in Colton precinct, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home, and is one of the well-to-do and worthy citizens.

Mr. Wolf was born in the village of Nieder Elbert, Rheinisch Nassau, September 16, 1864, a son of Peter and Magdalena (Miller) Wolf, the father a miller in Germany. He died in 1875. Kaspar was given a good education and reared there until fifteen years of age, then started out in the world for himself to relieve his mother of his support; taking passage at Antwerp, on the "Rudolph," an emigrant ship, he earned his passage to America as a deck hand. After a passage lasting six or seven weeks he landed in New York and earned his passage thence to Baltimore on a coasting vessel. He came directly west, having enlisted in the United States army and was stationed at Sidney, and later at posts in Washington, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. He became thoroughly familiar with the western country while in the army and made a brilliant record as a soldier, receiving prominent mention for his faithfulness to duty, and was discharged at Sidney, Nebraska, after a service of eight years and nine months. After leaving the service, he engaged in cattle raising and for a time prospected in the Black

Hills and in Colorado but was not fortunate enough to strike a good lead.

Mr. Wolf first homesteaded in 1889, but after starting a farm he abandoned the place and allowed it to go back, and later homesteaded on section 2, township 15, range 48, taking this farm in 1896. He stuck to the place, constantly improved it, erected good buildings, planted trees, and now has a fine estate, consisting, of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, besides controlling four hundred and eighty acres additional. About one hundred acres are in a high state of cultivation on which he raises splendid crops, and he is engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, running one hundred cattle and and a small bunch of horses. The ranch has a complete set of good buildings, corrals, all fenced, and every improvement necessary for the operation of a model ranch and farm.

On September 7, 1892, Mr. Wolf was married to Mary Freichs, at Sidney. She was a native of Adams county, Illinois, and came to Cheyenne county with her father, Herman Freichs, in 1886, they being among the pioneers in that region, and the family are well known to all the old timers. Six children came to bless the union of our subject and his estimable wife, named as follows: Rudolph, Magdalene, Mary, Paul, Katie and Alice, all of whom are living at home, each assisting in a large measure to carry on the home ranch.

Since his residence in this county Mr. Wolf has taken an active interest in every movement for the betterment of conditions, and his name will be remembered through all the coming history of the state of Nebraska as a leading man in the county's affairs. He is a staunch Democrat, uses his influence for the good of the party, and has attended numerous conventions of the party as a delegate. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Sidney.

#### J. BLOOMER HULL.

J. Bloomer Hull, better known as "James B. Hull," was born in Iowa in 1860 on a farm. His father, Henry Hull, was born in Ireland and emigrated to this country when a young man, and his mother was of Scotch descent, born and raised in Illinois. Our subject was the youngest in his father's family and was reared in Iowa, where he became familiar with all kinds of hard farm work. His father died when he was but a lad of twelve years, and he remained with his mother until he reached his twentieth year, when he began work as a brake-

man on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, continuing at this for two years. In 1885 he came to Valentine and took a tree claim northwest of town, and for a time he had a pretty hard time. His first building was a sod house, and he spent his time farming and doing any kind of work he could get. One year later he began freighting, this work taking him among the Indians a great deal, and he stuck to it for about three years, going through many rough experiences, often being compelled to camp out at night. Subsequently he was on the Rosebud reservation for eight or ten years, where he ran a boarding house connected with the Industrial school.

After this he went to work as a bartender and in 1899 started in the saloon business for himself. He still owns the tree claim which he took up on coming to Cherry county, and also a fine house in Valentine.

Mr. Hull was married to Miss Annie Lan-ner, who is of German descent, born and raised in Iowa. In politics Mr. Hull is a Republican, and takes an active interest in all party affairs.

#### WILLIAM BATEMAN.

William Bateman, more familiarly known as "Uncle Billy," an old-timer of Sheridan county, was for years recognized as one of the representative citizens of this locality.

Mr. Bateman was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1832, was raised there and lived with his parents until he was twenty-three years of age. His father, John Bateman, was a stage driver before the railroad was introduced in their vicinity, and he and his wife never left the mother country. In 1885 our subject came to America and located in Wisconsin where he remained for thirty-two years with the exception of one winter which was spent in Idaho. He is a butcher by trade, and followed that occupation at different times in his younger days. In 1864 he crossed the plains and engaged in the stock business, which he has followed almost constantly since coming to America. In 1887 he came to Sheridan county and filed on the homestead which he occupied for many years, moving his family here the following spring. He experienced some pretty hard times during the dry years which struck the locality soon after he settled here, and lost all his crops for several seasons, and his finances got so low that had he paid his debts he would not have had anything left. He worked hard in establishing his farm, and gradually added to it until he became the proprietor of nine hundred and

sixty acres of good land. His ranch was well improved and he built a good house, barns, etc., making a pleasant home and valuable estate, which he gained by dint of his industry, supplemented by the strictest integrity, and he well merited the success and high standing accorded him in his community. In 1907 he sold his farm property and returned to Wisconsin on a visit. He has bought property in Gordon, however, and intends to make that place his home.

Mr. Bateman was married in 1871 to Miss Elizabeth Caunt, who was born in England and came to America with her parents when a young girl. Her father never liked America and was dissatisfied after settling here. Her mother, who was Miss Anna Smith, was born in England, in 1825, and is now living in South Dakota and enjoying the best of health. Mr. and Mrs. Bateman have a family of eight children, namely: Nelson, William, Margaret, Louisa, Matthew, Fred, Elizabeth and Lillian, all of whom, excepting three which died in infancy, grew to young manhood and womanhood.

In 1904 Mr. Bateman returned to England for a visit, and intends to go again soon, as he enjoys revisiting the scenes of his boyhood and living over again the happy days he spent in the mother country. He is one of the oldest men in this part of the state, but is hale and hearty, does not know what sickness is. He is an inveterate reader, never using eye-glasses or any aid for his sight. He keeps abreast of the times, and is one of the best informed men in the community. He is a Republican. He takes an active interest in party affairs, but has never held any office in Nebraska but has served his party in different capacities while living in Wisconsin. He has a host of acquaintances and enjoys the friendship and esteem of everyone who knows him.

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#### FRANK L. RUNDQUIST.

The above named gentleman is one of the old settlers in this part of the state of Nebraska, and has been closely identified in the development and growth of this locality, aiding materially in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home.

Mr. Rundquist was born in Wexeo, Sweden, in 1846, and came to America when he was twenty-one years old. He located in Minnesota, remaining there for some years, and in 1879 came to Phelps county, settling on a timber claim in Sheridan township, section 14. Here he built a sod house and went to work improving the property. He soon after built a

frame dwelling. He planted trees on his farm, and had a grove of eighteen acres, and was very successful in his farming operations, raising grain, and mixed stock. He had a large number of chickens, and about fifty to seventy-five hogs. His wheat crop averaged twenty-two and corn fifty bushels to the acre. He remained on this place up to 1904, then sold his holdings, and purchased the eighty acres where he now lives, situated on section 32, of Sheridan township, Phelps county. This property adjoins the town of Holdrege. He has this farm well improved, and is very comfortably situated. In 1906 Mr. Rundquist visited Sweden, remaining for two months, and went all over the country around Stockholm. He visited the fair at Nochapin.

Railways have made a great change in that country, and many small towns have sprung up all around in the vicinity of his old home. The timber is rapidly being cut down, and everything much changed from the time he lived there. Every man is obliged to serve three years in the army, and the people are very slow in taking up modern improvements, and it is next to impossible to accumulate any great amount of wealth in that country.

Mr. Rundquist was married in 1876 to Miss Sophia Peterson, of Sweden, and they have a family of three children, namely: Anna, Sally and William.

Mr. Rundquist takes a commendable interest in all matters of public interest in his community, was assessor of his township for ten years, and under the new law, acts as deputy, which he has held since 1905. He is also a member of the school board. In political faith, he is an independent voter.

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#### WILLIAM H. KENNEDY.

William H. Kennedy, a well known resident of Cherry county, Nebraska, is a man of enterprising spirit and good citizenship. He was born in Omaha, August 23, 1864, and is a son of Hon. B. E. B. Kennedy, an old settler of Cherry county, and now a prominent attorney, practicing in Omaha, where he settled in 1858. He was one of the first mayors of Omaha, and a member of the state legislature. Our subject's mother was Miss Frances Nims, of an old American family. Mr. Kennedy, the second in a family of three children, grew up in Omaha, attended the city schools, afterwards studied law and was admitted to the bar. For the period of two years he was identified with the Midland Guaranty & Trust Company, and at the expiration of that time

associated himself with the Union Pacific Coal Company for one year.

In the year of 1885, Mr. Kennedy came to Cherry county, Nebraska, and took pre-emption in section 29, township 30, range 30, and proved up. Then he returned to Omaha for a time and assisted his father in the latter's law office until 1893, when he came back to Cherry county, settling near what is now Kennedy postoffice (which office was named after him), on his tree claim on section 31. In 1894 he was married to Miss Nancy E. McAlevy, a school teacher, daughter of Samuel E. McAlevy, who was a ranchman and one of the old settlers of Cherry county. Five children resulted from this union, named as follows: Benjamin, Samuel, Charlotte, Curtis and Elizabeth.

Mr. Kennedy is at present engaged in stock raising and ranching, and is the owner of a six-hundred-and-forty-acre ranch, located in section 31, township 30, range 30, and section 5, township 29, range 30, Cherry county, Nebraska. His brand is known as the "Flying E. Bar" ranch. He is one of the substantial old settlers of this county, and has done his full share in the making of history of this section of the country. He has passed through many hardships and discouragements in reaching the success to which he has attained, and is respected and admired as one of the leading citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska.

Mr. Kennedy is a staunch Democrat, and has held local office at different times. Since November, 1906, he has served as postmaster at the office which bears his name.

#### OCTAVE HARRIS.

Octave Harris, the subject of this personal history, was born in Biddeford, Maine, in 1860, came west during the pioneer days of Nebraska, and is now living in peace and plenty on his handsome and well-appointed farm in section 5, township 28, range 54, Sioux county. He is well entitled to the rich measure of success that has come to him through hard work and thrift, as a result of many years of endeavor and economy, and is now reaping well-deserved reward. Mr. Harris resides in section 5, township 28, range 54, and is one of the well-known and highly respected citizens of his locality.

The father of our subject, John B. Harris, was a farmer all his life, he settling in Colorado in 1878. When Octave was two years of age his mother died. He lived in his native state until he was nine years of age, then came west with a sister, locating in California, re-

maining there for one winter. In 1871 he went to Fort Collins, Colorado, and worked out on ranches as a cowboy, and while yet a young lad rode all over the western country, rounding up cattle along the Powder river, and all the streams in this western county. For five years he lived with and was employed by Andrew McGinley, who is a prominent old settler and well-known ranchman of Sioux county. Octave located in this county in 1880, and for about five years worked as a cowboy, riding on horseback all through the country from Platte City to South Pass, Wyoming, and was familiar with every part of western Nebraska.

In 1885 Mr. Harris located on a ranch of his own, situated on Running Water river, which was, at that time, entirely unimproved prairie, and he had to start at the very beginning to build it up. He first put up a log house and remained on the land up to 1892, then came to his present location, filing on it as a homestead. He is now proprietor of one thousand six hundred acres, also operates a large tract of leased land as a ranch. He has a fine brick house of commodious size, 36x36 feet, two full stories high, with a nine-foot basement, and is one of the handsomest residences in the locality. He is engaged principally in the cattle and horse business, raising many animals each year for the market and breeding purposes.

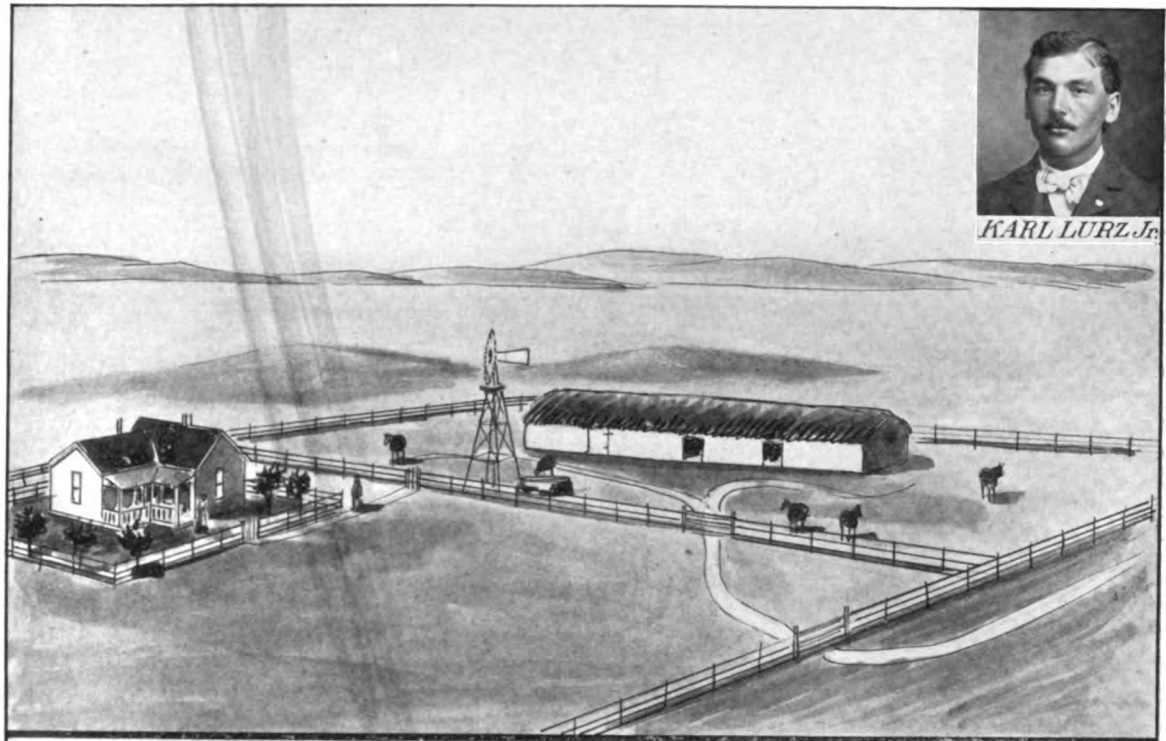
Mr. Harris was married on March 7, 1885, to Caroline N. Abler, whose father, Lewis M. Abler, was a carpenter and wheelwright, and emigrated from France to this country during young manhood. Five children were born to our subject and his good wife, namely: Lewis, James Lester, Fred Abler, Frank and Addie May, all born and raised in this county.

Mr. Harris is a Republican in political belief.

#### KARL LURZ.

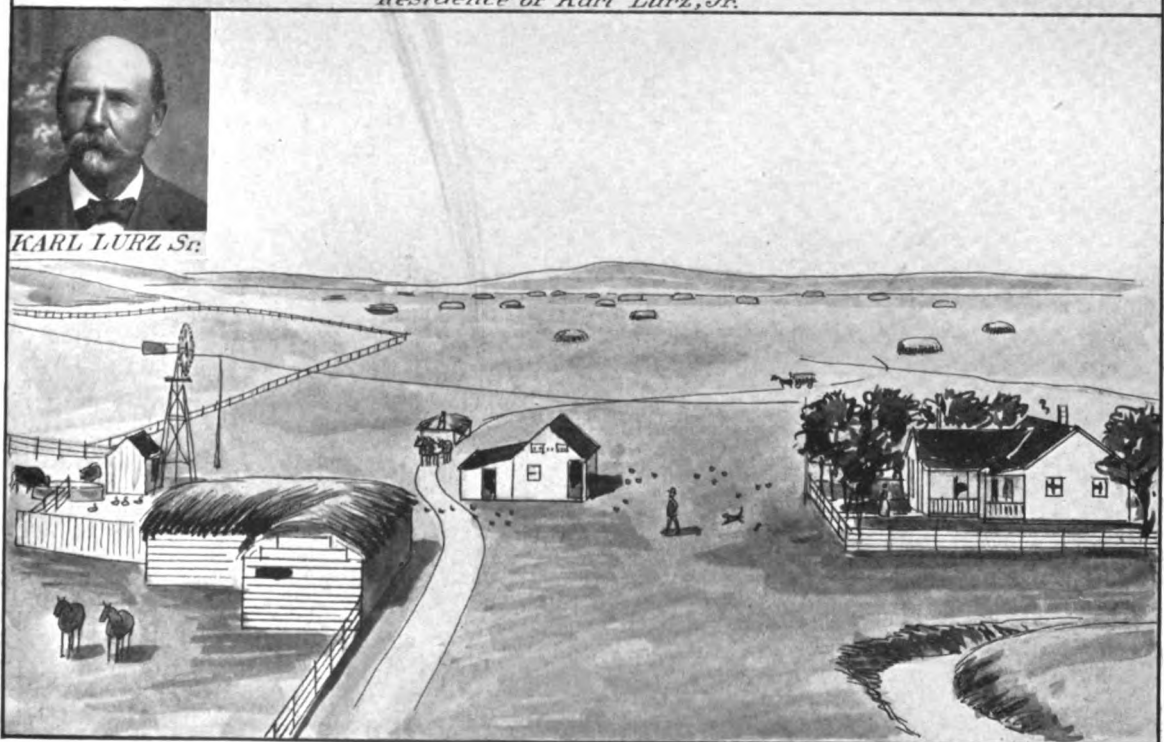
The gentleman whose name heads this personal history, owns a fine estate in Cherry county, Nebraska, located in section 13, township 31, range 26, where he has built up a comfortable and pleasant home.

Mr. Lurz was born in the village of Augsburg, Kingdom of Bavaria, October 28, 1843, and is a son of Gottlieb Lurz, a huntsman by occupation, living in Augsburg, where he raised his family of eight children, of whom our subject is the second member. At the age of twelve he began work, brick making, at which he was engaged for many years. At thirty he was superintendent of a large brickyard and seven years later established a business for himself, which he conducted until emigrating



KARL LURZ, Jr.

*Residence of Karl Lurz, Jr.*



KARL LURZ, Sr.

RESIDENCE OF KARL LURZ, SR.,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.





to America. Sailing from Antwerp on the Red Star liner *Wiessland*, in 1891, he landed in New York after a voyage of twelve days. Settling in Buffalo, he remained for nearly four years, working as a brickmason, while his son followed carpenter work in an ice box factory in that city. May 7, 1894, the family moved to Cherry county, where they took a homestead, the father on section 13 and the son on section 14, both of whom still live on and own these farms. Mr. Lurz has spent considerable money in improving the farm, building fences, barns, etc. The farm consists of one thousand four hundred and forty acres, most of which is hay land. For some time he was engaged in stock raising, but of late he has sold off the stock and has now turned his entire tract into a hay farm, shipping large quantities of baled hay each season.

Mr. Lurz was married in Germany, in 1867, to Miss Eva Schnelle, who died in January, 1884. They had a family of children, namely: Fannie, now Mrs. Oley Brockley, living in Montana; Mary, wife of Karl Hoffstedder, and Karl, Jr., born October 29, 1875. The latter is his father's right-hand man, and the two are associated together in all their dealings. When they came to this section they lived in sod houses for some years, then put up substantial frame houses and have pleasant homes. Karl, Jr., was married July 4, 1904, to Miss Ida Wilke, a native of Nebraska, born in 1888. They have two children, Elsie and Millie. Karl, Jr., is a member of Wood Lake Camp No. 2947, Modern Woodmen of America. Both father and son are staunch Democrats. They are highly esteemed in the locality in which they reside and are prosperous and worthy citizens. Mr. Lurz and his family are members of the Catholic church.

A view of the family residence is shown elsewhere in this work.

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#### WINFIELD S. PHILLIPS.

Winfield S. Phillips, a leading old settler of Dawes county, Nebraska, is the owner of a fine stock and grain farm in township 30, range 52, where he, with his family, enjoy a pleasant and peaceful life, surrounded by a host of warm friends and good neighbors, living on his Kincaid homestead.

Mr. Phillips is a native of Van Buren county, Iowa, born in 1855. His father, Moses Phillips, was of Irish-German extraction, a farmer by occupation, and married Miss Sarah Silvers, of Ohio. Our subject was reared and

educated in Iowa, where he was brought up to do all sorts of hard farm work, and during his boyhood years learned the lesson of responsibility and energy from his sturdy parents, which stood him in such good stead in later life. In 1879 he left Iowa and driving overland settled in the western part of Kansas, locating in Decatur county. The trip was made in a covered wagon and took many weeks, the nights being spent in camping out along the way. The first year he was in Kansas the drouth destroyed his small crops, but after that had better success and he remained there for seven years, when he sold out his holdings for a good sum and returned to Iowa. He spent three or four years there, then decided to go back to Kansas, and in the fall of 1890, left the latter state and came to Nebraska, settling in Dawes county, where he began farming on rented land, which he worked for a couple of years, then bought his present farm in section 18, township 30, range 52, and later took a Kincaid homestead adjoining this farm. He and his wife now own one thousand one hundred and forty acres of good land located on Dead Man's creek, and here he has fine running water for his stock, of which he keeps quite a large number. There is plenty of natural timber on the place, wild fruits, etc., and he raises good crops of small grains, cultivating about seventy acres, while from forty to fifty acres can be irrigated. He has been very successful in his different ventures, and is counted one of the wealthy men of his locality, all gained through his thrift and industry, supplemented by good business judgment and honesty of dealings. When he lived in Kansas he dwelt in a sod house for a time and had to start farming with wild, raw prairie land, utterly unimproved, and succeeded in building up a good home there.

Mr. Phillips was married in 1877 to Miss Malinda Hughes, daughter of Jerry A. and Elizabeth (Wycoff) Hughes, and to them have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, named as follows: John, Hollie, Rollie, Mose, Elsie, Lottie and Winfield. Timothy, second of the children, is deceased.

In political views our subject is a strong Republican.

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#### JOHN W. DANIELS.

John W. Daniels is well entitled to a prominent place among those who have helped to make Cherry county a prosperous section of Nebraska. He has worked hard, faced many privations with a strong and courageous spirit, and managed his affairs wisely and well, so

that, while still in the forties, he is deservedly written in this history as one of the leading citizens of this region. His home is in section 3, township 30, range 29, and here he has built up one of the leading agricultural establishments in Cherry county.

Mr. Daniels was born near Morrison, Whiteside county, Illinois, April 29, 1860, where his parents, David and Mary (Potter) Daniels, had long been established as successful tillers of the soil. Both were American born, the father a native of Massachusetts, the mother of Ohio. John W. was their second in a family of eight children. He was reared on the farm, where he remained until reaching the age of seventeen years, when he left home to determine his destiny for himself. Naturally he followed farming, to which he had been reared, and for which he seemed to have a special fitness. For a time he worked in this line in Iowa, and then went into the southern part of Nebraska, where he rented land for two years on a farm in Adams county. In 1884 he made his first appearance as a settler in Cherry county, and in August of that year located on a pre-emption claim. Here he lived alone for some years, and had for his "bachelor" home a sod house, a most modest and unassuming structure, but equal to his needs in those early days. He did his farm work with oxen, and carried on such grain and corn farming as was customary at that time. His constant effort, however, has been to get away from grain as his main line, and become a stock breeder. This he is doing and on a very large scale. He owns an extensive ranch consisting of twenty-four hundred and eighty acres, well watered by Gordon creek and Watts and Meadow lakes, which border it, and suitable alike for pasture or hay, and here he is developing a very important horse, mule and cattle industry. He has taken advantage of the homestead, pre-emption and tree claims in securing his land, and has a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres.

Mr. Daniels was married May 8, 1889, to Miss Minnie E. Davis, a native of Kane county, Illinois, reared in Bureau county of that state. Her father, William S. Davis, an old settler in Cherry county, is a native of Warren county, New York. After fifteen years' residence in Illinois he migrated to Thayer county, Nebraska, in 1880, and five years later to Cherry county, where he took up a homestead with a tree claim on Schlage creek. Her mother, Margaret Swartout, is of German descent, a native of Dutchess county, New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Daniels two children have been born, Carl A. and Ralph R.

Mr. Daniels has taken an important part in local and county affairs and has repeatedly been elected to high positions by the Republican party. He has attended many conventions and other political gatherings and conferences as delegate and a leading member of the party. In the fall of 1898 he was elected clerk of Cherry county, and served four years in that position, proving in every way a competent and trustworthy official. He affiliates with the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Valentine.

On another page of this volume we present a picture of Mr. Daniels' ranch residence and the family group.

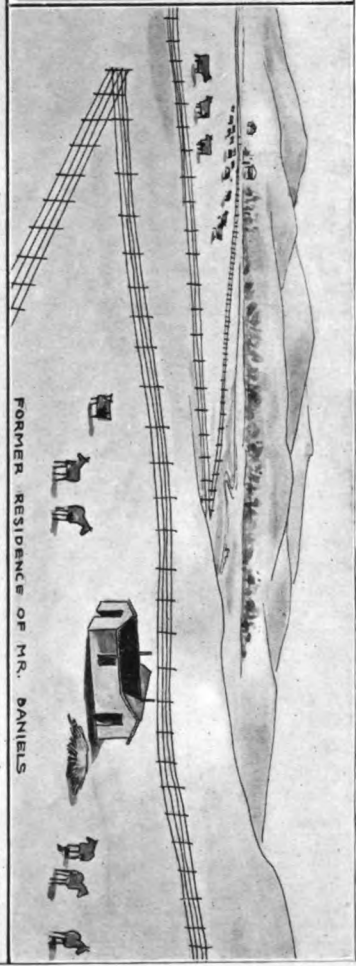
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#### EDWARD G. GREEN.

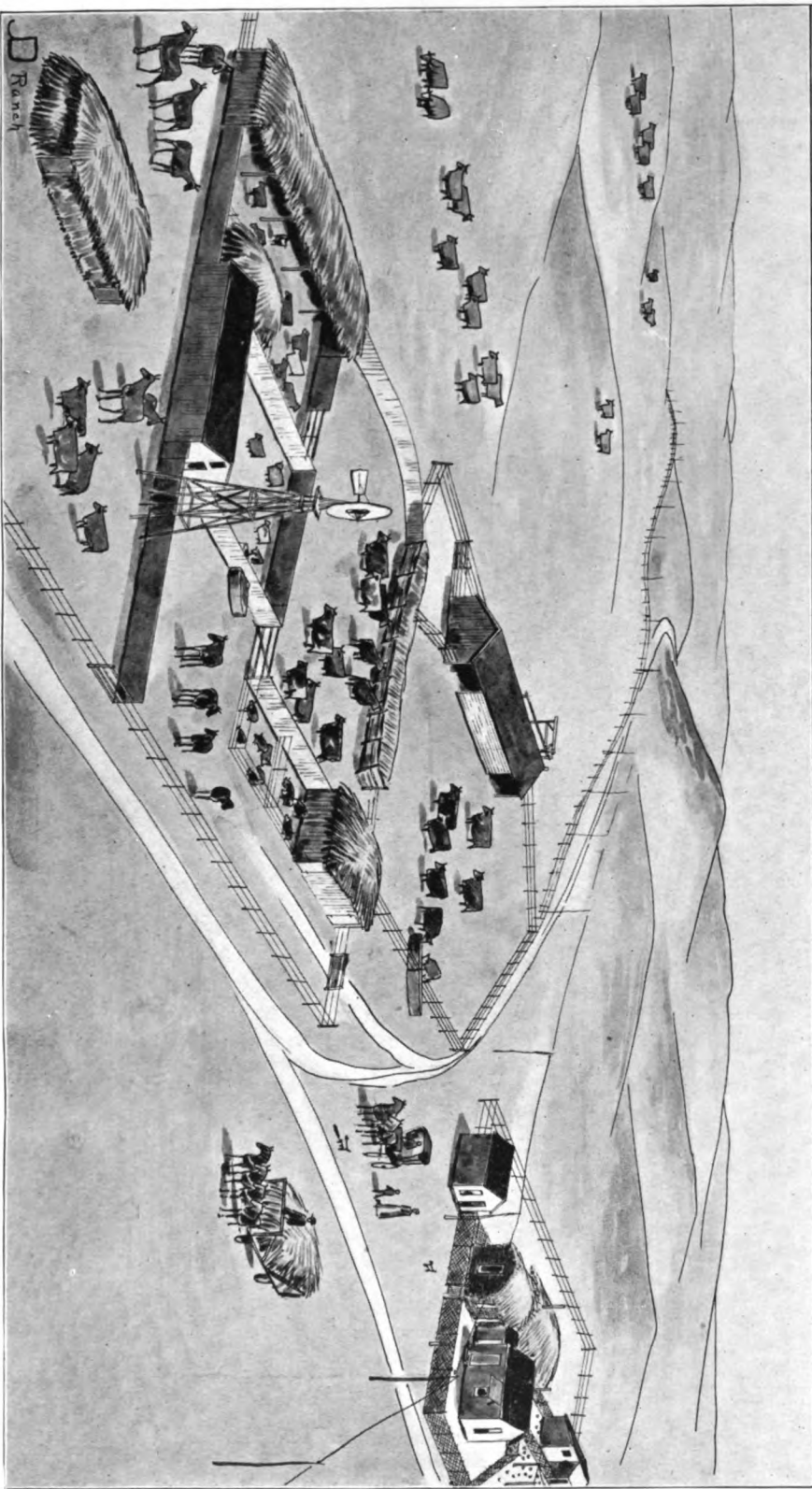
Nebraska has much to be grateful for in the achievements of its hardy pioneer settlers who dared to penetrate into what were then dry and desert regions to make fertile homes and farms with the assurance of better things in store, and an irresistible faith in its future. Heated winds swept its arid prairies and all vegetation seemed to perish, but they saw possibilities, and sod houses and shacks arose and fringes of settlement continually crept to the west, until the state becomes imperial in its agricultural development, with its forests of fruit and timber, and its magnificent herds of horses and cattle. Among those who are honored as the veterans of this great struggle is Edward G. Green, of Kirkwood precinct, Rock county, who is still at the prime of his life with his natural powers still unabated or his manhood unbroken—so new and young is this Nebraska in its making and history.

Mr. Green was born in Monroe county, Arkansas, February 8, 1868, and is the fourth member of a family of seven children born to his parents, George W. and Amelia C. (Duncan) Green, both of whom were descendants of old American stock and lived to the best traditions of their ancestry. In the spring of 1878 the family removed to Watonwan county, Minnesota, and the following year to Rock county, Nebraska, making their journey overland from Minnesota in what was called a "prairie schooner," propelled by oxen, and requiring four weeks for the completion of the trip. The family home was made on section 18, township 32, range 17, and here the varying fortunes of pioneer days were experienced to the full.

When Edward G. Green had reached the age of twenty years he was united in mar-



FORMER RESIDENCE OF MR. DANIELS



RANCH RESIDENCE OF JOHN W. DANIELS,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



riage with Miss Cora White, whose father, Ezra White, was a farmer and miller in Iowa. To this union have come four children—Roy, Blanche, Delpha and Elden. After his marriage Mr. Green pre-empted land in the southern part of Rock county, where he built a sod house which became the home of the new family for some three years. At that time many were attracted by the promise of the new country just being opened up to the world by the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Mr. Green and his wife spent two years in Oregon, but were not entirely satisfied with the country, and returned to Rock county in 1893, and for the ensuing three years were residents of Long Pine or vicinity. Later Mr. Green rented land near the old homestead, which he cultivated for four years, after which he bought his present farm in sections 19 and 20, township 32, range 17, and here we find him at the present time well situated and becoming prosperous to a marked degree. He has remodeled the dwelling house, put up good buildings, and in general greatly improved the place. The evergreen grove filling the front lawn is an especially attractive feature of the place. His farm is one of the choice quarter sections of the county.

Mr. Green is a Republican in his political associations, and takes much interest in local conditions and questions. He has been precinct assessor and is regarded as one of the most reliable and substantial citizens of the day. The family are members of the Kirkwood Methodist church.

#### ZACARIAH C. HARRIS.

Zacariah C. Harris, who lives on section 30, township 21, range 17, has not always been a farmer. For years he was in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company as a fireman and locomotive engineer and is familiar with hundreds of miles of the company's roadbed in Nebraska. Mr. Harris is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and still keeps up his membership, although he does no railroading. He purchased his present model little farm in 1895, but did not move upon it till 1907, since which time he has made it his home.

Mr. Harris is a native of Marine City, Michigan, where he was born in 1863. His father, Orsemus Harris, was a shipbuilder at Marine City, Michigan, born in Vermont, and was of English ancestry. His mother was Miss Lovicy Allen before she was married and was of German descent.

When our subject was a year old the

family moved to Wisconsin and settled in the little city of Waupaca, where they lived until 1877. In this year the family came to Nebraska, driving through in a covered wagon, and, after a trip lasting five weeks, they settled in Greeley county. Here our subject grew to manhood, engaged in farming on the home place and elsewhere. He remembers the old sod shanty, the first home of the family, and also that he farmed over the ground where the city of Greeley Center now stands.

It was in the city of Greeley Center where Mr. Harris was married in 1885 to Miss Ida Henderson, daughter of Nels H. Henderson, a pioneer farmer of Greeley county and formerly a resident of Wisconsin. Her mother was Miss Lena Larson before marriage.

In 1886 our subject went to Valley county, Nebraska, and settled near Burwell on the North Loup river, where he farmed for two years. Then for two years he worked in a lumber yard, and in 1890 he quit that business and went to railroading, first in Burwell and later in Lincoln. He started work as a locomotive fireman and later became an engineer, following the employment for sixteen years. He lived in Lincoln for a number of years up to 1900, and had runs on the railroad both ways from the city. Mr. Harris is a good citizen and possesses the business intelligence and push that always characterize the successful railroad man.

#### C. J. OLDAKER.

C. J. Oldaker, who is one of the old-timers on the table, in Kimball county, Nebraska, resides on his well improved estate in section 8, township 16, range 55, and has become one of the influential citizens of his locality. He is a man of industrious habits and excellent business ability, and well merits his success and enviable reputation as a farmer and citizen.

Mr. Oldaker was born in Johnson county, Iowa, August 10, 1860, and was the second child in a family of ten. He lived in Johnson county until he was twenty-one, then went to western Montana and remained in that vicinity for four years. After that he drifted around to different points, finally returning to his home place. He came to what was then Cheyenne county, now known as Kimball county, in the fall of 1888, took up a homestead of a quarter section, and proved up on the land. Here he has passed through all the pioneer times, gradually adding to his original farm until he is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres, all well improved, and about one

hundred and forty acres under cultivation. He has placed good buildings on the ranch and runs a large bunch of cattle and horses. His place is one of the valuable estates in the section, and he is counted among the prosperous and successful farmers and ranchmen of his region.

Mr. Oldaker's father is dead, while his mother resides in Wellman, Iowa. He also has five brothers and three sisters living, residing in different parts of the country.

Our subject was married to Miss Clara K. Kennedy, a native of Illinois, whose parents now live at Boulder, Colorado. Eight children have been born to our subject and his good wife, as follows: Royal C., April 19, 1889; Elmo M., April 18, 1891 (died August 13, 1891); John Gilbert, May 31, 1892; Bessie Fay, July 2, 1894; Lolo M., July 30, 1896; Clarabel A. L., June 15, 1898; Earl F., June 14, 1902; Clifford L., July 15, 1907. The children live at home with their parents, where they have a pleasant home, and all are popular among the younger residents of their locality. Mr. Oldaker has been connected with the local schools in different capacities for a number of years, and takes a commendable interest in all local affairs. In politics he is independent of party.

#### CLAYTON KELLAM.

Clayton Kellam is one of Franklin's most prominent public-spirited citizens. Mr. Kellam for many years was engaged in farming in Franklin and Gage counties, coming to Nebraska from Macoupin county, Illinois, in 1881, and through exceptionally good management and persistent labors acquired a valuable property here and a comfortable and pleasant home. Mr. Kellam moved to Franklin in 1901, where he takes an active interest in local affairs along the lines of improvement and development of his locality.

Mr. Kellam is a son of David Kellam, a native of Delaware, and Ruth (Peter) Kellam, who settled in Illinois in 1830. Mrs. Kellam last resided at Beatrice, Nebraska, where she died at the age of ninety-one years. She enjoyed good health and an active mind up to the last. She was a daughter of Rev. William Peter, a pioneer preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church of Kentucky. He rode the circuits with Rev. Cartwright and the pioneer band who carried Methodism into the wilds of the west. Rev. Peter was born in Kentucky, grew up there, and in 1830 he came west to Illinois, where he lived for only ten days, then died, leaving a widow with a large family of children.

Mr. Kellam, our subject, grew up in Illinois. After coming to Nebraska he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Midland township, Gage county, and conducted this farm up to 1901, also being interested in the real estate and insurance business with offices at Beatrice, where he had a large patronage and handled many deals in farming lands throughout that locality. He is a capable business man and was one of the foremost men of his section to push the development of the country, and has been an important factor in its growth. Six years ago he purchased the E. B. James farm, located one mile south of Franklin, on the river bottoms, the bluffs of this place overlooking the town. This farm has a good dwelling house and all improvements, and is a nice property. Mr. Kellam sold the place in 1906, as he wished to give up working hard, and is now prepared to spend his years in comfort and quiet, enjoying the fruits of his long years of labor.

Mr. Kellam married Nettie Forwood, daughter of T. B. Forwood, a native of Delaware, whose parents were pioneers in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Kellam have the following children: Alfaretta, married to C. J. Furry, in business in Franklin; D. M., a druggist, and Mildred, at home.

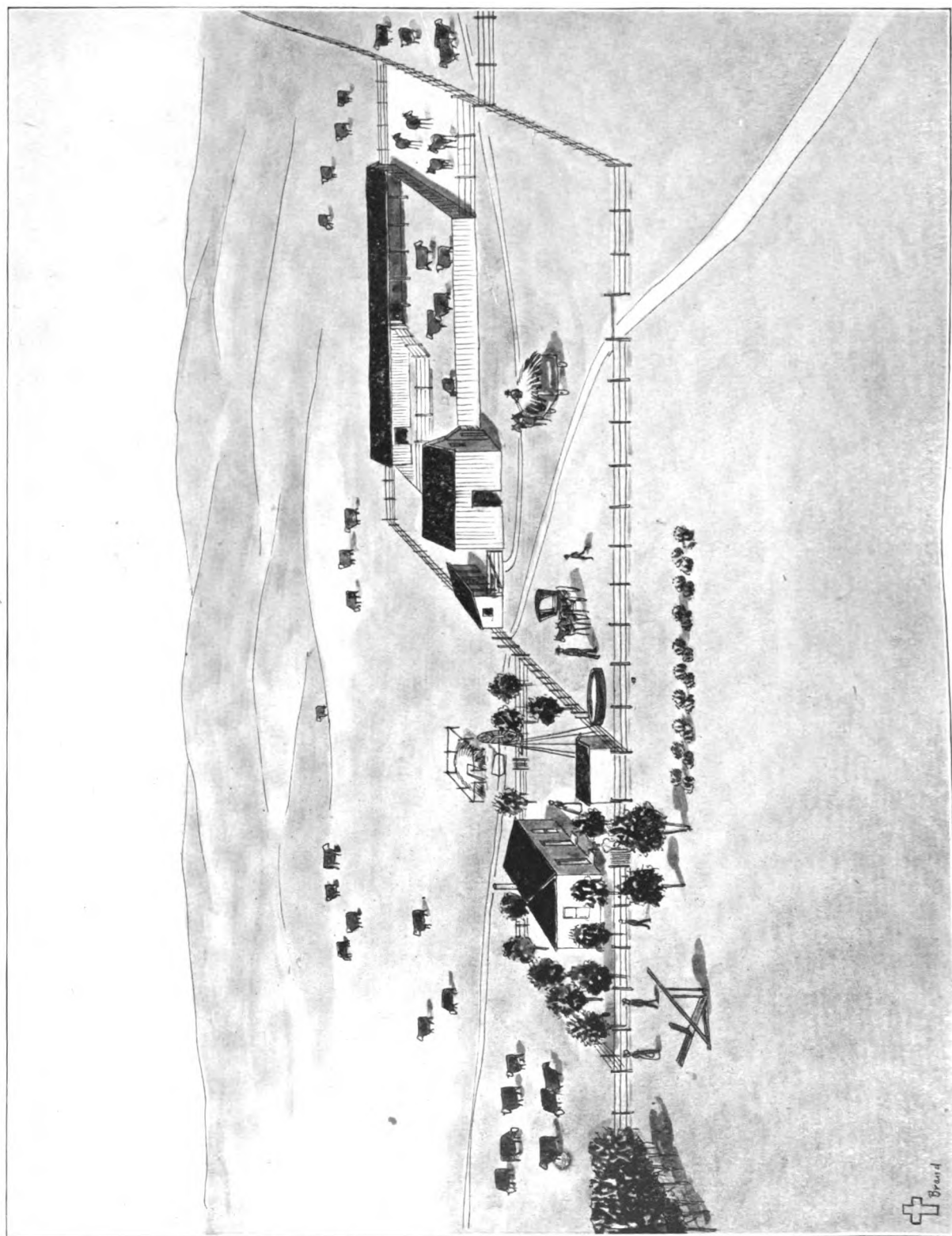
Politically our subject is a Republican, and he has always been an active worker in his party. Mr. Kellam was appointed postmaster at Franklin by President Roosevelt in 1907.

#### JAMES E. PETTYCREW.

James E. Pettycrew, who resides in section 26, township 35, range 28, Cherry county, Nebraska, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on a farm, November 10, 1852. His father, James Pettycrew, and his mother, Miss Magdalena Bash, were both of American stock. Our subject is the third in a family of eleven children and grew up in Marshall county, Iowa, where his parents settled in 1855 on a farm. Here he found plenty of hard work to do during his boyhood years. At the age of seventeen he left his parents' home, first buying one hundred and sixty acres for himself, which later he allowed to revert and then purchased eighty acres in Marshall county, which he farmed several seasons. For five years he resided in Marshalltown, dealing in pumps and windmills. In 1884 he came to Cherry county, arriving here February 1, bringing with him a team of mules and three cows, together with his household goods. Here he located on his present farm, his first dwelling being a mere shell of a house, in which the family lived until a better one could be erected later. His present







RESIDENCE OF DANIEL ADAMSON,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

large, commodious dwelling, with modern improvements, was completed in the fall of 1907. He endured many hardships and privations, witnessing the drouth, during which time his crops were utterly ruined two years, leaving him but scant forage for his cattle and little food for his family. However, he endured to the end, and now owns a farm of sixteen hundred and eighty acres, of which three or four hundred are under cultivation, with the balance devoted to meadow and pasture, seeded with alfalfa and brome grass. His ranch is improved with a fine set of farm buildings, well and windmill, and he also has a twenty-acre grove of splendid trees.

November 1, 1876, Mr. Pettycrew was married to Miss Julia M. Carpenter, whose parents, John Milton and Frances M. (Billings) Carpenter, now deceased, were both old settlers in Cherry county, hailing from the state of New York. Mr. and Mrs. Pettycrew have two children, namely: Edyth, now Mrs. Frank Cowden, of Garnett, Kansas, and Earl, who lives with his parents. When Mr. Pettycrew settled on his present ranch his was the first white family living this far out in the country on what is called "the table."

In political sentiment our subject is a Populist and has served as a delegate to conventions at different times, always taking an active interest in party affairs. He has always maintained that western Nebraska is a great country for the poor man, there being greater opportunities for advancement if one has energy and determination.

#### RUBEN BUCHANAN.

This is a name very familiar to those acquainted with the leading ranchmen of Dawes county as that of a man who has acquired more than a local reputation for his industrious habits and high personal character. He is the owner and operator of one of the largest ranches in this part of the state, his residence being located in section 6, township 32, range 49.

Mr. Buchanan was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, in 1856, a son of Ruben M. and Christina (White) Buchanan. His father was born in Kentucky, our subject believes, while his mother was a native of Ohio. When our subject was sixteen years of age his father died, after which he left his native state and went west into Missouri, settling in Gentry county, which place he made his home until 1885. In the spring of the year 1885 he came to western Nebraska, where he drove a team out of Valentine, filed and proved up the

claim which is his present home. Only one who has had the experience of the early settler in this western country can well understand the hardships with which they had to contend in those early days. Many a time our subject walked to Chadron, from which place he pushed his supplies to the dugout which was the first home he knew in Nebraska. His first team was a yoke of oxen, broken in by himself. Too much credit cannot be given for the success which he has attained, and by his good management and unremitting labor he has made his ranch one of the finest in Dawes county. He was not discouraged by the droughts of this western land, which he successfully withstood, but met all reverses in a business-like manner.

Mr. Buchanan now is the proprietor of a well appointed ranch of twenty-two hundred and sixty acres, located on Deadhorse creek, fifty to one hundred acres of which are under cultivation. He has a large amount of stock, making a specialty of horses and cattle.

In politics Mr. Buchanan holds to Republican principles. He has always been quite prominently identified in local affairs, having held various school offices for years.

In 1905 Mr. Buchanan and Miss Ollie Brodick were united in marriage. Mrs. Buchanan's parents are both deceased. One child, Christina Lorene, born July 24, 1906, has come to bless this union.

The name of Mr. Buchanan will surely be found on any list of the prominent old settlers of Dawes county. He has always been the first to lend a helping hand to one in need, and the many warm friends who have had the pleasure of his hospitality will be glad to read of his successful and honorable career.

#### DANIEL ADAMSON.

Daniel Adamson is one of the prominent citizens of Cherry county, Nebraska. He was precinct assessor, elected by acclamation, and takes an active part in all precinct affairs. Mr. Adamson himself got up and circulated the petition for the installation of the Cody-Rolp mail route, which gives him a mail box within two and a half miles from his home.

Mr. Adamson was born in County Sligo, Ireland, September 17, 1867. His father was Walter S. Adamson, born and reared in Scotland, and was one of the leading stockmen of the section in which he resided. His mother was Miss Mary J. Higgins, who came of good old Irish stock. They had seven children, of whom Daniel was the fifth. When he was but seven or eight years old both parents died,

and at the age of fourteen years he started out in the world to make his own fortune. He took passage for America from Liverpool in the City of Chester, of the Inman line, and landed in New York city the day on which President Garfield died. In 1881 he came west to Marathon county, Wisconsin, and there lived with an uncle until he was sixteen, when he wandered on to Jones county, Iowa. Here he remained for one year, then came to Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1884, and started as a cowboy, working on the T. O. ranch for W. E. Waite and later for the Enlow Cattle Company. Subsequently he worked on cattle ranches in Wyoming during the years of 1884, 1885 and 1886, then went to Wyoming in 1887, working there for seven years for different ranchmen. In 1890 he came back to Cherry county, took up a homestead, and from this time on made it his home, though for three years worked during the summer seasons on Wyoming ranches to maintain himself. This homestead is located on section 24, township 30, range 34, and consists of nine hundred acres of fenced land, with good house, barns, windmills and many other improvements, besides three hundred and eighty acres on the Niobrara river adjoining the Niobrara forest reserve.

Mr. Adamson has experienced many pioneer hardships. One peculiar incident of the winter of 1884 and 1885 is worthy of mention. With a comrade he had a camp in the center of a hay stack. This was gradually eaten into by cattle, and one morning a steer got on top of the stack and fell through, necessitating their finding another camping ground. He and his companions made a camp in another stack, which in the course of a few days caught fire and burned up. Then they were driven to make a dugout, in which they lived for a time.

On January 1, 1904, our subject was married to Miss Adda E. Ainslie, a native of Canada. Her father, James Ainslie, was a farmer and an old settler of Cherry county, Nebraska, who married Miss Catherine Wigle. Mr. and Mrs. Adamson have a family of three boys, as follows: Walter A., Arthur D. and George I., all born in Cherry county.

In the fall of 1903, just previous to Mr. Adamson's marriage, his range was burned off by prairie fires, and it was a desolate home to which he brought his bride. However, he went to work with all the energy and courage born of a hardened ranchman, and built up a comfortable home, and is now one of the successful men of the county. Mr. Adamson began with only ordinary range cattle, and has

bred them up until now he has one of the finest bunches of Hereford cattle in the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Adamson has many personal friends and is universally esteemed and respected. He has always voted the Democratic ticket. The family holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

Attention is called to a view of the residence and surroundings shown on another page of this work.

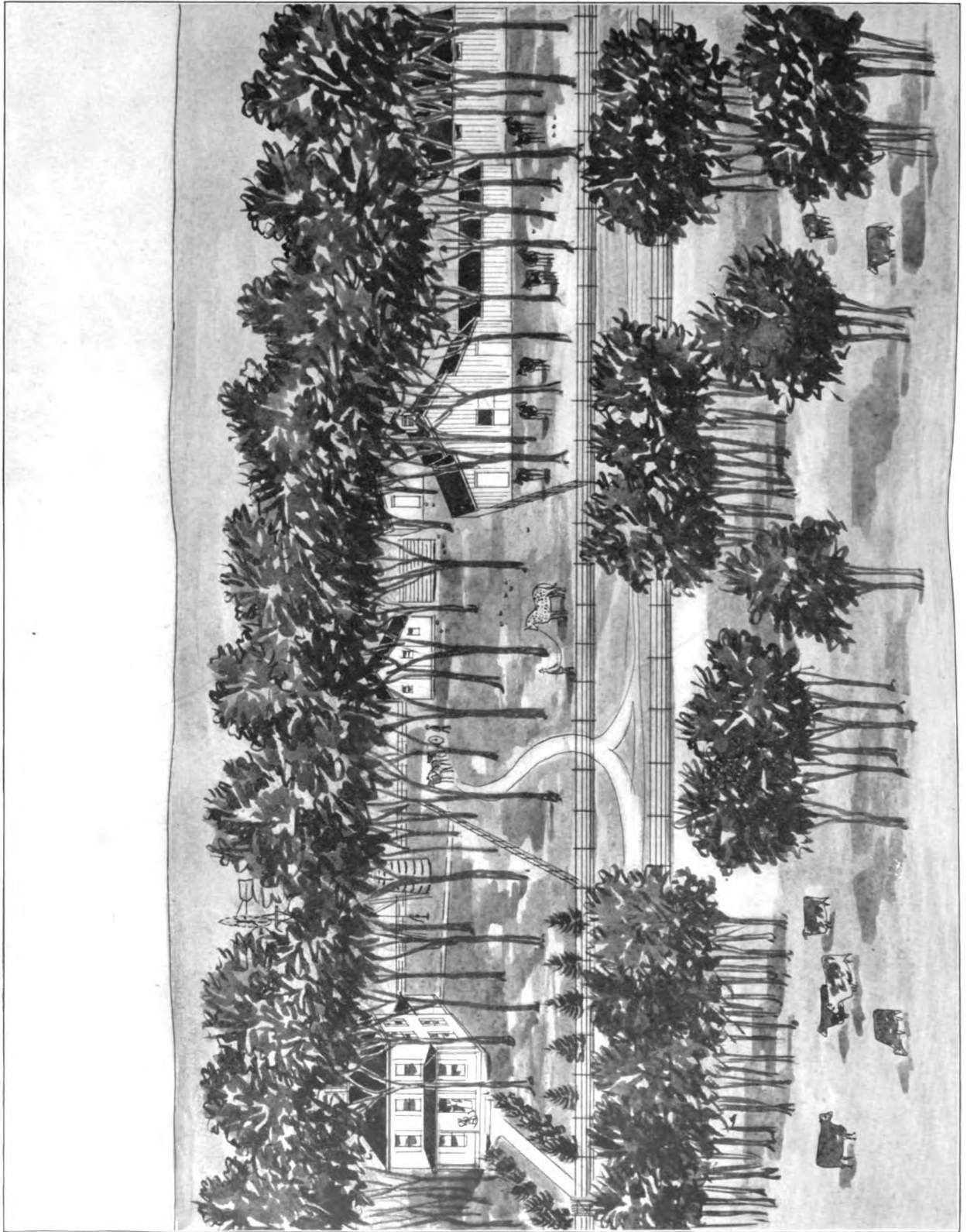
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#### A. S. ERICKSON.

A. S. Erickson, a prominent resident of Funk, Divide township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is one of the foremost business men in his community. He has large interests in various business enterprises here, and the success which attends him in every venture is sufficient evidence of his ability and good judgment.

Mr. Erickson is a native of Sweden. His father, Andrew Erickson, came west in 1882 and purchased six hundred and forty acres of railway land, paying two dollars and fifty cents per acre for it, and later bought four hundred and eighty acres, making in all eleven hundred and twenty acres of land. He was very active in bringing settlers into Phelps county, and aided materially in the development of the commercial and farming interests of this locality. He farmed his lands here up to 1894, then removed to Idaho Falls, where he now owns three hundred and twenty acres of land so centrally located that it is worth one hundred dollars per acre. While a resident of this county he served on the county board for some time, and was recognized as a successful business man and active citizen. Our subject began business in Funk in February, 1897, being appointed postmaster in May of the following year. He established a hardware, lumber and agricultural implement business, and this has developed very rapidly and has grown into a most profitable business for the owner. The town of Funk is a very progressive place, and does more business than any other place of its size situated on the Burlington railway. For the year ending June, 1905, the freight receipts at Funk reached the sum of sixty thousand dollars, and of this amount over twenty thousand dollars was paid by Mr. Erickson. Previous to 1903 he had farmed extensively in this locality, and was engaged in raising and feeding stock, but in that year he sold his three hundred and





RESIDENCE OF W. H. HARVEY,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

twenty acres of land and since then has given his exclusive attention to his present business, which has increased twenty-five per cent. each year for the past four years, which proves conclusively the great prosperity and rapid growth of this section of the state.

Mr. Erickson has four brothers, as follows: J. E. Erickson, superintendent of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy stock yards at Montgomery, Illinois; C. L. Erickson, extensively engaged in the sheep business in Idaho, and who has recently started a bank at Newcastle, Wyoming; F. Erickson, a farmer of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Henry Erickson, treasurer of Phelps county, whose sketch appears in this book.

Mr. Erickson was married in Holdrege in June, 1891, to Miss Risberg. They have a family of two children, Harold and Svea.

Mr. Erickson is a man of active public spirit, and takes a commendable interest in all local and state affairs. He is an independent voter, and from 1890 to 1894 held the office of clerk of Phelps county. He was also clerk of Center township for a number of years. He has built up a comfortable home in Funk, and enjoys the respect and esteem of his associates.

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#### LEONARD DOUT.

For many years past the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been a leading citizen of his community. He opened up a farm from wild prairie land, was intimately associated with the development of the region where he chose his home, and by his untiring perseverance and integrity gained an enviable reputation. His estates lie in section 8, township 33, range 56, Sioux county, Nebraska, and every corner of his ranch bears evidence of painstaking care and good management in its operation.

Leonard Dout was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in 1861. His parents were both born in Germany and came to America when young, settling in Pennsylvania, where they followed farming for many years. Leonard grew up there and worked in Philadelphia as hat finisher when a boy of fourteen years of age, two years later coming west and locating at Decatur, Illinois, where he remained for one year. He then went to Waterloo, Iowa, landing there in 1878, spending about three years in that vicinity, and there cast his first vote. He next went to North Dakota, locating in the Red river valley, and settled near Erie, North Dakota, close to Fargo, and was there for about two years. His next move was to Fremont, Nebraska, where he spent one win-

ter, and in the spring of 1886 came to Sioux county. Chadron was the nearest railroad-point to his location, and he came by team from that place, stopping at Crawford and looked carefully over the country around Harrison, and finally picked out a location on War Bonnet creek, using his covered wagon as a house, and camping out in the open many nights before settling. He took a pre-emption, built a log cabin and "batched it" for about a year, then went to work to improve his place and proved up and worked the farm for about nine years, building up a good ranch. He also filed on a homestead and proved up, making a good success of his ranching ventures. He built ditches and put in an irrigating system, farming forty acres. Wild game was plentiful while he was in that locality, and he shot many deer and other animals. In 1895 he sold out that place and purchased his present ranch, consisting of twelve hundred acres, which was slightly improved when he took it, and he has improved it in good shape, building a reservoir and ditches, having quite a large tract under irrigation. His buildings are all on sections 7 and 8, in township 33, range 56, the ranch being situated on Jim creek. There is considerable timber also on the place, a fine water supply and everything to make it an ideal situation for ranching purposes.

Mr. Dout was married in 1896 to Miss Myrtle M. Zimmerman, daughter of William H. Zimmerman, who was an early settler in Sioux county, locating here in 1886, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Dout was born in Pennsylvania, the family moving to Nebraska when she was a small girl, where she was reared and educated. Two children have been born to their union—Irva L., born in 1898, and Clarence H., born in 1902.

While Mr. Dout takes a commendable interest in local affairs, he has never sought public preferment, devoting all his time to his home and ranch. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

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#### WILLIAM H. HARVEY.

As an old settler of Keya Paha county, an agriculturist of untiring energy and perseverance and a worthy citizen, the gentleman herein named needs no introduction to the people of his locality. He has spent over twenty years of his life in their midst and has gained a host of staunch friends and incidentally gained a comfortable home and placed himself and family in position to enjoy the declining years of his life in peace and quiet. He is a resident of Simpson precinct.

Mr. Harvey was born in Fulton county, Illinois, March 14, 1840, the eldest in a family of eight children. He was reared and educated on a farm, where he was brought up to do all kinds of hard labor. His father, Samuel D. Harvey, of Pennsylvania Dutch blood, settled at Altoona, Knox county, Illinois, in 1847. During the Civil war he served with honor in the Waterhouse Battery. When our subject was twenty-one years of age he enlisted in Company D, Seventeenth Illinois Infantry, and served three years and thirty days, during that time taking part in four big battles and many skirmishes.

After the war he returned to Illinois and began farming in Knox county, which he later abandoned for a position on the Burlington road, rising during the ten years' service to conductorship of a freight run between Galesburg and Aurora. In the year 1882 he moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where he spent the first winter putting the trucks under narrow gauge cars on a branch line of the Wabash. For the following four years he followed farming in that locality. In 1886 he came to Keya Paha county, locating seven miles northeast of Carns, on section 29, township 33, range 18, and still owns this place, but is now living on another tract of his land. He improved his homestead, built a sod house in which they lived for fourteen years; in fact, the family "wore out" three sod houses before they finally erected a frame residence. During the early years he went through many hard times, losing three crops in succession through drouths, but was fortunate in not losing much stock through cattle rustlers, as did so many of the pioneers of this region. Many times the family were unable to buy shoes, wrapping their feet in rags as substitutes for regulation footwear. He became discouraged at so much hard luck and often felt like leaving the place, but stuck to it, and won success, as he now owns two thousand acres of land, while each of his three sons acquired six hundred acres. He runs three hundred head of cattle and forty hogs, all registered stock, and also forty horses and mules for use on the farm, as he cultivates about a hundred acres each year. His home place is one of the best improved in this county, and he is counted one of the most successful men throughout the region, as he had only fourteen dollars in money when he first crossed the Niobrara at Carns, and now is as well off as any one in the locality. He gives his sons credit for part of his success, as during the hard times they worked at whatever they could get to do to support themselves and assist in taking care of the family. Dur-

ing the first years he was obliged to sell his pre-emption for the mortgage and ten dollars, but from that time has steadily advanced and improved his place. In 1908 Mr. Harvey leased his ranch to the two eldest sons that he and his wife might retire and take life easy during their declining years.

Mr. Harvey was married December 20, 1866, to Miss Mary B. Scott, born in New York state, her parents, James and Eliza (Ronk) Scott, being early settlers in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey have three sons—George D., Arthur P. and Claude L., the last named being the Chicago & Northwestern agent at Merri-man, while the first two are still living at home.

Mr. Harvey richly deserves the success he has won, as he has been a potent factor in the upbuilding of the region where he chose his home, and has always maintained the strictest integrity in all his dealings with the residents of this county and vicinity. He is a Republican, but does not take an active part in politics, never having had the time to devote to public affairs. A view of his fine country residence, with its barns and outbuildings, is presented to the reader on another page.

#### FRANK LESSIG.

Frank Lessig, whose well tilled farm in Brown county is carefully operated and yields a good annual income, is a gentleman of thorough business methods and progressive spirit. He has spared no pains in bringing this tract of land to a high state of cultivation, and well merits the success which has attended his efforts.

Mr. Lessig was born in Fannettsburg, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1869. His father is a carpenter by trade and one of the pioneer settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, and a sketch of this gentleman will be found on another page in this volume. Our subject is the eldest in a family of four living children, and was raised in Pennsylvania, there receiving a common school education. At the age of sixteen years he left home and started for the western states, traveling through Colorado, Kansas and southern Nebraska, visiting Omaha and other points of interest in this territory. After an extended trip he returned home and remained with his parents until he was twenty-four years old, assisting his father in establishing his farm, then began farming for himself, taking a homestead in section 3, township 31, range 21, on May 29, 1894. He put up a sod house here, in which he lived for



ten years, going through many hardships during the dry years, when he suffered severe losses through the destruction of his crops, and this nearly compelled him to throw up his farm. However, he then started in the cattle business, and this proving successful he was enabled to pull through the hard times. In the fall of 1905 he erected a comfortable two-story house of commodious size and has barns, corn cribs, two granaries and a blacksmith shop which make him the possessor of a fine a set of buildings as can be found in this county. Mr. Lessig is engaged principally in stock raising and mixed farming, and of late years has been very successful in both lines.

On November 22, 1893, Mr. Lessig was married to Miss Lillian Galligan, a native of the state of Michigan, reared and educated in Brown county, Nebraska, where her father is an old settler, having located here in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Lessig have two children, named James and Orva. They have a pleasant home and comfortable surroundings, and enjoy a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Lessig takes an active part in local political affairs, and has held different offices in his county. In the fall of 1905 he was elected county commissioner, now serving in that capacity. In political faith he is a Republican. Mr. Lessig and family are members of the Methodist church, and Mr. Lessig is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Ainsworth.

#### HARRY D. LUTE.

Harry D. Lute, one of the most prominent ranchmen and well known old settlers of western Nebraska, resides in Paxton precinct, Keith county, where he has been associated with the farming interests for nearly a quarter of a century, going through pioneer experiences with his parents and becoming one of the potent factors in the development and growth of the natural resources of that section.

Mr. Lute was born in Holstein, Germany, January 8, 1870. His father, John Lute, had come to America a few months before our subject was born and when he was an infant the mother followed her husband to the new world, where they together started to build up a home. They made their first settlement in Omaha, but after remaining there for about six months came to Lincoln county, and the father followed railroading, and for ten years was section foreman with headquarters at Nichols. In 1873 they moved to Julesburg, living there for five years, then went to Brule,

Nebraska, all of the time working as section foreman, until January, 1882. Mr. Lute purchased land near Ogallala, gradually worked into the cattle business, and made that his home, increasing his herd as he became able, and finally gave his entire attention to the business. In 1886 the family moved to the North Platte valley, locating near Paxton, where the father built up an extensive ranch, also devoting considerable time to farming. He was the first man to hay feed cattle in the winter in his section of the country. He was also instrumental in getting the first irrigating system into operation in that part, and was one of the foremost men of his time, always using every endeavor to aid his locality in bettering conditions. He died in August, 1901, and his death was a severe loss to the community. While living in Brule he served as county commissioner and in 1898 was again elected to the office.

After his father's death our subject took the management of the home ranch and has continued it ever since. The place consists of nine thousand acres, lying along the North Platte river on both sides, and is one of the most valuable properties in that part of Nebraska. It is devoted almost exclusively to ranching purposes, Mr. Lute having a herd of eight hundred to a thousand cattle. There are all kinds of excellent improvements, good buildings, plenty of trees and everything to make it a model ranch. John Lute was one of the first men to begin the raising of alfalfa and his success demonstrated the fitness of the soil for this product. About two hundred and fifty acres of the ranch are under irrigation, while twelve hundred acres may be placed under ditch. In 1908 the large ranch was divided into a number of farms and the mother built an elegant modern residence on her son's place.

Mr. Lute was married in 1904 to Miss Lulu Woods, daughter of Mathew Woods, an early settler in Chase county, and a veteran of the Civil war. Her mother was Agnes Hanna before marriage.

Mr. Lute is a graduate of the State Agricultural College, class of 1904. He is county crop reporter for the United States agricultural department and regular correspondent for the Nebraska Farmer, the Twentieth Century Farmer, the Iowa Homestead and other agricultural journals. In addition to the old home ranch Mr. Lute owns fifteen hundred acres along the North Platte with one hundred acres under ditch and fourteen hundred acres of it irrigable. His large barn, destroyed in May, 1908, by a cyclone, was immediately replaced by a much finer one, constructed of concrete

blocks, one of the best built and equipped barns in the region.

Mr. Lute is a Republican in politics and a member of the Episcopal church.

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#### A. L. DAVIS.

A. L. Davis, widely known throughout this part of the country as a prosperous farmer and stock raiser, has been a resident of that locality for many years, and has aided materially in its development and growth. His home is in township 33, range 42.

Mr. Davis was born in Ohio in 1861. His father, Andrew Davis, was a native of Ohio, of American stock, and served in the Twenty-third Regiment during the Civil war. The family moved to Indiana when our subject was a small lad, and there he was reared and educated. He was the seventh member in a family of eight children, and struck out for himself at the age of thirteen, working around on different farms in the vicinity of his home, and in following this occupation he received many hard knocks and rather rough treatment which sometimes falls to the lot of young men in his position. In December, 1884, he came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, and settled on the place he now occupies. He immediately began farming, but had practically nothing to start with. However, he had a pair of strong hands and a willing heart, and with his sole possessions—a trunk containing his clothes and sixteen cents in money in his pocket—he went to work. At first he met with many discouragements, and during the dry years lost all his crops, as so many others did. At that time land in that locality could be bought for one hundred and fifty dollars per quarter section. He stuck to his homestead through all the hard times, and since then the rise in value of the land here has placed him in good shape financially and he has gradually added to his property until he now owns nineteen hundred and twenty acres of good tillable land. He engages in both farming and stock raising on a large scale, cultivating about three hundred acres, and the balance is used for hay and grazing for the large bunch of stock which he usually keeps on hand. His place is improved with a fine set of farm buildings, and all the machinery necessary to operate a large farm in good shape. He is proud of his success and is perfectly satisfied with the locality in which he chose his home.

Mr. Davis was married in 1889 to Miss Mina Coon, who was born in Wisconsin in 1872. Her father, Abraham Coon, was a native of Ohio, and her mother, Cornelia Cur-

tis, was born in Illinois of American stock. She was the youngest member in a family of thirteen children.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are the parents of ten children, who are named as follows: Andrew H., Claude C., Cora B., Lillian M., Mary G., Pearl E., Howard L., Glen, Elmer and Leo, all of whom were born and raised on the homestead which they now occupy.

Mr. Davis has a pleasant home and interesting family and devotes his entire time and attention to the building up of his farm. He is a Populist, takes an active interest in local affairs, and has served his township in different capacities at various times.

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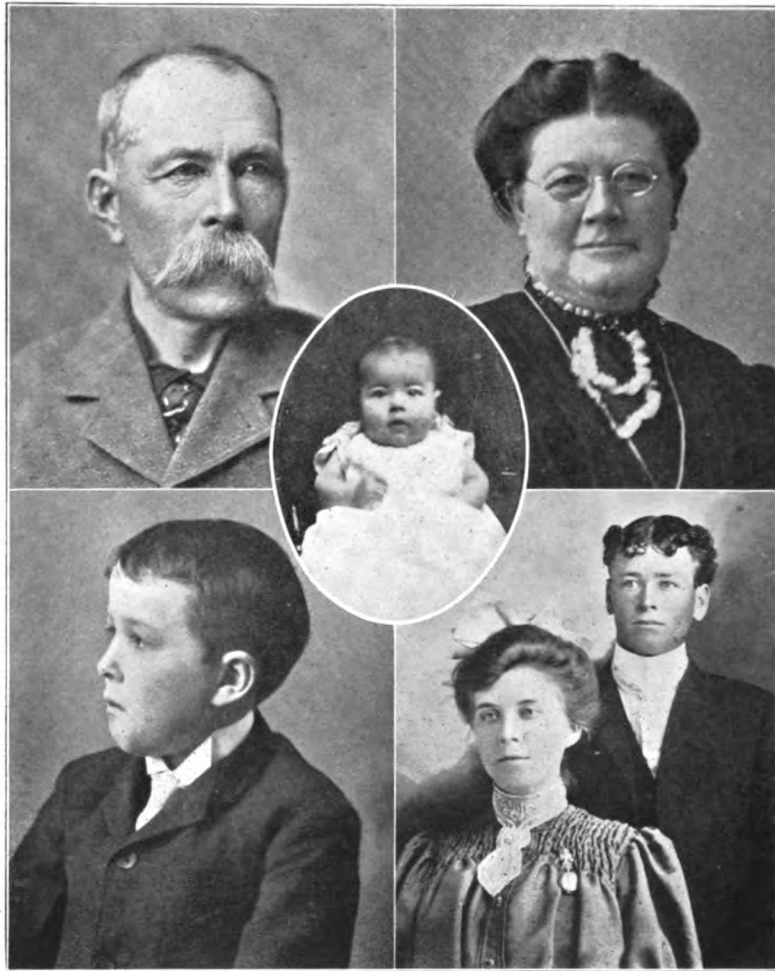
#### OLAUS BOGSETH.

Olaus Bogseth, one of the early settlers and now prosperous farmers of Wheeler county, Nebraska, lives on his well tilled farm of four hundred and forty acres situated in Clear creek township and vicinity, where he has spent the past twenty years of his career, principally in Wheeler county, Nebraska.

Mr. Bogseth was born in Norway in 1857 and grew up there, coming to America in 1888 when thirty years of age. He is a son of Andrew and Anna (Holderson) Bogseth, both of whom died in their native land, his father in 1893 and his mother in 1895. Our subject was a very poor man when he first came to this part of the state, and was obliged to work out by the day in order to obtain the money necessary for filing on a government claim. He first bought one hundred and sixty acres and later took up a homestead and pre-emption, and proved up on it. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres of good farm lands in the county. He rapidly developed a good farm, built up a comfortable home, has fine and substantial buildings, and is now comfortably well off. He cultivates a goodly portion of the land, growing small grains, potatoes, etc., also raises some stock for market each year. He is particularly interested in the breeding and raising of good horses, and has quite a large number of fine animals on his place.

In 1884 Mr. Bogseth was united in the bonds of wedlock to Christine Warner, she born and reared in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Bogseth are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Alfrida (deceased), Axel, Carrie, Olive, Hilma and Lola, which form an intelligent group. Parents and children are devoted members of the English Lutheran church of Ericson, and are highly respected members of society in the community in which they reside.





EDWARD CRIGLER AND FAMILY.

Politically Mr. Bogseth is an independent voter, always for the best man and good government. He has served for years as township assessor, and filled this office with good ability and honesty.

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#### EDWARD CRIGLER.

Edward Crigler, who is a resident of township 30, range 49, and who has demonstrated his own ability as a farmer and his standing as a man and citizen, was born on a farm in Gallia county, Ohio, in 1843. He is a son of Ruben Crigler, who was a farmer and a native of Virginia. His mother, Annie (Fortner) Crigler, was also born in Virginia.

When our subject was ten years of age the family moved to Illinois, where they settled on a farm in Knox county, and were among the pioneers of that state. When the Civil war broke out, realizing the duty he owed his native land, Mr. Crigler enlisted in Company L, Second Nebraska Cavalry. While with this regiment he saw service in Dakota and Nebraska, where he participated in several engagements with the Indians.

At the close of the war Mr. Crigler returned to Illinois, where he remained until 1879. He then went to Iowa, where he spent a short time in Madison and Adair counties. He is a pioneer of Nebraska, having settled in Gage county this same year, 1879. He remained there for eight years, and in 1888 came to Sioux county, where he settled on government land. Here he built a log cabin and remained two years. He then came to Box Butte county, where he took a homestead located on the Niobrara river. He proved up his claim, built a nice home and put in many improvements. He has successfully withstood the many hardships which the pioneers of this western country experienced, and reclaimed from the wild prairie a good farm, which by his own thrift and economy he has converted into a comfortable home for himself and family. In 1903, having sold his claim in Box Butte county, Mr. Crigler purchased land in Dawes county, locating about ten miles east of Belmont, where he remained for three years. He then settled on the land which is his present home, having his residence on section 10, township 30, range 49. Here he engages extensively in the raising of live stock with his son-in-law, Alva Robbins.

In 1873 Mr. Crigler and Miss Jane Miller were united in marriage. She is a daughter of Joel Miller, who was a farmer and blacksmith, and a native of Pennsylvania. Her mother was Mary (Rolston) Miller. Mr. and Mrs.

Crigler had two children, namely: Annie R. and Ilah P., both deceased, and have one adopted son, Harry, who is a bright young fellow and a great help to his mother and father.

Mr. Crigler devotes his attention very closely to his ranch, takes an active interest in all matters of local interest, and is quite prominently identified with the growth and development of both Dawes and Box Butte counties. He has worked hard and the success with which his efforts have met is well deserved. He has a large circle of friends in the surrounding community, who consider that he has done wonderfully well, and that his career is to be regarded as a marked success. A picture of Edward Crigler and family will be found on another page.

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#### CASPER F. NICKEL.

Casper F. Nickel, a prosperous, progressive and enterprising farmer of Blaine township, Kearney county, Nebraska, is one of the leading old settlers of this locality. When he came here he settled on a wild prairie farm and through industry and energetic efforts has succeeded in building up one of the valuable estates of the locality and is considered one of the substantial agriculturists of his community.

Mr. Nickel was born in 1852 in Germany, and came to this country when a young man. In 1879 our subject homesteaded and took up a tree claim in Kearney county, afterwards adding to his farm until he is now the owner of eight hundred and eighty acres of good land. Valentine Nickel, a brother of our subject, has a place located directly across the road from the old military reservation of Fort Kearney. He was in this locality in 1876 when the United States soldiers were stationed here. Immediately after taking up his homestead he started to build up his farm, also going into the raising of stock, and has continued at the work ever since. He runs from one hundred and fifty to five hundred cattle annually and a number of hogs, marketing about three carloads of the latter each year, and intends to increase this line of business right along. He handles registered Duroc Jersey hogs and the Poland China breed, and prefers the Poland Chinas, which he has had experience with in former years. He keeps high-bred Shorthorn Scotch cattle, male and female, and feeds all the grain and hay he raises on his own farm. He has been most successful in his stock raising operations, but deserves the best of success, as he gives all his time

and attention to the business. He keeps about twelve horses for his farm work, and raises horses for market, having from thirty to forty for shipment each year. He has a thoroughbred Percheron stallion and ten brood mares. His stallion, "Dewey," captured first premium at the Kearney county fair as a two-year-old, and in his opinion the Belgium Percheron is the only horse to breed.

Mr. Nickel was married to Miss Augusta Engbert, daughter of John Engbert, who came from Germany and located in Logan township, Kearney county, in 1886, and who has the reputation of being one of the most successful farmers in the county. One son and three daughters have come to bless the union of our subject and his good wife, namely: G. August, who is on the ranch with his father; Minnie, wife of Patsy Ryan, of Blaine township; Annie, living at home, and Lillie, attending college at Kearney, Nebraska. The family are members of the Minden Lutheran church and worthy members of society. Our subject is highly esteemed for his sterling qualities by all who know him.

#### ARTHUR H. GROVE.

Arthur H. Grove, one of the best known pioneers of Box Butte county, considered among the early settlers of this region as a business man of more than ordinary capacity, is possessed of a wide knowledge of the history of the development and growth of this section of the state, and has been an important factor in its success. He and his father handled the first United States mail in this section of the country, first at Grand Lake, then at Alliance, also a postoffice on section 4, township 25, range 48, where our subject now lives.

Mr. Grove was born in the city of Freeport, Illinois, in 1868, and reared there, attending the city schools, where he received a good education, graduating from the high school, and later was a student at Mt. Morris College, Illinois. He came west to Dakota in 1885, where he lived about one year, then moved to Box Butte county, settling with his parents, who were on a homestead in section 4, township 25, range 48. Here they had built a sod house, also a dugout addition, in which they lived during the early days. The father and son Arthur opened a store at Grand Lake and in the city of Alliance, handling the United States mail there also. They had a small store on their farm, also handling United States mail there, our subject himself selling some of the first goods that were ever sold in Alliance, which at that time was called Grand Lake.

They kept the store after the change of name from Grand Lake to Alliance. Arthur knew very little about farming as a boy, but he started in to breaking up land for crops and put in some grain and after they had been here a short time he bought out his father's rights to the homestead, sold his mercantile interests, and gave his whole attention to farming. He handled ox teams and led a typical pioneer life, freighting, and when making long trips through the country camped out many times under his wagon, and many times while going long distances would be caught in a heavy snow storm and obliged to sleep on the snow covered ground. During those days he "batched it" on his farm, doing all his own work, cooking, etc., often feeding a whole threshing outfit.

He was very successful in building up and improving his place and gradually added to his land until he now owns one thousand four hundred and forty acres, situated six miles from Alliance. He farms one hundred acres of this, and in good years had as high as two hundred acres in crops. In 1898 he lost his barn, five hundred bushels of corn, one hundred tons of hay and feed, also other property by fire, suffering a loss of \$3,000. Mr. Grove engages to quite an extent in cattle raising, and has made a great success of this branch of the business, handling the Aberdeen Polled Angus breed.

Mr. Grove was married in 1897 to Matilda Zobel, whose parents were old settlers in Kearney county, Nebraska, and came to Box Butte county in 1893; here they settled near Hemingford, Box Butte county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Grove the following children have been born: Phillip T. and Arthur W., both of whom are now going to school in Alliance.

Politically our subject is a Democrat, and has served his county as commissioner for several terms. He has always been active in local affairs, and has been an important factor in building up the schools in this region. In 1904 Mr. Grove went to old Mexico, engaging in the mining business for about one year, then took a trip through the southeastern part of the United States as far south as New Orleans, but finally decided that old Box Butte county was good enough for him, so returned to his ranch here.

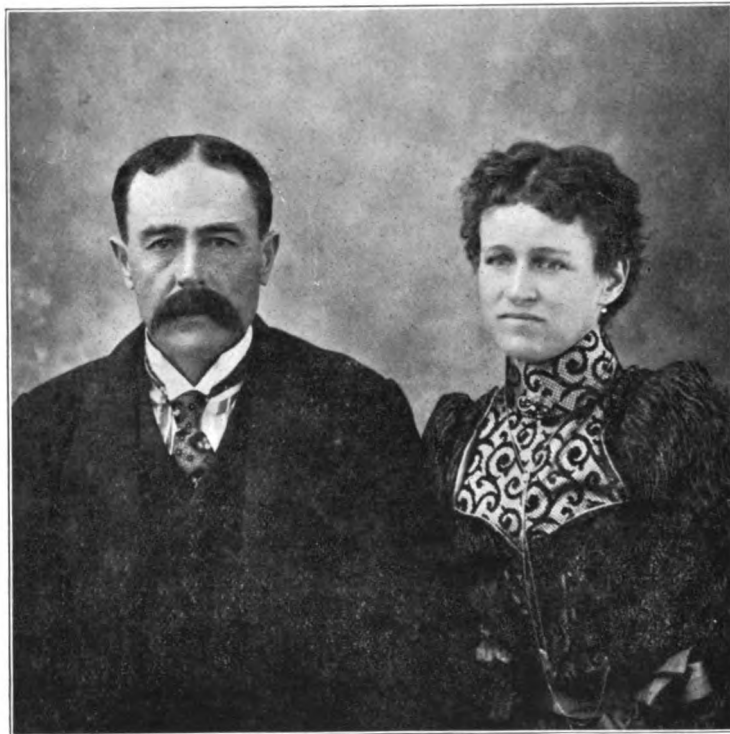
#### J. H. ROSENFELT, DECEASED.

J. H. Rosenfelt, deceased, was a prominent ranchman of Cambridge, Furnas county, Nebraska, and was numbered among the successful and prosperous stockmen of this section of the country.

Mr. Rosenfelt was a native of Illinois, born in 1856. He came to Frontier county, this state,







MR. AND MRS. JOHN HENDERSON.

in 1877, and opened up a ranch in the Medicine Valley, stocking his ranch with two hundred head of cattle. At this writing his estate has a herd of five hundred cattle and the ranch comprises one thousand eight hundred acres, which is all deeded land. He was one of the largest buyers and shippers of stock in this county, each year sending to market from Cambridge, a hundred cars of cattle and hogs. He owned a number of pure bred Hereford cattle, and kept mostly high grade stock. He located in Cambridge in 1893, and for three years was engaged in the grain business, but sold this out to Cooper & Lynn, of Humboldt, Nebraska. Since then until his death, he devoted his entire time and attention to the care of his stock, and found that it was a most profitable venture, as this country is especially adapted for stock raising and there is no place better fitted for the purpose, as there is plenty of pasture land and good water, besides the climate here is the finest to be found anywhere, with mild winters, so that there is no danger of losing stock through severe storms. When Mr. Rosenfelt was fourteen years old he moved to Lancaster county, Nebraska, where he was reared.

Mr. Rosenfelt was married in 1883 to Miss Lucy A. Light. They had one son, J. Allen Rosenfelt, who took a course at the Kansas City Veterinary College, but now has charge of his father's estate.

Mr. J. H. Rosenfelt died here at Cambridge in April, 1907, greatly missed by numerous friends and business associates. He always took an active interest in public affairs and in reform measures. He was public-spirited and progressive.

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#### ANDREW A. CARLSON.

Andrew A. Carlson, one of the successful and prominent old-time farmers and ranchmen of western Nebraska, is a man of sterling character and who through industry and good management has come to be one of the largest land-owners in Dawes county. He has a pleasant home in section 11, township 33, range 52, and is highly esteemed by his associates and all who know him.

Mr. Carlson was born in Osterjotland, Sweden, in 1851, and was raised and educated there. He came to America in 1873, and came west immediately after landing in New York city, locating in Pennsylvania, where he spent two years, then went on to Texas, where he was employed on the railroad up to 1883, after that spending one year in old Mexico, there also working on the road. He returned to Texas, and railroaded all over that state, Missouri, Louisi-

ana, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota and Wyoming, traveling besides in other states, and saw all of the western part of the United States while in this line of work.

In 1879 he came to Dawes county and took up a homestead in section 14, township 33, range 52, starting a farm and home. He put up a small shack and "batched it" up to 1893, then was joined by his father and mother, who had journeyed from their native land to spend their last years with their son, and after living here some years passed away, the mother's death occurring in about 1900, and the father's in March, 1893.

During the first years in trying to establish a farm Mr. Carlson went through some pretty tough times, losing several crops by drouth and other causes, but he stuck to the farm and as time went on conditions became more favorable and he succeeded in his ventures to a marked degree, adding to his original holdings constantly, until he and his wife together now own fourteen quarter sections of deeded land. He has put up good buildings and many improvements on the place, and has a big grove in fine growing condition, having set out all the trees himself. Big Cottonwood creek runs through his ranch, furnishing plenty of good living water the year round, and making an ideal farm for stock raising, in which work he is engaged extensively, and has always been since coming here, after the first four years. He now runs one hundred and thirty head all the time, and has been very successful in this branch of work. In 1905 he moved on to his present homestead in section 11, where he has another complete set of good farm buildings. Mr. Carlson was the first man in this part of the country to build a dam and water reservoir for cattle.

In 1893 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Ida Dickson, a native of Tama county, Iowa, of American stock. To them have been born the following children: Mary, Lizzie, Roger and Clara, and the family is well liked by everyone, and enjoy a pleasant and happy home.

Mr. Carlson has done his share in building up this section of the country and been a leader in developing its natural resources. He has held the office of assessor for one year, and also was road overseer in his district.

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#### JOHN HENDERSON.

John Henderson, familiarly known as "Scotty" to all who reside in a large part of Box Butte county, is probably one of the best-known and most highly respected citizens of his locality, and is also an old settler and substantial farmer who has gained a competence through

his energetic efforts and industrious habits. His residence is in section 7, township 24, range 51, and there he has a comfortable home, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Henderson was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in 1861, on a farm. Both parents were born and raised in that country, and farmed there all their lives, and our subject was reared and educated there, attending the country schools during his boyhood. When he was but nine years of age he left home and made his own way in the world from that time on, his first job that of driving a burro delivering milk, and for the first six months at this employment received the magnificent sum of one pound of English money. He worked at different things there for a number of years, then decided to leave Scotland and try a new country, so took passage for America, landing here in 1879, and going directly west to Cheyenne, Wyoming. He worked his way on the ship over here, taking care of a herd of fifty-six black Polled Angus bulls, which were being brought here from Glasgow for breeding purposes.

The shipment was laid over for three months in Quebec, and our subject had a good chance to see the country there. After arriving in the west he secured employment herding sheep, and followed that for some time, then started freighting from Cheyenne to Fort Laramie, also worked as a cowboy on different ranches through Wyoming for a period of eight years. He traveled on horseback all over Wyoming, Montana, Dakota and Nebraska, and was familiar with all the old cow trails over those states. He finally gave up that occupation and came to Nebraska to locate permanently, filing on a homestead in section 7, township 24, range 51. During the first few years, all his work on the ranch, freighting, etc., was done with mule teams. As a cowboy, sheep herder, etc., he had managed to save up about four hundred and fifty dollars, also owned a team of ponies, and so had a fairly good start. He started at once to improve his farm, put up good buildings and lived a regular pioneer life, meeting with many hardships, losing several crops, etc. He worked hard and gradually bought more land, and is now proprietor of a ranch of four thousand acres, all deeded land. He purchased the old Hart ranch a number of years ago, which is now a part of his valuable property, and the famous old Sidney trail runs directly through his place.

Mr. Henderson engages exclusively in the stock business. He has a large herd of cattle for breeding and market purposes, and is one of the largest and most successful ranchmen in this region. During the winter of 1904 he lost

seven hundred head of cattle through a severe storm, and at various times has suffered heavy losses of stock. His ranch is beautifully situated on the Snake creek, and he has it improved in the best possible shape. He has four wells and four windmills, has erected a handsome residence, and the entire place is fenced and fitted with good buildings, etc.

Mr. Henderson was married in 1888 to Miss Jennie Allen, daughter of Robert Allen, who is a Canadian by birth, and now lives at Ontario. Mrs. Henderson was one of the early homesteaders in Nebraska, coming here in 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have five children, named as follows: John A., Dick, Harold, James and Margaret. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Henderson will be found on another page.

Politically Mr. Henderson is a Democrat.

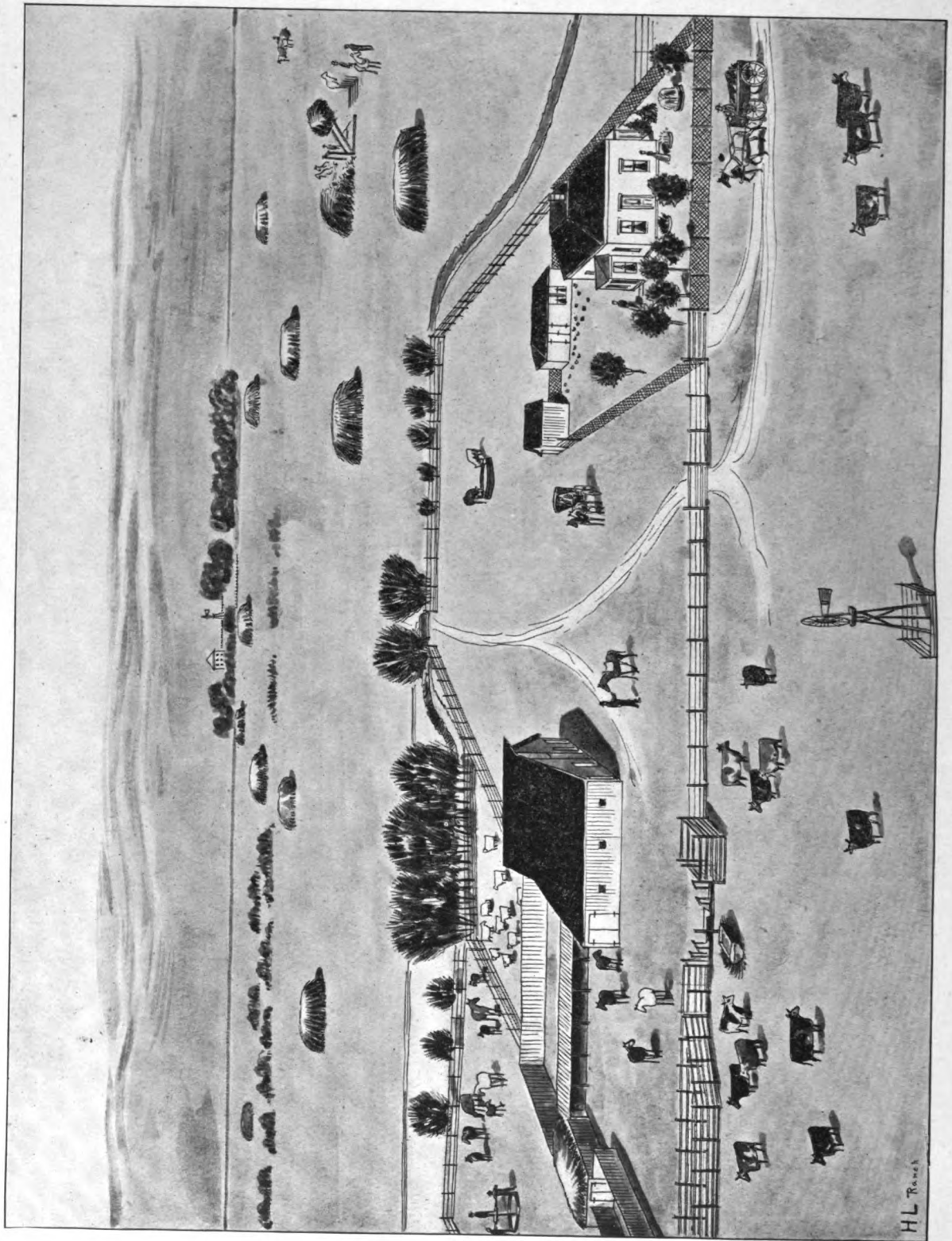
#### LEONIDAS H. LILLY.

Leonidas H. Lilly is a worthy representative of the sturdy western pioneer, who has passed through every phase of frontier life and has been an important factor in the upbuilding of his community since coming to Nebraska many years ago. He is now a resident of the thriving town of Kimball, and one of the leading business men there, being engaged in the livery business, and also has a stage line and takes mail contracts.

Mr. Lilly was born in Indiana on October 5, 1854, living there until about two years of age, when his parents, with their family of four sons and four daughters, removed to Livingston county, Illinois. Subsequently there were four more girls born to the father and mother, making a family of twelve children. The parents remained in Illinois until their death. Our subject went to Montana in 1880, where he lived for about six years, and engaged in buying and shipping horses and stock. He remembers distinctly the days when buffalo were plenty in that vicinity, he himself having two hundred to his credit in 1881.

He followed the business of buying and shipping horses up to 1888, then went to Nebraska, locating in Kimball county, and went into the livery business in the town of Kimball, soon afterwards securing the mail contracts from the United States government, which he carried on for about four years. Two years were spent in Utah and one year in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he carried on the livery business, finally returning to Kimball county in 1897. He then embarked in the ranching and cattle industry, following this up to 1905, at which time he moved into the village of Kimball and





RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. LADELY,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

again established a livery barn and took mail contracts. He is considered one of the prosperous men of his locality, and has built up a good patronage through strict attention to business and honest and fair dealings.

In October, 1889, Mr. Lilly was married at Kimball, to Miss Flora Stanley, who was born in Indiana and raised in Illinois, where her parents settled about 1850. While on a visit to a sister living in Kimball, Miss Stanley met her present husband. Our subject's parents are both dead, while his wife's father and mother still live in Illinois. During 1889 and 1890 Mr. Lilly was deputy sheriff of Kimball county, and while serving in this capacity experienced numerous thrilling adventures, which he relates in a particularly interesting manner.

In 1891 he was elected county commissioner, serving for three years. He is a strong Republican.

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#### GEORGE W. LADELY.

George W. Ladely, an influential and popular citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska, holds his enviable position in the community by force of character, industrious habits and unquestioned integrity. His home is in section 15, township 29, range 35, and here he has displayed those peculiar qualities that have made him so markedly successful in life's struggles.

Mr. Ladely was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, November 29, 1850, where he was reared to a rural life. His father, William Ladely, a farmer all his life, married Cornelia Slack, the mother of the subject of this personal history, and both were natives of the state of Pennsylvania, the former of Holland ancestry and the latter of German stock. They had a family of nine children, George W. being their second child, he remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age, then started in life for himself, obtaining employment on farms in Iowa. In 1888 he came to Cherry county, where he took up a pre-emption claim, proved up and sold it. For two years he worked on the Gillaspie ranch, then settled on the place which he now occupies as a homestead. He has gone through hard times since locating here, and has put in many years of hard work, but has met with good success, now owning a ranch of two thousand one hundred and twenty acres known as the H. L. ranch, which is stocked with one thousand head of cattle and one hundred and fifty horses. He has good buildings on his place, his house costing one thousand four hundred dollars, and barn one thousand one hundred dollars, together with other farm buildings which are among the best to be found

in this region. Mr. Ladely built his present house in 1906. Up to that time he had lived in a sod house, which was a very comfortable dwelling that he erected in 1882. The new residence is unusually large for a ranch house and is furnished in keeping with the exterior. Running water is supplied by one of the four flowing wells on his farm, which range in depth from fifty to three hundred and sixty feet, this making his ranch one of the best and most valuable in the county.

Mr. Ladely was married May 1, 1890, to Miss Elizabeth Kime, born in Iowa in 1858, daughter of Levi N. Kime, of German descent, and a native of Ohio. Her mother, Nancy Layport, before her marriage, was also a native of Ohio, of French-English descent. Mrs. Ladely's father and her husband were the first settlers on this part of Gordon creek, and have both lived here continuously since locating. They have been very successful, and the latter is satisfied that he has done much better than had he remained in Iowa, as the opportunities for acquiring land are far ahead of that state, and the climate and conditions better in every way. A view of the family home and surroundings will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Ladely is a Republican in political sentiment.

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#### HORACE G. WALLINGFORD.

Horace G. Wallingford, a prominent resident of Cherry county, Nebraska, is one of the leading ranchmen of the country. He is one of the early settlers of the county, and after many hardships and discouragements has succeeded in the business which he has undertaken in no small degree.

Mr. Wallingford's father was A. J. Wallingford, an old settler in Cherry county, Nebraska, and his mother was Miss Matilda Gray, of Scotch and Irish descent, American born. Mr. Wallingford is twelfth of a family of thirteen children, and was reared in Franklin county, Nebraska, until he was eleven or twelve years of age. In 1884 he came to Cherry county with his father during the pioneer days, settling on the Snake river six miles from the mouth, they being the third family to settle on this river. Here the father established a saw-mill on Snake creek opposite the mouth of Steer creek canyon. After taking up their residence here, they handled ox teams, freighters, and passed through all the experiences familiar to the people of those days, enduring all the privations and discouragements which the pioneers had to contend with in the building up of a new country.

When twenty-one years of age our subject

started in life for himself, taking up a homestead on Boardman Creek, on which his first habitation was a sod shanty. He was married in 1897 to Miss Etta Hoffman, whose father was an old settler in Iowa. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wallingford, named as follows: Edna, Willie, Mildred and Orval.

Mr. Wallingford proved up on his homestead and took a Kincaid homestead in 1904, and has since made many improvements in the way of building, stocking up his ranch with cattle and other live stock, etc. He is numbered among the old timers who have watched the growth of this part of the country from the start. Mr. Wallingford's ranch is located in sections 25 and 26, township 30, range 32, in Cherry county, Nebraska, and is stocked with two hundred and seventy-five head of cattle; he is called one of the successful younger ranchmen of the county. His first start in life was derived from the proceeds of hunting, and he is now the owner of six hundred and forty acres, comprising the ranch on which he lives and also has interests in other lands, his wife owning one hundred and sixty acres adjoining.

Mr. Wallingford well remembers Valentine when it was only a small side station. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and is a man of sterling character, universally esteemed by his fellowmen. In politics he is a Republican.

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#### EDWIN B. SMITH.

Edwin B. Smith was born in the state of New York, in Warren county, in 1853. His father, John Smith, was also a native of New York. His mother, Experience (Hack) Smith, was born in Vermont, her parents being from a long line of American ancestors. The father was agent for a large lumber company, but lived on a farm in the timber country. Our subject lived on the old farm his grandfather cleared up when a young man. The family lived for about six years in Vermont, in the old town of Brandon, and later moved to Warren county, New York, where Edwin was reared, receiving a country school education.

In 1882 our subject came west to Nebraska, locating on a farm in Valley county, not far from the town of Ord, which was then only a struggling village with no railroad. After two years he took a homestead, and, as he had but little to start on, his improvements were very primitive. Materials and supplies had to be hauled from St. Paul, Nebraska, the nearest railroad point, and it was here that he had to do his marketing of hogs and wheat for some time.

In 1884 he came to Blaine county, finding a good location on the North Loup river. He came in a covered wagon and with few supplies. He worked hard and was getting things in good shape when a prairie fire swept away stable and sheds, killing one of his horses, and burning the wheels of his wagon and also some hay, lumber and his harness. This was very discouraging, coming just at the time when he was getting started, and Mr. Smith was almost at the point of giving up. But with unconquerable grit he held on and soon saw better times. Several good crops came in succession, and he had the best sod crops ever raised; grew potatoes, melons, beans and plenty of garden stuff, so that he got along very nicely, and, with six head of cattle to start in stock raising, the future looked much brighter. But next came the years of drouth and our subject was very much distressed. But he did not have enough with which to get out of the county, so he had to stay and struggle along as best he could. He came to his present location on section 25, township 23, range 21, in 1894. This was a tree claim which he purchased. It was wild prairie land with no improvements. He put up a sod home, twenty by forty feet, and bought a twelve by fourteen board shanty ten miles away and moved it to his farm, where it was used as a stable.

He stuck to his farm and made fine improvements. But he had a bad fire in 1893, losing a large frame barn, fourteen by twenty-four feet and fourteen by eighteen feet, harnesses, saddles, hay and several calves, and it took magnificent courage to bear the loss. Now he has a fine ranch, as good as can be found in all the county. He has five quarter sections of land along the North Loup river, and, with his sons' homesteads, controls several sections of excellent land. He has a good house, built in 1907-'08, good barns, sheds, corrals, dipping tanks, has fourteen to fifteen miles of fence, four hydraulic wells and cisterns, windmills, etc., indeed one of the most completely equipped ranches in Blaine county. He has fine groves of trees on different parts of the ranch, has a number of apple, plum and cherry trees and an abundance of small fruit.

Mr. Smith has been an intelligent participant in all local political matters and has been elected to various positions of trust and responsibility. He held the office of county clerk of Blaine county for two years, and has also been a member of the local school board. Our subject was here during the county-seat fights when Brewster, Le Dora and Blaine Center were hotly contesting for the honor of being the seat of the county government. Throughout all his fron-



tier experiences and later life in Blaine county, Mr. Smith has been ever ready to sanction all movements tending for the betterment of his community and he has performed his share in adding to its material development.

Edwin B. Smith and Miss Anna L. George were married March 1, 1876. Mrs. Smith was a native of New York. Her father, an expert mechanic and boat builder, died September 27, 1908, in the state of New York. Her mother was Margaret Stillson, who died in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been the happy parents of eight children—Truman, Morvice, William G., Earnest (deceased), Mark, Wesley, Eva and Arthur.

#### WILLIAM L. WESTON.

William L. Weston, who for over a score of years has resided in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, and during this time has acquired a fine property as a result of his industry and good management, is widely known in his locality, and held in the highest esteem as a citizen and progressive farmer.

Mr. Weston was born in Linden, Iowa county, Wisconsin, February 20, 1861. His father, John H. Weston, was born in England, and came to this country when a young man, where he followed the profession of a teacher. He was a man of wide experience, and an extensive traveler, having been all through the European countries, also in South Africa. His health failed and after coming to this country he devoted his entire time to teaching as an occupation. He married Miss Carolina Brooks, whose parents settled in Wisconsin in the early days, going into the region of the lead mines, where she was born and raised. Our subject was the third member in his parents' family of four children, and he was raised in the vicinity of the lead mines, working in the mines as a boy. When seventeen years of age he went to Marquette, Michigan, and worked in the mines for a year; thence he came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, working for two years before returning to Wisconsin, where for three years he was employed in a creamery at Edmund. When he was twenty-four years of age he came to Keya Paha county, traveling by rail to Ainsworth, landing there on November 4, 1885. From Ainsworth he was obliged to take a team and drive through, and while on the journey was overtaken by one of the worst blizzards in years, from which he took shelter in a dugout, one of the rendezvous of the famous Doc. Middleton. On locating here he at once put up a sod house, and lived in it for seven years, proving up on his homestead. He did everything that came to his hand in order

to make a living and improve his farm, handling ox teams with which he broke up considerable land. This place was situated on section 11, township 34, range 23.

During the years 1893, 1894 and 1895, Mr. Weston lived at Hartington, in Cedar county, Nebraska, doing any work he could secure, and for one year was in the livery business at Armour, South Dakota, dealing in real estate much of the time. This was during the drouth periods and the panic. In 1895 he returned to Keya Paha county, living for a short time on section 11 before locating on section 34, township 34, range 22, where he lived for six years prior to taking up his present farm in section 10, township 34, range 22, both places being situated on Cottonwood creek, and which he still owns; his possessions altogether consist of five quarter sections of fine land. One hundred acres are under cultivation and the rest in hay and pasture land, with a fine orchard of plum, apple and cherry trees, with Cottonwood creek running through the place, supplying fine clear water the year around. Mr. Weston has erected a solid stone house, a milk house of the same material with barn, granary and other necessary buildings of frame construction.

Maribank postoffice was established on our subject's present farm in 1883, and since 1896 Mrs. Weston has served as postmistress, with the postoffice re-established in their home.

Mr. Weston is thoroughly familiar with conditions throughout this section of the country and has aided in the development and growth of the region from its early days. Politically he is a strong Republican, attending all the county conventions as a delegate, and one of the prominent public-spirited citizens of his community.

While still living in Wisconsin Mr. Weston was married November 14, 1883, to Miss Emma Jane Williams, daughter of John and Jane (Reed) Williams, both born in England and afterwards early settlers in Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Weston two children were born, namely: Earl, born in Wisconsin in 1884, and Velma, born in 1890, in Keya Paha county. The family are all members of the Methodist church. Formerly Mr. Weston was a member of the Pythian order and the Woodmen, but owing to distance from lodge has allowed his membership to lapse.

#### OTIS W. HAHN.

For over twenty years the gentleman whose name heads this review, has been identified with the development of the financial and social interests of Cherry county, has gained a high sta-

tion as a citizen, and incidentally become one of the leading men of his community.

Mr. Hahn was born in Rio, Knox county, Illinois, December 2, 1860. His father, Moses Hahn, was a farmer and came of American stock. His mother, a native of Somersetshire, England, came to this country when a young girl. Our subject was fifth of twelve children born to his parents. Early in life he became inured to hard farm work and at the age of twenty, starting out for himself, bought a farm in Nodaway county, Missouri, whither his parents had moved in 1880. He spent four years on this farm, which he sold in 1884 and came to Cherry county, settling on a homestead in section 27, township 35, range 28, where he built a small house, covered with tar paper. As a start he had two good teams, a wagon, two cows and some farm machinery, and at once set to work building up his home. In the spring of 1885 he helped to organize the first school in this locality, the school being held in his own house, his wife acting as the teacher. During the drouth periods they were able to raise but very little besides the feed absolutely needed to supply their stock, suffering hard times but never despairing, and now his farm comprises three hundred and twenty acres, half of which is under cultivation. He has this improved with good farm buildings, including a large barn and granary with corn cribs, etc. Altogether Mr. Hahn operates at times nine hundred and sixty acres of land, and has also been extensively engaged in the cattle and horse raising business.

Mr. Hahn was married in Illinois in 1880 to Miss Lura Melton, of American parentage, and of this union five children were born, as follows: Mabel, Lloyd, Clement, Anna and Otis D.

He is a Democrat politically, and takes an active part in party politics, attending conventions as delegate, and is an earnest worker for his party. He has served a term or two as deputy county treasurer. He affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodges of Valentine.

#### WILLIAM LOCHMILLER.

William Lochmiller, who occupies a foremost place among the early settlers in Nebraska, has been engaged in farming in Brown county for many years, where he has a thoroughly improved farm. He has a wide circle of acquaintances, and is recognized as a gentleman of active public spirit, highly respected and esteemed in the locality in which he resides.

Mr. Lochmiller was born in Crawford county, Iowa, January 3, 1864. His parents, Cas-

par and Sophia Lochmiller, came to the United States from Germany in 1859 or 1860, shortly after the birth of their first child. They located in Iowa, where their family of seven children, of whom our subject is the fourth member, were reared and given the advantages of the country schools, assisting the father in the farm work during the time not spent attending school. In 1877 the father left Iowa and came to Nebraska, taking a homestead in section 10, township 30, range 22, Brown county. Here he put up a dugout as his first building, and started farming for himself, "batching it" for two years, with the assistance of some of the boys who had joined him, the remainder of the family coming in 1879. He remained on this homestead until his death in the spring of 1904. William, the subject of this review, remained with his father until his marriage, when he took up a homestead also in section 10, living here twenty-one years in all, going through hard and uncomfortable experiences during the drouth periods, severe winters, grasshopper raids, and all the hardships which the pioneer settlers had to endure at those times. After a hard struggle in getting started he came out all right, steadily improving his farm, putting up good buildings, and erected a fine house and large barn with accommodations for sheltering sixteen horses, granaries, carriage and machine sheds, windmills, fenced all his land, and altogether made his one of the finest farms in the county. He remained on this until 1904, when he moved to his present farm in section 35, township 31, range 22, having previously purchased three quarter sections of land here, and he also has a fine two-story eight-room house conveniently arranged and fitted up with many modern improvements. He has a large barn, built in 1903, granary, large chicken house, blacksmith shop fitted up with anvil, vise and bellows, and all the tools necessary for the repairing of farm machinery. He also has erected two windmills together with a fine milk house near by. At the time he bought this farm but ninety acres were broken up, and the whole place was overgrown with brush. He has since cleared all of the land, planted one hundred apple trees and a large number of cherry, plum and other small fruit trees, all growing in fine condition. He is engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, running fifty head of stock cattle and fourteen milch cows, which net him a snug sum each year. In the fall of 1906 he bought twenty acres in the western part of Ainsworth, where he erected a comfortable house, barns and other buildings and has practically retired, surrendering the operation of the farm to his eldest son.

In June, 1885, Mr. Lochmiller was married

to Miss Bertha Sobel, who came to this country from Germany when a young girl. They have four children, namely: Otto, Willie, Hattie and Eddie, all born in Brown county. July 5, 1899, Mr. Lochmiller met with a sad misfortune in the death of his wife, who was accidentally killed during a cyclone. The family saw the storm coming up and they all ran to the cellar for protection, when Mrs. Lochmiller, supposing one of the children had been left behind, started to open the cellar door, and just at this instant the cyclone struck the house moving it so that she was caught under the timbers and instantly killed. This was a terrible blow to the family, the manner of her death making it all the more harrowing. In 1900 Mr. Lochmiller married Mrs. Henrietta Schneidereit, a native of Germany, who came to this country in 1882 with her husband, locating in Council Bluffs, where they lived for seven years, then moved to Blaine county, Iowa, where he was accidentally killed in 1898, leaving her with the following children: Herman, Fred, Lizzie, Anna, Albert, Rhinehart and Henry. When the family first settled in Iowa they went through much privation, and just as they were beginning to get a start, the husband and father lost his life by being shot. One child was born to Mr. Lochmiller as a result of this second marriage, Ella, born in their present home. They are members of the Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Lochmiller is a Democrat.

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#### MICHAEL F. EGAN.

Michael F. Egan, a prominent ranch owner and stockman of Dawes county, will surely appear on any list of the old settlers of western Nebraska. He was born in the mining regions of Wisconsin in 1849, a son of Constantine and Jane (Morne) Egan, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Here he spent the earlier portion of his life, having started to work in the zinc and lead mines at the early age of twelve years. Twenty-two years of his life were spent following this occupation.

In 1885, Mr. Egan came west into Box Butte county, Nebraska, working for a time at teaming in Valentine. In 1886 he pre-empted a claim in township 32, range 47, and in February, 1887, proved up on his claim. Here he made the start which developed him into one of the most successful ranchmen in western Nebraska. He brought the lumber with which to build his home from Wisconsin. In the fall of 1887 he took a homestead, proved it up, and later sold it for one hundred and fifty dollars, realizing quite a small sum of money by the transaction. The following year, 1899, he purchased his present

farm in section 26, township 32, range 47, located at the head of the Little Bordeaux creek. Here Mr. Egan has erected a nice home together with good barns and sheds in which to house his stock. From time to time he has purchased adjacent lands, until at the present time he has a ranch comprising an area of one thousand six hundred acres of deeded and leased land, three hundred acres of which are cultivated. His ranch is one of the largest in this locality, and a large portion of the land has been fenced. Some portions of the land are covered with matured timber. During the past six years Mr. Egan has equipped his farm with many modern improvements, until at the present time a more modernly fitted ranch could not be found in this part of the state. He has successfully withstood the drouth periods, and the many hardships which confronted the earlier settlers in this section of the country. Our subject engages extensively in the raising of cattle and horses, and has made an enviable reputation as one of the leading ranchmen of western Nebraska.

Mr. Egan was married in Wisconsin in October, 1875, to Katherine Kent, daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Egan) Kent, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Egan are the parents of thirteen children, viz: Constantine, Ellen and Laura, both of whom are school teachers; Patrick, Katie, who is married; Michael, Daniel and Julia, eight children born in Wisconsin; Margaretta, Lizzie, Mary, John and Walter, five children born in Nebraska.

In political matters Mr. Egan generally takes strong Republican ground. He has always been prominently identified with educational matters here, having served as a school officer for many years, and has assisted in the building and opening of several of the schools in this county. He has always taken an active part in the development of Dawes county, and enjoys the respect and confidence of a host of warm friends in the community in which his useful life is passing.

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#### J. M. BROWN.

J. M. Brown of Holdrege, Nebraska, is proprietor of a valuable estate in Phelps county, and among the pioneer settlers of this locality. He has spent many years in building up this property, and now has retired from all active business.

Mr. Brown is a native of Smoland, Sweden, born in 1845, and came to this country in 1869, locating near Burlington, Iowa. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres including the west half section 17, of Divide township, and farmed this land from 1887 up to 1903,

at the end of which time he located in Holdrege. He has his farm well improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and the place is operated by his son, Fred Brown. He has a herd of eighty pure bred Hereford cattle, also a large number of graded cattle, and a drove of Duroc Jersey hogs. He raises banner crops on his land, his wheat crop running up to forty bushels per acre. Year before last he procured some genuine Turkey wheat seed from the Nebraska Agricultural College at Lincoln, and from five bushels of seed he raised one hundred and five bushels of fine wheat. He sold a part of his crop, and from the seed he reserved, this year raised five hundred bushels, the yield being thirty bushels per acre.

Mr. Brown's son Fred is clerk of Divide township, and president of the Farmers' Elevator Company just completed at Funk, with a capacity of twenty thousand bushels, in which two hundred farmers are stockholders. One son, Eben Brown, operates a store in Funk, Nebraska. Another son, Elmer, is engaged in farming, and is recognized as one of the most successful young agriculturists in the locality. He, together with his father, operate about a thousand acres of land, and raise from ten to eleven thousand bushels of grain each year. Previous to settling here Mr. Brown farmed in Iowa, and he considers Nebraska far superior to that state for farming and stock raising. The country is healthier here, and the people get along better, and he says that had he remained there he would not have been nearly so well off as he is today.

Mr. Brown married Miss Matilda Johnson, a native of Sweden. Their family consists of the sons above mentioned, and two daughters, Mrs. C. R. Wegert, of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Miss Edna Brown, of Holdrege. The family are members of the Lutheran church, of which Mr. Brown has been a trustee for nine years. Politically he is a Republican.

#### CHRISTOPHER E. WEYERTS.

Christopher E. Weyerts is one of the pioneers of Cheyenne county who has been an important factor in the development and growth of the region, where he has spent the past twenty-five years. He has extensive ranching interests, all of which have been acquired by dint of his own energy and perseverance. He is known throughout the county and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all.

Mr. Weyerts was born in the village of Burhoffe, province of Hanover, Germany, on the 22d day of November, 1866, and was reared there until the age of fifteen years; he was the

third in a family of six children born to his parents. The family sailed from Bremerhaven March 22, 1881, on the Elbe and after a voyage of nine days arrived in New York. They settled at first in Peoria, Illinois, and spent one year there and for three years our subject was employed in a store in Flatsville, coming to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1886. They were among the earliest white settlers on the table land, their first location being what was later called Weyerts Postoffice.

Our subject filed on a homestead on section 26, township 16, range 48, and there he began the farm which has now reached immense proportions, he being proprietor of two thousand two hundred and forty acres, and is classed among the wealthy residents of the county. He has two hundred acres under the plow, raising splendid crops, and has a complete set of substantial farm buildings, including a handsome residence, fine groves, and every convenience to be found on a model ranch. He keeps one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and forty horses. The place is one of the best equipped in the county, and a drive over the entire ranch will convince the visitor that systematic efforts and painstaking care are used in the operation of the place.

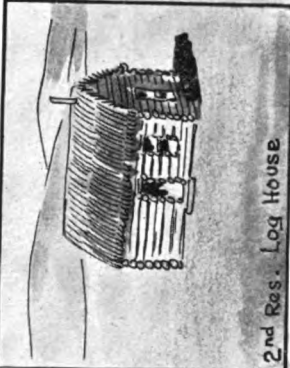
Mr. Weyerts' parents, Tonges and Maria (Rolfs) Weyerts, are both dead, and he is the only remaining member of this prominent family now living in Cheyenne county. On March 16, 1892, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hinrich, a most charming and estimable lady, who was born in Golden, Adams county, Illinois, a daughter of Henry and Anke (Onnan) Hinrich, natives of the province of Hanover, Germany. Five children have been born to this union, namely: Tonges, Henry, Mary, John and Margaret, who form a most interesting family group. They have a pleasant home, surrounded by every comfort that a rural residence affords.

In politics Mr. Weyerts is a Roosevelt Democrat. He is active in neighborhood affairs, acting as a member of the school board in his community. The family are regular attendants of the Lutheran church at Weyerts, of which he is a trustee.

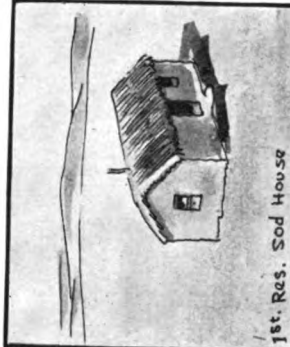
#### HENRY J. WINTON.

Henry J. Winton, who resides on section 19, township 26, range 51, Box Butte county, Nebraska, is the owner of a fine farm here. He has made his name and influence felt as a capable and worthy citizen since settling here in 1886, and is one of the prominent old settlers of this region.

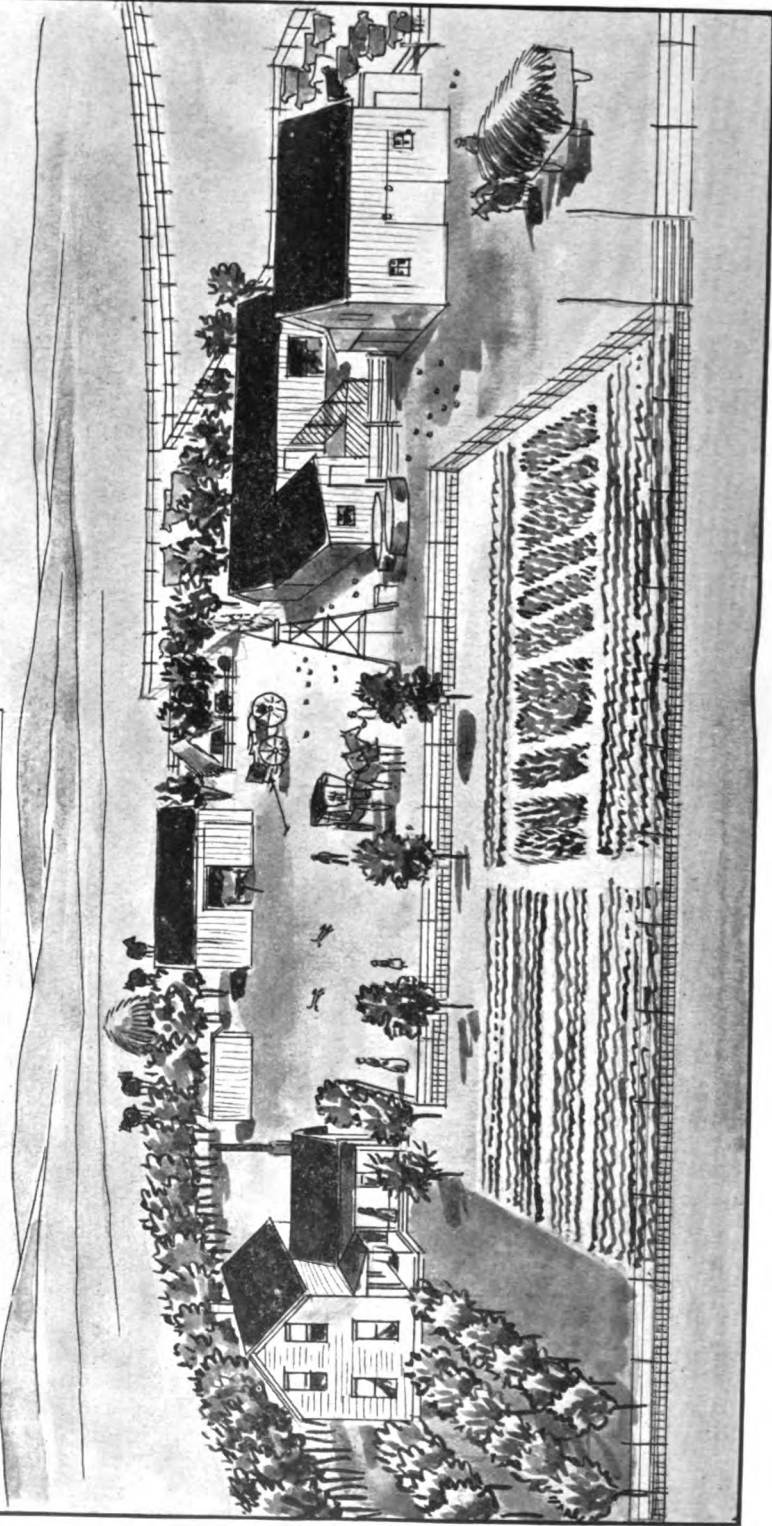




2nd Res. Log House



1st Res. Sod House



RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF MARTIN BECKER,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mr. Winton was born in Koblenz, Rhine Province, Germany, in 1848, and was reared in his native country, learning the mason's trade as a boy, and followed that work in Germany for a number of years, traveling in Westphalia and Rhine Pronzen. He served in the German army for four years and at the age of twenty-six was married to Mary Christine Kreuzberg, who was a native of the same town as our subject.

In 1878 he came to America with his family, landing in New York in 1880, and immediately struck out for the western states, settling in Iowa, where he bought a farm of eighty acres situated in Crawford county, and there engaged at farming for several years. In 1886 Mr. Winton came to Nebraska and settled in Box Butte county and selected the site which is his present homestead. His first dwelling was a sod building, as also were his barns, and he went to work to improve his place, breaking land for crops, and was obliged to haul all the family supplies from Hay Springs, which was a distance of seventy miles. When he came here he drove through the country from Iowa, also bringing along a herd of cattle. After he had settled in the sod shack with his family there was barely enough room for a bed and table, as he had the building filled with grain, etc. He was getting along very well when the drouth seasons struck him and for three years was hardly able to raise enough to get his seed back which he planted, although he managed to raise enough potatoes which furnished the chief food for the family.

Mr. Winton is now proprietor of a fine ranch consisting of three sections, all of which is fenced and well improved with good farm buildings, wells, windmills, etc. He has all kinds of modern farm machinery, and operates his farm and ranch along advanced lines. He has plenty of good grass to run his stock, a nice grove of trees, and always has a splendid garden and plenty of small fruits for domestic use, such as gooseberries, currants, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Winton are the parents of the following children: Joseph H., Mary, Christine, Jacob, Gertrude and Henry.

Mr. Winton has held school office in his district for the past several years, and has always taken an active and commendable interest in local affairs. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### MARTIN BECKER.

Martin Becker, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Cherry county, Nebraska, resides on a fine farm located in section 31, township 35, range 26, and has gained an enviable reputation

as a citizen of true worth. Mr. Becker is a native of Schwarzen Hazel, Germany, born September 23, 1858. He was reared and educated on his father's farm in the fatherland, the fifth in a family of eight children. At the age of fourteen he became a wagon-maker's apprentice, serving several years, afterwards doing all kinds of work in the vicinity of his parents' home. In 1881 he took passage for the new world, landing in New York in the summer of that year. Coming to Ohio he worked at his trade in the Milburn wagon factory at Toledo, and in a factory at St. Marys, in Auglaize county, until 1884, and then, feeling an ambition to do for himself, came to Nebraska, settling in Otoe county, where he remained for one year. On April 6, 1885, he took up a homestead in section 31, township 35, range 26, and still lives on this place. His first dwelling was a sod house and the family lived in that for three years before moving into a more comfortable log dwelling. He went through the usual pioneer's life, experiencing many hardships and discouragements, but stuck to it through all, only giving up once and then went to Wisconsin looking for a better place to locate, but satisfied that this was the better state came back after an absence of seven weeks and started in again, making an enviable success of his farming operations in Nebraska. His entire capital on returning from Wisconsin, one hundred and twenty-five dollars, he invested in cattle and started in the stock business, in which he has been successful at both that and mixed farming. His ranch consists of six hundred and forty acres of land, improved with good farm buildings and fences. He keeps about one hundred head of cattle and also a number of horses and altogether has a fine farm and home.

Mr. Becker was married October 21, 1882, to Miss Anna Knierim, born in Erkshausen, Germany, who came to America on the same boat that brought him. They have a family of seven children, named as follows: Mary, Annie, Henry, Lydia, Otto, Martha and Edith, all born in this state except Mary, whose birth occurred in Ohio.

Mr. Becker takes a personal interest in the building up of his community and lends his aid in all affairs of importance regarding the educational and commercial advancement of his locality. He has been a director in the school for ten years, and one of the prominent men in the county. He is Independent in politics and looks for the best man on the ticket instead of voting blindly for the party.

Mr. Becker holds fellowship in the Modern Woodmen, the Woodmen of the World and, with Mrs. Becker, is a member of the Fraternal Union



of America. His recollections of early struggles in the west are still vivid. During the period of hard times he supported his family by chopping and hauling wood from the canyons. The early Indian scares did not disturb them to a great extent, only one night did they abandon their home, holding fort with neighbors at Mr. Archer's, three miles east of their ranch. A view of the family residence will be found elsewhere in this work.

#### GEORGE W. FOWLER.

Among the progressive and substantial agriculturists of Sheridan county, Nebraska, a prominent place is accorded the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Fowler was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1860. His father, Preston Fowler, was a farmer of American stock, raised in New York state, and he died when our subject was five years old. He was the only child, and lived with his mother until he reached his fifteenth year, when he struck out for himself, working at anything he could find to do. He followed factory work in Illinois for two years, and in 1880 came west and landed in southeast Nebraska, where he remained until 1884, when he came to Sheridan county, settling on the place he now occupies, and has lived here continuously since that time. When he located on this farm all he had to start with was a team and some farming implements. He at once went to work, and by perseverance and industry has accumulated a nice property, comprising eight hundred acres of good farming land in section 13, township 33, range 43, of which about one hundred acres is highly cultivated. He has his farm well improved and runs about eighty to one hundred head of stock. During the dry years he suffered heavy losses in the destruction of his crops and was almost back to where he started, but after the hard times had passed he was able to raise good crops, and has been very successful in his different ventures.

In 1884 Mr. Fowler was married to Miss C. Belle Gleason, a native of Wisconsin, born in 1860, of American stock. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have a family of five children, named as follows: Ruby Elsie, Carrie Belle, Preston, Frank E. and George L., all born and raised on the present homestead. The family have a wide acquaintance and are highly respected by all who know them.

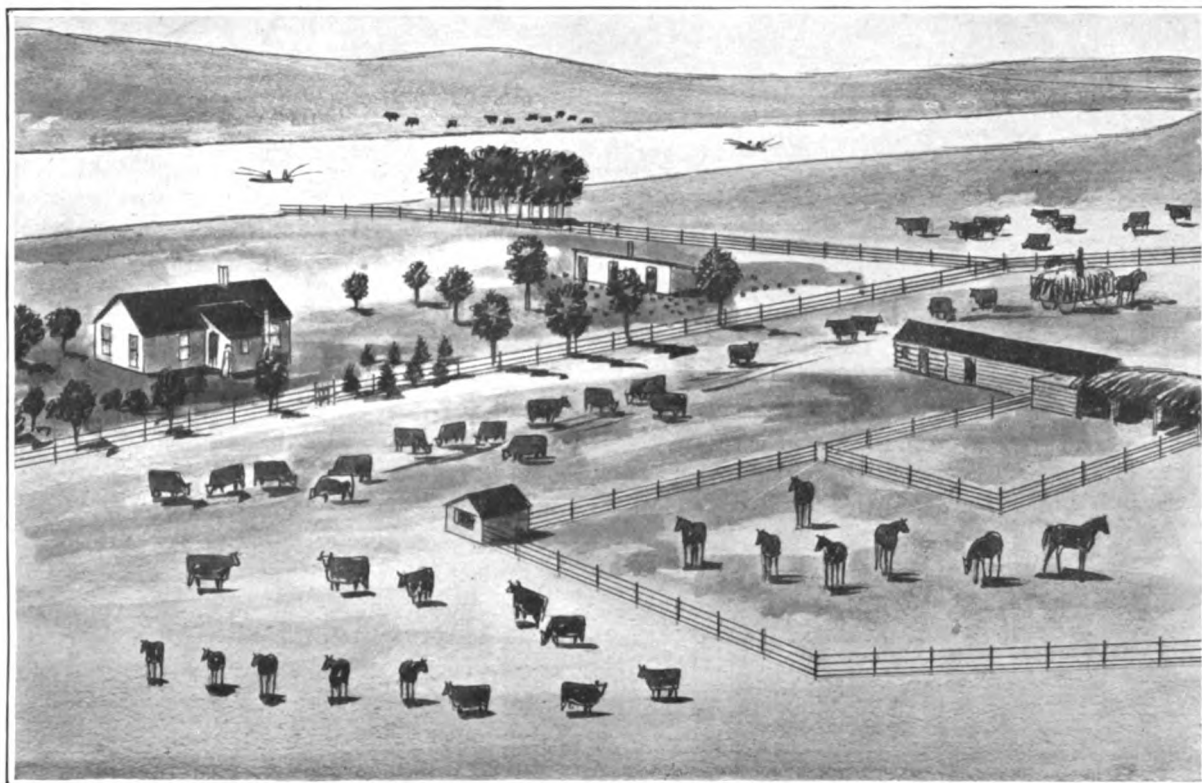
Mr. Fowler is an Independent in politics, and although he takes a keen interest in public affairs, both local and state, he has never held any office, as he has never had the time to devote to these matters. His whole attention is

engaged in building up his farm and home, and everything bears evidence of thrift and good management in the operation of his estate. He is one of the old-timers of Sheridan county, and enjoys the confidence of his fellow-men.

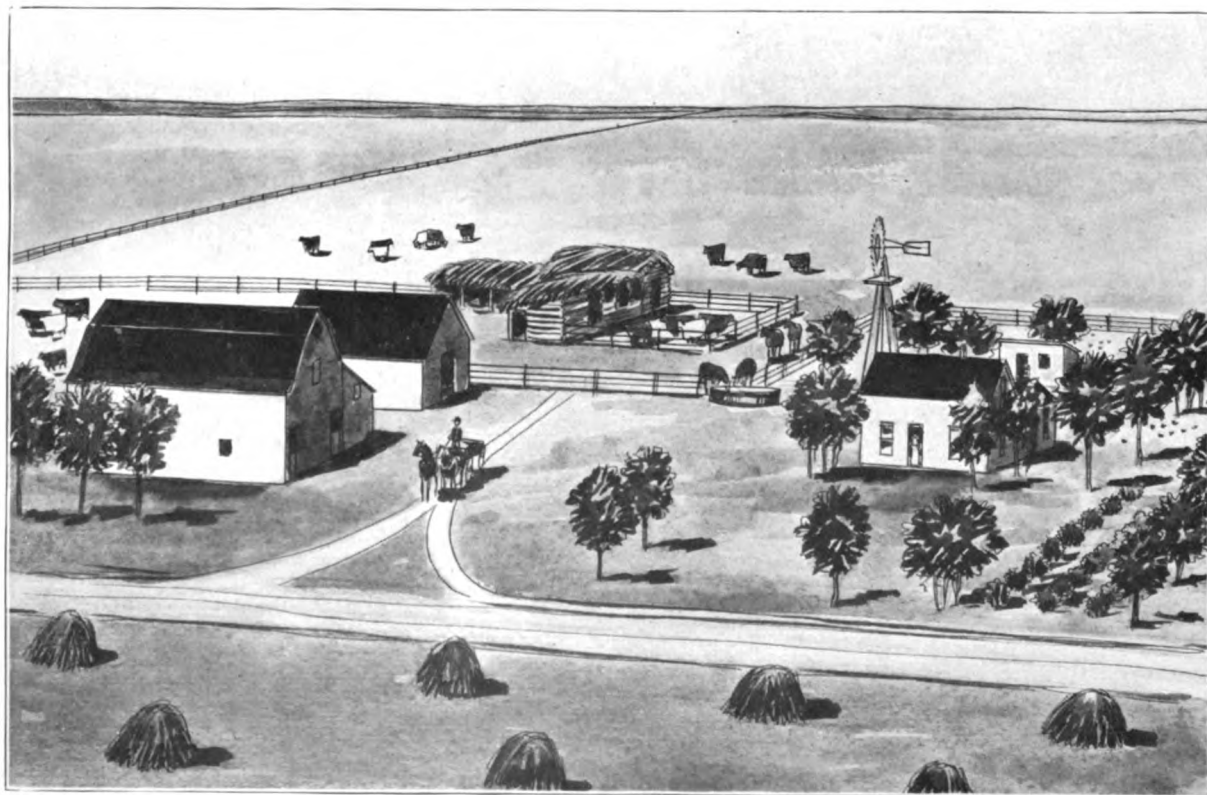
#### FRANK S. CLAPPER.

Frank S. Clapper, one of the best known prominent pioneers of Brown county, resides on section 12, township 27, range 24, where he has a good farm and pleasant home, situated on the banks of a beautiful little lake. Mr. Clapper has endured many hardships in accumulating this property, and can recount many thrilling experiences of the early days in this part of the country.

Mr. Clapper is a native of Elk Horn, Wisconsin, born January 17, 1846. His father, Jacob Clapper, of German descent, was a tanner by trade during his early life and later a farmer. In a family of eight children our subject is the third member, being reared in the state of his birth, near the pineries, where he became familiar with life in the big woods. At the age of twenty-three years he emigrated to Kansas, where he took up a homestead in Republic county in the western part of the state. At the end of three years he moved to Gage county, Nebraska, where he lived for several years at Blue Springs and Wymore, following his trade as a mason. In 1884 he moved to Blaine county, Nebraska, near Brewster, where he took a timber claim. There he put up a sod building and lived in it for ten years, working with oxtteams for several years, being obliged to haul all his supplies for eighty miles, from North Loup, which was the nearest railroad point. During these trips he camped out at night under his wagon. At one time he drove one hundred and sixty miles with an ox team to get a gallon of kerosene. One of the children was sick and needed medicine at night, hence the long drive. Mr. Clapper had but twenty-five cents in cash at the time. Another time he was compelled to go for two or three weeks without flour, and again for several days had only a few potatoes to live on. Their nearest neighbor was twelve miles away, and it was weeks that he did not see anyone except his own family. These were hard times, and often did he regret having come here, but as the years grew better, and the country became more thickly settled times changed and he is now glad that he stuck to it, and is perfectly satisfied with conditions now. He moved to Brown county in 1894, settling on his present place. For seven years



RESIDENCE OF F. S. CLAPPER,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



FARM PROPERTY OF ANDREW CARR,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



he lived in a sod house, adding a comfortable frame dwelling and other buildings since, there being no improvements whatever when he took the place. His ranch comprises twenty-four hundred acres, including his sons' two sections. He is extensively engaged in stock raising, and keeps one hundred and twenty head on his place, besides running a large number for other people. He has good buildings now, conveniently arranged, and with good water, fruits and other comforts of rural life, enjoys his possessions to the full in the declining years of his life.

On another page of this volume will be found a picture of Mr. Clapper's property.

Mr. Clapper was married, July 4, 1879, to Miss Mary Wilson, born near Independence, Iowa, a daughter of John J. and Almeda (Vining) Wilson. To them have come five children, namely: Florence, wife of John Hollowpeter, of Brown county; Carl, deceased; Charlie, who is mail carrier from Lakeland to Midvale; John and Frank, the latter dying in 1904.

Mr. Clapper politically holds with the Republican party.

#### ANDREW CARR.

The subject of this personal history was born June 25, 1850, near Clinton, Iowa, on his father's farm. The latter, Eli Carr, was of old American stock, a native of Pennsylvania, moving about 1853 to Winona county, Minn. He came to Nebraska about 1862, settling in Richardson county, and living there and in Nemaha county until 1883. Coming to Keya Paha county that year he became one of the leading citizens, his death occurring here in 1885; the mother, whose maiden name was Katherine Shults, of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage, died in Richardson county. Our subject was the oldest member in a family of nine children, and he was reared in Iowa and Nebraska and educated there, attending the country schools. At the age of twenty he started out for himself, on the railroad in Texas and on farms in Missouri and Kansas. After his marriage he rented a farm in Richardson county, and remained there for twelve or thirteen years. In 1883 he, with his family, came to Long Pine during the month of April, and located on his present homestead, situated in sections 27 and 34, township 33, range 20. Here he was about the first settler to take up land, there being no dwellings on the tables and few along the river; his first dwelling was a log house, in which they lived for some time, then put up a sod house addition. He kept on improving and building up the farm, and al-

though meeting with many failures and discouragements in the shape of drouth periods and crop losses, he never thought of quitting, but was determined to stick it out and win, which he did. At one time, when times were particularly hard, he went into Cedar county, Nebraska, many miles from his home, where he secured employment at husking corn in order to support his family. As a first shelter on arrival in this county the family lived in a shack made of carpets hung on poles, and three times, before a house could be built, the family were drenched with rain, which poured through the carpets.

After putting in many hard years the good times came on and he was able to get ahead, and he now has a comfortable home and is proprietor of five hundred and twenty acres of good land, two hundred acres of which is cultivated, the balance being used for pasture land. There is a good growth of natural timber on his place. He has good buildings, a commodious barn and corn crib being built in 1908. The dwelling, with its outbuildings, situated on section 27, are presented in an engraving elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Carr was married June 24, 1880, in Richardson county, to Miss Elizabeth Calhoun, daughter of Zedic Calhoun, of Welsh descent. Mr. and Mrs. Carr have a family of thirteen children, all of whom are living, named as follows: Fred W., Harry C., Claude F., Clyde L., Maud M., Nettie P., Effie J., Ida A., George A., Echo M., Hazel, Charlie and Ernest. They are an industrious and energetic family, highly esteemed by all who know them. Mr. Carr and his sons engage extensively in contracting and building, residing in Springview.

Mr. Carr is a man of active public spirit, popular with his associates and always foremost in any scheme which tends to the betterment of conditions in his locality. In 1900 he was elected county commissioner and served for three years. He is a member of the Populist party, and is prominent in political affairs.

#### FRANK S. VOSIKA.

Frank S. Vosika, a well-known resident of Lodgepole, Nebraska, has won for himself a good standing by his integrity and honest dealings, and is highly respected for his many excellent qualities and manly worth.

Mr. Vosika was born in the village of Drahov, Bohemia, November 5, 1866, and grew up in that country, where he received the usual education of the youths of his class. He came to

America in 1880, landing in New York, whence proceeded to Saline county, Nebraska, following farming seven years. In 1887 he came to Cheyenne county, and filed on a homestead on section 14, township 12, range 48, started a farm and remained for a number of years, proving up on the land, and later sold it at a good profit. He afterwards bought a large ranch of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres in and adjoining section 18, township 13, range 46, and still owns this property, using it as a ranch, called the Hillside Stock Farm, and on this ranch he keeps a large number of cattle and horses. About two hundred acres are used for grain raising and the whole place is in first-class shape, with good buildings, fences, and well improved and splendidly equipped for raising stock on a large scale. Mr. Vosika has been very successful in his ventures, and still operates the ranch, although he, with his family, reside in Lodgepole for the advantage of good schools; they reside part of the year on the ranch.

Mr. Vosika was married at Sidney, on December 24, 1894, to Miss Mary Kutis, who was born in Marshall county, Kansas, in 1873, her parents coming to Cheyenne county in 1887. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vosika, named as follows: Mollie, Rosa, Mary, Josie, Annie and Kate, and are a bright and interesting group. Mr. Vosika's parents are at present residing in Gregory county, South Dakota, and his wife's parents live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Our subject is a representative citizen, and takes a commendable interest in local affairs. He is a loyal Democrat.

#### P. N. ANDRESEN.

P. N. Andresen, the subject of this review, is numbered among the representative farmers of Divide township. He is the owner of a valuable estate in section 18, Phelps county, where he has built up a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Andresen is a native of Flensburg, Holstein, born in the year 1868, and came to this country when an infant with his parents, settling in Brooklyn, New York. In 1881 he came to York county, Nebraska, with his father, Christopher Andresen, who served in the Danish army during the war with Germany in 1864, and taken as a prisoner by the enemy. In 18— his father sold his farm in York county and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of farming land in Divide township, Phelps county, paying \$10,000, and which is now worth \$20,000. In 1903 our subject went in for himself, buying one hundred and sixty acres located in section 18, Divide township, for which

he gave \$5,000, and this has doubled in value since then. He has lived on this property since that time and farmed with good success, raising excellent crops, his wheat running twenty-five, corn forty, and oats forty-five bushels per acre, all of which is of A1 quality. He keeps from fifty to one hundred hogs, twenty cattle, and about a dozen horses, and has his place well improved, with good substantial buildings, fences, etc.

Mr. Andresen was married to Miss Rosetta Georgiana Lucas, a native of McLean county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Andresen have two children, Charles Edward, and an infant son, Clarence.

Mr. Andresen enjoys the confidence of his associates, and has held numerous positions of trust. He is at present secretary of the Farmers Elevator Company, located at Funk, Nebraska, with a capacity of twenty thousand. This elevator was built at a cost of \$6,000, and the company has an authorized capital of \$25,000. In political faith he is a Democrat.

#### JACKSON METTLEN.

Jackson Mettlen, known throughout Sioux county as a gentleman of enterprise and prosperity, is owner of a well improved estate in section 3, township 28, range 54. He is an old settler in that region, and has developed his farm through earnest and persistent effort, supplemented by good management and honest dealings with all.

Mr. Mettlen was born in Petersburg, Menard county, Illinois, in 1855. His father, B. C. Mettlen, was of German-American descent, a carpenter by trade. Our subject was reared in his native state, starting for himself in the grocery business at Minier, Illinois, in 1879, and remained there up to 1885, then came to Nebraska, locating seven miles west of Hemingford, in Box Butte county. There he took up a homestead, bought a team of mules and farmed for seven years, and also ran a store and was postmaster for two years at Lawn, in Box Butte county. He came to Sioux county in 1895, and went on the old "33 ranch", remaining for several years, locating on his present homestead in 1896. This is situated on the Niobrara river, is well supplied with pasture and hay land, and good water supply, etc. There are one thousand one hundred acres in the place, and he has succeeded in improving it in first-class shape, putting up good buildings, fencing the entire ranch, and installing a fine system of irrigation. Mr. Mettlen is now in comfortable circumstances, has a pleasant home and lives in contentment, surround-

ed by all the comforts of our modern rural life.

On October 18, 1887, Mr. Mettlen was united in marriage to Sadie Irion. Her father, John Irion, was an old settler in Box Butte county, where she grew up. Her mother was Susan Osborn, and her parents were also among the earliest settlers in this region. During the early residence of Mr. Irion and his family in Box Butte county, he was obliged to haul water a distance of seven miles for household purposes, and they went through every hardship and suffered many privations incident to pioneer life in the region. Mr. and Mrs. Mettlen are the parents of six children, named as follows: Blanche, now married, residing in Sioux county; Clark, Grace, Bessie, Floyd and Vera, the last mentioned now deceased.

Our subject is a Republican, has always been active in local affairs, in 1899 having been elected county commissioner, serving one term.

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#### TRUMAN P. MOODY.

Truman P. Moody is one of the oldest settlers in Dawes county and vicinity. He came here many years ago when this section had more population than the county could support, and many were forced to leave, but he was one of the fortunate ones who stuck to it, and has been amply rewarded for his perseverance and industry in the possession of a fine farm and home built up by hard labor and energetic effort. He has been of material aid in building up the locality since he chose this part of the country for his home, and deserves much credit for the part he has taken in local and county affairs.

Mr. Moody was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1850, on his parents' farm. His father, Wilson B. Moody, was also a native of Illinois, and followed farming all his life. Our subject grew up in his native state, attending the country schools and helping with the work of carrying on the farm, remaining in Illinois up to 1876, then he moved to Iowa, settling in Adair county, at first farming on rented land and later purchasing an eighty-acre farm, where he lived for a number of years. He then came to Dawes county, Nebraska, and located on his present farm, in section 32, township 34, range 52, the country here being then but very thinly settled and he was among the first to locate in this township. His first building was a board shanty, fourteen by twenty-four feet in size, having but one room, and he occupied this for quite a time. He attempted to farm on this gumbo land, but it

was a failure, so he gave it up and went to Iowa, where he spent one year. This was during the dry times throughout the section, and it was hard for anybody to make even a living on account of the loss of crops, etc., and Mr. Moody finally decided to go into the stock business, and picked up a few cattle and about one hundred and fifty sheep as a starter. He kept adding to his herd, and buying land, and now owns a ranch of two thousand acres, all deeded land, and his sons each own homesteads. Besides his ranch in Dawes county he owns four hundred acres in Custer county, and has plenty of good pasture for his stock, the farm also being well supplied with springs and running water. The ranch is all fenced, and he has put up good buildings and improvements, and devotes his entire time and attention to the stock business, raising both cattle and sheep, for which he finds a ready market at all times. This ranch extends along the Big Cottonwood creek, and is one of the valuable estates of the county.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Moody was married to Miss Pauline Knapper, born and raised at Whiteside, Illinois, daughter of Gotlieb Knapper, a farmer of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Moody have a family of seven children, who are named as follows: William, Katie, Clara, Perry, Albert, Robert and Thomas.

Politically Mr. Moody is an Independent and takes an active interest in local and county affairs, serving as assessor for his district several terms.

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#### J. A. H. GOUDIE.

J. A. H. Goudie, one of the old-timers of Harlan county, Nebraska, resides on his present farm in Sappa township, where he enjoys a retired life free from all hard labor, after many years of hardship and responsibility. He has a beautifully kept place of forty acres, all set out to fruit trees of every kind, and takes genuine delight in keeping this in the very best condition, enjoying his declining years in a peaceful and comfortable home. He is a man of much experience, and intelligent and genial in his manners to all whom he meets.

Mr. Goudie is a native of Franklin county, Indiana, born in 1842. His father, James Goudie, was born in Pennsylvania, and his mother, who was Susannah Mathieson, was born in county Tipperary, Ireland, and came to America at the age of seven years. His grandfather, also James Goudie, was of Scotch extraction, and came to this country in the early days, via the north of Ireland, settling in

Pennsylvania. Our subject grew up in Indiana, and in May, 1861, he enlisted when only nineteen years old in the Twentieth Ohio Infantry, and served for three months, in September of the same year enlisting in the Thirty-seventh Indiana, serving with the Army of the Cumberland at Stone River, Murphysboro, and later in Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Dalton, Resaca, Atlanta and all battles of that campaign. On the march to the sea he was one of the guards that delivered C. L. Valandingham to General Bragg of the confederates. Our subject was one of those who took part in the grand review at Washington, and then re-enlisted as a veteran for three years. During his life as a soldier he was wounded three times, twice at Stone River, and once while delivering dispatches in Tennessee. After the war he settled in Campaign county, Illinois, remaining there up to 1878, then came to Nebraska, where he took a homestead and engaged in farming, following that work up to 1890, when he retired to the forty-acre farm on which he now lives. He has been on the school board, township board, and has served as assessor for several years. He is also a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic of Orleans, and a man whom all delight to honor. Politically he is a Republican.

Mr. Goudie was married in 1866 to Miss Rowena Schultz, of Franklin county, Indiana, and they have one son, Edgar, living in Stamford.

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#### GEORGE L. TAYLOR.

George L. Taylor, vice-president of the First State Bank, of Hemingford, whose personal character and conceded ability well qualify him for the position which he holds, and who takes a leading part as a ranchman and citizen of Box Butte county, where his many broad acres show him to be both industrious and persistent, was born on a farm in Madison county, New York, in 1862. In 1864 the family came west and settled in South Dakota. Here his father, Charles N. Taylor, was a dealer in merchandise and a farmer and stock raiser, and engaged in many different enterprises. His mother was Mary (Baker) Taylor.

Mr. Taylor spent the earlier years of his life in South Dakota, where he received his education and assisted his father in his business. He completed his education at the South Dakota University at Vermillion, after which he taught school in South Dakota and Nebraska. In 1885 he came to Box Butte

county, Nebraska, driving from South Dakota with a team and covered wagon, and located on section 24, township 28, range 51, where his first building was a sod shanty. At this time Hay Springs was his trading point. Through years of adversity and prosperity he worked hard to make a home for himself, and by the practice of thrift and economy he has acquired an estate of three thousand seven hundred and twenty acres of land, and has many acres of leased land extending to the Niobrara river, a small portion of which he has under cultivation. His ranch is well fenced and cross fenced, and he has erected a substantial and commodious house together with other suitable buildings. There are good wells and wind mills on his place. On another page will be found an interesting picture showing a scene on Mr. Taylor's stock ranch.

The wedding ceremonies of Mr. Taylor and Miss Bertha White occurred in 1888. Her parents, John T. and Minerva (Parks) White, were prominent old settlers in South Dakota. Ten children came to bless this union, viz: Ruth, Edna, Olive, Charles, Helen, Harold, Amy, Arthur, Gladys and Mabel.

In political matters Mr. Taylor adheres to Republican principles. He has always been prominently identified in educational matters here, where he has assisted materially in the organization and building of the schools, and where he now holds the office of school director. He was instrumental in the organization of the First State Bank of Hemingford, of which institution he holds the office of vice-president. His career is a striking illustration of persistence, pluck and energy, and shows what possibilities this great western country has opened to the thrifty and ambitious man.

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#### JOHN MEVICH.

The name of John Mevich will surely appear on any list of the prominent old settlers of western Nebraska, as he is widely known as an agriculturist of ability and a man who has taken an active interest in the growth and development of this western country.

Mr. Mevich was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, October 3, 1860. He is a son of Peter and Mary Mevich. His father was a native of Germany and his mother of Ireland. When our subject was but a babe, the family moved to Bureau county, Illinois, where he was reared and educated, attending the public schools. In the spring of 1882 he left Illinois and went to Hamilton county, Iowa, where he engaged in farm work. He remained there until 1886, coming to Ogallala, Keith





SCENE ON STOCK RANCH OF GEORGE L. TAYLOR,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



county, Nebraska, in the spring of that year. He made a filing for a homestead on the north-west quarter of section 7, township 16, range 42, in what was then Cheyenne county, but which has since been divided and now forms a part of Deuel county. He proved up on his homestead and purchased adjoining property, and his farm now consists of six hundred and forty acres. The ranch is located on the Blue creek, and is well equipped with good improvements. Mr. Mevich engages quite extensively in stock raising and runs about two hundred head. He is especially interested in the raising of hogs, of which he has a fine herd, some of his animals having taken several prizes. For three years he has taken first prizes at the Denver stock show. Our subject is well and favorably known throughout the vicinity as an agriculturist and stock raiser of ability. He has had his share of pioneer experiences, going through the hardships of those early days with a spirit of enthusiasm which has won for him one of the finest ranches to be found anywhere.

Mr. Mevich was married to Miss Grace White, March 31, 1890, at Hutchinson, Deuel county. She is a native of Minnesota, and a daughter of Wellington and Mary (Langton) White, who came to Deuel county in 1886. Her parents are both living and reside at Lewellen, Nebraska. The father of Mr. Mevich died about 1876, when our subject was a mere boy. His mother is still living, and resides in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Mevich are the parents of two children, Ruth and Charlotte, both of whom live at home with their parents.

Mr. Mevich is a Republican in politics. He has always taken an active interest in all affairs pertaining to the welfare of western Nebraska. He has spent his time on his farm and ranch, and leases two hundred acres of irrigated land, and on this raises the best of alfalfa.

#### ROBERT J. WESTOVER.

Robert J. Westover, of section 6, township 24, range 38, Grant county, Nebraska, is one of the best known men, largest land owner and ranchman of his locality. He has spent many years in western Nebraska, having occupied his present ranch for over twenty-one years, and during that time has developed a fine property and met with splendid success in his enterprise.

Mr. Westover was born in Delaware county, Iowa, in June, 1863. His father, A.

H. Westover, was a farmer by occupation, of Dutch stock from Pennsylvania, his father being of Pennsylvania Dutch blood, and his mother of Scotch-Irish. Our subject's mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Ann Bella, a native of Ireland, of pure Scotch-Irish blood. The family settled in Iowa as pioneers and lived there up to 1870, then came to Nebraska, traveling by team to their new home in this state, camping out along the way and suffering from exposure during rough weather on the trip. Upon arriving in Nebraska they settled near Lincoln, in Lancaster county, and there went through the usual pioneer experiences, but remained there until our subject was seventeen years of age. He then left home and went into Colorado, locating near Greeley, where he worked as a cowboy and followed ranching for one year in that vicinity. He came back to Nebraska and settled at Lincoln, but only spent a couple of years there, then drifted into South Dakota and rail-roaded there during one summer. He next located in David City, Nebraska, for one year, starting in the horse business, working there for two years as a "broncho buster." Mr. Westover's next move was to Albion, Boone county, Nebraska, and there he was elected town marshal and served for three months. He went to Laramie City, Wyoming, from Albion, and worked on a cattle ranch for fourteen months, then came to Grant county, Nebraska, arriving there in the fall of 1887, where his wife was the first white woman to settle, and their's the first house ever built in that section that had a floor in it. They came into Grant county by team, driving from Laramie City, and also brought a bunch of horses with them. They lived for a time in Cherry county and, after filing on a homestead, went through hard times during a number of years, experiencing their worst times in 1892, when they had the misfortune to lose a large bunch of cattle on account of severe storms which swept that region. Mr. Westover lived in the latter vicinity three years, then moved to his present location and began in the ranching business. His place now consists of one thousand one hundred acres, all fenced and improved with good buildings, etc. He has a valuable estate, and keeps a bunch of five hundred cattle and seventy-five horses, handling almost exclusively the Hereford and Durham breed of cattle and heavy draft horses.

Our subject was married in 1884 to Miss Lizzie Christman, daughter of Philip Christman, a pioneer in Boone county, Nebraska. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Westover, namely: Harry, Alta, Mabel, and

Lena, the youngest, now nine years of age. The family occupy a nice residence in Hyannis during the school session, in order to give the children better educational advantages. Mr. Westover is a Bryan Democrat.

#### THOMAS C. MORRISON.

Thomas C. Morrison, a resident of Kirkwood precinct, Rock county, Nebraska, a native of the Isle of Man, born December 5, 1858, exhibits the characteristic virtues of his Manx ancestry, and is a worthy representative of a race not largely known on this side of the ocean. Still in the prime of life he is a hard working and industrious farmer; and upon the broad foundation of integrity, industry and thrift, he has reared a very successful career.

Thomas C. Morrison is the only son of his parents, Thomas and Margaret (Corrin) Morrison, and from the time he was twelve years old has made his own way in the world. His father was a miner, and when the son shifted for himself he crossed the ocean, finding employment for about a year in the Pennsylvania mines; then he journeyed west to Illinois, Rock Island county, where he spent the next seven or eight years in various coal mines of that region, becoming master of every detail of the business.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. Morrison was married to Miss Maggie Atkinson, a daughter of Thomas Atkinson, English born and bred, and a successful farmer of Clinton county, Iowa. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Morrison made their home in that county for about a year while the husband was engaged at the coal chutes of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway. He farmed for the ensuing two years, and then moved to the western part of Iowa, where he occupied a farm two years in Ida county, and for the same period in Woodbury county.

In 1890 Mr. Morrison came to Nebraska and secured a home in Rock county, pre-empting at first in section 5, township 32, range 18, on which, however, he very soon filed homestead papers, proving up in due season and securing for himself and family one of the choicest farming tracts in the county. It consists of four hundred and eighty acres fronting the Niobrara river, and presents many charming scenes as the river sweeps along its way. Especially as a stock and cattle ranch does it afford possibilities which are already being realized in this region.

Mr. Morrison is broad minded and progressive in his agricultural ambitions, and has

put down one of the best wells in the county, a notable improvement when one considers a drouthy past. He has planted fruit trees adapted to the soil and climate as well as a variety of small fruit. He has planted a grove which is doing well, and which is liberally supplemented by a native growth of timber, luxuriantly flourishing since the old devastating prairie fires have ceased. He engages in grain and stock farming, and is building up very extensive dairy interests, which have already become very promising. In 1894 he faced his worst year, when the crops were largely destroyed by heat and the dry weather, but in the main he feels that he has been exceptionally fortunate since his establishment in Rock county, and takes a justifiable pride in the results that crown his labors, "of which the end is not yet." In political views he is a Prohibitionist, and is a member of the Kirkwood Methodist church.

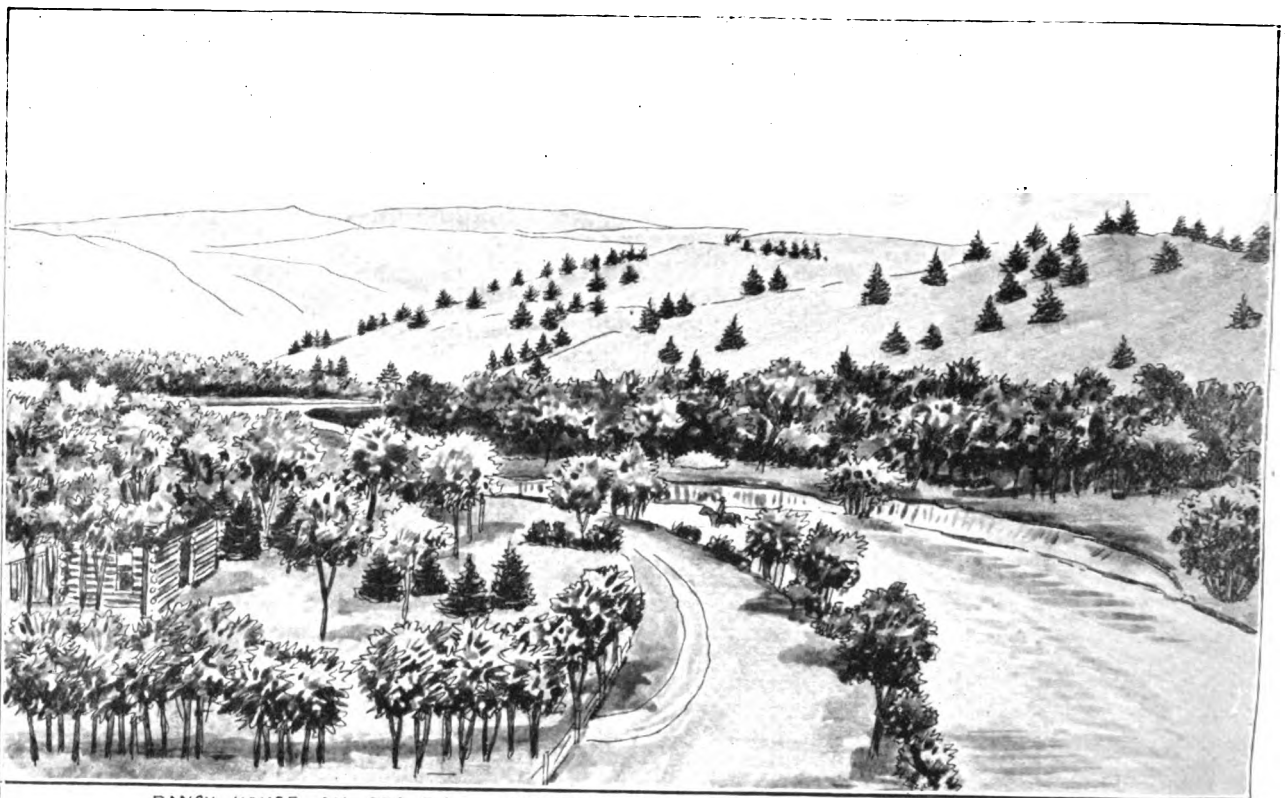
#### JEFFERSON D. TEETERS.

As an old settler of Cherry county, Nebraska, and an agriculturist and ranchman of untiring energy and perseverance, the gentleman above mentioned needs no introduction to the people of his locality. Mr. Teeters has spent the past twelve years in this section of the country, where he is building up a good ranch and is highly esteemed by all as a worthy citizen.

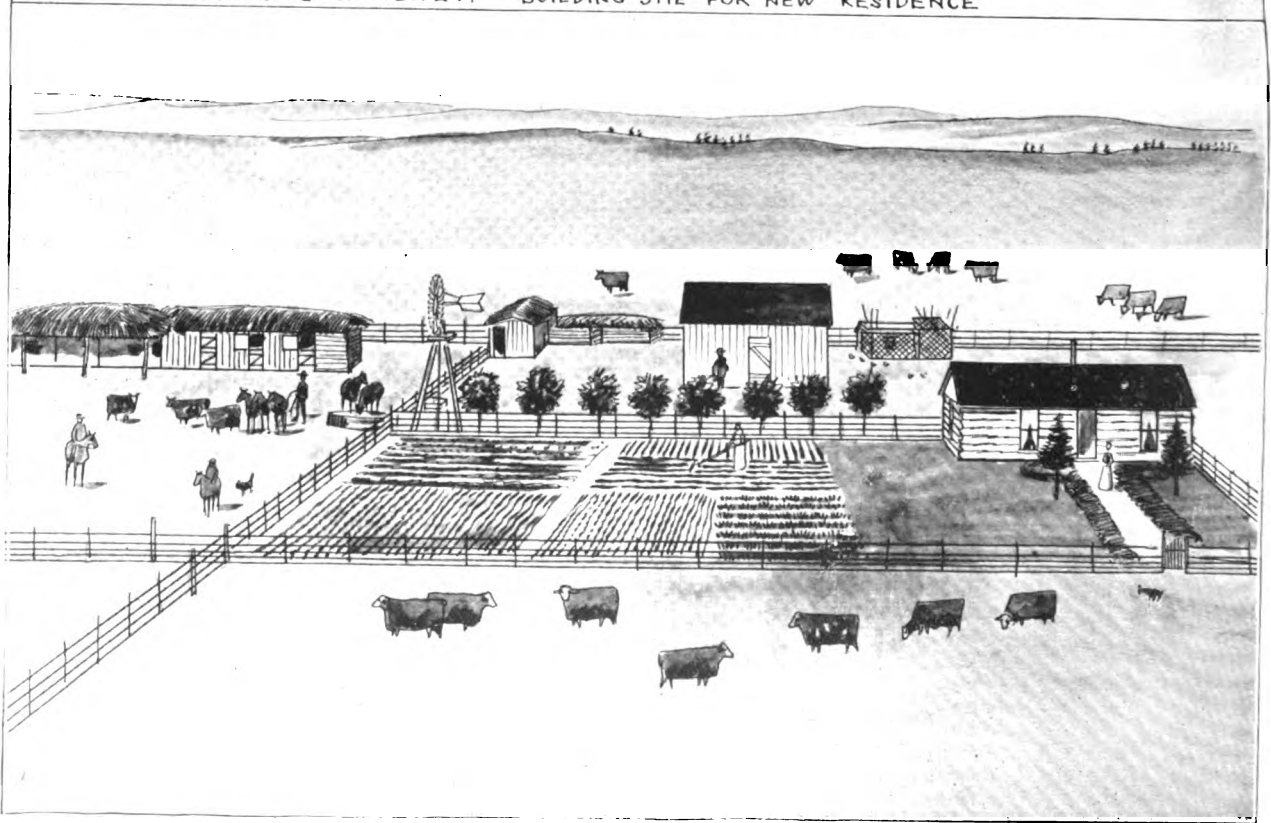
Mr. Teeters was born in Steuben county, Indiana, 1862, and is a brother of Wilson J. and Willis J. Teeters, whose sketches appear in this volume. They are of old American stock, the father having been a farmer in their native county in Indiana, and later an early settler in the eastern part of Nebraska.

At the age of about twenty-two, our subject started out for himself. He had received a common school education, and was familiar with all the work of carrying on a farm. His parents moved to Monona county, Iowa, when he was a lad of fifteen years, residing there for two years, then came to Nebraska, locating in Burt county in 1880. He farmed in that section of the country up to 1896, then moved to Cherry county, and in March, 1897, took up a homestead in sections 2 and 3, township 29, range 34, proving up on it, and in 1904 acquired four hundred and eighty acres additional under the Kincaid law in section 9. He lived in a sod house for a time, building a neat frame house in 1907. In 1904 he moved to his present location in section 9, which he has improved with good buildings, well fences, etc. He is engaged exclusively in





RANCH HOUSE ON SEC. 24. BUILDING SITE FOR NEW RESIDENCE.



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL BUCKMINSTER,  
Section 25, Township 33, Range 37, Cherry County, Nebraska.

stock raising, and is recognized as one of the prosperous and successful ranchmen in this vicinity. He is associated in this and other enterprises with his brothers, Wilson J., Willis J. and Morris L., whose combined holdings exceed five thousand two hundred acres.

Mr. Teeters' home ranch contains eight hundred acres, and he runs from seventy to eighty head of cattle the year round.

#### SAMUEL BUCKMINSTER.

Samuel Buckminster, a prosperous farmer of Cherry county, Nebraska, has built up a fine home and valuable estate in Merriman precinct.

Mr. Buckminster was born in New Hampshire October 29, 1849, and came to Council Bluffs, Iowa (then called Kingsville), when only a year old. His parents, Lenox and Maria (Waldo) Buckminster, were both of American stock. They settled near Council Bluffs, where our subject was reared and educated, being the younger of two children, and the only one now living. When but nine years old he began to support himself, doing all kinds of work. During his boyhood years he was employed driving team, freighting, and on railroad construction, within eighty-five miles of his father's home, and for the period of twelve years never once saw him. He made his first trip across Nebraska in 1863, and in later years was freighting and working on railroads, still considering Council Bluffs his home. In 1884 he settled ten miles south of Gordon, and engaged in farming, remaining here for six years, then moved on the Snake river, where he lived for eight years, engaged in the stock business. At the end of this time he moved to his present farm, and at once went to work establishing his home, engaging in the stock business and mixed farming, and has been very successful in raising excellent crops. He is located on what is called Missouri Flat, in section 25, township 33, range 37, where he owns one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of farming land, including two hundred acres of Kincaid homestead. His ranch will support two hundred head of cattle and a number of horses, as well as being well adapted to mixed farming. He has seen his share of the ups and downs of the state along with the rest of the old timers. He has a complete set of substantial farm buildings and a good supply of farm machinery for carrying on a well conducted farm. A view of the residence is to be found on another page in this work.

December 20, 1871, Mr. Buckminster was married to Miss Emily Debolt, a native of

Pennsylvania, born in 1853. Her father, George Debolt, was a French-American, while her grandfather served in the war of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Buckminster are the parents of eight children, namely: Frank, Mollie (dead), Flora, wife of Martin Lowry, Sadie (dead), Charles, Katie, George and Leo.

Mr. Buckminster thinks that Nebraska is the place for a poor man to come, and the success which he has attained is evidence that if a man goes to work with a will and determines to succeed, everything will come to him. He came here with practically no capital and has gained a valuable property, pleasant home, and has the respect and esteem of his fellowmen. Politically he is a Democrat, but is not a radical, always voting for the best man on the ticket. During the Indian uprising he did not, like many, flee the country, but held down his place.

#### CHARLES W. CRAMER.

Charles W. Cramer is one of the pioneers of Cherry county, and is known throughout this locality as a prosperous and energetic farmer.

Mr. Cramer, the third in a family of eleven children, was born in Knox county, Ohio, October 29, 1839. His father, Levi Cramer, was American born, of German ancestry, and one of the pioneers of western Ohio, dying shortly after moving to Nebraska, in 1884. His wife was Miss Rebecca Phillips, a native of Maryland, daughter of William and Polly (Walker) Phillips. Charles W. Cramer began hard farm work at an early age, being but fifteen when he first swung a cradle in his father's grain fields, and from this time on he made his own way besides helping to support his father's family. He lived with his parents at home until 1861, when he was married to Miss Phoebe Gaskill, daughter of Josiah and Catherine (Van de Vere) Gaskill, the former a farmer, of American stock. Three children have blessed this union, as follows: Melissa A., wife of E. D. Mason, living at St. Joe, Missouri, the mother of two sons; Harrison M., residing in Valentine, father of four children, and Thomas W., also married, who is a farmer, having four hundred and eighty acres lying in sections 7, 8 and 18, township 34, range 28, of Cherry county. While still in Ohio our subject had a small farm, on which he made his home until 1878, then went to Butler county, Nebraska, where he remained for three years, buying a forty-acre farm, which he sold, moving soon after to Knox county, in 1881, and took a homestead, remaining here for twelve years, living for a



time in a dugout, twelve by ten feet in size. He drove into Knox county with ox teams and covered wagon. Hard times followed, brought on by grasshopper raids, drouths and all the privations usual to the pioneers of that time. In 1893 he traded his homestead for a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 18, township 34, range 28, Cherry county. This farm had no improvements, but Mr. Cramer at once built a house, barn and fences, and now has under cultivation ninety acres, also a finely growing young orchard. July 4, 1894, he had the finest prospect of a corn crop one could wish for, but hot winds sprang up and in the short space of six days a match would have burned the field up. It was with losses such as these that he had to contend. Mr. Cramer is one of those who has helped to make the history of Cherry county. Has held office at different times, serving a term as assessor, and since 1893 as school treasurer in his district. He is proud of the fact that his district is entirely out of debt. He has always been active in religious work, and when first settling in the county was superintendent of two Sabbath schools for four years. The family adhere to the Methodist church of Valentine. In politics Mr. Cramer is an Independent.

#### JOHN G. LEMONS.

A leading old timer of western Nebraska is found in the gentleman above mentioned, he having come to Dawes county about 1887, when that region was just beginning to be settled by many who had come to this new country to build up a home and fortune through industry and perseverance, and who by dint of good management and often-times much privations have accumulated a competence to last them through their declining years. Mr. Lemons resides in section 33, township 30, range 50, where he has a comfortable home and is held in high esteem by a host of warm friends and good neighbors.

Mr. Lemons was born in Monroe county, Virginia, in 1863, on his father's farm. The latter, James Lemons, spent his whole life in that state, and it was there that the early years of our subject's life were spent. He received a common school education, and was trained in the proper operation of a farm, remaining with his parents up to his eighteenth year, then left home and came west to Illinois, locating in Cameron, Warren county, following farm work in that vicinity for six years. He next went to Kansas, where he remained for a year, working in Ness county. Mr. Lemons first came to Nebraska, landing in Dawes

county, in the winter of 1887-'88, and located on a homestead in section 33, township 30, range 51. He at once put up a log cabin and started to build up his farm, and during the first few years found it rather up-hill work owing to the new country, where it was hard to obtain the proper facilities for operating a farm to advantage, but he stuck to the work and devoted his whole time and attention to improving the place. The dry years overtook him and although he suffered losses at different times, never had a complete crop failure, and was able to make a living for his family and also to add to his acreage gradually. His ranch now consists of one thousand acres, of which he has one hundred acres in a high state of cultivation and always raises good crops. The farm is well improved and has comfortable and substantial buildings, fences, and everything in the best possible shape, showing good management in all branches of the business. In 1901 Mr. Lemons made a trip to Alberta, Canada, thinking he might find a place to locate, but found no better country anywhere than he has right here, and is well satisfied to spend the balance of his years in this part of the country.

Mr. Lemons has done his full share toward building up the region, and has aided materially in advancing its best interests, helping to establish schools, and taking an active part in the local government. He has served on the school board for a number of years, and has also held the office of assessor for one term. Politically he lends his influence toward reform movements.

In 1888 Mr. Lemons was married to Miss Harriet A. Forbes, of Dawes county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Lemons eleven children have been born, who are named as follows: Guy, Leah, James, Mary, Opha, Velva, Ruth, Crete, John and Levina, and Asa, deceased.

#### J. N. BONNER.

J. N. Bonner, an estimable citizen of North Platte, Nebraska, is well known throughout the locality in which he resides, and highly respected by his fellowmen.

Mr. Bonner is a native of Wisconsin, and was born in Outagamie county, near Appleton. His father is John N. Bonner, Sr., and a farmer and old settler in Wisconsin, where his family was reared and educated. One son, Adelbert, was employed by the Union Pacific Railway Company as an engineer, and was killed in 1899 in an accident on that road. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1873, locating at North Platte, and went to work in the

locomotive department of the Union Pacific railroad. He worked his way up and is now engineer on a passenger train, running from North Platte to Grand Island. He began in the locomotive department at the age of sixteen, beginning as fireman. He started running as an engineer in 1881 at the age of twenty-one years, and has followed it continuously ever since, and has a splendid record to his credit. He was the youngest engineer in years, when appointed, of any then serving. Through strict attention to duty and carefulness in details he has had the best of success and is one of the road's most trusted employes.

Mr. Bonner was married in 1883 to Miss Etta Stebbins, daughter of Hon. Lucian Stebbins, who came to Nebraska in 1873, and began as a ranchman. He was a native of Massachusetts, born in South Wilbraham, of Puritan stock, tracing back his ancestors to the Mayflower, and then on back to 1086, and his wife was Miss Elizabeth Perry Walsh, of Pike county, Illinois. In the early days Hon. Lucian Stebbins first crossed the plains in 1857, and was known all along the Pacific coast from British Columbia to Panama, and was one of the first to write and agitate for the formation of the Populist party, of which he is one of the foremost members at the present time. He served his country during the Civil war in the Fifteenth California Volunteers, and won high honors as a soldier. He has served his community in different capacities since locating here, and in 1897 was representative from the fifty-fourth district in the state legislature. He is the owner of two good farms located near North Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Bonner have a family of four children, named as follows: Carl and Adelbert, both attending school, Elizabeth, who is an accomplished musician, and one of the finest pianists in this locality, now attending Lincoln Conservatory of Music. She was a member of the High School Sextette, a musical organization of North Platte, who have traveled over the state and sung in a number of the larger cities with great success. Helen, who is also at school. The family is highly respected in North Platte, and they have a pleasant and comfortable home. Mr. Bonner is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

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#### LOUIS CARLSON.

Among the representative agriculturists of Brown county, Nebraska, who have become prosperous and substantial citizens through persistent effort and strict integrity,

a prominent place is accorded the gentleman above named.

Mr. Carlson was born in the village of Hanbo, Sweden, July 11, 1848. His father, Lars Carlson, was a farmer, while his maternal grandfather, Michael Arbohm, was a copersmith in that country. The whole family came to America in 1850, father and eldest son coming in the spring of that year, while the mother, with her father and two small children, did not reach American shores until the week before Christmas, having been on the water since spring. The second birthday of our subject was celebrated on board ship in the middle of the Atlantic ocean. Each division of the family came across the states by way of the Hudson, Erie canal and the Lakes, landing in Chicago, going from there direct to Victoria, Knox county, Illinois. Here our subject was reared and educated, attending the common schools, the while assisting his father in the work of the farm, the elder brother, Michael, having died on August 20, 1862, throwing the burden of helping the father in the farm work on Louis, then a lad of some fourteen years. He remained faithfully at his post until 1871, when he began farming for himself, working at it for nine years in Illinois. He then came west to Iowa, where he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, situated four miles southeast of Essex, which in three years he sold and bought a store in Essex. Two years later he sold the store and bought a three-hundred and twenty-acre tract three miles north of town, on which he lived for eleven years, when, selling this he assumed charge of the C. E. Anderson farm, containing eleven hundred and thirty acres, and acted as manager and foreman for eight years.

In 1901 Mr. Carlson first came to Brown county, secured a fine tract of land and at once went into cattle raising, also began operating five or six hundred acres of farming land. Here his sons have taken up homesteads and they control altogether, father and sons, five thousand acres of grazing and farm land, including some leased land. He and each of his sons have erected a fine set of farm buildings, and they have five windmills on the tract. Mr. Carlson has retired from cattle raising, but the sons keep five hundred head of cattle all the time. Mr. Carlson has been very successful in his farming ventures, has built up a valuable estate through perseverance and energy, and richly deserves honorable mention among the representative men of Nebraska.

Mr. Carlson was married at Victoria, Knox county, Illinois, May 1, 1871, to Miss

Albertina L. Severin, born near the village of Soderham, Sweden. Her father, Lars Severin, was a merchant and surveyor, coming to America with his daughter in 1865, his wife having died prior to their emigration. He afterward returned to Sweden, married there and came back to America, settling in New Jersey, where he died. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, of whom three are now living, namely: Sadie, married to Frank Stronberg, and living at Essex, Iowa, the parents of six children; Henry, who married Amelia Nordquist, the father of two children, Mabel and Ernest; Ernest Carlson, who married Stella Jones, the father of four children: Henry Glen, Donald A. and Dorothy A. (twins), and Leonard. Minnie, the youngest born of our subject, is deceased.

Mr. Carlson is a Bryan Democrat. He is a member of the Methodist church, and while living in Essex fraternized with the Odd Fellows.

#### SAMUEL M. THOMAS.

Of the prominent and leading old settlers of Sioux county, Nebraska, none are held in higher esteem by their fellow citizens than Samuel M. Thomas. He has been a potent factor in the development and growth of his locality and is a man of untiring energy, possessed of sterling characteristics, and has prospered in his chosen calling.

Mr. Thomas was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1853, on a farm. He is of Welsh and Irish stock, the father born in Wales, while the mother, Emaline Cortright, was of Irish extraction, born in Illinois. Our subject's grandfather Cortright was one of the first settlers in Iroquois county, and was well known and highly respected by all who knew him. Samuel W. Thomas grew up in his native state, following farming with his father, as a boy and young man; at the age of twelve starting to hustle for himself, and has made his own way in the world ever since. Several years were spent in Iowa, where he farmed on rented land, but became dissatisfied with conditions there, and came to Nebraska in the fall of 1888, locating in Sioux county. He drove overland from Illinois and Iowa, carrying his goods in a covered wagon, in which his wife rode, camping out along the way on the journey, encountering many difficulties and suffering exposure from the weather, but reached their destination in safety.

On arriving in Sioux county Mr. Thomas settled on a homestead in Hat Creek valley, where he put up a log cabin, partly dugout, and began to make a home and develop a farm.

He had a team and wagon, and broke up land, putting in sod crops the first year, and eventually proved up on the place, living on it up to 1895. During the first five or six years he was obliged to work out in the vicinity of their home to make a living, spending a part of his time in the Black Hills, and also worked as a cowboy on different ranches in that region. One fall he made a trip into the Sand Hills near Hyannis, with a bunch of cattle to winter. He bought land in Sioux county and lived on it until 1901, then moved to his present location in section 10, township 23, range 57, and there put up house, barns and other improvements, having a valuable property, located on Squaw creek. There is a fine supply of water, one big spring having its source near his house, and altogether it is one of the most desirable ranches in the vicinity. The place contains six quarter sections of deeded land, with three quarters of Kincaid homestead, all fenced and a nice lot of timber, etc.

In 1873 our subject married Miss Adeline Burroughs, daughter of Abe Burroughs, a farmer of Iroquois county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have five children, namely: Theresa, Charles, Ira, Henry and Samuel, all of whom are grown, three married and in homes of their own.

#### BENJAMIN HANEY.

Benjamin Haney, one of the earliest settlers in western Nebraska, and a man who helped organize the county in which he now resides, is also one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Grant county. He is a successful ranchman, although he now resides in Hyannis, where he owns and occupies a fine residence.

Mr. Haney was born in Moultrie county, Illinois, in 1849. His parents were both of American blood, and followed farming all their lives. Benjamin was raised in his native state until he was about seventeen, when the family came to Nebraska, landing here in 1866. They first settled in Gage county, and later Benjamin took a homestead in Saline county, where he was among the earliest settlers. There he went through the usual pioneer experiences, witnessing grasshopper raids, when he lost three crops in succession, and had a very hard time to get along and make a living. He was married there in 1872 to Anna M. Ryder, whose father, Thomas L. Ryder, was a farmer and an old settler in eastern Nebraska, her mother's maiden name being Jane Reed, of English descent. The young couple started out bravely to establish a home in that part



**BEN HANEY AND FAMILY.**



of the state, and succeeded remarkably well, remaining there up to 1887, then struck out farther west, coming to Grant county in the same year. North Platte was then their nearest postoffice and trading station, and all supplies had to be hauled from that point. Here they went through many hardships, spending many nights camping out on the ground while making trips through the country by team, as the settlers' homes were very few throughout the region, and often for many miles one would not see even so much as a sod hut in driving through the country. He finally located on a ranch in the southern part of the county, put up rough buildings and started at ranching, and got into the stock business, and has met with decided success, succeeding in improving a good ranch, and at the present time owns and operates a whole section of good land, which is devoted principally to ranching purposes. He still personally superintends the running of this place, but resides in Hyannis, moving into the town in 1901.

Mr. Haney's family consists of nine children, named as follows: Thomas, residing in Saline county, Nebraska, on his own farm, James, Frank, George, Carrie, Mary, Rufus, Augusta and Homer. The sons have good ranches which lie near their father's place, and also successful ranchers and stock growers. A picture of the family group is presented on another page of this volume.

In 1905 Mr. Haney was elected county commissioner, serving in that capacity at the present time. He has always taken an active part in local affairs of a political nature, and is a man of superior attainments, broad-minded and liberal in his views, always standing for the best interests of his community. He is a Bryan Democrat.

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#### WILLIAM O. LOVENBURG.

Persistent industry has placed this gentleman among the prosperous agriculturists of Perkins county. He is one of the earliest settlers of the region, and his home in section 23, township 9, range 37, Madrid precinct, has been gained only by the strictest economy and excellent management. The hardships which at different times have fallen to the lot of Mr. Lovenburg would have heartily discouraged one of a less persistent nature, but have only tended to make him more determined and spurred him to greater action. With undaunted courage he has faced misfortunes, suffering and hardships incident to the life of a pioneer of the western states,

and he has remained to enjoy a fitting reward for his labors.

Mr. Lovenburg was born in Tama county, Iowa, in 1861. His father, John Lovenburg, was born in Bohemia, where his parents lived and died, he coming to America and was one of the pioneer homesteaders in Perkins county, arriving in this country in 1887 alone. He married Mary Kasl, also born in Bohemia, coming to the United States with her parents in 1857, the family settling in Tama county, Iowa. Our subject's maternal grandmother was Kate Kasl, born in Seci, in Plzen Bohemia, and his grandfather, Vaclav Kasl, born December 8, 1818, came to America in 1857, settling in Kansas in 1871, being among the earliest settlers in Republic county, of that state. They spent many years there, raising a large family, and now are the grandparents of forty-four grandchildren and fifty-six great-grandchildren. An uncle of our subject was a soldier in the Civil war.

Mr. Lovenburg was raised on a farm in Kansas, remaining with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, and then farmed on rented land in Kansas for three years, coming to Perkins county in 1887. He filed on a homestead on section 23, township 9, range 37, starting on wild prairie land without any improvements whatever. During the first six months he was compelled to haul all water for domestic use a distance of five miles. He went through "sod shanty experience," and experienced also the usual pioneer hardships incident to drouths, crop failures, etc., his worst years being from 1890 to 1896, but managed to make a scant living and stayed through it all, gradually growing into the stock business when the years were unfavorable for grain raising. In 1901 Mrs. Lovenburg died, her death occurring on August 13th, and shortly afterward our subject returned to his old home in Kansas, engaging in implement business with his brother, Frank V. (a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume), at the town of Narka. They built up a good business, and as stated before, had the misfortune to be burned out in 1906, so quit the business and our subject came back to his homestead in Perkins county and has since lived on it. He is owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, with about one hundred and sixty acres cultivated, and the balance in grass, engaging to quite an extent in stock raising. His place is well improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and is one of the valuable estates in the vicinity.

Mr. Lovenburg was married in 1883, his

wife's maiden name being Anna Seka, born in Bohemia, and to them were born the following children: Sherman, now deceased; Lottie; Bertha, who died on the home ranch in March, 1908; Stanford; Walter, also deceased; Ellie, Linda and Olga.

Mr. Lovenburg has always had the reputation of being an active and public-spirited citizen and has exerted his influence in behalf of a better public service and morality, taking a leading part in local affairs, helping establish and build up the schools in his vicinity. He is an independent voter.

#### THEODORE F. GOOLD.

Theodore F. Goold was born in Kewanee, Illinois, December 25, 1877. His father, Henry L. Goold, was Scotch-Irish and his mother (Florence Hurd in her youth) was of German nationality. The family came west to Nebraska when Mr. Goold was ten years old, his father engaging in the stock business until 1897.

Mr. Goold was reared in Keith county, attending school there and later going to the State University, from which he was graduated in 1902, after completing the scientific course. He was associated with his father in the ranching business until 1906, at which time the Citizen's Bank of Ogallala was established and he became cashier of that institution. His efforts, combined with those of his associates, have made this bank a success from the start and it is now doing a good business. The deposits of this bank are guaranteed.

Mr. Goold was married in Ogallala, September 26, 1908, to Miss Jennie Smith, a daughter of Francis M. Smith, deceased. Mr. Goold is a member of the Masonic order, holding membership in the Blue Lodge at Ogallala and the Sisostris Temple, thirty-second degree Masons, at Lincoln, and also of the Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

His father, Henry L. Goold, now chairman of the board of county commissioners, held the office of regent at the State University from 1896 to 1902. He has taken an active part in Republican politics and has been honored with positions on committees of prominence. His birth occurred in Yates City, Illinois, December 26, 1851.

He lived in that city until grown and attended the Northwestern University, until his health failed, when he went to California, where he spent three or four years in educational work and farming. He went into the furniture business in Kewanee, Illinois, and also

bought and shipped horses from Nebraska, doing an extensive business. In 1880 he moved to Nebraska, where he engaged in stock raising, in which he has been very successful. He has a ranch of six thousand acres, some six miles southeast of Ogallala.

Henry L. Goold has taken a great interest in the educational matters of the region and has been a member of the board of education in Ogallala. He helped to establish the experiment station in connection with the State University while regent of that institution. He has been a great success as a farmer and stock breeder, raising draft horses of the Shire breed and shorthorn cattle. He is an example of what perseverance will do for a man in either east or west.

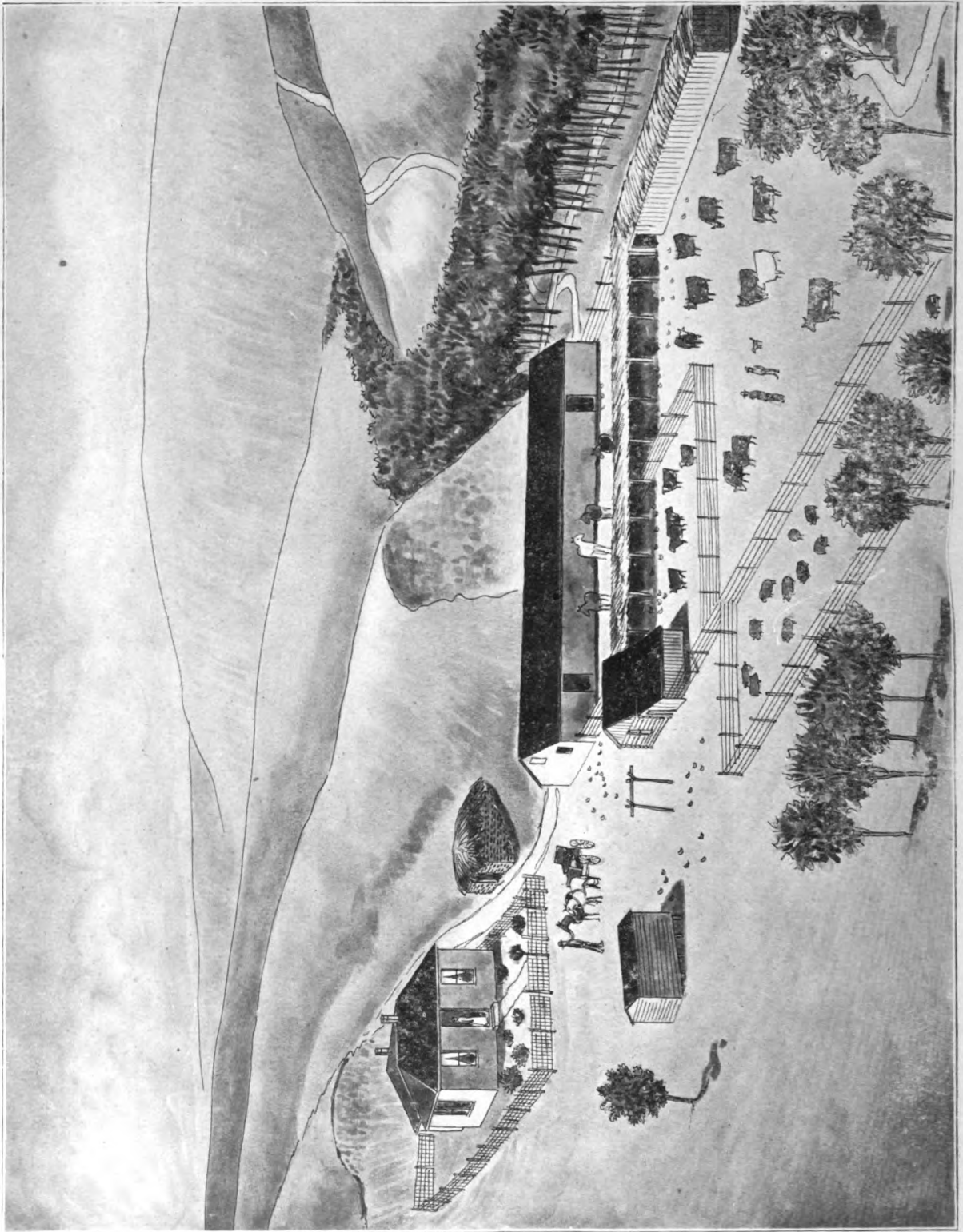
#### JOHN V. GLOVER, DECEASED.

John V. Glover was, for many years prior to his death, a leading farmer and prosperous citizen of Sheridan county, Nebraska. His family still reside in this locality and are well and favorably known throughout the community.

Mr. Glover was born in Orange county, Indiana, in 1843. His father, John B. Glover, was born in Kentucky of American stock, and his mother was Elizabeth B. Childs, a member of the well-known Chase family of English descent. The family moved to Glenwood, Iowa, when our subject was thirteen years old. In 1862 he took a trip across the plains, and in the fall of the same year enlisted in the Independent Battery of Colorado Artillery, commanded by Captain William McClain, serving in this company for two years. During this time he contracted the measles and when this disease left him his health failed and he was discharged from the army. From 1865 to 1868 he followed the carpenter's trade in Lawrence, Kansas, and during the latter year he engaged in farming and continued at this for five years. At the end of that time he established himself in the mercantile business in Louisville, Nebraska. He was successful in this venture, and built up a nice trade, but in 1878 had the misfortune to be burned out, losing everything he had, and was obliged to start all over again. The following year he erected a large stone and brick store and opened up with a new general stock of merchandise, and soon had a profitable trade built up. From 1880 to 1885 he held the position of postmaster at Louisville. In 1884 he came to this locality and settled on his present farm as a preemption, moving on it with his family in the following year, and here he built a sod







RESIDENCE OF ANDREW STEELE,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

house in which they have lived ever since. This was the first white family to settle in this vicinity, and their sod house was the first building ever erected here.

Mr. Glover was married in July, 1865, to Miss Alma E. Wilson, born in Ireland in 1845, who came to America with her parents when a young child. Mr. and Mrs. Glover were the parents of four children, who are named as follows: Florence A., born August 17, 1866; George V., born August 15, 1868; Walter, born September 20, 1871; and Clara M., born July 6, 1875. The sons refused to take advantage of the college education which their father offered to give them, but the girls were eager to avail themselves of the opportunity, and each has received a full college course. On November 21, 1896, Mr. Glover died as the result of an accident. He was slightly deaf, and during a fire, while attempting to cross the street was struck by the hook and ladder truck. He was not killed instantly, but went to Los Angeles soon after, and died there from the injuries received in this accident. Since his death his wife has managed all his affairs and the well-kept home and surroundings bear evidence of her ability and good judgment. The family have gone through considerable trouble, but have always had the sympathy and assistance of good friends and helpful neighbors. Mrs. Glover now operates six sections of land, farming about one hundred and fifty acres, and keeps about four hundred head of cattle. The whole place is well improved with good substantial buildings, and all fenced. She devotes her entire time and attention to the affairs of the large property, personally superintending everything, but the labor attached to the management of a place of this size is almost too much for one person to undertake, and she is desirous of renting her place to a good, responsible person. Mr. Glover was a strong Republican, always took an active interest in party politics, but never sought any honors at the polls. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, of the Masonic lodge, and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was buried by the Odd Fellows with all the honors of the order.

#### ANDREW STEELE.

Andrew Steele resides on his large farm situated in section 35, township 34, range 35, Cherry county, and is well and favorably known by all in this locality.

Mr. Steele is a native of Scotland, born

February 20, 1848, and came to Canada with his parents when he was eight years of age. Leaving Scotland in a sailing vessel, they were buffeted by storms until the vessel sprung a leak. After a perilous time, during which the continued use of the pumps kept the vessel afloat, they reached Liverpool where Mr. Steele and his family re-embarked in the Black Star liner, Australia. Landing in New York they went by rail to Coburg, Canada, later settling near Trenton. His father, John Steele, a native of Scotland, emigrated to the county of Hastings, Ontario, settling on a farm near Trenton. Our subject is the third member in a family of five children, and at the age of sixteen years started in life for himself, securing employment in a saw mill. He spent one winter working in the pineries, then learned the miller's trade in Trenton, Ontario, and followed this for sixteen years in Canada. In 1872 he left Canada and moved to Minnesota, where he worked at his trade for twelve years, then bought a farm in that state, which he lost through a succession of crop failures. He then became discouraged and left his farm there with nothing to show for his hard labor. He came to Cherry county in November, 1886, his only capital being a team and four cows, driving overland the entire distance from Minnesota to Nebraska, requiring six weeks to cover the journey of six hundred and fifty miles. He located on the farm he now occupies, and went to work in building up his home. His first dwelling was a log house, which burned down about a year and a half later, consuming the entire contents. He then erected a stone house with a sod roof and occupied this for many years. He has improved his place wonderfully, adding to his acreage until he is proprietor of twelve hundred and eighty acres of good land, of which four hundred acres can be cultivated, and has one hundred and twenty acres of good hay land. He is engaged in both farming and stock raising, also dairying on a large scale, milking about thirty cows and shipping the cream to Lincoln. He has the record of receiving the largest check for cream sent to anyone at Cody, his product amounting to two hundred and sixty dollars for six months during the summer of 1906. Mr. Steele has a fine grout house, 20 x 36, erected in 1903, with a commodious cellar under it, besides a vegetable cellar, 12 x 18 feet. His barn is a good, large building, 20 x 114, and he has one hundred and eighty feet of stone shed, granary (14 x 20), and a large hen house. He has spent considerable money in these buildings, and to

show for it has as finely improved a place as can be found in this locality. He raises good crops each year, his crop in 1906 amounting to over three hundred bushels of potatoes and thirty hundred bushels of corn and other grains. He keeps one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle, about thirty head of horses and some hogs. His farm is well supplied with water, extending two miles along Bear creek flowing through his farm, and he has a beautiful spring of clear water which never fails. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Steele was married in 1871 to Miss Julia H. Sabin, born in London, England, in 1855. She came to Canada with her parents when a young child, her father's death occurring soon after settling here. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele, namely: John T.; Annie G., wife of J. Truax; Mary J., wife of George Johnson; Edith B., wife of James McDowell; Ira O., James A., William F., Ada J., wife of Chas. Wilson; Alice R., Lyle J. Six of these were born in Minnesota and the four youngest in Nebraska.

In 1902 Mr. Steele spent the summer in Canada, and in 1906 he made another trip accompanied by his wife, and during the latter journey Mrs. Steele was taken ill with heart failure and died in Peterboro, Ontario, on May 6. During the Indian war in Nebraska, in 1891, Mrs. Steele was the only woman on the flats who did not leave, she preferring to remain with her husband through the dangerous times rather than leave without him.

Mr. Steele has always been one of the public-spirited citizens of his community and his hospitality is proverbial. Politically he is an Independent voter, at times having served the community in local offices.

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#### MESSRS. PATTERSON & WINGARD.

The above firm is one of the most successful in Kearney, where they are engaged in buying and selling alfalfa seed and other grains. The business was established in January, 1903, and since that time they have built up a trade that reaches all over the country, enriching Buffalo county and western Nebraska. They are the largest dealers in the west in alfalfa, buying the best grades, cleaning and assorting this, so that the product they send out is the very best on the market. This is sold all through the western states and as far east as Ohio. During the year 1905 they shipped a large amount to Russia, where some parts of the country is admirably adapted to the growing of this

grass. In the same year the firm handled at Kearney alone five hundred thousand pounds of the seed. It is a recognized fact by all the large and small dealers in field corn, and sweet corn seed, that the seed grown in Nebraska is superior to the product of any other region, and in this line also the firm of Patterson & Wingard are leaders. Nebraska now grows three-fifths of all the sweet corn seed used in the United States, and its reputation is growing constantly so that it is impossible to estimate the wealth that this industry, together with the alfalfa seed business, will grow to in the years to come, and the great value it will give to Nebraska corn and alfalfa lands. The reason for the success of this industry is in the fact that the nights here in the late summer and early autumn allow these grains to come to perfect maturity. The seed corn handled by the firm is grown by farmers under contract with Patterson & Wingard. The firm is this year (1906) offering cash prizes of five hundred dollars for the best farm products in each line which they handle, and these will be competed for at the harvest festival to be held in Kearney during the month of October.

Patterson & Wingard also have an increasing demand for millet seed, which is largely grown in this section. One St. Louis firm has this year contracted for the product of seven hundred acres, to be used in the manufacture of poultry food. The firm is this year growing a special strain of field seed corn, six hundred acres, which receives the closest care, and will bring a handsome price from the eastern firm for which it is contracted. These successes show the splendid possibilities of western Nebraska as a grain country to all who are alert, resourceful and industrious.

One of the largest implement, wagon and buggy establishments in western Nebraska is conducted by Patterson & Wingard, and their trade in this line extends over a large territory around Kearney and vicinity.

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#### OSCAR F. SHAW.

Oscar F. Shaw, residing on section 20, township 35, range 52, is numbered among the leading old timers of Dawes county, who has done his full share as a settler and ranchman in building up the region where he chose his home.

Mr. Shaw is a native of Crawford county, Indiana, born in 1865. He is a son of John E. and Elvira Williams Shaw, old settlers in Custer county, Nebraska, coming here in

1880. Our subject was reared in his native state until fourteen years of age, then with his parents came to the central part of Nebraska, where they were among the pioneers in starting a farm and home. Custer county was then wild prairie land, and there was plenty for our subject to do in assisting his parents in the work on their homestead, and he remained with them until he was eighteen, then left home and moved to Cherry county, where he worked on a cow ranch as a cowboy for some time. This ranch was located seventy-five miles south of Valentine on the Loup river, and after working there for a time he found employment on different ranches in that section, and became thoroughly familiar with the whole of Cherry county.

In 1892 Mr. Shaw came to Dawes county, locating twelve miles north of Crawford, where he started in the cattle business, remaining there for three years, then moved to his present ranch in section 20, township 35, range 52. Here he put up a log cabin and began at once to make a success of the ranching business, and has certainly made a success of it. He has a good set of substantial farm buildings, corrals, etc., with five miles of fencing. He is now owner of six hundred and forty acres of land, and ranges over several sections in South Dakota and Nebraska, running six hundred head of his own stock, cattle and horses, besides twelve hundred head of sheep, the latter being his main line of the work. His nearest neighbor is two and a half miles from his home.

Mr. Shaw was married in 1894 to Miss Kate L. Moody, daughter of Truman P. Moody, an old settler in this locality, whose sketch appears in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Shaw four children have been born, namely: Lloyd, Truman, Berenice and Emerson.

All of Mr. Shaw's time is taken up in superintending the work of his home and ranch, and he has never sought public preferment, although he lends his aid and influence in all movements for the betterment of conditions in his community.

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#### JOHN HAYS.

The gentleman above mentioned is one of the oldest settlers of Alliance, Nebraska, locating there when the town consisted merely of a few tents and board shanties, and since coming here he has been one of the leading citizens, assisting in every movement in the development of the region, doing his full share

in building it up and in the making of the history of this part of the state. He lives in section 10, township 25, range 47, where he has a pleasant home and valuable estate.

Mr. Hays was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, in 1831. His father, James Hays, was a farmer by occupation, American birth, descended from Irish stock. He married Mary Kuhn, of German-Scotch parentage. Our subject was reared in his native state and followed farming and building as a young man. In 1853 he came to Henderson county, Illinois, there engaging in farming and remained for seventeen years, and became owner of a farm of eighty acres, did fairly well but was not satisfied with conditions there and decided to go farther west, so came to Page county, Iowa, in 1872. He rented a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, was very successful in its operation and remained there for sixteen years. He next came to Nebraska and took up a tract of government land situated in section 10, township 25, range 47, in 1887, when Hay Springs was the nearest railroad town to his claim, sixty or seventy miles distant. Here he put up good sod buildings and started farming, but in 1890 the hard times struck him and he had two complete crop failures, and besides these, a number of partial failures, so that he became very much discouraged although he would not give up and gradually was able to build up his place and improve it with good buildings, etc. He now has eight hundred acres of good land, all fenced and cross fenced, and farms one hundred acres, and engages principally in the raising of horses and cattle, also hogs. He has two good wells with windmills and supply tanks, and everything is kept up in first-class shape. During the early years of Mr. Hays' residence in this region he was obliged to haul wood for fuel from Pine Ridge, a distance of fifty miles, and during these trips camped out at night, each trip taking four days.

January 6, 1853, Mr. J. Hays was married in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, to Miss Rachel Richards, a daughter of Owen and Nancy Richards, a farmer of Mercer county. Mrs. Nancy Richards was of American birth, descended from Irish stock. Mr. and Mrs. Hays are the parents of six children, who are named as follows. James M., Nancy L., Mary, Newton, who assists his father in the running of the home farm, and the only son with him at present; Mina and Louis, the last two living on adjoining land and in sight of their father's ranch. Mr. Hays lost his wife in the month of March, 1889, just before he

moved the family from Iowa to Box Butte county.

Mr. Hays is a strong Republican, and has always been active in local affairs.

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#### GEORGE H. VARGASON.

George H. Vargason, one of the more prosperous farmers of Nebraska, is widely known as one of the earliest settlers of Rock county, and many strong friendships center at his modest and unassuming farm home in Kirkwood precinct. Coming at a day when these many broad and productive farms were in the wilderness and only existed in the prophetic imagination of those who knew what the pioneer settler was able to do by thrift and industry, he has remained with the "west" until he saw it blossom and bear rich fruit, and reaps the ample reward of his own perception, courage and persistence.

Mr. Vargason was born in Buchanan county, Iowa, January 12, 1860, and was the third member of a family of four sons that came to bless the marriage of Harry M. and Mary E. (Bessey) Vargason. His parents were devoted to agricultural pursuits, and remained on their farm in Iowa until their removal to Rock county, Nebraska, in 1882. Young George was accustomed to hard work from his earliest youth, and received his education in the public schools of his native community. In 1883 the Vargasons came west, sojourned fifteen days in Running Water, South Dakota, crossed the river to Creighton, Nebraska, where they remained a few weeks, then all located on government land near what was known as Mariaville postoffice in Rock county. Here they built a frame shanty of poles and boards, which they covered with tar paper roofing, and presently George and his father were able to prove up their claims, which was their home until 1903. That year they sold out to good advantage and established themselves where they are found at the writing of this article.

Mr. Vargason was married in Delaware county, Iowa, January 1, 1884, to Miss Ida S. Lee, a native of that county, and a daughter of Arnold R. and Lydia (Adams) Lee, who came of old American stock, and were successful at farming. The father prides himself on his unwavering support of the Republican party. Mrs. Vargason was a most charming and attractive lady, and became the mother of five children, Harry, Allie, Archie, Fern and Orval. All these children were born in the same house, but the house was moved to another farm prior to the birth of the

youngest. She was called to the better land October 31, 1903, leaving behind sweet and tender memories of a dear and faithful wife and mother.

Mr. Vargason knows by personal experience what the hardships of frontier life in the old pioneer days of Nebraska mean. He has seen the fairest crops and the most delightful promise wither and perish under a rainless sky and the cattle perish for want of pasturage. But the rain belt has moved to the west and farm life is now as full and rich and complete as anywhere in the world. Here he owns four hundred and eighty acres of fine land in sections 33 and 34, township 33, range 17, upon which he has a neat cottage residence, a good barn, granary and other structures that the successful management of the place may need. On this farm he has about a thousand fruit trees, a few of which are already bearing, and all in good condition. It fronts on the Niobrara river for more than a mile, and presents special facilities for stock raising.

Mr. Vargason has taken a somewhat active part in local politics and he is regarded as one of the leading citizens of the county, but he has never been willing to accept a public position. His own affairs have always seemed to him a sufficient field for all his activities. He is a believer in Republican principles and a member of the Odd Fellows, and Workmen's fraternities, the former at Newport and the latter at Mariaville.

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#### JOHN SASS.

John Sass, whose settlement in Box Butte county, Nebraska, took place when this region had barely been opened up to the emigrants who were looking for a fertile part of the country to locate and build up good homes, is now well-known as a prosperous farmer and worthy citizen. He has a highly cultivated and well-improved estate, and enjoys all the comforts of rural life. His portrait will be found on another page.

Mr. Sass was born in Germany in the village of Holsein, in 1840. His father, Luther Sass, was a miller at that place, and lived in that vicinity during his entire life. Our subject grew up in Germany, and as a boy learned the miller's trade after his father, following that work until he was about forty years of age, then came to the United States with his family of five in number, settling in Iowa in 1882, and there followed railroad work for four years. In 1886 he came to Nebraska and settled in Box Butte county, fil-



JOHN SASS.





ing on a homestead, his present home, in section 11, township 25, range 49. There he went through the usual pioneer experiences, freighting through the country, camping out nights, etc. His first team was a pair of horses, but he had the misfortune to lose them through some sickness, so bought a team of oxen, which did considerable work for a long time. He got along very well in breaking up his place but was unable to raise anything but small crops, and had a hard time to make a living and do much in the way of improving his farm. Many seasons his crops failed and he was obliged to work out to provide for his family, but never gave up hope and stuck to his place. As the times grew better he gradually put up good buildings, increased his acreage, and now owns a ranch consisting of four quarter sections, all of which is fenced and in first-class shape.

Mr. Sass was married in Germany, in 1866, to Anna Eckmann, who emigrated to this country with her husband and who has been a faithful helpmeet during the many years of hard labor here, fighting for a home and competence for their declining years. Mr. Sass had the sad misfortune to lose his wife July 1, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Sass were the parents of three children, namely: Hannah, John and Mary.

Our subject has always been an earnest worker and advocate for the best interests of his locality, and has given his best efforts in aiding its development. Politically he is a Republican.

#### GEORGE FOLKERTS.

In listing the self-made men of Cheyenne county who have become well-to-do farmers and ranchmen and have aided materially in the development of these interests in that region, a prominent place is accorded the name of George Folkerts. For many years this gentleman has followed farming and stock raising in Eagle precinct, has met with pronounced success, and is known as one of the substantial citizens and well merits his high standing.

Mr. Folkerts was born in the village of Sandhorst, near the city of Aurech, Hanover, Germany, March 17, 1852. He was the third of a family of seven children, six of whom are still living. He grew up in his native country, following farming during his youth and remained there until he was sixteen years of age, then came to the United States with his parents. The family sailed from Bremenhaven on the Niagara, and after a voyage of six weeks

landed in New York. The family first located in Adams county, Illinois, living about ten years there, then went into Morgan county, that state, and with the exception of two years more in Adams, lived there until the spring of 1887, when they came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county. George took up a homestead on section 28, township 16, range 47, proved up on a one hundred and sixty-acre tract and this was the nucleus of his present valuable estate consisting of eleven hundred and twenty acres, his residence being on section 32. His ranch is now splendidly improved with good buildings. A new one and one-half-story residence of seven rooms was built in the summer of 1908. He has one hundred and twenty-five acres under cultivation and runs fifty head of cattle and quite a number of good horses.

Mr. Folkerts' father and mother came to Cheyenne county, also, about 1887, and they were well-known old-timers of the region, lived here many years, although both have departed this life.

In 1878 our subject was married in Morgan county, Illinois, to Carrie Rehck, and together they came to the western country to build up a home and fortune. Mrs. Folkerts died in 1900, leaving the following children: Anna, wife of John Weyerts, now living in Perkins county, Nebraska; Maggie, married to William Bauer, also living in Perkins county; Sophia, married to John Johnson, residing in Hayes county; Mary, wife of Fred Bauer, living at Weyerts; and Emma and John, unmarried, living at home. Mr. Folkerts was married the second time, on September 12, 1903, in this county, to Mrs. Hilka Gross, who was born in Germany and came to this country in 1866.

Mr. Folkerts is a good citizen and takes an active interest in local affairs, at present serving as moderator of school district 32. In politics he is a Roosevelt Democrat. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

#### JAMES GROUT.

James Grout, one of the representative farmers of Marion township, Franklin county, owns and operates a good farm consisting of four hundred acres of land, and is extensively engaged in mixed farming and stock raising. He is supervisor for District 5, and occupies a high position as a worthy citizen and good neighbor. When but a boy sixteen years of age he hunted buffalo in this county and adjoining country, having killed a number when he was not much more than a boy. He claims

the honor of being the youngest buffalo hunter in this part of the country.

Mr. Grout was born in 1856 in Scott county, Iowa, and was raised in that state. He came to Nebraska in June, 1869, at the age of fifteen years. His parents came to Franklin county and located on a homestead in section 6, Marion township, and he lived at home until he was twenty-one, then started out for himself, taking up a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres, and to this has added two hundred and forty acres adjoining, on which he resides. Here he engages in stock and grain raising, and keeps a large part of his land for pasture, running about a hundred cattle and from one to two hundred hogs all the time, all high grade animals. The farm is well supplied with water and trees, and there is a complete set of substantial farm buildings, everything in the best possible condition, and altogether, one of the valuable pieces of property in the county. All of Mr. Grout's time is put in on his farm, and he is well repaid for his labors in the good crops and rich returns from his stock, etc. Our subject was married in 1878 to Miss Lizzie Curtis, who is a daughter of T. M. Curtis, who homesteaded in Marion township in the year 1874, coming to Nebraska from Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Grout five children have been born, who are named as follows: Harry, living on a farm of two hundred and forty acres adjoining his father's place; David, who runs the home place with his father; Frank, attending the high school at Franklin, and two daughters, Bessie and Ina. Mr. Grout is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Woodmen lodge at Franklin. The family belong to the Congregational church in Franklin, and are among the highly esteemed citizens of their community. Mrs. Grout died in 1893, mourned by many friends. This left Mr. Grout with a family to raise, which he has accomplished.

#### M. F. WRIGHT.

M. F. Wright, one of the old settlers of Nebraska, helping materially in the developing of the eastern part of the state for many years, and who has watched its progress almost from its earliest pioneer days, now lives on section 13, township 21, range 16. He is considered well-to-do, and enjoys a comfortable home and well improved farm, all of which he has earned by his thrift and industry, supplemented by good management and persistent endeavor.

Mr. Wright is a native of Mercer county,

Missouri, born in 1867. He is a son of A. H. and Jenett (McDougle) Wright. His father and mother were farmers who settled there many years ago, and he grew up there and was taught to do all kinds of hard farm work in his boyhood, receiving but a limited education, or such as could be obtained by attending the old-time district schools. He now lives in Burwell, Nebraska, and has a nice comfortable home. Our subject left home at the age of twenty-one years, and came to Nebraska with his parents, landing in Garfield county in December, 1885, when he was only eighteen years old, and has lived here ever since. His father took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and at once started his farm and home, often in the early days meeting with many discouragements during the dry years, losing crops at different times, which was a serious setback to him during the pioneer years when he was trying so hard to get together a little property. However, when the better years began he was successful in raising good crops of corn, wheat, oats and rye, also getting together quite a lot of stock, and is now in comfortable circumstances. Before going to Nebraska he helped his father farm in Missouri, but considers this state much better for the poor than Missouri, as a man can farm more land here and it is cheaper.

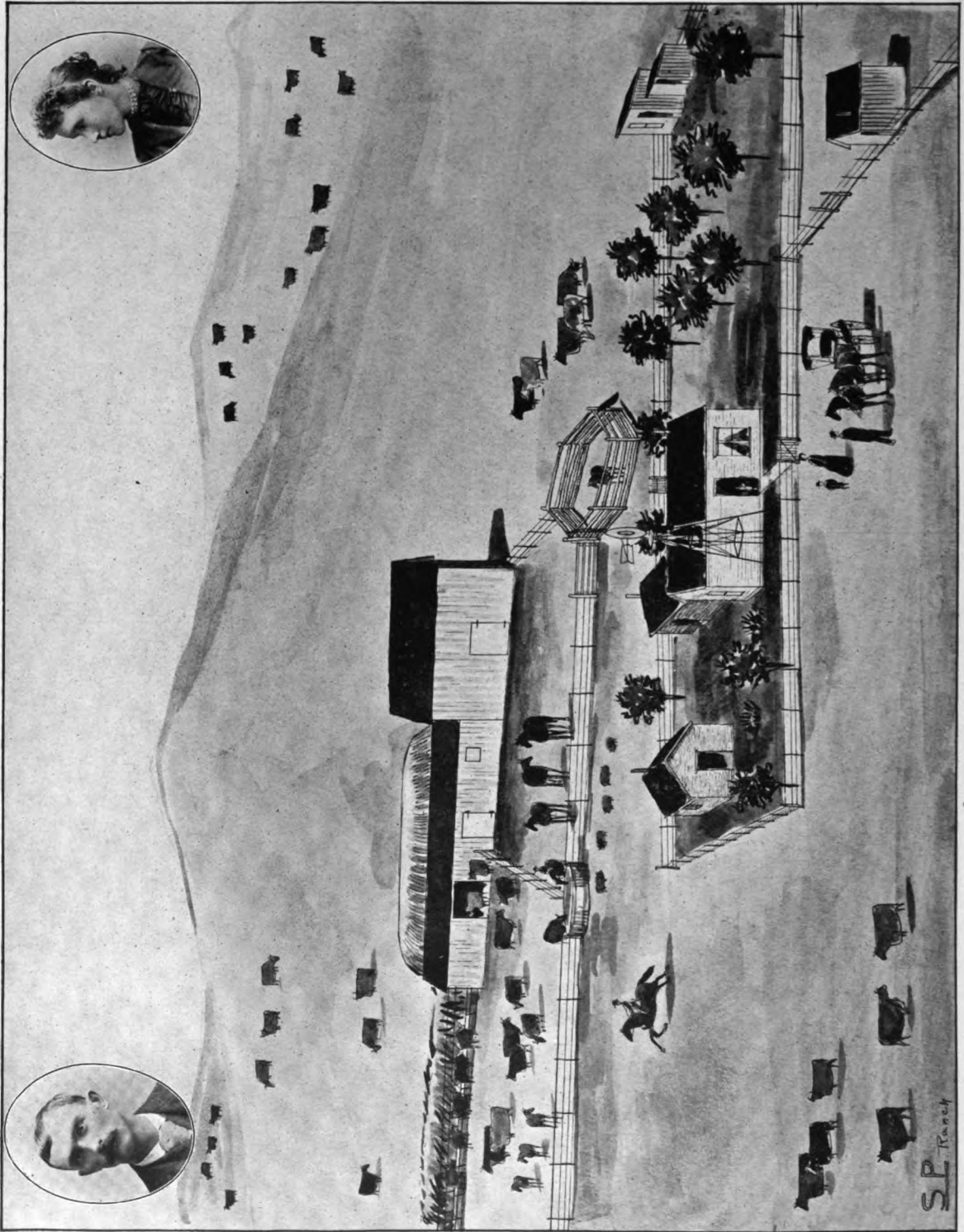
Mr. Wright was married to Miss Cora Kester, born and raised in Iowa. She is a daughter of W. K. and Ann (Rape) Kester. They have a pleasant home and are the parents of five children, two boys and three girls, namely: Cora, Martha, Annie, Elmer and Clafence.

Politically Mr. Wright is a Republican, but has never devoted any time to public affairs.

#### CAPT. DAVID A. PIERCY, SR., DECEASED.

Captain David A. Piercy, deceased, was born in 1837, at Ogdensburg, New York state. Here he spent his boyhood days and when he was about twenty years of age came to Minnesota, where he engaged in Indian trading in the northern part of that state. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, which was made up of troops from Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska, and he was promoted from sergeant to first lieutenant during the three years of hard service that he saw in the south. He then raised a battalion of three companies and was promoted to captain of Company L, which formed a part of the Twenty-sixth New York State Volunteer Cavalry. It was his company that was one





Aaron Van Winkle.

RANCH RESIDENCE OF AARON VAN WINKLE,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

Mrs. Aaron Van Winkle.

of the ones which was sent in search of J. Wilkes Booth. His company was employed part of the time in the west, serving with the troops fighting the Indians on the frontier. He died in 1906 at Macon, Georgia, where he had gone the previous fall for the benefit of his health. Mr. Piercy was one of the early settlers in Omaha, whither he emigrated in 1886 and was engaged in the hardware business for eleven years as manager for the Melton Rogers Iron Company and for the succeeding eleven years was head of the firm of Piercy & Bradley, one of the largest firms of iron-mongers in Omaha. His health failed while he was a member of this firm and he gave up the business and went south for a time, then returning to Nebraska he located in Cherry county in the spring of 1884. He settled on the farm which he occupied at the time of his death. This farm is situated in section 6, township 20, range 30. Here he put up rude farm buildings and began as a pioneer. He was an important factor in the development of this region, being instrumental in the establishment of several different postoffices and mail routes in the southern part of this county. Having a good knowledge of surveying he practiced that science to a great extent. He began ranching soon after settling in Cherry county, and was very successful in all his ventures, controlling at the time of his demise eight hundred acres of the finest hay land and one thousand acres of range, all improved and well stocked.

Mr. Piercy was first married in Ogdensburg, New York, March 1, 1865, to Miss Caroline L. Battelle, three of whose children are living, Caroline L. (Archard), Mary E. and Nellie (Lanning). He was married a second time in June, 1876, in Omaha, to Miss Libbie Stout, a native of Oswego, New York. They had a family of seven children, of whom four survive: Agnes J., David A., Jr., Leonard D. and William W., all residing near Kennedy.

Owing to failure in health Mr. Piercy sought recuperation in the south in the fall of 1905, but failing in what he sought he passed away at Macon, Georgia, in March, 1906. His wife survived him only about two months, her death occurring in May.

Mr. Piercy was prominent in local affairs, and was highly esteemed as one of the leading ranchmen in the southern part of the county. He was well known throughout the community for his integrity and true worth, and his family had the sympathy of the entire community at his death. He was an enthusiastic worker in the Episcopal church, erecting a

sod chapel at Kennedy, which now stands as a monument to an earnest, God-fearing man. He was formerly a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

David A. Piercy, Jr., was born in Omaha, August 15, 1878, and was but a lad when the family moved to Cherry county in 1884. At the age of fifteen he began life for himself as an employe of Robert Gillaspie and remained with his first employer for five years. For the eight years following he was engaged in the cattle business for William Erickson, when he began business for himself. He now owns six hundred and forty acres of land under the Kincaid homestead act, and holds three thousand acres more under lease, running about one hundred head of cattle and fifty horses. His homestead claim dated from 1905, on which he erected in that same year a neat cottage and suitable out-buildings. His brand is J. I. C. He is a member of the Woodlake Lodge of Odd Fellows.

#### AARON VAN WINKLE.

Aaron Van Winkle, a prosperous and successful young ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska, was born on a farm in Henderson county, Illinois, August 29, 1869, a son of James and Sarah (Hedges) Van Winkle, both of American birth and inheriting the best traditions of their New England ancestry. Mr. Van Winkle has not yet reached middle life, but has witnessed many changes in farming methods and the differences in rural life in the Mississippi valley and on the western plains.

Aaron Van Winkle, the eldest in a family of nine children, was reared under the parental roof, and remained on his Illinois home place until he reached the age of twenty years. In 1891 he came into Nebraska, and settled in Lancaster county, where he was engaged in the cultivation of a rented farm for some four years, but later on he bought a place. While there he was married to Miss Annie Ellis, a daughter of Daniel W. and Rachel (Martin) Ellis. Her parents were both farming people, and are still living in Lancaster county. Mr. and Mrs. Van Winkle are the happy parents of a family of six children: Guy, Ernest, Rachel, James, John and Ruth. In 1906 the Lancaster county farm was sold, and the family removed to Cherry county, and here Mr. Van Winkle bought twelve hundred and eighty acres, a part of the Payton ranch with the dwelling on section 32, fronting Gordon's creek, and affording every oppor-

tunity for stock raising on a most extensive scale. It is improved with good buildings, and is entirely devoted to hay and pasture. In politics Mr. Van Winkle takes an independent position, and demands good men to receive his ballot. A view of the family residence with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Van Winkle form one of the interesting illustrations in this work.

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#### W. W. BECK.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the oldest settlers in the region of township 23, range 46, Deuel county, and was born at Portland, Jay county, Indiana, in 1864. His father, W. J. Beck, was a native of Ohio, of Irish descent, a farmer by occupation, born in Ohio in 1833, and died in Portland, Indiana, January 16, 1893. Our subject's mother, whose maiden name was Emmaline Brown, came of German stock, born in Ohio, March 29, 1831, and died in Nebraska, May 30, 1908. Grandma Brown lived to the age of ninety-two years. Mrs. Beck's parents lived within seven miles of our subject's people when the family lived in Ohio and were neighbors there, and always were very friendly, visiting back and forth during the time when they were growing up. They naturally saw a great deal of each other and their friendship ripened into love, and they were married in Jay county, Indiana, when still quite young. They had a family of seven children, of whom three are dead, our subject being the third member in order of birth. All four are living within a short distance of each other here in Sheridan county, Nebraska, and have fine ranches.

Mr. Beck remained with his parents on the home farm in Indiana up to the time he was twenty-three years of age, and then decided to strike out west, and hearing that Nebraska was a splendid state for a young man starting out in life, came to Omaha in 1887 and worked there for a short time. In the same year, 1887, he came to this locality and filed on a homestead situated in section 7, township 24, range 46, and also took up a tree claim, but soon after gave the latter up. He did not reside on his homestead during the first winter, but made his home in Omaha and drove back and forth, and did what he could to improve his place. In the spring of 1889 he settled on the claim and worked on neighboring ranches, and also put in a small crop for himself and raised a fairly good crop, but the following year was not so successful, so he quit trying to farm his place

and worked out for the following five years, still living on his place. He held this place up to 1902, and then sold it for four hundred dollars. While he was working out he saved his money and got together quite a little sum which he invested in cattle, having in mind the idea that he would engage in the ranching business on his own account as soon as he was in shape to do so. This had been his intention when he first came west, but he wanted to learn something about the business before starting, and he gained experience through his years spent on ranches in this section. When he had some money ahead he purchased a quarter section of land and established a ranch of his own. This was in 1893, and two years later his mother came here and together they took a claim and moved on it, starting in with sixty-five cattle and eight horses. He has since followed this exclusively, and now owns a ranch of six hundred and forty acres, and besides this his mother, brother and sister own three sections in the same locality. They are all associated together in the business and now run about ninety horses and five hundred head of cattle. They have plenty of range and raise enough hay to run their stock through the year.

Mr. Beck has done well since coming here and is perfectly satisfied with what he has accomplished, but would have made still more had he been more familiar with the conditions of the country. He intends to stay here as long as he is obliged to work, as he likes the climate and could not do any better anywhere than he is here. When he first struck this section Whitman was his nearest trading post, and at that time Alliance was just being started. He had many interesting experiences during the first years of his residence here, and states that he will never forget his drive here from Omaha. He intends soon to build a substantial house and farm buildings on his four hundred and eighty-acre homestead, and this will make him the proprietor of as fine an estate as there is in this locality. Mr. Beck is a Republican, and always votes that ticket, but has never taken an active interest in party politics, as he has not had the time to devote to these affairs.

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#### EDWARD PIKE.

Edward Pike, one of the ambitious and successful young ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska, shows by his own career what thrift and energy may still accomplish in developing a home out of the new lands of the west.

The parents, Joseph W. and Lacy (North)



Pike, reared a family of seven children, named as follows: William M., John N., Charles C., George W., Lizzie, Edward and Albert.

The subject of this sketch was born in Page county, Iowa, January 1, 1870, whence his parents moved to Plymouth county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1876. In 1883 the father came to Valentine, securing land under the homestead, pre-emption and tree claims, the family following two years later.

In the spring of 1885 Edward Pike came to Valentine, and remained with his father until 1890. That year he was married to Miss Mary Metz, a native of Indiana, a daughter of John Metz, who came from Germany. The Metz family has been long and favorably known in Cherry county as among the very early settlers of this region. After farming for some years Mr. Pike, in partnership with his brother, Albert, bought a store in Sioux City, Iowa, in the fall of 1895, which they disposed of in the spring of 1897 and returned to Cherry county to engage in ranching and farming. He owns three hundred and twenty acres in section 14, township 34, range 29, and here he has developed a very comfortable home. This land he secured by purchase and homestead entry on which he has now proved up. In addition he operates quite a large tract of leased land and is becoming known as a careful and successful ranchman and farmer.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pike three children have been born: Ada, Grace and Jennings.

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#### FRITZ HOFFMAN.

Fritz Hoffman, residing on his Kincaid homestead in section 13, township 29, range 52, Dawes county, is one of the prominent and successful farmers of his locality who settled here many years ago and has built up a good home and farm by dint of his industry and good management, and gained an enviable reputation as a progressive farmer and worthy citizen.

Mr. Hoffman was born in Posen Province, Germany, in 1875. His father, Rudolph Hoffman, followed farming all his life, and came to America in 1892. Our subject grew up in Germany, assisting his father in carrying on the home farm and also working for himself on farms in the old country up to the time of his sixteenth birthday, and then started for the United States, landing in New York city in January, 1891, and immediately struck out for the west, locating in Crawford, Nebraska, spending the first six months in this country engaged in general work on a farm,

working for his board with his brother. He worked out for seven years in the vicinity of Crawford, and also was through South Dakota and in the Sand Hills in Nebraska. His father had also come to America, and settled on his present farm in section 23, township 29, range 52, which he took as a homestead, and on which he put up good buildings and has a comfortable home. Our subject purchased six hundred and forty acres of land, and also has the same number of acres of homestead land. Both father and son's land is well improved with good buildings, fences, graves, and plenty of nice water with necessary windmills, etc. Both engage to quite an extent in stock raising, handling principally cattle. Mr. Hoffman has over a hundred head of cattle and sixteen head of horses, and has built up a good business in stock, finding it very profitable. He started with very small capital, and during the early days in this section of the country after purchasing a mare for fifty dollars lost one of his other horses, and was left with only a team to work his farm with, and was in no better shape than at first, and in those days even a small loss was a very serious matter to him. He was overtaken with many misfortunes, sickness, etc., one brother dying of sickness and another accidentally shot. Our subject now farms two hundred and fifty acres of land, had one hundred and seventy-five acres in wheat in 1908. He and his father together own three sections joining. Our subject built a fine new home.

Mr. Hoffman is active in local affairs, and has held office at different times, serving as road overseer for some time. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### WILLIAM ROTH.

William Roth, one of the oldest settlers of the western part of Nebraska, resides on one of the most extensive farms in the section where he is located, and is classed among the well-to-do and substantial citizens of Box Butte county, Nebraska. He takes a leading part in local affairs, and is a gentleman of unusual perseverance and thrift, who has taken an important part in the development of this region. He enjoys a nice home and has a host of warm friends and good neighbors, all of whom admire him for his many sterling qualities.

Mr. Roth was born in New York state in 1863. His birthplace was near New York city. His parents were of German parentage, born and reared in that country and settled in the eastern part of the United States when

young people. They afterward came west and settled in Kansas, where they were among the pioneers of that state. Our subject was about fifteen years of age when the family moved to Kansas, and there he grew to manhood, working on the home farm and helping his father do all the hard work in breaking up their land, handling ox teams, freighting, etc. The father was engaged in sheep raising on a large scale, and he also got a good knowledge of how to raise and care for a ranch.

In 1885 he left home and came to Nebraska, driving from Kansas to Box Butte county with a team and covered wagon, camping out at night along the way. On reaching this vicinity he settled on a homestead in section 8, township 26, range 51, then returned to Kansas and remained there for one year. He then came back and took possession of his claim and started to improve it, putting up buildings and planting crops. During the first years he had a hard time to get along and only was able to make a scant living, but his brother, who was with him, owned ox teams and they worked at freighting and managed to get on in a small way. There were times when nearly every crop he put in was a failure and he was often tempted to give up the struggle, but still stuck to his claim and instead of trying to farm, started in the cattle business and dairying. He met with decided success in these lines, and now owns a large herd of cattle and has a farm of eleven hundred and fifty acres, all fenced and improved in first-class condition.

Mr. Roth was married in 1891 to Mary Bartos, a daughter of Mauritz Bartos, a well-known farmer of this county, of Bohemian birth. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Roth: Albert, Lillie, George, Emma, Frank and Charles.

Mr. Roth is a Democrat in political views, and stands firmly for his convictions. He takes an active part in local affairs, has helped to build up the schools in his locality, and has held the office of school moderator for several years.

#### JAMES WRIGHT.

The subject of this personal history came to Grant county, Nebraska, in 1886, with practically nothing as a foundation for his present prosperity save a brave spirit and willing heart, and has succeeded in building up one of the finest ranches in the section. His entire attention has been devoted to his home interests, and he has gained a high station as a successful farmer and ranchman, also as a substantial citizen of his community. **Mr. Wright resides in**

section 26, township 22, range 37, and there the family occupy a pleasant and comfortable home surrounded by all the comforts of rural life.

James Wright is a native of Grant county, Wisconsin, born in 1851, and is of Dutch stock on his mother's side, she having been Miss Sarah Bollenbaugher, of Wisconsin. Her father's name was Ajolon Bollenbaugher, a leading citizen of that community.

Our subject was reared on a farm in Wisconsin, where he found plenty of work to do as a boy, receiving a common school education. He left home about 1876, at that time coming west and settling in Hamilton county, Nebraska, on a farm which he made his home for about ten years, and was married there to Lydia Sorrells, daughter of Thomas Sorrells, a prominent pioneer and farmer in that county. Mrs. Wright died in that vicinity, leaving a family of four children. Mr. Wright was married the second time the 16th of April, 1908, to Miss Annie Dannenbrock, of Washington county, Kansas, of a prominent German family.

In 1886 Mr. Wright came to Grant county, teaming from North Platte, and located in the valley where he now has his home. His first buildings were a sod house, barns and corrals, and he went to work and rapidly built up a good ranch, which now extends for several miles along the valley, known as Wright's valley.

One brother, Owen W. Wright, who resides in Hamilton county, is interested with our subject in this ranch, in which they have made good improvements, all of which has been accomplished by hard work and good management. Mr. Wright has gone through hard times since locating here, suffering at different times from drouths, severe storms, etc., and many times has fought prairie fires night and day when homesteads and range were threatened with destruction.

Mr. Wright is the father of four children, who are named as follows: Ben, Charles W., Ajolon and Arion, all living and fine workers on the ranch.

Our subject has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, although he has never aspired to office. An interesting picture is presented on another page of Mr. Wright, together with his residence and family group.

#### H. J. BUSHNELL.

H. J. Bushnell, residing on one of the well improved estates of Loss creek, is one of the prosperous and enterprising agriculturists of Deuel county, and has a host of friends who hold him in the highest esteem.

Mr. Bushnell was born in Windham county,



JAMES WRIGHT AND SONS.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES WRIGHT AND THEIR RESIDENCE,  
Grant County, Nebraska.



Connecticut, on November 15, 1865, and was the second member in his father's family of five children. At the age of eighteen years he came to Nebraska in company with a brother, E. N. Bushnell, who is now located at LaGrande, Oregon. He first located at Fairmount, and later in old Cheyenne county, now Deuel county, arriving here on April 1, 1884, joining his brother who came the previous year. Mr. Bushnell took a homestead the following year and proved up on the place, afterward selling it, and then located on section 10, township 16, range 44, where he has a home ranch of six hundred and forty acres, and also considerable hay land and grazing in the vicinity. He runs a herd of two hundred and thirty head of cattle and forty horses, and is making a splendid success of his business. His ranch is situated on the Platte river, and is one of the best stock ranches in the county. Mr. Bushnell is an oldtime cattle and horse man and is known throughout the region as one of the best judges of stock in the state.

Mr. Bushnell has passed through all the old Nebraska times, and taken an active and leading part in the history of the upbuilding of the western part of the state. In the early days he was associated with a number of the old-time cattlemen in the operation of some of the large ranches, who like himself, are now among the wealthy and most successful ranchmen in the west.

Mr. Bushnell was never married. Politically he stands for Republicanism, and is an earnest worker for party principles.

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#### HARRY A. WHEELER.

Harry A. Wheeler, although not one of the oldest settlers in this locality, comes of one of the oldest families, and has identified himself so closely with the interests of Brown county, Nebraska, that he has become highly respected and is known throughout the community in which he resides as a citizen of genuine worth.

Mr. Wheeler was born on an Iowa farm May 28, 1878. His father, John Thomas Wheeler, was one of the pioneer settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, and well known all over this region. When Harry was seven years old he came here with his parents and grew to manhood in the vicinity in which he now makes his home, attending the pioneer schools. He bought a farm in section 1, township 30, range 21, in 1902, and began the work of improvement and building up a home. This was in an entirely unimproved condition when he purchased it. He now has a comfortable dwelling, good barns and outbuildings, with a good

growth of young trees, making a valuable piece of property comprising two hundred and forty acres, of which one hundred and fifteen acres are under cultivation. He is constantly adding to the value of his estate and is numbered among the prosperous and successful young farmers in the vicinity of Long Pine.

Mr. Wheeler was married in Logan, Iowa, to Miss Myrtle Burger, who is a native of the state of Nebraska, but who had been living some five years in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have a family of three children, who are named as follows: Rose, Jennie and Alfred, all born on Buffalo Flats.

As one of the younger members of the farming community in Brown county, Mr. Wheeler has done his full part in the upbuilding of the agricultural interests in his locality, and he is regarded as an enterprising citizen and a man of strict integrity, who enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. He votes the Democratic ticket and affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America camp at Long Pine.

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#### FRED W. SPENCER.

To Fred W. Spencer is willingly accorded a leading position among the prosperous ranchmen of western Nebraska. And he merits the high reputation in which he is held by the community, for he has been eminently successful in his chosen walk of life. He has advanced ideas relative to stock raising, believing that the best is none too good and he carries that belief into his daily practice.

Mr. Spencer was born on a farm in Scott county, Iowa, in 1858. His father, Webster M. Spencer, sprang from ancestors that came from England to America over two hundred years ago. Our subject's mother was Emma McMinn before marriage and was of Scotch ancestry.

Our subject was reared on the farm of his parents in Iowa and became inured to the hard work of the farm. He attended the country schools and aided his father with the farm operations until about 1880, when he spent some time in western Iowa. He came to Blaine county in 1886.

Mr. Spencer was united in marriage to Miss Alvira Clay in March, 1882. She was the daughter of Ben Clay, an old settler who lived on a homestead on the North Loup river, in Blaine county, until he died in 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer have five children: Harry, Maud, Walter, Roy and Alfred.

Our subject, his wife, with her father and brothers, came to Blaine county by team and

covered wagons in 1886, and all located on land near each other. Mr. Spencer took a homestead, built a sod house and made other improvements. He had the misfortune to lose one of his horses that died, and he had to use an ox team for a long time. Our subject spent two years in Colorado driving oxen, "bull whacking" they call it, and he learned by experience what "roughing it" meant. In early days all supplies and materials were hauled from Ord, sixty-five miles away, which required many long trips on the road. Crops were fairly good up to 1890 and the family got along very well, adding nice improvements to the farm. Then came the seasons of drouth and for a number of years the crops were almost total failures. Our subject lived on the homestead until 1896, when he proved up and bought the place where he now lives. This farm was slightly improved when he bought it and it made the beginning of his splendid ranch home. He has eleven hundred and twenty acres of his own and leases three hundred and twenty acres more, that he needs for his stock raising enterprises. On his farm one finds splendid improvements, good house, large and commodious barns and outbuildings, fences, a fine orchard, groves and small fruits. Since the early days Mr. Spencer has engaged in the cattle business, buying and selling stock. Now he raises all that he can conveniently handle on his own farm. He keeps Hereford stock and also has fine registered bulls of that stock. He runs all together about three hundred and forty head of cattle and has three registered bulls. Mr. Spencer has also raised and shipped many hogs and meets with good success. His practice is to finish his own cattle when the crops warrant it and he does his own shipping to eastern markets.

Mr. Spencer has had many ups and downs during his business career. Once his property was almost entirely wiped out by fire, but he has recouped his losses and made steady advance to wealth and prosperity and prominence. He is one of the county's most public-spirited citizens and is active in the affairs of his community. He has held various offices of trust and was county commissioner a number of years ago.

#### W. H. BEEKMAN.

W. H. Beekman, who for a score of years past has been identified with the agricultural interests of Sheridan county, Nebraska, is the owner of a fine farm and home in township 33, range 42. He is an experienced farmer and a citizen of whom his township may be justly proud.

Mr. Beekman was born in New Jersey in 1844 and moved to Jersey county, Illinois, when a lad, and was there raised and educated. His father and mother were both natives of New Jersey. His mother died at Jerseyville, Illinois, in 1885. His father, a butcher by trade, died shortly after coming to Nebraska in 1889. At twenty years of age our subject started in life for himself, going first to Montana, where he remained for about eight years, following both mining and the butcher business; then went to Madison, Wisconsin, with the Gosshart Reaper Works as foreman; also traveled for same concern as salesman on the road. He then moved to Moline, Illinois, where he worked in the Moline Plow Company's shops as foreman for seven years. In 1885 he came to Sheridan county and located on his present farm, which is situated in section 19, township 33, range 42. At that time the railroad only came as far as Valentine, and travelers were obliged to make the rest of the journey on a construction train. Before permanently settling in this locality Mr. Beekman traveled all over the western country, and since coming here has been perfectly content to remain on his homestead. He was among the first settlers in this valley, but even at that time the land was nearly all taken. He only pre-empted eighty acres, and never used his homestead right, but bought all the land he now owns. During the first years he lived here he saw some hard times, the dry seasons causing him severe losses, and several times he lost his entire crop through hailstorms. At one time he went back to the butcher business and worked at that for three years, and has since worked out on farms to get a new start after the drouth had stripped them of all their crops. He often became discouraged, but stuck to it through all hardships, and now is very glad he did so, for he could never have done as well anywhere else. His farm comprises six hundred and forty acres, and of this he has about three hundred acres under cultivation, running about one hundred head of stock, and when he came to this place he was several hundred dollars in debt. He has put all his buildings on the east side of the section, and has all the modern improvements in the way of machinery, wind-mills, etc., necessary to run a model farm. He has also installed a system of water works on his place, which forces the water all through his barns and house where he wishes it to go. He has a good orchard of apple and small fruit trees.

Mr. Beekman was married in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1870, to Mrs. Harriet Fowler, a native of New York state, born in 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Beekman have three children, who

are named as follows: Minnie E., W. H. and Richard E. Mrs. Harriet Fowler had one child by her first marriage, George W. Fowler. Mr. Beekman has given each of his sons a one-third interest in the land and proceeds as an inducement to stay on the farm and assist him in working it, which proves a very good way of solving the problem of "how to keep our boys on the farm." In years past he voted the Populist ticket, but has changed his views and now leans toward the Socialists. He is prominent in all school matters and has served on the school board for nine years.

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#### B. F. MOORE.

B. F. Moore for many years has been one of the leading citizens and prosperous agriculturists of Sioux county. He came here during the early days of its settlement and has developed a fine ranch in section 12, township 28, range 54, and become closely identified with the best interests of the community where he has passed so many years of his career. His residence is on section 12, township 28, range 54, and he has a host of friends throughout that vicinity, all of whom honor him for his integrity of word and deed. Mr. Moore's ranch is situated at the mouth of Whistle creek and is known as the old Lower 33 ranch, containing four deeded sections besides the leased land.

Mr. Moore was born in Pennsylvania in 1839, of American parents. He grew up in his native state, where both father and mother were born and reared.

When our subject was twenty-two years of age, at the breaking out of the war, he enlisted in the United States volunteer army, served through the entire war and did not return home until 1868. He left the east and came to Colorado in 1870, traveling through different parts of the west for several years, engaging in buying cattle or whatever he found to do that he thought there was a dollar in, landing in Sioux county about 1889. His first location was on Soldiers creek, and he lived in that vicinity for several years, then removed to Running Water river, starting at once in the ranching business, and from that time has been constantly engaged in the stock business. He had hard times during the early years, but has always managed to get along in some way, and for the past few years has met with splendid success, building up a good ranch and accumulating a nice property. He is owner of sixteen quarter sections, all good ranching and farm land, and is one of the well-to-do and prominent ranchmen of

his locality. When he first came to this region he was obliged to haul all his supplies from Sidney and has experienced every phase of life on the frontier. He has done his share in the developing of this region, and is a typical representative of the west, broad-minded and liberal in his views on every subject.

In 1871 Mr. Moore was married to Mary Dickerson, who died in 1896. This union was blessed with a family of eight children, namely: Jennie M., Joe A., Rebecca, Frank, Gertrude, Harry, Charles W. and Mary. Mr. Moore was married the second time in 1899 to Miss Mary Mills, of Chicago, Illinois.

Our subject takes a deep interest in county and national politics, voting the Republican ticket.

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#### R. N. JOHNSON.

R. N. Johnson, a representative farmer and leading stockman of Harlan county, resides on his fine estate in Eldorado township, and is recognized as one of the enterprising and progressive citizens of his county. He is a man of superior ability and education, and in personal appearance bears a striking resemblance to our late president, William McKinley, being also of the same Scotch-Irish extraction, while his mother's people, the Mowers, were among the early German settlers of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Clinton county, Pennsylvania, and was born in 1859, eight miles west of Lockhaven. His father and mother, William Everett and Elizabeth Mower Johnson, both of Clinton county, removed to Carroll county, Illinois, in 1865. For many years Mr. Johnson resided in Carroll county, where he held a first-class teacher's certificate and taught school, and later followed farming and teaching in Guthrie and Anderson counties, Iowa. Since coming to Nebraska he has devoted his attention exclusively to farming and stock raising, operating a ranch consisting of four hundred acres, and raises corn, alfalfa and feed of all kinds. He also deals extensively in stock and has a herd of twenty-five thoroughbred white-faced cattle, from the celebrated Rogers herd of McCook, Nebraska. He intends to develop this herd to as many as he can handle comfortably on his ranch, and as he is a man of good business judgment and ability he adopts the methods to suit the needs and conditions of this part of Nebraska in his farming and stock raising operations, thus securing the best possible results. Each year he raises and feeds about one hundred and twenty-five grade cattle, and from two to



three hundred hogs, from which he derives a considerable income.

Mr. Johnson was married while living in Guthrie county, Iowa, to Miss Caroline Kretzinger, daughter of John and Mary (Boone) Kretzinger, that family having come from Licking county, Ohio, and the Boones from West Virginia, the Boones being of the same family as Daniel Boone, of national fame. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born the following children: Ollie and Bessie, both teachers in the Harlan county schools; four sons, namely, Everet, Nathan, Daniel McKinley and Robert, who according to their ages assist in the farming and stock operations, and Caroline, born September 24, 1908. For two years, from 1893 to 1895, Mr. Johnson and his family resided in Holdrege, where he was engaged in the livery business.

#### CAPTAIN ED. B. MURPHY, DECEASED.

Captain Ed. B. Murphy, one of the best known residents in western Nebraska, late of Arapahoe, Furnas county, was the first settler in this place. He laid out the town of Arapahoe, and for many years was one of the leading citizens here, lending his influence and aid in building up the place and furthering its commercial and educational welfare.

Mr. Murphy was born in Limerick, Ireland, and came to America at the age of fourteen and came with his parents, who settled in Wayne, Michigan. At the breaking out of the Civil war he raised a company at Ottumwa, Iowa, and was appointed captain of Company A, Seventh Iowa Cavalry. He and Colonel Summers served in the west against the Indians, and had command, and at one time had charge of twenty companies at Fort Kearney. They fought the Indians at the Blue and had a big battle at Julesburg, and went through many exciting and dangerous times. After the war he ran a ranch called "Alkali Lake Range," located on the California trail near Fort McPherson. Here the Indians got so bold and dangerous that he was obliged to abandon it.

In 1871 Mr. Murphy came to Arapahoe, he being the first white settler in this region. He took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he laid out the town, giving it the name it now bears, after the famous Indian chief. He began selling off lots, then bought more land, and also was engaged in the stock business, buying and selling cattle. He had a farm of two hundred and forty acres, and this was stocked with a big herd,

and he was very successful in these ventures. Mr. Murphy was well versed in law, and for eight years was justice of the peace, acting in this capacity for a great number of people in the early days. During his later years he engaged in the hardware business, handling hardware, furniture, paints, farming implements, machinery, harness and tinware, and enjoyed a good trade all through his section of the country.

Mr. Murphy was married in 1854 to Miss Margaret Murphy, of Wayne, Michigan. Four children were born of this union, named as follows: Laure, wife of William Miles, of Stockville, Nebraska, now deceased; Ellen, who married her brother-in-law two years after the death of her sister; Ed. B., Jr., in the lumber business at Curtis, Nebraska, and Frank D., a real estate dealer of Long Beach, California. In 1867 Mrs. Murphy died at a ripe old age.

Mr. Murphy was married the second time to Miss Lizzie Billings, daughter of Samuel Spencer Billings and Lucinda Johnstone Billings, the former moving from Hartford, Connecticut, to Iowa in the early days of that state. He was a merchant, and at one time owned eight stores in Keokuk, Iowa, also the Billings House and the opera house at that place, being counted one of the wealthiest men of Iowa. He later located at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, where he died in 1890. Our subject's maternal grandfather, John Johnstone, lived near Pittsburg, and owned the salt works on the Ohio river, settling in Bonaparte, Iowa, where he engaged in the mercantile business. Mr. Murphy's children by his second marriage were as follows: Lee Spencer Murphy, born October 23, 1879, educated at Kearney Military College. In 1898 he enlisted in the Thirty-second Volunteer Infantry, Company B, going to the Philippines, where he served for two years, taking part in the battles there, being killed at Batan by an ambush while guarding the provision train. He was a fine young man in every respect, admired by all who knew him for his excellent qualities, and his death at the age of twenty years was a sad blow to his family and friends. He was corporal of his company, and was brought home for burial. A daughter of our subject, Edna I., has been a teacher in the Arapahoe schools for five years. She was educated here and at the Peru Normal School. Another daughter, Grace Billings, was educated in this city, and is now a teacher in Billings, Montana. One son, Stuart Robert, resides in Arapahoe.

Mr. Murphy was a man of wonderful perseverance and great endurance. He was of





E. C. WOLF.

splendid physique, six feet two inches in height, handsome and of fine appearance. He was a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he had always voted the Republican ticket, and was a strong advocate of the principles of that party up to the time of his death, which occurred on January 25, 1899. He was admired by all who knew him for his sterling character and excellent qualities, and in him the state of Nebraska lost one of its foremost citizens and representative men.

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#### PRES. WILSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history was for many years a prominent agriculturist of Dawes county, Nebraska, and is one of the leading old settlers in this section of the country. He was successful in building up a good farm and home in section 12, township 33, range 50, and accumulated a comfortable property and lived in the town of Whitney for years, where he is engaged in the livery and stock business.

Mr. Wilson was born in Jackson county, Ohio, July 11, 1845. His father, William Wilson, was a farmer and stock raiser, of American blood, born in Jackson county, Ohio, who settled in eastern Nebraska in the early days, his death occurring there in 1883. He married Miss Margaret Stevenson, also of American birth, born in Kentucky. When our subject was two years of age the family settled in Mercer county, Ohio, where he grew up, enjoying a frontier life in a timbered country and assisting his father in building up a farm and home in the wild country. They next moved to Illinois, locating in Hancock county, where he started out for himself, following farm work. In 1870 he went to Missouri and also farmed, remaining eight years; then left that state and settled in Lancaster county, Nebraska, where he was among the early pioneers. In 1882 he came to the town of Cortland, Gage county, Nebraska, and there started a livery stable, which he ran for about a year. In 1885 he came to Dawes county, being among the party of emigrants that came to Chadron. He located on government land located half a mile east of Whitney, and he at once built a small shack and started a farm, going through all the pioneer experiences and often having a hard time to get along. He built up a good place and remained there up to 1901. His farm contained two hundred and forty acres, with good buildings and improvements, and he made a success of his

farming operations. He came to Whitney in 1901 and engaged in the livery and stock business, having a good livery barn and a good patronage. He also owns a comfortable residence and is well-to-do, and one of the worthy citizens of the place and county.

Mr. Wilson was married in the fall of 1879—November 23—to Miss Mary E. Marshall, daughter of Ralph and Amelia (Stuart) Marshall, the former a native of Ireland, where he was a cabinet maker in his younger days. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are the parents of one son, Clyde, born July 20, 1880.

Our subject has served as assessor for one term, and takes an active interest in local public affairs. Politically he is a Democrat. On the 22d of October, 1907, our subject bought a fine farm of two hundred acres in section 21, township 33, range 50, and moved to it in March, 1908. The farm was partly improved with good buildings, running water the year round, plenty of timber and the best spring in the county. He is building up a fine ranch, and has fine crops this year.

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#### E. C. WOLF.

Mr. E. C. Wolf, a prominent banker of Big Springs, Deuel county, Nebraska, is one of the old settlers of this county. He was born in Brule, Keith county, Nebraska, December 11, 1876, a son of H. D. Wolf and Mary (Erickson) Wolf, natives of Germany.

Mr. Wolf received his early education in the schools of Nebraska and attended the Fremont Normal School at North Platte, Nebraska. In 1879 the family moved to Deuel county, Nebraska, where his father engaged in railroad work and later homesteaded a claim, following ranching for several years. He also took a tree claim and a pre-emption claim, and is one of the most widely known and highly respected old settlers in western Nebraska. A sketch of Mr. Wolf appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject was principal of the Chappell schools for three years in 1899, 1900 and 1901, and was instructor at the Deuel county teachers institute in 1900, 1901 and 1902. In 1906 he came to Big Springs, Nebraska, and in February of the same year organized the Farmers' State Bank of Big Springs, opening for business on the 14th day of that month. Mr. B. F. Clayton is the president of the bank, H. I. Babcock, vice-president, and Mr. Wolf cashier. They have an authorized capital of twelve thousand dollars. Our subject assumes the active management of the bank, and by his strict attention to business and unquestionable hon-

esty he has gained the confidence and respect of the community in which he lives.

Mr. Wolf was united in marriage to Miss Ada Sine in Lodge Pole, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, August 15, 1900. She is a daughter of Eugene and Mary (Myers) Sine, natives of Iowa and old settlers of Cheyenne county. To this union two children have been born, namely: Blanche, aged six years, and Helen, aged three.

Mr. Wolf is a Republican in political matters. He has always been prominently identified in matters of local interest, ever ready to lend a helping hand where needed, and has gained the respect and esteem of the community in which he resides, both socially and in business.

He is a member of Golden Fleece Lodge, No. 205, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Chappell, Nebraska, joining in March, 1900. A portrait of Mr. Wolf will be found on another page of this volume.

#### JOSEPH BARKHURST.

Joseph Barkhurst is the genial proprietor of a fine ranch of four hundred and eighty acres in Box Butte county, where he has spent the past twenty years of his career. This ranch is well improved with all kinds of good farm buildings, handsome residence, surrounded by a beautiful lawn and many trees, and embraces one of the most valuable estates in that locality. He has made a grand success since coming to this section and is now numbered among the prominent old settlers and substantial farmers of the county.

Mr. Barkhurst was born in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1835. His father was of German descent and his mother of Welsh stock. During the boyhood of our subject the family lived in two different counties in Ohio, the father following farming all his life. Joseph was reared and educated in his native state, assisting in carrying on the home farm, and as a boy was well accustomed to doing all kinds of hard farm work, which served him in good stead during his later struggles as a pioneer in the western states. When he was about twenty-two years of age he moved to Missouri and lived there for about two years, and from there moved to Nebraska, landing in Nebraska City on April 12, 1860, and there went through pioneer experiences. When he arrived in that locality he had just twenty-two dollars and fifty cents in cash in his pocket, and rented a farm for two years, meeting with admirable success, and then bought a farm of forty acres. He

made good and his hard work and intelligent management brought him great success in all his undertakings, after once getting a start. In the fall of 1888 he came to Box Butte county and filed on a tract of land as a homesteader, locating on what is now his ranch, situated in section 8, township 25, range 48, six miles from Alliance. He erected a good residence and added every improvement in the way of machinery, farm buildings, fences, wells, etc., and although going through all sorts of hardships, failures of crops and other disappointments, always managed to raise a small crop, even when the neighbors around him had lost their all, and he has steadily forged ahead and accumulated a nice property, attending strictly to the business of building up his farm and home, and from the time of his settling on that place up to the time he had proved up on it, had never spent a night away from home. When he did prove up he had sixteen thousand growing trees, and no other man in the county could say that at that time.

Mr. Barkhurst was married to Miss Evaline Mossman, daughter of James Mossman, a farmer of Coshocton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Barkhurst are the parents of a family of nine children, who are named as follows: Sarah E., James M., Annie, Josephine, Frank T., Lillie M., Charles N., Hattie and Eugene. All of the children are married and nicely settled in homes of their own, and our subject is the proud grandfather of several interesting young folks, and he has three great-grandchildren living, and all live in Box Butte county, Nebraska.

Mr. Barkhurst is a Republican in political sentiment, takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs, and stands firmly for his convictions.

A picture showing several ranch scenes on Mr. Barkhurst's property will be found on another page.

#### FRANK DIXON.

Frank Dixon, a well known and successful farmer residing in Holt precinct, on section 3, township 34, range 22, is one of the worthy citizens of Keya Paha county.

Mr. Dixon was born in Passaic county, New Jersey, March 27, 1856, and is a son of John and Jane (King) Dixon, the former born in Ireland, coming to America with his parents when an infant. In 1857 he removed with his family to Boone county, Illinois, and five years later to Howard county, Nebraska, where he died in 1894. Our subject is the third member of his parents' family of six children, all reared



ON RANCH OF J. BARKHURST,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



RANCH SCENE—J. BARKHURST,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.





in Nebraska, where they were among the first whites to settle. As a boy he assisted his father in the farm work, and in this way received practical instruction and knowledge of this business, and afterward chose agriculture as his life work. In 1881 he came to Keya Paha county, and for the first two years lived on the north banks of the Niobrara river; they drove to the county with two yoke of oxen, camping out on the way at night under the wagon. He at once went to work establishing a farm, built a log house and broke up some land for crops, and remained on the place for two years. At this time wild game of all kinds was plentiful in the region, and during 1881 and 1882 Mr. Dixon killed thirty-four deer on his premises, which furnished a large part of the family provisions. He moved to his present farm in 1885, his first dwelling being a sod house, which was later replaced with a more substantial building. He cultivated part of the land, engaging from the start quite extensively in stock raising, and on this account was not so much affected by the dry years as many others in the vicinity. He now runs about three hundred head of cattle on his ranch, consisting of one thousand three hundred and twenty acres, the greater part of which is devoted to hay and pasture. He has a fine grove of forest trees, and a thrifty young orchard, making his ranch one of the most valuable properties in the county.

Mr. Dixon was married in 1886 to Miss Sarah Eason, a native of Minnesota, daughter of William and Rosa Eason, old settlers in Brown county. To Mr. and Mrs. Dixon have been born three children, namely: Elmer, Arthur and Alma, all of whom were born and reared on their present homestead. The family occupy a pleasant home and are popular members of the community.

Politically Mr. Dixon is a Republican, prominent in party affairs, having attended numerous conventions as a delegate, and many times offered an office, which he would never consent to accept, preferring a quiet private life to taking a part in public affairs.

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#### FRANK ZALESKY.

Frank Zalesky, Jr., who occupies a prominent place among the younger members of the farming community of Colton precinct, is one of the early settlers of Cheyenne county, and is engaged extensively in agricultural pursuits. He has built up a fine farm, and has gained an enviable reputation as a citizen and has a host of friends. The subject of this sketch was born in Bohemia, July 29, 1876, and came to America with his parents when but one year of age;

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they sailed from Bremen and landed at Baltimore, whence they joined relatives in Washington county, Kansas, where they remained engaged in farming up to 1887. At that time they moved to Cheyenne county, where they have since followed farming and ranching. The father, Frank Zalesky, Sr., was born in Bohemia about 1846, and he settled in Cheyenne county in 1887, taking up a homestead in section 18, township 13, range 47, and has developed this into a fine ranch, the place consisting of nine hundred and sixty acres, which he devotes mostly to ranching purposes, running about seventy-five head of stock. He has a family of five children, of whom our subject is the eldest member. Frank, Jr., is proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres of fine land in section 2, township 13, range 48, where he farms about fifty acres, and runs fifty head of stock. He is a progressive, up-to-date agriculturist, has improved a good ranch, and is counted among the successful and prosperous men of his locality.

Our subject has gone through some hard times since settling in this county, and has met with different serious accidents, among the most remarkable the following: In 1887, while attempting to draw water from a new well, the heavy bucket used in drawing up the water, got beyond his control, the rope caught him and he plunged headlong and with frightful velocity down the ninety-foot well. His father, who fortunately was near, descended as quickly as possible, and when he reached the surface of the water, only the feet of the boy were visible. He was brought to the top unconscious and remained so for four days, hovering between life and death, and for three weeks he was unable to do any work.

Mr. Zalesky was married to Sophia Jenik, on August 21, 1900, in Lodgepole precinct. Mrs. Zalesky was born in Bohemia, on November 20, 1847, coming to the United States with her parents when a small girl. Three children were born to our subject, namely: Sophia, Mary and Rosa.

The family have a pleasant home and is highly esteemed as worthy citizens and good neighbors in their community. Mr. Zalesky is a man of strong convictions, and politically is affiliated with the Republican party; he was reared in the Catholic church, in which all his children have been baptized.

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#### CHARLES H. FAULHABER.

A striking example of what may be accomplished by persistent effort and good management is found in the life of the gentleman

whose name is at the head of this article. For many years Mr. Faulhaber has resided in section 10, township 27, range 29, and has gained a valuable estate by his own labors. He is widely known and universally respected, having been an early settler in Cherry county.

Charles H. Faulhaber was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, in 1861. His father, Lewis, was born in Germany and was a child of two or three years when his parents came to America. He married Helen Souder, also a native of Germany, who came to this country at the age of two years. Our subject was reared in Wisconsin until he was thirteen, then the whole family came to Nebraska, settling in Lancaster county, and began farming, they being among the earliest settlers in that section, and the country was full of Indians and wild game. They went through the usual pioneer experiences, roughing it, many times camping out, etc., and had a hard time to get along, but succeeded in building up a comfortable home in time. In 1886 Charles and a brother came to Cherry county, driving in by way of Johnstown, at which place they spent one year, and in the spring of 1887 located on the present ranch as a homestead. They put up a rough shanty, worked hard to improve the place, and also worked on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, which was then being put through the section, helping build that line into Whitman. Charles "batched" it for the first four years, and in 1890 was married Miss Jennie Martin, daughter of Adam Martin, who was an old settler in Cherry county, coming here in the fall of 1886. Mr. Martin was one of the most prominent among the pioneers, taking a leading part in building up the county, and a man of superior intelligence and attainments, giving his best aid in all affairs which tended to the good of the locality.

After his marriage, Mr. Faulhaber and his wife started to make a good home and accumulate a competence for themselves, and worked hard and faithfully with this end in view, now being handsomely rewarded for their efforts in now owning a fine ranch of one thousand five hundred acres, which is situated three miles northwest of Brownlee. The place is all fenced and improved with good buildings, including a comfortable house, all necessary barns, sheds, etc. He has about forty acres cultivated, and uses the balance as a stock ranch, making a specialty of the breeding and raising of high grade Hereford cattle. He has a large herd of registered animals, and the reputation of having the finest beef cattle in his county.

Mr. Faulhaber's family consists of his wife

and five children, as follows: Roy, born in 1892; Carl, born in 1894; Ruby, born in 1896; Forrest, born in 1903, and Irvie, born in January, 1907. They are a most happy and congenial family, and have a pleasant home, surrounded by every comfort and convenience of rural life, and enjoy a host of friends and acquaintances.

### JAMES J. KINNEY.

James J. Kinney, known throughout Kimball county as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy, is a resident of Kimball, where he is held in the highest esteem. Mr. Kinney is a genuine "old-timer," and in the years he has resided in this region he has had much to do with the development of the county, both in a financial and social way. He is one of the foremost public men, having held numerous county and local offices, at present serving in the capacity of county attorney.

Mr. Kinney was born in Roscommon county, Ireland, July 15, 1845, grew up there and came to the United States with one brother, in 1865, settling at first in Cedar county, Iowa, coming to Nebraska in 1867, stopping at Paxton for a few months, then went back to Iowa. He again came to Nebraska, locating in Kimball county, which was then a part of Cheyenne county, landing here March 4, 1870. For ten years he was connected with the Union Pacific Railway Company, and in 1878 engaged in the ranching and stock raising industry, continuing the work up to the present time. He has been running annually from one thousand five hundred to two thousand cattle on his extensive ranches, and is one of the most successful men in the county. He has passed through all the "old" Nebraska times, and has seen the region grow from a barren prairie to its present prosperous condition, and in this development he has played an important part. He has been an extensive shipper for a number of years, and besides his cattle operations, handles a large bunch of horses, which he raises for the markets.

Mr. Kinney was united in marriage at Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1879, to Margaret Fitzpatrick, who was born and reared in Illinois. They were the parents of two children, Mary E. and James J., Jr. The wife and mother died in Kimball April 23, 1882, her death being deeply regretted by her many friends who had loved her for her many sterling qualities of heart and mind. Mr. Kinney married again in 1886 Annie E. Shea, of Mechanicsville, Iowa, the second Mrs. Kinney being a native of Rock Island, Illinois, and to them have been born the follow-





ASHLEY B. COOLEY, HOMESTEAD RANCH (1883).



ASHLEY B. COOLEY, PRESENT RANCH RESIDENCE, (1908).

ing children: Theresa, Catherine, Winifred and Lucile, all at home, forming a charming family group.

Mr. Kinney is a staunch Democrat. He has been a member of the board of county commissioners, first elected in 1876. In 1890 he was elected county attorney, and with the exception of three terms, has served continuously in this capacity up to the present time. He was president of the Kimball Bank and principal owner of that institution during the years 1906 to 1908, in the latter year disposing of considerable of his holdings, although he is still a member of the board of directors. Our subject was the organizer of school district No. 3 in old Cheyenne county, and was connected with the schools in different capacities for twenty-five years.

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#### ASHLEY B. COOLEY.

Ashley B. Cooley was born in Vermont in July, 1829, and was reared in New York, coming to Iowa in the early days, where he was married. He was a carpenter by trade, but was possessed of ability in other lines, being employed as a clerk and also as a school teacher. He came to Nebraska in 1883, and located his home on section 33, township 21, range 19. He came to the county in company with W. I. Cram, driving overland from O'Neil, and was one of the first settlers in this part of Loup county. Mr. Cooley became one of the leading spirits in the political affairs of the county and is favorably known and highly esteemed all over this part of the state. He held the office of county judge for two terms and established a high reputation as a man of honor and integrity. Mr. Cooley has a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, thoroughly improved with good buildings, fences and trees. The Cooliton postoffice was established in 1885 on Mr. Cooley's farm and remained there for eighteen years. The office is now discontinued and the mail comes via rural free delivery No. 1, from Walworth, this route being close to the Cooley farm.

On another page we present some interesting pictures of the Cooley ranch property.

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#### ALBEY L. CARTER.

Albey L. Carter looks with pride to Illinois as his native state, his birth occurring in 1858 in La Salle county. His parents lived on a farm, his father's name being Lewis W. and his mother's name Rachel (Wheeler) Carter. Mr. Albey Carter was reared on a farm,

and there, under good parental training, acquired habits of industry and thrift that have followed him through all the years. When he was fourteen years of age, the family moved to Iowa, and settled in Buena Vista county, and later located on a farm in Sac county. Albey L. learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for three years in Iowa, and in 1884 went to Ord, Nebraska, and worked at his trade there for a year and a half. In 1885 he went to West Union and opened a shop of his own, which he conducted for two years, after which he took up a pre-emption claim in Loup county. He took charge of the fine farm of Ashley B. Cooley, his father-in-law, an old pioneer settler, in 1905, and has given it a great deal of attention ever since. A photo of this place appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. Carter has been prominent in public affairs and has taken great interest in politics. He has been school director and for one term held the office of county commissioner of Loup county.

In Iowa, on the fifth day of August, 1883, Mr. Carter was married to Miss Ida Cooley, daughter of Ashley B. Cooley and Jemima (Sheldon) Cooley. Mr. and Mrs. Carter are the parents of four children—Zora, Lorin, Lella and Dell, and they make a most interesting group.

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#### CHARLES HERRING.

Charles Herring, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Franklin county, Nebraska, postoffice at Reamsville, Kansas, settled in this state in 1889, purchasing a section of land in Franklin township, township 1, range 40, and still resides on this land, to which he has since added, the place consisting of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres. Here he has built up a fine farm and comfortable home, and has aided materially in the development of this region, becoming well known as a citizen of sterling character, richly deserving the success which has come to him as a reward for many years of perseverance and hard work.

Mr. Herring was born in Baden, near Constanz, on a farm. In 1879 he settled in Ohio, remaining there for some years. Our subject worked as a chemist during his young manhood, being employed in different cities throughout the east and west up to the time he came to Nebraska. He is well satisfied with this state as a farming and stock raising country, and he feeds from forty to fifty cattle and about one hundred hogs each year, keeping high grade animals only. He owns six hundred acres of land, and raises from three to

four thousand bushels of corn each year, averaging twenty-five to forty bushels per acre, besides two hundred acres of wheat, which runs from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre.

Mr. Herring was married in 1886 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Miss Augusta Langhon, and to them have come the following children: Alvin, Herbert, George, Hilda, Clarence, Harold, Ada, Floyd and Charles, Jr.

In 1906 Mr. Herring visited Europe, traveling through Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland, in the hope of benefiting his health, and he spent some time at his old home. He states that conditions there are very bad, and hard for the poor and even the rich men, as a farmer aged twenty-six will have to work all his life and then be in debt or behind. The taxes are arranged so that the poor man really pays for the luxuries of the army and navy officials and rulers of the country. The legislators and officers in the armies and on the railways are well paid, receiving from five to six thousand dollars per year for their services, and are a well-kept and prosperous lot of people. After these men have served for twenty or twenty-five years they get a pension of from three to four thousand dollars, out of which they are not required to pay a cent of taxes, and this shows that the poor laboring men and the farmers have to carry the whole burden of keeping up the government, and there is widespread dissatisfaction under the surface, although the people dare not say a word, but have to pay the price. The Emperor of Germany gets a sum of twelve million marks, equal to three million dollars per year, while the Emperor of Austria receives fourteen million kronen, or three million five hundred thousand dollars. The president of France gets a salary of one million dollars (five million francs), and all these people travel both by land and water with a retinue of two or three hundred servants to attend them, and all the money spent so lavishly is ground out of the poor laborers. A little state covering one-half the area of the state of Nebraska, with a population of one million five hundred thousand people supports a standing army of thirty thousand soldiers, costing in times of peace forty thousand dollars each day, and in Germany, as all over Europe, this system exists, Russia being the worst of all countries.

The soldiers are ill-treated in many cases, and Mr. Herring states that we would not treat dogs as many officers treat the soldiers in their armies. He has seen an officer try to show a soldier how to take a cartridge out of

a gun, and would push the gun on his shoulder with such force that it would knock the man over, and the conditions there are so bad that it would be impossible for an American to have a correct idea of the state of affairs which exist in that country. Mr. Herring's father, Ulrich Herring, served for seven years in the army, so he knows whereof he speaks when he tells of the hardships of the middle class in the old country. In big cities in Europe reform movements are gaining many recruits, and the people hope for better things before many years, although it may be a long time, as the army and capital have the people so thoroughly in subjection that they have to exercise the utmost caution and secrecy in any movement which is meant for the uplift of the masses.

Mr. Herring received a good education in Germany, finishing in the public schools, and afterwards took a full course in chemistry at the Worms Chemical School, and also attended the academy at Valparaiso, Indiana, for two years.

He is a man who has made the most of his opportunities, and is a thoroughly posted, up-to-date gentleman, and possesses a striking personality, universally esteemed by his fellowmen. He is a regular correspondent for the English and German papers in his locality, touching on subjects along the reform lines and especially labor problems, and handles his subjects in a masterly manner. He is an Independent voter, always standing for the best man. He is a member of the Lutheran church, and one of its earnest supporters.

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#### JOHN S. HUGHES, DECEASED.

John S. Hughes, deceased, who was one of the early settlers of Dawes county, and a man who will always be remembered for his kindly hospitality, was born on a farm in North Wales in 1846. His parents were natives of England.

Mr. Hughes spent the early years of his life in England, where he received his education, working in the mines as he grew into manhood. At the age of twenty-one years he came to America, landed in New York, came west to Wisconsin and located with a Welsh colony, working in the lead mines. After a time he went west into Colorado, where he worked in the gold mines at Colorado Springs. In the year 1880 he came to Dawes county, driving from Sidney, and located on the Niobrara river, about three miles west of Marsland. Here he opened a road ranch, conducting a







J. C. McNare and Family and View of the Ranch Residence,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

general store, saloon and hotel, and serving as postmaster. His building, which was twenty by one hundred feet, was amply fitted for the needs of the people. This was a stage station. Here he built up an extensive business, was prosperous, and achieved the success justly due his upright and honorable business methods. His place was the scene of many of the exciting times so well known to the pioneers of this western country.

Our subject lived in Crawford for a short time, but in 1901 moved to Marsland. He erected additional buildings on his ranch, which contained an area of two thousand acres, and dealt extensively in live stock.

In 1903 Mr. Hughes was united in marriage to Mary Lemon, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth (Galvith) Lemon. Mrs. Hughes was reared in Dawes county, her father having settled here in 1887.

In the month of May, 1904, Mr. Hughes passed away, leaving to the care of his beloved wife three children, viz: John, Helen and Thomas. Surely a work of this kind would be sadly deficient if a sketch of his life did not appear in its pages. During the period of his life which was spent in Dawes county, he proved himself a man, in every way worthy of the high esteem in which he was held. He was a public-spirited citizen, one who took an active interest in the development and improvement of the county, and when he died he left behind him a host of warm friends who will ever honor his memory.

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#### JOHN C. McNARE.

The history of the upbuilding of America has been one of startling successes. From the early days, when the Pilgrims first landed upon its shores, up to the present day, the greatest success has attended the efforts of ambitious men, and the early settlers in the western states have furnished some splendid examples, among whom is the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. McNare is a native of West Virginia, born January 17, 1861, near Bruceton Mills, Preston county. He is a son of Andrew McNare and Jennina (Walls) of Scotch-Irish descent. The father, by occupation a farmer, visited his son in Nebraska in 1905, and was much impressed by the wonderful opportunities to be found in this section of the country. Our subject was reared and educated within three miles of his birthplace, and struck out for himself on reaching the age of twenty-four years, following farm work in his native state.

Mr. McNare first came to Nebraska in

April, 1885, locating five and a half miles west of Valentine, which was then the terminus of the railroad at that time. He went to work improving his farm at once, and put up a sod house and other farm buildings. His start consisted of a yoke of oxen and a few chickens, a small beginning from which his latter success has grown. The dry years soon came on. He lost successive crops and was unable to make any apparent headway, so sold out and purchased his present home in section 26, township 32, range 26, and began over again. Here he has added to his original holdings until he has a place consisting of two thousand three hundred and sixty acres, mostly hay and pasture land and engages principally in stock raising, keeping at times as high as one thousand one hundred head of cattle and a hundred horses. He has a complete set of ranch buildings, house, barn, mill, tanks, etc., on section 14. The home place consists of a fine ten-room house with baths and running water, supplied by an elevated cistern reservoir, the first of its kind in this region. There are six never failing wells on the ranch, varying from thirty-six to a hundred feet deep.

January 21, 1883, Mr. McNare was married to Miss Virginia Yeast at Brandonville, West Virginia, a native of Maryland, but a few rods from where three state boundaries meet. They were reared within a mile of each other. She is a daughter of William and Martha E. (Deak) Yeast. Eleven children have been born of this marriage, namely: Arthur E., Herbert C., Robert G., Estella B., Charles G., William C., Violet Mabel, Edith M., Vern L., Hazel B. and Jennie May, the two elder born in West Virginia and all reared in Cherry county.

The family was one of the earliest settlers in this region, there being few neighbors and far between at the time of Mr. McNare's advent to Cherry county. Mr. McNare, a Democrat politically, has always taken a deep interest in local affairs tending toward the development of his locality, and has held different school offices in his district. He is a member of Camp No. 2947, Modern Woodmen of America, at Wood Lake.

A view of the family residence, with portraits of Mr. and Mrs. McNare, is to be found on another page of this work.

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#### THOMAS C. LEWIS.

Thomas C. Lewis, a highly respected farmer of township 33, range 57, in Sioux county, Nebraska, has a pleasant home and good farm there, which he has gained through thrift

and industrious effort. He is an energetic agriculturist, progressive, and an able representative of the farming community of his county.

Mr. Lewis was born in Audubon county, Iowa, in 1869, on his father's farm. The latter, Thomas also, was of American birth, a well-known farmer and attorney of that locality, and was county judge, elected to that office when Audubon county was organized. He married Josephine Kaylor, and they lived for many years in Iowa, our subject growing up there, attending the country schools and following farm work during his young manhood. When he was seventeen years of age he came to Sioux county, Chadron at that time being the nearest railroad point. He was employed on ranches in that locality, also in Wyoming, and led a regular frontier life, roughing it for a number of years and following the career of a cowboy up to 1892, riding all over the western part of Nebraska and into adjoining states. In the latter year he settled on a homestead which he now occupies, located in section 4, township 33, range 57, which was an entirely unimproved tract, and he has built up a good farm and home. The place is situated on Antelope creek, and he has it all fenced, supplied with good buildings, etc. He is engaged almost exclusively in stock raising, and making a great success of the business. Of late years he has also gone into the grain raising business quite extensively, his oat crop this year, which is very fine, will go sixty to seventy-five bushels to the acre.

Mr. Lewis was married in 1892 to Theresa Thomas, daughter of Samuel Thomas, whose sketch appears in this volume, and he is one of the oldest settlers in Sioux county, Mrs. Lewis having been raised here. Two children have been born to them, namely: Thomas Lee, born in 1895, and Albert Wilton, born in 1897.

Mr. Lewis is Independent in politics, and lends his influence for good government. He takes an active part in local affairs, and has served his precinct in different capacities. The year that he located in this county was that of the organization of the region as Sioux county, and he has assisted materially in its development ever since.

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#### C. A. PETERSON.

Among the old settlers of Anderson township, Phelps county, Nebraska, recognized as an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, a foremost place is accorded C. A. Peterson, the subject of this review.

Mr. Peterson is a native of Sweden, and

came to Phelps county in 1879 with his father, Anthony Peterson, the latter taking a homestead in Lake township, our subject locating in Anderson township, where he now resides. He began farming this at once, and soon afterwards bought one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining, also three hundred and twenty acres in the next section north of his farm. To all this he added another eighty acres, so he is now the possessor of a farm of seven hundred and twenty acres, and with his brother, N. Peterson, has an equal interest in three hundred and twenty acres located in Centre township. He purchased all of this land during the years from 1879 to 1904, and all he is now worth was made since coming to this state. Before coming to Nebraska he farmed for a time in Mercer county, Illinois, but was not satisfied with conditions there, and thinks that Nebraska is the only state for a poor man. While running his farm he engaged in stock raising to some extent in addition to cultivating a good portion of his land, and was successful in both ventures. He raised pure bred Polled Angus cattle, and prefers them to any other breed for western Nebraska. He also raised a large number of hogs, and found this a very profitable line of work, as they can be raised for comparatively little, and mature quickly, always bringing fair prices on the market.

Mr. Peterson's father died in 1901, aged seventy years, leaving an estate including seven hundred and twenty acres of land, all of which was good fertile soil. He is not at present actively engaged in running his farms, but rents the land out and derives a comfortable income in this manner.

He was married in 1878 to Miss Louisa Anderson, who was also born in Sweden, and they have three children—Amanda, Sadie and Clarence.

Mr. Peterson has held the office of supervisor of district No. 1, Anderson township, and was a member of the county board of Phelps county, for Anderson, Divide and Cottonwood townships. He has been clerk and treasurer for Anderson township, holding each office for several terms. He also takes an active part in educational matters in his district, and has been a member of the school board for a long time past. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### HENRY C. BRANDEL.

Henry C. Brandel, a prominent resident of Brown county, Nebraska, is a man of successful endeavor and one of the substantial farm-





A. H. McLAUGHLIN AND FAMILY.

ers and favorably known citizens of this locality.

Mr. Brandel was born in the city of Sandusky, Ohio, August 9, 1869. His father, Jacob Brandel, was a mason by trade, a native of Germany, who came to the United States at the age of twenty-two. After living at Sandusky for a number of years, he removed to Independence, Iowa, in the spring of 1871, where he lived until coming to Nebraska in 1884. He died in 1891, leaving a wife and two children, of whom our subject is the elder. The family settled in Brown county when he was a lad of sixteen, purchasing the homestead on which they now live, located in section 12, township 31, range 23. This homestead proof was cancelled by the government and they were finally compelled to file homestead papers and prove up on it, after having paid one man for the land. Their start was on a very small scale when they landed here, beginning with one horse, two heifers and a few chickens, which constituted the support of the family. During the first two years they lived in a small log house, which was rather close quarters, but they soon built a comfortable dwelling out of native lumber, adding a granary and other buildings gradually. The farm was steadily improved, but the family met with hardships and suffered much privation through the drouth periods and grasshopper raids, which put them back considerably in their work of building up their home. However, this was the usual experience of the settlers in this region and no more than could have been looked for, and they did not give up hope. A great deal of time was spent in hauling posts, timber and smaller wood from the land which was sold to help keep up expenses. In 1894, shortly after the death of his father, our subject went to Brownlee, a distance of sixty to seventy miles, where he worked in the hay fields, in this way being able to add quite a nice little sum to the store they saved to keep them through the hard times, still living on his father's farm and improving it. This farm now contains four hundred acres of land, all fenced, one hundred and eighty acres being under cultivation.

In 1894 Mr. Brandel was married to Miss Katie Haas, a native of Ross county, Ohio, whose father, George B. Haas, is a farmer of German descent, and one of the old-timers of Brown county, coming in 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Brandel have a family of four children, namely: Sylvia M., George H., Howard W. and Selma F. Politically Mr. Brandel is a Democrat, always awake to the better interests of the locality in which he chose his home.

#### AUGUSTINE H. McLAUGHLIN.

Augustine H. McLaughlin, residing in section 10, township 28, range 52, Box Butte county, is one of the substantial farmers and worthy citizens of that county. He is one of the pioneers of the region, having located here before Box Butte was organized as a county, and is familiar with every incident connected with its development and growth, and has himself materially assisted in its advancement and progress.

Mr. McLaughlin was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1846. His father, Thomas McLaughlin, was a blacksmith by trade, and was a pioneer in Iowa county, Iowa. Both parents of our subject were natives of Pennsylvania, and came to Iowa in 1856, where Augustine was reared and educated. He enlisted in the Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, Company I, in 1862, and saw service in the southwest, going through Arkansas, Missouri and Texas with his company, and although in a number of engagements was only slightly wounded.

He returned to Iowa after being discharged from the army, and in 1867 went to Denver where he followed freighting from Cheyenne through the mountains, also from Denver to Mexico, and from Sidney, Nebraska, into the Black Hills and Ft. Pierre to Deadwood.

In the summer of 1875 Mr. McLaughlin and a party of ten others went into the Black Hills on a prospecting trip, and remained there until they were ordered out by the government troops. The expenses of that trip was two hundred dollars for each man, and when they came to settle up and divide their spoils, found that he had only one dollar and twenty cents coming to him as his share from the gold they found. During those years he was all over this part of the west, and many times had encounters with the Indians.

In the fall of 1882 our subject came to Box Butte county, settling on a homestead in section 10, township 28, range 52, and there started a ranch. He first put up a rude shanty and went to work breaking up his land, and improving the place. His intention was to found a good ranch and home, and to that end he kept steadily at the work, and has since remained there constantly except during three years which were spent at Grand Island, Nebraska. He was one of the early assessors in the section, when this was all Cheyenne county, and at the time Dawes county was organized he was elected one of the county commissioners and helped organize the county. He also helped to organize Box Butte county,

and was the first man to receive a patent for land issued in the county. He now has a ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, all deeded land, and is engaged in cattle raising, and deals extensively in hay, buying and shipping it into the Black Hills. He has a fine irrigation ditch from the Niobrara river, and irrigates five hundred acres of hay land. Everything is kept in the best possible order on his ranch, and he has one of the valuable estates in his locality, and richly deserves the success which has come to him through his perseverance and endeavors. The name of his ranch where he resides is River Side ranch, Marsland postoffice and station.

Mr. McLaughlin was married in 1877 to Miss Mary Noel, born in Iowa, of American stock, and daughter of John and Rachel (Goldsmith) Noel. They have two children, Lucy M. and Hobart L.

In political sentiment our subject leans toward the Republicans. On another page will be found a picture of Mr. McLaughlin and family.

#### HENRY FLINIAUX.

Henry Fliniaux, now a resident of Cherry county, Nebraska, where his home is found in section 24, township 33, and range 28, is, as his name indicates, a native of France, where he was born in the village of Ephy, Department of Sonne, May 6, 1858. His father, Henry, Sr., was cashier and bookkeeper in a bank in his native land, and came to this country for the first time in 1847, remaining six years, when he returned to France. In the fall of 1862 he brought his family to the United States, sailing from Havre on the steamship Bavaria, landing in New York after a voyage of nineteen days. He settled at Highland, Madison county, Illinois, in a settlement of French and Switzers, where he remained five years. His wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, was Eliza Longatte. She was also of pure French blood and the entire family is a notable embodiment of the best traits and characteristics of their race and blood.

Henry Fliniaux spent the first five years in Madison county, and was then taken by his parents into Cass county, Iowa, where they resided for two years, after which they found a home in Gentry county, Missouri, where our subject remained until he had reached early manhood.

Mr. Fliniaux started for himself in 1885, and the year following made a homestead entry of a fine place on Gordon's creek in Cherry county. His sister also made a homestead

entry at the same time on Gordon's creek, and the two lived many years in a sod shanty. Mr. Fliniaux had a team of horses with which he traveled thirty miles to and fro, between the ranch and Valentine, then his market town. He early began in the stock business, and increased his real estate as rapidly as possible until he now owns a ranch consisting of sixteen hundred and eighty acres of very desirable land. The farm on which he now makes his home was bought by him in the spring of 1903, and here he established his home the following year. The father took a homestead on sections 13 and 24, township 33, range 28, where he died May 9, 1905. The mother and sister make their home with Henry Fliniaux and the three are very closely associated in all business matters.

Mr. Fliniaux is making a reputation as a horticulturist of much success. On his land he has over twelve hundred fruit bearing trees, and his experiences in this line are of great value to the county, where his orchard is known as one of the very finest in the entire region.

Mr. Fliniaux is a philosophical Socialist, but has never taken a very active part in politics. He has shared in the dangers and excitements of frontier life, and has many times been called on to fight desperately against the prairie fires. In 1887 he was entirely burned out by one that came down on him with the wings of the wind. The family are communicants of the Catholic church.

#### FRANK E. FOSTER.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review is essentially a self-made man, starting for himself at the age of twenty-three years. He has become intimately identified with the early life of the community and is counted as one of the reliable old settlers. He located his homestead and started on the lowest round of the ladder in 1885, breaking land for fifty cents an acre and husking corn for two and a half cents a bushel in order to earn money to complete his filings. He built a sod house and lived in it for one year, "batching it" during that time.

Like all pioneers Mr. Foster had to pass through the years of drouth, and the year 1894 witnessed such total failure that many had to find work elsewhere. Mr. Foster went to Rock county, where he put up hay and hauled cream and engaged in various enterprises in order to make money for his farm improvements. Better years came and success at farming became assured. Now the subject of



our sketch has an excellently improved farm of eight hundred acres, with about one hundred and fifteen acres under cultivation. On the place are good buildings, well and windmill, fences and general and useful improvements of all kinds.

Mr. Foster claims Iowa as the state of his nativity, his birth occurring in Casey in the year 1874. His father, Thomas Foster, was a painter by trade, and traveled widely in America, having driven stage in California in as early a day as 1848. Frank E. Foster's mother was Lois Chamberlain before marriage. The father died in Iowa and the mother and brother came to Nebraska in about 1885. The mother died in Nebraska July 14, 1900.

The marriage of Frank E. Foster and Miss Myrtle Brown, of Milbourne, Nebraska, was celebrated February 26, 1900. She was the daughter of Charles Brown, an old settler of Nebraska—his death occurred in Custer county. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have been blessed with three children, namely: Willie, Ora and Mabel.

Frank E. Foster has at all times been deeply interested in the social and business interests of the community. He has participated in all matters tending for the general betterment of affairs and especially in educational matters. He is progressive and resourceful and is respected for these qualities. He taught the second term of school in the Vanderveen district, and this was the first regular paid term of the public school. He received eighteen dollars per month for the four months' term and had to discount the warrants ten per cent. in order to get the money.

### JOHN LAWRENCE.

John Lawrence, a prominent pioneer of Box Butte county, resides in section 21, township 26, range 47, where he enjoys a comfortable home and has gained the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen. He has endured many hardships to secure this fine property and can recount many thrilling experiences connected with his early settlement in this region.

Mr. Lawrence was born in Wales, England, in 1845, the son of John Lawrence, who was a day laborer all his life in that country. He was reared in his native county until he reached the age of twenty years, following the occupation of a farm laborer there. In 1865 he left England and came to the United States and after landing in New York went to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where he obtained employ-

ment in the coal mines and worked as a miner for two years. He then went to Indiana and entered the coal mines, where he spent seven or eight years, and from there came west to Iowa, and again worked as a miner in Monroe county, remaining there up to the spring of 1887, then came to Nebraska and settled in Box Butte county. He filed on a homestead in section 21, township 26, range 47, and after spending a year on the place and getting it started, he sent for his family to join him. He had erected a sod house and started to improve his farm, doing all his work of breaking, etc., with a team of mules, starting with practically no capital, and obliged to work out in the vicinity to make a living. During the first year or so he went to work in the coal mines of Wyoming, and one winter, during the month of February, 1891, while he was away from his home, a severe snow storm swept the vicinity of his farm, and the snow was so deep that his house was entirely snowed under, and his wife and children were compelled to break through the window to get outside and make a hole through the snow to the barn. They had a hard time to get enough fuel to keep warm and had to chop up the partition boards and even the chairs to make a fire and keep from freezing to death. When they finally succeeded in digging a road to the barn the snow was piled against the building so high that they had to dig a hole through the bank to get to the door.

During the first few years Mr. Lawrence was located in this county he succeeded in raising fair crops, but when the dry years struck the locality he had a hard time to get along and make a living at farming, so started in the stock business, raising cattle and at first operated on a small scale but gradually branched out and finally was able to do pretty well. He was constantly improving his place and added to his original homestead, until he is now proprietor of eight hundred acres, using it mostly as a ranch, cultivating only about one hundred acres, but raises good crops of small grains, potatoes, etc.

Mr. Lawrence was married in 1867 while living in Pennsylvania, taking as his wife Mary Ann Davis, also a native of Wales, England. Mrs. Lawrence was a daughter of Thomas and Jane (Price) Davis, the father a miner in England, and the whole family came to America in 1863, settling in Stark county, Ohio, where Mrs. Lawrence was raised. Our subject has a family of four children, namely: John R., born April 11, 1873; Thomas J., born September 18, 1877; William E., born April 17, 1883, and Daniel, born May 30, 1888.

Mr. Lawrence is active in local political affairs, and is one of the leading men and worthy citizens of his community. He has served on the school board in his district for many years.

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#### CARL HAHN.

Carl Hahn, one of the early settlers in western Nebraska, who foresaw the prosperity and opportunities of that region in its early days, and remained to enjoy the results of many years of labor here, is one of the most highly esteemed residents of Sheridan county. He is the owner of a valuable estate in township 28, range 45, and farms on an extensive scale.

Mr. Hahn is a native of Loraine county, Ohio, born in 1855. When he was six months old his parents moved to Iowa, locating on a farm there, where our subject, together with eleven brothers and sisters, were raised and educated. His father, Peter Hahn, was born in Germany and came to America at the age of eight years, his parents locating in Ohio, and in 1856 he moved to Iowa with his family, his wife's death occurring there in 1880. Our subject commenced to make his own way in the world at the age of twenty-two years, obtaining employment on farms, working by the month or day for nine years. In 1886 he moved to this locality with his parents, and took up a homestead for himself in section 20, township 28, range 45, which he still occupies. Here he built a comfortable dwelling place, consisting of a dugout and sod house in which he lived for two years, then erected a better sod house. He "batched it" for five years, and began building up his farm. When he landed here he brought a team and an old wagon with him, and the following spring broke land and put in some sod corn, the patch containing about ten acres.

During the first years he got fair crops, and had just got nicely started when the dry years hit him, and as he was depending wholly on his crops for a living he had a hard time to get along. He had two cows, and some years his crops failed so that he was unable to get enough from them to pay for having it threshed, and not enough to feed his stock. He never bought any seed, but only sowed what he had, and got along as best he could. He did everything he could to keep going, and one whole winter made baskets and sold them to support his family. He often felt very discouraged and determined to leave, but stuck to it, as he did not want to leave the place after being on it for so long, so stayed on and when

the better years came along and his crops were good, he was glad he had persevered in his undertaking. He knows he could not have done as well anywhere else, as he started out with practically no capital at all, and was even obliged to borrow money when he filed on his land. He now owns a tract of eight hundred acres of good land, and farms about one hundred acres of this, using most of the produce on his place to feed his stock, of which he has about forty-five or fifty head. His ranch is all fenced and well improved with good buildings, etc., and he is proud of the fact that he owes no man a dollar.

Mr. Hahn was married in 1882 to Miss Minnie Bridenstein, born and raised in Iowa. They had one child which died in infancy, and in 1885 Mr. Hahn suffered a sad loss in the death of his wife. He was married again in 1892, to Miss Elizabeth Blickenstaff, daughter of Jacob Blickenstaff, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, born and raised in Indiana, who came to Nebraska in 1888 and settled on a farm there, being among the early settlers in this section. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn have a family of six children, named as follows: Christian N., Levi A., Clara V., Carl E., Anna E., and a baby as yet not named.

Mr. Hahn's postoffice address is Schill, and his nearest school is within two miles of his farm. He is always interested in local affairs that tend to the betterment of conditions in his locality, and has held local office at different times. Politically he is not a party man, but votes for the best man running.

An interesting picture of Mr. Hahn's family as well as the ranch residence will be found on another page of this work.

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#### ARTHUR CUTLER.

Arthur Cutler, an old settler of Sheridan county, Nebraska, is recognized as one of the prosperous and substantial agriculturists of the locality in which he resides. His home is in section 11, township 33, range 43, and he is widely and favorably known as a good business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. Cutler was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, January 10, 1866. His father, H. C. Cutler, was born in New York state, and during the war was a member of the Forty-fourth Illinois Regiment, and saw hard service as a soldier.

At the age of sixteen years our subject began farming and followed this work, and as his father's health failed he was obliged to work out by the month to help support the family. He spent four years in Kansas on



RANCH RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF CARL HAHN,  
Sheridan County, Nebraska.



ranches and doing all kinds of labor, and in the fall of 1887 came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, and filed on a tract of land. He settled on this the following spring, remaining there for twelve years and since that time has never left the locality, this farm being situated only nine miles north of where he now lives. He built a sod house on the land and in this he "batched it" for a number of years, building up his farm and getting a start. After leaving this place he worked out on different farms for some years, and in 1904 bought his present home of one hundred and sixty acres, this place being quite well improved when he purchased it. It was during the time he was in Sheridan county that the dry years came on and ruined all his crops, and here he saw his hardest times. He lived only three-quarters of a mile from the state line while the Indian war was in progress, but never left his farm, although there was great danger in remaining. This and other pioneer hardships were all he cared for and he is glad these times are past. In the beginning of his residence here he had a hard time to prove up on his homestead. He had nothing to start with, and was obliged to buy all of his machinery with money which he earned by working out on farms by the month, and also hauling timber to Pine Ridge Agency.

In 1897 Mr. Cutler was married to Miss Laura C. Thacker, born in Missouri in 1872. Her father, Charles W. Thacker, was a native of Kentucky, and now resides in Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Cutler have two children, namely: Cecil, an adopted child born in 1894, and Roy, born in 1905. In political sentiment he is a Republican, but always votes for the best man on the ticket, regardless of party.

#### A. J. DEETS.

A. J. Deets, a well-known resident of Center township, Phelps county, Nebraska, enjoys a comfortable home and the esteem and respect of his fellowmen.

Mr. Deets was born in 1860. In 1882 he left Pennsylvania and came to Nebraska, locating in Buffalo county, north of Kearney, and there engaged in the grain and hog business. In 1896 he first landed in Phelps county, and for nine years managed the Norris ranch, comprising eight hundred acres, located in Anderson township, and in addition to this he was postmaster and store-keeper at Haydon. Four hundred acres of this ranch was cultivated, and the balance in pasture. He generally planted two hundred acres to wheat and oats, and two hundred acres in corn, and from this his crop of wheat averaged thirty bushels,

and corn and oats up to fifty bushels per acre. On the pasture land he had from one hundred to two hundred Hereford cattle, and about three hundred Poland China hogs, and also twenty horses. He was very successful in both farming and stock raising, and when he left this ranch the horses which he sold brought him one thousand six hundred dollars. He now owns a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Centre township, section 12, on the Anderson township line, and has built a nice, substantial farm house, fine barns and other buildings. He has a large building used for sheltering hogs, and makes a specialty of raising these animals. He has a drove of over forty pure bred Poland Chinas and two hundred graded hogs, and finds this line very profitable. He also has one hundred high grade Hereford cattle, and some fine Percheron horses and colts. He shows a marked preference for Poland China hogs and Hereford cattle, as they mature and are fit for market earlier than other grades. He thinks that Nebraska is one of the best states in the Union for mixed farming and stock raising, as the climate and conditions here are well adapted to their perfect development.

He has three brothers also living in this state, L. S. Deets, of Kearney, J. H. Deets, and H. A. Deets, also of Kearney.

Mr. Deets was married in 1886 to Miss Carrie Day, daughter of M. Day, a pioneer settler of Buffalo county, Nebraska. One child has blessed their union, a daughter, named Ozella.

#### MICHAEL WINDSHEIMER.

Michael Windsheimer, who enjoys the distinction of being one of the leading old timers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is a gentleman of exceptional business ability and integrity, and although since coming to this section has suffered many losses financially, has prospered to a remarkable extent and is now proprietor of a fine estate in Lodgepole precinct. He is prominent in his community, taking an active part in its advancement in every way, and well deserves his success and high standing.

Mr. Windsheimer was born in the village of Bromholzheim, Wertemberg, Germany, December 2, 1856. He is the eldest of three children in his father's family, and grew to manhood on a farm there. His father, Leonard, is still living in that country, but the mother is dead. Our subject came to America in 1882, sailing from Bremen Haven on the "Main" on the last day of May, landing on June 9. He went direct to Boone county, Iowa. After spending about four years in that

county he came to Cheyenne county, arriving here in the spring of 1886, and at once filed on a homestead on section 6, taking one hundred and sixty acres, which is his present farm. He now has three hundred and twenty acres, while a quarter section additional is owned by his wife; it is a very nice property, with one hundred and twenty acres devoted to farming and the balance in hay land and pasture for one hundred and twenty head of cattle and a small bunch of horses. He has a complete set of substantial farm buildings and every improvement in the way of machinery, etc., also a good supply of water the year around for his stock and all domestic purposes. The place is also well supplied with natural timber.

Mr. Windsheimer was married at Boone, Iowa, November 7, 1883, to Miss Maggie Lang, who was born in Germany and came to this country in the early part of that year (1883). They have a family of eight children, namely: Mary, wife of Rolla Porter, of Lusk, Wyoming; Minnie, William, Frederick, Leonhard, Emma, John L. and Annie, all of whom are living at home. Mrs. Windsheimer's parents are both dead. The family have a substantial stone dwelling, and are among the well liked residents of their community; their home is one of the most hospitable to be found in many days' travel. All are members of and regular attendants of the German Lutheran church at Weyerts.

Politically Mr. Windsheimer is a Republican.

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#### LEE GARNER.

Lee Garner, a prominent old-timer of Dawes county, now living in Whitney, where he is engaged in the general merchandise business, is one of the leading pioneers of this locality.

Mr. Garner is a native of Wayne county, Illinois, born in 1839 on a farm. His parents were both of American blood, the father an early settler in eastern Nebraska, coming here with his family in 1854 and locating in Dakota county, where he died in 1891. Our subject grew up in Dakota county, where he found plenty of hard work to do in building up the home farm with his parents, and attended the country schools, going through the usual pioneer experiences in his boyhood days. In 1859 he started out for himself, and was appointed superintendent of the first freighting outfit from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Denver, running that up to 1861, crossing the plains several times with teams, camping out on the ground at night and meeting with many exciting adventures. In 1861 he enlisted in Company I,

First Nebraska Volunteers, and the regiment was ordered south but only remained a short time, most of their service consisting in watching the Indians on the plains. He was in the service for two years.

After leaving the army he returned to Dakota county and followed farming, purchasing a farm of his own, and this place is now worth at least one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. He came to Cedar county about 1870, and was among the early settlers in that section, and engaged in the stock and mixed farming business, later going into the mercantile business at Coleridge, when that town was first started. He only ran the store a short time, then moved to Dawes county, teaming from Valentine, making several trips from that place, also from Sidney, bringing in a stock of merchandise and opened a store in old Dawes City. In 1886, when the railroad came to Whitney, Mr. Garner located here, building the first hotel in the town, which he ran for almost twenty years, and was well known far and near by the residents of this section and travelers who came through the country. In 1900 Mr. Garner opened a store, dealing in general merchandise and still operates this business. For some time he was engaged in running a store and boarding house in the old town of Chadron, where he put up a building for the purpose.

In 1867 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Mary Wright, daughter of John and Elizabeth Barker Wright, early settlers in Dakota county, Nebraska, and who were both born and raised in England.

Mr. Garner has done his full share in the building up and developing of the section in which he located, and is a representative pioneer of the country. He is a Democrat in politics.

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#### HENRY C. STONE.

Henry C. Stone, an experienced farmer, resides in Brown county, on Plum creek, north of Johnstown, where he has a fine tract of land and enjoys an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Stone is a native of Wright county, Iowa, born December 4, 1857. His father, Norman Stone, was a farmer and old settler in Pawnee county, Nebraska, coming to that locality in 1867, and in 1883 moved to Brown county, where he died in 1890. Our subject is the eldest in a family of eleven children, and was reared in Pawnee county, where he grew up accustomed to all kinds of hard work, as he was obliged to assist his father and broth-

ers in the work of carrying on their farm. He grew to manhood on the frontier, where the early settlers experienced many hardships and privations. At that time there were no railroads through this region, and journeys for family supplies had to be made at a great risk, traveling many miles to the nearest trading-post, through a rough and wild country, and many were the exciting times these pioneers saw through encounters with Indians who roamed the country, and also the wild beasts which at that time abounded in this section.

In 1882 Mr. Stone left his father's home in Pawnee county and came to Brown county, driving the entire distance with a team and covered wagon. The trip took eight days, and was a tedious time to the travelers. He located on a pre-emption in section 1, township 31, range 23, and began to improve his property, building a log house and breaking up sod for crops. He had a team of horses and five dollars in money when he began here, his only capital besides his brawn and brain.

During the first years he met with many disappointments, losing two crops in succession through the drouths and two by hailstorms. He remained on this farm for three years, then went to Almira on the North Loup, pursuing his trade of blacksmith for three years. Returning, he lived on his father's place, where he farmed for a few years, working rented land in addition. In 1896 he took his present homestead in section 1, township 31, range 23, adjoining his pre-emption land, and erected a dwelling, blacksmith shop, barns and other buildings. This place, containing six hundred and forty acres, is located on Plum creek, and is well supplied with natural timber and plenty of water. He has cleared a large part of the land and raises good crops on his farm every year. He has a fine orchard of one hundred and fifty trees on Plum creek, which is one of the best in the neighborhood, and of this he is very proud.

Mr. Stone was married January 29, 1883, to Miss Mary White, a native of Polk county, Iowa. Mrs. Stone is a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Luther) White, who settled in Pawnee county in 1880. Twelve children have resulted from this union: Dora E., wife of Frank Jenkins; Cora (deceased); Clara, wife of Theodore Petty; Chas. E.; Mary E., who married James Gallagher; Norman H.; Amos Walter.; Alice L.; Ida C.; Laura A.; Carrie E. (deceased); and one that died in infancy, all of whom were born in Brown county.

The family is highly esteemed in this locality, and among the worthy citizens who have aided in the advancement of conditions of this section. Politically Mr. Stone is a Socialist.

## NELS NELSON.

Nels Nelson, one of the pioneer agriculturists of Deuel county, Nebraska, holds a prominent place as a man of intelligence and sterling citizenship. He came to the region during its earliest settlement, and has prospered to a marked degree, his enterprising nature and good business judgment placing him among the foremost farmers of his community. His home is in section 12, township 14, range 44, where he has a large circle of warm friends and is held in high esteem by all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sweden, November 26, 1847, and was reared there, receiving a limited schooling, spending his boyhood on his parents' farm and also working out in the vicinity of his home. His parents lived and died in their native land, and when Nels was twenty-nine years of age he decided to strike out for America, landing in this country in 1878. He was the only member of his father's family who ever left Sweden, and it took considerable courage to break away from his home and all the dear ones; coming alone, practically without funds, to a strange land. However, he kept up a brave spirit, and his first location was in Montgomery county, Iowa, where he remained for about seven years, then came to Polk county, Nebraska. After two years in that vicinity he moved to Deuel county, homesteading on section 6, township 14, range 43, where he proved up, and afterwards settled on section 12, township 14, range 44.

During the first years he experienced all the hardships that fell to the lot of the pioneers in the region, but with the persistence and energy which characterizes the people of his native land, stuck to his work faithfully and gradually built up a good home and farm, adding more land to his original homestead until he is now proprietor and owner of an elegant ranch of one thousand five hundred acres, devoted to mixed farming and stock raising. He has about one hundred and forty-five acres cultivated, raising good crops of corn, oats, wheat, etc., and has a large part of the ranch in pasture and hay meadow. He has about forty head of cattle and a splendid bunch of eighty-six horses, owning some fine animals which he prizes very highly, worth from one thousand dollars a piece down. For several years our subject ran cattle in Cheyenne county, and lived on several different ranches. In July, 1906, he settled on his present ranch which he has improved in nice shape.

Mr. Nelson was married in Polk county, Nebraska, April 6, 1886, to Jane A. Magee.



Mrs. Nelson is a native of Indiana, raised and educated in Illinois, and was a widow at the time of her marriage to Mr. Nelson. Her maiden name was Van Brunt; both her parents are now deceased. A great deal of credit is due Mrs. Nelson for the part she has taken. She is a model helpmate, and has aided materially in the building up of their present home. She has successfully withstood all the trials and hardships of the early days, and fully realizes the price their home has cost in the privations of the earlier days. She has rode the mower, worked in the hay field, and has done considerable nursing among the sick in the county, having received calls from families for miles around. Mr. Nelson is a man of active public spirit, and in political faith is a Republican.

#### VICTOR L. MARTIN.

Prominent among the younger ranchmen of Cherry county, who has built up a nice property for himself by dint of honest industry and good management, we mention the name of Victor L. Martin, residing on section 29, township 27, range 29. He is highly respected for his many sterling qualities, and enjoys a good standing in the community as a good neighbor and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Martin was born in Knox county, Illinois, on a farm, in 1877. He is a son of Adam Martin, of German stock, born in Pennsylvania, who was a pioneer in Cherry county, where our subject grew to manhood, the family settling here in 1886. His mother's maiden name was Lucy A. Everett, of American parentage, born and reared in Ohio. There were seven children in the family, and our subject was the fourth in order of birth. On coming to western Nebraska they drove through from Illinois by team, with a covered wagon containing their entire possessions, and spending six weeks on the road. Their first location was on a ranch ten miles north of Brownlee, and there they farmed for a number of years, Victor helping carry on the ranch, remaining with his father until he was twenty-two years old, and during that time they built up a good and comfortable home and ranch. In 1889 he took a homestead for himself, located on the Loup river, "batched it" until he had proven up on the land, and started in the stock business, spending about seven years on the place. He then took a Kincaid homestead three miles northwest of Brownlee, and moved on it in 1904. He had a pretty good start here, and spent his entire time in building up the place, erecting good buildings, fencing the land, etc., and as the ranch was fitted with some im-

provements when he took it, has a fine place, consisting of six hundred and forty acres, and besides this he leases one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, using it all as a ranch, engaging principally in cattle raising, although he has a small bunch of horses and other stock.

Mr. Martin has accumulated a nice property for so young a man, and is on the high road to wealth. He is ambitious and industrious, and has excellent business ability, his property showing the best management in its operation.

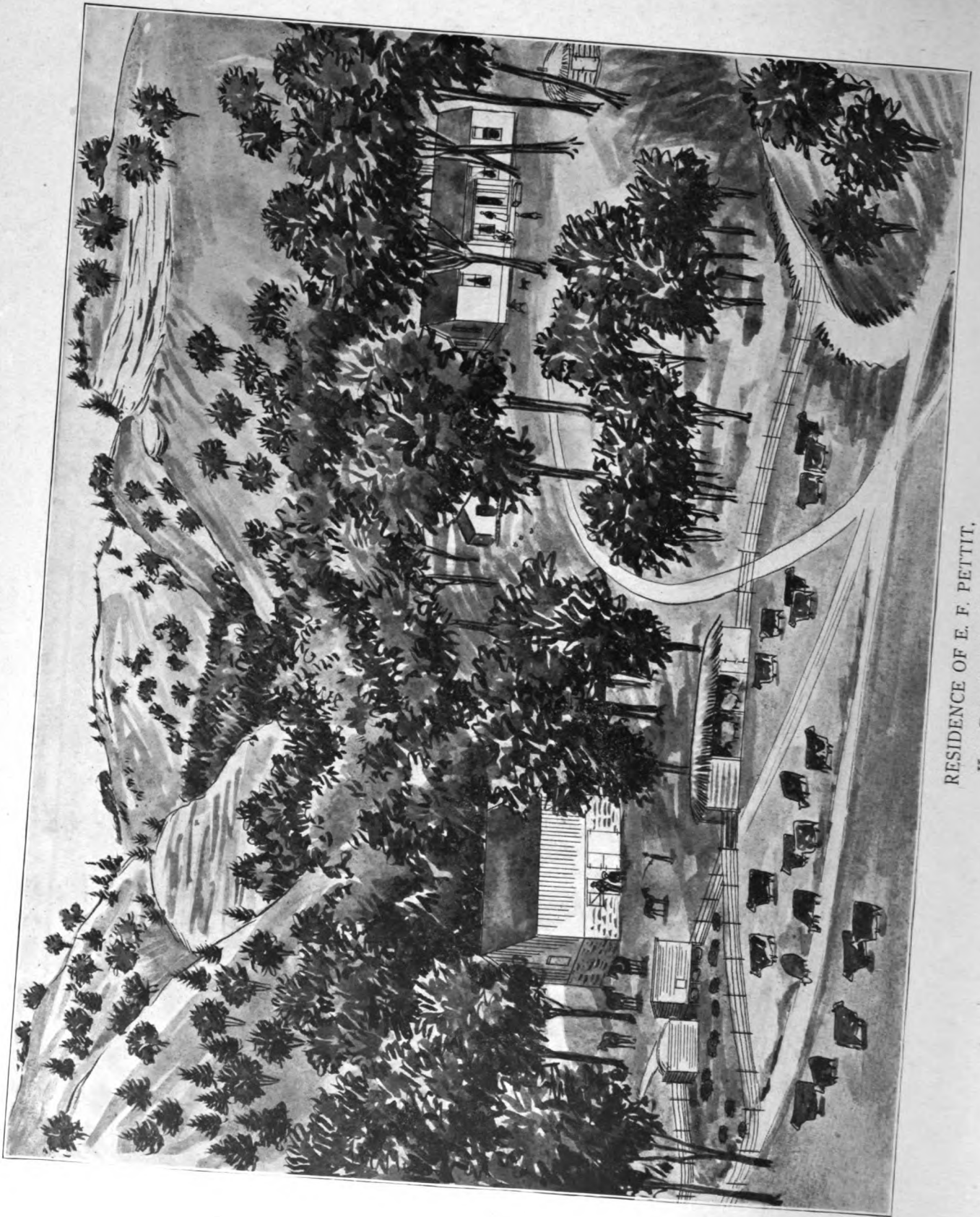
#### WILLIAM J. WILSON.

William J. Wilson, who resides in Paxton precinct, on section 2, township 13, range 36, is numbered among the old settlers of Keith county, Nebraska. He has been engaged successfully in farming and stock raising for many years past, and while developing a comfortable home for himself, has done much to build up his locality, and now enjoys the esteem of a host of people.

Mr. Wilson was born in Henry county, Indiana, in 1864. His father, Joseph, was a farmer, a native of Ohio, who settled in Nebraska about 1880. Our subject was reared on a farm in his native state, receiving his education in the country schools, and lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, began life for himself, following farm work, at first, and later operated rented land. He came to Keith county in 1887, arriving here in February with his family. For a time he lived at Ogallala, working on the section and followed railroad-ing to make a living, as he had no money and no start. Soon after coming here he filed on a homestead, putting up a sod shanty in which the family lived, the building being unplastered and with no floors the first year. They had a hard time to get along, but Mr. Wilson worked out by the day and gradually improved his farm, doing all his work with a team of oxen which he bought in eastern Nebraska and drove through to his new location.

When he came here he also brought with him seed potatoes, wheat, and corn, putting in a sod crop the first summer, but raised very little. After the hard times came on they moved to Polk county and remained for a year, but returned to the homestead and managed to get along fairly well. He began to raise better crops and added to his original farm so that he now owns three hundred and twenty acres, lying in the valley of South Platte river, extending back into the hills, a valuable piece of property. He engages in mixed farming and stock raising, and has been successful in





RESIDENCE OF E. F. PETTIT,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

both. He has put up good buildings, has wells and windmills, and the entire place fenced. He has also planted all kinds of fruit trees, including apple, pear, plum and cherry, besides smaller fruits. There are fine groves on the farm, making it one of the pleasant homes to be found in the vicinity.

On January 5, 1885, Mr. Wilson married Miss Martha Gilbert, a native of Kentucky. They have two sons, Everett and Raymond. Mr. Wilson is a Republican in politics and a member of the Modern Woodmen and other lodges.

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#### EDMUND F. PETTIT.

The subject of this review is one of the most popular citizens of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where he resides in section 10, township 32, range 20. He is one of those men whose hospitality and winning frankness favorably impress the casual acquaintance, and one need not wait to have neighbors or friends tell in order to find out that he is held in high esteem by his associates and fellowmen.

Mr. Pettit is a native of Randolph county, Illinois, born November 18, 1839, on a farm. He is a son of Thomas Pettit, born at Kaskaskia, Illinois, at a time when there were but two houses in St. Louis, and whose parents were pioneers in Illinois, coming originally from Pennsylvania on flatboats by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, bringing sheep, cattle and horses, besides spinning-wheels, millstones and other necessities with which to begin life in a new country. Our subject's mother was Miss Eliza Franklin, a native of Tennessee. He is the sixth member in a family of nine children, and while an infant, his parents moved to Jo, Daviess county and later to Wisconsin where, in his boyhood, he received a very meager education, attending only the country schools, and those but little. He labored on his father's farm until the second year of the war, when he entered the United States service, enlisting in Company K, Fourteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. With his regiment he was ordered to the south, and subsequently took part in many hard battles, seeing service at Shiloh, Corinth, Iuka, siege of Vicksburg, Big Shanty, Baker Ridge, Atlanta, on July 22, 1864, the siege of Spanish Fort, at Nashville, Lovejoy Station, Jonesboro and Ezra Church, in all over thirteen battles and many skirmishes. He received severe wounds at the charge of Vicksburg, losing a finger on the left hand, besides receiving a ball through his left arm. In 1865 he was mustered out at Mobile, and in October, discharged at Madison, Wisconsin. He had undermined his health in the

war, and spent the following three years at home recuperating.

In 1868 he was married to Miss Hattie Scott, who lived near his home. They were the parents of two children: Belle, married William Osborn, and is living in Keya Paha county, and Charles, engaged in the hardware business at Springview, Nebraska. In June, 1876, Mrs. Pettit died, and was sincerely mourned by her husband and children. Shortly after his marriage they moved to Montgomery county, Iowa, remaining there for a time, then went to Atchison county, Missouri, where he operated a mill. He afterwards went to Kansas and spent some time traveling there, seeing much of the slaughter of the original herds of buffalo which at that early day covered the plains. He first came to Keya Paha county in 1883, locating on his present homestead, which was then a wild tract of table land and canyons. They lived in a tent for a time, then put up a log shack, which was for a time their home. Hard times came on, and about 1885 the dry years took all his crops and hail destroyed everything, so that he became almost discouraged, but he stuck to it and gradually things turned for the better. He improved his farm, put up good buildings, and fenced his place, and has made a decided success of the undertaking. His farm comprises three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred of which is good farming land, well supplied with running water and a good growth of natural timber. He has helped materially in the building up of this section and from the beginning of his residence here has been one of the leading citizens in the advancement of its interests.

Mr. Pettit was married the second time in Audubon, Audubon county, Iowa, to Miss Alvina Ham, born in Missouri, a daughter of Mordecai and Elizabeth Ham. Seven children were born of this marriage. They are as follows: Hattie, wife of Frank Estes, residing on a ranch in this county; Maud, wife of Carl White, living in Springview; Cora, who married William Kertzenberger; Carrie, wife of Fred Wilkins; George, May and Millie, still living at home.

In political sentiment Mr. Pettit is a staunch Republican, but could never be induced to accept any office.

On another page we present a picture of Mr. Pettit's residence.

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#### ANDREW J. LAYTON.

Andrew J. Layton, residing on section 7, Liberty township, is the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres and well-known throughout that locality as a successful and

prosperous agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Layton was born in Crawford county, Illinois, where he was raised. His father, William Layton, was a pioneer in that state, and came from near Newark, Licking county, Ohio. He married Miss Mary McConn, who was a daughter of Joseph McConn, an early settler in Virginia, living near Wheeling, and who was a pioneer in Crawford county, Illinois, later, where his family was reared. Mr. Layton came to Nebraska in 1884, and rented and later purchased land in this county, beginning at once to build up a home and farm. He has been successful in both his farming and stock raising operations, running at the present time about one hundred high grade cattle and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty head of hogs. He is progressive in his methods, and is an intelligent and active man, possessed of many sterling qualities, for which he is greatly admired by all with whom he comes in contact. He likes Nebraska as a farming state and considers it far ahead of Illinois.

Mr. Layton was married in 1882, at Marshall, Illinois, to Miss Fidelia Canaday, sister of Honorable J. F. Canaday, of Minden, Nebraska, whose sketch appears in this volume on another page. To Mr. and Mrs. Layton have been born nine children, who are named as follows: Laura, Etta, Arthur C., Maime, Perry, Orville, Edward, Edyth and Hazel. The sons are all at home, several assisting their father in the farm work. Laura, now Mrs. David Jones, was for several years a teacher in Kearney county. Mrs. Layton's father, John Canaday, was born and reared in Vigo county, Indiana, and was an early settler in Illinois. He was a farmer all through his life, and died in Kearney, Nebraska, in 1898. Mrs. Layton's mother's maiden name was Jane Hauger.

Our subject was an active member of the Farmers' Alliance in former years. For two years he held the office of justice of the peace, and has held other local offices. In political sentiment he is a Populist-Democrat.

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#### WILLIAM S. NICHOLSON.

William S. Nicholson, known throughout Sioux county as a prosperous ranchman and leading citizen, resides in section 3, township 27, range 54, where he has a pleasant and well-ordered home, surrounded by a valuable estate, all of which is due to his perseverance, industry and integrity. He has lived here for many years past, and enjoys the esteem and liking of a host of people.

Mr. Nicholson was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1861, on a farm. His father, Valentine F., was a native of Indiana, a farmer by occupation, and one of the pioneers in Iowa. He married Mary Ann Daniels, born and raised in North Carolina, of old American blood. Our subject grew up in the state of his birth and through his boyhood assisted his parents in the work of carrying on the home farm, remaining there up to 1890, at which time he, together with his two brothers, M. J. and A. W., came to Nebraska, locating in the vicinity of Whistle creek, Sioux county. William filed on a homestead, proved up on the land and had just gotten nicely started when the hard times, due to the drouths, struck the region. He worked faithfully, putting in crops, but was unable to raise anything, and went through hard times there, and as he was unable to farm his land successfully, started in the stock business and was able to get along very well. He took two quarter sections, homestead and timber claim, and proved up on both, then bought his brother's place, and he is now sole owner of thirteen quarter sections. One brother also owns six hundred and forty acres in the neighborhood, and a sister has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in the vicinity. Mr. Nicholson is engaged exclusively in the cattle business, running about one thousand head each year of the best Hereford breeds, and has done exceedingly well in the stock raising business. He has his ranch all fenced and improved. The place is beautifully situated, Whistle creek running through the tract, and he has it well irrigated, or can irrigate it if necessary, operating six wells and windmills, which furnish a splendid supply of water for all purposes. A large portion of the ranch is fine hay land, from which he cuts five hundred tons annually. At the present time (1908) he is feeding eight hundred head of cattle for the market this fall. He is classed among the successful self-made men of the region, and when he came here first, he had a very small start. Harrison and Crawford had just been started, and during those days he did a great deal of wolf hunting through the country. W. is as fine a cook as you would find anywhere and still owns a fine pack of hounds. Our subject and his brother, A. W., live together, but each own their stock and land separately, having different brands for their stock. It is a pleasure to visit the Nicholson brothers, as they are whole-souled, congenial and intelligent gentlemen to converse with. Mr. A. W. Nicholson has put up one of the finest sod houses, costing over \$1,500, that has ever been seen in the west, on his Kincaid homestead. The house is very large, and is one and a half stories high, with

dormer windows, the inside being all finished with wainscoating and steel ceiling, and the young people from far and near gather there often where they enjoy themselves with dancing and fine music. He keeps a fine piano, phonograph, etc., to add to their pleasure. Mr. A. in a long day's ride.

William S. Nicholson has served as assessor for two terms, and occupies a foremost place among the leading old-timers of this region. In political views he is a Republican, and stands firmly for his convictions.

### JAMES E. BAKER.

James E. Baker has for many years been a resident of North Platte, Nebraska, and is well known all over the surrounding country as an honest, industrious and energetic man and a citizen of true worth—one appreciated by all who have the honor of his acquaintance.

Mr. Baker was born in Wayne county, New York, and came to Wisconsin in 1850 with his father, locating in Jefferson county on a farm, and the family remained there for many years. In 1877 our subject first came to this locality, settling in North Platte, and followed the work of a builder, putting up houses and other buildings all over this part of the country, and also erected windmills for the farmers in Lincoln and the adjoining counties. He was very successful and made a good income from his labors. In 1884 he began working for the Union Pacific Railway, being employed in the woodwork department of that company for the period of twenty years. He owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, situated east of North Platte, and one hundred and sixty acres in Redwillow county. He was one of the pioneer builders in the western part of the town, and through hard labor and thrift has accumulated a nice property and built up a pleasant home.

Mr. Baker was married in 1867 to Miss Robena Thomson, who is a sister of R. D. Thomson, postmaster at North Platte, a pioneer builder and contractor in this locality. A son of Mr. Baker's, John N. Baker, a carpenter and builder, was, for a time, foreman of the ice plant for the Union Pacific Railway, which is one of the largest concerns of its kind in the United States. A daughter, Jessie Baker, is the wife of Thomas Hughes, who is a conductor on the Union Pacific Short Line.

Mr. Baker is a member of the Presbyterian church of North Platte, and has been an elder in this church for many years, and is an earnest worker among the congregation. He is a mem-

ber of the Woodmen, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a good citizen and neighbor.

### JOHN MORAVEK.

John Moravek, a prominent ranch owner of Box Butte county, whose residence is located in section 9, township 26, range 52, and whose success as a stockman is worthy of especial note, was born in Bohemia, June 15, 1849, during the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph. His parents were farmers, and passed their lives in Bohemia.

The boyhood days of Mr. Moravek were spent in his native land, where he received his education and assisted his father in tilling the soil. Realizing the opportunities of the new world he decided to seek his fortunes in America, and in 1869 landed in New York city and came west to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he employed his time at railroad construction work. He spent seventeen years of his life following the railroad business in Iowa, and for many years worked as a section foreman.

Mr. Moravek and Miss Katherine Socol were united in marriage August 29, 1870. Her parents were natives of Bohemia, in which country she was born. Eight children blessed this happy union: James, Annie Marie, Mayme, Charles, Mary, Agnes, Willie and Ella. All the children were born in this country.

In 1886, Mr. Moravek came to Box Butte county, Nebraska, driving with three teams and a covered wagon and a herd of cattle. They spent seven weeks on the road. He spent two months at Hay Springs while looking for a suitable location, finally locating in township 26, range 52, hauling all his supplies from Hay Springs. While most of his time was spent in making for himself a comfortable home in this new country he devoted some time to freighting from Hay Springs to Alliance. The first years here were good ones, but during the period of drouth he experienced the loss of many crops, and made his living mostly from his cattle. Leaving his family on their farm in Nebraska, he went into South Dakota, where he became associated with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. He spent six years at Ardmore. He then returned to Nebraska, devoting his time very closely to his farm, where he raised many good crops. He engaged extensively in stock raising, and with the assistance of his sons, raises three hundred head of cattle. He has secured possession of other tracts of land besides his original entry, and now has a ranch of seven quarter sections of good land, one hundred acres of which are under cultiva-

tion. He has erected a substantial house, and has good wells, windmills and a fine orchard. Nearby are good schools, a church, postoffice and general store. His children own several tracts of land in this county.

Mr. Moravek is a Republican. The interest he has taken in all matters pertaining to local affairs is worthy of note, and he is especially interested in educational matters. He was instrumental in the organization of the school district in which he lived eighteen years ago, and for eight years held the office of director. He has taken a prominent part in the development and improvement of Box Butte county, and as an old settler has done his share toward this end. He has made many warm friends in the surrounding community who wish him well, and who look on his career as a marked success.

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#### DAVID ANDERSON.

David Anderson has impressed himself upon the history of early days in western Nebraska as one of the first settlers of Sioux county, a man ready to endure any privation or race any peril, that he might build for himself and his family a home out of the wilderness. Into all his life work he has put all honesty and integrity, and his sterling worth and kindly spirit has gained for him a host of friends who will be glad to bear tribute to his many manly and excellent traits. Mr. Anderson is at present residing in Sioux county, Nebraska, near Ardmore, South Dakota, where he is engaged in the mercantile business, besides personally operating his extensive ranching interests in Sioux county, and living on his Kincaid homestead.

Mr. Anderson was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, May 19, 1860. He is of Scotch-Irish stock, his father, Matt Anderson, having been born in Ireland, and his mother of old Yankee stock, born in Pennsylvania. When David was a small boy the family moved to Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was reared, attending the common schools, and later was a student at the Lodi high school, from which institution he graduated. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, taking up a pre-emption and tree claim in Sioux county, teaming into the region from Chadron, locating on Hat creek on what is known as the Circle Bar ranch. He started in on a small scale, "batching it" during the first four years, working on the range, part of the time sleeping out in the open prairie while herding cattle, and in those times rode all over the western part of Nebraska, also Wyoming and South Dakota. He went through all the hard times usual to the pioneers of the west, witnessed the Indian

scars, and met with many thrilling adventures in following ranch work. He gradually increased his herd of stock and succeeded in building up his ranch and adding to it until he is now proprietor of two thousand acres lying along Hat creek, also partly on Indian creek, improved with good buildings, etc. At present he has about two hundred cattle on the range. Mr. Anderson runs his cattle under a brand called and registered the Circle Bar.

Our subject has also been engaged in the real estate business more or less for some years, and has been the means of encouraging many settlers to come to Nebraska, always doing his best for the good of his adopted state, and aiding in every way possible to promote its growth and development. During the early years he did considerable work in building, putting up houses and other buildings, and erected one of the finest churches in Ardmore, South Dakota, and also has built several school houses.

In 1895 Mr. Anderson opened a general store at Ardmore, beginning in a modest way, and this has grown to large proportions under his careful management. He has built up a wide patronage, and now occupies a building twenty-five by fifty feet, having two floors and carrying a fine line of goods. He has three warehouses, and owns considerable city property, consisting of eight lots and dwelling houses in the town of Ardmore, South Dakota.

Mr. Anderson married, December 2, 1890, Miss Dora Moore, daughter of Charles B. Moore, an old settler of Harlan county, Nebraska. Mrs. Anderson is a lady of charming personality, and a highly educated and accomplished woman. Prior to her marriage she followed the profession of a teacher, and had taught in Harlan, Franklin, Furnas, Phelps and Sioux counties, also in Fall River county, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of three children, as follows: Viola, now attending college at Bellevue, Nebraska; Matt and David, at home. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson will be found on another page.

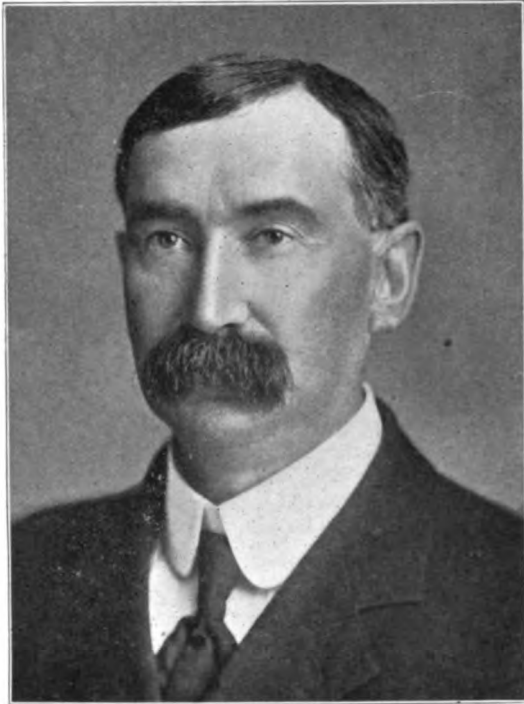
Mr. Anderson has always taken a leading part in public affairs, wherever he has been located, serving his community in different capacities. For several years he was postmaster at Ardmore, South Dakota. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

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#### ABNER M. SPRAGG.

Among the leading agriculturists of Kirkwood precinct, Rock county, Nebraska, is to be numbered the name of Abner M. Spragg, who has been in this part of the state for many years,





DAVID ANDERSON.



MRS. DAVID ANDERSON.



and has played an active part in its development. He was born in Norton, Kings county, New Brunswick, March 17, 1847. The father, William Spragg, whose birthday was also March 17th, moved to Iowa at an early day and was actively associated with the experiences of pioneer life on what was then the "far-flung" western frontier. Jane (Burnett) Spragg, the mother of Abner M., was of German descent, and to her and William Spragg was born a numerous family, consisting of twelve children, of whom the subject of this writing was the ninth. Abner M. Spragg had a hard and laborious youth, and as his father died when he was only eight years old, he had to help care of his widowed mother and the other children from the moment he was able to earn money; and, as his brothers enlisted in the army when Abner was fifteen, the responsibilities of a livelihood for the widowed mother fell upon him.

Mr. Spragg was married near Middleton, Buchanan county, Iowa, April 8, 1870, to Miss Florence Bassett, whose parents had been old settlers in Iowa. She was a young lady of more than the usual gifts, and in her earlier womanhood had taught school very successfully. To this union were born the following children: Willard; Ivis, now a widow; Jessie, wife of Cassius Brubaker, of Fort Collins, Colorado; Agnes, who married J. C. Herron, of Spokane, Washington; Bertha, wife of Clarence Dillon, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Minnie, now Mrs. Columbus Baker, of Douglas county, Washington, and Flora, wife of Daniel Shunn, of Gregory, South Dakota.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Spragg came to what is now Rock county, arriving at Stuart before its organization, and making their first stop at Stuart. Presently they effected a homestead location on section 4, township 31, range 17, where they built a shanty and buckled down to the improvement of the wild prairie. The Spraggs had their full share of the trials and tribulations that belong to frontier life, but never wholly lost a crop in the worst drouth that marked those early days. Today the Spragg homestead comprises a quarter of a section, and about eighty acres are under the plow. He has given much time and labor to its improvement, and may take a commendable pride in its neat appearance, an especial attraction being a fine grove of forest and fruit trees, which he set out with his own hands. His timothy and alfalfa fields attest his patient industry, and make a brave showing on those wide prairies.

Mr. Spragg generally has voted and worked with the Republican party, and from time to time has filled various local offices of honor and responsibility. He is highly respected by all who know him, and as the shadows begin to

lengthen adown life's pathway, memories of useful years cheer and encourage. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen lodge of Newport.

#### JAMES I. BALES.

James I. Bales, residing in township 22, range 16, Garfield county, deserves prominent mention as one of the earliest pioneers of western Nebraska. He came to this state during its earliest stages of development, and has watched its growth from a barren country to its present state of productiveness and prosperity. He has always taken part in every movement which has been organized for the advancement of conditions here, and has done his full share in this progress.

Mr. Bales was born in the state of Wisconsin in 1851. He is the son of Alexander and Mary (Hartman) Bales. Our subject left Iowa, where he had spent a number of years, and came to Nebraska in 1883, locating in Boone county, where he lived for two years. There he purchased railroad land and began farming, but did not like the locality well enough to make it his permanent home, so sold out and moved to Holt county, homesteading one hundred and sixty acres, also bought the same amount of land adjoining his claim. He worked hard and succeeded in getting together considerable property. In 1895 Mr. Bales disposed of his Holt county property and removed to Valley county, purchasing there one hundred and sixty acres of land, but soon afterwards sold that at a profit, and then came into Garfield county. Here he bought one hundred and eighty-eight acres and established a dairy farm. He has this improved in good shape, keeping a fine herd of cattle for dairy purposes, also raising quite a large number of cattle each year for the market. He has made money through his farming and stock raising operations and is considered one of the well-to-do men of his locality, accumulating all his property through his energetic labors and good management. He is well satisfied with the success he has attained since coming here, preferring this state to any country he has ever seen, as a land rich in opportunities for the man who is willing to devote his efforts to building up a competence.

In 1876 Mr. Bales was united in marriage to Miss Emma Bailey, born and raised in Minnesota. She is a daughter of Edward and Sarah (Davis) Bailey, a leading hardware merchant in Oakland, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Bales reared a family of six children, named as follows: Henry A., Josephine S., James R., Mary A., Anna H. and Sadie S. Josephine and Sadie are both

married, the former the wife of James Lowry, a well known farmer of Garfield county, and the latter now Mrs. George Hise, her husband also a farmer of this county. The family are highly esteemed in their community.

Mr. Bales has served as township assessor for several terms, also has held the office of road overseer. He is a member of the school board, acting as director and treasurer of that body for several years.

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#### ISAAC M. RICE.

Isaac M. Rice, the editor and proprietor of the Valentine Democrat, is also a real estate dealer and an insurance agent in that stirring Nebraska city. He is a live, energetic business man, a typical western hustler, and on all occasions is able to maintain his place in the procession. The local press has done much to advertise the opportunities of northwestern Nebraska, and Mr. Rice has long been known as one of the most capable newspaper men of the state. He takes a strong interest in political affairs, and his paper is a force to be counted on when the factors that make up party action in Cherry county are considered, but he is enthusiastically first and last and all the time for Cherry county and Nebraska against all the world.

Isaac M. Rice was born in Marshall county, Kansas, January 28, 1866, and was reared on a farm, which his father, Henry H. Rice, operated in connection with school teaching. The Rice family is of Welsh origin, but it has been long established in this country, and has made important contributions to the civil and industrial life of America. Henry H. Rice, a native of east Tennessee, married Sarah A. Dealy, born in Jackson county, Missouri. Her ancestors came from Ireland. Out of a family of eight children born to them, Isaac M., the subject of this sketch, was the fifth in order of birth. He was reared on the parental homestead in Riley county, and secured his education very largely from country schools. His business career began with his taking a position as clerk in a country store when quite young. However, he displayed business qualities of marked excellence, and, when twenty-one, was appointed assistant postmaster. Presently he secured a good position in a dry goods house in Kansas City, where he remained for two and a half years. At the expiration of this time he engaged as foreman of a gang of lumbermen in Utah valley, who were engaged in getting out ties for an extension of the Union Pacific Railroad to California. When this work was done he returned from Utah to Kansas City, and took a

course at the National Business College, after which he taught school for six terms in Riley county, Kansas. He came to Valentine January 5, 1898, and served as deputy treasurer for a considerable period, with satisfaction to the people in general.

It was not until April 20, 1900, however, that Mr. Rice may be said to have reached a field worthy of his powers, for at that time he became editor and proprietor of the Valentine Democrat, a paper first established by Robert O. Fink as the Democratic Blade, its opening issue bearing date of September 18, 1885. In 1890 it became the Cherry County Independent, and was published as a Populist organ. April 9, 1896, it appeared as the Valentine Democrat, and, as already noted, it has been for some years under the management of Mr. Rice. This paper has had the editorial labors of some very good men, who have preceded Mr. Rice. They are, in the order of their connection with this typical western journal: R. O. Fink, J. P. Wood, J. P. Walters, J. R. Farris and Robert Good. They were all men of marked ability, but Mr. Rice has held control longer than any who has occupied the chair before him. His real estate and insurance business was established before he took charge of the paper, and he still maintains it at a high state of efficiency.

Mr. Rice was first married to Miss Tillie Swanson, to whom was born a son, named Lawrence. On May 12, 1904, Mr. Rice was married to Miss Dora M. Davis, whose father, William H. Davis, was for twenty-two years an agent of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad in eastern Nebraska, and since the autumn of 1900 has held the position of special agent of the Northwestern Life Insurance Company for southern Nebraska.

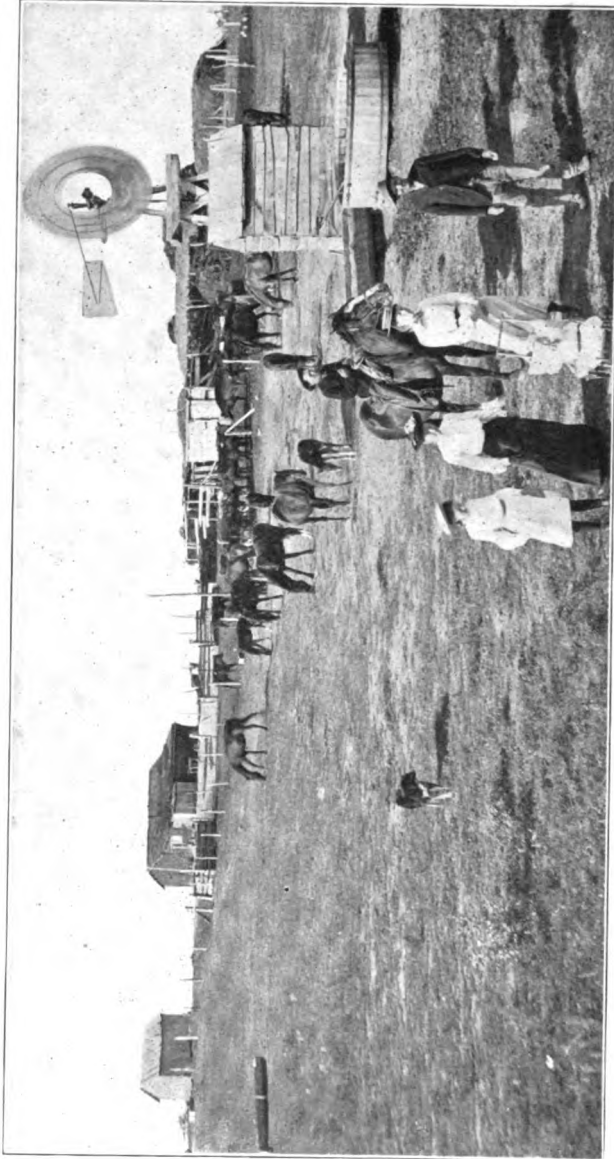
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#### ELMER H. SAGER.

Elmer H. Sager, a prominent business man of Elsie, Nebraska, dealing in drugs and groceries, is one of the early settlers of Perkins county. He is a man of wide experience and has met with success in his different business ventures, now being the possessor of considerable property in the locality.

Mr. Sager was born in Macon county, Missouri, in 1869. He is of American stock, his father born in New York state. When he was an infant one year of age, the family moved to Sioux county, Iowa, and lived for a time at that place, later moving on a farm in the vicinity. He received a common school education, spending most of his time on his father's farm, and during the seventies witnessed grasshopper





RANCH AND FAMILY—WILLIAM H. KIESTER,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.

raids, etc., going through all the experiences of pioneer existence. He spent some time in Missouri and Pennsylvania while a boy, and his parents finally settled in Perkins county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1888, locating ten miles south of the town of Elsie. Here he started out for himself, buying land, also took a homestead and proved up on his claim, following farming there for ten years, going through sod shanty times, etc., and succeeded in developing a very good farm.

In 1892 Mr. Sager moved to Elsie, engaging in the restaurant business and continued at it for four years, building up a good patronage, then added other lines, putting in a stock of drugs, groceries, etc., and conducts a prosperous business.

Our subject was married in 1900, at Blanch, to Miss Cora Dorman, of Elsie, Nebraska. Mr. Sager is active in local affairs and lends his influence for good government, both national and local. He has served as justice of the peace for three terms, and is highly esteemed as a public-spirited citizen.

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#### WILLIAM H. KIESTER.

William H. Kiester, residing on section 10, township 27, range 48, in Box Butte county, Nebraska, has made his way in the world by virtue of hard knocks and constant labor, and richly deserves the reward of that substantial success that has come through his industry and perseverance.

Mr. Kiester was born in Henry county, Iowa, on a farm, April 9, 1857. His father, Adam, was a carpenter by trade, also a veterinary surgeon in that vicinity for a number of years. Our subject was reared and educated there, and at the age of seventeen years made a trip to Missouri and Nebraska. His time was spent during his young manhood working at farming in Sumner county in his native state, and also for eleven winters he worked as a coal miner.

In 1888 Mr. Kiester first came to this region, traveling south from Hay Springs by team, landing in Box Butte county on March 17th and made settlement on a homestead, and also worked out by the month. He started to build up his claim in the following year, and put in lots of hard work on the place but was unable to accomplish very much during the first ten years on account of the hard times caused by the drouths, etc. However, he worked faithfully and managed to lay by a little money and steadily got ahead, and in 1900 was able to purchase his present farm, now owning a nice property con-

sisting of four hundred and eighty acres of land. He farms about seventy-five acres of this, and keeps seventy head of cattle and eighteen horses. He has been through many hard experiences since locating here, and recites one instance which occurred during the second year he located in this county, when he rented land for fifty cents an acre, put in some crops, and after working hard to make a little money out of his venture a severe hail storm came along and utterly destroyed everything he had. This was only one of many such discouragements, and he doubly appreciates the position he is in now, after the hardships and privations endured during so many years.

Mr. Kiester was united in marriage in the fall of 1888, to Annie E. Graham, born and raised in Ireland. To them have been born the following children: Mary E., William R., Stella P. and Margaret.

Mr. Kiester is counted among the early settlers of this locality, and has been closely identified with its growth and development. Politically he is a strong Democrat.

On another page is presented an interesting picture of Mr. Kiester's ranch and also of the family.

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#### WILLIAM M. SANSTEAD.

William M. Sanstead, residing on section 11, Scandinavian township, is one of the most successful agriculturists and stockmen of Harlan county. He has lived on his present farm since 1902, and was in partnership with his father, Morris Sanstead, up to the time of his death, which occurred in September, 1906. The father was a dealer in and breeder of pure-bred Duroc hogs for some years, and our subject assisted him in this work, being the only son at home. One brother, Charles E., resides at Holbrook, Nebraska, where he was principal of the schools.

Mr. Sanstead is a native of Nebraska, born on his father's homestead in Scandinavian township in 1882. He has been interested in the stock business nearly all his life, and although a young man has shown great nerve, pluck and intelligence in the work, which will soon place him at the head of stockmen in his section, for a young man who would plank down one thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars for a quarter interest in "Can't Be Beat," the highest priced, because the best, Duroc Jersey hog in the world, has the qualities to make a leader in any line of business. Besides this he owns Red Prince, also a third interest in Sears Belle, a ten hundred and twenty-five dollar sow. He and others who are developing the



highest and best points in the red hog are on the sure road to success, and he is a worthy successor to his father who was a great believer in that breed of animal. He also has a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle, and has a full-blooded Scotch bull, "Royal Victor." This animal is a good one and comes from the best strains in the country. He keeps seventy-five old hogs and the same number of young ones. "Mungers Ideal," which Mr. Sanstead has sold, is also as fine an animal as one could find, and has won four first and one second prize at the state and interstate shows. Mr. Sanstead kept his hog on his own farm, and stock dealers came from far and near to see these pure-bred hogs and purchase everything which he has for sale. Another splendid animal which he owns is Red Prince, out of Red Chief Iam, who has attracted much attention from well-known dealers in this breed of hogs. Mr. Sanstead started his herd in 1902, and has had wonderful success since the beginning of his enterprise. He has held two boar sales and one brood sow sale, receiving an average of \$51 for the former. He has sold his hogs all over this state, and many outside, and his ambition is to build up the best herd of Duroc Jerseys to be found anywhere. Besides the above prize-winners he owns a third interest in Sears Belle, a red sow, for which he gave one thousand and twenty-five dollars, and she has nine pigs now two months old which give promise of being as good as the old ones. Sears Belle is kept at Clay Centre. He also owns an interest in Sears 4th, mother of Sears Belle, who is a high-priced and valuable animal. Mr. Sanstead thinks that red hogs are more thrifty than the black ones, and better for all purposes, and in his career has had the best of success in their breeding.

Mr. Sanstead also deals in mules, and is half-owner of Spider's Jack, a thoroughbred, and one of the best in the state. He considers that the breeders and stockmen who are developing the Durocs, Shorthorn cattle and thoroughbred jacks are adding materially to the wealth of Nebraska, and that those who go at it right, are as well off as though they had a gold mine.

Our subject engages in mixed farming, raising alfalfa, corn and wheat, and has good crops each year. His farm consists of three hundred and twenty acres, and he has as good a home and farm as can be found in Harlan county. He is of an industrious and energetic disposition, always aiming for the best in everything, and not content with anything less, and he richly deserves the success which he has attained. He is highly esteemed and respected, and is one of the prominent younger members of the agricultural region in western Nebraska.

### JAMES C. BENNETT.

James C. Bennett, who is profitably engaged in farming in Dawes county, is one of the public-spirited men of his locality, and he is well known as a worthy citizen. His home is in section 36, township 29, range 51, and he has accumulated valuable property there through industry and good business judgment.

Mr. Bennett is a native of Green county, Pennsylvania, born in 1849, on his parents' farm. His father, Wiley Bennett, was born in Tennessee, and his mother, who was Matilda Lantz, was born in Pennsylvania. The family came to Missouri in 1855, settling in Sullivan county, taking a farm in the northern part of that county, and there our subject grew up, and they went through the experiences so familiar to the pioneers of that section. He was able to obtain but a limited schooling, attending the country schools when he could be spared from the farm work, and his early life was one of hardship and struggles, assisting his parents in building up a home in the new country. He left home in 1876, but remained in Missouri for about six years, engaged in school teaching. Finally he settled in Butler county, Nebraska, about 1882, following farming there for five years, and next moved to Schuyler, Colfax county, and there was in the railway business up to 1889, being employed as telegraph operator on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road. In August, 1889, he came to Marsland and opened Marsland Station for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, starting his office August 28th, and continued there as agent and operator for nine years. He purchased his present farm in 1897, and although he still remained working as an agent and telegraph operator, stuck to his farm all the time. He worked as an operator at Hemingford for one year, and also at Pringle, South Dakota, for two years, and in 1902 quit railroad work for good and moved on to his farm. The farm is located in section 36, township 29, range 51, and lying along the Niobrara river. He has put on good improvements, fencing the whole place, and devotes most of his time and attention to the raising of cattle and high grade horses. He carries on a dairy business, and has made a success of this line of the work. His place consists of four hundred and eighty acres, and he has a good home and well improved farm.

Mr. Bennett was married in 1874 to Miss Sarah Enyeart, of German and Welsh stock, a native of Indiana, born and raised on a farm, and living most of the time in Missouri, for she left her native state when about ten years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have a family of five children, named as follows: John O., married and living in a home of his own at Key-





SOLOMON BORKY.



MRS. SOLOMON BORKY.

stone, South Dakota; and Arthur E., Goldie, Floyd and Paul, at home.

Mrs. Bennett's mother is still living near Lincoln, Nebraska, aged eighty-six. Her father died in 1899, aged seventy-eight. She has an uncle living in Indiana who celebrated his diamond wedding August 4, 1908, at the age of eighty-two years.

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#### SAMUEL E. ANDERSON.

Samuel E. Anderson, a representative agriculturist of Centre township, owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres located in section 9, Phelps county. He is one of the leading citizens of this locality, and is highly respected and esteemed by his fellowmen.

Mr. Anderson was born in 1875 at Princeton, Illinois, and came to Westmark township, Phelps county, Nebraska, in 1880, with his father, who took up a homestead there, which he still holds. Our subject is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of good farming land, and has erected a fine house, built since 1903. He has been engaged in farming since 1898, and has been very successful in all his undertakings. When only sixteen years of age he went with a threshing outfit, and for the past six years has owned a good machine and follows this work. Just to show what a wide-awake young man can accomplish here in Nebraska, it may be stated that in just one year he made four thousand dollars at threshing and farming combined. He has had excellent crops, raising wheat which ran forty-nine bushels to the acre, and has threshed where it yielded fifty-two bushels per acre. His corn crop has reached sixty-five bushels per acre. Mr. Anderson's father owns two hundred and forty acres of land, which is operated by his son Oscar, the former being largely engaged in the cattle and hog raising business, and the subject of this sketch has also started in to raise pure-bred Poland-China hogs, and has a fine drove now. He also has a good bunch of cattle and a number of horses used in working his farm of three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and sixty of which is rented land. His success is due entirely to his enterprise and industry, and he bids fair to become one of the most prominent and prosperous citizens of his locality.

In 1904 he was married to Miss Hannah Anderson, a native of Sweden, and they have a family of two children, Alice and Marian.

Mr. Anderson is an Independent voter, and takes a commendable interest in all public affairs of his community.

#### WILLIAM M. BURKITT.

William M. Burkitt, one of the pioneer business men of Whitney, Dawes county, Nebraska, has been one of the leading citizens of that locality in helping to build up the commercial and social interests of his community. Mr. Burkitt was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1841. His father, also named William, was a miller by trade in the old country, and came to America with his family when our subject was a lad about seven years of age. They located in Wisconsin, where William, Jr., grew up, and about the year 1863 the family moved to Whiteside county, Illinois. There he followed farming for five years, at the end of that time starting in the grocery business at Lyndon, Illinois, and remained in the trade for about five years. He next went to Mapleton, Iowa, and opened a farm which he operated for two years, then started a hardware store and run that for two years. His next move was to Pierce county, Nebraska, in about 1882, and there he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, carrying that on for two years. About 1886 he came to Dawes county, taking up a tract of government land located near Whitney, and here he put up good buildings and improvements and engaged in farming.

Mr. Burkitt came to Whitney and engaged in business in 1887, building a store in which he put a stock of general merchandise, and during the first years had a hard time, and went through many severe experiences, selling lots of goods for which he was never able to collect anything. He stuck to the business, however, and finally bot along better and has made a success of the business, although he still owns his farm.

Mr. Burkitt was married in Lyndon, Illinois, in January, 1866, to Miss Delia Deming. To Mr. and Mrs. Burkitt have been born the following children: Eleanor, Delia, Deming, John and Joseph. Mrs. Burkitt died in September, 1881, and in December, 1882, our subject was married again, to Miss Hannah Deming, a sister of his first wife.

In November, 1897, Mr. Burkitt was appointed postmaster at Whitney, and has held office ever since, being the present incumbent.

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#### SOLOMON BORKY.

Solomon Borky, to whom is accorded a foremost place among the leading old timers of western Nebraska, has acquired a valuable estate in section 22, township 35, range 54. He has successfully followed farming and ranching here

for many years, and now enjoys the comforts of rural life and the respect and esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Borky is a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, born November 6, 1845, on a farm, and comes of good old American stock, his grandparents being born and raised in this country. His father, Joseph Borky, was a well known farmer and stockman in the east, and he married Lena Hoffman, of Berks county, Pennsylvania. During his boyhood our subject had plenty of hard farm work to do, helping his father carry on the farm work, and he also worked considerable in the timber business, beginning lumbering when he was a boy of but nine years. At the age of twenty-two he started farming on his own account, at which time he was married to Miss Cecelia Willebrand, who was born in the east, in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1845, her father being a native of Westphalia, Germany. Her mother, who was Magdalene Meyer, was born in France, both parents coming to America when quite young, and met and were married in Pennsylvania.

After his marriage Mr. Borky farmed in the Allegheny mountains for about ten years, then came west to Illinois, settling in Livingston county, where he remained for one year, then came farther west, going all over Nebraska, and visiting Loup City when it only had one house. At that time he also saw Grand Island, it being simply a small village. He picked out a location in Cedar county, near St. Helena, which was then quite a settled country and farmed on rented land for ten years. In June, 1886, he came to Sioux county, locating on a homestead in the northern part of the county, which was entirely unimproved land, hauling all supplies from Crawford. He started to improve his property, putting up a good house and other buildings. His dwelling was twenty by thirty feet, of two stories, and he has since added an addition twelve by twenty feet, making of it a fine large residence, and he also has erected a substantial barn twenty by forty feet. His ranch is all fenced, and the land lies along Long Branch creek, the stream running through a portion of it and furnishing a splendid water supply for all purposes. Altogether he is owner of four hundred and eighty acres, and his children also have additional land in the vicinity, his son John owning a three hundred and twenty-acre tract adjoining his father's place.

Mr. Borky's family consists of ten children, as follows: Mary, Andrew, Rose, Martha, Clotilda, Agnes, John, Peter, Joseph and Cecelia.

John Borky, son of Solomon Borky, is a young man of exceptionally good business ability and push. He is prominent in public affairs

in the county, being elected superintendent of schools of Sioux county in 1903 and re-elected in 1905. He has received a superior education and followed teaching in Sioux county for about six years, becoming well-known and highly esteemed for his manly worth and energy, the people showing their appreciation of his ability by nominating him in 1903 without any solicitation from himself, and he has proven a most efficient man for the office.

Mr. Solomon Borky has gone through all the experiences of the earliest settlers in the great west, but he has remained to reap the reward of those brave spirits who literally took their lives in their hands in coming to a wild country and endeavoring to carve out for themselves a name and fortune; many failing and returning to the more modern east, others succeeding beyond their wildest hopes in accumulating a comfortable competence for their declining years, and of the latter class our subject takes high rank.

On another page will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Borky.

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#### THEODORE CHARLES EDWARDS.

A large share of the wealth of Brown county, Nebraska, comes from the thriving agricultural district lying adjacent to the town of Ainsworth. Among those who own well improved estates there, a prominent place is accorded the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article. For the past twenty-four years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in this locality, is well versed in this line of work and has met with pronounced success.

Mr. Edwards was born near Red Oak, Montgomery county, Iowa, November 17, 1875. He is a son of Evan H. Edwards, a farmer by occupation, and an old settler in Gage county, coming there in 1880, and four years later settling in Brown county; his residence at the present time is Wayne county, Nebraska. Both father and mother, who was Miss Ellen Thomas, were natives of Wales, the former coming to America in 1845, the latter in 1852; her death occurred November 30, 1890. There was a family of five children, of whom our subject is the second member; he was reared in Nebraska, inured to all kinds of hard farm work during his boyhood years. The family settled on the Calamus river, Brown county, in 1884, and at first lived in a tent, and later a board shanty, the lumber of which it was built having been hauled a distance of forty miles with only one horse, whose mate had died soon after reaching the country.

Here they remained for four years, then moved near Ainsworth, where they resided until 1892, when the father moved to Wayne county. Mr. Edwards worked out on farms around the town of Ainsworth for several years, then, in 1898, obtained employment in L. F. Corbett's hardware store and spent three years with the concern before filing on his present homestead in section 31, township 32, range 22, where he began ranching and farming. He has put up good buildings on the banks of Plum creek, and engages in stock raising, and devotes all his time to the work of improving his farm. He has one thousand and forty acres, of which much is good farming land, and is making a success of the enterprise; he is near a good shipping point, and his farm is well suited for the purpose it is used. Mr. Edwards was married at Fairfax, South Dakota, September 24, 1906, to Mabel Herriman, a daughter of Charles Busic, of Brownlee, Nebraska; they have two children, Everett and Ruth.

In the early days of the family's residence in Nebraska, their nearest neighbor was seven miles distant, and our subject well remembers the fine times he had hunting, when the country abounded in all kinds of wild game. In politics Mr. Edwards is Republican; he, with his wife, is a member of the Methodist church, and affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the American Order of Protection of Ainsworth.

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#### HARM POPPEN.

Harm Poppen, one of the most extensive ranchmen and agriculturists of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is one of the old settlers in that region. He is a man of wide experience, and by judicious management and industry, supplemented by honest dealings, has acquired a valuable property and has become recognized as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his county. His home is in Union Valley precinct, where he has a comfortable residence and pleasant surroundings, and enjoys the friendship and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Poppen was born in the village of Sandhorst, adjoining the city of Aurich, Hanover, Germany, June 25, 1857. He was reared in that country, receiving the usual common-sense training of the children of the sturdy German race, and early taught to do all kinds of hard work. His parents spent their entire lives in their native land, but at the age of twenty-nine Harm left home and started out to make his own way in the world, taking passage for America at Antwerp in March, on an emigrant ship. After a

voyage of nine days, he landed in New York city, and came, with a colony of friends, who had emigrated in a body, to Franklin county, Nebraska, where he remained for about three years, still having one sister living in that county. He settled in Cheyenne county in the spring of 1889, filing on a homestead on section 28, township 16, range 48, and has made that his home ever since. He had the usual experiences of the pioneers of that region, passing through the good, bad and indifferent times that struck the locality, often meeting with losses from crop failures, but escaped losses by prairie fires that have devastated so many homesteads; but he stuck to his farm and home through every discouragement and finally was able to get ahead and make needed improvements on his property. He lived for many years in a log cabin, or rough shanty so familiar to all the old timers here, but later constructed a substantial stone dwelling, barn and other outbuildings, constantly adding land to his original tract, as his circumstances permitted, and is now proprietor of a fine ranch containing nine hundred and sixty acres, with plenty of good pasture and hay land for his stock, of which he has sixty head of cattle and fifteen horses. The place is well supplied with good water, and most of it is fenced.

Mr. Poppen was married, while still living in Germany, to Johanna Van Ollen, also a native of that country, and together they came to the United States to establish a home and accumulate a competence for their declining years. Two children resulted from their union, John, now residing in Missouri, and Frances, living at home.

Mr. Poppen was reared in the Lutheran church; in politics he is not bound to either party but votes independently for whom he considers the best man.

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#### CHARLES RODGERS.

The above gentleman is a leading old settler of western Nebraska who has aided in a large measure the growth and development of that region. Although he is a comparatively young man, he has seen much of life on the frontier and taken an active part in the history of the early years here, incidentally building up for himself a good home and valuable estate in section 6, township 23, range 31, Hooker county, where he is well and favorably known.

Mr. Rodgers was born in Henderson county, Illinois, in 1871. He is a son of Albert Rodgers, also a native of that state and a well-known farmer there for many years. His mother was

Jemima Stevenson, of Henderson county, Illinois. Our subject was reared in Nebraska, the family coming here in 1873, locating in Gosper county, where they went through pioneer experiences in establishing a home and farm. When he was eighteen they moved to Lincoln county, and he was married there in 1890 to Ida May Roberts, whose father, William Roberts, was a pioneer in Iowa. She was born in Indiana but reared in Iowa. Mr. Rodgers came with his family to Hooker county in 1895, settling thirteen miles south of Mullen, and there took up a homestead, put up a house, barns and other buildings and opened a ranch. The place was all valley land, and he broke up ground for crops, and remained on it for two years, then moved to Mullen and opened a blacksmith shop. In 1900, he purchased a well drilling outfit, and built wells for people all over the surrounding country, operating the machine up to 1905, and made quite a little money in the work. In 1901 Mr. Rodgers settled on his present ranch, which, at that time, was entirely unimproved land, and he at once began to develop a ranch, adding improvements right along, and now has it in the finest kind of shape. The ranch contains six hundred and forty acres, and he farms about two hundred acres, using the balance as a cattle ranch.

Mr. Rodgers' family consists of himself, wife and five children, who are named as follows: Eutoka Jane, Mark Melvin, Albert Nathan, Minnie May and William Charles. They are a most interesting group and have a pleasant and happy home.

Mrs. Rodgers deserves special mention with her husband, as much of their success is due to her faithful labors, and she has been a helpmeet to him in the true sense of the word. She has helped build up their home, starting with very little, and when they put up their first house, she helped erect it with her own hands, also assisted him in putting down wells, and bore without complaining all the hardships and privations of the settler in the early years here.

#### WILLIAM C. SCOTT.

William C. Scott, one of the pioneer settlers of Sheridan county, Nebraska, and a gentleman whose experiences during the early part of his residence here were many times hard to endure, is now a prosperous farmer of this locality. He is a man of strict integrity and occupies a high standing as a citizen.

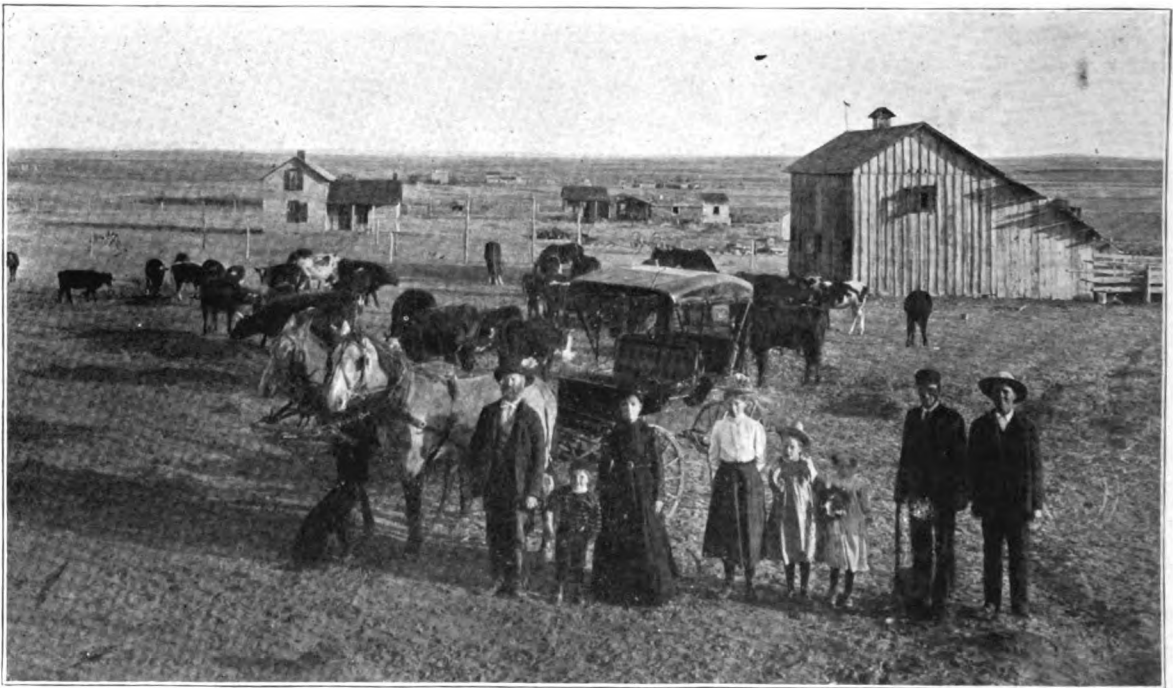
Mr. Scott was born in Knox county, Indiana, in 1845, and was raised and educated there. His father, Thomas Scott, is also a native of In-

diana, of American stock, and died in Illinois in 1883. Our subject is the elder of two children, and at the age of seventeen years struck out for himself, enlisting in Company G, One Hundred and Twentieth Indiana Regiment, serving until the close of the war. He took part in many skirmishes, and saw a great deal of hard service, receiving an honorable discharge, after which he again located in Indiana and began farming, at which he continued until 1884, when he came west with a colony of settlers to the new country. He settled on section 26, township 33, range 43, building a log house in which he lived for thirteen years. In the spring of 1885 he sent for his family to join him, and then started in to improve his farm. He succeeded in his work until the dry years came, and he lost all his crops for several years, and, to make things still worse, he was burned out, losing all his household goods. He did not have money enough to rebuild, so was obliged to sell out and move where he could get material cheaper, and during this time after losing his home was compelled to live in his neighbor's house until he settled on his present homestead in section 35, township 34, range 43, in Sheridan county. He was offered ten dollars per quarter section for his land but refused this offer, and later was fortunate enough to secure five hundred and ninety dollars for his half section. His hardest times were during the years 1892 to 1900, and since then he has been very successful. He is engaged principally in the stock business, keeping about one hundred and seventy-five head of cattle and twenty-five horses all of the time. His ranch comprises six hundred and forty acres of good land, and besides operating this he leases other lands. He has improved his farm, has it all fenced and now has a beautiful place, having lately remodelled his house at a cost of about one thousand two hundred dollars. He is a thrifty, painstaking farmer, and has met with deserved success in his venture.

Mr. Scott was married in 1868 to Miss Anna McClure, born and raised in Indiana, of American stock. Mr. and Mrs. Scott had three children, named as follows: Louis E., Nellie and Maude. On March 9, 1874, Mrs. Scott died, leaving two children, the third and youngest, Maude, having died at the age of three months. In the latter part of 1874, Mr. Scott was married to Miss Burnette Burge, born in Indiana in 1854. Her father, Robertson Burge, served in the Ninety-seventh Indiana Regiment during part of the Civil war from the second day of August, 1862, to 1865. Of this second marriage three children resulted, namely: Claude, Carrie and Grace, now attending school in Lin-







RESIDENCE OF HENRY LICHTER,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.

coln, Nebraska. Mr. Scott is a Republican, takes an active interest in all party affairs, but does not seek any office.

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#### HENRY LICHTE.

Henry Lichte, an enterprising and prosperous farmer of Dawes county, owns one of the fine and valuable estates in the county. He is one of the pioneers of this region, classed among the leading old settlers of his locality who has watched the growth and progress of this part of the state of Nebraska from its early settlement. Mr. Lichte resides on section 26, township 29, range 48, and has a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings. A picture of the family residence will be found on another page.

Mr. Lichte was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1841. His father, Christ Lichte, was a farmer by occupation and owned a good farm in Hanover province, and both he and his good wife spent their whole life in that country. Our subject was reared on the farm and assisted in carrying it on, attending the country schools as a boy, and later an agricultural college at Hanover, Germany, where he learned the art and science of farming. He served in the German army for two years, as all loyal subjects are required by law to do, and in 1869 left home and came to this country and settled in Illinois, where he remained for several years and in 1878, met and married Miss Lizzie Rothermund, a native of Switzerland, who came to America with her parents in 1868. After his marriage our subject and his wife went to Iowa and located near LeMars, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, on which they lived for two years. In 1884 he left Iowa and came to Dawes county, Nebraska, and this region was then practically a wilderness and he had the choice of location, selecting a tract of land near Rushville on which he filed, and the following year was joined by his family. He only lived on this place for about a year, then settled on the Niobrara river, putting up a dugout, in which they lived for two years. Here he raised good crops, the first year putting in a crop of sod potatoes and corn. During the dry years he met with many discouragements due to loss of crops, etc., and for seven years was unable to raise an average crop of any kind, and was obliged to work on the railroad to make a living for his family. He took a contract for carrying the mail between Hemingford and Dunlap in 1894 and has continued this work for the past fourteen years. Part of the time during the hard years he worked in the saw mills at Pine Ridge, where he followed a frontiersman's existence, camping

out at night and suffering many hardships from exposure, etc. He now owns a ranch of seven quarter sections, sixty acres of this being under cultivation, and one hundred of it is irrigated. The place is well improved with good farm buildings, all fenced and supplied with every kind of machinery necessary for conducting a model farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Lichte's family consists of six children, namely: William, Frederick, Joubert, Rose, Dora and Martha. The entire family are well liked by their neighbors and occupy a high position in the community as worthy citizens.

Mr. Lichte is an Independent voter. He was one of the founders of the first schools organized in his locality and has served on the school board for a number of years past.

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#### W. R. HELDMAN.

W. R. Heldman, a representative farmer of Grant township, Franklin county, is a thorough agriculturist and stockman, owner of "The Cyclone Ranch," consisting of one thousand acres of river bottom and uplands, and one of the fine estates of this section of the state. Mr. Heldman purchased this property in 1900, and has built up his place in good shape in that short space of time, employing the most up-to-date and progressive methods in his operations, and has been most successful in his different enterprises. The Cyclone Ranch is located in section 31, township 2, range 13, midway between Franklin and Riverton.

Mr. Heldman was born in 1863 in Indiana. Mr. Heldman came to Nebraska from Harrison county, Missouri, where he had been a breeder of Shorthorn cattle for twenty years. He immediately went to work to build up his farm and engaged in the stock business on a large scale. He started a herd, with the thoroughbred bull "Bates." He bought later from Shellenberger, of Alma, "Saladin," sired by "Bar None II", of pure Scotch strain, and is one among the few in Nebraska as yet. When he first located here there were no herds started in this county, and he introduced the first pure-bred animals in the locality. Mr. Heldman is a director of the county fair society, and his was the first pure-bred herd to be exhibited, and since then they have captured all the prizes right along. He sells his stock in this and the adjoining counties, and every animal is eligible to record. He brought his "Bates" bull with him from Missouri. He is justly proud of his fine herd of Bates thoroughbreds, especially of the fine Scotch Shorthorn bull recently added to his herd, also of the fact that he was the first

man to introduce these into Franklin county. At that time the county fair was an event which had become a very tame affair and the people took almost no interest in the annual exhibition, but the interest of Mr. Heldman in stock, and his enthusiastic support soon gave them an incentive and it has gradually become one of the chief attractions in this region, with a large number of exhibitors, all of whom take a lively interest in making it a success. Mr. Heldman himself, as a director, works hard for the success of the Franklin county fair, and exhibits some of the finest cattle, hogs, horses and mules to be found anywhere. Our subject also has a drove of one hundred pure bred Poland China hogs, and the pigs he raises each year are eagerly sought after by all the people of Franklin and the adjoining counties. Mr. Heldman also deals extensively in horses and Missouri jacks and jennets. He has bred Percherons and coach horses for the market. He owns an imported Percheron stallion "Engeur." Mr. Heldman considers this a better feeding and stock country than Missouri, where he had a long experience. He raises a large crop of corn and small grain, all of which he feeds out on his farm, besides being obliged to purchase more to keep his stock.

#### HUMPHREY P. KENDRICK.

Humphrey P. Kendrick, one of the most energetic and successful farmers of Dawes county, Nebraska, resides on his fine estate in section 30, township 29, range 30, and is well known as one of the leading ranchmen and farmers of his locality. He is a man of good judgment and integrity, and has won an enviable reputation in his community as a progressive agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Kendrick is a native of Fayette county, Illinois, born in 1871. His father, John Wm. Kendrick, was a native of Maine, and settled in Illinois during the pioneer days of that region, his death occurring there in 1878. He married Miss Fidelia Palmer, born in Michigan. Our subject was but eight years of age when he was left fatherless, and the mother and her family moved to Belle Plains, Iowa, where they lived for seven years, Humphrey attending the city schools, and receiving a fair education, besides assisting his mother in caring for the family and keeping up their home. They had some relatives living in Dawes county, and, in 1887, he came here and worked out in the country on ranches and farms for several years, taking a homestead for himself in 1893, and improving the land. He remained on the place steadily until he had proven up, and made many improve-

ments. This land was located in section 29, township 29, range 50, and he still has the place, but has added to it, buying in the adjoining section until he now owns a ranch of twenty quarter sections in Dawes and Box Butte counties, lying along the Niobrara river. He has put up two sets of good substantial farm buildings on his ranch, and has a fine irrigation ditch in operation, being able to irrigate a five hundred-acre tract of his land. He has plenty of hay land, and engages to quite an extent in stock raising, dealing principally in horses. Mr. Kendrick has associated with him a brother, E. C. Kendrick, who shares equally in the business.

Mr. Kendrick was married in 1900 to Miss Eva Cheny, daughter of Arthur Cheny, who was one of the early settlers in Crawford City, Dawes county. Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick are the parents of one child, a daughter named Ellen, who was born in Crawford, and is now a child of five years.

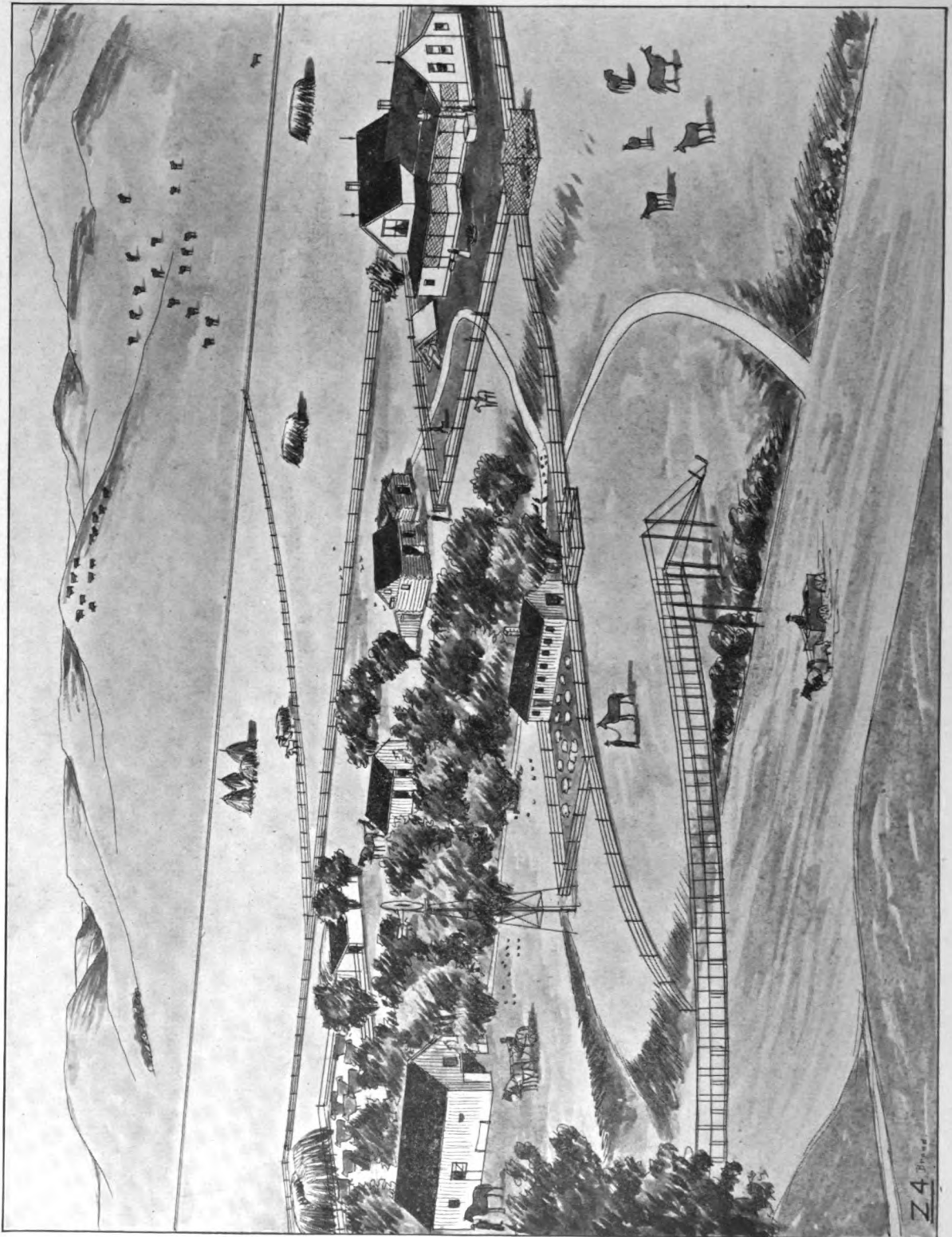
Mr. Kendrick is an active man in local affairs, and has done much toward improving conditions in his locality along agricultural and commercial lines.

#### WILLIAM T. JUDY & SONS.

Among the foremost agriculturists and stockmen of this section of the country may be mentioned Wm. T. Judy and sons. Father and his five sons have built up a valuable estate in Cottonwood township, Phelps county, Nebraska, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

Mr. Judy came to this county in 1899, and purchased three hundred and seven acres of land all located on the Platte river bottom, in sections 17 and 20, eleven miles from Kearney, eleven from Elm Creek and about twenty miles from Holdrege. Mr. Judy is known as one of the best breeders of Percheron and Clyde horses, owning at this time some of the best thoroughbred stallions and brood mares in the state of Nebraska. He has about two hundred pure-bred Duroc Jersey and Poland-China hogs, and holds public sales at both Holdrege and Kearney two or three times a year. In 1901 he started a herd of pure bred Polled Durham cattle, and to this herd he has added some thoroughbred Shorthorns, and has on hand almost all the time from fifty to one hundred head which he sells at private and public sales. In all lines he only handles high grade animals, and his reputation for raising only the very best horses, cattle and hogs has extended all over Nebraska and neighboring states. His Judy Clydesdale Champion stallion is pronounced as nearly perfect a horse





RESIDENCE OF JACK DONASON,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

as can be found anywhere in the world. Before this horse was four years old he weighed one thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds, and now will weigh two thousand pounds, and is a beautiful animal.

For some years previous to settling in Nebraska, Mr. Judy was engaged in farming and stock raising in Lee county, Iowa, and considers his present location greatly superior to the state of Iowa. For one thing, farmers in Nebraska are willing to pay the price in order to secure the best stock, and this liberality and enterprise has in the past few years caused this state to produce more and better grade horses, cattle and hogs than any other state in the Union for its size. He has been successful in mixed farming also, and in 1906 raised over six thousand bushels of oats and two hundred acres of corn, also one hundred acres of alfalfa, all of which is fed out on his farm. His crop of oats and corn show a yield of about fifty bushels each to the acre. Our subject's sons are Clarence C., Willis W., Benjamin, George and Earl.

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#### SOLOMON R. STORY.

Among those who have accomplished much in the way of helping to build up the locality where he chose his home during the pioneer years in western Nebraska, is the gentleman whose name is mentioned above. He is called one of the substantial citizens of his community, and his name stands near the first of the settlers in that region, he having been an important factor in producing the present prosperity enjoyed in his locality. He resides in section 8, township 34, range 56, in Sioux county.

Solomon R. Story was born in Norfolk, St. Lawrence county, New York, May 25, 1837. His father, also Solomon Story, was a stock-grower and went through pioneer experiences with his family in Wisconsin, where he died in 1855. He married Mary Gipson, who was born in New Hampshire, and they raised their family in Wisconsin, living on a farm where our subject received his schooling. Some years were spent in the lumber woods in that state, and in 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteers, and was with that regiment in the western army. He was with Sherman through Georgia, then went back to Washington and participated in the grand review. In all, he saw about three years' service, being mustered out the 12th of May, 1865.

After the war closed Mr. Story returned home and remained there until 1877. He was married there June 26, 1862, to Marion M. Field,

who died in Sioux county, Nebraska, December 13, 1906. She was a daughter of Philip A. Field, who was a lumberman in that state. Her mother's maiden name was Charlotte A. Hoyt. Mr. Story and his bride came to Nebraska, settling in Butler county in 1877, where they farmed for about nine years, then moved to Sioux county, arriving here in the spring of 1886, locating on section 9, township 34, range 56, being the first white family to settle on Antelope Creek. During the first few years he engaged exclusively in farming, but finally got into the stock raising business, and gradually built up a good ranch, now owning two thousand two hundred and forty acres which is devoted to ranching purposes, and he also leases one section, all of which is fenced and in first-class condition. He has made a success of his work, starting with a small capital, having four horses, and those he lost the first year he came here. The first postoffice was located on his place and he acted as the first postmaster, retaining the office for sixteen years. He was precinct assessor for thirteen years and county assessor for four years, always taking an active part in local and county affairs.

Mr. Story has one child, Oscar W., aged forty-one years, born in 1866. The family have a pleasant home and are among the first residents of their community. Oscar W., the only son, still lives with his father and they have lived together ever since coming to this county. Oscar married Annie Reed, daughter of J. W. Reed, an old settler of Sioux county. Four children have been born to this union: George, Loyd, Thirsa and Blanche.

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#### JACK DONASON.

Jack Donason, who for the past score of years has been one of the foremost residents of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, owns a valuable estate in section 31, township 35, range 18. He is one of the leading old settlers in this locality, and has always given his best aid in looking to the interests of the county, and still does his full share in developing its resources and making it a success.

Mr. Donason was born in Knox county, Illinois, in 1857, and when he was but nine years of age began heavy farm work at the handles of a plow, and still well remembers the team he drove. His father, Alex. Donason, was of Scotch-Irish descent, while the mother, Ann Barbow, was of German-American blood, both being reared in this country; our subject, the second child in a family of seven, started for himself at the age of twenty-two years, follow-



ing farm work on the home place. In 1882 he came to Hamilton county, Nebraska, where he spent a winter, then to Keya Paha county, taking a pre-emption south of the river April 2d. He proved up on it, then during the hard times of the dry years, mortgaged the place and lost it. After a time he again purchased the place, paying six hundred and fifty dollars, having first bought it for nine hundred and fifty dollars, three hundred dollars more than the sale price thirteen years later, to such an extent had land values depreciated during the drouth period. He endured hard times here during the dry years, but managed to get along without assistance from any one, and gradually improved his place. When a strip of the reservation north of the Keya Paha river was opened for settlement Mr. Donason took a homestead on section 31, township 35, range 18, and this is the site of his present home. He was thrifty, bought more land, now owning over one thousand four hundred acres, all lying along the Keya Paha river, with four hundred acres under cultivation; about one hundred and twenty-five acres are seeded to alfalfa which is growing thriftily. He runs two hundred and sixty cattle, and keeps about seventy-five horses and mules; he also deals in hogs, raising about two hundred annually. He has a fine orchard of fruit trees in bearing, and everything about his farm presents the best possible appearance, showing taste and good management in its operation. He has good buildings of all kinds, and the place is all fenced. A view of the fine large dwelling and surrounding buildings, with their rugged background of lofty hills, is to be seen elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Donason was married July 15, 1885, to Miss Minnie Sylvester, whose people were early settlers in Hamilton and Keya Paha counties. To Mr. and Mrs. Donason have been born the following children: Kate, now Mrs. Roy Buckles, of Washington; Alex, Roy, Glen, Frank and Clare, all living at home except the first mentioned.

Mr. Donason has been a Democrat most of his life, having only occasionally wavered in his allegiance to the old party.

#### CLAUS NIEHUS.

Claus Niehus early in life left his native land and emigrated to the new world, where he became identified with American progress and civilization, and has been a loyal citizen to the land of his adoption. Mr. Niehus resides on section 21, township 35, range 22, in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where he has built up a good home and farm through his honesty and thrift,

and is esteemed and respected by all who know him.

Mr. Niehus was born on his parents' farm in Holstein, Germany, August 13, 1861, where he was reared and as a boy worked hard in assisting his father in the farm work, early learned to look out for himself in the land where all are taught in their childhood to fit themselves for a useful life. In 1884 he sailed from Hamburg for America on the Moravia and after spending a short time in New York city after landing, came west to California, where he remained for five years engaged in farm work near Livermore, Alameda county, California. He then came to Nebraska, settling on a homestead in Keya Paha county, at the head of Cottonwood creek; this he relinquished and bought a tree claim, which now forms part of his estate, and here he put up good buildings—house, barns and granary, and substantially improved his place. He now owns eight hundred acres on Cottonwood creek, engaging in mixed farming and stock raising; the ranch is admirably adapted to the latter purpose, having plenty of good water for his stock. He runs one hundred and fifty head of cattle, twenty-five horses and fifty to sixty hogs, and finds this a most profitable source of income. Mrs. Niehus owns in her own right one thousand two hundred and eighty acres additional.

Mr. Niehus was married October 19, 1894, to Mrs. Mary Rademacher, a native of Hanover, Germany, who came to this country in 1882.

Mr. Niehus is a Republican, and lends his influence for good government, both local and national.

#### WELLINGTON WHITE.

Mr. White was born in Holton, Maine, May 2, 1840. He lived in Maine until the age of fourteen, going then to Wisconsin with his parents, in which state he lived until 1861.

On September 2, 1861, Mr. White enlisted in the Third Wisconsin Battery Light Artillery, and was mustered out October 10, 1864. He was wounded in the battle of Stone River and was laid up in the hospital for two months. He also took part in the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Resaca, Peach Tree Creek, siege of Atlanta, and others.

At the close of the war Mr. White returned to Wisconsin and at once moved to Minnesota, where he lived until 1886. He came to old Cheyenne county (now Deuel county), April 7, 1886. He has been engaged in stock raising and followed the life of a ranchman for some years, and now resides in Lewellen, Deuel county, where he is notary public, but has retired from active business.

He had four brothers in the United States service during the war of the Rebellion.

Mr. White's grandfather served through the entire war of the Revolution, and died at the advanced age of one hundred and ten years.

Mr. White was married to Mary A. Langton, June 8, 1868, at Faribault, Minnesota. To this union were born six children, of which four are living: Arthur H., who is married; Grace M., wife of John Mevich; Emory C., also married; and Maud B., wife of Wm. P. Clarke, all of whom live in Deuel county. Arthur H. lives five miles west of Lewellen, and Emory C. lives seven miles northeast of Lewellen.

Mr. White homesteaded in 1889, taking a claim in township 18, range 41. On this claim he built a sod house and passed through the hardships incident to pioneer life on the frontier. His rights as a soldier were used to advantage in proving up on his claim and in 1890 he moved to the vicinity of Lewellen.

The father of Mrs. White, William Langton, was born in England. He was married in his native land and Mrs. White was born there. Mr. Langton was one of the prominent old settlers of southeast Minnesota.

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#### RALPH N. SWIGGART.

Ralph N. Swiggart, who is in the front ranks of the younger members of the farming and ranching community of Grant county, is a prosperous and up-to-date agriculturist of section 21, township 26, range 36, where he owns a comfortable home surrounded by well-tilled fields, and is considered one of the worthy, public spirited citizens of his locality.

Mr. Swiggart is a native Nebraskan, born in Lancaster county in 1873. He is a son of George W. Swiggart, of whom a sketch appears in this book, who was one of the pioneers in the western part of the state. He settled in Red Willow county after his marriage to Miss Susie Doyle, of Lancaster county, Nebraska. The family moved to Redwillow county in 1873, then to Frontier county in 1875, where a part of Ralph's boyhood was spent, and in 1887 they located in Grant county, where he grew to manhood, and they have made that region their home ever since. He has been engaged in the ranching business since a boy, has learned thoroughly every detail connected with the work, and seen his share of western frontier life during his comparatively short career. In 1895 he started out for himself, filing on his present ranch as a homestead, and for the first year "batched it," and had a hard time to get his farm started, doing

all the work of breaking up land for crops, caring for his stock, etc. In 1900 he was burned out, losing his barn, tools, grain, etc., and almost everything except his house, the loss amounting to many hundreds of dollars. He saw years of hard labor thrown away in the destruction of his buildings, crops, fuel and some live stock, and the disaster was a serious setback to him. He immediately went to work anew, building up the place even better than before the fire, and it is now in the finest shape, supplied with every improvement for the proper operation of a model ranch. Mr. Swiggart owns in all six hundred and forty acres, and his location is the very best for ranching and farming purposes.

Our subject was united in marriage in 1896 to Miss Jeanette Crossley, whose family was among the early settlers in western Nebraska. They have one child, Helen, aged eleven years. Mrs. Swiggart's parents are both dead.

Since living in this region Mr. Swiggart has taken an active interest in local affairs, helping to build up his locality and working for its best interests at all times, and holds a high station as a leading citizen. For so young a man he has done exceedingly well in accumulating the nice property he possesses, and the family occupy a pleasant home and are well liked by their neighbors and associates.

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#### M. H. HIGGINS.

M. H. Higgins, familiarly known as "Doc" Higgins, deserves a foremost place among the very old timers of western Nebraska. He has a fine ranch in Cherry county, his life has been one of many experiences, and he is honored as a public-spirited citizen and prosperous ranchman of the locality, and a representative Nebraskan, as his entire career has been spent in the state.

Mr. Higgins was born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, in 1869. His father, Michael Higgins, was a railroad contractor and a prominent old-timer in the west. Our subject was reared in eastern Nebraska, on a farm, and was taught to do all sorts of hard work as a boy. One brother, George, was a pioneer in western Nebraska, locating in Cherry county during its early history as a county, and both he and "Doc" helped in the construction of the Burlington railroad when it was being built from Grand Island west, their father having the contract for the job at different points along the line. George Higgins made his home in Cherry county up to 1899, during that time building up and developing the Box T Ranch, which he established in 1886, his brother, M. H., being associated with him. He

made a success of the ranching business, and Doc worked for him for a number of years, finally starting for himself in 1896, settling on a ranch on section 2, township 26, range 27. He took a homestead, proved up on it, and while he has gone through some hardships in getting his home started, has been in the main successful and is now owner of one thousand six hundred acres, part of which is fenced, running quite a herd of cattle and other stock. He farms about forty acres, and has all good buildings and improvements, deriving a nice income from his different enterprises.

Mr. Higgins was married in 1900 to Miss Linda Milvin, whose father was a well known pioneer in Thomas county, owner of a good ranch there. To them have been born three children, George, Harry and James, all bright and interesting children, and they are a most happy family. Mr. Higgins is active in local affairs, and enjoys the esteem and respect of all who know him.

#### R. CLAYTON WORLEY.

R. Clayton Worley, who lives with his mother on section 14, township 27, range 48, in Box Butte county, is a representative Nebraskan, having been born and reared in this state, and through thrift and industry, supplemented by uprightness of character, has directed the attention of all to him as a worthy citizen and foremost resident of this section. He has lived with his mother, Mrs. C. S. Worley, all the time, except when away at school; his father dying when our subject was only about six years old.

Mr. Worley was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1870. His parents at that time occupied the southwest quarter of section 3, township 5, range 15. The father farmed all his life and came to this state from Indiana, where he met and married Celestia Cornell, also a native of that state. Our subject was reared on the home farm until the age of six years, at which time the father's death occurred, then the family came to Box Butte county. In 1884, when he was about fifteen years old, the mother filed on a tree claim, and on a pre-emption in 1885 in this county, and they decided to improve this farm and make a home of it. Their first dwelling was a tent, in which they lived for some time, then put up a sod house in which they settled about the first of December, 1885, as they were having severe winter weather, the snow having completely covered the ground to a depth of two feet, as early as November 6th of that year, and the tent was not the warmest place imaginable

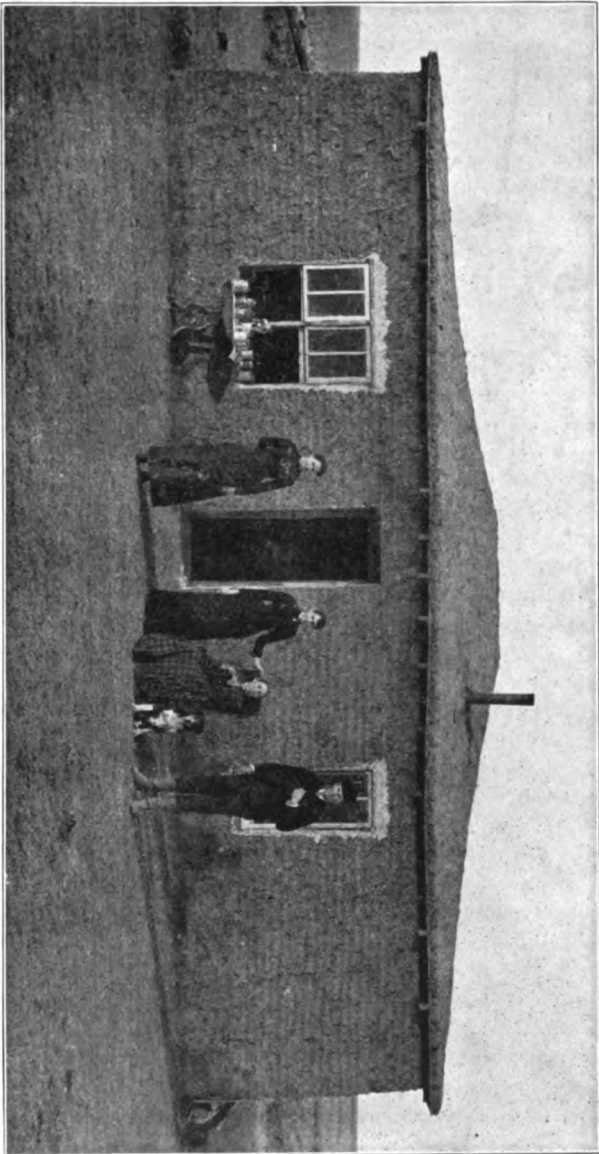
in such a temperature. All the land, or claims, were taken in Mrs. C. S. Worley's name, the tree claim, pre-emption and homestead, and while living there they went through the usual pioneer experiences. Their first team was a pair of horses and a pair of oxen, and with them they broke up land for crops, did freighting and any kind of work in order to make a living. They remained here for two years, also took a homestead in section 23, and in time proved up on the claim. In 1894 our subject went to Lincoln and spent four years, attending school at that place, then returned to the farm and has since spent his entire time in improving and building up their property. He has been engaged in the cattle and horse business during most of the time since locating here, so that the drouth years did not affect him so much. He constantly added to their original acreage, until at one time the family owned about three thousand acres. They have sold some four hundred and eighty acres, leaving them now owners of about two thousand five hundred acres. They now have one hundred acres under cultivation, raising small grain, potatoes, etc. They keep about two hundred and fifty head of cattle, and have plenty of water from good wells, furnished with windmills and supply tanks.

Our subject's mother, Mrs. C. S. Worley, first settled in eastern Nebraska in 1856, where her parents were among the earliest settlers in that part of the state, their home being in Richardson county.

In political views Mr. Worley is a Democrat.

Mrs. C. S. Worley relates many thrilling experiences since she first settled in her home in Box Butte county, one in particular occurring in April, 1904. Jean Thompson and wife had settled near here, and not having range enough of their own, began using Mrs. Worley's land on which to run their cattle. Mr. Worley became tired of the encroachments of these new people and went out in her buggy to drive the Thompson cattle off her land. She was abused and severely treated by Thompson and his wife. They threw a lasso and lassoed the rear wheels of the buggy, throwing it completely over and catching Mrs. Worley underneath and dragging her for a long distance. They thought she would die for a long time and, in fact, she has never fully recovered from the effects of this dastardly treatment. It is fortunate this kind of treatment is no more possible in these later days. The Thompsons finally drifted away into the Sand Hill country.

Mrs. Worley has three children: R. C. Worley, who lives with his mother on the home ranch; Lottie C., attending school at Madison, Wisconsin, and will graduate this year with the



"LONE TREE RANCH"—MRS. C. S. WORLEY AND FAMILY,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



degree of Ph. D., and A. L. Worley, now the widow of Mr. W. H. Fanning.

A picture of the "Lone Tree Ranch" is presented on another page.

#### CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON.

Christopher C. Thompson, whose neat and attractive home is located in section 31, township 33, range 28, has found Nebraska ranching and farming very satisfactory and profitable since he first established himself in Cherry county, and applied all his resources to the problems of agriculture as presented by a wilderness, thought to be lacking in water and not far from the Great American Desert. It is noteworthy in this connection that the limits of that mythical region have steadily diminished as the tide of hardy and adventurous settlers like Mr. Thompson poured to the westward, until now it has disappeared from the maps, and no longer exists even in the fertile fancy of the space writer or the English traveler.

Christopher C. Thompson was born on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin, August 12, 1849, which his father, Uriah Thompson, had very successfully developed. The father was American born and bred, a man of vast energy and mighty force of character, who when he was advanced in years became interested in Nebraska land, and coming to Cherry county, located a homestead, on which he died at the great age of eighty-one years. His wife, Elizabeth Harrison, also belonged to an old American family, and was a worthy associate of her energetic and capable husband. She was a cousin of the late President Benjamin Harrison, and a descendant of his illustrious grandfather. They had seven children born to them, of whom Christopher C. was next to the oldest.

The subject of this article was reared to manhood on the Wisconsin homestead, and as a lad was familiar with all kinds of hard work that naturally attended the development of a farm in that wooded country, helping his father clear the land. When a young man he found employment in the lumber camps and among the mills of the great pine country, and for fourteen years was mainly engaged in lumbering and rafting two hundred miles above Minneapolis. When he had reached the age of twenty-seven years, Mr. Thompson left Wisconsin, and traveled very extensively through the west and southwest, in Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho, working on the range and starting in cattle raising, but finally elected Nebraska as the country that offered him the greatest opportunity for the investment of such capital of character and money as he could make.

Mr. Thompson was married in Saunders county, April 6, 1877, to Miss Eliza Hannaman, whose parents, Thomas and Sarah (Brazel) Hannaman, were American born and bred, and devoted to rural life. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson became the parents of a numerous family of eleven children, of whom the three older girls, Cora, Florence and Rita, are married; John is at home; Edward is in South Dakota; the other children, Daniel, Nettie, Walter, Nemie, Etta and William, are still under the parental roof tree. All the children, with the exception of Florence, were born in Nebraska.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Thompson settled in Smith county and later in Decatur, Kansas, and tried farming, but an exceeding drouth could not be resisted, and they simply had to move out or die. They located in Saunders county, Nebraska, for the winter of 1884, and for two or three years following lived in Loup county, Nebraska, their place being some forty miles from the railroad. On more than one occasion in hauling supplies or grain Mr. Thompson has camped out over night and slept under the wagon, not an uncommon experience by any means on the frontier in those days.

In 1889 Mr. Thompson settled on a ranch near Hackberry Lake, some thirty miles southwest of Valentine, and began a cattle business for himself. Much success has attended his careful management, and he now has about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and nearly a hundred horses. He raises thoroughbred race horses, and in the fall of 1906 took first prize in every race in which he entered his famous horse Blue Hawk. He stocked the lake and it has now become one of the best fishing points in the west. After spending some eleven years on the ranch he accepted a very favorable offer for its sale, and disposing of his interests here he spent some time in traveling through the northwest with his family, in Montana. After spending some five months, principally in the Flathead country, he returned to Cherry county, and bought the farm where he is to be found at the present time, well satisfied that taking all things into consideration it is difficult to find a better region than Nebraska for a man who is alive and anxious to get on in the world. He owns six hundred acres fronting on the Niobrara river, and affording every opportunity for stock raising, gardening and general farming. In this tract are included the mouth of Gordon creek, and two other streams that rise from copious springs. One hundred acres of the land are under irrigation, and abundant crops are insured without much regard to the local rainfall. The ranch affords abundant timber both for fuel and building purposes, with wild and tame fruits, among which are some three hundred thrifty apple trees.

There is also rock for building and other requisites in ample supply. Altogether it is one of the most desirable agricultural establishments in northwestern Nebraska, and has been brought up to a high pitch of fertility by its energetic and capable owner.

In political matters Mr. Thompson takes an entirely independent position, and votes for the best men regardless of partisan considerations. He is a typical Nebraskan, and is highly respected by all who know him.

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#### E. H. KYSER.

E. H. Kyser, whose well-kept farm lies in Albany township, Harlem county, located on section 1 in 1877, and the following year homesteaded the one hundred and sixty acres where he now lives. His father, George, and brother, A. Kyser, came here the same year, homesteading the adjoining farm, which he built up in good shape and operated up to 1902, when the father sold it and returned to Genesee county, Michigan, where he originally came from, his death occurring there in 1906, aged seventy-six. He was a strong Republican up to the time of his demise, and an active public-spirited man all his life. He was a member of the school board for many years, and clerk of the township where he lived for some time. He built the first school house in his locality, and hauled the wood for the school all through the first term, refusing to accept any remuneration for the work or fuel. When he first came here they were obliged to haul all produce for forty-five miles northeast of their homestead to Kearney, and kept this up for eight years, as it was the nearest market on the railroad. The Kysers all came from Oakland county, Michigan, and all succeeded in building up good homes here, and were worthy and highly esteemed citizens of the county. A. Kyser sold his farm in 1905 and now lives at Kearney.

E. H. Kyser was born in Shiawassee county, Michigan. His father and mother, both natives of New York state, settled in Oakland county when they were children, about the year 1836, and grew up there, going through all the pioneer hardships while that state was still a territory, and when moving from Michigan to Nebraska drove the entire distance in a wagon. Our subject's grandfather, Louis Kyser, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in Oakland county, where his wife also died. His grandfather on his mother's side, Louis Ames, was also a pioneer in Oakland county and died there, as did his wife, who was Ellen Joslyn prior to her marriage. After the death of her husband she mar-

ried Croston Lockwood, and our subject's youngest brother took the name of Martin Lockwood. He is now a merchant at Portsmouth, Ohio, and owns some land in Phelps county, this state, which he homesteaded many years ago.

Mr. Kyser was married to Miss Minnie Pierce, daughter of John P. Pierce, homesteaders near our subject's farm, who located in Phelps county in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Kyser have two sons, George and John.

When Mr. Kyser first came to Albany township he was the only Republican voter in the locality, and since that time it has been steadily growing Republican until nearly every voter is of that party. He has been on the county committee different times, and has been one of the active workers in the county for the cause.

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#### AMBROSE HADLEY.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal review has been a resident of western Nebraska for the past twenty-one years; and is well known as a leading pioneer and one of the influential men of his locality. He has been largely instrumental in the upbuilding of this region and has done his full share in establishing the schools here in Box Butte and Sheridan counties.

Mr. Hadley was born in Sterling, Massachusetts, in 1841. His father, Ebenezer Hadley, was a farmer by occupation, of English descent, born in Massachusetts. He married Mary Ann Holmes, and the family for many years lived in Massachusetts and later in New Hampshire, where our subject was reared and educated. At the age of fourteen years he left home, following a sailor's fortunes on fishing boats along the Atlantic coast, continuing at this up to June, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Second Rhode Island Infantry. He was in the Army of the Potomac during the whole term of service, and saw much hard fighting, participating in many famous actions. He first enlisted May 5, 1861, and was mustered out in 1863. He then re-enlisted at once to serve during the balance of the war at Brandy Station, Virginia. He was badly wounded at the battle of the Wilderness. Mr. Hadley was mustered out in 1865, and then went to Boston where he worked on the street railway and remained there for twenty years, part of the time driving hack. During this time he had his body tattooed and afterwards traveled with circuses and was on exhibition at different museums all over the United States, almost every part of his body being covered with tattooing except his face. He is an authority on this work, having made a careful study of its principles, and has



written various articles relating to the subject.

In April, 1887, Mr. Hadley came to Nebraska and located in Sheridan county, arriving in Hay Springs on April 21st of that year. He filed on a tract of land in section 19, township 26, range 46, Sheridan county, on landing here, putting up a sod shanty, where he "batched it" for quite a while. In 1889 he was joined by his wife and they together started to make a home. About this time the drouths began to effect this region and the hard times they experienced caused them to give up struggling to make a living there. There were many times when for six months all they had to subsist on was corn meal and bread and milk, while for meat they had to depend on the wild game our subject could kill with his gun, and often were they obliged to, suffer the pangs of hunger. He finally gave up and abandoned his homestead, moving to his brother's farm in Box Butte county. There he did well, paid up all of his old debts and made money. In 1898 he sold off his personal property and emigrated to Arkansas, driving overland all of the way, camping out along the road, but after locating did not like the country, so only remained a short time, and then returned to Nebraska, purchasing his present farm situated in section 22, township 26, range 47. Here he has fixed everything up in good shape, has nice buildings, fences, planted orchards, etc. Forty acres are under cultivation and he raises small grain, potatoes and corn. He has done exceedingly well, and is considered well-to-do, owning besides this farm some property at Alliance.

In 1880 Mr. Hadley was married to Miss Elizabeth Metz, and to them have been born four children, namely: Valentine, who is married, now living in Box Butte county; Fred A., John B. and Violet M., who still live with their parents, making a congenial family and a happy home.

Mr. Hadley is a broad-minded, well informed man, and is a typical representative of his part of the country,—has seen nearly all parts of this country, having traveled extensively during his younger years, and is an interesting character.

He votes the Democratic ticket, and his wife is a stronger Democrat than he is. The Hadley home is a fine place for the traveler, and the visitor is royally entertained.

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#### RICHARD WILLIAMS.

The subject of this review, Richard Williams, of North Platte, Nebraska, is familiar to all the people of this locality, as well as to the traveling public, is a genial and accommodating railroad man, and a good citizen of the above town.

Mr. Williams is a native of Mercer county,

Illinois, and was brought up in Cook county, that state. His father, Thomas Williams, was born in Wales, who came to this country when a young man, settling in the middle states during the pioneer days. In 1888 our subject came west, locating at Denver, and began to work for the Union Pacific railroad, and since that time has been with the company continuously, acting in the capacity of brakeman and conductor, traveling between North Platte and Cheyenne, North Platte and Denver. In 1894 he moved to North Platte, and has since resided here. He owns a nice home and the family is highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. Since Mr. Williams commenced with the Union Pacific railroad people he has been very successful in his work, and gained the confidence and trust of his employers, and has never had the misfortune to have an accident on his line.

Mr. Williams was married in 1890 to Miss Sarah Wagstaff, born in Dundas, Ontario, Canada, daughter of Walter and Sarah Wagstaff, the latter born in Dublin, Ireland, of Scotch blood. Walter Dundas was born in Niagara, Canada, also of Scotch blood. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have no family. The former's mother resides with him, her maiden name having been Isabelle Holsworth.

Mr. Williams is a member of the Order of Railway Conductors, Lodge No. 35, of North Platte, and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias.

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#### JOHN F. HOWARD.

John F. Howard, residing in Whitney, Dawes county, is one of the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, and by his efforts he has aided materially in the development of the agricultural and commercial resources of his county. Mr. Howard is a gentleman of most estimable character, highly respected in the community and one of the leading old-timers of the section.

Mr. Howard was born in Clark county, Missouri, in December, 1839. His father, Isaac Howard, was of old American stock, born and raised in Virginia, who married Miss Elizabeth Morris, of Kentucky, the latter dying April 7, 1907, at the advanced age of eighty-nine years and five months. At this writing the father is still living in Iowa and is ninety years old. Our subject's grandfather and great-grandfather were also American born, the latter serving in the Revolutionary War.

When our subject was twelve years of age the family moved to Iowa, where he grew to manhood on a farm, helping his parents in all the hard work of building up a farm and home in a new country, and attending the country

schools where he received his early education, later attending college at Birmingham, Iowa. Our subject enlisted in Company H, Third Iowa Cavalry, August 15, 1861, served during the war, being first mustered out January 1, 1864, and then re-entering the service was finally mustered out August 9, 1865. Mr. Howard was truly a war veteran, seeing service through Georgia and Alabama and all through the south and west. He started farming in Iowa in 1866 and remained there up to 1885, then came to Dawes county, filing on a homestead in section 1, township 32, range 51. At that time the railroad was only laid as far as Chadron. He spent three years here, starting his farm, and "batching it," part of the time working at the carpenter's trade, his first house being a plank shanty 12 x 14 in size and lived in this shack for two years, then his family joined him here and they built up a good home and farm. In Iowa Mr. Howard was a pioneer and handled ox teams, leading a regular frontiersman's life, then came to Nebraska and went through the same experiences, so that nearly his entire lifetime has been spent in building up a new country. In Iowa he lived in different counties,—Van Buren, Madison and Warren county. After coming to Nebraska he met with failures of crops, caused by drouths, and had many discouragements, but has succeeded in accumulating a nice property, and owns one thousand two hundred acres of land, which includes a son's homestead. He cultivates sixty acres, and has a seventy-acre field of alfalfa, engaging quite extensively in stock raising, running seventy head of cattle and fourteen horses. His place is well improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and he has plenty of timber, water and fruit.

Mr. Howard is now serving as assessor for his district. He has been justice of the peace for several years, also on the school board for sixteen years, and was one of the organizers of different schools in his section. He is a strong Republican.

Mr. Howard was united in marriage in Iowa in 1867, to Miss Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Littleton L. Moore, a retired farmer and old settler in Van Buren county. Mrs. Howard was born in Ohio in 1845, and she died in Dawes county May 28, 1905, leaving a family of seven children, named as follows: Walter C., Minnie M., Lula M., Arthur E., Earl V., William N., and Mabel (deceased).

#### J. C. BERRY.

J. C. Berry, who resides on section 8, township 24, range 45, Sheridan county, is well known throughout this region as a successful ranchman

and Antioch Postoffice is located at his residence, and Mr. and Mrs. Berry have been connected with the mail service since 1891. Mrs. Berry has been serving as postmistress for the past two years. Mr. Berry is also a retail dealer in lumber and coal at Reno, Nebraska. He also has a wholesale lumber plant at Orville, South Dakota.

Mr. Berry was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, at New Salem, in 1852, and was raised there until twelve years of age. His father, who died in 1856, was a native of Ohio, farmer by occupation, and his mother, who was Lydia Moyer prior to her marriage, was of German descent, and two years after his father's death she was married to Samuel Stuart. The family came to Sheridan, Iowa, in 1865, where his stepfather engaged in the general merchandise business, freighting his goods from Eddyville, thirty-seven miles. They lived there for a year, then moved on a farm, still continuing the merchandise business at Sheridan. At the age of twenty-one he left his mother's home and went to Mills county, where he worked on the Strahn farm, in that county, and at twenty-three began working on the railroad, which he followed up to 1875. He had a brother-in-law in Nebraska at that time who wrote our subject to come on, so he came through to see the country and liked the place so well that he took a tree claim in section 1, township 24, range 45, and later a pre-emption in section 3, also homestead in section 8, holding all three, besides an additional four hundred and eighty acres. He came here with the stock raising idea, so started in and increased his stock as fast as possible, buying his first cattle with money which he earned from picking up bones on his farm. He has kept on in the cattle business ever since, and has had good success from the start, and added to his land until he owns three thousand five hundred acres, farming a little each year, but devoting most of his time to his stock. When he first located here he intended to stay for a year and a half, but has made this his home for the past twenty years, and is contented to stay for the balance of his life. When he arrived his sole capital was seventy-five dollars in money and his household goods, and he began by milking cows to support his family, and still ships some cream during the summers. He runs three hundred and fifty cattle and one hundred and twenty-five horses all the time. He has started some alfalfa and brome grass on his farm, and expects to make a success of it, as the soil is well adapted for its culture.

In 1875 Mr. Berry was married to Miss Louisa B. Wilson, of Lucas county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Berry have been born the following children: Minnie L., Fannie L., Todd P., Nellie



J. C. BERRY AND FAMILY.  
Typical Sod House Erected in 1891. Sheridan County, Nebraska.



F., Myrtle E., Manchie R. and Omar, the last mentioned having died when a young child. All of their children are married and living near the old homestead except one. Mr. Berry has erected a very fine frame dwelling on his farm, all fitted in up-to-date style with modern conveniences, good barns, out buildings, etc. Mr. Berry came to this locality in November of the year 1888, and in February of the following year he organized a school district, and they have always had a good school for their children ever since, located about a mile from the homestead. He is always interested in whatever is for the benefit of the people of his community, and is one of the public-spirited citizens of his locality, voting for the best man regardless of party. At one time Mr. Berry was engaged in the confectionery business in Iowa, but only carried that on for a short time. He is an exceptionally good business man, possessing good judgment and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen to a marked degree.

An interesting picture is presented on another page, showing the typical sod house of Mr. Berry and family, erected in 1891.

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#### HENRY HERMSMEYER, DECEASED.

The name of Henry Hermsmeyer is a familiar one among the residents of Brown county, Nebraska. Prior to his demise he was recognized as one of the representative farmers and an old settler of this section, where he had resided for the past twenty-two years.

Mr. Hermsmeyer was born April 19, 1840, in the village of Valldorf, Province of Westfal, in the kingdom of Prussia. He was reared on his father's farm, and served in the German army through two wars, that with Denmark in 1864, and with Austria in 1866 and 1867. After his time of service in the army expired he worked on a farm there for a season. In 1867 he was married to Miss Louisa Steinmeyer, daughter of Ernest Steinmeyer, a merchant in Valldorf. With his young wife he came to America that year, sailing from Bremen in the ship America in the latter part of September and landing about the first of October in New York. Immediately on landing they went to Philadelphia, where Mr. Hermsmeyer worked for Ernst Steinmeyer, a brother-in-law, in his store for one year and seven months. Coming west he located in Missouri, twenty miles from Washington, where he farmed for four years. In 1873 he moved his family to Iowa and remained eleven years, acquiring a farm of eighty acres in Cherokee county. He at first came to Brown county,

Nebraska, in 1884, settling on a homestead near Ainsworth, also filing on a tree claim, which now constitutes a part of his estate. He put up a frame house and went to work building up his farm, and was just starting when the drouth came on and his crops were ruined for several years in succession; hailstorms, then prevalent throughout this region, destroyed another crop entirely. He also suffered heavy losses by the death of horses in these early days, and altogether these years were times of hardships and privations, the family becoming well-nigh discouraged. After many years of earnest effort and perseverance times changed, he began to lay up a little money, and continued to improve his farm, putting up good buildings, gradually added to his acreage until before his death, which occurred April 27, 1906, he was owner of six and a half quarter sections of good land, well improved. He had planted a large number of trees, forming a fine grove surrounding his farm buildings, with a good house and excellent equipment for the operating of a model farm.

When Mr. Hermsmeyer first came to this locality there were only two stores in Ainsworth, and the country surrounding was very sparsely populated. He and his family were about the first to settle in this neighborhood, where he has done his full share in the building up of the community and aiding in the development of the agricultural interests.

At his death Mr. Hermsmeyer left a family of five children, namely: Fred, who married Doretta Schelm, of Iowa; Henry, Alvina, wife of Albert Miles, Carl and Ida, three of whom are living with their mother on the homestead. In politics Mr. Hermsmeyer was a Democrat; the family are communicants of the Lutheran church.

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#### HANS GUNDERSON.

Hans Gunderson, one of the prominent residents of Kimball county, Nebraska, was born in Norway, August 12, 1866. He came to America with his parents and three brothers, arriving here in 1873, settling at first in Omaha, Nebraska, where they lived for fifteen years, and there two more sons were born. The father and mother are now living nine miles west of Blair, the boys being scattered in different parts of the country. One brother, George, resides in Kimball, and a sketch of him appears elsewhere in this volume. Hans was the second son in the family, and at the age of twenty-two years came to Kimball

county, landing in the region in the spring of the year 1888. Here he took a homestead, proved up on the same and then sold out. He later took a Kincaid claim of four hundred and eighty acres, situated on section 22, township 14, range 54, and also owns another quarter section, besides controlling some leased school land and an interest in a half section in the township in which he lives.

Mr. Gunderson has built up a fine ranch, which is devoted almost exclusively to stock raising, running about two thousand five hundred head of sheep each year. He has made a success of the sheep business and is one of the most prominent ranchmen in the county. He has put many improvements on his place, and has plenty of hay and pasture for his stock, also has about seventy acres under cultivation.

Mr. Gunderson was married to Belle Snyder, in Harrisburg, Banner county, Nebraska, on November 16, 1891. She is a native of Iowa, where she was raised. Mrs. Gunderson's father is dead, and her mother now resides in Tennessee. Three children have come to bless their union, named as follows: Aye I., Effie and Mervin, all at home.

Since locating in this region Mr. Gunderson has been unceasing in his efforts to assist in booming every laudable enterprise in the community, and as a citizen he has shown himself broad-minded and public-spirited to the last degree. He takes a deep interest in school affairs, and is now serving as director of district No. 26. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### EMIL GEBHART.

Among the leading old settlers of Perkins county, Nebraska, none is more widely known or more highly esteemed than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article. For many years Mr. Gebhart has been identified with the agricultural interests of Perkins county, and has done his full share toward bringing about the present prosperity enjoyed by the residents of that locality. He has a pleasant home and a well cultivated and improved estate.

Mr. Gebhart was born in Cass county, Illinois, in 1863, of German parentage, the father being a native of Alsace, Germany, while the mother was born in Hesse, they coming to America as young people. Our subject was reared in Illinois, receiving a common school education, and at the age of twenty-three struck out for himself, coming to Nebraska,

locating in Perkins county, and filed on a homestead on section 30, township 10, range 38. In the spring of 1887 he came with his family and built a shanty eight by twelve feet, and spent the first year in it. He was here when the county was organized and the location of the county seat was decided upon. During the dry years Mr. Gebhart lost several crops, and went through hard times in getting his farm started. He gradually improved his place in good shape and has accumulated a nice property, having a ranch of eight hundred acres of deeded land, with about the same amount leased. This he has fitted up with good buildings of all kinds, and cultivates about one hundred and fifty acres, devoting the balance to pasture and hayland. His residence is situated on section 31, where he moved in 1906. He runs quite a large bunch of stock, and is one of the progressive agriculturists and stockmen of the vicinity.

Mr. Gebhart was married in 1887 to Miss Mary Blome, who was born near Petersburg, Illinois, of German parents. They have three children, named as follows: Ella, Bertha and Ralph. Our subject is a strong Republican, and is active in politics in his locality.

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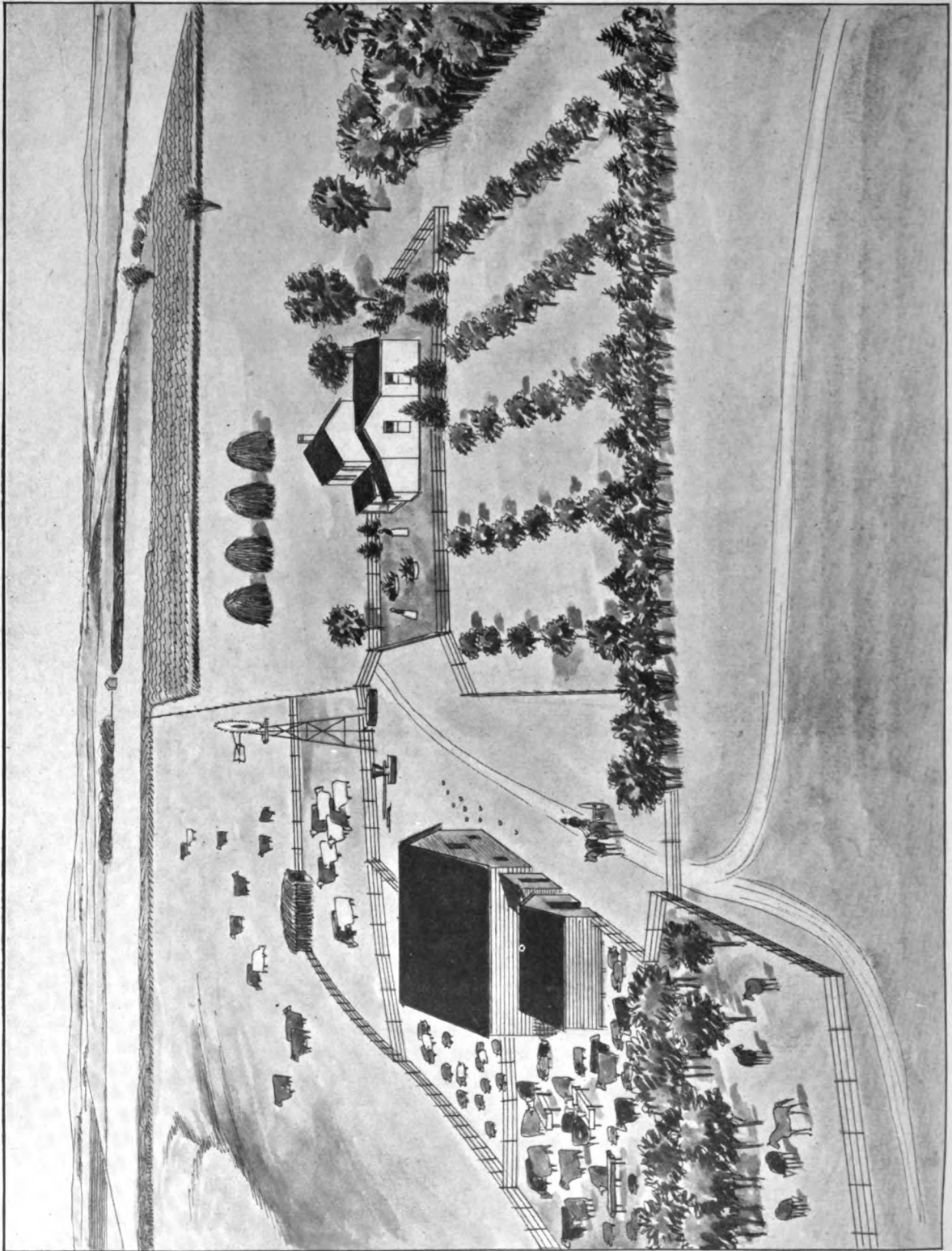
#### L. H. HEWETT.

Among the representative farmers of Sheridan county the above gentleman holds a prominent place. He was one of the first settlers in this locality and is well known in the community, enjoying the respect and esteem of his associates and neighbors. He is one of the very old timers, having attended the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for president the first time.

Mr. Hewett was born in Ohio in 1831. His father, Harvey Hewett, was a native of Maine, a farmer by occupation, and his mother, Miriam (Hunt) Hewett, was also born and raised in Maine. When our subject was six years of age his parents came west, locating in Illinois with their family of three boys and three girls, of whom he is the third member. At the age of twenty-one he got the gold fever and started for the gold mines of Oregon, and remained in the west until 1857, when he returned to Illinois and lived there until 1885, but never liked the country as a money-making proposition. He was for a time engaged in the farming and stock raising business in Illinois, and then in 1885 came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, settling on section 11, township 33, range 43, where he still lives. This ranch comprises three hundred and twenty acres of deeded







RESIDENCE OF O. B. HOLLENBECK,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

land, and part of it is devoted to farming and the balance to hay and pasture land.

During the dry years, from 1891 to 1899, he stuck to farming until he lost about everything he had through failure of his crops, then gave it up and went into the stock business, and since the beginning of the better years he has been very successful in both farming and stock raising. In 1906 his wheat crop yielded twenty-six bushels to the acre, and his rye crop turned out equally as well. He has done exceedingly well since coming here, and although he has seen his share of hardships and discouragements he is satisfied that he has done much better than he could have done anywhere else, where he would have been obliged to rent land instead of coming where he could get it free. He has worked hard, and now would like to take it a little easy, and should he receive a fair offer for his farm, would sell and move to town. His place is well improved with a complete set of substantial farm buildings, and everything is run in a businesslike manner and shows evidence of good management and thrift.

In 1859 Mr. Hewett was married to Miss Hannah W. Morey, born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1839. Her father, Amos Morey, was born and raised in Maine while that state was still a province, and her mother was a native of New York state. The parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Hewett were among the early settlers of Illinois, locating there in 1837. Four children have been born to our subject and his wife, who are named as follows: Alice Coralinn, Bruce H., Frank M. and Clarence M.

In political faith Mr. Hewett is a Republican.

#### OLIVER B. HOLLENBECK.

One of the most successful agriculturists of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, may be found in the person of Oliver B. Hollenbeck, who has followed farming in the above county for many years past. He is numbered among the early settlers in this part of the state, and has contributed his full share towards the building up of the community in which he chose his home.

Mr. Hollenbeck is a native of Wayne county, West Virginia, born May 7, 1852. His father, Henry Hollenbeck, was born in Virginia in 1812, and his grandfather was a soldier in the war of that date, as was also his great-grandfather, in the Revolutionary war. The mother, Margaret Ricketts, was born in Mary-

land. The Hollenbeck family were among the early settlers in the eastern states during the colonial days. Of a family of eight children our subject is the sixth member, and was reared in West Virginia until 1865, when the family moved to Iroquois county, Illinois. At the age of eleven or twelve years he started in life for himself in West Virginia, and has made his own way ever since. His older brothers served in the Civil war. The family moved to Illinois in 1865, and there he followed farm labor for several years, herding cattle at times and tilled rented land for a few years. In 1883 he came west and settled in what is now Keya Paha county, Nebraska, taking a homestead in section 33, township 33, range 19. The following year he started to improve his place, putting up a board shanty, and other rude buildings. He had not much to start with, but owned a team of mules, and began cultivating his land, but the dry years soon came on and two crops in succession were ruined, which was a heavy loss to him in those times. He had to cope with the disadvantages of those early days, being obliged to haul supplies many miles through unbroken country, and with none of the improvements to make things easy to work with.

His ranch now comprises one thousand forty acres divided in two pieces, and excepting the homestead which he took when he first settled here has been purchased outright. Three hundred acres of this is cultivated, and the balance is in pasture and grass land. The farm is improved with substantial buildings, all fenced, and is one of the most valuable in the locality. A view of the place will be found on another page.

Mr. Hollenbeck was married in Vermillion county, Illinois, December 8, 1876, to Miss Emma Gilmore, whose parents, Robert H. and Elizabeth (Farrow) Gilmore, resided on a farm in Vermillion county. Mr. and Mrs. Hollenbeck have a family of seven children, named as follows: Robert, Martin (deceased), Dolly, wife of Ira Cline; Ella, widow of Joseph H. Fisher; Hugh, a twin of Laura, who married Edward E. Fisher, and Minnie.

During Mr. Hollenbeck's life he has been engaged in many enterprises and has been very successful in all his undertakings, owing to his strict integrity and honest dealings, and has won the respect and esteem of his fellow-men by his sterling character.

He held the office of justice of the peace since 1885 excepting three or four years, and proved a most efficient official. He has also held different school offices and is always actively interested in all matters which tend

to the advancement of conditions in his locality. In political faith he is a Republican. The family worship in the Congregational church.

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#### F. F. VERSAW.

F. F. Versaw, who, as a land-owner of Franklin county, has done his share toward the development of the agricultural resources of that region, and leading old settler of Nebraska, is a widely known and universally respected citizen. He is a man of wide experience and good business judgment, whose integrity and honesty have placed him among the prosperous men of his community. Mr. Versaw resides in Bloomington township, where he has a fine farm and home.

Mr. Versaw is a native of Berrien county, Michigan, and his father was also born in that county, the latter's father having been the first settler in that section. Our subject came to Johnson county, Nebraska, in 1881, with his parents, and his father, F. E. Versaw, now resides in Adams county, where he owns a good farm. He grew up in that section, and began for himself when twenty-one years of age, farming and stock raising, feeding cattle and hogs, and was very successful. In 1900 he came to Franklin county, but before that had bought some land in Macon township, and he now owns over eight hundred acres there. In

the past he has paid from thirteen up to fifty dollars per acre for his land, showing the rapid rise in values. In 1906 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of good land in Bloomington township, with a fine residence on the property, and here is engaged in mixed farming. He is about the only man in the county who has met with pronounced success in handling sheep. He engaged in that business for several years.

Mr. Versaw was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Cook, daughter of Ed. Cook, who came to Otoe county, Nebraska, as a pioneer about 1860, when he was a boy, with his parents, and spent all his life here, his death occurring in the village of Cook, Johnson county, 1905, aged fifty-seven years. His father, Andrew Cook, was one of the first settlers in Otoe county, and he afterwards moved to Johnson county with his family, taking up a homestead there. The Cooks came from Racine, Wisconsin, originally from England, landing in America about 1850. Ed. Cook freighted over the plains of Nebraska and Colorado in the early days. He married Mary, daughter of John Brooks, who settled in John-

son county about 1865, coming from near Erie, Pennsylvania. There were several Brooks brothers, all locating in that vicinity.

Honorable Andrew Cook was a territorial officer of Nebraska. (See History of Nebraska of 1882.) He was county commissioner, and one of the organizers of Johnson county, and a very influential man in his community. The town of Cook was laid out by his son, William Cook, taking its name from the father.

Mr. and Mrs. Versaw have a family of four children, named as follows: Paul Edward, Herbert Earl, Willie King and Mary Christine. Our subject's mother was Sarah King, daughter of Rev. Job King, a native of Vermont, who settled in New York state, and then in Ohio, later a pioneer of Berrien county, Michigan, and widely known as an effective preacher of Methodism in those primitive days. The father, F. E. Versaw, was a soldier in the Civil war for four and a half years, a member of the Third Michigan Cavalry, in the western army most of the time, seeing hard service in Arkansas and Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Versaw are fine representatives of the second generation of Nebraskans, and both take an active and intelligent interest in the growth of their state. They are appreciative of the pioneer founders of Nebraska in their early hardships and struggles, and believe firmly in a great future for the state.

Mr. Versaw has three brothers in Nebraska—Herbert, of Johnson county, and John and Charles, of Macon township.

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#### JOHN TAYLOR WATSON.

John Taylor Watson, familiarly known to his friends and intimates as "Pete Watson," one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Sioux county, has been a resident of that region since its early settlement by white men. He has aided materially in its development, has opened up fine farms throughout the western part of the state of Nebraska, and now resides on his highly cultivated estate in section 15, township 26, range 55. For many years he has taken an active part in every affair of public moment, has been one of the foremost citizens in every celebration in this region, acting as special marshal on numerous occasions when a representative settler and prominent official was needed, and well has he upheld the honor of his community. He is equally well known throughout Box Butte, Dawes and Sheridan counties, having been all over this part of the state, and no

occasion is complete unless "Pete Watson" is numbered among the participants.

Mr. Watson was born in Henry county, Iowa, in 1848, and was a Christmas present to his parents, first seeing the light of day on December 25th of that year. His father, Madison James Watson, lived on a farm in Cass county, Iowa, about two years, and was widely known through that part of the state as an influential citizen, a great hunter in the early days, meeting his death in 1856 in running wolves with hounds.

Our subject grew up in the vicinity of his birthplace, receiving a limited education, and at the age of eighteen started out for himself. In 1885 he came to Nebraska and filed on a homestead in Sheridan county, which was then barren prairie land, the nearest town being Hay Springs. His first building was a rude shanty, and he started to develop a farm, breaking up land for crops, working in every way to prove up on his land. Soon after locating here he took up a tree claim in Box Butte county, and proved up on that also, farming from two to three hundred acres, bending every effort to gain a good home and improve his property. In those days there was plenty of wild game roaming the state, and as he was a fearless hunter, he can relate some very interesting and exciting tales of hunting trips which he with others took through the country, and it was on one of these expeditions that he first saw Sioux county, coming through that locality in 1896 with a pack of fourteen dogs looking for wolves, which were to be found in plenty in the unsettled portions of the county. He made wolf hunting his business for several years, and on these journeys traveled all through western Nebraska south of the Platte river, at many times having thrilling encounters with the savage beasts. His tactics in killing a big wolf was by putting a club in the animal's mouth and in that manner had the advantage of the wolf. He killed many a gray wolf in the above manner, his dogs catching and holding the beast until he came up to them, when he would let the wolf grab the club and he would dispatch him as quickly as possible. During late years Mr. Watson has done little hunting, as wild game is practically driven out of the country by the settlers, and he has given his whole attention to his ranching and farm duties. He controls in all over five sections of land, part of which is owned by his nephews, and other of his relatives.

In 1870 our subject was married to Josephine Johnson. Mrs. Watson died in July, 1899; and he was married the second time to

Mrs. Matilda Albright, November, 1901, and in December, 1907, she, too, passed away.

In personal appearance Mr. Watson is a splendid specimen of manhood, standing six feet two and a half inches, and weighing over two hundred pounds. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality, whole-souled and jovial in disposition, and one whom it is a pleasure to know. He always rides good horses and no one rides ahead of him. In 1890 and 1891 Mr. Watson was at the head of the Indian campaign at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

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#### HON. P. C. FUNK.

Probably no citizen in Phelps county is better known for his active public spirit and sound business judgment than the subject of this review, proprietor of four hundred acres in section 9, Divide township, devoted to farming and stock raising, and fitted with every improvement necessary for the operation of a model farm. He also owns three hundred and twenty acres of farm land in Anderson township.

Mr. Funk located on the same lands in 1879, and as a farmer and stock raiser has been progressive and successful. He deals extensively in hogs, having about one hundred Poland Chinas on hand all the time. He is the man who introduced Polled Angus cattle in this locality in 1887, and has one hundred of these pure-bred animals, which he sells on the market.

In 1864 Mr. Funk enlisted in the Third Ohio Cavalry, near Toledo, Ohio, and served until the close of the war in the Army of the Tennessee, under Thomas and Sherman in all the Atlanta battles and campaigns, then back toward Nashville, by reason of being remounted at Louisville.

Mr. Funk has been active in getting improvements of all kinds in his community. He was the first in this county to take up the establishment of farmers' telephone lines, and built the line from Funk to Heydon. Also was instrumental in getting free rural delivery routes established. In 1887 he took up the matter of getting a railway station in Divide township, visiting the Burlington officials and pressing the matter upon their attention with such good results that they established the station seven miles east of Holdrege, naming it Funk, after our subject. The population of Funk is three hundred, and more business is done at this station than at any station of its size on this line of railway. They have three elevators here with a capacity of fifty-

five to sixty thousand bushels, and the freight laid down at Funk last year amounted to over sixty thousand dollars.

Mr. Funk farmed in Iowa prior to coming to Nebraska, but says this state is far ahead of Iowa, and has great faith in its possibilities as a farming and stock raising country. In 1906 he built a fine modern residence in Funk and located there, his farm being operated by his daughter and her husband. His only son, Harry, is proprietor of a drug store in Funk.

In political sentiment Mr. Funk was a strong Republican up to 1890, when he joined the Populist party, and has been very active in working for its principles in this locality and throughout the state in the county central committee and at all state conventions. He is now (1906) candidate for his party for representative in the state legislature, and was elected and served one term, and is now a candidate for re-election. He was a member of the county board in 1884-85-86, and 1903 and 1904, and in 1892 and 1893 served his county as treasurer.

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#### WILLIAM A. RANDALL.

William A. Randall, one of the pioneer settlers of Box Butte county, and classed as one of its substantial farmers and worthy citizens, is the owner of a fine ranch consisting of twelve hundred and eighty acres, in township 26, range 52. He is one of the leading old-timers of western Nebraska, has always taken an active part in the upbuilding of his locality, and deserves special mention for his loyalty to his adopted state.

Mr. Randall was born in Iresburg, Vermont, in 1863. His father, Clark Randall, was a jeweler, druggist, marine engineer, a man of much ability and could turn his hand to many things. He also was a native of Vermont, and married Fidelia V. Hanks, of the same state. They lived in Baltimore during the Civil war, then moved to Alexander, Virginia, and spent a number of years there, then located on a farm four miles south of Mt. Vernon, Maryland. When our subject was sixteen years of age the family came to Peoria, Polk county, Iowa, and lived on a farm for several years, and on that farm his father died in 1883.

William A. Randall came to Ainsworth, Brown county, Nebraska, and settled on a farm about one mile north of Ainsworth, remaining there for about a year, then he left the farm and went to Nonpareil, Box Butte county, Ne-

braska, in 1885, where he opened a drug store and studied constantly, so that in a short time he became a registered pharmacist. When the town of Alliance was first started Mr. Randall opened a branch store there, and was the first man to engage in that business in Alliance. During the first few years he was very successful, but as the hard times came his business paid very small returns on the investment, so that he was compelled to sell out, and soon after went into the Black Hills. There he worked as a stationary engineer for a mining company for ten years. This was at Lead City, South Dakota, and he remained there up to 1901, then came back to Box Butte county and settled on his present ranch property. He first bought a small tract of land and went to farming, and has steadily added to his farm, so that he now owns two sections and devotes the greater part of it to ranching, cultivating two hundred and forty acres. He handles a large number of cattle and horses. His place is well improved, all fenced and in good shape, and he has made money since his start here.

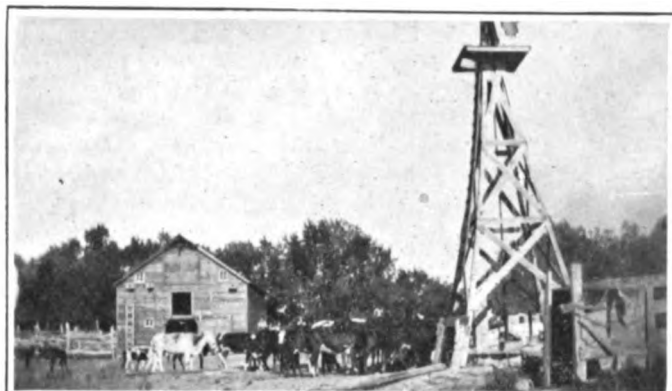
Mr. Randall was married in 1889 to Mazetta Bass, daughter of Moses Bass, who is one of the oldest settlers in this region. He died here in 1892. His wife was Elvira Mobilie, a native of Mobilie, Missouri, of good old southern blood, and Mrs. Randall's father came to this part of the country in 1886, taking up a homestead in section 2, township 26, range 52, where he built up a good home and was one of the leading men of the locality during his entire life. Mr. and Mrs. Randall have had two children: Edna Pearl and Myrtle, the latter deceased. Politically our subject is a Republican.

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#### AUGUST MEIER.

August Meier, one of the influential ranchmen and leading citizens of Sioux county, has followed ranching in that region for the past twenty years and more, and is proprietor of a finely improved property. He is a gentleman of intelligence and active public spirit, and since locating in western Nebraska has done his full share as a pioneer in helping to build up the community where he chose his home.

Mr. Meier was born in Germany in 1864. His father, John Meier, was a farmer in the old country, and August was raised on the home farm, and at the age of eighteen years the whole family came to America, landing in New York city in 1882. The father died



**RESIDENCE AND FARM BUILDINGS OF AUGUST MEIER,  
Sioux County, Nebraska.**





in Nebraska in May, 1907. They settled at first at West Point, Nebraska, remaining for four years, following farming, and then came to Sioux county, arriving here in 1886. Our subject took up a homestead for himself during the same year situated on Hat creek, built a log house, and started to break up his land, using ox teams for all his work. For three years he "batched it," and saw hard times, often having all he could do to make a living and trying to lay by money enough to make improvements on his farm. However, he lived on that place up to 1891, then came to his present location, which he purchased outright. This ranch is situated on Indian creek, seven miles west of Ardmore, South Dakota. He has added to this, now owning about twelve hundred acres, all of good range land, and runs a large bunch of cattle, farming a small portion of the land and raises small grains. When he first came here he lived in a dugout and log house, but he has erected a good house, barns and other buildings, and has the ranch well fenced. The place is well supplied with good water, and there is quite a large amount of natural timber on the ranch.

A picture of Mr. Meier's residence and farm buildings will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Meier married Miss Minnie Peterson in 1895. Mrs. Meier was born in Nebraska, and is a daughter of John Peterson, a well known butcher and farmer, who is one of the pioneers of Sioux county. To Mr. and Mrs. Meier the following children have been born: Louisa, Clara, Bertha, John (deceased), August and Mary.

Our subject has been one of the foremost citizens of his locality, and has done much to aid the general prosperity of the region. He is one of those who helped build the Burlington & Missouri Railway through the section, and has taken an active part in every movement for the good of the community. He is a Democrat in political views.

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#### JAMES A. FERGUSON.

Among the older settlers of Harrison, Rock county, and especially among the number of those who have contributed to the wealth and prosperity of this section of the state of Nebraska by sterling worth and long and faithful service as a citizen and a man, must surely be reckoned the gentleman whose name introduces this biographical review. Coming as he does of sturdy Scotch ancestry, he has shown the possession of some of the most de-

sirable virtues of the blood, and none of his forebears have reason to blush for his long and useful life, or the spirit with which he has met the responsibilities and duties of his career upon the frontier.

Mr. Ferguson was born on a farm in the town of Addison, Oakland county, Michigan, April 22, 1842, where his father, Boyce Ferguson, had followed the tillage of his soil for many years. His grandfather was a native of Scotland. The mother of James A. Ferguson, Delilah Craiger, was born in Pennsylvania, and came of German extraction. She became the mother of fourteen children, lived a long and quiet life, passing away in Shiawassee county, Michigan, in October, 1895, at the age of eighty-four years. Boyce Ferguson was the father of two older children by an earlier marriage.

The subject of this sketch, the seventh born to his mother, was reared and educated in his Michigan home, and on the breaking out of the Civil war was quick to respond to the nation's call for help, enlisting at Altamont, Lapeer county, November 15, 1861, in Company F, Tenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and proved himself to be a brave and valiant soldier in the noble cause for which the wearers of the blue fought so long. During his almost four years of active service at the front he saw much hard and dangerous duty. He participated in the great battles around Pittsburg Landing, Corinth and Nashville, as well as in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and the campaign around Atlanta. He was severely wounded at Rocky Face Ridge, where he received injuries from which he has never entirely recovered. Anxious to bear his part, he could not abide the hospital, from which he ran away as early as he could get about, and was on the firing line long before he was well. After receiving his mustering out papers at Louisville, Mr. Ferguson returned to his Michigan home, where he was finally discharged in 1865. Here he worked for two years, and in 1867 bought a farm in Oakland county. There for some years he made his home and was known as quite a successful farmer.

Mr. Ferguson was married for the first time in the spring of 1864, when Miss Sarah Taylor became his bride. She died in 1872, leaving a family of three children—Maggie, Mabel and Myron, who died in infancy. Mr. Ferguson contracted a second marriage January 1, 1873, with Miss Christina McLain, and to this union have come eight children: Clyde and Cora, who are twins; Frank, Flora, Boyce, Fred, Jesse and Dale.

The year of his second marriage Mr. Fer-

guson sold out his Oakland county property and removed to Macomb county and made his home on a rented farm near Romeo for twelve years. He found, however, that he was not making headway in the old community, and after much thought determined to seek his fortunes in the newer west, selecting Rock county, Nebraska, as the theater for the struggle for a home and competence. In 1885 he made homestead entry on section 26, township 30, range 20, where with a team and wagon, two cows, a modest supply of household goods and some thirty dollars in money he began what has proved a very successful career on the frontier. For two years after his coming he rented land, while he was building on his homestead and making ready for the family. During these years it seemed as if many kinds of calamity waited on him, but could not crush him. In 1885 he lost his best horse, which was not the only hard luck that came to him. For three successive seasons he watched the burning sun and the cloudless skies for weeks and weeks, as his crops withered and died in the dry and burning heat. He was not discouraged, and after several seasons of dry weather bought a half section of land where he is found at the present time. Here he has put up the needed buildings, and at once put sixty acres under the plow. He also has under his care four hundred acres of school land, two hundred of which are under active tillage. He is largely engaged in stock raising, and is making the dairy one of his most important

interests. Politically he is known as a Bryan Democrat, and from the earlier days has taken much interest in party affairs. The family are members of the Methodist church, while Mr. Ferguson holds fellowship with the American Order of Protection and the Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### MONS JOHNSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is owner of one of the valuable estates in Cheyenne county, and with his family occupies a handsome residence in Colton precinct. He is one of the leading citizens of his community, and since coming to the region his services, which have been invaluable in assisting in the development of its resources, have become universally appreciated by his fellow-men.

Mons Johnson was born December 24, 1858, in the town of Skrurup, Sweden, and there grew to manhood, following farming as an

occupation until he reached his twenty-second year, when he left his native land and came to America. On April 29, 1881, he embarked at Malma for Hull, and after crossing England sailed from Liverpool. A voyage of eleven days, during which they weathered two severe storms, landed the traveler in New York city. He came directly west to LaSalle county, Illinois, and spent three years at work near the city of LaSalle, then moved to Seward county, Nebraska, and remained in that vicinity for an equal period. His next location was in Cheyenne county. Coming here in the spring of 1886, he immediately filed on a homestead on section 2, township 14, range 48, then returned to Seward county, sojourning but a short time. In the fall he became a permanent resident of Cheyenne county and built a dwelling on his claim and has since spent his entire career in the section, going through all the pioneer's experiences in developing a good farm and ranch. He has succeeded admirably in his undertakings, now owning about eleven hundred and twenty acres, all of which is well improved with good buildings, windmills and fences. He has about two hundred acres under cultivation, and runs one hundred head of cattle and a small bunch of horses.

Mr. Johnson takes an active and leading part in local and county affairs of importance, and is one of the prosperous and successful men of his community. He has helped build and establish the schools in his neighborhood, having acted as director of district No. 39 for a number of years, and at present is serving as treasurer. Politically he is a Democrat.

Mr. Johnson was married in Cheyenne county, September 29, 1887, to Emma Wilson, who was born and reared in Woodford county, Illinois, but came to Cheyenne county with her parents in 1886. Her mother is a resident of Sidney. Mr. Johnson's parents, who are both dead, were the parents of five children, of whom he was the eldest. The marriage of our subject and his wife was the first to take place on the North Divide.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, namely: Marna E., Clyde A., Essie Florence, Lee W., Leslie M. and Earl N., all living at home. Though reared in the Lutheran church, Mr. Johnson is now a member of the Church of Christ.

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#### W. H. McDONALD.

Mr. W. H. McDonald occupies a foremost place as one of the oldest settlers in Nebraska, having landed here in 1883, and he has

the distinction of being one of the few men who have been in this region for so long a time. When he first came here he was almost the only white man in his locality, and Indians were thick all around his place, the forests were overrun with all kinds of wild game, and he relates many interesting anecdotes of those times, when the pioneers lived in dugouts and were obliged to use every sort of a makeshift in order to get along and establish a home.

Mr. McDonald was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1861. His mother was a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and his father of Dublin, Ireland. They emigrated to the new world when young people, settling in the state of New York for a time, and then came to Illinois.

Our subject was reared on a farm, attending the country schools during his boyhood years when he was not engaged in assisting in the farm work. When he was thirteen years of age he spent some years in the mining town of Lovejoy, Illinois. He was just twenty-two years old when he first struck Nebraska, accompanied by his father, who filed on a government claim of one hundred and sixty acres in section 15, township 24, range 14. Three years later the son also took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, located in section 15, township 24, range 14, and the McDonald ranch now contains nine hundred acres and is considered one of the finest ranches in Garfield county. This is owned at the present time by our subject and a brother. They raise a great deal of stock, dealing principally in high-grade Shorthorn cattle, and raise plenty of corn, oats and other grain for feed on the place. Besides cattle they raise quite a number of horses and some hogs each year, making a nice income from their stock raising operations.

Neither our subject or his brother are married, a sister living with them as their housekeeper, and the three have a pleasant and comfortable home, happy and peaceful. They are all members of the Roman Catholic church, and highly esteemed in their community as industrious and worthy citizens. W. H. McDonald has served his township as road overseer for five terms.

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### RICHARD OSBURN.

In that large and promising section of Nebraska known as Cherry county, Richard Osburn, whose name introduces this article, has run a noteworthy career, and while still in

the prime of life, and at the maturity of his manly powers, has attained an enviable standing among those strong and leading men who are making the wilderness a blooming garden. His handsome and well appointed farm property is located in section 22, township 34, range 25, and there he has shown what may be developed by a high degree of the peculiar characteristics of honesty, integrity and industry that so strongly mark the typical American farmer, especially so when he is breathing the strong, free winds of the great west.

Mr. Osburn was born on a farm in Decatur county, Iowa, January 11, 1854, but grew to manhood in Monroe county, in the same state, where he received such educational advantages as the times afforded. His father, Jonathan Osborn, came of an old American family, and while he was by trade a carpenter, devoted his life mostly to farming, in which he was notably successful. His wife, Julia A. Stocker, the mother of Richard Osburn, was of German blood, her parents having come into this country from Germany in the early years of the past century. Jonathan Osburn and wife were the parents of a family of six children, of whom the one whose career forms the subject of this sketch was the first born.

Mr. Osburn began life for himself when about twenty years of age, and for a few months was engaged in farm work in Kansas, but soon removed to Nodaway county, Missouri, where he bought a forty-acre farm, on which he made his home for some ten years. He was married to Miss Nancy Halsey, March 31, 1884. Her people were of New England descent, though her father, Zebidee Halsey, was born and reared in Virginia. Her mother, Cecilia Chatham, was a lady that well fulfilled the best ideals of American womanhood. To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Osburn have come nine children, all of whom were born on the farm where we find them today, and all of whom are now living: Della May, Joseph Mills, John Wesley, Frank Edgar, Albert Marion, Richard Evart, Floyd Emmet, Earl and Sylvia Anne.

In the spring of 1884 Mr. and Mrs. Osburn came to Nebraska and pitched their tent, where their home is found at the present time in Cherry county. They are still living in the log house which was erected to shelter them at their first coming, though it has been greatly improved and enlarged, so that it bears little resemblance to what was the first structure on the place. The land itself has been greatly improved by thorough and systematic cultivation. Mr. Osburn found life an uphill

road during the first years of his residence in Cherry county. He was glad at times to get anything to do in which he could find scanty support for his family. During the long drouth between 1893 and 1896 he raised no crops whatever, fully realizing what it means to have a famine in the land. The next year was more prosperous and he began to forge ahead, so that now he is very comfortably situated, with no fear for the future. He is the owner of four hundred acres of good farm land, and has at least one hundred and fifty acres under active cultivation. Mr. Osburn devotes much attention to cattle, hogs and horses, and is keeping about fifty head each of cattle and hogs, with half as many horses. The very satisfactory results of his experience in stock encourage him to still further efforts in this line. During the unrest when an Indian uprising was threatened in 1891 Mr. Osburn moved his family twelve miles nearer the fort for safety, but shortly returned to the farm, fearing no danger since.

Mr. Osburn is a Democrat in his general political affiliations, and takes a commendable interest in local and school affairs. For some fifteen years he has been a member of the school board, and may be counted on for a quick response to every appeal for a better community, and the advance of educational and moral institutions. He is a member of the American Order of Protection at Valentine.

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#### GEORGE S. PETERS.

For many years past the gentleman herein named has been known to the citizens of Sheridan county as a public-spirited man and a worthy citizen. He lives on section 15, township 29, range 45, where he has a fine farm and home. A picture of the stock farm is presented on another page.

Mr. Peters was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, in 1872, and raised on a farm there. His father, Peter Peters, was born and raised in Holland, and came to this country when a young man, and in 1861 married Mary Vanderloop, a native of Holland, who came to America with her parents at the age of ten years. They had a family of eleven children, and our subject is the seventh member. At the age of twenty-one years he started in for himself, teaching school and working at the printer's trade, having learned the latter when a schoolboy. He came to Sheridan county in 1893, locating on his present place, which he bought. There were no improvements on

it whatever, and he at once built a good house and began farming on a limited scale, as he had little capital to start with. He just started at the beginning of the dry years and had a hard time to raise enough to get ahead any, although they were not subjected to any very serious hardships, always having plenty to eat, which they raised on their farm. He had gone in debt for his land and was obliged to pay interest, which kept him back considerably, as he had borrowed fourteen hundred dollars. When his crops failed him he taught school to help make a living, and kept putting all the money he could spare into cattle.

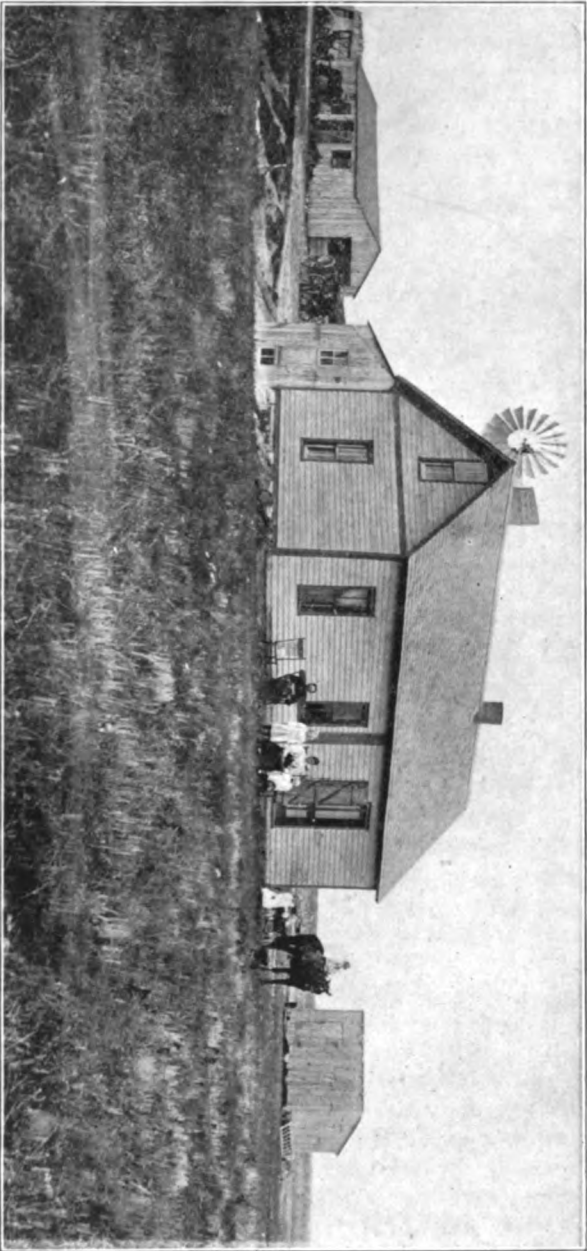
In 1899 he went to Wisconsin and engaged in the mercantile business, but had just got started when fire destroyed everything he had, so he returned to Nebraska with what little he had left, having spent just eleven months in Wisconsin. He has since then been on his farm constantly, engaged in the cattle business and farming, and now has four hundred and eighty acres of good farming land and runs sixty head of cattle and twelve horses. For the first six years he was on his farm he had to buy all the seed he planted, and considers he has done well since locating here. He is nicely situated now, having the postoffice on his place and telephone connections in his home, and intends to remain here for the future.

In 1894 our subject was married to Miss Annie M. Van Doren, born in Brown county, Wisconsin, in 1874. She is a daughter of Stephen Van Doren, a native of Holland, who came to this country and settled in Wisconsin in the early days, then was a pioneer in Platte county, Nebraska, where he remained for twelve years. He came to Sheridan county in 1887 and has been here for nineteen years. To Mr. and Mrs. Peters have been born the following children: Stephen, Mary, Nellie, Delia, Arthur, Ella, Charles and Richard, the baby, all born and reared in this county. Mr. Peters votes independent of party, always going in for the best man. He has held local office at different times, and at present is serving as justice of the peace and notary public. He was nominated by the dominant party of the county for county judge in 1897, being only twenty-five years of age at that time, and the youngest man ever nominated in Sheridan county for any office.

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#### J. A. CARLILE.

J. A. Carlile, whose fine farm consists of one hundred and sixty acres in Albany township, Harlan county, has been a resident of



"RIVER VIEW STOCK FARM" GEO. S. PETERS, PROPRIETOR.  
Sheridan County, 1902.



this locality for many years past. He was born in 1840 in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and was raised in Morgan county, Illinois. His father, E. H. Carlile, and his mother, Anna M. (Cooper) Carlile, were both natives of Chester county, Pennsylvania. His grandfather on his father's side married Phoebe Curtis Hoops, of Pennsylvania, who distinctly remembers the wintering of Washington's army at Valley Forge.

Mr. Carlile came to Reuben township, Harlan county, Nebraska, in 1881, and lived there up to 1906, then settled on his present place. He took up a homestead near Mascot, in Spring Grove township. He remembers many interesting events of the early days, and saw the famous Kit Carson and heard the Lincoln and Douglas debates. In 1861 he enlisted in the First Missouri Volunteer Cavalry and served in the western department under General Curtis. He was at the battle of Red Ridge and Sugar Creek, through Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Tennessee, and served for four years and two months in all, being mustered out in the spring of 1865. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Orleans post.

Mr. Carlile is engaged in farming, assisted by his son Edwin, who is of invaluable help to his father in his declining years. Our subject was married January 25, 1882, to Miss Mary Ann Cooper. Mrs. Carlile is a daughter of Enos R. Cooper, and she came from Athens county, Ohio, in 1878, and took a homestead in Phelps county, near Atlanta. Her mother was Mary A. Miller, and both parents were pioneers in Ohio. Mrs. Carlile is a lady of excellent business ability, and to her foresight and good judgment her husband attributes their present prosperity. She was educated at Albany, Ohio, and was a teacher there for nineteen terms, and after coming to Nebraska taught for four terms, coming here alone, and at once secured a title to a homestead and pre-emption containing in all three hundred and twenty acres. She was never discouraged by the failures of crops, which worked such a hardship to so many, but kept on developing her place, and also dealt in considerable land, handling altogether twelve hundred and forty acres in five different pieces, and has made handsome profits from her investments. During the years that Mr. and Mrs. Carlile have been married they have lived in five different sod houses and two frame houses, their present home being a comfortable two-story twenty-eight by thirty-two building, fitted up with all the modern improvements, and a very handsome dwelling.

There is hot and cold water connections, fine bath room, furnace and every convenience for comfort and utility. The exterior is adorned by a portico which surrounds three sides of the house, one side completely screened in to secure greater comfort for the occupants. From their home can be seen miles of beautiful rolling country, and they enjoy the refreshing breeze from these valleys, which makes it one of the most desirable locations in that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Carlile are very grateful for the events which brought them together in fertile Nebraska, and for the prosperity which has attended them. They have the blessing of thoughtful children, and the son and daughter of the house relieve their parents of many burdens, the former carrying on the farm and the latter taking much of the household work from the shoulders of her mother. The blessings of an honest, industrious and consistent life are untold, and those who have spent many years in toiling earnestly for a competence for their old age are indeed fortunate in being able to find so much peace and enjoyment as the subject of this sketch and his good wife. During the years 1881 to 1886 Mr. Carlile kept Pleasant Ridge postoffice at his house, and it was there also that the elections were held for the first ten years.

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#### MORRIS H. REED.

Morris H. Reed, a prominent farmer and old settler of Dawes county, resides on his fine farm in section 21, township 30, range 50. He is the owner of eight hundred and eighty acres of land, which he has accumulated by dint of his honest industry and persistent labor, supplemented by good management and strict integrity. Mr. Reed is a man of successful endeavor, and is one of the substantial citizens and favorably known residents of his locality.

Mr. Reed was born in Portage county, Ohio, in 1860. His father, Harlow Reed, was a miller by trade, and later a farmer. He came of old Yankee stock, and was a native of Connecticut and married Fidelia Griffin, also of American blood. Our subject was raised in Ohio until he was four years old, when his parents moved to Ottawa county, Michigan, settling on a farm in the timbered section, and lived there for eight years. In October, 1872, they came to Nebraska and settled in Merrick county, where they went through pioneer experiences, starting a farm on the wild land, which they filed on as a homestead, and there



Morris grew to manhood, attending the country schools and assisting his parents in carrying on their farm. He lived there up to 1885, then came to Dawes county and took up a tract of land on section 21, township 30, range 50, as a pre-emption. When he landed here he had no money, driving by team from the eastern part of the state. His first dwelling place was a sod shanty while living in the eastern part of the state, and on coming farther west he put up a log cabin on his claim and lived in that for some years. Here he witnessed the drouths, losing crops for several years, also was visited by the grasshopper raids in Merrick county, and it was hard for him to get a start. However, he kept at work and finally things grew better and he was able to get together considerable stock and build up his farm in good shape. He has erected a good set of farm buildings, three wells and windmills, and the ranch is all fenced and well supplied with natural timber.

Mr. Reed was united in marriage while living in Merrick county to Almyra J. Boyce. Mrs. Reed is a daughter of S. J. Boyce, a mechanic, of Vermont, he having come west in 1885, and her mother's maiden name was Mary Caswell, also of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have two children, namely: Ralph, aged twenty years, and Earl, aged eleven years; also one stepson, D. Miller.

The family enjoy a comfortable and happy home and are regarded as among the old-timers of the locality. Mr. Reed has always done his full share in local affairs, acting as school treasurer for five years, and is an active public-spirited citizen. He is a good neighbor and his influence is felt in all movements for the bettering of conditions in his community. Politically he is an Independent.

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#### ALONZO McMICHAEL.

Among the enterprising business men and prosperous citizens of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, the subject of this sketch occupies a prominent place. He has gained an enviable reputation through his honesty and integrity and is highly respected and esteemed by all.

Mr. McMichael is a native of Crawford county, Pennsylvania, born in 1838, and is a son of Elihu and Sarah Fitzgerald McMichael. He was raised in the locality of his birthplace, and at the breaking out of the Civil war enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry, serving in the Army of the Potomac at Chancellorsville and the Wil-

derness, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Beverly Ford and a number of smaller battles. He was one of the bravest soldiers in his company, and was commissioned sergeant, always being at the head of the line, and in the thickest of the fight and coming out of every skirmish without receiving a scratch. After the war had closed he returned to Pennsylvania and settled in Clarion county, remaining there for several years, and in 1878 he came to Nebraska and located in North Platte. He followed the trade of a builder and contractor, and has carried on this business from the time of settling here up to the present. He has built a number of the large buildings here, and many of the finest residences in North Platte and on the ranches in this portion of Nebraska. He is conscientious and faithful in his work and has gained the confidence of all by his honest dealings and strict integrity. For many years he owned and operated a ranch in this section, but recently sold this, and devotes his entire time and attention to his profession.

In 1860 Mr. McMichael was married to Miss Mary Leckey, of Butler county, Pennsylvania, whose family were pioneer settlers in that locality. Children resulted from this union, as follows: James A., builder and contractor, also of North Platte, and a rising young business man; Benton, Clyde, both builders and contractors in this town; Howard, in the same business, located at Loveland, Colorado; John, of Hyannis, Nebraska; George, of Atlantic, Iowa, secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at that place, who devotes his whole attention to this noble work; Effie, wife of John Krountz, residing in North Platte; and Jennie, who lives at home with her father, the mother having died in July, 1905.

Mr. McMichael is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at North Platte, and holds the office of trustee, which he has filled for many years, and he is an earnest worker in that institution. He is a Republican.

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#### HOLDING BROS.

The above firm consisting of Thomas and Robert Holding, are extensive ranchmen in Dawes county, Nebraska, where for many years past they have aided in the development of the agricultural and commercial resources of their section, and have incidentally built up a valuable ranch in section 25, township 32, range 51, and gained an enviable reputation as energetic workers and good business men.





W. H. PULLEN AND FAMILY.

Thomas Holding was born in Lancashire county, England, March 19, 1866, and Robert was born at the same place October 21, 1867, there being but eighteen months difference in their ages. The father, also Thomas Holding, was a stone mason by trade, and lived in England all his life, his death occurring in 1887. He married Dorothy Lawrence, of Lancashire county, and three of her brothers were early settlers in Illinois, coming to this country in the '50s. Our subjects were reared in their native land and came to America in 1884, settling in Illinois, Robert remaining for some years, while in 1888 Thomas returned to England, where he was married to Miss Mary Jane Wearing, whose father, Richard Wearing, was a large cotton mill manager, both Thomas and Robert having worked in the cotton mills before coming to this country. The former remained in England for three years after his marriage, then came back to America, locating in Dawes county, Nebraska, where Robert had settled in 1889. He had a very small start, and had borrowed money to put in his first crop, and "batched it" until his brother came to join him, and the brothers have worked together ever since then. They have built up a good ranch consisting of one thousand acres, situated along West Ash creek, and have good buildings, fences, and all improvements, and are engaged in the raising of hay and alfalfa, and cultivate about eighty acres, on which they raise small grains. They run quite a large number of cattle, hogs and horses, and are considered among the foremost farmers and ranchmen of Dawes county, highly esteemed by everyone with whom they have to do. They have a considerable part of their land under irrigation, and it is a valuable property.

From the time of coming to this locality they have done their full share in every movement for the advancement of their county's interest, and are among the leading old settlers of Dawes county.

Thomas Holding has one son, Tom L., Jr., aged fifteen years.

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#### WILLIS H. PULLEN.

One of the leading old settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, is the gentleman whose name heads this review. His labors in this section have aided materially the development of the region, and his name will occupy a prominent place in history as one of those intimately identified with its growth and progress.

Mr. Pullen was born in Michigan, May 11, 1858. His father, J. H. Pullen, was a farmer and old settler in Dawes county, born in Michigan, and he married Miss Aurilla Rowley, whose parents were pioneers in Michigan, where she was reared and educated. When our subject was two years old his parents came to Nebraska, settling near Omaha, the father securing employment as a mule driver for the United States government, the country all around here being then a perfect wilderness. They lived in the eastern part of the state for many years, Willis receiving his education there, also assisting his parents in carrying on the farm work, and when he was twenty-one years of age he married and started farming for himself in Burt county, remaining on the farm for a year, then moved into the town of Decatur, Burt county, Nebraska, where he worked as a mail carrier, traveling between that place and Onawa, Iowa, and followed this up to the fall of 1884. The following year he came to Dawes county, arriving here April 3d, driving through by team, camping out along the road during the trip. He located four miles north of Crawford, where he built a log house in which he lived for seven years, proving up on their homestead, and often working under difficulties, being obliged to do all the work of the farm with a team of mules. In the fall of 1885 he shipped in a car load of cattle, and this was his start in the stock business, at once engaging in dairying, cheese making and poultry raising. He had nothing to begin with, and depended entirely on his own unaided efforts, and from such a start has accumulated a nice property, and has a comfortable and pleasant home. About 1891 or 1892 he moved into the town of Crawford and for two or three years was in the dairy business there. He next moved to the Fort Robinson reservation and was in the same line of work for about thirteen years. He purchased his present farm, located in section 22, township 31, range 52, in 1899, consisting of four hundred and eighty acres, with eighty acres cultivated, and has twelve acres under irrigation. He also owns a ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres sixteen miles west on Head Soldier creek, Sioux county, with one of the finest never failing springs in the county, and there he runs a large herd of cattle. He keeps a hundred horses, and has his place in the finest shape possible, with good buildings and improvements. He has a fine orchard of apples, cherries and plums, also gooseberry and strawberry patches, which furnish the family with plenty of fruit.

Mr. Pullen was united in marriage while living in Burt county, to Miss Estella Heath, who was a school teacher in the county schools. Her father was Marvin H. Heath, of American stock, a farmer by occupation, and her mother's maiden name was Lucy Smith, of Vermont. To Mr. and Mrs. Pullen four children have been born, namely: Effie, Clarence and Leslie, born in Burt county, and Mildred, born in Crawford, Dawes county, Nebraska. Portraits of the family will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Pullen is interested in all local affairs of importance, and has been school treasurer for a term of years. He is a strong Republican. During the first years in this locality our subject worked as a freighter, and was the man who hauled the first load of hardware into Crawford.

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#### WILLIAM P. S. THOMPSON.

The gentleman here named, one of the old-timers in western Nebraska, who has spent many years in the work of building up a farm and home in the agricultural district surrounding the town of Johnstown, Brown county, is a prominent citizen and good neighbor, highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Thompson was born in Morgan county, Ohio, April 21, 1855. He is a son of Ellis Thompson, a farmer of Irish descent, and his mother was Miss Martha Roundsen, of German lineage; they raised a family of six children, our subject being the third member. The family moved to Wisconsin about 1858, where he was reared and educated, attending the country schools and assisting his father in the farm work until he was twenty years of age. At this time he left home and started out for himself, continuing in farm work for six years.

He moved to Brown county in November, 1883, having filed on his land the fall of 1882, and settled on the farm he now occupies, located in section 3, township 30, range 23; it consists of three hundred and twenty acres in the home place and one hundred and sixty acres in section 34. This place was utterly without improvements, and the family was obliged to live the first winter in a house belonging to Byron Chase, a brother of Mrs. Thompson. In the spring of 1884, he put up a frame house and began breaking up land for a crop: the first being only nine acres of wheat which gave a fairly good yield. He was just getting nicely started when the dry years came on, losing the whole of one crop and saving but little of two others. These were hard

times for him, and he became almost discouraged, often ready to give up his farm, but went bravely on, gradually getting better crops and building up his place; he has been richly rewarded for his perseverance and industry, for he is now proprietor of a farm of four hundred and eighty acres, one hundred and eighty acres of which is highly cultivated, raising splendid crops, and the balance is used for pasture and hay land. He has erected a complete set of substantial farm buildings, consisting of a neat, substantial house, fitted with every convenience and comfort of a rural home, also in 1906 built a large barn, size thirty-two by forty-two feet; there are a number of smaller buildings, sheds, etc., and all machinery necessary for the successful operation of a model farm. Not the least noteworthy features are a large orchard and many forest trees well distributed on the farm. October 14, 1876, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Nettie Chase, a native of Wisconsin. Her father, Murray Chase, was a carpenter by trade, and later a farmer, being one of the pioneer settlers in the Badger state. He came to Brown county in the early days, his death occurring here July 14, 1897. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, named as follows: Carrie A. (deceased), Stella L., Cora A., Emma G., and Luthera A. and William A. (deceased), the three eldest born in Wisconsin, and the younger ones in Brown county. Cora is the wife of John Castleman and the mother of two children, Mildred M. and William C.

Mr. Thompson came to this locality with but small capital, and has gathered together a comfortable competence through his untiring energy and good business judgment: he is now prepared to enjoy the fruits of his labors and take it easy for the balance of his years, surrounded by his family and many warm friends. He takes a personal interest in all local affairs and lends his influence for the bettering of conditions in his community. Mr. Thompson is Independent in politics, is a member of the Methodist church and affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America of Johnstown.

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#### ALBERT S. ROSS.

Albert S. Ross, residing on section 17 of township 16, range 42, Deuel county, was born in Lee county, Iowa, on the 30th of March, 1860, being the seventh in a family of eleven children, of whom another, Mrs. Brunt, is a resident of Deuel county.

In the early spring of 1884, the emigration

fever took possession of him, and he went westward, settling for a short time in Otoe county, Nebraska, and then in Buffalo county, of the same state. In the fall of the same year he moved to Perkins county, which at that time was called Keith county, where he took up a homestead and having proved up on same, went to Deuel county in the year 1890. He settled at Bigspring, going back and forth from there to the place of his present residence. In 1900 he moved into the vicinity of Lewellen for permanent residence, while the home ranch is located on section 17, township 16, range 42, and contains one hundred and twenty acres, of which one hundred acres are under cultivation.

Like every other early settler of western Nebraska, Mr. Ross was not spared from the trials, hardships and troubles of frontier life, but his zealousness and untiring efforts were crowned with success and to-day Mr. Ross can look back on these times of troubles and trials with the clear conscience that he has done the right thing by everybody.

Mr. Ross is married to Sara Clarke, a native of Pennsylvania, whose mother is still living in that state. The wedding ceremony took place in North Platte on February 15, 1903. They have three children, namely: Mary E., Ida and Richard, who are all at home.

Mr. Ross, a Republican, is well known and well liked and having the interest and welfare of his county and state at heart, he was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1904, and re-elected in 1907 for a term of three years, now serving on his second term.

Mr. Ross was a bachelor at the time he took up his claim and passed through the "ups and downs" incident to bachelor life on the frontier. He has been engaged in farming practically all the time since coming to Nebraska.

Mrs. Ross came to western Nebraska in 1887 and she too has experienced the vicissitudes of pioneer life on the frontier.

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#### FRED SCHIPPOREIT.

Fred Schipporeit, one of the leading and most influential stock raisers of Blaine county, was born in East Prussia, Germany, in 1865. His father, Christian, was born in Germany and served in the German army in the war with France in 1870 and 1871. The mother's maiden name was Henriette Schnidereit. Our subject's father was a boatman and farmer in his native land.

In 1876 the whole family came to America, landing in New York city, from whence they came west and lived in the city of Omaha for eight years, the father finding employment in the packing houses of that great city. In 1884 the family came to Blaine county, Nebraska, being the first family that settled in German valley. North Loup, eighty-five miles away, was their nearest railroad point, and our subject has made many trips over this distance for supplies, sleeping under the wagon in all kinds of weather in both winter and summer. For timber and poles they had to go to Snake creek, in Cherry county, and these trips required nine days. The first three months the family slept under the wagon tent and wagon box and then moved into a new sod house. They located on land north of Brewster, where our subject and his father were together for several years, and then the son came to his present beautiful farm. He now owns one thousand four hundred and forty acres and the father, who now lives with the son, has nearly a thousand acres.

Fred Schipporeit was married in the year 1889 to Miss Anna Wendt, daughter of Ferdinand and Emily (Schmeling) Wendt, old settlers of Blaine county. Mr. and Mrs. Schipporeit have eight children: Clara, Edward, Fred, Annie, Lottie, Rudolph, Otto and Walter.

Mr. Schipporeit had to experience his full share of hardships that usually fell to the lot of the pioneer of his section. He had to live in a sod house for years—he witnessed several years of drouth and crop failures and had other losses; but he always made a living and kept steadily adding to the improvements of his farm. He has a good house, thirty by thirty-two feet, two stories high, and very fine barn, wells, windmills, fences, and many other improvements that go to make up an up-to-date ranch. He is engaged largely in stock raising and is making a great success. He has always been public-spirited and has taken great interest in matters of local affairs, having held various offices in his community. He was assessor one term. Mr. Schipporeit is regarded as one of Blaine county's most successful citizens and is highly regarded by his friends and associates. Scheduling postoffice was established on our subject's farm in 1907, and kept in his house.

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#### SAMUEL J. HETH.

Samuel J. Heth, who may be found in fair weather or foul, busy in the work of his farm in section 13, township 33, range 29, is widely

known as one of the active and progressive young farmers of Cherry county, Nebraska, and is rapidly taking a fine position in the business and commercial circles of the day. Quick and positive in his conclusions, he is as prompt in action, and has acquired an enviable reputation as a prosperous and successful farmer and a thoroughly reliable and public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Heth was born on a farm in Benton county, Iowa, March 4, 1874, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. From the first he was familiar with hard work, and when his father, Horace L. Heth, came into Cherry county in 1884, and opened a homestead farm on the Niobrara river, he found his ten-year-old son a very considerable assistance in his pressing and multifarious activities.

Mr. Heth struck out for himself at the very early age of fourteen years, and from that time has carried the burden of his own support. As a lad he sought employment wherever he could obtain it, working in Wyoming in 1893 and in Kansas three years later, and he has worked, as he declares, all over Cherry county. In 1898 he secured a homestead entry on one hundred and sixty acres of choice government land, only nine miles from Valentine, on the Niobrara river, where in company with his brother, Ernest, he built a log house of good size, keeping "batch" for lack of a house-keeper. Their outfit was small, only three horses and a few farming tools; but their courage was large, and they have built up a very desirable property. In 1905 the brothers "proved up" on their homestead, and very promptly sold it, the subject of this sketch taking a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres in section 13, while Ernest located on the hay lands further south. Here he owns four hundred and eighty acres, on which he has a good concrete house and barn, and other farm buildings well suited to his needs, with a fine well and a windmill. All the land is fenced with forty acres under cultivation, which by his careful management is becoming very valuable property.

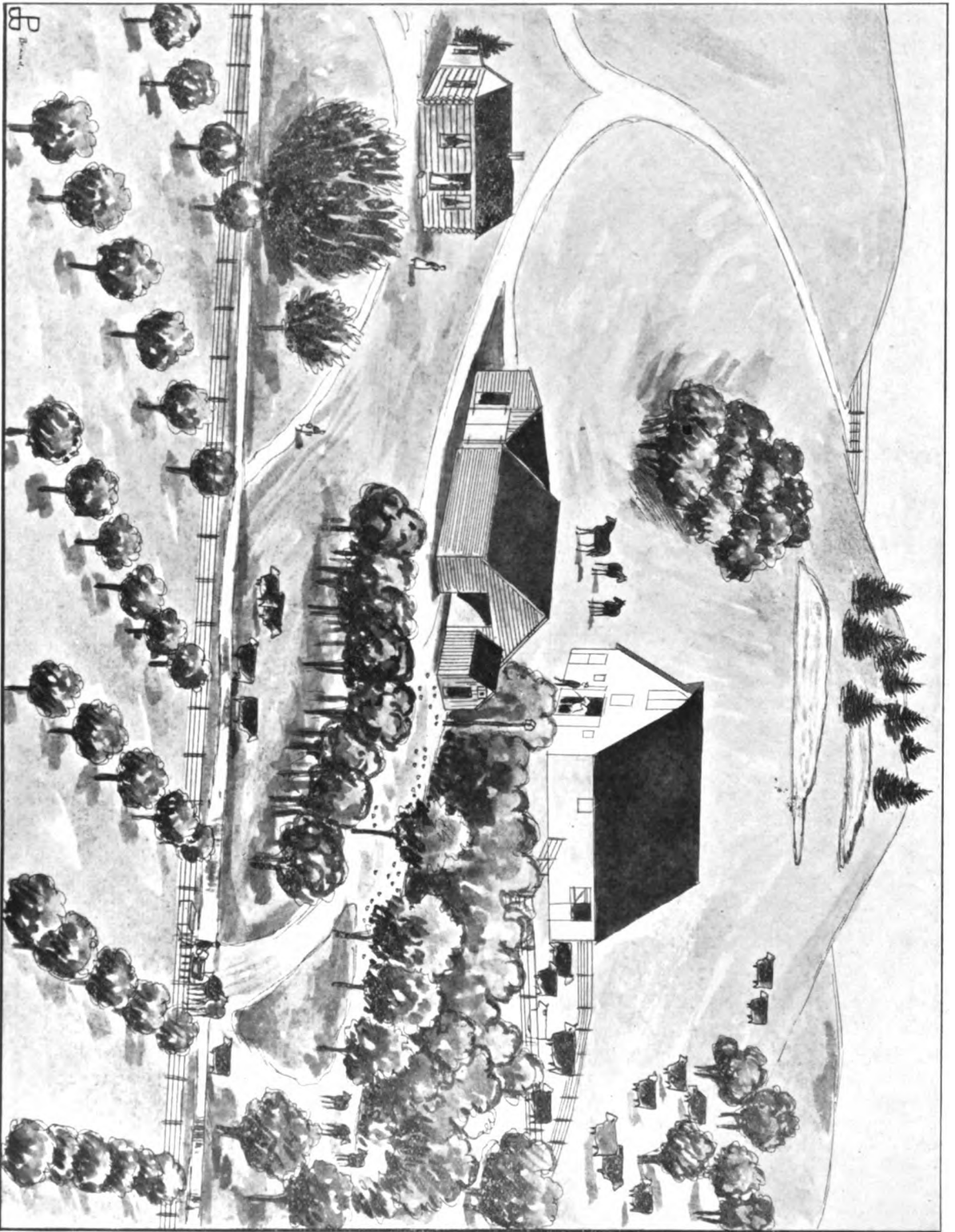
Mr. Heth was married June 7, 1902, to Miss Hannah Petersen, whose parents, Jens and Kirsten (Jensen) Petersen, were natives of Denmark. She was born in Worth, Iowa, coming with her parents to Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1893. Jens Petersen, her father, was one of the successful pioneers in the county. To the marriage of Samuel Heth and wife have come two children, Pearl and Merton. Mr. Heth was reared in the Methodist church, while Mrs. Heth is an adherent of the Lutheran faith.

Ernest Heth, who is mentioned above as associated with his brother in their various farming operations, was born in Tama county, Iowa, October 25, 1870, where when he was but ten months old he met with accidental injuries which made him a cripple for life. He is ambitious and capable, and is not disposed to favor himself on account of his crippled condition save where he is compelled to do so. He has many friends and is a worthy companion of his brother. He sold his interest in the homestead in October, 1907.

#### PETER BAHR.

Peter Bahr, a prominent farmer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is one of the men in this section of the country who carries on a diversified system of agriculture in a most successful manner, with a result that richly rewards his thrift and industry. Mr. Bahr was born in Pomerania, Germany, September 24, 1852. His father, mother and brothers are still living in Germany, he being the only one of his family to leave the fatherland and emigrate to the new world. He remained at home attending the common schools until he was fourteen years old, then began as a sailor and followed that work for seven years. During the time he was sailing he visited North and South America, China, Japan, Australia, and was all over the globe, and this was a liberal education in itself. He gave up the work at the age of twenty-one years, and struck out for the United States; he left Brazil with the intention of making a visit with an old schoolmate in Richardson county, Nebraska, they having kept up a correspondence during his years on the sea. After a visit with his old boyhood friend he decided to settle in Richardson county, in 1873, and in the spring of 1875 rented a farm, on which he remained until 1883, when he first came to Keya Paha county, locating on a farm at the mouth of Wyman creek, driving from Stuart. His first building was a log house, which he erected himself on a homestead, and he lived there up to about 1894, proving up on his claim, then moved to section 33, township 33, range 19, remaining on the latter place for two years. At the end of this time he purchased his present home in section 31, township 33, range 19, known as the Hamilton Sidner place, situated at the head of Wyman creek. He has added to this until at the present time he owns five hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, and has leased three hundred and twenty acres adjoining this piece. He has put up good build-





RESIDENCE OF PETER BAHR,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.



ings and many improvements, the farm being the largest within a radius of many miles. There is a good growth of natural timber on the place, and it is admirably adapted to stock and grain raising. When he started here his sole possessions were a team of horses and wagon; from this he has accumulated this valuable property through his energetic labor and good management, supplemented by thrift and industry. He has under cultivation two hundred and twenty acres, his farm being all fenced and cross-fenced. A view of the buildings from the bluff to the west is to be seen on another page.

In 1878 Mr. Bahr was married in Richardson county to Miss Ernestine Kussmann, a native of Germany, who came to America with her parents when a little girl. Fourteen children were the result of this union, named as follows: Albert, Edith, Lillie, Peter, Ernest (deceased), Anna, Willie, Emma, Nellie, Jennie, LeRoy, who died in infancy, Dora, Ory and Elta, all of whom excepting the first three having been born in Keya Paha county. The family is highly respected in the community, and all are filling honorable places, the younger members being still in school.

Mr. Bahr is one of the oldest settlers in the county, and was one of those who helped organize Keya Paha county in 1885, and voted at the first election ever held here. He has aided materially in its development and progress and his name will figure in the history of the locality as one of the leading residents of this section.

He is a Populist in politics, and always takes an active part in party affairs, attending the state and county conventions, and lending his influence for good government. He was elected county commissioner in 1907. He is a member of the Masonic order and the Royal Highlanders of Springview. The family are all members of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

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#### HENRY B. HOLMES.

Henry B. Holmes, editor and proprietor of the Franklin County Tribune, published at Bloomington, established this newspaper in 1906, and from the start has made a pronounced success of the enterprise. The paper is independent in politics, and handles all the current topics of the hour in a bright and newsy manner, highly interesting and instructive to its readers.

Mr. Holmes is a native of this county, born in 1880, and is a representative Nebraskan.

His father, also named Henry B., came to Franklin county in 1873, locating in Bloomington township, where he was engaged in farming up to 1884, when he died, aged forty years. He was a veteran of the Civil war, enlisting in 1863 in the First Vermont Cavalry, Company K, serving in the Army of the Potomac under General Custer, up to the close of the war. He was a native of Johnson, Vermont, and married Mary E. Hebb, of the same place, daughter of Ed. Hebb, now of Bloomington. Our subject also has a brother, Edwin J., who is a hardware merchant of Bloomington, and another, Leonard E., of Bloomington township, a farmer and stock raiser there.

Mr. Holmes is a man of superior education and attainments. He attended the State University literary course for three years, and prior to that the Bloomington high school, of which he is a graduate of the class of 1896.

In 1906 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Dunn. Mrs. Holmes is a daughter of William Dunn, a prominent merchant of Bloomington. Politically Mr. Holmes is a Democrat, always standing for the best man. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges, of which he is an active member.

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#### ALBERT HADLEY.

Albert Hadley, of Box Butte county, is numbered among the oldest settlers and leading old timers of western Nebraska, landing here September 20, 1886, with only sixty-five cents in his pocket after buying enough lumber to build his house with. From that small beginning he has accumulated a comfortable property and is now prepared to take life easy and enjoy the fruits of his labors, surrounded by a large circle of warm friends and good neighbors.

Mr. Hadley was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, December 4, 1836, on a farm. His father was of English descent, who married Mary Knowlton, a widow with seven children, who afterwards was the mother of seven more children, making fourteen children by the two marriages.

Our subject grew up in New England, following farm work through his boyhood years, and remained in that vicinity up to 1866, with the exception of several years, which were spent in the army. He enlisted in Company B, Sixteenth Massachusetts Infantry, April 19, 1861, being mustered into the service July 2, 1862. He saw service with the Army of the

Potomac for three years and twenty-seven days. He took part in the battle of Gettysburg, and on the second day of that action was severely wounded.

After the war Mr. Hadley returned to his native state and remained for a year, then went to New York state and spent a year in the lumber woods. After that he went to Ohio, locating at Akron, and spent a year there, and from there to Gibson county, Indiana, where he lived for fifteen years, working in different saw mills running stationary and portable steam engines. For some time while living in that vicinity he was employed as a traveling agent for the Walter A. Wood Harvester Company. In 1886 Mr. Hadley first saw Box Butte county, landing here on September 30th. Hay Springs was his nearest railroad point and he was obliged to make many trips there and back for supplies, a distance of seventy or eighty miles. Mr. Hadley says he has seen as many as two hundred antelope in a drove, when he first came here in 1886, and has shot many a one to have meat for himself and family to live on. He filed on his present homestead in section 22, township 26, range 47, in 1886, and proved up on the claim. He built up and improved the place, and is now owner of one hundred and sixty acres, with forty of this under cultivation. Since locating in this region he has gone through many hardships and discouragements, suffering failure of crops, etc., but never gave up hope, and is well repaid for his efforts in the nice property he has gotten together. Mr. Hadley states that he went to school after he was forty years old at a college in South Dakota; says he did not think himself quite smart enough, so concluded he would attend college for a while.

#### JOACHIM CHRISTIAN DAVID MARKWARDT.

J. C. David Markwardt, proprietor of a fine estate in Anderson township, is a prominent citizen of this locality, respected and esteemed by his fellowmen.

Mr. Markwardt came to America from Germany in 1855, where he was born near Mecklenburg, locating in Niagara county, New York, and through hard day labor in six years he had laid by three hundred and eighty dollars, and was swindled out of his hard earned money. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln. In 1862 he came west to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he worked out by the month and soon had enough money saved to buy forty acres of wooded land, and went to work clear-

ing this, working incessantly, often chopping down trees and grubbing by moonlight. In three years time he bought twenty acres more, and remained on this sixty for eighteen years, when his industry was rewarded, for he sold this property for four thousand dollars, and taking this money he came to Phelps county, Nebraska, in 1879. Through the Kearney bank failure he lost quite a sum, but he worked so hard and managed so well that he has accumulated a nice property comprising seven hundred and twenty acres of land to be divided among his three children.

Mr. Markwardt has been a great observer of men and events, and read a great deal so that he can in his old age clearly recall all public men who figured in the development and onward progress, politically and materially, of this county since he came to it in 1855, and can tell you what each man stood for. He, too, has his own opinions on all public questions, and to him the farmer is the foundation of all material welfare, and "as the horse that does the work should have the oats," so the farmer should have the most consideration in public affairs, and the laws should aid and prefer him along all lines. In his old age he says to all: "Keep on the level. If you should stumble you are not much hurt, and are up and on again. If you soar in ambition for riches and fame to the lofty heights, and stumble, you are lost. Be honest, sober and careful of debt." And this policy he has always followed. He also says that if he owes or ever cheated any man out of ten cents' worth he will give all he has on proof. He also can say that he was never the worse for liquor, and such men as he have in America added greatly to the reputation of the German people for thrift, honesty and contentment in their labors and lot.

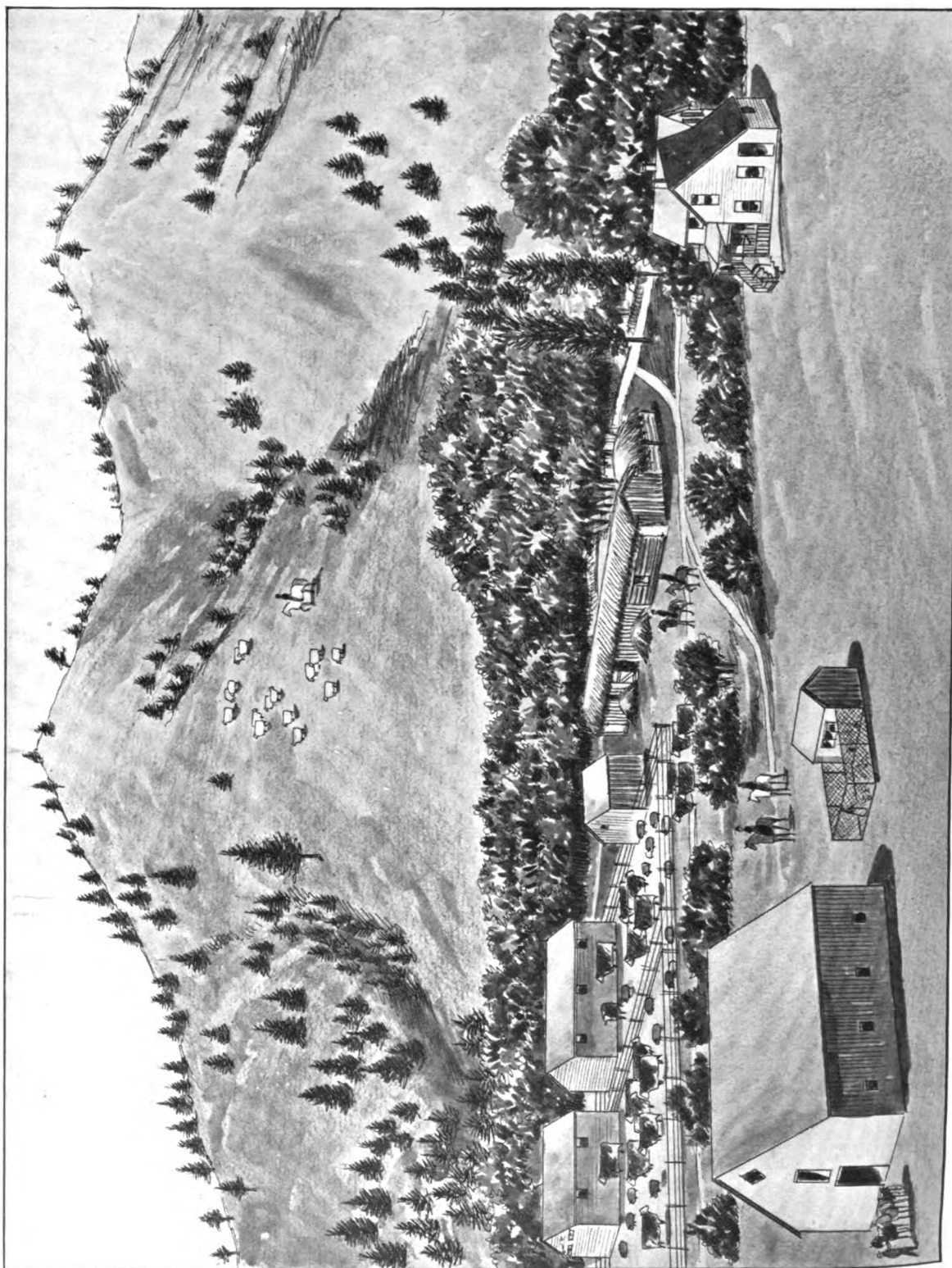
Mr. Markwardt was married while still in Germany, to Miss Maria Dorothy Weckart. They have three living children, as follows: I. D., Maria Dorothy, now Mrs. Swartwood, and Emma Elizabeth, now Mrs. Snyder, all of Anderson township. Since coming to Phelps county three children have died.

Mr. Markwardt and his family are members of the Lutheran church, and earnest workers in that faith. They are esteemed highly as a family, and enjoy the friendship of all who know them.

#### AUGUST L. RING.

August L. Ring, one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, was born in Skona, Sweden, in 1866. He was raised on





RESIDENCE OF S. B. F. DOWNING.  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.

his father's farm, and assisted in the work of carrying on their place during his boyhood, and at the age of seventeen left his native land and struck out for himself, coming to the United States. His father and mother lived and died in the old country.

Mr. Ring spent about a year and a half in New York state after landing in America, following farm work, then came to eastern Nebraska, and located in Burt county, where he followed farming for a short time. In the spring of 1886 he came to Sioux county, joining a camp on the White river, where he worked at cutting and hauling ties for railroad construction, and spent a few months. In June of that year he settled on a tract of land on Antelope creek, building a log cabin and started a farm, "batching it" and living all alone. He spent most of the time in working on the railroad, going into Wyoming, at Cheyenne and Douglass, and in this way managed to earn quite a little money, which he used to build up his homestead. Eventually he proved up on the claim and remained on it up to 1890, then moved to his present location on section 12, township 34, range 56. He first tried to farm, but soon found that conditions were unfavorable, as he lost several crops during the dry years and from various causes, so he determined that the stock business was the only one for his locality and got together a small herd of cattle and began raising calves, gradually increasing his herd. He had good success from the start, and constantly improved his place and added to his acreage, so that he is now owner of one thousand four hundred and forty acres, and leases six hundred and forty acres besides, all of which is fenced and supplied with a good set of substantial farm buildings. He farms about fifty acres, raising small grain. Since settling on this place Mr. Ring has built three dams in Antelope creek, and has a large patch of ground under irrigation. He has large fields of hay and alfalfa, cutting about one hundred tons of the latter each year, and fifty tons of wheat grass hay. Mr. Ring has had many losses since settling here, in 1892 suffering severe loss by fire, which consumed his crop of one hundred bushels of corn, machinery, sheds, thirty tons of hay and some hogs.

In 1887 Mr. Ring was united in marriage to Miss Alice Peterson, a native of his own land, who came to America with her parents and were early settlers in Sioux county. Seven children have been born to this union, namely: Lee E., Edna J., Minnie E., Lillie E., Amy M., Edith S. and Helen M.

Mr. Ring is a wide-awake citizen, of active

public spirit, and a leading old-timer of his locality. Besides his ranching operations, our subject is the owner of a threshing outfit, which he runs each season, and is well-known to all in the county, as he has worked for many of the farmers and is known to all as an energetic, honest and hardworking citizen.

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#### STEVEN B. F. DOWNING.

A leading old settler and one who has taken an active part in the development and growth of Keya Paha county from its beginning, is to be found in the person above named. Mr. Downing resides on section 29, township 33, range 23, McGuire precinct, where he has one of the valuable estates in this part of the country, and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Downing was born in Carroll county, Illinois, December 27, 1844. His father, Herman Downing, was a farmer and carpenter, who came from Massachusetts and settled in northern Illinois soon after the Black Hawk war, working in Chicago when there were only about three hundred inhabitants. The mother was Rachel Holbrook, from New York, and both the parents were of good American blood and they had a family of nine children, of whom our subject was the fifth. He was reared and educated in the state of his birth, Bureau county, Illinois, whither the family moved in 1855, and when a young man went to Topeka, where he spent a short time, then to Boone and Union counties, Iowa, clerking two years in the county treasurer's office and two years in a store, then followed farming up to 1884, having purchased a one hundred and twenty-acre farm. In the latter year he moved to Keya Paha county, locating on section 27, township 33, range 23, and still owns this place. Here he built a log house and went through the usual pioneer experiences, witnessing the dry seasons of 1893, 1894 and 1895, when he was unable to raise any crops. In 1885 a wind storm took the roof off his house, and did considerable damage besides. However, he stuck to the place through hard times and has built up a fine farm and home of six hundred and forty acres, nearly all fenced and with two hundred acres cultivated. He has six hundred fruit trees, all bearing, plenty of running water with a number of fine springs. He has good substantial farm buildings and all the necessary equipment for running his farm by advanced methods of agriculture, and is one of the progressive and up-to-date agri-



culturists in this vicinity. A view of his large dwelling, new barn and other buildings, with the magnificent landscape, is to be found elsewhere in the work.

Mr. Downing was married in Topeka in 1873 to Miss Esther M. Wright, daughter of Joseph J. and Sarah (Murdock) Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Downing have ten living children, namely: Angela, Emma, Esther, Heman, Lila, Joseph, Halsey, Sarah, Rachel, Belva and Arthur.

In the early days of settlement here bands of twenty-five to thirty Indians frequently passed through his place, crossing the river to hunt in the sand hills.

Our subject is a member of the school board and has always taken a deep interest in educational affairs. He is a Republican.

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### RASMUS JOHNSON.

Rasmus Johnson, a progressive and highly respected farmer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, has a well-kept and comfortable estate in section 6, township 34, range 22. He is one of the earliest settlers in this part of the state, and his property here has been gained only by the hardest work, strict economy and excellent management. The hardships which have fallen to Mr. Johnson would have heartily discouraged one of a less persistent nature, but have only tended to make him more determined and spurred him to stronger action. With undaunted courage he has faced misfortunes, sufferings and hardships incident to the life of a pioneer of the western states, but has remained to enjoy a fitting reward for his labors.

Mr. Johnson was born in the village of Emegarde, Denmark, March 3, 1851. His father, a farmer, never left his native land, and died there when our subject was four years old, leaving his widow with a family of eight children to rear, and from the time Rasmus was six years of age he supported himself besides aiding in keeping the rest of the family. When he was fifteen he went to Copenhagen and learned the trade of a brick mason, and for fifteen years worked at this in Denmark. In 1881 he came to America, sailing from Bremenhaven in the vessel Hokenstaufen, and after landing in New York city, immediately started for the west, locating in Warren county, Indiana. He served as a farm laborer two years and was engaged in the same pursuit later in Illinois.

In 1884 Mr. Johnson came to Nebraska, and settled on his present farm in section 6,

township 34, range 22, Keya Paha county. He first built a sod house, stable and chicken house. He did not have a cent of money to start with after getting his homestead, and worked at anything he could find to do while proving up on his place, remaining on it steadily from the first. He put in two tree claims for other men for which he received small pay, and for eighteen months "batched it", working at odd times in the improvement of his place. He was getting along fairly well until the dry years came, when he found it hard to make a living; after trying for four years to raise enough to keep himself and family from starving he decided to leave the place and locate elsewhere. Going to Colorado he tried irrigation, but did not like it in that country and returned after a year and a half, again attempting farming. He has prospered since that time, and now has five hundred and sixty acres of good land, of which he cultivates two hundred acres. He has erected a fine set of farm buildings, splendid grove and orchard, two wells and windmills, and altogether has one of the best equipped farms in the county. When he returned from Colorado he found the place dilapidated and found it difficult to get things into good condition again, but by hard work and perseverance managed to put it in first-class order and make a valuable property out of it. At the time when conditions were most distressing he offered to sell the whole place for a hundred dollars, and was unable to find a buyer.

Mr. Johnson was married in 1886 to Miss Anna Larson, a native of Denmark, near the former's birthplace; she came to America with her parents and family in 1884, settling in Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born the following children: Goetchel, Anna, Lawrence, Hans and Henry, all of them born and reared in Keya Paha county.

Mr. Johnson has always been one of the foremost men in advancing the interests of the region where he chose his home. He was one of the organizers of the first school here, and gave land on which the first school house was built. In politics he favors the Labor party.

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### NOAH MOSS.

Noah Moss, the popular and efficient postmaster of Clinton, is one of the well-known business men of that village and a substantial citizen of Sheridan county, where he has resided for many years.

Mr. Moss was born in Green county, In-

diana, in 1850. His father, Jonathan J. Moss, and his mother, Priscilla Doughtry Moss, were both born and raised in Indiana. When he reached the age of eighteen he struck out for himself, working on farms in the neighborhood in which he lived by the month, and followed this occupation until after his marriage in 1869. In 1885 he came west and located in Sheridan county, Nebraska, two miles northeast of Clinton. He built a sod house and lived in this until after proving up on his homestead, then moved nearer the school, but never left the locality. In 1899 he bought his present home of three hundred and twenty acres, well improved, and since then has added to it considerably. This is all good farming land and he has it well stocked and fitted with all kinds of machinery necessary for operating the farm. In addition to this he conducts a general merchandise store and runs the post-office in Clinton, also being a grain buyer for the firm of Nye, Snyder & Fowler Company. When he started in this locality he had little or no capital to begin on, besides having a large family to support, and for some years he worked at teaming, driving oxen. He has seen some hard times since coming here and gone through some tough experiences as a homesteader, but never has seen the time when he felt like giving up and leaving the country, but says he has been just as happy with a single dollar in his pocket as he is now amid peace and plenty. He has worked hard for the success he has attained and well merits the high standing accorded him as one of the leading men of his community.

Mr. Moss was married August 1, 1869, to Miss Sarah E. Moss, born in Indiana in 1851. Her father was a native of Indiana and came to Nebraska in 1884, where he died seven years later. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Moss, who are named as follows: Mary A., Priscilla, Laura E., Charles O., William L., John J., Effie I., Emmet O., Bessie, Blanche, Frank and Ina B., all of whom are now grown. They also have seventeen grandchildren.

Mr. Moss has met with pronounced success in his different lines of work and has built up a fine home and gained valuable possessions by dint of his own labors and good management, supplemented by strict integrity of word and deed. He has an extended acquaintance and is universally esteemed as a friend and citizen. Since 1888 he has voted the Populist ticket, and has always taken an active interest in politics, at different times holding local offices.

## ISAAC W. REES.

The gentleman above named is one of the earliest settlers of Perkins county, and a prosperous business man of the town of Elsie. He was a homesteader here and improved a large tract of land in Marvin precinct, coming to Elsie several years ago, and is now engaged in the buying and shipping of stock. He occupies a comfortable residence here and is one of the well-known and highly respected citizens of his community.

Mr. Rees was born in Delaware county, Indiana, in 1846, and was reared on a farm. Both his father and mother were natives of West Virginia, settling in Indiana during their youth, where they built up a good home. Our subject received his education at the district schools, remained at home until during the Civil war, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry and served six months. After returning from the war he bought a small farm in Indiana and lived on it up to 1882, then emigrated with many other newcomers to the state of Nebraska, settling at first in Saunders county, where he spent three years, coming to Perkins county in April, 1885. He made the journey from Saunders county with a team and covered wagon, following the course of the Platte river, and then across from Paxton. He immediately filed on a claim on section 35, township 9, range 35, built a sod shanty after living for a time in a tent during the summer, and began to break land for sod crops.

All his supplies had to be hauled from North Platte and Ogallala, and he made many trips to those points through all sorts of severe weather, often camping out along the way and experiencing every form of exposure. He had many hardships to contend with during the first few years, going through the drouth seasons when he was unable to raise a crop, and often suffered privations and discomfort, but overcame all obstacles and succeeded in improving his farm in good shape, remaining on it up to 1906, when he owned three hundred and twenty acres of good land, well improved and stocked up in fine shape. He then came to Elsie. He has bought stock all over the country and is familiar with every corner of the county and surrounding region, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a square-dealing business man and shrewd trader.

In 1869 Mr. Rees was married in Indiana to Miss Margaret Carmichael, born and reared in the same county with our subject. They have a nice family of eight children, all now

settled in good positions. They are named as follows: William, Roscoe, Minnie, Tasey, John, Harry, Frank and Maud, the last named a teacher in Lincoln, Nebraska. William was for several years an instructor in the Chilli-cothe Business College, and is now at Florence, Colorado, connected with one of the large oil companies at that point.

Mr. Rees is one of the best known old settlers in this part of Nebraska, and has always been found a worthy citizen, laboring at all times for the development and advancement of his locality. He held the office of county assessor for some years, and for twenty years was on the school board.

#### WILBER E. YOUNG.

For nearly a quarter of a century the gentleman whose name heads this review has been identified with the history of the development of western Nebraska, and his large property interests in Cherry county evidence his early labors during these many years.

He has succeeded in building up a good home and is one of the highly esteemed citizens of his township.

Mr. Young was born in Camden, Maine, in 1856. His father, John W. Young, was an American, a fisherman by occupation, born in Lincolnville, Maine, in 1818; was married to Lyddie Richards, of Lincolnville, and to this union were born eleven children: Clarenda E., Mary J., Lois A., Herbert L., Linley E., Wilber E., Roscoe J., Calvin H., Louis E., Alie and Freddie Young.

Wilber E. Young at the age of fifteen moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, and there began learning the carpenter trade. In 1875 he moved to Butler county, Nebraska, working at his trade. Here he was married to Alice A. Smith in 1888. She was the daughter of Chauncey and Melvina Smith, natives of New York and Ohio. They are the parents of five children: Arvilla (deceased), Alice A., Lucy E., Alva, Goodell B. and Guy A.

In 1879 they moved to Grenola, Kansas, and remained there two years, and during that time he built a town of seven hundred population. Then, on account of his health, they returned to Bellwood, Nebraska. They remained there until 1885, when they moved to Gordon, Sheridan county, Nebraska. There he took a homestead. He located here just before the railroad was built through this section, and when he landed on his homestead his entire capital was three horses and thirty cents in money. He remained there and proved

up, then moved to Cherry county, Nebraska, and lived on a pre-emption claim, where he was living at the time of the Wounded Knee battle. A good many of the neighbors fled to Gordon for safety, but they remained on their ranch and looked after their property and cattle. After the Kincaid homestead act was passed he took his additional right, and is still living on this place. He has improved his property with the best buildings in this part of the country.

Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of five children: Addie N., Irvie H., Bertha M., Myrtle B. and Dale R., all born in Nebraska.

#### WILLIAM H. PETERS.

William H. Peters, residing on section 7, township 29, range 45, Sheridan county, was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, in 1869, and was raised there on his father's farm. He is a son of Peter Peters, of Holland birth, who came to America in early pioneer days, locating in Wisconsin when a young man. The mother was also a native of Holland, coming to America when a child of ten. There was a family of eleven children, of whom our subject was the sixth member, and he started out for himself at the age of twenty-one. He had worked out quite a good deal before that time, but was obliged to give his wages to his father to help in the support of the family. He was employed for three years prior to his coming of age in a cheese box factory in the vicinity of his home, and afterward worked for the same length of time in the factory for himself.

In February, 1893, Mr. Peters came to Nebraska, locating in this county, where he bought his present home of one hundred and sixty acres, paying eleven hundred and seventy-five dollars cash for the land, and enough left with which to start his farm. The first year he put in a crop of one hundred and twenty-five acres and had a good yield, then for several years had poor luck, but during all the time he kept picking up cattle and gradually increasing his herd up to 1901, then traded his cattle for a large herd of sheep. His first venture in this line was with a bunch of sheep on shares, as he had very little money left by this time, and he was moderately successful from the first. He kept on farming a little each year, getting some crop, and always managed to raise enough feed for his stock and plenty of corn. He has eight hundred acres of land now, cultivating one hundred and fifty, but intends farming on a larger scale in the



SHEEP RANCH OF W. H. PETERS,  
Sheridan County, Nebraska.



future. Most of his time is devoted to the raising of sheep and horses, running eight hundred of the former and about fifteen horses. He is a great lover of good horses, and were it not for the money in sheep would prefer to handle horses altogether. During the year 1906, which was an unusually good one, he cleared fifteen hundred dollars on his bunch of eight hundred sheep, and will continue in that work as long as he is on his present place. He also deals in hogs, and last year sold three hundred dollars' worth of them. Mr. Peters has seen the ups and downs of pioneer life, and although he has never had to go through the hardships and privations which fell to the lot of his parents in the early days, he has done much better here than he could had he stayed in Wisconsin.

In 1893 Mr. Peters was married to Miss Elizabeth Schmitt, a native of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. She is a daughter of Joseph Schmitt and Mary (Ramer) Schmitt, both natives of Germany, the father dying when Mrs. Peters was a young girl. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peters, as follows: Joseph, Martin, Anton, Albert, Minnie, Esther and Frank, all born and raised in this locality. The family enjoy the best of health, and since coming here have never had to call a doctor to the place. At one time one of the children dislocated a shoulder in an accident about the farm, and this cost them two dollars, which is all they have ever paid for a doctor's services.

Mr. Peters is a Populist, but has never held any office, devoting his entire time and attention to the building up of his farm and home. He is well posted on current events and keeps abreast of the times in affairs of state and national questions. He is in favor of government ownership of the railroads, and a Bryan man, but not so strong as he was some years ago.

An interesting picture of Mr. Peters' sheep ranch will be found on another page of this work.

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#### HON. I. W. MARLATT.

Hon. I. W. Marlatt, one of the leading citizens of Kearney county, Nebraska, resides in Newark township, where he has a fine farm and home, and is a gentleman of high accomplishments, esteemed and respected by all who know him. Mr. Marlatt was elected on the fusion ticket as representative in the state legislature in 1906, and again in 1908, and is a worthy representative of his party.

Mr. Marlatt is a native of Indiana, born in 1852 on a farm in Tippecanoe county. His father, George Marlatt, was born in New Jersey and taken to Ohio, by his parents when a very small boy, where he grew up. In 1852 he moved to Stark county, Illinois, where our subject was reared, in 1886 coming to Nebraska and settling in Clay county. In 1893 Mr. Marlatt came to Lowell township, Kearney county, Nebraska, and after living there for seven years moved to Newark township, where he now resides, and is the proprietor of six hundred acres, all good valley land, which he devotes to mixed farming. He raises small grains and deals to quite an extent in stock. He is a member of the Farmers' Grain and Live Stock Association, which was organized in this county at Lowell by himself in 1895, and the society reaches all over the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Marlatt has always been prominent in public affairs, and has held all the local offices. He was chairman of the township board about ten years, and takes a deep interest in all movements which tend to the betterment of conditions in his community.

Mr. Marlatt was married in 1879 to Miss Ida May Cain, born in Indiana in 1858, of Scotch descent. This union has been blessed with nine children: Harry, Curtis, Jay, Willie, Earl, Guy, Grover, Hazel and Dorothy. Harry is married and is a farmer in Kearney county. The balance of the children are at home with their parents.

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#### JOHN C. SHIPLEY.

The farm operated by this gentleman is located in section 17, township 29, range 53, in Sioux county, and there he enjoys all the comforts of rural life, together with many of its luxuries. He owns a tract of eight hundred and eighty acres of good land, and his place is one of the best appointed in this locality, every corner of it showing good management and painstaking care.

Mr. Shipley was born in Green county, Tennessee, in 1858. His father, W. K. Shipley, was a farmer who came north in 1863, settling in Illinois, and later moved to Iowa, where our subject was raised on a farm and since he was nine years old he has made his own way in the world. In 1886 John came to Nebraska, first settling in Buffalo county on a farm, and lived there for three years. He then came to Sioux county, and was the first white man to settle in section 17, township 29, range 53. His first dwelling was a log

cabin with a dirt roof and floor. He had absolutely nothing to start with except his strong hands and brave heart, and during the first few years went through hardships of every nature, losing crops for several seasons and meeting with every discouragement. He gradually worked into the stock business, and was able to get along better and develop his farm, putting up good buildings, etc. His ranch contains eight hundred and eighty acres, and he operates besides this six hundred and forty acres of leased school land, having it all fenced, and is one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

In 1879, while living in Iowa, Mr. Shipley was married to Miss Mary E. Ratcliffe, daughter of Thomas J. Ratcliffe, a farmer and old settler in that state. Her mother's name was Jane Ann (Boswell) Ratcliffe. Her father died January 15, 1896, aged sixty-one years, eleven months and two days. Her mother still lives in Corrydon, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Shipley have had a family of eight children, who are named as follows: Jennie, Laura, Benjamin, Fred and Maud, five living, and three dead. Daisy, who married Mr. Lacrone, died in Boone county, Nebraska, February 10, 1902; Emma, who married Mr. Smith, died in Crawford, Nebraska, June 13, 1908, and Lee, who died at home in Sioux county, Nebraska, February 14, 1906.

Mr. Shipley has always displayed commendable public spirit, taking part in all local affairs, helping to establish the schools of his locality, and has been school director for the past sixteen years. He has also served as assessor in his district for two terms. He is a staunch Democrat.

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#### HON. WASHINGTON MALLORY HINMAN.

In the commercial and public affairs of Lincoln county, Nebraska, probably no man is better known than the gentleman whose life history is here presented. Mr. Hinman was a man of unusual business ability, and has an enviable reputation as a citizen of active public spirit and one of those who helped build up this part of the country and make it the prosperous section it is today.

Mr. Hinman first passed through this region in 1849 on his way overland to California. He was a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, born at Wysox, September 14, 1819, and a son of Abner Curtis Hinman and Augusta York Hinman, the former having been grand master of Pennsylvania for the Independent Order of Good Templars for many

years. The Hinman family were pioneer settlers of that state, all of the male members taking part in the Revolutionary war, Indian wars, etc. Our subject's brother, Hon. Beach I. Hinman, was the pioneer attorney of North Platte, Nebraska, and represented the district in the Nebraska state legislature. Two brothers served the Union in the Civil war, and lost their lives in battle or in prison.

Mr. Hinman was one of those who were seeking the gold fields in 1849, and this was the first time he saw Nebraska. A St. Louis firm had employed him to go to Vancouver and Oregon to set up and install steam sawmills, paying him for this work sixteen dollars per day. These mills were shipped around the Horn, and this trip took him all along the coast from British Columbia to Panama in those pioneer days, and he saw a great many interesting sights and had many exciting experiences. He afterwards was sent by the United States government to install a steam sawmill plant at Laramie, Wyoming. He returned from California in 1854, and two years later located at Cottonwood Springs, near Fort McPherson. On his ranch four miles east of the Springs he opened a general supply store for the travelers passing over the California trail, and also installed a steam saw and shingle mill and blacksmith shop on his farm, often employing many men in this business. From 1864 to 1867 he held the position of Indian interpreter at Fort McPherson, attending all conferences between the chiefs and the government. He had the contract for supplying beef for the fort, and also for sawing all the shingles used on the buildings at that place. One voucher now in possession of the family is made out for fourteen thousand dollars. He also had a subcontract to supply wood to Fort A. D. Russell in 1867 and 1868.

In 1864 Mr. Hinman was called to Fort McPherson, Nebraska, and while there he lost over one thousand dollars in merchandise through theft by Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull. The government allowed Mr. Hinman the one thousand dollars for these goods, but Democratic influence has deferred this payment and the widow of Mr. Hinman may yet be able to secure the money. He was intimate with all the great Indian chiefs, among whom was Sitting Bull. In 1860 Shorter county (at present Lincoln county) was organized, with Mr. Hinman as county treasurer, but this organization never went into effect, and in 1866 the name was changed to Lincoln and the county properly organized with the county seat at North Platte, and our subject being



North Platte, where Mr. Hinman had resided since 1866, having sold out his ranch and taken his mills to South Pass, Wyoming, afterwards bringing them back to the Republican valley, where he had homesteaded and preempted four hundred acres two and a half miles west of Indianola. This band of Indians went through the town, camping where Fruit and Locust streets now intersect. General Sherman and the peace commissioners met them and the redskins promised to remain peaceable and go away without any trouble in the spring of the year if they were provided with rations throughout the winter. On Sunday, April 7, 1868, there was a great commotion in town when the citizens discovered that the Indians had moved their squaws and effects to the north side of the river. The braves returned in a short while, riding through the town and shooting into stores and raising a disturbance generally. Mr. Hinman at once turned all papers relating to civil affairs of Lincoln county over to the military and saloons were closed and squads of soldiers put out to guard lives and property. The Indians then went southeast of the town, and near Fort McPherson, in Snells canyon, on the 8th of April, they came upon seven men who were employed by our subject in getting out wood for his subcontract to supply Fort A. D. Russell, and the redskins murdered them, taking the scalps of every man. One of the horses belonging to the men returned home with the scalp of his owner tied to its saddle. The soldiers immediately went in pursuit of the Indians and found one white boy pinned to the ground with an arrow through his heart, still alive, and he survived for two days.

In 1876 Mr. Hinman and his family moved back to North Platte to live. He had bought land near this town until he owned in all eleven hundred acres, a portion of it being in town, and the greater portion of it directly adjacent. He held the office of senior county commissioner of Lincoln county, and in 1873 he locked up the Union Pacific Railway roundhouse at North Platte and took possession on account of the railway having as yet paid no taxes, which amounted to a good round sum, and these were shortly paid. In 1879 he moved out to his farm, just west of the town.

Mr. Hinman was married March 11, 1867, to Miss Rebecca Franklin Vaughan, daughter

of William Vaughan, of the United States navy at Watertown, on Lake Erie, who was an officer in the War of 1812, was an uncle of Mrs. Hinman. Mrs. Hinman is a very bright and active lady, of great intelligence, and is now seventy-three years of age. They raised a family of three children, namely: Vaughan Elias Hinman, of North Platte. He was born in this town and was the first white child born here, and the second in Lincoln county. He married Miss Minnie Distel, daughter of Frederick Distel, a native of Germany, who came to Omaha in 1873, and later to North Platte, where he built and operated a brewery, and became well known all over western Nebraska. One child was born of this union, Charles Vaughan Hinman. The second son of our subject is York Abner Hinman, also of North Platte, who was married to Miss Daisy C. Crusen, daughter of W. J. Crusen, of North Platte, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. They have three children, namely: York A. Hinman, Jr., Elizabeth Franklin Hinman and Dorothy C. The third child of our subject is Suezilla Hinman Eves, wife of George Eves, of Stockton, California. They have a family of five children living, as follows: William Vaughan (dead) and Washington York, twins; Girard Wesley, Margarette Reba, Arthur Glenn and Harold Hinman.

Mr. Hinman died at his farm home January 27, 1904, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The year prior to his death a prairie fire swept the vicinity of his home and burned to the ground a good residence containing valuable records, papers and all personal property. With the business methods and energy which still characterize Mrs. Hinman, she had a short time previously effected a partial insurance upon the home, so it was not a total loss.

Mr. Hinman was a thirty-second degree Mason, having been admitted into the order when he was twenty-one years of age. He was high priest of the chapter here, and a devoted member of the lodge. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and an earnest worker in that religion.

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#### NAT BROADHURST.

Nat Broadhurst, one of the representative farmers and old settlers of western Nebraska, resides in section 36, township 32, range 51,

where he has a fine home and valuable estate.

Mr. Broadhurst was born in Lancashire county, England, in 1858. His father, Samuel Broadhurst, was a nut and bolt manufacturer, and spent his whole life in his native country, having died there in 1886. Our subject grew up in England, learning the blacksmith's trade, and followed that work up to 1884. He came to America in 1883, landing in New York city in June of that year, and came to Kane county, Illinois, where he located on a farm, running a dairy business for two years, and renting land for three years, which he farmed, then in 1888 came to Dawes county, arriving here in February. Here he located on a homestead in section 23, township 32, range 51, and the first summer he lived in a cellar, and had a hard time getting started. He stuck to the work, however, and kept adding improvements, building a comfortable farm house and got along fairly well. In 1891 he left Nebraska and went to Cambria, Wyoming, where he worked out at mining, blacksmithing or anything he could get to do to make a living. He remained for about seven years, in the meantime going back to his farm occasionally, part of the time having charge of the blacksmith department for a mining company in Cambria, and during those years he did not have much success with his farming operations, two years having entire failures of crops during the drouth periods. Mr. Broadhurst bought his present place in 1892, moving on the place the following year, and constantly improved the farm, putting up good buildings, barns, sheep sheds, also has a complete blacksmith shop. His farm is all fenced with woven wire fencing, and has room for sheltering two thousand sheep, having been engaged in the sheep business for the past four or five years, feeding each year from fifteen hundred to two thousand sheep for market, and this has been his principal business. He has four hundred acres of irrigated land, and altogether owns one of the finest ranches in the county, and is one of the successful men in his locality, his ranch consisting of nine hundred acres.

Mr. Broadhurst was married in England in 1881, to Miss Agnes Jane Holding, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Herbert, who was married on March 20, 1907, to Miss Edna Hoevet, and two daughters, Jennie and Pearl. Our subject has rented his son four hundred acres of land, on which he has erected fine buildings, and has a comfortable home. Pearl was married the 23d day of October, 1907, to Grant Spearman, born in eastern Nebraska, of American stock.

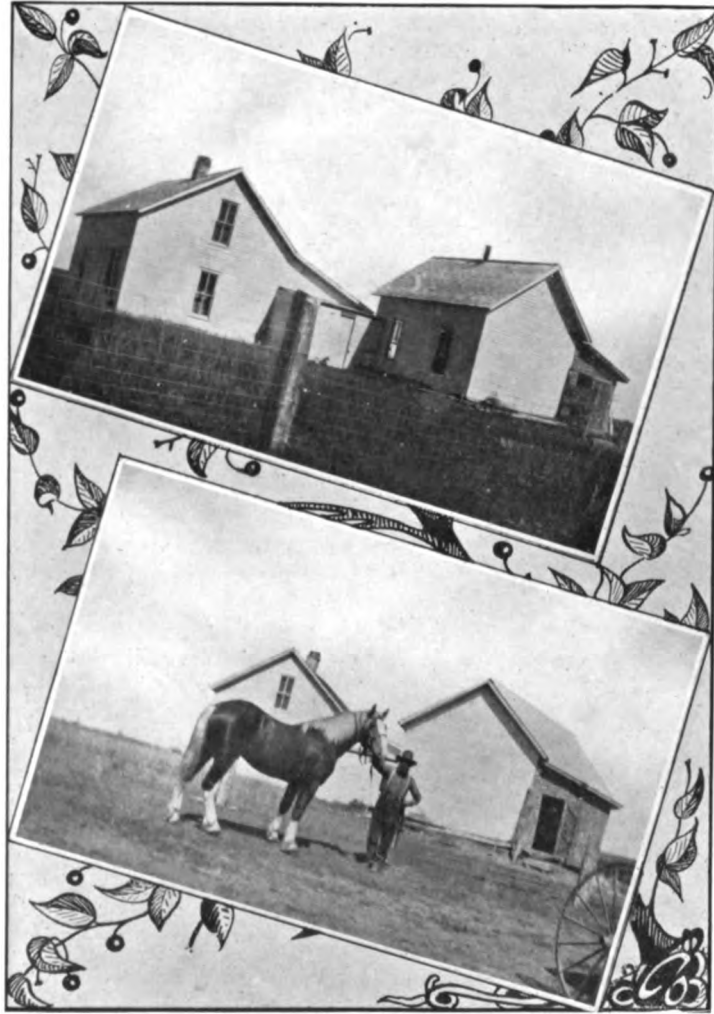
In 1898 Mr. Broadhurst, together with his wife and three children, took a trip to England, where he visited his birthplace and also that of his wife, and spent nearly four months on the trip, visiting many points of interest and enjoying their vacation hugely. In 1904 the daughter, Pearl, again visited England alone, remaining for nine months.

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#### ALBERT ROW.

Albert Row, residing in Dawes county, on section 34, township 31, range 48, is one of the leading citizens of his community, and is held in high esteem as a man of sterling character and true worth.

Mr. Row is a native of Washington county, Maryland, born in 1856 on a farm, being the sixth of a family of ten children. His father, Abraham Row, was a farmer, and lives in Maryland and is quite active for his advanced age. The mother died about twelve years ago. Albert grew up in Maryland and when seventeen years of age left home and came west to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he followed farming for about twelve years, spending six years on one farm in that vicinity. In 1885 Mr. Row came to Dawes county, Nebraska, driving from Valentine by team and covered wagon containing his personal belongings, and selected his present homestead as a spot to start a home. This is located in section 34, township 31, range 48, and was well situated and all good land. Here he built a board shanty and "batched" for two years, breaking up his first land and doing all his work with a team of oxen, which he used altogether for the first four or five years. He got along very well for a time, then was overtaken by the drouths, and had a hard time to make a living, for three years being unable to raise anything, and also suffering from hailstorms throughout the section which destroyed property and crops. He nearly became discouraged and went through hard times, having to do all sorts of work to keep his family from want and privation, glad to secure even the necessities of life. He then tried the stock business, and from the first was very successful, and has continued in that line of work ever since. He is now owner of a fine ranch of seventeen hundred and fifty acres, one hundred and thirty of which is under cultivation, and the balance in hay and pasture land. The whole place is fenced, and he runs one hundred and fifty head of stock. He has built two good houses on his ranch, with substantial barns and other outbuildings, plenty of



VIEWS OF THE RESIDENCE OF ALBERT ROW,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



fine water and windmills for his stock. Mr. Row has a very fine young orchard, garden, small fruits, etc.

On another page of this work will be found a picture of Mr. Row's residence.

Mr. Row has helped establish the schools in his locality and always served on the school board. He takes an active and leading part in local affairs, and is an important factor in the development and upbuilding of this region. Politically he is a Democrat and strong party man.

Mr. Row was united in marriage in 1887 to Miss Elsie Jane Huss, daughter of Samuel Huss, a farmer and early settler in Illinois, where she was raised and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Row are the parents of the following children: Samuel H., Nora, Abraham and Bertha, all bright and intelligent and dutiful children to worthy parents. The family enjoy a happy and comfortable home and have a host of warm friends and good neighbors.

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#### J. W. CALVER.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is accorded a high station among the successful and worthy citizens of Brown county, Nebraska.

Mr. Calver was born in Australia, in 1847, of English descent, his father, Daniel Calver, having emigrated to that country when a young man. His mother was also of English birth. There were five children in his parents' family, of whom he was the third member. When he was ten years of age the whole family returned to England, locating in Stanton, Suffolk county, and here our subject remained for four years, then with his parents came to Canada. They landed at New York in 1861 and lived at Kingston for a short time, and in the latter part of that year he located at Cape Vincent, Jefferson county, New York, where he remained for three years, following farming and teaming. He next moved to Michigan and worked on a farm for about twelve years, and then wandered west, obtaining employment on the Iron Mountain Railroad in southeast Missouri. He went to Illinois in 1877, locating seventy miles west of Chicago.

In 1880 he came to Adams county, Nebraska, which was then a new country and very sparsely settled, and there he bought a farm and remained for four years, then came on to Brown county, where he took up a homestead in section 27, township 31, range 22, and went to work establishing a farm. His first

building was a barn sixteen by twenty-four, and the family made this their home, living in the hay mow during the first three months of their residence on this place. He afterwards erected a frame building, and this was the first house of the kind in the whole neighborhood, all the pioneers living in dugouts or sod shanties. They began to build up their home, and at first met with many discouragements and privations. Went through the drouth periods and other hardships, and had a hard time to support the family, being obliged to work at anything that came along in order to pull through. The better times came along and they were able to raise better crops and get a little ahead, and he gradually improved his farm and put up good buildings, adding to his acreage, until he is now proprietor of a farm of eight hundred and eighty acres of good land, all in good shape and part of it cultivated. He has the best corn crib in the neighborhood or county, and a large, comfortable house, size sixteen by twenty-four, fitted up in modern style, with all conveniences for comfort. He engages principally in stock raising, dealing largely in hogs, and raises large crops of corn.

The first school in the locality was held in a log house, and his children attended this school after a sod school house had been erected.

Mr. Calver was married at Ottawa, Illinois, in 1877, the event occurring on Thanksgiving day. His bride was Miss Alice Spicer, a native of LaSalle county, daughter of S. B. and Elmira A. Spicer, of old Yankee stock. She died in 1892 at Ainsworth, Nebraska, leaving a family of six children, namely: Nellie, Jessie, Mabel, John, Cora and Bennie. Mr. Calver was married again in 1892 to Minerva Spicer, and on December 4, 1903, his second wife died. His third wife was Miss Elizabeth Julia Spicer, a sister of his first two wives.

In October, 1905, Mr. Calver moved to Ainsworth, leaving his two sons, John and Bennie, on the farm, and has since made this his residence. Mr. Calver deserves a first place among the old settlers of this section. He has always done his share in the building up of the community in which he chose his home, and the family are well known and highly respected by all, all over the county.

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#### EMORY PLANCK.

Emory Planck, one of the best known pioneers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and one of the first settlers in that region, has taken an

active part in its development, and is possessed of a wide knowledge of the western country and a character of the highest integrity.

Mr. Planck was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, on December 2, 1862, where he grew to manhood. His father died in that state, and his mother still lives there. They were the parents of ten children, Emory being the ninth in order of birth. He left his native state when about fourteen years of age, and came west to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in the spring of the year 1885, where he remained for one year and then came on to Cheyenne county, where he filed on a homestead in section 26, township 15, range 48. He came through the country in a "prairie schooner" drawn by a pair of Texas steers, which was a familiar mode of travel in those days, camping out along the way and encountering many adventures, suffering from exposure, etc.

Mr. Planck proved up on his original homestead and took up additional land later, and is now proprietor of a good estate of three hundred and twenty acres, all well improved with about seventy acres under cultivation.

He has considerable stock of all classes, running at present about fifty cattle and a small bunch of horses.

Mr. Planck was married in Cheyenne county, on December 12, 1897, to Miss Jessie Mann. Mrs. Planck is a native of McLain county, Illinois, where she lived until ten years of age. Her parents, Dr. D. R. and Alice (Merril) Mann, the former a native of Kentucky, the latter of New York, were among the pioneers of Cheyenne county. Mr. and Mrs. Planck have a family of three children, named as follows: Benjamin E., Ferd R., and Alice C.

They have a pleasant home, and enjoy all the comforts of ranch life. Our subject has always been a leader in local affairs, and has helped in no small degree to build up the schools in his locality. At present he is serving as a moderator of district No. 17. In political views he is a staunch Republican, and is prominent in state and county politics.

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#### THOMAS W. WILLIAMS.

The gentleman whose name heads this review was born in Wales, England, February 7, 1841. His father, William Williams, was a miner in Wales and later followed that occupation in Pennsylvania. Our subject's mother was Margaret Ellen Evans in her maiden days.

In 1854, the family came to America, set-

tling in Pennsylvania, where the father found work in the mines, and Thomas also worked in the mines until he was twenty-five years of age. Here, in Pennsylvania, our subject was married to Miss Mary Lewis in the year 1862, her father being William Lewis, a native of Wales, where she was born. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams have had nine children, six of whom are now living.

In 1861, our subject enlisted in answer to the first call for volunteers to serve in the war of the Rebellion, his first enlistment being in the Sixth Pennsylvania Infantry. Later he enlisted in the Thirty-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry, and later in the Sixteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. He saw much service and after the war was over, in 1865, he went to Missouri, where he lived for nine years. In 1874 he came to Nebraska, spending about two years in York and Hamilton counties, and in 1876 drove in a covered wagon to Loup county, settling on his present farm on section 26, township 21, range 18. He had all the hardships that came to the average pioneer, lived in a dug-out for the first year, then built him a log house of cedar, which now stands in good shape and more highly prized than any fine building on his farm. His first barn was built of logs. He also drove steers, cows and bulls for teams and had many a weary, long trip for supplies to Carney, which was the nearest railroad point, seventy or eighty miles distant.

Our subject remained on his farm actively improving it and engaged in making a good home for his family. The only time he was gone for any length of time was in 1876, during the Indian raids, when Custer was killed. At this time all the settlers were ordered to the Alger ranch by the government troops, who could not protect the people if they were scattered on their farms.

Thomas W. Williams has built up a good home and has a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-seven acres well improved and equipped with machinery. He has been one of the leading pioneers of the county and has always been prominent in public affairs.

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#### LINCOLN G. SIMON, M. D.

Lincoln G. Simon, a worthy descendant of a fine old Virginia family, is also one of the prominent citizens of Sidney, Nebraska, where he has been engaged in the practice of medicine for the past twelve years, and his patronage calls him to all parts of Cheyenne county, and even into surrounding counties, being known







"HOMESTEAD RANCH"—OLE J. MOE AND FAMILY,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.

far and wide as a skilful surgeon and an able and conscientious practitioner.

Dr. Simon was born in Warren county, Iowa, on September 22, 1869, grew up there, and removed to Wichita, Kansas, with his parents when he was about fourteen years of age. He remained there for two years, then the family took an extended trip through the western states, visiting California and other Pacific coast states, returning to Kansas in 1885. He then left home to attend college, soon afterwards entering the medical department of the University of Michigan, enrolling as a student at that institution in 1891. He took a three-year course, and finished his medical education in Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia, graduating from there in 1895. During the same year he located in Lincoln, opened an office and practiced for about six months, then went to Cripple Creek, Colorado, where he followed his profession: also at Kimball, Nebraska, and in July, 1897, made permanent location at Sidney, where he has been ever since. Here he has built up a large and remunerative practice. He also takes an active and leading interest in all local public affairs, and is a progressive citizen in every respect, enjoying the esteem and respect of his fellowmen. In political faith he is a Republican.

Dr. Simon was married on December 14, 1898, to Miss Tyrone E. Allen, who was born in Massillon, Ohio. They had one child, who died on February 12, 1904. Dr. Simon's father, Martin Simon, is now living at Delhi, Oklahoma, while his mother died at Fort Scott, Kansas, December 15, 1895. The parents of Mrs. Simon are both deceased.

Dr. Simon is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### JOHN A. ADAMSON.

John A. Adamson, who now resides on section 27, township 33, range 29, is a native-born Irishman, and comes of a mingled Scotch-Irish ancestry. His father, Walter Adamson, was a Scotchman, who came to county Sligo, Ireland, where he married Mary J. Higgins, a native of that county, and there their son, John A., was born near Balling, December 29, 1862. In a family of eight children, he was their second son, and remained with them until he was sixteen years of age, when he took upon himself the management of his own affairs. He went to Scotland to become acquainted with his father's people, and in 1880 sought a home in the United States, knowing full well

that here alone was to be found ample opportunity for all his wealth of brain and muscle, strength of character and quickness of mind. Sailing from Glasgow in the steamer Anconia, after a ten days' voyage he landed in New York on the 10th day of June, and for about a year was employed on a farm in Pennsylvania, after which he came to the west to enter the employ of the Northern Pacific railroad in Minnesota. He was engaged in that line for about a year, and then for a time drifted about through the northern states, and made a somewhat hasty visit to his old Irish home.

In 1884 Mr. Adamson first appeared in Cherry county, and his destinies were linked in with the development of a Nebraskan home. He settled that year on his present ranch, being among the first to locate on the Niobrara river. He had a team of horses, and put up a rude frame shanty, living here all by himself for a number of years. His marriage to Miss Maggie Ormesher occurred March 6, 1891, a native of Briars Wood, Lancashire, England. Her father, Henry Ormesher, was an old settler in Cherry county, and she is widely known as a lady of many social and domestic graces and virtues. They have five children, Edyth, Minnie, Lizzie, John W. and Alice.

Mr. Adamson now owns a ranch of fifteen hundred acres, and has about eighty acres under cultivation. This extensive tract of land is partly fenced, and is very extensively used in stock raising. Mr. Adamson put up a fine stone house in 1903 and takes a justifiable pride in his modern and well built country residence.

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#### OLE J. MOE.

Ole J. Moe, an enterprising farmer and capable citizen of Box Butte county, Nebraska, is one of the men of whom the people of the surrounding community are justifiably proud. He was born on a farm in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1856. His father, Jacob Moe, was a farmer and laborer, and died in Norway. His mother, Christena Moe, came to America and died December 29, 1907.

The early years of Mr. Moe's life were spent in his native land, where he received his education while attending the common schools, and as he grew older worked in a saw mill. At the age of twenty-four years he was married to Miss Mary Peterson, who was born in Norway in 1856. It was about the year 1880 that Mr. Moe decided to seek his fortunes in America, and landing in Philadelphia, came to

Corn Prairie, Wisconsin, where he spent four or five years in the lumber woods and saw-mills. He spent two years in Chicago, Illinois, at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Realizing the opportunities that awaited the ambitious man in western Nebraska, Mr. Moe came to Box Butte county in 1885, and took a homestead in section 30, township 27, range 48, driving from Hay Springs. The following year he brought his family west to this new country. His first house was of sod, and he had no team to assist him in the work of starting his new home. Our subject successfully withstood the periods of drouth and the many hardships familiar to the early settlers in western Nebraska. From time to time he secured other tracts of land, and now has a ranch comprising an area of five quarters of deeded land, and three quarters of leased land, all of which is fenced and cross-fenced. He has erected good buildings, and has a good well and windmill. He has one barn thirty by forty feet, and another thirty by thirty-four feet, and has a good granary, chicken house and other buildings. He cultivates about two hundred acres, and engages extensively in the raising of grain and live stock, having many head of horses and cattle.

Mr. Moe has a family of eight children, all of whom were born in America, namely: Clara, Olga, John, Annie, Olave, Melvin, Ludwig and Emma. In matters of politics Mr. Moe is a Republican. While his broad acres and his stock demand his close attention, he has from his start in this county taken a keen interest in all public affairs. His work toward the organization and building of schools is worthy of special note. He has done a great deal toward establishing the school district, and has been a member of the school board ever since he came to this county. He has assisted materially in the construction of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad through this county, and has long been prominently identified with the work of making the county a comfortable home for a thrifty and industrious people. A picture of the family and also the homestead ranch appears on another page.

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#### HON. H. F. GOODBAN.

Honorable H. F. Goodban, residing in Reuben township, Harlan county, is a prominent farmer and stockman, carrying on a diversified system of agriculture in a most successful manner, with results that richly reward his thrift and industry.

Mr. Goodban was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania. His father, William Goodban, was born in Margate, England, and came to this country when a young man, settling in Pennsylvania. He married Margaret Longley, also a native of Margate, England, and the family lived in Pennsylvania many years, our subject being raised and educated there. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State Normal School of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, holding a state certificate from that institution. After leaving school he taught for awhile in that state, then went to Wisconsin and there was a teacher in the schools of Fountain City and Arcadia.

In 1886 he came to Nebraska, locating on section 13, Harlan county, where he now lives, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and from time to time has added to this farm so that he is now proprietor of eight hundred acres of good land.

For a time after settling in this vicinity, Mr. Goodban followed the work of a teacher, but of late years all his time and attention has been devoted to the carrying on of his farm, although he has given a large part of his time to public affairs, in 1888 being elected superintendent of the county schools, and re-elected to the same office the following term. He has been on the board of supervisors of his county for three terms.

Mr. Goodban was married in 1876 at Fairview, Pennsylvania, to Miss Emma Caughey, daughter of Frank Caughey. She died in 1904, and in 1906 he was married to Mrs. Chorn, nee Hattie Sarnes, daughter of John Sarnes, of Saline county, Nebraska. They have three children, namely: Guy H., Helen and Wilma Chorn.

Mr. Goodban is a man of marked business ability, possessing a striking personality. He is of fine physique, good address, and a well-read, up-to-date gentleman of wide experience.

He is a member of the Evangelical church, also superintendent of the Evangelical Sunday school. He is a Mason in the Orleans lodge, and a useful and highly esteemed citizen of his community. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### F. T. McLAIN.

F. T. McLain, proprietor of a fine ranch in section 28, township 30, range 50, Dawes county, resides in Ames, Iowa, where he also owns large business interests. He invested in farming lands in this county several years ago, and has made of it a fine ranch and valuable property.

Mr. McLain is a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, born in 1841. His father, William McLain, was of Scotch descent and his mother of Pennsylvania Dutch blood. When our subject was but a boy the family settled in Illinois, and later in Iowa, where he grew to manhood, helping his parents in carrying on their farm, while attending school in the country, although he did not receive a very thorough education, as he was early obliged to work for his own living and help support the family. At the age of twenty he left home and enlisted in Company C, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, and saw service in the western army along the Mississippi river. He participated in the battle of Shiloh, where he was captured by the enemy and spent seven months in Libby prison at Richmond, Virginia, and at Macon and Savannah, Georgia. After serving with his regiment for three and a half years he was discharged in 1864, and returned to Iowa.

In 1868 Mr. McLain settled in Story county, Iowa, and was among the pioneer settlers in that section, where he took up a tract of land and developed it into a fine farm, making it one of the most valuable pieces of property in the county. He was also active in building up the country, as an early settler, and in 1892 sold his farm and moved to Ames, Iowa, and now owns considerable farming property in the vicinity of that place. He came to Nebraska in 1902 and bought up land, and now owns three thousand five hundred acres twenty miles southeast of Crawford city, and has this in first-class shape.

He has the ranch stocked with a large number of cattle and horses, and is doing his full share as a settler in this part of the county, and although having his residence in Ames, much of his time is spent on his ranch here. As a farmer Mr. McLain has made a wonderful success, having started in Iowa as a pioneer, with hardly any capital, and from this small beginning has accumulated a vast estate, built up one of the finest farms in Story county, Iowa, and is now able to enjoy himself in the knowledge that he has accomplished results which prove him to be a man of superior ability and good business management.

Mr. McLain was married in Iowa, in the year 1865, to Miss Rose Minkler, of Rochelle, Illinois, whose parents were both of American stock. Three children were born to this union, namely: Alta, deceased; Libby, now Mrs. Lang, and a resident of Dawes county; and Rosa, wife of Frank J. Coil, Jr., of Dawes county. Mr. McLain was married the second time to Mary Fleming, by whom he had two children, namely: Stella and Jennie. Losing his

second wife, Mr. McLain married her cousin, Jennie Fleming, of Lisbon, Ohio, and by this marriage there was one child, William.

Our subject takes a prominent part in local affairs, and belongs to a number of fraternal societies. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

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#### JOHN A. HANSEN.

The subject of this review is a retired merchant and farmer of Phelps county, now a resident of Holdrege, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Hansen is a native of Sweden, and came to this country in his youth, locating in Chicago, Illinois, where he remained for a short time prior to settling in this state. He landed here in 1878, and in the spring of the following year built a sod house and opened a store which was the first in this locality and runs the postoffice in connection with this, at Phelps Centre, in partnership with his brother, Charles Hansen, now deceased. In the fall of 1879 they built a frame store, and shortly afterwards Charles Hansen put up a second building, in which they ran an implement store. In a short time Phelps Centre became a flourishing town, had two general stores, one drug store, a hardware store, bank, and an implement store. These establishments were located where the Swedish Orphans' Home now stands, which Mr. Hansen helped to establish and of which he has been president since 1892. In the summer of 1881, Mr. Hansen sold out his mercantile interests and purchased a timber claim in section 10 of Westmark township, and, like other pioneers, erected a sod house, and shortly after put up a frame dwelling. He was very successful in his ventures, and now owns eight hundred acres of good land, with good substantial buildings and improvements. This is operated by his son, Walter. He remained on his farm, engaged in mixed farming and gradually added to it, buying land adjoining, until 1899, when he opened a first-class general store in Holdrege, which he and his sons carried on with great success until the summer of 1906, when he sold out this business, retaining the brick store building and land, which occupies one of the best corners in the city of Holdrege. It is right in the business center, on the northeast corner of Fourth avenue and East avenue. He also owns a good residence property in the city. He has dealt considerably in real estate, buying and selling lands in the western coun-

ties of Nebraska. While he resided on his farm he was most successful in raising hogs and cattle, showing his preference for the Poland China breed of hogs. He also was interested in the breeding of his horses to the Percheron and Norman breeds, and has owned some fine animals.

In 1881 Mr. Hansen was married to Miss Gustie Carlson, daughter of John A. Carlson, a pioneer settler of Westmark township, Phelps county, Nebraska, and a farmer and landowner there. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have a family of six children, namely: Walter, operating the farm; Bert, teller in the first National Bank of Holdrege; and Winnie, Carrie, Hilma and Charlie, attending school.

Mr. Hansen, in addition to managing his large business interests, has found time to take an active interest in public affairs, and is an earnest worker in the Swedish Mission church, of which he is a member. He was township assessor for six years. While residing in Westmark township he was one of the organizers of the Holcomb church, and was a trustee of that institution while living on the farm. After taking up his residence in Holdrege he was elected trustee of the church there, and served in that capacity for six years. He was also chairman of the board of trustees in that church for two years.

In 1907 our subject bought stock in the First National Bank at Loomis and resided there for one year, moving back to Holdrege in the fall of 1908, where he had erected a new and modern residence.

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#### JOE MOELLER.

The gentleman above mentioned is classed among the substantial and practical agriculturists of Box Butte county and is proprietor of a valuable estate and a prosperous ranching business. He has been a resident of his locality for many years, and has acquired a host of friends, himself and family enjoying the respect and esteem of all who know them.

Mr. Moeller was born in Hessen, Nassau, Germany, in 1861. His father was a farmer who lived and died in his native land, and our subject grew up in Germany, serving in the army of his country for three years. After serving for that length of time he left the land of his birth and came to America, landing in Baltimore in 1884, and came directly west, locating in Wisner, Nebraska, where he followed farming for five years. After he had been in this country for a time and began to like it here, he wrote back home and urged

his mother to join him, so she, together with one brother, came to the United States, and in 1889 the family came to Dawes county, locating thirteen miles from Hemingford, on the north side of the Niobrara river. Here they took up a homestead, built a good sod house, stable, sheds, cellar, etc., and lived on that place up to 1898. The claim was proved up on, and Mr. Moeller was successful in establishing a good home and farm; then along came the dry years and he was hard hit by failure of crops, for four or five years not being able to get any more than the seed he put in the ground.

In the spring of 1896 he gave up his farm and went to Minnesota and remained for two years, working out on farms in that state, and from there moved to Iowa, also following farm work for two years, but did not like it well enough to settle there permanently, so decided to return to his old home in Nebraska. In 1900 he first came to Box Butte county, and located on his present farm as a homestead. This is situated in section 31, township 27, range 51, and the place was utterly without improvements of any kind, so he was obliged to begin at the very bottom and build up the place, but has been very successful in his operations, putting up good buildings, fences, etc. He has four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, and in addition operates seven quarter sections of leased land, engaging extensively in the cattle business, also farming quite a large portion of his land.

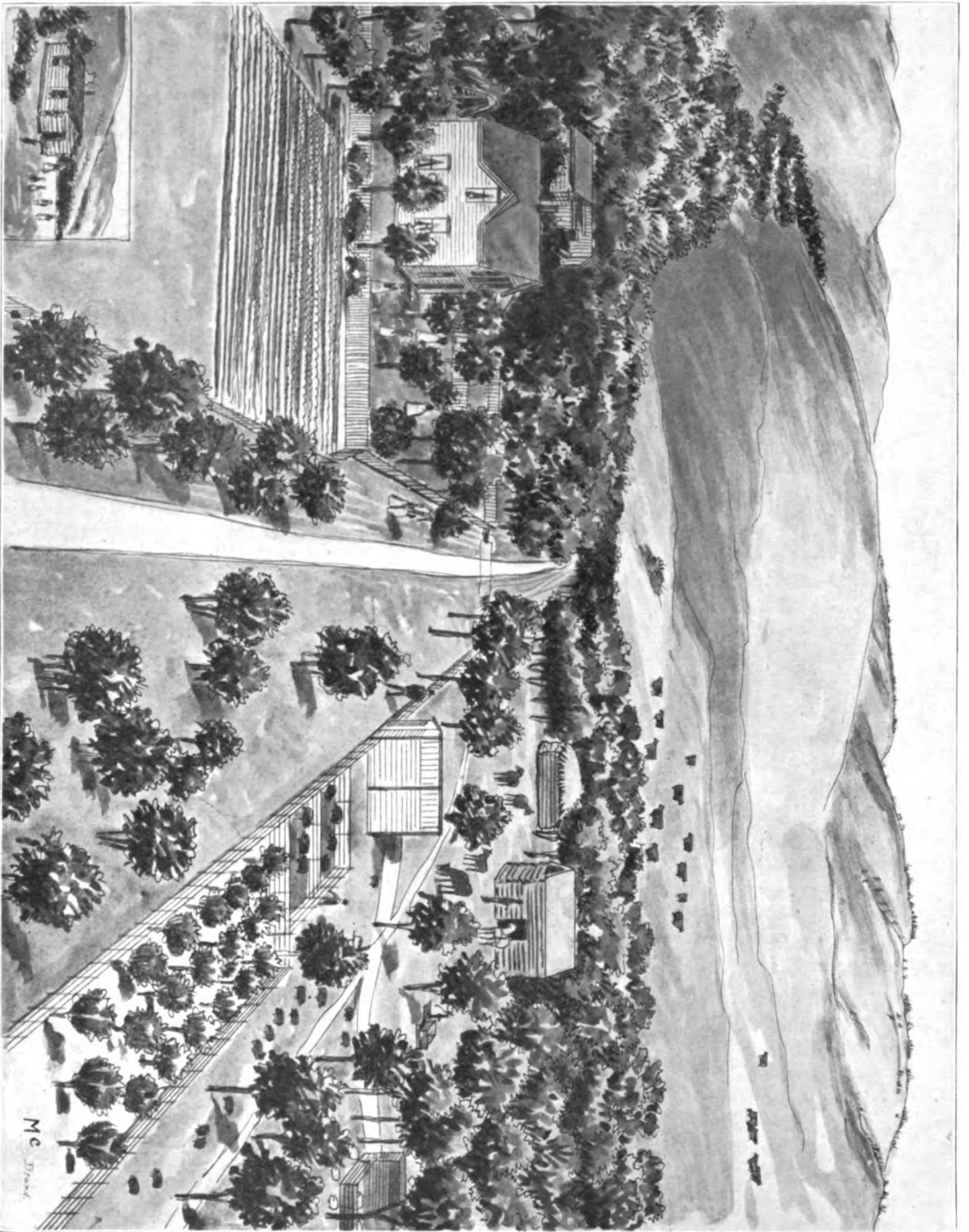
In July, 1898, Mr. Moeller was married to Tillie Nickont, a native of Russia, of German descent, who came to this country in 1884, and together with mother and brothers, settled in Box Butte county. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Moeller followed her trade as a dressmaker for a number of years in this vicinity, and is a most estimable lady.

Mr. Moeller has held different school offices and takes an active part in local affairs.

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#### FRANK E. McLAIN.

Frank E. McLain, who for the past twenty-five years has been a resident of Keya Paha county, has a wide circle of acquaintances and educational and commercial, and has done his is classed among the substantial and prosperous citizens of his locality. He settled on his present farm, located on section 20, township 32, range 20, and here he has built up a fine home and farm. He has always taken an active part in all affairs of the county, both full share as an old settler and worthy citizen.



RESIDENCE OF FRANK E. McLAIN,  
Keya Paha County, Nebraska.





Mr. McLain was born in Atchison county, Missouri, January 27, 1848, and raised and educated on a farm there. His father, Thomas McLain, was also a native of Missouri, of Scotch stock, and his mother, who prior to her marriage was Miss Isabella Whitley, was of French descent, grand-daughter of Colonel Whitley, of Revolutionary war fame and a friend of Daniel Boone in Missouri. When our subject was fifteen years of age he left home and began for himself, driving freight wagons for Major Russell & Company, who were government freighters, going from Nebraska City to Salt Lake City. He continued at that work up to 1867, then for two years was employed in the grade work of the Union Pacific railroad in this state and Wyoming, at the end of that time returning to Missouri, where he was engaged in farming up to 1883, in Nodaway county. He came to Keya Paha county in the latter year, locating on his present place, and here he has built up a splendid farm and home. The place is well covered with natural timber of all kinds. There are six hundred and forty acres of good land, one hundred of which is under cultivation, and he keeps fifty head of cattle, a number of horses, and about fifty hogs. During the early years Mr. McLain saw a good many pioneer experiences, and went through many ups and downs, often becoming greatly discouraged during the dry years, when he lost entire crops after so many months of hard labor. He lived in a log house for ten years, and had to haul all his provisions for family use from Long Pine and Ainsworth, at that time being obliged to ford the river and many times having to leave his wagon in the river over night. He often felt like leaving the place, but for several years acted as postmaster at Springview, and that kept him here when he otherwise would have left. A view of the dwelling with its encircling hills and one of the old log school houses is to be found on another page.

Mr. McLain was married in Nodaway county, Missouri, March 15, 1871, to Miss Nancy J. Martin, of Scotch-Irish descent, a daughter of Samuel and Louisa (Owens) Martin. They are the parents of seven children, who are named as follows: Laura B., wife of Harry McQueen; Robert S., Louisa, wife of Charles Carter; Lorena, wife of Thomas Burg; Elsie, who married Rose Williams; Princess, wife of Roscoe McCulley, and Samuel, all living in Nebraska or South Dakota, not far from the old home. Four daughters were educated in the log school house in their district, and all have been teachers in the county schools here for eight or ten years.

Mr. McLain has always been an active worker in the Democratic party, but has never held any office except that of postmaster, and in this capacity he has proven a most capable and efficient official.

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#### CHARLES ARTER.

Charles Arter, one of the foremost men of Rock county, has been identified with the commercial interests of this locality for many years.

Mr. Arter was born in Salineville, Columbiana county, Ohio, July 23, 1856. His father, Jason R. Arter, was a leading physician of his native town. He served in the Thirty-first Ohio Volunteers from Shiloh to Atlanta, ranking as major. Seeing the end of the war near he resigned to give his subordinates an opportunity to rise. His death occurred soon after his return, from the effects of camp fever contracted while in the service. Our subject, the younger of two children, was reared in Oil City, Pennsylvania, and early left home to assume his own support; obtaining a position with the Pittsburg, Bradford and Buffalo road as rodman, rising to the position of instrument man and office engineer, being employed in the construction of branch lines. In 1883 Mrs. Arter came with a colony to what is now Rock county and was here joined by her son in February, 1884, when mother and son located on a homestead in section 34, township 32, range 17, situated on Ash creek, later establishing a mill. Here they put up a frame building and began to operate the mill during the year 1885. The nearest milling point then was fifty miles away, and up until 1894, the mill continued in operation, proving a profitable venture, but when the crops began to fail everywhere, the mill was abandoned, and Mr. Arter started into stock raising, at which he made a success from the beginning. Since then he has been engaged in this business on a large scale, and now owns a large ranch of one thousand and eighty acres divided into three pieces, of which nine hundred and twenty acres are deeded land, and one hundred and sixty acres held under lease. On this farm he has built a fine house, large barns and many improvements in the way of fencing. He also has one of the finest groves of pine trees in the state, and this has attracted the attention of the members of the board of agriculture, who are studying his method of growing pines.

In 1894 Mr. Arter was appointed postmas-

ter of Kirkwood, this office being established about ten years previous, his predecessors being J. N. Hovey, A. G. Felton and John A. Brubaker, in the order named.

In 1882 Mr. Arter was married to Miss Sarah Johnson, of American birth, and German descent, and five children have been born to them as follows: Jason R., Laura V., Cynthia Ann, Winfield S. and Alice A.

Mr. Arter is an easy-going, genial gentleman, clear-headed and original in his ideas and thoughts, and is much above the average man as a philosopher. In political faith Mr. Arter is an Independent.

#### PETER NISSEN.

Peter Nissen, one of the tried and true ranchers of Keith county, Nebraska, was born in the southern part of Denmark, April 14, 1863. His father, Nis Matsen, according to the peculiar custom of names in that country, was a farmer and bricklayer by trade and lived and died in Denmark, his native country. The mother, Susan Christena (Petersen), still lives in that country on part of the old home farm.

Our subject was reared in Denmark, remaining there until in 1887, when he came to America, sailing from Copenhagen to New York. He then decided to locate in New Jersey. He here acquired the English language, and after about one year, came west to Colorado, locating on a pre-emption claim in Washington county, where he was one of the early pioneers. Here he, with others of his family, experienced the years of drouth and ruin of crops for several years, having hard time to get along. With him was his brother, Hans, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Petersen, who was a widow then. She has three children, Hans A. Petersen, Simon Petersen and John Nelson, the latter being the son of a second husband. Our subject's brother, Hans Nissen, was born in southern Denmark, November 10, 1866, and came to America on the same vessel. They have been together most of the time since. The brothers and sister came to Keith county, Nebraska, in 1893, and located on homesteads in Lonergan precinct. Together they have a splendid ranch of about five thousand five hundred acres along the North Platte river, and running back into the hills, on which they run about four hundred head of cattle and fifty horses. The buildings and main improvements of the ranch are on Otter creek, which furnishes a never failing supply of clear, cold water. They have about four hundred acres of fine hay land and they engage largely in

raising cattle and horses, farming just enough to provide such grain feed as is needed for their stock. Our subject and his brother have been very successful in their business and are well fixed financially.

Peter Nissen has been an important factor in the growth of his vicinity and is recognized as one of the leading old-timers. He has taken an active part in political matters and has held several local offices, among them that of assessor, which position he has occupied several times. He is Republican in politics, and was reared in the Lutheran church.

#### FERMAN S. KEY.

The gentleman above named is a well known and highly respected citizen of section 1, township 21, range 15, Garfield county, and one of the pioneer settlers of western Nebraska. He landed in this section of the country with but little capital and went to work determined to win a home for himself, and how well he succeeded is evidenced by the good farm and valuable property he now owns. He is industrious and energetic and is one of the progressive agriculturists of his county, his place being situated in what is called Bean Creek Valley, all of it being under cultivation.

Mr. Key is a native of Adair county, Iowa, born in 1867. He was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education, attending the country schools for a few months during the winter of each year, the balance of his time being spent in doing hard farm work on his father's farm in Iowa. He came to Nebraska from Iowa, in 1887, settling on a pre-emption consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, located twenty miles northeast of Burwell, and later took a homestead nine miles from Burwell. The farm on which he now lives is situated in section 1, township 21, range 15. Here he engages in the culture of grain, raising corn, oats, wheat, etc., also runs some stock, raising alfalfa for his stock, and this yields a good crop at each cutting, the valley land being particularly adapted to its production. It averages two tons per acre, and Mr. Key considers it the best feed possible for all stock. Mr. Key is of the opinion that only one-half of the amount of money and labor is needed here in order to accomplish good results that is required in the eastern states, and says that five hundred dollars here is equal to two or three times that sum there. He also says that any man who is possessed of five hundred dollars who is willing to work, will become almost independently rich here in a reasonable time. He is himself a prac-

tical farmer and employs modern methods in his operations.

Mr. Key was married in 1887 to Miss Jennie M. Scofield, a native of Adair county, Iowa, whose parents were well-to-do farmers there. Mr. and Mrs. Key reared five children, namely: Eldon L., James Walter, Roy Everett, Lloyd and Hazel. Mrs. Key died March 15th, 1906, and her loss was deeply felt by her devoted family and a host of sympathetic friends.

Mr. Key is an Independent politically and owes allegiance to no party, although he takes an active interest in all affairs of moment in his locality and is prominently connected with all movements for the public good and the bettering of conditions in his region.

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### EUGENE BEAL.

Eugene Beal, sheriff of Keith county, Nebraska, is one of the strong political leaders of the county and has a large and increasing constituency. He is a capable official and makes friends wherever he goes.

Eugene Beal is a native son of Nebraska, born in Crab Orchard, Johnson county, July 23, 1877, and is of German-Irish stock. His father, John Beal, a native of Knox county, Ohio, was a pioneer of the state, coming to Gage county in the early sixties. Our subject's mother, Maria J. Lovitt, was also born in Knox county, Ohio, from which state the family moved to Nebraska; at that time their supplies had to be freighted from Nebraska City, the nearest river town.

Our subject was reared on a farm on the frontier of eastern Nebraska, becoming inured to hard work, receiving a good common school education and graduating from the Business College at Beatrice.

Eugene Beal enlisted in Company C, First Nebraska Regiment, for service during the Spanish-American war and the Philippine insurrection in the Philippines. He mustered in at Lincoln, May 1, 1898, and his record as a soldier is as follows:

Enrolled April 27, 1898, for the Spanish-American war and the Philippine insurrection in 1899, participating in the following engagements: Santa Mesa, February 4th and 5th; captured water works, February 6th; Marquina Road, February 17th, Dam Farm Del Monte, March 25th; Meycouyan, March 26th; Marilou, March 27th-29th; Guiguinte, March 29th and 30th; Cupin Malolos, March 31st; Quinga and Bag Bag Riger, April 24th; Calumpit, March 25th; Santa Thomas, May 4th. Mustered out August 25, 1899, at San Francisco and returned to his home in Nebraska. He was next employed by the

Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company for six months and an equal time as deputy clerk in the district court and for one year deputy sheriff of Gage county.

In June, 1902, he came to Keith county, where he purchased six hundred acres of land and went into the ranching business, cultivating two hundred and seventy-five acres of the land.

Mr. Beal was married in June, 1902, to Miss Zelma L. Hodges and the union has been blessed with three children: Barney L., Hellen and Theodore.

Our subject was elected sheriff of Keith county in 1907, and is the present incumbent. He has held other offices of trust and responsibility in the community and is regarded as an efficient and conscientious public man.

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### E. BAUDER.

E. Bauder, a prosperous and energetic farmer of Sheridan county, Nebraska, resides on his well improved estate in section 3, township 32, range 43. He is a gentleman of much energy and determination, and is also one of the early settlers of this region.

Mr. Bauder was born in Montgomery county, New York, in 1850, and raised and educated there. His father, Simion Bauder, is a native of New York, and came west, locating in Kansas, where he died, and after his death his wife took her little family and went back to their old home in New York. Our subject was one of three children, and at the age of eleven he began working out by the month on farms to support himself, and for twenty-two years followed this occupation. In the fall of 1884 he left New York and came to Nebraska, locating on the place he now occupies, driving the distance from Valentine to where he lives with teams and covered wagon containing his household goods. When he arrived here the ground was covered with snow and the first night after reaching Gordon, a blizzard struck the place and ripped the cover off the stage in which they were riding. This was a disagreeable and unpleasant experience, but no serious damage resulted from the storm. He at once went to work on his homestead, the following year building a sod house, and did well at farming until the dry period came on and he lost all he had made, and became so discouraged that had he been offered two hundred dollars for his land, he would have sold it and quit. However, he was obliged to stick to it and managed to live and support his family during the hard times, which lasted from 1890 to 1900. Since then

he has gathered together eleven quarter sections of good land, and his place is well improved and all fenced. He has a drove of some two hundred head of stock, and is one of the most progressive agriculturists of the community in which he lives. He now has the blocks all made with which he intends to erect a fine cement house in the spring. He enjoys a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings, and has seen plenty of pioneer life and does not care for any more.

In 1887 Mr. Bauder was married to Miss Etta Addick, a native of New York state. Her father and mother were both natives of New York state, the former having died when she was a mere child. Mr. and Mrs. Bauder have one child, George E., born and raised in this locality.

Mr. Bauder is one of the men who have devoted both time and money to assist in the development of the locality in which he chose his home. He takes an active part in all local affairs, and has served his county as commissioner for one term. He is an Independent voter.

#### ROBERT C. SNODGRASS.

Robert C. Snodgrass, a capable and progressive farmer of township 30, range 46, Sheridan county, is recognized as a citizen of worth and one of the leading agriculturists of his community.

Mr. Snodgrass was born in West Virginia in 1857, and is a son of Isaac Snodgrass, of German-American stock, born and raised in West Virginia, a farmer by occupation. He died there in 1859, when our subject was two years of age, leaving a family of five children, his wife remaining on the home farm until they were grown up. Our subject was the third child in order of birth, and as soon as he was old enough he began assisting in the farm work, hoeing corn when he was a small lad, and helped his mother until he was twenty-one years of age. He determined to start out for himself and borrowed twenty dollars to start west on, as he thought that the best field for a young man of small capital. He got as far as Indiana, and was obliged to stop there while he earned more money, and in 1881 landed in Iowa. Here he worked out for a time, and then took a farm and ran it for four years, when he left there and came to Nebraska in 1888, locating in Sheridan county. Here he took a homestead and lived on it for two years, then purchased the relinquishment on the farm which he now occupies. He set to work improving this place

and proved up on it. He first erected a sod house and lived in this for several years. He put on all the improvements himself, saving the cost of any hired help, and at the same time was raising crops up to 1891, when the dry years struck his locality and for several years was only able to raise sufficient to keep the family in provisions and save enough for the next year's seed. For the past eight years he has raised excellent crops, getting better each year, and he has gradually added to his place until he is now owner of six hundred and forty acres of good land, and also leases some near his own farm. On his farm there is a deep gulch which serves as a shed for his stock, of which he has about one hundred head of cattle and thirty horses. He finds stock raising to be most profitable and intends to engage in it on a larger scale from now on. He farms about one hundred and seventy-five acres and uses a large portion of the produce on his farm, marketing very little of it. He is delighted with the farming possibilities in this section of the country, and after having experience in Iowa and other states, would not trade his farm here for any he ever saw.

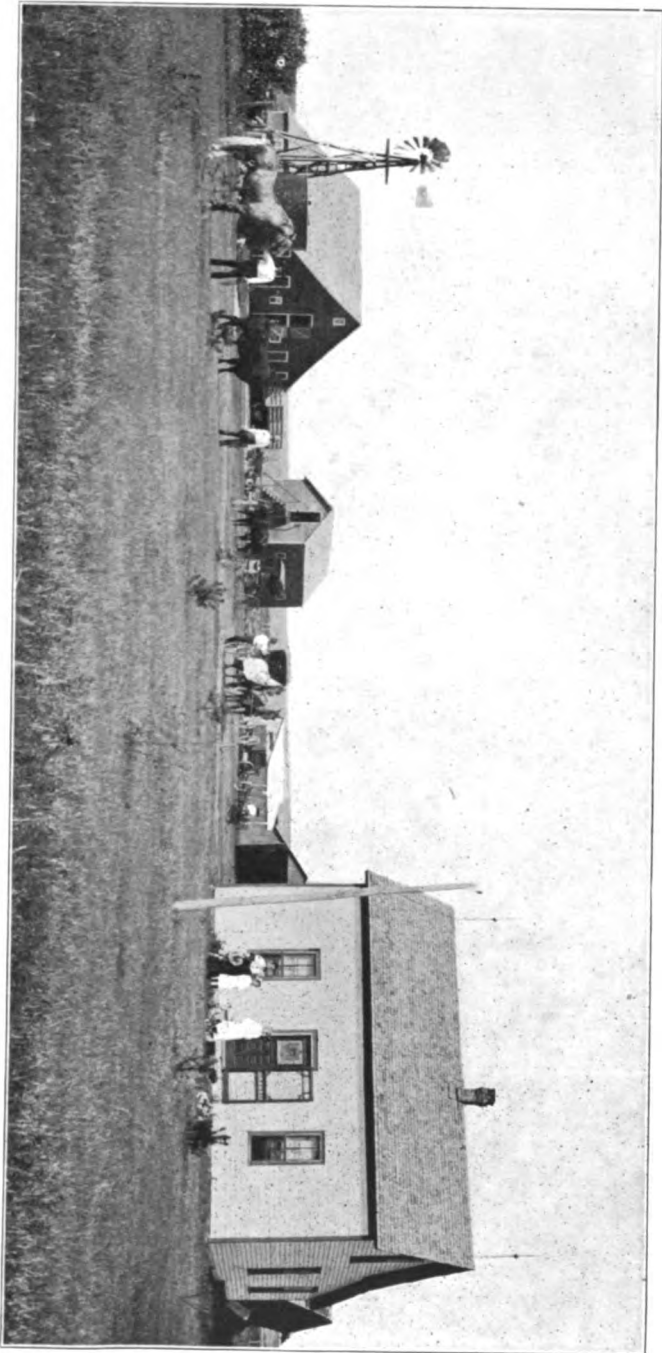
Mr. Snodgrass was married in 1883 to Miss Lottie Worley, born in Delaware county, Iowa, in 1862. They have a family of five children, namely: Vernon L., John Earle, Richard Leroy, Dora Agnes and Dale Carleton, all born and raised in Nebraska.

Mr. Snodgrass lived on his present farm during the Indian scare of 1891, and remained there through the dangerous times, although he never experienced any serious trouble from the redskins. At this time his wife was visiting relatives in Iowa, and on two occasions Mr. Snodgrass, together with several neighbors, went to Hay Springs to spend the night for fear of being surprised and injured by the savages, but the balance of the time he stayed at home. The people were in a high state of excitement, and every church in the section was a meeting place and refuge for them.

Mr. Snodgrass is a Republican, and although he takes a keen interest in local and county affairs has never held office. An interesting picture of a ranch scene on Mr. Snodgrass' property will be found elsewhere.

#### I. E. MONTGOMERY.

I. E. Montgomery, of Bloomington, Franklin county, Nebraska, is president of the Valley Investment Company, organized in 1903, incorporated and started in 1881. It came into



**RANCH SCENE—R. C. SNODGRASS,  
Sheridan County, Nebraska.**



the above gentleman's hands in 1892, and since that time he has been manager of the concern, whose operations extend over this and the adjoining counties in Nebraska and Kansas. It is the largest company of its kind in this section of the country, and makes a specialty of loans on good farm and business property, with ample capital for all demands on A1 security. In the sale of lands it has done a large and constantly increasing business, and the promoters of the concern have advertised extensively this section throughout Iowa, northern Missouri and Illinois, and brought a large number of settlers here in the past twenty years, who have proved to be of the industrious and progressive farming class, and who have been successful here beyond all expectations, the land increasing in value from five to forty, then to sixty, and exceptionally located lands close to the town, at from eighty to one hundred dollars per acre, in that time, which is the measure of success which has come to the buyers who have held on to their property.

The Valley Investment Company has a paid up capital of ten thousand dollars, surplus two thousand dollars, with officers as follows: President, I. E. Montgomery; cashier, J. W. Knikbride, and O. H. Montgomery, vice-president. They also write insurance in the leading companies, and have a large business in this line. In the fall of 1902 our subject organized the Bloomington Telephone Company, incorporating it with a capital of five thousand dollars, and since its start the business has developed rapidly. In 1904 the capitalization was found to be too small for the operations of the company, and in the spring of the following year Mr. Montgomery secured control of the Franklin Telephone Company and he then incorporated the Republican Valley Telephone Company with an authorized capital of one hundred thousand dollars, this company being a consolidation of the Bloomington and the Franklin Telephone Companies. The new company has a paid up capital of seventeen thousand dollars. The company owns the exchanges in the towns of Bloomington, using two hundred 'phones, and Franklin, with the same number, operating in all over four hundred telephones of their own, besides switching for about twelve farm lines of six hundred 'phones, and new telephones are being constantly installed. This company owns the toll lines east from Republic City, Nebraska, to midway between Franklin and Riverton, also the toll line from Franklin to Macon, and operate, under arrangement, over the Bell telephone toll lines

in every direction to this and the adjoining states.

The Republican Valley Telephone Company rebuilt the Franklin system in the summer of 1905, installing a new two hundred capacity visual signal switchboard, as well as about twenty-five hundred feet of cable, and in the fall of 1906 they erected a fine brick central office building in Bloomington, with every up-to-date fixture and improvement to be had, installing an additional one hundred capacity switchboard and three thousand feet of cable, and the whole system is now in the best possible shape. Besides Mr. Montgomery's interest in the telephone company he is proprietor of about one thousand acres of farm lands, and buys, sells and rents from time to time. Much of his time is taken up in public affairs, and for sixteen years he was in the court house at Bloomington. From May, 1884, to January, 1888, he served as deputy county treasurer, and from the latter date to August, 1891, was deputy county clerk, resigning at that time to look after the campaign as candidate for clerk of the district court. At that time the fusion party had a majority of two hundred to three hundred in the county, but our subject had been so successful as deputy treasurer and clerk that he was elected on the Republican ticket by a majority of one hundred and twenty-five, he and L. A. Siegel, county clerk, being the only Republicans to be elected. Mr. Montgomery served as clerk of the district court for four years, from January 1, 1892, up to January 1, 1896, and was re-elected in the fall of 1895, serving for four more years. He was the first clerk of the district court in this county, where the office is separate from that of county clerk. While acting as deputy county clerk he did the work of a district court clerk, from January, 1888, up to July, 1891. During the years 1901-'02 he took a course in law at the Nebraska State University, graduating in June, and was admitted to the supreme court bar and all state courts in that month, also to the United States circuit court and the district courts in November, 1902. In his practice he made a specialty of real estate and probate cases.

Mr. I. E. Montgomery is a native of Mar-kato, Minnesota, born in 1866. His father, R. W. Montgomery, is a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in 1862 in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, and served up to 1865. He is secretary of the Masonic lodge at Bloomington, and prominent in Grand Army of the Republic circles.

He married Miss Eliza Burns, born in Ire-



land, near Dublin, who came to this country about 1856, locating in Pekin, Illinois. Our subject was educated in the Nebraska schools, and after finishing his education taught for one year in Smith county, Kansas. He has one brother, C. D. Montgomery, associated with the Mergenthaler Linotype Machine Company, of Chicago and New York. Our subject has lived in Bloomington continuously since 1881, and prior to that resided in Furnas county, near Precept, and also in Beaver City. In 1890 Mr. Montgomery was married to Miss Oma Hildreth, daughter of Wilson Hildreth, deceased, formerly of Franklin county, and of this marriage one child was born, named Elizabeth.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bloomington, Mr. Montgomery acting as trustee. He is also a member of the school board, serving on that body since 1901, first as chairman and secretary, and is now treasurer.

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#### ALтна S. GERDES.

Altna S. Gerdes, who resides in township 27, range 47, Box Butte county, was born in Hanover province, Germany, in 1858. His father was a farmer and day laborer, and our subject was reared in his native town, where he followed farm work until he was twenty-six years of age. After reaching manhood he served for three years in the German army, and in 1884 left the old country and came to America, landing at New York. After landing here he remained for some time in New York city, then came to Illinois, where he was employed for three years on a stock farm. In 1887 he came west, locating in Box Butte county, Nebraska, landing in Hay Springs on June 1, 1887. Here he filed on a pre-emption in section 2, township 27, range 47, putting up sod buildings and digging a well, as there was trouble from lack of water in this vicinity. He remained on that place but one year, then settled on a homestead in section 13, on which he lived for ten years. His first poor year was in 1890. The following two years he was able to raise good crops, but again in 1894, 1895 and 1896 the drouths caused failures of crops and he had a hard time to get along and improve his place. During those times his nearest trading point was Alliance, and he was obliged to make many trips to Pine Ridge for wood, camping out along the road on the journey. About this time Mr. Gerdes started in the stock business. His beginning was one cow and a calf,

which he bought in 1887, and he kept increasing his herd and has dealt in stock principally since that time, and all the cattle he ever bought was six head, from this number developing a fine herd, at times running as high as three hundred and twenty-five head of cattle. He has marketed many carloads, all of them being from the increase of his original six head. Mr. Gerdes now owns a ranch of two thousand acres, all in Box Butte and Sheridan counties. He has good buildings, fences, etc., with three wells and wind-mills. He only cultivates forty acres, keeping all the rest for pasture, grass and hay land for his stock.

In 1898 Mr. Gerdes was married to Line Taylor, a widow, daughter of C. C. Ruggles, who was one of the first settlers in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes are the parents of two sons, George, aged nine years, and John, aged seven years.

Our subject is one of the leading men and old-timers of this part of the state, who has always taken an active part in its history from the beginning. He is a Republican.

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#### FREDERICK ELLIOTT.

The subject of this review, residing at North Platte, Nebraska, is one of the oldest railroad men in this section of the state. He has been in this line of work since 1870, and is familiar with every branch of the business and an authority on all matters pertaining to railway affairs.

Mr. Elliott is a native of England, born in Kent in 1848, and a son of Frederick Elliott, Sr. His grandfather, Stephen Elliott, served for forty-four years in the British navy. There were ten sons in the family, and of this number nine left the mother country and came to the United States to build up homes and make a fortune for themselves. The Elliott family first came from Scotland to Ireland, and later settled in Kent, England, and it was there that our subject was raised until the age of twenty, beginning to work in the machine shop of the ship yards there, where he learned the trade which he has followed ever since. At twenty years of age he started out for the new world and landed in America in 1869. He came west and settled in Nebraska, beginning work in the railway shops at Omaha in 1870, and from that time up to 1881 he had been employed on most of the leading roads in this section of the country. During the latter year he first started to work for the Union Pacific, and has been with that com-





S. W. CAREY WITH HIS FAMILY AND GRANDSON.

pany ever since that time, with headquarters at North Platte. He is now employed as foreman of the blacksmith shop in that city, and has held this position for the past five years.

While Mr. Elliott still lived in England he married Miss Bessie Peets, at Ramsgate, and together the young couple came to the United States, where they have worked hard to establish a home, and have a fine family of three children, all filling honorable positions in the world. The eldest, Professor Ed. C. Elliott, graduated from the North Platte high school in 1891 and entered the Nebraska State University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts, afterwards entering the Columbia College, New York, where he earned the title of Doctor of Philosophy. He also studied in Germany for some time, and is now filling the chair of pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin. The second son, Fred Elliott, Jr., is also a graduate of the North Platte high school, and has a good position with the Union Pacific Railway Company shops in Omaha as a coach carpenter. Benjamin G. Elliott, the youngest son, was graduated from his home high school, and is now attending the School of Technology at Terre Haute, Indiana.

The family are prominent members of the Episcopal church at North Platte, and enjoy the esteem and friendship of a large circle of people in their community.

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#### WILLIAM D. CONNELL.

William D. Connell, residing on section 6, township 32, range 50, Dawes county, is well known as a successful and prosperous agriculturist of his locality. He is among the earliest settlers in western Nebraska, and has aided materially in the development of the region by his active interest in promoting the commercial and agricultural resources of the county, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Connell was born in Polk county, Iowa, near Des Moines, in 1855. His father, John Connell, was a butcher by trade, born in Ohio, of Irish stock, and he married Charity Scribner, who was of German parentage. As a boy our subject lived in Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, learning the butcher's business early in life, which he followed for fifteen years. When he was twelve years of age he started out for himself and traveled over the western states quite extensively. In 1885 he came to Dawes county, and at that time the railroad only came as far as Valentine. He made

his first settlement two and a half miles east of Whitney, then a small town, and his first dwelling was a log shanty sixteen by thirty-two. The following year his family joined him, and they remained on this place up to 1897, then located in section 6, township 32, range 50, where he now lives. Here he has put up good buildings and all necessary improvements and machinery for operating his farm. He has his place all fenced, and plenty of good water, the White river running through the farm. He owns one hundred and sixty acres, and has plenty of hay land and alfalfa, and engages in stock raising, doing but little farming. He buys and sells considerable stock, running principally horses and cattle. When he first came here he drove from Valentine, and in making another trip to the Missouri river was compelled to drive all the way from Hay Springs, as there was no railway through then.

In 1874 Mr. Connell was married to Miss Eva A. Ballard, daughter of Martin Ballard, an attorney at Blair, Nebraska, where for a time after his marriage Mr. Connell was engaged in the butcher business. Mr. and Mrs. Connell have three children, who are named as follows: Lillie M., C. F. Connell and Gertie S.

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#### SAMUEL W. CAREY.

Samuel W. Carey, who occupies a foremost position among the prominent old settlers of western Nebraska, resides at Crawford, in Dawes county, and is the owner of a fine farm and comfortable home in section 7, township 32, range 53. He has spent many years in accumulating this property, and his entire career has been marked by industrious effort and honest dealings. On another page we present a picture of Mr. Carey with his family and grandson.

Mr. Carey is a native of Hillsborough county, New Hampshire, born in 1832. He is a worthy descendant of an old American family and a son of Samuel, also a farmer all his life. His mother's maiden name was Harriet Prouty.

Our subject was raised in his native state and remained there during his young manhood, following farm work for many years. In 1862 Mr. Carey came west, first locating in Chicago, where he remained for a short time. He came to Nebraska, locating in Sioux county, in 1887, and at the time he struck this region the country was practically in its primitive state, there being no roads or bridges,

and only a few scattering settlers in the county. He picked out a location thirteen miles northwest of Crawford, the tract being situated on School and Cottonwood creeks, and lived there for about five years, proving up on the place as a homestead. He had a hard time getting started, meeting with many discouragements on account of crop failures, etc., and finally purchased and moved to the farm on section 7 in 1892, and at once began to put up improvements in the way of buildings, fences and cultivating the land for crops. The ranch contains four hundred and eighty acres, and is well supplied with timber, water, etc., and he engages in mixed farming and stock raising. He has put in all his time on the place since coming here, and his labors have been well rewarded, as is evidenced by the well tilled fields and well kept appearance of every corner of his property. Mr. Carey still owns his ranch in Sioux county, but of late has bought out the Charles Bowers foundry plant at Crawford, Dawes county, Nebraska, and is putting it in fine shape for general business, and he lives on the site, occupying several acres. Mr. Carey is a born mechanic and served his apprenticeship in New York when a young man.

Mr. Carey was married in 1863 to Martha Procnier, a daughter of Isaac Procnier, of German descent. Her mother's maiden name was Annie McClish, of Scotch descent. Our subject and his estimable wife have had a family of five children, who are named as follows: Leona, Elmina, Adelaide, Hattie and Martha. Leona died in May, 1903.

Mr. Carey is one of the well-to-do men of his locality and enjoys a happy and peaceful home and many friends. He is held in high esteem as a worthy citizen and a good neighbor. He is a stanch Bryan Democrat. Mr. Carey was one of the first men to build a fence in his township, and also one of the first to have any surveying done. He also brought the first sawmill into the district, and owned it.

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#### ALBERT G. HOLT.

Albert G. Holt, widely known as one of the leading business men of Johnstown, Brown county, is a gentleman of integrity and sterling character, who has gained the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has resided for the past twenty-two years. He is the banker of the above town, and a worthy citizen of his community.

Mr. Holt is a native of Missouri City, Clay county, Missouri, born January 15, 1861. His

father, John D. Holt, was a merchant and produce shipper, of old American stock, and the mother in maidenhood was Martha M. Peery. The family consisted of six children, of whom our subject is the fourth member. He was reared in Missouri City, some twenty-one miles east of Kansas City. For two years the family lived at Holt, Missouri, and subsequently spent two years in Gainsville, Texas, returning to Missouri City. Mr. Holt had learned the telegrapher's art and worked at Liberty, on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railway, for some time. At the age of twenty-two he came to Long Pine, filing on a homestead. He then went to Blair, Nebraska, and worked as a telegraph operator for several years, and while there was married. In 1887 he came to Johnstown as station agent for the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, first known as the Sioux City & Pacific, which position he held for six years. He was afterwards postmaster during Cleveland's second administration, serving one term. He has always taken an active part in politics, attending many national conventions, particularly since 1896, and is known as one of the public-spirited men of this section.

During the dry years throughout this region Mr. Holt was extensively engaged in the poultry and game business in Johnstown, his trade amounting to forty thousand or fifty thousand dollars each year, and through this venture he accumulated a large part of his property. He now owns a fine ranch of twelve hundred acres, on which he runs as high as two hundred head of cattle.

Mr. Holt was married near Ellendale, South Dakota, to Miss Mary Towne, daughter of DeWitt C. Towne, who married Julia B. Goodman. To Mr. and Mrs. Holt seven children have been born: Nellie C., who is cashier in the bank; Hazel M., John Albert, Louis C., Cleora Ruth, Grace and Clifford Towne.

In 1901 Mr. Holt established the Citizens' Bank in Johnstown, which he is now operating, it being considered one of the most reliable banking houses in western Nebraska. He is a stanch Democrat in politics, a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order United Workmen at Johnstown. He is a member of the Christian church, while the family are communicants of the Episcopalian church.

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#### JAMES A. FARMER.

James A. Farmer, one of the extensive agriculturists of Marvin precinct, is also one of

the very early settlers in Perkins county. He is a man of active public spirit and broad mind, and has an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Farmer was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1845, and was reared on a farm there. Both his parents were natives of that state and spent many years as farmers.

When James was about twelve years of age he started to support himself, and since that time has drifted from one place to another and has seen much of the country in his wanderings. In 1863 he enlisted in Company H, Eleventh Ohio Cavalry, and was sent west with his regiment, going into the Dakotas, Montana, Colorado and Wyoming. All of his service in the west was in fighting the Indians. He also saw service after the raider Morgan and after the guerrilla Quantrell. After his discharge from the army, in 1866, he returned to Ohio and remained there up to the spring of 1884, following farming all of the time. He was married there in 1869 to Miss Elizabeth Chamber, born in Virginia, and to them were born three children, Denver, Edgar and Flora, all bright and intelligent young people. The family came to Kearney county, Nebraska, and lived in that vicinity for one year, then came to Perkins county, where they were among the pioneers—but few were here at that time. The country was entirely unimproved, and they went through many hardships and privations in getting a home started, all their supplies being hauled from North Platte, a distance of sixty miles from their claim. Mr. Farmer made many trips to that point, the journey taking several days through rough and unbroken roads, and the nights were spent in camping out under his wagon. He improved his farm as he was able, putting up substantial buildings, planting groves, etc., and now has a very valuable property. His home is on section 6, township 9, range 35, and he has eight hundred acres, about one hundred and twenty acres of which is cultivated and the rest used for pasture and hay land for stock, of which he has quite a bunch, including cattle, horses, hogs and sheep.

When Mr. Farmer landed in this section of the country he had but little capital to start with. He went to work with a will to carve out a fortune and establish a good home for himself and family, and the result must be highly satisfactory to him, as every dollar of his property has been gained through his own efforts, and he can enjoy his declining years with the knowledge of "duty well done." Mr. Farmer is a Republican and takes an active part in Republican politics.

#### LEANDER KARR BIVENS.

Leander Karr Bivens, one of the early settlers and prosperous ranchmen of Thomas county, Nebraska, resides on his pleasant estate and enjoys the comforts of rural life and the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Bivens was born in Pennsylvania in 1834. His father, Leonard Bivens, was of Yankee stock, a blacksmith by trade, and he married Nancy Sarver, who came of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. Leander was raised in his native state until he was nine years of age, when his parents came to Illinois, where he spent his boyhood, remaining there up to 1854. He then drifted to Utah and during the time he was in Utah he was for a time engaged in carrying the United States mail, and was through all sorts of exciting times, making his trips at times through the severest storms, and at one time barely escaped with his life when caught in a blizzard, and had fourteen mules freeze to death on one trip.

Thirty-five years of Mr. Bivens' career were spent in roving the western states, and he has passed through some of the most thrilling adventures during his life on the frontier, experiencing every form of pioneer hardship and privation. During the "gold fever," which struck the whole country at different times, he was one of the foremost in the different expeditions formed in the west, and in pursuit of the shining metal which tempted so many from home to the gold regions, he figures that he has spent not less than fifty thousand dollars prospecting in the western gold fields of California, Greenwood Valley and British Columbia.

In 1886 Mr. Bivens first came to Thomas county, Nebraska, two years before it was organized, took a pre-emption and homestead and proved up on both claims. He had a hard time to make a living during the first few years on the place, but stuck to it, determined to succeed, going through the usual pioneer times, and finally became able to add improvements to his farm, erect good buildings, etc., gradually adding to his original homestead, until he is now owner of one whole section, which he uses for stock raising, the greater portion used for grass and hay land. He has built five miles of fence, and every improvement necessary in the way of buildings, machinery, etc. He has a beautiful lake on the ranch, well stocked with fish, and has any number of fine shade and fruit trees, which he planted many years ago. Altogether his place is one of the best equipped and most pleasantly situated in this part of the coun-

try. Our subject is of quite a practical turn and is known as an expert in the making of home-made wine.

During boyhood our subject learned the blacksmith's trade, following in the footsteps of his father, and has worked at this off and on during much of his career in the west, and for seventeen years after coming to Nebraska he devoted all of his time to it. One brother, Samuel W. Bivens, is another old settler in Thomas county, having located here in 1884. He also is proprietor of a valuable estate consisting of a fine ranch and pleasant home which is situated near the Loup river, and adjoins a part of our subject's homestead.

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#### FRED M. KURTH.

Industry and integrity coupled with hard and faithful labor, are the stepping stones by which this gentleman has reached success. Mr. Kurth is the owner of one of the finest ranches in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, which he has acquired by persistent and untiring labor and good management. He has at times met with reverses, but losses did not discourage him, and he is now one of the substantial men of his locality. He resides on his valuable estate in Colton precinct, where he has gathered about him all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Kurth was born in Saxony, Germany, December 26, 1853, and grew to the age of thirteen years in his native city. He then came to the United States with an uncle, sailing from Bremen Haven in the Deutschland and landing in New York after a voyage of thirteen days. They settled in Will county, Illinois, and remained there following farming until 1886, when our subject came to western Nebraska, locating in Cheyenne county. He filed on a homestead in the southwest quarter of section 10, township 13, range 48, later moving to section 18, the latter acquired by purchase, and at the present time he owns and controls one thousand six hundred acres of good ranch and farm land in the vicinity. He has succeeded in a remarkable degree, building a fine home, with a complete set of outbuildings, and cultivates about one hundred and sixty acres, using the balance as a stock ranch, on which he runs at times three hundred and fifty head of cattle and about one hundred horses.

He has one of the finest, and, indeed, the only fruit bearing orchard in his portion of the county, all planted and tended by him-

self, and every corner of his ranch shows the very best care in its operation.

Mr. Kurth was united in marriage May 17, 1876, to Augusta Hollis, who was born in Germany in 1854, coming to this country with her parents at the age of three years. They have a family of eight children, named as follows: Maggie, now Mrs. William Krueger, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Annie, Louis, Fritz, Henry, Frank, George and Willie, four still living at home. One son, Fritz, owns a homestead in section 8, township 13, range 48, which he carries on with success.

Our subject takes an active part in local affairs, and is treasurer of school district No. 97, discharging his duties faithfully and well, and enjoys the confidence of his fellowmen.

He is a Democrat politically.

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#### JAMES M. HUDSON.

James M. Hudson, whose pleasant and attractive ranch home is to be found in section 21, township 35, range 25, Cherry county, has built for himself a good name in Cherry county, Nebraska, where he is known as a thoroughly honorable and reliable man, an industrious worker, and a successful citizen, on whose reputation rests no stain of trickery or sharp practice. What he holds he has won by industry and hard work, and his good name comes from a lifetime of integrity and industry.

Mr. Hudson was born on a farm in Nodaway county, Missouri, January 16, 1855, and from his earliest days he was inured to a farmer's life. Being the first born in a family of eight children, two of whom died in infancy, many cares and much responsibility were early thrown upon him, and he was made self reliant and quick in thought and decision from the first. He remained at home with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he began life for himself as a farmer, operating rented land. In 1882 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Nelson, who was born in Utah, but was reared in Iowa, to which state her parents, Joseph R. and Lydia (Chadwick) Nelson, moved while she was a young child. The father was an Englishman by birth while the mother was a native of New Jersey. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson have an adopted son, Joseph M., who was born in June, 1904, of whom they are very fond. Mr. Hudson farmed in Missouri from 1877 to 1878, and then for three years was engaged in mercantile pursuits in a store at Elmo, Missouri, un-







PIONEER FEEDING RANCH OF LEWIS OBERWETTER,  
Sheridan County, Nebraska.

til 1884. He then moved to Cherry county, Nebraska, in 1884, and settled on a homestead in section 10, township 34, range 25. Mr. Hudson came by train to the county, built a home for his family, which he brought through by wagon, camping by the roadside most of the way. His first claim not appearing to be a promising one, Mr. Hudson abandoned it and made another entry in section 21, township 35, range 25, which is fully improved, and by persistent hard work has made it one of the choice ranches of this region. At the present time he is the proprietor of an extensive tract of three quarter sections of fine land on Sand creek, of which about eighty acres are under active cultivation, and the remainder being devoted to hay and pasture. Mr. Hudson is very actively interested in stock raising, and at all times has about a hundred head of cattle on his place. He is an extensive hog raiser, and is able to show some of the most attractive horses bred in this part of the state.

In matters of politics the subject of this writing has in the main affiliated with the Democratic party, but holds party consideration secondary to questions of principle and character. He has never held any other than strictly local offices, but has always been willing to meet the full measure of his responsibility as a citizen and a man. Here he has taken a pronounced stand for whatever looks to advancement in local and educational matters, and at the present time is a member of the school board.

Cherry county and its annals by no means belong to ancient history, but Mr. Hudson is very properly named among its pioneers, and he knows by hard experience what life upon the frontier means, as he passed through many a hard and dreary day in those trying times, when Nebraska was being won from the wilderness. Here he struggled through the dry years of 1893 to 1896, and though he was able to raise nothing, survived the drouth, and still thinks Cherry county an agreeable place of residence.

He has running water on his place, an advantage which few Nebraska ranchers enjoy. He also has a small orchard which promises much in the near future. When Mr. Hudson first came to this county there was but one house on "The Table" between Berry Ridge and a point east of Spring View, and only a few cabins along the river. He has ridden the range after cattle, enjoyed wolf hunting with his dogs, killing as high as one hundred and twenty-four in a season. Mrs. Hudson has accompanied him deer hunting and during the grouse and duck season their table is

bountifully supplied with game. This ranch is a favorite resort for wealthy hunters from eastern Nebraska and Iowa.

John Hudson, the father of the subject of this writing, was born in Clay county, Kentucky, July 7, 1830, and made his home in Nodaway county, Missouri, in 1839, with his father, Joseph Hudson, one of the first settlers of that region. He died in Missouri in 1897 in his ninety-second year. John Hudson learned the trade of carpenter and joiner and at the same time devoting his spare time to farming, which was mainly operated by his sons. He was always busy and became known as a very industrious man.

In 1884 he came with his entire family to Cherry county, Nebraska, and at once identified himself with the most active men of the day, and was a **reliable worker for anything** that looked to the welfare of the community. In 1901 he suffered from a slight attack of smallpox, which was serious enough, however, to rob him of his eyesight, since which time he has been unable to follow any work. On December 31, 1853, he was married to Miss Rutelia Lamar, who was born in Anderson county, Tennessee, in 1832, of French ancestry. Mr. Hudson has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1860, though of late years he has not been a frequent attendant at the lodge meetings.

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#### LEWIS OBERWETTER.

Lewis Oberwetter, one of the most prosperous farmers and ranchmen of Sheridan county, was born in Wisconsin in 1863. His father, Henry Oberwetter, a farmer, was born in Germany, came to America when a young man, and served for one year in Company A, Thirty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry, during the war, losing an arm while in service. In the spring of 1870 the family moved to Iowa and located at Adel. Then they moved to Nebraska in September, 1897. Henry Oberwetter, the father of our subject, died on April 8, 1904, in Sheridan county, Nebraska. Our subject is the third in a family of five. At the age of twenty he started out, working in Iowa on a farm, and then came to Sheridan county.

Mr. Oberwetter was married in 1884 to Miss Belle Hill, born in Iowa in 1860, her parents both being of American stock, still living in Gordon. Mr. and Mrs. Oberwetter have no family.

In 1886 our subject came to Sheridan county, locating on his present farm, where he has

resided ever since. He immediately engaged in the cattle business as extensively as his capital would permit, which was not on a very large scale. He had a great deal of difficulty in getting started, and the first few years their living was derived from poultry and milch cows. Mr. Oberwetter now runs about six hundred head of stock on his ranch, farming four hundred acres, feeding his crops right at home, as he aims not to sell any of his feed. His ranch comprises about five thousand acres of deeded land, which extends for a distance of twelve miles, divided in three places, but all under the personal supervision of Mr. Oberwetter.

Mr. Oberwetter is also something of an inventor, having invented a hay stacker, which proved a decided success, and is used to a considerable extent among the farmers in this county. He is also president of the Union Bank of Rushville, Nebraska, which has a capital of forty thousand dollars, and is doing a fine business. He is satisfied that Sheridan county is one of the best to be found anywhere, and contented to remain here. Mr. Oberwetter has never had the time to devote to active politics; has never held office nor wanted to, but votes the Republican ticket.

An interesting picture is presented on another page showing the "Pioneer Feeding Ranch," property of Mr. Oberwetter.

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#### HENRY OLBRICHT.

Henry Olbricht, an old-time resident of Sioux county, and one of the foremost citizens of his township, has extensive land interests in that region. He is a gentleman of broad mind and good business judgment and has prospered in a marked degree, now enjoying a home of great comfort and the highest esteem of his fellow-citizens. He lives on section 33, township 30, range 53.

Mr. Olbricht was born in Glattz, Prussia, in 1856. His father, Franz, was a farmer and lived and died in Germany. Our subject was raised and educated there, and during his boyhood learned the tanner's trade, and for a number of years traveled through Germany and Switzerland following his work in that line.

In 1878 he came to the United States, and after landing in New York city, went immediately to New Jersey, locating at Elizabeth City, and remained there for fifteen years, working in a tannery. Mr. Olbricht came west in 1892 and settled in Sioux county upon landing in Nebraska, taking a homestead in section 33, township 30, range 53. His first dwelling

was built of poles, and during the first few years witnessed all sorts of hardships and had a hard time to get along.

He was obliged to work out at anything he could find to do to make a living, but stuck to his home and gradually was able to improve the place and buy more land, so that he is now owner of a fine ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, fitted with all good buildings, fenced and having a number of wells, windmills, etc., and is considered one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Mr. Olbricht was married while living in New Jersey, in 1880, to Katie Eick, and to them have been born the following children: Henrietta, Frank, Benjamin and Frederick. Mrs. Olbricht died in New Jersey, at Elizabeth City, in 1889, and was deeply mourned by her family and many warm friends. She was a most estimable lady, and a good wife and mother.

In 1901 Mr. Olbricht was married to Mrs. Bertha (Lange) Sauser, a native of Russia, who came to this country when a young girl. From this second marriage a son has been born, Theodore, aged seven. Mrs. Olbricht came to America in 1890, in company with her brother and his family, and settled in New Jersey, where she lived about three years, and then went to Denver, Colorado. Her father and mother both died in the old country. By her first marriage Mrs. Olbricht had one son, Jacob Sauser, now twelve years of age.

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#### M. J. COMBS.

M. J. Combs, retired, residing in Huntley, Nebraska, is one of the leading old settlers of western Nebraska. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a good neighbor and worthy citizen of his community in every way.

Mr. Combs is a native of Illinois and was raised in Nebraska. His father, J. L. Combs, was a native of Tennessee, born in Nashville, in 1844, as also was his mother, whose maiden name was Jane Swan. The father came here in 1855, from near Peru, Illinois, and settled at Peru, Nemaha county, on a pre-emption consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, and together with Friel Nuckolls, R. W. Frame, William Hogg and J. W. Hall, laid out the town of Peru, he locating a mile and a half from the town site, where he died in 1864, aged fifty years. He was one of the leading citizens of his county, a strong Republican, and his death was a severe loss to the people of that locality. Our subject grew up in Nemaha county, Ne-

braska. During the second year of the Civil war he enlisted in Company C, Second Nebraska Cavalry, at Brownsville. He was but eighteen years of age at that time, and with his regiment served at Fort Kearney, Cottonwood Springs. He also went on expeditions up the Platte river, at Fort McPherson, where Company C was the first to be stationed. They had many skirmishes with the Indians and saw a great deal of rough fighting while in the service. In 1865 and 1866 he freighted along the Platte river, and also sold chickens to the settlers in that vicinity, receiving twelve dollars per dozen, as they were a luxury in these parts at that time.

Many times he had narrow escapes from falling into the hands of bands of Indians who roamed the country, and on one occasion saw a freight train of twenty-four wagons held up and the twenty-six men who were with the outfit were all killed.

In 1867 he settled down and lived on his father's farm for nine years, taking care of his mother and younger brothers and sisters after his father's death. In all he farmed near Peru for forty-three years, building up a good home and valuable estate, owning over four hundred and eighty acres at one time, but has since sold part of this.

Mr. Combs married Miss Julia Roberts, who resides near Stockton, Missouri, a daughter of B. Roberts, who went to Cedar county, Missouri, from Brookville, Indiana, in 1850 in company with a neighbor, and these were the only men in that county who voted for Abraham Lincoln as president, in 1860. To Mr. and Mrs. Combs have been born the following children: Homer L., now of Auburn, Nebraska; C. H., of Kenesaw, this state; Elmer C., of Huntley; Minnie J., now Mrs. Adcock, wife of a farmer living near Huntley; Dora and Amanda, both attending school, and living at home.

Mr. Combs is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Huntley, and takes a leading part in all local affairs of importance to his community. He is a Republican, and has attended many county and state conventions as a delegate of his party. For five years he has served as assessor here. He is a good neighbor and worthy citizen of his community, of peaceful proclivities, and in all his life has never sued another man, never been sued, and only once was ever called as a witness in a court of law. He is a fine specimen of manhood, standing six feet two inches, and of a most interesting personality, esteemed by everyone with whom he has had to do.

#### WALTER KNUTZEN.

Walter Knutzen and R. G. Isdell, builders and contractors, have been in business together at Kearney, Nebraska, for the past ten or twelve years. They have put up all of the larger buildings and modern residences erected here in that time. The gentleman above named came here in 1879, and has followed contracting and building through all the ups and downs of this section, holding his own always, and has succeeded in a marked degree. He put up the City National Bank, the high school building, costing forty thousand dollars, which is one of the finest in design, material and execution of workmanship in the state of Nebraska. All visitors to Kearney greatly admire its exterior design and finish, and the citizens are justly proud of the Longfellow school. Mr. Knutzen also erected the Midway Loan & Trust Company building, the beautiful State Normal school dormitory, costing seventy-five thousand dollars, the splendid Carnegie Public Library, costing ten thousand dollars, and all excepting one of the ward school buildings, at a cost of from ten thousand to twelve thousand dollars each. He also erected most of the six large brick buildings at the State Industrial School, and many of the residences and business blocks that adorn the city and proclaim the growth of Kearney.

Mr. Knutzen is a native of Norway, and came to the United States in 1872, settling in Chicago, where he remained for two years, then went to the upper peninsula of Michigan, in the copper mining districts, where he spent five years. He then came to Nebraska, locating in Kearney, where he has built up a fine home and has won the respect and confidence of all with whom he has dealings, both social and commercial. He is one of the sturdy and industrious sons of Norway, who, attracted by the greater opportunities to be found in the new world, left his native land to go to a strange country, there to carve out a name and fortune for himself, but he will always remain loyal to the land of his birth and retain that warm love for the mother country. Mr. Knutzen visited Norway in 1878 and 1879, and found the same loving hearts and familiar scenes the same as he had left them in his early manhood. The country has progressed wonderfully in the past quarter of a century, and our subject was amazed at the changes which had taken place. His wife and daughters have also paid a visit to Norway, and to the latter the trip was one to be long remembered.

Mr. Knutzen was married in 1879 to Miss

Oplan Jensen. The family consists of five children, namely: Annie, a graduate of the State Normal School, and now a teacher in the Kearney public schools; Julia, also a graduate of the former institution, and State University; Agnes, who in 1906 graduated from the Kearney high school and in 1908 from the State Normal School; Henry, attending school at the present time, and Harriet, also at home. The family is well liked in the community in which they reside, and enjoy many warm friends, who frequently partake of their genial hospitality.

Mr. Knutzen takes a commendable interest in all affairs that tend to the commercial advancement of his community, and is deeply interested also in all movements toward the progress of educational matters. He has served for two terms in the city council, and is recognized as a man of much ability, and a worthy citizen.

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#### CLAUS CHRISTENSEN.

Claus Christensen, who holds a foremost place among the pioneer settlers of Sioux county, Nebraska, has built up a fine estate in section 7, township 34, range 54, where he has become one of the substantial citizens and enjoys an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Christensen was born in Denmark in 1848. His father, Hans, was a farmer, spending his entire career in Germany and Denmark, his death occurring there in 1864. He married Tiida Carlson, daughter of a prominent churchman of that province, and she came to America with her children, dying here at the age of ninety years.

Our subject was raised and educated in his native land, attending the common schools, and following farm work during boyhood, and after he was confirmed, in accordance with the German belief, he was apprenticed in a mercantile house, starting as a clerk, following that occupation until he was a young man of twenty-one. He then came to the United States, and after landing in New York city came west, locating in Illinois, where he spent one year working on a farm, then came to eastern Nebraska, following farm work, also working at railroad construction, helping to build the first railway into South Dakota, from Sioux City, Iowa, to Yankton.

Mr. Christensen remained in the eastern part of the state up to 1888, witnessing grasshopper raids, and going through the terrible winter of 1880 and 1881, and the floods of the

latter year, and suffered many hardships in that vicinity. He later owned a farm on the Missouri river, located below Yankton, and lived there for a time. On coming to Sioux county he located on Hat creek, taking up a homestead situated seven miles southwest of Ardmore, South Dakota, and did freighting from Crawford during the first two years, also beginning to improve his place, putting up a log cabin sixteen by twenty-two feet, in which he lived with his family for many years. He went through the dry years and lost several crops and saw hard times, but stuck to his farm and finally succeeded in developing it in good shape and bought more land as he grew able, now being owner of nine hundred and sixty acres, which is all in first-class condition, with a good set of buildings, etc. He has a good water supply the year around, and runs quite a herd of stock, cultivating fifty acres. He has done considerable experimenting along different lines of farming, and has proved that good crops of grain can be raised in this part of the country.

In 1875 Mr. Christensen was married to Miss Mary Meng, a native of Denmark, and daughter of George Meng, who was a carpenter and contractor of that country. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen are the parents of six children, named as follows: Harry, Jep, Tillie, Katie, Mary and Claus.

Mr. Christensen is a prominent citizen of his locality, and has held numerous offices of trust, serving as assessor for five terms in Montrose precinct. He has taken part in the development of the locality, is an Independent in politics, and an earnest worker for the good of his community.

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#### WILLIAM CLARK.

William Clark, one of the leading old settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, deserves prominent mention for his aid in the success of western Nebraska as an agricultural and commercial center, and in doing so has incidentally built up a good home and farm for himself by dint of his industry and good management.

Mr. Clark was born in Green county, Ohio, in 1846. His father was Samuel Clark, of mixed nationality, a farmer by occupation and for many years followed that work in Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and Nebraska and has been on the frontier all his life. When our subject was but a baby the family moved to Iowa, then to Nebraska, but most of his boyhood



VIEWS ON RANCH OF WILLIAM CLARK,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.





years were spent in Minnesota, where they lived for some years in Freeborn county. He learned to do all kinds of hard farm work up to his eighteenth year, then enlisted in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, Company C, and saw service in the west mostly, fighting against the Indians.

After the war he went back to Minnesota, locating in Martin county, and was there married to Miss Louisa Connic, daughter of Howard Connic, a harness maker, of Pennsylvania, and an old settler, in Minnesota.

In the spring of 1881 he came to Cuming county, Nebraska, and was among the pioneers in that section, but only remained for three years. In 1884 he came to Dawes county, driving here with a team and covered wagon, and as soon as he located here built a shack and lived in that for some time, "batching it" up to the spring of 1885, when he was joined by his family, who drove from Valentine. They were then located on section 26, township 31, range 47, and went through pioneer experiences, often meeting hardships and privations, one winter being spent in Pine Ridge, logging with ox teams to make a living for the family. During the dry years he had many losses from partial crop failures, although he was able to raise some crops during all that time.

For three years he was in the Sand Hills engaged in the stock business, and as he was able, bought more land, until he is proprietor of six and a half sections, in partnership with his son-in-law, Fred J. Stinchfield. Mr. Clark now lives on section 28, township 31, range 47, where he has built up a fine farm and home. The place is supplied with plenty of good living water, and he has a very fine grove of trees near his house, one of the best in the county. He has seven wells and windmills, and is largely engaged in stock raising, running from four to five hundred head all the time. His ranch is all fenced and cross fenced, having in all about fifty miles of fencing. He has a fine young orchard and garden, and everything to make a well ordered home and comfortable rural life.

Mr. Clark's family consists of nine children, named as follows: Charlotte, Melissa and Eva, Rosella, Jennie and Belle, born in Minnesota; and Lorenzo, William and Grace, born in Nebraska. The family are highly esteemed in their community, and enjoy a happy and peaceful life, surrounded by a host of warm friends and good neighbors.

Mr. Clark is active in school affairs in his district, and takes a leading part in local political matters, voting the Republican ticket.

He is a member of the school board, and has held local office, serving as road overseer.

On another page of this volume will be found an interesting picture showing views on the ranch of our subject.

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#### ALFRED LAWRENCE.

Alfred Lawrence, numbered among the pioneers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, has built up a fine farm and ranch in Norden precinct, and there resides, surrounded by the comforts of life and esteemed by his associates.

Mr. Lawrence was born in Clark county, Iowa, March 25, 1855. His father, William Lawrence, was a farmer and blacksmith by trade, American born, and he married Mary McAlister in 18—, also of American stock. They had a family of six children, of whom Alfred, one of twins, is the fourth, and grew up on his parents' farm in Iowa, where he spent his boyhood days attending the country schools and assisting his father in carrying on the farm work. When he was twenty-five years of age he left home and started in farming for himself. His father had died, and he was obliged to shoulder the responsibility of caring for the family for several years. After marriage he lived in Ringold and Union counties, Minnesota, whence he moved to Nebraska.

In 1888 Mr. Lawrence came to Keya Paha county, settling on a farm on section 10, township 34, range 24, and here he started a farm and home. He put up a sod house, and was getting along very well until the dry years struck him, then for four years in succession he lost his crops and in order to make a living for his family had to work out at whatever he could get to do. In the fall of 1896 he burned out, losing his house and all their goods.

In 1898 he moved to his present farm on section 5, township 34, range 24, where during the first winter on this place he lost his barns by fire and everything in the buildings—harnesses and saddles, etc. This was hard luck to him, and he became discouraged, but went to work to build up his place again, and has been successful, now owning six hundred and forty acres, with a lease on a half section additional, cultivating about fifty acres. He keeps fifty head of cattle and seventeen horses, and besides his own stock runs about one hundred head of cattle for other people in the vicinity. He milks eighteen cows and for the past three years has used separators, shipping the cream, which he finds a very profitable branch of his business. He has farmed quite extensively for

the past four years, and harvested good crops.

Mr. Lawrence was married in Osceola, Iowa, March 25, 1880, to Miss Rebecca J. Shields, daughter of Joseph H. Shields, a farmer of American stock, residing in Clark county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence have been born the following children: William and Joseph, born in Iowa; Albert, Leona and Myrtle, born in Nebraska.

Mr. Lawrence is one of the pioneers of this region, and has watched the development and growth of the country from its beginning, and has given all the aid in his power in building up the locality. He takes an active interest in local public affairs, and is numbered among the leading citizens of his community. In political views he is a Republican.

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#### WILLIAM McADAM.

For the past twenty-three years the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has occupied a pleasant home in Potter precinct, Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has passed through all the changes that have come to that region, and while building up a good farm for himself has at the same time taken an active part in the development of the commercial and agricultural resources of the locality where he chose to make his home. His residence is in section 34, township 15, range 52, and he is well known and highly esteemed as a worthy citizen of the community.

William McAdam was born in Argentele county, Province of Quebec, Canada, November 4, 1845. He grew up there, living with his parents, now deceased, and helping on their farm, up to the age of twenty years, then came to the United States, settling at first in Alamakee county, Iowa, remaining there from 1866 to 1876, at which time he came to Clay county, Nebraska. Here he followed the contracting and building business in and around Clay Center, making occasional trips to Iowa, where contracts were secured in that state. After ten years in Clay county, he located in Cheyenne county, in 1886, filing on a timber claim on section 34, township 15, range 52, and on a homestead on the same section in 1887.

He experienced all the early Nebraska times, living as the typical pioneers of those days with his family, meeting many forms of discouragements through losses of crops, from drouth, hail and prairie fires, but finally succeeded in improving his homestead, added more land to his original claim, so that he is now proprietor of four hundred and eighty

acres, of which about fifty acres are devoted to farming and the balance used as a stock ranch.

For several years since locating in this region Mr. McAdam followed his former occupation of contracting and building, although all of his time has been put in on the home ranch as a residence; when he was obliged to be away from home his family managed the farm.

In 1886 Mr. McAdam was married, while living in Iowa, to Miss Jennie Cowles; they have two children, Ina M. and Dorothy, both under the parental roof. They have a pleasant home and are among the leading members of the community in school and social affairs, well liked by all. In politics Mr. McAdam is a strong Republican, and is active in county and precinct party councils. Mr. McAdam and his family are members of the Methodist church.

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#### BENJAMIN J. HARVEY.

Benjamin J. Harvey was born on the farm in Hampshire county, West Virginia, in 1836, and was the son of Gazaway Harvey and Ruth (Junkins) Harvey, both of American birth.

Benjamin J. Harvey was reared and educated in West Virginia, and when he was sixteen years of age his parents removed to Iowa and became pioneers of Keokuk county. In 1856 our subject started out for himself, engaging in agricultural pursuits and later went to Webster county, Iowa, in 1863. Here he remained for ten years and then came west by team and covered wagon to St. Paul, Nebraska, where he remained for one winter. He then located near Kent, in Loup county, on a homestead. Our subject had but little means to begin with, the extent of his money being one dollar and thirty-five cents on his arrival here, and nothing but the best of pluck and continued energy won for him the success which he has attained. His first domicile was a dugout, and later a log shanty. He was a long way from his source of supplies and had to haul all his provisions from Grand Island, a hundred miles away. Many times he has slept under the wagon at night when the snow was knee-deep on the prairie. He made one hundred and ten round trips to Grand Island with oxen; his first grist he took with an ox team to Schuyler, one hundred and fifty miles away. Our subject has had many interesting experiences and has seen many hardships, but he has stuck to his farm in spite of poor sod crops and the years of drouth. In 1890 the drouth destroyed six hundred and fifty acres of

crops and he harvested only one hundred and fifty-five bushels of wheat from three hundred and ten acres and only three bushels of corn. Hailstorms also ruined crops and wrecked his plans, and his losses all told would amount to many acres of crops and many dollars. He has now a nice little farm of eighty acres with fair improvements.

Our subject was one of the first white settlers above Sioux creek on the North Loup river. He has taken a leading and an important part in all matters of public interest and was the first judge of Loup county. In spite of the many drawbacks and hardships Mr. Harvey has built up a pleasant home and has established himself firmly in the respect of his fellow citizens.

Benjamin J. Harvey was married in 1856 to Mary E. Ham, daughter of John Ham, who was one of the pioneers of Butler county, Nebraska, where he settled in 1872. There are fourteen children in the family, three of whom are Mrs. Harvey's by a former marriage. The names of the children are: Rose Ellan, Martha Ann, Harriet Susan, Mary Adelle, Benjamin Wellington, Eva May, Ida Evaline, Minnie Pearl, Mary K., Frank and Kate—the step children are: Albert L., Ernery C. and Martha May.

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#### PETER NEWBERG.

Peter Newberg, whose successful career demonstrates what may be accomplished by persistent labor and honest dealings, is proprietor of one of the valuable estates of Deuel county, Nebraska, and is known throughout the locality as one of the most worthy citizens of his community.

Mr. Newberg was born in Sweden on June 2, 1851. He spent his boyhood in that country, attending the public schools, and received the training usual to the lads of his station, working on his parents' farm in the place of hired help. He continued there until he reached the age of twenty-two years, then came to America, landing here in 1873. He first went to the Lake Superior mining regions, following mining for about five years. His next move was to Colorado, remaining there for nine years, most of the time engaged in mining, located near Julesburg, and has had considerable experience in pioneer life on the frontier, passing through all the hardships and privations of the early western emigrants.

He came to Deuel county in 1887, arriving here in February of that year, and soon afterwards filed on homestead rights on the south-

west quarter of section 8, township 14, range 43. He worked hard to improve his claim, erected a rude dwelling at first, gradually added improvements as he was able, and succeeded in building up a good home, although he was considerably handicapped by the bad years, which he passed through during his early residence in the region. He has prospered in a marked degree, as he is now owner of a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, and of this he cultivates about one hundred and fifty acres, raising good crops each year. He also runs considerable stock, having at present one hundred head of cattle and a bunch of horses. During the past several years he has erected substantial farm buildings of all kinds, and has one of the well improved and equipped estates in his locality, enjoying the reputation of a progressive and thrifty farmer and thorough stockman.

Mr. Newberg was married at Leadville, Colorado, on July 7, 1880, to Miss Lida Ekwall, born and reared in Sweden, who came to this country in 1877. Eight children were born of this union, five of whom are living, namely: Oscar L., Albert W., Frank L., Edna E. and Henry W., all living at home, assisting their parents in the work on the home ranch. Our subject's parents are still living in Sweden, together with their remaining children, Mr. Newberg being the only one in his family to leave their native land. Mrs. Newberg's father also resides in Sweden, but her mother is dead.

Mr. Newberg is a gentleman of broad mind, keeping abreast of the times, and takes an active part in local affairs. He is especially interested in educational matters in his community, and has held different school offices, at the present time serving as director of school district No. 54. In political faith he is a Republican, and stands firmly for the principles of his party.

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#### LYNN W. PARKER.

Lynn W. Parker, a resident on section 31, township 33, range 29, and prominent among the younger farmers of Cherry county, is a notable member of that contingent of keen-eyed, bright and progressive men that Wisconsin has given to the development of Nebraska. He was born on a farm in Adams county, in that state, November 30, 1868, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. His present enviable business standing and personal reputation have largely come from his industrious habits, honest ways and genial dis-

position. From a very early day he has had to do with local interests in Cherry county and, though a young man, is familiar at pioneer gatherings as one of the oldest settlers of the county.

William M. Parker, the father of Lynn W., was a pioneer settler of Sheridan county, Nebraska, having located there as early as 1884. The family drove to that point on Valentine across the prairies, and had many interesting experiences as they penetrated the depths of what was largely still a wilderness. Zilpha A. Ladd, the wife of William M. Parker, and the mother of Lynn W., like her husband, came of an old and long established American family, and in their children appear many of the best characteristics of their New England lineage.

When the subject of this writing was a year old he was taken by his parents to Woodbury county, Iowa, where the family was settled on a farm, and where he remained until he was sixteen years of age. At that time elder Parker removed to Rushville, Nebraska, where he went into the hotel business, in which he was engaged until 1887. Lynn W. Parker was then engaged in office work for an attorney during the ensuing two years, and in 1889 took a position as a trainman in the employ of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, a position which he held for some five years. He was a resident of Omaha for two years, and for about the same length of time in Texas. In 1898 Mr. Parker secured government land on a homestead entry, as noted above, which he proved up in due season, and is now the owner of a very desirable Nebraska farm. He was appointed postmaster at Burge, July 1, 1904, and makes a popular and efficient official.

Mr. Parker was married in 1900 to Miss Lucy Redfern, a daughter of John and Lucy (Ball) Redfern, who now live ten miles west of Wood Lake. To this union have come two children, Millard R. and Eldon.

Much success has attended Mr. Parker in his various enterprises. He owns seven hundred acres, and has a lease of a section of land, with the control of a second section, so that he is now operating about two thousand acres of farming and grazing land. His own land fronts the Niobrara river, and is amply supplied with wild timber. He has an extensive orchard under way, and both wild and tame fruits are abundant. Here he has a good home, and is doing a large stock business. He is a Republican, and from the first has been associated with public affairs. He is assessor in German precinct, and is very popular in

the community. His niece was the first baby born in the town of Rushville. Fraternally he is a member of the Crookston camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### PRICE HOBBS.

Price Hobbs, whose fine farm in Sheridan county is a credit to his locality, is a man of untiring energy, and is classed among the successful farmers of township 35, range 42. Mr. Hobbs was born in Springfield, Illinois, October 9, 1856. His father, Littleton Hobbs, was of Scotch descent, a native of Maine, and a farmer by occupation. The family moved to Iowa in 1858 and later to Kansas, where our subject was raised and educated, attending the country schools in his boyhood days. His father died in 1866, leaving a wife, who was Miss Elizabeth Butler, and a family of six children, of whom he was the third member. When he was ten years old he started out to make his own way in the world, and secured employment at herding cattle on neighboring ranches in order to help support the family. The first time he left home he was away for three months and during that time did not see one of his family, and afterwards worked at anything he could get to do as a boy. He railroaded for five years, and began farming for himself in 1885. In 1885 he came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, and located on Wounded Knee creek, as a homesteader, and still lives on this place. He remained there and proved up on it the day of the battle at Wounded Knee creek, December 29, 1890.

When he first came to this section he drove clear across the south part of the state in a covered wagon, and his first sack of corn, containing one hundred and twenty pounds, cost him five dollars. All provisions were high, and it was hard work to make a living then as the country was new, with no land broken up to raise a crop on. He went through many ups and downs during those years, but stuck to it and has gotten together a nice property, all gained through his own individual efforts. His farm comprises two hundred and eighty acres of good land, and his place is well covered with a good growth of natural timber. In 1892 he lost heavily through failure of his crops, and this put him in rather hard circumstances. He was farming during the dry years, and during the good years that have come since then he has raised more grain from **thirty-three acres than he did off of two hundred acres in those days.** He is contemplating taking up another homestead under the Kincaid



PRICE HOBBS AND FAMILY.





law, as he is satisfied to remain here. He has his place well improved, and his first house, which was of logs, has been replaced with a comfortable log residence. He contemplates building a fine frame residence in the near future.

Mr. Hobbs was married in 1888 to Mrs. Estella Loney, born in Wisconsin in 1868, of American stock. They have a family of six children, namely: Ada, Ethel, Alice, Harry, Ernest and Mabel (twins). All were born and raised on their present homestead in Sheridan county, Nebraska.

The entire time and attention of Mr. Hobbs is devoted to the care of his farm and home and he has never sought any office, but takes a keen interest in all affairs of local or state importance. He is an Independent voter. Portraits of Mr. Hobbs and his family will be found on another page of this work.

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#### F. A. HEATH.

Among those who have recently located in Franklin county, and who is welcomed as a progressive agriculturist and successful stockman, we mention the name of F. A. Heath. He purchased the Riverview ranch in the spring of 1906, the place being located on section 15, Turkey Creek township, one mile south and a mile and a half east of Naponee, south of the Republican river.

Mr. Heath is widely known throughout this section of the state of Nebraska as a gentleman of firm character and high standing, and a reliable breeder of thoroughbred stock whose statements can be relied upon at all times.

Mr. Heath was born in Cerro Gordo, Illinois, in 1862. He grew up in Illinois, and in 1884 he came to Nebraska with his father, Frederick Heath, the family coming from Piatt county, Illinois. Our subject took up a homestead in Lincoln county, where his two brothers, John and Clyde, are both well known ranchmen and stock raisers, located near Wallace. In 1893 Mr. Heath began a herd in Harlan county, in partnership with A. B. Heath, a cousin, who for many years was known to every farmer and stockman through his work on the Nebraska Farmer, a leading stock and farm paper that is widely read throughout the state. On his ranch of five hundred and thirty-six acres our subject now has ninety head of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, with the pure bred Scotch bull Lancaster Royal, at the head of his herd. The animal is one of the best in the

country, and his get are eagerly sought after by all admirers of that breed.

Mr. Heath has never bred for exhibition purposes, but for the farmers' needs in raising the grade of their herds. He also has from fifty to eighty pure bred Poland China hogs on his ranch, mostly of the Perfection strain. Mr. Heath also owns the imported Percheron stallion Malin.

In 1890 Mr. Heath married Miss Bertha Borden, daughter of Alonzo and Adelia Hagedorn Borden, early settlers in Lowell, Kearney county, Nebraska, the family coming from Davis county, Missouri, in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Heath have two children, namely: Loren and Lloyd.

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#### GEORGE R. BOULDEN.

George R. Boulden would rightfully appear on any list of the honorable and successful farmers of Dawes county, a position he would hold not by favor or by inheritance, but by virtue of hard work, a wise economy, and a noble ambition to do whatever came to his hands in the best possible way. Mr. Boulden was born in the parish of Chart, Kent county, England, in 1850. His father, David Boulden, who spent his life in England, was a grocer and butcher, which occupation he followed until the close of his life. His mother, Elizabeth (Collison) Boulden, was also a native of England.

Our subject learned the grocer and butcher business while working with his father. He also mastered the carpenter trade, which occupation he followed for four years before coming to this country. In 1871 he immigrated to America, landing in New York city, and going to Rochester, New York, following his trade as carpenter for four years. He then came west to Danville, Illinois, farming and doing carpenter work. From this place he went to Davis county, Iowa, returning after two years to Illinois, where he spent two more years. He then went to Monona county, Iowa, living for a time in Onawa and Sloan, continuing at the carpenter business.

It was in the year 1884 that Mr. Boulden first came to the state which he has since made his home. He located at Norfolk, followed his trade at this place until 1886, when he came to Dawes county, driving in with a team and covered wagon. He built a log cabin in Evergreen precinct, continuing his work as a farmer and carpenter. For a period of seven years he witnessed the drouths and the many hardships so well known to the early

settlers in western Nebraska, during which time his unremitting efforts were rewarded with but three half crops. He then sold out for seven hundred dollars, traveling west through Idaho and the other western states. However, the possibilities of Dawes county were ever in his mind, so he soon returned, taking a homestead in sections 34 and 35, township 30, range 51, a place now containing many modern improvements, the work of his own hard labor. He has erected substantial buildings, a windmill and well, and has a new barn forty-six by sixty feet. He now has a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres of good land, one hundred and sixty acres of which are leased. There is an abundance of good timber on his place.

Mr. Boulden was married in 1878 to Miss Nancy A. Collison, daughter of Edward and Mary (Cameron) Collison. Her father was a prominent farmer of Iowa. Her mother was of English and Dutch lineage. Mr. and Mrs. Boulden are the parents of one boy, John David, born in Monona county, Iowa, in 1881.

Mr. Boulden has always taken an active interest in local affairs in Dawes county, where for years he has served as a school officer and as justice of the peace. He has proved himself an enlightened and public-spirited citizen, and has done his full share and even more in the great work of improving the county, and in making it a home for an earnest and progressive people.

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#### J. M. MOONEY.

Among those who have for the past twenty years and more made the city of North Platte their permanent home, J. M. Mooney takes a foremost place as a citizen of active public spirit, who has used his best influence in aiding its educational and commercial development. He came to Nebraska in 1886, and is well and favorably known in railway circles as one of the older employes, and also is somewhat of a ranchman and farmer, being deeply interested in both lines of work.

Mr. Mooney is a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts, where he was raised and educated. His father, Isaac G. Mooney, was a New Englander, and our subject received a good old-fashioned training, and at an early age became interested in railroad work, beginning when but a boy of eighteen years of age and has followed that occupation ever since. He came west and located in North Platte, Nebraska, in 1886, being employed by the Union Pacific railway as a brakeman for one year, and at the end of that time was pro-

moted to the position of freight conductor, and worked in this capacity for several years. He was faithful in the discharge of his duties and won the confidence and trust of his employers, and has been very successful during all his railroad career. In 1898 he began as a passenger conductor, and has held this position since that time, at present running on the Los Angeles Limited, and is well known to all the patrons of the road as a popular and accommodating public official whom it is a pleasure to know. Mr. Mooney has a large ranch comprising nine hundred and sixty-five acres of fine land situated in Lincoln county, near North Platte, and he spends all of his spare time at this place, planning improvements and intends to build up a model farm.

Mr. Mooney's brother Frank is a conductor on the Boston & Maine railroad, with headquarters at Concord, Massachusetts, and another brother, W. R. Mooney, of Nashua, New Hampshire, holds the position of superintendent of the northern division of the Boston & Maine railway. Both are old railroad men and have been very successful since beginning the work.

Mr. Mooney married Miss Laura A. Mapleback, of Boston, Massachusetts. Their union has been blessed with three daughters, whose names are: Bernice, Byrl and May.

They have a pleasant and comfortable home, and the family is highly respected in their community. Mr. Mooney belongs to the Mason's blue lodge chapter.

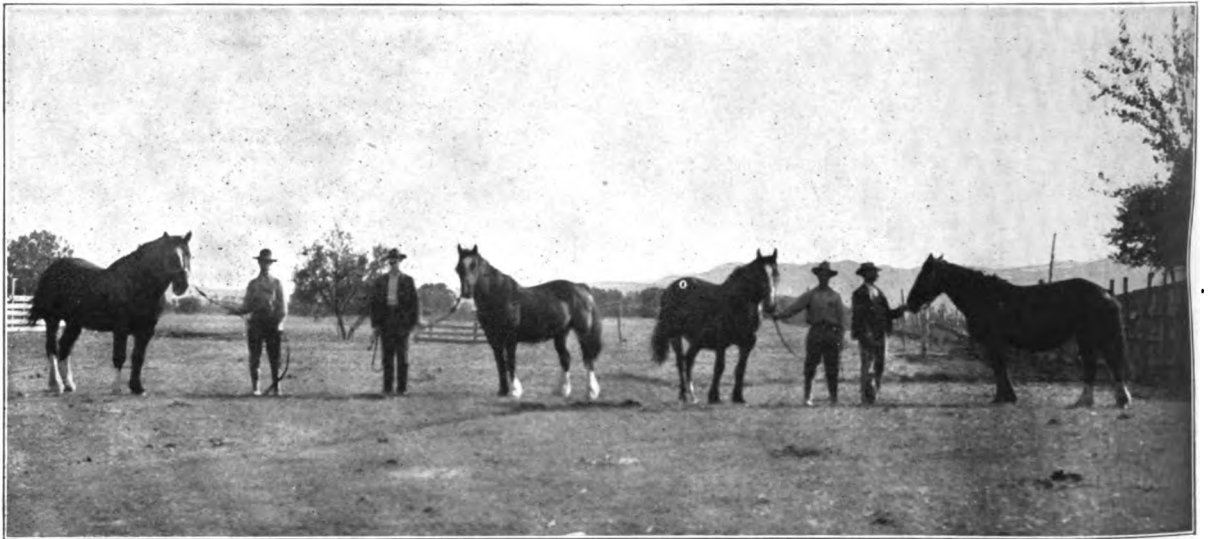
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#### HENRY H. SPRAGUE.

The gentleman above named has been successful in building up one of the comfortable and valuable estates in a new country through his industry and energetic efforts, and he is now counted among the leading old timers of his locality, who has been closely identified with the development and growth of that region.

Mr. Sprague was born in Scotland county, Missouri, in 1847. His father, Harrison H. Sprague, was a farmer by occupation, of American birth, and was among the pioneer settlers in Missouri, also one of the first white men to settle along the Mississippi river. He married Miss Katherine Kirkpatrick, also of American stock. Our subject was reared and educated in Missouri, helping his parents in the farm work, and lived at home until he was seventeen years of age. In 1862 he enlisted in the Twenty-first Missouri Infantry, later





SHIRE HORSES OWNED BY H. B. TOMLIN.

serving in the Fifty-first Missouri, and his first battle was at Shiloh. He was with his regiment along the Mississippi river, at Tupelo, and took part in numerous skirmishes with the enemy.

After leaving the army Mr. Sprague followed farming constantly, living most of the time in Missouri. In 1882 he came to Nebraska, locating south of the town of Lincoln, and there was engaged in the stock and livery business for ten years, buying, selling and shipping stock to the markets, dealing in horses, cattle and hogs, and did an immense amount of business during that time, and making money. In 1892 he came to Dawes county, taking up a tract of government land, starting at the bottom and building up a farm and home. The land was perfectly wild prairie land, with not a single improvement, and he worked hard and faithfully to develop this into a fertile farm, succeeding to a marked degree. He now has a ranch of twelve hundred and eighty acres, all fenced and cross-fenced and everything in good shape. He has good buildings of all descriptions, with a large and comfortable house. The farm is located partly in section 32, township 32, range 50, and all his buildings are on this section. He has one hundred acres planted to alfalfa and raises splendid crops each season. He is extensively engaged in the stock business, dealing in horses on a moderate scale.

For the past ten years Mr. Sprague has been an invalid and hardly able to do any work, but has kept at it bravely and by sheer force of will has done what very few would have thought it possible any one could accomplish in his condition. A short time ago he submitted to an operation and this was completely successful, leaving him a perfectly well man, and he is now as happy and contented as one would naturally be at again recovering his health.

Mr. Sprague was married in Missouri in 1871 to Miss Sarah Dean, born in Virginia but reared in Clinton, Henry and Scotland counties, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague are the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Iona, married, wife of Charles Naylor, county clerk of Dawes county, Nebraska; Marietta, Edgar, Arthur and Harry. All are bright and intelligent, and their parents have given them each the advantage of a good education, and the family are well known and highly esteemed in their locality.

Our subject has always been active in local affairs and given his time and influence toward the betterment of conditions socially and educationally. He is a Republican.

#### HARRISON B. TOMLIN.

Harrison B. Tomlin resides in section 30, township 32, range 50, Dawes county, and is classed as one of the oldest settlers in this section. For the past twenty years this gentleman has successfully followed the ranching business, and has become one of the best known citizens of his locality, and is universally esteemed and respected.

Mr. Tomlin was born in Hanover county, Virginia, in 1854, of English stock. His father, Robert Tomlin, was a civil engineer by profession, and in later years followed farming, while his mother was Miss Hester Braxton, of good old English blood. Our subject was raised and educated in Virginia, and in his younger years was in the sawmill business there. In 1884 he went to Colorado and spent three years on a ranch, leading a regular cowboy's life. Then for six years he was employed as a traveling salesman for the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, also for the McCormick Harvester Company, traveling all over the west and in northern Nebraska. In 1891 he started in the ranching business for himself, locating in Dawes county, where he bought a tract of land in township 32, range 50, and three years later moved, on the place. He has built up a good ranch and farm, which is situated on Ash creek, in section 30, his place containing a thousand acres of land. He has erected good buildings, barns and corrals, valued at from three thousand to four thousand dollars, also installed irrigation plants costing two thousand dollars. His principal products are horses, cattle and hogs, and he engages in grain raising to quite an extent. He has one hundred and thirty acres of alfalfa and one hundred acres of irrigated and prairie hay land. He makes a specialty of draught horses, starting with two good brood mares in 1892, and now has a herd of forty of the finest draught horses in the state and takes great pride in his horses. He is deeply interested in this branch of ranching, and intends to continue horse raising, finding it very profitable financially. He has a number of range cattle, and usually has more than he can summer. He has built up a fine ranch and farm, and his land here is as valuable acre for acre as it is in eastern Nebraska. His success is the result of his own individual labors, and he has accumulated his property through good management and strict attention to business.

Mr. Tomlin was formerly a student of alfalfa culture, and one of the first to introduce it in his neighborhood. He had seen it grow-

ing in Colorado and was an enthusiastic missionary for alfalfa raising here, also raising a great deal for seed. One season he cut his first crop of the grass for hay and the second crop was for seed, going seven bushels per acre, for which he obtained six dollars per bushel. This was off a patch of seven acres.

Referring again to his horse business, our subject's entire herd is the increase of two brood mares which he purchased in the early nineties. He still owns one of these mares, and she is the mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of his whole string, and they are splendid animals and acknowledged to be the best of their class to be found anywhere. On another page will be found an interesting picture of some Shire horses owned by Mr. Tomlin.

Mr. Tomlin is active in local affairs and has aided materially in the development of the commercial and agricultural resources of his section. He is a strong Democrat and active party man. Our subject's postoffice and railroad station is Whitney, Nebraska.

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#### JOHN W. TERRY.

Among the leading old-timers in Brown county, Nebraska, the gentleman above named deserves a prominent place. He is well known all through this section, and has built up a fine estate through his industry and perseverance, gaining the esteem and respect of his fellowmen.

Mr. Terry was born in Cleveland, Ohio, September 24, 1854. His father, James Terry, was a carpenter by trade, of English birth, and his mother's maiden name was Mary Marshall, both born and reared in England, their marriage occurring in that country shortly before coming to America. They had a family of seven children, of whom our subject is the third member. They settled on a farm in Washington county, Wisconsin, and remained there up to 1874, when they moved to Nebraska, locating in York, and later in Seward and Saunders counties. Our subject attended school at Hartford, Wisconsin, remaining under the parental roof tree until the spring of 1882, when he started out for himself, coming to Brown county and taking up a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 9, township 30, range 23. He drove through from Saunders county with his wife, and after being here for a time made another trip there, and brought his parents to this place. His first dwelling was a sod shanty, and later a dugout in which the family lived for some time.

He had only one team and a cow to start with. Like others, he saw hard times during the drouth periods, losing entire crops, and for several years was unable to raise anything. The only loss he ever suffered from hail was twenty acres of grain in 1903. After the dry years had passed he began to get ahead and gradually improved his place, adding to his acreage until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres of good land, with two hundred and twenty-five of this cultivated. He has put up good buildings, has a complete set of modern farming machinery, and everything is fitted up for running a model farm.

Mr. Terry was married December 24, 1880, to Miss Amanda Bowlar, daughter of Archibald Bowlar, an old settler of Lancaster county, Nebraska. Six children have been born of this marriage, who are named as follows: Archie L., Clyde E., Emma E., Jesse, LeRoy A. and Frank R.

In 1897 Mr. Terry was elected county commissioner, and re-elected in 1900, serving in all five years. He has served on the school board for a number of years, and takes an active interest in all matters that tend to the betterment of conditions in his locality. He is an independent voter, with leanings toward the Republican party. The family are all members of the United Brethren church.

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#### WILLIAM KIMBEL.

William Kimbel, a venerable resident of Deuel county, Nebraska, has been one of the leading citizens in the development of the community where he chose his home many years ago. At this writing he is a gentleman of eighty-two years of age, but is hale and hearty and has a host of friends and acquaintances, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem and respect. He has lived almost his entire career on the frontier, and a history of the west would be incomplete without a sketch of his life and labors here.

Mr. Kimbel was born in Kentucky, January 7, 1827, and lived there until he was seven years of age, then went with his parents to Missouri, where they were among the early settlers and homesteaders. Some years were spent in Illinois and about 1852 he went to California, traveling overland, the occasion being his bridal tour, the bride being Miss Sabra Van Leuven, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. They remained in California for seven years, then went to Missouri, locating in Jackson county, and from there to Council Bluffs, taking up their residence at the latter place in 1865.

There the family was reared, and in 1882 all came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, remaining there for a short time, then moved into Deuel county, where they settled permanently in 1890. Mr. Kimbel has made his home with his son, Israel, since 1882, they having their interests together to a large extent. Mrs. Kimbel died in 1865 while the family lived in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Kimbel had a family of six children, as follows: Ellen, Janie (deceased), Sabra, Mary, Rosetta and Israel, all of whom are married and settled in comfortable homes of their own. An extended sketch of Israel Kimbel will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### HIRAM DOING.

Hiram Doing, well known to every one familiar with the personnel of Wheeler county, is one of the oldest settlers in the western part of the state of Nebraska, having come here in the seventies in the pioneer days of this section, and since his residence here has been one of the leading citizens.

Mr. Doing was born in New York in 1844. He is a son of Joseph F. Doing, a native of New Hampshire, of English descent. He married Melissa Patterson, of Scotch-Irish descent, also a native of New Hampshire, settling in New York state soon after being married. Our subject was raised there, and lived in the east until he was twenty-seven years of age, with the exception of some time spent in Indiana, where he was educated. He enlisted in the Fourth Indiana Artillery in September, 1861, and served in the Civil war for three years and three months. He saw hard service through the state of Tennessee and the south, taking part in the battle of Stone River, Look-out Mountain, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, besides numerous other engagements throughout the southern campaign.

Mr. Doing came to Nebraska in 1871. He at once took up a government claim in Furnas county, and remained at that place for over five years. For four years he lived at Medicine creek, where he served as postmaster, still holding his old commission papers. He has done considerable hunting in the west, and in the early days was quite a shipper of buffalo to Chicago and other points. In 1893 he came to Wheeler county and purchased a farm near Ericson. He still owns this place and lives on it, having built up a good home and valuable estate. The land is all good farming land, and he raises splendid crops of corn, oats and wheat, and uses a large portion of his land for hay and pasture for his stock, as he

keeps quite a number of horses and cattle. He is a prosperous agriculturist and progressive in his methods of farming and ranching. Our subject has also been quite a trader with the Indians. He states that at one time he had a pony that he sold to old Chief Spotted Tail for the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, and has made numerous other trades with different members of the tribe.

In 1888 Mr. Doing was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Kirby, a daughter of Nicholas and Bridget Jane (Davy) Kirby. She was born and raised in Muscatine county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Doing have a family of five children, who are named as follows: Hiram C., Effie M., Hazel M., Francis L. and Grace. Mr. Doing is quite a strong Socialist in his views. He is prominent in local affairs and has served on the school board for many years. He has also served as sheriff of Frontier county, Nebraska, and as assessor of his home township in Wheeler county, Nebraska.

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#### E. J. DILLON.

E. J. Dillon, known throughout Kimball county as a gentleman of enterprise and prosperity, is owner of an extensive farm two miles west and eleven miles north of Kimball, Nebraska. He has the distinction of being the oldest settler on the North Divide, and has passed through every phase of the old Nebraska times, developing a fine farm through earnest efforts and good management, supplemented by honest dealings.

Mr. Dillon was born in Mahaska county, Iowa, August 13, 1859. He was the eldest of a family of seven children, and now has three brothers and one sister living. The mother is dead, but the father now resides in Florida. Mr. Dillon grew up in Iowa, following farming during his young manhood, and in 1882 came to eastern Nebraska, making Grand Island his headquarters for about two years. There he devoted his time to any work which could be had. He then returned to Iowa, and after spending about two years there, came back to Nebraska, locating in Cheyenne county in September, 1886, in that part which is now known as Kimball county. His wife came to Nebraska in the spring of 1887. He at once took up a homestead on section 24, township 16, range 56, proved up on the land, and in 1905 filed on a Kincaid homestead in section 2, and now has a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, consisting of the home ranch, of which he cultivates about one hundred acres. He has all good improvements in the way of



buildings, fences, etc., and previously ran quite a bunch of cattle, but now devotes his time exclusively to the horse business and has a drove of about one hundred head. Every appointment of the farm bespeaks good management and care in its operation, and he is one of the well-to-do and prosperous farmers of his locality. Mr. Dillon dug his first well with a pick and shovel in 1890. This well was dug two hundred and fifty-two feet, and is one of the best on the north divide. His first residence was a half dug-out and rock-combined and had a dirt roof. Here they witnessed their first blizzard, which was a two days' storm. They had to bring their poultry and horses in the house to save them, but were forced to leave their cow out in the storm.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Dillon was married in Mahaska county, Iowa, to Dora B. Minnick, a native of that county, where her parents were among the prominent old settlers. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, of whom two are now living, Ralph W., and Ruth May, Howard H. and Macy Bell both died in 1908.

Mr. Dillon takes an active part in neighborhood affairs, having held the office of county commissioner for one term, also other offices in his township. In political sentiment he is an Independent.

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#### G. W. DONNER.

Among the early settlers who came to western Nebraska while it was still undivided, and who has watched the development and growth of the state, was Robert Donner, the father of the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and whose name deserves a prominent place. He traveled all over this part of the state while ranching, and became familiar with the country and people from one end of the state to the other.

G. W. Donner was born in Boston, England, in 1874. His father, Robert Donner, came to America in 1875, locating in Antelope county, Nebraska, where he began farming, following this for a year, then worked on ranches in Cherry county for about six years. He filed on section 4, township 33, range 41, as a pre-emption in 1883, making his actual residence on this Sheridan county claim in 1884, when he sent back to England for his wife, who came on and joined him during the latter part of that year. He then turned this pre-emption into a tree claim and filed on a homestead, where he lived until his death, which occurred in 1903. When he started on

this farm he was obliged to freight all his building material and supplies from Valentine, and did nearly all the work of putting up his buildings himself. His wife still makes her home in Nebraska, but is now on a visit to England. G. W. Donner has two brothers and three sisters, all of whom excepting one sister lives in America. G. W. Donner came to this country in 1888, making the trip alone from England, his father having come ahead of him in 1875.

G. W. Donner began farming on a small piece of land and kept adding to it until he is now proprietor of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, which land was partly held by his father until the latter's death, when it was divided among the children, this portion of the estate being the share of our subject. He farms about two hundred and fifty acres, and the balance is hay and pasture land, as he handles considerable stock all the time.

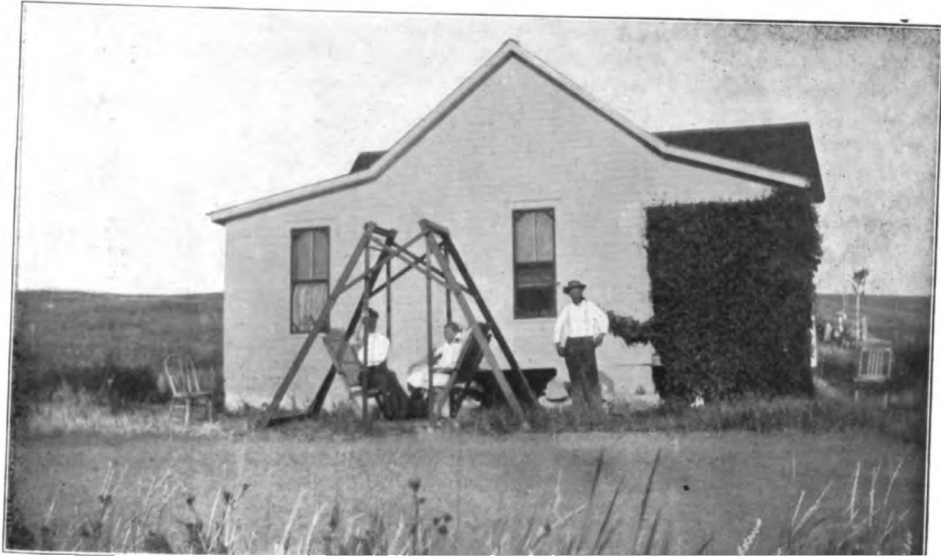
In 1904 Mr. G. W. Donner was married to Miss Iva Davies, who was born in Iowa in 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Donner have no children. Mr. Donner is a staunch Republican, as was also his father.

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#### WILLIAM H. PHILLIPS.

William H. Phillips, residing on section 5, township 31, range 54, Sioux county, Nebraska, is a highly respected citizen of his community, one who has assisted materially in the development of this region and for many years has watched the growth of its natural industries and agricultural resources, until he has become closely identified with the history of its advancement. Mr. Phillips owns a fine ranch and he occupies a pleasant and comfortable home there.

Mr. Phillips was born in McDonough county, Illinois, in 1867. His parents were of American blood, farmers by occupation, and the father, Steven R. Phillips, came to Nebraska in the early days and was one of the pioneers in Seward county, settling there in the year 1871. He married Mary E. Strickler, of McDonough county, Illinois. His father resides at the present time in Seward county, Nebraska, where the mother died in November, 1906. When our subject was five years of age the family filed on a homestead in Seward county, Nebraska, where he grew to up, his boyhood days spent in doing farm work, handling ox teams, etc. In 1894 Mr. Phillips came to Sioux county and took up a homestead in section 31, township 32, range 54, which region was then a very thinly set-





tled part of the state, and he settled in Highland precinct. His first dwelling was a frame house, twelve by eighteen feet, in which he spent a number of years, and then put up a log house. He had a very modest start, almost his sole possessions being five head of horses, and during the first few years he had very poor luck in his farming operations. In 1898 he had the misfortune to be burned out, losing his granary, containing five hundred dollars' worth of grain, chicken house and other property. After the passing of the Kincaid law our subject located on his present farm, and here he has been successful in building up a fine property. His ranch contains two thousand acres. This place is located eleven miles east of Harrison. He is engaged in both stock raising and farming, and is making plenty of money. His ranch is well supplied with good buildings, and he has timber groves, also a bountiful supply of good water for all purposes. A picture of Mr. Phillips' residence will be found on another page.

In 1893 Mr. Phillips was married to Mary Kube, born in Germany, and daughter of Lewis Kube and Marie (Wiegardt) Kube, both born in Germany, who came to this country in 1883, settling in San Antonio, Texas, for eighteen months, thence coming to Seward county, Nebraska, there following his trade as mason for many years, and where they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have one daughter, Lela Ruth, born in Harrison City in 1897. Mr. Phillips is a Republican in political belief.

#### MELVINE HALE.

Melvine Hale, whose home is to be found in section 24, township 35, range 27, of Cherry county, Nebraska, bears an old and honored name in the annals of American history, and it is simple truth to say that it has suffered no tarnish at his hands. He is well and favorably known throughout this new and thriving portion of the state, where his many sterling and reliable qualities commanded quick recognition and warm appreciation.

Mr. Hale is a native of Crawford county, Wisconsin, where he was born on a farm November 11, 1865, and there his youth and early manhood were spent amid rural scenes, with experiences calculated to bring to bear on life the powers and faculties that make for a strong and sturdy character. William Hale, the father of Melvine, was born in New York, from which state he served three years in the cavalry of the United States army, making a record of which his friends are justly proud. He

came to Nebraska in 1871, and was located for some years in Hamilton county, but seven years later removed to Custer county, where he is still living, full of years and honor. His wife, Hulda Green, is of American descent, and was born in Indiana.

Melvine Hale, the fifth in a family of eleven children, was reared and educated under the parental roof, but began life for himself at a very early age. On beginning life for himself he was engaged on stock ranches in western Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana for more than fourteen years. In 1889 he came to this section of the state to enter a homestead claim in section 29, township 30, range 29, a tract of Cherry county land which he improved, and then sold in 1904. July 19, 1906, he bought the relinquishment of a claim under the Kincaid homestead law in section 24, township 35, range 27, containing three hundred and twenty acres, and owns an additional one hundred and sixty acres in section 20, township 35, range 26, which is devoted to crops, the home tract being used for grazing and the production of hay. At the present time he is keeping about a hundred head of cattle, with some twenty horses, a work for which his large experience on the western ranches gives him a peculiar fitness. He has a substantial stone residence, with other buildings for all his requirements, and the very considerable success that is attending his efforts is not a matter of wonder when one considers his preparation and determination.

Mr. Hale was married April 15, 1890, to Miss Nellie Spain, a daughter of S. Q. and Mary (Morgan) Spain. She was born in Iowa in 1870, coming to Nebraska with her parents, who were among the earlier pioneers of Cherry county, where her father was postmaster at Simeon for two years. Mr. and Mrs. Melvine Hale are the parents of five children: Daniel Ernest, Grace, William, Sanford Q. and Mary.

In matters of general politics Mr. Hale may be counted on as a Republican. He has never held any public position, but has felt that his home and farm afford ample room for all his activity and energy. In local affairs and in school interests he favors everything for public improvement and general progress.

Mr. Hale's varied experiences have taught him the value of a home, though in winning and making it, he has passed through all the hardships of life on the frontier, and of the years that have gone into history as the "hard times in western Nebraska." He has at times traveled fifty miles to Valentine for provi-

sions, and has brought back a load of five thousand pounds, with the thermometer forty degrees below zero. He was often discouraged, and was tempted to give it up, but he was sure he could in the end succeed. He did endure, and is now reaping the fruit of industrious habits and a mighty persistency.

### ROBERT BIRD.

Robert Bird, a leading old settler of Box Butte county, has a fine farm and pleasant home in section 36, township 27, range 47. He is a man who has always done his full share in the building up of his locality and since coming to this state has opened up and improved four different places in this region, one in Box Butte county and three in Sheridan county. Mr. Bird is well known and highly esteemed throughout his county as a worthy citizen and prosperous and successful farmer. Mr. Bird was born in Scotland in 1861. His father, James Bird, was a farmer, who lived and died in Scotland. He married Margarette Turnbull, a native of Scotland, and they were the parents of six children.

Our subject was raised in Scotland, receiving a business training as a boy, attending the public schools there, afterwards being employed for some years in a bank, and later worked in a land office for some years, besides some experience in farming. In 1891 he left his native land and came to America. He settled in the Black Hills country, where he worked on a ranch, being in the employ of Clay, Robinson & Company, large ranch owners, and he remained with them for five years. In the winter of 1893 he came to Sheridan county, Nebraska. Three years later he filed on a homestead situated nineteen miles south of Hay Springs, remaining there and proving up on the place, "batching it" all that time, and he succeeded in building up a good ranch, disposing of it in 1903. He then bought land near Hay Springs, on which he lived for four years, selling this place at a good profit. In 1907 he came to his present location, purchasing part of the place outright, and intends developing it into a first-class ranch. He is owner of a nice residence about a mile from the town of Alliance. In the year 1901 Mr. Bird was married to a daughter of Samuel McCutcheon, of American stock. Mrs. Bird prior to her marriage to our subject was a school teacher in the west, having followed that profession for several years. They have one child, Cecil Elliott Bird. Vernon and Ber-

nice are Mrs. Bird's children by her first marriage. Mr. Bird takes a commendable interest in local affairs, voting the straight Republican ticket.

### EDWARD G. HAHN.

Edward G. Hahn is one of those who for the past score of years has resided in Sheridan county and has seen the development and growth of this section from its early stages, and aided materially in the upbuilding of the community where he has made his home.

Mr. Hahn was born in Clayton county, Iowa, in 1867, and raised and educated on his father's farm. He is a son of Peter Hahn, a native of Germany, who came to the United States at the age of eight years with his parents, who settled in Iowa in 1858, where they took a homestead and farmed for several years, and are now living in Kearney, Nebraska. Our subject's mother, who prior to her marriage was Miss Elizabeth Latheman, was born and raised in Germany, and died in this country in 1880, leaving a family of twelve children, of whom he is the seventh member in order of birth. He started out for himself at the age of twenty-one years, and came to this county with his parents in 1886, working out in the neighborhood of their home, then took up a homestead two years later situated in section 29, township 28, range 45, and began to build up his farm. Here he "batched it" for one year, then was married in 1890 to Miss Katie Zurcher, born in Iowa in 1870, daughter of William Zurcher, a native of Germany, farmer by occupation, who came to this country in 1887 and settled in Sheridan county the same year. Mr. Zurcher's wife died in 1872 when Mrs. Hahn was a small child ten months old. Five children were born as a result of this union, who are named as follows: Nora, Ethel, Edna, George and Clara, all born and raised in this locality.

Mr. Hahn remained on his own homestead up to 1906, when he bought his father's place, putting up a new house on it, and operates this farm in addition to his own. When he first came here he engaged in farming, but during the dry years he lost his crops and this put him back considerable. He often felt like giving up his place, but saw nothing better to do, so stayed on and tried to make a living. For four years he was unable to get ahead any, although he never had a total failure of his crops, and managed to make a bare living. He kept buying a few head of stock



RANCH RESIDENCE AND FAMILY OF E. G. HAHN,  
Sheridan County, Nebraska.





and gradually got quite a herd together, and now engages in mixed farming and stock raising and is doing well. He owns twelve hundred and eighty acres, farming about one hundred of this, using a large part for grazing and hay land, and also rents out some of his farm. He keeps sixty-five head of cattle and about ten horses all the time. He is well satisfied with this region and states that he will remain here permanently, but the only drawback is the great distance to the town, Schill being his nearest postoffice. There is a good school near his ranch, which his children attend, and this is of great advantage. He has improved his farm with good buildings, and has it all fenced, having built over ten miles of fencing.

Mr. Hahn never takes much interest in politics, as he says he has no time to devote to those affairs and lets the other fellow attend to that part of the business, preferring to put in his time in building up his home. He is a Prohibitionist, and has been for a number of years.

An interesting picture of Mr. Hahn's residence and the family will be found on another page.

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## FACTS ABOUT ROCK COUNTY, NEB.

By P. H. Davis.

The subdivision of the state of Nebraska known as Rock county was detached from Brown county, of which it was a part, in 1888. When it was decided by the inhabitants of the territory comprising this county to detach the same from Brown county and organize a new county certain formalities had to be observed, and the first step necessary for the formation of a new county was to present a petition for the election, and in the petition so presented, the name of the proposed county was a necessary part. A few of the promoters of the new county idea met at the village of Newport to perfect arrangements for the purpose of circulating the petition and to select a name for the proposed county. At that meeting it was agreed that the county should be named after a stream of water, than which there is no more beautiful stream in all the state, viz., Rock creek. This stream has its source in the hay flats about seven miles northwest of Newport. It flows northward and empties into the Niobrara river. About half way between its source and mouth is a deposit of exceptionally fine building stone, and it is understood this stream took its name in an early

day from this deposit of rock. On this stream is the only real rock quarry in the county.

Generally speaking, the soil of Rock county is a sandy loam. It is true that there are some sand hills, but there are also a great many exceedingly fine valleys in it, and for its size no county in the state produces more or better hay. There is also a good deal of excellent farm land in the county, and in the localities where the soil is adapted for farming, as good crops can be raised as are grown anywhere in eastern Nebraska. A large portion is suitable only for grazing and no county in the state has greater possibilities in the line of dairying than it has. Some reasons for this fact are: Practically enough grain is raised to supply the needs of the dairyman and stockman; there is plenty of hay in all parts of the county for home use, with thousands of tons left each year for the outside markets; there are numerous small streams, many lakes and underflow water easily accessible in all parts of the county. No county in the state excels Rock county in the quality, quantity and accessibility in this regard. The native grasses here are as good as are the grasses in any other part of the state on the same altitude, and even the sand hills furnish splendid summer grazing.

No place can you find a larger per cent. of the people prospering and living contentedly than in Rock county.

### NEWPORT.

Before the railroad came through this county a bridge was built across the Niobrara river about ten miles north of this place. Mule trains crossed this bridge and proceeded many miles west on the north side of the river. This bridge was called the Newport bridge. When the railroad was built in 1883 the chief engineer thought it proper to call this place Newport. At that time it is said that the present town site of Newport resembled the famous summer and water resort, Newport as it was partly under water.

Newport bears the distinction of being the largest hay shipping point in the world. It lies nearly in the center of a large hay territory, and which extends into one almost unbroken valley for about twenty-two miles south. The hay business is carried on in some of its branches during every month in the year. About twenty-five thousand tons of hay are exported each year, in addition to the large amount consumed at home.

### BASSETT.

Bassett, the county seat of Rock county, Nebraska, was named after J. W. Bassett, a ranchman, who came to Rock county in 1871

with a large herd of cattle. For a number of years he ranged his cattle in the head of the now famous Elkhorn valley, having his house and sheds just south of the large Bassett hill southeast of the present town site of Bassett. This hill is one of the highest hills in the country and the view from this place is magnificent. This hill was used by the cattle rustlers in the pioneer days of Rock county as a signal station. Lights were sent up as signals and could be seen for many miles.

The famous "Kid" Wade, the young horse-thief who operated so successfully in this section of the country and was finally caught in a barn in Bassett and later taken from the authorities by vigilantes, was hanged to a whistling post just east of Bassett. The next day his body was cut down and buried on this hill.

J. W. Bassett was a widower when he came to Rock county, and during his stay in this county his daughter kept house for him. He left in 1883, just after the railroad came through and settlers began to homestead the land.

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#### J. H. CAMPBELL.

This gentleman has worked long and hard, denied himself in years gone by that he might become thoroughly successful in his life work, and is today reckoned among the leading citizens of Kimball county. He has a residence on his ranch, but also has a town house in Kimball so as to afford school advantages for the children.

J. H. Campbell was born in Dekalb county, Illinois, September 17, 1849, and made that state his home until he was twenty-two years of age. He was the youngest in a family of eight children, two sisters now living in Hamilton county, Nebraska, while the balance are scattered about the country. Both parents are dead. In 1871 Mr. Campbell came to Nebraska, settling in York county, where he lived for fourteen years and proved up on an eighty-acre homestead and then moved to Hamilton county, remaining there for two years, and landed in Kimball county (then called Cheyenne county), in 1887. He took a pre-emption and homestead on section 30, township 13, range 55, proved up on eighty acres and later filed on a Kincaid claim on section 24, which comprises his home ranch, although he has large interests in other lands in the vicinity. He has the ranch fitted up in splendid shape with good buildings and every improvement, and raises stock of all kinds, having a fine

bunch of horses, also cultivates about one hundred and fifty acres.

Mr. Campbell was married while still living in Dekalb county, Illinois, to Miss Elizabeth Murray, their wedding occurring in October, 1868. Three children were born to them, only one of whom is now living—Iva—wife of Chris Pfeifer, living in Banner county, Nebraska. Mrs. Campbell died February 28, 1876. Mr. Campbell was married again February 20, 1879, in Hamilton county, Nebraska, to Mary L. Murray, a sister of his former wife, and a native of Illinois, born in Kane county. The parents of Mrs. Campbell are both dead. Four children were born of this union, two of whom are living—Roy and Etta Fay.

Mrs. Campbell has two sisters and one brother living in Nebraska. Mr. Campbell has always been active in county and local affairs, lending his influence for the best interests of his community. He was one of the first county commissioners of Kimball county and has held other public offices. In political views he is a Republican.

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#### BENJAMIN F. THORNBURG.

Benjamin F. Thornburg, for many years past one of the leading business men of Potter, Nebraska, and who is also one of the earliest settlers of Cheyenne county, is the senior partner of the firm of Thornburg & Son, dealers in general merchandise at Potter. Mr. Thornburg has been closely identified with the up-building of that region, has passed through all the vicissitudes of pioneer life in the west, and well remembers the time when the dugout, in which he lived with his family for many years, was the familiar dwelling throughout the country. A large portion of his career has been spent in farming and ranching in Nebraska, and he is well known and highly esteemed by his fellow-men.

Mr. Thornburg is a native of Newcomertown, Ohio, born on January 12, 1849, and spent seven years of his childhood in that locality. The family then moved to Fulton county, Illinois, where the father was engaged in farming for about eleven years, at which time our subject came with his parents to Kirksville, Missouri. In 1886 he came to Cheyenne county and took a homestead and timber claim in section 8, township 12, range 51, and followed farming on the place for seven years. During this time he also pre-empted a quarter section in the same vicinity, and was engaged in ranching for a number of years. In 1900 he started in the mercantile business

at Potter, and succeeded in building up a large trade throughout the county and surrounding country. Mr. Thornburg was married February 9, 1871, at Kirksville, Missouri, to Miss Sarah J. Lutes, who was born November 11, 1855, in West Virginia. Her father and mother are now deceased, she being the eldest of a family of five children. Our subject and his wife have a family of four children, named as follows: George A., a member of the firm, who is married, his wife's maiden name being Minnie Hensen; they have two children, Hazel and Georgia. The second son, Edward, is engaged in ranching in this county. He married Margaret Brown, and they have one daughter, Agnes. Thomas F. Thornburg, the third son, is proprietor of a store at Sidney. He also is married and has one child, Dorothy. Susie Thornburg, the youngest child of our subject, is still living at home with her parents and is a charming and accomplished young woman. In politics Mr. Thornburg adheres to the principles of the Republican party and he takes an active part in local and county affairs. Socially he is a member of the Potter camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

#### J. P. MARSHALL.

J. P. Marshall, an enterprising and prosperous farmer of Williamsburg township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is widely known as a worthy citizen who has closely identified himself with the agricultural interests of his locality, and has built up a fine home and farm, but has not retired from all active business.

Mr. Marshall is a native of Canada, and came to the United States from Renfrew county, Ontario, Canada, in 1878. His father, James B. Marshall, has served as township clerk for many years past, and our subject's uncle, of whom a sketch will be found in this volume, is Hon. T. H. Marshall, who represented Phelps county in the state legislature in 1886. J. P. Marshall came to this township in 1884 with his father, who purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 27, on which he lived until his recent retirement. The family came here from York county, Nebraska, where they had farmed for four years. Our subject owns a farm consisting of one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, Williamsburg township, Phelps county, and began farming for himself in 1887. He also owned and operated a threshing machine, which work he followed in York county, and since his residence here has owned a threshing outfit for over twenty years. He en-

gages in mixed farming, raising quite a number of horses, cattle and hogs, and his grain crops are exceedingly good. In 1902 he had wheat which showed a yield of fifty bushels to the acre, and in 1892 he had a twenty-acre patch of corn which ran seventy-five bushels to the acre. He is one of the successful and substantial young farmers of this county, and an intelligent and public-spirited citizen. His brothers, O. B. and Charles A. Marshall, are together and operate their father's farm. Our subject had five brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Marshall is an Independent in politics. Mr. J. P. Marshall was married in 1886 to Mary Jones, whose parents were old settlers of Phelps county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have a family of five children—Ora L., S. Wesley, Abigail, Effie W. and Rhoda Priscilla.

#### FERDINAND E. NIKONT.

Ferdinand Nikont, known throughout Box Butte county as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy, is a resident of township 26, range 51, where he owns and operates an extensive farm of eight or ten sections. He has been identified with the upbuilding of that locality for many years, and while acquiring his valuable estate has also gained for himself an enviable reputation as one of the prominent old settlers and influential residents since the pioneer days of this region.

Mr. Nikont was born in the western part of Russia, of German parents, in 1857. His father was born in Russia, and was the first of the family of Nikont to leave Germany. Our subject was reared in the land of his birth, and as a boy attended the common schools and assisted his father in performing all the farm work on the home place. At the age of twenty-nine years Ferdinand and brothers came to America. During his young manhood he had learned the trade of an engineer, and worked in his home vicinity as a railroad engineer for several years. After landing in the United States he came west and settled in eastern Nebraska, where he followed farm work for a year, then came to Box Butte county and filed on a homestead southwest of Hemingford. His first building was a sod house, in which he and his brother "batched it" for several years. They had a very small start and went through the usual pioneer hardships and privations, having a hard time to get along, and when the dry years came upon them they were unable to raise any crops to speak of, also suffered from hail, etc. At this time the railroad was being laid through this

region, and both brothers were able to secure work on the road and in this way managed to make a living and improve their farm to some extent.

At this time Mr. Nikont, with his brother and a brother-in-law, owns a ranch comprising ten sections of land, all of which is fully improved and well stocked with cattle. This ranch is situated on section 6, township 26, range 51, and is a valuable property.

Our subject is an independent voter.

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### BENJAMIN F. PAXTON.

Benjamin F. Paxton is a young and energetic farmer who is rapidly making his way to the front in agricultural circles in Cherry county, where he has discovered the rich possibilities of northwestern Nebraska for varied and systematic farming. His well kept place in section 24, township 33, range 28, shows a master hand at the management of affairs, and indicates a large success for him in the near future.

Mr. Paxton was born in the village of Wahoo, Nebraska, November 4, 1880, a son of Charles T. and Johannah (Arndt) Paxton, and was the fifth member of a family of seven children, named as follows: Alice T., Albert L. and Alfred V., twins; David E., Benjamin F., Mary L. and Katie I. David died in Lead City, South Dakota, in the summer of 1907. The father was a carpenter by trade, but familiar with farming, to which he turned his attention in 1883, locating his family that year on a homestead in Cherry county. The mother was a German by descent, and reared her children to the industrious habits and honest character peculiar to that race and blood. At first enduring privations the family lived in a small frame house, but later a more commodious log house was erected. The Paxton spirit was strong and a persistent holding of the situation has brought ample success at last.

Benjamin F. Paxton began life for himself at the age of seventeen years, and from the first has manifested a strong and manly character. For a time he was a farm laborer, and did such work as he could command. He was in South Dakota for a time, where he was employed in various capacities, but all the time preparing for his own independent and successful career. In 1903 he began farming in company with a brother, and they now own in partnership two hundred and forty acres, well located along the Niobrara river. He is giving considerable attention to gardening, in which he is making a satisfactory financial success.

The farm is fitted up for practical working, with a comfortable dwelling, stables and other needed buildings. Besides the ranch, the brothers individually own two tracts of land, Benjamin F. having filed on six hundred and forty acres of land in section 26, township 32, range 28, in 1906.

Alfred V. Paxton, the brother associated with our subject in his land deals, was born in 1875, and individually owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. The push and enterprise of the brothers, together with their clear perception of sound business principles and their readiness to deal straight and square, have made them prominent factors in the agricultural interests of Cherry county.

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### WILLIAM E. HALEY.

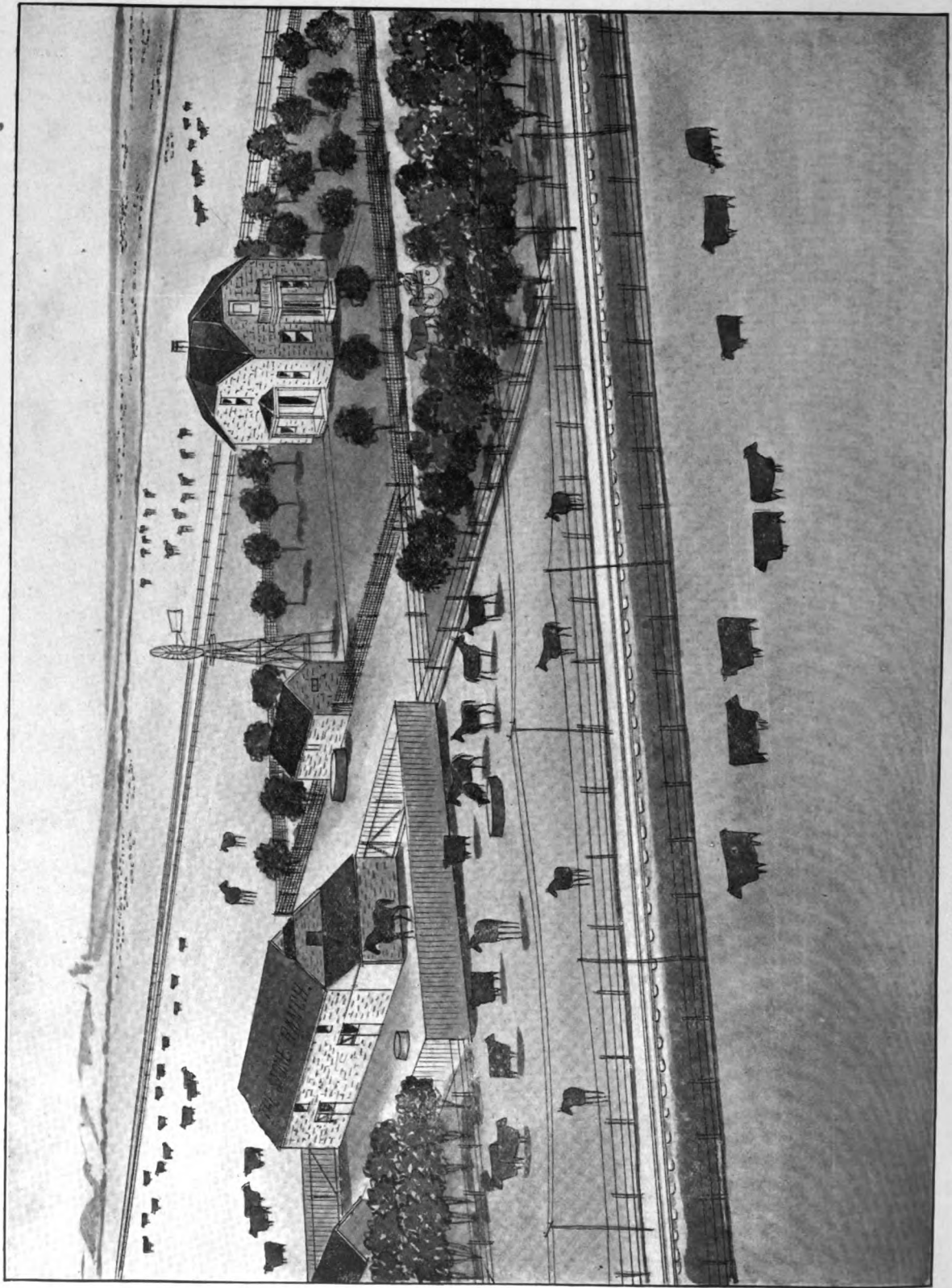
William E. Haley, one of the prominent residents of Valentine, and an old settler of Cherry county, has always been closely identified with both the political and commercial interests of this locality.

Mr. Haley was born on a farm near Monticello, Jones county, Iowa, October 4, 1863, of Irish ancestry. The sixth in a family of eight children, he was reared and educated in Sioux county, Iowa, whither the family moved in 1868. At the age of twenty he came to O'Neil, Nebraska, where he was placed in charge of the Wilcox lumber yard, which position he held for five years. In 1888 he came to Valentine and opened an abstract office, having the first and only set of similar books in the county. Since then Mr. Haley has been interested in the insurance and real estate business, principally in Cherry county.

In 1894 he took a Kincaid homestead, engaged in the ranching business and in connection with his other interests bred horses and other stock on his ranch of some one thousand four hundred acres, which is located only a short distance from Valentine. In 1889 Mr. Haley was married to Miss Emma G. McNichols, who was a teacher in the O'Neil high school. She was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a daughter of Michael McNichols, a farmer and one of the early settlers in O'Neil, coming to the state about the year 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Haley are the parents of eight children, named as follows: William B., who is employed in his father's office; Laurentia, Margaret, Clarence, Cletus, Martha, Zeta and Frank, of whom all excepting William and Laurentia were born in Valentine.

Mr. Haley takes an active part in local affairs, having held county office at different





"THE STONE RANCH," RESIDENCE OF HENRY T. DEAN,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.

ticket, as chairman of the board was instrumental in locating the courthouse on its present site, supervised the construction of the same and had the lawn improved, including the planting of trees. All this was a labor of love, Mr. Haley freely giving his time and attention for the public good. As chairman of the building committee of the board of education he performed similar services for the new high school building, and of his work here any man may well feel proud. He was one of the organizers of the Valentine Building and Loan Association, and served as its secretary thirteen years. He served as deputy assessor for Valentine precinct in 1908 under appointment of P. H. Young.

Together with his family Mr. Haley is a communicant of the Catholic church. Of the social organizations he affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America, Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Royal Highlanders.

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### J. B. JETER.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the leading citizens of North Platte, Nebraska, and particularly well known among all railroad men in this vicinity.

Mr. Jeter was born in Orleans, Orange county, Indiana, September 30, 1856. He is a son of J. S. Jeter, a native of Jessamine county, Kentucky, where the Jeter family have been prominent in the building up of the state, and were among the early settlers whose names figure prominently in the history of old Virginia, having originally come from England to America when the country was still in its early development. Our subject's mother, Miss Mary Sears, is a native of Orleans, Orange county, Indiana, also comes of old pioneer stock. Our subject was reared and educated in Indiana, and remained with his parents until a young man, assisting his father in the postoffice at Orleans, the father being postmaster, and the training he received stood him in good stead in later years when he was obliged to start out in life for himself and carve out a name and fortune for himself. Mr. Jeter began railroad work in 1881 and in 1886 he came to North Platte, and obtained employment with the Union Pacific road and began working his way up step by step, always striving for advancement, and while in one position studying to fit himself for the

ductor on the Union Pacific railway, running from North Platte to Cheyenne. Soon after locating in North Platte, he became freight conductor for this company, and in 1899 was appointed passenger conductor. Prior to coming to North Platte he was connected with the bridge department of the Union Pacific railroad at Omaha, Nebraska. This was in 1881. He has a brother, S. I. Jeter, who is connected with the Union Pacific railway at Omaha, having been employed in the bridge department of the company for a period of thirty-eight years. Another brother, F. E. Jeter, is with the bridge department of the same railroad, located at Columbus, Nebraska.

Mr. Jeter was married in 1889 to Miss Hattie Rankin, who is a daughter of Thomas Rankin, of Orleans, Orange county, Indiana. The Rankins are a prominent Scotch-Irish family, who came to this country and settled in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary war, and whose members are all strong Presbyterians, widely known for their deep interest in educational, church and state work all over the United States. Mr. Jeter's wife prior to her marriage was a teacher for several years in Indiana and Illinois, and continued in the work for one year after moving to North Platte. She still maintains an active interest in the different literary clubs and social circles in North Platte, where she is one of the most prominent members, and a very bright and popular woman. Her sister, Miss Clara Rankin, is also a resident of North Platte, and is the proprietor of the leading photograph gallery in the city. She is well known all over the community for her excellent work as an artist, and has been most successful in every branch of the work. Mr. and Mrs. Jeter have two daughters, Beryl and Helen, and they have a host of friends and acquaintances who are frequent partakers of their genial hospitality.

Mr. Jeter is an active member of the order of Railway Conductors, also an Elk, of the Cheyenne lodge, and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of Pythias.

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### HENRY T. DEAN.

Henry T. Dean, owner of and residing at the Stone Ranch located at Alden Station on the Burlington, is one of the wealthy and most influential men of his section. He has accumulated his valuable estate by energetic



effort and strictest attention to duty, and his high station as a worthy citizen is well deserved.

Mr. Dean is a native of Hendricks county, Indiana, born near North Salem, December 12, 1858. He made that vicinity his home until 1881, having worked out three years; from that date until 1884 he resided in Audubon county, Iowa, and then moved to Nebraska, settling on a ranch in Saunders county, arriving in that region in March, 1884, where he remained for eight years. In the spring of 1892 he took up a homestead in section 35, township 19, range 50, Cheyenne county, and has made that his home ever since. He is owner of a beautiful ranch comprising two thousand seven hundred and forty acres, leasing besides this six hundred and forty acres of school land, on which their district school is located and controls altogether about five thousand acres, which is devoted principally to ranching purposes; on this there is about twenty miles of three-wire fence. He keeps about eight hundred head of cattle and horses, and irrigates seven hundred acres, raising splendid crops of alfalfa and wheat-grass hay. Four miles of Greenwood and Pumpkinseed creeks course through his ranch, which enables him to own and control two private irrigation ditches. He also owns several shares in Court House Rock Irrigation Company.

Our subject is a thorough stockman, and an authority in the matter of thoroughbred animals. He keeps only high-grade stock, dealing in Belgian horses and mules, of which he has two hundred head; he owns some of the finest Percheron and Belgian horses in the country. His cattle are all of the Galloway breed, and at present he has a herd of six hundred, and this herd is known far and wide as one of the best to be found in the west. The value of land has increased greatly in Cheyenne county since Mr. Dean settled here; to illustrate this increase, one quarter section of the land owned by Mr. Dean was exchanged for a pair of chickens and a cultivator at one time. Another quarter section sold for fifty dollars. The land is now worth twenty dollars and more per acre.

On October 19, 1880, Mr. Dean was married to Miss Laura Dixon, at Ladoga, Indiana. Mrs. Dean was born in Putnam county, Indiana, in January, 1864. Three children have been born to Mr. Dean and his good wife, namely: Goldie, who married Samuel Livingston, now living in Sidney, and Roy and Roscoe, both at home. The family occupy a new stone residence, and their home is one of the most pleasant to be found anywhere.

The large stone barn erected in 1904, together with stone outbuildings, give the ranch its name of Stone Ranch.

Mr. Dean is prominent in state and county affairs, and is one of the well-known, public-spirited men of his community. He has served his township in different capacities, and is at present assessor of Court House Rock precinct. He is a Democrat.

We are pleased to call your attention to a view of the ranch buildings on another page, showing as well the picturesque rock which gives the precinct its name.

#### LINEUS E. BENDER.

Lineus E. Bender, a well-to-do farmer and highly respected citizen of Sioux county, resides in section 33, township 32, range 53, where he has succeeded in building up a fine home. He is also one of the old settlers of that locality and a representative man of his community.

Mr. Bender was born in Ingham county, Michigan, in 1854. He comes of good old American stock, his father, Samuel Bender, being of German descent. He married Lydia Lee, who came of mixed blood and is a direct descendant of the celebrated Lee family and near relative of General Robert E. Lee and Fitzhugh Lee, of Virginia.

The family lived in Michigan and farmed there for many years. Lineus was educated in the common schools as a boy, and later attended Albion College. The father died in 1859, and after that time our subject was obliged to strike out for himself, and followed farm work, also clerked in a store in different places for some time.

Some years were spent in northern Michigan, and he was married in 1880 to Miss Hattie Casey, daughter of William Casey, of Albion, Michigan. In 1898 Mr. Bender came west to Nebraska, locating in Sioux county, settling on the place known as the old Gray ranch, which is situated nine miles northwest of Crawford on Soldier creek. He was employed for two years by the Chicago & Northwestern railroad at Chadron, and after that time gave his undivided attention to the ranch, and has developed a fine place. There are three hundred and twenty acres, which Mr. Bender is owner of, and his son, Casey, also owns six hundred and forty acres of adjoining land.

Our subject spent many years of hard and constant labor in building up his estates, but has been well repaid for his efforts, and is now

in position to enjoy his years of toil. He has witnessed many hard times, and while he has suffered exceedingly, fully realizes that nothing is worth having that is acquired without a struggle, and does not regret the time he has put in accumulating his property.

Mr. and Mrs. Bender have a family of seven children, who form an interesting and charming family group. They are named as follows: Casey W., Guy F., Samuel, Beulah, Lee, Margie and Carl. All the family are held in high esteem by their associates, and they occupy a foremost place in the community as worthy citizens.

#### STERLING PRICE ALDERMAN.

Sterling Price Alderman, whose name heads this personal history, is an intelligent and progressive citizen of Bassett, Nebraska, and is numbered among the successful business men of that thriving town.

Mr. Alderman is a native of Collins county, Texas, where he was born February 26, 1862, being the third child of a family of seven sons and one daughter. His father, James M. Alderman, Sr., was a ranchman and farmer, originally from Virginia, from whence he moved to Ohio and from thence to Missouri before settling in Brownsville, Nebraska, in 1854. After living here for a time he moved to Texas, later to Kansas City, Missouri, and then returned to Brownsville in 1870. He died in Newport, Nebraska, at the residence of his son. The mother was Miss Sarah Jane Kinder, of American blood. The family returned to Brownsville, a small town in Nemaha county, Nebraska, and here our subject was reared and educated. At the age of eighteen he started out for himself and for fourteen years was engaged in railroad work on the Burlington & Missouri railway and the Chicago & Northwestern railway, being employed as an operator and station agent. Beginning in 1880 he was stationed at Holdrege, Dorchester, Plattsmouth, La Platte, Oreopolis Junction, for shorter periods, and during 1887-88-89 he was on duty at Johnson, Nemaha county, Nebraska, followed by short assignments at Saxonville, Ashton and Hat Creek, St. Paul and Palmer. For several years he was bill clerk for the Wells Fargo Express Company at the Burlington & Missouri depot at Omaha. Returning to railroad work he served a short time at Scribner, and between the years of 1890 and 1894 he was station agent at Newport, Nebraska. In the latter year he quit the railroad and established a general merchandise

business there, which he operated for two years; then disposing of his mercantile business he went into the hay business at that point. He remained there up to 1899, when he moved to Bassett and opened up the same kind of a business there, continuing this up to 1900. In that year he went into the hardware and supply business under the firm name of The Bassett Hardware and Supply Company, in partnership with E. L. Meyers. They had a large trade from the start and had developed an extensive enterprise at the time he disposed of it in 1907. In that year Mr. Alderman built a large hay shed and has engaged exclusively in that line of work ever since, some years shipping as high as a thousand cars of hay.

Mr. Alderman was married, May 15, 1887, to Miss Edith Morrison, a daughter of William F. and Elizabeth (Jones) Morrison, whose marriage occurred at Fort Madison, Iowa. They were old settlers at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, coming to that place about the year 1865, before any railroads had reached that point. Mr. Morrison was formerly a school teacher and later engaged in the meat business at Plattsmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Alderman have a family of six children, named as follows: Gertrude, Charles, Ruth, Ralph, Esther and Thelma.

Mr. Alderman takes an active part in county politics, and is a man of active public-spirit. In political sentiment he is a Democrat and serves his village on the town board. He is an Odd Fellow, a Workman and was formerly a member of the Pythian lodge.

#### FRED W. VATH.

Fred W. Vath, known throughout this region as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy, is a resident of Sidney, Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has been identified with the development and upbuilding of that locality for many years past, and while acquiring a comfortable fortune has also gained for himself an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Vath was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, in 1869. His father was a bricklayer and died in Germany in 1871. The mother, whose maiden name was Sophia Eicholz, together with her children, came to America in 1880. After landing in New York city they came west to Madison, Wisconsin, settling at Middleton, eight miles west of Madison, where our subject grew up, attending the common schools. He was passionately fond of music, and grew to be quite a musician, being entirely

self-taught. From the time he was fifteen years of age he has made his own way in the world, following farm work up to 1891, in Wisconsin, then came to Schuyler, Nebraska, where he worked for his elder brother William. He remained there up to 1901, then went to the Pacific coast, and was also all through Washington, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon and California, spending altogether fifteen months traveling through the western states. In 1898, during the Spanish-American war, he enlisted in Company K, Second Nebraska Regiment and was sent south to Chickamauga, remaining there for several months, and then, like many others, was discharged, seeing no very active service. He was through Nashville and other large cities of the south on this trip. In 1903 he settled at Sidney, engaging in business and has remained here since that time. He has been successful since starting, but suffered quite a loss caused by fire, June 21, 1903, although partly covered by insurance, and the accident only caused him to close his business for twenty-four hours. Mr. Vath was married in 1903 to Miss Mary Salak, daughter of Martin Salak, an old settler in Colfax county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Vath have two children, Ralph and Paul.

#### CHARLES W. THURSTON.

Charles W. Thurston, well known among the younger members of the farming and ranching community of Grant county, Nebraska, has spent most of his entire career in that section. His home ranch is in section 2, township 24, range 39, where he occupies a leading position in local affairs. He has six windmills on the ranch, some fine lakes, plenty of game, ducks, geese, grouse, etc., which make fine sport for hunting during the season.

Mr. Thurston was born in Iowa county, Iowa, in 1875, on a farm. His father, David Thurston, was a well known farmer and ranchman in Nebraska, locating in Grant county in 1888, also was a pioneer in the eastern part of the state in Cass and Furnas counties. He married Emily Wight, and both were of old Yankee stock. Mrs. Thurston, the mother, resides in Hyannis, Nebraska, the father having died several years ago. When our subject was a lad of seven the family settled in Furnas county, after spending one year in Cass county. Charles and a brother, John H., grew up in Furnas county, and during their young manhood did a great deal of hunting, as the country was full of all kinds of wild game, many buffalo being killed in those days. During their first winter in that region they lived almost entirely on buffalo meat and corn bread. All sup-

plies had to be hauled from Bloomington, a distance of eighty miles from their homestead. In 1890 the two brothers made settlement close to Hyannis, and started at ranching, both working as cowboys, and they gradually improved their place and together built up a good home and valuable estate, the property containing five thousand acres, which is devoted to ranching purposes, and they have made a splendid success of their venture.

Mr. Thurston is active in local political and business matters, and one of the substantial citizens of his community. In 1907 he was elected sheriff of Grant county, and is at present serving his first term in that capacity, proving a most popular and capable official. Our subject lives part of the time with his mother in Hyannis.

#### JOHN S. RAY.

A foremost place is accorded to the gentleman above named among the enterprising and prosperous business men of Franklin county, Nebraska. Mr. Ray is postmaster at Naponee, and no citizen of his community is more universally esteemed and respected than the subject of this review.

Mr. Ray is a native of Venango, Pennsylvania. In 1855 his parents moved to Jackson county, Iowa, where they were among the pioneers of that state. The father, Thomas Ray, married Mary Sullivan, her father coming to America from Ireland in the early days, and settled in Pennsylvania. The Rays are of Scotch descent, our subject's great-grandfather having been a soldier in the war of 1812, was captured by the Indians near Lake Erie, Pennsylvania, escaping from them after a time. In 1862 our subject enlisted in the Civil war, joining Company I, Twelfth Iowa Infantry, and served with his regiment in the army under Rosecrans and Halleck, taking part in the siege of Corinth, and subsequently at the battle of Corinth, which was one of the most thrilling experiences in his career as a soldier. He was at the left of Fort Robirette, first sergeant of his company. He was also at the siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, and was one of Smith's guerrillas during the Atlanta campaign, as the Confederates called them. He marched through Mississippi, and then raided after Price through Arkansas and Missouri. He took part in the battle of Nashville, then on to Mobile, and at the siege of the Spanish Fort. His regiment was on the way near Blakely, and was engaged in the last battle of the war. He was mustered out at Memphis,

clerk of his county. For two years he held the position of cashier of the bank at Miles, Iowa, and was one of the best known men in Jackson county, active in public affairs and one of the prominent leaders in every movement to develop the region in which he resided.

Mr. Ray was united in marriage to Miss Allen, daughter of M. S. Allen, sheriff of Jackson county, who was in the steamboat business, owning an interest in a boat running on the Mississippi river. He originally came from New York state, and also was a pioneer in Michigan, and was in the same company with Captain Wood, who was an owner in the White Line steamer Wood, on the river service for many years. Mr. Wood was well known throughout the western and southern states, and died at Savannah, Georgia. Mr. and Mrs. Ray have three children, John A. Ray, Jessie, who is manager of a large department store at Denver, Colorado, and Lois, wife of C. R. Croft, whose sketch will be found on another page of this volume. Mr. Ray has been a resident of Franklin county since 1879, and is one of its leading old-timers. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, and prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic post.

Mr. Ray has two brothers, E. B. and E. M. Ray, in business at Bozeman, Montana, also a sister, Mrs. Nettie Taylor, at the same place, and has one sister living in Lake City, Iowa, and another at Naperville, near Chicago, Illinois.

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#### ROBERT A. DAY.

Robert A. Day, a well and favorably known resident of Deuel county, Nebraska, has been one of the prominent citizens of that section for many years past. Mr. Day was born in Brown county, Ohio, March 5, 1865. His father, mother, himself, one brother and three sisters came to Butler county, Nebraska, in 1885. He made that his residence for about a year, then came on to Deuel county, the locality then being known as Cheyenne county. He took up a homestead on section 27, township 17, range 44, proved up on the place, and still owns it, also is owner of four hundred and eighty acres near his original homestead.

Mr. Day succeeded in developing a good farm, adding good improvements in the way

Oshkosh, still retaining active management of his farm. Here he entered the general merchandise establishment of Geo. T. Kendall & Company, remaining with that firm for about a year. He then spent some time in the survey of Big Ditch, an irrigation project which was built in this part of the country. In 1899 he was appointed deputy county clerk, and continued in that position for two years, being elected county clerk in 1901 for a two-year term, and re-elected at the end of that time, serving up to 1905. He then returned to Oshkosh and connected himself with the Deuel County Bank as cashier and active manager of that institution, and still holds that position.

Mr. Day is a Democrat, and was elected over his opponent in a strong Republican county, showing his popularity and the esteem in which he is held throughout the vicinity. He takes an active and leading part in all local affairs, also county and state politics, and has had much to do with the prosperous condition of commercial interests in the locality. He is treasurer of the school board of Oshkosh.

On April 19, 1895, Mr. Day was married to Miss Viola Empson, in Deuel county. Mrs. Day is a native of Indiana, and they have two children, Marguerite, aged eleven years, and a baby, three months. Mr. Day's father died in Butler county about a year ago, while the balance of the family still occupy the homestead there. Mrs. Day's father is living, while the mother is dead.

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#### CARL M. LUX.

Carl M. Lux, one of the foremost residents of Sioux county, Nebraska, is a well-to-do ranchman and progressive agriculturist of section 6, township 32, range 53, where he has a pleasant home and is surrounded by all the comforts of rural life and many luxuries. Mr. Lux is one of the old-timers of this region and has taken an active part in the agricultural and commercial development here, and his name deserves prominent mention in the history of the growth of western Nebraska.

Mr. Lux was born in Rhine province, Germany, in 1852, and grew up there. His father, Conrad, was a farmer, and lived and died in that country, as also did his wife, whose maiden name was Gertrude Kaymer. After reaching young manhood Carl served for two years in the German army and at the end of that time

returned to his home and entered the employ of a brewing company, remaining at that work for several years. In 1883 he came to the United States, and after landing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, immediately struck out for the west, settling in Kansas, where he spent one year, then came to Sioux county. When he arrived here this region was simply a wild prairie with very few settlers, who were scattered at wide intervals throughout the county. The Chicago & Northwestern railway was built after he came here, and he helped in its construction. He filed on the land he now occupies as a homestead, also took up a pre-emption adjoining. Mr. Lux's ranch is located on Cottonwood creek, and during the early years his nearest railroad point was Chadron, from which he was obliged to haul all supplies. He freighted over the rough country from Chadron to the Black Hills and into Wyoming, following the life of the typical frontiersman during the first few years, and many nights he camped out on the ground under his wagon while on these trips. He lived all alone in his log shanty which he erected on his homestead, "batching it" for the first two years, working hard to get his farm in good shape and saving every dollar he was able to earn by working for others in the vicinity and constantly adding improvements to his home. He met with severe losses in the way of failure of crops and saw hard times, often becoming sadly discouraged, but determined not to leave the place, and finally was able to save a little money as the years grew better and is now very glad he stuck to it, as he has been well repaid for his labors and perseverance. His ranch contains eight hundred acres of good land, fitted with good substantial buildings, fences, etc., and he has about one hundred and twenty acres devoted to diversified farming. There is plenty of clear running water for all purposes, timber for fuel, also many shade, and fruit trees which he planted himself and are growing beautifully, making a very pretty place.

In 1887 Mr. Lux was married to Rena Feller. Mrs. Lux is the daughter of Frank Feller, who is one of the old settlers of Sioux county and is well and favorably known throughout this section of the state. Nine children have been born to our subject and Mrs. Lux, eight of whom are living, named as follows: Robert, Annie, Martha, Christina, Celia, Carl, Theresa and Sophia. The family form a most interesting group, and all are well liked by their associates.

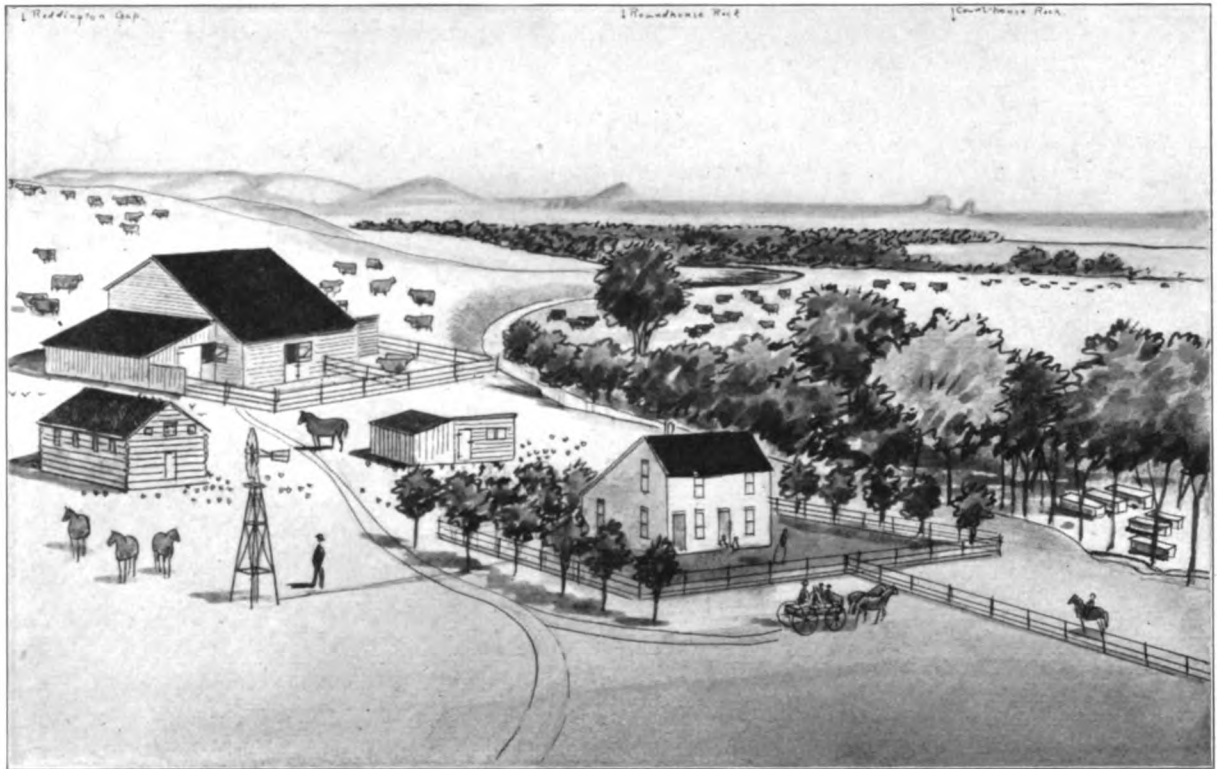
Mr. Lux has always taken an active part in local affairs, and has served as county treasurer for two terms, also as justice of the peace. He is a Democrat and has the courage of his convictions.

#### GEORGE W. TINSLEY.

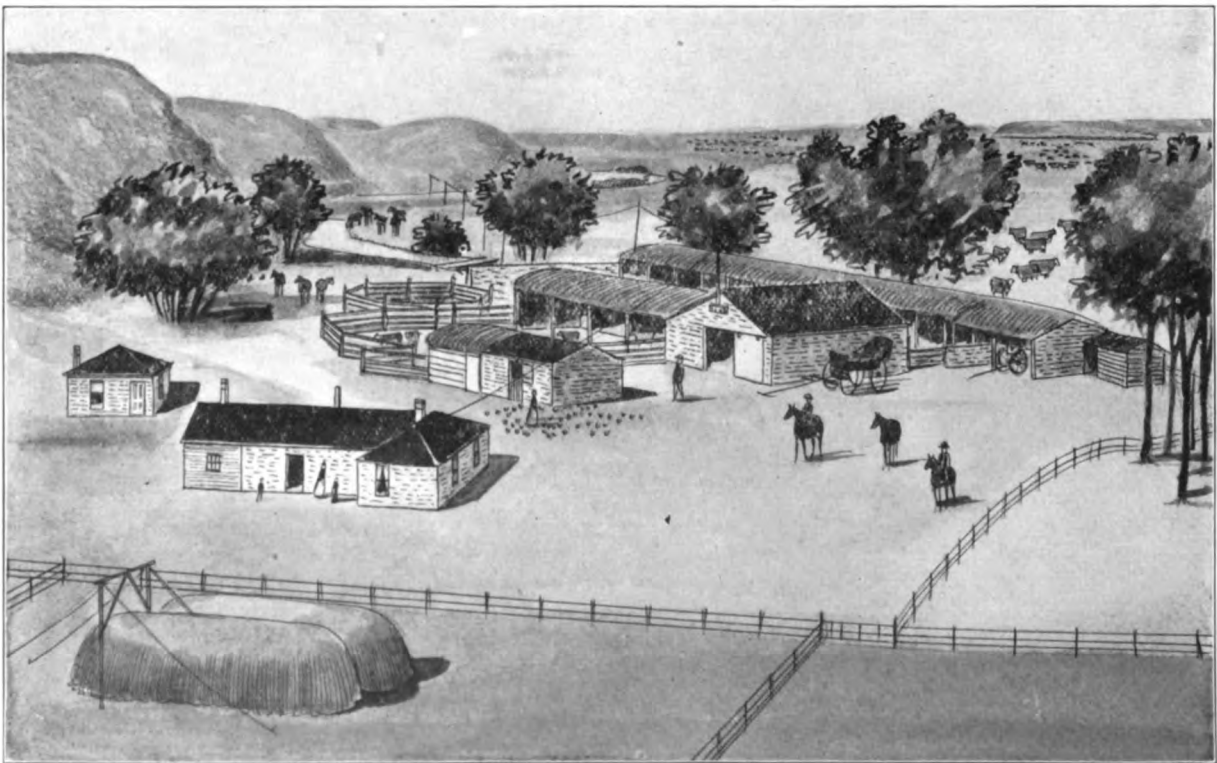
George W. Tinsley, residing on section 10, township 18, range 52, Morrill county, is one of the prominent old settlers of that region, having located here in 1885, and remained to see the wonderful changes that have taken place in the country, watching its growth from practically a barren wilderness to its present state of fertility, and has the proud satisfaction of knowing that this success has been due in a measure to his own efforts. He is a man of active public spirit, and held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Tinsley was born in Coles county, Illinois, December 12, 1864, where he spent his entire boyhood. His father, William Tinsley, was a native of Kentucky, while his mother, Susan (Griffin), was born in Indiana. They settled in Illinois during their younger years. Both are now dead. When our subject attained his majority he left Illinois and came west to Nebraska, locating in Cheyenne county, arriving here in 1885. He homesteaded on a quarter in section 10, proved up and improved the place, adding more land to his original homestead, and is now owner of about eight hundred acres, using a large part of it as range land for a herd of cattle, also cultivating about one hundred and twenty acres. He has all good buildings and improvements on the ranch, and has met with deserved success in his work, being rated among the wealthy and successful men in the section. He has a large acreage in alfalfa, furnishing abundant feed and "pasture" for his bees, of which he has forty colonies. He but recently took up bee culture, and has made astonishing success, raising one thousand five hundred pounds of honey in a season. The Nebraska climate is peculiarly adapted to the production of a high grade of honey.

Mr. Tinsley was married to Julia A. Lipscomb, in Coles county, Illinois, November 12, 1884. Mrs. Tinsley was born in Indiana, and her parents, John and Eliza (Hutchison) Lipscomb, are still living in Coles county. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley, named as follows: Clarence, married and living near Bayard; Goldie, William, Bert, Lillian, Myrtle, Vera and Lorine. They form a most interesting and congenial family, and their home is one of the bright spots that greets the traveler through the section. We take pleasure in calling attention to a view of the fine dwelling, large barn and outbuildings pictured in the illustrated pages of our work. Our subject holds the office of treasurer of school district No. 55, and takes a commendable interest in all local affairs. In political views he is a firm Democrat.



**RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. TINSLEY,**  
Morrill County, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE OF JAMES MITCHELL,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.





## JAMES MITCHELL.

James Mitchell, one of the well-to-do farmers of Brownson precinct, is of Scottish nativity, and is a worthy representative of the best traits of his race and people. He was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the 15th day of October, 1845, and grew up in the land of his birth, receiving such educational advantages as the times and customs of the people of his station in life were accorded. Our subject left Scotland and started for the new world May 19, 1874, sailing from Glasgow on the Macedonia, since wrecked, and after a voyage of eleven days landed in New York city June 1st. He immediately departed for the west, going to California via the Union Pacific railway, spending two years traveling all over that part of the United States before coming to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, where he arrived in February, 1876. He went into the Black Hills and followed mining for about a year, then came back to Cheyenne county in December, and filed on a homestead situated in section 8, township 14, range 51, in April, 1878. He has made this part of the county his home ever since that time, and has improved a good farm and built up a good home. He has erected all good stone buildings, fences, and every improvement for the operation of a model farm and ranch, and is one of the progressive and prosperous men of his locality. His land is situated on Lodgepole creek, which furnishes an abundant supply of clear, cold water for every purpose. He cultivates about sixty acres, and in addition deals quite heavily in stock, running a goodly herd of cattle. In all he controls seventeen hundred and sixty acres of land, and is one of the wealthy landowners of his vicinity.

Mr. Mitchell was married in 1892, at Sidney, Nebraska, to Mrs. Frances Walsh, daughter of Mr. Frank Barcel. Mrs. Mitchell died in 1897, leaving a family of four children, three being the children of a former marriage, named as follows: John, Henry W. and Wm. S. Walsh, and James A. Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell is a leader in local affairs in his community, and aids his fellowmen in every effort to build up his locality. We are pleased to call attention to a view of his substantial home and picturesque surroundings on another page of our work. In politics he is a strong Republican.

## DE F. VAN VLECK.

The office of county clerk has been bestowed on this gentleman for six successive terms, and he is discharging the duties of the position with rare fidelity and ever increasing popularity. Mr.

Van Vleck was first elected to the office of county clerk of Sheridan county, Nebraska, in 1895, and is a man of broad mind and good education, exercising good judgment and honesty in all his dealings. He resides in Rushville, where he has a pleasant home.

Our subject was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1849. His father, Michael Van Vleck, was a native of New York state, born at Syracuse, and his mother was Miss Sarah Smith, born in Monroe county, New York. The family moved to and lived at Manitowoc, on the shores of Lake Michigan, until our subject was twelve years of age, then moved to Will county, Illinois, and at the breaking out of the war our subject enlisted in Company F, Sixty-fourth Illinois Regiment. He saw service with General Sherman, and at Atlanta received a severe wound. He also went through the Carolinas after this, but was never able to resume his duties as a soldier on account of having lost the use of his left arm at the battle mentioned above. At that time his regiment was under fire one hundred days during the Atlanta campaign, and he tells many interesting anecdotes of that time. After receiving his discharge at Quincy, Illinois, in May, 1865, Mr. Van Vleck attended the Northern Illinois College at Fulton, and later taught school in that state and also in Iowa. He came to Nebraska in 1879 and there followed teaching in Saunders county, and later in Sheridan county for two years. He finally located in this county in June, 1884. He had made six trips here from Ord, Nebraska, by team, and after he had been here for about a year his family came on to join him. He had taken up a homestead situated nine miles south of Hay Springs, and his first building on this place was a sod house in which they lived until the summer of 1886, when he built a better sod house. He broke up part of his land with an ox team which he had brought with him from Saunders county, and began improving his place, on which he proved up, remaining there up to 1889. He then moved to Rushville, and for several years, off and on, worked in the district clerk's office. In the spring of 1893 he was appointed deputy county clerk and served in this capacity for three years, when, in the fall of 1895, he was elected county clerk, which office he is at present filling.

Mr. Van Vleck was married in 1882 to Miss Jennie Wood, whose father, Harvey Wood, was an old settler in Saunders county, of old Kentucky stock, later coming to Sheridan county, Nebraska, where he died in 1898. Mrs. Van Vleck's mother was, prior to her marriage, Rossanna Sailing, of an old Kentucky family. Mr. and Mrs. Van Vleck are the parents of nine children, named as follows: Pearl, now Mrs. Ed-

gell; Lewis E., Addie, Lee, DeForrest, Harold, Violet E., Maurice and Harmon.

Mr. Van Vleck has taken an active part in politics for many years, and is one of the leading old settlers in this region. He has done his share in the making of history of western Nebraska, and deserves a first place in the ranks of the representative men of the west.

### JOHN W. SIMS.

John W. Sims, of Vail precinct, Keith county, Nebraska, is one of the industrious and prosperous farmers of his locality. He is a gentleman of excellent character and progressive habits, and well merits his high standing as a worthy citizen.

Our subject was born in Worth county, Missouri, July 26, 1867, and was there reared on a farm. His father, James Sims, a native of Missouri, was an early settler in Nebraska, coming to Keith county as early as 1886. He married Serelda Spencer, whose birthplace was in Indiana. John W. Sims grew up in Missouri, coming to Nebraska with his parents in the fall of 1890, filing on a homestead in the same vicinity with his father, the latter having first located nine miles north of Madrid, on section 34, township 12, range 37. During the first year on his farm John had poor crops, and the following year was hailed out, losing almost his entire season's work, but he succeeded in proving up on his farm, which he later sold. While the hard times were on he was compelled to work out in the vicinity of his home at whatever he could find to do. He came to the Searl ranch about 1899 and worked as foreman of that ranch for six years, in this way laying by a little money with which he started farming in the western part of Keith county, having had one hundred and sixty-nine acres of irrigable land there on section 23, township 13, range 40. This he improved with a good two-story, six-room house in 1908, and the following year erected barns and outbuildings.

Mr. Sims was married September 28, 1892, at Ogallala, to Miss Mary Breder, whose father, Henry Breder, was an old settler in this region, residing on section 34, township 12, range 37. He came to America from Prussia, in 1886, sailing on the Hohenzollern from Bremen with his family, and landing in Baltimore. His wife, who was Amelia Freitag, was also a native of Prussia. Mr. and Mrs. Sims are the parents of five children, namely: Grace, Gertrude, Fred, Sidney and Addie.

Mr. Sims has not only watched the development of his county from the first days of its

settlement, but has taken an active part in this growth, and has aided to his utmost the advancement of the resources in his locality. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Ogallala Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

### RICHARD R. BALLIEU.

Richard R. Ballieu, a popular and capable citizen of Dawes county, is one of the men of whom the people of the surrounding community can justifiably be proud. Mr. Ballieu was born in Harrison county, Missouri, in 1858, a son of Jesse and Martha (Hubbard) Ballieu. His father was of French lineage, and was a minister of the gospel of the Baptist faith. He died when our subject was but four years of age.

The early years of Mr. Ballieu's life were spent in Missouri and Iowa, where he received a limited education. At the tender age of fourteen years he started out to earn his own livelihood, and the success with which he has met is due to the persistency and economy which he has always practiced. In 1876 he went to western Iowa. He also spent some time at Rockport, Atchison county, Missouri. In 1880 he went west into Burt county, Nebraska, and for some time worked out by the month.

Mr. Ballieu settled in Dawes county, Nebraska, in 1884, driving in a covered wagon from Valentine, to which place he had shipped his provisions. When he arrived at this place with his wife and two children, he had but one dollar and eighty cents, a pair of ponies and a wagon with which to make his start. He located in section 32, township 31, range 49, where he built a log cabin, the first home he knew in this western country. He secured a team of oxen, and earned a livelihood by breaking and doing odd jobs. The principles of thrift and economy which he has so strongly adhered to have won for him the grand success with which his honest efforts have met. He now has a nice ranch of four hundred acres of good land, all fenced and cross-fenced, with one hundred and eighty-five acres under cultivation. He also has an orchard comprising an area of about four acres, which is considered one of the finest in Dawes county. He has erected a comfortable residence together with good barns and sheds. During a period of eight years of drouth which our subject witnessed there was only one year in which his crop was a complete failure, while one year his crop was destroyed by hail.

In 1882 Mr. Ballieu was married to Miss Elizabeth Hanzy. Six children came to bless this union, viz.: John, Mary, Jesse, Nettie,

Richard and Bryan. In 1898 Mrs. Ballieu died. Mr. Ballieu contracted a second marriage with Mary Skeet, to which union was born one child, Gladys.

In political matters Mr. Ballieu is an Independent voter. He has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has done his share toward the development of Dawes county. His career is an excellent example of what can be accomplished in this western country. Coming here almost penniless, he has worked out for himself and family a comfortable home, where his genial countenance and friendly spirit have made him hosts of warm friends.

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#### ALBERT KEMP.

Among the old-timers who settled in western Nebraska when the state was still in its infancy, and who has watched its development and growth, the gentleman whose name heads this review occupies a prominent place. He is well known as one of the prosperous business men of Bassett, and recognized as a leading citizen of the town.

Mr. Kemp was born in Genesee county, New York, April 19, 1846, a son of Arthur Kemp, a farmer and pioneer homesteader in Nebraska, who was born in England and came to the United States with his parents when six years of age. Our subject's mother, who was Miss Mary Bliss, died in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, in 1862. He was reared and educated in Kalamazoo county, whither the family removed about 1849, and during the war-enlisted in Company H, Seventh Michigan Cavalry. He, with his regiment, saw service in the army of the Potomac through Maryland and Virginia, and experienced all the hardships of a soldier's life. After the close of hostilities in the south the regiment was assigned to duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, but owing to sickness at the time of the regiment's service across the plains Mr. Kemp did not reach the far west. He was mustered out at Leavenworth and discharged at Jackson, Michigan, after eighteen months' service. After the war he came back to Michigan, and after a time went farther west, settling near Independence, Iowa, where he farmed for four years. In 1869 he came to Nebraska, locating near Schuyler, and from there went to Butler county where he took a homestead, living in a log cabin with a sod roof. He had but one team, a yoke of oxen, with which to do the work of building up and improving his farm. Then he went to southern Kansas where he farmed for six years near Pittsburg, in Crawford county. Returning to Nebraska, he settled

in what is now Rock county, then a part of Brown, in the fall of 1882. He settled on a farm on the Niobrara river, remaining there for eight or ten years, going through many hard times during the drouth periods, hauling posts to Stuart to exchange for provisions for the family, and many nights was compelled to camp out under the wagon in the snow. About the year 1893 he moved to Bassett, and engaged in the livery business. He spent but a short time there before moving back on his farm; and later he opened a hardware establishment in Bassett, running this for two years. Afterwards he went into the feed, grocery and machinery business, operating this line for thirteen years, then sold out on April 24, 1906. In November, 1907, he opened a general store on the west side of Main street and is enjoying a lucrative trade. He has a farm of three hundred and seventeen acres adjoining the town site, a fine estate which he has accumulated by hard labor and good management.

On March 14, 1868, Mr. Kemp was married to Miss Elizabeth Baldwin, whose parents were old settlers in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Kemp have a family of four children, namely: Lizzie, wife of J. S. Likens, of Lincoln; Mabel, in mission work in New Jersey; Josie, wife of William Mohrman, of Idaho; and Gertrude, who married George Mapes. Mr. Kemp's first wife died, and he was married again, in 1890, to Viola Brown, and two children are the result of this union, named Ida and Bertha.

Mr. Kemp is a man who takes a commendable interest in all local affairs, and uses his influence toward securing best conditions possible in his locality, and is highly respected by his fellowmen. In politics he is a Republican, a member of the Church of God and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, of Bassett.

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#### W. WALLACE BELDEN.

Among those who came to western Nebraska when that state was in its first stages of development, with scarcely any improved land, and but very few white settlers in the region, the gentleman above mentioned deserves prominent notice. He was one of the first to settle in Cheyenne county, and has passed through all the pioneer experiences of the state in building up a home, incidentally assisting in a large measure in the progress and upbuilding of the locality where he chose his home. Mr. Belden resides in Redington, where he has a well-improved and valuable estate.

W. W. Belden was born in Pennsylvania on May 9, 1850. His boyhood was passed in that

state, the family coming to Mercer county, Illinois, about 1865. There they lived for seven years, following farming, and our subject grew to manhood. Both parents are now deceased. After leaving Illinois Mr. Belden went to Clay county, Kansas, and subsequently lived in Republic and Cloud counties, that state, remaining in that region up to 1886, when he came to Nebraska. He settled at once in Cheyenne county, on section 22, township 19, range 51, purchasing a bunch of cattle and some horses, and began to develop a ranch and build up a home. During the early years he saw some hard times, meeting at times with crop failures and other discouragements, but stuck to his homestead and gradually was able to make improvements and forge ahead. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods of farming, and highly respected as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Belden was married in Clay county, Kansas, on March 31, 1872, to Miss Amanda Dugger, who was born in Scott county, Illinois. They have a family of ten children, namely: Melissa C., now the wife of H. E. Randall; Effie, wife of Solomon Willis, living in Sidney; John O., of whom a more extended mention appears on another page; Pearl, wife of Frank Lipska, living in Belmont, south of Redington; Ella, wife of Eherman Gilman, residing at Redington; Sadie, wife of Dean Randall, living in Minatare, Nebraska, and Lillie, wife of Earl Hart, also living at Minatare. Lottje, Lloyd and Charles are single and live at home.

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#### ERIC O. LIF.

During the past twenty-four years the gentleman whose name heads this review has taken an active part in the growth and development of western Nebraska, and particularly of Cheyenne county, where he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits most of that time. He has built up a fine property and has a comfortable home, acquired by dint of industry and good management, supplemented by honest dealings, and is held in high esteem as a worthy citizen and progressive farmer.

Eric O. Lif was born in Sweden, February 22, 1854, and grew to manhood in that country, following the occupation of farmer, and also learned the trade of mason and stone cutter and worked at it a part of his time. In 1884 he came to America, landing in Quebec on June 5th, and came directly west, locating at first in Grand Island, Nebraska, where he spent several months, then went to Sidney. On June 10, 1886, Mr. Lif took a homestead on section 17, township 18, range 47, and here he has spent

his time since. He improved his farm constantly, occasionally having a hard time to get along, often suffering loss from crop failures, etc., but on the whole has been very successful, and is now the possessor of two hundred and eighty acres of deeded land. During the early years he turned his trade to account and built houses in the vicinity, in this way being able to lay by a little money and help himself along. He uses a portion of his land for grain raising, and has quite a herd of cattle and a small bunch of horses. Besides his home ranch he has several hundred acres of good hay bottom and pasture. He has one of the finest groves of trees in the locality which he planted.

On June 3, 1882, Mr. Lif married Carrie Larson, in Sweden, and to Mrs. Lif is due much credit in the accumulation of their property, as she worked faithfully with her husband in acquiring the same. The parents of both are deceased. Five children have come to them, namely: Anna, Christina, Fred W., Arthur and Albert, all living at home.

Lisco postoffice is situated on section 17, which is also the location of his home ranch, and Mr. Lif is acting in the capacity of postmaster. He has been connected with the local school for a number of years, and is road overseer for his district. In politics he is a Republican.

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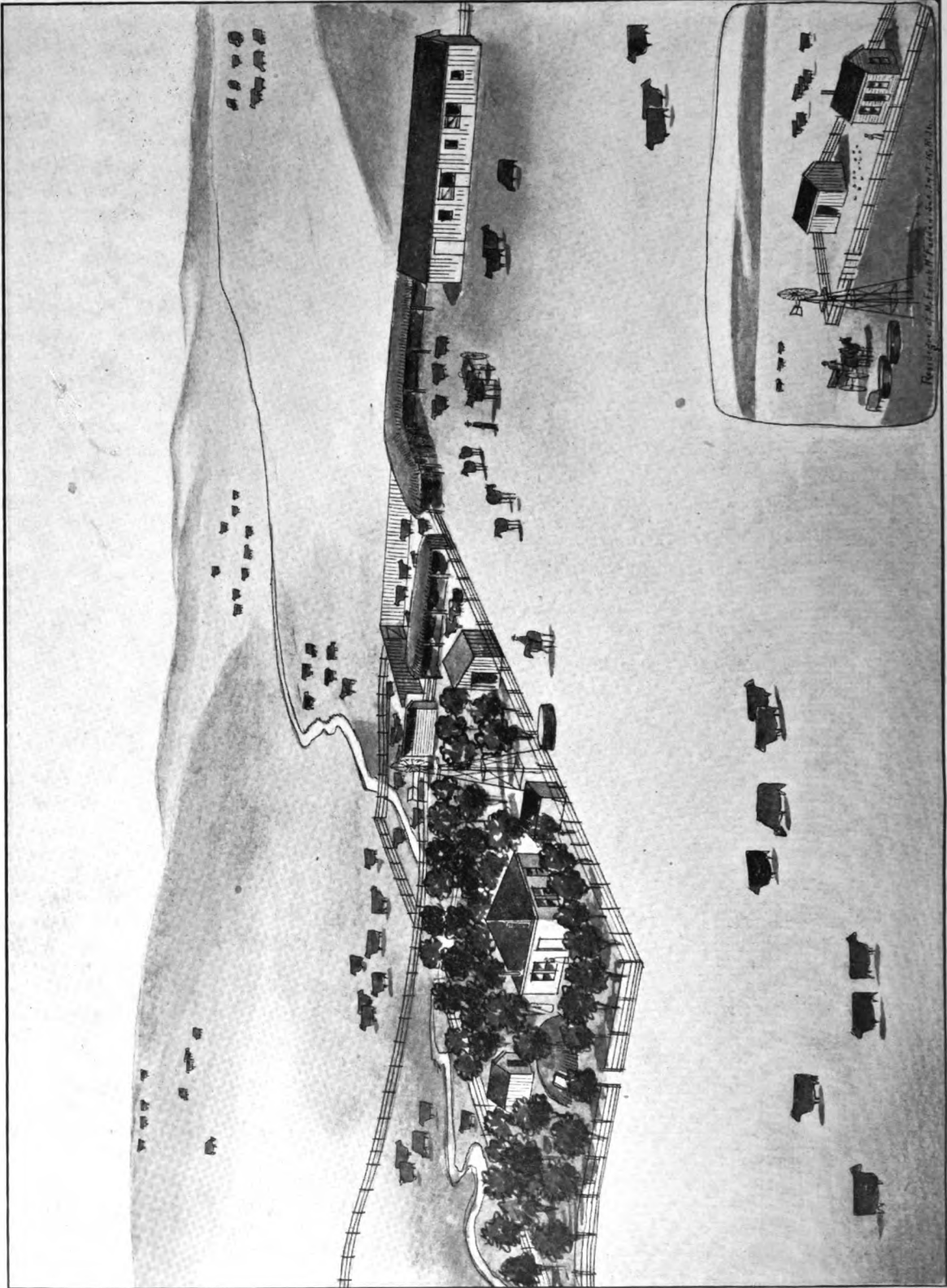
#### HENRY S. HARRIS.

The history of western Nebraska would be incomplete without mention being made of the well-known and familiar name of Henry S. Harris. He was the first sheriff of Rock county, Nebraska, and attracted wide public attention by the capture of several notorious horse thieves during his term of office. He was of fearless character and a typical frontiersman, and even before his election to office, captured Bohanan and Arnold, two daring horse thieves who had infested the territory. Mr. Harris made a most capable officer and he came to be dreaded by violators of the law.

The subject of our sketch was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in the year 1850, his parents being Ephraim H. and Eliza (Barber) Harris. The father was born in Vermont and was of English ancestry, and he was a lumberman. The mother died when our subject was a baby.

In 1853 Ephraim Harris came west to Wisconsin, and the family, with the grandparents, followed in 1854, and they settled near the city of Waupaca. Our subject was reared here until he was sixteen years old and then commenced





"WILLOW CREEK RANCH," PROPERTY OF FRANK MCFADDEN,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.

work in the lumber woods, and for nine winters he followed lumbering. In the spring he often engaged in log-driving along the streams of Wisconsin. In 1875 he came further west and located in Greeley county, Nebraska, on a farm. On this trip he made a long drive with team and covered wagon, coming all the way from Wisconsin and stopping for three years in Iowa. When he reached his new home on government land in Greeley county, he had but twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents left to begin life with. He built a sod house, commenced breaking his land and had his first crop eaten up by grasshoppers. In 1878 he removed to Holt county and settled near Stuart village on low, level land that he used for haying purposes. Bad luck met him here and his crops were drowned out several years in succession, and he removed again to other localities, until in 1885 he went to Rock county, settling on school land. Here he put up buildings, made good improvements and later bought the farm. It was while living there that our subject was elected sheriff and had the experiences related in the opening lines of this sketch.

Henry S. Harris was married in 1870 to Miss Lucy Harris, a native of New York state, and a daughter of Orsemus and Annie (Allen) Harris, the former being a native of Vermont. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are the parents of five children: May, married; Burt, Myrtle, Ina and Ben R.

In 1892 Mr. Harris went to Chicago and spent six years working in that city, then returning to Nebraska, settled on the North Loup river near Taylor. In 1902 he located where he now lives, on section 24, township 24, range 17, and has built up a fine home and ranch, having six hundred and forty acres used principally for stock purposes. Mr. Harris has had varying experiences and many hard trials during his life on the frontier, but he has made his way to success and prominence as a rancher and a farmer. He has been in a number of states, was the first man to take a family to the upper Spring creek country, in Greeley county, Nebraska, and now he has settled down permanently to enjoy a life of peace and comfort. Mr. Harris has done his share of pioneering and has performed a good part and is respected as a good citizen by all who know him.

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#### FRANK MCFADDEN.

A drive through the ranching community of Keith county convinces one of the thrift enjoyed in that locality, and a visitor at the home of Frank McFadden is impressed with the fact that

careful management and honest industry are prominent characteristics of the owner, whose well improved tract compares favorably with that of any farm in the county. Mr. McFadden resides at present in Paxton precinct, where he has made all improvements necessary to a Kincaid homestead.

Mr. McFadden was born in the village of Roshin, County Donegal, Ireland, August 20, 1860. His father, Michael McFadden, was a farmer and stock raiser and with the mother, Grace (McGarvey), was a native of Donegal. Frank was reared on the home farm, remaining there until he was seventeen years of age, then left his native land and emigrated to Scotland, where he worked for two years as a gardener. On Saturday, February 14, 1881, he came to America, sailing from Greenock, Scotland, landing after a stormy passage of seventeen days in New York. He spent three and a half years in New York city working as a helper in a store, and was employed for a time in the shipping department of a big wholesale establishment in that city. He next came west to Illinois, located in Sangamon county and remained there for three years, spending the first year as a farm hand and working rented land two years of the time. On March 16, 1888, he came to Keith county, Nebraska, settling on section 6, township 14, range 35, and built a shanty, sodding the outside, a dugout being used as a barn and cow shed. He began to farm, and tried to improve the place, but was unable to get water on the farm, so abandoned it after a five years' residence, and filed on a homestead in section 10, township 14, range 35. He at once erected substantial buildings and began stock raising on a small scale at first, but he has gradually increased his herd and improved the place, accumulating a good property. He runs about seven hundred head of cattle and from thirty-five to seventy horses. The ranch lies in the valley of the North Platte river, and is well located for cattle raising, having plenty of good grazing land on Willow creek, which furnishes an endless supply of good water, while he farms about sixty acres, raising good crops of small grain. He later filed on four hundred and eighty acres in section 24, township 15, range 36, which is his present residence. Since coming to this ranch Mr. McFadden had a serious fire go through the place in the spring of 1908, causing the loss of over one thousand dollars, the ranch being burned off and a large quantity of hay, also ten miles of fence destroyed. This has been rebuilt and two miles of wire fence added. He has had some hard times, but has prospered in the main, and since filing on his Kincaid homestead, Mr. McFadden has purchased half



of section 14, township 14, range 35, and Mrs. McFadden secured one hundred and ten acres in Lincoln county, and Mr. McFadden is now numbered among the well-to-do men of his section. We show a view of the residence on section 24 and the ranch property in section 10 elsewhere in this work.

Mr. McFadden was married in Illiopolis, Illinois, February 25, 1886, to Miss Maggie Brogan, a daughter of Simon and Hannah (McGinley) Brogan, who were born, lived and died in Ireland. Mrs. McFadden came to America when a young girl, sailing from Belfast, May 15, 1880, on the Allen, landing in New York June 1st, and after three and a half years' residence in Philadelphia she departed for Sangamon county, December 3, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. McFadden are the parents of two children, Michael and Margaret, who attended the schools of Paxton for three years, finishing a course in North Platte. Michael filed on section 6, township 15, range 36, his father's first holding, and is perfecting his title under the Kincaid law. The family are all members of the Catholic church and Democratic in politics.

#### LYNN THOMPSON.

The gentleman above mentioned is one of the leading citizens of Gordon, widely known as a successful business man and worthy resident of that place. Mr. Thompson is a prominent druggist of Gordon, and conducts a first-class, up-to-date establishment.

Mr. Thompson was born near Buffalo, New York, in 1880. He is a son of Wellington Thompson, who is an old settler in Sheridan county, where he was raised and educated, attending the State University at Lincoln for one year and also the Highland Park School of Pharmacy at Des Moines, Iowa, from which institution he was graduated in 1902. After leaving school he went to Sioux City, Iowa, where he clerked for over a year in the drug store of L. P. Knos. He afterward went to Lead, South Dakota, and spent two years, during this time making a trip to the Pacific coast, being employed by the Owl Drug Company for some time. In 1905 he came back to Gordon and in December of that year purchased the drug business of Mrs. M. E. Hoffman. This was an old established business and Mr. Thompson went to work and put in a larger stock of goods and has made it one of the best equipped stores of its kind in the county and enjoys a large trade throughout this section. Mr. Thompson belongs to several orders of the town—Masonic order, Arcana Lodge, No. 195, also the Modern Woodmen, all of Gordon, Nebraska.

#### HON. THOMAS HOWE MARSHALL.

Honorable Thomas Howe Marshall, a leading farmer of Williamsburg township, Nebraska, whose public life is well known throughout the locality in which he resides, has gained an enviable reputation as a citizen and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his associates.

Mr. Marshall is a native of Carlton county, Ontario, Canada, of English and Scotch descent. His father, J. Marshall, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, where he grew up and entered the shipbuilding business, and later operated a ship yard. Our subject's grandfather, under the direction of Robert Fulton, made the iron for the first steamboat ever built. Our subject's grandfather was sent from England by the government before the revolution to take charge of a government shipyard at Hartford. He was a native of Scotland. Mr. Marshall has seven brothers: John, living at Regina, in northwestern Canada; William, who settled in Phelps county, Nebraska, and died there, leaving a family; James, located at Holdrege; Gustus, who died in Phelps county in 1905, leaving a widow and three children, one of whom, Rev. Marshall, is a Presbyterian missionary in India, and a graduate of Princeton University. George died in Canada, where he always resided; Benjamin, an old settler of Phelps county, is now in northwestern Canada; Alexander died in Canada.

Mr. Marshall is proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres of the finest land on the second bottom of the Platte river. He settled here in 1880, coming direct from Carlton county, Canada, where he was brought up on his father's farm, and during his young manhood was manager of some of the large lumber firms in that section. Since locating here he has been very successful in his farming ventures, and has built up a fine estate. He engages in mixed farming, and has kept about one hundred hogs and fifty cattle on his land. His crops show a splendid yield, wheat running over thirty bushels to the acre, corn forty-five and oats twenty-five, which is a very fair average.

Mr. Marshall represented the Republican party in the state legislature in 1886. He was a member of the Phelps county board for six years at the time the county was divided into districts and the number of supervisors reduced to seven. He has been an active member of the school board, and an earnest worker in church affairs. He is a steward and trustee of the Williamsburg Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1872 Mr. Marshall was married to Miss Marcie Kedey, a native of Carlton county, Ontario, who died in 1904. They were the parents of nine children, namely: John K., of Holdrege;

Jessie, now Mrs. Richard Morrison, and who before her marriage taught in this county for several years; Lizzie; Addie, wife of John Dahlsted, an implement dealer of Holdrege, who also taught school in this county for several years; Lillie, Thomas S. (deceased), Ralph, Moses and Grace. The family is highly respected in the community, and enjoy a host of friends and acquaintances.

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### JOHN SEVERSON.

John Severson, one of the sturdy sons of Norway who came to this country as a young man and who braved the storms of adversity and from a very small start has become the possessor of a fine property through perseverance and industry, lives on his well-kept estate in section 22, township 24, range 52, Box Butte county, Nebraska. Mr. Severson is among the oldest settlers in the western part of the county, and has taken an active part in the upbuilding of that region from its earliest stages of development. Incidentally he has acquired one of the finest ranches there during the past thirty years, and every dollar of his property has been gained by his own good management and faithful labors.

Mr. Severson was born in Norway, near Christiana, in 1840, on a farm, and his parents lived and died in that vicinity, following farming all their lives. John remained at home until he was thirty years of age, working as a farmer and day laborer, and was married there in 1863, to Mary Erickson, also born and reared in that locality. The young couple came to the United States in 1871, settling in Michigan, where our subject worked in the iron mines for about eight years. While mining he had the misfortune to have his ankle broken and was laid up with this injury for nearly a year, and has never recovered from this accident and still is lame from its effect. In 1879 he came west and located in Kearney county, Nebraska, which section was then entirely unimproved land. He bought a tract of railroad land and made it his home for several years, but was finally obliged to leave, as he was unable to make anything on the place. For one year he worked on the railroad, then settled in Pawnee county, renting a farm, and remained there for seven years and did fairly well. In 1889 he came to Box Butte county, locating on section 22, and started to develop a farm and build up a home. When he arrived in that locality he owned two teams, and soon afterward bought some cows and began mixed farming and stock raising. He constantly improved his farm and besides that did

a great deal of work for others in the vicinity, and freighted through the country a good deal. His first mistake was made in trying to farm, as the conditions were not suited to that branch of work at that time, the seasons being dry, storms sweeping the section, etc. He did, however, raise one first-class crop, and that was in 1889, when he received one thousand bushels of wheat from eighty acres of land, and the three years following was unable to raise barely enough for seed. He was scarcely able to make a living off his land, and had to sell two cows to get money enough to pay for a binder which he had purchased. From that time on he gradually got into the stock business, and has done well along that line. He keeps about one hundred and twenty cattle and thirteen horses. He has improved his ranch in every way, owning in all five quarter sections, and one son, George, is also owner of six hundred and forty acres right near his father's ranch. Our subject leases one section which is used for hay land and pasture for his stock. His whole ranch is fenced, and he has good wells, windmills, etc. He has erected a handsome residence, and altogether has one of the prettiest and best improved estates in his locality.

Mr. Severson's family consists of himself, wife and two children, namely: George, aged twenty-three; and Minnie, aged twenty-five years. One daughter, Cora, died in 1895, when she was twenty-four years old.

Mr. Severson is a Republican. He has helped in establishing the schools in his community, and well remembers the time when the settlers were obliged to travel a distance of sixty miles for lumber to build the first schoolhouse. He has held the office of road overseer in his district for the past ten years.

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### HOMER H. WEBB.

Homer H. Webb, for the past few years a resident of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, resides on section 24, township 33, range 24, in McGuire precinct, and is well known throughout this locality as a progressive citizen and capable business man.

Mr. Webb was born in Story county, Iowa, October 29, 1870. His father, Granville D. Webb, was a farmer, of American stock, and came to this county with his family in the early stages of its development, and went through pioneer experience here, now residing in Oregon. The mother, who was Mary Allen in maidenhood, bore ten children, of whom our subject is the seventh member. He was reared on the farm, and when eighteen years old came to Keya

Paha county and started farming on rented land, following that up to 1895, when he went to Colorado and remained for five years, there engaged in different kinds of work. He then returned to Keya Paha county and took up a homestead, the same on which he now resides, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, and later added to it, owning at the present time two hundred and forty acres, mostly all pasture land. He is engaged in stock raising, keeping about forty head of cattle and ten horses. He also has a large number of hogs. He is fast improving his place, and devotes all his time to building it up and having it in every way a model farm.

Mr. Webb was married in Springview, in 1893, to Miss Anna Lively, whose father was an early settler in Nebraska, and is now living in McGuire precinct. To Mr. and Mrs. Webb the following children have been born: Viola M., Carl S. and Blanche B.

For many years past Mr. Webb has been a follower of the Socialist party. He is active in local and school affairs, and lends his aid for good government and the building up of the best interests of his community.

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#### EARL W. BOSTROM.

Earl W. Bostrom, one of the younger members of the farming community of Keith county, is a worthy representative of the family of that name, who were among the earliest settlers in the county and have made the region their home ever since.

Our subject was born in Galva, Illinois, August 23, 1878. Both his parents were natives of Sweden, coming to America when young people, the father about 1869. He was a native of the village of Geble, born May 26, 1842; his mother, who was Betsy Heddsrohms, was born in the county of Sunne, district of Wermland, and came to America when sixteen years of age, by the way of Gottenberg, Hull and Liverpool to New York. The family lived in Illinois until 1885, excepting two years in Polk county, Nebraska, near Stromsberg. There were eight children in his father's family: Otto J., Josie, Earl W., Arthur Edwin (deceased), Theresa, wife of Walter S. Prunty, a grocer of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Oscar A., Minnie E. and Evaline W. Oscar is married and lives on the old home ranch. On reaching Keith county in 1885, the father, Andrew Bostrom, filed on a homestead in section 32, township 13, range 41, and built a sod house, barn and chicken house, broke land for crops and started to develop a farm and home. Their only team was a yoke of oxen. Success was very slow, as they en-

countered many difficulties on account of the unsettled condition of the country and the fact that their supplies had to be hauled a long distance over rough and unbroken roads. In 1890 they had the terrible misfortune to lose the husband and father, and after his death the family saw hard times, going through the drouth seasons when crops failed and it was hard work to keep the family together and live comfortably. Otto secured work on the railroad, working as a section hand, but was soon made foreman and is now roadmaster of the division between Laramie and Rawlins. Earl also followed railroad work for seven years, the last two years of his service being as section foreman. The two own in partnership the quarter section of land on which the family now reside.

Since the death of the father, Earl has been the head of the family, bearing the burden cheerfully. The old home ranch of six hundred and forty acres lies on the state line, partly in Colorado, which is devoted to cattle raising. The tract of one hundred and sixty acres on which the family lives is irrigated and under cultivation. The whole farm is improved with a good house and outbuildings, with necessary fences.

Although a very young man, our subject has made his influence felt in his community, as he takes an active part in local affairs and gives his best aid to every movement for the advancement of the region. He is a Democrat in politics.

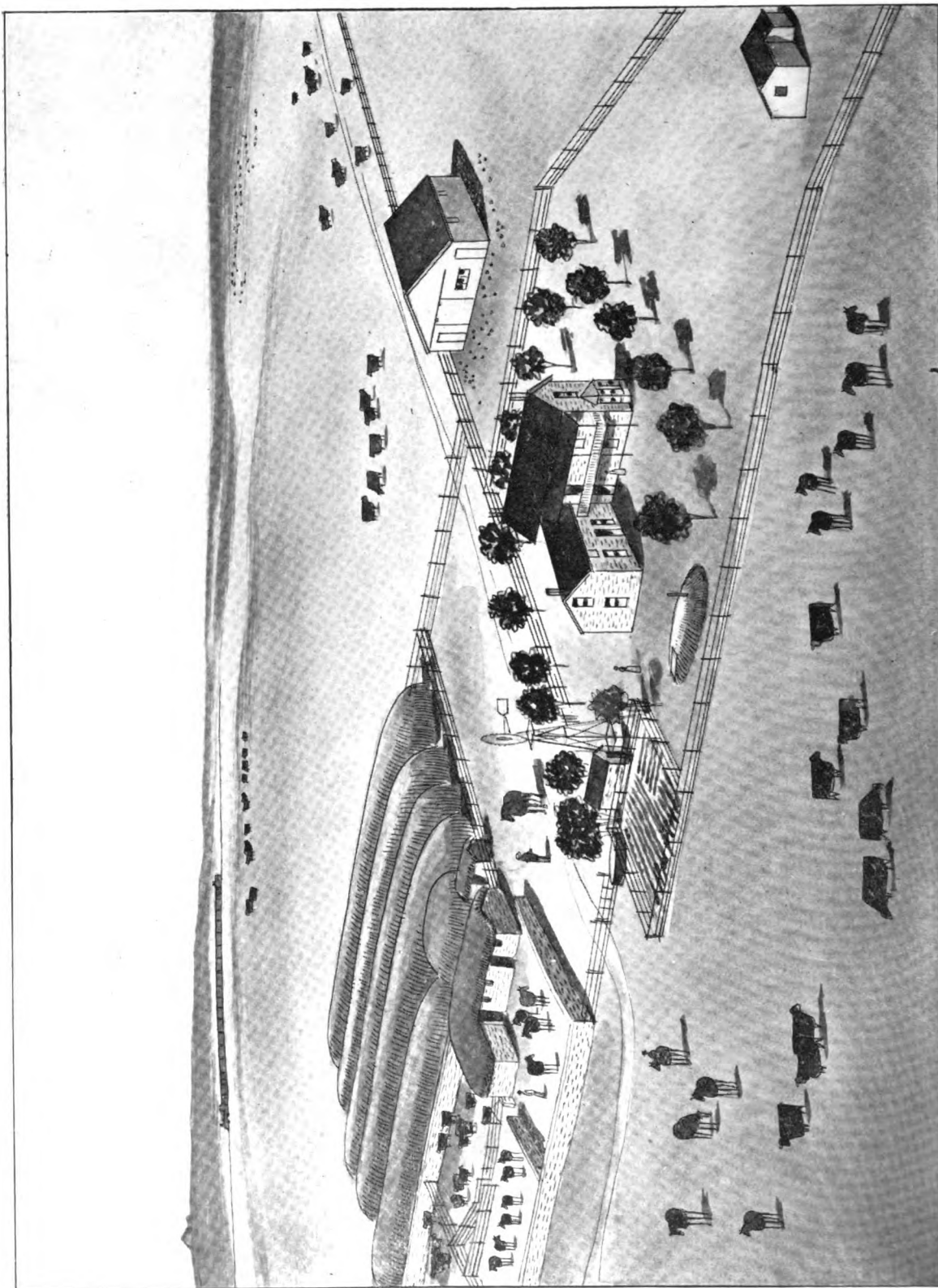
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#### JAMES C. HARTFORD.

James C. Hartford is a native of Nebraska, born in Jefferson county in 1872. His father was Jesse Hartford, a pioneer of Loup county of the days of 1885. The father came first on a prospecting trip in 1884, filed on his land in section 32, township 23, range 17, and the next year returned and build a sod shanty, and then the family came to their new home a year later, in 1886. Our subject's mother was Laura White before marriage.

Here, in Loup county, on a farm our subject grew up, participating in the hardness of pioneer life to which the family was subjected. Early in his life he learned to do all the work of the farm and made all the long trips hauling the supplies from the far away town of North Loup. He drove an ox team when they came to the county in 1885, and for some time this was the only kind of team they had. Our subject remained with his father helping on the tree claim until 1893, and then he commenced working out for himself.





RESIDENCE OF ROBERT S. McCONNELL.  
Morrill County, Nebraska.

In 1900 James C. Hartford was married to Miss May Hesselgesser, daughter of Robert H. Hesselgesser, one of the early pioneers of Loup county. Mr. and Mrs. Hartford have one child, a daughter, named Lela.

Our subject settled on his homestead in section 29, township 23, range 17, north of Calamus river, in 1905, and now operates a fine farm of nine hundred and sixty acres. He has built up a good home and farm and established himself on the road to a comfortable competency. He has always taken an active part in local affairs and has held various offices of trust and responsibility. He has performed his part in the development of the material prosperity of the community and is respected for his broad-gauged principles.

#### JAMES P. HARDIN.

James P. Hardin, known in Harlan county for the past quarter of a century, is one of the influential citizens of Turkey Creek township. He is engaged in conducting an extensive farm and has met with a marked degree of success, due to his energetic efforts and industrious habits, and is a gentleman who enjoys the esteem and respect of all who know him.

Mr. Hardin is a native of Putnam county, Indiana, and raised there. He is a son of John H. Hardin, and the family came to Davis county, Missouri, where they lived for a number of years before coming to Nebraska. In 1884 John H. Hardin, our subject's father, came to Turkey River township and bought a farm, living on it up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1899, at the age of eighty-five years. He was a native of Kentucky, born in Washington county, and his father was also John Hardin, of Virginia, and fought in the Revolutionary war. The Hardin family has been prominent and active in public affairs in Kentucky for many years past, and among the first families of that state. Our subject's mother was Miss Elizabeth Grant-ham, of Putnam county, Indiana. Mr. Hardin owns a well appointed farm of one hundred and sixty acres of good land along the Turkey creek, which is well improved. He is an old settler and has made a remarkable success as a farmer.

Mr. Hardin was united in marriage in 1897 to Mrs. Ida Walker, daughter of James Silvers, of Andrew county, Nebraska, who came from Lee county, Virginia, and who served in the Sixteenth Iowa Regiment during the Civil war. His wife was Miss Elizabeth Shepler, daughter of John Shepler, of Logan county. Mrs. Hardin's father died March 21, 1906. Mr. Hardin has four children, who are named as

follows: Sarah, Minnie Ethol, John H. Hardin, who is now assistant cashier of the State Bank of Huntley, Nebraska, and Edward, living at home with his parents, and assisting his father in carrying on the farm. Mrs. Hardin has one child, May, from a former marriage. The family occupy a fine residence and enjoy many friends and acquaintances who partake of their generous hospitality in their pleasant home.

#### ROBERT S. McCONNELL.

Robert S. McConnell, who owns and operates a large estate on section 20, township 18, range 49, is one of the substantial men of his community who has made Nebraska his home for many years, having passed through the pioneer days of the state when he had a hard time to get along, but in spite of all has remained to reap the benefit of his years of toil and is now richly rewarded by the success which has come to him. He has devoted his entire career to farming and stock raising, his ranch consisting of twelve hundred and eighty acres, with a handsome residence which is situated in Court House Rock precinct, Cheyenne county.

Mr. McConnell was born in Metal township, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1853, where he grew to manhood. He was the only child of his parents, Robert and Nancy (Dunlap) McConnell, his father dying while he was a babe; the mother passed away in 1878 in the old Pennsylvania home. In the spring of 1875 Mr. McConnell left his native state and located on the border line of McDonough and Hancock counties, Illinois, where he had relatives living. For two years he worked at farm labor, then, renting land, farmed for himself until 1883. He then moved to Hampton, Iowa, where he farmed until coming to Nebraska in 1888. Settling in Cheyenne county on a pre-emption and tree claim on section 20, he later filed on a homestead in the same section, on which he proved up in due time and constantly added improvements as he became able, now having a complete set of good ranch buildings, with a splendid supply of water the year round.

Mr. McConnell is engaged in stock raising on a large scale, and at the present time has a herd of three hundred cattle and one hundred horses. He has about one hundred acres under cultivation, raising principally corn with some small grain.

Our subject was married in Franklin county, Iowa, August 18, 1886, to Miss Louise LaMore, a daughter of Robert and Lucy (Archalaris) LaMore. Mrs. McConnell was born and reared in Iowa. Her mother is at present living tem-

porarily in California, the father having passed away some years ago. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, as follows: Elsie May, a teacher of Morrill county; Robert Earl, who will graduate from the Sidney high school in 1909, and Cyril D., who is assisting his father on the home ranch.

Mr. McConnell is a man of broad experience and splendid business ability. He is well read and intelligent, taking a deep interest in all affairs of the nation and state. He is a firm Republican and a member of the county committee, and has served as treasurer of district No. 90. He is, with the family, a member of the Presbyterian church, and affiliates with the Modern Woodmen at Sidney. Mrs. McConnell is a member of the Royal Neighbors.

#### PEDER THORSEN.

Peder Thorsen, a man of good judgment and marked business ability, is one of the most prominent and successful residents of Sheridan county. He was born in Denmark in 1861, and raised on his father's farm, remaining with his parents until twenty-one years old, being the elder of two children, and receiving the solid and thorough training which falls to the lot of the people of that thrifty country. In 1882 he came to America locating in Colorado, and spent one year there, and was one year in Omaha, after which time he came to Sheridan county and settled there. In 1884 he pre-empted on the ranch where he now lives, his first habitation being a sod house in which he made his home for a number of years. He at once began farming and has continued at it ever since, buying all the land he owns at from two hundred and fifty dollars per quarter up, excepting four hundred and eighty acres, and now is the owner of an eighteen-hundred-acre ranch, all in one body, with twenty-seven hundred acres in another, all fenced and stocked with eight hundred head of cattle, one hundred horses and about one hundred and fifty hogs. In 1893 he erected a fine house on his farm, adding a large barn in the course of two years, and now has one of the best improved places in this locality. During the dry years, from 1895 to 1900, Mr. Thorsen met with much disappointment and loss. Nearly all his crops were ruined and he was only able to raise enough grain for seed, confining his efforts entirely to the cultivation of corn and potatoes.

Mr. Thorsen was married in 1884 to Miss Carrie Nelson, who is a native of Denmark, coming to America with her parents in 1882 and settling on a farm a short distance west of where

our subject resided. They have no children. Mr. Thorsen always keeps abreast of the times and lends his influence to the upbuilding of the better interests of the community. He is satisfied that Sheridan county is far ahead of any place he has ever struck, and is contented to spend the balance of his days here. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

#### JOHN W. WEHN.

John W. Wehn, probably one of the best known residents of western Nebraska, and one who has been a leader in the political and other affairs of the region for many years past, is a resident of Bridgeport. He is also one of the wealthiest men of his county, having extensive ranching interests, etc.

Mr. Wehn was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, August 24, 1849. He received his early education in that city and made it his home up to the time of the war, when he enlisted as a private in Company G, One Hundred and Ninety-second United States Army Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was but little more than fifteen years of age when he entered the army, serving from February 4, 1865, to the close of the war, and was mustered out at Harpers Ferry. He returned to his home, remaining there up to 1867, and in November of that year crossed the Missouri river, landing in Nebraska on Thanksgiving day. He first made settlement in Beatrice, and spent several years in the vicinity, going to Dewitt, Saline county, in 1874, where he established *The Opposition*, which was the first Democratic newspaper printed in Nebraska south of the Platte river. He was editor and publisher of that organ for one year there, then transferred his headquarters to Wilber and edited it up to 1889.

During all of this time Mr. Wehn was interested more or less in politics, and in 1894 he received the appointment of register of the United States land office at Alliance, Nebraska, continuing in that office for four years. Since then he has been connected with nearly every matter of public importance in the locality.

Mr. Wehn is also heavily interested in different banking concerns, including the Bank of Oshkosh, Lewellyn, Bridgeport and Minatare. He is a gentleman of superior business ability and sound principles, and his standing as a citizen and public man is unquestioned. Politically he is a Democrat.

Mr. Wehn is of German descent, his parents coming from that country in the early years, and both are now deceased. He was married in Gage county, Nebraska, January 1, 1870, to Miss



Mary Elizabeth Kinzie, a native of Wisconsin, whose father and mother now reside at DeWitt. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wehn, three of whom are living, namely: Lillian May, married to B. V. Reeves, living at Torrington, Wyoming; John Herbert and James Garland.

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#### ROBERT R. REDDISH.

Box Butte county boasts of no more prominent man or highly respected citizen than the gentleman whose name heads this review. For many years he has been closely identified with the history of this region, has been one of the organizers of the schools in his locality, also one of the foremost promoters of its welfare. He resides on his extensive ranch in section 24, township 24, range 50, where he occupies a handsome home, and has all the comforts of rural life.

Mr. Reddish was born in Warren county, Iowa, in 1862, and was reared on a farm. His father, James, was a farmer and stockman, and he grew up in his native county, receiving a common school education. At the age of nineteen our subject left home and went to Wyoming, where he worked on different ranches, rounding up cattle, and followed the life of a cowboy for about eight years. He was all over the western country, through the Platte valley and in the vicinity of Sidney, Nebraska. In 1890 he returned to Iowa and spent two years in the vicinity of his old home, following farming there, then gave up his place and started in the livery business at Des Moines, Iowa. He remained at that place for five years, and was very successful in his work, but finally disposed of his holdings and again returned to Warren county, Iowa, and went to farming, operating the place for five years. In 1900 he sold his farm and came to Nebraska, purchasing a ranch of nineteen hundred and sixty acres, situated eleven miles southwest of Alliance, in Cheyenne county. He built up and improved the place in good shape, engaging exclusively in the stock raising business, and at the same time, ran a feed store in Alliance. He made a good deal of money in that business, and continued it up to 1906. In 1906 he bought his present ranch, moving on it in the summer of 1907, having disposed of his former ranch and feed store. His residence and other buildings are a credit to the community, his ranch consisting of twelve hundred acres, nearly all of it devoted to stock raising, although he crops a small part of the land. He is starting a large number of trees on the place and will soon have a fine grove and orchard, including apple, plum, pear trees and

small fruits of every description. His residence is a handsome dwelling, surrounded by beautiful lawn, and is one of the pleasantest spots to be found in the locality, every detail of the place presenting a well-kept and neat appearance.

In 1889 Mr. Reddish was married to Viola M. Vernon, a daughter of Lafayette Vernon, who came west from Pennsylvania, settling in Kansas, where he went through pioneer experiences, and built up a good home. Mr. and Mrs. Reddish have two children, namely: Ray, aged fourteen years, and Beulah, aged ten years. Mr. Ray Reddish, although but fourteen years of age, is one of the gifted artists of the west; can draw anything he sees. Miss Beulah is also quite an artist and is learning to play nicely on the piano.

Our subject is a Democrat. He has never given much of his time to politics, having been too busy taking care of his home and ranch, although he stands for good government, and uses his influence in electing the best man nominated.

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#### MRS. M. W. GRANT.

Mrs. M. W. Grant, one of the well-known residents of Brown county, is an old settler in Nebraska and a very estimable lady, respected by all who know her.

Mrs. Grant was born in New York State, December 25, 1844. Her father, Silas W. Erwin, was a farmer of American stock, and her mother, Sarah Brinkerhoff, was also of American descent. Our subject is the eldest of two children, was raised in New York state and married to C. G. Grant in 1867, also a native of New York, whose father was Nelson Grant, one of the prominent farmers and business men of the county in which he lived. Nelson Grant's wife was in maidenhood Philara Mein, of American birth.

In 1876 Charles G. Grant came to Iowa, settling in Webster county, and farmed it there for thirteen years, also being engaged in mining, at different times following his trade as stationary engineer. In 1870 they moved to Missouri, where they remained for one year, and in September, 1881, came to western Nebraska, traveling from Missouri with an ox team and covered wagon, driving a small bunch of cattle, arriving in Atkinson the day on which the first railroad ran into that town, at that time Atkinson being the postoffice and trading point of this locality. Mr. Grant first located on Niobrara river, later on Bone creek, and then on his present farm at Winfield, Brown county, here buying a pre-emption right. His first house was a log cabin with a sod roof, and the first

year he was only able to raise a little garden stuff. All of his time was employed in building up his farm and making improvements, and in 1900 he died from the effects of a gunshot wound received in the Civil war, and was sincerely mourned as a kind husband and indulgent father. Mr. and Mrs. Grant were the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy, and of the remaining three but two are now living: Bertha F., born April 25, 1878, now married, and Hugh E., born in January, 1882, on the Niobrara river, in what is now Rock county. Their first child, Gertie E., born in New York, in 1871, died in young womanhood.

During the war Mr. Grant served in Company I, One Hundred and Seventeenth New York Volunteers, and saw service in the Army of the Potomac. He received the wound which eventually caused his death at Fair Oaks, Virginia.

Mrs. Grant now owns and operates the farm of three hundred and twenty acres located on Pine creek, in both Brown and Rock counties, and the comfortable farm buildings, fine orchards containing all kinds of fruit, and the general air of thrift which prevails over all, bears evidence of her good management. For convenience Mrs. Grant has had the clear spring water piped through the house which runs from the hills near by.

#### WILLIAM R. WOOD.

William R. Wood, treasurer of Cheyenne county, was born in Adams county, Illinois, May 31, 1861, being the youngest of five children. His father and mother were natives of Ireland, but came to America in an early day and settled in Illinois. His father died in 1863, and his mother in 1870, in the county where the subject of this sketch was born. Mr. Wood has one sister still living in Adams county.

In 1882 he turned his steps westward and settled for a time in Cass county, Nebraska, but in the spring of 1896 he became a permanent resident of Cheyenne county. He located his homestead in the fall of 1885, choosing the southeast quarter of section 4, township 16, range 41, and added a tree claim several years later. He now owns six hundred and forty acres of desirable land with very good improvements. Mr. Wood has been careful and thorough in the management of his farm and has made good in every way. He has one hundred acres under cultivation, pastures seventy-five head of cattle and a small bunch of horses. The subject of this sketch is admittedly one of the prominent citizens of Cheyenne county. Al-

though a Democrat in politics he has been honored by election to several important positions, and this is evidence of his popularity when it is known that the county is strongly Republican.

Mr. Wood has been active in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his state and county and his intelligent interest in local affairs has been thoroughly appreciated by his friends and neighbors. He held the office of county commissioner from 1896 to 1902 and the finances of Cheyenne county were materially advanced under his administration. He has also held the office of precinct assessor for several terms. In the fall of 1907 Mr. Wood was elected treasurer of Cheyenne county and commenced his duties January 1, 1908. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

#### MATTHIAS THEIN.

Matthias Thein, one of the foremost public-spirited and worthy citizens of Dawes county, is a native of Germany, where he was born at Luxemburg in 1859, a son of John Thein, a wealthy farmer and distiller. Our subject's father came to America at the age of twenty-one years, and was a member of the second party who crossed the plains to California in the gold rush of 1849. Here he made a fortune, returning later to Germany, where he invested in a large farm and distillery. Our subject's mother was also a native of Germany.

Until the age of twenty years, Matthias lived with his father, assisting him in farming while attending the common schools. In 1879 he came to America, landed in New York city, and went west into Iowa, where he followed the occupation of farming. After spending six years there, Mr. Thein visited his home in Germany, and upon his return to America again went to Iowa. For many years he followed railroading, handling groups of men on construction work for twelve years. He has been associated with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, assisting with the construction of this line north of Alliance.

Mr. Thein is the owner of a fine ranch of six hundred acres, which is fenced, and which is located in section 14, township 30, range 51. There are one hundred and thirty acres of cultivated land. He has erected some of the finest buildings to be found on any farm in Nebraska. His residence, a building which cost him fifteen hundred dollars, is a modern up-to-date dwelling, water-piped throughout, containing a bath room, and many of the conveniences of the

modern city residence. He has a water reservoir with a capacity of one hundred and eighty barrels.

In 1891 the subject of this sketch was married to Jacobina Van Treeck, of Wisconsin. Her parents were farmers, natives of Germany. To this union was born one child, William, who first saw the light of day in 1892.

Mr. Thein has traveled extensively throughout the southern and middle states, the Black Hills of Wyoming, and through the British possessions. In political matters he has always been affiliated with the Republican party. His upright and honorable career has brought him the success which is due his honest efforts, and should be an encouragement to the young men of the present generation, as in it they can see what thrift and industry, honesty and integrity can always accomplish. A progressive and wide-awake German citizen, Mr. Thein can well be proud of the reputation he has made in the surrounding community.

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#### C. J. JOHNSON.

C. J. Johnson, of Newark township, Kearney county, Nebraska, has gathered about him an extensive estate by his diligence and good management, supplemented by honest dealings. He is a man of untiring energy, intelligence and good judgment, and well merits his high standing as an agriculturist and citizen.

Mr. Johnson is a native of this state, born in 1877. His father, B. A. Johnson, came to Nebraska in 1877, settling in this county, taking up a homestead in section 20, township 8, range 14, engaging in farming, and from the first was very successful, gradually adding more land to his first farm of one hundred and sixty acres until he was proprietor of about seven hundred acres. He died in 1899, aged sixty-three years, and his sons still own the farm to which they have added adjoining lands, their place in all containing twenty-two hundred acres which is owned by the six children—three brothers and three sisters. They attend strictly to the working of their ranch, and have a very valuable estate. Their father and mother came to America from Sweden in 1877, and with the customary industry of that nationality they labored hard and faithfully to build up their home and gain a competency, proving most worthy citizens and gaining the respect and esteem of all by their honesty and good citizenship. The brothers and sisters are extremely careful and industrious about all their affairs, and our sub-

ject, who is administrator of the estate of his father, is slow to act and thoughtful, weighing all matters of importance well before deciding a point, but after investigation he acts with decision and promptness. The father and mother of Mr. Johnson began on this farm in a very small way, and by great industry and frugality amassed a large fortune in this Platte river valley land, leaving a comfortable estate to each of their children, all of whom are highly esteemed. Whatever they aim to do each day on the ranch or elsewhere, they accomplish ere night falls, letting no objection or allurements turn them from the work or course marked out, and it is such young men and women as these who will contribute their share to making Nebraska a great and rich state. Mr. Johnson has six hundred acres of fine pasture, and farms eight hundred acres, all operated by himself and brothers, Frank J. and Oscar J., the three working together in perfect harmony. They handle from two to three hundred cattle and two hundred hogs each year. Each year they raise about twenty-five thousand bushels of grain. They rent out a part of their land also. The three sisters, Alma, Ada and Huldah, live on the ranch, and all of the children were born on their present homestead. They are members of the Lutheran church.

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#### WILLIAM J. ALLEN.

One of the leading old settlers of Cherry county, Nebraska, who has aided materially in the development and growth of this section, is the gentleman whose name heads this review. He has experienced all the hard times that fell to the lot of the pioneers in Nebraska and later through the dry years suffered much loss and deprivation, and is glad that the time has come when these things are changed and the people of this section can live in peace and plenty and enjoy the fruits of their hard labors.

Mr. Allen was born in Green county, Kentucky, in 1842. He was reared and educated on his grandfather's farm there and in 1859 moved with his parents to Illinois. His father, Alexander Allen, and his mother, who was Mary Barrett before her marriage, were both natives of Kentucky, living on the farm belonging to the former's father until their family of eight children were reared. Our subject was the eldest, and at the age of twenty he enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixteenth Illinois Regiment, Second Division, West Brigade, and served his country in the great struggle for

freedom for three years. At the close of the war the family came west, locating in Johnson county, Nebraska, where our subject followed farming and freighting for a time, later being employed in railroad service. During the first years they were here his father was unable to raise anything, so our subject did not think the country was worth homesteading. He quit farming and followed freighting for four years, and then moved to Nebraska City and remained there up to 1886, when he settled in Springview, but only lived there about a year and then came to Cherry county, taking a homestead in section 24, township 34, range 26, and at once began improving the place, putting up a dwelling and outbuildings, fences, etc., and began to break the land. He still owns this place, and he has added adjoining land until he is now proprietor of four hundred acres of grazing and hay land, with about forty acres of bottom land, which is given to the plow. He keeps about a dozen horses, one hundred and thirty head of cattle, and half as many hogs, doing well in all these branches of stock raising.

Mr. Allen was married in 1871 to Miss Jane Swoggar, a native of Ohio, of English stock. They have a family of five children, named as follows: William A., Gertrude, Maude, Richard and Edwin, all born in Nebraska, and now living in the vicinity of their parents' home.

Mr. Allen is an Independent in politics, but cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, when he was a candidate for president for a second term.

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#### C. W. HORNE.

As one of the early settlers in Nebraska, and a man who has been closely identified with the development and growth of the state, watching its progress for many years, the above named gentleman occupies a foremost place.

Mr. Horne was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, in 1849, and was a son of Luther P. and Abbie Downing Horne. The families of both the Hornes and Downings were among the pioneer settlers in New England. Our subject was reared and educated in Rollinsford, New Hampshire, and attended the academy at the town of South Berwick, Maine. In 1874 he came to Maxwell, Nebraska, in the service of the Union Pacific railway as operator at the station in that city. In 1876 he became agent at Brady, and remained in that position for five years, then returned to Maxwell and was appointed agent at that place, and has remained there ever since. During the

time he has been here the business of the road has increased phenomenally, and the work grown much heavier, but he is a man of ability, and faithful in the performance of his duty, always looking after the interests of the company and advancing its affairs in every way possible.

Mr. Horne is interested in farming land in this locality, and is proprietor of a large ranch one and a half miles from Maxwell, the place comprising seven hundred and sixty acres, mostly of valley and hill land. For twelve years, from 1876 to 1888, he held the office of postmaster, five years at Brady and seven years at Maxwell, and was a popular and efficient official. He also held the position of treasurer for the Maxwell school for four terms. He has the distinction of being the second oldest man in the telegraph service of the Union Pacific railroad.

In 1877 Mr. Horne was married to Miss Clara Irene Smith, of Albany, New York. Two children resulted from this union, namely: Arthur W. and Erma S., both of whom are living.

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#### JERRY H. HULSEMAN.

Jerry H. Hulsemann, a prominent ranchman and farmer of section 10, township 30, range 50, Dawes county, where his genial countenance and friendly spirit have made him hosts of well-wishers, which his manly character and genuine worth have long retained, was born on a farm in Oldenberg, Germany, in 1860. He was a son of Henry Hulsemann, a farmer, and Lizzie (Kuck) Hulsemann.

The boyhood days of our subject were spent in his native land, where he assisted his father in the cultivation of their land. When he had reached the age of twenty-three years he decided to seek his fortune in the new world, and landed in New York city, in 1883, came west to Floyd county, Iowa. Here he remained until 1885. It was in the month of May of the same year that he came to Valentine, Nebraska. He had no team, but walked to Dawes county, looked over the land there, filed a claim and walked back to Valentine. During the summer months he employed his time at railroad construction work, and in the fall went back to his farm in Dawes county. Here he built a log cabin, commenced the work of improving and developing his farm, and lived the life of a bachelor for seven years. The first two years here he had no team, but later invested in a team of oxen. He experienced the many hardships so familiar to the frontiersmen of this western country, but during the period of drouths

he was fortunate in not experiencing a complete failure of crops. He worked hard, was economical and saved his money, and now has a ranch of ten hundred and thirteen acres of well appointed land, one hundred thirty acres of which are under cultivation. He has five hundred acres more which can be plowed but which is now used as hay land. Upon his farm he has erected a substantial home, good barns and a granary, two wells and windmills.

In 1892 Mr. Hulsemann was married to Miss Mary Sephas, who was born in Nebraska. Her father, Godfrey Sephas, was a farmer and a native of Germany. Her mother was Dora (Lang) Sephas. Henry, Edward, George, Dora, Minnie, Frederick and Anna are the seven children who came to bless this union.

As an old settler, Mr. Hulsemann has done his share toward the development of Dawes county. He has always been prominently identified locally, taking an active interest in the affairs of the surrounding community. He has assisted materially in the building of schools, and for many years has held various school offices. It matters not how many years this sketch of his life may be read, it will stand as an excellent example for any youth, showing as it does how a poor boy battled against adversity and finally won. Whether one meets Mr. Hulsemann in public circles, in business relations, or at his home fireside, he is the same genial, plain, intelligent, companionable man, who loves his home and appreciates its hallowed surroundings.

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#### AL. JOHNSON.

Al. Johnson, one of the early settlers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and a successful and highly esteemed farmer and ranchman of that locality, resides on section 30, township 16, range 46, where he owns a section of good land. He is a man of wide experience, and well merits the success which has attended him in his different enterprises.

Mr. Johnson was born in Lake county, Indiana, June 30, 1858. When he was about nine years of age his parents moved to Chicago and there he was raised and educated, and he remembers distinctly the terrible fire which swept that city in 1871. Mr. Johnson lived in Chicago until he was twenty-four years of age, then came to Nebraska, travelling as an emigrant in a "prairie schooner," the familiar mode of conveyance in those days. He arrived in Cheyenne county on April 23, 1884, and immediately pre-empted a claim and later homesteaded, also took a tree claim, all on the North river, and

proved up on the land and afterwards sold it. He then located on his present ranch, in section 30, township 16, range 46, situated about twelve miles north of Lodgepole. Here he has a splendid ranch and runs a large bunch of cattle and some horses, also farms a small portion of his land, raising grains. He has a well-improved place, with good buildings, fences, wells, etc., and is one of the leading old-timers of Cheyenne county, although since coming here he has spent about nine years traveling through the western states, including Colorado, South Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming and into New Mexico, returning for permanent settlement in 1903.

Mr. Johnson was married in Cheyenne county, in 1889, to Miss Emma P. Johnson, and to them have been born three children, Frank, May and Ray, all attending school at present. The fathers of both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are dead, both mothers still living.

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#### JOHN HENDERSON.

John Henderson, who holds a foremost place among the pioneer settlers of Deuel county, Nebraska, has built up a fine estate in Loss Creek precinct. He has since his early residence in this region done his full share in the upbuilding of his locality and has become one of the leading and substantial citizens of his community and enjoys the esteem and respect of all with whom he has had to do.

Mr. Henderson was born in St. Clair county, Michigan, on the third day of September, 1846, and made that his home up to 1859, when he removed to Ottawa county, Ohio. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, One Hundredth Volunteer Infantry, Ohio Volunteers, and was in the Georgia and Atlanta campaigns, and was with Thomas during his entire campaign at Nashville. He was also in the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and saw much active service during his career as a soldier. He was mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina, and received his discharge at Cleveland, and returned to Ohio, remaining there for several years. In the spring of 1888 he came to Nebraska, homesteading on section 8, township 17, range 43, and proved up on the land, there going through all the hardships and privations of the early settlers in the region.

Mr. Henderson is now located on section 23, township 17, range 44, where he has a well-improved farm, having every convenience in the way of substantial buildings, fences, well and windmill. He engages in mixed farming and stock raising, and has been successful in developing a good home.

On February 22, 1872, our subject married Elva V. Lattimore, in Ottawa county, Ohio, and they had a family of five children, Mrs. Henderson dying on April 10, 1905. Their children were named as follows: Oscar T., James W., Alta, William and Blaine. Oscar T. is married, also Alta, who is the wife of John Reed, they living in Oshkosh.

In political views Mr. Henderson is a Republican, and is active in local affairs. He was the first assessor in the precinct after Deuel county was organized.

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### WILLIAM H. JONES.

William H. Jones, a progressive and enterprising business man of Dunning, is one of the old settlers of Blaine county. He has spent the past fifteen years in that vicinity and is now classed among the substantial men of the town and has taken an active part in its career as a thriving commercial center. He is proprietor of the Burlington Hotel, a fine establishment which he built in 1908, after the old Burlington burned, having previously run the old Burlington Hotel which was destroyed by fire on December 26, 1907, the same year it was built. Mr. Jones also, in connection with his hotel business, runs a livery business.

Mr. Jones was born in Sheridan, Lucas county, Iowa, in 1859. He is a son of Walter Jones and Mary (Kinney) Jones, of old American stock. His father was an engineer by profession, who came to Kansas in 1868, where he was a pioneer in a colony of nine families. There they started to establish homes, and during an Indian uprising all were massacred by the redskins excepting himself and one other person, and he then came to Lincoln, Nebraska. Our subject was raised on the frontier among the Indians, where his father had a farm, and his boyhood was spent in farm work, receiving a very limited schooling through attending the country schools. In 1889 he left home and went to the vicinity of Omaha, where he lived a frontiersman's life, hunting and fishing for a living. He finally came to Blaine county about 1896 and started ranching, living about six miles from Dunning, starting without any capital practically and again fished and hunted for a living most of the time, and during the hard times periods in the vicinity he traveled all over the country in search of game to supply the market in Dunning and other small towns. He even went into South Dakota in his travels for wild game, and managed to make a fair income from this occupation. He witnessed all the

pioneer times and incidentally has been an important factor in the development of this section.

He established himself in the hotel business in Dunning in 1905, first buying the Dunning Hotel, which he carried on for several years, then sold out and started the Burlington Hotel, which is a favorite hostelry for many commercial travellers through this part of Nebraska. He is a gentleman of pleasing personality, and makes a popular host, and his hotel is one of the best equipped in these parts, commending itself to all in search of first-class accommodations.

In 1882 Mr. Jones married Mary E. Gollands, of English parentage, and of their union the following children resulted: Maud, Albert, May and Myrtle, a bright and interesting group, and of which their parents are justly proud.

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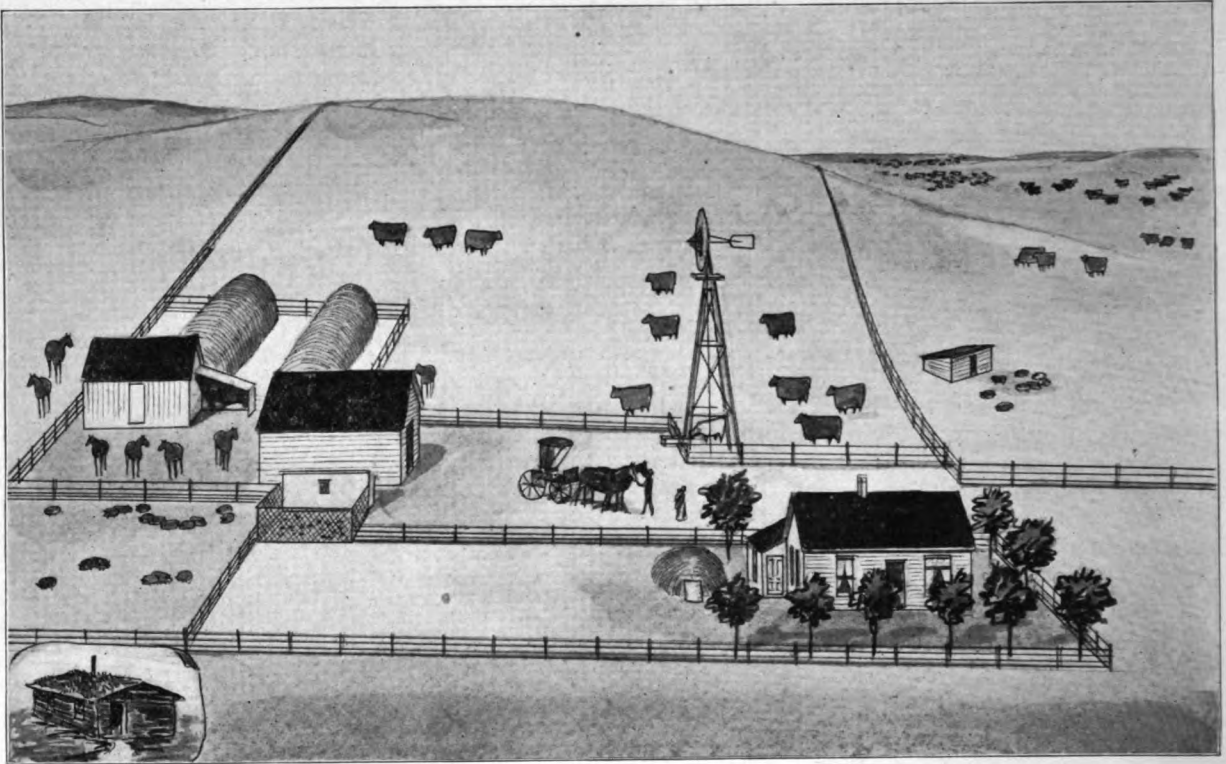
### JOHN BRADY.

John Brady, owner of the Meadow Lawn Stock Farm, of Platte township, Buffalo county, Nebraska, is an active and progressive farmer and stock dealer of his section. Here he has built up a good home and farm, is one of the prosperous men of the locality and has gained the esteem and respect of his associates through his integrity and worthy citizenship.

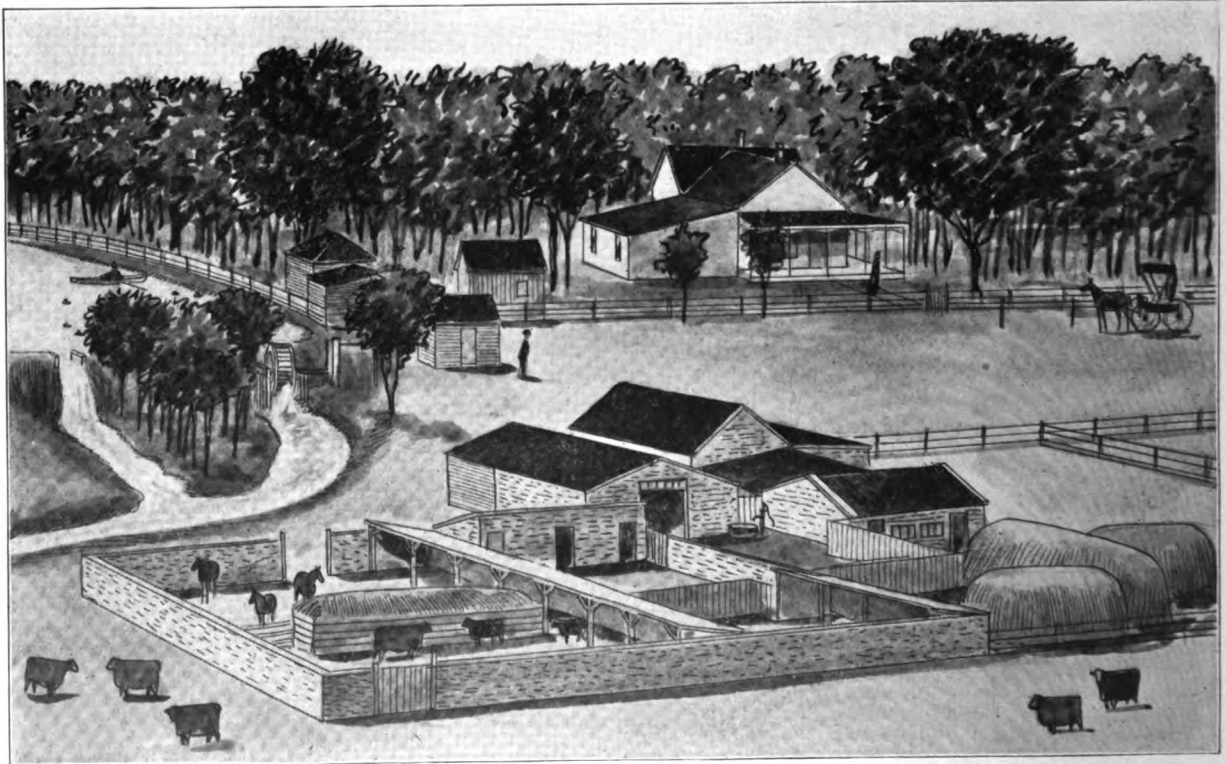
Mr. Brady is a native of Wisconsin, and a son of John Brady, who came to Wisconsin in the pioneer days of that state from Detroit, Michigan, and he had the distinction and honor to have served in both the Mexican and Civil wars. Our subject was raised in Wisconsin and Minnesota, in the latter state having served in Fillmore county as county superintendent of schools, and devoting some years to teaching. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, and in 1890 established his present ranch and farm, located in Platte township. Here he owns seven hundred and seventy-five acres of the best valley land on the island, five miles northwest of Lowell, on the Burlington & Missouri railway, and about ten miles southwest of Gibbon, on the Union Pacific railway. Here he keeps over a hundred thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, which are pronounced as good as any herd that can be found in the state. This herd is headed by Barons Glosster, a pure Scotch bull, and many of the herd are pure Scotch. Mr. Brady came to Kearney, Nebraska, in 1886, and for several years owned and operated the oatmeal mills there. His brother, Phil Brady, was mayor of Kearney,







RESIDENCE OF ALBERT PIKE,  
Seven Miles West of Valentine, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN ANDERSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

and is now residing at Seattle, Washington. Mr. Brady is a man of superior education, intelligent and active, giving both brains and energy to whatever he undertakes, and his success is evidence of his good judgment and ability. His ranch is improved with good farm buildings, and he has erected a handsome residence, and one of the valuable estates in his township. Mr. Brady is a Republican in politics, served in the legislature in 1895 and is at present chairman of the Republican county central committee, and takes an active part in the political affairs of the state.

Mr. Brady was married the second time, in 1908, to Miss H. E. Jones. She was a teacher in the Kearney public schools for twenty-six years and was very successful in her profession. From a former marriage Mr. Brady has one son, John H., who is now a resident of Seattle, Washington.

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#### ALBERT PIKE.

Albert Pike, whose place among the bright and energetic young farmers of Cherry county, Nebraska, is assured beyond question, owns a quarter section of land in section 25, township 34, range 29, and by hard work, wise management and an unwearied industry is accumulating a full share of the comforts and rewards that attend the simple, honest and industrious man.

Joseph W. Pike, the father of Albert, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, lived many years in Whitley county, Indiana, and moved to Page county, Iowa, in 1856. Residing in western Iowa until 1883, he came to Valentine early in that year and secured land from the government on homestead, pre-emption and tree claims, having his family follow in 1885. His wife, Lacy North, came of German lineage, and was the mother of a family of seven children, of whom Albert, the subject of this writing, was the youngest.

Albert Pike is a native of Page county, Iowa, where he was born September 20, 1872, and resided in Plymouth county from 1876 until the family moved to Nebraska, where they settled in the town of Sloan, in Cherry county. Here he attended the local schools of that community and so received a fairly good start in an educational way. In 1890 he returned to Plymouth county, settling about twelve miles from Sioux City, and in the fall of 1895, he, in company with his brother, Edward, bought a store in that city, which they operated until the spring of 1897.

In 1898 Mr. Pike started in life for himself, and then bought the farm on which he makes his home at the present time. To carry out his contract and meet his payments called for industry and economy in a high degree, but careful management and hard work brought him great success.

He was married in 1906 to Miss A. Gaskill, whose father, Jesse B. Gaskill, was an old settler in Sheridan county, not far from Hay Springs. Her mother was Maggie Hurley, and both father and mother belong to old German families. Mr. and Mrs. Pike have had one child, a daughter, Alberta Idel, born July 1, 1907. Mr. Pike is a member of the Crookston Lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America. A picture of Mr. Pike's residence will be found on another page of this volume.

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#### JOHN ANDERSON.

For over thirty years the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been closely associated with the agricultural interests of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He is recognized as one of the representative citizens and is prominently known throughout the western part of the state as a man of sterling qualities by all who know him intimately, and a man also of the strictest integrity of word and deed. He passed through all the pioneer experiences, and succeeded in accumulating a competence, now owning a valuable estate, and gained an enviable reputation as a good business man of superior intelligence.

Our subject was born in the village of Wilestoft, Denmark, January 5, 1846, and grew up there, living with his parents, Hans and Johanna (Polson) Anderson, until he was a youth of twenty years, when he went to the town of Odense, and was employed as coachman most of the time until emigrating to America, February 26, 1872. He sailed from Copenhagen to a town in Scotland, proceeding thence by rail to Glasgow, where he was transferred by a small vessel to the ocean steamer at Londonderry, Ireland, sailing thence to Portland, Maine, where he landed in the latter part of March. He went direct to Grand Island, Nebraska, where he found work during the ensuing six months, and for the year following was employed on the Union Pacific railroad at North Platte. In the fall of 1873 he removed to Brownson, Cheyenne county, where for twenty years he was foreman on that section of the railroad. He went through pioneer experience and helped to develop that region, and has since that

time taken part in the making of history of this state.

Mr. Anderson filed on his present homestead in section 9, township 14, range 51, while employed by the railroad. He added to his property, and now owns in all six hundred and forty acres. His residence is directly on the banks of the Lodgepole creek, where he has erected fine farm buildings. A dam at the home site supplies water for irrigating, and power to run a water mill which grinds all the feed used on the ranch and farm. He has two hundred acres irrigated, and some two hundred head of well-bred Hereford cattle and seventy horses on the place. The stone barn with high stone corrals furnish unusually warm and safe shelter for the stock. We present on another page a view of the home site with its picturesque surroundings. The creek above the dam furnishes excellent boating of which he has availed himself, having a light skiff moored at the dam. He farms about eighty acres, having the remainder of the land in hay or pasture.

Mr. Anderson was married June 19, 1872, at Grand Island, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Johansen, born and reared in Denmark, a daughter of Sonick and Anna K. (Hansen) Johansen. Seven children were born of this union, namely: Hannah Marie (now deceased), Charles, living near the old home, and of whom a sketch appears on another page; Susanna (also deceased), William P., Hilma M., now Mrs. L. Sherman, of Colorado; Grant and Edward, the latter still under the parental roof. Mr. Anderson's son, Grant, resides on a homestead in section 28, township 14, range 51, situated two miles southwest of his father's farm.

Our subject is actively awake to the interests of his community, and aids materially in its advancement along social and political lines. He votes independently, not being bound by party ties. He was reared in the Lutheran church. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order at Sidney.

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#### WILLIAM D. CLARKSON.

William D. Clarkson, a prosperous citizen and business man of Valentine, Nebraska, resides on a farm situated on the Minnechaduzza creek, near the town. Mr. Clarkson was born in Clay county, Illinois, October 13, 1859. His father, J. M. Clarkson, was a farmer of Pennsylvania-Dutch origin, born in Ohio, and was an early settler in Cherry county. His death occurred here in 1904. Our subject's mother was Miss Mary H. Brainerd, of Yankee stock. When he was seventeen years of age he moved

to western Kansas with his parents where they were pioneers in Lyon county, and remained for eleven years. In 1885 the family again went through pioneer experience in this county, and our subject took up a pre-emption and tree claim located twenty miles northeast of Valentine, and put up a sod shanty in which he made his home for a time. He proved up on this land and then moved to Hay flats, fifteen miles south of Valentine, and there lived on several different places, occupying a sod house for two months while he erected a frame house which he put up on his homestead.

After starting there Mr. Clarkson went through many hard times, "batching it" for some time, and besides attending to his own interests was obliged to look after his parents. He hauled wood twenty miles to Fort Niobrara to get money for their living expenses, driving a team of two horses and two oxen. The trip took several days, and the nights were spent camped out under his wagon. He then went through the drouth seasons, losing his entire crop by hail, but stuck to his homestead through everything until he had proved up on it. He came to Valentine in 1898 and clerked in a grocery store, his family moving to the town in the fall of the following year. He also did contract work at Fort Niobrara for a time, and came to his present place in 1901, establishing himself in the ice business, and now controls the entire industry in Valentine. During the years 1887 to 1894 he ran a threshing machine all over this part of Cherry county, but during the dry years there was nothing to thresh, so was compelled to abandon the work.

March 28, 1888, our subject married Miss Georgia Presho, a native of New York, of Nebraska in 1880, and he was one of the men who helped build Fort Niobrara. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson, named as follows: Charles, Vivian, Flora, Grace and Irene.

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#### K. B. EKAWL.

K. B. Ekwawl, residing in section 28, township 14, range 45, Deuel county, Nebraska, was born in Sweden, January 17, 1858. He was the third child in a family of eight, and was the only one to leave their native land. His parents are now both dead.

Mr. Ekwawl came to America in 1874, landing in August of that year, and located at Galesburg, Illinois, remaining for several years, then came to Kearney county, Nebraska. After spending a short time there he returned to Illi-

nois, and made that state his home up to 1885, coming to Deuel county and taking a homestead on section 28, township 14, range 45, in October of that year. He started to improve the place and proved up on it in due time, passing through all the pioneer experiences, gradually being able to add to his original tract until he is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres. He has about one hundred acres cultivated, and has a fine bunch of cattle and horses. His ranch is improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and is one of the valuable estates in the region.

Mr. Ekwawl was married March 26, 1890, to Miss Anna Chingren, who is a native of Henry county, Illinois. They have no children. Mrs. Ekwawl's mother makes her home with her daughter on the ranch.

Our subject is moderator of school district No. 15, which was organized in the spring of 1886, and was one of the first in the region. In political sentiment Mr. Ekwawl is a Democrat, and takes a commendable interest in local and county affairs.

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#### CHARLES N. NORTNASS.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the foremost citizens of township 32, range 54, where, on section 10, he has developed a fine farm and enjoys a comfortable and pleasant home, surrounded by many warm friends and congenial neighbors. He has been a resident of Sioux county for the past twelve years, and although he has had a struggle to get along at times, has always stuck to his original plan of carving out for himself a name and fortune for his later years, and has succeeded in this determination in spite of many discouragements and failures.

Mr. Nortnass was born on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin, sixteen miles southeast of Madison, February 14, 1858. His father, Nels P. Nortnass, was a native of Norway, as was his mother, whose maiden name was Annie Peterson. During his boyhood the family moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and remained in that vicinity for several years, and when Charles was eleven years old his parents made a trip back to Norway, returning to this country in 1869. They then settled in Hamilton county, Iowa, where they remained up to 1896, and our subject was married there on May 29, 1884, to Nellie Nelson, she having been born in Norway and came to America when she was a young girl of twenty-three, locating in Hamilton county, Iowa. The young couple went to housekeeping on a farm in that locality,

and lived there up to 1896, when they came to Sioux county, where Mr. Nortnass filed on a homestead, and after he had become settled in his new home had just seventeen dollars left to carry on the place with. His first dwelling was a sod house, and they lived in it for many years. During the first few seasons his crops were very small and he was unable to make a living off the farm, so was obliged to cut wood for his neighbors in order to keep his family from want.

Mr. Nortnass soon grew able to improve his farm in good shape, and add to his original homestead, now owning four hundred acres which is beautifully situated on Pine Ridge, covered with many trees furnishing fuel and timber, and he farms a large portion of the place and raises good crops of small grains, besides using part of it as a stock ranch. He has improved it fully, all of which has been accomplished by his own individual effort, at various times meeting with bitter disappointments in the loss of crops, etc. He had just gotten nicely started in 1901, when he had the ill luck to have his barn and contents destroyed by fire, this disaster occurring on Christmas eve, the loss including fifteen tons of hay, fifty bushels of corn and other property, harness and many small articles so necessary to the equipment of an up-to-date farm and ranch.

To our subject and his good wife have been born twelve children, named as follows: Sena, Alexander, Henry, Adolph, Nels, Bennie, Nellie, Annie, Carrie, Allie and Carl, the latter being named after his deceased brother Carl. Four of the children were born in Sioux county, Nebraska, and eight were born in Iowa.

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#### JAMES EDWARD BARKER.

James Edward Barker, a farmer of ability and progressiveness, resides in Brinkerhoff precinct, Rock county, where he has a fine home and farm, and may truly be classed among the self-made men of that locality.

Mr. Barker was born in New York state in 1851, and is a son of Nathaniel C. Barker, of English stock, following the trade of a mechanic. When our subject was twenty-one years old he started out for himself, teaching school for several years, then went to farming. The family had moved to Ford county, Illinois, in 1865, and after remaining there up to 1884, James came to Rock county and settled on a homestead on section 8, township 31, range 20. He afterwards commuted this, and moved to Long Pine, where he engaged in the stock business and lived there for eight years, and for

the six succeeding years was in Bassett. In 1901 he took up a homestead under the Kincaid act, and has since resided on this ranch, the place consisting of seven hundred and twenty acres of good farm and hay land. Here he keeps one hundred head of cattle, and has broken up one hundred and twenty acres which he farms with good success, using the balance for pasture land. He has planted about seven acres of fine trees on his farm and has one of the pleasantest and best improved pieces of property in his locality. He has made all this through his own efforts, and has gone through many hardships and privations in building up his home. For some years the family lived in a log house, and the first year after getting a few acres broken for crops he lost his only team. He saw all the different phases of a pioneer's experience, and deeply appreciates the comfortable home and farm which he has won through so much hard labor.

Mr. Barker was married in Ford county, Illinois, November 2, 1878, to Miss Mary A. Donovan, of Irish stock, daughter of one of the early settlers in Rock county, who is now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Barker six children have been born, namely: Virgil E., Maude M., Freeman C., Eva L. (deceased), and C., and also an infant who died unnamed.

Mr. Barker is a gentleman of public spirit, and although he has never taken a very active part in politics, lends his aid to the betterment of conditions in his community wherever needed. He is a strong Socialist, believing entirely in the principles of that party.

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#### FRED GILMAN.

The gentleman above named is a prominent citizen of Redington and for many years has been engaged in the mercantile business, farming and ranching in Cheyenne county. He has passed through all the early Nebraska times and has been instrumental in a large measure in the success that has come to this region.

Fred Gilman was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, March 26, 1874, and a part of his boyhood was spent there, coming to Redington, Nebraska, with his parents, two brothers and two sisters, locating on a school section purchased by the father in Cheyenne county. Both parents are now living at Redington. The father was a native of Vermont, while the mother was born in Illinois. Our subject took a homestead on section 18, township 19, range 52, and during the early times in Cheyenne county established a general merchandise business. He has continued in this almost constantly, and has been

most successful, building up a good trade and becoming one of the solid and substantial merchants of his town. Mr. Gilman owns considerable property in Redington.

On March 26, 1900, Mr. Gilman married Estelle Trowbridge at Redington. Mrs. Gilman was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, and her father is now residing in Banner county, but the mother is dead. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman have two children, Oscar and Ralph, now attending school. Our subject has two brothers, Sherman, married, living at Redington, and Richard, also married, living at Bridgeport, both having one child. One sister, Nina, wife of T. C. Wilcox, lives in Redington, and another, Ida, wife of F. D. Hayes, lives at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mr. Gilman takes an active interest in all local affairs, at present serving as moderator of school district No. 11, and is also postmaster of Redington.

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#### SAMUEL HESSELGESSER.

Samuel Hesselgesser, deceased, was for many years intimately connected with the activities of Loup county, Nebraska, and his well-spent life won him high regard. At his death the community lost one of her best citizens. He was born on a farm in Pennsylvania, in 1853, and died at his Loup county home in November, 1905.

Samuel Hesselgesser's parents were Robert and Jane (Hazelet) Hesselgesser, the father being of German descent. The family were reliable farmers of Pennsylvania and our subject acquired the good habits of thrift and earnestness of purpose that are inculcated by life on a farm.

The marriage of Mr. Hesselgesser occurred in 1874, when Miss Mary A. Watson became his helpmeet. The bride was a native of Pennsylvania and was a daughter of Thomas and Mary A. (Galbriath) Watson, the father being of Irish descent and the mother of Scotch ancestry. Mr. and Mrs. Hesselgesser had seven children, all boys: Milton, Homer (deceased), Walter, Elmer, Samuel, Glen and Watson.

In 1884, in April, the family came to Nebraska, locating for one year in Fillmore county and then they came to Loup county, where they settled on their present farm in section 8, township 22, range 17. Coming at this early date, they were numbered among the earliest settlers and they encountered all the trials usually passed through by every pioneer. North Loup was the nearest trading point and all material for building purposes as





"OLD PALS ON THE RANCH."

John Riggs, E. James, Dick Been and Frank Caffa.



well as supplies had to be hauled from that point and from Ainsworth. Our subject has camped out on many of these trips, sleeping under his covered wagon, fording streams and more than once the wagons have been mired in the mud. Their first buildings were constructed from the sods of the prairie and their first teams were ponies and oxen. Once a severe snow storm delayed the arrival of supplies for a couple of days and Mrs. Hesselgesser was obliged to grind corn for meal so she could have corn meal mush on which the family might subsist. But through all these hardships the family had good health and really enjoyed pioneer life. They went to church and Sunday-school and tried their best to see the bright side of things. The years of drouth came, bringing more privation, then the hail storms worked their ruin now and then, but through it all our subject and his family maintained stout hearts and with willing hands sought in every way to retrieve their losses and to constantly add to the improvements of their home. And their efforts were eminently successful in every way as now can be seen by the fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres, the good home, barns, fences and fine groves. Since our subject's death in 1905, Mrs. Hesselgesser has been managing the farm assisted by the younger boys.

Mr. Hesselgesser lives in the affectionate remembrance of his family and his many friends. He was a man whose strength of character endeared him to all with whom he came in contact and brought him in close touch with all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the community. He served with honor in several public capacities, such as school officer and assessor, and was prominent in political affairs.

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#### Z. U. BUCK.

In compiling a list of the prominent business men of Franklin county, who have aided so materially in the upbuilding of the commercial interests of that locality, and are widely and favorably known, a foremost place must be given Z. U. Buck, who is engaged in the mercantile business at Naponee. Mr. Buck has been in business here since 1897, at that time opening a general merchandise store, and has built up a lucrative trade through his industry and honest dealing. He is highly esteemed as a citizen, and is one of the successful and prosperous residents of his county. In the past ten years his business has increased four hundred per cent., which is a pretty good gain.

Mr. Buck is a son of George Buck, who settled in Franklin county in 1871. the following

year starting the first store in the county, and his was the first frame building ever erected in Franklin county, which was at Franklin. He and his partner, Mr. Greenwood, laid out that town site and gave away lots for a park, schools and churches, also to any settlers who would build there. They attended strictly to the business of the store, selling goods for a distance of fifty miles each way from the town. George Buck was a member of the Episcopal church, a strong Republican, high degree Mason and veteran of the Civil war, having been a member of a Vermont regiment, serving for four years.

Our subject's mother was Miss Lucella Hunt, of Franklin county, Vermont, daughter of Elijah Hunt. Mr. Buck has one brother, James E., residing in Lincoln, engaged in the life insurance business. Another brother, George, Jr., is associated with the Omaha Rubber Company, and lives at Omaha, while a sister, Cora, is married and living at Lincoln.

Mr. Buck married Miss Jennie Hart, of Brown county, Kansas, daughter of W. H. Hart, now of Seattle, Washington, a dealer in real estate at that place. He is a son of Thomas Hart, who came to Brown county, Kansas, in 1852, and took a prominent part in the early history of that state. To Mr. Buck and his wife the following children were born: Harold, aged twelve; Helen, aged six, and Lucile, four years old.

Soon after Mr. Buck settled in Franklin county he was elected deputy county treasurer, and served for four years, and later was postmaster at Franklin. He is a member of the school board, and active in local affairs. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

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#### JOHN RIGGS.

John Riggs is one of the best known and most prominent residents of this part of the country. He was appointed the first sheriff, later elected to fill a second term, and also was one of the organizers of Sheridan county.

Mr. Riggs was born in Washington county, Texas, in 1854. His father was of American stock, a farmer and stock raiser, and among the earliest settlers of Texas. His mother, Miss Anna Beauchamp, was born in Dublin, Ireland. Our subject was a baby, the youngest of three children, when he lost his mother. His father also died while he was yet a boy. When eleven years of age he went to New Mexico with John H. Chisham, staying with him until he sold the stock to Hunter & Evans, in 1878 going with the latter across the plains to

Sheridan county. In 1879 he went back to Mexico after the balance of the stock. Here they remained until 1885, when settlement forced them to move, and taking fifty-five thousand cattle they went on to Montana. After helping to move the cattle Mr. Riggs bought the old H. C. Barr ranch, and lived there twenty years. He had invested considerable of his earnings in the Hunter & Evans Company, but the winter of 1885-86 caused them such a loss it broke the concern and our subject also sustained a heavy loss.

In 1884 Mr. Riggs married Miss Amma Irwin, a Texas girl, who was a daughter of Aek and Mrs. L. L. Irwin, both of American stock, among the earliest settlers of Texas. Mrs. L. L. Irwin still lives in Sheridan county, Nebraska, with her son. Two brothers were early settlers here and it was while on a visit here to see them that Mr. Riggs met Miss Amma Irwin at her brother's home on the N. Bar ranch, or better known as the old Newman ranch, which Mr. Riggs also helped to establish. It was here that Mr. Riggs and Miss Irwin were married. Two children have been born to them, Bennett and Effie.

After Mr. Riggs had served two terms as sheriff he settled on the old ranch, remaining there until 1898, when they moved to Kansas. There he was appointed deputy sheriff of Sherman county, and in attempting to capture two train robbers single-handed he was shot six times and so severely wounded that he was laid up for nearly three years, while the culprits were both killed during the encounter. He was offered large sums of money by the railroad companies for the brave deed, but would never accept a cent.

Afterwards he returned to this county on a visit and his children persuaded him to remain. He is now nicely located on the Niobrara river in section 10, township 30, range 43, about one mile from his first location, and contented to live quietly from now on, as he says he has seen all the frontier life he cares for. Mr. Riggs is a Democrat.

On another page of this volume we present an interesting picture of the "old pals on the ranch," showing John Riggs and three comrades.

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#### JOHN C. DAM.

John C. Dam, the subject of this sketch, was born in 1859, raised in Denmark and received his education there, and is one of the many successful farmers of Sheridan county. His father, Christian M. Dam, never left the

old country, and died when our subject was a young man, leaving a wife and five children. When twenty years of age he entered the army and served seventeen months, then started out to make his fortune. He came to America in 1884. Upon leaving Omaha, where he remained for one year, he located one mile north of his present home, taking pre-emption, and still holds this claim. He also homesteaded in the Sand Hills, selling this out for forty-eight hundred dollars.

In 1901 he was married to Miss Mary K. Jorgesen, who was born in Denmark in 1878 and came to this country with her parents in 1892. Three children were born to them, namely: Anna, Henry and Emma, all born in this locality.

Just as Mr. Dam was nicely started on his ranch the dry years came on and the best he could do was barely raise seed for the next year's crops. These were the darkest times for our subject, but he struggled along alone and in later years has had marked success in all his undertakings.

He has added to his homestead and now owns fourteen hundred and forty acres, half of which could be easily farmed, and now has under cultivation about three hundred acres, running one hundred and seventy head of cattle, with just horses enough for his own use. He is engaged exclusively in farming and the stock raising business, and has made many improvements on his ranch in the way of buildings, fences, etc., and feels well satisfied with what he has accomplished.

Although Mr. Dam is a Democrat, he has never been able to devote any time to taking active part in politics.

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#### W. N. ROGERS.

W. N. Rogers is a prosperous business man and one of the best known breeders of thoroughbred Herefords in the western states.

Mr. Rogers was born and raised in Jo Davis county, Illinois, and it was in that locality that he first began the breeding of high-grade stock. He came to Nebraska in 1883, and in starting his work was convinced that the Herefords were the best breed in the west, as they will graze and rustle for themselves, grow fat and keep in good condition on the prairies where other breeds will starve, and besides are great beef cattle, and to raise good beef cattle is the principal aim of the stock raisers of the west. The Hereford cattle are the champions of the International Live Stock Exhibition.

Shadeland Park Herefords, the well known herd of whitefaces, was started in 1890, and there was then selected as a foundation cows bred by such breeders as John W. Smith, of Herefordshire, England, and G. W. Milikin, of Elyria, Ohio. These females were rich in the blood of Anxiety, Grove III, Lord Wilton, the monarchs of the breed. Then were added females from the well known herd of show cattle from the herd of Makin Bros., and later on Mr. Rogers went in person to the great show and breeding herd of Adams Earl, of Lafayette, Indiana, which then contained more of the blood of Lord Wilton and the Grove III than any herd in the world. From this herd was selected some of the best females that money would buy, and these added to the then choice lot of females made a foundation for a herd that any man might well feel proud of. There have been, from time to time, some choice females only added to this herd, consisting mostly of the tops at the great Hereford sales. As the bull is one-half the herd, it might be well to make mention of what has been used on the Shadeland Park herd of females. The first bought and used in this herd was Vincent II 42942, bred by Makin Bros., of Florence, Kansas. His sire Vincent 16691, by Sir Evelyn, by Lord Wilton 4057. Dam, Berrington II, by Leader, a son of the Grove III, a grand combination of the Lord Wilton and the Grove III blood. The sire of Vincent II 42942, Vincent 16691, was shown very successfully by Makin Bros., winning in the season of 1889-'90 seventeen first and sweepstakes and seven second prizes. Vincent II 42942 was also a prize winner. At the World's Fair in 1893 he won fourth in aged class and sweepstakes as produce of cow. He attained the weight of twenty-eight hundred pounds at the age of five years. The bull to follow him was Anxiety Monarch 63204, by the great breeding bull Juryman 30279, by Anxiety III 4466, bred by Tom Clark, of Beecher, Illinois.

Anxiety Monarch 63204, owned and bred by W. N. Rogers, at the age of five years attained the weight of twenty-eight hundred pounds. Anxiety Monarch 63204 was only shown at State Fair, Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1900, winning first in class. Headed the first prize aged herd. His two-year-old heifer winning first in class, and a yearling heifer third in class. Anxiety Monarch 63204 was very unfortunately injured in a railroad wreck while returning home from the State Fair, from which he died shortly after, leaving only a limited number of his sons and daughters in the Shadeland Park herd, yet the notoriety this herd now enjoys must be attributed to the

blood of Anxiety Monarch 63204, who was pronounced by great judges to be one of the best Hereford bulls of the breed.

Beau Donald 28th 105168 was secured after the death of Anxiety Monarch 63204, at the price of one thousand dollars when ten months old, to be used in the Shadeland Park herd. It was also considered by Mr. Rogers, in order to carry out his views on breeding and establishing a type of Hereford cattle peculiar to his ideas, he must do it with the blood of Anxiety Monarch, and accordingly he has selected and put at the head of the herd the massive son of Anxiety Monarch 63204.

Monarch of Shadeland III 106787, owned and bred by Mr. Rogers, at the head of the Shadeland Park herd, weighed three thousand pounds at four years of age. This young bull was shown as a three-year-old and only at State Fair, Lincoln, 1903, winning first in class and sweepstakes; also sweepstakes as produce of cow, and sweepstakes one of four, as get of sire. In 1904 he was second in class, beaten only by Beau Donald 28th, headed first prize, aged herd and sweepstakes as produce of cow at Nebraska State Fair. He won first in class, headed first prize aged herd, sweepstakes as produce of cow and also stood at head of herd winning sweepstakes silver cup, all breeds competing (cup valued at two hundred and fifty dollars), at Interstate Fair, Sioux City, Iowa. Second in class aged bulls, sweepstakes as produce of cow at Topeka, Kansas, 1904.

It might also be of interest to mention some of the winnings of Beau Donald 28th 105168, who is the assistant of Monarch of Shadeland III. Beau Donald 28th won first in class aged bulls in 1902 as a three-year-old, and sweepstakes, senior class, two years or over. He also stood at head of first prize aged herd, Nebraska State Fair, in 1902. In 1903 he won second, being beaten by Monarch of Shadeland III, at Nebraska State Fair. In 1904 he was first in aged class and stood at head of second prize aged herd (first prize herd headed by Monarch of Shadeland III). He also won sweepstakes, two years or over, at the State Fair. He was first in aged class sweepstakes bull, also headed first prize aged herd at Topeka, in 1904; also first aged class sweepstakes bull and headed first prize aged herd at Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1904; also first aged class sweepstakes bull and headed first prize aged herd at Colorado State Fair, Pueblo, in 1904.

It is well to mention the Shadeland Park show herds of twelve head, which won one hundred and five prizes in 1904, showing over four states at the following places: State

Fair, Lincoln, Nebraska; Interstate Fair, Sioux City, Iowa; Topeka Exposition, Topeka, Kansas; State Fair, Hutchinson, Kansas, and State Fair, Pueblo, Colorado. Our first prize aged herd stood first at every show. Our young herd also took first at every show. The young herd were all sired by our sweepstakes herd bulls. Our second aged herd was only beaten once over these four states. We also showed one yearling heifer that was not defeated in age or class; also one heifer calf that won first in every class and one that won four second and one third prize.

This is a record any breeder might well feel proud of—one hundred and six prizes at five shows. Young stock of both sexes for sale at all times. From now on no bull can do breeding in the Shadeland Park herd that has not won a sweepstakes prize at either a state or national show.

It is worthy of mention that the Beau Donalds won more prizes in 1904 at World's Fair, state and national shows than any other family of Herefords. In 1905, at three shows, Mr. Rogers won fifty-eight ribbons; then in 1906, at State Fair only, winning sixteen prizes, and in 1907 at three shows he won sixty-nine ribbons. He bred the females that won the championship at Lincoln for five successive years. At the sales in Omaha for the past eight years he has always been at the top, and in 1906 his females topped the list. During the last four years Mr. Rogers's stock has won more prizes at the Nebraska State Fair than any other herd in the state. He has now one hundred and twenty thoroughbred animals in his herd, which is well known all over the United States, and breeders from all over the country come to his ranch to purchase cattle. One-year stock from this farm was sold and delivered into seven different states.

Mr. Rogers believes that in order to make a success of any undertaking it is necessary to give it all his time and attention, and this he has done with his stock. He is aided in his work by his two sons, Amos and Henry, both of whom have their father's spirit and energy. Mr. Rogers's wife attends many of the stock shows with her husband and takes a deep interest in all his affairs, and if anything is more pleased than he with the success he has attained. He is often called upon to act as judge at the big stock exhibitions, and is recognized as one of the best informed men in this business to be found anywhere.

Mr. Rogers and his family reside on his ranch four miles east of McCook, Redwillow county, Nebraska. This is called Shadeland Park, and comprises eight hundred and thirty

acres of fine land, mostly on the river bottom, with many beautiful shade trees well distributed over the farm, from which it derives its name.

#### WILLIAM S. COKER.

William S. Coker, residing in section 32, township 24, range 49, is one of the prominent citizens of Box Butte county. He has devoted his entire career to agricultural pursuits, has gained considerable property, and the esteem and respect of his fellowmen by his integrity and upright character.

Mr. Coker was born in Morgan county, Illinois, in 1857. His parents were of American stock, the father a farmer, and they moved to Missouri after the close of the Civil war, settling in Mercer county, where our subject grew to manhood. He assisted his parents in carrying on the home farm, and during all his young manhood was afflicted with the malady known as fever and ague, so prevalent in new countries. In 1878 he left home and went to Iowa, but only remained for a few months, then to Kansas, where he spent about eighteen months. There he lived in Ness county, which was an entirely undeveloped part of the state, and he went through pioneer experiences, later removing to Ellsworth county, but did not like the new country and decided to try a new location, so he moved to Missouri, near his old home, and lived there one year. He first struck Nebraska in 1882, locating in York county, and remained there for two years, following farm work. From there he came to Box Butte county, driving from York county with a team, making the trip overland, as he had on all his other journeys in this part of the west, from Missouri to Kansas and back again. When he landed here he had a yoke of cattle, which was almost his sole capital. He immediately filed on a homestead and "batched it" for about three years, during which time he did all the work of breaking his land, hauling and freighting with a team of oxen. He went through the usual pioneer experiences, saw the surrounding country settled, railroads put through, towns started, and was an eyewitness of all the incidents which took place in connection with the Indian uprising, etc., in this region.

Mr. Coker is now owner of a four hundred and eighty-acre ranch, all fenced and complete, with good buildings, etc., engaging principally in stock raising, and has made a great success of his work.

In 1890 Mr. Coker was married to Jane Al-

exander. Mrs. Coker was a daughter of Stewart Alexander, a Scotchman, who lived and died in his native land. She and her mother, who was Miss Margaret Kerr, also reared in Scotland, came to America when the former was an infant of nine months, settling in Nebraska, and Mrs. Coker was a homesteader in Box Butte county prior to her marriage. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Coker, namely: Clyde, Lyle, Roy, Dora, Eldin and Helen. The family occupy a handsome home and are well liked by all who know them.

#### JOHN I. DAWSON.

John I. Dawson, for many years past a resident of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, owns a fine farm in section 32, township 32, range 22, Garfield precinct. He is at present retired, making his home with a daughter in Springview.

Mr. Dawson was born in Richmondale, Ross county, Ohio, January 31, 1839. He never saw his father, as he was killed by an accident three months before John was born, and when he was but eighteen months old his mother also died, leaving him an orphan without brother or sister. He was forced to make his own way in the world at an early age, when nine years old hiring out to a man with whom he lived for ten years, receiving nothing, not even schooling, for his services, and then ran away and went to Illinois. He started out with only a quarter of a dollar and after walking most of the way from Ohio to Illinois, arrived in Peoria with only a dime as the total of his cash resources. He worked out by the month in Stark county for some time and later rented land on which he farmed for some years. In 1862 he enlisted in Company A, Sixty-fifth Illinois Infantry, and served until the close of the war, being mustered out of service and discharged at Chicago in 1865. At the close of the war he went to Marion county, Illinois, where he married and farmed for three years. Removing to Missouri, he followed farming in Nodaway and Atchison counties until removing to Nebraska.

Mr. Dawson came to Keya Paha county in 1883, taking up a homestead in section 5, township 32, range 22, from which he derives a comfortable income. He now owns six hundred and forty acres of good land, two hundred and forty of which is cultivated, divided between a son and two other tenants who farm the land. Since coming here he has endured very hard times, and, in fact, has had nothing but hardship from his childhood. He is

now content to take life easy for the balance of his days, leaving to others the strain of active labor.

In 1864 Mr. Dawson married Sarah J. McKinns, born in Whitestown, Pennsylvania. They had one child, which only lived eight months, the mother soon following, on February 8, 1868, aged twenty-four years. He was again married in Missouri in 1870 to Miss Elizabeth J. McCray, a native of Ohio. She died December 5, 1905. Two children were born of this marriage—Laura, now Mrs. Hartman, residing in Springview, and Henry M., married and living on his homestead near the father's old place.

Mr. Dawson is a Republican, having cast his maiden vote for Abraham Lincoln, and has remained true to the party ever since. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the U. V. U.

#### ANTON BENISH.

Anton Benish, whose fine farm in Trognitz precinct bespeaks thrift and painstaking care in its operation, is a gentleman of wide experience, and is classed among the substantial and worthy citizens of Cheyenne county, Nebraska.

Mr. Benish was born in the village of Kopidlo, Bohemia, June 15, 1848, a son of John and Katie (Habrich) Benish. He grew up in his native land, during his boyhood receiving the usual stern training in which the children of Bohemia are reared, following farming as an occupation mostly. When he reached the age of twenty-six years he began life for himself, took passage on an emigrant steamer for America at Bremen Haven in the Deutschland, landing in New York city in October, 1874, after a voyage of two weeks. He came direct to Chicago, Illinois, where he had a brother, Albert Benish, who had come to this country several years before, and has made that city his home for thirty-seven years. Anton spent seven months there, then went to Iowa, locating in Chelsea, Tama county, and lived there for thirteen years, most of the time holding the position of section foreman on the Northwestern. In the spring of 1887 he came to Cheyenne county, taking up a homestead in section 4, township 16, range 52, and began to develop a farm. He passed through many privations and pioneer experiences, but remained determined, fighting every hardship and gradually getting ahead, until he now owns jointly with other members of his family, a valuable tract of nine hundred and sixty acres.

Of this he has placed one hundred and fifty acres under the plow. He has a complete set of good farm buildings, including a comfortable and convenient residence, and also has wells, windmills and all necessary farm machinery. He engages in diversified farming and stock raising, keeping about one hundred head of cattle and fifty horses, owning some very fine animals.

Mr. Benish was married September 10, 1874, in Bohemia, to Yatta Daimel, who was born and reared in that country, of German stock; her parents, Popper and Elizabeth Daimel, are dead. To Mr. Benish and his estimable wife the following children have been born: Albert, Joseph and Anton, Jr., all owners of fine homesteads adjoining their father's place; Mary, wife of John Nelson, now living in Seattle, Washington; James, also a homesteader here; Annie, married to Albert Nelson, living at Cheyenne county, and William, the youngest, at home. They are all intelligent, industrious and worthy citizens, and the entire family share in the esteem and respect of all. Mr. Benish is prominent in neighborhood and county affairs, and has helped materially in the building up of his locality. At present he is serving in the capacity of treasurer of school district No. 62. Politically he is a Republican. The family is Catholic in religious faith.

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#### JAMES G. MERRIAM.

The gentleman above named is one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers and ranchmen of Sioux county, Nebraska. He resides on section 3, township 32, range 57, and is widely known as one of the prominent pioneers of this region. He owns a fine property and no one is better known or more highly respected than our subject.

Mr. Merriam was born in Bureau county, Illinois, January 4, 1857. He came of good old American blood, and his ancestors have been prominent in the history of this country for many generations past, of which fact he is justly proud, and he is a fit representative of his family. His father, Homer T., was born in Ohio in 1823, grew up there and as a young man spent a number of years in Illinois, then in Iowa and coming to Sioux county, Nebraska, with his family in 1890, where he died in 1898. He married Miss Nancy Carpenter, also of Ohio. Our subject has one brother who still lives in Illinois.

The family left Illinois when James was a lad of twelve years, and from there they went

to Iowa, where he was reared and educated, starting out for himself when he was twenty years of age. He first went to farming on rented land, and followed that occupation for about twenty years in Iowa. In 1895 he removed to Deadwood, South Dakota, and spent three years in that vicinity, then came to Nebraska, locating in Sioux county, where his father had been for several years, the latter's death occurring in 1898 at his home in township 32, range 57.

Our subject located on his present farm in 1899, taking up the land as a homestead, and improved it in good shape, proving up on it in due time. He has since added to his original quarter, and at the present time is proprietor of about four hundred acres, all fenced and well improved, using about sixty acres as a grain farm, and the balance for hay and pasture for his stock. He has been in the main successful since coming here, although he has met with loss and disappointments on account of the failure of crops, etc., and in 1906 had the misfortune to lose a large portion of his crops from hailstorms which swept the locality.

Mr. Merriam was married November 5, 1899, to Ethel R. Garretson, daughter of William H. Garretson, of Sioux county, and an adjoining neighbor. Mr. and Mrs. Merriam have two children living—Homer T., aged eight years, and Orlene G., now two years of age. Rilla and Nellie are dead. The family have a pleasant home, and have a host of good friends in the community.

Mr. Merriam is an Independent voter.

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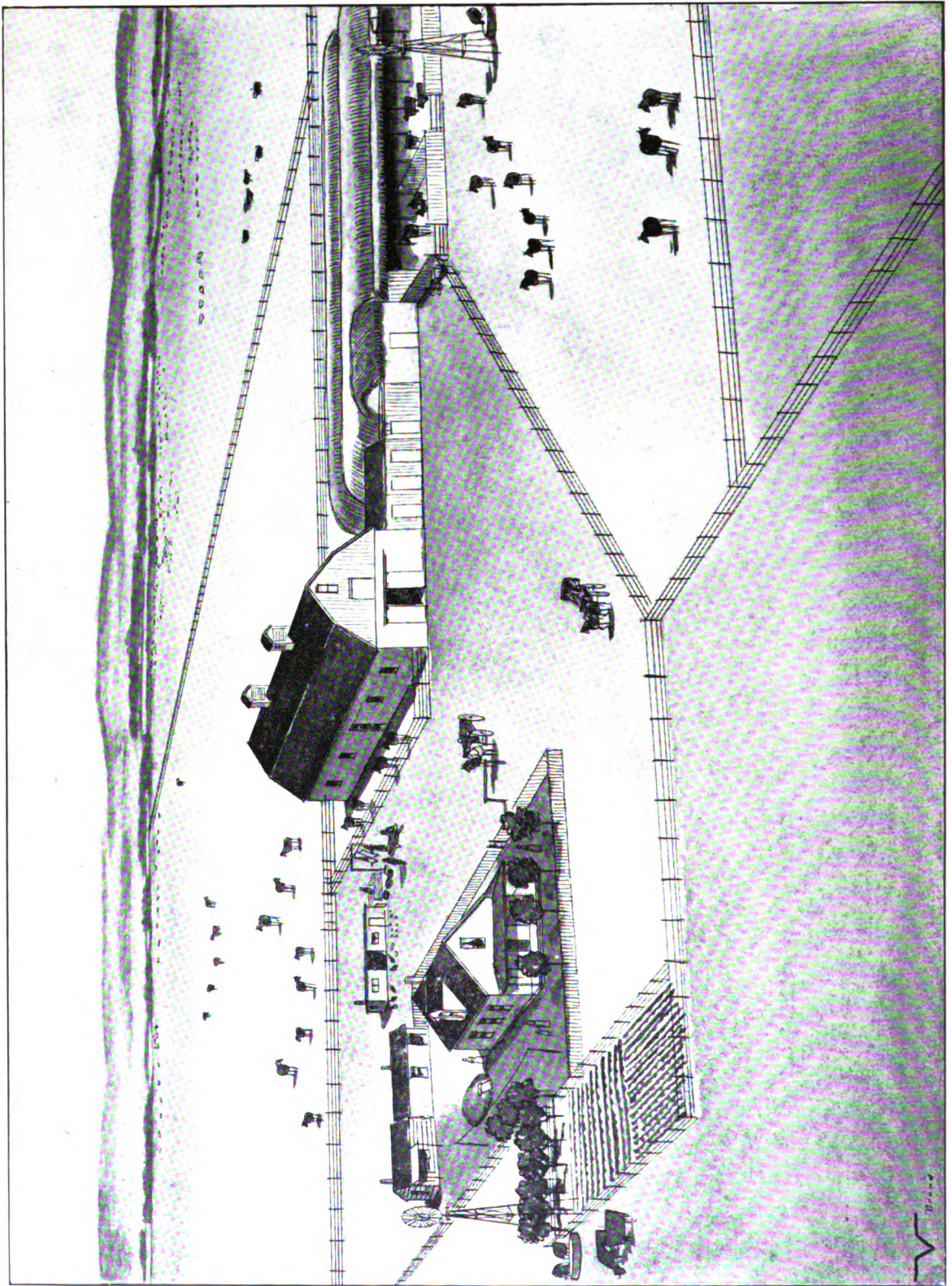
#### S. J. TILLMAN.

The above mentioned gentleman is among the best known breeders of pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs in western Nebraska. He resides in Ragan, Harlan county, Nebraska, where he has built up a fine business to which he devotes his entire time and attention. His place is known all over this section as "Sunnyslope", the celebrated home of the herd of Duroc Jerseys familiar to all breeders and buyers of pure bred hogs wherever this business is carried on.

Mr. Tillman began in the hog business in 1897 at Dana, Kansas, and in 1900 came to Ragan where he has since lived. Here he owns fourteen acres of land, but does no farming, buying all the feed he needs for his stock. He handles all of the leading strains, and has at head of his herd Jumbo Ideal and Crimson Dandy, the highest priced yearling boar ever sold up to that time. Mr. Tillman sold a







"FLYING V RANCH," RESIDENCE OF A. W. ATKINS,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.

one-half interest to Messrs. Seller & Sons at Huntley for five hundred and five dollars and has since sold his entire interest to them in a pig out of Nebraska Wonder by Crimson Wonder and Jumbo Ideal 43037 by Jumbo's Perfection 19901, a celebrated animal which won the third prize at the World's Fair, and later at the Nebraska State Fair captured the first prize twice, besides third place at five years old. Both Jumbo's Ideal and Crimson Dandy were shown in 1907. He holds a sale of their stock every year, and in 1907 held a sale of sows, which was attended by many of the largest dealers in hogs in the state of Nebraska. His success has been phenomenal since coming here, and he has sold his product all over the state, and each year the fame of the red hog is spreading as farmers and stockmen recognize their value as an all-round favorite.

Our subject has had one hundred and seventy head, but now has ninety, which includes some of the finest stock to be found in the country.

For eight years Mr. Tillman was connected with the Rock Island railroad, and was also station agent at Gretna, Kansas, for that railway for several years. He has been connected with railroading for thirteen years. It was while working at Gretna that he started in the hog business, at first with a few pure bred Duroc Jerseys. He gradually increased his herd and worked successfully into the business and richly deserves the success he has attained through perseverance and honesty of dealing.

Mr. Tillman was married in 1887 to Anna Brown, of Otterville, Missouri. He has a family of twelve children, nine of whom are living. One son, George, died July 9, 1907, at the age of fourteen years. Two other sons died in 1905 at the age of five and six years.

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#### AUBURN W. ATKINS.

Auburn W. Atkins, for the past many years a leading citizen of Morrill, formerly Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is proprietor of an extensive and valuable ranch in Court House Rock precinct. He has been identified with the growth and upbuilding of that region in the line of agriculture until a history of its development would be incomplete without mention of his labors there and the pioneer experiences which he has passed through.

Mr. Atkins was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on April 16, 1859, a son of Levi and Persis A. (Clarke) Atkins. His father was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil

war, and was one of those brave men who never returned from the field of battle, giving up his life in 1863; the mother survived her husband by ten years, at which time our subject left his boyhood home and went south to attend school at Greenville, Mississippi, making his home with an uncle at that place. After three years there he returned to Ohio, and after a visit of a few months migrated to Hamburg, Iowa, arriving there in August, 1876, where for a year he attended school. He next went to Atchison county, Missouri, spending about two years there, at the same time attending at Hamburg. From there he came to Ogallala, Nebraska, where he entered the employ of Sheidley Brothers, large ranchmen, for whom he followed the range for three years, then went with the Ogallala Land & Cattle Company, remaining with them until 1887. Prior to this, about 1884 he had filed on a pre-emption claim, located on Cedar creek, Cheyenne county, and also took a homestead and timber claim, which he sold to the Belmont Irrigation and Water Power Company in 1893. He finally located on his present ranch on sections 22 and 23, township 19, range 49, and now owns two thousand acres with immense tracts of hay and range land, on which he runs about one thousand cattle and two hundred horses. He has one of the finest equipped ranches in the region, which is beautifully situated on the North Platte river, and known far and near as the "Flying V Ranch." Mr. Atkins is a genuine old-timer and widely known stockman, and a man who has done his full share in the success which has come to his region. He combines the hospitality of the south and the cordiality of the west; a man of refinement and education he is at ease in any gathering of men, east or west.

Mr. Atkins was married on July 16, 1893, at Sidney, Nebraska, to Miss Lulia Barnhart, a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, who came to Nebraska when a small girl with her parents, David A. and Malinda (Moore) Barnhart. They have four children, named as follows: Clarke W., Allen B., Auburn H. and Lulia Virginia, all at home and who form a most interesting family of youngsters, of whom our subject is justly proud. Mr. Atkins is a Democrat, and in 1898 was nominated for the state legislature and defeated by only seventy votes in one of the strongest Republican districts in the state, carrying his own county by a large majority. He takes an active and leading part in local and county politics and is a worthy representative of the people of his section. The family are all communicants of the Episcopal church. Mr. At-

kings affiliates with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Elks and the Modern Woodmen. A view of the ranch buildings and the beautiful Platte Valley landscape is to be found elsewhere in this work.

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### JOHN ORMESHER.

John Ormesher, residing on a homestead of four hundred and eighty acres at Swan Lake, Nebraska, was born in England, September 6, 1872, on his father's farm. He came to America with his parents, Edward and Margaret (Bell) Ormesher, at the age of ten years, the family residing in Lincoln for a short time before settling in Cherry county, where they still live. Our subject's education was attained in England, never attending school since coming to this country. There were five children in the family, of whom he is the oldest member, and when he reached the age of twenty-one years he started farming for himself on rented land. This was in 1891, the beginning of the drouth period, and for three successive years his crops failed and he lost all he had, and at the end of the fourth year he was four hundred dollars in debt.

Mr. Ormesher has been a great traveler, taking many trips to different parts of the country, looking at land in order to see if he could better himself, but never found any place that suited him better than here. He had gone through many discouragements and had his ups and downs, but after a time things changed for the better and of late years he has been very successful and is now proprietor of six hundred and forty acres, nearly all of which is good hay land. His farm is located on Swan Lake, in section 35, township 32, range 27, and is a well improved piece of property. He engages in stock raising to some extent, keeping about eighty head of cattle and thirty horses. Mr. Ormesher is a great potato raiser, and follows that line of farming principally. Some years he planted forty acres which yielded one hundred bushels per acre, selling for one dollar per bushel, which is a very profitable enterprise. He has had the contract for furnishing Rosebud and Fort Niobrara with potatoes, and for a number of years prior to its abandonment furnished the fort with hay. He is without a doubt, one of the most progressive and successful farmers in this locality. He is adding to a fine orchard of fruit trees, having already about six hundred in fine growing order.

Mr. Ormesher has never married, preferring to "batch it" for the present at least. His

entire time and attention is devoted to improving his place and building up a model farm, and he is well satisfied with the results of his labors in Cherry county. He is active in all local and school affairs, and lends his influence in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home.

Politically Mr. Ormesher is a Populist, but always votes for the candidate he believes to be the best man.

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### MILTON SMITH.

In naming those who have spent many years in western Nebraska and have done their full share in the development of their section of the country in the way of building up farms, assisting in establishing schools, etc., a prominent place must be accorded the gentleman whose name heads this personal review. Mr. Smith is a resident of Woodson precinct, where he owns a valuable estate and is considered one of the leading old settlers.

Milton Smith was born in Monroe county, Indiana, in 1869. Both his father and mother were natives of that state, and made it their home up to 1882, when they came to Nebraska, locating near Beatrice on a farm, where they spent a few years and later lived on different farms in Gage and Jefferson counties. In 1887 our subject came to what is now Perkins county, accompanied by his father, and the latter took a homestead and tree claim on section 26, township 12, range 35, and began to build up a home and farm. There they went through all the early pioneer experiences, hauling supplies from Paxton, which was their nearest trading post and mail station. There were eight children in the family, Milton being the eldest, Elizabeth, Olivia Bell, Valinda K., Laura, Mattie, Walter and Seth.

Our subject remained with his parents up to 1891, helped his father build up a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres and put everything in first class shape, then struck out for himself, filing on a homestead on section 4, township 11, range 35, proved up on the place, "batching it" there for several years. He did all of his first work on the homestead with a team of oxen, breaking up ground for sod crops the first year, and lived in a sod shanty. He started in very humble fashion, having but fifteen dollars in cash to buy tools, etc., with, and was obliged to work out at whatever he could get to do in the vicinity of his farm in order to make a living. He saw hard times for a number of years but managed to improve the place a little and remained



there up to 1907, when he located on his present ranch. This is a finely improved place, having a complete set of good buildings, including a commodious residence twenty-eight by thirty-six feet, barn forty-eight by fifty-two feet, well, windmills, fences, etc. There are in all one thousand six hundred acres in the place, and of this one hundred and twenty-five acres are cultivated and the balance in hay and pasture.

Mr. Smith is an active member of his community in advancing its best interests, and a staunch Republican. He is at present secretary and treasurer of the Paxton and Elsie Telephone Company.

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### ALVIE S. SAXTON.

Alvie S. Saxton, recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of Sioux county, resides on his valuable estate in section 5, township 32, range 53. He has followed farming throughout his career, and has lived in western Nebraska during the past twenty-three years, and during his early residence in this state has experienced many interesting and exciting phases of pioneer life, which he recounts with accuracy.

Mr. Saxton was born in Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1863. His father, George W. Saxton, was a carpenter by trade and followed that occupation nearly all his life. Both parents were of American stock.

Our subject grew up in his native county until he was ten years of age, when the family removed to Tama county, Iowa, where they lived for ten years located in Toledo, and where his father worked at the carpenter trade until he died in the spring of 1885. After the father's death the mother and the rest of the family moved to Dawes county, Nebraska, where they stayed one year, and then came to Sioux county, taking up claims and remaining here ever since.

In 1885 Mr. Saxton left Iowa and came to Nebraska, settling on a tract of land near what is now the town of Whitney, in Dawes county, and remained there for about a year, then came to Sioux county and located on a homestead, situated on the north side of Pine Ridge, fourteen miles northwest of Crawford. He "batched" it there for three years, starting his farm along, using ox teams to break up land and for hauling purposes, and did all his work with oxen for five years. He put up a log shanty and lived in it for a number of years, but steadily improved the place in elegant shape. In 1906 Mr. Saxton took an addi-

tional Kincaid homestead in sections 4 and 5, township 32, range 53, and he is now owner of seven hundred and eighty acres, using the greater part as a ranch for a number of cattle which he runs annually.

Mr. Saxton was married in 1888, to Sibbie Grau, daughter of John M. and Ella (Burnside) Grau, her father being a well-known veteran of the late war. Her father enlisted at the breaking out of the war, and served during the entire war period. He was in many battles and once was shot through the lungs, and is still living in Toledo, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Saxton have a family of nine children, named as follows: Elva, John, Arthur, Lewis, Mary, Milford and Clifford (twins), Frank and Willard. The family occupy a foremost place among the prominent old settlers of their locality, and have a pleasant home and enjoy the friendship and acquaintance of a host of people.

Mr. Saxton was elected county commissioner in 1907, and is now serving in that capacity.

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### JOHN E. ENDERS.

John E. Enders, one of the early settlers of Brown county, Nebraska, is now the owner of an extensive estate in that locality and has gained a comfortable competence and enviable name through his perseverance and strict honesty and integrity in word and deed. Mr. Enders was born on a farm near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 12, 1858. His father, Frederick Enders, a native of New York state, born in 1826, was a pioneer in Rock county, Wisconsin, and later in Lynn county, Iowa. He married Rachel M. Carnes, born in Mercersville, Pennsylvania, in 1828, of Irish extraction; they had a family of two children, of whom our subject is the younger. He was reared and educated in Iowa, when a boy assisting his father in carrying on the farm work; at the age of twenty-six years he came to Nebraska and settled in Brown county where he located May 30, 1884, on section 33, township 27, range 24, he and B. S. Sawyer being the first white men to settle in Lakeland. He "batched it" here for seven years, living in a sod shanty, engaging almost from the first in the stock business. He took a homestead and kept improving the place, putting up better buildings, fencing it and equipping his farm with all necessary machinery, and made a success of the work. In 1906 he built a fine two-story residence, fitted with many modern improvements and conveniences, and has one of

the best houses in the locality. He also put up a commodious barn and cattle shed, together with wells, windmills, etc. His farm on the banks of Enders Lake is well supplied with good water, the lake, covering three hundred acres of land, is stocked with bass; altogether, this is one of the most valuable properties in the county. The ranch consists of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, with leases on eight hundred acres additional. Mr. Enders' place is a great hunting and fishing resort, which he has fitted up for the convenience of his patrons, who come from all parts of the state.

Mr. Enders was married June 25, 1891, to Miss Emma Day, daughter of L. F. Day, an old settler in Brown county. Mr. and Mrs. Enders have a family of four children, who are named as follows: Harry L., Fred L., Frank Graham and Helen R. Mr. Enders is active in local public affairs, and has held minor offices at different times. He is now serving as assessor in his district, and always takes an interest in whatever is for the advancement of conditions in his community. Politically he is a Democrat. Fraternally he holds membership in the Masonic and Pythian lodges in Ainsworth.

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#### AUGUST SUDMAN.

August Sudman, who is one of the leading business men and financiers of Deuel county, Nebraska, conducts the leading general merchandise establishment at Oshkosh. He has always been prominent in local affairs, and has held the office of postmaster for the past fourteen years, resigning in 1908 on account of pressure of his business interests which makes it impossible for him to devote the necessary time to the work. He is widely known throughout the region, and is one of the most highly esteemed and respected men in this section of the country.

Mr. Sudman was born in Germany October 6, 1865. There were five children in his father's family, he being the youngest of three sons, all of whom are now residing in western Nebraska, one a ranchman of Keith county, and the other living near our subject in Deuel county. The father and mother lived and died in their native county, and one sister still makes her home there.

When our subject was a young man of seventeen years he came alone to America, and located in western Nebraska, securing employment on what is now known as the Persinger Cattle Ranch, near Lodgepole, and situated

on Lodgepole creek, remaining with the outfit about two years. He filed on a homestead on section 10, township 13, range 44, proved up on the place, then sold out, leaving the farm in 1893. In that year he returned to Germany for a visit, remaining six months. During the early years of his residence here Mr. Sudman trailed sheep from Utah to western Nebraska, roughing it all over the country, and has seen every kind of frontier life. He also worked in his brother's store at Chappell for a time, but most of his time was spent in ranching.

Upon his return from Germany in 1894, Mr. Sudman settled in the village of Oshkosh, establishing a general store, this being the first store there, and was under the firm name of A. Sudman & Co. Our subject was active manager of the business, and still retains that position, the company having built up an extensive trade throughout the section, and are constantly increasing their patronage. A brother, Fred Sudman, is engaged in the same business at Chappell, Nebraska, and is also prosperous and successful, both being men of exceptional ability, thrifty and shrewd.

Mr. Sudman was married in Oshkosh, on June 6, 1897, to Miss Pearl Plummer, who is a native of Missouri, and whose father was a prominent old settler of Deuel county, locating here in 1888. Our subject's was the first wedding in the village of Oshkosh, and was attended by a host of friends of both bride and groom.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sudman, namely: Clyde, Donald and Glenn, all attending the public schools. The family have a pleasant and comfortable home and are numbered among the popular members of the community, having a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Besides his town interests Mr. Sudman is interested in the ranching and stock business.

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#### NOIS AWRANTS.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch occupies a foremost place among the early settlers of western Nebraska, and has been engaged in farming and other enterprises in this region for more than a quarter of a century past. He is widely known throughout the country, is recognized as a gentleman of active public spirit and worthy citizenship, and is highly esteemed by all with whom he has had to do in a business or social way. Mr. Awrants is at present engaged in the livery business in Ericson, and was proprietor

of the Ericson Hotel which had a large patronage, but was burnt down in October, 1907.

Mr. Awrants is a native of Defiance county, Ohio, born in 1848. His parents were of Dutch and Irish descent and originally came from Pennsylvania, settling in Ohio in the days of its pioneerage. Our subject grew up in that state until a young man, then started for the western states, locating in Iowa where he was engaged in general farm work. In 1881 he emigrated to Nebraska, taking up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in Merrick county, on which he lived for six years, then sold out at a profit. After that he operated a ranch near Central City for two years, then removed to Palmer, Nebraska, and entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway as section foreman, and was connected with that road for fifteen years.

Mr. Awrants embarked in the hotel business in 1907 and burnt out the same year. Regardless of this misfortune he has been very successful in his ventures. He is a thorough business man and well liked by all, one of the enterprising citizens of whatever community he is a member of, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all.

Mr. Awrants was married in 1870 to Miss Mary Hadix, a native of Indiana, and after many years of happy married life Mrs. Awrants passed away February 7, 1901. They had eight children, namely: Stephen H., Clidy, Sarah, Mina, Hattie, Frona, Zora and Harvey H. Three of the children are deceased—Sarah, Mina and Clidy. The remaining children are all worthy citizens, and are making their own way in the world. Mr. Awrants remained a widower for three years, then was married to Mrs. Sarah Lockwood, widow of C. W. Lockwood. Our subject and his good wife are devoted members of the Christian church of Ericson. Politically he is a Prohibitionist.

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#### PERMAN CRAMBLET.

A drive through the highly cultivated fields of section 23, township 31, range 53, in Sioux county, Nebraska, convinces one of the thrift enjoyed in that locality, and a visitor at the home of Mr. Perman Cramblet is impressed with the fact that careful management and honest industry are prominent characteristics of the owner of this farm, which highly cultivated tract compares favorably with that of any place in the county. Mr. Cramblet resides in section 23, township 31, range 53,

where he has gathered about him the comforts and many of the luxuries of rural life.

The gentleman above named was born in Fulton county, Illinois, in 1854. His father, James F., was a blacksmith, of American blood, and he married Elizabeth Sommers, also a native of this country, she born in Indiana. The family lived on a farm in Illinois, and there our subject was reared. In 1886 he came west to Nebraska, locating four miles south of the town of Crawford, taking up a pre-emption and later a homestead, and lived in that locality for fifteen years. He built up a good home and developed a fine farm, and in 1890 sold the place and for a time worked as a contractor.

When he first struck this section of the country he freighted all through this part, and witnessed all the pioneer experiences, leading a typical frontiersman's existence for many years.

Mr. Cramblet bought his present place in 1903. This ranch consists of four hundred and eighty acres, all lying along the White river. It is well supplied with timber, rock, etc., for building, and there is a beautiful little lake in its grounds, supplied from natural springs, making it one of the most sightly locations in the county. He has put up corrals and all necessary ranch buildings, as he runs a large number of cattle annually.

In 1904 Mr. Cramblet filed on a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres, on which he moved in section 31, township 6, range 3. He has put on many improvements and good buildings, and has a fine home here. His ranch home is called "Lake Ranch," and he uses that exclusively as a stock ranch, farming a part of his Kincaid farm.

Our subject is called one of the substantial citizens of his community, who has always done all in his power to help build up the region, assisting in establishing schools and taking an active part in all local affairs of importance. Politically he is an Independent voter.

Mr. Cramblet was united in marriage December 16, 1880, to Rachel Hoxworth, of Knox county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Cramblet have been born the following children: Adella, now Mrs. James Nester, and Clara, married to W. C. Thurman.

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#### JEREMIAH C. PERCY.

Jeremiah C. Percy, the genial postmaster of Paxton, Nebraska, although a recent comer to this section, is a typical westerner, and has passed many years on the frontier

Mr. Percy was born in Franklin county, Ohio, December 15, 1839, where he was reared. His father, Joseph Percy, a farmer, was a native of New Jersey, and died in Mercer county, Illinois. His mother, whose maiden name was Abigail Crane, was of old Puritan stock, and died in Ohio. The family moved to Franklin county, Ohio, in 1834, and in 1855 to Illinois. At the breaking out of the Civil war, Mr. Percy crossed the Mississippi and enlisted in Company E, Seventh Iowa Infantry. With his regiment he saw service for many months, taking part in a number of engagements; he was at Ft. Donelson, in the battle of Shiloh, battle of Corinth, on the Atlantic campaign, and many minor encounters. On May 15, 1864, he received a severe wound from which he recovered and rejoined his regiment in the Carolinas and participated in the grand review. In July, 1865, he received his discharge, returning to Illinois. From 1866 to 1882 Mr. Percy was engaged in farming in Peoria county, Illinois, then went into Missouri, locating in Nodaway county, and there established a farm, which he operated for a number of years. He was very successful in that part of the country, and accumulated considerable property. In 1907 Mr. Percy came to Keith county, settling in Paxton, where he was appointed postmaster in December. He is also engaged in farming, having a tract of one thousand six hundred acres a short distance from the town, part of which is wild land and the balance improved; part of this he has distributed in his family.

Mr. Percy married Miss Jennie C. Lowe, a native of New Hampshire, in Mercer county, Illinois, in 1867. They have three children, Elmer, who operates the farm near Paxton, Gertie, wife of Fred L. Bent, an employe of the Union Pacific Railroad at Paxton, and Silvia, who married Howard H. Holden, a cattle ranchman of Fontenelle, Wyoming. The daughters were brides of a double wedding solemnized November 19, 1908.

In political views Mr. Percy is a Republican. He is an adherent to Christian Science, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. We are pleased to call attention to a portrait of Mr. Percy and his good wife appearing on another page of this work.

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#### WILLIAM J. TAYLOR.

William J. Taylor conducts a general merchandise store and deals in coal and grain in Brule, Keith county, Nebraska, where he has

succeeded in building up a profitable and prosperous business.

He is a native of Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on a farm January 1, 1861, his ancestors being of mixed nationality, Irish, German and Scotch. His parents, William and Eliza (Lynn) Taylor, were reputable farmers in the Keystone state, where the mother still resides; the father died there in 1892.

The subject of our sketch came west in 1886, taking a homestead on section 6, township 12, range 40, southwest of Brule, Keith county, Nebraska, where he lived first in a sod shanty. He proved up on his claim and returned to Pennsylvania where, from 1892 to 1898, he was on the road as a traveling salesman. In 1898 he returned to Keith county and resumed farming, which he continued until 1899, when he established a general store at Brule, opening for business in September. There had been a store in the village from 1884, a small struggling affair, but it did not meet the demands of the country. Our subject had very little on which to start, but he believed the opening for a store was very promising and that it would only require close attention and careful buying to become established permanently. His capital consisted of only forty-five dollars and five dollars of that he paid for an old stove, which is still in use. For a long time Mrs. Taylor ran the store and our subject worked on the section for the Union Pacific Railway Company, teaching through the winters, having been in the latter employment twenty-three years. In this thrifty way they kept branching out and adding to their lines until they had a fine large stock in a building 25 x 80 feet in size. In 1899 Mr. Taylor was appointed postmaster, a position he has continued to hold ever since.

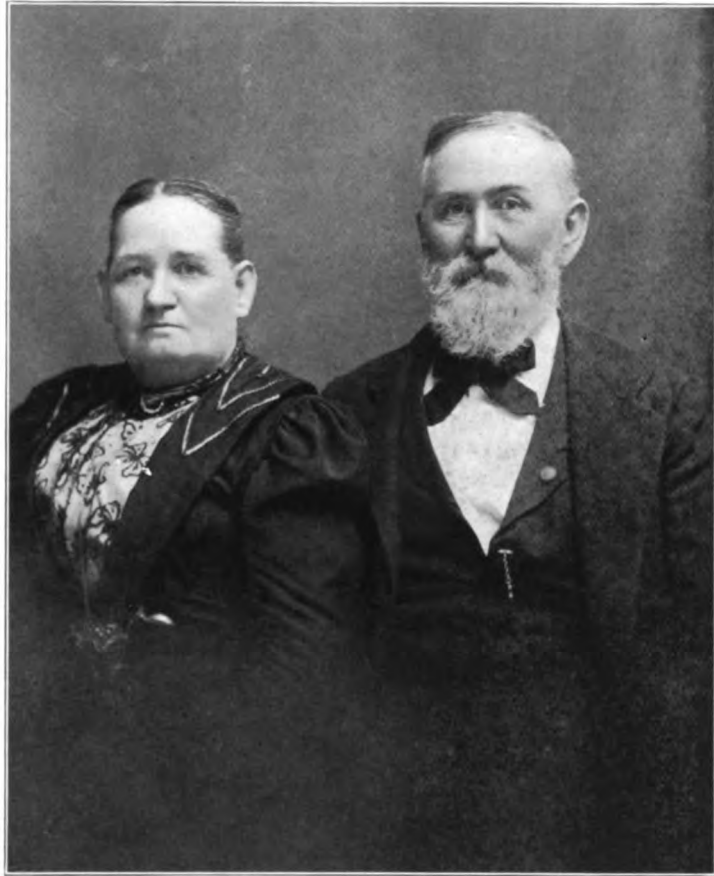
William J. Taylor was married, near Latta Grove, Pennsylvania, September 29, 1885, to Miss Emma Walker, daughter of David and Leah (Dell) Walker, farmers of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have four children: Zelda, Fred, Ethel and Theodore; all except Fred, who was born in Pennsylvania, are natives of Nebraska.

Mr. Taylor was county surveyor of Keith county for nine years, and he has always been active in matters of local importance. He has built up a good business from but a very small start and can truly be classed among the self-made men of the county.

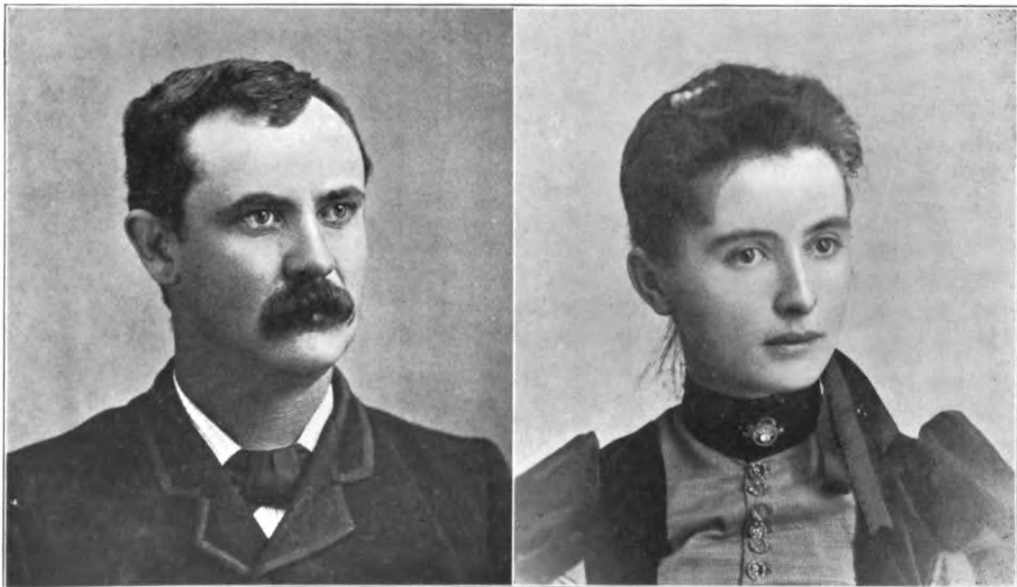
He is a Democrat in politics and a member of Ogallala Lodge, No. 274, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

We publish portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Tay-





MR. AND MRS. J. C. PERCY.



MR. AND MRS. W. J. TAYLOR.



lor in this work from photographs taken about the time of their coming to Nebraska.

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#### ERNEST E. BOWDEN.

The gentleman named above resides in section 10, township 34, range 26, of Cherry county, where he has a pleasant home, and is recognized as one of the successful and prosperous agriculturists of this locality.

Mr. Bowden was born in Winnebago City, Minnesota, April 17, 1865; he being the fourth in a family of eleven children. The father was of English descent and the mother, Elizabeth (McGowan) Bowden, was an American by birth. The father, Richard Bowden, served in a Minnesota regiment during the late Civil war. He was a farmer by occupation, and reared his family of eleven children in the country. In 1880 he came to Nebraska, and for two years he was manager of the Deer Park Hotel. Then for a time he had charge of a government saw mill and later he bought a farm near O'Neil. He died at Norfolk in 1907. At the age of ten years our subject began working out at whatever he could get to do in order to earn his own living and take the burden of his support from his parents, and while a mere lad often took a man's work on farms in the vicinity of his home. In 1881 he came to Cherry county, landing at Fort Niobrara on November 10. Here he carried mail to Boiling Springs for twelve weeks, making one trip each week, over a rough road beset by many dangers. He then joined a surveying party, traveling three hundred and twenty miles west of Fort Niobrara, and in the early winter of 1882 returned to Cherry county, where he remained through the summer of the following year. He then entered the employ of James M. Thatcher, who was running the post trader's store at Fort Niobrara, and remained at the post until 1889. About 1892 he bought his present homestead of three hundred and twenty acres, of which there were ninety acres broken, the balance being in hay and pasture land. On this he has built a fine residence and a complete set of substantial farm buildings, with fences enclosing his entire farm. He has planted a large number of trees, has a fine orchard growing and keeps some stock. He has been very successful in his farming and stockraising enterprises, notwithstanding the hard times he has experienced since coming to Cherry county. However, by perseverance, he has succeeded to a marked degree and is now owner of a fine estate, a good home and

farm. He was one of the first men to settle in this county, and knows only two men who were here ahead of him. He has always done all he could to build up his home and aid in developing the locality, and thus has helped in the growth of his county.

Mr. Bowden was married December 22, 1889, to Miss Ida Archer, daughter of Lewis and Agnes (McCall) Archer, of American stock, and old settlers in Cherry county, coming to this region in 1884, where he built up a good home and farm, and raised his family. Mr. and Mrs. Bowden have a family of four children, namely: Virginia Belle, Freeman Jasper, Lillie and Charles Clarence.

Mr. Bowden is active in all school affairs in his district, and lends his influence toward the forwarding of everything that tends to the advancement of educational and commercial conditions in his community. He has never held any office, takes a keen interest in local and national affairs, and is an intelligent and well-read man who keeps abreast of the times. Politically he is a Republican.

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#### J. A. NORRIS.

J. A. Norris, one of the successful farmers and stockmen of Williamsburg township, is a prominent and highly respected citizen of that locality.

Mr. Norris was born in 1860. He came to Saunders county, Nebraska, with his parents when a lad of ten years, locating in Williamsburg township in 1885. He is now the proprietor of four hundred acres of river bottom land in sections 13 and 7 on the Platte river, which he devotes to grain raising. His crops show a yield of twenty-two bushels of wheat to the acre, corn fifty, oats fifty to sixty bushels, which is considered a very good average. He runs from one hundred and fifty to three hundred hogs on his place. Several years ago he was engaged in raising full-blooded Poland China hogs, but now has mixed breeds, but is breeding back to Poland Chinas, as he considers they develop quicker, and it takes less feed to keep them fat. His drove of hogs now are a fine lot, and in splendid condition. He also has a large bunch of polled Durham cattle, marketing a carload last spring. He keeps fifty cows, and makes a specialty of fresh milk cows, which he sells on the spring market, also feeding about eighty head of steers each year. All the feed which he raises on his farm is fed out at home, and he finds mixed farming and stock raising a great suc-

cess here in Nebraska, which he thinks is the best state he ever struck for this business, and he has had plenty of experience. He has fine buildings on his farm, and every improvement necessary for conducting a model farm. He has a fine orchard, and successfully grows the most delicious fruits such as apples, peaches, plums and grapes, the latter being of the finest quality to be found on the market.

Mr. Norris' fine property and entire possessions have been acquired by hard labor and good management, supplemented by strict honesty of word and deed.

He was married in 1880 to Miss Rene Tower, and to them have been born three daughters, as follows: Clara, Adaline and Zelta.

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#### WILLIAM MCGANNON.

William McGannon, who has made an enviable record as a farmer and stock raiser, the result of his own toil and economy, and a man who enjoys the respect and confidence of a host of warm friends in the community in which his useful life is passing, was born in the city of Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1858. His father, David McGannon, was a butcher. Both of his parents were natives of Ireland. When our subject was but a boy the family came to Minnesota, settling in Olmstead county, near Winona. His father opened the first butcher shop in Rochester, Minnesota, and also conducted a dray line. Here our subject spent his boyhood days on the frontier.

When Mr. McGannon was seventeen years of age he left his home in Minnesota, and returning to West Virginia, attending school at St. Vincent's College. Some time later he conducted a butcher shop at Lanesborough, and after a time opened a shop of his own at Fountain, Minnesota, where he bought and shipped stock. He also conducted a butcher shop at Canton, Minnesota, for about seven years.

In 1891 Mr. McGannon came to Dawes county, Nebraska, took a homestead and bought some land, and engaged in the raising of cattle and sheep. In 1898 he came to his present ranch in the Pine Ridge, where he has erected a substantial and comfortable house in section 19, township 31, range 49. He secured adjoining land, and now has six thousand five hundred acres of deeded land, all of which is fenced and cross fenced. He has six miles along the Trunk Butte creek and two miles on the Indian creek. There is a small stream three quarters of a mile in length

which rises on his ranch. Mr. McGannon has one thousand acres of land under cultivation, and has five hundred acres of the finest timber to be found in Dawes county. He has erected substantial and commodious buildings, and engages extensively in the raising of horses and hogs. Since acquiring this land, he has greatly improved it, and has purchased modern agricultural implements to assist him in making his place one of the most modern and productive in western Nebraska. He has a gasoline engine on his farm and also a steam engine and plow.

Mr. McGannon and Miss Jane Davis were married at Fountain, Minnesota, January 19, 1880. She is a daughter of Patrick and Bridget Davis, native of Ireland. Two children came to bless this union, George Arthur and David Edward.

In politics Mr. McGannon is a Democrat. A more enthusiastic or public spirited citizen of Dawes county could not be found, for from his start in this locality Mr. McGannon has taken an active part in all matters of local interest, and is a firm believer in the future of Dawes county. His efforts to get a railroad to the table-land of the county have been untiring. From the crops raised on his cultivated land he has demonstrated that there are places in Dawes county where the land is as fertile and valuable, and can be made to produce as much as irrigated land.

As an entertainer and enthusiastic storyteller, Mr. McGannon has few equals. Upright and honorable in all his dealings, he has manifested on all occasions a high integrity and a strict adherence to principle. Mr. McGannon has recently become proprietor of the Pleasant View Sanitarium, an important hot springs health resort, at Thermopolis, Wyoming, whence he has removed, leaving his sons to operate his ranching interests in Dawes county, Nebraska.

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#### EILERT HEERTEN.

Eilert Heerten, residing on section 6, township 34, range 22, is one of the prosperous and influential agriculturists of Keya Paha county, Nebraska. Mr. Heerten was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, January 21, 1847, the fifth of a family of eight children, and has spent all his life on a farm. His father, S. Heerten, never left his native land, where both he and his wife died. Mr. Heerten sailed from the port of Bremen in the vessel New York in 1869 and on arrival in the new world proceeded to Illinois, where he worked for a number of

years on farms in Woodford, Mason and Menard counties before coming to Nebraska. He landed here in February, 1885, and took a homestead in section 6, township 34, range 22, and still occupies that place. He at once built a sod house, the total cost of which was one dollar and sixty cents, and he and his family lived in it for thirteen years, then he erected a fine frame dwelling. He has added to his farm until he now owns two thousand four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land, and cultivates three hundred acres, running about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and twenty horses. When he came here he had but one team and a wagon and five dollars in money, so he feels well repaid for his labors in this part of the country. During the dry years he often became discouraged and wanted to leave, but could get no bid on his place and was obliged to stay. He lost four crops by drouth, and has been hailed out eight times in the time he has lived here, seven of the icy downpours occurring within fourteen years. The second year he lived here was the hardest he ever saw. He tried working on the railroad on the Loup river to get enough money to support his family. In 1905 he sold seven loads of hogs and eight hundred dollars' worth of cattle, which shows that he finds stock raising a very profitable enterprise.

In 1871 our subject married Miss Amke Rademaker, born in Germany, who came to America in 1868. They have five children, namely: John, Richard, Frank, Edward and Bessie, all living at home at present.

Mr. Heerten has been school director of his district for the past eighteen years. In political faith he is usually Democratic. While reared in the Lutheran church, there being no congregation near, the family now worship with the Methodists.

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#### LEWIS BROTT.

Lewis Brott, who occupies a foremost place among the pioneer settlers of Cheyenne county, is one of the extensive land owners of Trognitz precinct. He has passed nearly a quarter of a century here and during that time has not only witnessed a wonderful transformation, but has been a potent factor in producing the same. He is known throughout the county as a citizen of sterling worth and a farmer and ranchman of intelligence and enterprise.

Mr. Brott was born six miles from Victoria, Knox county, Illinois, on October 14, 1861, and remained in that vicinity up to 1885. His

father was a farmer there and our subject was raised and educated in the country, the whole family later coming to Nebraska, where both father and mother died in 1906. Here they had acquired three hundred and twenty acres in section 14, township 16, range 52. They were well known throughout the region, and held in the highest esteem by all who knew them. There were seven children in the family of whom four survive, Lewis being the fourth child in order of birth; two brothers reside in Denver and the fourth is in California. When Lewis was twenty-four years of age he migrated to Dawson county, Nebraska, and spent a year there, then came on to Cheyenne county, locating in Potter in the spring of the following year, where he engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with his brother Andrew; they enjoyed a good trade throughout the surrounding country, and carried on the establishment for five years. In 1890 our subject went to Denver, where for a time he followed contracting and building in partnership with his brothers and then went into the mountains hunting and prospecting. Although they located mineral it was not in sufficient quantities and their mining operations were discontinued.

In the spring of 1895 Mr. Brott returned to Cheyenne county, purchased a quarter section of land in section 14, adjoining his father's homestead with the proceeds of a timber claim which he owned. He has an interest in the parents' homestead, where he has built a two-story, seven-room dwelling, together with stables and sheds sufficient for sheltering the necessary stock. He has one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, with over a hundred acres of fine alfalfa, raising this principally for the seed from which he realized a handsome profit, having obtained as high as thirty-five dollars per acre for the seed alone, besides having the hay for use on his ranch. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods of operating his ranch, and has experimented with different grains, striving to get the most out of the soil, being very successful in his experiments.

Mr. Brott has always taken an active part in local affairs, and is a gentleman of true citizenship and progressiveness. In 1908 he was appointed deputy assessor, and is still serving in that capacity. He is a staunch Democrat and lends his influence for good government, local and national.

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#### DAVID W. HAMAKER.

David W. Hamaker, who resides in section 5, township 29, range 54, Sioux county, Ne-

braska, is an old settler in that region, and a gentleman of intelligence and enterprise, who has acquired a good property and the esteem and respect of his fellowmen. He has made section 5, township 29, range 54, his home for many years, and owns and occupies a pleasant home and farm.

Mr. Hamaker was born in 1863, in Andrew county, Missouri. His father, Daniel, was a farmer and mechanic, and one of the earliest settlers in Kansas, where he lived with his family for many years; the father died there in 1871, and the following year our subject with his mother went to Iowa to reside. They located in Marshall county, and there he grew to manhood, working at whatever he could find to do during those years to help support his mother and the younger children. In 1884 he returned to Kansas and spent four years in Dickinson county, where he worked on a farm, then came to Nebraska and started to work at Fort Robinson. He soon afterwards secured employment as a cow boy and followed that occupation during the years 1890-'91, traveling on the range near Whistle creek. He next took up a tree claim situated three miles south of his present location, and remained on it for several years, coming to the ranch he now occupies in 1900, which he filed on as a homestead. Here he started to improve, putting up good buildings, fencing it, and gradually was able to buy land adjoining until he acquired a nice tract consisting of six hundred and forty acres, all good land, and this he has well stocked with cattle and other stock, horses and the best breed of Hereford cattle and he has quite a large bunch of both.

Mr. Hamaker has done splendidly since locating here, and is a thoroughly industrious and energetic ranchman, employing modern methods in operating his place, from which he derives a nice income each year. He has always been active in local affairs of importance, serving as precinct assessor for two or three terms, always standing for the best interests of his community.

#### PETER S. PETERSON.

Peter S. Peterson, residing in section 23, township 18, range 43, of Deuel county, Nebraska, is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers in that portion of the state. He was born in Denmark on the 6th day of May, 1850, and is the fifth child of the nine children with which his parents were blessed.

As a lad of twenty-two years he emigrated to America in 1872 and arrived at Chicago on May 24 1872, where he remained one year. Not

liking the life in a big city, he remained in Chicago one year only, and went to Racine, Wisconsin, in 1873. There he remained about six years, but even there the country was not to his tastes and he concluded to try his luck in Iowa, and in 1879 he removed to Pottawattomie county, where he remained until 1887.

This proved to be the year which should decide his future life. He came to old Cheyenne county (now Deuel county), Nebraska, and took up a pre-emption of one hundred and sixty acres and also one hundred and sixty acres of timber claim, he also homesteaded on the southwest quarter of section 23, in township 18, range 43, which up to the present date is considered the home ranch, Mr. Peterson having in the meanwhile acquired one thousand five hundred acres of land, of which about five hundred acres are under cultivation.

Mr. Peterson has had a varied experience since he settled in western Nebraska, and success did not come immediately; he had to undergo all the hardships of an early settler while on the Blue creek and Antelope Valley, being compelled to haul his supplies fifty-five miles, get his mail from Ogallala, and when he built his cabin he had to haul the wood for that purpose a hundred miles or more.

Hard labor and persistence led to Mr. Peterson's success; he has run large herds in the past and to-day his sons, Henry and Clarence, have the handling of about seven hundred head of cattle and fifty horses in their own right and title.

Mr. Peterson was married to Lena Hanson, she being the oldest of eleven children, and was born in Denmark coming to America with her parents when seven years old. Her parents are living at present in Racine, Wisconsin.

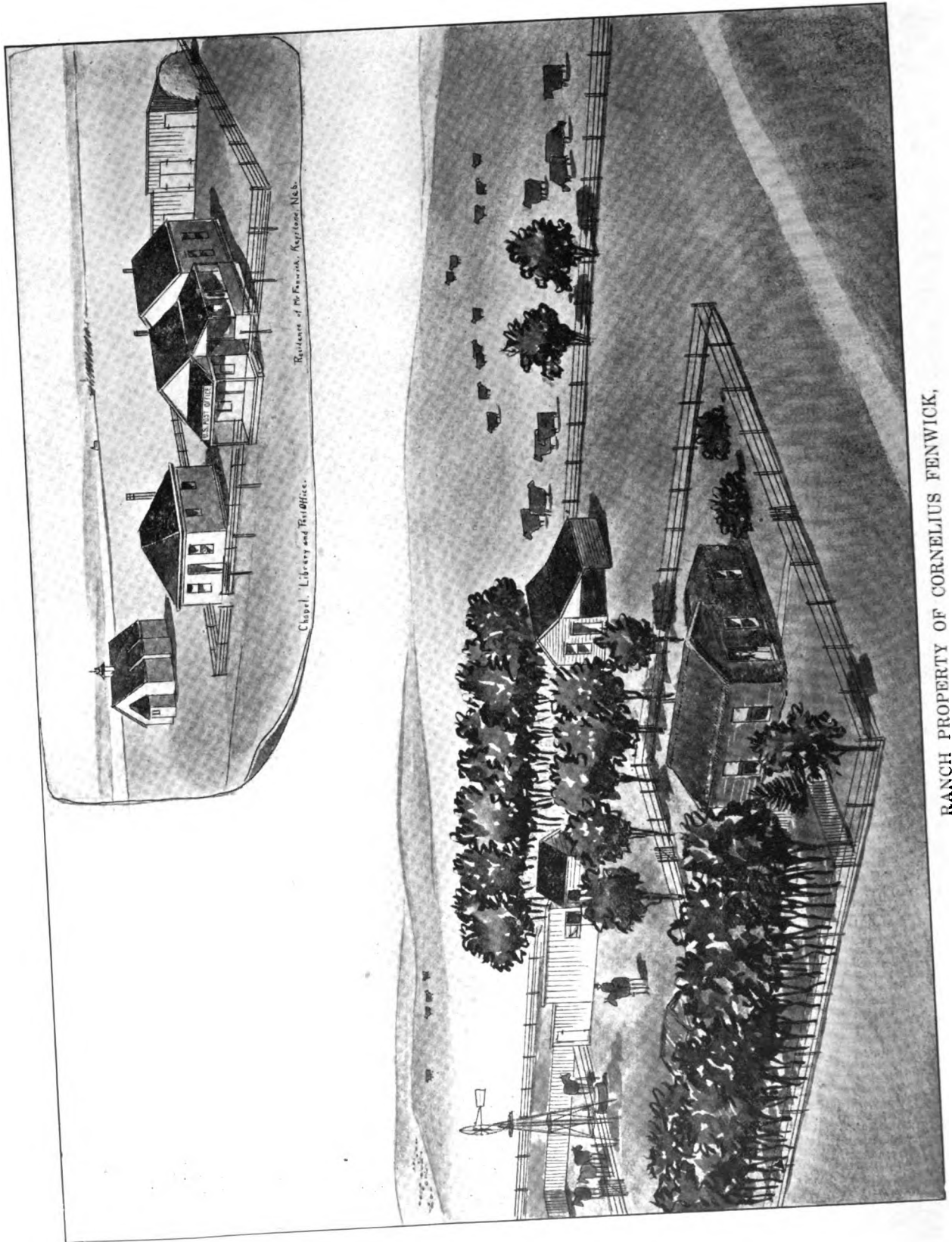
The wedding ceremony took place in Chicago, July 3, 1876; they have five children, of whom George, Henry and Clarence are married, while Dora and Charlie are single. All of them live in Deuel county.

Mr. Peterson's farm is well improved, while he himself is well and favorably known, and is one of the respected citizens of western Nebraska, while Mrs. Peterson is holding the office of postmaster of Hutchinson, which is located on the Peterson ranch.

Mr. Peterson has retired from the active operation of his ranch, a large part of it is leased and Mr. Peterson is enjoying a well earned rest. George, his oldest son, owns one thousand acres of land and it is improved with good and modern buildings, fenced and well equipped. He has fifty head of cattle and five horses. He has done his full share in the community, taking an active part in all ques-







Residence of Mr. Fenwick, Keith County, Neb.

Chapel, Library and Tea Office.

RANCH PROPERTY OF CORNELIUS FENWICK,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

tions of public interest, and through industry and perseverance now owns one of the most desirable ranches in western Nebraska.

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### CORNELIUS FENWICK.

Cornelius Fenwick is postmaster of Keystone, Nebraska, a station on the Union Pacific railroad on the north side of the North Platte river in Keith county. Mr. Fenwick has been one of the largest ranchers and stockmen in this region, but has moved to Keystone for the purpose of living somewhat retired after a long, successful and busy life. He has well earned the rest he now seeks.

Cornelius Fenwick is of English birth, his nativity being in the village of Appleby, Lincolnshire, where he was born December 24, 1843. His parents, Edward and Ellen Fenwick, lived and died in England, where the father followed farm labor during his entire life.

Our subject was reared in the land of his birth, remaining there engaged in farm labor until 1869, when he came to America, sailing from Liverpool in the City of Wisconsin; the voyage was a long one, three weeks, owing to terrific storms and delay owing to rescuing the crew of a sinking vessel they encountered on the way. He landed in New York and for a time worked in the mines near Dover, New Jersey; in the spring of 1870 he went to Will county, Illinois, where he resided three years, performing farm labor for two years and then, after marriage, farming on rented land. Thence he went to Indiana, where he made his home in Newton and Jasper counties, renting a farm until the spring of 1880, when he went to Polk county, Nebraska, where he lived on rented land near Stromsburg until the fall of 1883, at which time he came to Keith county, taking a homestead three and a half miles south of Ogallala. There our subject lived about four years and then "commuted" on his farm. In 1887 he came to the North Platte river valley and located on a pre-emption, which he later changed into a homestead on which he proved up and received a patent to his land. The homestead was the southeast quarter of section 30, township 15, range 37, and here our subject lived until 1906, when he moved to Keystone, building the first house in the village. Mr. Fenwick's earliest residence in the county was built of sod, and as with all the early pioneers he witnessed many hard times owing to drouth and other adverse causes. On his farm south of Ogallala, he had the first deep well in that whole region. He cut the

first grain ever cut in that country in 1885, this being a crop of rye that threshed eighteen bushels to the acre. He also shelled the first corn in the vicinity of Ogallala, running the small sheller all over the country, and was the pioneer in many things in that region. Mr. Fenwick was first appointed postmaster of Keystone when that office was established in 1891 and he has held the position ever since. He has sold his leases of range land, retaining only six hundred and forty acres and his purpose is to spend his declining years in Keystone, living a somewhat retired life. When in active ranching Mr. Fenwick ran as high as high as three hundred cattle at times.

April 6, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of Cornelius Fenwick with Miss Mary Ann Fell, a native of Canada and the daughter of James Fell, a native of England. Mr. and Mrs. Fenwick have six children,—Ellen, married Joseph Jones, now residing at St. Johns, near Portland, Oregon; James E., ranching five miles from Ogallala in Conduit Valley; the well on his place is four hundred and thirty-five feet deep; Amy, married Alonzo Jones, residing between the North and South Platte rivers; Charles R., conducting the old home place; William purchased land in Saskatchewan, Canada, and removed there in 1909; and Pearl May, wife of Fred Dean, also an immigrant to Canada.

Cornelius Fenwick was one of the very earliest pioneers of Keith county and throughout the years has taken an influential place among the thrifty and progressive citizens, performing well his part in the onward march of material development. He has held various offices of trust within the gift of the people, always serving with fidelity and righteous purpose. He has been road overseer and county assessor three or four terms, and has been a great factor in the establishment and maintenance of the schools where he has lived. Mr. Fenwick is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Episcopal church. On another page we are pleased to present a view of Mr. Fenwick's ranch buildings and also his dwelling in Keystone, together with the library and chapel, both of which he was instrumental in establishing and which he liberally helps to maintain.

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### ANDREW P. OLESEN.

One of the old settlers of Cherry county, Andrew P. Olesen, resides on his pleasant estate in section 9, township 32, range 40.

Mr. Olesen was born in Denmark, May 1,

1859, and was reared and educated there. His father and mother were old country farmers, and have never left Denmark, the father dying in 1907. In 1903 they celebrated their golden wedding, and our subject was one of the guests at that reunion. His boyhood days were spent on his father's farm until he started out for himself. Sailing from Glasgow, having crossed to Scotland, in an Anchor line steamer, he landed in New York March 1, 1884, locating in Iowa. He went to work on a farm at a salary of sixteen dollars per month, and remained there for two years. In 1886 he came to Sheridan county and settled southeast of Gordon. After a short time he sold this, buying and selling other property for a number of years, until in 1892 he bought his present home of eighteen hundred acres. This is partly range and partly farming land, and he now has under cultivation about two hundred and fifty acres, runs one hundred head of stock, and has his place well improved with good buildings and fences. During the dry years he was unable to do much farming, and this time was spent in the hills, getting started in the cattle business, of which he has made a marked success.

Mr. Olesen was never married, and his experiences during the years he has "batched it" have been many and varied, but he now employs a man with his wife on his farm, which relieves him of many of the smaller details incidental to the proper working of a farm home.

Mr. Olesen is an Independent voter, with a leaning toward the Republican party, and a Lutheran in religious faith.

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#### GEORGE H. HALLIGAN.

George H. Halligan, a well known and successful farmer and ranchman of section 26, township 13, range 40, is one of the early settlers of the region, and one of the worthy citizens of Keith county. He was born near the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, February 10, 1859.

The father of our subject, James Halligan, a farmer all his life, was a native of Ireland. His wife, Elizabeth Cassel, was also born and raised in that country. They came with their family to Otoe county, Nebraska, in 1868. George was raised in Nebraska on the frontier, assisting his parents in carrying on the home farm from the time he was a small boy, receiving a limited education by attendance at the district schools in the vicinity of his home. He started for himself at the age of

twenty-five years, when he, with a brother, John J. Halligan, came to Keith county, arriving in 1884. Their trading point during their early residence here was Ogallala, and there our subject carried on a land agency to some extent, traveling through the surrounding country, making that town his headquarters. He took a homestead in 1886 two miles southeast of Ogallala, and succeeded in developing a good farm, going through all the pioneer experiences while living there, but remained in the vicinity up to 1904, when he moved to his present location on section 26, township 13, range 40. Here he has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has put good improvements in the way of buildings, fences, wells and windmills. He engages in farming principally, although he has a small herd of stock.

Mr. Halligan first married Miss Nora Hendershot, who was the mother of a daughter, Lottie, now teaching near Wallace, in Lincoln county. The second wife, Mary Glynn, was born in the village of Balltore, Ireland. She is the mother of four children—Francis, Lila, Henry and Deloris.

They have a comfortable home and are highly respected as good neighbors and worthy citizens, Mr. Halligan taking a commendable interest in local affairs. He is a Democrat politically and a member of the Ogallala lodge, Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Halligan was reared a Catholic while the good wife is a member of the Episcopal church.

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#### WILLIAM J. JOHNSON.

As a citizen of worth and a man of industrious and energetic character this gentleman is well known to the residents of Box Butte county. He has studied the needs of his community for many years and has always been found standing on the side of right and doing his part toward promoting the public welfare. He is a resident of section 17, township 25, range 50, and is owner of one of the valuable estates of that locality.

Mr. Johnson was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, in 1859. His father, John, was of English birth, a farmer by occupation, and followed that calling all his life. He married F. A. Wilkinson, also born and raised in England. They came to America in 1856, settled on a farm in Missouri, moving to Illinois in 1860, and there our subject was reared and educated. He lived at home with his parents until he was eighteen years old, then started for himself, locating in Harrison county, Iowa.

There he learned the mason's trade and followed that work in Iowa, and later in Nebraska for many years. In 1888 he came to Nebraska and settled in Alliance, where he worked at his trade up to 1884, then came to his present location. This ranch is situated eighteen miles northwest of Alliance. During the first two years the family occupied a sod house, and he worked faithfully improving the place, putting up good farm buildings, fencing the land, etc. He met with pretty good success from the start, both in farming and stock raising, and is now owner of a fine estate consisting of five thousand acres, running a large herd of cattle and sheep. He cultivates about one hundred acres, and raises splendid crops of grain, and altogether has one of the finest improved farms in this region.

In 1882 Mr. Johnson was married to Julia Arion, daughter of John Arion, a farmer who spent many years farming in both Illinois and Iowa. Seven children have been born to Mr. Johnson and his estimable wife, who are named as follows: Ira E., Clyde T., Bryce L., Hazel J., Fern, Teddy Rexford and Pearl. They form a most interesting and congenial family group and their home is one of the pleasant and bright spots to the traveler in the county. Mr. Johnson had the sad misfortune to lose his wife the 25th of January, 1908.

Politically our subject is a Republican.

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#### MICHAEL KERNAN.

Michael Kernan, for the past thirty years a prominent resident of Rock county, Nebraska, is proprietor of a fine farm and home along the west border of the county. He has been identified with the agricultural interests of that locality until a history of its development would be incomplete without mention of his labors there and the pioneer experiences through which he has passed.

Mr. Kernan was born in County Cavan, Ireland, in 1840. His father, Michael, Sr., was a hatter by trade and never left his native land, while his mother died when he was a young lad and of whom he has but a faint memory. Our subject was married in 1865 and came to America with his bride, who was Miss Mary Savage, reared in the vicinity of his home, where they were schoolmates during childhood. The young couple sailed from Dundock for Liverpool and thence on the Royal Hybernia for New York, and after a voyage of fourteen days they made a temporary landing at Portland, Maine, which at that time contained only a half dozen houses. From

New York they went to Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the coal mines, receiving fifteen dollars per week, and continued at this for three years. They then went to Hazelton, Pennsylvania, where he again entered the coal mines, and spent nine years there, coming to O'Neill, Nebraska, in 1876, when there were but two houses in the town. They lived there for two years, enduring grasshopper raids and drouths, then came to Rock county, Nebraska, settling on Long Pine creek, where he put up a log house in which they lived seven years. There he went through many pioneer experiences, freighting his provisions from O'Neill to Long Pine. They lost several crops by grasshoppers and drouths, withal having a hard time to make a living. In 1885 he left his first homestead and located on his present farm in section 9, township 30, range 20, where he has built up a good home and farm of three hundred acres, all good land, and engages principally in raising small grain and stock. He has good buildings and fences, together with a fine grove of forest trees on the place, having taken it up as a timber claim. Besides the forest trees he has about two hundred fruit trees, including apples and small fruits.

Mr. Kernan's family consists of himself and seven children, namely: Maggie, Lizzie, Bridget, Nora, Josie, James and Julia. Mr. Kernan's wife died May 1, 1905, and he has also lost three children, Michael and Mary, who were killed in a hailstorm which swept their locality while still living at O'Neill, about the year 1873, and Katie, whose demise occurred in Rock county.

Mr. Kernan is one of the leading old-timers of this part of the state, and has been most active in assisting in the development of his community. He is a strong Bryan man, and hopes to see that gentleman president at some near future date. The family are all adherents of the Catholic church.

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#### SILAS SILLASEN.

Silas Sillasen is a native of the village of Andrup, province of Jutland, Denmark, where he was born November 2, 1865. His father, Morton Sillasen, was a farmer and stock raiser in Denmark, where his entire life was spent. The mother, who was Maren Andersen, still resides on the old home farm in Jutland.

Our subject was reared on a farm in his native country and came to America in March, 1882, sailing from Esbjerg to Newcastle, England, and thence to Liverpool, where he em-

barked, landing at Boston after a stormy passage of seventeen days, having put into Halifax en route. Without delay he came west to Nebraska, having read something of the state when a boy at school. A man who had worked for the father was somewhere in the western part of the state, so Silas came to North Platte and found the man for whom he sought. He later came on to Lincoln county and worked on the John Bratt & Company's ranch as a cowboy. He worked for this company in what was then a very new country for twelve years up to 1896. During this time, in 1888, he took a homestead in Lincoln county, on which he proved up, but continued working as a cowboy, roughing it and camping out both winter and summer, his duties requiring him to ride all over southwestern Nebraska and into Wyoming. In 1896 he settled on his present fine farm in section 4, township 14, range 37, on the North Platte river, where he now has six hundred and forty acres. He owns first-class improvements and has an establishment of which he may well feel proud. He was the first in this part of the country to purchase railroad land at ten dollars an acre, the price seeming too high at that time, but his judgment has proved to be good. He was the first, too, to purchase twenty-dollar land.

Mr. Sillasen was married in 1891 to Miss Ella Graham, but his good helpmeet died in 1894, leaving a son, Andrew, a fine, manly lad, who resides with his grandmother at Pleasantville, Iowa, where he is caring for her in her extreme old age, as she did for him in his infancy. He has developed a talent for business and has, although but sixteen, earned a horse and buggy by his own efforts.

Our subject has had many hard experiences during his pioneer life, has fought prairie fires many times day and night in order to save his property from utter loss, but he has worked his way to success and a comfortable competency, a creditable showing for a foreign-born lad who had nothing but his hands and brain for his beginning. He has done his share toward the material development of the community and is respected by every one as a generous and public-spirited citizen. He is a Democrat in politics and was reared in the Lutheran church. He is a member of the Ogallala lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Five of the family have come to the country and have filled honorable stations in life. Silas, the eldest, was first to come. Andrew died by accident while on the range. Jens, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this work; Louis, who is assistant cashier in the Citizens' Bank of Ogallala, has served as

deputy county treasurer. He has attended the University of Lincoln. John is engaged in railroad work in Laramie. Peter, a cousin, is engaged in the meat business at Keystone.

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#### CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT.

Should the reader of this volume ask for the name of a representative Irish-American citizen and a foremost pioneer of Nebraska, the name of the man who embodies in himself the best traits of the old country character and who has entered thoroughly into the hopes and ambitions of modern America, the gentleman whose name heads this sketch might well be given him. Mr. Abbott has been here through the pioneer days of this region, when a visit to his cabin by redskins and the prowls of wild beasts were no infrequent occurrence, and he can recite with accuracy and interest many thrilling tales of life in this section of the country in the early days of his residence here.

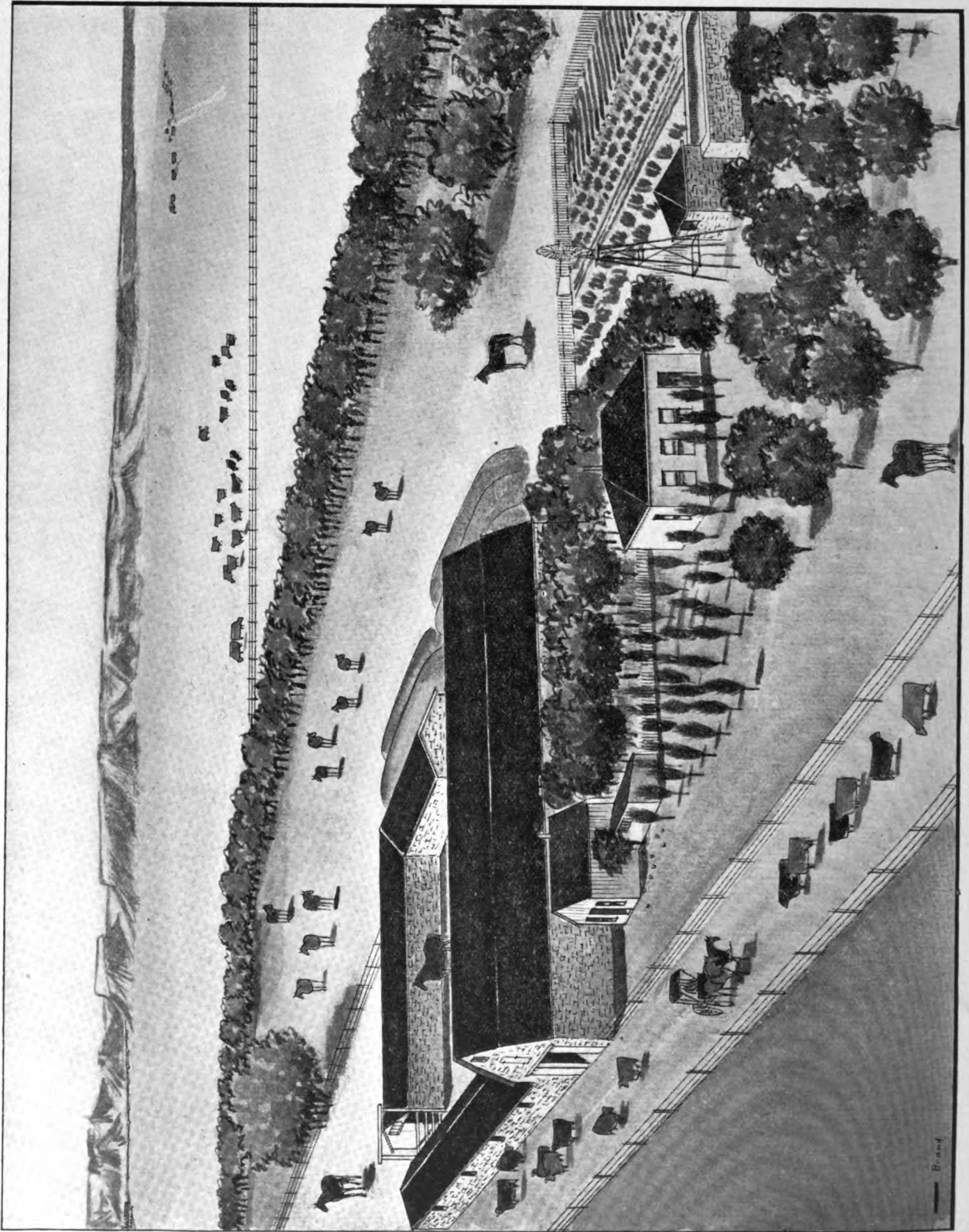
Christopher Abbott was born in Tipperary county, Ireland, in 1824, and his parents were born in Ireland, passing their entire days there, and died in New Zealand, their native land. Our subject lived in the vicinity of his birthplace until he was twenty-one years of age, then came to America, taking passage on an emigrant ship and landing in Quebec in 1838. He came directly to Chicago, Illinois, and spent about ten years in that city, working at fishing on the lakes mostly.

Mr. Abbott was married there to Mary Woods, who was of English descent, and in 1867 the family moved to Iowa, settling in Woodbury and Fremont counties, where they passed through pioneer experiences. They moved to Wabasha county, Minnesota, spent a short time there, then went to Montana, where he was engaged in the mining business for a time. He finally returned to Iowa, spent a few months there, then with his family moved to western Kansas in the spring of 1875.

In 1885 our subject came to Nebraska and took up a location in the sand hills. He drove from Kansas through the wild country to his new home, the family riding in the covered wagon, also containing their household goods and driving a few head of cattle. The trip took many days, and they camped out at night along the way, cooking their meals over campfires and suffering many inconveniences and exposures due to changes in the weather, etc. Their first settlement was made southwest of







RESIDENCE OF GEORGE H. GLIDEWELL,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



where Whitman now stands, and he started to open a farm, putting up a rude shanty, in which they lived for several years. He succeeded in raising several crops and did fairly well, occupying the place up to 1890, and accumulating a comfortable property.

In 1899 Mr. Abbott moved to Hyannis and has made that his residence since, having a pleasant home and sufficient means to enable him to enjoy the declining years of his life in comfort, satisfied in the knowledge that he has done his full share in the building up and developing of the country, and has also helped in a large measure to bring many new settlers into this region.

Mr. Abbott has had four children—Harrison, killed by the Indians in Kansas in 1878; Arthur, Fanny and Francis, all of whom are married and settled in homes of their own. His daughter's husband, J. M. Gentry, is at present in charge of the old ranch, and one son, Arthur, owns and operates a nice ranch in the same locality, with many lakes and flowing wells on it, where he puts up many thousands of tons of hay each year.

#### WILLIAM W. GORMLY.

The gentleman whose name heads this review resides in Lowell township, Kearney county, and is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of his locality. He was elected sheriff of Kearney county in 1895 and re-elected in 1897, receiving his election on the Populist ticket. Prior to this he held local offices and served on the school board for several years. He is a man of marked business and executive ability, and success attends his every venture.

Mr. Gormly is a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, born in 1865. His ancestors came from Ireland and located in that state in the early days, his father being born in America. His mother, who was Miss Meluzenia Clemons, was born in Steubenville, Ohio in 1826. Mr. Gormly was reared in Pennsylvania, lived there until twenty-one, and in about the year 1883 came to Kearney county, where he took up a homestead south of Lowell, on which he lived for a number of years. In 1894 he bought two hundred and ten acres, on which he now resides, and has been engaged in mixed farming, raising large crops of grain and alfalfa, also having plenty of pasture for his stock.

In 1883 Mr. Gormly married Miss Alice Bloodgood, daughter of Jason Bloodgood, who in 1877 homesteaded the farm located on Fort Kearney reservation. He came from north-

ern Pennsylvania, in Bradford county, and was a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Gormly are the parents of the following children: Jason, Meluzenia, wife of Boyd Radford, whose father, W. H. Radford, is the subject of a sketch in this work. Amy, the second daughter; William, Glenn and Ruth are all at home. Jason, aged twenty-four, is his father's helper in the work of carrying on the farm, and all are bright, intelligent and good workers.

Mr. Gormly is a Woodman and a member of the Ancient Order United Workmen lodge. He is influential in county public affairs, and of sterling character, and offhand, genial manner, well liked by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

#### GEORGE H. GLIDEWELL.

George H. Glidewell, who resides on section 2, township 13, range 50, Cheyenne county, is one of the early settlers of that region, who has passed through all the pioneer experiences that fell to the lot of the brave emigrants who came to this region when it was practically a barren wilderness, and has seen it grow from its earliest stages of settlement into a thickly populated, fertile farming community. Mr. Glidewell is a genuine old-timer and has at different times worked as a cowboy and a freighter, enduring hardships and privations which would have utterly discouraged a man of a less persistent nature, but only tended to make him more determined and spurred him to greater effort. He has experienced some particularly trying circumstances, but with undaunted courage has faced misfortune and suffering, and through it all has come out victorious, and now enjoys a fitting reward for his labors in the fine property he has accumulated, and the reputation of one of the foremost citizens of his community, admired and respected by every one.

Our subject was born in Sullivan county, Missouri, April 14, 1863, and there grew to manhood. At the age of sixteen years he left home and went to Denver, Colorado, spending one year painting and working in that vicinity, then came to Cheyenne county and worked as a freighter all over this section until he engaged in cattle and horse raising. He has three high bred registered horses at the head of his herds, and has of late years engaged extensively in mule raising. Mr. Glidewell is well known as a skilled veterinary, and is an excellent blacksmith and wagon

maker. For years he was called upon to do the fine iron work for all this region.

January 7, 1897, our subject filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 2, township 13, range 50, in Sidney precinct, and still occupies this ranch. He has erected good stone buildings of all descriptions, his milk house with concrete cooling being especially worthy of mention. A reservoir adjoining furnishes water for irrigating a very productive garden. He farms about thirty acres and keeps over three hundred head of stock. A quarter section farther west also has a good building and furnishes good range for his numerous herd. Since coming here he has prospered well, and is numbered among the wealthy men of his locality. His ranch is situated on Lodgepole creek, a short distance from the town of Sidney. A view of the residence, with the new barn and enclosed farm yard, all of stone and concrete, are to be seen on another page.

Mr. Glidewell's father, now deceased, was a native of Kentucky. His mother, Delilah Morgan, was born and reared in Alabama, and now resides in Sullivan county, Missouri. Our subject is a Republican in political views.

#### WALLACE L. TRYON.

Wallace L. Tryon, who resides on his well improved farm located in section 23, township 31, range 27, was one of the first men to settle in this region, and has, through his industry and perseverance, succeeded in building up a valuable property here. He is recognized as one of the prosperous and worthy citizens of Cherry county, and is highly esteemed by his fellow-men.

Mr. Tryon was born near Richmond, McHenry county, Illinois, February 18, 1859. He is a son of L. J. Tryon, of English descent, a miller by trade, who lived on a farm, where his family of three boys were reared and educated. In 1860 the father moved with his family to Buchanan county, Iowa, where he bought an eighty-acre farm, which in 1865 he traded for a mill in Black Hawk county and continued to reside there some eight or ten years. Wallace L. followed in his father's footsteps, learning the miller's trade at the age of nineteen years, and continued at this work for about twelve years, but did not find it sufficiently remunerative in Iowa, so decided to move farther west, coming to Nebraska in 1882 and engaged for six months at milling in Creighton, then rented a farm near that place,

which he operated two years. On April 9, 1885, he came to Cherry county and took up cattle raising on a tract of land owned by his mother, operating this for seven years. In the meanwhile he had pre-empted a claim in Edmunds county, Dakota, which he disposed of at a profit in 1905. He then moved to Butler county, but remained only a year, returning to Cherry county, where he then took a homestead and other claims of three hundred and twenty acres located in section 10, township 31, range 27, to which he has added one hundred and sixty acres situated in sections 14 and 23, his present residence being on the latter section. Here he has built up a nice home and farm, and now owns four hundred and eighty acres, all of which is fine hay land. His son, Horace L., owns four hundred and eighty acres of hill land lying between his own tracts, making a solid body of nine hundred and sixty acres under one management. Mr. Tryon is extensively engaged in the stock business, keeping about two hundred head of cattle and a number of horses. His land is nearly all fenced and he has a good house, barns and a fine flowing well, which furnishes a bountiful supply of water for his stock and family. During the drouths in this section he lost several crops, but was well supplied with stock, but the times were so hard he sold his corn-fed beef as low as three dollars and fifty-five cents per hundred, which was the highest market price in Omaha at that time. He often met with discouragements, but by pluck and perseverance succeeded in the end and has accumulated a fine farm, which has well repaid for his efforts. He has lost over three thousand dollars' worth of cattle from different causes since coming here, which was a severe drain on his finances, but conditions have changed and he has been more fortunate of late years, with little to note on the wrong side of the ledger.

Mr. Tryon was married to Miss Carrie M. Rice, born in Black Hawk county, Iowa, a daughter of Horace and Eliza (Jackson) Rice. They have five children, namely: Earle, Horace L., Estella, Pearl and Charles, the two oldest born in Iowa, and the younger three in Nebraska.

Mr. Tryon devotes his entire attention to the work of carrying on his farm and home, and has never had time to take active part in politics, although he is keenly alive to the best interests of his community and gives his aid and influence to its advancement. He votes the Republican ticket and stands firmly for the principles of his party. During the threatened Indian uprising in 1891 Mr. Tryon sent

his wife with the little ones to Butler county for safety, but remained with the two elder boys on the ranch, to which the exiles returned within six weeks. Life in Nebraska has had no terrors for them since.

#### HERMAN K. PECKHAM.

Herman K. Peckham, a well-known and successful ranchman and farmer, residing in Lincoln county, Nebraska, is one of the worthy citizens of his locality.

Mr. Peckham is a native of Wisconsin. His father, Joshua Peckham, came to Nebraska from Crawford county, Wisconsin, and is a large and successful ranchman residing near Gothenburg, Lincoln county. He engages principally in stock raising on his farm, which is composed of about twenty-five hundred acres, and also does some mixed farming. He runs annually about three hundred head of cattle, and keeps a large number of hogs. A brother of our subject, Elmer Peckham, is proprietor of a six hundred and forty-acre farm near Gothenburg, and raises cattle and hogs on a large scale. Another brother, Fremont, resides in Dawson county, and also owns and operates from fifteen hundred to two thousand acres, using this land for mixed farming and stock raising. Mr. Peckham's father and mother celebrated their golden wedding in October, 1906, and a large reunion was held at their residence in this county, over eighty relatives being present, their guests numbering in all over eight hundred. The Peckhams are highly esteemed all over western Nebraska as among the most successful and influential citizens.

Mr. Peckham came west and located in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1880. In 1896 he began business on his own account, purchasing about eighteen hundred acres situated south of Brady Station, on Brady Island. Here he has been engaged in raising, buying and shipping stock. He has a large number of thoroughbred Berkshire hogs, and deals largely in cattle, feeding for the market. He now has three hundred head of cattle on feed, and formerly fed two or three cars each winter. He has a number of pure-bred Duroc Jersey hogs on his place, but shows a decided preference for the Berkshire breed, as they are sensible, strong and active animals, and if properly bred and fed are usually found to be market top-pers.

He owns besides this ranch two grain farms on which he raises wheat and corn, and his yield in 1906 in these grains was thirty bush-

els of wheat to the acre and forty-five of corn. His hay crop this year reached a total of five hundred tons, and all of his grain and hay is fed out on his farm. He also has one hundred and seventy-five acres of alfalfa, which cuts a large crop each season. On his island farm he has over sixty acres sown to brome grass.

Mr. Peckham was married in 1897 to Miss Stella Rich, a native of Missouri. Her father, Lewis D. Rich, is a farmer in Lincoln county. Mr. and Mrs. Peckham have three children, named as follows: Golda, Harlan K., Jr., and

#### ELI MARCHANT.

Eli Marchant, who is conceded to be the oldest settler on Pepper creek, where he has a fine ranch located in section 18, township 30, range 48, Dawes county, Nebraska, is a native of England, having been born in Somersetshire in 1858, a son of James and Mercy (Cox) Marchant. His father was an engineer and farm laborer, and at one time worked for fourteen cents a day in the old country.

Mr. Marchant spent the early years of his life in his native country, and as he grew to manhood worked in the mines. When he had attained the age of twenty-one years, realizing that in the new world the opportunities for the ambitious young man were very inviting, he decided to seek his fortunes in America, and landing in New York in 1879 went to Boone county, Iowa, where for five years he worked in the mines. While in Iowa he purchased a farm in Pocahontas county, and after remaining there for two years, sold his place and came to Dawes county, Nebraska, where he pre-empted a claim and located on land near the Pepper creek. He proved up his claim and built a log cabin, hauling all his supplies from Chadron, Nebraska.

For fifteen years during the periods of drouth and the many hardships familiar to the early settlers in this western country, Mr. Marchant helped to make a living by working in the mines in Wyoming during the winter. In 1887 he took a homestead in section 18, township 30, range 48, which is his present home. In 1899 he took his family to Wyoming, living in Aladdin, where he remained for five years, returning in 1904 to his farm in Dawes county. He secured adjoining lands, and now has a ranch of eight hundred acres, all of which is fenced and cross fenced. He has greatly improved his place, and has a good orchard and alfalfa fields. He has erected a comfortable home, and has two good wells,

windmills and tanks, and a very fine new barn, thirty by forty feet, just finished.

The marriage ceremonies of Mr. Marchant and Miss Rosena Davis took place in England in 1879. Mrs. Marchant was born in England and is a daughter of John and Fannie (Gardner) Davis. To this union were born eight children—Rosena (deceased), Ernest, Albert, Bertha, Minnie, Fred, Arthur and Gertrude. Two of Mr. Marchant's sons have land adjoining his own ranch in Dawes county.

Mr. Marchant has always been prominently identified with local affairs, and from the date of his settlement in this part of the country has taken a keen interest in the growth and development of Dawes county. His name is sure to appear on any list of the prominent old settlers of western Nebraska, where his genial countenance and friendly spirit have made him a host of warm friends, which his manly character and genuine worth have long retained. He has a good school on his place and has been treasurer for four years. Mr. Marchant holds certificates as one of the best mine foremen in this part of the state.

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#### PETER NELSON.

The gentleman mentioned above is one of the sturdy sons of Sweden, who came to the new world with a brave heart to carve out a name for himself and establish a home in the wilderness, and well has he succeeded in his determination, now being proprietor of a good ranch, and has also become one of the prominent citizens of his locality. He resides on section 26, township 16, range 52, in Trognitz precinct, his estate being one of the most valuable in that section of the county.

Peter Nelson was born in Sweden, January 14, 1867, the youngest in his father's family of four children. Both parents are now deceased. When he was about fifteen years of age he left his native land and came to America, settling at first in Vail, Crawford county, Iowa, April 21, 1882, remained there for two years, during which time his parents joined him. He then went to Dakota, but only spent a few months in that country, coming to Cheyenne county, whither his parents had preceded him, about Christmas time of 1885, driving from Dakota to Sidney, Nebraska, in a one-horse rig, enduring the inclement weather of that time of year. He returned to Iowa, where he spent about two years, then came back and settled permanently in Cheyenne county in 1888, taking up a homestead on section 26, township 16, range 52, filing on the land

in February, and at once built a rude dwelling, in which he lived for several years. He had a hard time in starting his farm, going through all the pioneer experiences, but gradually forged ahead, put improvements on his place in the way of good buildings, wells, fences, etc. He owns at the present time nine hundred and sixty acres, engaging in stock raising and mixed farming, running about one hundred head of cattle and quite a number of horses. About one hundred and seventy-five acres are devoted to the raising of small grain, and the entire ranch is kept up in the best possible condition, every corner bespeaking the most painstaking care and good management.

Mr. Nelson was married at Sidney, March 2, 1904, to Miss Florence Herbolsheimer, the event occurring at the Metropolitan Hotel, and was a very pretty affair, the young people having a host of friends and acquaintances, and their married life has been a happy one. Two children have come to bless their union—Hilma and Alice. Mrs. Nelson, a daughter of Daniel and Alice (Segraves) Herbolsheimer, was born in Adams county, Nebraska, coming to Cheyenne county with her parents in infancy. The old people are now living in this vicinity, and are well known as prominent old-timers of that region. Our subject has always taken an active interest in all affairs pertaining to county, state and national government, and is a staunch Republican, and represents his precinct on the county committee. He is a leading citizen in his community, serving as treasurer of school district No. 13 for several years. On July 1, 1898, he was appointed postmaster of Sextrop, which he held for several years, and then resigned. Mrs. Nelson was appointed to the position March 5, 1907, and has proven a most capable and popular official. Mr. Nelson was reared in the Swedish Lutheran church and is a member of the Potter camp of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### ELMER E. WALES.

Elmer E. Wales, who is classed among the old residents of Keya Paha county, is a progressive and energetic farmer, proprietor of a fine estate in Keya Paha precinct.

Mr. Wales was born on a farm in Goodhue county, Minnesota, March 7, 1863. His father was of Yankee stock, born in Massachusetts, and followed farming all his life. He was in Mankato at the time of the Indian massacre and a witness of those terrible scenes.

seeing the punishment meted out to the marauders when thirty-seven were hung from one gallows. The mother, whose maiden name was Philanda Davis, was born, reared and educated in Vermont, going to Minnesota with her husband in 1854. Her father had an artificial arm and had to cut grain with a sickle and do other farm work to support his family of thirteen children, twelve of whom were girls. When our subject was a young lad but seven years of age he began hard work and plowed with a team of oxen, doing other heavy labor as well. The family moved to Marshall county, Kansas, in 1874, but the swarms of grasshoppers devoured their crops and compelled them to migrate. They went to Montgomery county, Iowa, remaining there up to the time of coming to Nebraska. When Elmer reached the age of twenty he struck out for himself, following farm work in Nebraska and in 1883 came to O'Neill, where he obtained employment on a ranch at twenty dollars per month. He located in Gordon, and after a short time there moved to Montana with some cattle drovers, where he remained for two years on the ranges, sleeping out during the winter, sometimes in three feet of snow. He finally returned to Nebraska and filed on a pre-emption near Burton, in Keya Paha county. In 1890 he located near Naper, remained three years, then bought his present home in section 23, township 35, range 17, paying for the land thirty dollars in money and a colt which he owned. There was only a sod house on the place, but he went to work improving, since building a comfortable house, barn and other necessary buildings. He drilled a well, which he boarded up with old lumber, having hard work to get nails enough to do the work, so scant were the funds at his command. He worked out part of the time, among other things shucked corn in snow knee deep for two cents a bushel. The best wages he could make was fifty cents a day, and he was glad for even that slight remuneration for his toil. He also drilled wells for the farmers and managed to get along, but was often tempted to leave, but for lack of sufficient money could not get away. He helped build the first bridge at Brocksburg, and did a great deal towards general upbuilding of the region. He has made a success of farming and in other enterprises since locating here, now owning three hundred and twenty acres of good land, of which half is under cultivation. He is also engaged in the cream business, having opened the first cream stations at Mills, Jamison, Butte, Naper, Carlock and Brocksburg, collecting and shipping each week about one hundred and

twenty-five cans of cream. He is agent for the DeLaval separator and sells about forty each year.

December 25, 1887, our subject was married near Mills to Miss Ella Sharp, whose parents, Solomon and Caroline (Godfrey) Sharp, were early settlers in Butler county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Wales the following children have been born: Clarence S., Blanche P., Goldie M., Noah Edmund, Sylvia, Flossie, Gale and Dale (twins), of whom all but Gale are still living with their parents, having a pleasant home and hosts of warm friends in the community.

Mr. Wales is a Republican and active worker for his party, although he has never held office. With his family he is a member of the Free Methodist church.

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#### FERDINAND WENDT.

Ferdinand Wendt, who enjoys the distinction of being the owner of one of the largest and most modernly equipped ranches in Nebraska, is a native of the state which he has chosen for his home. He was born on a farm in Cass county in 1876, a son of August and Laura (Swan) Wendt, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Mr. Wendt received his education attending the country schools, assisting his father in building up and improving the farm in Cass county, which is still the property of the family. In November, 1906, Mr. Wendt's father died. His mother had passed away in December of the year previous. In 1887 the elder Mr. Wendt made a trip to Dawes county, investigating the possibilities which this western field presented, and eventually brought his family here in 1893, locating on section 27, township 30, range 51. At this period there were practically no improvements on the place. At the present writing, our subject has one of the largest ranches in Nebraska, comprising an area of thirty-six hundred and ten acres, three to four hundred acres of which are under cultivation. Besides a farmer, he is a stock raiser of no mean ability. He has erected a pleasant and commodious home on his farm, together with good buildings in which to keep his provisions and house his stock. There is an abundance of fine timber on the ranch, where he has erected a first-class sawmill, giving part of his time to the manufacture of lumber.

Mr. Wendt was united in marriage in February, 1899, to Miss Jessie Hayden. She was

a daughter of Polemus Hayden, of English descent, a highly respected and prominent old settler. Mr. and Mrs. Wendt are the happy parents of four children, viz.: Eddie, Albert, Louisa and Alice.

Mr. Wendt has always taken strong Democratic ground in matters of politics. He has done his work well, and while he is a thorough farmer and stock raiser, and much devoted to home and family, has also from his first coming to Dawes county taken a keen and vivid interest in everything that relates to local matters and public improvements. He has watched the growth and development of the county with keen interest from the start, where he has made a host of loyal friends, who recognize in him one of the leading settlers.

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#### E. G. CARTER.

E. G. Carter, agent of the Burlington & Missouri Railway at Naponee, Franklin county, came to Nebraska in 1892 in the interest of that railroad, locating at Alma, where he held the position of operator. He remained there for a short time, then was transferred to Inavale, where he spent two years. From there he was sent to Naponee, from 1894 to 1898, working for the company for four years. He was next sent to Atwood, Kansas, and remained there up to 1894, then returned to Naponee, where he has since resided. Mr. Carter was born in Illinois in 1872. His father, Joe B. Carter, was a native of England, who came to America in the early forties, locating at Medora, Illinois. He married Lucy Kemper, who had two brothers in the Civil war, both of whom were killed at the battle of Appomattox Court House. Our subject grew up in Illinois and in 1894 he came to Franklin county from Macoupin county, Illinois, and invested in land in this part of the state. In 1897 he bought three hundred and twenty acres in Turkey Creek township, for which he paid sixteen dollars per acre, and in 1907 he sold the same land for eighty-nine hundred dollars, which shows conclusively the rapid rise of land values in Nebraska in the past few years. Our subject was married in 1897 to Miss Nora Wilt, daughter of J. W. Wilt, who is part owner of the Naponee flouring mills, with a capacity of sixty barrels per day. His partner in the business is Mrs. M. E. Polly, his sister-in-law, and widow of James Polly, who was associated with Mr. Wilt up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1890. He was a cousin of Mr. Wilt, and served in the Civil war for four years.

Mrs. Carter's father is a native of Darke county, Ohio, who came with his father, William Wilt, to Clark county, Iowa, in 1855. John Wilt, Mrs. Carter's great-grandfather, was a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Darke county, Ohio, previous to the War of 1812, while his wife, Martha Polly, daughter of Rev. James Polly, also of Darke county, Ohio, who was a familiar figure in the history of that section of the country during the early days in which the Alexander Campbell movements resulted in the founding of the Christian or Disciples' church. James Polly afterwards came to Clark county, Iowa, and was among the pioneers in that state. His two brothers, Jacob and Barnhill, were also ministers in the Disciples' church, and the Pollys, together with the Rev. Barnhill Polly, came originally from Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter are the parents of two children, namely: Glen and Margaret. The family is well known and highly esteemed throughout the community in which they reside. Mrs. Carter is a woman of charming personality, and a fine musician and a graduate of the Lincoln Normal School. She is very active in musical circles, and an earnest worker in the Disciples church, of which the family are members. Her mother was before her marriage Miss Asenith Ann Wiley, of Wayne county, Indiana. Mr. Carter is a Mason and a member of the Chapter at Atwood, Kansas.

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#### FRED C. TSCHABOLD.

Fred C. Tschabold, one of the energetic farmers and ranchmen of Sioux county, Nebraska, is also an old settler of that region. He is the owner of a valuable estate and his home is one of the most pleasant to be found in the locality. The road leading up to his residence follows the course of a deep ravine, or creek bed, which is dry all the year round except a few days each spring, and one cannot imagine anything more picturesque than this driveway, as it winds gracefully, with high banks, which are covered with beautiful foliage and trees. Assisting nature, Mrs. Tschabold has added greatly to the beauty of this road by planting many flowers by the wayside, making it a spot which leaves a most pleasant memory in the eye of the beholder.

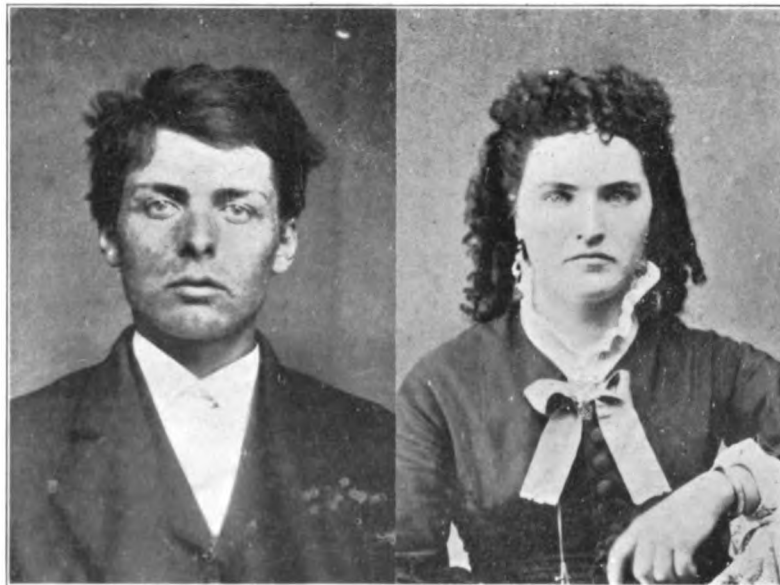
Mr. Tschabold was born in the city of Berne, Switzerland, in 1853, and was the son of C. J. Tschabold, a government official of that country. His mother was, prior to her marriage, Miss Margareta Berger, and she



MRS. FRED TSCHABOLD.



FRED TSCHABOLD.



MR. AND MRS. A. V. CRONK.





died when our subject was a lad of nine years. Three years later he came to America, and after landing in New York city spent a short time in New York state, then went to New Jersey, and finally settled in Iowa, where he spent about five years. He next came to Nebraska, locating in Cuming county, following farming in that vicinity. In 1892 he landed in Sioux county and worked rented land at first, later took a homestead in section 21, township 32, range 55, and started to build up a home. He began to break up land for crops, and part of the time was obliged to work out by the day to make a living, receiving the munificent sum of sixty-five cents per day for his labors. While he was away working for others his wife held down the homestead, and to her efforts are due much credit in the accumulating of their property, as she worked bravely to help her husband keep their little home and improve it. They met with much hardship and went through the usual bitter experiences of the pioneers in the west, but managed to get along and gradually improve their homestead, adding land as they became better fixed, and are now the possessors of six hundred and forty acres, situated near the head of West Hat creek, known as "Pine Nook." They have a good water supply and considerable timber, and for two years operated a sawmill on the place. Thirty acres are under cultivation, used for small grains, and he is engaged to quite an extent in stock raising.

Mr. Tschabold was married in 1885 to Martha Davis, daughter of James Maynard and Jane (Gross) Davis, the father's death occurring when she was a child eighteen months of age, and her mother dying August 17, 1906. Portraits of our subject and his wife appear on another page.

Mr. Tschabold takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and is one of the leading citizens of his township.

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#### ADOLPHUS V. CRONK.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review is one of the strong characters of the community in which he lives, having always taken an advanced position relative to all matters pertaining to the general good, and his mature life finds him surrounded with the evidences of success and comfort. Our subject was born in the state of New York in 1854, and was the son of William H. and Katherine (Mink) Cronk. The father was a

native of New York state and came to Nebraska in 1872. The mother was born in New York. Our subject was reared on a farm and was inured to hard work until 1874, when the whole family came west to Nebraska, settling in Valley county on government land. It was here that our subject started out for himself, living in a dugout and sod house, his first team being a yoke of cattle. All supplies and material had to be hauled from Grand Island, sixty-five miles distant. Indians were still in the country and the settlers had to carry their guns with them when they went to the fields, and our subject had many trying experiences with these marauders. Once an Indian attempted to steal a mule out of Mr. Cronk's barn, but the mule objected and practically kicked the robber out of the building. Our subject's wife has been often frightened and seriously annoyed by the roving bands of Indians that infested the prairies. On the old farm were seen traces of a battleground, skulls, bones, graves, relics, ornaments, etc.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Mary E. Lawler was celebrated in April, 1874. The bride was the daughter of Michael and Anna (Grant) Lawler, both natives of Ireland. Her father was a farmer and carpenter and was one of the pioneers of Lewis county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Cronk are the parents of seven children: William A., Myrtle L. (dead), Lottie Louise, Adrian St. Elmo, Rodney Earl, Rosetta May, Lillian Z. and George W. The living children are all grown up and are honored citizens of the community in which they live, some of them being married and all engaged in business enterprises of their own.

Mr. Cronk made his home in Valley county for years and had a fine farm and home and made a splendid success of his agricultural pursuits and became one of the leading old-timers and citizens. December 15, 1893, our subject came to Loup county and settled on his present fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, where he has made good improvements, built barns, fences and put things in shape for future successful operations. Mr. Cronk has been one of the most active and successful of the early pioneers and is accorded a prominent place among his friends and neighbors, by whom he is held in high esteem. In politics he is a strong Socialist and is pronounced in his views.

Mr. A. V. Cronk has been quite an inventor. He was patentee of the link car coupler, the adjustable hame and a pump for irrigation purposes, also several other valuable patents. For the want of means he has not pushed his

patents as he should have done, but is on the lookout for a partner who has means to purchase a half interest. Mr. Cronk and Sam Hesselgesser were the prime promoters of the telephone system through this part of the country, in the counties of Loup, Garfield and Valley.

Mrs. Cronk has been quite a writer for several of the leading papers and other publications. She is a cultured and scholarly lady and has a large circle of literary and social friends. Mr. and Mrs. Cronk have a daughter, Lillian Z., who will soon graduate with high honors from the Wisconsin College of Music at Milwaukee. The whole family have especially good musical talent.

Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Cronk will be found on another page of this volume.

#### C. R. SAWYER.

C. R. Sawyer is one of the substantial ranchers of Sheridan county, Nebraska. Mr. Sawyer was born in St. Joseph county, Indiana, in 1852. His father, an Ohioan, who served in the One Hundredth Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, is still hale and hearty and resides in Iowa. Our subject is the eldest in a family of three, and up to the time of his twenty-fifth year lived at home with his parents. In 1877 he was married to Miss Tacy A. Paxton, daughter of Thomas Paxton and Sarah Knowles Paxton, both of American stock, born and raised in Ohio. The young couple started out for themselves, buying a forty-acre farm, on which they lived for ten years, and at the end of this time, in 1887, came to Sheridan county and located on the farm where he now resides. He at once went to work building up his farm and met with marked success until the beginning of the dry years, when he was compelled to give it up, and engaged in the cattle raising business.

Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer, named as follows: Clarence O., Opal E. and T. Lucile, all of whom were born in Iowa and raised in Nebraska, where they all received a good common school education in the public schools, after which they assisted their parents on the farm, and are now all nicely located near by.

Mr. Sawyer came to Sheridan county with practically no capital and has succeeded in building up a nice home, his ranch comprising one thousand acres of deeded land in sections 30 and 31, township 31, range 43, and has his place well stocked and improved, en-

joying the fruits of his labor, and declaring that he has seen all the pioneer life he cares for. He has never visited his childhood home since coming west, and says he does not think he would care to return to the east to live.

Mr. Sawyer is a man of sterling character, universally esteemed by his fellow-men. In politics he is a Democrat, but never votes a straight ticket.

#### ANDREW ANDERSON.

The above mentioned gentleman has been identified with the farming interests of Phelps county for many years, past, and during this time has acquired a valuable estate by dint of his honesty and industry and is classed among the substantial and prominent residents of Williamsburg township.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden and came to this country when fifteen years of age. He came to Phelps county in 1890 from Galesburg, Illinois, to take the position of foreman of the Hawkinson ranch, comprising twenty-four hundred acres, located in Williamsburg and Cottonwood townships on the Platte river. On this ranch they run from four to five hundred steers annually, and besides these feed from two to four hundred each year. All the hay for these cattle is grown on the ranch, and they buy twenty-five hundred bushels of grain each season. They also raise from two to five hundred hogs each season. Our subject was very successful in the management of the large estate, and operated it to the financial benefit of his employers. In 1891 he sowed on this ranch the first alfalfa ever planted in Phelps county, and there is now five hundred acres of this grass on the ranch. This has added wonderfully to the value and importance of the stock industry in western Nebraska. After retiring from the management of this ranch, when it was sold to the present owners, he bought his farm of three hundred and twenty acres of bottom land on the Platte river four miles from Elm creek and fifteen miles north of Holdrege, and also purchased eighty acres in Cottonwood township, building the substantial and comfortable residence he now occupies, and since taking possession of this ranch he has raised from one to two hundred cattle and fifty to two hundred hogs, besides feeding a large number annually. He has all of his land except eighty acres planted to alfalfa, and about one hundred and seventy acres of this produces four tons per acre at each cutting. Lately he has sold all his stock and intends to de-

vote all his attention and time to feeding cattle and hogs for market, constantly feeding from two to five cars of cattle and about two carloads of hogs at a time. Before coming to Nebraska he had had a great deal of experience in farming and stock raising in Knox county, Illinois, and he considers this state far ahead of Illinois for these pursuits and would not exchange his lands here for any in that vicinity or any other place he has ever struck, and he says that what he has accomplished here can be done by any young man who has the training, experience and industry for farming and stock raising and feeding.

Mr. Anderson enjoys a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings, his family consisting of himself, wife, one son and a daughter, the son (Glen) being a telegraph operator for the Union Pacific Railway and the daughter (Nellie) has been a teacher in the Phelps county schools for two years. In the spring of 1907 he moved to Elm Creek, Nebraska, and has retired from active farming and ranching, but owns a fine residence.

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#### AMOS C. CULLERS.

Amos C. Cullers, who for the past score of years has made western Nebraska his home, and during that time has given his best efforts to the task of assisting in the development of his locality, and incidentally building up for himself a good home and productive farm, is one of the old settlers of this region. He remembers well the early days when pioneers were obliged to suffer all manner of hardships and privations in getting their homes started, and he richly deserves the prosperity that has come to him through honest industry and faithful labor. Mr. Cullers' residence is in section 17, township 32, range 53, and he is widely known throughout Sioux county as a man of active public spirit.

Mr. Cullers was born in Hardy county, West Virginia, in 1856, on a farm. He comes of good old American stock, and was raised and educated in the common schools of his native state, and grew up accustomed to all kinds of hard farm work. At the age of twenty-two he struck out for himself, following farm work in the east for a number of years. He came to Sioux county, and at that time the town of Crawford had just been laid out and the sale of lots in progress, many settlers locating there. He picked out a location on Cottonwood creek, in section 17, township 32, range 53, and although he had no capital to start with, at once put up a shanty and started

to break land for crops, etc. He gradually improved his place and was able to raise fairly good crops of small grains, planted trees and added good buildings and improvements as he became better able. He had many setbacks in the way of failures caused by drouth, but never lost his courage, and by dint of constant attention to duty, was able to get along pretty well and as the years went by purchased additional land, until he has now become proprietor of a good ranch of seven hundred and twenty acres, which is beautifully situated at the head of Cottonwood creek. He farms about ninety acres of this and uses the balance for pasture and hay land, as he raises a large number of cattle and other stock each year. Mr. Cullers has one of the finest orchards in his locality, including all the small fruits, apples, plums, etc.

Mr. Cullers was married in West Virginia, on December 25, 1880, to Martha Shipe, also born and reared in that state. Of this union five children have been born, namely: George, Nora, Ira, Dorothy and Archie.

Our subject has always taken an active part in local politics. He was elected county commissioner in 1903, serving up to 1906, and for three years he held the office of precinct assessor in Cottonwood precinct. He has also been deputy assessor in three different precincts in Sioux county. He is a Democrat in politics.

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#### HENRY A. WALES.

Among the early settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, who have been instrumental in the development and growth of the agricultural and commercial resources of this section of the country, the gentleman above named takes a leading place. Mr. Wales resides on his fine farm in Lakeland, where he enjoys the fruits of his hard labor in years gone by surrounded by comfort and plenty.

Mr. Wales is a native of Portage county, Ohio, born on his father's farm July 22, 1849. The latter, Asaph Wales, was of American stock, as was the mother, whose maiden name was Rowena Alford. In a family of three children our subject was the second member, growing to manhood in his native county, attending the country schools until eighteen, when he became an apprentice in a wagon shop at Windham, serving three years; and he afterwards followed his trade for four years, two winters of this time at River Falls, Wisconsin. In company with his brother Francis, Mr. Wales secured land

in Mower county, Minnesota, under a land warrant issued to their grandfather, Oliver Alford, for services in the war of 1812 and they have farmed together for nine years.

In 1884 Mr. Wales and his brother came to Brown county and settled on a tract of wild prairie land situated thirty miles southwest of Ainsworth, in Lakeland. Here they put up a frame house, sodding it over, in which they lived for many years. When they arrived here they had three horses and a carload of cattle to start with, and at once went to work building up the ranch, which now comprises fourteen hundred and forty acres, all but three quarter sections being deeded land, and here they are engaged in stock raising on an extensive scale. Mr. Wales had Lakeland postoffice established on his place, of which his wife has served as postmaster from its opening. Mr. Wales was also active in organizing Lakeland precinct, and in getting good schools started in his district, helping to build five sod school houses in that locality. Mrs. Wales served as teacher the first two terms and taught one term in the Moon lake district. She has also been active in organizing and maintaining Sunday schools. Mr. Wales has done more than his share in building up the country and richly deserves the success he has attained in the possession of his fine estate. July 1, 1893, the family witnessed the complete destruction of their home by a cyclone that swept that region with its fury.

Mr. Wales is a strong Republican, active in local and county affairs, having served as justice of the peace for many years past.

On December 18, 1877, Mr. Wales was married to Miss Mary Cox, born in Watoma, Waushara county, Wisconsin, November 6, 1856; she is a daughter of Frederick Cox, a native of England, and her mother, Olive Grover, is a descendant of the Hamilton family which came to America in the Mayflower.

Mr. and Mrs. Wales have a family of three children, namely: Frank A., Claude L. and Malah. They are members of the Congregational church, and Mr. Wales affiliates with the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Johnstown.

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#### AUGUST F. LADWIG.

August F. Ladwig, a well known and highly esteemed old settler of Perkins county, Nebraska, has devoted the past forty years of his life to the active pursuit of agriculture in different parts of the state, and is now pro-

prietor of an excellent ranch situated on section 34, township 10, range 35, where he has met with pronounced success in his chosen occupation.

Mr. Ladwig was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1846, and is a son of Peter Ladwig, who married Maria Ladwig, who, though having the same name, was in no way related to him, they coming to America with their little family and settling in Wisconsin. While in Germany he was engaged in the stock business, buying and shipping cattle. He eventually died in Wisconsin. August grew up in his native land, served three years in the German army, this experience proving of great benefit to him in later years. He was discharged from the service in 1870, and then came to the United States, locating in Wisconsin with his people, following farm work most of the time, and also working in the lumber woods for three winters. He was employed in a grain elevator in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, for two years, then left the state and came to Nebraska, his first location being in Seward county, and after one year in that vicinity returned to Wisconsin, taking a homestead in the lumber regions there.

He tried hard to get a farm started, working hard and faithfully, but the stumps, stone and mud were more than he could stand, so he finally sold out and came back to Seward county, locating at Seward, where he clerked in a hardware store, employed by J. F. Goehner, remaining there for a short time, then went into the hardware business in partnership with his brother Albert, establishing a store at Fullerton, Nebraska, and ran the business for one year. In the spring of 1886 he came to Perkins county and took a homestead tree claim in Marvin precinct, "batching it" in a sod house for six years, always being able to make a living and gradually improve his place. He went through the usual hard times experienced by the early settlers in the region, but stuck to his place and by industry and thrift managed to get considerable ahead in the way of improving his homestead, stocking up with cattle, etc., and building it up in good shape. He owns six hundred and forty acres, which is one of the most valuable tracts in the locality, and every cent of his property has been accumulated through his own efforts and good management. In 1891, without the aid of another person he succeeded in raising a crop of twenty-three hundred bushels of grain. During the hard times of 1893-96 Mr. Ladwig never had any idea of leaving the country as so many did, but "hung

on" and is now a citizen who is a credit to the community.

Mr. Ladwig is engaged principally in stock raising, having quite a bunch of very fine horses, and in the early days he was known far and near as "the man with the fat horses," taking especial pride in his animals.

Mr. Ladwig was married in 1892 to Miss Maria Hopping, a native of New Jersey.

Our subject has always done everything in his power to further the best interests of the community in which he resided, and deserves great credit for the efforts he has put forth in behalf of his fellows. He was elected county commissioner in the fall of 1894, serving in that capacity for three years.

#### REUBEN W. MAHAFFY.

Reuben W. Mahaffy, who has spent many years of his career in western Nebraska, is one of the leading citizens of that section of the country. He came here during the earliest days of its settlement, has watched its growth and development, and incidentally assisted in a large measure to build up the region, as he has really improved three different places since locating here. He now resides fifteen miles southwest of the town of Mullen, where he owns a splendid ranch of two thousand acres, which is considered one of the finest ranches in Hooker county.

Mr. Mahaffy was born near Burlington, Henderson county, Illinois, in 1866, on a farm. His father, William, born in the north part of Ireland, was a prominent stockman and pioneer of Iowa, lived there for many years, and his death occurred in Montgomery county, Iowa, in 1886. His wife was Ellen Small, of American blood, while he was of Scotch-Irish descent. The mother was reared in Ohio.

When our subject was a small boy the family moved to Iowa, settling in Montgomery county, and there he was raised and educated, attending the country schools, and assisting his parents in the farm work. At the age of nineteen he was left an orphan and was compelled to start out and make his own way in the world, and live on the home farm for about two years, carrying that on as best he could. In 1890 he came to Nebraska, locating in Custer county, opened a ranch and operated it for three years. He then moved to Grant county and started another ranch, putting up sod buildings after a short time, but at first his family lived in a tent. Whittman, situated thirty miles northwest of his place, was the nearest town, and he was

obliged to haul all supplies from that town. His ranch was located on North Dismal river, and he succeeded in building up a good home, remaining there up to 1904, then came to his present homestead. This he has improved in good shape, erecting substantial buildings, putting fences around the whole place, drilling wells, etc., and it is a valuable property, containing in all twenty hundred acres, all good range land with plenty of pasture, etc.

Mr. Mahaffy was married at Red Oak, Iowa, in 1889, to Marian E. Eddy, daughter of Levens Eddy, a prominent educator of that vicinity, and who settled in Iowa as a pioneer, coming from Kentucky.

#### ALBERT N. SHUMARD.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history has spent many years in building up a name and home, and probably no one is better known among the old settlers of western Nebraska than he. For the past thirty years he has been closely identified with the upbuilding of the best interests of his locality, and is now living a quiet and retired life in Scandinavian township, where he has a beautiful home surrounded by all the comforts of a peaceful rural community.

Mr. Shumard is a native of Clermont county, Ohio, born in 1845. He is a son of Thomas Shumard, whose father, also Thomas Shumard, was one of the first settlers in the city of Cincinnati. He came from New Jersey, coming in a flat boat down the Ohio river, settling in Hamilton county, where his family was raised. Our subject's mother was Miss Mary Knott, daughter of John Knott, also of that county. Mr. Shumard grew up there, and in 1861 enlisted in Company G, Forty-eighth Ohio Regiment, and served during the entire war, receiving his discharge in June, 1866. He was with the Army of the Tennessee for over three years, and afterward at Tyler, Texas, as a prisoner. He fought at the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Pittsburg Landing, and at the first battle, siege and capture of Corinth, Holly Springs, Memphis, Arkansas Post and Post Gipson, all through the campaign and siege of Vicksburg, and afterward in the Red river campaign with Banks. He also took part in the Cross Roads campaign and was captured by the rebels at that battle, but saved the flag, which was the only case on record of a prisoner's concealing the union colors and brought them back to his regiment. This flag is now at the state house, at Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Shumard was only sixteen years

of age when he enlisted, and during his many battles received more than one wound, but he has a brilliant record as a brave soldier. He was at Fort Blakely on the day of Johnson's surrender to General Sherman.

In 1879 Mr. Shumard came to Nebraska, homesteading one hundred and sixty acres on section 24, Scandinavian township, Harlan county, and has resided on this place ever since. His first dwelling was a dugout, in which he lived for six years, and at the end of that time erected a comfortable farm house and has always been engaged in mixed farming here.

In 1883 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Mary Beam. She is a daughter of William Beam, whose father, John Beam, was one of the oldest settlers at Cincinnati, Ohio, coming there very early from Pennsylvania. Mrs. Shumard's mother was Ellen Robinson, from Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Shumard are the parents of one child, Raymond, aged eighteen years, living at home.

Mr. Shumard is a man of active traits and broad mind. He has been a splendid local and county official, faithful in all things. He is clean-cut, straightforward and vigilant, and a splendid type of farmer and public official. He is one of the organizers and secretary and manager of the Wilcox and Ragan Telephone Company. He has served on the school board as secretary ever since 1880, and was town clerk and justice of the peace. He was elected county supervisor in 1895 and has served for twelve years continuously. He was appointed postmaster in 1907 by President Roosevelt. He is an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Huntley, Nebraska, and is a prominent Mason and Workman. He also acts as class leader of the local Methodist Episcopal church, and has carried on this work for the past twenty years. Politically, he has always been a Republican.

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#### HENRY NIEHUS.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a prosperous and successful ranchman of Morrill, formerly Cheyenne, county, being proprietor of a valuable tract of land in Redington precinct, situated on Lawrence Forks creek, well improved with buildings, orchards and groves. He is known as one of the leading men of his locality, who has done much to bring about the present success of the same.

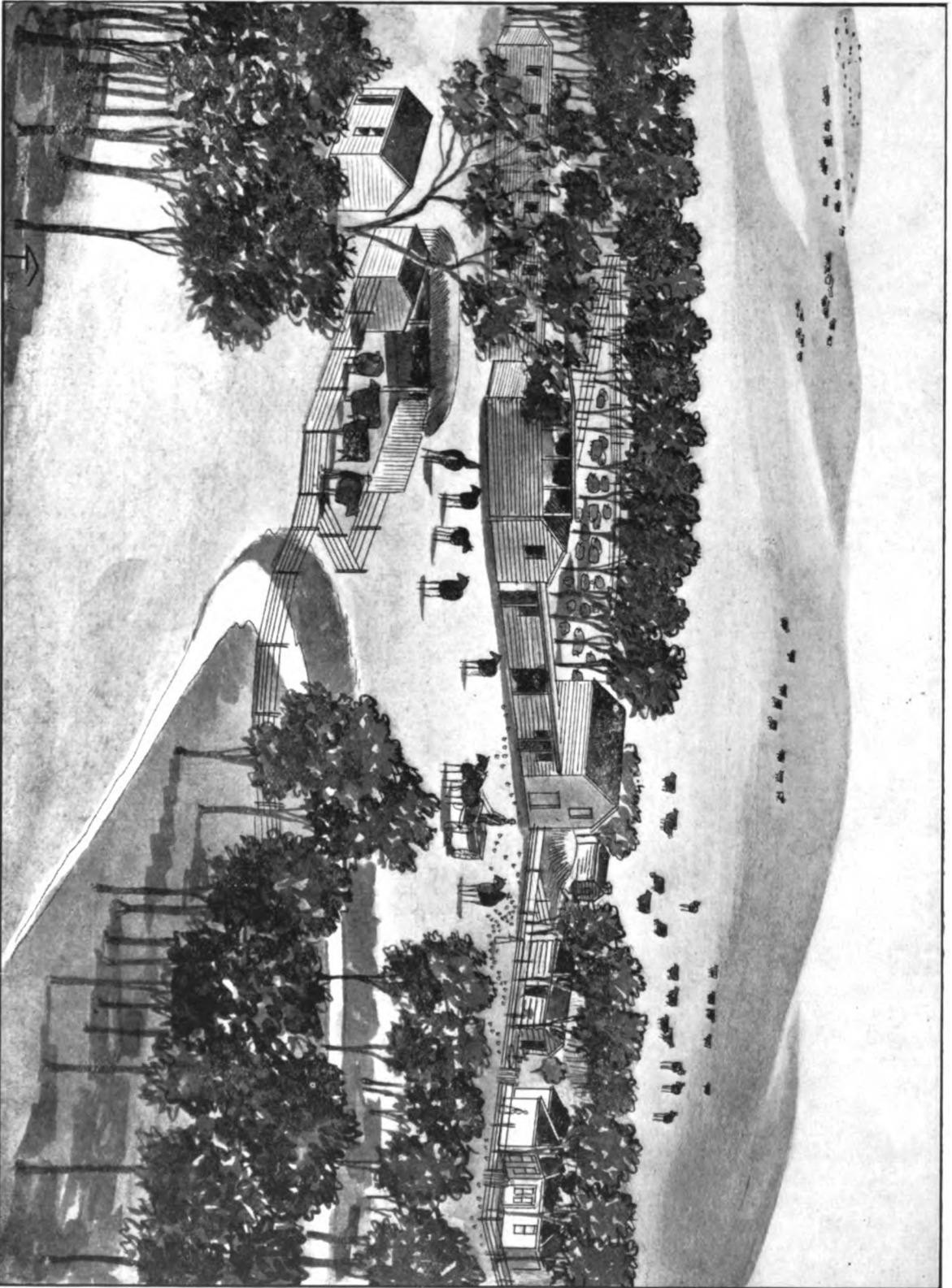
Henry Niehus was born December 24, 1855, in the village of Besenbeck, near Elms-

horn, province of Holstein, Germany, and came to the United States when he was a lad of sixteen, sailing from Hamburg March 1, 1871, in the Holsalia. After a voyage of eighteen days he landed in New York, and came to Grand Island, Nebraska, where friends had preceded him. He remained there until 1880, following fence construction and contract hay making most of the time. He then went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, riding the range in that country for ten years in the employ of the "Two Bar" and Warren Company's ranches. He returned to Nebraska and filed on a homestead which he later sold. After disposing of the property he purchased nine hundred and twenty acres on sections 11 and 12, township 18, range 52, now increased to over a thousand acres, and has developed this into a fine place. Four hundred acres are under cultivation with a good orchard of four hundred trees and eight hundred grape vines, besides much large natural timber, big groves, plenty of running water the year around, and everything to make it an ideal homestead. Seventy acres are irrigated. He has erected good buildings of all descriptions, including granary, cribs, barns and sheds for the accommodation of two hundred and fifty head of cattle and fifty horses, also keeping one hundred hogs each year. Ten teams are required for the work of this extensive farm. A view of the home with a partial view of the fine natural timber is presented on another page of our work.

Mr. Niehus was married at Grand Island, Nebraska, on November 25, 1879, to Miss Dora Foellmer, who was born in Kratzeber, province of Thuringia, Germany, and came to America in 1871. Four children have been born to them, as follows: Anna, now the wife of Ray Haskell, living in Bridgeport; Hilda and Joseph, at home; and Theresa, married to W. E. Bardan, residing near Redington.

In times past Mr. Niehus has been an active member of the local school board, and has always taken an active interest in all local and county affairs. He is a Republican politically, and a member of Redington Camp, No. 2607, Modern Woodmen of America. In December, 1907, he revisited the old country after an absence of thirty-seven years. Of course, not even his sister knew him, though neighbors could see a family resemblance, finally concluding he must be the lost Niehus who went to America so many years before. His venerable mother was delighted to see him and he intends soon revisiting the old home again. He brought back with him a fine variety of German potatoes, a winter bar-





RESIDENCE OF HENRY NIEHUS,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.



ley, which promises to be a valuable addition to the grain products of western Nebraska.

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#### GEORGE A. CAMM.

George A. Camm is one of the leading old settlers of Cherry county, Nebraska, where he has built up a comfortable home and farm on the south half of section 24, township 34, range 28. He came here when this section was very sparsely populated and by his industry and perseverance has gained a wide reputation as a successful agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Camm was born in Cleveland, Ohio, January 24, 1852. His father, James M. Camm, a native of Sacket's Harbor, New York, was a soldier in three wars: The Florida, the Mexican and later in the Civil war. In the latter war he served ninety days in the Fourteenth Wisconsin as first lieutenant which he resigned to raise Company G in the Forty-first Wisconsin, of which he was elected captain. The family moved from New York to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1861, and there reared their family of four children, of whom our subject is the second member. He remained with his parents until fifteen years of age, then secured employment on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, as newsboy, running between Oshkosh and Green Bay, but was only in this work a short time when his parents made him quit the road and return to school. After leaving school he returned to railroading and followed that occupation for twelve years, most of the time in service on the Green Bay & Minnesota railway as wiper, fireman and engineer. It was during this time railroads changed from wood to coal for fuel and Mr. Camm was employed four years teaching the firemen on the peninsula division the use of coal. In 1881 he left the railroad and moved to Cherry county, locating with his father on homesteads of three hundred and twenty acres in section 24, township 34, range 28, and still lives on this land, having purchased his father's quarter section after he had proved up on the title, living in Nebraska from 1881 to 1896. His first house on this farm was a stockade house with a stable in one end and hog house adjoining the building, the living rooms for the family being in the middle of the building. The sod roof of this was so defective that during rainy weather the family lived in a tent erected in front of the living rooms. He had one ox team when he came here, but did not use them long, purchasing a team of horses costing two

hundred and fifty dollars, and within twenty-four hours after buying the team, one horse died. This is but one of the many incidents that made up the sum of hard times in Nebraska; and another, his being obliged, in the harvest of one crop of corn and vegetables, to use a wheelbarrow for hauling it to the barns. By determination and hard work he gradually improved his place, and now has a fine tract of land which is continually rising in value. There are three hundred and twenty acres, all of which is under fence, with a good set of farm buildings all in good condition, a new barn replacing one destroyed by fire in 1907. Although he often became discouraged in contending with the many misfortunes that have overtaken him since coming here, Mr. Camm's resolute character has carried him safely through to final success. He farms about one hundred and thirty acres, which supports a goodly number of stock, and when farm work is not pressing adds to his store by freighting between Valentine and Rosebud Agency. He was one of the first to carry mail between these points, in which service he was engaged four and a half years, in all but six months of which time he had the contract in his own name.

Mr. Camm was married in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, October 22, 1884, to Miss May Stephenson, a native of Wisconsin, who was at that time attending the State Normal School. Seven children have been born of this union, named: Hazel, Harry, Nellie, Ethel Bessie, James, Magdalena and Winnifred E., all of whom are natives of Cherry county, and all are living except Ethel B., who was killed April 24, 1901, by the wheels of a freight wagon, and Winnifred E., lost in the burning of the barn in February, 1907.

Mr. Camm takes an active part in all local affairs, being prominent in the school district of which he is director, and aims to do his full share as a citizen and neighbor. He has never sought any political office, but is interested in all county and state affairs of importance, voting the straight Republican ticket. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Modern Woodmen of America lodges of Valentine.

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#### GEORGE W. SNYDER.

George W. Snyder, one of the leading and influential ranchers of Keith county, Nebraska, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, March 18, 1856, of German descent, his father, Henry

Snyder, and his mother, Celia Doll, both being born in Germany, and farmers by occupation.

Our subject was reared on the farm in Illinois, where he was born, assisting his father with the farm work and receiving a good common school education. He remained on the farm until about 1878, when he started out to find employment for himself.

Later in the year 1878 Mr. Snyder was married to Josephine Wasson, also a native of Bureau county, Illinois, being the daughter of Jacob and Elsa (Hoffman) Wasson, successful and influential farmers of that county. This marriage has been blessed with one daughter, Nellie, who is a teacher, having taught in Ogallala, near which place Mr. Snyder moved later in life.

Three years after his marriage, Mr. Snyder moved to Tama county, Iowa, where he bought a farm on which he lived for eight years. But poor health necessitated a change, so he moved to Peru, Illinois, where he engaged in the livery business for five years. His health requiring a greater change, he went south in 1894, spending three years in Texas, Arizona and New and Old Mexico; thence he removed to Arapahoe county, Colorado, where he lived for two years, and, in the spring of 1900, he moved to his present location in Keith county, Nebraska, buying his home farm in section 10, township 12, range 40. Our subject experienced all the hardships of pioneer days and yet has successfully coped with them all and built up his farm in fine shape. He has a fine large ranch of eleven hundred and twenty acres, thoroughly improved in an up-to-date manner, with a good home, barns, sheds, fences and other equipment necessary to the successful rancher. He cultivates about one hundred and fifty acres of his land, the balance being used for grazing purposes. He runs a fine bunch of cattle numbering about forty head, and about sixty horses of the Shire and Norman breeds, the latter to predominate in the future.

Mr. Snyder has been deeply interested in all matters pertaining to the advancement of the community in which he lives and, as an old settler, has done his share toward the material development of the county. Owing to his fine ranch and to his excellent business qualities he is highly respected by all his associates and his judgment on all matters of vital importance is highly esteemed. He was formerly a Democrat but being in Mexico, then on a silver basis, during the campaign when that was an issue he became converted to Republican doctrines and has remained in

that party ever since. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, at Peru, Illinois.

### HENRY WHITING.

In reviewing the career of Henry Whiting, we find a man who came to Dawes county in the early years of its history, and robust and energetic, threw himself into the work of building a home on the prairie—like the true pioneer he was. He is a man who won success by toil and struggle, and one who has taken a keen interest in the growth of the county in the early settlement of which he took such a prominent part.

Mr. Whiting was born in Herefordshire, England, in 1847, a son of Thomas and Ann (Wheeler) Whiting, both of whom were natives of England. He was reared and educated in his native land, and as he grew into manhood, worked in the coal mines. In 1868 he was united in marriage to Ann Rowe, in South Wales. She was a daughter of Nicholas Rowe, a plate layer, and Grace (Jones) Rowe.

Mr. Whiting came to America in 1881, landing in New York city September 26th. He went west into Green county, Iowa, his family following in 1882. Here he spent four or five years working in the coal mines. In the spring of 1886 he came to Dawes county, Nebraska, taking a claim on pre-emption in township 30, range 48. He proved up his claim and built a log cabin. In 1888 he took a homestead in section 17 of the same township. He experienced the many hardships so familiar to the early settlers in western Nebraska, and lost different crops by hail. During the periods of drouth he helped to make a living by working in the mines. The years of toil and struggle which he spent in an effort to work out for himself and family a comfortable home have not been wasted, for his ranch of six hundred and forty acres on the Pepper creek is a model one of its kind. He has erected a substantial and commodious home, and has two good wells and windmills. Mr. Whiting is the father of five children who would be a credit to any parentage. They are: Henry, Elizabeth (married), Charles, Alice and Samuel.

The subject of this sketch has always taken a leading part in the affairs of the locality in which he lives, and is looked upon as a man well worthy of the high esteem in which he is held. Through years of adversity and prosperity he has held the handles of the plow,

working out for himself a comfortable home, and giving his energies to the upbuilding of the locality in which he resides. Upright and honorable in all his dealings, he has manifested a high integrity and a strict adherence to principle, and enjoys the respect and confidence of a host of warm friends. July 8, 1907, his wife died, and this sad event was the means of bringing together the entire family, including one of his sons who resided in the state of Washington.

#### RICKLES N. ADKINS.

Among those who have made a success of farming in the western states, and who have accumulated a snug fortune, though starting out with absolutely nothing, the gentleman above named stands foremost. Mr. Adkins is one of the old settlers in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, and has done his full share in making this county what it is today, and richly merits the reward he has earned through his industry and thrift.

Mr. Adkins was born in Wayne county, Virginia, August 1, 1869, and reared on a farm where he learned to do all hard labor as a young lad. His father, Spencer Adkins, was a carpenter by trade, following farm work also. The mother was Matilda Johnson. In 1874 the family located in Kentucky, remaining there for five years, then going to Iowa and settling in Shelby county. At the age of fifteen years our subject started out in life for himself, following all kinds of work until 1889, when he began farming for himself in Keya Paha county, having made a preliminary trip in 1895. He took up a pre-emption of eighty acres, then let it go back to the government, and in 1890 took a homestead on section 27, township 35, range 17, and still occupies this place. He has fully improved this, putting up good buildings, fences, etc., cultivating a part of the land and using the rest for hay and pasture. He keeps about eighty head of cattle, one hundred and twenty hogs and also raises a number of horses for market each year.

When Mr. Adkins first came to Nebraska he had a hard time to get along, and after settling on his homestead he lost stock through having them stolen, his crops were destroyed by drouths and storms, and often did not know where the next meal was coming from. At these times he worked out by the day to support his family, and although they often became discouraged, he determined to stick to it, and is now very glad that he did so. He now has a comfortable home and fine farm, and is

counted among the successful and influential men of his section of the country.

Mr. Adkins was married June 20, 1885, to Miss Martine Larson, of Danish birth, who came to America in 1881 with her parents, locating in Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Adkins have been born children, named as follows: Abraham, Matilda, Henry, Pearl, Bert, Mary, Iona, Bertha, Rickles, Jr., and Earl, all living at home at the present time.

Mr. Adkins is Republican in political faith and a member of the Christian Adventist church.

#### H. G. WIEGAND.

H. G. Wiegand, one of the representative farmers and ranchmen of Deuel county, Nebraska, is classed among the wealthy residents of his locality, and a man who stands among the foremost citizens of the region as an important factor in the advancement and growth of his adopted home.

Our subject was born in Germany, November 11, 1863, and grew to the age of seventeen years there, receiving a scant education and the training usual to the children of the middle classes in that country, then started out for himself, taking passage on an emigrant steamer for America. He located at first in LaSalle, Illinois, and spent about six years in that vicinity, following farming the greater part of the time, then came to Nebraska and settled in Deuel county, landing here March 1, 1886. He was one of the original pioneers of western Nebraska, and passed through all the early experiences of the settlers in the region, homesteading a tract of land on which he proved up and later sold. After he had been in the United States about six months he sent for the rest of his family, father, mother, one brother and a sister coming over and joining him, and were pioneers with himself in Nebraska. He settled on section 17, township 13, range 45, and has lived on this ranch ever since, now having twenty hundred and eighty acres in the home ranch, which is fitted with a complete set of substantial farm buildings and first-class improvements of all kinds. He farms but little, using most of the land for stock raising and having extensive hay meadows, with sixty-five acres of alfalfa. He runs about two hundred and fifty head of cattle and a small bunch of horses, and has always been quite a heavy shipper of stock. Mr. Wiegand was married at Chappell, in February, 1892, to Mrs. Mary Gunn, whose maiden name was Mary Williams and who

was born and raised in England, coming to America when a girl of seventeen. The parents of both our subject and his wife are dead. They have three children, all of whom live at home, namely: Jessie M., Lyle H. and Eunice.

Mr. Wiegand is director of school district No. 9, and is a leading citizen in all affairs which tend to the betterment of his locality. Politically he is a stanch Republican and takes an active interest in party affairs.

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#### AMOS A. WRIGHT.

Amos A. Wright may be truly numbered among the leading old-timers of Box Butte county, Nebraska. He has made this region his home for the past twenty-one years, and during that time has acquired a valuable property consisting of a fine ranch of six hundred and forty acres, all well improved, and this place forms one of the most pleasant homes and best kept farms in the locality. He has lately erected a handsome concrete house with nice walks and a fine lawn surrounding it, and to the visitor driving through this section his home presents a very pleasing appearance to the eye.

Mr. Wright was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1856. His father followed farming in that state for many years, and our subject was reared and educated there, attending the country schools and assisting his parents in carrying on the home farm, remaining at home until he was twenty-one years of age. He then came west, locating in Boone county, Iowa, and there started farming for himself, but only remained in that locality for a short time, emigrating to Hastings, Nebraska, and worked on farms in that vicinity for about five years. In the spring of 1887 he came to Box Butte county, driving overland from Hastings in a covered wagon containing his household goods and bringing his family with him. He picked out a location in section 28, township 24, range 50, and at once went to work to make a home for himself and family. On the first of May of that year he had the bad luck to lose three horses in a snowstorm which struck the region, and for three weeks they wandered through the Sand Hills. His first building was a sod house. The nearest railroad station was Hay Springs, which was six miles from his homestead. His entire possessions consisted of a cow and calf and three horses, but he went to work with a stout heart, begun to break land for crops, and while improving his place worked out as a freighter and doing con-

struction work on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, which was then being laid through this section of country. Mr. Wright lived on that place up to 1901, and during that time succeeded in accumulating a nice property and adding many improvements in the way of good buildings, fences, wells and windmills. He then sold for a good price and moved to a tract of land consisting of four hundred acres, located on Snake creek, and lived there for six years, doing well, engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, then coming to his present place which he purchased. This farm contains six hundred and forty acres, situated five miles southwest of Alliance.

Mr. Wright has done his utmost since coming here to make this part of the state a prosperous farming section, as he has really improved three different farms, also lending his aid in establishing schools in his locality. He has been prominent in every movement which has been started toward the bettering of conditions here, and has always been one of the foremost citizens of his community.

Mr. Wright was married in 1880, while living in Iowa, to Mrs. Phoebe Robbins. Her father, Rufus West, was a farmer in Iowa, and her mother's maiden name was Lydia Corbett. Mrs. Wright has one son by a former marriage, Fred C. Robbins, who is a well-known ranchman in this state. Of Mr. Wright's marriage two children have been born, Arthur G., aged twenty-five years, and Albert C., aged twenty-two years.

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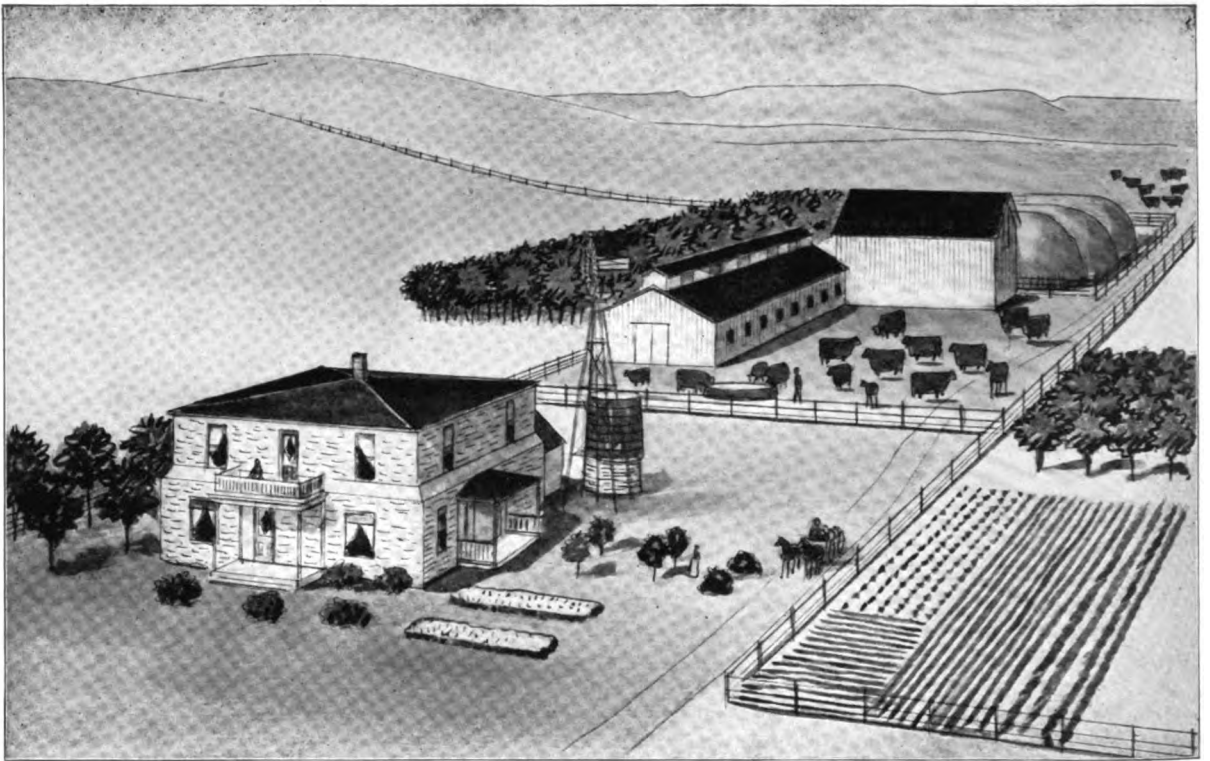
#### SWAN P. PETERSON.

Swan P. Peterson was born in Christianstad, Skone, Sweden, in July, 1850. Both parents were natives of Sweden, where the father, a farmer by occupation, died when our subject was but a small boy.

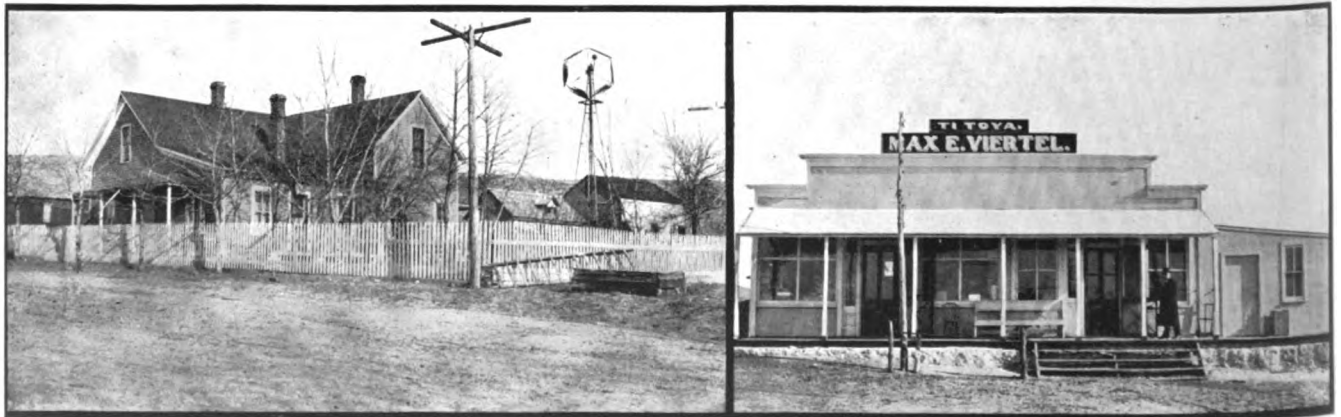
Our subject was reared and educated in his native land, attending an agricultural school, where he acquired thorough training as to farm methods and scientific and practical farming. This knowledge has been an important factor in his success in the western country. Mr. Peterson remained in Sweden until 1880, when he came to America, landing in New York city. From thence he went to Princeton, Illinois, where he worked at farming for three years during the hard times. He then found employment in the iron mills at Kewanee, Illinois, for ten years and then for about five years worked in the machine shops at the same city. May 15, 1884,







**RESIDENCE OF MICHAEL M. KLINE,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE AND STORE OF MAX E. VIETEL,**  
Crookston, Nebraska.

he came west to see Keith county, Nebraska, and bought railroad land eleven miles southeast of Ogallala, paying six dollars per acre, but he returned to Illinois and did not come again to the county until 1894. He settled on his farm southeast of Ogallala and commenced building up a home. He had a good start—a team and wagon, household goods and about fifteen hundred dollars in money. This was sufficient to keep his family in good circumstances if the crops had been good. But for several years nothing was harvested and the family managed to get through the hard times by turning their attention to dairying and stock raising. But even with that, when the bad years were passed, our subject found his money all gone and nothing but his farm and a little stock left. In 1901 he moved to his present homestead in section 14, township 13, range 41, and later added a Kincaid claim, in 1907, in section 22. He has a fine farm of nine hundred and sixty acres, a quarter section of which lies south of the Platte river and is all under irrigation. Mr. Peterson gives most of his attention to stock raising and dairying and cultivates only about sixty acres.

Our subject was married in Kewanee, Illinois, in May, 1892, to Mrs. Nellie Lundin (nee Johnson), a native of Skone, Sweden, who came to America with a girl friend in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have had five children, four of whom are living: Ebba, Lawrence, Emmert and Hazel; one son, Otto, is dead.

Mr. Peterson is one of the old settlers of that part of the state and is well and favorably known over a wide territory. He is a member of the Republican party, and he is influential in promulgating the principles of the party to which he belongs. He is a conscientious and public-spirited citizen, and has come to occupy a high place in the regard of his fellows. He is a member of the Ogallala Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and a Lutheran in religious faith.

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#### MICHAEL M. KLINE.

Michael M. Kline, a well-known and successful farmer and dairyman of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, has a pleasant and substantial home in Colton precinct, and is one of the prominent men of his locality.

Mr. Kline was born in the Shenandoah valley, Rockingham county, Virginia, December 17, 1855, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Miller) Kline, both Virginians by birth, the former departed this life in August, 1906.

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while the mother resides on the old homestead in Virginia. Our subject grew up in his native state, emigrating to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1877, and spent about eleven years in that part of the country. He first came to Nebraska in 1887, filing on a homestead and tree claim in section 18, township 13, range 48, which he later sold. Since then he has taken up additional land under the Kincaid law in section 30, township 14, range 48, and is now owner of a fine estate, of which one hundred and forty-five acres are devoted to dairy farming. He has erected good buildings on his farm lands, and has about fifty acres under cultivation, using the balance as pasture and hay land. He is quite heavily interested in the dairy business, keeps about seventy-five head of Holstein cattle, and runs a milk wagon for the Sidney trade. He is doing exceedingly well along these lines, and has a comfortable and pleasant home, all of which has been accumulated through his own unaided efforts and industrious habits. When he first landed here he was obliged to start his farm on a very small scale, and for a number of years was unable to lay by anything, as he suffered from failure of crops on account of the drouth periods, but he stuck to his purpose and has been well rewarded for his labors, now being in comfortable circumstances. A view of his dwelling and barns are presented on another page.

Mr. Kline was united in marriage, in October, 1880, in Keokuk county, Iowa, to Miss Fannie Flory, whose father, Samuel Flory, is still living in that county. Her mother was in maidenhood a Miss Brewer. Mr. and Mrs. Kline have three children, namely: Lizzie Virginia, now Mrs. Paul Cappler, living in Cheyenne county; Ira, the owner of a fine ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, which he filed on under the Kincaid act, situated in section 24, township 14, range 49; and Eva, living at home.

Mr. Kline is a Prohibitionist in sentiment, and votes an independent ticket. He is an active, public-spirited citizen, always standing for the good of his community. In religious sentiment he is one of the Dunkard Brethren.

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#### MAX E. VIERTEL.

Max E. Viertel, who now resides in Crookston, Cherry county, Nebraska, has been identified with the history of this broad and promising county for many years. The Viertels were originally French, the grandfather of Max E. leaving his native land to make his

home in Germany as early as 1813. There the family remained, making their home at Bremen, in Saxony, until 1881. Christian E. Viertel, the father of Max E., sailed for America in October, 1880, the mother following with the family, sailing June 25, 1881, in the steamer Elbe, landing in New York on the 4th day of July. On his arrival in this country, Christian E. Viertel brought his family to Bowditch county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming for two years, when he removed to Stevens Point to enter the employ of the Wisconsin Central Railway, remaining until 1886. He then came to Crookston, Nebraska.

Max E. Viertel was born in Limbach, Germany, July 28, 1863. On reaching Wisconsin he secured a position on the Wisconsin Central in 1882, and three years later became store keeper of the company's supply shops. He was in the hotel business at Stevens Point until removing to Nebraska. In 1886 he came to Crookston and became clerk in the store of F. H. Baumgartel, established in July of that year, and long recognized as the leading store in this entire region. In 1899 Mr. Viertel had become so successful in his ventures, and so sure of himself that he bought out the establishment, and began a mercantile career that has proved remarkably successful. Mr. Viertel not only does a general mercantile business, but he also deals in farm lands, and as a reliable and trustworthy real estate dealer is widely known. He is also postmaster of Crookston, which office he efficiently fills. His years are still largely before him, and his friends are sure that his energy, ability and character will win for him a much larger measure of success than he has yet enjoyed. He possesses the confidence and trust of the community to a marked degree, and his word needs no bond to bind it.

Mr. Viertel was married April 3, 1887, to Miss Lydia Baumgartel, a native of Saxony, Germany, her father being the founder of the store as noted above. She is the mother of a family of six children: Helena, Viola, Rudolph, Gladys, Margaret and Levon. The family are Lutheran in faith and Mr. Viertel is a member of the Crookston lodges of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### ARTHUR S. BEEDE.

The gentleman above named is known throughout the locality in which he resides as an energetic and prosperous agriculturist, and

has for the past ten years been engaged in bringing his valuable estate to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Beede was born on a farm in Allamakee county, Iowa, in 1858. His father, John C. Beede, is of American stock, born and raised near Moosehead Lake, and was by trade a shoemaker. At the time the family located in Iowa, they were the fifth family to settle in Allamakee county, which was then practically a wilderness. Our subject is the eldest of a family of eight children, and he lived at home assisting his father in breaking up the new land and getting it in shape to raise crops. At the age of twenty-two he came west but did not settle permanently, and in 1880 he went back to Iowa, locating in Osceola county, where he worked on a farm for a year and a half. He went north then, landing in Chamberlain, South Dakota, and drifted around in that part of the country for about two years. In 1884 he struck Valentine, Nebraska, going all over this part of the state, and then traveled on to Kansas where he picked corn for a living during the fall and winter months. In 1885 he came to Sheridan county, his first location being on a pre-emption two miles east of Rushville. This he soon afterward sold, and took a homestead in this locality. In 1897 he purchased his present home, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, of which he farms about one hundred acres, raising enough hay and grain on the balance to keep his stock. He has thirty head of cattle and twelve horses. During the poor years he farmed at a loss, and when he came to figure up after going through many discouraging times, found that he was two thousand dollars in debt. He was about ready to quit then, but his wife was determined to stay and try to make this up, so they went to work again with a will and as times became better he was able to grow good crops, and things began to look brighter. He is now free from all debt, is the owner of a fine farm, well improved with good buildings and all fenced, and is classed among the substantial citizens of his locality. He has gained all this by dint of perseverance and hard work, as he had very little money to start with, and was obliged to do all kinds of rough work, such as freighting, teaming, etc., in order to make a living for his family in the early days.

Mr. Beede was married in 1886 to Miss Mary E. Hughes, a native of Allamakee county, Iowa. Her father and her mother were both born and raised in Ireland and came to this country as a young married couple. They located in Iowa, where they re-

mained until their children grew up. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Beede, who are named as follows: John, Roy, Nellie, Elizabeth, Angie, Thomas, William and Clarence, all born and raised in this locality. The family occupy a pleasant home, and is highly respected in the community. Mr. Beede was raised a Republican, voted the Greenback ticket in his younger days, and now his sympathies are with the Independent party. He keeps abreast of the times in all public matters, but has never had any time to devote to taking an active part in politics.

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### JAMES A. HUNTER.

James A. Hunter now lives at Alliance, but has a fine ranch located in section 29, township 29, range 49, in Dawes county, Nebraska. He is one of the most extensive raisers of horses and cattle in western Nebraska. He was born in Montgomery county, Illinois, in 1862, a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Anderson) Hunter, natives of Scotland. His parents came to America on their wedding tour, and settled in Montgomery county, Illinois, where his father was a prominent farmer.

Until the age of nineteen years, our subject remained on the farm with his parents, and received a common school education. He then went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he entered the Jones Commercial College. Upon the completion of his studies there, Mr. Hunter went to San Antonio, Texas, where he purchased three hundred head of cattle and entered the stock business. After remaining here a short time, he trailed a herd of six thousand head of cattle, including his own, north into the Indian Territory. Here he remained until the spring of 1881, when he drove his herd on through to Nebraska. The journey through the Indian Territory (where he was quarantined for two months) and across the state of Kansas was marked by many trying experiences. For six months he was forced to camp out constantly, obtaining his supplies from the different forts along the route, not having seen a single house during this period, only his camp wagon.

Mr. Hunter has been all over these western counties in the early days, the nearest post-office being Pine Ridge, South Dakota, while Sidney was the nearest railroad station. Here he engaged in the raising of horses, and when the county first began settling, had quite a herd of fine animals. It was in 1883 or 1884 that Mr. Hunter filed on the claim which is his present home farm, and at once set about

the task of reclaiming from the wild prairie a suitable home in which to pass his life. He now has what is one of the largest ranches in western Nebraska, comprising an area of fifty-three hundred acres of deeded land and about twenty-seven hundred acres of leased land. He has erected good buildings, and has his ranch well fenced. He has about four hundred acres which are irrigated. Mr. Hunter engages extensively in stockraising, and has fifty head of horses and seven hundred head of cattle. The many years which he has devoted to this occupation has made him an expert, and has gained for him an enviable reputation throughout the country.

In 1888, Mr. Hunter and Miss Anna Harris were married. Her parents were Thomas and Grazell (Sheppard) Harris, prominent old settlers near Springfield, Illinois. Mrs. Hunter died in 1893 on the farm in Dawes county, Nebraska. One child was born of this union, Robert L. In June, 1897, Mr. Hunter contracted a second marriage with Nellie Harris, a sister of his deceased wife.

The subject of this narrative is a Republican. He has worked hard and managed well, and his career is to be regarded as a marked success. While he has devoted himself very closely to his ranch, and has permitted nothing to come between him and that great interest, he has always taken a prominent part in everything pertaining to matters of local interest, and as an old settler he has done his share of the work of improving and developing Dawes county, and making it a home for a thrifty and industrious people. He has held various school offices, and assisted in the building of the first schools in the county.

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### WILLIAM BEATTY.

If we were to be asked for the name of one of the oldest settlers in the western part of Nebraska, and a representative citizen of this locality, we would not hesitate to give that of William Beatty, the subject of this review. He resides in Brady, Lincoln county, and has lived in this section since 1875, building up a fine home and comfortable competence, and incidentally being one of those who have aided materially in the development and growth of his community.

Mr. Beatty is a native of Monahan county, Ireland, and his mother still resides there. In 1895 he re-visited the home of his childhood and spent some time with his mother, who is now dead. He spent his boyhood years with his parents, and at the age of twenty-two came

to America, landing in New York in 1873. Two years later he came west, locating in eastern Nebraska, but only remained there for two years then came to Lincoln county, homesteading the place on which he now lives. He worked for the Union Pacific railway for twelve years after coming here, also superintending the working of his farm, and adding improvements gradually. He took up a tree claim near Gottenberg, which he has since sold. He added to his ranch, buying railway lands and other tracts, and now owns about three thousand acres in all. He does not go in for farming to any great extent; raises a little corn, and some small farm products, and nearly all his land is devoted to stock raising, with some portions of it in hay and grazing fields. He has on his place about three hundred to five hundred cattle, one hundred hogs, and from **thirty-five to fifty horses**. He shows a decided preference for the Hereford breed of cattle, and finds them the best for all purposes. His hogs are of mixed breeds, and his horses are all general purpose animals which he finds to be the best for his locality. He raises fine crops of hay each season, and this year his yield was about four hundred tons, and he feeds all of this on his farm, besides buying a great deal of grain, etc.

Mr. Beatty is one of the most successful ranchmen in his community, and in character is intelligent and genial, admired and respected by all who know him for his many sterling qualities. He is president of the State Bank of Brady, and a man who takes an active part in everything that tends to the betterment of conditions in his locality. He states that as a boy in Ireland, all England seemed to think of or care for was to take all she could from the Irish people. When he returned to Ireland in 1895 he was amazed at the improved condition of things there. It now appears that England is doing all she can to aid the Irish. Anyone wishing to build a home there, can, by presenting an architect's certificate, borrow for twenty years two-thirds of the cost of the building, paying interest of two per cent. per annum. Any tenant wishing to buy the land which he has formerly rented can compel the landlord to sell to him, and the government loans the tenant the full purchase price of the land fixed by agreement or arbitration, at two per cent. for forty years. This certainly is a great improvement over the conditions which existed in years gone by, when the people were so bitterly oppressed by the English. Many were forced to leave their home country and take refuge in a foreign land to escape the hardships which they were

obliged to endure in Ireland not many years since, and it was through this that many of our sturdy Irish citizens came to this country to taste of the joys of freedom.

Mr. Beatty was married in 1883 to Miss Minnie Burke, a native of Iowa, and sister of the present agent for the Union Pacific railway, who resides at Maxwell, Nebraska. As a result of this union five children have come to bless their home, who are named as follows: William, Robert, Essie, Effie and Edyth, all of whom are living at home, the daughters attending school here. They have a pleasant and comfortable home, and enjoy a large circle of friends and are highly respected by all who know them.

Mr. Beatty is an Independent in politics, and takes a deep interest in all local and state affairs, always keeping abreast of the times and being thoroughly conversant with public matters of importance.

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#### IGNATIUS WANKER.

Ignatius Wanker, one of the best known pioneers of western Nebraska, is a man of sterling character who has accumulated a fine property through thrift and perseverance, and after undergoing many hardships and privations in the earlier years of his life has gained a competence for himself and family. He resides in Ainsworth, where he is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and a foremost member of the community. Mr. Wanker was born near Strasburg, in Alsace, then a province of France, January 7, 1845. His father was a farmer by occupation who lived and died in his native land. There was a family of five children, of whom but two are now living. They, with the mother, came to America in 1857, settling in Horton county, Iowa, where they were among the pioneers. There for several years our subject farmed and worked in his uncle's country store part of the time, until the outbreak of the Civil war; then in 1862, enlisted in Company B, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, going with his regiment through Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee; was on the Red river expedition and in the Camden campaign, taking part in fourteen big battles and many skirmishes. He was mustered out at Littlerock, and discharged at Davenport, Iowa, in July, 1863, after three years' hard service.

After leaving the army he returned to Iowa where he purchased a farm near Hopewell, Clark county, remaining on it up to 1885, put-

ting up good buildings and making many improvements. He disposed of that place in the latter year and came to Brown county, where he took a homestead on section 6, township 28, range 21, his first building here being a sod house in which he lived with his family for two years. He went successfully through the dry years, for it was during those times that he raised his best crops, and was very successful, paying off his mortgage on the place, when many others had a hard time to get along and make a living. He acquired a fine farm of eight hundred acres, one hundred and fifty of which is cultivated, and the balance in hay and pasture land, which he traded for the Osborn House in Ainsworth. This he later exchanged for a fine tract of forty acres near Norfolk, which is highly improved. He since purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 35, southeast of Ainsworth, which he personally superintends, dividing his time between this land and his home in Ainsworth.

January 4, 1866, Mr. Wanker was married to Miss Sarah Carter, born in Ohio, of American blood. Eight children were born to them, namely: Louis (deceased), Lillian, Frank, Rose, Flora, Mary, Orris and Bessie. Mrs. Wanker died on December 30, 1900, and was interred the first day of the new year. In her loss the family had the sympathy of the entire community. On July 20, 1902, Mr. Wanker was again married, Miss Rebecca McKennon becoming his bride. He is a Republican in politics and a comrade in the Grand Army of the Republic of Ainsworth. He was reared in the Catholic church.

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#### PHILIP T. HIGGINS.

Philip T. Higgins, one of the prominent old settlers and leading ranchmen and farmers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, has come to his present successful estate by dint of hard labor and constant attention to duty. He located in this state as early as 1880, and since that time has passed through all the changes that have come to the region, and incidentally, aided materially in the development of its resources and building up for himself a valuable property in Davidson precinct.

Mr. Higgins was born August 7, 1856, in Ritchie county, West Virginia, and made that vicinity his home until he was twenty-four years of age. He was the only boy in a family of six children, received a common school education, and followed farm work as a young man; he learned the blacksmith's trade

at which he worked part of the time. His first location after coming west in 1880, was at Nebraska City, in which vicinity he remained for six years engaged in farming and ranching. He came to western Nebraska in March, 1886, and filed on a homestead in section 26, township 16, range 51, Cheyenne county. He built a sod house and began to break up land for crops, raising sod-corn and vegetables the first summer. For several years he found it difficult to make even a bare living, but finally he proved up on his claim. As circumstances permitted he added to his original homestead until he is now owner of nine hundred and sixty acres, devoting two hundred and sixty of it to farming purposes, and the balance to hay and pasture for his stock, running about one hundred head of cattle and sixty horses. In addition to his ranch here Mr. Higgins owns a valuable four hundred-acre farm in eastern Nebraska. He has a complete set of good buildings on his ranch, including a well equipped blacksmith shop, and does considerable work for himself and for his neighbors for miles around.

Mr. Higgins's parents are both deceased. The father, Thomas Higgins, was a native of Ireland, while the mother, Sidney Wymer, in maidenhood, was born in Pendleton county, West Virginia. Our subject was married in eastern Nebraska, May 16, 1883, to Miss Tabitha Weimer, and after nineteen years of happy domestic felicity Mrs. Higgins departed this life, April 11, 1902, leaving a sorrowing family and many friends to mourn her death. There were four children born of the marriage, as follows: Charles E., born June 11, 1887; Clara M., born June 11, 1892; Violet P., born March 5, 1896; and Philip R., born January 24, 1899. He was married again, November 26, 1902, in Cheyenne county, to Miss Ella Miller, who formerly lived in Saunders county, Nebraska, where her parents, Henry and Martha (Kidney) Miller, still reside. Of this union three children have been born: Jessie A., Ethel L. and Lulu F.

Mr. Higgins is serving as postmaster at Clara postoffice, which is located at his home. In political views he is a Democrat, with independent tendencies. He is a member of the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen at Sidney.

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#### JOHN B. BLOMBERG.

John B. Blomberg, a well-to-do farmer of Sioux county, has a well-improved farm and ranch in section 31, township 31, range 53, on

which he makes his home, and is among the old settlers of this region. He has acquired his entire possessions through energetic labor and good business management, and is now prepared to enjoy his declining years surrounded by all the comforts of rural life.

Mr. Blomberg was born in Skona, Sweden, in 1865. His father lived and died in that country, and his mother still occupies the old homestead there. Our subject grew up in Sweden, received a limited schooling, and during his boyhood learned the butcher's trade, following that occupation for six years in his home vicinity. He left Sweden and came to the United States in 1888, and after spending a short time in New York city came west to Saunders county, Nebraska, at once going on a farm and followed that and railroading for about two years. He then settled in Sioux county, landing here in 1890, and after coming here worked at railroading, employed on section work in this state and Wyoming, acting as foreman for six years. He saved considerable money, and at the end of that time took his present farm as a homestead. This place is situated in section 31, township 31, range 53, and consists of six hundred and forty acres which lies for a mile along the White river, is well supplied with timber and fuel, and a large part is irrigated. He has about forty acres cultivated, and is engaged in grain and stock raising on quite a large scale, meeting with splendid success along these lines. He is a progressive agriculturist, and has improved the farm in first-class shape, putting up good buildings, including a handsome residence twenty-six by twenty-six feet, with beautiful lawn surrounding it, and every appointment shows good management and taste, and the casual visitor through this section pronounces it one of the most attractive rural homes to be found in the county.

Mr. Blomberg was united in marriage December 16, 1897, to Julia Gaston, who came to Nebraska from Ohio, where her father and mother were both born and raised as well as herself. She was a daughter of Joe and Martha (German) Gaston, both of German descent. Mr. and Mrs. Blomberg have a charming family of six children, named as follows: Carrie, Axel, Ethel, Clarence, Lawrence and Earl.

Our subject is a leader in local public affairs. He is an independent voter, and for some years served as assessor in his district, also as road overseer. He has been active in establishing the schools of his locality, acting as a board member for many years. Since settling here he has been employed by the

Chicago & Northwestern railway a great deal as foreman on the section, and is employed by that company at the present time.

#### PETER O. LINGBLOM.

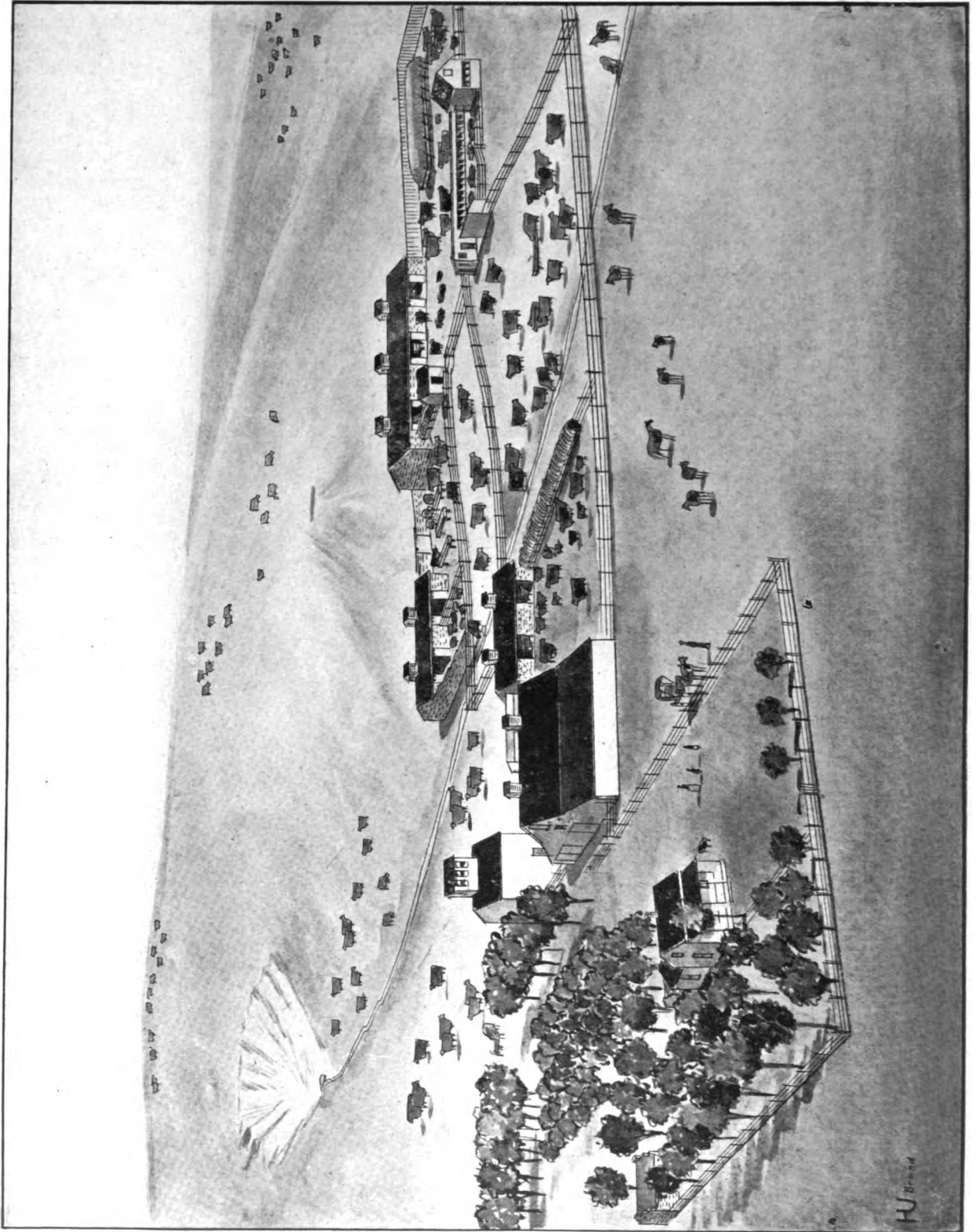
Another well known and highly esteemed old settler of Perkins county, Nebraska, is found in the person of the gentleman above named. He has made this region his home for the past twenty years and more, coming here as a boy, and during that time has built up a comfortable fortune and while accumulating a competence for himself has also aided materially in the development and advancement of his community.

Mr. Lingblom was born in Boone county, Iowa, in 1869. He first saw the light on his father's farm, the latter a native of Sweden, who grew up in that country, was married there and came to America with his bride, where they settled in Iowa about 1868, and going to Nebraska later, locating in Hamilton county, about 1881, taking a rented farm on which they lived for a number of years. In 1887 the whole family came to Perkins county, the father taking a homestead on section 34, township 12, range 36, beginning with a very small capital. During the first few months they lived in a tent and our subject worked on the railroad which was being put through the region, in order to help support the family and get a start on his farm. After a short time our subject went back to the eastern part of the state and worked as a farm hand, being back and forth every year, and about 1890 returned to Perkins county to settle, and started for himself on a farm, taking land in the vicining of his father's homestead. For some time afterward, however, he still worked out to some extent in eastern Nebraska. He improved the place as rapidly as he was able, making a very productive farm out of it, and in 1902 bought his father's old homestead, at which time the latter moved to Whatcom county, Washington, his death occurring there in 1905.

Peter O. Lingblom is now owner of three hundred and twenty acres, all good farm and range land, with one hundred acres under cultivation, used for the raising of grain, vegetables, etc., and he engages also extensively in the stock business, running cattle, horses, and other stock. He raises a large drove of chickens each year, and has some very fine specimens of the White Leghorn breed. He is an authority on the breeding and raising of poultry, having made that a special study







RESIDENCE OF JENS SILLASSEN,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

for some years past. Considerable of his income each year is from his poultry. He also has a fine orchard, raising many different kinds of fruit.

In 1899 Mr. Lingblom was married to Miss Anna Oman, whose parents were old settlers in western Nebraska. They have three children, Victor, Theodore and Carl, all bright and intelligent youngsters, and the family has a pleasant home and are well liked by their associates in the community.

### JENS SILLASEN.

Jens Sillasen was born on a farm near the village of Andrup, province of Jutland, Denmark, October 12, 1869. His father, Morton Sillasen, was also a native of that country, where he lived and died, as was the mother, Maren Andersen, still residing on the old home farm. Our subject remained in the land of his nativity until 1888, when he sailed from Esbjerg to Hull, going thence to Glasgow, where he embarked on a steamer of the American line, and landed at Philadelphia, after a voyage of thirteen days. He came west to the North Platte country in Nebraska, joining his brother Silas, and for five years was employed on the John Bratt & Company's ranch, principally in Lincoln county.

In 1893 he started for himself, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land near Keystone, living in the sod house he found on the place when he purchased it, for four years, building a comfortable frame house in 1897. He has one of the finest ranches in the county, with buildings best adapted to ranch purposes of any in the region. He owns over four thousand five hundred acres of fine hill and bottom land, on which he runs about six hundred head of cattle, two hundred and fifty head of hogs and twenty-five fine horses. He has excellent buildings and improvements, his corrals and pens being constructed largely of cement blocks. He has many fine trees started and his premises have a homelike and prosperous appearance. There are several spring branches on the place and from one of these he has piped a never failing supply to the house and tanks conveniently placed about the corrals and pastures.

Mr. Sillasen was married October 18, 1899, to Miss Mayme Mathews, a native of Chariton county, Missouri, a daughter of Benjamin G. and Lucy (Henderson) Mathews, of Kentucky and Missouri, respectively. They have two children, Doris and Ardis.

Jens Sillasen has been a successful man and

acquired a good competency and a delightful home. He has been prominently connected with the public affairs of his community and has held several offices. He is a strong supporter of the Democratic party, was reared in the Lutheran church and affiliates with the Masonic fraternity at Ogallala.

A view of his fine ranch buildings with recent improvements is to be found on another page of our work.

### OTTO P. MICHEEL.

Otto P. Micheel, residing on section 8, township 32, range 25, of Cherry county, Nebraska, was born in the village of Rollin, province of Holstein, Germany, September 3, 1863. His father, Carl Micheel, who married Sophie Gaus, was a farmer, and never left his native land. Otto was the youngest member of a family of seven children, and was reared on his father's farm, attending the schools in his native village until he was sixteen years of age. He then started out for himself, obtaining employment on farms in the vicinity of his home, learning the dairy business and continued at this for three years. In 1882 he left his fatherland and came to America, sailing from Hamburg on the steamer Selesia, August 13, and, after twelve days, landed at New York. He at once joined a brother at Martinsburg, Dixon county, Nebraska, which he reached about September 1st, but remained there only until the following spring, then came on to Cherry county and took up a pre-emption claim, located south of Wood Lake. This he changed to a homestead, and soon after sold his relinquishment and bought other land north of Wood Lake, which he still occupies. Here he has added to the acreage until he has a ranch of about one thousand six hundred acres, most of which lies in the valley, all of it good hay land, engaging principally in stock raising. He keeps from four to five hundred head of cattle, fifty horses, and a flock of sheep. He has erected a comfortable two-story dwelling, a large barn, with numerous outbuildings, and devotes his entire time to the improvement of his property.

For some three years Mr. Micheel had charge of Willis Barnard's ranch, after which he rented for two years. Starting out with three horses and a bunch of forty cattle, he at once began to establish a farm, putting up a good log house on his first farm and breaking up land for crops. He has been exceptionally fortunate and although he has

gone through some hard times, has never experienced the privations and suffering that so many of the pioneers of this section endured. There is a fine grove of forest trees surrounding the home place to which several hundred poplar and willow trees were added in the spring of 1908, with a thrifty orchard growing.

Mr. Micheel was married March 22, 1888, to Miss Gerda Thiel, a native of Flensburg, province of Schleswig, Germany, who came to this country on the same boat which brought her husband. Her father, Henry Thiel, died in Germany, and the mother, Margareta Jansen, at sea, on the voyage to America. Miss Thiel lived for five years in Chicago, coming to Cherry county to visit the family of Henry Micheel. They have a family of nine children, who are named as follows: Eric, Wilhelm, Marie, Emma, Carl, Myrtle, Florence, Herbert and Otto, all of whom were born and reared in this county.

Mr. Micheel is a Republican, but has never held any office, although he is always active in the advancement of educational affairs in his community and has done his share in the development of this territory. He has a fine estate, and has been richly rewarded for his industrious habits and perseverance in overcoming many obstacles and difficulties that beset the pioneer settlers of this locality. He was reared in the Lutheran church, and is, fraternally, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen of Wood Lake.

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#### RICHARD McCracken.

A large share of the wealth of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, comes from the thriving agricultural districts of Pine precinct, and among those who own large estates there, a prominent place is accorded the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this article.

Mr. McCracken was born in Fremont county, Iowa, February 23, 1869, and raised and educated on his parents' farm. His father, Andrew McCracken, was born in Ireland and came to America at the age of ten years, where he grew up in Illinois, enlisting at Monmouth, with an Illinois regiment just before the close of the war, serving until the struggle was over. He soon afterwards came to Keya Paha county, Nebraska, and took up a tree claim in section 11, township 33, range 19, and developed and improved the place, farming up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1892. He left a wife and seven children, our subject being the oldest, and the mother now

resides with him. When he was twenty-one years of age he began farming for himself, working the home place, and later took a tree claim adjoining his home place, which he still owns. In 1902 he took a homestead in the same section in which his father's farm is located. Mr. McCracken now operates one thousand two hundred acres of good land, cultivating two hundred acres, with about three hundred and fifty acres in hay land, and large pastures for his stock. He keeps a hundred cattle, twenty horses, and raises about forty hogs each season for the market.

Our subject has many improvements on his ranch, good buildings, with a nice house, large commodious barn, which he has recently built, and all other farm buildings, fences, etc. He also has a good grove of forest trees on his tree claim, and plenty of good water, Spring creek running through the place.

On February 24, 1901, Mr. McCracken was married to Miss Priscilla Koenig, of Bohemian stock, born in Knox county, Nebraska, in 1877, a daughter of Thomas and Antonia Koenig. Her people were early settlers in Keya Paha county, also in Knox county, where she was reared. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken have three children, namely: Henry, Idalia and Frank.

Mr. McCracken is a Democrat, and a man of broad mind, progressive and well-read in all matters of public importance, although he does not take an active part in political affairs, preferring to devote his whole time to his farm and home.

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#### FRANK E. FORSLING.

For nearly a quarter of a century the gentleman above named has been identified with the agricultural interests of Kimball county, Nebraska, and he has aided materially in transforming this locality from its wild natural state into a thriving farming district. He is a gentleman of unusual perseverance and energy, and has met with deserved success in his labors, now being classed among the leading citizens of his community.

Frank E. Forsling was born in Sweden on January 15, 1871. His parents were also natives of that country, and he grew to the age of twelve years in the land of his birth, then came to America with father, mother and two brothers and one sister, locating at first in Chicago, and after a short time in that city, came to Phelps county, Nebraska, landing there in the spring of 1884. After two years in that county they came to Kimball county, the father homesteading and proving up on

a tract of land. Our subject filed on a claim for himself in 1890, and is now located on section 2, township 14, range 57, where he has a good farm. He has about forty acres cultivated, and engages in mixed farming and stock raising, running about fifty head of cattle and a small bunch of horses.

Oscar E. Forsling, a brother of our subject, has followed about the same career as himself, locating in Kimball county in 1885. He was elected deputy sheriff of the county in 1904, served his term, and in 1907 was elected sheriff, now holding that position. He is a Republican, and one of the leading public men of the section. A sketch of his life will be found on another page of this work.

On November 25, 1900, our subject was married to Miss Alice Ellis, and at the same time Oscar E. Forsling was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Whitman, and the two families have been closely united since that event, and are among the popular members of society in their community.

Our subject has had a varied and interesting experience in western life, and is well and favorably known throughout the locality in which he lives. During the early years much of his time was spent in hunting and trapping through the fall and winter, and in riding the range and breaking horses during the summer months.

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#### FRED C. ROBBINS.

Fred C. Robbins, whose fine farm in section 34, township 24, range 29, marks the thrift enjoyed by its owner, is a native of Iowa, and a typical representative of the western states, sturdy and independent, who has grown up among the vicissitudes of a new country. He has devoted his entire efforts to the development of a model farm and now has one of the finest places in Box Butte county, Nebraska.

Mr. Robbins was born in Jefferson, Green county, Iowa, in 1873. His father, John Robbins, was of English stock, whose father and mother were both born in England and came to this country as emigrants in an early day. When our subject was seven years of age the family came to Nebraska and settled near Hastings, living in that vicinity until he was about fourteen years old. Fred left home in 1894 and started for himself, coming to the western part of the state, locating on a homestead sixteen miles from Alliance and proving up on the place in due time. This was an entirely new country and he went through the

usual pioneer experiences, handling ox teams, freighting through the country, at the same time developing his farm in good shape, and while he did not get ahead very fast the first few years, had the good luck not to meet with any severe losses in the way of failures of crops, as did so many of his neighbors. Mr. Robbins remained on that place up to 1905, then sold out and moved on a Kincaid homestead in section 33, township 24, range 49, and there he has done well, opening up a fine ranch and built a good home, owning in all about eight hundred acres of good land, and is numbered among the successful and up-to-date agriculturists and ranchmen of his community. Our subject is engaged extensively in raising both cattle and horses.

In 1897 Mr. Robbins was married to Hattie Fisher. She was born in Missouri and reared in Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Robbins' father now resides in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins have had four children, namely: Walter, Freddie and Hazel, deceased; and Thelma. They form a most interesting and charming family, all well liked by their associates, and they enjoy a happy and pleasant home, surrounded by a host of warm friends.

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#### PETER RASMUSSEN.

Peter Rasmussen, vice-president of the Republican Valley Bank, at Naponee, Nebraska, is one of the leading citizens of his county. Mr. Rasmussen resides in Turkey creek township, Franklin county, occupying a fine three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm, located on the eastern boundary of the town of Naponee. There he has a beautiful home, with every appointment of the place in the finest shape possible, and the well-kept grounds, ornamental shrubbery and shade trees, make one of the most attractive rural homes to be seen in Franklin county. The people in his immediate vicinity all join in keeping their homes and farms in the same state of neatness and order, which makes the outskirts of Naponee a most delightful spot. There are nice residences, evergreen hedges, shade trees and beautiful lawns, which present an aspect of thrift and prosperity, and every stranger visiting the place is struck by the contrast between this and most of the neglected and barren farming communities to be found in a newly settled region, and one often wonders why the excellent example of Mr. Rasmussen and his neighbors is not oftener imitated. Mr. Rasmussen was born in Denmark, as was his wife, who was Miss

Hannah Nelson. After coming to America, in 1868, they were located for a time at Clifton, Iroquois county, Illinois, and in 1882 came to their present home. Mr. Rasmussen bought one hundred and sixty acres in 1889, paying for the land three thousand dollars, and it is now worth sixteen thousand dollars, showing a steady advance during the past eighteen years. Since locating here he has added to his farm and now owns three hundred and twenty acres, on which he raises considerable fine stock, and engages in mixed farming. Besides his farming interests, he is engaged in numerous business enterprises. He is one of the organizers of the Home Telephone Company, started in 1904 with a capital of ten thousand dollars, and is treasurer of and a director in this company. Mr. Rasmussen has always stood for the best interests of his community, and take an active interest in all local affairs for the improvement and upbuilding of Naponee. He has been treasurer of the high school board for nine years, and was aggressively active and insistent in securing the erection of the new and creditable high school building here. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen are the parents of the following children: John E., living on the home farm; Henry, also at home; Edward T., cashier of the Riverton Valley Bank, Riverton, Nebraska; and Camelia, married to Professor G. M. Wiley, of Shenandoah College, in Iowa.

Our subject is a man of sterling character, and in every respect a highly valued member of his community.

Mr. Rasmussen was one of the incorporators and is a director of the Republican Valley Bank, of Naponee, Nebraska. This bank was established in 1908. George M. Wilmot, is president; Emil Sindt, vice-president; A. W. Polly, cashier; S. Y. Hart and Peter Rasmussen, directors. A general banking business is transacted. The bank is in a flourishing condition and is one of the growing institutions of Franklin county.

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#### T. G. HEMMETT.

Mr. Hemmett is one of the most widely known men residing within the territory included in this volume. He is also one of the first settlers of northwest Nebraska, having settled in the valley of the North Loup river, January 8, 1875. At the time of his settlement, the United States troops stationed in this portion of the state for the protection of the straggling settlements and to guard the Union Pacific railroad, were about half the

population of this great region. It was after Mr. Hemmett settled in Garfield county, that Sergeant Daugherty was killed in an engagement between the Indians and the United States troops, the engagement occurring almost in sight of his residence. Mr. Hemmett has served as county clerk of Garfield county eleven years, and is now holding the office. In the early pioneer days, "Tom," as he was familiarly known, was one of the best marksmen in the Loup region; and many are the witnesses to his generosity in the division of the spoils of the chase; many a choice piece of venison has "Tom" left at the cabin door of a neighbor; and the same spirit of generosity that prompted the division of venison, in pioneer days, has prompted him to render aid to those in need in later years, when dollars are as freely given as a "saddle" of antelope or venison in the seventies. Mr. Hemmett was born in the town of Lockport, Niagara county, New York, March 9, 1850. He came to Garfield county in January, 1870, where he still resides. Mr. Hemmett owns a fine farm of five hundred and sixty acres in the valley of the North Loup, three miles east of Burwell. His residence is one of the best in western Nebraska, and stands in a beautiful grove of elms and evergreens.

A portrait of Mr. Hemmett, together with a picture of his residence, appears on another page of this work.

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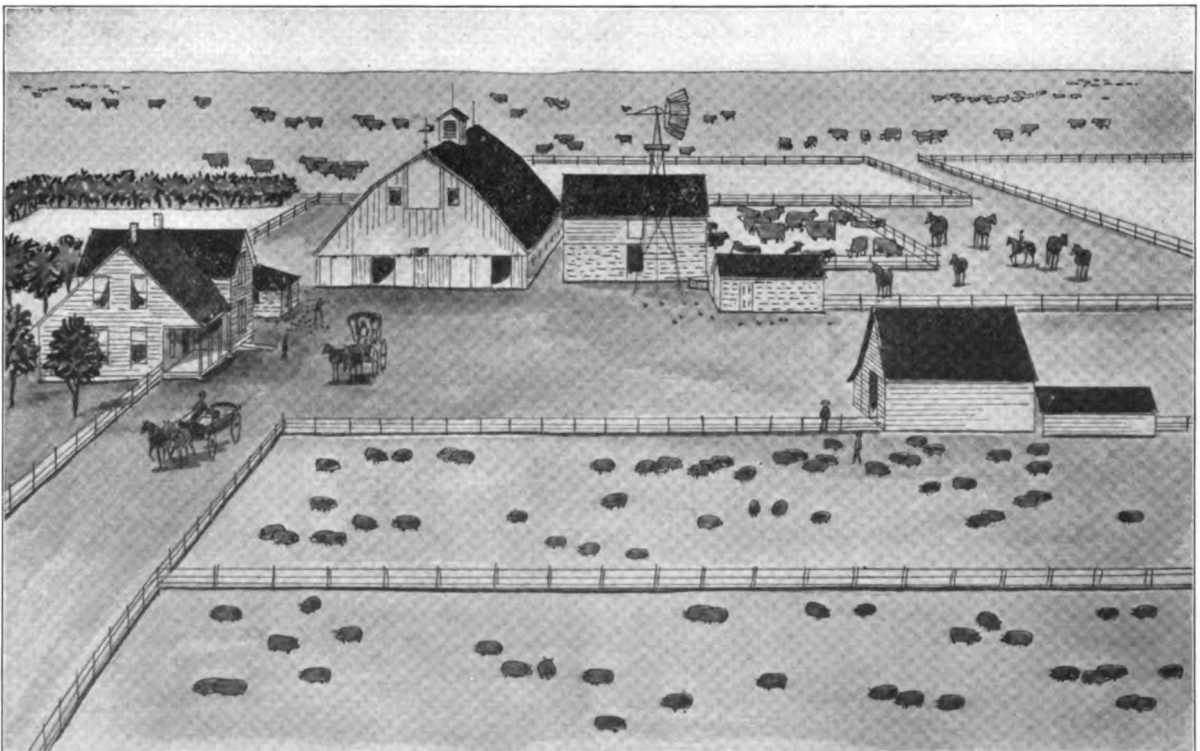
#### WILLIAM SCHULER.

Prominent among the successful ranchmen of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is William Schuler, who resides on section 26, township 17, range 48, where he has a splendidly improved ranch and pleasant home. He has spent the past twenty-one years in this region, and during that time has become a leader in the upbuilding of the locality where he chose his home and where he has passed through many hard pioneer experiences.

Mr. Schuler was born in the village of Bruederhausen, Schorndorf, Wertemburg, Germany, November 12, 1860, a son of Gottlieb F. and Rosa (Ruhe) Schuler, who died in the fatherland. In 1881, William came to America with an uncle, the two going to Lee county, Iowa, where they spent about two and a half years, working in a saw-mill and lumber camp. From there our subject migrated to eastern Nebraska, settling in Cass county, following farming for three years, and then came to Cheyenne county, arriving in this locality in the spring of 1887. He at once filed on a



RESIDENCE AND PORTRAIT OF T. G. HEMMETT,  
Burwell, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM SCHULER,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.





homestead, and started to build up a home, beginning with very little, and often meeting with discouragement and failure from drouths, hail and prairie fires, but stuck to his farm through many hardships and disappointments, gradually improving the land with good buildings and working into ranching. He has lived on the homestead continuously ever since coming here, and has accumulated a fine property, now owning one thousand six hundred acres. He has about two hundred acres of farm land, raising small grain, and runs one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and twenty-five horses. He is known as one of the most successful swine breeders in the country, raising about one hundred and fifty head each year. A fine two-story dwelling was erected in 1907, and soon after, a large substantial barn, which we are pleased to illustrate in this work.

While living in Cass county, Mr. Schuler was married to Miss Kate Neumaster, on December 26, 1884, and to them have been born the following children: Carrie J., wife of Lee Ravert, living five miles northeast of Dalton; Lou S., who married Clarence Tompkins, now residing in Deuel county; Kate, wife of Ralph Reinmuth, residing southwest of Dalton, while the following are at home: John F., Mary A., William, Frederick, Charles and Henry. The family have a fine new residence and their home is one of the pleasantest to be found in the vicinity. Mrs. Schuler's parents were John and Kate (Ott) Neumaster. The mother is still living in Cass county on the old homestead, but the father is dead.

Mr. Schuler is active in local affairs, and is a firm supporter of the Republican party in national politics. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of Dalton, while Mrs. Schuler holds membership in the Royal Neighbors.

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#### EDMUND STAMPER.

Edmund Stamper, one of the representative farmers of Sheridan county, resides in township 32, range 43, and is a truly self-made man.

Mr. Stamper was born in England, in 1863, and raised there until he was eighteen years of age. His father, John Stamper, was a lumberman, which business he has always followed in England. Our subject was next to the youngest in a family of ten children. He left home when fourteen years old, and from that

time on has always made his own way in the world. When he was eighteen years old he left England and came to America, and since that time has never seen any member of his family. He located in Wisconsin, working out by the month for seven years, engaged in farming and railroading. In 1889 he came to Nebraska, where he followed farming for five years, working for different ranchmen, one year being spent in freighting from Rushville to Pine Ridge, receiving twenty dollars per month, on which he managed to support his family. In 1895, he went to the Sand Hills, locating on Pine creek, and remained there for six years. When he struck the Hills he was in debt to the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars, and the first two years he gained a livelihood by keeping cows and chickens and selling the produce. He soon got a start, managing to raise a little stuff to sell and got along very well until 1901, when he sold his farm there and bought his present farm of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, which is all good land. This cost him an average of four hundred and twenty-five dollars per quarter section at that time, the land now being worth fifteen to twenty dollars per acre. He has his place all fenced and farms about one hundred and thirty acres. He keeps about one hundred and fifty head of stock and has his place well improved with a fine stone house. During his early days in Nebraska, he saw some pretty hard times. At the times he was obliged to make a trip to town for provisions, he used to leave home in the night, so that he would not be gone long enough to miss one milking time.

Mr. Stamper was married, in 1894, to Miss Maud O. Ryno, a native of Michigan, born in 1872, of American stock. Her father, Louis Ryno, was born and raised in New York state, now living in Sheridan county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Stamper have four children, namely: Louis E., Martha I., John H. and Grace Winifred, all born and raised in this county. For three years Mr. Stamper was in poor health and unable to do the work on his farm without assistance, and was obliged to hire most of the farm work done. For this reason, he thought he would like to dispose of his property and move to town, but he has now recovered his former good health and does not wish to sell his fine estate.

Mr. Stamper takes an active interest in educational matters in his locality, and has been director of his district for the past six years. He is a Republican, but never votes a straight ticket. He has, at different times, held local offices.

## EMIL CARLSON.

Emil Carlson, one of the representative farmers and ranchmen of Trognitz precinct, Cheyenne county, owns and operates four hundred and eighty acres of land, all of which is splendidly improved with good buildings and all necessary equipment in the way of farm machinery, etc. The family occupy a substantial stone residence, and every appointment of the ranch bespeaks the most painstaking care and good management.

Mr. Carlson was born in Sweden, July 8, 1864. He was the eldest of a family of five children, all growing up in their native land, and each trained as children to do all kinds of hard work, as is the custom among the sturdy people of that country. The parents, C. J. and Ida (Holtgruen) Carlson, came to America with their family in 1882, and secured a quarter section of land in section 22, township 16, range 52, which since their death has been secured by our subject.

Emil Carlson came to America about 1882, sailing from Stockholm directly for New York. Locating at first in Colfax county, Nebraska, where he lived for about five years, he moved on to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1887, and filed on a homestead in section 10, township 16, range 52. There he built up a good home, going through all the pioneer experiences in getting started, and often had a hard time to make a living, but gradually was able to raise some crops and improve the place. About 1900 he purchased the quarter section owned by his father, and here cultivates one hundred and fifty acres, running about one hundred head of cattle and a bunch of horses. He is progressive in his methods of operating his estate, and has an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and energetic, industrious worker.

On October 10, 1903, Mr. Carlson was married to Christina Erickson, she having, in 1901, come to the United States from Sweden, where she was born. Sailing from Gottenburg to Hull, England, she proceeded to Glasgow, and landed in New York, October 9th, her birthday. Proceeding to Nebraska, she reached her destination just a month from the time she left home. Her mother joined her in 1904, the father having died in her infancy. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Carlson: Eda, Esther and Vera.

Mr. Carlson takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and he and his family are highly respected in the community in which they live; their home is one of good cheer and hospitality. Politically, he is an Independent

voter. The family was reared in the Swedish Lutheran church

JOHN CARLSON, a brother of Emil's, is also one of the prominent residents of the county. He was born June 30, 1882. He is now a well-to-do ranchman, owning a fine one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract of land southwest of his brother's. Here he devotes his time mostly to stock raising. He has about one hundred head of cattle and quite a number of horses, farming eighty acres, and has been most successful since locating in this vicinity. He was married at Sidney, Nebraska, in August, 1900, to Sarah Willis. Mrs. Carlson was born in Vermont, and came to Nebraska in 1888. Here they have a pleasant home, and are esteemed by all as substantial and worthy members of society. Mr. Carlson is a Republican.

## ANDREW W. DANIELSON.

Andrew W. Danielson, prominently known as a business man and worthy citizen of Phelps county, Nebraska, is a resident of the town of Holdrege. He is a man of splendid business capacity, and has met with well merited success in every enterprise he has undertaken.

Mr. Danielson was born in Knox county, Illinois, in 1859, his parents having settled there in 1849. He came to Holdrege, Nebraska, in 1886, invested in farming lands, and is now proprietor of two sections in Phelps county, four hundred acres of which, located in Prairie township, is fine farming land, well improved, six hundred and forty acres in Cottonwood township, one-half interest in three hundred and twenty acres in Anderson township, eighty acres located in Sheridan township, besides three hundred and twenty acres in Prairie township owned by his father, Andrew Danielson, a wealthy farmer and stockman of Knox county, Illinois. Mr. Danielson runs all of these lands except the three hundred and twenty acres in Prairie township, on which he, together with a partner, are breeding horses, mules and hogs. On this farm they raise Percheron high-grade, general purpose horses for the market, and over three hundred hogs. They also have several cars of cattle which they market each winter. Mr. Danielson's experience with stock began on his father's farm when he was sixteen years of age, and before coming to Nebraska, he operated as fine a ranch as there was in all Iowa, also spent two years in Kansas on ranches there, and is of the opinion that west-

ern Nebraska is much better suited for farming, stock raising and feeding than either Illinois or Iowa, as the air is drier, the winters are not so damp, and the weather changes are less sudden and extreme, and the stock not being exposed to so much inclement weather hold to their feed more regularly than in those states. Also, the feed yards here are much drier and cleaner, and stock, like people, need this for perfect development. He is entirely satisfied with this part of the country, and would not return to Illinois or Iowa on any account, although he often visits both places. From the time of coming to this county until his removal to Holdrege two years ago, he raised from ten to twelve thousand bushels of corn on his farms, all of which he fed out, besides buying a great deal. He raises from two to three hundred hogs each year, and one year his crop reached four hundred. He also feeds over one hundred head of cattle every year, and altogether handles more stock than any other man in this locality. In 1903 he bought the Elk barn in Holdrege, and imported and sold horses, but sold this property two years ago. In 1894, when there had been a crop failure here, he went to Texas, and there looked the farming and stock conditions over thoroughly, and came back with his faith in western Nebraska stronger than ever, and since then has been constantly investing in land here. In 1902 he raised a crop of oats which ran one hundred and six bushels to the acre. His wheat crop yield the same year was forty-two and a half bushels, and corn eighty. He is convinced that this is one of the best hog countries in the world, and that any breed except the white hog does exceedingly well, considering that there is not enough shade here for those to do well. He recommends raising the best breeds of hogs, as, if crossed, on second cross they lose the good qualities of the strain. He also has the best results from white-faced cattle and Short-horns crossed, and of these he raises from seventy to eighty calves each year. Regarding feed, he says that the fourth cutting of alfalfa makes the best feed for hogs all winter, with best results, and this is a great alfalfa country. For seven years he has dealt in full-blooded Percheron and Clyde horses, and now owns some very fine animals.

Mr. Danielson was married in 1887, but has no children. Some time since he bought and improved a very fine residence property in Holdrege, where he at present resides. He is director of the Farmers' Elevator Company, and was elected secretary of the concern when it was organized. For some time he served

as treasurer of Prairie township, and is prominent in all public affairs. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Holdrege, in which he is an earnest worker, and takes a commendable interest in all commercial and social matters in his community. In political sentiment he is a Populist.

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#### ELLSWORTH VAUGHN.

Ellsworth Vaughn, who is engaged in diversified farming on his valuable estate in section 27, township 25, range 48, is one of the old settlers of Box Butte county. He has witnessed the growth and development of that region, has been closely identified with the same, and is a well-known and highly esteemed resident of his locality. He enjoys a pleasant home, has a snug income from his farm as a result of many years of faithful labor in this state, and is one of the prosperous and successful men of the county.

Mr. Vaughn was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1845. He is a son of John Vaughn, of French descent, his father having been born and raised in France. John Vaughn married Susanne Smice, a native of Pennsylvania, of German stock. When our subject was about a year old his parents emigrated to Iowa and were among the pioneers in Louisa county, where they lived up to the time of the Civil war, Ellsworth growing up on a farm, and received his education in the country schools. He enlisted in the Eighth Iowa Cavalry, entering the service in 1863, and went with his regiment through Tennessee and Georgia; was with the Army of the Cumberland. He was also with General Sherman in Macon, Georgia. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa, locating at Allamakee county, and made that locality his home up to 1886, farming a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, building up a good farm and doing exceedingly well while on the place. From there he came to Nebraska, settling in Box Butte county. His nearest railroad town from his location was Hay Springs, from which place he was compelled to haul all supplies. He came into this region by team, his first settlement being at old Nonpariel, now extinct, and he brought with him his personal effects, household goods, driving three horses and a colt, also two cows. He had one wagon carrying his family, consisting of his wife and seven children, and during the journey they were subjected to many exposures on account of the bad weather and the long, tedious trip. His first dwelling was a sod house, and during

the first years he was obliged to do freighting through the country to help make a living for his family. He proved up on his homestead, improving the farm in good shape, and lived there up to 1903, then came to his present location, which is situated in section 27, township 25, range 48. He has developed a fine ranch, consisting of nine hundred and sixty acres, three hundred and twenty of which lie close to the town of Alliance. This is all fenced, and he farms about one hundred acres, all of the ranch being supplied with good substantial buildings and every improvement in the way of machinery, corrals, etc. He now lives on the ranch near Alliance, on which he raises cattle and horses, also does a little farming.

Mr. Vaughn has succeeded in accumulating a fine property since coming here, and is one of the leading citizens and influential men of his community, always taking a commendable interest in local affairs. In political views our subject is a Republican.

In 1870 Mr. Vaughn was married to Mary Jane Langford, daughter of James Langford, a farmer and old settler in Allamakee county, Iowa. They have an interesting family of seven children, named as follows: Elmer, Ellsworth, Jr., Frank, Alice and Alfred (twins), Minnie J. and Almeda.

#### ANDREW C. IVERSEN.

Andrew C. Iversen, who owns and operates an extensive farm in Dawes county, is one of the substantial men of his community. He is a pioneer of this region, and has been a resident of the state of Nebraska for over twenty years, devoting his entire time and attention to farming and stock raising, of which he has made a great success.

Mr. Iversen was born in Denmark in 1848 on a farm. His parents were day laborers there and very poor, and he grew up as best he could, working out from the time he was a small child, and when he reached the age of twenty-two left his native land and came to America. During the first ten years here he traveled through different states, working at anything he might find to do, spending some time in Texas; also was all through Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and up and down the Mississippi river. About the year 1874 his health began to fail and he then went to Colorado, where he worked in the mountains as a miner, and prospected there for several years. He bought a farm in that state a few years later and remained there until

1887, when he came to Dawes county, Nebraska, and settled on his present farm in section 30, township 29, range 48. This is close to the Niobrara river, the stream running through a portion of his farm. Here he put up one of the largest sod houses in the neighborhood, had fine horses, wagons and farming machinery, and quickly added many improvements to his place. As the poor years came on he lost a great deal of money, and as his health was not very good he was unable to work very hard. Hail destroyed two crops and the drouths damaged many, so that he was compelled to borrow money, for which he paid two per cent. interest per month, and he mortgaged his farm and personal property to buy calves; also bought a number of cows from which he sold butter for six cents a pound. He had quite a lot of chickens, and sold the eggs for six and seven cents a dozen, hauling this produce thirty-five miles to market, camping out nights under his wagon along the road, and managed in every way to get along, so that he would not be compelled to leave his homestead. After a time the years grew better and he was able to raise good crops, paid off his debts and bought more land, gradually working into the cattle business, and has made a great success of this line of work. His ranch now consists of eleven quarter sections of deeded land, and he also operates a section of school land. The family own homestead land amounting to twelve hundred and eighty acres altogether, and their ranch is one of the best improved in that part of Nebraska.

Mr. Iversen has a fine barn fifty by thirty feet, erected in 1906, and a beautiful thirteen-room house, all kinds of good sheds for his stock, one cattle shed being one hundred and fifty feet long, dipping tanks with every necessary improvement, his buildings altogether being worth over ten thousand dollars. He has one windmill which is used exclusively for irrigating purposes, covering a space of five hundred acres, and he has one of the finest gardens in his locality, all the land irrigated. He figures that his ranch is worth over thirty thousand dollars, and he is now clear of all debts, all of which he has accumulated in the last ten years.

Mr. Iversen was married in 1881 to Christine Simonsen, who is a native of Denmark, where her parents were potato dealers. She came to America in 1880, locating in Iowa, where Mr. Iversen met and married her. Eight children were born to them, named as follows: Simon, Mamie, Mina, Andrew, Jr., Minnie, Christine, Sarah and Regina. At the age of eighteen each child is given a cow and calf,

and when twenty-one they are presented with ten head of heifers, which makes a good start toward a fortune, and by owning an interest in the stock they are induced to take a greater interest in the ranch and are contented to remain at home and assist their parents in the work of operating it. Each child has his or her own special work to do, their share of the stock to look after on the ranch, and all are happy and contented in having something to take up their time and attention, and are one of the happiest families one meets in many a day.

Mr. Iversen is an earnest believer in the Christian Science religion.

#### GEORGE A. CLIFT.

George A. Clift, residing on section 32, township 30, range 20, is known all through that locality as an industrious and enterprising farmer. He is an old settler in the western part of Nebraska, and as such has done his full share in the upbuilding of the region in which he chose his home. Mr. Clift is a native of Wayne county, Pennsylvania, born on his father's farm March 13, 1848. The father, Richard Clift, came to this country from England when a young man, and his mother, whose maiden name was Emma Alvord, was also of English descent. Their family of eight children, of whom our subject was the fourth member, was reared in Pennsylvania, attending the country schools and assisting their parents in carrying on the farm work. At the age of twenty George began life for himself, farming in his native state until he came west. In 1879 he came to Table Rock, Nebraska, and settled in Pawnee county; from 1888 to 1893 he was engaged in the bridge and building departments of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, with Table Rock as headquarters. In 1895 he moved to Brown county and bought his present farm, which at that time had no improvements but a shanty. Since taking the place he has erected good buildings and made many improvements on it. There are three hundred and twenty acres in the farm, one hundred and twenty of which are cultivated, and all of Mr. Clift's time is given to the cultivation of his farm, which well repays him for his care by yielding bountiful crops. Mr. Clift was married in Pennsylvania in 1872 to Miss Dora Bigeloff, who died in 1881, leaving a family of three children, namely: Charles, Grace and Fred. In 1884 Mr. Clift was married again, Miss Lillie A.

Jones becoming his helpmeet. He is a Republican in his political views.

#### JOHN HENRY APOLIUS.

A prominent place among the influential stockmen of Keith county, Nebraska, is readily accorded to the gentleman whose name heads this review. He has been eminently successful and is widely and favorably known in this section of the state.

John Henry Apolius is a native of Prussia, Germany, his birth occurring in the village of Pottolier, near Galantz, Province of Bromberg, October 31, 1863. His father, Fred Apolius, who died in 1872, was a farmer and laborer. The mother, whose maiden name was Minnie Berger, married Peter Wies and came to America, settling in Keith county, where the mother died in July, 1888.

In 1882 our subject came to America, sailing from Bremen Haven on the Ohio, landing in New York the first of May, after a voyage of eleven days. Mr. Apolius came west to Muscatine, Iowa, where a sister resided and made his home here for three years, working on the railroad near Nicholas Station during the winter and performing farm labor during the summer months. Thence he went to Seward county, Nebraska, and lived there till the spring of 1892, engaged in farming.

John Henry Apolius was married October 11, 1887, to Amelia Milka, whose parents were pioneers of Minnesota. This union has been blessed with eight children—Lena, Augusta and Emma, born in Seward county, and Marty, Emily, John, Theodore and Christine, born in Keith county.

Mr. Apolius came to Keith county in 1893, living for the first two years on his mother's farm, after which time he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, his present place, and moved onto it. He has since secured a Kincaid claim of three hundred and twenty acres. His first crop was a failure, and as he had but little to start on, he was obliged to work out at anything that he could find to do, laboring from time to time on the railroad some five or six years. He located his farm in the valley because it was a region where well water could be easily obtained, and also for the reason that more rain fell there than back on the higher lands. He commenced horse and cattle raising, and although other cattle men tried to drive him out so they could have the use of his land, he clung to his farm and worked to make it a success.

He has now a splendid ranch of twelve hundred acres, with about three hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, the balance being pasture, alfalfa and hay land. On the ranch are ten miles of fence, three wells, two windmills, a fine house and barn and a large dipping tank for cattle; there are thirty acres of hog pasture especially set apart for the raising of hogs. There is a fine grove of forest trees on the place besides fifty fruit trees and an abundance of small fruits and berries that do well in this climate.

When one sees this splendid farm it is hard to realize that Mr. Apolius had to borrow money with which to pay his car fare to this western country. He lived at first in a sod house and kept his stock in a sod stable. He experienced many losses, among which was the destruction of his barn and windmill by a cyclone August 19, 1907, entailing a heavy loss. But in spite of all discouragements Mr. Apolius has developed his ranch and established a fine home and a prosperous business.

Our subject is a staunch Republican in politics, showing an active interest in all matters of a public nature. He is widely known and respected as one of the strong financial factors in the growth and material development of the county. With his family he is a member of the English Lutheran church at Baxter and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### MARTIN D. ZINKON.

Martin D. Zinkon, one of the oldest settlers of western Nebraska, has passed through many interesting experiences since locating in this region, and the story of his life history is interwoven with the progress of this state as it has been developing into the resourceful and fertile country it has now become. He has for many years been a resident of this state, where he is known far and wide as one of the leading citizens, and has met with pronounced success in his farming operations and other business enterprises.

Mr. Zinkon was born in Coshocton, Ohio, in 1857. His father was John Zinkon, a native of Germany, who came to America in his young manhood and settled in Holmes county, Ohio, where he met and married Mary Hoover, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Ohio when quite young. John Zinkon died in 1862, survived by his wife and a family of six children, of whom our subject was the fifth member. They were named as follows: Louisa, George, William, Anna, Martin and John. Mr. Zinkon lived in Coshocton county,

Ohio, for twenty-three years, and in 1880 came west, locating in Otoe county, Nebraska, where he worked on a large farm for some time, and next moved to Custer county and pre-empted a tract of government land, remaining there up to 1889. At that time he sold out his holdings and went to Missouri. He only remained there for about two years, then returned to Nebraska, settling in Cass county and started a farm, operating it for one year, when he moved to Lancaster county, Nebraska, and farmed there for two years. His next move was to Kansas, where he spent four years, then drifted back to the state of Nebraska, and since that time has lived here constantly. He has succeeded in building up a good home and productive ranch, consisting of six hundred and forty acres, which is located in Garfield county, his land being situated in section 35, township 23, range 13. He devotes a large portion of his ranch to the culture of hay and for grazing purposes, raising quite a number of cattle and hogs, but also does farming on a very large scale, raising corn, potatoes, vegetables, etc.

Mr. Zinkon was married in 1884 to Miss Rebecca Burdick, born in Illinois and raised in Nemaha county, Nebraska. She is a daughter of J. P. and Deborah (Gray) Burdick. Mr. and Mrs. Zinkon are the parents of six children, namely: John P., Iva E., Voris I., Sylva M. D., Emma May and Edna Cora. Mr. Zinkon is a Republican in political views.

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#### ISAIAH STETSON.

Isaiah Stetson, whose pleasant and attractive residence is located in section 2, township 30, range 51, Dawes county, was born in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, in 1860. His father, Isaiah S. Stetson, a prominent miller and farmer, was born in Massachusetts, and in 1899 died in Dawes county, Nebraska. His mother, Aurelia Stetson, was a native of Norway.

Our subject's earlier days were spent in Wisconsin, where he received his education, attending the county schools. Until the age of twenty he lived with his parents, assisting his father in farming, gaining the experience which has made him one of the successful farmers of Dawes county. He spent several years of his early life running a sawmill. In 1886 his father came to Dawes county, and the same year our subject followed, the balance of the family, excepting one brother, following later. Mr. Stetson and his father proved up on government land and erected a log cabin.



The same year our subject settled on the homestead which is his present home, and has continued to build up and improve his farm until at the present time he has eleven hundred acres of good land, one hundred and fifty acres of which are cultivated. He has equipped his place with many modern improvements. There are several good springs, running water, a windmill and plenty of fine timber and fuel. Mr. Stetson has been engaged in the threshing business for the past twenty-one years, and has threshed in all parts of the county. This business has enabled him to become extensively acquainted throughout the county, where by his honesty and fair dealings he has built up a reputation worthy of note. The period of drouths were witnessed by our subject, and during the hardships of these times it was barely possible for him to make a living.

In 1889 Mr. Stetson was married to Miss Carrie Gould, daughter of John and Jennie Gould, prominent old settlers of Dawes county. Seven children blessed this union, viz.: Jennie, Vernie, Ethel, Ershall, Alma, Vernon, and an infant girl, Geneva.

Mr. Stetson is an independent voter. He is a prominent factor in local affairs, having held the office of school director for nine years. From the time of his entry into Dawes county he has always been a faithful worker in the interest of the development of the schools. He is now the secretary and treasurer of the Independent Telephone Company, a rural line.

A good ranch, a family of growing children that would honor any parentage, and a standing in the community as a thoroughly honorable and upright citizen, Mr. Stetson may well be satisfied with the result of his busy years.

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#### OSCAR E. ANDERSON.

Oscar E. Anderson, whose name will be readily recalled by all familiar with the farming population of Potter precinct as one of the prominent and successful agriculturists and ranchmen of that section of Cheyenne county, is a resident of Potter, and owner of a fine estate adjoining the town, as well as a large and extensively improved ranch, four miles north of the village, which is the subject of one of our finest illustrations.

Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden on the 30th day of January, 1859, and grew to manhood there, coming at the age of twenty to the United States. His father, John Anderson, died in the land of his birth June 22, 1908.

The mother, Anna L. Abrahamson in maidenhood, is still living in her native land.

Oscar Anderson crossed England and sailed July 29, 1879, from Gottenberg to Hull, and embarked in the *Britanica* at Liverpool for New York, reaching his destination after a voyage of eight days. After a short visit with several brothers at Logansport, Indiana, he went to Henry county, Illinois, and spent about five years in that locality at farm labor, working one winter in the city of Rock Island. He then came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county, and about the 16th of March, 1885, filed on a homestead in section 18, township 15, range 52. He spent many years on that ranch and built up a fine property, now being proprietor of fourteen hundred and forty acres, consisting of twelve hundred and eighty acres in ranch land on the tableland, on which he has erected the most substantial buildings of any ranch in the region, most of them being constructed of stone. His groves are the largest and most thrifty to be seen for miles around. He runs one hundred and thirty head of cattle and about one hundred horses, cultivating a quarter section of the fertile land. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the village of Potter. The dwelling, built in 1884, is the oldest in the village, having been erected immediately after the section house. This dwelling, however, was remodeled and additions built in 1908, making it a most desirable and comfortable residence. The barns and other buildings are also of substantial construction.

Mr. Anderson is an old-timer in this region, one of the earliest settlers in this section of the country. When he arrived here he had practically no capital, and from this humble beginning has become one of the well-to-do men of his locality. He is active in all affairs pertaining to his state and county, and has been a leading and influential citizen since first locating here. In political sentiment he is a loyal Republican, and has held numerous public offices. With his family he is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. He is also a member of the Potter camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

In July, 1885, our subject was united in marriage at Holdrege, Nebraska, to Miss Elizabeth Frantz, a daughter of Gustave and Marie L. (Norman) Frantz, who was born in Sweden December 31, 1862. The family came to America in 1880, settling at Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois, where the parents still reside. Eight children form Mr. Anderson's family: Frances E., wife of Joseph J. Johnson, who is the manager of the home ranch, "Prairie Grove

Stock Farm," mentioned above; Edgar E., also a ranchman; Emma E., Anna M., Ella Freda, Ernest M., Henry W. and Edna Hilma, living at home.

Mr. Anderson is a broad and liberal-minded man, one of the excellent class of citizens contributed by Scandinavia to the American re-

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#### CLARENCE G. LAWRENCE.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal review is one of the well liked, industrious and intelligent members of the farming and ranching community of Chambers precinct, Cheyenne county. He is a progressive, energetic agriculturist, and for so young a man has met with decided success in the career which he chose. His ranch is fitted with good buildings and many improvements, part of them constructed of stone, together with other substantial improvements.

Clarence G. Lawrence, a son of Frank P. and Mary (Miller) Lawrence, was born near Racine, Wisconsin, June 14, 1876. His parents moved to Utica, Nebraska, about 1884, then for a time resided at Lincoln. Clarence and a brother came to Cheyenne county in June, 1892, where they began ranching, eventually securing two sections of land. This they sold in 1906, and Clarence having filed on a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres, comprising section 28, township 13, range 52, in 1904, engaged extensively in cattle raising, also running a small drove of horses.

He now owns a whole section, which is well improved, about eighty acres in a good state of cultivation, with a fine garden under irrigation. The ranch has a splendid supply of good water, having one spring of living water which runs the year around.

Mr. Lawrence is a fine young man, an earnest worker and of most upright principles, enjoying the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has to do. He is a conscientious member of the Methodist church. He is an independent in politics, takes a commendable interest in all local county and state affairs and is regarded as one of the leading citizens of his locality.

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#### WALTER F. PLUM.

Walter F. Plum, who operates a well improved farm situated in section 3, township 31, range 25, is numbered among the prominent younger ranchmen and farmers of Cherry county, Nebraska.

Mr. Plum is a native of Iowa City, Iowa, born May 10, 1868. He is a son of Martin Plum, now retired and living at Lincoln, Nebraska. The mother before marriage was Miss Elizabeth Morgan. There are eleven children in the family, of whom our subject is the sixth in order of birth. He was reared at Shelley, Iowa, and all of his life excepting ten years has been spent in farming. He assisted his father in carrying on the latter's farm up to the time he was nineteen years of age, when he began teaching, which he followed six years, having fitted himself for the profession in the local schools. He later learned the plumber's trade, which he followed at Shelley some six or seven years and then for four years in Ponca City, Oklahoma, also engaging in the real estate business two and a half years at Anadarko.

At the opening of the Rosebud reservation he visited that section of the country, but was not favorably impressed with the country and did not take up any land. He filed on his present homestead under the Kincaid law in September, 1904, and at once went to work at building up the place, and now has it improved with fences and good buildings erected by his own hands. This farm consists of six hundred and forty acres, on which he runs about fifty head of stock all the time, cultivating some sixty acres. He is well satisfied with the locality, being within three and a half miles of the town of Wood Lake.

Mr. Plum was married May 15, 1900, to Miss Gertrude Dower, a native of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a daughter of Charles and Bessie (Smith) Dower, who have been residing in Ponca City, Oklahoma, since 1899.

In political faith Mr. Plum is a Republican.

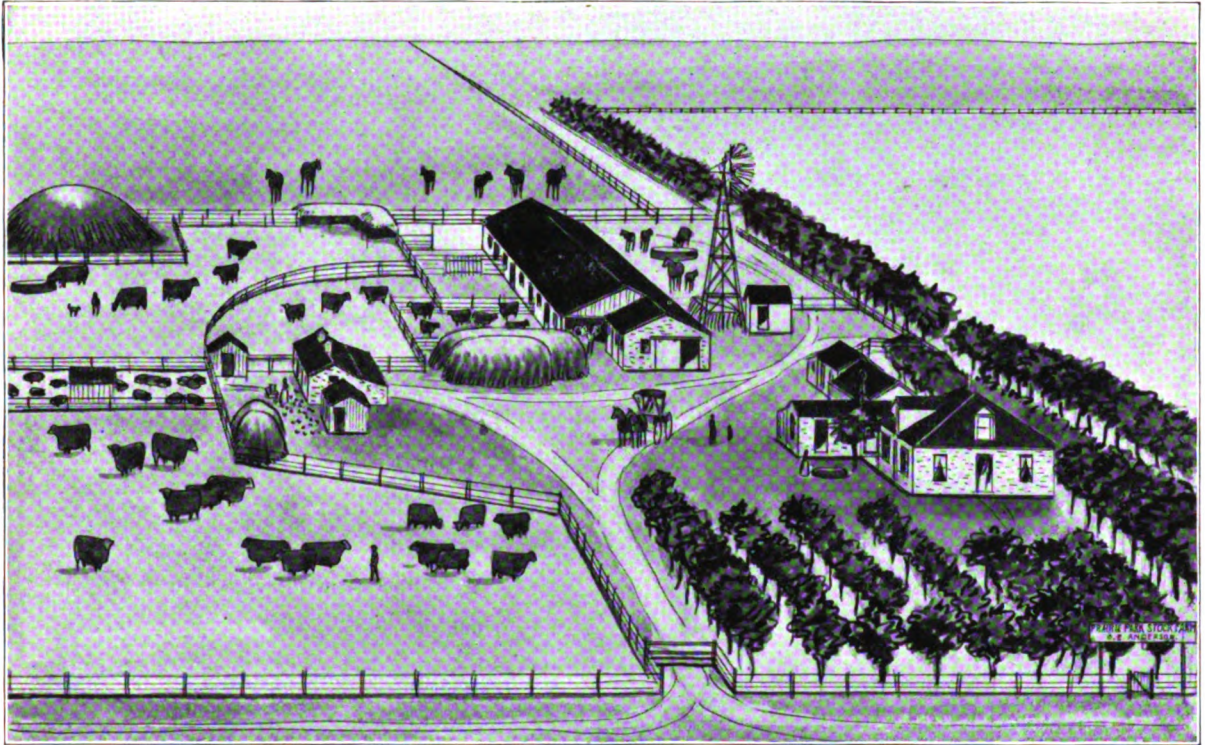
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#### P. MAGINNIS.

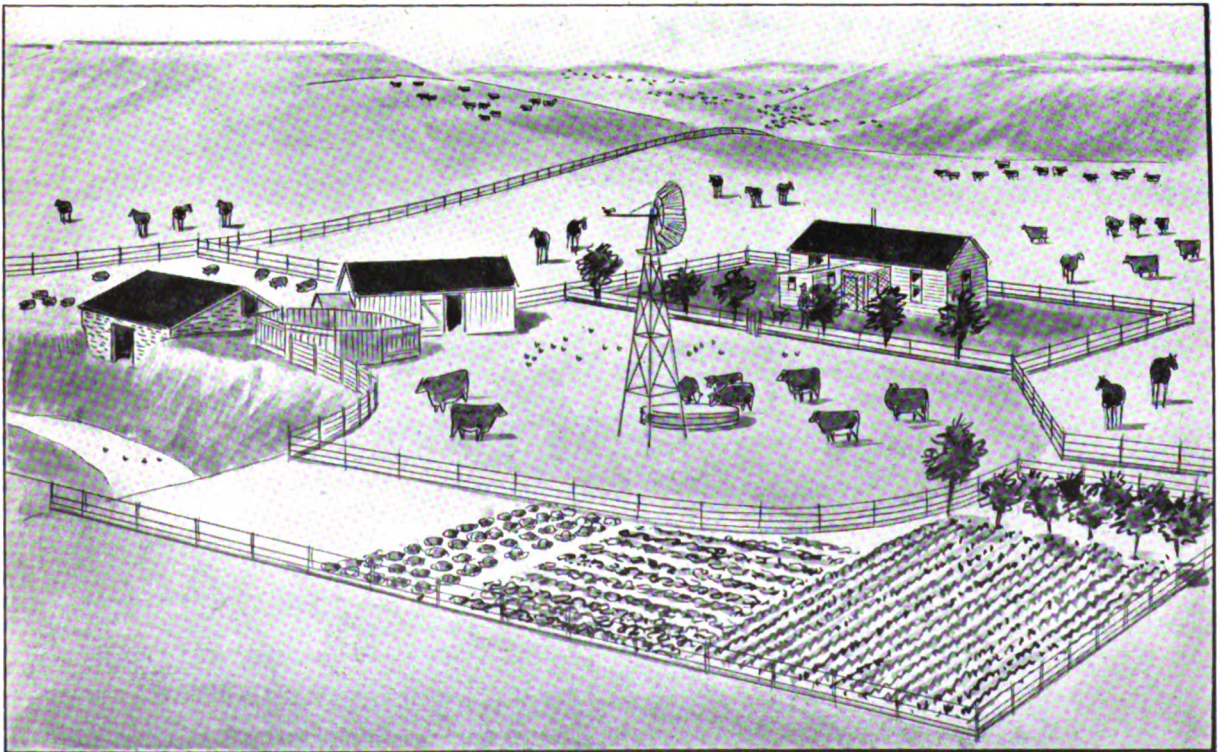
The gentleman above named is another sturdy son of "old Ireland" who has come to America to seek a fortune and build up a home, and how well he has succeeded is evidenced by the fine property of which he is the owner in Kimball, where he is engaged in the manufacturing business, and he also owns considerable farm land in Kimball county. Mr. Maginnis is a leading citizen in commercial and political circles of his community, having held the office of county treasurer from 1902 to 1905, inclusive, and prior to that time was sheriff of his county for four years.

Mr. Maginnis was born in Ireland, January 6, 1867, and his entire family except two brothers, who live in Massachusetts, never left





**"PRAIRIE PARK STOCK FARM,"** PROPERTY OF O. E. ANDERSON,  
Potter, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE OF CLARENCE G. LAWRENCE,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.





their native land, his father dying there in 1904, while his mother still makes their native county her home. When our subject was a boy of thirteen years he left his home and came to America, locating in Brown county, Illinois, September 2, 1880, and after spending about two years in that vicinity went to Hamilton county, Nebraska. About two years were spent in Aurora, and from there he drifted into the Sweetwater country, in Wyoming, finally coming to Kimball county in 1885, arriving here July 22. During his residence in the United States he had learned the blacksmith's trade, and on locating here opened up a shop in Kimball, which he has run ever since, and now has one of the best equipped blacksmith and machine shops in the west. He carries on a large business in the manufacture of extensible irrigation flumes and water troughs, building up a large trade throughout the western states, and which has made him a nice income.

Mr. Maginnis was married at Kimball in December, 1888, to Maggie A. Marshall. Mrs. Maginnis was born in Indiana and came to Nebraska with her mother, who is now a widow and still resides in Kimball, about 1874. They have a family of nine children, eight of whom are living, named as follows: Arthur F., Alice Isabelle, Robert J., Edward Dewey, Hugh Marshall, Lizzie, Margaret and William P., all living at home. One son, Charles P., died in 1899.

Mr. Maginnis is a Democrat and is an important factor in local affairs. He has been a member of the village council, also has served on the school board at different times.

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#### JOHN W. TIDD.

In the person of the gentleman above mentioned we present the reader with a representative Nebraskan, one who was born and raised in that state, and who has seen all the changes that have taken place in the country from the earliest days of its settlement. He has taken an active part in its development since growing to manhood, and passed through the pioneer days in eastern Nebraska, and later in the western part of the state, and has done his full share in bringing about the present prosperity enjoyed by the residents of Sioux county where he is owner of a valuable estate.

John W. Tidd was born in Dakota county, Nebraska, in 1863, and reared on a farm. His father, Charles Tidd, settled in eastern Nebraska when there were but two white settlers in the neighborhood.

Our subject lived at home until he was fif-

teen years of age, assisting his parents in the farm work, then went to the western part of the state. His mother died when he was a lad of eight years, and this broke up their home and he was obliged to strike out for himself at a tender age. In 1878 he landed in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and secured employment as a cowboy, and also spent some time in the Big Horn basin on different ranches, living in that part of the country up to 1887. While there he spent the entire summer on the plains, and did not know what it was to sleep in a house for months at a time. Mr. Tidd came to Sioux county in 1887, where his father had located some time before, and he at once filed on a homestead and started to develop a ranch. His place was situated near Pine Ridge. There he went through hard times for a number of years in getting started, but managed to build up a good home and lived on the homestead for about thirteen years, then came to his present ranch. He purchased a tract of land and later took a homestead adjoining, now being owner of twelve hundred and eighty acres situated on Indian creek, eighteen miles west of Ardmore. His ranch is splendidly improved, and he engages exclusively in stock raising. There is plenty of timber and pasture, also a fine supply of running spring water for all his needs.

In 1893 Mr. Tidd was united in marriage to Miss Martha Hixson, daughter of John Hixson, a well known pioneer of Sioux county, where Mrs. Tidd grew up. They have a family of three children, namely: Joseph W., James E. and Myrtle V., and they enjoy a pleasant home and all the comforts of ranch life.

Mr. Tidd is a leading citizen of his community and is influential in public affairs. He has served for a number of years as deputy sheriff, also was assessor for one term, and stands firmly for the principles which he advocates.

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#### CHARLES S. HUDDLE.

This gentleman is prominently known as one of the leading old settlers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, where he has done his share in the upbuilding of this region. He lives on section 4, township 32, range 22, Garfield precinct, where he has spent the past twenty-five years.

Mr. Huddle was born in Ross county, Ohio, September 24, 1856, and brought up on a farm. His father, Socrates Huddle, was of Holland descent, while his mother, Hope Jones, was

of Welsh blood. They had a family of five children, Charles S. being the eldest. The family moved to Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1860, where the mother died seven years later. Charles returned to Ohio, residing with his grandparents until fifteen years of age, when he came to Burlington Junction, Missouri, where he worked during the winter, spending his summers at farm labor. When eighteen years of age he began farming on rented land near Burlington Junction and was so occupied for nine years. In 1883 Mr. Huddle came to Keya Paha county, arriving here April 6, and settled on his present homestead, where he put up buildings and rapidly improved his farm. At one time he was three thousand dollars in debt, but is now clear of all encumbrances and owns four hundred and sixty-five acres of land, part adapted to farming, the balance being in hay and pasture. He keeps from thirty to seventy-five head of cattle, and raises two hundred hogs some years. He has accumulated this fine property from a start of one team and two cows, his sole capital when he arrived here. His farm is all fenced, and he has a fine orchard and everything to make a model country place. Mr. Huddle is a man of industrious habits and energy, and has always been a very hard worker. He has built six miles of wire fence on his farm, two miles of which are hog-proof.

Mr. Huddle was married December 23, 1880, to Miss Flora McCrea, daughter of Duncan McCrea, an old settler, who lived in Nebraska for some years. Mr. and Mrs. Huddle are the parents of five children, namely: Floyd E., killed in a railroad accident in Alaska in December, 1905; Claude S.; Eva, who died February 1, 1908; Martha A. and Forest C.

Mr. Huddle takes an active part in politics, serving as a delegate to conventions and working for the best interests of the people. He is a Republican, and cast his first vote for J. A. Garfield. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Ainsworth and of the Modern Woodmen of America at Springfield.

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#### PATRICK J. DALTON.

Patrick J. Dalton, well known all through Cheyenne county, Nebraska, as one of the very old timers in western Nebraska, who came to that region when the whole country was practically a barren plain, has traveled over every part of it as a cowboy in the early days, and has watched its development into the present fertile state and taken an active and leading part in this transformation. He now resides

on section 10, township 15, range 51, Brownson precinct, and is the proprietor of a fine estate. Moreover, he is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Dalton was born near Carrick Suir, in the county of Kilkenny, Ireland, May 27, 1866. He grew to manhood there, following the usual life of persons in his class in that country, farming most of the time as a boy. He emigrated to America when he was but fifteen years of age. His parents, Patrick J. and Mary (Quinn) Dalton, spent their entire lives in their native land, the mother still living there. Sailing from Queenstown in the City of Chester, after a voyage of fifteen days our subject landed in New York May 1, 1881. He settled in Sac county, Iowa, where he spent six years, and in the spring of 1887 came to Nebraska, filing on a homestead and commencing at once to develop a farm. He went through the usual experiences of the pioneer in the west, working at everything that he could find to do in order to make a living and improve his place, and succeeded in proving up on his claim. He put up good buildings, planted trees and as he became better able, added to the original farm, until he now owns eight hundred acres, most of which is used for ranching purposes, with about one hundred acres cultivated. He runs one hundred and twenty-five cattle and a small bunch of horses. During the first seven years of his residence in this part of the state Mr. Dalton was employed on the old Pomeroy Ranch, where he became familiar with every phase of ranch life, roughing it for many months in the year.

On October 9, 1902, Mr. Dalton married Miss Susan Ward in Denver. She is a daughter of Hugh Ward, whose wife was a Miss Keenan; both were natives of Ireland. Mrs. Dalton was born and reared in Chicago. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dalton, Mary (deceased) and Margaret Susan.

Mr. Dalton is Republican in politics, and a member of the Catholic church.

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#### JOHN H. BOWLBY.

John H. Bowlby is universally acknowledged as one of the successful and enterprising farmers of Loup county, and is greatly respected in the community where he resides.

Mr. Bowlby was born on a farm in Indiana in 1867, his parents being William and Mary (Burnhammer) Bowlby, farmers and influential pioneers of Polk county, Nebraska.

The father was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and the mother was born in Ohio.

When our subject was five years of age the family came west to Polk county, settling on government land, where he was reared to manhood. He then started out for himself engaging in agricultural pursuits in Polk county up to 1901. He experienced the hardships of pioneer life and passed through the hard times occasioned by years of drouth and the grasshopper raids. He had but little to start on and he had to master his own difficulties and hew his own way to success. Possessed of a strong will and good staying qualities of character, he could not help but succeed, and he has laid the foundation for permanent and increasing prosperity. In the spring of 1904 Mr. Bowlby brought his family to Loup county and settled on a homestead on section 25, township 22, range 18. His first buildings were made of sods and his land was raw prairie. Now he has three hundred and twenty acres of good land with ninety acres under cultivation, has good buildings and other improvements and a fine fruit orchard containing one hundred apple trees. He has built up a good home and is considered one of the well-to-do farmers of the day. Since locating in the county he has established himself among the people as a successful business man and conscientious citizen.

The marriage of John H. Bowlby to Miss Levada Hedge occurred in 1888, and the wife was a daughter of Crawford and Mary (Putman) Hedge, of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Bowlby have one daughter, Ella, born in Polk county, Nebraska.

#### C. N. OGDEN, DECEASED.

C. N. Ogden, who accomplished much as a farmer of Harlan county, resided in this locality since 1902, and became well known as a gentleman of progressive spirit and energetic habits. He developed a fine farm and was one of the influential citizens of his community, held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen.

Mr. Ogden was a native of Menard county, Illinois, where he was raised until he was about ten years old. He farmed in Iowa for about ten years, and about 1868 came to Nebraska, settling in Johnson county, and carried on mixed farming and the raising of stock and grain since locating here. In 1902 he settled in Washington township, Harlan county, purchasing a farm of two sections during this time. Some of this land was

bought for ten dollars per acre, and is now worth fifty dollars, showing a splendid increase in this short time. Mr. Ogden added many improvements to his place and had everything in first-class shape and it is one of the show places of the county. Besides this farm he owned other land here. From his experience in this state and Iowa he much preferred Nebraska to the latter, as here one man and four horses can attend to one hundred acres where they could only take care of forty acres properly, and at the same time can raise as much grain to the acre. He was very successful in his farming operations in Iowa, but did much better here, and there the land cost double what it does here, and during a drive among the farms in his neighborhood one sees everywhere the prosperity of the people. He was engaged in the general real estate business for many years and had brought in many settlers from Mills and Pottawatomie counties, Iowa, and since locating here all have succeeded far beyond what they would have in Iowa. There they sold land at one hundred dollars and one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre, and came here and purchased farms for ten dollars up to forty dollars per acre, and as they were good farmers have made lots of money, and the farm residences, barns and roads, all show prosperity and good farming. All of Mr. Ogden's work in this line was done personally by him, as he never advertised in any way, and every man he brought here was more than pleased with the success which came to him. There are good schools all through this country and every advantage and opportunity to advance the settlers who come. Mr. Ogden was interested in the local telephone company, and was foremost in installing telephone service through Washington township, and he also secured the mail route on a first petition where others had tried and failed. He was a stockholder and director in the Home Telephone Company, and was active in the work of getting good roads put all through this part of the county.

Two sons of our subject, W. B. and David S. Ogden, are successful farmers, and own land with their father; also a son-in-law, Arby Mizell, owns a farm near Mr. Ogden. Mr. Mizell's parents came from Kansas, and bought four hundred acres of land in Reuben township, and are well known residents of that locality. Another son of our subject, Charles H., is now married and follows farming.

Mr. Ogden was an active Democrat. In 1901 in his home county in Iowa he was a



candidate for sheriff, and succeeded in reducing the Republican majority from eight hundred to one hundred and sixty at the time he made the run. He was also an Odd Fellow, Knight of Pythias and member of the Modern Brotherhood of America.

Mr. Ogden died here on his farm December 20, 1907, mourned by a large number of friends all over the county. He was a public-spirited citizen and is greatly missed in local affairs.

#### WILLIAM F. KRUGER.

William Kruger, whose fine farm consisting of eleven hundred and twenty acres in and adjoining section 32, township 14, range 48, Colton precinct, Cheyenne county, one of the valuable estates in this locality, has been a resident of the county since 1884. Here he has developed a good ranch and enjoys the comforts of rural life and the respect and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Kruger is a native of Racine county, Wisconsin, born February 25, 1861. His father, William, was born in Germany and came to America when a young man, settling in Wisconsin, and in 1879 removed to Nebraska, where he remained up to 1900, then returned to Wisconsin, where he shortly afterward died. The mother, Caroline (Brandt) Kruger, was also born in Germany, her death occurring at Sidney, Nebraska, about 1898. After locating in Cheyenne county, Mr. Kruger went through many bitter experiences in establishing his home and starting his farm, suffering financially from the failures of crops due to the drouth seasons and panicky times of the nineties, but persevered, and in spite of all difficulties succeeded in building up a good home and accumulating considerable property. Six years were spent in Sidney, where he worked at the carpenter's trade as well as being engaged at market gardening and running a nursery. His homestead, on which he filed in 1882, is situated on section 32, township 14, range 48, and here he has made his home for a number of years. Our subject's home farm is beautifully located on Lodgepole creek, all well improved with good substantial buildings. He devotes part of it to grain raising, and runs quite a large herd of stock. A view of the house is printed on another page of our work.

Mr. Kruger was married August 25, 1888, to Miss Anna Luck, born in Germany. Together they enjoyed a pleasant home, and were blessed with two children, Edna and

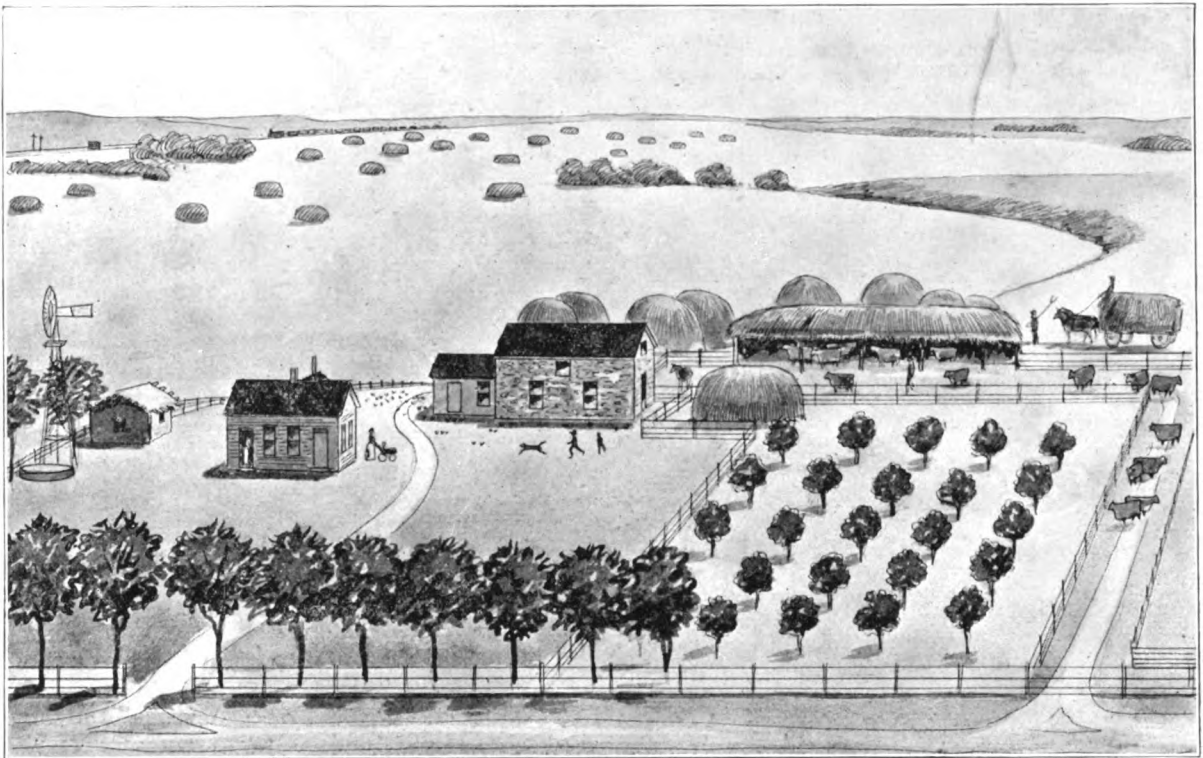
Herman. The mother died in 1899. Mr. Kruger was married the second time in May, 1900, to Maggie Kurth, a daughter of Fred M. Kurth, mentioned on another page of our work. Three children were born to this union, named as follows: Charles, Pearl and Ida.

Politically Mr. Kruger is a Republican, and stands firmly for his principles. He is a member of the Sidney Camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

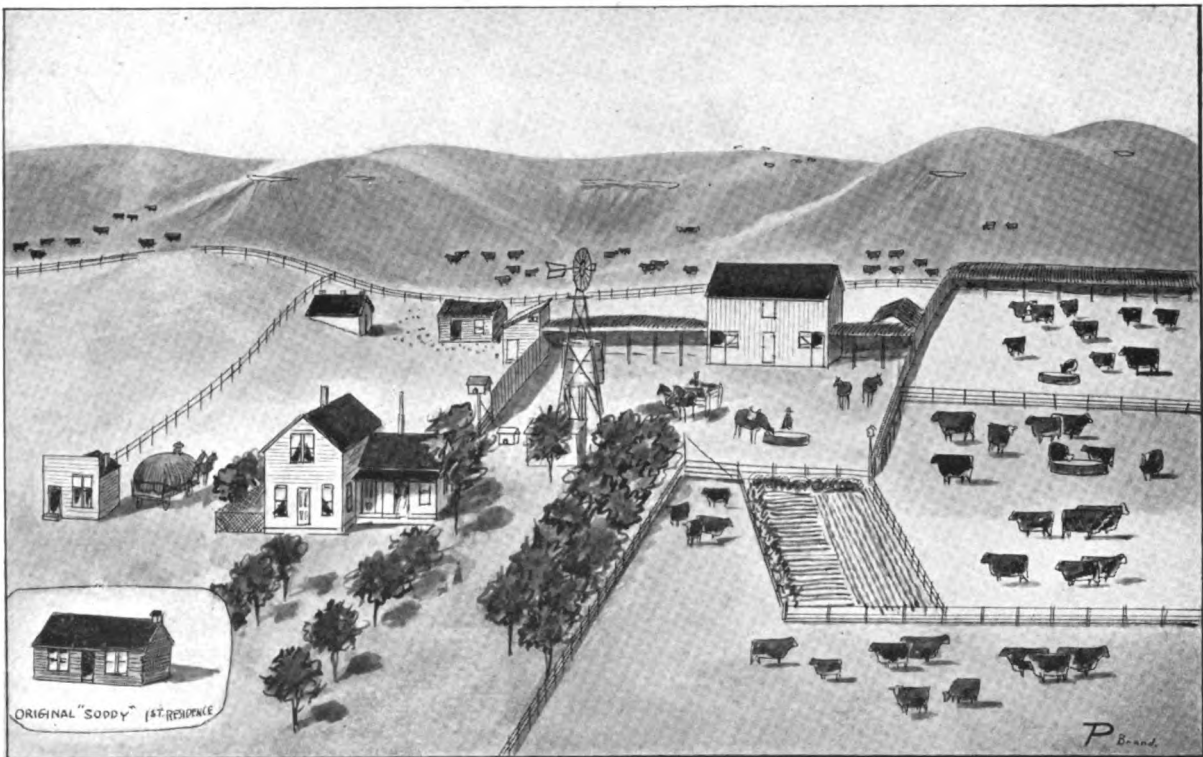
#### FRED E. PEASE.

Fred E. Pease, one of the wealthy ranchmen of Keith county, Nebraska, is an old settler in that region. He has developed a fine property, and in building up a fine estate for himself has incidentally aided materially in the development of the commercial and agricultural interests of that section and enjoys an enviable reputation as a citizen.

Mr. Pease was born in the town of Ripon, Wisconsin, May 16, 1863. His father, Edmund Pease, was a wagonmaker by trade and for years owned a wagon shop in Charles City, Iowa. He was of Yankee birth, a native of New York, and married Katherine Webster, also born in New York state. Mr. Pease came to Wisconsin about 1860, married at Ripon and moved on to Iowa about 1865, locating in Floyd county, at Charles City, ahead of the railroads. They were among the pioneers, and here our subject grew to manhood, receiving a good education at the schools in Charles City. He lived at home until he was about twenty-three years of age and in 1886 came west to Lincoln county, Nebraska, remaining for about a year. He then went into Keith county, engaging in the livery business, establishing his first barn in Paxton, which he run up to 1891. At that time he bought a farm seven miles southeast of Paxton, and operated that place for about a year and a half, then moved to his present location, about half a mile east of Paxton. He at once began ranching, for a time having practically free open range for his cattle as the hard times of the previous few years had driven nearly all of the settlers out of the locality. He began raising high-grade Short-horn cattle and draught horses. His ranch contains three thousand acres of deeded and leased land, with good improvements, fences, buildings and fine groves. He has five hundred acres of hay land all under fence, and raises an immense crop of hay each year. He has planted a fine orchard, raising apples, plums, cherries and other small fruits, his place being one of



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM KRUGER.  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



"HILLSIDE RANCH," RESIDENCE OF FRED E. PEASE,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



the best equipped farms and ranches in the county. A view of the home with its substantial surroundings is presented for your inspection on another page.

Mr. Pease was married April 10, 1890, to Miss Mary Greenough, born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of Captain James Greenough, a commander of river steamboats, and grew up in that city, coming west in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Pease have three children, namely: Edmund, Grace and Arthur.

Mr. Pease has always been prominent in local affairs. He was county commissioner from 1897 to 1900, and in 1903 was elected county assessor, having held the office of precinct assessor previous to that time. Politically he is a Republican, and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Paxton.

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#### NICK GEHRT.

Nick Gehrt, who resides in section 19, township 31, range 44, of Sheridan county, Nebraska, is one of the prominent citizens of this locality, and a man who has done his full share in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home.

Mr. Gehrt was born in Germany in 1862, and came to America with his parents when but ten years of age. The family, consisting of five children of whom our subject is the youngest, located in Grand Island, Nebraska, where the mother is still living, his father having died several years since. At the age of seventeen he began working out by the month on different farms near his home, and in 1884 came to this locality and took the homestead on which he is now living. He at once engaged in farming and erected a set of sod buildings, constantly raising and buying stock in addition to working his farm land. At the beginning of the dry years he was quite extensively engaged in farming, and this was quite a setback to him, as he lost several crops which made hard times for him. However, he still stuck to farming, as he knew better times were coming, and after experiencing much hardship and privation, conditions changed for the better and he was able to raise good crops and added to his property until he now has fourteen hundred and forty acres of good land all fenced and well improved with a complete set of substantial farm buildings which cost him over two thousand dollars. He has three hundred acres of his land in a high state of cultivation, and

keeps about one hundred and twenty-five head of stock. All the work of the farm is done by himself and son, and they have one of the best paying estates in the locality.

Mr. Gehrt was married in 1890 to Miss Carrie Zeigler, born in Illinois, where her parents still live. They have one son, Albert, born in 1891, who is of great assistance to his father in operating his farm. Mr. Gehrt and his family never left their home during the Indian scare in 1891, and although they were threatened many times and in danger of being killed or their home burned over their heads, they escaped without having suffered any injury to themselves or loss of property.

In political sentiment Mr. Gehrt is a Republican, but never votes a straight ticket. He has never held any office, as he says he has not the time to devote to politics which a man must have if he seeks political favor.

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#### HENRY GEISE.

Among the successful and prosperous citizens of Maxwell, Nebraska, and a man who has through industry and perseverance gained a comfortable competence, the subject of this review deserves a prominent place.

Mr. Geise is a native of Westphalia, Germany, where he was raised and received a good education. His parents were typical old country people, and he was brought up to know what it was to work and take care of himself at an early age, and when he reached the age of eighteen he struck out for himself, coming to America in 1886, and here he found a large field for his labors, and many fine opportunities, which he was quick to take advantage of. He settled in Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1888, taking up land in the hills, where he tried ordinary farming, but conditions were not favorable, and after spending much hard labor and meeting with many failures he became discouraged and quit farming for a time, going to work by the month and continuing at this for several years, saving his earnings, and imbued with the spirit of German thrift and perseverance determined to get a start and seven years ago he again took up farming in the hills, this time starting in the dairy business, using his farm of one hundred and sixty acres for this purpose. He first started in with twenty-nine cows and during the past five years has increased his herd to one hundred and seventy-five head, of which forty-two are milch cows. He has been very successful in this line of work, and has purchased and paid for two sections of railway

land, also two and a quarter sections of other land. He takes all his cream to Maxwell Station, and now receives each month one hundred and fifty dollars during summers from the creamery at Beatrice, Nebraska. His herd is composed mostly of Shorthorn cattle, which he finds to be about the best grade for the production of cream and butter. He has a fine patch of alfalfa on his farm, and considers this one of the best grasses to be used for feeding cattle. Mr. Geise was married in 1888 to Miss Laura Miller, a daughter of C. A. Miller, of Lexington, Nebraska. They have six children, as follows: Joe, aged nineteen years; John, seventeen; Arthur, fifteen; Minnie, thirteen; Oshia, eleven; and Charlie, eight.

Mr. Geise is a man much above the ordinary in intelligence, possessing a fine education. He is a hustler, a man of fine appearance and great strength, and his present success is due alone to his energy and industrious habits.

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#### THOMAS KATEN.

Thomas Katen, a prosperous and much respected farmer of section 18, township 29, range 48, Dawes county, Nebraska, much deserves the abundant success that has come to him as a reward of industry, economy and thrift. He is an old settler in this region, and has always taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs of his locality.

Mr. Katen was born in Richardson county, Nebraska, in 1864, in the town of Rulo. His father, John Katen, was a farmer by occupation, of Irish stock, and he married Johannah Godfrey, also of Irish descent, the young couple settling in Nebraska during their early married life, where our subject was reared and educated. In 1885 he left home and started to make his own way in the world, spending one year in Chadron, and then taking up a homestead twenty-five miles south of that city. Here his first dwelling was made of logs, and he began to break up land and start a farm, remaining on the place for several years and proved up. He went through a good many hard times in getting started and for a time did fairly well, sticking to it until 1891, then the dry seasons began and he was unable to raise scarcely any crops. He was obliged to work in the woods, getting out timber and hauling wood in order to make a living for himself and family. On first coming to this section all he had in the world was three dollars in money, and remained on this place for fourteen years, then left it and settled on his

present homestead in 1900, locating on section 18, township 29, range 48, and there began putting on permanent improvements, building a good house, sheds, barns and corals. His ranch is situated on Cottonwood creek, and he has a fine supply of good water the year round for his stock and other purposes. He has seventy-five acres under cultivation, but most of his time is devoted to stock raising, operating about twenty-one quarter sections for that purpose, and also leases two quarters of school land for grazing land. About the year 1901 his house was utterly destroyed by fire and he lost part of his household goods, which was a severe loss, but he has erected in its place a commodious dwelling, and has a pleasant home.

On February 15, 1885, Mr. Katen was married to Miss Mary Kennedy, and of this union thirteen children were born, who are named as follows: Josephine and Genevieve (twins), John, Edna, Will, Thomas, Lester, Hazel, Ruth, Fannie, Donald, Lottie and a baby named Odonald.

Mr. Katen has held different school offices and takes an active interest in local affairs, voting the Democratic ticket.

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#### JAMES E. KIRKWOOD.

James E. Kirkwood, one of the extensive land owners of Rock county, Nebraska, has one of the finest farms and homes to be found in this county. He is a man of untiring energy and perseverance, and through business capability and good management has become one of the foremost men in this section of the country. He is well known as a public-spirited citizen and is universally esteemed and respected.

Mr. Kirkwood was born on a farm in Iowa in 1861, and raised and educated in that state. His father, Robert Kirkwood, was a native of Scotland, and after coming to this country located at Council Bluffs, where he followed farming for many years. He was married in Scotland to Mary Muir, and they were the parents of nine children, all of whom except our subject remained in Iowa.

James attended school at Iowa City for four years, receiving a good education, and then followed teaching as a profession part of the time, later starting in the stock raising and farming business when about twenty-nine years old. He stuck to that for a time, then went into the land and stock business in Missouri valley, which he carried on for twelve years. In 1904 he came to Rock county, set-

ting on section 12, township 29, range 20. Here he put up good buildings, planted an orchard of two hundred apple trees and other fruits in proportion, and has one of the finest orchards in this section of the state. He has added to his land until he now owns twenty-four hundred acres of fine farming and hay land, runs about five hundred head of stock, besides fifty horses. He raises annually two hundred acres of corn and small grains, and has good success with his crops. He is also seeding quite a lot of his land to tame grasses. Besides his large interests here he has farms in Iowa and Canada, and personally superintends the management of those farms.

Mr. Kirkwood while living in Iowa served a term as representative in the state legislature, and was active in politics there, but since coming to Nebraska has devoted his time to his farming interests. He is a Democrat.

In 1890 he was married to Miss Ollie Morgan, whose people were early settlers in Missouri Valley, Iowa, and still reside there. Her father served in the Fifty-first Iowa Infantry during the Civil war. To Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood the following children were born: Nellie M., Mary I., Ollie M. and James M.

#### GEORGE GREGG.

George Gregg, one of the oldest residents of Perkins county, Nebraska, has had a varied and eventful history, and the story of his life is interwoven with the narrative of facts as they have transpired in the western part of Nebraska. It is a most interesting past to which such lives as his link us, and never will be repeated in this western country.

Mr. Gregg was born in Kirklington, Yorkshire, England, in 1838. His father, Robert Gregg, was an innkeeper in that country, and followed that business nearly all his later years, his tavern being one of the well known stopping places for travelers through that vicinity. Our subject grew up in his native village, attending the public schools, and remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, then entered a grocery store and served an apprenticeship of five years and a half, locating in Liverpool, where he spent ten years in that work. He came to America in 1869, settling on a farm in Ontario, Canada, and there spent seventeen years. The locality in which he lived was a rough country, with miles of timber land, and he did plenty of grubbing and clearing to get the land in shape

for crops. During the time he was in that vicinity he went through hard times, but managed to make a living and get a little ahead, building up a fairly good home, but was not very favorably impressed with the opportunity for advancement, so came to the United States, traveled west until he came to Nebraska, and there decided to stop and look over the country. He arrived in Perkins county in April, 1886, and as he liked the appearance of things, filed on a homestead on section 28, township 10, range 35, built a sod shanty and started to establish his farm, his family joining him in the fall of that year. They began on a small scale, suffering hardships and privations during the first few years while getting their home started, their only team a pair of oxen, with which Mr. Gregg broke up land for a few crops and worked hard to make a living. He bought his team on two years' time, and in one year he plowed up sixty acres with these faithful animals, doing all his own work of breaking, etc. He had no well on the place, and for five years hauled all the water for household use a distance of a mile and a half. He put in considerable corn each year, and during 1887, 1888 and 1889 raised a good crop, but the following year had a total loss on account of the drouth. Then for one year he had a fair crop, and again in 1893, 1894 and 1895 everything he planted failed, and in the spring of 1896 he found himself worse off than nothing, being in debt over eight hundred dollars. He had a few cattle and gradually grew into the stock business, and after three years had a pretty good herd, and as land was cheap he had added considerable to his homestead and improved it as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Gregg is now the owner of a ranch consisting of nine quarter sections, on which he has every improvement and convenience for its proper operation, and has about three hundred acres under plough. He has at the present time a herd of fifty cattle, twelve good horses and about fifty hogs. He had good wells drilled on the place, which furnish a good water supply the year round, and has windmills, etc., his ranch being one of the best equipped in the county.

Mr. Gregg was married in 1864 at Liverpool, England, to Miss Annie Hume, who was born and raised in England, and to them have been born eight children, who are named as follows: Isabelle, Robert, Willie, Emma, Mary, Annie, Charlie and George.

Our subject has always been a foremost, leading citizen of his locality, taking an active part in every movement for the develop-

ment and advancement of the region, helping build up schools, etc. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

### LEONARD W. RIGGS.

Leonard W. Riggs, a well known resident and prominent business man of Dunning, Blaine county, Nebraska, has won for himself a good standing where he is highly respected for his many excellent qualities and manly worth.

Mr. Riggs was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, April 28, 1861. His father was Porter Riggs, born in West Virginia, a farmer by occupation, and followed that calling all his life. He married Mary Swan, a native of Indiana. They settled in Illinois in the early days, and there our subject was raised and educated, attending the common schools, receiving his education in the familiar old district school. He remained with his parents up to his twenty-second year, then came to Nebraska, teaming through from North Loup, and his first settlement was made in the north-western part of Blaine county. Most of his first summer was spent in Loup county following farming, haying, ranching, etc., in order to earn a little money. He filed on a homestead and put up a sod shanty, "batching it" there for about three years, doing mostly farm work, roughing it a great deal of the time, camping out on the plains, etc. He built up a comfortable home and remained in that vicinity up to 1894, then moved to Brewster and spent about eight years, engaged in farm work, blacksmithing, etc.

Mr. Riggs located in Dunning in 1902, where his brother had bought a store, and he took charge of it, managing it for the past six years. They handle a general line of merchandise and have an excellent trade throughout the surrounding country. He is well liked by all with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way, and is recognized as a gentleman of excellent business ability and progressive habits.

In 1886 Mr. Riggs was married to Miss Nannie Martin. Her father was Christian Martin, a pioneer in Nebraska. They were the parents of four children—Lillian May, deceased; Karl, deceased; Porter C. and Charles W. The mother died in 1894, and shortly afterward Mr. Riggs was burned out, losing about everything he had, including horses, grain, machinery, etc., being left with practically nothing and obliged to start over again. He and his faithful wife had managed to build up

a good home and were just about able to enjoy life, when these misfortunes overtook him and he was compelled to work out by the day in order to make a living for himself and children. Mr. Riggs spent some time in Montana during the year 1891, where he was engaged in freighting and general work. He is one out of three men who settled in Blaine county in 1883, and has always done his share as an old-timer.

### WILLIAM MOUNT.

William Mount, for the past quarter of a century one of the well known pioneers of Nebraska, settled in Buffalo county about 1884, where he remained for about two and a half years. For a time he lived in Weld, Logan and Sedgwick counties, in Colorado, then again came to the western part of Nebraska in 1894, going through pioneer experiences in both sections. He is proprietor of a good estate in Camp Clarke precinct and enjoys a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings.

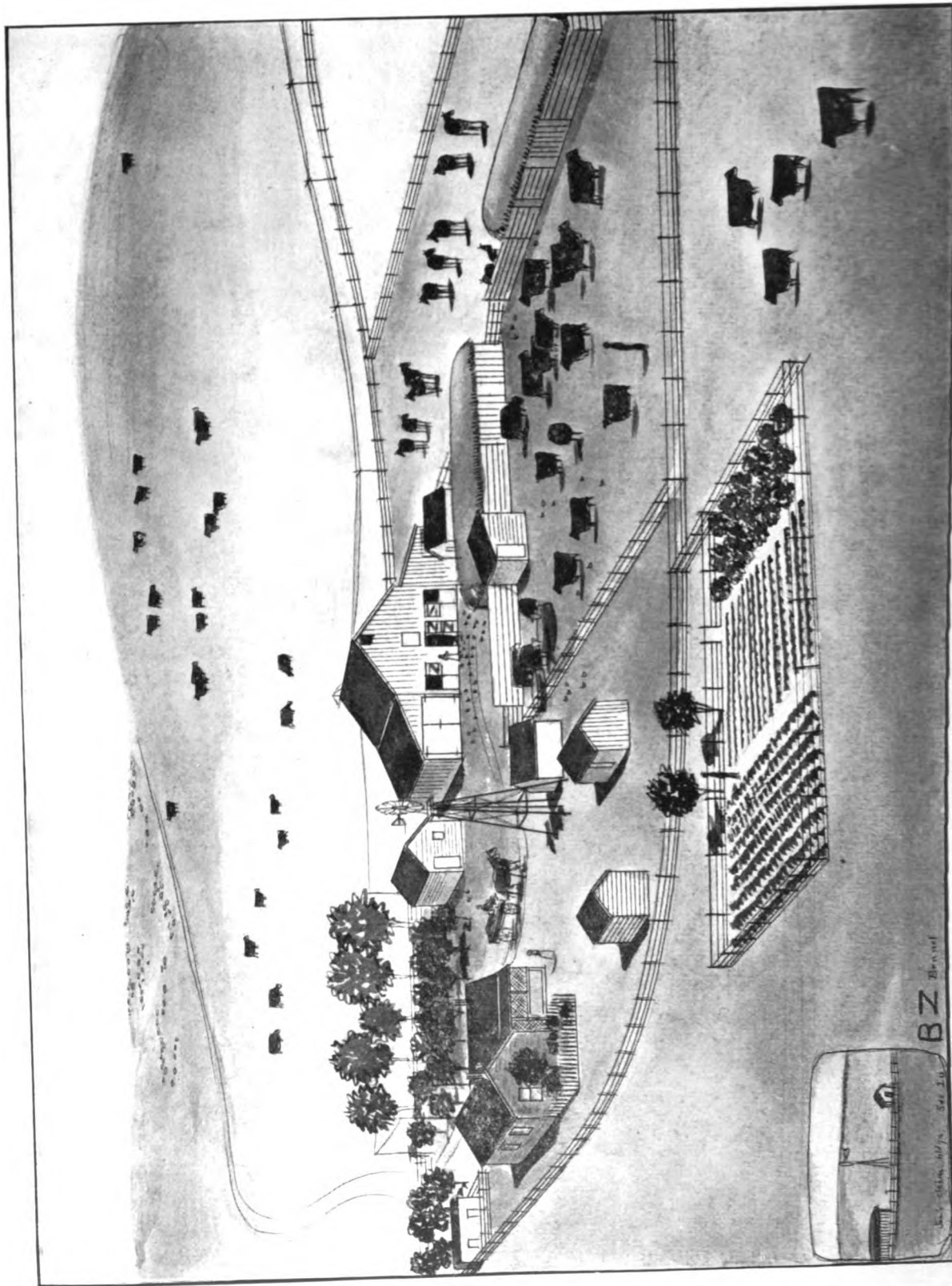
Mr. Mount is a native of Shelby county, Illinois, born on May 2, 1849, where he lived until he was thirty-five years of age, following farming during all of that time. On his return to Nebraska he took up land under the Belmont Ditch and farmed for six years, then filed on a homestead on section 10, township 20, range 50, in Cheyenne (now Morrill) county, on which he proved up in due time, and improved. He, together with his sons, owns four hundred and eighty acres of land, which is used for mixed farming and stock raising, running about one hundred and fifty head of stock. They raise considerable hay, and have eighteen acres devoted to beet raising, which nets them a nice sum each season.

Mr. Mount was married in Christian county, Illinois, on February 9, 1871, to Miss Sarah M. Stumpff. Mrs. Mount is a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and was reared there until about ten years of age, when the family moved to Shelby county. They have had nine children, as follows: Hattie, married to E. C. Porter, living on Pumpkinseed creek; Carrie died in infancy; Laura, widow of A. H. Kortz, now living in Bridgeport; Charles, deceased; Jessie, married and living in Bridgeport; Clarence, married, farming in Cheyenne county; James Dwight, single; Lulu, wife of Harry Desch, living in Alliance; Elma, single, living at home.

Mr. Mount is a Republican politically and takes a firm stand for the principles of his







RESIDENCE OF HENRY BRANZ,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

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party. He takes a commendable interest in local affairs, and is at present holding the office of school director of district No. 6.

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### HENRY BRANZ.

Henry Branz was born in the small village of Nieder Aula, in the province of Kuhr Hessen, Germany, in 1858, his father being Nicholas Branz, a shoemaker by trade, who lived and died in the fatherland. The mother was Annie Barlet in her youth. She died at the home of a daughter in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1874.

Our subject lived in the land of his nativity until he was eleven years of age, when, with his mother, two brothers and a sister, he came to America, sailing from Bremen Haven in an old sailing vessel Familia, landing in New York city after a voyage of six weeks with seven hundred other immigrants on board. They came west to Peoria, Illinois, where Henry worked two years for his board and clothes and did not get an over supply of either. He then went to Iroquois county, where his sister was living after her marriage, and worked there by the month for two years. He then began farming for himself on rented land, living at various times on farms in Tazewell, Woodford and Livingston counties.

Mr. Branz was married in Illinois Thanksgiving day, November 27, 1878, to Miss Anna Martha Nieding, a native of the village of Ansbach, province of Kuhr Hessen, Germany. Her father, Henry Nieding, died while she was an infant and her mother six years later. A married sister in Tazewell county, near Peoria, sent for the child and she crossed the ocean with strangers, who placed her in charge of the conductor at Baltimore. Mr. and Mrs. Branz have three children—George Herman, who has a homestead adjoining his father's on the west; Maggie, who married Ell Gilner, who has a homestead nearby, and Christine, who has proved up on a homestead which adjoins part of the home farm.

In the year 1890 our subject brought his family to Keith county, Nebraska, locating on a homestead in section 20, township 14, range 40. They had but little to start on and saw very hard times. The first crop of twenty acres of wheat never came up, and all the water had to be hauled six and a half miles. They lived in a sod house, which still stands, and it was a task to make a living. For three summers Mr. Branz worked on the section for the Union Pacific Railway Company and in this way was able to get a few head of cattle

and thus made his start in the stock raising business. In this line he has made a splendid success and now has two hundred head of cattle. His ranch embraces six hundred and forty acres, well improved with a good house, well, windmill, gasoline engine and a barn with a capacity for fifteen head of horses and thirty-five tons of hay. He also leases other land, which he needs in his stock business. For a number of years they sold the cream of thirty cows, but the dairy has been reduced to one-third of that number. Mr. Branz successfully coped with the difficult problems of pioneer life and is thoroughly established on a fine financial basis. He is a man of strong capabilities and is one of the influential old settlers of the locality in which he lives. He is a Democrat in politics.

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### CHALMERS A. LOVEJOY.

Chalmers A. Lovejoy, one of the most widely known and successful stockmen of western Nebraska, resides on his large estate in sections 17, 18 and 20, township 32, range 28, Cherry township.

Mr. Lovejoy was born in White county, Indiana, March 6, 1854, and came to Iowa with his parents when he was one year old. His father, H. R. Lovejoy, a native of Indiana, was a prominent merchant in Monticello, that state, for ten years, and later in Des Moines, Iowa, where he was in business twenty-five years. He married Isabella Shonts, a native of Virginia, of Irish and German parentage, and died in Des Moines in 1876. In a family of ten children, six boys and four girls, our subject is the second member. He was reared and educated in Iowa, and began life for himself at the age of twenty-one, following farm work for some years. Mr. Lovejoy first came to Nebraska in April, 1886, and here took up a pre-emption and later a homestead in section 17, township 31, range 27, Cherry county, and to both these tracts he still holds title. By industry and economy he gradually added to his acreage until he is now proprietor of six thousand five hundred acres of land, most of which is in meadow and range. One tract extends for five miles along the south side of the Niobrara river near Valentine, and another tract in township 31, range 27, comprises twenty-two hundred and forty acres, while in the home place there are ten hundred and forty acres of good land. He is engaged principally in stock raising and mixed farming, having nearly three hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, raising fine crops, all of

which he feeds to his extensive herds of cattle. He keeps at all times about a thousand head of cattle and a few hogs, together with a goodly number of horses, and is well satisfied with the reward of his labors since coming to this section. He never suffered much loss through the dry years, and, indeed, states that he made his best money during those times, as he was not engaged in farming to any great extent, and his stock having sufficient grazing were productive of profitable returns on the market.

Mr. Lovejoy was married December 6, 1876, to Miss Jennie H. Harr, born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Jacob and Rosina (Baker) Harr, who for many years were respected residents of Des Moines. Mr. and Mrs. Lovejoy have a family of ten children, all of whom were reared in Cherry county. They are named as follows: Fred S., Benjamin C., Annie, Robert, Daniel, John, Charles, Halsey, Jennie and Walter.

All of Mr. Lovejoy's time and attention are given to building up and improving his home and ranch, and he is well informed on all topics pertaining to his business. He has never had any time to devote to active politics, and has never held office, but in political sentiment he is a Republican.

#### WILLIAM DOLAN.

The subject of this review is one of the largest stock dealers and shippers in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and resides in Maxwell, where he has a pleasant home and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all of his associates.

Mr. Dolan is a native of Maxwell, and was raised and educated there. His father, Peter Farrell Dolan, was a native of Leitrim county, Ireland, and came to America when sixteen years of age, and his wife was Miss Anna G. Kelliher. She resides at the present time in Chicago with her daughter, who is a teacher in the public schools in that city. Our subject received his later education at Saint Mary's College, Kansas, and after graduating was a teacher in the schools in Lincoln county for four years, and also taught in Idaho for two years. His brother, F. Farrell Dolan, is yardmaster for the American Beet Company at Grand Island, Nebraska. The father came west and located at Maxwell in 1871. He was connected with the Northern Pacific railway for twenty-five years, and his death occurred in 1901, at the age of sixty-five years. Our subject ships about one hundred and sixty

cars of stock each season, marketing most of this in Denver. A great deal of hay is raised around Maxwell each year, and between three and four thousand tons are shipped from Maxwell during each year, which brings in a snug sum to the farmers in this locality. Mr. Dolan and his mother are joint owners of a ranch of about nineteen hundred acres in this county, which was formerly owned by his father, nearly all of this being valley land located near Maxwell.

Mr. Dolan was married in 1903 to Miss Mary E. Nugent. Her father, John W. Nugent, came from Illinois to Nebraska in 1888. Mr. Dolan and wife have one child, Viola.

#### FRANK E. PHILLIPS.

Frank E. Phillips, one of the leading pioneers of Box Butte county, resides on his well improved and valuable estate in township 24, range 48, where he is well and favorably known throughout the locality.

Mr. Phillips was born in Lackawanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1854, on a farm. His great-grandfather settled in that state before the beginning of the Revolutionary war, having been born and raised in Vermont. Our subject's father was a farmer and lumberman, and he married Miss Elizabeth Norton, of English blood, who died when Frank was but seven years of age, and two years later he was left an orphan, being compelled to start out for himself at the age of nine years, and from that time on made his own way in the world. He went on a ship as a cabin boy when but eleven years old, and spent over three years as a sailor, traveling through many foreign countries, and on these trips visited South America, sailed around Cape Horn, coasted along Maine and Massachusetts, and while still a boy had seen more of the world than many who have lived four-score years and more.

Mr. Phillips returned to Pennsylvania and worked as a lumberman rafting, running stationary engines, and, in fact, doing all the work to be found in the lumber camp for about five years. He left Pennsylvania and struck out for the west in 1878, finally settling in Fillmore county, Nebraska, and there was among the pioneer settlers of that region, and when he landed in that vicinity his entire cash capital was seventy-two cents, and he was obliged to go to work immediately to make a living, and secured employment as a farmer. He lived there up to 1883, then moved to

Custer county and settled on government land. His first building was a sod shanty without a floor. He took with him a team and two cows, which was his start on that place, and these were his sole possessions with the exception of some farm implements. The nearest railroad point from his claim was Grand Island, a distance of seventy-five miles. He went through hard times in getting started, meeting with many discouragements, and finally sold the place and moved to Cheyenne county, driving to his new location with his team and a covered wagon, taking his cows and household goods with him. There he first tried mixed farming and stock raising, and again went through pioneer experiences. His nearest trading point and railroad station was Hay Springs, and he has the distinction of having shipped the first carload of goods into the town of Alliance, which town had just been started at that time. He remained upon that place up to 1901, and made a success of the undertaking, improving it in fine shape, and building up a good home. He sold out his rights there and then moved to his present location, which was a fully improved ranch. This is located in section 31, township 24, range 48, and is situated nine miles from the town of Alliance. The place contains eight quarter sections, all deeded land, and, besides this, he leases twelve quarters, all of which is fenced and cross fenced, and supplied with every improvement, good buildings, etc. This ranch is well stocked with cattle, and he is also engaged in farming, having about one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation.

Mr. Phillips was married September 14, 1871, while living in Pennsylvania, to Miss Maggie Fox, daughter of Michael Fox, a native of Germany, who emigrated to America when a young man and settled in Pennsylvania, and there followed farming all his life. He married Elizabeth Sommers, born in England, and Mrs. Phillips spent her girlhood in her native state, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are the parents of fourteen children, who are named as follows: Minnie, Theodore, Lillie, George, Amy, Maggie, Annie, Charles, Pearl, Ethel, Frank, Walter, Elsie and Clarence. They form a very interesting family group and those still living at home assist their parents in running the ranch. The family have a pleasant home and enjoy a large circle of warm friends and congenial neighbors.

Our subject is a well read, intelligent man, of superior attainments, who keeps well abreast of the times, taking an active interest in local affairs of importance.

## ALBERT LOWE.

Albert Lowe, one of the best known and most influential citizens of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, resides on his vast estate in Pine precinct. He has devoted many years of his life to farming and has met with the greatest success in the work, and he has done more than any other one man to develop this county and promote its interests in every way.

Mr. Lowe was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, July 18, 1855, reared and educated on a farm, where he saw plenty of hard work from the time he was a small boy assisting his father in grubbing and clearing his place there. The latter was of English parentage, born on Prince Edward Island, who came to the states at the age of twelve years, following farming all his life. When our subject was eighteen months old his mother, who was Annie Adams, died, and he remained with his father until he was twelve, then started out for himself, working on farms in the vicinity of their home for four years. He then bought land from the Chicago & Northwestern railway, located in Crawford county, Iowa, and farmed there for six years. This land cost him eight dollars and eighty cents per acre, on ten years' time, and he made quite a little money on the place, clearing about six thousand dollars in the six years. He next came to Keya Paha county, locating on a homestead on section 14, township 33, range 19, and this is his present home. He first built a log house and lived in it for five years, then put up a sod house and "batched it" for twelve years. When he first came here there was only one house in what is now Mills, and one at Carns, and his nearest neighbor was miles away. He kept buying land before the dry years came on, and sowed it to rye, and cleared eighty-six cents a bushel on his home place of one hundred and sixty acres. He has never had a total failure of crops, and assisted others, taking county warrants for grain furnished to men needing aid in the hard times. Mr. Lowe now has a farm of six thousand acres, all fine farming land, and cultivates one thousand acres, using the balance for hay and pasture. He also has ninety acres of alfalfa, and gets an immense crop of this grass each season. Twelve hundred and forty acres of his farm is medium low land and the drouths never affect this. He is the largest grain farmer in the county, and farms more than any three men in this county, and in addition to this deals quite extensively in stock, running from five hundred to six hundred cattle, and forty head of horses. He has set out a large num-

ber of trees on his farm, and in all has about forty acres of forest and fruit trees. His pastures are immense, one containing six sections and another four sections, and in all has thirty miles of fence on his ranch, so that he does not have to herd his stock. His farm is the best improved and most valuable of any in Keya Paha county, and every appointment of the place shows the best of care and good management in its operation.

On Christmas day, 1890, our subject was married to Miss Matilda Schultz, whose parents were early settlers in Keya Paha county, coming here from Hamilton county in 1884. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe have three children, namely: Henry, Vernie and Ferne, all living at home.

Politically Mr. Lowe is a Republican, but has never had the time to devote to taking an active part in politics.

#### DAVID E. BABB.

While the gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the new comers to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, he is rapidly becoming known as a man of active public spirit and manifests a truly commendable interest in the welfare of his community. Mr. Babb is a nephew of Steve Babb, well known in this locality, also a nephew of Henry Weilman, who is an old-timer in the region, and from whom our subject purchased his present ranch.

David E. Babb is a native of Pottawatomie county, Iowa, where he was born January 12, 1869, and reared. During his boyhood he followed farming, receiving a good education, remaining with his parents until he reached manhood, and then farmed for himself, owning a hundred and twenty acres in his native county. He came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, March 4, 1906. He purchased the four hundred and eighty acres in section 24, township 16, range 49, formerly known as the Old Henry Postoffice. Here he farms about one hundred and forty acres, and uses the balance as hay land and pasture for a large number of cattle and horses. The ranch is well equipped with a good set of buildings, all fenced and finely improved in every way.

On April 3, 1895, Mr. Babb was married at Atlantic, Iowa, to Miss Laura B. Selders, who was born and reared in the Hawkeye state. The young couple made their home in Iowa until they came to Nebraska. Five children were born to them, who are named as follows: Elsie E., Hazel M., Clarice O., Gladys B. and Roy B. The family have a very pleasant home

and are well liked by their neighbors and associates. Mr. Babb is a supporter of Republican principles and in religious matters is liberal, while his wife is an earnest member of the Christian church.

#### ELMER E. BARR.

Dr. Elmer E. Barr, who is numbered among the leading old settlers of western Nebraska, came to that region when it was just being first inhabited by white men, and from its earliest days of civilization he has been an important factor in its growth and development. He owns a nice property in Hyannis, where he carries on a drug business, and also has a wide practice throughout the county and stands high in the medical profession.

Dr. Barr was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, in 1863, and reared on a farm there. His father, James, was of Scotch-Irish stock, and he married Eliza Long, of Pennsylvania Dutch blood. Our subject remained in his native county up to 1880, then came west, locating at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and remained there for about nine months, then emigrated to Grand Island, Nebraska, settling in Alda. Soon after coming to this state he began teaching in the public schools in Hall county and followed that occupation for seven years, at the same time taking a course of study at the Nebraska State University, having prepared for this by attending the Rush Medical College at Chicago and the State University of Iowa. He graduated from the medical department of the University of Iowa in 1887, and began the practice of his profession, establishing his first office at Benkelman, Dundy county, Nebraska, remaining there for a year, then removed to Stratton, Hitchcock county, Nebraska, where he followed his calling for two years. In the fall of 1890 he opened an office at Alliance and lived there for six years, and was appointed assistant surgeon for the Burlington Railway Company, building up a good practice, at the end of that time spending two years in travel.

He returned to Nebraska in 1899, locating at Whitman, Grant county, where he followed his profession for five years, then practiced in Alliance for a year, and then came to Hyannis, Grant county.

Dr. Barr settled in Hyannis in 1905, and opened an office, and rapidly built up a good patronage, now extending all over Grant county, also into Cherry and McPherson counties. He has carried on a drug business since locating here, purchasing this store in 1905,

and carries a complete line of drugs and has one of the best equipped stores in the county.

On November 27, 1901, Dr. Barr was married to Flora E. Dahlberg, who was born and reared at Creston, Iowa. They have two daughters, Thelma and Genevieve.

Dr. Barr was an early homesteader in Hooker county, and proved up on a farm there. In political views our subject is a Republican, and has served as coroner of Grant county for several years.

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### MICHAEL WUEST.

Michael Wuest is readily accorded a prominent position among the influential and successful old settlers of Keith county, Nebraska. He was born in the town of Grafton, Jersey county, Illinois, November 5, 1860. Our subject's ancestors were of German nativity. His father, Bernhard Wuest, was born in Ober Amt, Rothenberg, Germany, and was a farmer and mason by trade, while his mother, Johanna (Hartman) Wuest, was born in the village of Hirschau, province of Wuerttemberg, Germany; they came to America about 1856.

Our subject was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools. After he was twenty-one he worked out in Illinois for seven years in Jersey and Greene counties.

In the fall of 1886, Mr. Wuest was united in wedlock with Miss Louise Egelhoff, also a native of Jersey county, Illinois. She was the daughter of John and Mary (Ocherbauer) Egelhoff, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Wuest have been the parents of nine children: Adolph Lewis, Carl Henry, Bertha Stella, Wils Frederick, Edward Harry (deceased), Michael Irving, Johanna Lela, August John and Herbert Andy.

In the spring of 1887 Mr. Wuest decided to seek a home in the far west, and came to Nebraska, locating a homestead in section 14, township 12, range 40, in Keith county. He built a good substantial sod house and lived in it for eight or nine years; his first well, one hundred and ninety-eight feet deep, he dug by hand, his wife drawing most of the debris up with a windlass; for the first eight years he had to haul water for stock purposes from one-half to six or seven miles. He used oxen for the first six years and with them broke up a large part of his land. He witnessed all the hard times brought by drouth and other calamities, lost many crops and was sometimes in a seriously low condition, financially. In order to make a

living he had to work out a great deal and engaged often as a herder of sheep, receiving one time only fifty cents per day, while the children served as herdsmen to help keep the family in food. But he clung to his farm and at last he made a splendid success and is well established financially. He owns a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, cultivating about a half section, sixteen acres of which are in alfalfa, the place is well improved with fences, barns, well, windmill, cistern, and sheds, and has a fine grove of trees started. The new house erected in 1908 has eighteen foot posts, full two stories and is the tallest country house in the county; is the acme of comfort and convenience. He has been very successful in his farming operations and in 1907 threshed more grain than any other farmer in Keith county, the amount being over five thousand bushels.

Mr. Wuest wields a strong influence among his fellows in the local affairs of his community and is especially interested in school work. He is a Republican in politics and has held the office of assessor, overseer, and justice of the peace. In every way Mr. Wuest is a capable and efficient conservator of the interests and welfare of the people. He is a member of the Ogallala lodge, Modern Woodmen of America, while Mrs. Wuest holds membership in the American Yeoman. They are in religious faith Lutherans.

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### MARIAL E. MOORE.

A history of Keya Paha county would be incomplete without describing the part taken in its formation and development by the man whose name heads this article, and who was one of the farmers and stockmen of Keya Paha county, living in section 12, township 32, range 22, until the spring of 1908, when he removed to Ainsworth in Brown county. A portrait of Mr. Moore will be found on another page.

Mr. Moore was born in 1871 in Wayne county, Iowa. When he was one year old, his parents moved to Ohio. In 1875 they returned to Iowa, where they lived until coming to Nebraska in 1876. It was in Nebraska that Mr. Moore grew to manhood, attending the common schools when a boy and later the State University at Lincoln, where he attended school for three years but did not complete his course. He was married December 6, 1905, to Miss Nina Hartman, a native of Polk county, Nebraska, where she was born January 4, 1882.

Her parents, John and Ellen Hartman, were also of American descent.



Our subject and his father have had the experiences usual to pioneers in a new country. They have seen the labor of a whole season disappear in less than thirty minutes under a swarm of grasshoppers; they have also seen the Texas long horn together with the deer, antelope, elk and wild horse disappear from the prairies of Nebraska.

They were among the first to introduce alfalfa culture into Keya Paha county and time is beginning to prove its value to the county.

Both father and son have always been Republican in politics, though neither of them have held office, but both have always tried to upbuild and develop the community in which they have so long resided.

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#### WILLIAM S. MOORE.

W. S. Moore, the father of M. E. Moore, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, March 27, 1843. He grew up in his native state and lived there until the breaking out of the Civil war. His parents were of old American stock and he inherited the patriotism for which the American people are noted. When the war came on, he promptly answered the call of his country and enlisted in the Sixteenth Ohio Infantry, and after his enlistment expired, he re-enlisted, this time in the Fourth United States Veteran Regiment under General Hancock. He was engaged in the siege of Vicksburg and several other very important battles, fourteen in all. In all the terrific campaigning in which he was engaged, he never received a wound and was never captured by the enemy although he was stunned by the explosion of a shell and left on the field for dead in one battle. In several of the engagements, his comrades were shot down around him almost like grass before the reaper, and many things can be related about his experiences when he wore the blue for over four years in the greatest war ever known in the civilized world.

After the war, he went to Missouri, then to Iowa and after returning to his native state two years he moved to Buffalo county, Nebraska, in 1876. He remained in Buffalo county until coming to Keya Paha county in 1883. He was married in 1867 in Holmes county, Ohio, to Miss Samantha Riggs, who was the daughter of Charles Riggs. She was born April 17, 1847. This union was blessed with four children, of whom two are living. He engaged in farming and stock raising in Keya Paha county for twenty-five years, but in the spring of 1898 he sold his fine farm and moved to Ainsworth in Brown county, a few miles from his former home.

#### JOHN F. WHITON, DECEASED.

In the death of the gentleman whose name heads this review, Rock county, Nebraska, lost one of its most worthy citizens. For many years he was identified with the financial and agricultural interests of this region, and was one of the potent factors in bringing about the present prosperity enjoyed here. He was a man of good business capacity and sterling character, and proved a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

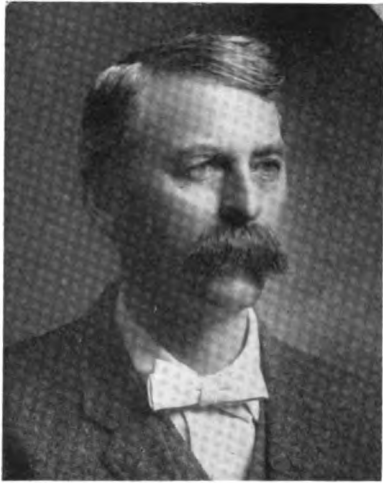
Mr. Whiton was born in Connecticut in 1849. His father was of old American stock whose ancestors fought in the Revolutionary war, and figured prominently in the early history of this country. He was a farmer by occupation, and our subject was raised on the home farm where he received a country school education, remaining at home until he reached the age of twenty-one. He then went into the butcher business and followed that employment at Southbridge, Massachusetts, for some time. In 1880 he came west, locating in Missouri, where he farmed for four or five years, then went to Kansas and engaged in the stock business, working at this for ten years. He came to Nebraska in 1890, settling in Grant county, where he opened a farm and went into the stock business. He lived there for several years, then came to Bassett in 1900. Here he built the Hotel Whiton, and in connection with this business opened a meat market. He built up a large trade, and became one of the leading business men of the town, aiding materially in its growth and the advancement of its commercial interests. He was engaged in buying and shipping stock, also fed sheep and hogs, and was one of the largest operators in this line of business in the locality. Mr. Whiton was married in Kansas in 1893 to Miss Helen Martin, who was born in Michigan on a farm. Mr. Whiton died April 12, 1906, at his residence in Bassett, mourned by his family and a large circle of friends, who realized that by the death of Mr. Whiton, the community had lost a man who had taken an active part in the upbuilding of the country; a man who always stood for what was just and right and one of whom it could be truly said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A portrait of Mr. Whiton will be found on another page.

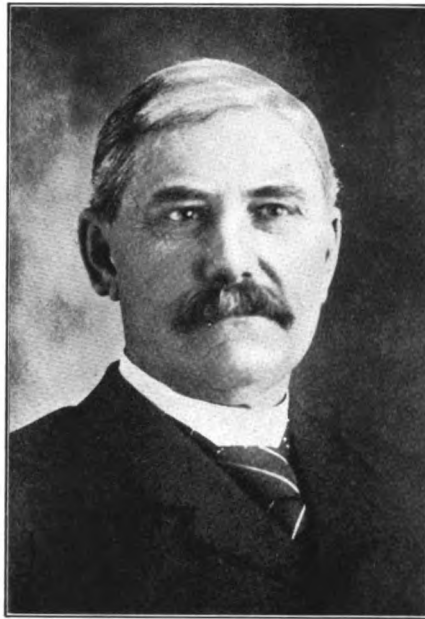
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#### CHARLIE K. MILLER.

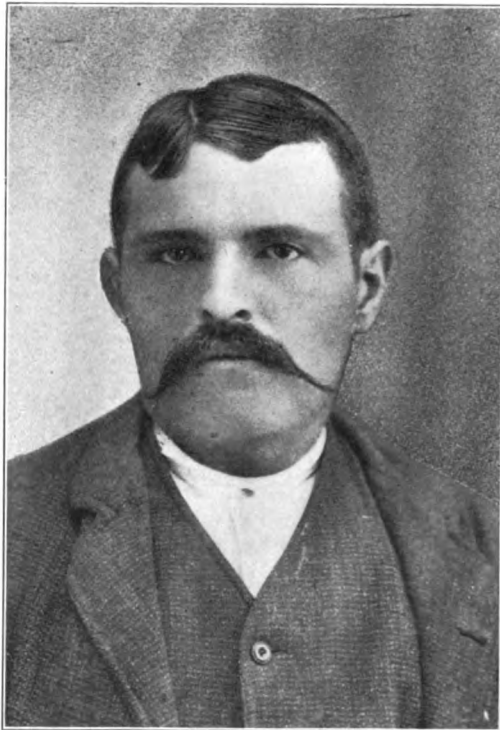
Charlie K. Miller came to America from Germany, his native land, when he was sixteen years old. He was born in 1863 and he has



JOHN F. WHITON (Deceased).



R. R. GREER.



CHARLES K. MILLER.



MARIAL E. MOORE.



traveled all over the United States engaged in various occupations. His father, Charlie Miller, was a brewer by trade; his mother was Anna (Froster) Miller, and both parents were of German descent.

The subject of our biography received his first training in Germany and, on coming to America, he made Chicago his headquarters for nearly four years, and from thence he went to Des Moines, Iowa, where he remained for a short time. In 1884 he came to Loup county, Nebraska, and filed on his present homestead June 12. North Loup was the nearest railroad town. Mr. Miller built a sod house and dug-out, and his first team was a yoke of oxen. He broke some of his land, set out some trees and otherwise improved his farm, but he had to work out a great deal for years. He has been employed at railroading, mining, etc., and was along the Pacific coast for years.

In 1905 Mr. Miller settled on his farm for good, making hog-raising his principal business and he is making a splendid success in this line. He has a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres, with two hundred acres under cultivation; has good buildings, well and windmill, and the trees that he planted years ago have become a fine grove. He intends very soon to construct a fine residence.

Mr. Miller is one of the old settlers and he has made it pay to hold on to his farm. He takes an active part in the affairs of his community and his word is respected as coming from a man of wide and varied business experience. A picture of him will be found on one of the illustration pages of this volume.

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#### R. R. GREER.

R. R. Greer, whose portrait will be found on another page, is well known throughout western Nebraska as an "old-timer" and prominent business man. He located at Kearney, January 12, 1873, and opened a general store which he operated constantly up to 1889, then sold out and for a time retired from active business. In 1905 he started a dry goods store in the opera house block, which he is developing very successfully. Mr. Greer is a man of sterling character and thorough business principles, held in the highest esteem by his fellows and associates.

Mr. Greer is a native of Rushville, Schuyler county, Illinois, but came west at an early day. In the seventies and eighties "Bob" Greer was a familiar character from the Kansas line to South Dakota, and drew immense trade all this distance from among the pioneer settlers, espe-

cially during the settlement of the Republican Valley. He has always been most active in public affairs, both local and state, serving several terms in the city council and as county commissioner. He was appointed by the Governor on the commission to distribute two hundred thousand dollars among the settlers of western Nebraska during the drouth years, and served with this body for one year. Mr. Greer also was deeply interested in agricultural matters, and was a director on the state agricultural board for twelve years, and president of this board for two terms, from 1889 to 1890. He was appointed commissioner general of the Nebraska commission for the World's Fair, and worked at this for eighteen months, preparing most of the exhibits from this state, planning the state building, and other important work for the fair. In 1893 the Democratic state officials demanded his retirement and filled the position by another of their party.

As an instance of the development and progress of this county, Mr. Greer emphasizes the fact that in the seventies not ten farmers in this region had bank accounts, and now, in 1908, hardly that number in the whole county are without bank accounts.

Mr. Greer was a delegate to the great Trans-Mississippi convention held at Denver some years ago, that demanded and obtained from Congress a grant of over six million dollars for the improvement of the Galveston harbor, and he has always taken a great interest in the development and welfare of that part of Texas.

In May, 1873, Mr. Greer was married at Bloomington, Illinois, to Miss Sue Peters, a native of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Greer are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Our subject is an active Republican.

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#### MOSES O. GRANTHAM.

Moses O. Grantham, of Anderson township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers and stock raisers of his locality. He is one of the leaders among the pioneers and has done his full share in the development of the region in which he lives.

Mr. Grantham is a native of Bates county, Missouri, and came from there to Phelps county in 1895, purchasing the one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides, with a fine house, good barns and other improvements. He is an intelligent, wide-awake farmer, considers Phelps county as good as any place he has ever seen or heard of, and he knows all about farming lands by experience in Missou-

ri, Texas and Oklahoma. On his present farm he has a forty-acre piece which yielded a crop of thirty-eight bushels of wheat to the acre in 1902, and in 1906 his yield was thirty bushels to the acre, and corn up to sixty-five bushels. He has a fine herd of red polled cattle, pure and graded.

Mr. Grantham's father was Elias Grantham, who settled in Bates county, Missouri, in 1840. In 1850 he went to California and on the return trip was taken ill and died before reaching home. His grandfather, Dr. Moses Grantham, served in the Mexican war as a surgeon to the Missouri troops under General Harney. His mother was Miss Emily Bryant, a native of Kentucky. He had five uncles on his father's side, and two on his mother's side, all the members of both families except himself, his brothers and sisters now residing in California. In 1882 he was married to Miss Martha E. Lloyd, of Livingston county, Illinois. They have five children. One son, Joseph Elias, owns and operates a threshing machine in Phelps county; William Oliver, the second son, resides at home; Ruth Adaline is married and lives in Iowa; Emily C. and Lucy A. are at home.

Our subject is a strong Prohibitionist. He was the only one of this party in his neighborhood for some years and was the only voter for that ticket, but now there are several voters for prohibition and the cause is gaining.

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#### WILLIAM STROTHEIDE.

William Strotheide, known throughout the community in which he makes his home as an enterprising and prosperous farmer, resides in section 25, township 31, range 45, Sheridan county, Nebraska. He has been engaged for many years past in bringing his farm to a high state of cultivation, and now is proprietor of a valuable estate. He is also vice-president of the Union Bank of Rushville, Nebraska.

Mr. Strotheide was born in Germany in 1853. His father, Rudolph Strotheide, was a farmer, born in 1824, and raised in Germany, and at this writing is living in Illinois with his wife, who is eighty-four years old. They are a venerable couple, highly respected in the locality in which they reside. They are the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the second member, and in 1860 they left Germany and came to America, locating near where they now live in Illinois, where their family was raised. Our subject lived at home assisting his father until he was twenty-two years of age, then went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he obtained employment in a wholesale house, re-

maining there for seven years. From there he went to Seward county, Nebraska, and bought a farm. He built a house and began farming and lived there for seven years, and in 1890 sold out his holdings and came to Sheridan county, where he bought a relinquishment on the section he now lives on. He was very fortunate in having been able to raise one good crop before the dry years came and destroyed everything, and after this for about seven years he went through some hard times, and had it not been for the fact that he had brought fifteen hundred dollars and some cattle with him from Seward county in starting on this place, so he was not compelled to go in debt for the farm, he would have been pretty badly off after these losses. As it was he managed to pull through the bad years, and after a time succeeded in raising good crops and improving his farm, buying more land gradually until he now owns one thousand seven hundred and sixty acres. Of this he farms about three hundred acres and the rest is used for hay land and grazing for two hundred head of stock. When he first took this place there was nothing but a shed barn and a small house on it, and since then he has expended twenty-five hundred dollars for buildings and improvements, and fencing all his land which is in one piece. He has planted trees on the farm, and also has several acres of alfalfa started. He is well satisfied with what he has done here, and takes pride in the fact that he has overcome all difficulties, and is now surrounded by all the comforts and improvements of a model rural home.

Mr. Strotheide was married in 1882 to Miss Louisa Aha, born in Germany in 1856, who came to this country with her parents when a young girl, the family locating in Nebraska, where her father died within a few years after landing here. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Strotheide, named as follows: Ralph, Mary and Sadie. Mr. Strotheide has a brother living in Illinois, who has been very successful, but he says he would not exchange places with him, as he thinks Nebraska is as good a state as can be found anywhere. Politically Mr. Strotheide is a Republican.

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#### MARTIN P. SOLBERG.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal review is a leading citizen of Dawes county, Nebraska. There he is respected alike for his industrious habits, ability and native force of character, and is a worthy representative of that great army of honest men and hard-working farmers that Norway has contributed

to the making of the great state of Nebraska. Still in the prime of life, he enjoys an ample competence and commands the respect of all who know him.

Mr. Solberg was born in Godbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1862, on a farm. His father was a farmer before him, and he spent his entire life in his native land, as also did his mother. At the age of eighteen years our subject started for himself, working out on different farms in the vicinity of his home as a boy. In 1883 Mr. Solberg left his native country and came to America landing in Philadelphia, from which place he started for the western states, spending three and a half years in Minnesota and was also in Canada for some time, railroading in that part of the country. In 1885 he came to Nebraska, taking up a tract of land near Hemingford. Here he put up a sod shanty and started farming, during the first few months did freighting between Hay Springs and Hemingford, and eventually proved up on his pre-emption, which he afterwards sold out, coming to his present location in 1887, and filing on a homestead in section 33, township 29, range 48, where he "batched it" for a few months. He kept steadily adding improvements to his ranch, and in 1890 he started railroading, being employed as section foreman, running extra gangs of men for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway, and later worked for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway for some time. All this time his family were keeping up the work on the home farm, and they succeeded in developing a fine farm, now owning a ranch of seven hundred and seventy acres, situated on the banks of the Niobrara river. He has all good substantial buildings on the farm, every improvement, and it is considered one of the best and most productive farms in their vicinity. Mr. Solberg is well satisfied with the result of his labors since locating here, and thinks there is no place to compare with western Nebraska as an agricultural district. He has traveled extensively and seen many different phases of life in city and country, and is prepared to enjoy the declining days of his life amid the pleasures of his family and their many warm friends and good neighbors.

In 1894 Mr. Solberg was married to Anna Gustavson, born in Illinois, and who came to eastern Nebraska when a child. Her parents came to America and settled first in Illinois, and then came to eastern Nebraska in the early days of its settlement, where Mrs. Solberg was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Solberg are the parents of five children, namely: Paul, James, Elsie, born in Wyoming, where the family lived for a number of years, he as foreman for the Chicago,

Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company; and Clara and Hilda, born and raised in this county.

Mr. Solberg is a Republican, and has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs. He has served on the school board for several years, and is classed among the influential old-timers of Nebraska, and one of the early residents of Chadron, locating there when that town was merely staked out and the only dwellings were rough board shanties and dugouts.

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#### LEVI D. BATES, DECEASED.

The gentleman above named, now deceased, was one of the leading old settlers in Brown county, Nebraska, where he had aided materially in the developing of the resources of this region. Mr. Bates was born in Tioga county, New York, in 1836. He was the son of Stephen Bates, of mixed nationality, American born, and Catherine Kelly Bates, of American stock. When he was seventeen years of age the family moved to Illinois, settling near the city of Rockford, and remained there up to 1866. In the latter year our subject came to Nebraska, settling in Seward county, where he lived for fourteen years, then came to Brown county, driving here by team. He was one of the witnesses of the great blizzard which struck this region in October, 1880, being caught in this storm on the trip here with his family. He took up a homestead in northwest section 29, township 31, range 20, building a log cabin, and at once started in to establish a home and farm. He proved up on this place and lived on it until 1887, and then made a trip to Washington, looking for a place to locate. He was not successful in finding anything that suited him, so came back, but returned there in 1888, this time taking his family with him. After spending some time traveling around they returned to this country, settling nine miles north of Bassett, in Rock county, and lived there for twelve years. While living on this place in 1898 he made a trip to Los Angeles, California, with his family for his health, stopping only seven weeks, as his health did not improve and thought it best to go back to Nebraska.

In 1900 Mr. Bates and his family settled on Pine creek on a farm, where he engaged in grain raising to a large extent, being very successful in his enterprise. At his death, which occurred December 27, 1903, he was proprietor of nine hundred and eighty acres of good farming land, and this is still owned by his family. The farm is well improved with good buildings and fences, all in first-class condition, and is one of the val-

uable estates in this vicinity. Mr. Bates was married January 1, 1857, at Rockford, Illinois, to Miss Ellen Whitwood, and four children resulted from this union, named as follows: Ella S., Jennie B., Levi L. and Hiram. Mrs. Bates died August 18, 1881, while the family lived in Brown county.

In 1883 Mr. Bates married Miss Columbia A. Mills, daughter of Francis Mills, one of the early settlers in this county, coming here in 1880, driving through the country with ox teams. Mrs. Bates was then thirteen years old, and the family lived in a house made on a truck wagon, drawn by three yoke of oxen, the trip taking five weeks on the road. They also had two teams of horses with them, besides other stock, and all their household goods. Their log cabin was the first house in their locality, and she was raised on that place, only attending school for three months after coming to this part of the state. Mr. Bates had four children by his second wife, who are named as follows: Mark G., Manley B., Maggie and Count C., all born in this region. Mr. Bates served during the Civil war as a member of the Seventy-fourth Illinois Infantry. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and was also a member of the Masonic Lodge at Lodge Pole.

While Mr. Bates lived in Seward county he was one of the leading men in political circles, and held the office of county commissioner for some years, but after settling in this county he refused to accept office, preferring to devote his entire time to his home and farm. He was a man of sterling character and genial manners, esteemed and respected by his fellowmen, and the community suffered a severe loss in his demise.

In 1907 Mrs. Bates leased the home farm for a term of three years and now resides at University Place Station, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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#### STEPHEN H. BABB.

Among those who occupy a foremost place in the community in which many years have been passed, the gentleman above named deserves special mention. Mr. Babb is a most successful ranchman and farmer of Union Valley precinct; the owner of a fine estate, all of which has been gained by dint of honest industry and strict attention to duty in the operation of his ranch. He also has been instrumental to a great extent in making the locality the prosperous and wealthy community it has become.

Stephen H. Babb was born February 16, 1861, in Monroe county, Iowa, where he has reared, attending the common schools and work-

ing as a farm hand until he was seventeen years of age, at which time he left his native state and drifted around in different western territories and states for about six years. He first worked on a cow ranch on the Loup river for a year, when he secured work for a year in the construction of what is now the Northwestern Railroad between Long Pine and Gordon. He next was similarly employed on the Oregon Short Line in Idaho, and for several years roughed it in the mountains with a few friends, camping and hunting. Coming to Cheyenne county on March 28, 1887, he filed on a homestead in the northwest quarter of section 14, township 16, range 49, and proved up on one hundred and sixty acres. He went through all the pioneer's experiences in building up his farm, enduring the drouths, losing crops by hail and prairie fires, but stuck to his home through all discouragements, and finally succeeded in accumulating quite a herd of stock; he gradually added to his original homestead until the ranch now comprises one thousand four hundred and forty acres, which is devoted principally to stock raising, although Mr. Babb cultivates about one hundred and sixty acres; he is also engaged in the dairy business on quite a large scale. He has about one hundred head of cattle and seventy-five horses, and keeps a large number of hogs, breeding registered Duroc and Poland China hogs and French Percheron horses on a large scale.

Mr. Babb was the eldest of a family of seven children. The father Benjamin B. Babb, died in Iowa in 1889, but the subject's mother is at present residing in central Nebraska. On December 15, 1887, our subject married Miss Winona E. Brobst, at Sidney, Nebraska. Mrs. Babb is a daughter of James W. and Melissa (Reeves) Brobst, was born in Ohio and grew up there, coming to Nebraska in 1884. Six children have been born to this union, named as follows: Clarence J., Clarice A., Lora A. and Nora J. (twins), Charles J. and Ruby C. Nora died in 1897. Both Mr. and Mrs. Babb's parents now live in Louisville, Cass county, Nebraska.

Since locating in this region Mr. Babb has taken a leading part in Democratic national, state and county affairs. He has held different offices in his township, and served as Sheriff of Cheyenne county during 1901-1902. He is a member of the Odd Fellows at Sidney and the Woodmen of Dalton.

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#### IRVIN W. RUSSELL.

The venerable gentleman whose name appears at the head of this personal history is one



of the very oldest settlers in Thomas county, and spent many years in ranching in the region. He has always led an active life, built up several homes and farms, and followed his chosen calling up to 1907, when he sold his ranching interests and removed to the town of Thedford, where he is prepared to spend his remaining years on earth, secure from hardship and care, surrounded by all the comforts of the times. He has always been prominent in the affairs of the county, being one of the committee that organized Thomas county, and been one of its most earnest supporters in every movement for its advancement. He organized the first school district in the county, was justice of the peace for several years, and also served as county judge for two terms, being probably the best known resident, and held in the highest esteem by all.

Irvin W. Russell was born at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1828. His father, Barney Russell, was a farmer and an early settler in that state, who later came west and fought the Indians, leading a frontiersman's existence, being widely known for his work along that line. When Irvin was a boy the family moved to Indiana, and there he was reared, receiving a limited schooling, and at the age of twenty-nine years he started for himself. He was married in 1849 to Miss Lydia J. Dodd, daughter of Reed Dodd and Irena Montgomery Dodd, pioneers in Indiana.

Our subject settled in Appanoose county, Iowa, and made that his home up to 1886, following farming and stock raising as an occupation during that time. In the fall of that year he brought his family to Nebraska, coming directly to Thomas county, driving from Custer county with a team and wagon, following the line of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad through the county. He picked out a claim and located two miles east of Thedford on the Loup river, built a sod house and started a farm. He later built a good house, although of the same material, and they occupied it for a number of years. When he landed here all the money he had in the world was five dollars, and his other property were a few household goods, twenty younds of bacon, some flour and his team of horses. He began ranching, farming and chicken raising, and continued at it for the following twenty-five years, succeeded in building up a good home and ranch, and has accumulated enough of this world's goods to enable himself and family to live in comfort. He has a good orchard on the ranch, and had the distinction of raising the first apples grown in Thomas county. He also was the man who changed the course of the Loup river, building

a fine fish pond on his farm and constructing the dams so that they prevent the river from eating up the surrounding land. He has done much to promote the success of his county, and he deserves great credit for the part he has taken in the general welfare of the region.

Mr. Russell has a family of eight children, named as follows: Mary Jane, Daniel W., George M., Irena C., Charles R., Eva E., Annie D. and Minnie M., who form a very interesting group.

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#### DELA H. ROCKEFELLER.

Dela H. Rockefeller, residing in Lowell township, Kearney county, Nebraska, located in this township in 1880, coming here with his father, John L., who homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 14, remaining there up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1904. He was seventy-six years of age, and a man esteemed by all who knew him for his many good qualities. He was born near Albany, New York, in 1828, and came west when a young man, and took up a timber claim besides his homestead, owning in all three hundred and twenty acres. In 1893 our subject began farming for himself, and has lived on his present farm since that time.

Mr. Rockefeller was born in Jackson county, Michigan, and lived there until he was nine years old, coming direct to Nebraska from that state. His mother was Miss Laura Irish, a native of New York state and she died here in 1893 at the age of fifty-three years. Our subject has built up a good farm and home, engaging in mixed farming and grain raising. For fourteen years he ran a threshing machine throughout Kearney county and is well known to every farmer in this section of the country, and enjoys the reputation of being one of the best hustling, business-like young men of his county. He has gained his property through his own unaided efforts and labors, his farm of three hundred and twenty acres being of the finest valley land, highly cultivated and improved in the very best manner. In 1904 he erected on his estate a fine large farm residence, and everything evidences his good judgment and ability, shown in the well-kept and highly improved condition of his entire farm—horses, cattle, hogs, fences and buildings. He has gone into the breeding of pure Duroc Jersey hogs, and his remarkable energy and success is also shown in this industry. His leading strains are from "Shamrock," "Improver 2nd." "Billy K," "Model," etc. In 1907 he sold ten pure bred pigs, weighing at five months one hundred and eighty-three

pounds each. He also raises thoroughbred Hereford cattle, keeps a good strain of bull calves for sale. He is constantly improving and developing his herd of hogs and is in the market to sell to other breeders and farmers who desire to get the best. Mr. Rockefeller also owns a fine thoroughbred Percheron horse, known as Keota Goliath.

In 1893 our subject was united in marriage to Miss May Pennington, daughter of Charles Pennington, of Liberty township, who in 1891 came to this county from Chicago, Illinois, locating in Liberty township, where he is engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller are the parents of five children, named as follows: Amy, John, Grace, Edna and Wallace.

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#### HENRY MEYER.

The subject of this sketch, Henry Meyer, is one of the prominent old settlers and has taken an active part in the formative period of that part of western Nebraska, in which he has made him home, namely, Keith county. On every hand he is named as a successful farmer and public spirited citizen, and his farm on section 10, township 13, range 40, is noted as a model of equipment.

Henry Meyer is a native of the village of Bockhop, District of Nienburg, Province of Hanover, Germany, where he was born February 25, 1849. His father was Ernst Meyer, a farmer who lived and died in the fatherland. His mother was Anna Marie Lohman.

Our subject was reared in his native country, following the business of farming and at times working as a laborer. In 1881 the lure of the land of the free called him and he came to America, sailing from Bremen Haven, June 23, landing in Baltimore on the 18th of July. Locating in Brule, Nebraska, after a visit with friends from the old country at Grand Island and North Platte he found work on the section in the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company and at the time of resignation was foreman of the section. In 1883 he filed on a tree claim, set out trees and later proved up; he filed on his present homestead in July, 1891, having resided prior to 1886 in the section house and from that date until 1891 on the tree claim. After a time he gave up railroad work and devoted his attention to farming and had many hard experiences, losing several crops and making only a bare living. But the hard years passed into history and better times dawned and the work of the farm showed better results. He engages to some extent in dairying, shipping the cream of twelve or fifteen cows. Now he

has a fine large farm thoroughly improved, and much that insures comfort and a good income. Until 1908 he lived in the typical sod house of the frontier, moving in December of that year into his fine new concrete block dwelling, of which, with its surroundings, we present an illustration on another page of our work.

Henry Meyer was married in his native village June 14, 1881, to Miss Sophia Trutner, by whom there are four children: Harry, Heinrich, Frank, and Anna.

Mr. Meyer enjoys the distinction of being the oldest settler in the region between Ogallala and Big Springs, and he has had a fine opportunity to personally witness the remarkable material growth of his locality. When he first came, Ogallala was a very small struggling village, containing a telegraph station, a saloon, and one store, a school house and a small jail. Mr. Meyer has been active in school and local affairs and has held various offices, such as road overseer and school officer, serving in the latter capacity for years. He has been progressive and public spirited and is widely respected as an old settler and successful farmer.

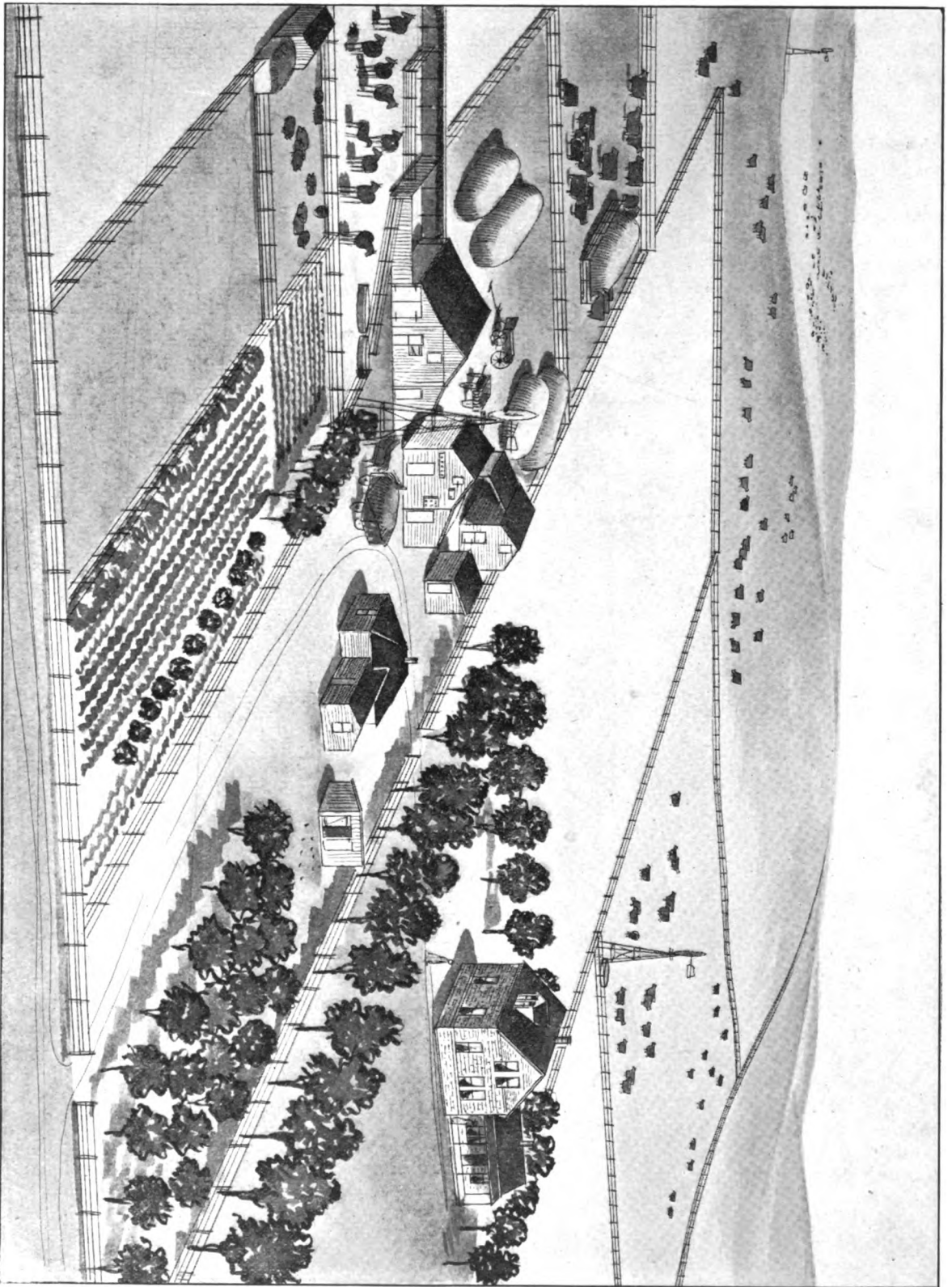
He is a Republican in politics and with his family is a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### JACOB W. GROVES.

Among the early settlers in Cherry county, the above named gentleman holds a prominent place, having settled on a homestead in October, 1884, located in section 7, township 30, range 26, where he built up a comfortable home and farm. He has done his full share in the development of his locality, and is well and favorably known throughout this section.

Mr. Groves was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, March 30, 1859, and he was reared on a farm and received a common school education. Our subject, the eldest of nine children, born to Thomas and Rachel (Smith) Groves, started in the world for himself at the age of twenty-one, following farm work for three years in Johnston county, Nebraska. After a short visit with home folks he came to Cherry county in 1884, driving six hundred miles from southeastern Iowa with a team of mules, his only live stock in the beginning, and settled on a homestead in section 7. Here he put up sod buildings which served as shelter for himself and stock until better could be provided. During the early days he experienced hard times, which he hopes may never return. In 1904 he took up an additional claim, under the Kincaid law, on section 8, where his residence and other farm buildings are now located. By purchase he has added



RESIDENCE OF HENRY MEYER,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



to his possessions until he now has an estate of one thousand four hundred and forty acres, mostly in low hay land. He early engaged in the stock business, which he still follows on a large scale, keeping about two hundred and fifty head of cattle and fifteen horses. At one time he owned a large number of sheep and for nine years made quite a success of it, but has reduced his flocks of late years finding other lines more profitable. Mr. Groves has done his share of building and planting trees since locating here, having a thrifty orchard of about a hundred trees, and a ten-acre grove of forest trees surrounding his dwelling which have grown at a more surprising rate than any other grove in this region. He has put up twelve miles of fence, eight miles of it being five-wire fencing, besides a half mile of tin wire netting around the grove, making his place one of the best equipped in this section for stock raising on a large scale.

Mr. Groves was married January 18, 1885, to Miss Eliza Smith, a native of Iowa, daughter of Peter and Hannah (Keller) Smith. Her father, an early settler in Nebraska, lived here for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Groves have a family of eight children, named as follows: David, Clarence, Clara, Lillian, Richard, Wesley, Moses and Ross, all born and reared in Cherry county.

Mr. Groves has been school director for the past fifteen years, and has held other local offices. Politically he is a Populist, and although interested in local affairs of his party has never sought official recognition. He devotes his time to his home and family, and is well satisfied with what he has accomplished in what was the wilds of Nebraska when he first set foot in Cherry county.

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#### JOHN HIBBELN.

The present solid prosperity enjoyed in Sioux county, Nebraska, may be attributed largely to her pioneers. In the early days of her settlement when the only welcome tendered the stranger who settled there was a wilderness filled with wild beasts and Indians, little to encourage and much to discourage came to his lot, but those sturdy men who went to their new home with a determination to succeed and worked persistently and honestly, are now the prosperous and honored residents of their locality. The subject of this sketch aided in bringing that wilderness to a high state of cultivation and civilization, and great credit is due him for his labor and influence.

John Hibbeln is a native of Wisconsin, born

in Fond du Lac in 1867, and his father, Joseph Hibbeln, was a business man of that vicinity for many years, of German descent. He married Theresa Brinkman, also of German stock, and they lived in Wisconsin until our subject was a child of three years, then moved to Alabama, and later to Tennessee. When he was twelve years old the family came to Nebraska, settling in Furnas county, where they went through pioneer experiences, and remained there for about seven years. From there they drove overland to Sioux county in a covered wagon, and spent a month on the trip, bringing with them a bunch of cattle, and camping out along the road, cooking their meals over a camp fire. Their first location was on the place which is our subject's present ranch, then government land, owned and operated by the father up to 1894. During the first years they did all their farm work and teaming with ox teams, and at times had all they could do to make a living during the hard times due to drouths, etc. They stuck to the place, however, and gradually succeeded in improving it in good shape, adding more land to their original homestead, until the ranch now consists of five hundred and forty-five acres, situated on Indian creek twelve miles west of Ardmore. The ranch is well supplied with timber and splendid water the year around. Most of the place is used as a stock ranch, but they farm a small portion, and have plenty of hay and pasture land.

Mr. Hibbeln's family is among the very old settlers in this region, and they have all taken an important part in the upbuilding of the locality. The father died in November, 1907, his death deeply lamented by his family and a large circle of friends.

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#### CHARLES O'ROURKE.

Among the leading business men of Brady, the gentleman whose name heads this review occupies a prominent place. He is engaged in the hardware business, handling agricultural implements, wagons, buggies, windmills, pumps, etc., and enjoys a large and flourishing trade among the residents of Lincoln and the surrounding counties.

Mr. O'Rourke was born in Pennsylvania at Lebanon, March 21, 1860. He is a son of Colonel P. J. O'Rourke, who was superintendent of the National cemetery at Fort McPherson from 1876 to 1883, where his death occurred in the fall of 1883 at the age of seventy-three years, and his remains were interred in that cemetery. He was colonel of Company E, First Pennsylvania Reserves, during the war, and his name is one of

those on the soldiers' monument at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He went out as a captain and came back as colonel. He enlisted in 1861 and served continuously until the close of the war. He was one of those who was with the Army of the Potomac, in the First Pennsylvania Infantry, and was in all the great battles during the struggle for liberty. He received a severe wound at the battle of Gettysburg and saw about as many hardships and endured as much suffering as any soldier in the war. He was on General Meade's staff. A gun which his father captured from the Confederates during a skirmish at Gettysburg is highly prized as a relic of that terrible struggle. Colonel O'Rourke came to this country from Ireland when a young man, settling in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the mercantile business. His wife was Miss Mary Hodges, a native of England, where she met and married Mr. O'Rourke. One brother, Washington, served in his father's regiment all through the war. J. J. served also for three months, although he was very young at that time.

Mr. O'Rourke came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1879 to join his father at Fort McPherson, and remained with him for some time, then started in business for himself. He opened his present establishment eight years ago, and has been phenomenally successful in that short time, fast becoming one of the most prominent merchants in this section of the country, and gaining a wide reputation as a business man and worthy citizen. After locating in Nebraska he attended school, where he obtained a good education which gave him a good foundation for his later success, and then entered the mail service, traveling between North Platte and Cottonwood Springs for two years. Mr. O'Rourke's three brothers, J. J., T. L. and Frank O'Rourke, are all living at the old homestead which their father took up in the early days as a timber claim. J. J. served for one term as county judge. In 1894 Mr. O'Rourke married Miss Anna M. Neary, daughter of John T. Neary, originally from New Jersey, and an early settler of North Platte, Nebraska. Mr. Neary opened the first shoe store in that city, and was owner of the corner where the First National Bank now stands. Mr. and Mrs. O'Rourke are the parents of two children, namely: Mary Agnes and Nora Irene. He is a Republican in political faith.

#### CAPTAIN STRONG B. MOODY.

Captain Strong B. Moody is one of the older settlers of Rock county, Nebraska, and his is a familiar figure on the streets of Newport, in the

vicinity of which he has passed many years engaged in an agricultural career of honest worth. He is widely beloved and respected for his manly worth and upright character, as well as for his generous heart and open hand.

Mr. Moody was born on a farm in the town of Stowe, La Moile county, Vermont, August 24, 1835, and was reared and educated to a rural life. His father, John Moody, came of Scotch ancestry, but his mother, Rebecca Cady, belonged to an old American family. They were honest, worthy people, and Strong B. was trained and fitted to a good place in the world of industry. When he reached the age of nineteen years he assumed the determination of his own career, and coming west, was for some time employed as a farm laborer in Will county, Illinois, whither a brother had preceded him. During the years 1859 and 1860 he spent his time in the Pike's Peak country prospecting and mining. Returning to Will county in the fall of 1860, the outbreak of the Civil war found him ready, as the children of the Green Mountains always were, to take up arms to defend the old flag and the Union against rebels and traitors from any quarter. He enlisted in Company D, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and in the course of an exceptionally meritorious career rose from the position of eighth corporal, which he held at the time of his enlistment, to a captaincy, which he held at the time of his discharge. He took part in seventeen battles, and proved himself a brave and capable soldier through dangerous years. In 1869 he came to Guthrie county, Iowa, and for seventeen years was engaged in mercantile pursuits.

Mr. Moody was married in 1866 to Miss Helen Martin. She became the mother of one son, and died before our subject removed to this state. The son, Daniel, died about a year after his mother. Mr. Moody was married a second time in Stuart, Nebraska, in 1885, when Miss Emma Anglemire became his wife. She was of Pennsylvania Dutch family. The father, Emanuel Anglemire, migrated to Will county, the mother having passed away in her native state prior to the family's coming west. Mr. and Mrs. Moody are the fond parents of two children, Daniel and Myrtle, both of whom are now living under the parental roof.

In 1885 Mr. Moody came to Rock county, where he made a homestead entry in section 25, township 31, range 17, and here he is still to be found. Today he is the independent owner of one hundred and sixty acres of as choice land as the sun shines on in Nebraska, nearly all of which is under active cultivation, sustaining about fifty head of stock, and producing considerable hay for the open market. It is a well

kept farm, and shows its owner an industrious worker. Six years of the time that has elapsed since his settlement in Rock county were spent by Captain Moody in Mead, Nebraska, but his thought and labor have been quite concentrated on his homestead enterprise in Newport. He is an old line Republican, but has never held public office, finding his home and farm sufficiently large for all his thought and care. During his residence in Iowa Mr. Moody was a member of the Mason, Odd Fellow and Workmen fraternities.

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#### WILLIAM J. JONES.

William J. Jones, one of the foremost early settlers of Marvin precinct, Perkins county, has a valuable estate on section 20, township 10, range 35, and is a worthy citizen of his community.

Mr. Jones was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on September 13, 1854, and is a son of Fautleroy and Diana (Haffner) Jones, the former of Welsh and the latter of Pennsylvania Dutch stock. The family came to Illinois when William was one year old, where the father settled on a farm in Fulton county, and there our subject grew up, remaining with his parents until he was twenty years of age. He afterwards followed farm work in the vicinity of his home, also drifted through Minnesota and Iowa for several years. In 1879 he was married in Illinois, to Miss Phrosine Lance, whose father was a prominent physician of New Philadelphia, McDonough county, Illinois. After his marriage Mr. Jones settled on a farm in Illinois and lived there up to 1885, then came to Nebraska, locating in Polk county and farmed there for one year, then came to his present homestead, filing on the land in September, 1886, built a sod shanty 14x24 feet, hauling the lumber for the roof from North Platte. During the first winter they saw some hard times, and while he raised fairly good crops for a few years, in 1893 and 1894 witnessed the drouth periods, losing several crops and having a bad time generally. During the worst times when there was so much suffering in the region he did considerable to help those who were in severe financial straits, and was largely instrumental in influencing outside aid to the vicinity. He also helped establish the schools during the early years and was an important factor in its every step toward development and progress. Mr. Jones has built up a good home and valuable property, having five hundred and sixty acres with good improvements and buildings, his farm all fenced, and one hundred acres under cultivation. He has plenty of pasture, a fine grove and everything in the best possible condition about the place.

In the spring of 1895 he was one of a committee to go to Illinois, his former home and neighborhood, and solicit food, provision and clothing. He secured two carloads free of freight charges for Elsie and vicinity.

Mr. Jones was married August 28, 1879, in the city of Macomb, the county seat of McDonough county, Illinois. One son, Edward Lee, born of this union, September, 1882, died September 19, 1904. He was a school teacher.

In politics, Mr. Jones has held minor offices and taken an active part in local affairs. He has always been a Democrat and has been a delegate to conventions at various times and served as committeeman for this district. Mr. Jones engages in cattle raising and farming on quite an extensive scale. He raises Shorthorn grade and has made a thorough success of the business.

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#### THOMAS F. CROUGHWELL.

Thomas F. Croughwell is a native of Connecticut, born in Jewett City, in the year 1881, his parents being John and Katherine (Falland) Croughwell. The father was of Irish descent, and was one of the pioneer settlers of Loup county, Nebraska. The grandfather, Thomas Croughwell, was also a pioneer settler of this territory.

The family came west and settled on a homestead west of Taylor and become prominently identified with the community and the growth of the county. Here the subject of this brief history grew to manhood and, besides assisting his father on the farm, attended school.

On May 14, 1907, Thomas F. Croughwell was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Mary Cooney, of West Union, Nebraska. Her parents, William and Mary (Kennedy) Cooney, are farmers and pioneer settlers of the state.

Thomas F. Croughwell, by his intelligent participation in public affairs, has earned the respect and appreciation of his friends and neighbors. He has witnessed the growth of his county and has aided in every way he could to this advancement. He was elected county treasurer in 1907 and took office January 9, 1908.

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#### GEORGE BEDDEO.

Probably no citizen of Harlan county, Nebraska, is better known for his active public spirit and good business judgment than the gentleman herein named. For the past twenty years and more he has been closely identified with the upbuilding of the better interests of his



locality, and has incidentally become one of the substantial citizens of his county, held in the highest esteem and respect by all who know him. He owns a fine farm in Reuben township, section 13, where he occupies a fine residence and enjoys a peaceful and happy rural life.

Mr. Beddeo was born in 1832 in Wales, England. His father, Benjamin Beddeo, was a native of Wales, as was also his wife, who was Mary Miles. They both came to America when quite young and settled in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, in 1842, and later in Illinois, where our subject was raised, attending school in a log house. They were neighbors to Senator Cullom's father, their farms adjoining, and our subject and the well known senator were schoolmates during their boyhood days. In 1875 the family moved to Livingston county, locating near Pontiac, and there farmed for several years, the father's death occurring in Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1880. In 1886 Mr. Beddeo came to Nebraska and engaged in farming, purchasing two hundred acres of good land, which he has improved splendidly. He has erected one of the finest residences to be found in his locality, and has every convenience of modern times in his home and on the farm. He has a herd of thirty thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, one hundred to one hundred and fifty hogs and other stock, and also does mixed farming on a large scale. Mr. Beddeo has been active in public affairs since coming here, serving on the town board for fifteen years, and also as justice of the peace for the same period. Politically he is an Independent. When the Grangers were organized in this community he was an active member of that body. For many years he has been class leader of the local Evangelical Church, and is an earnest worker along religious and educational lines.

In 1859 our subject was united in married to Miss Mary Richardson, daughter of John and Maria (Davis) Richardson, who were early settlers of Tazewell county, Illinois, and later moved to Livingston county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Beddeo are the parents of the following children: Francis, a farmer in Iroquois county, Illinois, who owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, valued at one hundred dollars per acre; Noah, deceased; Walter, of Orleans, Nebraska, there engaged in the real estate business; Elmer, manager for Ridgely & Co., Omaha, Nebraska; Mary, wife of Frank Carpenter, and Alvinus, both deceased.

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#### DAVID R. SNYDER.

For over twenty years the gentleman whose name heads this review has been identified with

the development of the financial and social interests of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, has gained a high station as a citizen and incidentally become one of the substantial men of his community. He is the owner of a fine one thousand one hundred and twenty-acre ranch in Sidney precinct.

David R. Snyder was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, on February 4, 1851, was reared and educated there, following farming during his boyhood years. His father, David Snyder, who is of German descent, still lives in that vicinity; his mother, Elizabeth (Replogle), also of German descent, died December 31, 1890. In 1876 David left home and came west, locating in Polk county, Iowa, where he remained eleven years, coming to Cheyenne county in 1887, arriving in the vicinity March 11th of that year. In the fall of 1886 he filed on a homestead in section 26, township 13, range 50, on which he settled during the following year, and he has made it his continuous residence since that time. He has about eighty acres cultivated, and runs a herd of one hundred cattle and twenty-five horses. In 1907 he built a fine two-story, seven-room house, and with the large barns, granary and sheds, together with an ample supply of water, he now has one of the best equipped farms in Cheyenne county.

Mr. Snyder was married at New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1873, to Miss Rosana Ebersole, a native of Bedford county, born February 3, 1851. Her father, Abraham Ebersole, is now living at Altoona, Pennsylvania. Her mother was Barbara Bowman.

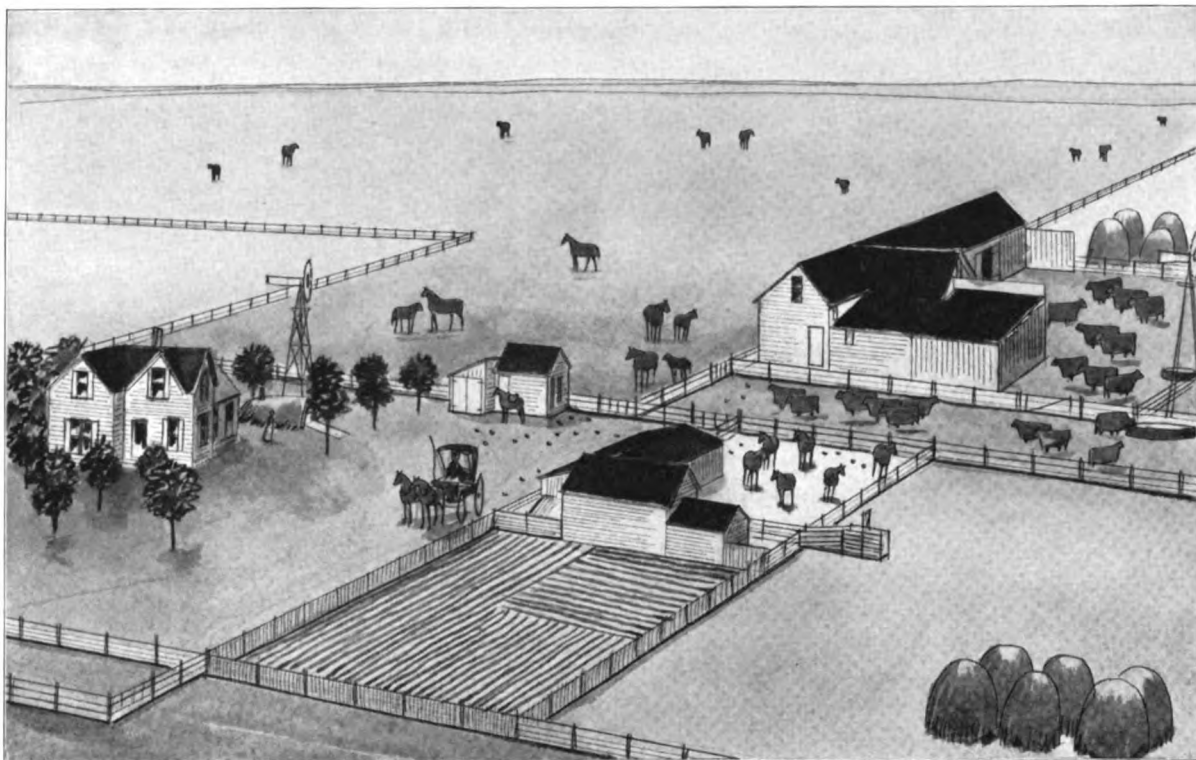
While living in Pennsylvania both Mr. and Mrs. Snyder became members of the German Baptist church. Mr. Snyder is independent in politics and takes an active part in local affairs, especially those pertaining to educational matters. He is an Odd Fellow.

A view of the family residence is shown in this work.

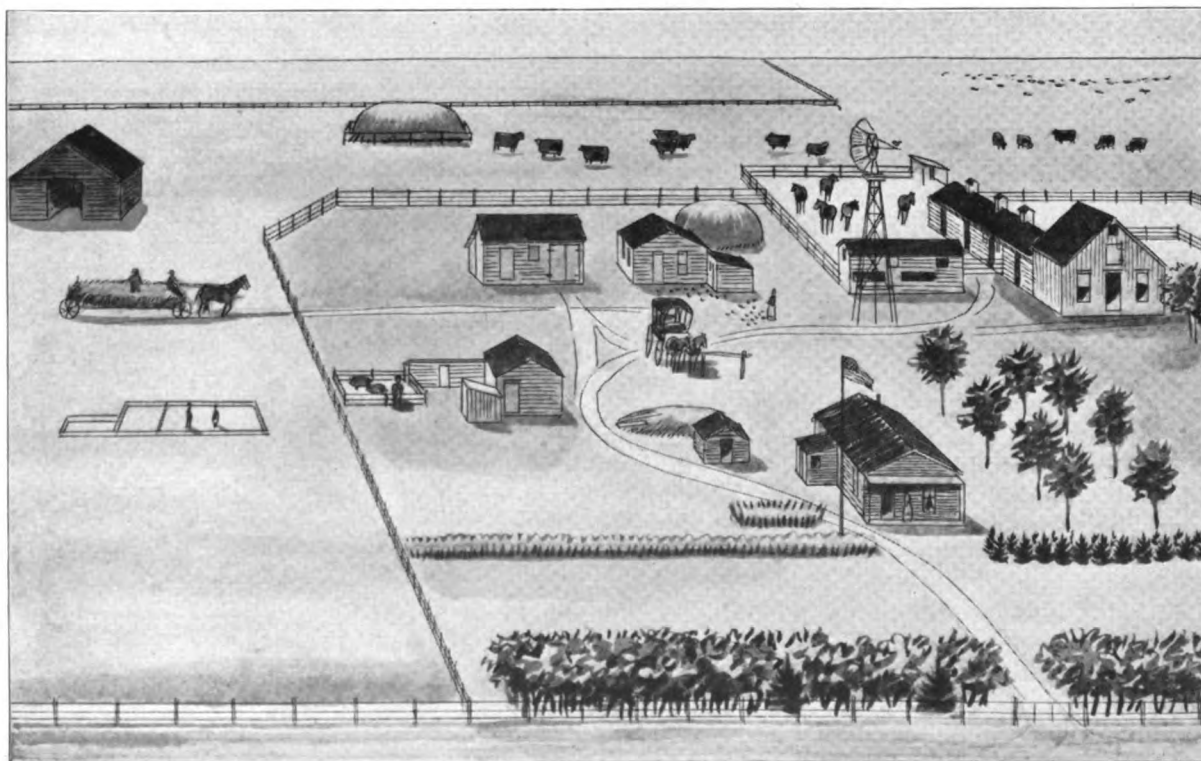
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#### EDWIN L. HOUGEN.

Edwin L. Hougén, one of the thrifty young farmers of Trognitz precinct, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, was born in Norway, November 17, 1866. In 1888 he left his native land, sailing from Trondhjem to Hull, England, and crossing to Liverpool, sailed on the Eldorado. After a voyage of eleven days he landed in Quebec, whence he proceeded to Minnehaha county, South Dakota, and from there removed to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, locating on a homestead on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 16, range 53, which is now his home place. He has an addi-



**RESIDENCE OF DAVID R. SNYDER,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



**RESIDENCE OF E. L. HOUGEN,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



tional Kincaid claim of three hundred and twenty acres in the same section. He cultivated one hundred and fifty acres of land and runs about seventy-five head of cattle and a bunch of horses. He is an earnest worker and his industry and good management have made him a fine home and farm with good buildings and improvements. We call attention to a view of the home and surroundings to be found on another page.

Mr. Hougen was married June 28, 1892, to Miss Ellen Viken, who was a native of Norway. She came alone from the old country by the same route Mr. Hougen came, leaving Norway April 1st. After a voyage of eleven days on the Atlantic she landed in America, and reached Dell Rapids, South Dakota, the 25th of the same month. Mr. and Mrs. Hougen have five interesting children, all at home, Ella R., Clarence O., Lewis M., Gilbert W. and Lily A. Mr. Hougen was the oldest of seven boys in his father's family. His wife's mother still lives in Norway, but the other parents on both sides of the family are now dead, having spent their entire lives in Norway.

Mr. Hougen is a Republican in politics and earnestly supports the principles of his party. He has been active in public matters, and is treasurer of school district No. 86. He was reared in the Lutheran church in Norway.

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#### WILLIAM SHANNON.

William Shannon, one of the foremost farmers of Sheridan county, has built up a good home and valuable estate by his honest dealings and industry, and is respected and esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Shannon was born in Jackson county, Indiana, in 1858. His father, Samuel Shannon, was a farmer of Irish-Scotch descent, born in Illinois, where he died in 1868. His mother, who was Miss Acenith Gordon, was born in Indiana of Scotch parents. She died in 1871, leaving a family of six children, of whom our subject is the third member. At the age of thirteen years he began working out by the month on different farms in the vicinity of his home, following this occupation for thirteen years. During this time he farmed in Arkansas one year, and in 1881 went to Iowa. In 1884 he came to Sheridan county, locating in section 26, township 32, range 45, which land he still holds. He filed on a tree claim and homestead without seeing either place. His intention in coming west was to get free land near Omaha, but being unable to secure the land there, he came on further west in the state. The first

year was spent in working for the different settlers in the locality, breaking land and doing all sorts of work, and in the fall he built a dugout and a sod barn on his own place. The following year he went to work farming his land and also working for neighboring ranchmen in order to make a start for himself. He was getting along very nicely and making a good start when the dry years struck the country, and at the end of ten years, after losing several crops in succession, and experiencing many hardships and discouragements, he found himself worse off than when he landed here. He had his share of a pioneer's life, and does not want any more of it. More than once he has been lost on the plains, and obliged to spend the entire night tramping. One time in particular he lost his way, was without a coat and unable to find any sort of shelter, and was compelled to keep walking all night to keep from freezing to death. He has often seen the time when he was short on rations and it was a puzzle to know where the next sack of flour was coming from. Many times he grew discouraged and almost gave up the struggle, and had he been able to do so, would have sold out his holdings, but he is glad now that he stuck to it, and says he could never have done so well in any other place. He has a ranch of one thousand six hundred acres, farms two hundred acres of this and uses the balance for hay and grazing land for his cattle, running about one hundred and seventy-five head of stock all the time. He has his place well improved, all fenced and a complete set of good farm buildings, and has accumulated all of this property in the last twelve years. While adding to his farm he was in some cases obliged to sell the buildings on the land which he bought in order to make his payments on the property.

In 1888 Mr. Shannon was married to Miss Josephine Edgel, who was born in Illinois in 1867. Seven children have been born of this union, namely: Florence, Lee, Mary, McKinley, Forest, Shelby and Helen, all born and raised in their present homestead. Mr. Shannon is a staunch and intelligent Republican who has never voted any other ticket, but never votes it entirely straight. He has held local office at different times, and takes an active interest in educational affairs in his community, having been on the school board for many years. He would like to sell his land if he were able to obtain his price.

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#### A. F. MALOY.

A. F. Maloy, an enterprising and intelligent agriculturist of Deuel county, is a resident of section 35. He has spent many years in that

section and is one of the best known and most highly esteemed men of his county.

Mr. Maloy was born in Wisconsin, and first saw the light January 23, 1854. There were eight children in his father's family, four boys and four girls, he being the sixth in order of birth. They lived in Wisconsin until he grew to manhood, when he left home and went to Chicago, remaining there for four years, then came to Nebraska, locating at North Platte, arriving at the latter place in May, 1885, but only spent one month there and moved to Keith county, locating on the Platte river, and has lived continuously on that river since that time. He came into Deuel county in 1891, landing here on August 1st, and at once filed on a homestead and proved up. He had also owned a good homestead in Keith county, which he sold on leaving there. Besides his homestead rights he proved up on a timber claim, and he has two hundred and forty acres in the home ranch which joins the town of Oshkosh, besides four hundred acres in another tract. There is a large amount of hay and grazing land, besides quite a piece of fine alfalfa. He has three hundred and twenty acres on the table land, and in addition to these different farms, controls a leased school section.

Mr. Maloy has recently erected a handsome residence on his ranch near Oshkosh, and has one of the most completely equipped ranches and finest homes in the county. He runs quite a large herd of stock, including a fine bunch of horses, and takes especial pride in these animals, owning some very fine ones. Mr. Maloy was married to Susan Duffin, at the home of the bride's mother in Deuel county, on November 11, 1890, her parents being old settlers here, originally from Iowa, where Mrs. Maloy was born. Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of the following children: Katie, Mary, Frank, Theresa and Herbert, all at home, the younger ones attending school. Mr. Maloy's parents are dead, while Mrs. Maloy's mother is living and still occupies the old homestead.

Our subject has served as justice of the peace of Oshkosh precinct, and is now moderator of school district No. 131. He takes an active part in all local affairs, and is classed among the progressive men of his time. He votes an Independent ticket and lends his influence for the upbuilding of the better interests of his community.

#### CLARENCE HERBERT.

Clarence Herbert, whose fine farm in section 1, township 29, range 47, Dawes county, is a credit to his locality, is a man of untiring energy,

and classed among the wealthy agriculturists of his section.

Mr. Herbert was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1845. His father, John Herbert, was a farmer, of American stock, and he married Mary Ann Dayton, of Wisconsin. The family moved from Wisconsin to Illinois when our subject was a small boy, and they lived there for several years, then went to Indiana and remained up to 1866. In 1864 Clarence enlisted in Company B, Ninth Indiana Infantry, and was ordered south with his regiment. He saw service with the Army of the Cumberland, and with General Thomas at Nashville, at the battles of Franklin, Springhill, Pulaski and Columbia. He was sent into Texas, and they remained there up to the close of the war, receiving his discharge in September, 1865, having served in all one year and nine months. During that time he was twice wounded, once at Nashville, and the second time at Madison, Indiana, accidentally. After the war he returned to Indiana, and began working on the railroad, traveling over a large portion of the United States, and in this way saw a great deal of the different states and localities. He followed this work for twenty-five years, being employed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company for eleven years in western Nebraska.

About 1869 Mr. Herbert settled in Michigan with his family, he continuing on the road, and during some of that time worked in the lumbering woods, spending several years in that region, then in 1885 came to Nebraska and began working on railroad construction, as the Chicago and Northwestern Railway was being built through Valentine to the west. In June of that year he took up a homestead in Dawes county, building a log house, and made this his home. He still followed railroading but his family lived on the homestead and proved up on the land. About 1896 he began devoting more of his time to farming and ranching, and has succeeded in a marked degree, now owning a ranch of two thousand acres, all of which is fenced and in fine shape. He has two wells and wind mills which furnish a fine supply of water for all farming and household purposes, having two hundred acres under cultivation, and employs modern methods in farming. He is progressive and prosperous, and classed among the oldest settlers and influential residents of his locality, having always taken an active part in the history of the region from its early development. He has experienced much hardship and privation here, going through the drouth periods on this ranch, losing several crops, and when hauling supplies from his trading point was compelled to camp out at night under his wagon. His first team

was a pair of oxen, and with these he broke up a large part of his homestead.

In 1871 Mr. Herbert was married to Miss Phoebe E. Toal, daughter of George Nelson Toal, a farmer and carpenter, who was born and raised in New York state. Mrs. Herbert's mother, prior to her marriage was Sarah Hall, also a native of New York state. To our subject and his good wife were born three children, namely: Fred, Charles and Ernest, and to Mrs. Herbert and the children belong much credit in the accumulation of their property, as they worked very hard to keep the work on the home place going while the husband and father was working at railroading.

#### WARREN CASS SYLVESTER.

Cass Sylvester, a representative farmer of Kaya Paha county, is one of the prominent old settlers of that section of the country, and a man of energetic nature and honest dealings. He has acquired a good farm and pleasant home, and during his residence here aided materially in the development of the agricultural resources of the locality.

Mr. Sylvester was born in Berrien county, Michigan, February 14, 1864. While he was still a lad his parents moved to Hamilton county, Nebraska, remaining there up to 1882, when they came to Keya Paha county. His father, Moses A. Sylvester, was a cooper by trade, following that calling and farming all his life. He died here in 1902, leaving a widow with a family of nine children, our subject being the seventh member. The mother is still living in this county. When Cass was twenty-one years old he took up a pre-emption here, but could not prove up without mortgaging the place, so filed homestead papers on it and in due time proved his claim. He paid five hundred dollars for a relinquishment, and purchased horses and machinery to run the place, which was partly improved, and he continued to improve the place since he has owned it. He has set out over a hundred fruit trees, besides erecting good buildings and fences. He cultivates about sixty-five acres, and the balance of the one hundred and sixty of which his farm consists, is used for pasture and hay land. He keeps quite a lot of stock on the place—cattle, hogs and horses.

Mr. Sylvester was married February 7, 1894, to Miss Lizzie Peterbaugh, whose parents were early settlers of Keya Paha county, coming here in 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester have been born the following children: Homer A., Elsie V., Albert J., George, Earl

L., Monnie M., Cassie L. and Dell, all at present living at home with their parents.

Mr. Sylvester is a Populist, but does not take an active part in public affairs, although he lends every influence in his power for the upbuilding of his home county and locality.

#### B. M. FOX.

A history of Deuel county would be incomplete without a sketch of the man whose name heads this article, so closely allied has his life been with the upbuilding of the county and surrounding country. Born at Omaha, Nebraska, July 18, 1868, Mr. Fox has probably seen more of the ups and downs of this life than the average man of twice his years. Mr. Fox is still a young man but by thrift and industry he has acquired a goodly amount of this world's goods and now resides on a ranch on section 29, township 16, range 42.

Henry R. Fox, the father of our subject, left Omaha in 1876, going to the Black Hills in South Dakota. The silver mines in the Black Hills were the center of western emigration at that time. In 1879 our subject with the balance of the family started for the Black Hills. They travelled on the train as far as Sidney, Nebraska, where they were compelled to take the stage the balance of the journey to their destination, where they joined the father. The family remained in South Dakota about six years, then removed to Nebraska by stage, settling on a ranch about five miles east of where Oshkosh is now located, on the North Platte river. The father of our subject homesteaded and proved up on the claim, residing there until his death in December, 1905. After the death of the father, our subject remained on the ranch and improved and enlarged it, until it contained ten thousand acres. Mr. Fox managed the ranch for about seven years, then sold a half interest in it, forming the Fox Land & Cattle Company, which was merged into the Western Land & Cattle Company in 1904, Mr. Fox being heavily interested as a stockholder and serving as foreman of the ranch until March, 1908, when he sold out his interest and located on section 29, township 16, range 42. This is now known as the Home Ranch and consists of about three hundred acres. Mr. Fox is extensively engaged in stock raising, running at this time about five hundred head of cattle and horses. He makes a specialty of draft horses, of which he has a splendid drove. Mr. Fox has made a study of scien-

tific stock raising, which with his wide experience as a stock man, makes him one of the best judges of stock in the west.

Mr. Fox was married on October 8, 1893, to Alma I. Moore, at Big Springs, Nebraska. It will be remembered that 1893 was the year of the greatest of all world's fairs known in history—the World's Fair at Chicago—and Mr. Fox went to the fair on his wedding trip. Mrs. Fox is a native of Wisconsin, coming to Big Springs with her grandparents in 1885. Her father and mother died when she was a little girl. Mr. and Mrs. Fox have three children, as follows: Ruben, Clayton and Hope, all living at home.

Mr. Fox takes an active part in all public affairs of the county and state and is probably one of the best known stockmen in the west.

Henry R. Fox, father of B. M. Fox, was born in 1836, his parents being pioneers in Ohio, where Mr. Fox was born. He was married in Omaha, Nebraska, about the close of the Civil war. In 1876 he went to the Black Hills, his family following three years later. The Black Hills country was at that time booming, and Mr. Fox was one of the first to settle there. He helped pull the first saw mill into Deadwood, and also took an active part in Deadwood affairs at that time.

In 1885 he returned to Nebraska, settling in Deuel county, where he homesteaded a claim on the North Platte river. The homestead is now a part of the ranch owned by the Western Land and Cattle Company. The life of Mr. Fox was a varied one and he could relate many interesting stories of his early life. When a young man he went to New York city from Ohio, going by boat and stage. Then he went to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama, returning by stage. After returning from California, he entered the government service, freighting across the plains. He followed this for several years before going to the Black Hills. Mr. Fox was a very interesting man, having traveled a great deal, and was a representative citizen of Deuel county up to the time of his death, which occurred in Deuel county in December, 1895. His wife is still living and is now a resident of Omaha.

#### MORSE P. CLARY.

Among the representative men who now make Deuel one of the leading counties in western Nebraska, none are better or more favorably known than Morse P. Clary, who resides on the northwest quarter of section

14, township 15, range 42, in Ash Hollow district.

Mr. Clary was born in Quincy, Adams county, Iowa, October 20, 1858. He lived in Warren county a greater part of the time until March 18, 1886, when he joined his father, who had preceded him to Cheyenne, now Deuel county. His father settled in Deuel county, then known as Cheyenne, in 1885. Our subject homesteaded and proved up on the southeast quarter of section 28, township 15, range 42, and still owns the farm. He now owns about eight hundred acres, also a school section of six hundred and forty acres. Of this he cultivates about one hundred acres. He is engaged extensively in stock raising, running at this time about two hundred head of cattle, besides a splendid drove of horses. His ranch is one of the best equipped in western Nebraska, and is provided with all modern improvements.

In political faith Mr. Clary is a Republican. He takes a very active part in all public affairs, and has served as county commissioner two terms, 1892 to 1898. He has also served as treasurer of the school district, in which he lives, and was assessor in 1891. He has been especially active along educational lines in his county, having assisted in organizing several school districts, and has done as much if not more, than any other man in Deuel county to promote more and better schools.

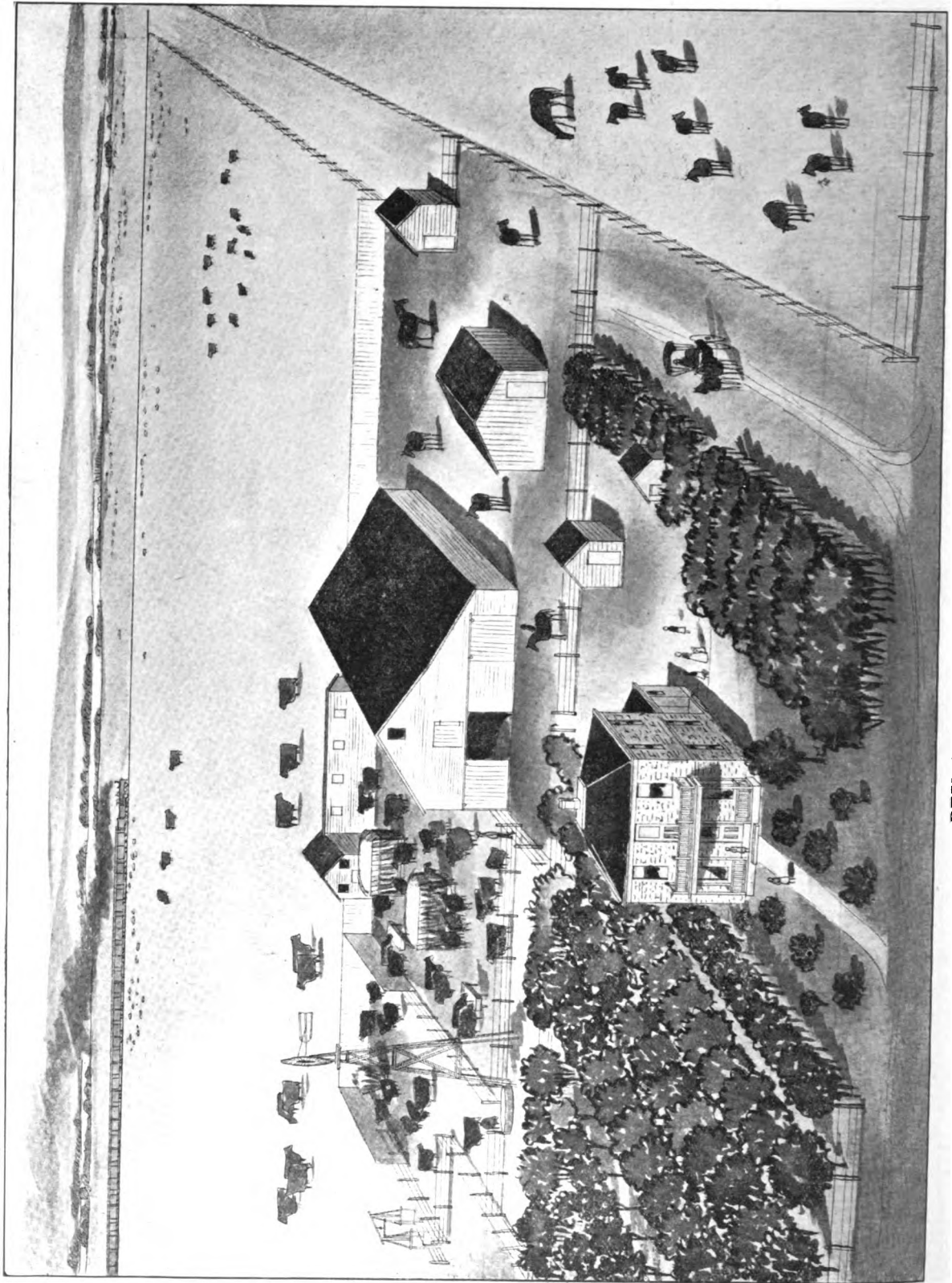
Mr. Clary was married to Lou C. McNaught, at Indianola, Iowa, January 21, 1881. She is a native of Illinois and has two sisters living in western Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Clary are the parents of eight children, named as follows: March D., who married Nona West, auditor for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway; May, a teacher in the Kimball schools; Frank, bookkeeper for a loan and trust company at Omaha; Nona, a teacher in the public schools; Josie, also a teacher; Ray, Oren and Cora Maud.

Ash Hollow, as the district in which Mr. Clary and family live is locally known, is famous in western Nebraska history, many stirring scenes having occurred there in pioneer days.

D. B. Clary, father of Morse P. Clary, the subject of the above sketch, was born in Frederick county, Maryland, September 1, 1821. At the age of thirty years, he emigrated to Indiana, where he remained about eight years, preaching the gospel, having been ordained a Methodist minister and licensed to preach prior to his removal to Indiana. From Indiana he removed to Iowa and later, or in 1885, to Nebraska, where he served as a minister for two years. He was a preacher of







RESIDENCE OF HENRY SUDMAN,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

the gospel for a total of thirty-six years. Mr. Clary was married September 16, 1851, to Rachel Ann Hooper. Six children blessed this union: Olive, Elmira, Ella, Victoria, Morse P. and Frank.

Mr. D. B. Clary now makes his home with his son, Morse P., and is rounding out a life spent in making this world more pleasant for his fellow men. He is a preacher of the old school and in the thirty-six years of active service he has had a varied and interesting experience, having had an opportunity to study human life in all its various phases. During his ministry he has received over eight hundred converts into the church. Aside from his duties as a minister, he always took an active part in the educational and moral development of the community in which he lived, and when his work is ended on this earth, it can truly be said of him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

#### FRANK J. BELLOWS.

Frank J. Bellows, now a resident of the thriving town of Kimball, Nebraska, is also one of the early settlers and prominent pioneers of Kimball county, locating there when that county was still a part of "old" Cheyenne county. He is the owner of a fine estate, and one of the wealthy residents of his section, at present occupying the position of bookkeeper for Mr. Gus Linn. He has acted in that capacity for the past eight years, during the same time personally superintending the management of his extensive ranching interests.

Mr. Bellows was born in Cass county, Michigan, on the 4th of January, 1854, and grew to manhood in his native state. His parents lived there many years, both now being dead, and he has two brothers still living, one residing in Michigan and one in Indiana, while a sister is married and lives in Kimball county. In 1883 our subject went to Indiana, following farming there up to 1886, then came to Kimball county, arriving here in October, and filed on a homestead on section 10, township 14, range 55. He began to farm, experiencing many discouragements during the first few years, meeting with losses due to drouths and other causes, but gradually improving his claim, and proving up on his place, constantly acquiring additional land as he became able, and built up a good ranch. He is now owner of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, also controls one section of school land besides other leased land in the vicinity

of his home ranch. He deals extensively in stock, running a large herd of high-grade horses, and quite a bunch of cattle. He has about sixty acres of land under cultivation, good fences all over the ranch, and altogether has one of the best improved properties in the county. He is well and favorably known all over this part of Nebraska, and highly esteemed as a citizen and successful business man.

On the 23d of December, 1880, Mr. Bellows was married to Miss Katie A. Renninger, in Cass county, Michigan. They have no children. Mr. Bellows is a staunch Republican and has attended many county conventions and taken an active part in local and county affairs, serving as county clerk during 1894-1895. In 1899 he was appointed, and later elected county surveyor, and held that office up to 1908.

#### HENRY SUDMAN.

Henry Sudman, well known as a leading farmer and ranchman and public-spirited citizen of Keith county, has been closely identified with the development and upbuilding of that region for many years. He is highly esteemed by all as a prominent old-timer in western Nebraska, and has accumulated a valuable property in Paxton precinct by dint of honest industry and faithful effort.

Mr. Sudman was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1863, and was reared on a farm, receiving the rigid training that usually fell to the lot of the German lad in the middle classes. When he was seventeen years of age he started out for himself, coming to the United States, and after landing in New York city, struck out directly for the west, locating in Brule, Nebraska, where he began work as a section hand on the railroad. Later he was at Ogallala, also in Colorado, following railroading continually up to the spring of 1883. He then began working on the ranch, and for five years was employed by one ranchman, at the end of that time purchasing his present farm, and began a ranch of his own. He had but a small start, and his first building was a sod house, in which he "batched it" for two years, occupying the same shanty for about eight years after his marriage. He witnessed all the hard times on his farm, and during the years 1890-1894 lost every crop. Since then he has been very successful in raising good crops, and has three hundred and sixty acres of land irrigated under the Keith and Lincoln Counties Irrigation District Ditch. His ranch con-

tains twenty-five hundred acres, and he is engaged principally in the cattle, horse and hay business. Mr. Sudman has erected a handsome residence on his ranch, two stories high, twenty-six by twenty-eight feet, with a one-story addition of sixteen by twenty-six feet, also had good barns and other buildings, wind mills, wells, fences, etc. In 1904 Mr. Sudman had the misfortune to lose his barn by fire, also considerable farm machinery, which was a serious loss to him, but he has replaced this property, and is prospering remarkably in every way. An excellent picture of Mr. Sudman's residence will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Sudman was married in the fall of 1890, to Miss Mary Ambrassat, of German descent. Nine children have been born to them, named as follows: Henry, Charles, Sophia, Minnie, Eddie and Emil (twins), Arthur, Albert and William. They are a happy and congenial family, and all are well liked in their community.

#### JOSHUA B. LEADER.

Joshua B. Leader, residing in section 20, township 30, range 26, Cherry county, Nebraska, was born at Mount Joy, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1856, and was reared on a farm. His father, Joshua Leader, was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and was a leading druggist of Mount Joy, while the mother, Agnes Gault, was born in Baltimore. Our subject was the only son in a family of four children and was obliged to make his way in life at the early age of eight years, his father having been killed in an accident while trying to catch a team of runaway mules. When old enough to choose an occupation he learned the carpenter's trade, and followed that trade for several years near his home until coming west in 1879. Early in May of that year he sojourned at Abilene, Kansas, but work being scarce for carpenters he came to Sterling, Nebraska. He secured employment in the bridge and building department of the Atchison & Nebraska, now the Burlington railroad, and was soon advanced to the foremanship of the water supply service, erecting tanks, wind mills and water equipment along the line, retaining this position until 1882. Mrs. Leader having been appointed teacher in the Plattsmouth schools, Mr. Leader resigned his position with the Burlington railroad water service and obtained employment in the shops of that company in Plattsmouth, staying there six months. After working as brakeman for

that road for about a month he resigned and secured employment with the Union Pacific, where, through the help of one of his friends, who was a conductor on that road, he was promoted to a like position in five months. Owing to a wreck March 1, 1885, he was let out, but a month later secured a position on the Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad and on April 5th was made conductor on a construction train west of Chadron. When this work was completed he secured a position in the operating department and after braking for six weeks was made freight conductor and in 1889 was promoted to passenger conductor, where he was employed until October, 1902, at which time he resigned to take personal management of his ranch property, which he had purchased in March, 1897, and had kept in charge of a foreman until he could give it his personal attention.

Here he has engaged in the stock business, keeping about four hundred head of cattle and twenty-five horses, using eight hundred to a thousand tons of hay per annum, all grown upon the wide meadows of his sixteen hundred-acre ranch. He has the best improved ranch in the sand hills, fitted up with every convenience, having an elevated tank with which to water his lawn and supply the bathroom and kitchen of his fine ten-room house. Besides five ordinary wells there is one artesian flowing well which is not surpassed in quality in all that region. An ice house and cold storage chamber are supplied with ice cut from an extensive lake near the residence, which during the hunting season supplies the larder with an abundance of waterfowl. He has fine barns and a shed three hundred and fifty-eight feet in extent to accommodate his stock. He has spent about five thousand dollars in buildings on his ranch and can shelter every head of stock he owns. The ranch consists of sixteen hundred and forty acres of land besides a five-year lease on a section of school land adjoining. This is all fenced and altogether is one of the most valuable estates in the county.

Mr. Leader was married April 5, 1880, to Miss Olive Moorman, born in Columbus, Ohio, being the daughter of Thomas J. and Mary (Gates) Moorman, the latter a distant relative of the governor of Illinois. The father was in early life a planter in Virginia and later was a land owner in Columbus, Ohio. Coming west he conducted for from twelve to fourteen years a chain of stores in Lexington, South English and New Sharon, Iowa, in which he was very successful.

Although Mr. Leader has always voted the Republican ticket he has never sought public

preferment, and does not care for public life, preferring to devote his time to the building up of his ranch and home place, an estate in which he may take just pride. For four years he was chief of Division No. 173, Order of Railroad Conductors, at Chadron. In the Masonic order he has made marked advancement, holding membership in the Blue Lodge, No. 551, founded by his father at Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. He has been a prominent member of the Chapter and Commandery at Chadron and of the Shrine at Omaha. Like most railroad men Mr. Leader is a jovial, genial companion, and a most hospitable host to anyone who may be so fortunate as to be a visitor at his ranch.

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#### AUGUST BERGMAN.

public.

August Bergman, a leading farmer and stockman of Phelps county, Nebraska, resides on his fine estate located in Westmark township, and is well known as a successful agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Bergman was born in Sweden in 1861, and came to America when a youth, his parents settling in Moline county, Illinois, in 1878, where he grew up and lived until the year 1882, when he came west and landed in Nebraska, and with his father, John Bergman, settled in Phelps county, Nebraska, on a homestead and remained there until the latter's death, which occurred in 1905. He had reached the age of seventy years, and had spent an honorable and upright life, esteemed by all who knew him for his honesty and strict integrity. Father and son worked together in building up the farm, and now have a valuable property, having put up a fine residence, and six large farm buildings for sheltering their cattle, horses, hogs and grain. They have always acted on the theory that one hundred and sixty acres well tilled and improved, devoted to mixed farming and stock raising, is sufficient for one family to attend properly, and have been successful in all their undertakings. They have always kept enough stock to consume all the hay and grain raised on the land, except the wheat, which has been for family use, and marketed what they did not need. In the hard years their stock furnished them with a good living, and during the prosperous times made them far more by feeding than had they sold their corn crop. Without feeding this year, a wagonload of hogs brings about one hundred dollars, and it would require a good many trips to town

with corn to amount to this sum. Mr. Bergman also had the good judgment and foresight to secure about three hundred and twenty acres of pasture land in Union township, a few miles from the home farm, which furnishes all the hay needed for his stock. At this writing he has seventy-five cattle, Shorthorns and graded stock, and feeds about a carload each winter, which nets him a neat sum. His hogs consist of purebred and mixed Poland Chinas, and these he disposes of whenever they are ready for market. He is well satisfied with the success he has attained, and, like thousands of others of his countrymen, he has found America a veritable "land of promise." and Phelps county the "land of plenty." He and his father made a competence here, starting virtually on nothing. His mother makes her home with him at present, and the family are all members of the Swedish Free Mission church, located at Phelps Centre.

In 1887 Mr. Bergman married Miss Salma Bergquist, daughter of Andrew Bergquist. Mr. and Mrs. Bergman have five children, as follows: Elmer, who assists his father in the farm work; Paul and Joel, Marie and Ruth.

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#### JOHN. LISTER.

John Lister, one of the sturdy and vigorous farmers of township 24, range 48, Box Butte county, is a worthy member of the ranks of old settlers of this part of Nebraska, and as he looks about on the broad acres and the beautiful little cities and towns that have sprung up in the wake of the early settler; as he recalls the past and thinks of the transformation that has made a fertile garden out of a smiling prairie wilderness, he may well say, "All of which I see, and a part of which I was," and he and his compeers are no small part of this great change. It is with peculiar pleasure that the pen of the historian undertakes to trace such a career.

Mr. Lister was born in Norfolk, England, August, 1862. His father, John Lister, was a fish peddler by occupation. He married Charlotte Holmes, who was also born and raised in the vicinity of our subject's birthplace. The latter grew up there and followed farming as a young man, starting to work out and earning his own living when he was but seven years of age. When he was thirteen years old he lost his mother by death, and his father only survived her five years, so he was left alone in the world at seventeen years of age. **At that time he left his native land and came to the United States, landing in New York**

city in 1884, and from there went direct to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent two years and worked at West Cleveland as farmer. In 1886 he came to Nebraska, at first locating in Holt county, remaining for about one year, then moved to his present location in Box Butte county, taking up a homestead in section 20, township 24, range 48. His first building was a sod shanty which he built himself, and he started to develop his farm, breaking land for crops and working out at freighting, and anything he could find to do in the locality. He had nothing to start with, only a few personal possessions, and had a hard time in getting started. His first team was a pair of mules which did all the work on his own place and he also used them to haul timber, break up land for his neighbors, etc. All his wood for fuel was hauled from the Platte river, and during the long trips which consumed several days, he was obliged to lie on the ground under his wagon at night, often in very severe weather, and suffered the usual experiences so familiar to the pioneers of those times. After many hardships and much hard labor Mr. Lister became more successful and he has accumulated a nice property. As the years grew better, the country becoming more thickly settled and towns being built up in this vicinity, he enlarged his farm, kept improving it and is now one of the well-to-do men of his community. He owns a fine ranch of eleven hundred and fifty acres, situated six miles southwest of Alliance. He has one hundred acres in hay land, and farms quite a large portion, all of it being well fenced and supplied with substantial buildings. He has erected a handsome residence, has many fine trees for shade and also fruit trees which he planted himself, including an apple and plum orchard, also small fruits.

In 1893 Mr. Lister was married to Mary Coley, daughter of John Coley, of Irish stock. Mr. and Mrs. Lister have two children living, Mary, aged twelve years, and James, aged fourteen years. Two others, George and William, died during infancy. The mother died in November, 1903, leaving a sorrowing family to mourn her loss. She was a lady of most estimable character, beloved by all who knew her, and was sincerely mourned by her devoted family and many friends.

During Mr. Lister's early residence in this locality he had all the experiences common to the life on the frontier, helping in the building up of its resources, aiding the settlers, and has been a part and parcel of its growth and development. Politically he is an Independent.

## GEORGE M. ELLIOTT.

George M. Elliott, a prominent farmer and stock raiser of Brown county, Nebraska, was born in the town of Bovina, Delaware county, New York, September 3, 1847. His father, Robert Elliott, was a farmer by occupation, of Scotch birth, as was also his mother, Jane (Dalton) Elliott. There were seven children in his parents' family, of whom he was the fifth, being reared and educated in his native state. In 1866 the family came west, settling in Grant county, Wisconsin, where they lived on a farm for two years, then moved to Poweshiek county, Iowa. Our subject lived there with his parents up to 1879, then moved to Osceola county, taking a homestead and proving up on it. He farmed there for some years, and during the grasshopper raids suffered the destruction of all his crops, also losing much through the wet seasons, so becoming discouraged with conditions he gave up the struggle and sought other regions. In 1888 he first came to Brown county, and for the first year was employed by Hall & Davidson, bankers, working on a salary. He then rented land and began on his own account with his entire capital comprised in a yoke of oxen; he had a hard time at first, however remaining on this place for five years. He then traded his stock for a farm on Buffalo Flats, which property he still owns. For six years he lived on the Winters farm, east of Long pine. In 1903 he purchased his present farm, located in section 5, township 30, range 20, through which Long Pine creek runs, giving an abundant supply of water. Here he has improved the place, putting up good buildings, fences, etc., and has a valuable estate. There are twelve hundred acres in the farm and ranch, of which one hundred acres are cultivated. He is engaged principally in stock raising, of which he has made a pronounced success with horses, cattle and hogs.

Mr. Elliott was married March 25, 1872, to Miss Mary Jane Cummings, a native of Jefferson township, Poweshiek county, Iowa, born of old American stock. Her father, Alexander Cummings, was an old settler in Indiana, from which state he served through the Civil war, dying eventually from disease contracted during the service. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have a family of seven children, named as follows: Robert, David, William, Philena, Erastus, Flossy and Roy, all born in Iowa excepting the last named, who was born in Brown county. In politics he is independent and fraternally a member of the lodge of Royal Highlanders at Long Pine.

Mr. Elliott occupies a foremost place in

the ranks of the successful and prosperous citizens of Brown county, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen.

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### CONRAD T. STIKKER.

Conrad T. Stikker, an old and highly respected citizen of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is owner of a fine ranch of eleven hundred and twenty acres in section 34, township 17, range 48. He is a gentleman of exemplary character, and has spent the past eighteen years in this vicinity, and is one of the leading pioneers of the county, having watched the growth and taken an active part in its development since locating here.

Mr. Stikker is a native of the village of Arnt, Aurich, Hanover, Germany, and was born September 29, 1846, and grew to manhood in his native country. He served through the Franco-Prussian war, participating in the battles of Le Maes, Coulie and Orleans. He came to the United States in 1887, having sailed from Bremen Haven March 27, and after a nine days' voyage landed in Baltimore. His first location was in Dawson county, Nebraska, where he spent two years, then came on to Cheyenne county, and was among the early settlers here. He arrived here in the spring of the year, and immediately filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, which is the beginning of his present vast estate. He went through the usual experiences of the old-timers in the vicinity, meeting with discouragement and failure at different times, but through it all never lost hope and stuck to his original intention of building up a good home in the wilderness, and how well he has succeeded is evidenced by his present prosperity. He has one hundred and seventy-five acres under cultivation and raises fine crops of small grains and corn, also has large tracts of hay land and good pasture for his herd of one hundred and thirty cattle, besides other stock, including thirty horses. His ranch is improved with good buildings of all descriptions, fenced in good shape, and is one of the best equipped in the locality.

Mr. Stikker was married to Miss Johanna Middens, in Germany, on June 23, 1880, and together they came to the new world to seek a fortune and build up a home for themselves. Five children have been born to them, named as follows: Tonjes, Henry, Bernhard (born in Germany), Grace and John (natives of Nebraska), all living at home. The parents of

both our subject and his wife are now deceased.

Mr. Stikker is active in local affairs pertaining to good government, and is a leading citizen in school matters, now serving as moderator of district No. 20. In political views he is a strong Republican, and is a member of the Lutheran church.

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### BENJAMIN J. JONES.

Benjamin J. Jones, an old settler and prominent resident of Garfield county, Nebraska, occupies a nice home on section 21, township 22, range 14, owns an extensive ranch and is recognized as one of the influential and well-to-do citizens of his community.

Mr. Jones was born in county of Cork, Ireland, in 1843, grew up there and when he was twenty years old left his native land and came to the United States. He first settled in Boston, where he engaged in the livery business and carried it on for about seventeen years. He then struck out for the west and landed in Nebraska the 7th of March, 1880. Here he filed on a homestead and timber claim and proved up on all of it. His son Ed. also took up land under the Kincaid law adjoining his father's land. Our subject later purchased more land in the vicinity until he is now proprietor of twelve hundred and sixty deeded acres. He has about one hundred and fifty acres of this under cultivation, and the balance is used for pasture and hay land. He raises considerable corn, oats and other small grain, keeps a large herd of cattle, and enjoys the distinction of owning some of the very best stock cattle in the county. He deals almost exclusively in Shorthorns, preferring this breed to any other for this region. He usually markets two or three carloads each year and makes a good profit from his feeding. Mr. Jones's ranch is well supplied with good buildings, including house, barns, granaries, large cattle sheds, fine groves, trees and orchard. He has an unlimited water supply, obtained from two flowing wells on his ranch, one of which reaches a depth of one hundred and seventy-five feet, and the other one hundred and eighty feet, and the water flows from these with considerable force and runs the whole year around. There are about a dozen or more of these wells in this part of the county, and they furnish the purest and clearest water for all uses. In 1905 Mr. Jones decided to try raising clover on his farm, which was a



radical departure from the former practices, as it was generally believed that the soil was not well enough adapted to its growth, and he was ridiculed on all sides for this, but he stuck to his purpose and seeded down a patch of land. He was most successful, and now has a fine clover meadow. In 1907 he harvested his second crop of the grass, had a splendid yield, and has proved that it is as easy to grow clover here as it is all other grasses and grains. Mr. Jones has made quite a success of English blue grass, and says it can be grown very successfully here.

In 1867 Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Mary Noonan, a native of the county in which our subject was born, in Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of four children, three of whom are living, namely: Edward B., B. J. and Mary. One son, John, is deceased. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church, and are very well known and highly esteemed in their community. In political sentiment Mr. Jones is an Independent, and is an admirer of Bryan.

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#### EMIL SINDT.

This gentleman is among the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, coming to Franklin county in 1887 and locating in Macon, where he lived for eleven years engaged in farming and stock raising. He bought land in section 17, Farmers township, and farmed a section of land, and owned one hundred and sixty acres that lies northwest of the town of Franklin. Mr. Sindt is proprietor of eleven hundred and twenty acres in all, and raises and feeds from one hundred and sixty to two hundred head of cattle each year, and from two to three hundred hogs, which he ships to market. He is one of the progressive and up-to-date agriculturists of his section, and has been very successful in his farming and stock raising enterprises since coming here. Mr. Sindt is a native of Holstein, born near Kiel, Germany, in 1867. His parents were both born in that place, and spent their lives there. Our subject grew up in Germany, and came to the United States in 1885, locating in Scott county, Iowa, where he spent several years. He much prefers Nebraska to Iowa as a farming and stock raising country, and since he settled here land which he could have bought for ten dollars per acre then is now worth sixty.

Mr. Sindt has an elegant farm and has made his home one of the attractive places in the county by ornamentation, a splendid

avenue of trees leading from the highway to his residence in the midst of a fine grove, the whole making a fine approach. So many farmers seem too negligent of these inexpensive but splendid additions to the value and beauty of their farms, which really cost so little except the time and labor spent.

Mr. Sindt was united in marriage in 1889 to Miss Emily Kruse, also a native of Kiel, Germany, who came to America in 1889. They are the parents of eight children, named as follows: Annie, Carl, Henry, John, Benjamin, Martha, William and Lena.

Mr. Sindt is a splendid type of the robust, manly German settler, whose individual success has added so largely to the success of this whole United States, and his wife and children are also of this stamp of German-Americans, industrious, intelligent and progressive, making substantial and worthy citizens of any community. The family belong to the Lutheran church at St. Paul, Nebraska.

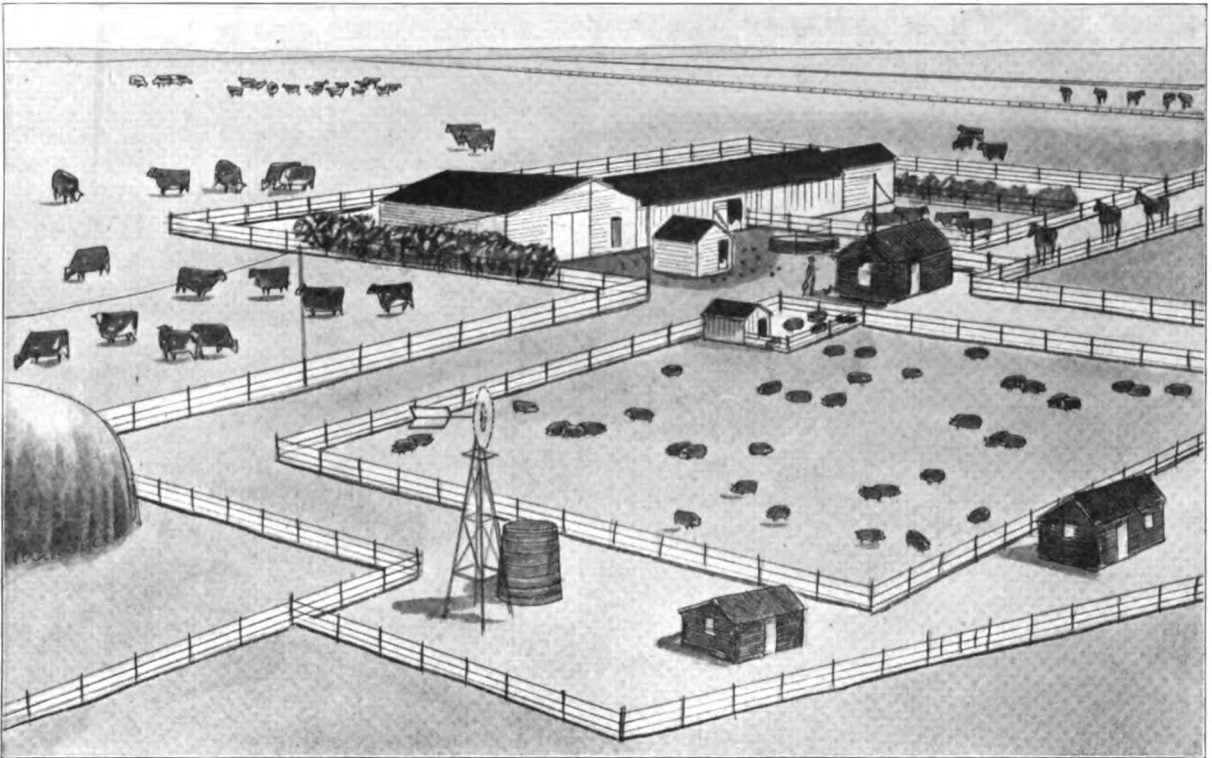
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#### JOHN A. WALFORD.

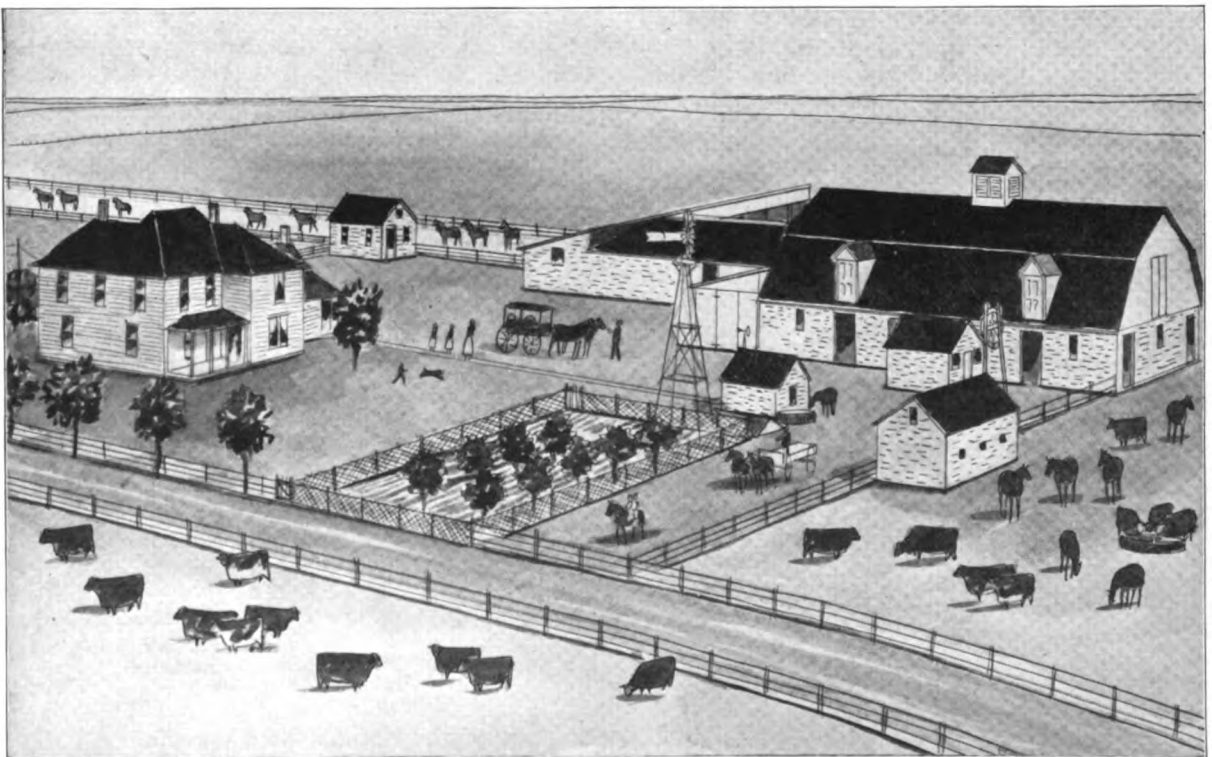
John A. Walford is one of the well-known residents and early settlers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has given liberally of his time and influence in the development of the resources of the locality where he has passed many years, and takes considerable pride in the fact that he has watched the growth of the county from the early days of its settlement. Mr. Walford has a pleasant home and valuable estate in section 24, township 17, range 48, a view of which we present on another page.

Mr. Walford was born in Peoria county, Illinois, on February 25, 1863, and grew to the age of ten years in that vicinity. At that time his parents moved to Iowa, settling in Adams county, where they took a farm, and his boyhood days were spent in that state, assisting his father in operating the home farm. In the spring of 1887 he came to Cheyenne county and filed on the homestead which he still occupies, originally proving up on one hundred and sixty acres, and has since added to this, now owning a whole section. He farms one hundred and twenty acres, and uses the balance as a ranch, running quite a bunch of cattle and sufficient horses for all farming and ranching purposes.

Mr. Walford's father is still living in Adams county, Iowa, at the advanced age of eighty-one years, but his wife is dead. John A. was the second member in a family of three children, all of whom are living.



**RESIDENCE OF JOHN A. WALFORD,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE OF FRANK A. HAND,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



Mr. Walford is one of the leading public-spirited men of his community, always lending his best aid for the good of the locality. He is at present serving as school moderator of district No. 19. In political sentiment he is a Republican.

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#### FRANK A. HAND.

The prosperity enjoyed within the borders of Cheyenne county is due in a large measure to the enterprise and thrift of the agriculturists of that region. Their well improved and finely tilled farms evidence good management and painstaking care, and in no locality is this more apparent than in Sidney precinct. Among the residents of that locality is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is a well-to-do and worthy citizen, and has gained a valuable estate by his persistent industry and honest dealings, enjoying the esteem and universal respect of his fellowmen.

Mr. Hand was born in Branch county, Michigan, on October 4, 1863. His father, Cyrus A. Hand, was a native of Seneca county, New York. His mother, who was Emma Fetterley, was born in Madison county in the same state. The former was a typical representative of the New England Yankee, of mixed nationality, the mother being of Pennsylvania-German descent.

Our subject grew up in Michigan to the age of twenty-one. In April, 1885, he came to Nebraska and located at Sidney, where he followed the occupation of contractor and builder for a number of years. He acquired a tract of land in Cheyenne county, bought a pre-emption right, and took up a timber claim, also homestead of one hundred and sixty acres lying in section 32, township 13, range 49, and during this time still worked as a builder in the county, doing most of his work in Sidney, a distance of six miles from his farm, over which he traveled every morning and evening while proving up on his land. His chores and other farm work was done after the long drive every night. His first house was a rough shanty, and in this hut his first child was born, the infant being one of the first white children born in that locality. Mr. Hand was able to gradually improve his place more rapidly as the section became more thickly settled, and he put up substantial stone barns and other buildings. In 1908 he remodelled the dwelling, making it one of the largest and handsomest ranch houses in the country. Gradually adding more land to his original pos-

sessions, he is now the owner of sixteen hundred and ten acres, all situated in sections 30, 31 and 32, township 13, range 49, all lying in one body. He farms two hundred acres and is extensively engaged in ranching, running as high as two hundred and fifty head of cattle some years. We invite attention to the view of his handsome residence appearing on another page of our work.

Mr. Hand was married at Sidney May 30, 1892, to Miss Alma Palmer, a daughter of James E. and Maria J. (Secor) Palmer, now living in Colorado. To them have been born the following children, all of whom are living at home and form a most interesting family group: Emma J., Hazel A., Clara A., Vera A., Nora A., Lester A. and Esther Alice. Mrs. Hand was born in Wayne county, New York, coming to Nebraska with her parents in 1887, where he became acquainted with Mr. Hand. He and his charming family take a leading part in local affairs, both social and politically, and they have a large circle of warm friends and good neighbors. Mr. Hand is a staunch Republican, active in party politics. He affiliates with the Frank Welch Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Sidney.

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#### JOHN JOHNSON.

John Johnson, for the past twenty years and more a resident of Cheyenne county and proprietor of a fine farm in Trognitz precinct, is a man of wide agricultural pursuits and has a thorough knowledge of his calling. In his early youth he chose farming as his vocation, and has perfected himself in this line, and through systematic labors and good judgment has acquired a valuable property and a home with all the comforts of life.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden, April 16, 1863, and was reared there, following the life of the middle class of that country, remaining with his parents until he was about eighteen years of age. He was the youngest of the four living children of his parents, an equal number having passed to the great beyond. On June 3, 1881, he came to America, sailing from Liverpool in the Glasgow, landing after sixteen days in Quebec. He came directly west to Illinois, locating in Warren county, where he followed farm work for six years. He then came to Nebraska, taking as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 6, township 16, range 52, and has since filed on the northwest quarter under the Kincaid law. He started to develop the farm and accumulate a competence, and while he had

many discouragements at first on account of the unsettled condition of the country and met with losses in crops and cattle, he gradually forged ahead and was able to improve his land extensively. He erected good buildings, and worked into the stock business, at the present time having over eighty head of cattle and quite a bunch of horses. He has one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, raising good crops of small grain, and has been very successful in both farming and the stock business, owning about eight hundred acres jointly with his wife.

Mr. Johnson was married to Mrs. Bettie Nelson, at Sidney, Nebraska, November 24, 1895. Mrs. Johnson was born in Sweden and was a widow with two children, Ernest Alfred and John Oscar, when she was married to our subject. Mr. Johnson's parents are both dead, having spent their entire lives in Sweden. The family have a wide acquaintance in the locality, and enjoy the esteem and respect of all who know them. Mr. Johnson is prominent in local affairs and known throughout the county as a citizen of sterling worth and a farmer of intelligence and enterprise. In political sentiment he is a Republican. Religiously he was reared in the Lutheran faith.

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#### HARRY L. BARTLETT.

The name of Harry L. Bartlett is a familiar one to the residents of Dawes county, Nebraska, where he has lived for many years, locating here when this region was practically in its infancy, and has taken a leading part in its development and growth from its early settlement. He owns a well improved and valuable estate in section 6, township 29, range 47, and enjoys a pleasant and happy home.

Mr. Bartlett was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1865. His father, Alfred E., married Rebecca Putnam, also born and raised in Massachusetts, and they afterwards came west and were among the oldest settlers in Nebraska, where the father engaged in the farming and ranching business. The subject of our sketch was but three years of age when his parents settled in Audubon county, Iowa, and he was reared and educated there, attending the country schools during his boyhood. At the age of twenty Mr. Bartlett came to Nebraska and settled on a homestead in the southeastern corner of Dawes county, "batching it" for several years, living near a brother who had settled here some years before. He proved up on his claim, and was in the cattle

business from the first, farming a small portion of his place, and during the hard times working in the Black Hills in the mines. He spent a short time at Deadwood. He filed on another homestead in section 12, township 29, range 48, and remained for four years, farming during that time, but proved up also and located on his present farm in 1893. Here he bought land, put up buildings and developed a good ranch and has been most successful in every venture, the place consisting of thirty-two quarter sections, a large part of which lies along the Pepper creek. He has it all fenced and cross fenced, and devotes his time to the sheep raising business principally although he has about thirty horses and a few head of cattle. One hundred and fifty acres are devoted to farming purposes, raising small grain, corn, oats, etc., for feed for his stock.

In the early days of Mr. Bartlett's residence here he went through many rough experiences, in travelling by team through the wild country, surrounded by wild beasts and spending many a night sleeping on the snow covered ground. For some time he was employed as stage driver, carrying the mail from Hay Springs to Nonpareil, in Box Butte county, and at that time there were only three dwelling places on the road between these two towns.

Mr. Bartlett was united in marriage in 1893, to Miss Bessie Fenner, daughter of Bradford Fenner, an old settler in this state. Prior to her marriage Mrs. Bartlett was a teacher in the schools of Dawes county. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett are the parents of two children, namely: Arthur, aged fourteen years, and Raymond, aged ten years.

Mr. Bartlett is a Republican in his political views and takes a keen interest in party affairs.

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#### CLAUS ROHWER.

The above named gentleman resides on section 3, township 32, range 44, of Sheridan county. He was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1857, and was raised on a farm there until twenty-three years of age. His father, Max Rohwer, who was born in 1817 and died in 1899, and his mother, who was Margaret Rohwer, born in 1818, and died in 1900, never left the fatherland. There were three boys and two daughters in the family, our subject being the youngest member of the boys. He started working for himself on farms in Germany when sixteen years old, but spent some time at home with his parents, and in 1880 he came to America, locating in Fremont, Nebraska. Here he worked out on farms for

two years, then spent a year in Wyoming and a short time was in eastern Iowa.

In the spring of 1884 he filed on his present pre-emption. He had shipped a car of stock from Walcott, Iowa, to Valentine, and drove them from there to his farm. At this time he had two other Germans in partnership with him. He immediately began building a set of farm buildings on his place, and the house he put up then is still standing. During the first year he worked on the railroad and the following year broke up some land and put in a crop. He "batched it" on his claim up to 1886, when he was married to Miss Annie Shicowsky, born in Holstein, Germany, in 1863, who came to America when a young woman, settling in Sheridan county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rohwer, who are named as follows: Emma, Olga, Minnie and Johnnie, all born and raised on the present pre-emption.

For a few years everything went along nicely. Mr. Rohwer raised a few good crops and was just nicely started when the dry years came, and from 1893 up to 1897 he had hard work to keep things going. He often felt very discouraged and would have left the place if he had found a buyer, but now is very thankful that he stuck to it. Times got better and he has succeeded in a marked degree. He now owns four hundred and eighty acres of good farming land, and cultivates about one hundred and thirty acres, keeping about fifty head of cattle and twelve horses. He has erected a good set of farm buildings, and has his land all fenced and cross fenced. During 1906 he put up a fine house and large barn, costing him about two thousand dollars. He is well satisfied with what he has done since coming here, and feels that he could not have done any better in either Germany or Iowa, and probably not nearly so well. He does not care to sell his holdings, and would not care to live anywhere else, as he likes the location and has every convenience of a model rural home, with the mail brought to his home every day, and pleasant and comfortable surroundings.

Mr. Rohwer is not a party man in local affairs, and never held any office except local, and never sought one. He is a Republican.

Mr. Rohwer is an industrious and energetic worker, and shows good judgment and marked ability in all his business dealings. He is much above the average in intelligence and is always interested in all that tends to the advancement of conditions in his locality. He tells of the hard times he passed through during the drouth periods, and states that at

one time he seeded about fifty bushels of wheat, and did not raise enough to get the seed back. Of late years he has raised as high as thirty-three bushels of wheat per acre, thirty of corn and about sixty of oats, and his potatoes have yielded a banner crop, going nearly one hundred bushels to the acre.

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#### JAMES S. CAMPBELL.

Among the active workers in local political and educational affairs in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, and one who has always taken a deep interest in the development of the commercial and agricultural interests of his locality, the gentleman above mentioned takes a prominent place.

Mr. Campbell was born in Adams county, Iowa, March 28, 1858, and reared on his father's farm. The latter, Benjamin C. Campbell, served in Company F, Twenty-first Missouri Regiment, for three years, and had two brothers killed in that war. In 1863, while the father was still in the army, the mother, who in her youth was Elizabeth Scott, moved with her family to Adair county, and in 1871 migrated to Polk county, Nebraska. In a family of seven children, our subject was the third in order of birth. At twenty years of age he began farming for himself in Polk county, attending Cornell College, in Iowa, until he was twenty-six. He came to Keya Paha county in 1884, taking up a homestead on section 2, township 33, range 24, his present farm. He put up all his buildings himself, using the timber from his own land, on which there is also plenty of fine running water. During the first years he went through hard times, and was obliged to haul all provisions from Ainsworth, his nearest trading post. He had but little money to start with, and worked hard to establish his farm and home, but has been amply rewarded for his labors. He now has four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land and two hundred and eighty acres under the Kincaid homestead law, cultivating one hundred acres of this and using the balance for hay and pasture land for his stock, of which he keeps from seventy-five to eighty head of cattle, part of them registered Short-horns, and thirty good horses. He has of late taken up the breeding of mules.

Mr. Campbell was married in Polk county, April 13, 1884, to Miss Tennie Arnott, a native of Wisconsin, who came to Polk county with her parents, David and Jane (Forsythe) Arnott, in 1882. Five children have been born

to them, namely: Arthur D., Evan H., Ellen, Ida and Flora, all living at home at present except Arthur, who is lumbering in Washington.

Mr. Campbell is a man of wide experience and superior intellect. He received a good education, and for seven years followed ministerial work in Brown and Cherry counties in the Methodist Episcopal church. He has also been active in political circles, is a Republican and elected county treasurer in 1889, serving four years. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen.

### GEORGE GUNDERSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal review is well known in Kimball county as a progressive agriculturist and stock grower, having up to 1907 been engaged in the sheep raising business, also a prominent shipper of his locality. He is now a resident of the town of Kimball, connected with the blacksmithing department in P. Maginnis' establishment.

George Gunderson was born in Florence, Nebraska, January 9, 1875. He is a brother of Hans Gunderson, one of the early settlers in western Nebraska, and was the second youngest child in his father's family, growing up on the frontier and is a typical representative of the sturdy native born and bred Nebraskan. A sketch of this brother appears elsewhere in this volume. In 1888 our subject came to Kimball county and filed on a homestead on section 30, township 14, range 53, proved up and lived there for several years, going through all the early hardships of the pioneers in the section. He sold this homestead and now has a Kin-kaid claim of four hundred and eighty acres in section 26, township 14, range 54, on which he raises sheep and horses, also farms about forty acres of the place. He has been very successful in his different enterprises, and for so young a man is the possessor of a tidy fortune, gained through his individual effort, thrift and good management.

Mr. Gunderson was married at Kimball, in September, 1898, to Miss Gertrude Frederickson, who was born in Denmark and came to the United States about the year 1892. They have three children, all bright and interesting young people, and they are named as follows: Ida, Helen and George Carl.

In 1904 Mr. Gunderson was elected coroner of Kimball county, and held that office one term, proving himself a capable official. He is a Republican.

### ISADORE D. WHALEY.

Isadore D. Whaley, a prominent business man of Hyannis, Nebraska, has built up a good home and acquired a leading position in the affairs of the community through his integrity and honesty in all his dealings.

Mr. Whaley was born in Simcoe, Lower Canada, in 1863. His father, Milton Whaley, was a native of Ireland, and his mother, who was Loretta Green, was born in America, of Irish descent. He was reared in Ohio, the family having settled there in his early boyhood, and he attended the common schools, and later the high school at Geneva, Ohio, from which he was graduated in 1885. He also took a course at Payne Avenue Schools, Cleveland, Ohio, and acquired a thorough schooling, which stood him in good stead during his later career. After leaving school he travelled for a time, going all through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, spending several years at Minneapolis, engaged in the furniture business. He next went to Colorado and was in Leadville during the early history of that region. From there he moved to southern Colorado, then to New Mexico, so that by the time he was twenty-two years of age he had seen more of the United States than many men twice that age, and through travel had acquired a wide knowledge of conditions existing in different parts of the country. He returned to Ohio in about 1885, settling in Ashtabula county, and made that his home for about five years, then came west to Nebraska, his first location being Grand Island. After spending three years in that vicinity he associated himself with the Burlington railroad with headquarters at Dunning, and was in the employ of that company for two years. He came to Grant county, still working for the Burlington railway, and has spent in all thirteen years in the service of that road. During his early residence in this vicinity he had taken up a homestead in section 31, township 24, range 31, Grant county, and now owns a tract of six hundred and forty acres.

Mr. Whaley was married in 1885, to Hattie Williams, daughter of James H. and Hattie E. (Stevens) Williams, the father a prominent veteran of the Civil war, and an old settler in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Our subject is the father of three children, namely: Milton H., Ella and Charles. The family occupy a pleasant home in Hyannis, Nebraska, and are highly esteemed by all, and considered among the leading old timers of the region. Mr. Whaley has always been actively engaged in



helping to build up his community, assisting in the development of the agricultural section and is a worthy citizen. Personally he is broad-minded and liberal in all matters, and has had a large and varied experience in the affairs of his country for so young a man.

Special mention should be made to Mr. I. D. Whaley's children, and also his son-in-law, as they are among the most widely known musicians of the west. They have an orchestra of their own and have played in eastern and western Nebraska. Milton H. Whaley is a prominent cornet player; Ella Whaley, now Mrs. C. E. Frostic, is a pianist; Charles Whaley is a clarinet player and Mr. C. E. Frostic, the son-in-law, is a violin player.

#### HENRY GROSENBACH.

Henry Grosenbach, of Emerson township, Harlan county, Nebraska, extensive land owner and successful farmer, came to this county in 1887, purchasing a farm in section 1, consisting of six hundred and forty acres. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, and his father, Jacob Grosenbach, settled there in the pioneer days of that state, farming on forty acres, and eventually became a large land owner. He came from Germany as did also his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Rorebach. Our subject was raised in Illinois and farmed there up to 1887, then moved to Nebraska, engaging in mixed farming and stock raising, and from the very first has been most successful. He has kept adding to his holdings in this county and is now proprietor of over two thousand acres of land, and is one of the wealthiest men in his locality. He devotes all his time and attention to his farming operations, and everything is kept in the finest condition possible, with every improvement for the prompt carrying on of farm and domestic work.

Mr. Grosenbach was married in November, 1874, to Miss Elenora Ficht, a native of Tazewell county, Illinois, also born and raised there. They have a family of ten children, named as follows: Samuel, living at home with his parents; Henry, Daniel and John, all of this county; Edward, living at Lincoln, Nebraska; Lizzie (married), Katie (married), and the other three children deceased.

The family are members of the Evangelical church, and highly respected members of their community. Our subject and family removed from the farm to Mascot Village in September, 1908. He built a fine residence with modern conveniences. He has retired from active life.

#### WILLIAM TOULSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is one of the foremost citizens of this locality. He is one of the early settlers in Nebraska, and has done his full share in the development of the agricultural interests of the community where he chose to make his home. He lives on a well improved farm in Brown county, and is a representative farmer and worthy citizen. An interesting picture of his place will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Toulson was born in the village of Caythorp, Lincolnshire, England, July 5, 1837. His parents were day laborers in England, where they lived and died, never having left the mother country. Our subject was reared in the locality in which he was born, with meager school advantages. He began working out at the age of six years, scaring birds and picking stones, doing more strenuous labor as soon as he grew old enough. He determined to strike out for himself, and in 1873 came to America, sailing from Liverpool, October 2d on the City of Paris, of the Inman line, landing in New York October 12th, locating in Crawford county, Iowa. He secured work, saving his wages with which to send for his family, which he did in the spring of 1875, they joining him in June. In 1883 he located in Nebraska, settling on his present farm in section 10, township 31, range 22, where in time he acquired four hundred and eighty acres, of which he has since given a half section to his son. Here he was among the first settlers in this locality, there being but one house between Ainsworth and Plum creek, the whole country being practically a wilderness. The place he settled on had no improvements whatever, but he went to work and soon had built up a good home, and gradually added the improvements necessary for running a successful farm. He and his son Tom together now own eight hundred acres of land, part of which is in a high state of cultivation. He also has one of the finest orchards to be found in Brown county, containing five hundred fruit trees of all kinds, in splendid condition. His garden is one of the best kept and most productive in the locality in which he resides.

Mr. Toulson was married in Manham-on-Trent, England, November 5, 1860, to Miss Jane Hunt. Six children have been born to them, four of whom are now living, named as follows: George, deceased; Enoch; Mary Jane, wife of Oscar McIntosh, of Washington; Ann Elizabeth, who married George Rmert, of Ainsworth; Rachel, deceased, and

Thomas. The two youngest were born in America.

Mr. Toulson has always evinced a lively interest in all local and state affairs, and has held the office of assessor of his township, as well as taking an active part in all educational and religious work in his community. He is one of those who organized and established the schools in his vicinity, and at different times has held school offices for many years. He was instrumental in 1904 in establishing Island Grove Methodist church, of which he is a member, and contributes liberally to its support. He enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellowmen. Politically he is independent in politics, supporting the candidate whose moral character seems to him to be the highest.

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#### PAUL R. BORGQUIST.

The gentleman above named is so widely known that the people of Cheyenne county need no introduction to him. He is a pioneer of that region, and by his labors there has aided materially in the development of the farming, commercial and social interests of his locality. He is now one of the extensive land owners, farmers, market gardeners and stock raisers of Cheyenne county, and has gained a fortune through business foresight, honesty and good management. He makes his home in Sidney precinct.

Paul R. Borgquist was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1864. His father, who was a hospital steward, removed with his family to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1867, where they lived for about one year, and in 1868 removed to Fort Preble, Maine, remaining only six or seven months. He was next stationed at the fort at Sidney, Nebraska, remaining one year, then went to army posts in Wyoming. In April, 1871, he returned to Sidney and resided in that vicinity the rest of his life. He acquired a tract of land east of Sidney on section 34, township 14, range 49, and accumulated over one thousand acres of ranch land. Of this Paul cultivates eighty acres and runs about one hundred and fifty cattle and thirty head of horses. His ranch is well supplied with good buildings and improvements, they being located on Lodgepole creek. About two hundred acres is irrigated and part of the tract is devoted to market gardening, a very remunerative branch of farming.

Mr. Borgquist's father, Carl E., was born in the province of Smoland, Sweden, May 18, 1826, and came to the United States in 1849.

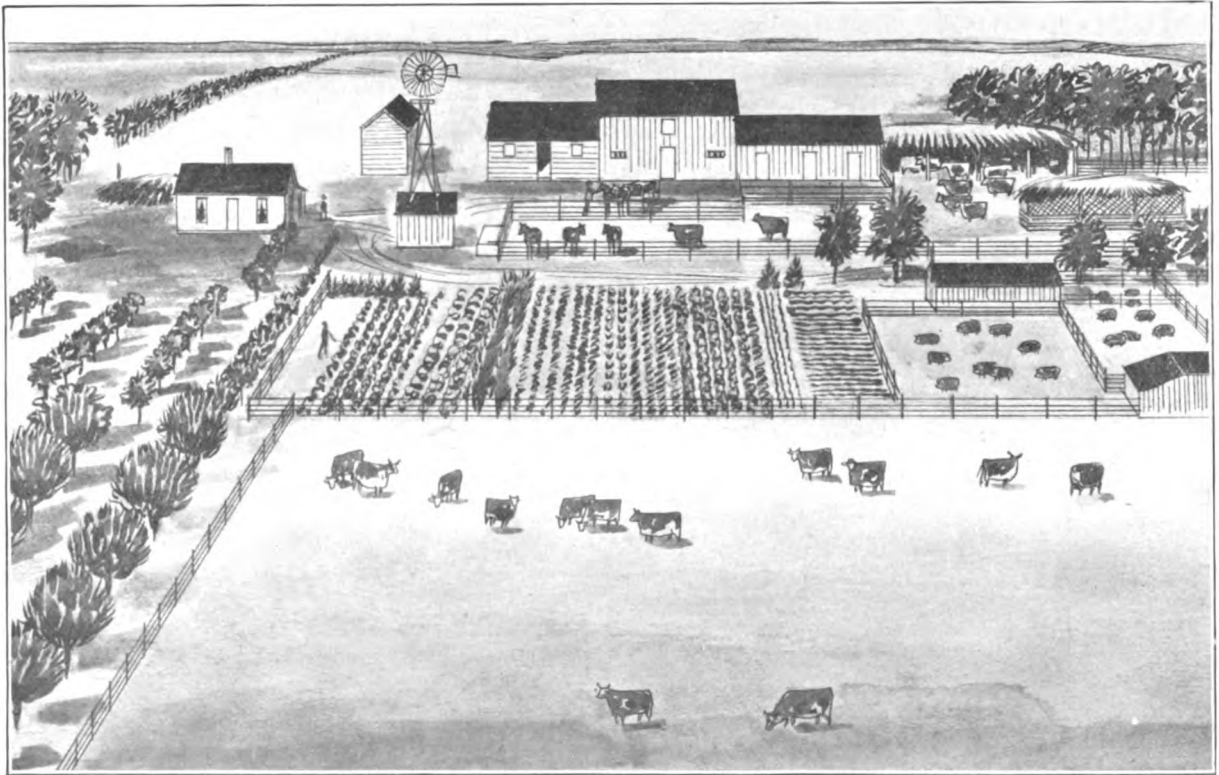
He enlisted in the Mounted Riflemen, United States Army, for frontier service, and continued in the army until the Civil war, and served as hospital steward in the medical department until 1871. On his retirement from the hospital service in 1871 he entered the business world, opening a drug store and handling a stock of general merchandise and carried on the same successfully for twenty years. During this time he became largely interested in a big herd of stock and many acres of land, and retired from the drug business in 1891, taking up his residence on his ranch, where he lived to the time of his death, August 6, 1896. He was one of the staunchest gold Republicans throughout the silver campaign of those times, and was prominent in all political matters. He married Mary Kenney, a native of Ireland, born about 1838, their marriage occurring August 19, 1862. She still resides on the home ranch with her son. They were among the earliest settlers in western Nebraska, and passed through all the hardships of early Nebraska times. Our subject has one sister married, now living in Jackson's Hole country in Wyoming. Mr. Borgquist is a prominent Republican and chairman of the county committee since 1904. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Ancient Order United Workmen at Sidney. A view of the ranch home with its picturesque surroundings is shown on another page of this work.

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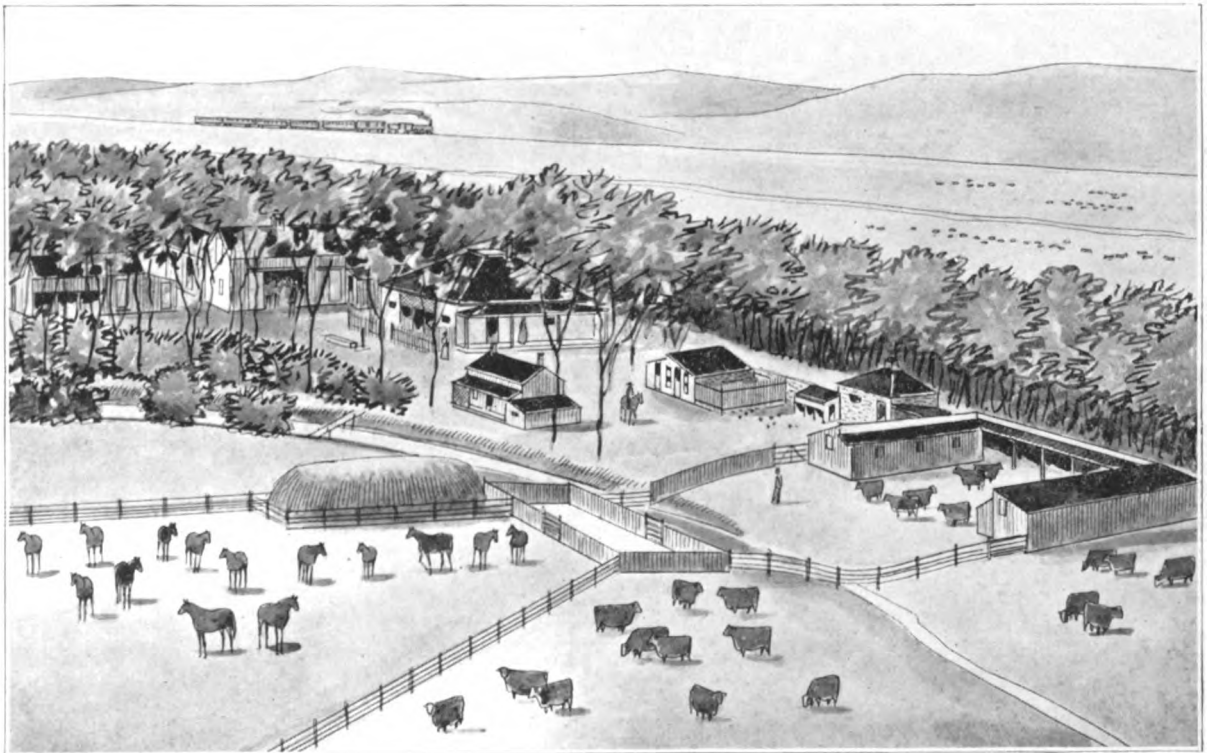
#### JONATHAN F. YOUNG.

The above named gentleman is numbered among the leading business men of Cody, Nebraska, near where he has resided for the past fifteen years, and has become one of the successful and prosperous citizens of the town.

Mr. Young was born at Arkadelphia, in Clark county, Arkansas, July 3, 1862. His father, John D. Young, was by trade a carpenter and millwright, and of Scotch-Irish descent, while the mother, Miss Martha Humphrey, was a member of an old Georgia family. Our subject's parents died when he was thirteen years of age, and he went to Jersey county, Illinois, where he lived with an uncle for some years, in which locality he was educated, remaining until he was twenty-one years of age. He was the second in a family of five children, and began to make his own living when about fourteen. About 1882 he left Illinois and went to St. Louis, and later to Texas, working in machine shops for seven years at different places. He learned tel-



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM TOULSON,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



PIONEER HORSE AND CATTLE RANCH, RESIDENCE OF PAUL R. BORGQUIST,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



egraphing and worked at this profession in stations along the main line of the Chicago & Northwestern in Iowa and South Dakota, and branches in Nebraska for a period of eight years. He first came to Cherry county in 1893, and has been here almost constantly ever since that time, engaged in telegraphy the succeeding five years. In 1897 he resigned and went on a ranch located twenty-five miles southwest of the town of Cody, and still holds a part of this place. He engaged in the lumber business in Cody during 1904, associating himself with his father-in-law, John Bishop, and they have built up a large trade in this and the adjoining counties. He has erected one of the finest dwellings in the village, convenient to his place of business.

Mr. Young was married in 1894 to Miss Laura E. Bishop, born in Monroe county, Iowa, daughter of John Bishop, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. One son has been born to this family, John Dickey Young, namesake of his grandfather.

In political sentiment our subject is a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat, and takes an active interest in all party affairs, local and state, and has served as assessor of his precinct. His lodge affiliations are varied, holding membership in the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Workmen, the Woodmen and the lumbermen's association known as the Con-catinated Order of Hoo Hoos.

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#### ABNER BLACK, DECEASED.

Prior to the demise of the gentleman named above he was one of the prominent agriculturists of Deuel county, widely known as a successful and prosperous farmer and worthy citizen, and his family had the sympathy of the entire community in their loss.

Mr. Black was born in Marion county, Iowa, in 1855, and raised in a small town there. His father, Absolam Black, was of Irish-American stock, and a lawyer by profession, having a large and lucrative practice in Knoxville and the surrounding country, and served two terms as state's attorney in Marion county, Iowa. Our subject lived with his parents up to the time when he was twenty-one years of age, excepting for about four years after he was fifteen, which was spent in Texas following the ranching business in that state. In 1874 he returned to Iowa and was married there two years later and located on a farm, where they lived for a number of years, then went to Texas and lived on the state line for about three years. In 1888 Mr. Black moved

with his family to Sheridan county, Nebraska, locating near Lakeside, and remained in that vicinity up to 1900, when they moved to Ellsworth. In 1902 he purchased the Ellsworth Hotel, and was also interested in land in this county, his sons having large ranches near his homestead. Mr. Black's death occurred in October, 1906. He left a family of two children—Fred, born in Decatur City, Iowa, in 1877, and Ora, born there in 1878. The former was married in 1899 to Miss Alice C. Davis, a native of Williamsburg, Iowa, born in 1877. Mr. Black's widow, whose maiden name was Amelia J. Cox, lives on the old homestead located near Ellsworth. The sons are extensively engaged in the stock business, and run about six hundred head of cattle and fifty head of horses. Both own homesteads near their mother's farm. Fred having worked for the Spade ranch for several years prior to establishing his ranch, and at the same time his brother Ora was connected in the ranching business in Ellsworth. Together they own a fine ranch, with plenty of hay land and good range, and like this region, as it is not so thickly settled here and best suited to their purpose in the stock raising business.

Mrs. Black, Sr., is a daughter of Gabriel Cox, born in England, who came to this country with his family when Mrs. Black was a very young girl, locating in Dubuque, Iowa. Her parents are now living in Kansas, and she paid a visit to them in 1906, finding them both hale and hearty at the advanced age of seventy-eight years.

The Black family is among the prominent residents of Deuel county, and are highly esteemed by all who know them for their industry and thrift and their true worth as good citizens and neighbors. Ellsworth is their postoffice and nearest trading point.

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#### ANDREW JOHNSON.

Andrew Johnson, an old settler and enterprising ranchman of Sioux county, Nebraska, owns a valuable estate in section 19, township 35, range 54. He has always identified himself with the public affairs of the community in which he made his home, and became widely known for his thorough appreciation of the wants of the community and is universally esteemed and respected for his many sterling qualities.

Mr. Johnson was born in Calmer, Sweden, June 27, 1858. He was raised on a farm. His parents were wealthy and he had a beautiful home and every advantage of the better class

in that country, receiving a good education, and spent a happy and care free boyhood in his native land. He remained in Sweden until he was thirty-one years of age, then started out for the new world, landing in New York city in 1889. He came directly west, stopping at Leadville, Colorado, where he had a brother living, and made that his home for two years, engaged in railroading.

In 1893 he came to Nebraska and settled on a ranch two miles southwest of Ardmore, and there he was married to Miss Helen Johnson, who came to this country from Sweden, where she was reared on a farm. They built a log house on a homestead on which he had previously filed, and for about seven years worked at railroading. This was during the hard times prevailing throughout that part of the state, and while they went through many hardships and suffered losses from crop failures and other causes, Mr. Johnson always had plenty of money and managed to find work enough to keep them in the necessaries of life and did not suffer the privations that fell to the lot of so many of the pioneers of the region. He remained on that farm up to 1901, then settled on his present ranch, which now consists of six hundred acres, all of which is fenced and supplied with good improvements. The ranch is located on Indian creek and has a fine water supply, plenty of timber, and is one of the best improved places in the locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Oscar, Mary, Alice, Sarah, Albin and a baby not named. They are a bright, intelligent group, and the family have a pleasant and comfortable home, well liked by all in the community.

#### EMILE SCHOENENBERGER.

Emile Schoenenberger is the owner of a fine farm in Rock county, Nebraska, not far from the town of Newport, which invariably attracts the attention of the passing traveler, who quickly notes that it is in the care of a competent farmer and good business man. The place is under good cultivation, and is improved with handsome and substantial buildings, including a very comfortable residence. He is advancing in years, but still retains strength and vigor of body and mind, and is one of the most highly respected old settlers in all this part of Nebraska.

Mr. Schoenenberger was born in the village of Waldresbach, Canton Schirich, province of Loraine, France, April 28, 1842, and during

his boyhood and early youth found employment in a silk factory. In 1865 he crossed the ocean, embarking at Havre on the sailing vessel Willer, and after a voyage of forty-two days landed in New York, from whence he went to Chicago. In making his way to La Salle, Illinois, it took him a month to reach his destination, as he was carried on by mistake to Rock Island, and he was three or four days returning to the point he desired to reach. At Ottawa he found work for a whole year and his next move was to New Orleans, where he worked till the outbreak of the cholera in 1868. From thence he went to St. Louis and thence to Highland, Illinois, where he found work for nine months. Returning to Ottawa for a year's work, he next went to Amboy and for seven years was in the employ of the Illinois Central Railway Company, two years in the round house and five years on an engine as a fireman. Leaving the railroad service he came west, living one year in Wright county, Nebraska, and then, in May, 1884, he took up his residence in Rock county, settling on section 24, township 31, range 17, where he still resides. He has passed through many and varied experiences and knows what pioneering means. But he has worked and endured and waited, and now a very large success has crowned his industry and persistence. He is the owner of a good farm, which he devotes largely to stock raising and the shipping of hay, of which he sells about ninety tons a year. He has secured a thriving grove of about five acres, which he planted and cultivated himself, as well as an orchard of thrifty growing trees.

Mr. Schoenenberger was married in 1892 to Mrs. Elizabeth Shilling. Her people were German and never came to this country. She is the mother of Henry, Mary, Henry (2), Minnie and Lester Schoenenberger.

To the subject of this writing, as to others on the frontier, came various trials and troubles. In 1903 fire destroyed his barns and granaries, and his horses and cattle were burned in their stalls. During the prolonged dry seasons of 1893 and 1894 he lost his crops, and it required all his energy to save his stock. All that, however, seems like a dream today in the midst of comfort and plenty. A Democrat in political affairs, he is a good citizen and seeks the welfare of all in his talk and vote.

Jacob Schoenenberger, the father of Emile, was a foreman in a silk factory and a man of considerable prominence in his day. On his death the widow, with uncommon executive ability, filled his place for fourteen years, having charge of over a hundred operatives. They

spoke both French and German, and reared their children with more than the usual care and intelligence. His wife was in maidenhood Elizabeth Marschall, a descendant of an old French family, and late in life came to this country, where she died in 1880.

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#### LEWIS F. FAIRCHILD.

One of the successful of the younger ranchmen of Keith county and one who has done his share toward the upbuilding and material development of the territory, is Lewis F. Fairchild, who resides on section 9, township 15, range 40. Our subject was born on a farm in Illinois in 1864, his father being Lewis M. Fairchild, a prominent farmer in those days.

Lewis F. Fairchild was reared and received his early training in his native state, not leaving there until he had almost attained his majority. In 1884 he came west to Colorado, locating near the city of Denver. He was a pioneer of the country about Julesburg, where he built up a good farm and home. He came to his present location and has been engaged almost wholly in cattle raising, of which he has made a fine success. He has built up a good home and business and has attracted many warm friends by his many excellent traits of character and his progressive methods.

In September, 1889, was celebrated the wedding of Lewis F. Fairchild and Miss Almira O'Neil, daughter of Michael O'Neil, who was one of the pioneers of Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Fairchild have had six children—Fred, Florence, Francis, Freeman, Oliver and Elizabeth.

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#### JOHN FERGUSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this biographical sketch occupies an influential position in the business and commercial circles of Blaine county, and is at the head of one of the leading financial institutions of the county. He is president of the International State Bank of Brewster and holds an enviable reputation as a banker and business man. In addition to this, he and his family operate a large ranch of about forty-five hundred acres, one of the best equipped and most profitable in the territory.

Mr. Ferguson is a native of Scotland, born in 1847 on a farm. His parents, William and Jannette (Fleming) Ferguson, were farmers and taught their son the habits of thrift and

industry which have made him such a success in life.

Mr. Ferguson was married June 10, 1868, to Miss Jane Robertson, also a native of Scotland. Her father, Robert Robertson, was a contractor. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have ten children—Bessie W., now dead; Nettie F., Robert W., John R., George A., Hugh R., Effie, Stella, Allen and Lyle S.

The subject of our sketch was reared in bonnie Scotland, where he received his early education and training. Coming to America when he was a young fellow, he landed in New York city, leaving June 28, 1868, and removing to northern Ohio, where he worked near the city of Cleveland for two months. In September of that year he came west to Omaha and worked in the Union Pacific railway shops of that city. He had learned the carpenter's trade and followed that line for some time. In the spring of 1869 he went to Dodge county, Nebraska, and settled on a homestead and built up a fine little farm home on a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, where he lived for twenty-two years. He came to Blaine county in 1891, leased considerable land, bought a relinquishment for his oldest daughter and established a great ranch of forty-five hundred acres east of Brewster about ten miles on the Loup river. The ranch is finely improved with house, barns, fences, etc., and bears evidence of many successive years of hard and intelligent labor.

Mr. Ferguson has weathered all the storms of adversity of pioneer times, the years of drouth and hard times and the financial crises of painful memory. And he has steadily increased his fortune until today he occupies a commanding position among his fellows. He is widely known as a keen observer of matters of a public nature and his advice is sought on all questions of importance to the community. He is a Democrat in politics and now a member of the board of county commissioners, serving his third term. He has held several minor offices.

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#### DAVID N. BROWER.

David N. Brower, for nearly twenty-five years a worthy member of the farming community of Box Butte county, is well known throughout this region as a gentleman of energetic character and good citizenship. He has aided materially in the development of that part of the state of Nebraska, and has a valuable estate in sections 14, 15, 22, 23 and



28, township 24, range 49. The fine appearance and apparent thrift of his farm bespeaks the wisdom of his choice in locating there in the early days and remaining to become one of the substantial men of his county.

Mr. Brower was born in Wayne county, Iowa, in 1858, and was raised on a farm. His father, Carrington Brower, was of American blood, and the family lived in Iowa during the pioneer days of that state, our subject receiving his education at the country schools and working at home until he was about nineteen years of age, then started on a farm laboring for himself. He purchased a farm in Iowa in 1881 and farmed it for four years, when he sold out and came west. In 1885 Mr. Brower came to Nebraska, locating in Box Butte county, at the Point of Rocks, driving through from Iowa together with a party of three other emigrants looking for a location in this region. They were on the road, camping out nights on the ground, arriving in this locality May 1, 1885. After staking out a claim and filing on his land, Mr. Brower built a sod house, stable and other necessary buildings, and farmed there for about three years, also freighted through the country from Valentine to other points, which helped considerably in making a living. In 1888 he left that place and came to his present location, which is situated on Snake creek, nine miles from Alliance. When he took the place the land was barren prairie, and he went to work at once to improve it, putting up good buildings, fencing it well, and has quite a large part of it under cultivation at this time. In the spring of 1895 a prairie fire swept the section, and he lost his barns, a large quantity of hay, wagons, mowers, plows, harness, etc., and suffered damage to the extent of many hundreds of dollars. Mr. Brower now owns a splendid ranch of nine quarter sections, all in one piece, and he engages principally in the stock business, raising cattle and horses. He had a very small start on coming here, and considering this has made a splendid success in building up a good home and ranch, and has also gained an enviable reputation as a leading settler and one who has aided materially in the success and prosperity of his locality. He is a modest, substantial ranchman, who in his quiet way has made himself a part of the community in which he resides by giving generously of his money and influence to every movement for the public good.

In 1882 Mr. Brower was married to Rebecca Baggs, of Appanoose county, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Brower ten children have been born, named as follows: Susie, Betsy. Char-

lie, Edith, Willie, Harley, Elmer, Hazel, Roy and Alice, an infant deceased. All were born in Nebraska excepting Susie and Roy, who were born in Iowa, and all were reared and educated in this county.

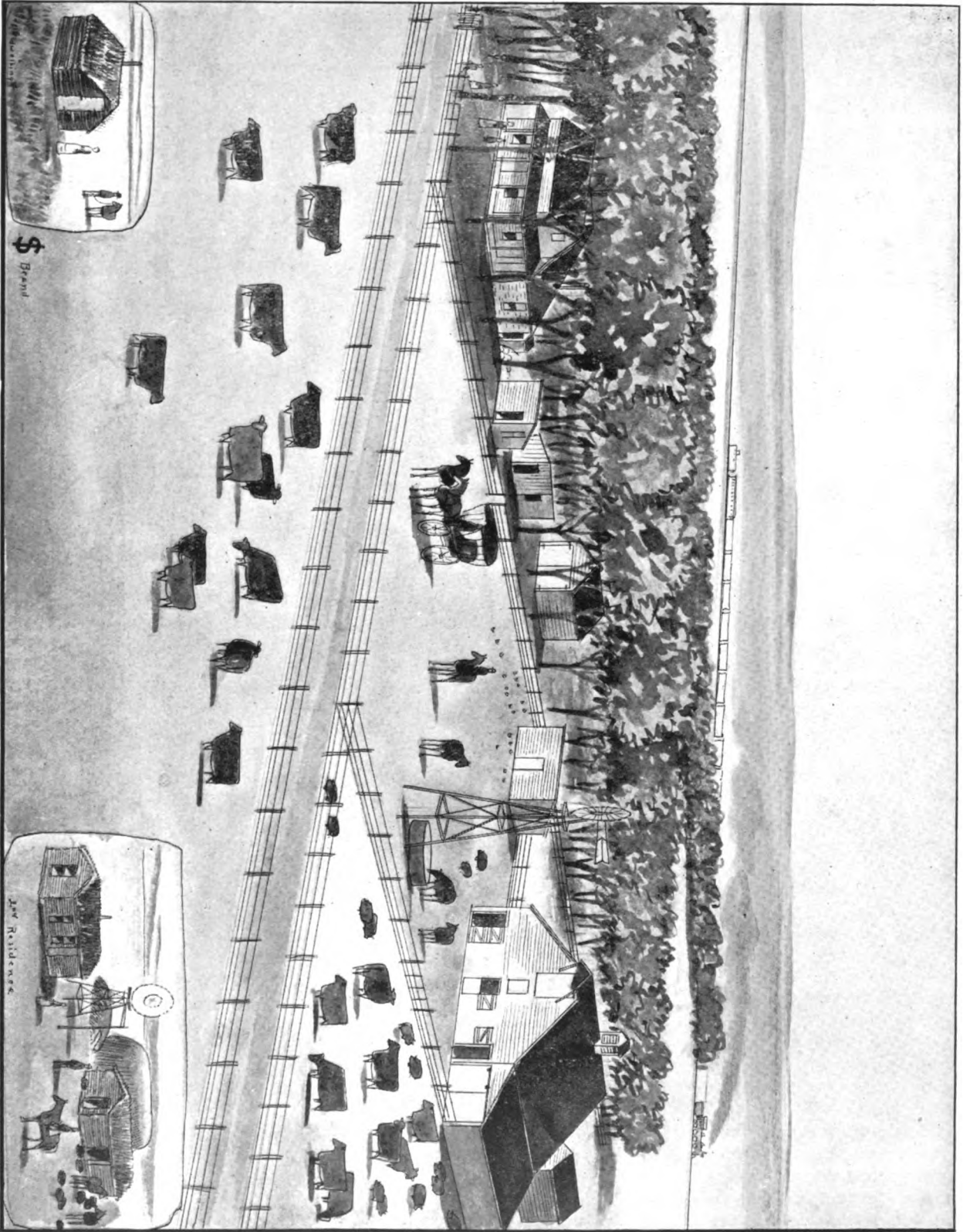
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#### FRANK H. BARBER.

Frank H. Barber, one of the most successful and well-to-do ranchers and farmers of Deuel county, Nebraska, lives on a lovely farm on section 32, township 16, range 41. He has gained prominence by his progressive and up-to-date methods and has made a mark in the community as a man of strong convictions and fearless adherence to the right as he sees it.

Frank H. Barber was born near Detroit, Michigan, December 16, 1863. His parents, Gabriel and Meribah (Crandle) Barber, were natives of Canada, the paternal grandfather being French.

The subject of our sketch was reared on a farm in Dunn county, Wisconsin, to which locality the family moved about 1870, and where Frank received a common school education. He came west to Deuel county, Nebraska, in 1885, taking a homestead in section 32, township 16, range 41, on which he put up a sod shanty about eight feet square and six feet high. He had hauled sufficient lumber for a comfortable house, but the cowboys used it for fuel. He had only ten dollars in money, no horses, harness, nor saddles, he broke bronchos for use as a team, borrowed harness and wagon from the cattle company and put in a crop. He worked for the Ogallala Cattle Company as cowpuncher on the open ranges between the North Platte and the Big Horn mountains, and trailed cattle from Keystone to Little Thunder, Wyoming, sleeping in the open all the time. He steadily improved his farm and stuck to it with a determination to make it a good home, but he witnessed very hard times indeed. During his trips to the west Mrs. Barber taught school and built a comfortable sod house to replace the small one in which they had been living. After he had been "dried out" by drouth for several years Mr. Barber installed irrigation and then for three years in succession saw his crops destroyed by hail. But with the passing of pioneer days times became better, crops have yielded larger returns and the later years have brought material advancement to the financial affairs of our subject. He now has eight hundred acres on the bottoms of the North



RESIDENCE OF FRANK H. BARBER,  
Deuel County, Nebraska.



Platte river, his land being all naturally sub-irrigated and not nearly so liable to be injured by drouth as other lands on the higher levels. It is also all under ditch, so it can be irrigated from the top as well. He cultivates all but about one hundred and sixty acres, with two hundred of it in alfalfa. He has a fine stone house, large barn, with sheds, together with numerous other outbuildings, and has a fine grove of trees. Mr. Barber formerly raised cattle, but now he pays more attention to hog raising and has a small bunch of horses. Everything about his fine ranch bears witness to the success and prosperity attending its owner.

Mr. Barber was married February 21, 1886, to Miss Carrie Clack, a native of Wisconsin, and a daughter of Henry and Ann (Blain) Clack, a native of Michigan. The father was a native of London, England, and immigrated to Canada, later settling near Detroit while the Indians were still plentiful there. His farm is now within the city limits of Detroit and divided into city lots. Mr. and Mrs. Barber have four children: Burt, a graduate of the North Platte high school, class of 1908, is now attending the State University; Hazel is a student in the Lincoln city schools; Cecil and Edna.

Mr. Barber is a strong Republican and staunchly supports the principles of his party. He was county commissioner of Deuel county for two terms, and has been school treasurer for eighteen years, and has always assisted in furthering every project that promised for the advancement of the local affairs of the locality in which he lives.

Indians were still in the country when Mr. Barber settled here, as many as three hundred having camped on Blue creek. In the fall of 1886 they killed cattle and made the settlers somewhat uneasy, they congregating at one time at a stone house for defense. There were many dangers in the early day that are easily escaped now. At one time while fording the river with his wife and her parents Mr. Barber and the family had to sit on the backs of the seats while the water surged over the seats of their vehicle, so deep was the water. Mrs. Barber taught the first school of the district as mentioned above.

Mr. Barber is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Masonic order at Ogallala and with his wife has taken the degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star.

We present for inspection a view of Mr. Barber's premises, with its unusually fine grove, elsewhere in this work. It is one of the best improved farms in the county.

#### JACOB B. SMITH, DECEASED.

Jacob B. Smith for many years prior to his demise was known as a prosperous farmer and worthy citizen throughout the locality in which he resided. He was one of the pioneer settlers in Sheridan county, Nebraska, and owned a valuable estate in section 26, township 29, range 44, where his family still reside.

Mr. Smith was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1829, and was raised there. He was of English descent, his father and six brothers having crossed the ocean together in 1798 and settled in Pennsylvania, where they were among the earliest settlers in that state. Our subject was the oldest member in his father's family of ten children, all born and raised in Pennsylvania. He remained with his parents on their farm until he was thirty years of age, and in 1867 left his native state and came west, locating near Tipton, Iowa, where he farmed for about eight years. He then moved to Ames, Iowa, and farmed there for eleven years, and in 1888 came to Nebraska and settled on the farm mentioned above, located in Sheridan county, and remained on this place up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1902. When he first came to this place there was not a stick of timber on it, and he broke up some of his land, but during the first years he was unable to put in very large crops, and about three years after he located there the dry years came on and for several succeeding years he lost every crop. One season he put out eighty acres of millet, and could not even cut it to get the seed back, and went through all kinds of hard times. He experienced all the hardships and privations which the settlers of those times went through with hailstorms, grasshopper raids, etc., and it was a number of years before he was able to get ahead at all. He gradually improved his farm and added more land to it when the good years began, and at his death owned eight hundred acres of good land, and his sons and daughters also have taken up quite a good deal of homestead land adjoining his estate. They do not farm very heavily now, and had about eighty acres of small grain in 1906 and raised a crop of two thousand five hundred and thirty bushels in all, and whatever farming they do is very profitable. They are engaged to quite an extent in stock raising, and keep about three hundred and twenty-five head of stock on the place and use all the farm produces for keeping this stock and do not market anything which they raise except wheat and potatoes.

Mr. Smith was married in 1862 to Miss Eliza M. Bingaman, a native of Gleniron, Union county, Pennsylvania, born in 1838. Her father was Jacob Bingaman, of German descent, and he fought in the Revolutionary war, and also in the War of 1812, having come to this country when a young man. There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, who are named as follows: Charles, James and Mary, born in Pennsylvania; William, Carson, Luella, Sadie, Frank and Susie, born in Iowa. Grayson postoffice is located on this farm and Miss Susie is postmistress and has been for six years. Five of the children have homesteads adjoining the father's estate, a section apiece under the Kincaid act.

Since locating in Nebraska the family have all enjoyed the best of health, and are well satisfied with what they have accomplished here. Mrs. Smith has revisited the old home in Pennsylvania, but has no desire to return there to live. They suffered a sad loss in the husband and father's death and had the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement, as he was highly esteemed by all who knew him and a worthy citizen.

#### JAMES T. RYAN.

James T. Ryan was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, October 17, 1853, and was the son of Samuel Ryan, a native of the state of Maryland and a farmer by occupation, and whose grandfather served in the Revolutionary war. Our subject's mother was Elizabeth Taylor, a native of Ohio.

James T. Ryan was reared on a farm in his native state, receiving the education afforded by the district schools. He learned telegraphy when a boy and worked for several years for the Cleveland, Pittsburg & Wheeling Railway Company. In 1876 he came west to Bureau, Illinois, and engaged with success in agricultural pursuits for about five years, removing thence to Audubon county, Iowa. After three years in the latter state he came to Keith county, Nebraska, and in the spring of 1884 took a pre-emption claim west of Ogallala on the South Platte river, and very soon thereafter he took a homestead on which he proved up, since selling both tracts. He made this his home, living in a sod house and undergoing all the hardships and hard times of pioneer life. He experienced losses of crops from drouth and also by a serious fire that destroyed about four hundred dollars' worth of improvements; but he maintained his home on the farm and worked his way to success

and a comfortable competency. He came to his present farm in sections 20 and 29, township 30, range 40, in the spring of 1895, purchasing at first one hundred and sixty acres, and later adding a half section more. He now has a splendid ranch of four hundred and eighty acres in the South Platte river valley, all well improved. His trees are especially fine and he has seventy-five acres of alfalfa that is the pride of the farm. So far as he knows this was the first grown along the south river within the limits of the county. The entire tract is irrigable, and one hundred and sixty acres are already under ditch.

Mr. Ryan has taken a lively interest in all affairs of local importance and has done his share in adding to the material growth of his community. He has held various local offices and is known everywhere as a conscientious citizen and a thorough and progressive business man. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the Congregational church and of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities at Ogallala.

#### DAVID H. BERG.

David H. Berg, well known as a leading farmer of Dawes county, Nebraska, is a resident of section 30, township 30, range 47, where he owns a well improved and valuable estate.

Mr. Berg was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, October 2, 1878, and is a son of John Berg, a stonecutter by trade and native of Sweden, who came to the United States when a young man. David lost both parents when quite young, about four or five years old. Both died in Iowa. When our subject was five years old the family came to Dawes county with the grandparents, Charles and Grace Berg, who took up government land, driving overland from Valentine with a team and wagon, which contained their household goods. The grandfather, Charles Berg, filed on a homestead four miles north of our subject's present location, and their first dwelling was a sod shanty. They began to open a farm, planting trees and breaking up land for crops with a team of oxen which they purchased on landing here and with which most of their work was done for a number of years. Our subject's grandfather died here in the year 1897. The grandmother, Grace Berg, lives in Chadron and is quite active at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years.

In 1891 Mr. Berg took up a homestead in section 30, township 31, range 47, and proved

up on it, constantly adding improvements and buying more land as he became better able, and is now owner of a splendid ranch consisting of sixteen quarter sections fitted with a complete set of good buildings, putting down wells and windmills, which supply an abundance of good water the year round. He engages principally in cattle raising, also farms about one hundred acres, on which he raises good crops of small grains, etc. Mr. Berg has done exceedingly well since locating here, is a thoroughly practical farmer and employs modern methods in all his operations.

In political sentiment Mr. Berg follows the Republican party and takes an active and commendable interest in all county and national affairs, keeping abreast of the times by constant and intelligent reading.

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### JOHN SIEFER.

Among the well known and most successful ranchmen and farmers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, the gentleman above mentioned deserves a prominent place. He is a man of active public spirit, and a leading citizen of his community, residing in Eagle precinct, where he has a pleasant home and valuable estate.

John Siefer is a native of the village of Imbsheim, district of Buchsweiler, province of Alsace, Germany, and was born October 8, 1863. He grew up in the mother country, where his parents spent their entire lives. The mother, who was Katharine Ernst, is still living, but his father, Jacob Siefer, died in 1907. John came to America when a young man, sailing from Havre in the Labrador and after a stormy voyage of twenty-one days landed in New York December 7, 1881. Locating at first near Corydon, Harrison county, Indiana, he spent about eight months there, and then went to Iowa, remaining for five years engaged in farm labor in Boone county and on the railroad at Boone. He next came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county, where he was among the early settlers. In the spring of 1887 he filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres on section 30, township 17, range 47, on which he made final proof and secured a patent to the land. He has succeeded in accumulating a fine tract of land, now being proprietor of eleven hundred and twenty acres. He has about one hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, raising good crops, and has fine hay land and pasture for one hundred head of cattle and twenty-five horses. His residence is now situated on section 32, and he has the

entire place fitted with good buildings and all necessary improvements.

Mr. Siefer was united in marriage to Miss Pada Frerichs at the latter's home in Cheyenne county on May 16, 1897. They have a family of seven children, namely: Hannah, Harm, Maggie, William, John, Mabel and Ella, all living at home, the elder children now attending school. Our subject is director of school district No. 69, and has always taken an active part in school and local affairs, helping in every way in his power in the development of his locality. He is a Republican and is a member of the Republican committee of Cheyenne county. He is a member of the Sidney lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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### WILLIAM S. ROWAN, SR.

William S. Rowan, Sr., holds a prominent place among the prosperous and successful agriculturists of Keya Paha county. His home is on section 12, township 34, range 18, and his well appointed residence, barns and finely cultivated fields bespeak the man of progress and energy.

Mr. Rowan was born in the town of Newton Stewart, Scotland, in 1838, his parents residing there until their demise. They had a family of eight children, of whom three were sons, and of these our subject was the only one to grow to manhood. He remained at home until he was twenty, then went to South America, spending three years in Dutch Guiana as overseer for his uncle in large lumbering interests, and in British Guiana for three years as overseer on a large sugar estate. From there he came to the United States in the fall of 1864. He landed in New York, immediately secured work as a carpenter in the graphite mines of Ticonderoga, in the northern part of the state, for a year, then went to the iron mines at Hammondsville, where he was employed at the same work for five years. For a time he mined graphite on contract and later was employed at Rodgersville or Lynn mountain as carpenter for the Hudson and Delaware Canal Company for three years. Being offered the foremanship of a large Virginia plantation and a tract of Florida land, he refused both on investigation. The family lived eight months in Springville, Iowa, prior to coming to Nebraska. In 1884 he came west and located in Keya Paha county, Nebraska, settling near McLain Mills, on Keya Paha river. He remained there for seven years, then took up his present farm as a homestead. He had a lit-

tle money, but had to buy all his stock and machinery to start farming; he made his first garden with a spade and rake, having no team at that time. During the early days he had a hard time to get along; the family lived in a rough sod house for some years, then bought a house in the neighborhood and moved on to his place. He went through all the pioneer hardships and experiences he ever cares to, but has been well repaid for his perseverance and industry in that he is now the owner of a fine farm of eight hundred and forty acres and two hundred in the home farm, and six hundred and forty acres in sections 29 and 30, in township 34, range 17, all cleared, mostly all in hay and pasture land. He farms about one hundred and fifty acres each year, and is engaged extensively in hog and cattle raising.

Mr. Rowan was married in Brooklyn, New York, January 6, 1868, to Miss Agnes Melbourne, who had waited nine years for him to establish a home for her. She was born and reared in Dumfries, Scotland, and was the sixth daughter of John and Agnes (Bauley) Melbourne. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rowan: Thomas, John M., Margaret, who died at the age of ten years; William S., Jr., Violet, now Mrs. Donneaud, of Keya Paha county; and Andrew F., all living near their parents' home at this writing.

Mr. Rowan is recognized as one of the leading men of his county, and takes an active interest in all matters that tend to the advancement of his locality. He is a Republican in political faith, and served as county commissioner for three years. In the old country he was a member of the United Presbyterian church, while Mrs. Rowan was of the Established church. They are now holding communion with the Free Methodists.

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#### HENRY VICK.

Among the leading old-timers in western Nebraska who have succeeded in accumulating a handsome property by dint of industry and honest dealings, supplemented by thrift and good management, the gentleman whose name heads this review deserves special mention. Mr. Vick has a handsome home in Union Valley precinct and is considered one of the foremost citizens of the section, highly esteemed by all.

Henry Vick is a native of the village of Letschow, near the city of Schwan, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, born January 20,

1867. His parents, Karl and Dorothy (Schroeder) Vick, are still living in that country. He came to America in 1884, sailing from Hamburg on the Moravia, and after a voyage of fourteen days landed in New York. The first year was spent at farm labor in Wisconsin.

After drifting around in Minnesota for a time he came to Nebraska, arriving in Cheyenne county in the fall of 1887, and filed on a homestead in section 32, township 17, range 48, and started a home and farm. He had a hard time to get along during the first few years, meeting with many discouragements and failures of crops, but gradually improved his place and bought additional land, put up good buildings, fences and windmills, and is now owner of a fine estate of twelve hundred and eighty acres. His elegant residence, lately erected, is situated on section 29, surrounded by every necessary building and improvement, with a good water system and fine young groves. We call attention to an engraving of the premises on another page of this work. He cultivates about two hundred acres, raising small grain, and has about one hundred head of cattle and thirty-five horses. Mr. Vick is a wide-awake, prosperous and successful ranchman and farmer, a typical representative of the west.

Mr. Vick was married on April 16, 1895, at the bride's home in Cheyenne county, to Anna Busacker. They were the parents of five children, named as follows: Dora, Lillian, Paul, Louis and Ella, who form a very charming and interesting group. The wife and mother departed this life April 16, 1905, and her death was a severe loss to her devoted family and large circle of friends, as she was a lady of most estimable character and lovely disposition.

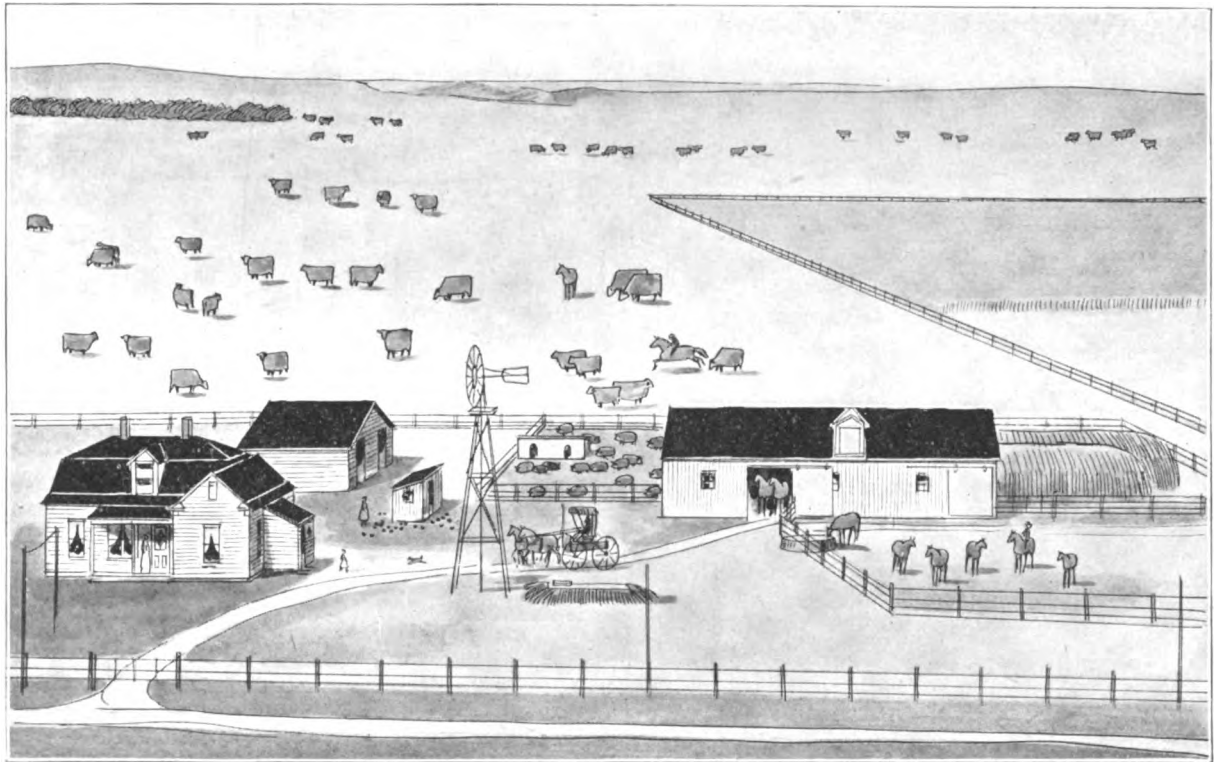
Mr. Vick is active in local affairs, at present acting as director of school district No. 20. In political views he is a Republican.

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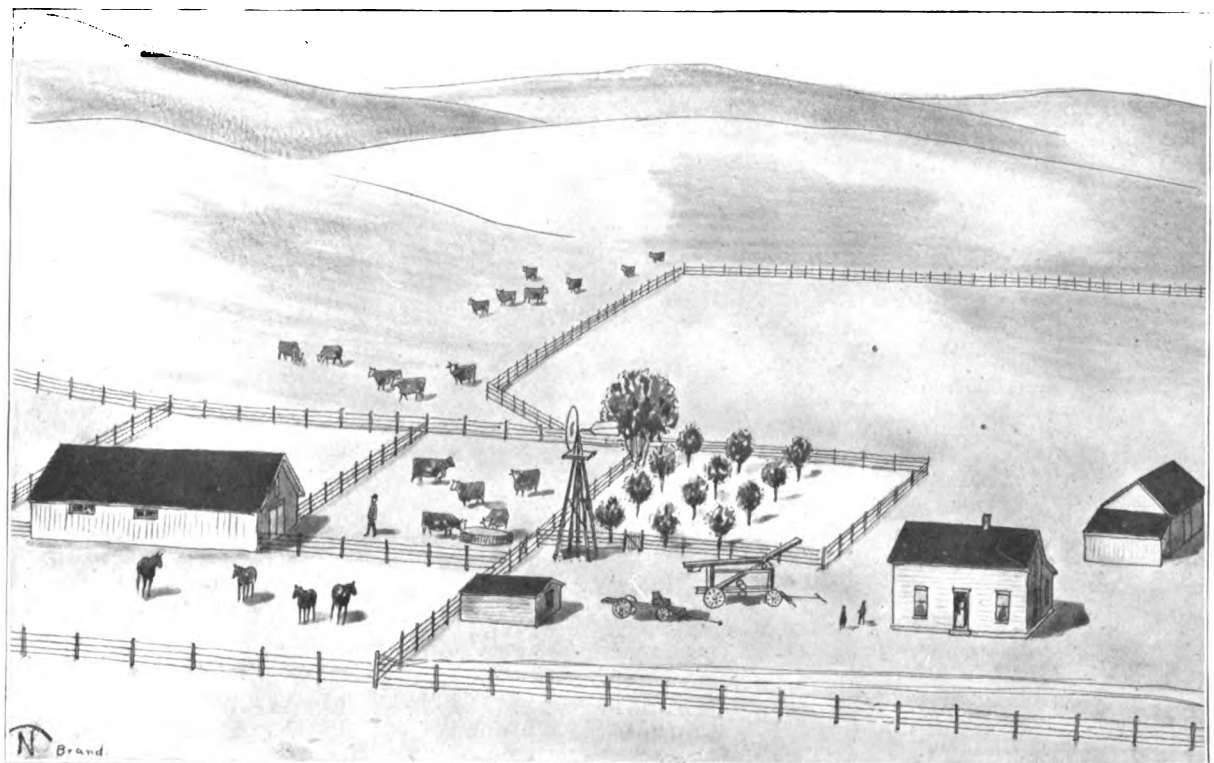
#### ROSWEL P. SCOTT.

Roswel P. Scott, one of the best known residents of Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, is owner of a ranch of seventeen hundred acres in Camp Clark precinct, and a man of influence and wealth. He has the distinction of having been the original resident of the town of Bridgeport, and the first business man of that place; he has always done his utmost to promote the welfare of the region where he chose to make his home many years ago. For some years he was engaged in the real estate and insurance business there





RESIDENCE OF HENRY VICK,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF PHILIP F. NELSON,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



and to his efforts are due much of the progress and development of the agricultural sections in western Nebraska, as he has been the means of bringing many settlers to these parts. As a young man Mr. Scott followed the profession of civil engineer, and has assisted in railroad building in a number of the western states. To him also is due the building of the Belmont and Brown Creek ditch through Morrill county, an enterprise that was instrumental in bringing him into this region which to his foreseeing eye was promising enough to induce his permanent residence.

Mr. Scott was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, December 15, 1863, where the first twenty-two years of his life were spent. Here he attended the common schools and at the college at Newton Falls learned surveying. Coming west he found employment for his talent in Colorado in 1885, and for five years traveled through all the western states, surveying in Colorado, Utah and Montana. He finally landed in Cheyenne county in 1890, to take charge of the irrigation survey and while here filed on a homestead in section 5, township 19, range 50, proving up on his claim, and has since added greatly to his ranch. He has erected elegant buildings, and put many improvements upon his ranch, which is known as one of the most valuable in the region, four hundred acres of which are irrigable. He has three hundred and twenty acres under cultivation, using a large part as pasture and hay land for a bunch of cattle and horses.

Mr. Scott was the fourth child in a family of eight born to his parents, Alexander and Harriet (McKinsey) Scott, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio respectively, and he has two sisters and four brothers now living. One brother, Elbert, came into Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county in 1895, becoming a member of the firm of Bearline & Scott, dealers in hardware and harness. In 1897 our subject married Miss Jessie E. Poole, who is a native of Henry county, Illinois, and to them have been born the following children: Mabel, Esther, Alexander, Florence and John. Mrs. Scott is a daughter of Sidney and Dora (Cassell) Poole, well known as early settlers in Cheyenne county.

Personally Mr. Scott is a most clever and interesting gentleman, one who has read much and spent considerable time in study and travel, and is actively interested in everything pertaining to the good of the people in his locality. He is prominent in Masonic circles, having entered that order when but twenty-

one years of age in Ohio; his membership was transferred to the lodge at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, in 1887. In politics he is Democratic.

### JOHN TRINDEL.

The subject of this brief biography is of old Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, better than which it is hard to find. His father, Alex Trindel, was one of the early pioneers of Indiana and settled in the timbered country thirty-four miles from the Ohio river. The maiden name of the mother of John Trindel was Margarett Caster, and she was a native of Beaver county, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Americans of Dutch descent.

John Trindel was born in Ripley county, Indiana, October 28, 1840, and was reared on the farm engaged in agricultural pursuits. The terrible war of the rebellion drew him to the front in the interests of his country and its flag. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-third Indiana Volunteers, Company H. Those years were memorable ones and he saw much service. He was with his regiment when the army started on the Atlanta campaign, thence back to Nashville where he participated in the battle of Nashville, next he was in the battle of Franklin and other minor engagements. Thence to Cincinnati and on to Washington, from whence he went to Morehead City, North Carolina, and then marched to Goldsborough, where his regiment joined Sherman's army. Mr. Trindel was present at the surrender of Generals Johnston and Hood. At the close of the war Mr. Trindel returned to his home in Indiana and followed farming for years until coming west in March, 1884.

John Trindel was married in January, 1884, to Miss Mary E. Carlisle, who was a native of Maryland, born in 1862. She was the daughter of John Wesley Carlisle, formerly a slave holder of the South, and Lucetta (Black) Carlisle, who died when Mrs. Trindel was eleven years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Trindel have seven children: Samantha, born February 1, 1885; Ella, born December 29, 1887; Benjamin, born December 22, 1888, died January 22, 1889; George, born November 12, 1889; Reuben, born August 1, 1894; Nancy, born February 5, 1892; and Della, born July 25, 1899.

In March, 1884, soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Trindel came west, locating in Custer county, Nebraska, on a pre-emption claim. After living there for one and a half

years they proved up on their claim. During this time Mr. Trindel labored hard to get along as he had nothing to start with, and a great deal of the time he worked out by the day. After proving up on his pre-emption claim he looked around for more land, and October 16, 1887, located on his present homestead five miles west of Taylor, on section 25, township 21, range 19. Here he had a team and something to do with, and he met with good success for several years up till 1890. Then the drouth years set in and several crop failures made times very hard. Nothing but the best of grit kept Mr. Trindel on the farm, but he hung to it and at last things got better. He has succeeded in building up a good home and farm and is favorably known as one of the leading old settlers.

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#### PHILLIP F. NELSON.

Phillip F. Nelson, among the well-known settlers in western Nebraska, lives on section 25, township 35, range 35, Cherry county, where he has built up a fine ranch and home, and is recognized as one of the prosperous and successful citizens of this region.

Mr. Nelson was born in Denmark March 12, 1865. His parents were farmers, and he was reared there until he was ten years of age, when the family, of whom he was the fourth child, came to America, settling in Clinton county, Iowa, living most of the time in the city of Clinton; later they went to South Dakota, where they were among the pioneers of that section of the country, residing in Douglas county for two years and for six years in Turner county. There they went through ox-team experience, and lived in a sod shanty for several years, and also occupied dugouts there during the early days. Mr. Nelson filed on a claim in Charles Mix county, where they had a hard time at first, and met with many discouragements in the loss of crops, hard winters, etc., but gradually built up a home and farm.

Our subject came to Cherry county in the spring of 1888, settling on his present homestead on June 16th of that year, comprising three hundred and sixty acres of deeded land and four hundred and eighty acres homestead under the Kincaid law. When he arrived here all he had left after filing on his claim was a dollar and a half in money. He built a sod shanty and went to work at once in breaking up his land and raising some crops. For a number of years he had a hard time to get along, but as the times grew better he began

to raise good crops and improved his place with good buildings, fences, wells and wind-mills, and now has a good ranch, containing in all eight hundred acres. He engages in stock raising almost exclusively, and has done exceedingly well in this line of work. About 1902 he began the business of drilling wells, in which he has become very successful, contracts coming to him from a wide circuit of country.

Mr. Nelson has taken an active part in local affairs since locating here, and has held office of assessor at different times and has served as justice of the peace ten or twelve years. He is thoroughly familiar with conditions throughout this part of the state, and has aided in the development of the resources of the region in a marked degree. He is a man of energetic habits, sterling character, and richly deserves the prosperity which has come to him. Politically he is a Republican. A view of the residence of Mr. Nelson will be found elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Nelson was married October 10, 1897, to Miss Fredericka Svarivar, a native of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have a family of three children, named as follows: Arthur, Oscar and Anna.

Thomas Nelson, a brother, closely associated with Phillip, was born in Denmark April 15, 1852, and came to America with the mother, Phillip and a sister, the father having preceded them the summer before. He has eight hundred acres of land in the sections west of Phillip's land, and is developing a valuable estate.

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#### JOHN BISHOP.

The subject of this review is well known throughout the locality in which he resides as an energetic and industrious business man and worthy citizen. He is an old settler in Nebraska, and has done his full share in the advancement of the commercial and agricultural interests of his community.

Mr. Bishop is a native of Lawrence county, Indiana, born at Bedford, June 17, 1829, where he was reared and educated. His father, Samuel D. Bishop, was a carpenter of American stock, born in Connecticut, and his mother was Miss HulDAH Daniel, also an American. There were seven children in his parents' family, of whom he was the fourth member, and at the age of fourteen years he left home and started out for himself. He served as a soldier in the Mexican war, participating in the battle of Buena Vista. After the close of the war he

came to Monroe county, Iowa, filing on a quarter section of land in 1849. After farming for fourteen years he next moved to Miles county, in western Iowa, and remained there for a number of years, shipping the first load of cattle from that point over the newly completed Northwestern line. In 1887 he came to Cherry county, Nebraska, taking up a homestead and living on it until he proved up, adding to his acreage from time to time until the ranch contained four hundred and eighty acres, all of which he recently sold. He built up his farm and had many interesting experiences during his long residence on the frontier. When he came west he drove through from Indiana to Iowa, a distance of five hundred miles; in a wagon, and camped out on the road at night. During the Mexican war he served in the Second Indiana Regiment for one year, and when returning from Mexico, rode all the way from that country to Iowa on horseback. This was in 1847, and the whole country was then a wild place at best. He also spent some years flat-boating on the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers in the early forties, making a number of trips to New Orleans and back.

In 1904, in partnership with a son-in-law, Jonathan F. Young, he engaged in the lumber business in Cody, and they have built up a large and flourishing trade. Their residence is one of the handsomest and best equipped in the village of Cody.

Mr. Bishop was married in Indiana in 1848, to Miss Mary J. Humston, a native of that state. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, of whom three are living named: Sarah L., now Mrs. Weed; Cassie B., wife of E. L. Kelley, and Laura B., now Mrs. J. F. Young.

In political sentiment Mr. Bishop is a Republican.

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SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW WITH MR.  
E. S. HILL, OF INDIANOLA,  
NEBRASKA.

Taken Tuesday, May 12, 1903.

I came from Tabor, Fremont county, Iowa, in company with G. A. Hunter, William Wygent, Mr. Wygent's son Day, L. B. Korns and Henry Madison. We left in the spring of 1872, and according to the best of my recollection, we arrived at the mouth of Red Willow creek on the last day of April, 1872. I think that is the date. We crossed the Missouri river at Nebraska City, and came

by way of Lincoln. Lincoln was a very small place at that time. We also came through Crete and York, both of which were new towns then. Then we came on up to old Fort Kearney, on the Platte, and so on up to the old Plum creek ranch. There we struck across the divide, and struck the Republican at the mouth of Turkey creek, where Arapahoe now is. We passed very few teams on the road.

There was a log cabin or two at Arapahoe. Captain Murphy, of Plattsmouth, and George and William Colvin were there. William Colvin had a small log shack with a few goods in it in the grocery line. From there we came on to Burton's Bend on Elk creek, where we found Ben Burton. He was occupying a log shanty, I think. He was following trapping and hunting. He came on with us a part of the way to where Cambridge now is. There was no visible wagon track we could follow after leaving Arapahoe. At Cambridge we found a fellow by the name of Mike Foley, who had a brush shanty on the east side of the creek. It was late in the afternoon when we arrived there. We had to build a bridge across the creek to get our wagons over. On the west side of the creek we met Mr. Foley coming down the Medicine with a saddle of elk on his horse. He met us very kindly, and told us of a good place to camp for the night and divided his meat with us.

From there we came on, following up the river without any wagon tracks to guide us at all. We saw plenty of game along the stream—elk and deer—but we didn't get any. Mr. Korns went out and tried to get an elk, but did not make it out. We followed the river up to Dry creek, just west of the village of Bartley. We did not see anyone until we arrived there the next morning. We camped at this place over night. We found over on the east bank a stake driven into the ground, with a shingle or a piece of cracker box nailed to it, marked "Billingsville." We looked over the ground, and were very well pleased with the land and the location, and we all thought that some day there would be a town there. We learned afterward that this stake had been driven by one of a party of government surveyors. The next morning we met John S. King coming down the river on his horse with his gun. He had been to the mouth of the Willow. He was the earliest settler in Redwillow county. He had a shanty near where the Pat McKillip ranch now is. He had a shack down in the timber near the river. He tried to induce us to go back with him, promised to show us the best land there was on the river, but we had started for Redwillow

creek, and didn't like to turn back. So he concluded to go on with us. He turned around and returned with us to Redwillow creek, where we arrived that same night. We crossed Coon creek near where the bridge now is, south of Indianola. We got stalled in the creek, and pulled through only after several hours of hard work. We went on to the mouth of the Willow and camped. Mr. King was with us all this time. The next morning when we woke up we saw a little smoke just up the creek from our camp, and concluded we had struck a camp of Indians. We sent out scouts to investigate, and they came back and reported that Charley Moran, a government scout and wagon master from Fort McPherson, was in camp there. They had come over from the fort to hold a pow-wow with Whistler, chief, I think, of the Sioux Indians, who had agreed to meet them at this point to have a talk. We camped there about three days with these men, and the next day we crossed the river—waded across—and Moran shot a very fine deer, which we brought to camp and divided among all hands.

From there we went up the river five or six miles to look at the country, and then came back to the Willow and resumed our old camp. We looked around for a while, and finally concluded to make settlement on claims. We were in the Lowell land district, but the office was not open until the 12th of August, following this.

I stayed here with a fellow by the name of Charles Sanders. We camped on the present town site of Indianola. We were really the only inhabitants of this county that summer. Mr. Hunter and Mr. Korn's returned in a short time to Fremont county, Iowa. I was waiting, before going home, to file on my claim at Lowell, Nebraska, which I did on the 12th day of August, 1872, and from there I went back to Iowa and returned in September with my wife and child. We had a very hard winter, and had a hard time to get along that winter. We went through a great many privations to hold the country. Before going back to Lowell I met D. N. Smith on the ground where Indianola now stands. He was B. & M. land agent in this country, locating land for the Lincoln Land Company, and being an old acquaintance of mine, wanted to know what I was here for. I told him I came out to have a good time, and liked the country so well I thought I would take a claim, and had concluded to wait until I could file on the land. He made arrangements with me to come back and talk matters over. He said he wanted to locate a point here that would be

as nearly centrally located in Redwillow county as possible, and in his conversation said that he had a good show here to get the county seat when the county was organized.

The next summer—the summer of 1873—Washington Hinman, Leslie Lawton and myself were appointed by Governor Furnas as commissioners to call an election for the purpose of locating the county seat. The election was held on the 23d day of May, 1873, in an old log house, near the mouth of the Willow. At that election I. J. Starbuck was elected county clerk, George A. Hunter sheriff, myself county judge, B. B. Duckworth treasurer, ——— Lyons county superintendent, and William Berger, William S. Fitch and B. F. Bradberry county commissioners. The first meeting of the county commissioners was held in a tent which I occupied on the town site of Indianola. After this election I went to North Platte to prove up on my homestead. I located on section 7, township 3, range 27 west, part of the town site of Indianola. The town site also included a part of section 18, located by Mr. Hunter.

The same fall the Lincoln Land Company built a frame building for a hotel. It stood where A. Lord's hardware store now is. They also built another frame building sixteen by twenty-four feet directly south of where Lord's building now stands, which the company loaned the use of to the county for a court house, until other arrangements could be made. They also built another building of the same size on the northeast corner of block 39, for a store building, which was rented to parties by the name of Allison & Woods, of Kearney, and occupied as the first store in Redwillow county.

The first term of court in this county was held in this court house by me. I think the first case was a case arising out of a dispute over a load of buffalo meat, or something of that sort. Another early case was one that arose over an assault and battery.

A fight took place in the fall of 1873 between the Sioux and the Pawnees, near where Trenton now is, in Hitchcock county. The Pawnees were defeated by the Sioux, and those who were able to get away came down the river and passed through Indianola in charge of a government agent from the Pawnee reservation. Later the government sent teams hired in the valley to pick up the plunder and bury the bodies of the dead Indians. I think about ninety of the Pawnees were killed. While they were passing through here I had quite a little scuffle with three Indians. I was sitting in the door of my place. I had



pulled one of my boots on, and had the other in my hand, when the Indians came up to me. I fought them with my boot until the government agent saw the fracas and came up and drove the Indians off, and told me what the trouble was.

During the summer of 1873 quite a number of other settlers came in and located on lands adjoining Indianola, and along the Willow. Our supplies came from Lowell, between sixty and seventy miles away. If we wanted a pound of sugar or a sack of flour, we had to go there for it. I went to Lowell quite a number of times in the winter, sleeping in my wagon. Our mail was brought up by parties coming up the valley from Arapahoe, and I don't know how much farther. The mail for Indianola would be left with me. Anyone going out or coming up would get the mail and bring it in. This applies to the fall of 1872 and the summer of 1873.

We had quite an Indian scare during the fall of 1873. The Indians threatened to attack, and we called a meeting of the citizens to devise ways and means for protecting ourselves, at the Willow. I was elected captain of the company. I was instructed to write to Governor Furnas for arms and ammunition for self defense. I received a letter from him in which he said that he regretted that he would be unable to furnish arms for us, as the state had no arms at its disposal. So we didn't get them. But a little later we did get fifteen, or maybe thirty stands of arms from some source. They were sent to the sheriff for distribution among the settlers. We felt reasonably safe with the arms, but never had any occasion to use them on the Indians. Mr. Stenner was killed on the Beaver in 1873.

In 1873 the Indians made a raid from Kansas across the Beaver into Nebraska, and on the way killed Anton Stenner. He was shot in his wagon, and his family—his wife and children—came over to Indianola, where they have resided ever since. Some of them live here yet. They killed everything they could find on the ranches, such as cattle, pigs, chickens, etc. They ripped open feather beds, and gave the feathers to the winds. They crossed the Republican at or near Culbertson.

There was a man who came over from the Beaver and said the Indians or a party of them were headed this way. We gave the alarm here to everybody as far as we could give them notice. That was Sunday morning the news came to us. We camped that day on the Indianola town site. We formed a barricade of the wagons, etc., and put every

team inside. We sent out scouts to look the matter up. Ike Starbuck was sick half a mile out of town, at James Hatton's. He was brought in on a bed and left at the hotel. James Doyle had a band of horses up near Culbertson which he brought down here. He had a mare in the band that had a colt, which he left at home. When we found out this was a false alarm with regard to the Indians, we wrote a note and tied it on this mare's neck and turned her loose, and she went back home, and that gave word to the settlers up there. This was on Monday. The next day we disbanded and dispersed. I was living one mile west of town on a pre-emption at that time, and when I heard that the Indians were coming I hitched up my team and came down here with my family and the neighbors.

Washington Hinman came here in the summer of 1872, crossing the Republican river at the mouth of the Willow on the fourth day of July with a portable steam saw-mill, which I helped put in place and operated during that first summer I was here. I helped to cut the first saw log that was ever cut in the county.

After the fight near Culbertson, one squaw got away from the Sioux and crawled out into the buffalo brush, and was brought down here by a hunter in his wagon, and left, as she was not able to go any farther. She had an arrow wound in her left breast, and one behind her left ear. Her papoose had been killed, so she said. We could make that out. She was left at the cabin of Mr. Korn on the west side of Coon creek. They tried to get her into the house, but she wouldn't go in. So he placed his wagon cover against the side of the cabin, and they put her into it on some straw and some blankets. The next morning we found her dead, and we took a mowing machine box and we wrapped her up in a blanket, put her in the box, and buried her on the west side of Coon creek, near where the present Indianola cemetery now is. This is the first grave we have any knowledge of in Redwillow county.

William Berger was killed by lightning in the summer of 1873, I think it was, and just one month later Thomas Thomas was killed in the same way. He went out to feed a buffalo calf after a shower, and as he set the bucket down the lightning killed him and the calf. I made twenty-five coffins here out of goods boxes and slabs—cottonwood slabs and pine boxes. I presume twenty-five or thirty pieces went into this coffin of Berger's. The river was up when Berger was killed, and we had to build a boat to get over. When Thomas was killed, we had to ford the river with our teams, and the water would run



into our wagon boxes. His funeral was held one Sunday.

The survey, when I came here, extended to between ranges 28 and 29. There was a government party here in the summer of 1872, going on west with the survey. We held our election here in the year 1873, and the result was that Indianola was selected as the county seat, that is, sections 7 and 18, and part of another section. Sixty-three votes were cast at that election, which was held on May 23, 1873.

### JUDGE EDGAR S. HILL.

Judge Edgar S. Hill, recently retired from all active business, is one of the best known residents of western Nebraska. He is one of the older settlers of this locality, coming to Nebraska in 1872 and settling on a pre-emption, and this land is the section on which the city of Indianola now stands.

Mr. Hill was born in Wakeman township, Huron county, Ohio. His father, Leveritt Hill, was born in Bridgewater, Connecticut, and his mother, who was Esther Strong, is a native of Woodbury, Connecticut. Her ancestor was Lieutenant John Strong, who came to America in the next vessel which left England after the Mayflower. The Strongs took a prominent part in the Revolutionary war, and among those who figured in the early history of the United States, and Mr. Hill is a near relative to the Shermans and the Beechers. In 1856 he was a teacher in the public schools at Hamburg, Iowa. He cast his first vote for Fremont, and this being the only Republican vote at that point the Democrats refused to accept it. After his father's death, the family moved to Tabor, Iowa. In those days this was the headquarters of John Brown, Jim Lane, and the Kansas anti-slavery forces, and in 1856 Mr. Hill enlisted in a company which was formed there to defend the anti-slavery party, with G. B. Gaston as captain, and Mortimer P. Clark first lieutenant and our subject second lieutenant, and the latter was identified with all of the activities of those days. At one time he helped hide Jim Lane, afterward United States senator from Kansas, under a load of hay in order to convey him to a place of safety; and he was intimately associated with John Brown, Jim Lane, C. W. Cook, and all of the men who were interested in affairs which eventually led up to the war between the north and south. His brother, Rev. Edwin S. Hill, was for thirty-nine years

pastor of the Congregational church at Atlantic, Iowa, and during the Civil war served as first lieutenant in Company A, Fourth Iowa Regiment, and took part in many battles. He is now located at Redlands, California. Of two other brothers, J. C. is living, and J. M. Hill is deceased.

In 1859 our subject crossed the state of Nebraska on the California trail, fording the Platte rivers, his destination being California. When Mr. Hill first came to Nebraska he arrived here in company with George A. Hunter, L. B. Korn and W. Weygint, all of whom came from Tama, Iowa. Mr. Hill took a homestead and commuted, later settling on his pre-emption Mr. Hill farmed on a small scale. This place was located one mile west of town of Indianola, and he also had taken a tree claim of eighty acres adjoining the pre-emption, and he worked both these places for twelve years, and then the Lincoln Land Company purchased eighty acres of his homestead and laid out the town site of Indianola. This was done in 1873, and the Burlington & Missouri railway was laid through here in 1880, and the county was organized, Indianola being made the county seat in 1873. Mr. Hill took an active part in all these affairs, and he has since been one of those who has helped make Redwillow county one of the most prosperous in western Nebraska. He was appointed commissioner by Gov. Furnas to organize the county. The first white settler in this county, so far as can be learned, was John S. King, now deceased. For many years our subject was county surveyor, and acted as treasurer of the first school board in Redwillow county. He served as county judge for two terms, being the first to hold that office in the county. He enlisted in the Fourth California Infantry, Company G, and served for three years in lower California, Arizona and New Mexico. All through those states the rebels were strong and tried to organize and carry the territories into the confederacy, but were kept in check by the presence of the Union troops.

Judge Hill has the distinction of having married the first couple in Redwillow county.

In 1867 Mr. Hill was married to Miss Delia Jones, of Dover, Windham county, Vermont, daughter of Solomon and Mary (Estherbrook) Jones, who came west and located in Tabor, Fremont county, Iowa, in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have three children, who are named as follows: George C., located at Cripple Creek, Colorado, president and general manager of the Frees & Hill Lumber Company; Lena E., of Denver, who for the past

seven years has been a trained nurse in St. Luke's Hospital. She was graduated with high honors at the head of her class, and since entering the profession has been very successful in her chosen work; and Frank, who died in infancy. Mr. Hill was one of the organizers of the Congregational church of Indianola, and has served as trustee and chairman of the board ever since. At the first county election held in Redwillow county, Nebraska, B. F. Bradbury was elected county commissioner. He died in 1905, and was buried here. The officers elected at that time were as follows: Probate judge, E. S. Hill; county clerk, Isaac Starbuck, now of Salt Lake; county treasurer, B. B. Duckworth; sheriff, G. A. Hunter, now of Los Angeles, California; surveyor, Page T. Francis, now of Crawford county, Nebraska; county coroner, J. D. Hill; constables, W. Reddick and William Wilson.

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#### JOHN FITZGERALD.

Among the prosperous and successful farmers of western Nebraska, the gentleman above named occupies a leading place. He came to Box Butte county during the earliest years of its settlement and has remained to see the wild prairie region changed into a thriving agricultural and commercial center, and has the pleasure of knowing that a goodly part of this success has been due to his own efforts and good management.

Mr. Fitzgerald was born in county Limerick, Ireland, June 29, 1857. His father, Pat Fitzgerald, had visited this country as early as 1840, then returned to his native land. Our subject grew up there, and as a young man followed the occupation of farming. In 1880 he came to America, and for four years after landing here worked at railroading, and then two years were spent in farming in Cass county, Nebraska. During his work on the railroad he travelled over a large portion of the country, going as far south as New Orleans, north to Deadwood, South Dakota, and in other parts of the United States. While the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road was being put through Alliance Mr. Fitzgerald was with that company, and later did considerable railroading through this county and also to the north, working for a while in a store in Deadwood.

Mr. Fitzgerald came to his present location in 1888, filing on the land as a homestead. This is situated in section 35, township 24, range 48, and he at once went to work to build

up a good home, proving up on the farm in 1894. After coming here his first team was a pair of mules which he used to break up his land and he still owns one of them, now twenty-six years old, which has done a great deal toward making his place the highly cultivated tract it now is. During the first years he worked out a great deal in the vicinity of his home, freighting through the country, as he had very little money to start with, being just nineteen dollars in debt after getting his farm under way. He experienced all the hardships and suffered the usual privations met with by the pioneers of those times, but gradually became better able to improve his farm, adding to his acreage as he prospered, so that he is now proprietor of a ranch of six hundred acres, located five and a half miles south from Alliance. This place is fitted with good sod buildings and every convenience in the way of modern machinery, etc., and he is now perfecting plans to build a fine grout dwelling. He is engaged principally in stock raising, running at present about fifty head of cattle and ten horses.

Mr. Fitzgerald was married in the fall of 1888, to Mary Hutchinson, who was born and raised in Ireland, where her father followed the occupation of farmer and fisherman all his life. Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald are the parents of six children, namely: Martin, John, Mary, Ellen, Maggie and Katie.

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#### GEORGE D. ASHWORTH.

Among the early settlers in this part of the country who has aided materially in the upbuilding of the community in which he chose his home, the gentleman above mentioned holds a prominent place. Mr. Ashworth has resided in this county since 1885, and has always been one of the leading citizens in the developing of the commercial and agricultural interests of this region. Mr. Ashworth is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born December 7, 1839. His father, James Ashworth, was a plasterer by trade, and an early settler in Wheeling, West Virginia, coming from Lancashire, England, in 1850. His mother, Annie C. Stroup, was of Dutch parentage, born in Germantown, Pennsylvania. There was a family of six children, and our subject was the second member. He was reared in West Virginia and at the age of twenty-one years enlisted in Company K, Second West Virginia Infantry, and was among the first volunteers to offer their services to their country. He was under the

command of General McClellan, and with the Army of the Potomac from 1862, participating in the battle of Antietam and many other severe engagements. He remained in the army until the close of the war, receiving his discharge May 28, 1866, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He then returned to West Virginia, where he farmed for a year, then came back to Kansas, engaging in farming and cattle raising until 1875. During the latter year he went to Colorado on a hunting trip, in search of buffalo which roamed the plains in that region. In the spring of the following year he visited the Centennial at Philadelphia, remaining at that place for six months visiting a sister. From there he went to Belmont county, Ohio, and lived there until 1885, when coming to Nebraska, he settled in Brown county on the 20th of March. He at first first rented land near Long Pine, living in a log cabin for a few years; part of the time he secured work in a flouring mill in Long Pine to make a living, having practically no capital to start with when coming here. In 1887 he settled on a homestead in section 19, township 29, range 20, and here put up farm buildings, and improvements, remaining until he proved up on the claim. He now owns a farm of one hundred and sixty-two acres, with three hundred and thirty acres of Kincaid homestead adjoining, and is engaged in hay and stock raising, meeting with great success in both enterprises.

Mr. Ashworth has gone through many hard experiences since first settling in this section. He has had many misfortunes and financial losses, but by dint of his energy and perseverance has conquered conditions, and is now in a position to enjoy the fruits of his hard labor and take comfort in his old age with his competence which is a result of much hard work and honest thrift.

Mr. Ashworth was married December 9, 1877, at Martinsville, Ohio, to Miss Mary L. Giles, daughter of Jonathan and Louisa Giles, of Yankee-English stock. Two children were born of their marriage, namely: Clyde and Anna Lilice. Mr. Ashworth has always been active in local affairs, and has held numerous offices in his community. He is Republican in his political views and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Ainsworth.

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#### WILLIAM A. HOPPING.

William A. Hopping, one of the old settlers of Perkins county, now residing on section 3, township 9, range 35, is one of the energetic,

intelligent and worthy citizens of that region, and as such has gained a host of friends. He is proprietor of a fine farm, has devoted his entire career to agriculture, and is thoroughly versed in his calling.

Mr. Hopping was born in Jasper county, Iowa, April 12, 1861. His parents were of American stock, the father a farmer by occupation, and our subject grew up on a farm, receiving a common school education and during boyhood learning to do all kinds of hard farm work. When he was a small boy his father died, William remaining with his mother in Iowa until he was twenty-five years of age, then came west to Nebraska, locating in Perkins county in 1886, homesteading on section 9, township 9, range 35. When he first landed in this country he drove from North Platte by team, coming by train to that point and having with him his family and all their goods including horses, cattle, machinery, furniture, etc. He built a shanty and went through all the pioneer experiences in getting his farm started, witnessing drouths and suffering crop losses, but never became discouraged even if it was hard work to get along and make a living. He stuck to his claim, proved up on it and managed to add improvements little by little.

Two brothers of Mr. Hopping came to the region about the same time he did, and went through the same hardships in establishing their homes, and both of them, Sidney and Timothy, are now well-to-do farmers. The mother, one sister and another brother now own an extensive ranch adjoining our subject's place, and all are well-known and highly esteemed as progressive citizens.

Mr. Hopping's ranch is well fenced and cross-fenced, and he has a complete set of good buildings on it. He is engaged in stock raising to quite an extent, but cultivates considerable land, raising grains, hay, etc. He makes a specialty of horse raising, keeping the draft horse exclusively, and he has some of the finest animals on the market. Every horse on his place is raised as a pet and can be safely handled by anyone.

Mr. Hopping has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, and has served as county commissioner for one year, his brother Sidney also holding this office for one term.

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#### JOHN W. TROXEL.

John W. Troxel was born on a farm in Saunders county, Nebraska, in 1876. His father, John Troxel, was a farmer and pioneer





settler of Saunders and Loup counties, Nebraska. His mother's maiden name was Mary Groves, and she now lives in Taylor, Nebraska, the deceased father's biography appearing elsewhere in this volume.

The family came to Loup county in 1879 and engaged in farming, the subject of our sketch remaining at home working on his father's farm until 1894. John W. Troxel was a hard working young man and very materially assisted in making the old home farm a success.

In the summer of 1894 he carried the mail from Burwell to Almeria for four months, and then went to Wyoming, where for part of two years he was engaged at different jobs. In 1898 he went into Custer county, working out for others at farm work and also did some farm work for himself.

In 1902 John W. Troxel and Miss Hattie Gunnarson were united in marriage and one child has come to bless this union, Francis. Mrs. Troxel was a native of Sweden, her father being Oscar Gunnarson.

Mr. Troxel purchased the farm where he now lives in the fall of 1907, and he now owns three hundred and twenty acres in section 23, township 24, range 25, and section 25, township 21, range 19. This ranch is in a desirable condition with good buildings, orchards, groves and gardens, making a good home, with eighty acres of plowed land now, but this amount will be steadily increased. Mr. Troxel is one of the leading men of the community and he stands well among his neighbors and friends. He is industrious and thrifty and is on the road to wealth and prosperity.

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#### D. F. FICKES.

D. F. Fickes, one of the well-known citizens of Deuel county, is a prosperous and well-to-do farmer of Loss Creek precinct, Deuel county. His residence is on section 25, township 17, range 44, and he is the owner of half a section of valuable land, adjoining the village of Oshkosh. He is a gentleman of integrity and good judgment and well merits the success and enviable reputation which he enjoys.

Mr. Fickes was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, January 11, 1858. There were nine children in his father's family, of whom he was the youngest. He grew up there and his brothers and sisters still make that locality their home, although both parents are now dead. In 1878 he left home and started for himself, going into Ohio where he remained

for a time, then returned to Pennsylvania and followed farming there for several years. In 1888 he drifted to Tennessee and spent about four years there, coming to Deuel county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1892. Here he took a homestead on section 25, township 17, range 44, and still occupies the place, which he has built up into a fine farm. The home place contains three hundred and twenty acres, and he also has a quarter section of upland, cultivating about one hundred and fifty acres and using the balance for hay and pasture. Mr. Fickes has erected good buildings of all kinds, and has every convenience for the proper handling of his farming interests.

In 1884 Mr. Fickes was married to Miss Irene Fought, the event occurring in Sandusky county, Ohio, she being born and reared in that state. Both Mrs. Fickes' parents are deceased. Two children were born to our subject: Howard, now twenty, and Orvin, seventeen years old.

Mr. Fickes is prominent in all local affairs and is interested in all things pertaining to county and state matters. During the fall of 1908 he was elected county commissioner, and will hold that office for three years. In politics he is a Republican and is one of the leaders of his party in the county.

When Mr. Fickes first settled in this county he had poor crops; the years 1894-'95 were almost total failures, making it difficult to get along. Since 1896 crops have been very favorable and Mr. Fickes is prospering. He now has a very fine orchard on his farm.

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#### DAVID A. LAWLER.

Another old settler who has done his full share in the upbuilding and development of his section is the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. Mr. Lawler resides on his well-improved estate in section 4, township 12, range 35, Keith county, and is a highly esteemed citizen and worthy neighbor and friend.

David A. Lawler was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, November 26, 1856. He is a son of Joseph Lawler, a farmer of that section who was born in county Clare, Ireland, and emigrated to America in 1849; and his mother was Ellen (Halborn), born in Brooklyn, New York, also of Irish parentage. They were married in DeKalb county, Illinois. Our subject was raised in his native state, attending the country schools, and was taught early in life to do all kinds of farm work. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-five

years of age, then came to Keith county in 1884, locating on his present farm in the spring of that year, building a frame shack as a dwelling, which he occupied for many years and now uses for a barn. His first team was a yoke of oxen, and he went through all the pioneer experiences, witnessing the drouths and grasshopper raids. For a number of years he did contracting and building through the country, then went into stock raising, all of the time holding to his farm and adding improvements as he was able. Often he had a hard time to get along, on account of losing crops and meeting with failures in different enterprises, but he finally was able to get ahead and lay by a little, adding to his original tract, so that he now has a ranch containing four sections, including a section of school land, with nine hundred acres cultivated, on which he has raised as high as fourteen thousand bushels of corn and ten thousand bushels of small grain in a season. He has a complete set of good farm buildings and improvements, a large, commodious barn with many other outbuildings, and keeps quite a herd of stock, some two hundred cattle and thirty-five head of horses. He also has a good orchard started, and some small fruit. We are pleased to present a view of the home and its pleasant surroundings on another page of our work.

Mr. Lawler was married April 28, 1884, to Miss Anna Wenner, born near Mankato, Minnesota, a daughter of Peter and Gertrude (Tieman) Wenner, both of whom died in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Lawler have a family of eight children, namely: Marion, Lester, Elma, Fern, Robert, Isabel, Lewis and Harvey, all bright and interesting young people, and they have a pleasant home and a host of friends in the community. Our subject has held school office for years past, and has helped establish and maintain the schools in his locality. In 1888 he was elected county commissioner on the Democratic ticket, and takes an active part in local politics. He, with his family, is a member of the Catholic church and affiliates with the Modern Woodmen and the American Order of Protection.

#### JULES E. TISSOT.

Jules E. Tissot was born in Renan, Berne, Switzerland, in 1864. He was raised there, remaining with his parents until the death of his father, in 1875, and came to America in 1883, landing in New York March 1st, of that year. He was joined here by his mother, in 1885, who now lives with her son. He is the

youngest of four sons, three coming to this country and settling here. When he arrived in this country he had a small amount of money, and he went directly to Wisconsin where he stayed for a time, then went back to Ohio and spent one year. In the spring of 1884 he started for the west, and stopped in Knox county, Nebraska, for a short time, then came on to Sheridan county. Here he filed on a pre-emption, located in section 9, township 29, range 45, and proved up on it as a homestead. He also took up a tree claim, and later sold his relinquishment and his homestead and moved to the sand hills in 1890, locating near what is now Luella Postoffice, where he engaged in the ranching business.

Mr. Tissot lived on this place for several years, and was there during the Indian scare, but remained there through the dangerous time, and never had any serious trouble with the redskins. When he landed in this region the road ended at Valentine, and he filed on a pre-emption and started to work for the Hunter & Evans outfit, remaining with that firm during the winter of 1884-'85, and continued working out on different ranches up to 1887. During the latter year he was married to Miss Jennie VanCamp, born in Wisconsin in 1870. They had two children, namely: Arthur E. and Mabel J., and in 1895 the mother died. Two years later Mr. Tissot was married to Miss Cecile Franc, a native of Switzerland, born in 1864, who came to America in 1897. Her father, Louis Henry Franc, was engaged in the hotel and butcher business in that country, and neither parent ever left their native land. Three children resulted from this marriage, named as follows: Jules H., Cecile and Ernest Eugene, all of whom were born and raised in this locality.

Mr. Tissot settled on his homestead in 1887, putting up his first buildings of sod. During the first years he farmed, but during the dry years he quit trying to farm any, and went into the stock raising business, which helped him out to considerable extent. He had a hard time to keep in feed, being obliged to haul hay for twenty-one miles with which to keep his stock. In the spring of 1905 he sold thirteen hundred and sixty acres of deeded land and three hundred and fifty-seven head of cattle and nineteen horses, besides all farming tools, and moved to California, where he invested in a fruit ranch. He paid ten thousand dollars for this ranch, and in less than a year sold it for fifteen thousand five hundred dollars, which was pretty good interest on his money. He went out there principally for his health, but did not entirely recover it, and in



1906 returned to Sheridan county. He has not as yet purchased any land here, but intends to invest in this county. He may buy back his old place, as he has it in fine shape, supplied with an irrigation plant. He was secretary of the Mirage Irrigation Company in his locality during all the time he lived in that locality.

Mr. Tissot has done exceedingly well since coming to Nebraska, and has accumulated a large estate here, and will undoubtedly make this his future home, as he states he would never go east to live. He was postmaster at Mirage for nine years, and has held local office at different times, but never taken any active part in politics, although he is a straight Republican. He cast his first vote for a Republican candidate and has voted that way ever since.

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#### GUST ERICKSON.

Gust Erickson, a prosperous and successful farmer and ranchman of Trognitz precinct, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and highly respected for his many good qualities, was born in Sweden on April 22, 1856, and raised and educated there, following farming in that country during his young manhood. Mr. Erickson's parents lived and died in their native country. When our subject was about twenty-five years of age he came to America by way of Goettenberg, Hull and Liverpool, landing in Quebec in June of 1881. He went directly west, locating in Roseville, Warren county, Illinois, where he remained for about seven years, working about two years on the railroad section and for five and a half years followed tiling near that place, then went further west, settling in Kansas, but did not like the country very well and only spent a year there, then came to Cheyenne county, arriving here in the spring of 1889, pre-empting a quarter section of land.

When Mr. Erickson first arrived in this section, there were but few white settlers in the vicinity where he took up a homestead, which was in section 6, township 16, range 52, and there was but little being done in the way of improving the country. He at once went to work to build up a home and develop a farm, proving up on his homestead and gradually adding substantial buildings and improvements. He now has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, part of this being a Kincaid claim which he took in 1903. He has about seventy acres cultivated, and the balance in hay land and pasture. He keeps forty

head of cattle and a small bunch of horses, and is on the high road to wealth, devoting all his time and attention to his farm, and as one of the old settlers he can contemplate the growth of the county, the history of which he knows by personal experience from a very early day.

Mr. Erickson was married in Warren county, Illinois, in 1884, to Mary Carlson, who died in Cheyenne county in July, 1894. Mrs. Erickson was a native of Sweden. She left a family of three children, namely: Edith, Mabel and Edwin.

Since coming to western Nebraska Mr. Erickson has done his full share toward the development of the commercial and farming interests of his locality, taking an active part in local matters generally. He is Republican in politics and a member of the Free Mission church.

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#### JOHN POTMESIL, JR.

John Potmesil, Jr., who is today one of the worthy representatives of the best agricultural interests of Dawes county, Nebraska, has done much toward building up the locality in which he resides.

Mr. Potmesil was born in Bohemia in 1871 on a farm, and is a son of John Potmesil, Sr., also born and raised in that country, who served in the army in Italy in 1865, during the Austria-Italian war. He married Rose Sixta, also born and raised in Bohemia, where they married and where they had five children, of whom our subject was the second member, named as follows: Anna, James, Rose, Silvine, Frank and then later, Alice, who was born in Box Butte county, Nebraska. The family came to America in 1882, landing in New York city, and immediately struck out for the west, locating in Saunders county, Nebraska, where they made their home for three years, farming in that vicinity. In May of the latter year they came to the western part of the state, driving through with a team and covered wagon, camping out at night, and when they landed here they had just one sack of flour and fifty cents in money to start with. Our subject and a sister had stopped at Valentine, where they worked out by the week for some time.

The father selected a tract of land located near the Niobrara river, where his first building was a sod shanty, and he went to work picking up bones and hauling them for thirty miles where he sold them to make a living for his family. On two different occasions he was caught in severe snow storms and suf-

ferred terribly from exposure, and one time shortly after settling here he made a trip of one hundred and fifty miles from their homestead to Valentine to get a sack of flour which he had left there on their way through from the east. This trip consumed quite a number of days to accomplish, as the roads were rough and unbroken, and he camped out at night under his wagon. While he was away the family were left without any protection and in danger of wild beasts which roamed the region, also from the Indians, and they had barely enough to eat to last them until he returned; but this is only one of the many instances where they suffered by the hard experiences of those early days. Our subject and his father bought ox teams after locating here, with which they broke up their land and put in crops, and they bought their first cow in the fall of 1885, purchasing her from the proceeds derived from their bone picking. They had just got nicely started when the drouths came and then they lost considerable money through failures of crops, and as they could not do much in the way of farming, decided to go into the cattle business, and this was a lucky venture for them, as they have built up a good home through their success in this line of work.

John and his brother, James, each took up a homestead in section 30, township 29, range 47, and together they now own a ranch of five thousand acres lying along the Niobrara river, three hundred acres of which is irrigated, all of it fenced and improved. They have good barns and sheds, a fine system of water works, stock yards, etc., and farm two hundred acres, keeping about five hundred head of cattle and one hundred horses. Mr. Potmesil is a Republican and a strong party man.

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#### H. E. HART.

Among the younger members of the farming community of \_\_\_\_\_ township, none stands on a higher plane as a prosperous and energetic citizen than H. E. Hart. He is the proprietor of a fine farm and pleasant home, and numbered among the leading men in Keya Paha county, who is doing all in his power to build up and develop its agricultural and commercial resources.

Mr. Hart was born in Green county, Wisconsin, in 1876. When he was seven years of age his parents moved to Arkansas, where they remained for a year and a half, then came to Ord, Nebraska. His father, Philip

Hart, was a farmer all his life, of German descent, and both he and his wife, who was Miss Elizabeth Verlie, were born in Wisconsin. They had three children, our subject being the eldest. At the age of eighteen years he started out for himself, following farm work in Nebraska, and has stuck to that business ever since. He bought his present homestead located on section 31, township 35, range 17, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, and this he has well improved with good buildings, fences, etc. He farms about two hundred acres, and runs quite a number of cattle, leaning mostly towards the hog business, and keeps two hundred of these animals all the time. He only has horses enough for farm use, and finds that raising hogs for market is very profitable.

Mr. Hart was married in 1895 to Miss Esther L. Wallace, born in Merrick county, Nebraska, in 1879. Her people were of English descent, born in America, who settled in this state about 1877, and still live three-quarters of a mile from the place on which they settled when first landing here. Mr. and Mrs. Hart have one child, Florence E.

Mr. Hart is a Democrat, and although he takes an interest in local affairs, is not in any sense of the word a public man, preferring to devote his time to the development and improvement of his farm and home.

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#### JOHN C. STEWARD.

Mr. Steward was born in Henry county, Illinois, September 4, 1859, being the eldest of eight children. He lived in Illinois until 1884 and came to Dawson county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1885. In the fall of 1885 he came to Deuel county (then Cheyenne county), and took up a homestead on southwest quarter, section 34, township 15, range 43, on which he put up a house and moved into same on March 28, 1886. In 1905 he sold the farm, and now resides on northwest quarter, section 12, township 12, range 42, Deuel county, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land. He is a farmer and stockraiser and formerly had large cattle interests. Mr. Steward has passed through the different times in Nebraska and is now one of the successful men in Deuel county.

Mr. Steward was married in Bureau county, Illinois, December 17, 1882, to Sarah Estabrook, a native of Illinois. They have nine children, named as follows: Alice M., Blanch V., married to Loren D. Root and living in Keith county, Nebraska; Archie C., Gertrude

Irene, Pearl V., Clarence L., Ruby M., Ruth and Marvin D.

At the time Mr. Steward settled in Deuel county, the country was new and thinly settled. The hardships the settlers were compelled to endure, were severe, and Mr. Steward has had his full share. In those days, the settlers were satisfied if they could secure the necessities of life and the luxuries were unknown. When Mr. Steward settled in Deuel county, he lived in a house partly built of sod; even this was a step forward, for many houses were constructed entirely of sod. He at first had a pair of ponies to use in his work and later, a yoke of oxen. Good water was hard to secure, inasmuch as the settlers were not equipped with the necessary tools with which to dig wells. Water was hauled by Mr. Steward a distance of seven miles, and when he dug his first well, it was necessary to go down two hundred and thirty-six feet; his second well was two hundred and fifty feet deep. To add to the troubles of the pioneers, crops were uncertain; so little of the country was settled and the soil broken, that drouths were frequent, and many crops were almost or totally destroyed. At the time Mr. Steward lost his crops by drouth, he was compelled to work out and went to Colorado, where he secured employment. Later he returned to Deuel county and by hard labor and perseverance, has now a well improved place, equipped with all that is necessary to carry on successful operations. He has good buildings and improvements and today is blessed with a goodly share of this world's goods.

Marvin Steward, the father of our subject, was an old settler in Deuel county. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and the hardships he endured while in the service of his country injured his health so seriously that he never fully recovered, and in an effort to obtain relief he went to Chicago, where he submitted to a surgical operation, which caused his death.

The mother of Mrs. John C. Steward, Mary (Farrell) Estabrook, was a pioneer in Deuel county, where she homesteaded a claim and later proved up on it. She died in 1904, after an active and useful life.

Politically, Mr. Steward is a Republican, taking an active part in affairs of public interest. He has served as assessor, road overseer and is at present constable of Big Springs precinct. He takes an active part in educational matters and helped to organize the first schools in the county. The first schoolhouse was constructed of sod and this building was also used as a church and Sunday-school.

## HENRY R. GRAGG.

Henry R. Gragg, one among the many who came to western Nebraska in 1894, and from a start of practically nothing have carved out for themselves a good home and comfortable competence by dint of perseverance and thrift, is proprietor of a fine estate in section 27, township 21, range 35, Hooker county.

Mr. Gragg is a native of Oakland county, Michigan, born on a farm there in 1877. James T. Gragg, his father, was a farmer by occupation, and is well known in Nebraska, having gone through pioneer experiences in Redwillow and McPherson counties, coming there in 1881 with his family. Our subject grew up in his home locality, assisting his father in the farm work until he reached the age of fifteen years, then started to work for himself, going to Hooker county and securing employment as a cowboy, later traveling all over that part of the state following ranch work. In 1901 he settled on the ranch he at present occupies, beginning with absolutely nothing excepting a team of horses. He took up the land as a homestead, and proved up on it in the fall of 1907. Besides this ranch he also lives on a Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres, and has the property well improved. He has about seventy acres under cultivation, and intends breaking up seventy-five acres more as soon as possible.

Mr. Gragg was married in 1900, to Miss Gertrude Bassett, whose father, Thomas M. Bassett, was a pioneer in McPherson county, Nebraska, and a successful farmer and ranchman of that locality. When he first struck that region he was a poor man, and in order to make a living for his family, began to pick up bones from the prairie and sold them for nine and ten dollars per ton. Mrs. Gragg's mother was Viola Hayward, of Iowa. To Mr. Gragg and his good wife have been born the following children: Robert, aged seven; George, eight, and Hazel, two years.

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## I. S. WALKER.

I. S. Walker, another of the well and favorably known old settlers who has passed through all the early Nebraska experiences, the good with the bad, is now nicely situated in Kimball, Nebraska, and is classed among the leading and worthy citizens of his locality. Mr. Walker has lived in Kimball county for the past twenty-two years, and holds the esteem of all who know him.

Mr. Walker was born in Saratoga county, New York, on January 25, 1861, living there until he was four years old, when the family, consisting of himself, father, mother, one full brother and three half-brothers, moved to Champaign county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. While living in Illinois, the mother was taken away from her little family, her death occurring November 14, 1871. When our subject was twenty-four years of age he and his father came to Nebraska. He settled on a homestead on section 34, township 16, range 53, in Kimball county, proved up on the place, then sold out. His father also homesteaded, proved up and sold out, and the latter made Kimball county his home up to 1895, afterwards going to Colorado, dying at Julesburg, that state, on January 19, 1898.

Mr. Walker purchased a ranch on section 31, township 15, range 56, situated six miles west of the town of Kimball, in December, 1896. He had moved to Kimball in 1892, where he secured a position as a clerk in a store and filled the position very acceptably for one year.

He next went into the Bank of Kimball as a bookkeeper, and remained with the institution for four years in that capacity, then returned to his ranch, which comprises one whole section of land. Three years were spent on the farm, which is devoted to hay and stock raising, being admirably situated on Lodgepole creek, and he has added many improvements of all kinds on the ranch. In 1901 Mr. Walker again moved into the village, purchasing the Kimball Hotel, and still owns this property. In the spring of 1904 he engaged in the real estate business in partnership with C. A. Forsling, under the firm name of Forsling & Walker, which is the pioneer real estate establishment of Kimball county. The Kimball fraternal hall was built in 1904, Mr. Walker being secretary and manager of same, and he is also a prominent member of the Industrial Club of Kimball, acting as its secretary. He has always been in the front rank of any movement for the advancement of his town and county, and can justly be termed one of its leading public-spirited citizens.

On April 6, 1887, Mr. Walker was married in Kimball, to Miss Hattie E. Ainsworth. Mrs. Walker was born in Illinois and grew up there, coming to Nebraska with her parents, who were pioneers in Kimball county, in 1886. Her father is now dead, while her mother resides in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have two children, Ethel Ethelyn and Ruth E., both at home.

Politically, Mr. Walker is a Republican.

## JOEL WICKARD.

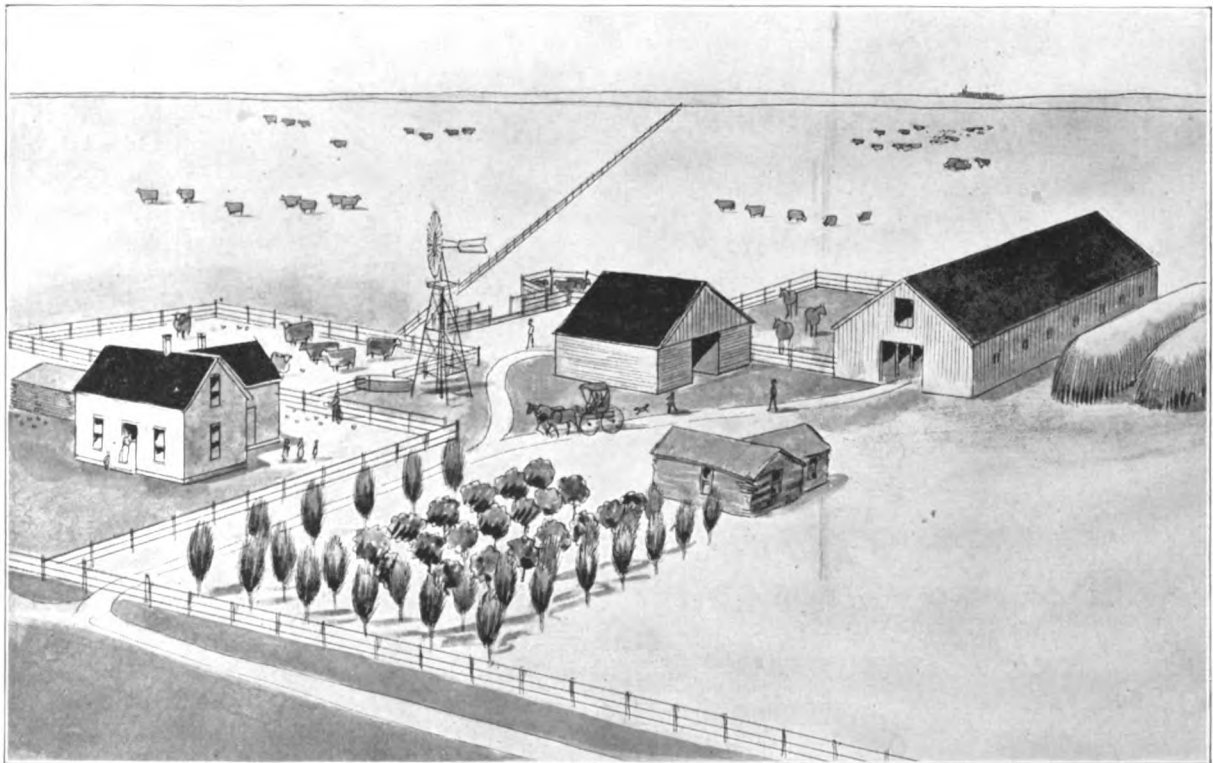
Joel Wickard, one of the most prominent early settlers of Cheyenne county, is proprietor of an extensive farm and ranch in Union Valley precinct, a man of excellent qualifications, and in whatever enterprises he has embarked, has met with great success. He has been an important factor in the development of the financial resources of the region which he has made his home for the past twenty years, and is widely and favorably known throughout Cheyenne and the adjoining counties.

Mr. Wickard, a son of John T. and Mary (Bigelow) Wickard, was born in Hancock county, Indiana, October 27, 1865, there growing to the age of fourteen years, then the family moved to Lawrence county, Tennessee, where they lived for about seven years. Several years were spent by our subject in different states, and he finally came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county. He took up a homestead in 1888, filing on a claim on section 24, township 16, range 49. He went to work to build up a good home, proved up on the land, then sold out his holdings. He next went to Weld county, Colorado, and farmed there for six years, returning to his county in 1893, at which time he purchased the north half of section 4, township 16, range 48, and still occupies this as a homestead. The farm contains three hundred and twenty acres, all improved in good shape, having fine buildings, etc. There is one hundred acres under cultivation, and he runs about sixty head of stock, and is classed among the prosperous and up-to-date agriculturists in his locality. He is a skillful mechanic, using all kinds of tools, and is extensively employed to make the branding irons used in this vicinity.

Mr. Wickard was united in marriage September 6, 1886, in Kentucky, to Miss Edna Johnson, who is a native of Kansas and a daughter of Benjamin and Phoebe (Howe) Johnson; her mother resides in Oregon at the present time, but both parents of our subject are deceased. Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wickard, named as follows: Bertha, married to William H. Ferichs, owner of a farm in Cheyenne county; Minnie, wife of Albert Ferichs, also living in this county; Walter, Effie, Marian, Ernest, Lillian, Bessie, Jennie, Luther and Leola, all at home. The wife died July 16, 1908. The family have a very pleasant home, a new six-room residence having been built in 1907. They are highly esteemed as worthy citizens and agreeable neighbors by all who know them. Mr.



RESIDENCE OF J. W. SEWELL,  
Garfield County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF JOEL WICKARD,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



Wickard is a man of broad ideas and has always staunchly supported the principles of good government regardless of party bias or political excitement, although he is a loyal Republican. At the present time he is serving his school district as director. He is a member of Dalton Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. A view of the ranch buildings is to be found elsewhere in this work.

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### JOSH. W. SEWELL.

Josh. W. Sewell, who owns a valuable property in section 17, township 22, range 15, Garfield county, is a well known pioneer of western Nebraska. He settled here when the state was in its earliest stages of development, and has watched its growth from a barren prairie to the highly cultivated region it has now become. Incidentally he has aided materially in its progress by helping to establish schools and giving liberally of his time and financial aid in every movement which tended to the bettering of conditions in his section of the country. Mr. Sewell farms along progressive lines, is a thorough stockman and agriculturist, and one of the wealthiest men in his county.

Josh. Sewell was born in Clinton county, Iowa, in 1856. He was raised on a farm and grew up in his native state, learning to do all sorts of hard farm work. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1883, landing here in January of that year, homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres and took a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres more, making three hundred and twenty acres of table land located nine miles northeast of Burwell. He bought and sold grain during the early years here, also raised both on his ranch. During the year 1894 he experienced the hardest times he ever saw anywhere, and at that time many families who had settled here became discouraged and gave up trying to make a living, finally being forced to abandon their farms, but our subject stuck to his place, determined to "win out." He struggled on through that dry spring, and later the hot winds swept the section and destroyed crops, and he often became disheartened, seeing his corn crop, which looked so promising early in the season, literally burned out. July 26, 1894, he thinks was the hottest day ever known in this country. However, through all his failures and discouragements he came out with a strong heart and determined will, and when times grew better was able to improve his place and lay by a little money. His best year

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was in 1902, when he raised banner crops of corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye. That year he also fed several carloads of hogs for the market which netted him a tidy sum. Mr. Sewell claims that considering labor, etc., it costs less to produce the same crops in Nebraska than it does in the eastern states. His ranch is improved with a complete set of good farm buildings and every improvement in the way of farming machinery to facilitate his operations, also owning his own threshing rig.

Mr. Sewell has an excellent supply of water on his place, all coming from deep drilled wells, which furnish plenty of water pumped by windmills into supply tanks, which are placed at different points on his farm and this water is of the finest quality and clear as a crystal. He also has a fine grove and orchard, and his place as a whole presents comfort and good management.

In 1890 Mr. Sewell was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Mohr, a native of Germany. They are the parents of four children, namely: Julius, Eva, Clara and Ernest. Mr. Sewell takes an active interest in local politics, and has served as county commissioner for several terms, also as justice of the peace. He has been a member of the school board for many years. He is a Republican in political views.

A picture of Mr. Sewell's residence will be found on another page of this volume.

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### ELVER L. HEATH.

Prominent among the old-timers of Nebraska who have spent the greater part of their lives in the upbuilding of the commercial interests of this section, watching its growth and development from its early inception, is the gentleman above mentioned, Elver L. Heath.

Mr. Heath is a native of Cuyahoga county, Ohio, born about twelve miles from Cleveland, March 16, 1853, and at the age of two months his parents came to Iowa, settling in Delaware county, where he was reared and educated. His father, Uri Heath, was a blacksmith by trade, who retired from active life in 1898, and came to Nebraska, making his home with his son the remainder of his life. Our subject is the fifth member in a family of ten children, and at the age of fifteen years he began learning the printer's trade in Webster City, Iowa. After thoroughly mastering this work he went to Essex, Page county, Iowa, and started a paper called the Essex Index. He first came to Nebraska in 1880,



locating at David City, where he bought the David City Republican and edited this from 1880 to 1885, then bought the Rushville Standard, which he published up to 1900. In December of that year he started the Cody Cowboy, of which he is now the able editor, serving at the same time as United States commissioner, by which he is authorized to transact government land business here in the matter of homestead filings, taking first proofs, etc. He is doing exceedingly well in all his ventures, and building up a wide reputation as a successful business man. When he first reached Sheridan county he was practically "broke," and went to work building log houses in order to get enough money to have his household goods shipped to Rushville. He took a pre-emption in section 31, township 32, range 43, on which he built a log house, and afterward sold it when he moved to Cody. He disposed of six hundred and forty acres of land, receiving in all one thousand six hundred dollars. He is still owner of a six hundred and forty-acre homestead located three miles from the town of Cody.

Mr. Heath was married in 1886 to Ella C. Bailey, born at Mt. Carroll, Illinois, in 1858. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Heath, namely: Ada B., John M. (deceased), F. Kemp, Eva B., Austin W., Eliza (deceased), and Esther, all of whom were born and raised in this state.

Mr. Heath has always been active in political circles since young manhood, and was state representative from his district for the legislative session of 1891. Since that time he has never sought public preferment, and devotes his entire time to the different enterprises of which he is the head. Politically he is a Republican. During the existence of the Order of the Good Templars Mr. Heath was a prominent member. He now affiliates with the Masonic fraternity, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen and the Highlanders.

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#### J. HAhLER.

J. Hahler, one of the prosperous business men of North Platte, Nebraska, is a man of industrious habits and energetic efforts, and a citizen of true worth. He is engaged in the stock and provision business, and has an extensive trade throughout the county. His home is in a good part of the city, and he has the welfare of his town at heart and aids every industry which tends to the growth and advancement of his locality.

Mr. Hahler first came to western Nebraska in 1878, settling in Lincoln county on a ranch which he operated for several years. He has been engaged to a great extent in buying and selling farms and city property, and he has been very successful in these investments. He has just recently sold his home property in North Platte for the round sum of ten thousand dollars, also three frontages to the Burlington & Missouri Railway Company, and it is stated that the new depot on this line will soon be erected on this site, and will be located on south Dewey street. He had been engaged in business in North Platte during the years 1883 and 1884, and afterward operated a large ranch in South Dakota, but returned to Nebraska, where he has resided continuously since. He established the leading meat market in this city in 1900, and was very successful in this venture, having an extensive trade and furnishing the people of the city with the finest meats to be had, running a strictly first-class market, and he was regarded as a business man of the highest ability, honest and fair in all his dealings. This business was sold in May, 1908, and Mr. Hahler devotes his time to stock shipping. He still buys and sells a great deal of stock. All of his meats while in the meat market were from cattle slaughtered right at home, and this insures the best and most delicious cuts to be found anywhere, as he is most particular in inspecting all the stock which is killed for his shop.

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#### ISAAC L. YEARNs.

Among the vast acreage that has been opened up to cultivation during the past few years in Dawes county, Nebraska, a tract of seven hundred and eighty acres is owned and operated by the gentleman above named. This well improved and highly cultivated farm is located in section 7, township 31, range 50, all of the work of building this place having been accomplished during the last seven years, and he is recognized as one of the enterprising and progressive citizens of his locality.

Mr. Yearns was born in Marion county, Iowa, in 1861. His father, James B. Yearns, was of American blood, a farmer in later years, and in his younger days was a teacher, also practiced law for several years in Iowa. He married Miss Nancy Porter, a native of Indiana, born of American parents. Our subject was reared and educated in Iowa, attending the country schools while assisting his

father in the work of carrying on the home farm, the latter dying in 1882, and after his death Isaac was the main support of his mother, up to the time of her death which occurred in Nebraska May 8, 1907. Our subject and his mother came to eastern Nebraska in the spring of 1879, settling in Burt county, where they were among the pioneer settlers, remaining there for three years. In 1884 they moved to Dawes county, Valentine, one hundred and thirty-five miles distant from their farm, being the nearest railroad point. Mr. Yearn took up a timber claim the previous year, and located on it in the spring of 1885, traveling by team from Valentine, the trip taking ten days. He also took up a pre-emption and lived on this for fifteen years, having with him his brother John, who died in Montana in the fall of 1891, and the mother lived with our subject up to her death. In 1900 our subject settled on his present farm in section 7, township 31, range 50, which was then partly improved property. He has kept adding to the place and has built it up in good shape, owning altogether seven hundred and eighty acres, well supplied with timber and with four living springs which furnish plenty of water for his stock. He has good buildings and the ranch is all fenced, and he is engaged principally in stock raising. He has gone through the drouth periods and other discouraging times, but has stuck to his farm through everything and made a success of his venture.

In political views he leans toward the Republican party, but votes the Independent ticket.

#### OTTO BERGER.

Otto Berger, an old settler in Long Pine, Nebraska, is one of the successful business men of that place, where he is engaged in the general merchandise business. Mr. Berger has a large trade, and is well known all through the locality as a capable and prosperous merchant, and one of the foremost men of the town. Mr. Berger was born in the village of Neufunnuksil, Ostfriesland, Germany, April 29, 1864. His father, Wilhelm Berger, is still living in the fatherland, engaged in the insurance business. Our subject was reared there and received a good education, coming to this country in 1882, sailing from Bremen Haven on the steamer Werra and landing in New York in February of that year. He spent the following year at Brooklyn and New York, employed as a grocery clerk, and then came west, where he located in Stewart,

Nebraska, working in a store for a year. He next took up a homestead near Hay Springs, and remained on it until he had proved up, going through the usual pioneer experiences, then moved to Carns, Nebraska, entering a grocery store for six or seven months, where he was employed by Tom Glover. In the spring of 1887 this stock was closed out and Mr. Berger left Carns and went to Bassett, clerking for Glover & Berger, the latter being a brother of our subject, who was associated with the firm for several years. In May, 1887, this store was also closed out, and he then went to Gordon, working for the same firm up to July 4th of that year. In September he and his brother returned to the fatherland, visiting the home folks for three months. On his return he started in business, buying a drove of horses from the Indians in Pine Ridge Agency, which he sold at Carns, trading a few of them for a clothing stock at Bassett, he moved the goods to Long Pine, to which he added a stock of stationery and pianos, for which he had traded his farm, and was thus enabled to form a partnership with his brother, J. A. Berger. This was Mr. Berger's start in business in Long Pine, under the firm of J. A. Berger & Company, the partnership lasting until the spring of 1889. A grocery stock was moved to Hay Springs and closed out, Mr. Berger remaining there for a year, and in the fall of 1890 finally dissolved partnership. He then put in a general line of goods at Long Pine, and here he has been most successful in building up an extensive trade throughout the county. His store is located on the principal corner of the town, and he has a floor space of seventy-five by one hundred feet, eighteen by thirty-six of this cut out to accommodate the Commercial Bank, of which he has served as president and vice-president. This bank was opened in December, 1905, and is one of the best equipped banks in Brown county. Mr. Berger devotes all his time to his business interests, and shows remarkable judgment in the management of his large enterprises. He has a branch store at Ainsworth, established in 1894, and another at Johnstown, established in 1900.

In the fall of 1888 Mr. Berger was married to Miss Marion Guy, daughter of William Guy, who was an early settler in Keya Paha county. They are the parents of one child, Edna, a graduate of the Lone Pine high school. Mr. Berger is familiar with almost the entire northwest part of the state, having at different times owned stores or worked in ten different towns in this vicinity. There are only two towns between Bassett

and Hay Springs in which he has not at some time been located, Wood Lake and Crookston.

Mr. Berger and his family paid a ten weeks' visit to his native land in the spring of 1908, traveling through the Rhine provinces, Holland, Belgium and England, giving the family a knowledge of life in the countries of the old world.

In politics Mr. Berger is an independent. He is serving as worshipful master of the Masonic lodge and with his family is enrolled in the membership of the Order of the Eastern Star. He is also an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and also of the Methodist church.

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### BERNARD F. CROUGHWELL.

One of the best known old-timers in Loup county, and one who is universally respected, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. He has taken an active part in all matters pertaining to the public welfare and is considered a wideawake, public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Croughwell was born in April, 1857, in Wilmington, Will county, Illinois. His father, Thomas Croughwell, was one of the early pioneers of Loup county, Nebraska, was a stonemason by trade, and was engaged in work of contracting and building. The maiden name of the mother of the subject of our sketch was Margarette Slowey. The family moved to Connecticut when Bernard was quite small and he was reared in Jewett City, in that state. Until he was past twenty-one years of age he worked a great deal in a cotton factory and learned the spinner's trade. In 1880 he came to the far west, to Loup county, Nebraska. The country was new and there was work to be done in many different lines, and Mr. Croughwell was ready for work at anything. For a time he worked on the railroad which was being built from Grand Island, Nebraska, to St. Paul, later finding employment carrying mail from Ord to Burwell and continuing in this for nearly four years. Mr. Croughwell then engaged in the agricultural implement business at Arcadia and later, in 1887, opened up at Taylor in the same line. In 1899 he purchased a partly improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres three miles west of Taylor and began farming. He has worked hard and planned intelligently to make his property a marked success, and he has reason to be proud of what he has accomplished. He has a fine home and the buildings for the

stock are in fine shape; there is a good orchard, growing a number of different kinds of fruits, such as apples, cherries and plums, etc., and there is also a fine grove of forest trees on the ranch.

In 1889 Mr. Croughwell was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Miss Annie Ellathorpe, a daughter of Levi and Hannah (Stubbs) Ellathorpe. Mrs. Croughwell was a native of Pennsylvania, where her father lived and died. Mr. and Mrs. Croughwell have one child, a daughter, Alvira Margarette.

The subject of this sketch has taken a prominent part in the affairs of his community, and as one of the oldest settlers he has taken pride in watching the splendid improvements of the country. He was one who helped locate the county seat at Taylor, and he is widely known as a progressive and earnest worker for anything in the way of advancement in county affairs. His stanch Republicanism is a matter of common knowledge.

Many peculiar and interesting experiences are related by Mr. Croughwell, one being as follows: Kid Wade, a notorious horse thief, stole three or four horses in Mr. Croughwell's neighborhood and about that time stopped a whole day and night at the latter's house, but Mr. Croughwell was unaware of the character of his guest. Mr. Croughwell and John Grimmit tracked the thief above the Calamus river, where the trail was lost. Not long after Kid Wade was captured and hung at Bassett, Ne-

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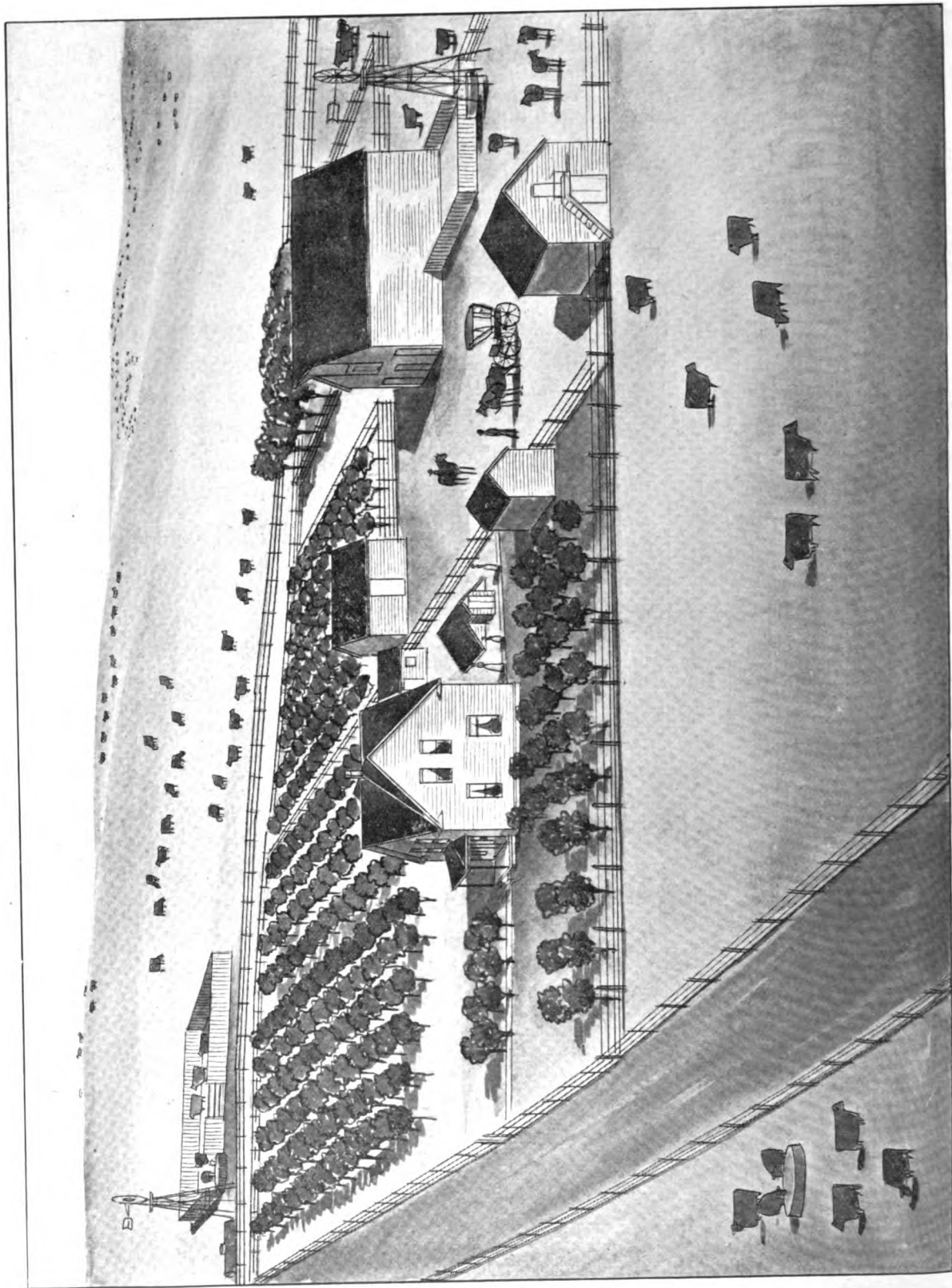
### FREDERICK G. BAUER.

The gentleman above mentioned is an enterprising young business man at Weyerts, and is well known to all the residents of his locality as a worthy citizen and active public-spirited man of affairs locally.

Frederick G. Bauer was born at Golden, Illinois, March 27, 1882. He was five years of age when the family came into Cheyenne county, Nebraska, where he was reared and educated. He has since lived in the county with the exception of about three years which were spent in Colorado, where he took up a homestead and started a cattle ranch. In February, 1907, Mr. Bauer disposed of his ranch and moved to Weyerts, where he is now engaged in the general merchandise business, and is rapidly gaining a good patronage throughout the vicinity. He is a young man of excellent ability, energetic and progressive, and bids fair to be one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Bauer's mother is still living, at pres-





RESIDENCE OF J. LARGE,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

ent residing on the old family ranch two miles west of Weyerts, where the father died August 9, 1898. There were twelve children in his father's family, of whom he was the ninth in order of birth. He is now married, the event occurring November 25, 1902, at Weyerts Lutheran church, when he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Folkerts. They are the parents of three children, namely: Louis, Leona and Alvin.

Mr. Bauer is at present acting as postmaster at Weyerts, and is a most popular and efficient official, highly esteemed by all.

### JOHN K. IRWIN.

John K. Irwin is a native of the state of Pennsylvania, born in Blair county, December 20, 1872. His father, Daniel Irwin, was of German descent and was a prosperous farmer in Pennsylvania. His mother was Tamar Emigh in her youth and was of German parentage. Both parents are now deceased.

Our subject lived in the state of his nativity until he was eight years old, when the family moved to Grand Island, Nebraska, where they settled on a homestead. In 1885 they came to Keith county, settling ten miles northwest of Ogallala on a homestead, where both parents died that same year. Our subject then started out for himself, working on several ranches, receiving at times only his board for the work he did. He settled on his present excellent farm and homesteaded in 1893, put up buildings and made a start. His farm comprises one hundred and seventy-four acres of especially choice soil on the bottoms of the North Platte river, where he has built up an admirable home and business. He has a few head of stock, but gives his attention principally to farming and gardening, at which he has made a fine success, raising twelve hundred to fifteen hundred bunches of celery per acre, four to five hundred bushels of onions and thirty tons of cabbage per acre. Our subject has had some misfortunes, but his thrift and energy have placed him in good circumstances. In the spring of 1891 he was seriously injured, getting his feet caught and both badly crushed in a hay press. This accident caused our subject to be laid up for an entire year, during which time he did practically no work.

John K. Irwin was married July 1, 1901, to Miss Hattie M. Shepard, whose father, William F. Shepard, is one of the prominent farmers and old settlers of Keith county. The mother was Julia A. Joplin in maidenhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have three children—May, Marie and Della.

Mr. Irwin has always been an interested participant in matters of a public nature and has held various political offices. He is a Republican in politics. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and of the American Order of Protection.

### ISAAC LARGE.

The gentleman above named is owner of one of the finest farms and ranches in Keith county, Nebraska. He resides on section 23, township 13, range 35, and is one of the progressive and prosperous men of the locality.

Isaac Large was born on a farm in Woodford county, Illinois, July 24, 1860. His father was born in England, as was also his mother. They came to Illinois as pioneers, and our subject grew up in his native county. He left home in 1883, working for a year on farms in Gage county, Nebraska, and then moved to Buffalo county, locating on a tract of prairie land, and for twenty-five years farmed on it. This place was situated in the Elm creek valley, and Mr. Large built up a good home and ranch, doing much toward developing that part of the country. In the spring of 1907 he came to Keith county and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of his present estate, with one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, and has raised two good crops since locating here. In 1908 he acquired two additional sections devoted to ranching and farming purposes. He has all good buildings and improvements, with two wells and windmills. His residence contains fifteen rooms in the two stories and attic, and is one of the handsomest country houses in the county. He has a large barn, a double corncrib, large chicken house and numerous other outbuildings. An elevated reservoir supplies the house with water for bath room and domestic purposes. We are pleased to call attention to a view of the fine establishment displayed on another page of this work.

Mr. Large is engaged in the business of buying and shipping stock, and has carried on this work for the past fifteen years. He has also dealt considerably in real estate in the region, and has been the means of inducing many eastern people to invest in property and settle in western Nebraska. One brother of Mr. Large owns a whole section of land seven miles south of the town of Paxton, and is also a large farmer and stockman.

On January 6, 1890, Mr. Large was mar-

ried to Esther McMinn, a native of Noble county, Ohio, and a daughter of Robert McMinn, an old soldier and early settler near Overton, Dawson county, Nebraska. The mother was Miss Elizabeth Brown, a native of Ohio, now residing in Overton. The father was born in Pennsylvania and died in Nebraska in 1893. When he first settled in Dawson county there were but four farmers in the east end of the county and Overton was only a box car for the operators managing the trains. Indians were still plentiful in that region and many times Mrs. Large has visited their camps. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Large, namely: Adella, Edna, Elizabeth and Wayne, all at home.

Mr. Large is a Republican in politics and a member of the Evangelical church. He affiliates with the Workmen and the Odd Fellows, and with Mrs. Large has attained the Rebekah degree. All his lodge affiliations had been in Overton until the institution of an Odd Fellows lodge at Paxton in December, 1908.

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#### LAWRENCE WALGREEN, DECEASED.

Lawrence Walgreen was one of the prosperous farmers of Sheridan county, Nebraska, who came to this state in the early stages of its development and built up a comfortable home in section 30, township 31, range 45, where he enjoyed an enviable reputation as a successful agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Walgreen was a native of Sweden, born in 1841, and raised on his father's farm until he was eighteen years old. He then came to America in 1869, having previously worked on farms for some time, and spending ten years in brick yards in Sweden. After landing here he located in Michigan and worked in a salt factory at Salsburg, Bay county, Michigan, and afterwards farmed for some years in the same state. In 1884 Mr. Walgreen came to Sheridan county and filed on his claim as a pre-emption, then went back to Michigan, and in May, 1885, he returned with his family. It took ten days to drive up from Valentine, and was a rough trip over unbroken roads through a perfect wilderness. Their first house was built of sod, and in this they lived for three years. The same spring he took up a tree claim, located in section 25, and began breaking up his farm, cultivating thirty acres, which he put into crops the following summer. He worked hard and succeeded in raising several good crops before the beginning of the dry years, and as he had raised some stock they

helped to support the family. He built up his home and added to his farm gradually, purchasing before the prices raised in this section, and at the time of his death owned twelve hundred and eighty acres of good farming land. Of this he cultivated about one hundred acres, and used most of his produce on the farm. He kept over a hundred head of stock, and from this source made enough to pay for all the land he bought. He had his land all fenced, and built twelve miles of fencing.

Mr. Walgreen was married in 1874 to Miss Annie Helma, born in Canada in 1854 and raised in Michigan, of French-English descent. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Walgreen, who are named as follows: Mary Ellen, Katie, Lawrence Philip, William H., Julia, Annie, Clara, Fred, Edward, Grace, Clyde and Leland, all grown except three, and nearly all settled near their parents' home. Mr. Walgreen was assisted in his farm work by his boys, and together they did all the work on his large estate. To his family is due much credit in helping him in every way to build up his home. When they came he only had four horses, one cow and sixty dollars in money, and a large family to support. They had a hard time to get along some times, losing his first two crops through hailstorms, and the first winter he worked as a freighter from Chadron to Deadwood, and also to Fort Robinson in order to support his family. The place is now well improved, and he considered that he had made as much if not more than he could have made in Michigan. His health was better here and they never had occasion to call a doctor for any member of the family until 1906. He was contented here and satisfied to spend the rest of his days in this locality.

Mr. Walgreen died April 13, 1907. Eight of the children are still living with their mother and assisting her on this valuable estate. The others are married or live elsewhere.

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#### JOHN ROBINSON.

John Robinson, well known as a representative farmer of Deuel county, has a home of great comfort in Loss Creek precinct. He was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, November 25, 1851, and made that his home until he was seventeen years of age.

In 1868 Mr. Robinson left his native state and came to Nebraska, locating at first in Columbus and later in Platte county, also spent five or six years at St. Paul, finally



landing in old Cheyenne county in June, 1885, and was the first man to build a house in this valley. He filed on a homestead and pre-empted a claim on section 34, township 17, range 44, proved up on both and afterwards moved to section 36, where he now lives. This is a school section and joins the town of Oshkosh, and he is one of the original settlers and the first settler to bring his family into the valley. Here he went through all the pioneer times in getting his farm established, meeting with every sort of frontier experience, and took an active part in the development of the section.

Mr. Robinson is now one of the large land owners in the county, having about eight hundred and twenty acres of splendidly improved land. About two hundred acres are cultivated, and the balance is devoted to ranching purposes, having large hay fields and plenty of grazing for a herd of three hundred cattle, and he also has quite a bunch of horses. He has a handsome residence and nice surroundings, substantial barns, etc.

Mr. Robinson was married in Le Mars, Iowa, on February 6, 1882, to Mary Doolittle, who was a native of Wisconsin. Both Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's parents are dead. Nine children have come to bless their home, named as follows: John Edwin, single; George L., married and living in Deuel county; Carrie Ella, wife of Bird Rogers, they living in Cheyenne county; Mabel Clare, wife of Robert Miller, also living in Deuel county; Mary Lillian, Floyd, Elizabeth, William C. and Frank, all at home. One brother of our subject lives in Deuel county, while a sister makes her home in California.

Mr. Robinson is a Republican. He was elected county commissioner in 1889, holding that office up to 1894, also has served this county as surveyor, and is prominent in all county and state affairs. He is a leading citizen locally, now being a member of the school board.

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#### JENS C. MENG.

Jens C. Meng, one of the leading citizens of Sioux county, Nebraska, who has by sheer force of character and strength of will enjoined with native intelligence and a good practical education, has won for himself a fine position among the men who have made the west the prosperous country it has become.

Mr. Meng was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark, in 1856, on a farm. His father, George, was a carpenter and followed that occupation in connection with his farming oper-

ations up to the time of his death, which occurred in his native land in 1865. Our subject was reared in Denmark, following farming during his boyhood, and up to his sixteenth year, then came to America, landing in New York city. He came west, locating in eastern Nebraska, near Yankton, South Dakota, and spent some time in Cedar county, Nebraska. His time was spent on farms, and he also attended school, striving to improve his education, and finally went on a rented farm in that vicinity, spending in all eleven years in Cedar county. From there he moved to South Dakota, where he lived for three years, and in 1886 came to Sioux county, Nebraska, and filed on a pre-emption. He drove into the county from Chadron, camping out on the way, encountering hard storms during the trip. He located on Hat creek, taking a pre-emption, timber claim and later a homestead. He put up a log cabin, and during the first summer had no stable for his stock, and had a hard time to make a living, trying hard to improve his place. On arriving in the county he walked to his claim from Chadron, which was his nearest railroad town. Much of his time was spent at railroad construction during the hard times, in this way being able to add a little money for the support of his family, and after times grew better he was able to add good buildings and other improvements to his home and farm. His ranch now consists of ten hundred and forty acres, with three hundred and twenty acres of leased land, all of it being fenced and cross fenced, and he engages principally in stock raising. The ranch is admirably situated for a stock ranch, having plenty of running water the year around, and is one of the valuable estates in his locality.

Mr. Meng was married in 1882 to Miss Christine Smith, a native of Schleswig-Holstein. She was reared in Denmark, her father and mother both dying there. Mrs. Meng and her sister Inger came to America in 1881, settling in Cedar county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Meng have five children, namely: George, Mary, Hans, Jim and Lillie, all bright and intelligent, and a great help to their parents. They have a pleasant and happy home, and are held in high esteem as good neighbors and worthy citizens.

Mr. Meng is counted among the leading old settlers of his section, and one who has taken an active part in its development. He is an independent voter, always supporting the best man, and his influence is used for good government. In 1898 he was elected county commissioner and has held that office for two terms.

## JOHN B. SHAW.

Among the old-timers of Keya Paha county who has done his share in developing the resources of this region and who has always taken an active interest in advancing the best interests of the county is the above named gentleman.

Mr. Shaw was born in Cataragus county, New York, May 30, 1848. His father, Angeloah Shaw, was born of American stock, and a farmer by occupation. He was an early settler in Nebraska, coming here in 1876 with his family, consisting of himself and wife, who was Miss Mary Sapney, of Italian-English blood, with their seven children, of whom our subject was the eldest. He remained at home assisting his parents in carrying on their farm until he was twenty-four years of age, then started to working on a farm for himself in Trempealeau county, Wisconsin, locating there in 1864. He lived in that state for ten years and then came to York county, Nebraska, taking up a homestead of eighty acres, on which he proved up in due time, building a nice house, in which he lived for nine years. Moving from there to Keya Paha county, he pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres in sections 3 and 4, township 34, range 18, on which there was a large growth of natural timber. This place was only slightly improved, so he erected all the farm buildings and broke up more land as rapidly as he could. In 1898 he took an additional eighty acres under the homestead act, and now possesses six hundred and forty acres, all of which lies on Shingle creek. He cultivates sixty acres and keeps about seventy-five head of cattle and twenty horses, besides other small stock. When he first arrived in this locality he had less than a dollar and was forced to do all kinds of work to make a living during the hard times. He was handicapped by the dry years and many other discouraging circumstances, but he persevered and won success, well satisfied with the result of his hard labors and rough pioneer experiences.

On December 24, 1872, our subject was married in Trempealeau county to Miss Harried E. Baker, a native of the state of Michigan, born in 1854. To them have been born twelve children, of whom the following survive: Estella, married Frank Patton, living in Mills, Nebraska; Maggie, now Mrs. Fred Ogden, also of Mills; Albert H., Elsie and Orville. The family have a very pleasant and comfortable home and enjoy a host of warm friends and acquaintances in their community.

Politically Mr. Shaw is a Republican, work-

ing for the best interests of his locality, although he has never sought public preferment.

## L. R. BARLOW.

L. R. Barlow, the popular and genial postmaster of Lodgepole, Nebraska, is one of the influential and prosperous citizens of Cheyenne county. He is a large land owner in this section and one of the old settlers, having passed through all the Nebraska times, and only four residents have the distinction of a longer residence in Lodgepole than himself. He has been active in all affairs pertaining to the upbuilding of the community, and has been postmaster of Lodgepole for eleven years. He is a prominent member of the county committee, and is active in county and state politics and a strong Republican.

Mr. Barlow is a native of Duanesburg, Schenectady county, New York, born March 10, 1862. He grew up in that locality, went to school and worked at different lines there until he was twenty years old. His mother died in 1866 in New York state, and the father in 1904 at Burtonville, New York. Our subject first landed in Cheyenne county in 1882, locating at Lodgepole, and at once took charge of what is now the old "Coombs Ranch," used as a sheep ranch, remained for a year, then spent a few months in Chicago visiting, but returned to Lodgepole and took up ranching permanently, following that work for fifteen years. He then went back east on a visit, taking along with him a carload of horses of his own raising.

Mr. Barlow homesteaded a tract during his early residence in Cheyenne county, filing on section 32, township 14, range 46, and sold the place in 1901. At the time of the sale of this homestead he owned a section and three-quarters of land, well stocked and in fine shape, all of which he had accumulated by his industry and good management. He is now owner of a good ranch property situated on Cottonwood creek, south of Lodgepole, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, on which he runs about fifty head of horses. During his residence here he has owned and sold many ranch properties, and has been most successful in all his transactions in buying and selling horses.

On October 16, 1888, Mr. Barlow was married to Clara Belle Bates in Lodgepole. Mrs. Barlow was born in Wayne county, New York, and came to Lodgepole in 1888. She died in 1900, leaving two children, Floyd D. and George W. Mr. Barlow married again in 1902

Cora Davis at Chappell, Nebraska, the second Mrs. Barlow being a native of Red Oak, Iowa, born on February 22, 1884, coming to Deuel county, Nebraska, with her parents at the age of two years. Of this union one child was born, Fern Barlow, aged five.

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#### GEORGE H. DOVE.

George H. Dove, who has a comfortable home and good farm in section 23, township 21, range 11, is one of the oldest settlers of western Nebraska. He has spent the past thirty-three years of his career in this country, going through the pioneer days and braving many hardships and privations in carving out a name and fortune for himself, and is now one of the foremost men of his section, prosperous and a gentleman of firm characteristics, whose high standing in his community is well merited. He has been quite a broncho buster and cow puncher since coming to this western country, serving much of his time on the largest ranches in the west.

Mr. Dove was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1869. His father, Thomas Dove, was a native of England, who came to the United States in 1848, settling in Illinois as a pioneer, and died there in 1872. He married Lucy R. Hurlbert, a native of Vermont, of English blood also, and they raised a family of two children, of whom our subject, George H., was the first member and Thomas F. was the second child. George Dove came to Nebraska in the year 1875, and immediately upon landing here took up a government claim and proved up on it in due time, then bought more land, and at the present time is proprietor of half a section of good land. He has a good home and his farm is well improved with good buildings, fences, wells and windmills, etc. He also has planted nice groves of trees, has many kinds of fruit and raises fine vegetables. He engages principally in grain and stock raising, and has made a good success in both branches.

Mr. Dove is of an honest and conscientious nature, a hard worker, and has gained the respect and esteem of all with whom he has had to do and he is considered one of the well-to-do men of his locality, a public-spirited citizen, always ready and willing to assist in promoting the best interests of his community.

Mr. Dove is a bachelor. His good old mother lives with him and is one of the brightest-minded old ladies to be found. Politically he is a Republican, but has never aspired to office.

#### J. B. REED.

J. B. Reed, a resident of Emerson township, Harlan county, Nebraska, is one of the best known stockmen of this part of the state, as was also his father, D. J. Reed, now of Kansas City, who settled in Emerson township in 1884, purchasing an eight hundred-acre ranch on the Republican river bottoms, and was the heaviest feeder of cattle and hogs in this part of the state of Nebraska.

Mr. Reed was born in 1876 in Chicago, Illinois. Our subject is now owner of four hundred acres of good land, improved with good buildings, etc., and feeds all the grain and alfalfa he raises to his stock, as well as buying large quantities each year. He fits for market a great many cattle and hogs annually. In 1907 he raised about seven hundred young pigs and deals altogether in the red hogs. He has raised the Poland China in former years, but from his experience with both breeds considers the red hog best for general stock purposes, as they are more active and get out of the way of cattle quicker, while the black hogs are slow and liable to injury in being run with the cattle. Also, the red hog is much more prolific and better rustlers, and can be fitted for market just as quickly as other breeds and bring just as good prices.

Mr. Reed is a large breeder of good horses and has met with much success in this line of work also. He has thirty-five brood mares and two stallions, Bergeron being his Percheron and Forest Chief Jr. his Hambletonian horse. He also has a Kentucky mammoth jack on hand now and intends to devote his time to the raising of horses and mules, as he has found that it pays better to handle colts on high-priced land than it does to raise calves. Mr. Reed has one hundred and sixty acres of alfalfa, and raises good crops each season. He has sixteen hundred rods of woven wire fencing on his ranch set up with the best of posts, making it durable and adding wonderfully to the beauty of his ranch. He has a good set of buildings, with modern conveniences, a water system in the house and an electric light plant on the farm. He has built a model ranch and home.

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#### PETER AUGUST PULTZ.

Peter A. Pultz, who has met with decided success along agricultural lines in Brownson precinct, Cheyenne county, is one of the old settlers of that locality. He has built up a good home and occupies a foremost place

among the enterprising and worthy citizens of his community. He is a gentleman of good business management, and well merits his high standing as a citizen and farmer.

Peter August Pultz was born in Denmark, August 1, 1853. He grew to manhood in his native land, and at the age of twenty-seven years left his home and sailed for America, embarking at Esberg early in April, 1880, and after a voyage of twenty-seven days he landed in Boston. He came directly west to friends in Grand Island, Nebraska, and shortly afterwards secured work at Dix, in Kimball county, on the railroad as a section hand. He worked for several years on the railroad and a short time on ranches.

In the spring of 1884 he filed on a homestead in section 28, township 15, range 51, and also a tree claim, on which he has lived ever since, building up a good ranch and home. He is proprietor of four hundred and eighty acres, cultivating a small portion of the land and using the balance for hay and pasture, running in all about fifty head of stock.

Mr. Pultz has erected good stone buildings of all descriptions. One of the notable improvements is an elevated supply tank, from which he can run water to any part of the ranch. Prior to his marriage he was engaged in well drilling and has put down a number of wells in his section of the country. He found this work profitable and he met with marked success in the business.

In 1907 Mr. Pultz was united in marriage to Miss Serena Frederickson, who was born in Denmark and came to America one year ago. Mrs. Pultz's mother is still living in Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Pultz occupy a pleasant home and are favorites with all their neighbors. A son, Frederick, was born to them July 7, 1908.

In political views our subject is an independent, in religious affairs an adherent of the Lutheran church.

We take pleasure in calling attention to a view of the substantial stone dwelling and surrounding farm buildings which will be found elsewhere in this work.

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#### MRS. LYDIA B. DYE.

The estimable lady whose name heads this personal history occupies a pleasant home and is one of the well known residents of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. Mrs. Dye is now serving as postmistress at the Dye postoffice, which was named after her family.

Our subject, whose maiden name was Lydia

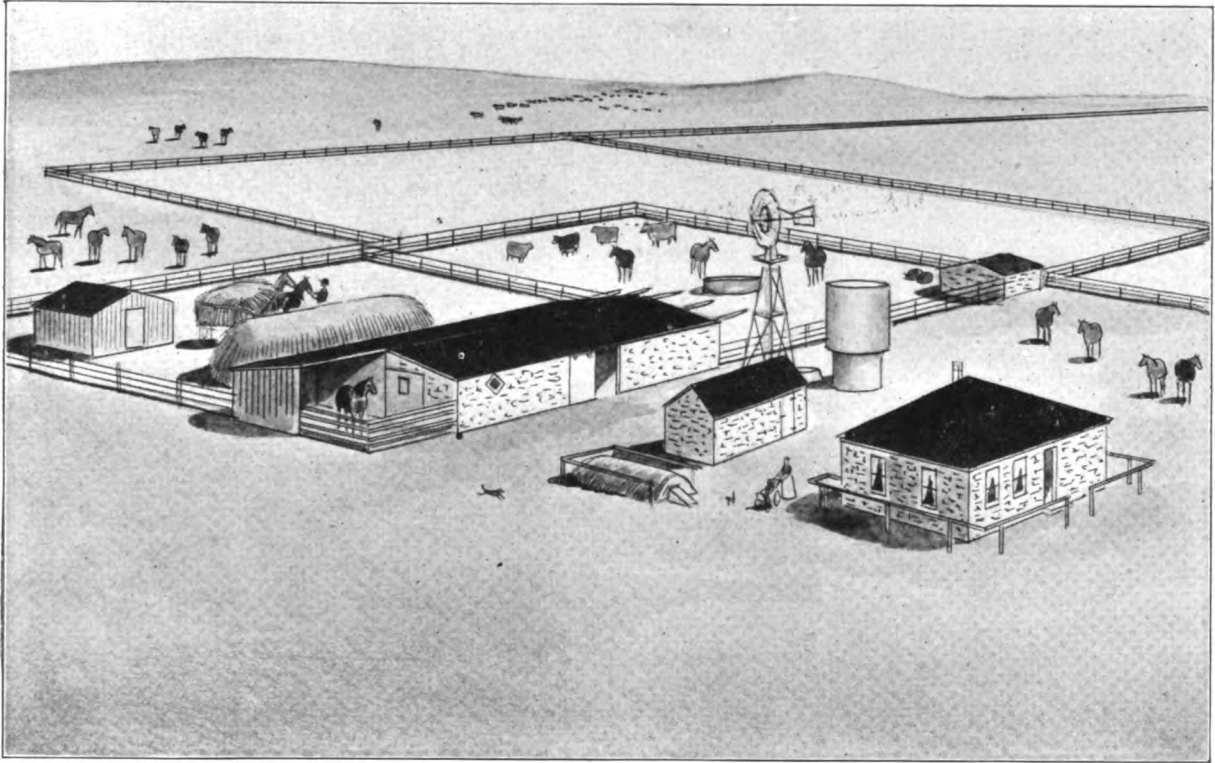
B. Fletcher, was born February 20, 1852, at Augusta, Maine, and grew up there. At the age of sixteen her parents, Omar and Ruth (Bartlett) Fletcher, moved to Missouri, and were among the pioneers of Pike county, where the father died in 1883. The mother made her home in Nebraska for a few years and died there in 1892. Lydia was married in Pike county, February 21, 1878, to John F. Dye, a native of Pike county. His parents, Kenneth and Martha (Burroughs) Dye, natives of Kentucky. The young couple resided in Missouri four years and in 1882 settled at Denton, Lancaster county, Nebraska, where Mr. Dye engaged in farming and stock raising. In February, 1887, he arrived in Cheyenne county, and filed on a homestead in section 2, township 12, range 53, and filed on a timber claim in the same locality. There they built up a good home and spent many happy years together, watching the rapid growth of the country and accumulating a comfortable property for their later years. In June, 1904, Mrs. Dye took a Kincaid claim in the south half of section 2 and will prove up on it in June, 1909.

On March 25, 1891, Mr. Dye departed this life, deeply mourned by his family and friends. Since her husband's death Mrs. Dye has carried on the farm and every appointment of the place bears evidence of her good management and thrift. Of three children born to them two died in infancy. Earl was born in Denton, Nebraska, on November 12, 1886, and he now lives on a homestead in section 12, township 12, range 53, near his mother's ranch. He owns six hundred and forty acres of good land and helps his mother in carrying on her place, which also contains six hundred and forty acres. They are both engaged in stock raising and farming, and their herd of one hundred and sixty high-bred Herefords and Short-horn cattle is famous throughout the county. The son owns about forty horses at the present time, which he keeps for breeding and market purposes.

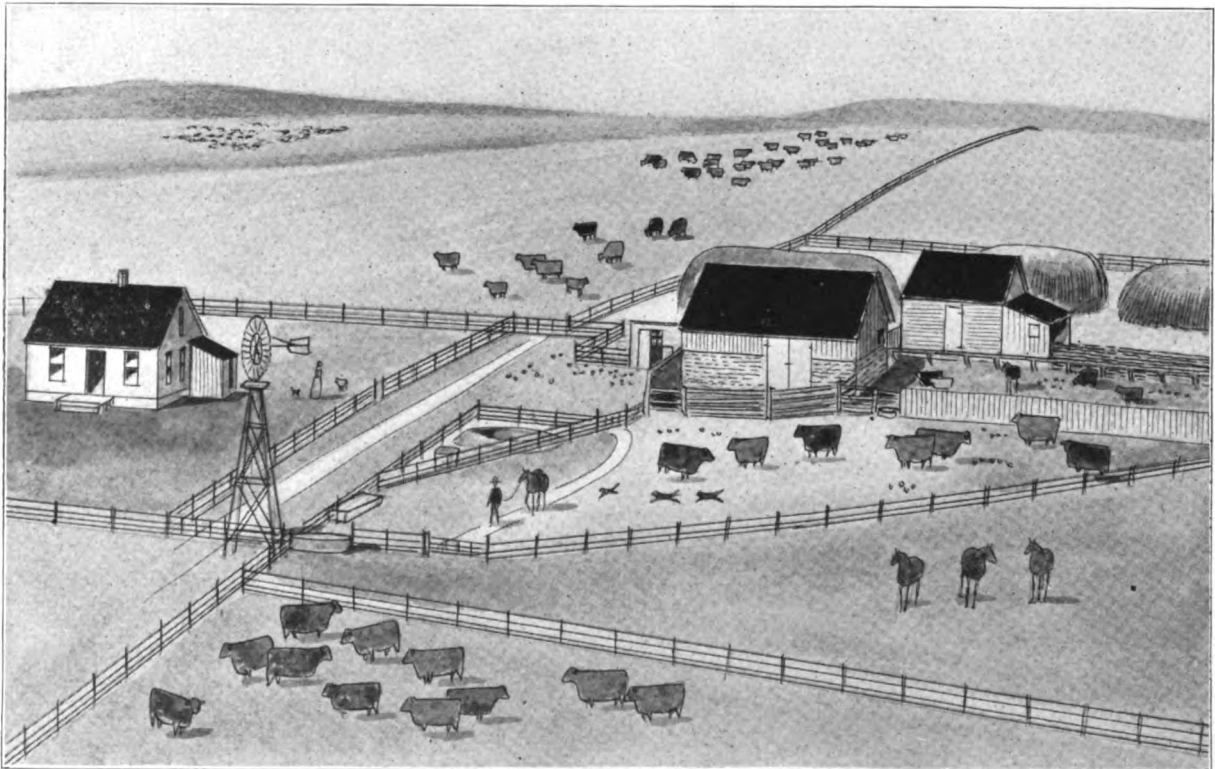
Earl was married at the residence of the bride's mother in Sidney, June 8, 1907, to Miss Lena Ottemann. One son has been born to them, Ralph Jerome. Mr. Dye is a Republican, active in local affairs, and is director of his school district, No. 31. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen at Sidney.

Mrs. Dye was appointed to the position of postmistress at Dye, an office established on the Dye homestead, in April, 1906, and has made a most capable and popular official.

On another page of this volume will be found an interesting picture of Mrs. Dye's residence and surroundings.



**RESIDENCE OF PETER A. PULTZ,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



**"DYE POST OFFICE," RESIDENCE OF MRS. LYDIA B. DYE,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



## CAPTAIN E. M. FULLER.

Captain E. M. Fuller, a prominent business man of Merriman, Nebraska, is well known throughout the locality in which he resides as a prosperous and worthy citizen. He is a son of Martin and Phoebe (Cole) Fuller, both descendants of old colonial families.

Mr. Fuller is a native of Jefferson county, New York, born September 3, 1850. He was the only child of his parents, and at the age of fifteen started out for himself, securing employment on a square-rigged sailing vessel, the Montgomery, on the great lakes, and when he was twenty-one years old he was master of the John Braden. Our subject followed a sailor's life up to 1898, living at times in Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago, the latter place being his home for eleven years. In 1880 he took up a homestead on Bear creek, in Cherry county, on which he proved up in due time, sailing eight months of the year and living four months on the ranch. This he stocked up well and sold to an advantage some years ago.

In 1900 our subject came to Merriman, where he established the Anchor Bank, and is still engaged in operating this institution, which is regarded as one of the most solid in western Nebraska.

Mr. Fuller was married in 1874 to Miss Mary C. McKee, born in the state of New York. She died in 1896, and two years later our subject was married to Miss Doris Leaman, who is the mother of a son, Sidney.

In political faith Mr. Fuller is a Republican and has always voted this ticket. He has held local office at various times, and is a member of the county central committee. He has been a member of the Masonic order since the age of twenty-one and now affiliates with the lodge at Gordon. He also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America at Merriman.

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 DAVID GRIFFITHS.

Among those who have contributed to the prosperity of Phelps county, Nebraska, and whose patient industry and well directed energy have brought individual competence may be mentioned David Griffiths, of Rock Falls township, whose valuable estate lies in section 3.

Mr. Griffiths was born in 1854 in Wales, England. His father was also named David, and he lived and died in Wales. Our subject left Cefncoed, Wales, in 1879, and moved to Grundy county, Illinois, after spending a few

months in Pennsylvania. He was in the coal mines in Illinois until 1890, when he came to Phelps county, Nebraska, and purchased two hundred and forty acres of farming land. He at once went to work breaking it up and erected a good set of substantial farm buildings, and from the start has been very successful in general farming and stock raising. He uses a portion of his farm for pasture, and runs from forty to fifty head of cattle and from fifty to one hundred hogs. He is progressive in his farming operations, and has one of the finest equipped farms in this locality. His land is well adapted for grain raising, and his wheat crop has shown a yield of forty bushels to the acre, and corn up to fifty bushels per acre.

Mr. Griffiths was married in 1878 to Miss Margarette Jones, who is a native of Wales, England. Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths have four sons and two daughters, as follows: Winnie, Thomas, Maggie, David, Morgan and Willie.

Mr. Griffiths is a man of active public spirit and is a deservedly influential and popular citizen, always working for the upbuilding of the better interests of the people of his community. He has served his township as assessor during the years 1893, 1894 and 1895, and for the past five years has held the office of treasurer of Rock Falls township. He also served as treasurer of school district No. 57 for twelve years, and is among the leading men in his township. He takes a commendable interest in local and state politics, was a member of the county central committee of his party for several years, and has been chairman of the township committee for the last seven years. He is an independent voter.

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 WILLIAM H. BETSON.

A prominent old settler is found in the person of the gentleman herein mentioned. Mr. Betson has been closely identified with the history of the development and growth of Dawes county and the surrounding country for the past twenty years and during that time has built up a good farm and home, and incidentally gained an **enviable reputation as a** worthy citizen and progressive agriculturist.

Mr. Betson was born in Pennsylvania in 1858. His father was a farmer and for many years tilled the soil in Montgomery county, and our subject was reared and educated near Philadelphia, getting a good common school education and meantime assisting his parents in the farm work. At the age of ten years he left home and started out for himself, working in his native state up to 1881, then he came



to Kansas, where he was among the pioneers in Jackson county. He remained there for about eight years, and then moved to Nebraska, settling in Dawes county, where he took up a homestead in section 17, township 31, range 50, and started a farm, living in a rude shack during the first two years, constantly improving his place and building up until he has a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres altogether. He has over two hundred acres of this under cultivation, and runs from seventy-five to eighty head of cattle each year. This place is all fenced and cross fenced, with good farm buildings, barns, sheds, etc. Besides farming and stock raising he has for the past six years been engaged in the threshing business, and now owns a fine twelve-horse-power steam outfit and threshes all over this and adjoining counties.

Mr. Betson was married in 1886 while living in Jackson county, Kansas, to Miss Anna Phillipi. Mrs. Betson's father was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, and a pioneer in Kansas, where he farmed for many years. To Mr. and Mrs. Betson five children were born, namely: Charles, Alfred and Katie; Earl, a baby, and Alice, deceased.

Mr. Betson has always been active in local affairs, and has helped establish schools in his locality, and served on the school board for many years. In politics he is an independent, voting for the man he thinks best fitted for the office.

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#### URIAH CHESTER, DECEASED.

The gentleman named above was for twenty-five years one of the leading citizens of Brown county, where he has always done his utmost in the upbuilding of this region, and he assisted materially in developing the commercial interests of the locality in which he resided. Mr. Chester was born in the village of Dudsville, Ontario, Canada, February 12, 1850, and came to Wisconsin in 1856 with his parents, the family being among the pioneer settlers in that state. His father, William Chester, was a mason by trade, a native of Ireland, born of English stock, who were driven from their mother country by the Catholics. Our subject grew up in Wisconsin, and when but a boy went into the lumber woods in Michigan, where he took charge of the woodwork on twenty miles of logging railway, remaining at this work for twelve years. He was engaged in building bridges, cars, etc., on this road, and experienced a regular lumberman's existence during this time. In 1883

Mr. Chester came to western Nebraska, settling on a homestead in section 27, township 28, range 21, fifteen miles southwest of Long Pine. There he built a frame house, being associated with his brother, William Chester, whose sketch appears in this work on another page. The two worked together engaged exclusively in stock raising and ranching. They proved up on their place and bought more land until they owned two thousand acres in 1904, then sold out their holdings for a good round sum. The ranch was one of the best equipped in the vicinity, having plenty of cattle sheds, four deep wells and windmills, etc. They had five hundred head of cattle and twenty-five horses, and every penny of their property was made since coming to this part of the country out of the sand hills. When they first settled on their ranch there was only one house between their place and Long Pine, a distance of fifteen miles. Mr. Chester was married in Wisconsin January 11, 1873, to Miss Evelyn Thomas, a native of that state, daughter of William H. Thomas, one of the earliest settlers in Wisconsin. He was an attorney and a member of the territorial legislature for two terms, and later served two terms in the state legislature. For eight years he was state's attorney in Waukesha county, where his death occurred in 1902. He was a well known politician and public man, and one of the foremost citizens of Wisconsin, and his loss was deeply mourned by all who knew him.

One child resulted from the marriage of our subject, a daughter, Inez, wife of Charles C. Ball, who is an engineer on the Chicago & Northwestern railway.

Mr. Chester's death occurred in Long Pine March 29, 1908. He was a prominent Republican, and always attended the county conventions as a delegate, taking an active interest in all party affairs. He served one term as county assessor and for many years was precinct assessor. In the fall of 1907 he was elected county commissioner, having served but a short part of his term at the time of his demise. He was a Mason for twenty-five years and with his wife a member of the Long Pine chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which Mrs. Chester was a charter member and the first worthy matron.

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#### EMANUEL TONGREN.

Emanuel Tongren, who was born in Wester Norlan, Sweden, in 1854, has for many years held an important position in the agricultural and commercial circles of Perkins county, Ne-

braska. His parents lived and died in their native land, where he was raised and educated, receiving a good common school training. During his young manhood he worked in the lumber woods in Sweden, and led a rugged, healthful outdoor life, remaining with his parents until he was thirty years of age, at which time he married Miss Anna Kaser, who was also born and raised in Sweden. Immediately after their marriage the young couple sailed for the new world, landing in New York city, and after a short stay there came west, settling in York county, Nebraska, but only remained there for two weeks, then came on to Perkins county. Here Mr. Tongren took up a homestead on section 26, township 12, range 40, and they started to build up a home and farm. He had but small capital to start with, putting up a rude frame shanty, and during the first years went through many hardships and privations. He witnessed the drouth periods, losing several crops in succession, and often had difficulty in making both ends meet in the struggle for a living, but as times grew better he was able to improve his place in good shape, and his various enterprises has been crowned with a very fair measure of success, and he has become one of the solid and substantial men of his locality.

Mr. Tongren is now the owner of a ranch of eight hundred acres, and of this he farms about two hundred acres. The entire place is well fenced and improved with good buildings, etc. He is engaged in stock raising to quite an extent, and is up-to-date and progressive in all his undertakings.

During the early part of his residence in this section he went through the hardship of being without water, and was obliged to haul it a distance of four miles, but as he became better able, and conditions improved, he had wells drilled, and now has a fine supply, pumped to different points on his farm by wind mills, and has every convenience in the way of machinery and farm implements to make his work easy.

Our subject has one son, Peter Tongren, who is attending school in Grand Island, Nebraska, and who will graduate from the Grand Island Business College in 1909.

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#### ALBERT METCALF.

Albert Metcalf, one of the prominent young farmers of Grant county, Nebraska, is proprietor of a well improved estate in section 2, township 23, range 39. He is energetic and progressive, and well merits his success as a

modern agriculturist and ranchman and his enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Metcalf was born in Washington county, Maine, in 1865. His father, also named Albert, was a tinsmith by trade, and followed that occupation nearly all his life. Albert was raised in a small town in his native state and remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, then struck out for himself, coming west and settling in Custer county, Nebraska, where he followed farm work for three years. He came to Grant county and located on a ranch fourteen miles southeast of Hyannis. This place was called the "Spring Valley Ranch," and he held the position of foreman for about three years. He next emigrated to Oregon, but only remained there for a short time then returned to Nebraska, and took charge of the old Collins ranch, which he operated for three years. From there he went to the S. S. Sears ranch and ran that for a time, and in 1903 settled on his present ranch in section 2, township 23, range 39, filing on the land as a homestead. He began making improvements as fast as he was able and built up a good ranch and at the present time is owner of a fine tract, consisting of six hundred and forty acres, all fenced and fitted with good buildings, wells and windmills, and is extensively engaged in the stock business, dealing principally in cattle. Although Mr. Metcalf is comparatively a young man, he has been most successful and has become widely known through the region as one of the substantial residents of the county, and is up-to-date and modern in his methods of operating his ranch.

Mr. Metcalf was married in 1893, to Miss Velma Wright, daughter of Aaron Wright, a well-known ranchman of Grant county, and early settler in this region. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Metcalf, named as follows: Charles, Mary, Albert, Velma and Ina, all charming young people, and theirs is one of the most hospitable and congenial families a weary traveler would care to meet. Our subject takes a commendable interest in local affairs.

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#### SWAN P. JOHNSON.

Swan P. Johnson, one of the leading old-time residents of Nebraska, and a man who has devoted much of his time to the upbuilding of the community where he makes his home, commands a high station as a citizen and leading agriculturist of Deuel county. He resides in Swan precinct, Deuel county, and has the dis-

tinction, with his brother Charles A., of being the first settlers on the table land.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Sweden, born July 21, 1857. He was raised and educated there, remaining with his parents until he was a young man twenty-two years of age, then came to America alone to seek his fortune. He settled in Henry county, Illinois, and lived in that locality for six years, then came to Deuel county, arriving in the region in the spring of 1886. The following spring he filed on a homestead on section 14, township 13, range 44, which adjoined the ranch of his brother, Charles A. Johnson, who had come to America in 1881, and homesteaded in Deuel county in 1885.

Our subject started in with a brave heart to develop a farm and build up a good home, and although meeting with many discouragements in the way of loss of crops during the drouth seasons and from other causes, he gradually improved his farm and became the possessor of additional land in the section, so that he is now owner of six hundred and forty acres, all of which is in first-class condition, having about two hundred acres under cultivation, on which he raises good crops. He is also engaged quite extensively in the stock business, having seventy-five head of cattle and quite a number of horses. His ranch has a fine set of farm buildings of all kinds, and he is counted among the progressive and up-to-date agriculturists and stockmen of his vicinity.

Mr. Johnson was married in Henry county, Illinois, February 9, 1884, to Miss Augusta M. Bergman, also a native of Sweden, she coming to this country in 1881. Seven children were born of this union, namely: Fannie M., born in Illinois, now living in California; Amanda, married to August Anderson, they living in Deuel county. The following are at home: Edwin, Harry, Annie, Victor and Herman, all of whom assist in the work about the ranch. Mr. Johnson's father is dead, but his mother is still living in the old homestead in Sweden, and both the father and mother of his wife reside in that country. Our subject is deeply interested in school affairs in his township, at present serving as moderator of district No. 24. In politics he is a Republican, and firm in his convictions.

#### JOHN WEINEL.

Among the progressive and well-to-do agriculturists of Box Butte county, a prominent place is accorded John Weinel, who resides on his fine farm of one thousand two hundred

acres in section 25, township 25, range 49. Here he follows mixed farming, and is a man of marked business ability and untiring energy.

Mr. Weinel was born in Hessel, Germany, on a farm, in 1850. His parents were born and reared in that country, and spent their entire lives there, our subject living at home during his boyhood, and was married in his native village in 1876 to Margrett Danges. Together the young couple came to the new world to seek their fortune and build up a home for themselves and their posterity. They landed in New York city in April, 1884, and went directly to Marshalltown, Iowa, making that locality their home for two years. At the end of that time they came to Nebraska, arriving at Hay Springs by railroad in the spring of the year 1886, settling at their present location. Their almost sole possessions were a team and wagon, which they had driven from Iowa. They bought two cows after landing here, and filed on a homestead, putting up a rough shanty, which they occupied for a number of years.

During the first year our subject made twenty-seven trips to Hay Springs, seventy or eighty miles distant, on freighting expeditions. They went through all the hardships and privations so well known to the early settlers of this state, meeting many disappointments in failure of crops by drouths and hailstorms and just as they were beginning to get along a little better had the misfortune to lose their barn, six horses, one thousand bushels of grain, granary and stable by fire. This was in 1893, and it was a severe setback to Mr. Weinel, and it was a long time before he recovered from this misfortune in a financial way. The country was continually being more thickly settled, as when he first landed here there were only three shanties occupied by white settlers in his part of the township. However, the pioneers began to rush in, times grew better, and he was able to add many improvements, also purchased many acres additional, so that he is now owner of one thousand three hundred and sixty acres of fine land, all fenced, which he uses as a stock ranch, also does some farming. He leases, besides this large tract, a large piece of land adjoining his ranch, devoting quite a number of acres to the raising of potatoes, which yield a fine crop and nets a considerable sum each year.

Mrs. Weinel died on the homestead in 1886, leaving a family of four children, namely: Pete, John P., Fred and Maggie. Mrs. Weinel was a lady of most estimable character, greatly beloved by all who knew her, and she was sincerely mourned by her family and many



HOMESTEAD RANCH OF JOHN WEINEL,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.



friends. In 1889 our subject was married the second time, to Minnie Sass, of Box Butte county. She was born in Hamburg, Germany, coming to the United States when a young girl, and was one of the early settlers in Nebraska.

Mr. Weinel takes a leading part in every movement started for the good of his community, and has done his full share in the upbuilding of this section. A picture showing the homestead ranch of Mr. Weinel appears on another page.

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### G. W. HUNTINGTON.

G. W. Huntington, whose pleasant home in township 30, range 45, bespeaks painstaking care, is a pioneer settler of Sheridan county, and one of the highly esteemed and worthy citizens of that region. He has devoted many years of his life to agriculture and met with pronounced success in his labors. He is now proprietor of a fine farm, and enjoys well merited prosperity, which has been attained solely through his own unaided efforts.

Mr. Huntington was born in Compton county, Canada, November 1, 1845. His father, Benjamin Huntington, was born in Vermont and went to Canada when a young man, settling on a farm there, and his wife was also a native of Vermont. Of a family of five children our subject was the youngest, and is now the only one living. His father died when he was fourteen months old, so he has no recollection whatever of him, and he was raised on a farm where he had to help in the work and from the time he was ten years old helped to support his mother, doing hard work on neighboring farms for which he received twenty-five cents per day. Often after the day's work was done he and his mother together would make a pair of pants in the evening, for which they would receive fifty cents, which helped in making the living for the family. His mother died when he was about twenty-one years of age, and soon after this the children came to Wisconsin, landing there on March 28, and they farmed in Sauk county for a year, then moved to Minnesota and farmed for three years near Plainview. They then returned to Wisconsin and remained for twelve years engaged in farming, and owned eighty acres of good land and was in fairly good circumstances. His wife's people had settled in Nebraska, and her mother was anxious to have them move there, and urged them to come and settle on her land in Sheridan county, so he sold off his personal property and came on with his family, arriv-

ing here October 10, 1888. His mother-in-law mortgaged his stock and he paid the interest, which acknowledged the debt, and he finally lost all his property in 1892, leaving him with only one horse. He then went on to rented land and tried farming during the dry season but had to give a third of everything he raised. He got small crops every season and had a little grain to sell each year so he managed to get along. In 1891 he had bought a threshing machine and during the dry years threshed through the country from Pine Ridge to the river, often doing three jobs of threshing in one day, and in that one season threshed for one hundred and six days. During the hard times his wife wanted him to leave the place and try it somewhere else, but he had nothing to start over with, so stayed on here, and since the better years began he has added to his farm until he has eight hundred acres, besides a farm which he gave to his son, and in 1904 he cleared up his last debt and put one thousand one hundred dollars in the bank. He has seen as hard times as any man in Sheridan county, but has come out in good shape, and thinks he is worth more today than if he had remained in Wisconsin and is satisfied to stay here unless he has a good chance to dispose of his property, in which event he will go still further west. He now rents out his farm, keeping a small piece of ground for himself and runs a few head of stock and some chickens, which more than keeps him, and he is also able to lay up a little as he goes along.

Mr. Huntington was married in 1869 to Miss Alma Young, a native of New Hampshire, born in 1853 and raised there until twelve years old, then went to Canada with her parents. Her father was of Scotch descent, a farmer and blacksmith by trade, and her mother of English blood. To Mr. and Mrs. Huntington five children have been born, namely: Amos, Edna, Anna, Edith and Ida, all living near the old home. Mr. Huntington has never given much time to politics and has never held an office, devoting his attention to the building up of his home. He is a Democrat.

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### CHARLES McDONALD.

Charles McDonald, president of the McDonald State Bank of North Platte, Nebraska, is one of the foremost citizens of that city, and has been a prominent factor in the upbuilding of the commercial and financial interests of this locality.

Mr. McDonald is a native of Tennessee.

His father, Alex. McDonald, was a native of Virginia, and lived there until the year 1791, when the family came west, settling in Jefferson county, Tennessee, where the subject of this sketch was born October 25, 1826. His great-grandfather, Alex. McDonald, was an old settler in Virginia before the Revolutionary war, and during that struggle between the nations he was staff officer in George Washington's staff. Our subject's mother was Miss Mary McClister, whose father was also a soldier in that war, and was one of the army who crossed the Delaware with Washington at the battle of Trenton.

Mr. McDonald came to Nebraska in 1855 and located in Pawnee county. In 1860 he came to Lincoln county, which he helped to organize, then called Shorter county, and afterwards was properly organized and renamed as Lincoln county. At this time he lived at Cottonwood Springs, Nebraska, where he operated an overland ranch and store where Fort McPherson was afterwards built. He was the first county official, being elected judge of the county immediately at its organization. He also held the office of county clerk for one term, and lived at Cottonwood Springs up to April 24, 1872. Mr. McDonald then sold out his property at Cottonwood Springs and moved to North Platte, where he has resided ever since. The government purchased his ranch and store, where the reservation was established, paying him six thousand dollars for the property. After moving to North Platte, Mr. McDonald was elected county superintendent of schools and served for two years, and afterwards held the office of county commissioner for one term. In 1873 he opened a general merchandise establishment in North Platte, and continued in this business up to 1899, meeting with great success, and carried on a flourishing trade from all over Lincoln and adjoining counties. He has accumulated a large fortune and owns valuable property in North Platte, also several hundred acres of the best land in the county located near the city in which he now resides. He has a fine home, and is one of the wealthiest men in this locality. In 1878 he purchased the bank of which he is now president, which was the first banking institution in North Platte, and it is one of the most reliable and solid in this section, and is now incorporated under the name of the McDonald State Bank.

October 14, 1858, Mr. McDonald was married to Miss Orra B. Henry, of Omaha, a native of Hamilton, New York, born in 1840. She came west in 1856 and was the first white woman to locate in this county. One son,

W. H. McDonald, was the first white child born in Lincoln county, and he is now cashier of the bank of which his father is president. Another son, James Boyd McDonald, is a merchant in North Platte. He is a member of the state Democratic committee, also secretary of the county Democratic committee, and widely known all over the county as a man of active public spirit. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald also have two daughters, Mrs. W. C. Reynolds (see sketch in this book), and Mrs. F. S. Mooney, both residents of this city. The latter's husband is cashier of the First National Bank of North Platte.

Mr. McDonald has been a Mason since 1857. In political faith he is a strong Democrat, and has always voted that ticket.

#### ADOLPH NIKONT.

Adolph Nikont, brother of Ferdinand Nikont, whose sketch appears in this volume, is also numbered among the old settlers of Box Butte county, Nebraska, and has spent the last twenty years of his career in farming and ranching here.

Our subject was born in Russia in 1869, of German ancestry and grew up there, receiving a common school education, remaining in the land of his birth up to the age of fifteen years, then came to America with his father and mother and together they came to Nebraska, locating in the eastern part of the state. Adolph followed farming, working out by the month for two years in Dodge county, and when he was seventeen years old came to Box Butte county, and worked at railroading for a few years. For the first few years after locating in this region he went through many hardships and bitter experiences, but was brave and faithful, and with his brothers and parents managed to get along very well and built up a good home for themselves. The original homestead was taken in section 28, township 27, range 51, by our subject's father in 1886, and both father and mother died there. And our subject now occupies the old original homestead that his father and mother did on settling here in pioneer days.

After working long and faithfully to build up a comfortable home and improve his place, and getting along very well, in the spring of 1907 Mr. Nikont was burned out, losing hay-barn, harness and many other things, which was a severe loss to him. Mr. Nikont is a hard worker, honest and industrious, and richly deserves all the success which has come to him since locating here. All of his time is



devoted to his farming and ranching interests, and he is highly esteemed in the neighborhood as a worthy citizen.

#### WILLIE E. FARR.

Willie E. Farr is a prosperous and successful farmer, whose home is not far from Newport, Rock county, Nebraska, where he is highly esteemed for his manly character and the possession of those particular traits that mark the good citizen, the kindly neighbor and the upright man. In his own career are presented the many advantages of a rural life; and now, at the prime of his powers, and, coming from a youth and manhood that have been peaceful and orderly, his vital forces are not lessened, but rather increased and strengthened.

Mr. Farr was born on a farm in the town of Brandon, Franklin county, New York, March 15, 1860, and was reared to a life of honest industry after the old American fashion. His father, Chauncey Farr, was born in Massachusetts, and came of an ancestry long known in New England, as did his mother, Sarah Drew. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this writing being the second member of the family. When he was twenty years of age it seemed the time had come for him to care for himself. In 1872 he went to Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming for some ten years, acquiring familiarity with western agriculture, and becoming ready for the crowning test of his ability to make a home on the great prairies on the far side of the Missouri. This test he successfully passed in 1882, when he came to Rock, then a part of Brown county, Nebraska, and took up a pre-emption claim in section 2, township 29, range 17, which he presently brought into fine farming condition. He was married in Rock county, October 10, 1885, when Miss Addie Muselman became his wife. Her people were early settlers in Iowa, and were very highly regarded by all who knew them for their excellent character and worth. To Mr. and Mrs. Farr have come the following children: Gertrude, Clifford, Eugene, Fern and Roy. For some two years prior to his marriage Mr. Farr lived alone, making his home in a frame shanty, the material for which he had hauled from Stuart. The farm where he is found at present writing was bought by him in 1900, and to-day he is the proprietor of a fine body of land consisting of nine hundred and sixty acres peculiarly adapted to the raising of hay and a general stock business. In stock he aims to keep on hand about one hundred and seventy-five head, and makes a habit

of selling about three hundred and fifty tons of hay a year. Thus it may be justly said that Mr. Farr has developed two farms since his coming to the state. Good groves are flourishing on both places, and nearly all the trees on both were planted by him. He is a Democrat and a strong Bryan man, but takes no very active part in party affairs, as he prefers to give heart and strength to the home and its interests. Socially he is a member of the lodge of Odd Fellows and Workmen of Newport.

#### W. J. McINTOSH.

W. J. McIntosh, one of the leading citizens of western Nebraska, is an old settler of Deuel county. He is the owner of a well improved and valuable farm on section 25, township 17, range 42, and is also interested in other enterprises, being president of the telephone company of Oshkosh, and occupies a high position as a business man and worthy citizen.

Mr. McIntosh was born in Trimble county, Kentucky, on October 9, 1851, growing to the age of six years in that county, then removing with father and mother to Illinois, where they made their home for nine years. The family came to Nebraska in 1866, locating on Blue creek, in Butler county, and lived there for a number of years. Our subject came into Deuel county in 1887, homesteading on sections 1 and 2, township 16, range 44, proved up on the claim, and later removed to his present location, where he has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, taken under the Kincaid act. He has erected good buildings and put many improvements on the place, cultivating fifty acres, and is also engaged in the stock business, running a bunch of cattle and horses. During his younger years Mr. McIntosh learned the carpenter's and builder's trade, and has worked at this off and on during his career.

Mr. McIntosh was married in Atchison county, Missouri, in 1882, to Miss Nancy I. Pebley, who is a native of that state. Six children have come to bless their union, named as follows: J. C., Owen, Emmett, Leonia and Robert, who are single and live at home, while William F. is married and resides on a ranch in Deuel county. The parents of both our subject and his wife are deceased. Mr. McIntosh is classed among the leading old-timers of his county and has done much to further the interests of the community in which he chose his home. He is prosperous and successful and is held in the highest esteem as a worthy citizen and good neighbor. He is a Republican in political sentiment.

## JOSEPH O. BARTON.

Joseph O. Barton is one of the most prominent and successful of the pioneers of Blaine county, Nebraska. He has always had strong faith in himself and in his adopted state and by intelligently following up-to-date methods has accumulated a competency to bring him comfort with advancing years. He rejoices in the confidence of his fellows and wields a strong influence in his community.

Mr. Barton's native state is Wisconsin, where he was born on a farm on the Sugar river, December 15, 1847. His father, Alexander, was born in Paris and came to America when he was a young man. Our subject's mother was Angeline Erno in her girlhood days and was a native of St. Johns, Canada, being of French ancestry.

Our subject was reared on a Wisconsin farm and became inured to hard work, imbibing the principles of thrift and enterprise which have strongly characterized his whole life. His father died when Joseph was six years old and as soon as he was large enough he helped to support the widowed mother. The years of toil and self-sacrifice for those who depended on him left their inevitable stamp upon him, and gave him traits of character that have materially aided in his march to success.

Joseph O. Barton was married January 5, 1872, to Miss Edna R. Davenport, who, although American born, was of French and German blood. Her parents were Nora and Louise (Buzzle) Davenport, the father being a miller by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Barton have had three children: Edward T., Laura May, and Guy C., now dead.

In 1874 our subject left Wisconsin in a covered wagon and started on a long drive to the great new west, coming to Garfield county, Nebraska, settling on land about two miles from where Burwell now stands, and living there for eight years. His brother George slept in a barn for a long time after coming here to guard the horses from the Indians. The Indians were still in the country and they committed many depredations, even going so far as to commit two murders in our subject's neighborhood, and at times these marauders of the west made it extremely dangerous for the pioneers. Horses were stolen and many things of usefulness and value were carried away. There were twelve families in the neighborhood and they took turns about going for supplies to Grand Island, the nearest market town, a hundred miles away, and our subject has slept under his wagon many a night on these long

freighting trips. His experiences of the hardships of the pioneer days were most severe and only a sturdy and worthy nature brought him through to success. He lived a long time in a sod house and he was not surrounded with many of the luxuries of life. It was a hard everyday struggle for maintenance and to improve his land. He saw the grasshoppers come in clouds and overrun the country, eating and totally destroying the crops for three successive seasons—these fierce little insects even ate the clothes on the line and the curtains at the windows of the houses. They were the most terrible pest ever known in the country and wherever they went they wrought ruin and devastation. Our subject had six total failures of crops and had to make a living by hauling posts and railroad ties which could be gotten out of the territory in those days.

In 1882, almost broken in fortune, our subject determined to move and he came to his present location in Blaine county, and started anew. He put up a sod house and started at the lowest round of the ladder. But times were better and he has steadily advanced in prosperity in all lines. He has now a splendid farm of four hundred and eighty acres and his son has six hundred and forty acres. His fine house, barns, granary, corn cribs and groves of forest trees (of which he has fifteen acres) all emphasize his success. His farm is known all over the country as the Riverside Ranch, and he is widely known as a successful stock raiser and farmer. He has struggled hard for a competency and now in his advancing years, he views with complacency and satisfaction the abundant fruits of his persistent labors.

Mr. Barton has always exhibited a strong interest in political affairs,—helped to organize Blaine county and was one of the first county commissioners and has been a member of the school board for years. As a progressive citizen and leader of public sentiment he stands in the front ranks. He served his country with honor and credit in the Civil war and during the days when the Indians were terrorizing the west. He joined the Twentieth United States Infantry and saw service in the south and after ninety days he was sent up to Minnesota to help quell the Indian outbreak just after the well known New Ulm massacre. With his company he was after the Indians in Minnesota, Dakota and other localities. Throughout his life Mr. Barton has been in the forefront of affairs and has come to occupy an important place in the modern development of the locality in which he lives.

## G. F. SALTSGABER.

G. F. Saltsgaber, who enjoys the comforts of a rural home in Liberty township, Kearney county, Nebraska, is one of the best known old settlers in this section of the country, and his labors here have become a part of the state's history. His life has been one of many experiences and he is honored as a public-spirited citizen and prosperous agriculturist of his county.

Mr. Saltsgaber is a native of Ohio. His father, George Saltsgaber, came to Nebraska in 1892, and died here in 1897. He was a native of Reading county, Pennsylvania, where the family had resided for generations, and they have an annual reunion in Ohio, which is attended by all the relatives. In 1906 this was attended by two hundred and seventy people. This association keeps all family records, which go back for two hundred years. Our subject's mother, Anna Stoutsenbarger, is a daughter of Daniel and Rowenski Stoutsenbarger, and his paternal grandmother was Hannah Keller, of Reading, Pennsylvania. In 1873 Mr. Saltsgaber began work as an apprentice, going into the building and contracting business at Pioneer, Williams county, Ohio, when but seventeen years of age, and has followed his trade ever since. In this county, Adams and Buffalo counties he has, since 1876, contracted and built a large number of farm houses and barns, and he has put up many of the best residences of this section. Most of the farm buildings in Eaton township have been put up by him, and he has contributed largely for the past many years to the general prosperity of this locality and had all the building contracts he could handle, often being obliged to turn them away. He has a foreman who has worked for him for twenty-one years, and he is trusted and liked by every one with whom he comes in contact, either in a business or social way. Besides his contracting Mr. Saltsgaber owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, one hundred and sixty acres being on section 11, of Liberty township. The other one hundred and sixty acres are on section 2, Liberty township. He took up a homestead on May 24, 1876, and still occupies this home, and the farm is carried on by his sons, who engage in mixed farming and stock raising.

Mr. Saltsgaber's wife was Miss Ida Kirkpatrick, born and reared in Pennsylvania, daughter of James K. and Catherine (Wright) Kirkpatrick, who came here in 1879. Their marriage took place in 1880, and to them have been born the following children: Roy, Jay,

Guy, George, Mona and Pearl. Our subject has two brothers in Kearney county—Levi, residing at Kearney, and Dan, of Minden. Another brother, William, died here in 1898, aged fifty-two.

Mr. Saltsgaber is a fine type of the German citizen, many of whom were raised in Pennsylvania. He is intelligent and broad-minded, alive to the best interests of his community and always ready to do all in his power to advance conditions for the people. He has filled all the local township offices and is a leader in township affairs. In politics he is an independent. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge, and also a Woodman.

## GEORGE DEGRAW.

George DeGraw, one of the prominent citizens of Camp Clark precinct, has for the past twenty years made that vicinity his home. During that time he has developed a good farm by dint of industry and thrift, supplemented by honesty and good management. He has also been instrumental in helping to bring about the prosperity enjoyed in the farming community of that part of Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, and done his full share in its upbuilding.

Mr. DeGraw first saw the light of day in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was born November 5, 1863. There he grew to the age of eleven years, when his parents moved to Nodaway county, Missouri, where they resided five years prior to moving to Smith county, Kansas. In 1880 Mr. DeGraw left home and for seven years made his home in Marshall county, Kansas. That year they came to that part of Cheyenne county that was in 1908 set off as Morrill county and filed upon and proved up a homestead in section 34, township 17, range 50, which later was sold to Mr. Tom Freeman. In 1901 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, township 20, range 51, which he is developing into one of the finest dairy ranches in western Nebraska. All of it is irrigable and about one hundred acres have been seeded to alfalfa. The balance will be sowed to that plant for plowing under from time to time to enrich the soil. Mr. DeGraw is increasing his dairy herd as rapidly as he can breed the kind of stock he desires. Comfortable buildings are on the place and shortly larger and more commodious structures will replace the primitive ones first built on the place. His farm is considered one of the best under ditch in the vicinity, on which he raises splendid crops of small grain,

raising as high as forty bushels of excellent hard wheat to the acre.

Mr. DeGraw's parents, Frederick C. and Elizabeth (Todd) DeGraw, have since 1889 been living in the Big Horn basin, Wyoming, where they have a fine property.

Our subject was married to Miss Stella Wymer, a native of Minnesota, their wedding occurring in Sidney, Nebraska, December 7, 1897. That Mr. DeGraw is a true adherent of the Roosevelt idea is evidenced by his interesting family of seven children, who are named as follows: Frederick C., Hannah, Iris, May, Nellie, Georgia and Eugene. Their home is one of the pleasant spots to be found in that region, and they have a host of friends and acquaintances by whom they are held in high esteem.

Our subject is a staunch Republican and fraternally a member of the Masonic lodge at Sidney.

A view of the farm buildings, with a view of the hill and valley landscape surrounding, is to be found elsewhere in our work.

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#### WILLIAM NEWTON FOSTER.

William Newton Foster, of Davison precinct, Cheyenne county, is one of the old settlers of western Nebraska, and since locating here has been one of the foremost citizens of this section, taking an active part in the development of the agricultural and commercial resources. He has also accumulated a nice property for himself and built up a good home, incidentally acquiring an excellent reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Foster was born in Charleston, Coles county, Illinois, on October 8, 1868, a son of Josiah and Susan F. (Hayden) Foster. The family moved to Douglas county, Illinois, about 1876, locating at Tuscola, and it was here that Mr. Foster was reared, attending the common schools and working on the farm. The parents moved to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, locating six miles north of Potter, where they established a ranch. The father, a minister of the Methodist church, became circuit rider, holding meetings throughout the region. For one year he was in charge of the pulpit at Harrisburg, but later he returned to the ranch.

Newton came to Nebraska in the fall of 1887, settling in Sidney, and soon afterwards he filed on a homestead in section 32, township 16, range 50, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he has added another quarter section of Kincaid homestead. He has a well improved estate, farming about two hun-

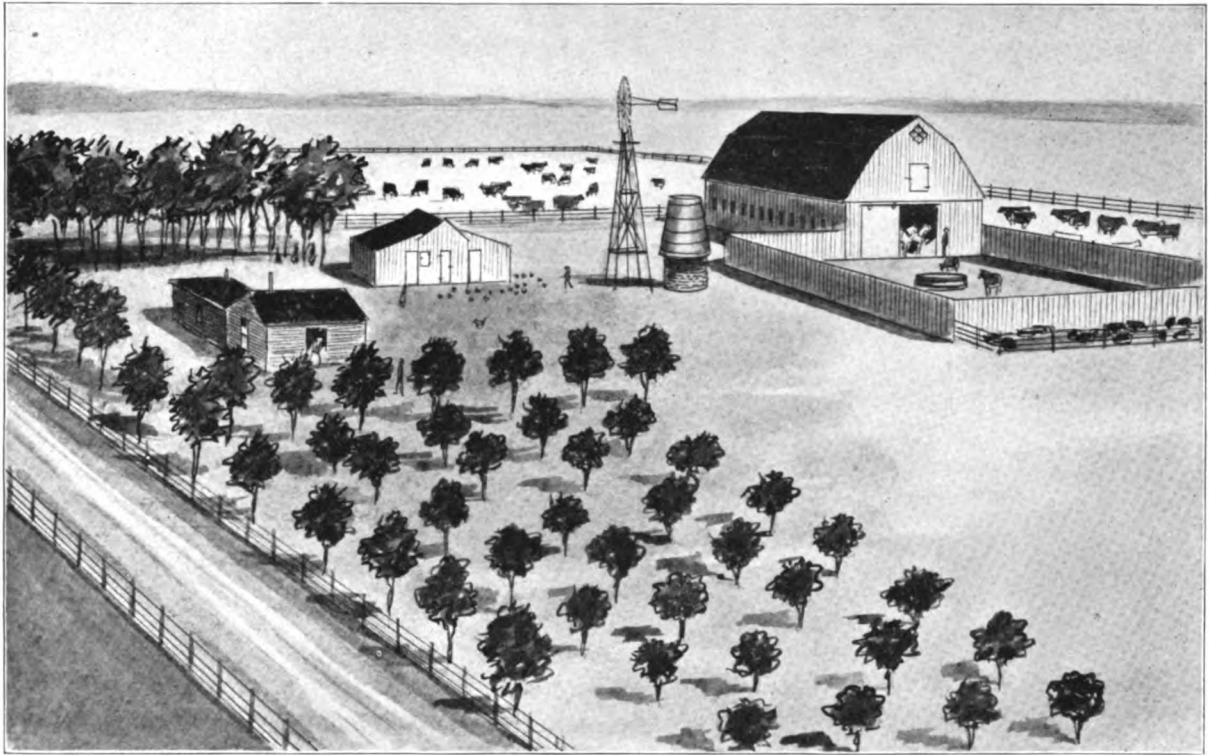
dred and thirty acres, and is a progressive, up-to-date agriculturist, having his ranch fitted with necessary buildings, fences, windmills, reservoirs, cisterns, etc. He has been through all the old Nebraska pioneer times, and tells many interesting experiences occurring while he was an old-time "cowpuncher." He was employed four years on the TwoBar ranch and was manager and foreman of the Camp Stool ranch in Wyoming for five years. He farmed in Missouri in 1896 and followed the same occupation two years in Kansas. During the winter of 1904 and 1905 he was proprietor of the Le Grand Hotel in Sidney. From June, 1902, to 1906, he had the contract for carrying the mail between Sidney and Ickes, on the route to Camp Clark.

Mr. Foster was united in marriage June 24, 1896, at Seymour, Missouri, to Miss Irene Brooks, who was born in Michigan and came as a child with her parents, Philo and Laura (Marvin) Brooks, to Cheyenne county, where she was reared and educated. Two children have been born of their union, Crystal and Eugene. They occupy a prominent place in neighborhood affairs, and their home is one of the most pleasant and hospitable to be found. A view of the premises is to be found elsewhere in this work. In political sentiment Mr. Foster is a loyal Republican, and active in local political matters. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Sidney and with his wife affiliates with the Knights and Ladies of the Fireside.

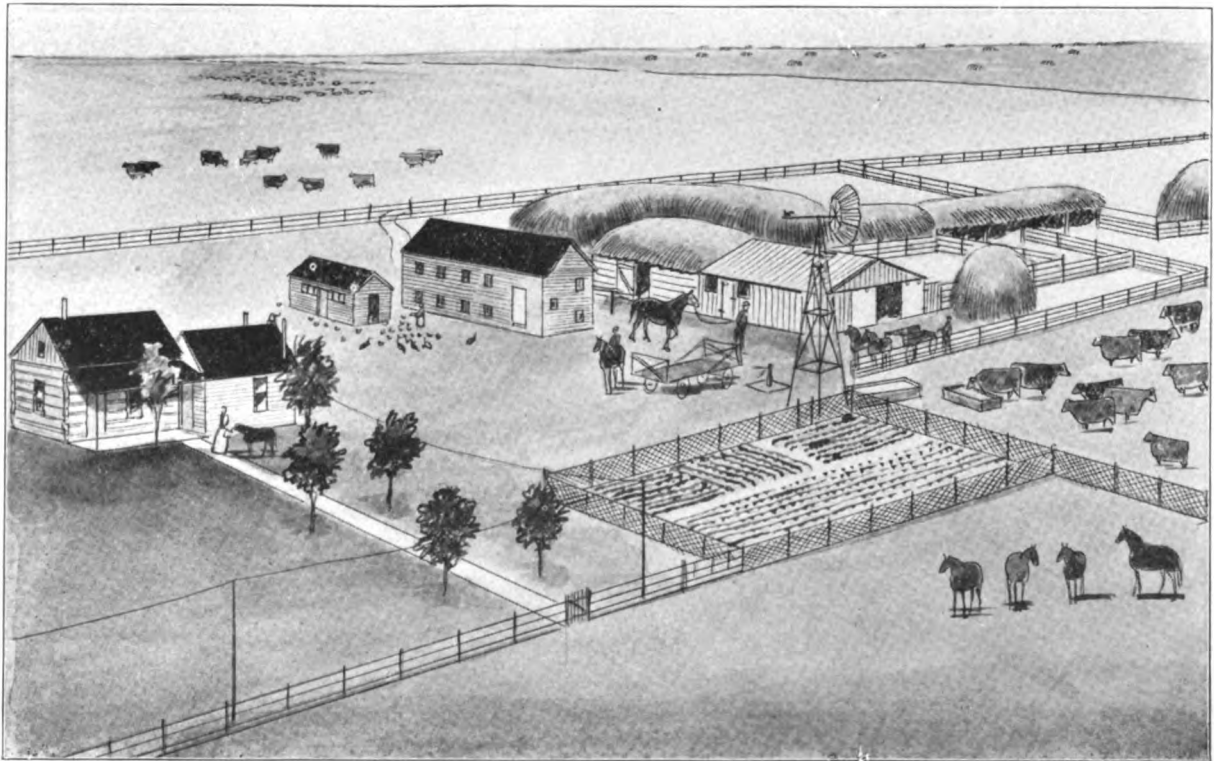
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#### JOHN E. HENDRICKS.

John E. Hendricks, a leading business man of Cody, Nebraska, was born in Hocking county, Ohio, January 8, 1864. His father, H. R. Hendricks, was a farmer, of German-American stock, and his mother, who was Mary Clark, was also of American blood. Our subject was reared on the farm until he was eighteen years old, then left home and came to Nebraska, locating at O'Neill, where he did general work in that vicinity for two years, then came to Cherry county and has made this his home ever since. During the first years he worked on ranches, and in 1891 took up a homestead, where he engaged in the cattle business. In 1900 he started in the saloon business, but only ran this a short time, and opened a meat market in Cody in 1905, to which he is adding a stock of general merchandise. He has built up a good trade and is one of the well-to-do merchants of the place. He has a neat and thoroughly up-to-date store and his goods are of the best.



**RESIDENCE OF GEORGE DE GRAW,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.**



**RESIDENCE OF W. N. FOSTER,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**





When Mr. Hendricks landed here this region was all Sioux county, and he was among the first settlers to come in west of Valentine. He has seen all the ups and downs of western Nebraska, and has done his share in building up the country. He was the first constable of this precinct and has always taken an active part in local political affairs, voting the straight Democratic ticket. During the winter of 1884-1885 he conducted a roadhouse at Cody, and this was the first building in the now thriving town.

Mr. Hendricks was married June 5, 1888, to Miss Martha Craig, a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota. She is the daughter of American parents, who were early settlers in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks have a family of five children, all born and raised in Cherry county, named as follows: Pearl, Fay, Myrtle, Ernest and Clifford.

Mr. Hendricks is a member of the Cody lodge of Yeomen.

#### PETER PETERSON, Sr.

Peter Peterson, Sr., a prosperous farmer of Union township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Peterson was born in the province of Helsingland, Sweden, and came to this country in 1868. He located in Knox county, Illinois, for some time, then came to Phelps county in 1887. He has no recollection of his father, he having been accidentally killed before our subject was born.

After settling in this county in 1887 he took a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, and afterwards bought an adjoining one hundred and sixty-acre tract, and on this three hundred and twenty acres he now resides. Our subject's two sons own four hundred and eighty acres in section 31, this township. The lands are mostly pasture, and they run from one hundred to one hundred and twenty cattle all the time, and do considerable hog raising. They also raise grain with good success on the level uplands, together with plenty of hay, but as yet they have not started any alfalfa. Mr. Peterson is assisted in his farm work by his sons, Peter Peterson, Jr., and Samuel, who have always lived at home, and this family is a good example of the progressive, thrifty and successful Swedish settlers of Phelps county. They have built up a fine farm and comfortable home, and enjoy the respect and esteem of all who know them.

On May 14, 1865, Mr. Peterson was married to Miss Ellen Samuelson, also a native

of Sweden. They have a family of seven children living, including the two sons mentioned above, and two younger sons and three daughters.

Mr. Peterson takes a commendable interest in all commercial affairs in his community, is a member of the Lutheran church, in which he is a most earnest worker, and lends his influence to the upbuilding of the better interests of the locality in which he makes his home. In politics he is a Republican.

#### CHARLES LANGE.

For nearly forty years the gentleman whose name heads this personal history has been associated with the agricultural interests of western Nebraska, and as one of Dawes county's old settlers and worthy citizens he is well known and highly esteemed. Mr. Lange is proprietor of a fine estate in section 16, township 31, range 50, and has accumulated his property and gained his good name by his persistent labors and honest integrity.

Mr. Lange was born in Germany in 1856, and with his father, Charles Lange, came to America in 1868, the family settling in Henry county, Illinois. They remained there up to 1871, then moved to Nebraska, locating near Lincoln, settling on a tract of wild prairie land, where they began as pioneers, opening up a farm and beginning the work of establishing a good home and accumulating a competence. Our subject was but a boy and he attended the country schools and during his leisure hours assisted the family in carrying on the farm, remaining with his parents up to 1889, when he came to Dawes county and located on his present farm. This was all wild prairie land with no improvements whatever, and he had not much to start with, but gave his whole time and energy to the development of his farm, and succeeded in a marked degree, as he is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres of good land, three hundred of which are highly cultivated, and the balance is in pasture and hay land. He has built a good house, substantial barns and other buildings, and his land is all fenced. Ash creek runs through the place, furnishing plenty of good living water the year round, and he has also plenty of timber and shade trees on the farm.

In 1883 Mr. Lange was married to Miss Augusta Nieman, born in Germany, where her father was a merchant, and never left the old country until very late in life. He died in Lincoln, Nebraska, soon after coming over to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Lange have a



family of seven children, named as follows: Fritz, Willie, Adolph, Richard, Otto, Martha and Carl.

#### FRANK BREWSTER, DECEASED.

Frank Brewster, deceased, was one of the prominent citizens and deservedly esteemed residents of Springview, Nebraska, a man of exceptional business capacity, who met with success in whatever he undertook in a business or professional way. Mr. Brewster served as county clerk of Keya Paha county and was a gentleman of integrity and enterprise, who won the entire confidence of his fellowmen as an efficient and popular public official.

Mr. Brewster was born in Chicago, Illinois, March 4, 1865, and was reared and educated there. His father, Charles F. Brewster, was of English blood, a printer by trade, following that work in Chicago for many years. The mother was Matilda D. Willson. Our subject was the second child of a family of seven, and at the age of eleven years started out to make his own way in the world, obtaining employment as an errand boy for the Omaha Bee, and he continued in the newspaper business, working up gradually until he had thoroughly mastered every detail of the work. He attended night schools to obtain his education, and has followed newspaper work and the printer's trade in nearly all of the central states.

In 1887 Mr. Brewster came to Keya Paha county, locating at Norden, and there published the *Borealis*. He was appointed postmaster, serving ten years, and he was later elected county commissioner, in which he served two terms. He was elected to the office of county clerk, assuming the duties in January, 1906, and died April 12, 1908, while in his second term. Ever since settling in this section he had been active in political and newspaper work, and was counted one of the most helpful of the settlers in building up the region and looking towards the advancement of the interests of the people throughout his locality.

Mr. Brewster was married on February 2, 1886, to Miss Belle Pulver, a native of Wisconsin, whose parents, Oliver and Hannah (Bixby) Pulver, were early settlers in southern Polk county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Brewster were the parents of two children, namely, Earle F. and Aileen E.

Mr. Brewster always voted the Republican ticket, and his newspapers supported the principles of that party. He was a member of

the Methodist church and affiliated with the Masonic and Woodmen orders.

#### FRIEND DICKINSON.

For over thirty years Cheyenne county has had a representative citizen in the person of Friend Dickinson. He has given the best years of his life to the development of a farm, and incidentally the development of the financial interests of the community where he chose his home, and in his declining years enjoys the esteem and respect of his fellowmen. He has a pleasant home in Lodgepole, where he also owns a large amount of property, besides being an extensive land owner in the county.

Mr. Dickinson was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, September 1, 1844, and lived there until seven years old, then the family moved to Washington county, Iowa, later went to Colorado, on Boulder creek, and in 1866 he returned to Iowa, where he spent about seven years. In the spring of 1873 our subject came to Nebraska, locating in Redwillow county. When he first came to this region the country abounded in wild game, and he engaged in buffalo hunting on Beaver creek for three years. He came into Cheyenne county in 1876, driving from Redwillow county, and for about six years freighted through the country, between Sidney and Deadwood, coming in contact with the usual life of the frontiersman. He arrived in Deadwood just before the big fire in that place, and witnessed many incidents of the early days in the west which have become a part of the history of that section of the country. On his first trip into the Black Hills he passed the remains of several emigrant outfits. These outfits had been destroyed and the people who had owned them had met death at the hands of the Indians.

In 1883 Mr. Dickinson took up a timber claim on Lodgepole creek and subsequently acquired three tracts of land in that vicinity aggregating fourteen hundred acres, which he still owns. The buildings on this property are situated on section 26, township 14, range 48, lying along the creek. This place is rented at the present time, being used principally for ranching purposes. He has built a fine business block in Lodgepole, and also owns the Stone Hotel at that place, besides a town dwelling.

Our subject was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Prosser in the fall of 1871. Mrs. Dickinson died in Lodgepole in 1886, leaving four children, namely: Daniel, married and

now living in Deuel county, Nebraska, on the North Platte; Pluma Ella, married to H. R. Neumann, of Cheyenne county; George and Charles, also married and settled in comfortable homes of their own in Cheyenne county, all filling honorable positions in the world. Mr. Dickinson was married again in 1899 at Chappel, Nebraska, to Mrs. Nettie (Stoutz) Allington, and of this union two children have been born, Mildred and Patsy.

Mr. Dickinson is a successful and prosperous business man, and a genuine westerner. In national issues he is a Democrat. He joined the Masonic order while living at Chappel.

### JAMES R. ROMANS.

James R. Romans came to Nebraska when the western part of that state was, as you might say, still in its infancy, and has remained here through all the changes that have taken place in the past thirty years, aiding materially by his influence and financially in the development of its natural resources. He occupies a high position as a worthy citizen and prominent old-timer, and deserves prominent mention for his patriotism and loyalty for the state of his adoption.

Mr. Romans was born in Wisconsin in 1864 and is of Scotch-Irish descent. His father was a farmer and dairyman in Wisconsin, and our subject grew up there, assisting his parents in the farm work and attending the country schools, where he received his early education, and he has supplemented this by constant study and wide reading, now being a well posted man on every topic of general interest. In 1878 he left Wisconsin and came to Nebraska, locating in Colfax county, only remaining there one year, then moved to Garfield county and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of government land. This is situated in section 33, township 22, range 16, and here he has built up a good home and farm, raising principally corn, oats and wheat, which show a splendid yield each year, and by which he has made considerable money. He also engages in stock raising, principally cattle. In addition to these enterprises he carries on a dairy business, making a specialty of cream, and this also nets him nice money.

In 1894 Mr. Romans married Miss Lola Hennick, a native of Missouri, raised and educated in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Romans are the parents of four children, named as follows: Harley, Charles, Vernice and Robert. The family are active and highly esteemed members of the Christian church, well

liked throughout their community. Mr. Romans has served as road overseer for several years, and has also been a member of the school board. Politically he is an independent voter.

### HENRY LUEKING.

Henry Lueking, an enterprising and prosperous agriculturist of Harlan county, Nebraska, is a resident of Spring Grove township, where he has developed and improved a fine farm. He is a man of untiring energy and sterling character, esteemed and respected by a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Lueking is a native of West Phalen, Germany. His father, Gotlieb Lueking, came from the north of Germany, near Bremen, settling in Gage county, Nebraska, in 1882, and lived there for many years, his death occurring in Harlan county in 1903. Our subject located on his present farm in 1887, coming into the county three years before that time. He first bought a homestead right and has been steadily adding to this until he now owns five hundred and sixty acres of good land in section 18. He has made every improvement on his place, having erected one of the finest residences in the county, also other commodious and substantial farm buildings. For many years he has been engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, now running from sixty to seventy-five head of cattle and about the same number of hogs, besides plenty of horses for farm use. He shows a decided preference for the Poland China hogs, of which he has a fine drove.

Mr. Lueking takes an active interest in all local public affairs, serving his community in different capacities. From 1902 to 1904 he held the office of township assessor, and in 1904 was elected county supervisor, serving his term and again elected the following term. He is a strong Republican, and is one of the leading citizens of his section, admired by all for his strict integrity and honesty of dealings. Prior to settling in this county he resided in St. Louis, Missouri, where he was engaged as a workman for the St. Louis Stamping Company.

Our subject was united in marriage in St. Louis on October 15, 1882, to Miss Louisa Maschmeyer, a native of Germany, who came to America in 1881. Two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lueking, Frank and Fred, are farmers in Harlan county, while three reside at home with their parents, namely: Otto, Walter and Lawrence. Another son, Henry, is engaged in the hardware business at Oxford, Nebraska.

His daughters are: Mary, married to Martin Schepker, in eastern Nebraska; Louisa, Ella, Minnie, Tillie and Sophia. The family belong to the Lutheran church and are devoted members of that church.

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#### FRANCIS S. BIBLE.

Francis S. Bible, one of the well known men of Keith county, is a substantial and prosperous resident of Paxton precinct. He has been in the well business in Perkins and Keith counties for many years past, and has put down a large number of wells all over the country. This work has taken him to nearly every farm home in the region, and he is perhaps better known than any other man in the region.

Mr. Bible was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, June 9, 1865. His father, Enoch Bible, was a farmer, a native of Tennessee, and settled in Wisconsin when he was a young man. About 1868 the family returned to Cocke county, Tennessee, and after remaining there for nine years they went to Clinton county, Indiana, and farmed for a number of years. When Francis was twenty-one years of age he came to Keith county, arriving here in June, and on the 15th of that month filed on a homestead in section 18, township 11, range 36, since set off to Perkins county, and worked out in the vicinity for about a year. His first building was a sod house, and this he occupied all alone for about two years, going for his provisions to Paxton, about eighteen miles distant. He had a team of small ponies, with which he did all his work during the first summer, and he was obliged to live in the most frugal way in order to get along and prove up on his claim. Hard times struck him in 1894 and he left his homestead and traveled in Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, Arkansas and other parts, digging wells part of the time, going through the country in a covered wagon, and encountered many interesting experiences. While in Arkansas Mrs. Bible was taken sick and died, and after this sad event Mr. Bible went to Indiana and remained some time. He eventually came back to Keith county and worked out on different ranches up to 1903, purchasing his present farm on section 2, township 13, range 36, which then was but little improved. In a short time he had put the place in good order, and now has a good ranch of eight hundred and eighty acres in the South Platte valley, the land bordering on the river for two miles. He has put up good buildings, planted trees, both shade and fruit, and has an

orchard of three hundred trees, which is pronounced one of the finest in the section. He cultivates about one hundred and eighty acres, engaging in diversified farming, and is getting on to financial independence. During 1891 Mr. Bible was burned out, losing about everything he had, which was a severe setback for him during the hard times that were then almost upon him.

Sometime after starting in the well business in 1886 he dug a well to the depth of one hundred and ninety-seven feet by hand, and for this work received no pay, a hardship not easily endured during those stringent times.

In 1896 Mr. Bible was married to Miss Clara M. Dougherty, of Tuscarawas, Ohio. Her father, George Dougherty, a native of Willesburg, West Virginia, was a miner in Toronto, Ontario, while her mother was Annie Lee, of Oxford, England. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bible, named Evaline.

Mr. Bible has always taken an active interest in local matters tending to improve conditions. He has served as justice of the peace for two terms, and held other minor offices. Politically he is a strong Republican. In religion he is of the United Brethren denomination. He is a Modern Woodman and a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America.

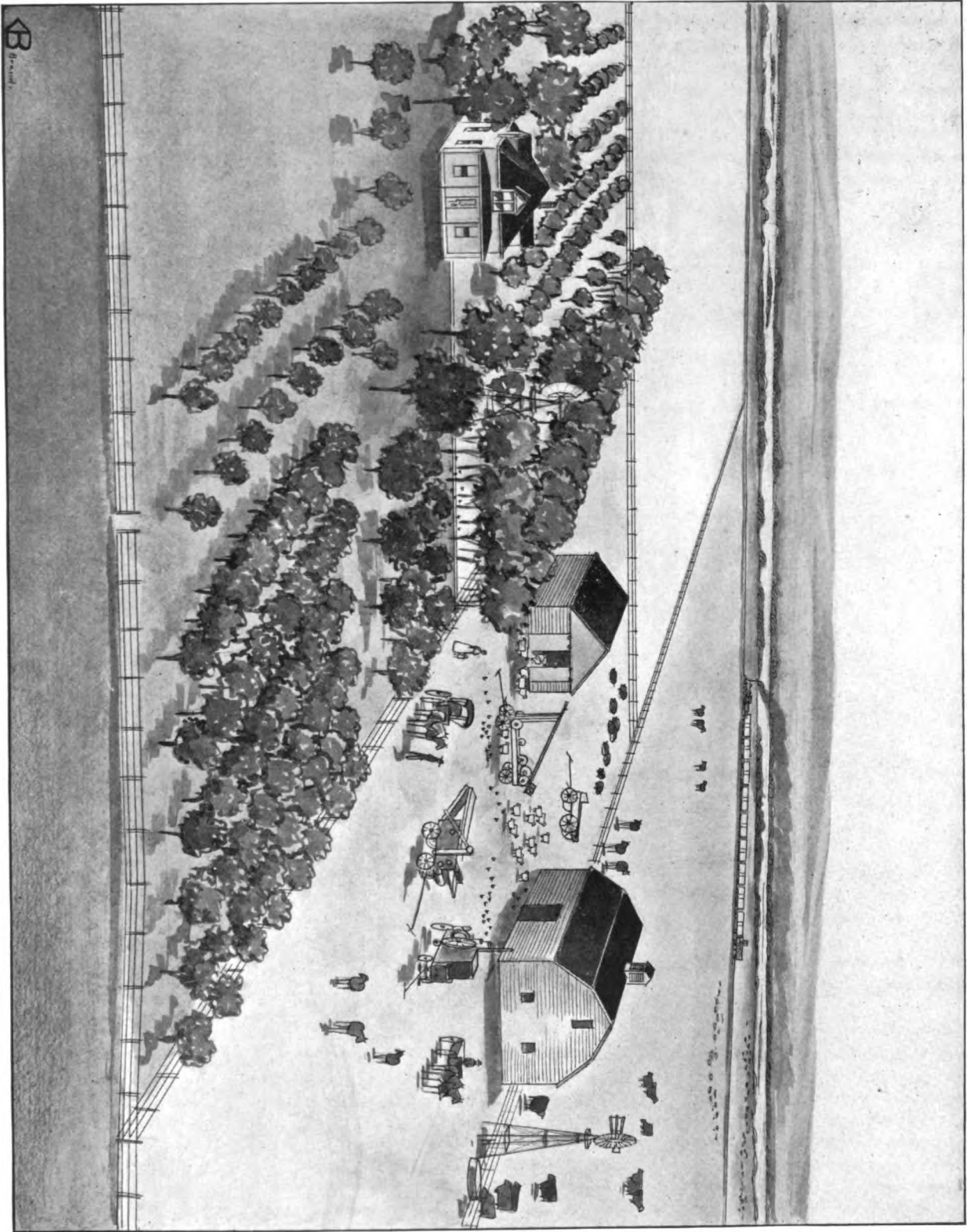
We show a fine view of the new residence and buildings constructed on Mr. Bible's ranch in 1909.

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#### SYDNEY S. MARCY.

Among those who came to Nebraska in the early days and have here built up a good home and farm through thrift and industry is the gentleman above named. Mr. Marcy resides on section 24, township 30, range 45, Sheridan county, and is one of the successful and prosperous citizens of his community.

Mr. Marcy was born in McHenry county, Illinois, in 1848, and raised on a farm there. His father, Danforth S. Marcy, was of old Puritan stock, born in Connecticut, and settled in Illinois in 1834, where he farmed for many years. He married Elizabeth Metcalf, born in Steuben county, New York, of English-Dutch origin, and they had a family of six children, of whom our subject is the fifth member in order of birth. In 1866 the family moved to Iowa, locating in Buchanan county, and there engaged in farming, remaining up to the death of the husband and father. Our subject lived at home until twenty-two years of age, then started in farming for himself, teaching school during the winter months. He farmed in Iowa for twenty-two years, during



"TRIANGLE B RANCH," RESIDENCE OF FRANCIS S. BIBLE,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



the first few years living on rented land, then purchased a place of his own, and only left Iowa to get more land, so went to Montana, but did not like the country and only stayed eleven months. In the fall of 1888 he came to Nebraska and located on section 15, township 30, range 45, as a pre-emption, and later took a homestead and proved up on it. He later traded them for town lots in Marengo, Illinois, but never went back there to live, selling those lots in 1897 or 1898 after buying his present home in 1896. Here he has nine hundred and sixty acres of mixed land, farming and grazing, and farmed some during the dry years, but for the first two years he was on the place he had a hard time to get along. He gathered together some stock and used the produce he raised on the place. Most of the time he carries about three hundred head of stock. When he landed here he had about six hundred dollars in money and he went to work at once and built a good house and other farm buildings, and the following spring put in a good crop. The place is all fenced and in good shape, and he will spend the balance of his days here.

In 1870 Mr. Marcy was married to Miss Hattie J. Blood, born in Connecticut in 1849. Her father, Nathan Blood, was of English stock, born in Connecticut, as was also her mother, who was Harriet N. Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Marcy have a family of four children, named as follows: Eugene E., Clarence S., George E. and Minnie Ethel. The family are well liked in the community and have a pleasant home. Since living here the health of every member has been much better than when they lived in Iowa, where four daughters died. They have only had to have a doctor a few times since coming here, and then only in the case of accidents to Mr. Marcy. For a time the family have tried living in town, but did not like it and do not know of a place where they would rather live than their present home. Mr. Marcy has never had any desire to hold office, although he always takes an interest in local affairs, voting for the man best suited to the office. Politically he is a Populist.

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#### W. C. REYNOLDS.

William Cannon Reynolds is a well known and highly respected resident of North Platte, Nebraska, and is one of the prominent railroad men in the Union Pacific service.

Mr. Reynolds is a native of Danville, Illinois, born in 1857 on a farm. His father was James Reynolds, who was a foreman in the employ of the Wabash Railway Company

at Danville up to 1867. After spending some years in the west he moved to Indiana, where he bought a farm. He died in Danville, Illinois, November 18, 1903. Our subject's mother was Sarah E. Smith, a daughter of Abraham Smith, who was an early settler in Danville, Illinois, and a soldier in an Illinois regiment in the Civil war. He was one of the men who went to that state when it was comparatively a wilderness, purchasing land for two dollars per acre, which is now worth two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. His wife was a Miss Paine, descendant of the famous Paine family of England. Mr. Reynolds, our subject's father, came west and located in North Platte in 1867. Our subject was reared and educated at Danville, Illinois, and came west to North Platte in December, 1876. He started to work for the Union Pacific railway, being employed in the roundhouse six months, afterwards as fireman, and fired for one engineer for six years, namely, Charles Smith. In 1883 he began as an engineer on this road in the freight service, continuing in the work up to 1898. For the past ten years he has been engineer on a passenger train, his run being from North Platte to Grand Island, Nebraska. He is proud of the fact that he ran the engine on the special which carried President McKinley on his last trip over the Union Pacific road, and has run the engine different times when Mr. Harriman, president of the road, has gone through here. He has a splendid record for faithfulness and close attention to duty, and is one of the most trusted and well liked men in the company's employ.

Mr. Reynolds is well situated financially, has a large interest in town property in North Platte, owning some of the best sites in the business portion of the city.

Mr. Reynolds married Miss Nettie V. McDonald, daughter of Charles McDonald, a banker in North Platte. She was born and reared in Lincoln county. A sketch of her father's life appears in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have two children—Charles M., attending school at Quincy, Illinois, and William Edward, at home. The family have a fine home and a large circle of friends and acquaintances. They are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### PETER HANSEN.

Peter Hansen, one of the old and honored residents of Sioux county, who occupies a pleasant home in section 5, township 34, range 54, presents in his own career an inspiring

illustration of the power of pluck and persistence against every sort of trial and danger. Such are the men who teach us the uses of adversity, and to whom we may well turn for wisdom in the time of trouble.

Mr. Hansen was born in 1860 in Schleswig-Holstein, in the province of Hadesleben, formerly Denmark but now belonging to the German government. His father, Christ Hansen, was a day laborer in his country, and spent his whole career there, his death occurring in 1864. Our subject grew up in Germany and Denmark, and as a boy learned the moulder's trade, working for seven years in a foundry, and at the age of seventeen years started out for himself, coming to America. After landing in New York city he struck out for the west, going to Milton, South Dakota. That region was then all new country and scarcely a settler excepting the Indians who roamed the plains, and there were plenty of buffalo, antelope and other wild game. He spent about a year in that locality, then went to Cedar county, Nebraska, and farmed for about five years, also did quite a good deal of work as a sailor on the steamboats that plied the river. In the spring of 1881 he was a witness of the terrible havoc wrought by the floods on the Missouri river, and during that catastrophe managed to rescue many who were in danger of drowning, and was the means of saving three persons who were in dire distress. He filed on a homestead in South Dakota near Scotland, in Hutchinson county, proved up on the land and then sold out, coming to Sioux county, where he filed on a claim and still occupies this place, which is situated in section 5, township 34, range 54. He drove from his former place in South Dakota, bringing with him two ox teams and wagons, twenty-four head of cattle and five horses, also a bunch of chickens, which furnished them with fresh eggs during the whole journey. When they camped out along the way the chickens were let out of their coop, and at the time of starting on their travels again they would all come at a call and be ready to enter their coop of their own accord. On arriving at their destination Mr. Hansen and his family started to make a home, putting up a log house and barns, and these buildings are still standing on the homestead. Chadron was then the nearest railroad town at that time, and that was a distance of forty-five or fifty miles. During the first few years he had a hard time to make a living and save money enough to put on any improvements. He raised some crops, and also bought vegetables and other produce, which he sold all over the country,

even going as far as Deadwood with his goods, selling to the railroad contractors and hands. He was interested in the horse business and made one trip to South Dakota in this connection, selling horses at Yankton, Vermillion and Gavil. As he prospered he steadily improved his ranch, added to his original tract, and at the present time is owner of twenty-one hundred acres, lying along Hat creek, including his Kincaid homestead and the land of his mother and sister, all fenced and in fine shape. He farms about sixty acres, and the balance is used for ranching purposes. Mr. Hansen's mother now lives with him and is quite active in spite of the fact that she is ninety-one years old.

Miss Mary C. Hansen, a sister of our subject, has been in Nebraska with him ever since he first came to this region, witnessing the same pioneer experiences, and is also one of the well known early settlers. She took up a homestead and pre-emption, proving up on both, and is now owner of six hundred and forty acres in the vicinity of her brother's ranch. She is an excellent business woman and personally manages her property. Mr. Hansen is a Democrat in political views.

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#### GEORGE W. DWINELL, DECEASED.

George W. Dwinell, one of the early settlers in western Nebraska, who has done his full share in the upbuilding of this part of the country, was born in Harvard, Massachusetts, in 1833, and his death occurred in February, 1907. His father, Benjamin J. Dwinell, was a blacksmith by trade, of Yankee stock, born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, and his mother was a native of New Hampshire, born in Londonderry, of American stock, she being an aunt of Horace Greeley, and the one who first taught him his A, B, Cs. There was a family of eight children, four boys and four girls, our subject being the fourth member in order of birth. About 1845 his parents came to Rochester, New York, and he was raised there until he was twenty-two years of age, then obtained employment on the New York Central railroad, running between Rochester and Buffalo for nine years, four years of this time acting as conductor. At the end of this time he resigned his position with the company and went south, where he ran a train in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, employed by the government on the Memphis & Charleston railway. His headquarters there were at Huntsville, Alabama, and he continued at this until after the close of the war,



up to 1866. He then went back to Michigan, locating at Lansing. There he was conductor on the Chicago & West Michigan railroad for ten years, when the illness of his wife compelled him to resign and move west, so they came to Denver, and he railroaded in Colorado up to 1883, then came to Long Pine and worked as a passenger conductor up to 1885. He had a splendid record all through his career as a railroad man, and was a faithful and efficient employe, well liked by his superior officers and the public. In 1884 he built the Dwinell Hotel at Long Pine and acted as proprietor for a term of years. This was the finest hotel in this part of Nebraska, and was a great Sunday stopping place for commercial men, who always managed to make the town if they were anywhere within reaching distance of the place. In 1888 Mr. Dwinell sold out this hotel, and the following spring made a trip to Maine, where he visited with his wife's relatives, and after coming back to Nebraska he took charge of the New York Hotel in Fremont, remaining in that up to 1891. He was a genial, whole-souled man, popular with all, and made a great success of the hotel business. Mr. Dwinell was prominent in all local affairs, and served as a member of the town board for five years. He was justice of the peace, having held that office for four years or more.

Our subject was married in 1855 to Miss Helen Cook, a native of New York state. She died at Denver, Colorado, in 1882, leaving one son, Charles B. Dwinell. In 1883 Mr. Dwinell married Barbara J. Glidden, she being a widow with two children, namely, E. F. Weymouth and Fannie.

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#### HOWARD MILES.

Howard Miles, who is one of the solid and successful business men of Paxton, Nebraska, is also one of the old settlers of Keith county. He is classed among the well-to-do citizens and leading men of the section, and has acquired all his possessions through energetic labors and good business management, and is now prepared to enjoy his declining years surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Miles was born September 15, 1854, in Muscatine, Iowa. His father, Henry Miles, was born in England, coming to America as a young man, and was an early settler in Iowa. He married Jane Hoag, a native of Vermont. The family lived near Springdale, Cedar county, Iowa, during the boyhood of our subject, and he received his early education in the pub-

lic schools, later attending the Quaker college at Springdale. After attaining manhood he located in Audubon county, Iowa, where he lived for a few years, then moved to Defiance, in Shelby county, and from 1876 to 1882 was engaged in the mercantile business at that place. After that he drifted around for a time, and in January, 1884, landed in Kearney, Nebraska, obtained employment in a store and worked as a clerk for two years, then came to Paxton. Here he was the second man to put up a building, erecting a small store, and began the hardware business. He gradually enlarged his establishment as his patronage increased, and has built up a splendid trade. He has a full line of general goods, and has the confidence and esteem of the entire countryside, owing to his honest dealings and strict integrity. Mr. Miles has the distinction of having been in continuous business longer than any other old settler in Keith county, and all of the time carrying on the same line of work. He has a store built entirely of native stone, which was hauled from within one-half a mile of Paxton. Mr. Miles has homesteaded and owns considerable land in the vicinity of Paxton, besides several dwelling houses in the town and other property. Since settling in this region he has been through various experiences, at one time having his safe blown open and destroyed. Another instance was when burglars entered his store and did considerable damage, although they took very few goods. Besides his store, Mr. Miles has always been interested in the horse business, and still raises a few horses.

In 1886 Mr. Miles was married to Miss Emma Webster, who was born and reared in Iowa, a daughter of William and Jane (Smith) Webster. They have two children, Delight and Angie.

Mr. Miles is a Bryan Democrat and has served as precinct committeeman for his party. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Defiance, Iowa; the Odd Fellows at Sutherland, transferring to the Paxton lodge when that was instituted in December, 1908, and has served the Paxton camp, Modern Woodmen of America, as clerk for many years.

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#### LEWIS F. RUPPEL, SR.

Lewis F. Ruppel, Sr., has been an important factor in the evolution of Loup county, Nebraska. He was born in Wellersburg, Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1847. His father, Christian Ruppel, was a native of Germany, and was a shoemaker by trade, becom-

ing a pioneer of the great state of Iowa, where he died in 1861. The mother's maiden name was May Holtseider, and she was also a native of Germany; she died in Maryland in 1849.

In about 1853 the family moved to Iowa, where the subject of our sketch spent his early years working on the farm and attending the country schools. When he was fourteen years old, owing to the death of his father, he started out for himself. In 1864 he enlisted in the Forty-seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, Company I, and was sent south along the Mississippi river. After the war was over he went to Pennsylvania, taught school for a while and then took up dentistry and followed that profession for several years in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

In 1871 Mr. Ruppel, Sr.; was married to Miss Katherine Barker, who was born in West Virginia. Her parents, William and Mary (Knaval) Barker, were farmers by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Ruppel, Sr., have seven children, namely: William A., Grace, Edgar, Lewis F., Jr., Mary, Katherine and Lowrie.

The subject of this biographical sketch brought his family west to Nebraska in the year 1878, first settling on a farm in Johnson county, where he followed the agricultural business for four years. In 1882 he moved to Loup county, locating in the valley of the North Loup river. The country was new, without any improvements, wild game was abundant and antelope and deer roamed over the raw prairie. Mr. Ruppel built a house of sod and also put up other buildings of like material. The nearest railroad point being at North Loup, occasioned many long trips for supplies, and the subject of our sketch made several such journeys, hauling freight for the neighbors. Once the trip required six days and his expenses amounted to ten dollars and he only received four dollars for his pay.

The first county convention was held in Mr. Ruppel's yard and he was nominated for two offices at that time, and he was elected the first county surveyor of Loup county. The early days were full of interesting experiences for the family. At first they had an ox team and Mrs. Ruppel rode the plow behind these oxen more than once, and they were used to carry the family to church and Sunday school. When the family came to Loup county they drove from Johnson county in a covered wagon and were three weeks on the road, camping out on the way. They experienced all the hardships of the years of drouth and at times it was very discouraging. For seven years only small returns were received from the farm.

Lewis Ruppel, Sr., now has a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, all fenced and improved with a good class of buildings. He has a nice modern farm house thirty-two by thirty-six feet, two stories high, and has one of the finest orchards in this part of the country, consisting of two hundred peach trees, also cherry, apple and apricot trees. His fruit has taken first premium several times in district fairs in competition with the product of this and adjoining states, and such has been his success that he now devotes a large part of his time to fruit raising. He cultivates about two hundred acres of his land and his sons, Lewis and Lowrie, have done most of the farming for the past ten years.

Lewis Ruppel, Sr., stands today as one of the most respected of the old settlers in this part of the state. He has always done his part in all affairs and he has won a high place in the history of his community.

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#### WILLIAM T. JONES.

In compiling a list of the representative farmers of Sioux county, Nebraska, a prominent place is accorded the name of William T. Jones. For many years he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in township 31, range 55, and has done a large part in developing the resources of that locality, and enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him. He has a comfortable home in section 25 and is the owner of a good farm.

Mr. Jones is a native of Albany, Green county, Wisconsin, born in 1864, and was raised in town. His father, George J. Jones, came to America from England, where he was born and reared, and where he worked as a shoemaker for many years. He married Jane Gravenor in America, at Albany, Wisconsin, and lived there for many years. Mrs. George J. Jones was a native of Wales.

When the Civil war broke out the father enlisted in the Twelfth Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, saw hard service, taking part in many battles, and was one of those who never returned to the waiting family at home. He died in the army at Key West, Florida. In 1876 the mother with her family moved to Minnesota and settled in Martin county, where our subject grew to manhood, remaining in that country for nine years, then came to Nebraska, locating at first in Seward county, where he operated a farm for seven years, and while on that place went through all the pioneer experiences in opening up his farm. He helped open up the surrounding country, and

lived here up to 1894, then moved to Sioux county, and had practically nothing to start with outside of his strong arms and willing hands. He broke up some land for crops the first year, and the following year was obliged to work out most of the time to make a living, receiving for his labor the munificent sum of eighty cents per day, with dinner thrown in, and the next year had his wages raised to one dollar a day. For about two years he lived on a farm four and a half miles south of Harrison, then moved north of town and worked in a sawmill for some time, receiving eighty cents a day as wages. In 1898 Mr. Jones took up a homestead near Andrew, Sioux county, proved up and improved it in good shape, working out a good deal of the time, and managed to save up quite a little money and make a good living for his family. As times grew better he purchased land adjoining his original homestead, put up good buildings, and is now owner of six hundred and forty acres, all of which is fenced, supplied with good buildings, wells, windmills, etc., and he controls besides his deeded land about fourteen hundred acres of leased land, using it as a stock ranch, on which he runs a large number of cattle for market each year. He is on the high road to success and wealth, and his present prosperity is due entirely to his own unaided efforts and gained by hard work and honest and conscientious dealings with his fellow men. These qualities never fail to bring a rich reward.

Mr. Jones was married in Seward county in 1887 to Miss Sadie E. Harper, who was born and reared in Iowa. She is a daughter of William Harper, a well known old settler of that state, who died when she was a child. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of four children, namely: Pearla May, married and residing in Sioux county, near her father's place; William T. Jones, Jr., Sadie E. and Panzy M., all at home and bright, helpful children. Mrs. Jones was postmistress at Andrews part of 1906 and 1907 and she opened the first store at Andrews, but sold out in 1907. Mr. Jones has held school office for a number of years and has been one of the foremost men of his locality in helping establish schools and building up the community. Mr. Jones has been in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad off and on ever since coming here. Special mention should be made of W. T. Jones, Jr., who at the age of thirteen years was employed by the Chicago & Northwestern railway to run their steam pumps at different places—quite a responsible position and an honor to a lad of thirteen.

## GEORGE SCHREAR.

George Schrear, an early settler of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is one of the most highly respected and esteemed citizens of his community. He has a pleasant and comfortable home and valuable estate in Brownson precinct, and has gained his entire property through industrious effort and honest dealings, supplemented by thrift and good management.

Mr. Schrear was born in Prussia, December 25, 1835, and lived in his native land until fifteen years of age. Wm. Schrear, his father, with the family, sailed from Havre, in the fall of that year and after a voyage of a month, landed in New York. He settled at Beardstown, Illinois, and for eight or ten years followed carpentering as a vocation. He then removed to Logan county, Illinois, and later to Macon county, Missouri, where he and his wife died.

George Schrear lived in Logan county, Illinois, until 1888, coming at that time to Cheyenne county. He at once filed on a homestead and timber claim on section 20, township 15, range 51, and started to build a home and develop a farm. He acquired a three hundred and twenty-acre ranch and engages in stock raising on quite an extensive scale, also cultivates about seventy-five acres. He has at the present time twenty-five to thirty head of cattle and ten to fifteen horses, and has all good improvements necessary for the proper operation of his ranch. Mr. Schrear was married in Logan county, Illinois, to Abigail Robinson, a daughter of George and Gertrude Robinson. Mrs. Schrear was a native of New York state, and died on the home farm in 1907, leaving a sorrowing family, and many friends to mourn her loss. She was a lady of most estimable character, and greatly beloved for her kindly disposition and generous nature. There were three children born to Mr. Schrear and his wife, namely: William, holding the position of section foreman on the Union Pacific at North Platte, Nebraska; and Henry and Rebecca. Henry Schrear was born in Logan county, Illinois, October 13, 1875, and is now living on the home ranch, assisting his father in carrying on the place. He is a thorough ranchman and is a young man of fine ability, energetic and industrious. The daughter also lives at home.

Mr. Schrear is a Democrat in political sentiment, and is an earnest worker for party principles. The family were members of the Christian church in Illinois. A view of the home is shown on one of the illustrated pages of this volume.

## JUSTIN V. JARDEE.

Justin V. Jardee, a successful and highly respected member of the farming community near Newport, Rock county, Nebraska, who has lived a simple and unpretentious life, is now enjoying the fruitage of industrious years. Such men as he who live honestly and square with the world, who pay their debts and make their own way are the pride of the imperial state in which their lot is cast, and of these, Nebraska has her full share.

Justin V. Jardee was born in Oswego county, New York, September 9, 1849, where his father, Joseph Jardee, was engaged as a machinist. He died in Buchanan county, Iowa, in 1883, and is remembered as a man of high character, and genuine worth. Catherine M. (Johnee) Jardee, the mother of Justin V., had a family of sixteen children, of whom Justin is the eighth, and reared them to honesty, industry and frugality.

When Justin V. Jardee had reached the age of twenty-four years, he left home, and started out in life for himself. He was married in Iowa to Miss Catherine Menuey. Her father, Anton Menuey, came to Rock county in 1891, and here he died ten years later. He was a man of more than usual parts, and was most highly regarded by those who knew him best. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jardee were born five children, Lewis H., Justin A., Albert E., Emma F., now the wife of James Brown, Leadville, Colorado, and Edward L.

After their wedding Mr. and Mrs. Jardee remained in Iowa, and engaged in farming on rented land for about ten years, but as the profits of his labor did not seem to remain with him, they finally concluded to seek a home in a region where government land could be still secured. For that purpose in 1883 the family came to Newport, Nebraska, bringing with them a team and wagon, three cows, and enough money to build with. Mr. Jardee settled on a homestead claim in section 6, township 31, range 17, and began farming operations after the old frontier fashion with sod corn and vegetables. Success has attended his operations from the beginning, and though he has experienced many trials and tribulations, yet his career has, taken altogether, been quite free of misfortunes of the more serious cast. By availing himself of the provisions of the tree claim act, Mr. Jardee was able to secure an additional quarter section, and as a consequence owns today a half section of land, which it is to his pride and credit compares well with any other farm in the county. His buildings are modern and convenient. The grove on the farm

has some very choice forest trees, with many fine pines. A view of the home and surroundings is shown on another page of this volume. There are many fruit trees doing well under his close care, and the Jardee homestead is widely known and favorably noted. He is an independent Democrat politically and with his family is a member of the Catholic church.

## JOHN F. HOOK.

John F. Hook, a successful farmer of Cherry county, resides on his well-improved estate on section 32, township 33, range 33.

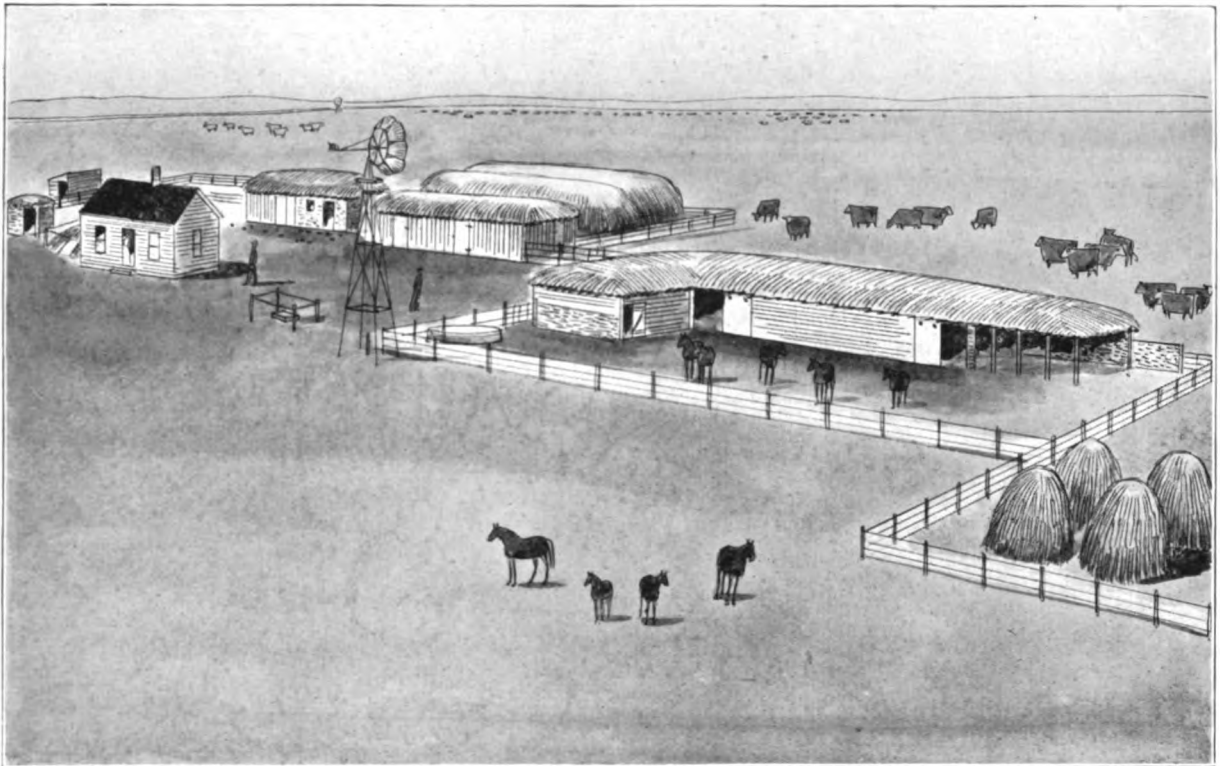
Mr. Hook was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, February 2, 1835, of American parents. He was reared there on a farm, and was the eldest of six children. At the age of eighteen years he began working at the carpenter's trade in Iowa, following that for a time, then started farming, combining the two occupations. He came to Cherry county in 1886 and took up a homestead and after proving up on it sold it to his son-in-law, and later took an additional four hundred and eighty-acre farm, situated on the Niobrara River. This is fairly good land altogether, two hundred and forty acres being farming land and the balance hay and pasture. Here he has built a good house, fenced the place and has built the place up in good shape. In the early days after coming here he ran a sawmill on his farm and returned to that occupation in the spring of 1908, setting up a mill on the Niobrara south of Cody. All of his life has been spent on the frontier, and he likes the west.

Mr. Hook was married in 1860 to Miss Martha Hill, born in Illinois in 1838, she died in Nebraska in 1880. Her parents were pioneers of Illinois, and later were among the early settlers of Iowa. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hook, of which six are living: Ellen, wife of Joseph Jackson, Roswell; Ida married to Harris Johnson, deceased; William, Nettie, wife of Rollin Poland, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; and Etta, wife of George Barnes.

Mr. Hook has always been active in local affairs in his community. In 1863 he was elected sheriff at Yankton, South Dakota, and served for one year. He is a Democrat in political affiliations.

## ROBERT M. MORRISON.

Robert M. Morrison, a prosperous farmer of Phelps county, Nebraska, has established a fine farm in Union township. His father originally came from Antrim county, Ireland, about



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE SCHREAR,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF JUSTIN V. JARDEE,  
Rock County, Nebraska.





the year 1850, settling in McLean county, Illinois, where he lived for fourteen years. After this they lived in Putnam county, Illinois, for eight years, and in 1884 our subject came to this county with his parents, Richard and Elizabeth Getty Morrison, settling in section 13. They bought the one whole section of railroad land, his father breaking the land and putting up buildings. The father died in October, 1887, aged fifty-five years, and after his death the management of the farm fell on his five sons and three daughters. They are as follows: Thomas, who now owns one hundred and sixty acres of good farming land in this township; James, postmaster at Wilcox; John M., located at Loomis, owner and manager of an elevator and milling business, also dealing in grain; Mary W., wife of R. W. Taylor, of this county, both now dead; Richard, who since 1884 has owned and lived on one hundred and sixty acres in section 13, this township; Anna, residing in Chicago, Illinois; Elizabeth, now Mrs. I. O. Redfern, of Holdrege, and Robert M., the subject of this sketch. The mother, now aged sixty-nine years, lives with her children. A sketch of her brother, Hamilton Getty, appears in this volume.

Mr. Morrison is the owner of a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm in section 13, township 6, range 20, Phelps county, all of this land being under cultivation. He is successfully engaged in mixed farming, and has a good supply of farm machinery for carrying on a well conducted farm, together with good buildings and comfortable home. He was married in 1900 to Miss Ethel G. McClymont, daughter of James McClymont (a sketch of whom is given in this book), of Industry township, Phelps county. Our subject has three children, as follows: Helen Marguerite, Robert Dewitt and Ethel Miriam.

Mr. Morrison is a man of active public spirit, and takes a leading part in all educational and religious matters in his community. He is director of district No. 60 of his township and has served as trustee and Sabbath school superintendent at Loomis for several years past. In political faith he is a Republican, has served his party as treasurer, and been elected clerk of Union township several times, but never qualified.

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#### JOHN HAMILTON.

The subject of this review was one of the first men to locate on the upper end of Indian creek, Dawes county, Nebraska, and is one of the interesting characters one occasionally meets in traveling through the western coun-

try, intelligent, energetic and industrious, who by dint of honest endeavor and strict attention to duty have accumulated a valuable property and gained an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor. Mr. Hamilton resides on section 10, township 31, range 50, and occupies a foremost place among the oldest settlers of the region.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Morgan county, Illinois, in 1829. His parents were pioneers in that state, coming from Kentucky in their youth and built up a good home, raising their family in Sangamon county on a farm. At the age of twenty-two our subject left home and started out to make his own way in the world, following farming in his native state for some time. In 1865 he moved to Livingston county, Missouri, where he farmed for nineteen years, then came to Dawes county. He traveled from Missouri to this region by a team and covered wagon, and although the trip was a rough one he was not daunted by any kind of rough experiences, as his entire life had been spent on the frontier and he was well used to a pioneer's life. After coming here he located on a tract of wild prairie land in section 10, township 31, range 50, where he put up a rude log cabin, and still lives on this place. Here he has gone through the drouth periods when nearly all his crops were destroyed, and has often met with discouragements and loss, but never gave up courage, and is now well repaid for his perseverance and industry. He is owner of a ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, two hundred acres of which is cultivated, and is extensively engaged in stock raising, running a large number of horses and other stock. His ranch is all fenced, and Indian creek runs through the farm, making plenty of good water all the year around.

Mr. Hamilton has been closely identified with the development and upbuilding of the agricultural and commercial resources of this section of Nebraska, and his name deserves a prominent place in the history of its growth.

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#### J. CLAY FOX.

J. Clay Fox, a prosperous farmer of Rock county, Nebraska, has a pleasant and attractive farm home near the thrifty burg of Newport, which his own exertions have won from the wilderness, and which ranks among the best in the county. He has experienced the hardships of life in a new country, and, after the passage of but a comparatively brief period of time, can recount stories that seem all but incredible to the present generation, so changed



in every way has northern Nebraska become since his career began on these vast prairies.

Mr. Fox was born on a farm, in Green county, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1846, and was reared to a life of honorable labor. His father, Allen Fox, was a farmer, of Irish parentage, and never came west of Ohio. His mother, Sarah Hickman, was born of English parents, and was the mother of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth. He started out in early life for himself, and donned the blue during the closing scenes of the great war for the Union, enlisting in March, 1864, and serving until August, 1865, as a member of the Fourteenth Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, under the command of J. M. Schoonmaker. He made a good record as a soldier, and as the years advance no scenes in the course of his varied career are dearer to him than those that recall tented field and battle line when he, a youth aflame with martial ardor, followed the starry banner until it floated free over a land of union and liberty for all.

The wedding of Mr. Fox and Miss Sarah Ann Evans was celebrated December 20, 1866, and to them were born, Lawrence V., Forney L. G., Lindsay J., Sherman A., Daisy D., and Franklin G., all attaining manhood and womanhood, there having been no death among them to the present time. The newly married couple spent two years in Pennsylvania, and then removed to Licking and Franklin counties, Ohio, where for fourteen years Mr. Fox was busily engaged in farming, and establishing quite a large business in digging ditches for tiling swamp land and was noted as an expert in this line of industry. In the fall of 1884 he made his first appearance as a settler in Rock county, Nebraska, after having spent two years in Des Moines, Iowa, and took a pre-emption claim on Ash creek, on section 10, township 31, range 17. This not proving an entirely satisfactory location, he accepted a good price for it, and bought a relinquishment on section 14, township 30, range 17. He owns at the present time the east half of section 14, and the north-west quarter of section 24, of the same township and range. In all, he owns and operates four hundred and eighty acres, and, as noted above, has made it one of the most notable farms of the entire region.

When Mr. Fox arrived in Nebraska he had sixty-three dollars in money, having chartered a car for household goods and stock, which consisted of one mare, two cows, two hogs and some poultry. He paid fifty-nine dollars for lumber with which to build a one-story shanty, lined with tar paper. Upon his place there is

a flourishing grove, all planted and cultivated, by himself. Including the fruit and evergreen trees, he has thirty-one varieties, all free and vigorous growers on his place, and it is a revelation of what may be done in the way of tree culture on the Nebraska prairies. When he began at this work there was not so much as a stick or a brush to be found on the place.

As showing the possibilities of agricultural life in Nebraska Mr. Fox made the following report of his farming operations to the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, at their request, November 14, 1906:

"I raised thirty acres of corn, cost in labor and seed forty dollars. I had one thousand two hundred bushels, worth twenty cents per bushel, two hundred and forty dollars. I have three hundred and forty-five tons of hay worth eight hundred sixty-two dollars and fifty cents. I consider my farming this year for three hundred and twenty acres has yielded two thousand dollars. Farm land sells here for ten dollars per acre. I raised this season on thirty-five square rods of land the following crops: Sixty-five bushels of onions, one weighing two and one-half pounds, receiving from the Iowa seed company the sum of ten dollars as a prize for the largest onion. From seven hills of squashes had two wagon loads, thirteen squashes making a load of a double box, the largest weighing one hundred and twenty-six and a half pounds. Also had fourteen bushels of potatoes, one and a half bushels of onion sets, two pounds of onion seeds, one barrel of pop corn, and at the market price here, this land netted about fifty-two dollars, including ten dollars prize money. This land was not irrigated." This report was widely published and did much to turn home seekers in this direction.

Two prize winning onions, raised by Mr. Fox in successive years, weighed one pound thirteen ounces and two pounds nine ounces, respectively, each onion securing a prize of ten dollars. Ten cows in the dairy branch of his farming net \$6 per week the year round.

Mr. Fox has on his place some two hundred apple trees that are vigorous growers and fine bearers of very desirable fruit. In fruit as in everything else he has sought the best, and will not be satisfied with inferior articles in grain, stock or land. In political matters he is a Republican, but has steadfastly refused to become a candidate for any official position. He has many friends, and takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare of his town, withholding his support from no enterprise calculated to prove of public good. He is a comrade of the Stuart post, Grand Army of the Republic.

## BERT J. BATES.

In reviewing a list of prominent business men and agriculturists of Cheyenne county, a leading place is accorded the name of Bert Bates. This gentleman has been associated intimately with the development of that section of the country financially, and his extensive interests have been a factor in its upbuilding. By his praiseworthy example, honest dealings and good business management he has become known throughout Cheyenne county as a citizen of true worth. He is engaged in the real estate business in Lodgepole, under the firm name of The Bates Land Company, buying, selling and improving farm and ranch property throughout Cheyenne and the adjoining counties.

Bert J. Bates was born in Wayne county, New York, December 28, 1866, and grew up in that locality. At the age of twenty years he came west, arriving in Cheyenne county February 20, 1886, where he followed farming and ranching during the early years. He filed on a homestead in section 34, township 14, range 47, proved up on the land, and is now owner of eleven hundred and twenty acres, all in one body, besides a tract of one thousand acres of tableland, situated about twelve miles north of Lodgepole. He has seventy-five acres of the original homestead under cultivation, and has the balance in hay and range, and has been engaged principally in ranching during the past sixteen years. He is at present devoting his attention exclusively to horses, running about fifty head.

When Mr. Bates landed in Nebraska all the money he had in the world was five dollars, from which small beginning his success has been remarkable, as he has accumulated every dollar of his property through his industry, integrity and strict attention to business, entirely unaided. About 1904 he removed to Lodgepole from his ranch, and started in the livery business, carrying that on for about two years, after which he discontinued hiring horses and conducts a feed stable. In 1906 he established himself in the real estate business, which has grown to large proportions in the short time he has been engaged in the work.

Mr. Bates was married on June 18, 1889, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Miss Belle Scanlan, who was born in Niota, Illinois, April 1, 1867. The parents of both of them have passed to the great beyond. Five children have been born to them, named as follows: Verne, Ruby, Bertha, Doris and Nellie, all living at home, forming a charming and interesting family. Mr. Bates is prominent in local,

county and state affairs. He is a member of the town board, and a director in the People's Bank of Lodgepole. Politically he is a Republican. He affiliates with the Masonic order at Chappell and the Woodmen at Lodgepole.

## CLARENCE C. COBLE.

Industry, perseverance and integrity are the stepping stones by which the gentleman here named has reached success. He is the owner of one of the finest farms in Grant county, and has acquired the same by faithful and untiring labor and good management, supplemented by honest dealings. He began with very little, met with many reverses, went through hardships and roughed it during his early settlement here, but nothing discouraged him and he is now one of the substantial citizens of his community as a reward for his earnest efforts. Mr. Coble is a typical westerner, and genial gentleman. He has accomplished a great deal for a man of his years, and richly merits his splendid success in the accumulation of a valuable estate of about six thousand acres, deeded and leased together. He has a fine home and outbuildings, etc., and four windmills. He puts up five hundred tons of hay each season, carries a herd of three hundred to five hundred head of cattle, and from fifty to seventy-five horses.

Clarence C. Coble was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1868. His father, Henry, was a leading ranchman and old settler in Grant county, and he married Caroline Speelman, of Darke county, Ohio. Our subject was reared in the east, receiving a common school education, and in 1888 came west, locating in Grant county, and was the first of his family to emigrate so far west. His first location was seven miles south of Hyannis, and there he put up a rough shanty, stable and corrals for his stock, all being built of sod and the roof of his house was made of poles and rushes, covered with sod, but of late he has built a fine modern residence. His first team were a pair of oxen, and he did all the work of breaking land and hauling supplies for the first eight years. His start was on a very small scale, and during the first four years he lived all alone, cooking his own meals and caring for all his wants. He often was an eye witness to serious fires which burned the surrounding prairies bare of grass, etc., and many times worked entire days and nights helping save property in his vicinity. He also spent a good deal of his time working on ranches as a

cowboy in order to earn money to improve his place. He did build up a good ranch, although he had many hard times and suffered much loss on account of the dry years and other causes, but stuck to his ranch and after a time got into the cattle business and succeeded splendidly in his venture in that line. He has since devoted his entire time and attention to the raising of stock, and has done well.

Mr. Coble was married in 1891, to Lucy Briton. She is a daughter of Washington Briton, who was a well-known farmer in Ohio, where Mrs. Coble was born and raised. Three children were born as a result of this union, namely: Goldie, aged sixteen; Crystal, aged thirteen; and Delmar, aged seven.

Our subject has always done his share as an old settler, taking an active part in local school and political affairs, and is held in high esteem in his community as a worthy and public-spirited citizen. He is a Democrat in his views, but votes for the best man that he thinks is for the masses of the people.

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#### FRANK BANDERET.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the very earliest settlers in western Nebraska, and a prominent citizen of Woodson precinct, Perkins county, where he has a good home and valuable estate. He was born in Switzerland in 1857, and raised on a farm there. As a boy he learned the butcher's trade and worked at that for a number of years. He came to America at the age of twenty-three years, and after landing in New York city went to Winnebago county, Wisconsin, where he followed his trade for six years.

In 1885 Mr. Banderet made a trip through Nebraska, and at that time saw many wild horses, antelope and other wild animals, and while through here he filed on a claim, this same land now being in Woodson precinct. He located permanently on a homestead in Perkins county in 1885, put up a rough shanty and started to establish a farm. His dwelling was a sod house, fourteen by twenty-four feet in size. In all he lived in three different sod houses. He went through pioneer experiences with his family. He finally proved up on his land, although he was obliged to work out at times to make a living, and at the time the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway was being put through the region he helped in the construction of the same. He had no well on his place and during the first year hauled water for household use from Keith county, a

distance of nine miles, and all supplies were hauled from North Platte, forty miles away. During the bad years he lost several crops by drouth, hail storms, and finally was obliged to abandon his homestead. He had a few horses and some other stock and he kept these and gradually built up a little stock business, which helped him through the hard times. In 1897 he bought his present ranch, the buildings of which are situated on section 30, township 12, range 35, and here he has a good home and farm, well improved in every way with buildings, etc., having a barn with a capacity for thirty horses, corn cribs, granary, house, twenty-four by twenty-four feet and fourteen by twenty feet. He owns in all fourteen hundred and forty-eight acres, and runs considerable stock, and does a large farming business. He has a fine Percheron stallion, registered, Paul, weight sixteen hundred and ten pounds at two years. He also raises the Jersey red hogs.

Mr. Banderet was married in 1884 to Miss Sophia Steck, who was born in Wisconsin, both her parents being natives of the old country, who came to America during their youth. Two children blessed the union of our subject and his estimable wife, named Dorothy and Harry.

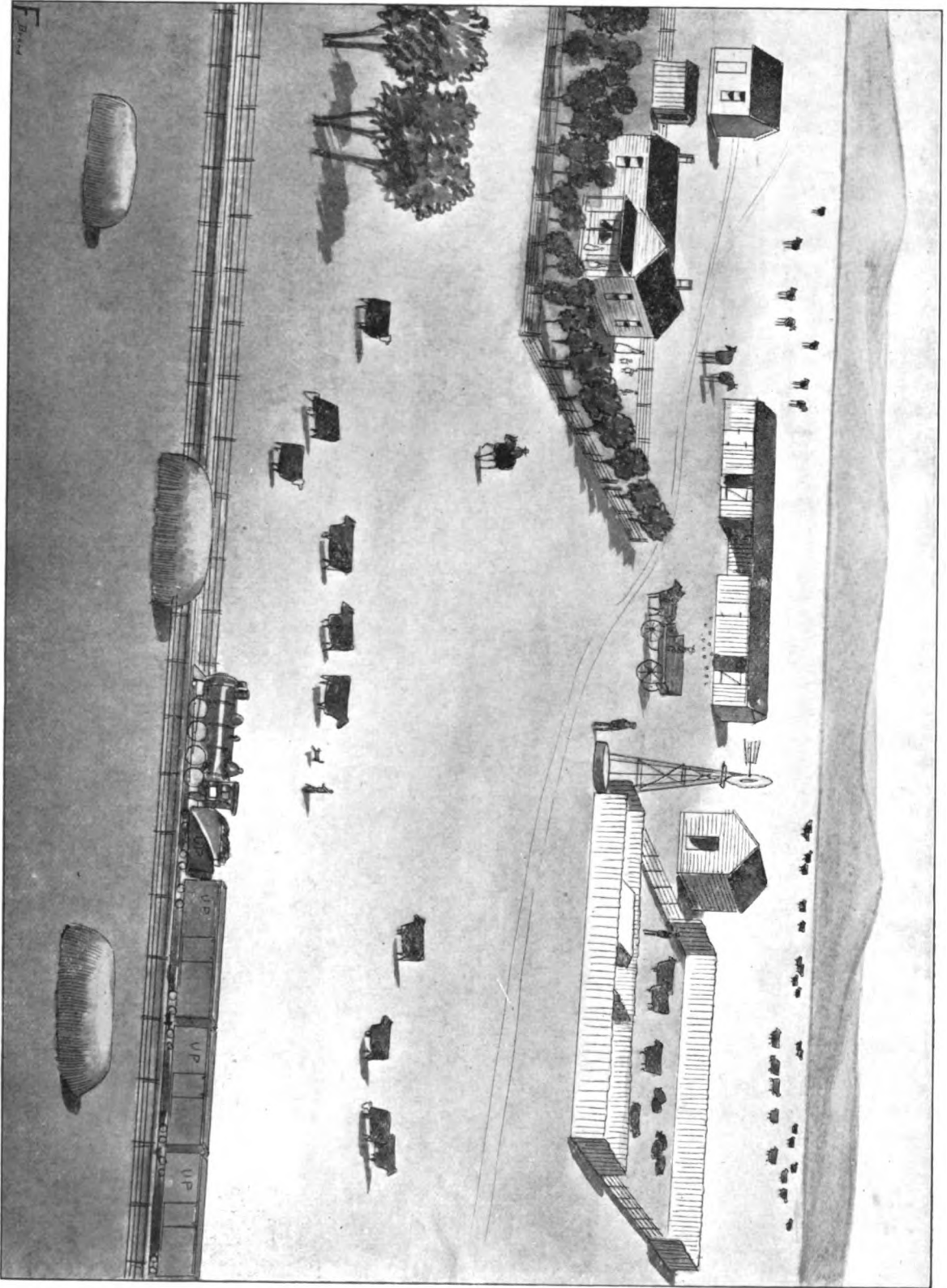
Mr. Banderet has always been actively interested in all matters which tended to the betterment of his community. In 1895, during the hard times in his section, he went to Wisconsin and solicited a car load of grain which he had shipped to Wallace, Nebraska, for the relief of his neighbors. This was given free by the people of his old Wisconsin home. In his political views he favors the Populist party. He has always taken an active part in public affairs and has held various local offices.

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#### FRED CROOK.

Fred Crook, a prominent farmer and well-to-do resident of Paxton precinct, is owner of a fine estate on section 6, township 13, range 35, and an old settler in Keith county, who is well and favorably known throughout the region.

Mr. Crook was born in the village of Meinche, province of Hanover, Germany, January 9, 1862, and reared on a farm. His father was a carpenter by trade, and spent his entire life in his native country, as did the mother, Sophia Lauschor, in maidenhood. At the age of nineteen he came to America, sailing from Bremen Haven in the Strausburg, and after a voyage of seventeen days



RESIDENCE OF FRED CROOK,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



landed in Baltimore. Coming directly west he located first in North Platte, Nebraska, and after a short time there, moved to Brule, where he remained eighteen months, securing employment on the section work of the railroad and then came to Paxton, where he was similarly employed. He followed that occupation for twenty-two years, and for ten years of the time was foreman of the section. Our subject filed on his present homestead in 1884, and has spent the entire time on the place. He first built a sod house, in which he lived with his family for many years. He made many improvements, and continually added to his acreage as he became able, and is now owner of four hundred and fifty acres of good ranch and farm land, with a complete set of good farm buildings. He runs about fifteen horses, fifty cattle and as many hogs. He is interested in dairying, selling the product of sixteen cows in town.

In 1893 Mr. Crook was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Ambersot, whose parents were early settlers in Keith county. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Crook, named as follows: Fred, Harry, Lena, Willie, Allie, Emma, Eddie and Minnie. They are all bright, intelligent children, and are being taught to be a help and comfort to their parents. Their home life is congenial, and the family is held in the highest esteem in their community. Mr. Crook is a Republican in politics, a member of the Lutheran church, and of the Paxton lodge of Modern Woodmen.

We show a view of Mr. Crook's home with its many growing trees and orchard on another page of our work.

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#### ARNOLD PETERS.

For the past twenty years the gentleman here named has made western Nebraska his home, and now resides on section 14, township 29, range 45, where he has a pleasant home and valuable property. He is a thorough and systematic farmer, and held in highest esteem by every one in his home community.

Mr. Peters was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, in 1866. His father, Peter Peters, was born in Holland, and came to America at the age of twenty-six years, settling in Wisconsin, where he was among the pioneers of that state. He married Mary A. Vanderloop, born in Holland, who came to this country with her parents when ten years old, and they had a family of eleven children, of whom Arnold was the fourth member in order of

birth. He remained with his parents up to the time he was twenty-four years of age, then left home and worked out one year in Butler county, Nebraska. In March, 1890, he again came to Nebraska, locating on section 14, township 29, range 45, as a homestead, also took a pre-emption south of this place, and later turned it into a tree claim, buying a relinquishment. There was only a sod shanty on the place when he took it, and all the money he had to his name was seventy dollars. He borrowed enough to purchase a team of oxen and his land, then worked the oxen six years before he was able to buy horses.

In 1891 he built a new sod house, in which he lived with his family up to 1903, then built a nice frame house in which they now live, which is a modern house in every respect and fitted up with all conveniences. After taking his farm he broke up some of his land and put in a crop of sod corn, and after it was nicely started and he expected a large crop, it was entirely destroyed by a hail storm. Then the dry years came on and he was obliged to quit farming, so gathered some stock around him and started in the stock business. He was always able to raise a good crop of corn and potatoes, and never had to buy any feed. He had a number of cows and some chickens, and these about kept the family in provisions, and everything he could save went into the purchase of more land, at one time trading six steers for a quarter section of land. He never had any idea of leaving the place, but kept on buying land while it was cheap, fencing it as he was able, buying most of his fencing of his neighbors when they gave up their land and moved away. He now owns eighteen hundred and forty acres of mixed farming and grazing land, most of which lies along the river, using all of it as pasture and farming land. In 1905 he rented a large piece for which he received a dollar per acre cash rent. He runs one hundred and twenty-five head of stock and uses most of his produce on his home farm. He has some alfalfa which is doing well, and will put in more later.

Mr. Peters was married in 1892 to Miss Minnie Jahn, a native of Austria, born in 1874. Her parents were born and raised in Austria and came to this country when young people, settling in Nebraska in the early days, now making their home in Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Peters have five children, namely: Anna M., Lena M., Josephine A., Elsie M. and Francis Joseph, all born and raised on their present homestead.

Mr. Peters is well satisfied with what he has accomplished here and would not care to

return east to live. The only drawback is the long distance to town, but that is a minor consideration. He gets his mail at Hay Springs. He is an independent voter in local affairs, but in national affairs leans toward the Democrats, although he never dabbles in politics to any great extent.

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#### BERTON K. BUSHEE.

A prominent place among the list of prosperous and energetic business men of Kimball county is accorded the gentleman's name mentioned above. Although comparatively a very young man, his influence is keenly felt in the financial and political circles of his community, and he is recognized as one of the leading men of affairs here.

Berton K. Bushee was born in Dartford, Wisconsin, May 3, 1871. His father was a native of New York state, born in 1820, and died in Kimball county, June 10, 1893, while his mother was born, reared and married in Wisconsin, and died in Kimball county, Nebraska, in November, 1894. He was the only child of his parents, and received his early education in the state of his birth, coming to Nebraska with his father and mother in 1888, the former homesteading on section 20 township 16, range 53, and altogether they built up a good home and farm here. In 1892 our subject filed on a claim for himself, proved up on it and then sold out. He was elected county superintendent of schools in 1895, holding that position up to 1900, and was again elected in 1904, holding the office for one term. During his first term he had settled in the town of Kimball, and made that his home afterward. He was elected a member of the village council in 1904, and served for two years, then was elected mayor of the town. In 1898 he had engaged in the general mercantile business in partnership with Henry Vogler, and was associated with that gentleman for eight years, then bought his interest in the concern, and is now sole owner and manager of the business. He has enlarged his stock and has one of the best equipped stores of the kind in the county, with a steadily increasing patronage.

Mr. Bushee was married April 4, 1894, to Ruth B. Cunningham, who was born in Missouri, coming to Nebraska with her parents in 1881, and locating in Cheyenne county, where they still reside. Our subject has one child, Helen Bernice, now eleven years of age, who is a charming young miss.

Since locating in this section Mr. Bushee has been active in politics and takes a great

interest in all matters appertaining to national, state and local affairs. He is president of the Commercial Club of Kimball, which organization is an important factor in the business and social affairs of western Nebraska. He is also vice-president and director of the Bank of Kimball. Politically he is a Republican. In the fall of 1908 Mr. Bushee was elected representative of the fifty-fourth legislative district on the Republican ticket.

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#### CHARLES E. WILTSEY.

Charles E. Wiltsey, one of the enterprising and energetic citizens of Box Butte county, where he takes high rank for his sterling qualities of heart and mind, was born in Warren county, Illinois, in 1859, and comes of an old Indiana family. He is justly proud of his lineage, and retains unsullied the honored name that has come down to him from his fathers. The father, Henry Wiltsey, was born and raised in Indiana, and he married Sarah J. Thomas, also a native of that state. The family came to Illinois in the early forties, and our subject was born and reared in that state until he reached the age of nine years, then with his parents, settled in Lucas county, Iowa, on a farm. There Charles attended the country schools where he received a good education, also helped his father carry on the work on the home farm until the time of the latter's death, which occurred December 28, 1886. Both mother and father died in Iowa, and our subject lived on the farm and carried on the work up to the spring of 1890. Besides operating his father's place, Charles bought a farm of his own in 1890, and worked that for a number of years before leaving Iowa. He built up a good home and made a great success there, but decided to try his fortune farther west, so in 1901 left that state, and came to Nebraska, landing in Box Butte county on January 1st, of that year. He bought land and has added to his original holdings until he is now owner of a ranch of twenty quarter sections, all deeded land, which is considered one of the most valuable estates in the county. This is located in section 1, township 27, range 49. He has three hundred acres seeded in tame grass, also crops four hundred acres, besides running a large number of cattle and other stock. The whole place is well fenced and improved in fine shape, and he is one of Box Butte county's representative farmers, a leading citizen of his community.

Our subject was married in the fall of 1887



to Miss Electa D. Rockey, and to this union have been born six children, named: J. L., C. C., Walter, Edna May, Jenevieve and Glen.

Mr. Wiltsey has always voted the Republican ticket.

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#### WILLIAM H. SPRAGUE.

To the present visitor of the agricultural district of Garfield precinct, Keya Paha county, a pleasant sight in the well-improved farms and highly cultivated tracts greets the eye, and it is hard to conceive of the transformation that has taken place in this locality within the past quarter of a century. When the gentleman above named located on his present farm on section 9, township 33, range 22, there was not a building in sight and the land was in its wild state, but he foresaw the possibilities of the region and remained to become owner of one of the well improved farms of this thriving district, and is now enjoying a competence as a result of his labors. He is widely known throughout the country as one of the oldest settlers, a prosperous and energetic farmer, and commands the respect of the entire community.

Mr. Sprague was born in Ogle county, Illinois, September 9, 1847, where he was reared and educated on a farm, learning to do all kinds of hard work while still a mere lad. His father, John W. Sprague, was born and reared in Providence, Rhode Island, of American stock, and when twenty-one years of age he was married in Ohio to Elizabeth Smith, a native of that state. Although city bred he adopted farming as an occupation directly. He was the father of thirteen children, our subject being the second member. When he was nine years of age the family moved to Poweshiek county, Iowa, and thence at eighteen years of age he started out for himself as a farm laborer. In 1880 he moved to Carroll county, Iowa, where he started a farm for himself, remaining there five years, and then came to Keya Paha county, taking up his present farm as a home-stead. This was an entirely unimproved property, and did not have a stick of timber on it, so he at once began improving it, planting a large number of forest trees, and fruit trees of different varieties. He built a sod-log house, and lived in it for fifteen years, then erected a nice frame house. During the dry years he had many discouragements and often felt like leaving the place, and although many of his neighbors moved away he determined to stick to it, and managed to get along some

way. At that time he lost all his trees and had to replant the grove which is now one of the thriftiest in the region. He also lost cattle from blackleg and pinkeye, and seemed to have every kind of misfortune. He left the place in September, 1892, and returned to Iowa, where he rented a farm for eleven hundred and ten dollars cash rent, but transferred his lease there six weeks later to resume his efforts in Nebraska, and has stuck to his farm ever since. He now has eight hundred and eighty acres of good land, one hundred and fifty acres under the plow, and keeps as many as ninety cattle and from twenty to twenty-five horses, besides raising about one hundred and twenty-five hogs each year for market. He has ten miles of fence on his place and everything is in first-class condition, showing the greatest care and good management in its operation. His cave, recently constructed, is one of the finest in the county.

Mr. Sprague was married November 12, 1871, to Miss Helen Helmer, born in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1847, her parents settling in Iowa in 1851, where she attained womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Sprague have one child, George W., besides two adopted children, Clyde Lester and Sarah Lena. During the early years there was a hard time to establish schools in this region, and Mr. Sprague and his neighbors broke land for a settler in payment for his services as a teacher. He has always taken an active part in local affairs looking to the best interests of his community, and is one of the leading men of his locality. Politically he is a Populist and in religion is a member of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

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#### W. W. BOWER.

W. W. Bower, for many years a progressive and successful farmer of Deuel county, is a prominent member of his community, and well and favorably known throughout the region, having first seen Nebraska in 1878, and was among the first settlers to begin farming.

Mr. Bower was born in Texas, and first saw the light on January 7, 1863. He grew up there, and when about fifteen years of age, "hit the trail" for himself, accompanied by two brothers, going to Julesburg, Colorado, in 1878. They remained there a short time, finally securing employment on the L. F. ranch, and worked for the outfit for four years, following the range all of that time. Our subject returned to Texas in the fall of 1881, soon returning to Nebraska, trailing a

bunch of horses for himself, and going into Kansas where he engaged in the ranching business in the Cherokee strip. He was in partnership with his two brothers, and in the spring of 1883 they left him, coming to Cheyenne county with a bunch of horses, he remaining there buying and selling horses through Kansas and in adjoining states, keeping this up for several years. After a year spent in Denver, Colorado, he came to Deuel county, arriving here in 1890, and at once filed on homestead rights on sections 8 and 9, township 17, range 45, and engaged in the ranching business afresh. He increased his herd of cattle and horses constantly, also purchased additional land, and is now owner of eight hundred acres, which he has in pasture and hay land for his stock, keeping cattle, horses and hogs. His ranch is well improved with a complete set of substantial buildings, and is one of the valuable estates in the county. The ranch is located about eleven miles northwest of Oshkosh in the North Platte valley, and is entirely under irrigation.

In 1904 Mr. Bower established a general merchandise store in Oshkosh, putting in a complete stock of goods, and has built up a large and constantly increasing trade throughout the surrounding country. He has one of the large store buildings of the town, twenty-four by sixty feet, and besides this has a shed and store room.

On August 29, 1883, Mr. Bower was married to Miss Sylva Thomas, the marriage taking place in Kansas. Mrs. Bower is a native of Pennsylvania. They have two children, Zulah, wife of Will F. Gumaer, they residing in Oshkosh, and Beulah, who is living with her parents in the same town. Mr. Bower's parents are both dead, while his wife's mother resides in Kansas. During the years 1900-1902 inclusive, Mr. Bower filled the office of sheriff of Deuel county, and proved a very popular and capable public officer. He is one of the leading men of affairs in Oshkosh, and is a member of the Commercial Club of that town. Politically he is a Democrat, and takes an active part in local and county public affairs.

#### JOHN JOCHEM.

John Jochem was born in West Prussia, Germany, June 8, 1850. His father, Rhinehold, was a fisherman and sailor by occupation and was drowned when our subject was but three years old. The mother's maiden name was Helena Weber. After his father's death, John was reared in the family of an

aunt until he was eleven years of age, when his mother was married again and our subject went to his mother's new home to live. In the meantime he worked out at various occupations, principally farming, and he served in the German army during the German-Franco war in 1870 and 1871. After the war he followed farming and for one whole year his earnings were only nineteen dollars in excess of his board, but after the first year, he was able to earn from fifty-one to sixty-one dollars and his board per year.

In 1875 John Jochem was married to Miss Wilhelmina Bomgardt, a daughter of poor but honest German parents. Their marriage resulted in five children: Charles, Gustav, Henry, John and Emma. The good wife died in Blaine county in 1894. Mr. Jochem was married again in 1895, taking for his second wife Miss Caroline Neiman, who was born in Germany and came to America to become Mr. Jochem's wife. They have one child, eleven years old, named Lena.

On the death of his first wife our subject was left with a family of small children for whom he had to take the place of both father and mother, having to do all the serving, cooking, washing and all other duties required in caring for the little ones. Times were exceedingly hard, crop failures followed season after season for several years and the hardships that our subject had to endure cannot be enumerated. But he never once thought of breaking up his family or his home, and by hard, persistent work he kept the children together and maintained the home. He knew his second wife only through friends and by correspondence, and after they had determined to marry each other, between them they managed to get enough money together to pay her passage over to America. She has been an admirable helpmeet and by her work and industry has greatly assisted in building their pleasant home. Our subject has reared a large and interesting family and he has reason to be proud of his children.

Our subject came to America in 1881, landing at New York, from whence he went to Plano, Illinois, where for several years he was on a farm and then for three years he worked for the Plano Harvester Company. In 1886 he came to Omaha, remaining one year. He then came to Blaine county, Nebraska, bringing goods and chattels amounting to about eight hundred dollars. He first settled on a homestead six miles north of Brewster, remaining there for seven years. But bad luck was with him here, the land was not good and it was here that his first wife died. In 1895

he settled on his present homestead in section 4, township 24, range 22, and, although he started with almost nothing, he and his good wife and family have built up a good home and ranch of eight hundred and ninety-three acres. He has a good house, large barns and has the land improved in an up-to-date manner. He has good groves of forest trees, an orchard of apple trees, plums and cherries, and an abundance of small fruit. Mr. Jochem is enjoying prosperity and is esteemed by his associates as a man of sterling worth and honorable character.

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### EDWARD T. GREGG.

Edward T. Gregg, a popular and capable citizen of Dawes county, whose residence is located in section 4, township 28, range 51, is one of the men of whom the people of the surrounding community are justifiably proud. He was born in the state of New York in 1857, a son of William T. and Elizabeth (McGregory) Gregg, natives of Scotland. Our subject's father was a railroad contractor, and assisted in the construction of the railroads throughout that part of the country. For a short time after the birth of Edward the family remained in New York, removing later to Vermont and Maine.

When our subject had attained the age of twenty-two years he left his home and came west to Marshall county, Iowa. Here he entered the milling business in the town of Quarry. In 1884 he came to Box Butte county, Nebraska, locating ten miles south of Marsland, where he took up a claim on pre-emption, and for six months lived in a tent. He then built a log house, the roof of which was blown off during a terrific storm. He then built a sod house. He came to Dawes county in 1885, driving from Gordon, taking up a homestead claim near Marsland. From time to time he added adjacent tracts of land to his original entry, and now has a large ranch of over seventeen hundred and seventy-five acres of deeded land extending along the Niobrara river, and three quarter-sections homesteaded in Dawes and Box Butte counties. He has one hundred and sixty acres under cultivation, and has one ice pond on his place that yields annually about ten hundred to twelve hundred car loads of ice.

Mr. Gregg has provided a nice residence for his family, a good well and wind mill, and has erected substantial buildings in which to house his stock. During the period of drouths so well known to early settlers of this section

of the country, our subject was not discouraged by the many failures of crops which he experienced, and the faith which he had in this new country has not been misplaced. While the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad was in the course of construction through Dawes and Box Butte counties, our subject assisted in the surveying, and worked on the survey to Deadwood, South Dakota, and New Castle, Wyoming.

In 1877 Mr. Gregg and Miss Ida Thompson were married in Maine. She was the daughter of Joseph and Maria (Earl) Thompson. Her father was a shoemaker by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Gregg are the happy parents of seven living children, viz.: George, Charles, Ina, William, Fay, Doris and Earl; three are deceased—Ira, Frank and Harry. All the children with the exception of the two oldest were born in Nebraska. The first child born to them in this state came to them while living in the tent in Box Butte county.

In political matters Mr. Gregg is a Republican. He is a man who takes a prominent place in local affairs, and has held various school offices for years. He served as assessor for two or three terms. He has made many staunch friends, and is highly respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing him.

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### OLIVER JACOX.

In the vicinity of Thurman postoffice, Rock county, Nebraska, Oliver Jacox has made himself a good home and name of honor and worth. He has made a success of his vocation, and is one of the intelligent and enterprising men of the community. Here he has gathered around him a host of friends, who know him as a man of upright character, and through industry, honesty and perseverance he has gained a comfortable competence. A view of his residence and buildings may be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Jacox was born on a farm in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1867, and from his early youth was inured to hard work. His father, John Jacox, was a native of the state of New York, where he first inhaled the vital air in 1836. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and for four long years wore his country's uniform as a member of the One Hundred and Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The mother, Victoria Russell, was also born in New York, and came of a Scotch parentage. They were people of fine character and noble aspirations, and reared their children to honest and generous ideals.

When Oliver Jacox was ten years old he began caring for himself, and for some years worked as a farm boy. In 1876 he came to Madison county, Nebraska, where he made his home for seven years. In 1883 we find him in Rock county, where his father had secured pre-emption and tree claims in section 31, township 29, range 18, and here our subject made a homestead entry in section 29, and the land thus secured has been converted by his unwearied industry and modern farming into one of the choice places of the county. Especial prominence is given to the dairy, forty cows now furnishing a large supply of excellent cream which is shipped to the east. This is the most profitable branch of industry on the farm.

Mr. Jacox was married in Rock county, August 7, 1897, to Miss Laura Miller, whose people came to Washington, Nebraska, in 1880. This has proved a peculiarly happy union, and it has been blessed by the coming of the following children: Cecil, Ward, Garland, Kermet and Irene. In Mrs. Jacox our subject found a brave hearted companion, and one ready for any privation that might advance the family interest. While in Madison county, they lived in a sod shanty, and when successive crops were taken by grasshoppers or died under dry and burning skies, her voice and face were always cheery.

Mr. Jacox is a strong Republican, but has never aspired to official position. His home and farm have been a large field for his activities. Fraternally he is a member of the Bassett Lodge of Odd Fellows. As has frequently been said of him, he deserves his success—he has earned it by his own hands and brain, having had no assistance outside of his own efforts and that of his estimable helpmeet.

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#### LORENZ SAALI.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is in the front ranks of the prosperous and successful ranchmen of Cheyenne county. He is also one of the early settlers of that region, who has seen the many changes which have taken place in western Nebraska during the past twenty years, and has taken no small part in the development of the agricultural and ranching interests of his section. Mr. Saali owns a valuable estate in Union Valley precinct and is widely esteemed as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Lorenz Saali was born in the village of Eberbach, district of Weisenberg, Alsace, that part of France which is now German

territory, on October 2, 1858. His parents, Martin and Mary Ann (Meyer) Saali, are now deceased. Our subject grew up in his native land, following farming during his boyhood. He served two years in the Seventh Infantry of the German army. At the age of twenty-five he started for the new world, sailing from Bremen Haven on the American, landing in Baltimore after a fourteen days' voyage, March 8, 1883. He at first went to Winona county, Minnesota, where a brother had preceded him, and a year later came to Otoe county, Nebraska, farming near Nebraska City for three years. In the spring of 1887 he arrived in Cheyenne county, and immediately filed on a homestead in section 24, township 17, range 48, which is now a part of his ranch. He went through hard times during his early residence in Nebraska, but worked hard to accumulate a little property and build up a home, and although he met with many failures of crops during the dry years, he was in the main successful and has succeeded in a marked degree, now owning a fine ranch of nine hundred and sixty acres, all well improved with good substantial buildings, wind-mills and fences. He had a quantity of good timber on the land, but this is now almost exhausted. However, he has planted a fine grove, and has an abundant supply of good water. There are under cultivation about one hundred and twenty-five acres, with good pasture and hay land. He engages in stock raising on quite a large scale, running about one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and sixty horses annually.

Mr. Saali was married in Cheyenne county August 12, 1901, to Miss Susanna Laibe, daughter of William and Barbara (Walberg) Laibe, both deceased. They have one child, Louis Joseph, born August 4, 1906. The family occupy a comfortable and pleasant home. They have a large circle of friends in their community.

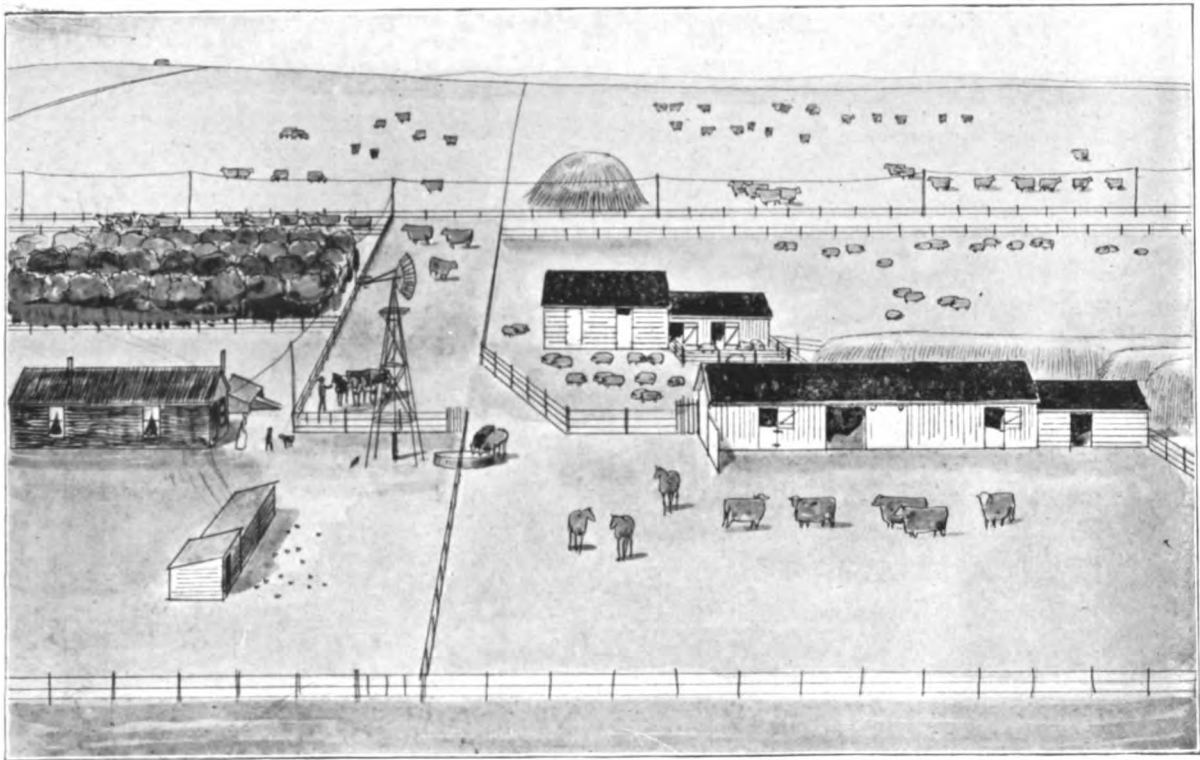
In his political views Mr. Saali is a staunch supporter of the Republican party principles. He is a consistent member of the Catholic church. On another page of this work will be found a view of the family home.

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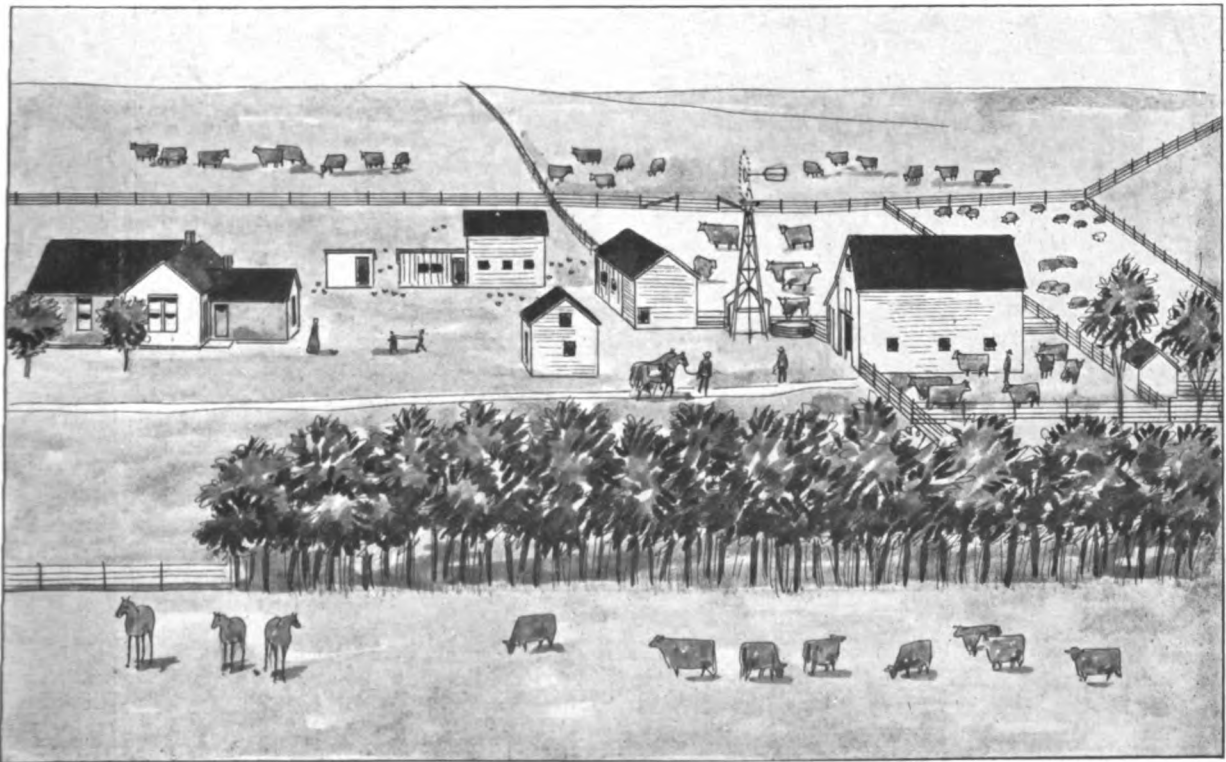
#### EDWARD SATTERLEE.

Edward Satterlee, one of the prominent business men of Nenzel, Nebraska, is a comparatively young man who has built up a good trade and acquired a pleasant and comfortable home here.

Mr. Satterlee was born in St. Louis, Mis-



RESIDENCE OF LORENZ SAALI,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF OLIVER JACOX,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



souri, January 29, 1861. His father, Thomas Satterlee, of American stock, ran a ferry boat on the Mississippi river for a number of years. Our subject's parents moved to Boone county, Iowa, with their family of five children, of whom he was the second member, when he was quite a young lad. He lived at home until reaching the age of fifteen years, then started out for himself, following different kinds of work. For five years he freighted, drove stage and railroaded in Texas, then went back to Iowa and remained there a few years, driving teams for different owners. In 1883 he located in Dakota and proved up on a homestead there, and after three years spent in that locality he came on to Nebraska and March 17, 1886, reached Cherry county. Here, on April 7, 1886, he took a timber claim, near Nenzel, which he still holds, and to which he has added until the ranch now comprises twenty-three hundred acres, improved with good buildings, fences, etc., and well stocked with cattle. He employs a good man to run this place, but still superintends the management of it. In 1896 he opened a store in Nenzel, which is in a flourishing condition, and enjoys a wide patronage.

On February 7, 1895, Mr. Satterlee was married to Miss Elizabeth Shaughnessy, born in Ohio in 1874. She came of Irish stock, and moved to Nebraska with her parents in 1878; at the present time they are residing in the city of Valentine. Mr. and Mrs. Satterlee have a family of seven children, named as follows: Frances, Dennis, Thomas (deceased), Margaret, Joseph, Edward and George, all of whom were born and reared in Cherry county.

Mr. Satterlee has always done all in his power to assist in the development of his county, and although he has met with severe losses at different times since coming here, he has never experienced the hardships and privations that fell to the lot of so many of the pioneers of Nebraska. He has accumulated a valuable estate and built up a comfortable home, and is well satisfied with the fruits of his labor and prepared to spend the balance of his life enjoying what he has worked so hard to attain. In political faith he is a Democrat and fraternally a member of the Georgia Lodge, Modern Woodmen of America. The members of the family are all communicants of the Catholic church.

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#### JAMES SNYDER.

James Snyder, one of the early settlers in Nebraska, is well known all over Lincoln

county as an enterprising and prosperous business man, and highly respected as a citizen. He resides in North Platte, where he has a comfortable home and he and his family enjoy a wide circle of warm friends and acquaintances.

He is a son of Anthony Snyder, formerly of Crawford county, Ohio, one of the oldest settlers in that locality. The family previous to this lived in Pickaway county, Ohio, and about the year 1840 they moved to Crawford county where the country was newer, and opportunities better for the pioneer settlers. In November, 1869, our subject first came to Nebraska, and in 1873 came to North Platte where he at once engaged in his chosen trade as a carpenter and builder. He worked at this for the following three years, and then obtained employment on the railroad, beginning as fireman with the Northern Pacific railway. He worked faithfully at this, attending strictly to his duties, and in 1881 was given the position of conductor with the company, and since that time has been employed in that capacity, being one of the oldest men in that work now serving with the Union Pacific people.

Mr. Snyder was married to Miss Mattie Scott, and they have a family of two children, named as follows: Ray, who is a conductor on the same road with his father, residing at North Platte. He was married to Miss Flynn, daughter of Thomas Flynn, of North Platte, who is an engineer. They have one son, Robert Snyder; Asa Snyder, the second son, is an engineer inspector on the Union Pacific railroad, also residing at North Platte, father of two sons, all being railroad men.

Mr. Snyder is a prominent member of the Order of Railroad Conductors, at North Platte, also of the Woodmen lodge at that place.

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#### FREMONT T. BUCHANAN.

Fremont T. Buchanan has been a resident of Dawes county for many years past, and has built up a good home and property through strict integrity and good management of his different enterprises. Mr. Buchanan is counted among the leading citizens and is one of the oldest settlers in this part of the country, and held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Buchanan was born in Hendricks county, Indiana, in 1863, on a farm. His father, R. M. Buchanan, was a farmer and school teacher in that state, and it is believed that he was a native of Kentucky. The father died when our subject was a small boy,



leaving his wife, who was Miss Christina White, to care for their family of children. The mother died in Nebraska in the year 1905. When Fremont was ten years of age the family moved to Gentry county, Missouri, and there he grew up and was educated, attending the common schools and helping support the family. At the age of twenty-two he came to Dawes county, driving from Valentine with a team, spending the nights camped out along the road. Upon landing here he located on section 33, township 32, range 50, and at once went to work to build up a home and farm. He put up a log cabin, and started with a very small capital. His place was wild prairie land, and entirely unimproved, but he stuck to it and succeeded in building it up in good shape, and made money. He went through the usual pioneer experiences, and many times met with severe losses and discouragements, but never gave up, and is now the proud possessor of a fine four hundred and eighty-acre farm, improved in good shape. This is located on Indian creek, and he cultivates seventy-five acres, having the balance in pasture and hay land for his stock, running a large number of cattle and horses each year.

Mr. Buchanan is a Republican in politics.

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#### THOMAS A. McKEOWN.

The farming community of Rock county has an able representative in the gentleman above named, who thoroughly understands all that is essential to success in Nebraska agriculture, and has won a pronounced success in all his grain and stock enterprises in the state. It has not been the result of accident with him that things go right but because he has studied and understood what was required and then has never hesitated to work and wait until things came right, as they always do to the man who is willing to pay the price.

Mr. McKeown was born January 9, 1852, on a farm in Putnam county, Indiana, where his youth and early manhood were familiar with toil and labor. His father, William McKeown, was a farmer, who was born in Scotland, and who came to Canada in 1846, and still later removed to Indiana. He married Miss Eliza Hall, who was of American descent, and a lady of much character. William McKeown and wife when somewhat advanced in years removed to Pottawatomie county, Iowa, where their lives ended.

Thomas A. McKeown left the shelter of the paternal home when about nineteen years of age, and struck out into the great world

to find for himself the path to honor and wealth. He journeyed into the far west, and visited Nevada and Utah, but after a wide inspection of the mountain and valley country, decided to locate in Rock county, which he was sure would presently become the location of a very large population. In 1880 he took a pre-emption claim in section 11, township 30, range 17, and this desirable tract of land has been his home to the present time. Beginning under the simple conditions of pioneering days, for two years his only home was a sod shanty, which was finally replaced by a frame structure, the lumber used in its building being hauled from Stuart. Here for about seven years the young settler "batched" and hoped for better days, which finally came when Miss Mina Kirkland consented to become his wife, November 28, 1887. Her father, Samuel Kirkland, lived in Iowa, where he was well known among the old settlers of that state. Mr. and Mrs. McKeown are the parents of three children, Mack, Charles and Frank.

In 1888 their house was destroyed by fire, and while the blow was heavy they felt that they were fortunate to escape uninjured. The McKeowns have since built a fine residence on the farm, and regard themselves as most comfortably situated. The home farm consists of about eleven hundred and twenty acres of Elkhorn valley land, and is largely devoted to stock raising and shipping hay. In 1905 he wintered a hundred head of stock, and sold thirty-seven hundred and fifty dollars' worth of hay, and this beside grain and stock farming as ordinarily followed.

Mr. McKeown is a man of more than ordinary standing. In political relations he is a Republican, and in 1902 he was a member of the county board. Deeply interested in all vital public questions, he is known as a gentleman of the most excellent repute. Of the lodges, he holds membership in the Masons at Bassett and the Odd Fellows and Workmen at Newport.

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#### JOHN H. COX.

John H. Cox, prominent in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, as a progressive farmer and successful ranchman, resides on his valuable estate in Chambers precinct. He is well-known to all the residents of that part of the county, having charge of the mail route between the town of Potter and Dye postoffice, being faithful in the performance of this duty, never allowing anything to interfere with the prompt delivery of the mails. He has a pleas-

ant home, a new dwelling built in 1907, on the table land, the former residence having been on the lower elevation of the "draw."

Mr. Cox, a son of William A. J. and Elizabeth (Burton) Cox, was born in Jennings county, Indiana, February 15, 1862, and lived there until he was seven years old, at which time his parents moved to Lynn county, Kansas, and remained there for about eight years, when they went to Woodson county, living until 1899 in Neosho Falls, Kansas. At that time our subject came to Cheyenne county, where he worked as a stone mason and also farmed part of the time. He was for six years connected with a general merchandise establishment at Sidney, part of the time as proprietor and part of the time working as a salesman. In 1905 he took a Kincaid claim on section 30, township 13, range 52, which is his present home. Here he has about sixty acres cultivated, raising good crops of small grain, and runs a small bunch of cattle. He has his place well improved, and is now making extensive improvements as noted above, and for the time he has lived here has done remarkably well.

Mr. Cox was married to Miss Bertie Burton, at Neosho Falls, Kansas, June 20, 1886. Mrs. Cox is a native of Indiana, born April 3, 1871, and with her parents was among the pioneers in Kansas, where the parents still reside. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Viola and Clara, both charming young ladies.

Politically Mr. Cox is a Republican. At present he is serving as school treasurer of his district. He is a member of the Potter Lodge of Maccabees.

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#### JONATHAN L. COON.

The gentleman above mentioned is a prominent resident of Garfield county, where he has been active in all affairs of his locality for many years past. He has been financially successful since coming to this region, in 1877, and is considered one of the leading citizens of his county, highly respected by all who know him. Mr. Coon resides in Burwell at the present time, owns a nice home there and is one of the good farmers there.

Mr. Coon was born in New York state, February 12, 1840. His father, Charles Coon, was a native of that state, of Scotch-English descent, who married Phoebe Lamphear, born and raised in New York. When our subject was an infant the family left New York and emigrated to Wisconsin, where they took up a

homestead and remained for seventeen years, then removed to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn county, and lived there up to May, 1877. Jonathan grew up in the northern country, following farm work during his young manhood, attending the country schools during the winter months and assisting his father at other times. At the age of thirty-seven Mr. Coon left Minnesota and came to Nebraska, landing in this state the 1st day of July of 1877. He settled in Valley county and filed on a pre-emption, on which he proved up, and later bought more land adjoining this. He was proprietor of two hundred and sixty acres of good land, located a few miles northeast of Burwell, where he superintended his farming operations, although he had retired from active work on his farms, and lived in Burwell. Lately he traded the above described property for his home in Burwell.

Mr. Coon was married on December 12, 1863, to Louise R. Maine, a native of New York state. Mr. and Mrs. Coon are the parents of two children, namely: Clara, wife of R. B. Miller, now living in Burwell, and William W. Coon, residing at Grand Island, Nebraska, with his family. Mrs. Coon died April 1, 1902, deeply mourned by her husband and family, and many kind neighbors and friends. In 1903 our subject was married the second time to Abbie C. Cornell, born and raised in Maine, of English-Scotch descent, a most intelligent and cultured lady. Mr. and Mrs. Coon are active members of the Baptist church, and highly esteemed by the community in which they live. Mr. Coon has never held office, although he takes a commendable interest in local affairs, voting the Independent ticket as his conscience convicts him, for the best man and for the general good of the masses.

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#### C. R. CROFT.

C. R. Croft, of Farmers township, Franklin county, Nebraska, who is one of the progressive farmers of that locality, is a gentleman of firm characteristics whose high standing as a true and worthy citizen is well merited. Mr. Croft operates a fine farm of seven hundred and twenty acres, and engages extensively in stock raising, succeeding in his work along these lines to a marked degree.

Mr. Croft is a native of Iroquois county, Illinois, born in 1880, and is a son of Marshall Croft, who was born in Marshall county, Illinois, now residing in Naponee, Franklin county, Nebraska retired from the active work

of a farm and ranch, on which he has spent a long and useful life. The father of Marshall Croft, James Croft, came from England in 1830, homesteading in Marshall county, Illinois, where the family lived for many years. Our subject's father was raised there, and married there. When our subject was a child of three years his parents moved to Nebraska, purchasing land in section 29, Farmers township, Franklin county, and as he was the only son, lived there together until 1900, when he took charge of the ranch and started in the ranching and stock business on his own account. He feeds, buys and ships about two thousand cattle and hogs each year, and besides this raises a large number which he ships also. He ships each week from Naponee about two car loads of stock, and is one of the best judges of his business in the locality. He devotes his entire attention to his work, and is building up a good farm and home by his good business ability and perseverance. He farms a large part of his ranch, and raises alfalfa exclusively, which is fed on the farm.

In 1900 Mr. Croft married Miss Lou Ray, daughter of John S. Ray, a sketch of whom appears in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Croft have been born one son, Marshall.

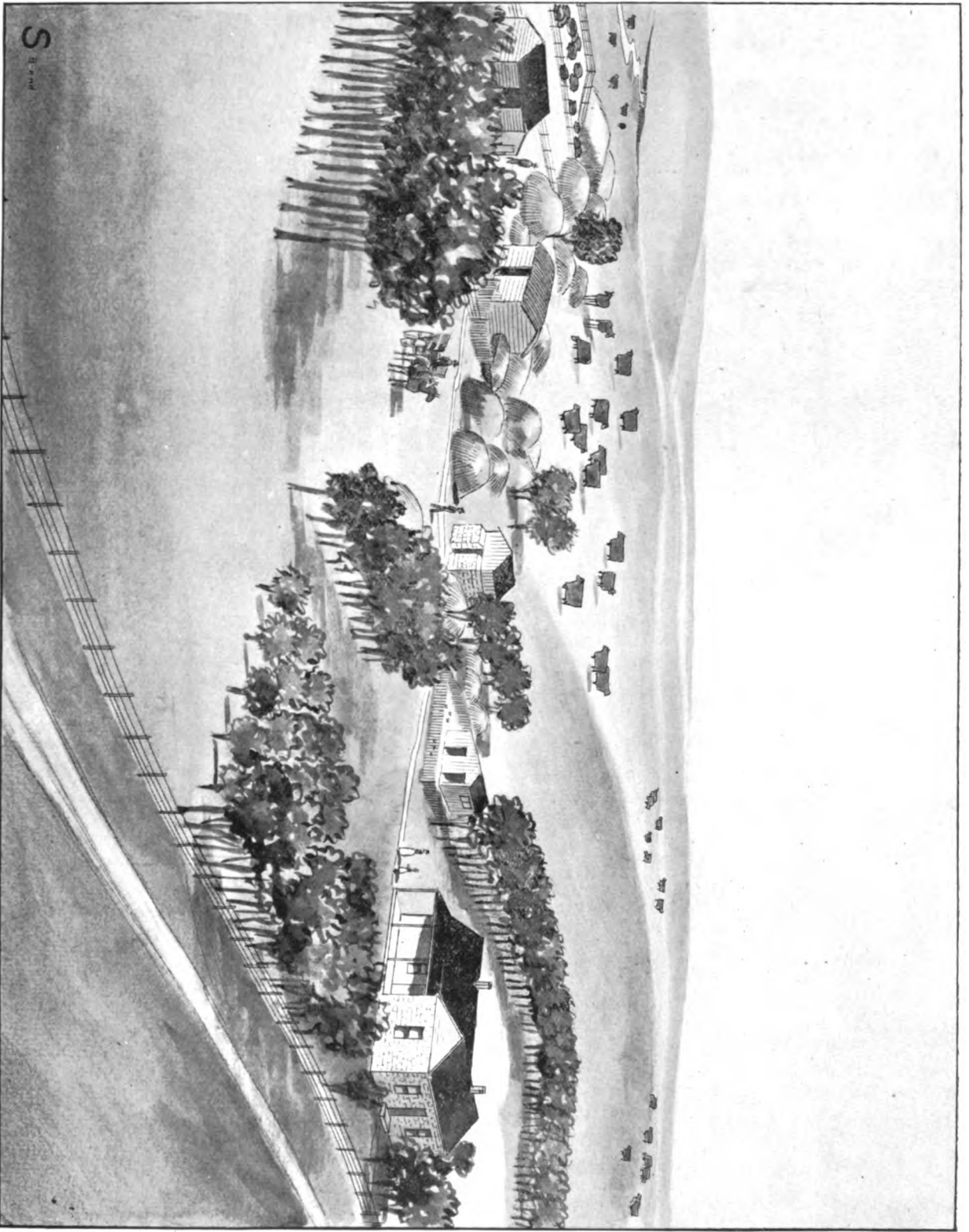
#### MORRISON R. SCRIPTER.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch is one of the acknowledged influential and successful ranchers of Keith county, Nebraska, and was one of the earliest pioneers of the state. He lives on a fine ranch in section 32, township 16, range 41, where he carries on a large and growing stock business.

Mr. Scripser is a native of the Empire state, being born in St. Lawrence county on a farm January 25, 1840, and was from an old family of the Knickerbocker state, that had lived in the east for several generations. His parents, Isaac H. and Jane (Day) Scripser, were farmers by occupation and were honored citizens of their community. When our subject was twelve years of age the family came west to Sangamon county, Illinois, locating twelve miles west of Springfield, where they were among the early pioneers. Here Morrison Scripser was reared, receiving his education and assisting his parents with the labors on the farm. In September, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and saw service in the south with the Army of the Cumberland. He served his country for three years, partici-

pating in many famous engagements of the Civil war. He was at the siege of Vicksburg and at Jackson, Mississippi, was in Arkansas and followed General Price through Missouri. He was in the battle of Nashville and participated in eighteen hard-fought battles, but he was fortunate in that he received only one small wound during his service. After the war was over he returned to Illinois, where he remained for about four years, going thence to Atchison county, Missouri, where his father settled in business. Here our subject remained until 1886, when he moved to Nebraska, settling as a pioneer near Red Cloud, in Webster county. Beginning with 1872 he had from time to time lived for varying periods in this state. He saw many discouraging times during these early days—witnessed the terrible grasshopper scourge which devastated the country for several years and lost several successive crops from various causes. In 1888 he removed to Deuel county, remaining there for about two years on a tree claim. In 1890 he moved to his present farm in Keith county, where he has resided ever since, building up one of the best ranch homes in the territory. There were but few improvements on the place when he came to it—a small stone house with a frame part, but in spite of the drouth and hard times our subject has worked his way to success and competency. He has four hundred and eighty acres of good land and devotes his attention to stock raising and farming. His farm contains a fine grove of forest trees, nearly all planted by his own hand. There are also a large number of plum, crab-apple and cherry trees and an abundance of smaller fruit. One hundred acres of the tract are irrigable from Clear creek, which flows an abundant stream through the place, fed by never-failing springs in the sand hills to the north. His house, built of concrete, is a fine one, of pleasing architecture, convenient and homelike. A view of the home with its magnificent groves and rugged, picturesque rock surroundings is presented on another page of our work.

Morrison R. Scripser was married March 18, 1880, to Miss Henrietta Cliff, who was born in Doniphan county, Kansas, and raised in Fremont county, Iowa. Her parents, John and Nancy (Dameron) Cliff, natives of Kentucky, were old settlers in the west, living along the river in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas, where the father was engaged in boating and rafting on the big muddy stream. Mr. and Mrs. Scripser are the parents of the following children: Harper C., married and living eighteen miles north of Kearney; Beulah,



RESIDENCE OF M. R. SCRIPPER,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



wife of Frederick Bennett, ranching in Keith county; Leora A., deceased; Irene, teaching in the Keystone schools; Morrison, Earl and Leotta.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Scriptor has been active in public matters and has efficiently held various offices. He has been especially interested in educational affairs, helping to establish the schools of the neighborhood and serving as a member of the school board. By his conscientious advocacy of right principles in both public and private business our subject has won a high place in the regard of his associates. Since attaining his majority Mr. Scriptor has steadily supported the Republican party.

#### L. R. SPEER.

L. R. Speer, residing on section 6, township 29, range 45, is well known throughout the community in which he has chosen his home as an industrious and energetic farmer and worthy citizen of Sheridan county, Nebraska.

Mr. Speer was born in Amboy, Lee county, Illinois, in 1868. His father, Z. C. Speer, was born and reared in New Jersey, and was a carpenter by trade. He married Miss Martha Van Ness, of German descent, and they had a family of four children, of whom our subject was the third member. At the age of sixteen years he came west and located in Chicago, working in the Pullman car shops for two years, and on different farms in that vicinity for another couple of years, and in 1889 came to Cherry county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead in section 15, township 32, range 39, and held it up until the dry years came on, then was unable to make things go right, so sold out his holdings for five hundred and fifty dollars, which he considered a very good price. He farmed there for several years, his place consisting of a quarter section, and after selling moved to Hay Springs, where he worked for one summer on the railroad, then clerked in a store up to 1906, when he moved to his present place. This consists of eight hundred acres, well stocked with horses and cattle. He works in partnership with Mr. Bray, of Hay Springs, who owns the ranch. He is sorry he sold his first homestead, as it would have been worth a good deal of money by this time, but will either buy another farm or take up a homestead in the near future. He likes this country better than any place he has yet been, and intends to remain as long as he wants to live in the country.

Mr. Speer was married in 1892 to Miss Bertha Richardson, born in Butler county, Nebraska, in 1874. Mrs. Speer is a daughter of Marcus L. and Clara Spain Richardson, born in Ohio, who settled in Butler county in the early days of that region. Mr. and Mrs. Speer have a family of five children, named as follows: Ruth, born in 1893; Estella, 1895; Mabel, 1901; Fred, 1903, and Harold, in 1906. Mr. Speer takes a commendable interest in all matters of local importance in his community, but has never had much time to devote to taking an active part in politics. Politically he is a Republican.

#### HAMILTON GETTY.

Should the reader ask for the name of a representative old settler and citizen of Phelps county, Nebraska, a man who came in mature life to breast the storms of the wilderness and hammer a home and fortune out of adversity, give him that of Hamilton Getty, the subject of this review.

Mr. Getty is a native of Antrim county, Ireland, who came to this country in 1859. He came to this state in 1884 and homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, Union township, and afterwards bought one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. This he farmed for seventeen years with great success. In 1891 his wheat crop showed a yield of thirty-five bushels to the acre, and in 1892 it was forty bushels per acre, and his corn crop sixty-five. He always fed a large number of hogs, considering them a good investment, as this locality is peculiarly adapted for breeding with success. Before coming to this county, shortly after landing in New York, he obtained employment in training high-class trotting horses. He was very fond of caring for these animals, was very successful in the management of them and enjoyed the work of caring for them. He followed this business for some time, then came west to McLean county, Illinois, when he bought land and farmed for nineteen years, and from there he struck out for Nebraska, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Getty cast his first vote in this country in New York, voting for Abraham Lincoln, who was a candidate for the presidency the first time. He was married April 14, 1863, to Miss Ellen Powers, of New York city, also a native of Ireland. They have a family of six children, all of whom have received splendid educations and are now filling honorable places in life. They are named as follows: Annie



Jane, now Mrs. D. J. Davis, of Loomis, whose husband is engineer of the Loomis flouring mills; Josephine, married to Rev. E. M. Johnson, professor in the college at Bethany, Nebraska; Lillian B., teacher of shorthand and typewriting in the Walla Walla Business College, in Washington; W. A. Getty, a traveling salesman, residing at Lincoln, Nebraska; H. N. Getty, locomotive engineer on the Union Pacific railway, and J. E. Getty, a farmer of Union township, living on his father's farm. A sister of Mr. Getty, Mrs. Richard Morrison, mother of Robert M. Morrison, of whom a sketch appears in this volume, resides in Loomis.

Mr. Getty has retired from active business and enjoys a pleasant home surrounded by a large circle of friends in Loomis, Nebraska. In politics Mr. Getty states he is an Abraham Lincoln Republican and a Bryan Democrat.

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#### PAUL SERRES.

Paul Serres, one of the earliest settlers of Sioux county, coming here in 1887, is a prosperous and highly esteemed ranchman located on section 5, township 33, range 54. He has accumulated valuable possessions by his own work and judicious management, and is one of the truly self-made men of that region.

Mr. Serres was born in Luxemburg, Germany, in 1842, and was reared on a farm. He received a good practical training, and at the end of twenty-five years came to America, making his first settlement in Wisconsin, where he followed farm work. He was married there in 1877 to Miss Mary Friece, a native of that state, born in 1857. Mrs. Serres is the daughter of Peter and Mary Annie (Conrath) Friece, early settlers in Wisconsin, and well known farmers of that region. The young couple started a home and lived in Wisconsin for about ten years, and then came direct to Sioux county, Nebraska, where they settled on a homestead, building a log house with sod roof, and spent many years in that dwelling, but later put up a good residence, gradually improving their place. The first years were hard ones to them, as they were unable to raise any crops to amount to anything, and after trying hard to get along Mr. Serres became discouraged and had fully made up his mind to pull up stakes and try it some other place, but as he was on the point of loading up their possessions in a covered wagon and abandoning their farm, he determined to start again and trying stock raising, so he took an additional homestead in section 5, township

32, range 54, and got together a few cattle, and this was the beginning of his success. He now owns a ranch of over nineteen hundred and twenty acres, and besides his homestead, two sons are proprietors of six hundred and forty acres each in the same locality. The ranch is built up and improved in good shape, and there is a splendid water supply, two creeks running through the land. Every appointment of Mr. Serres' ranch shows the most careful management and good business judgment, and all has been accomplished by his own efforts, from a very small beginning.

Mr. Serres' family consists of himself, wife and nine children, as follows: Joe, Mary A., Herman, Theresa, Kate, John, Barbara, Louis and Paul. Three sons, John, Herman and Louis, died when young children.

In political sentiment Mr. Serres is a Democrat, but he does not give much attention to public affairs, nor seek public preferment, although he is always ready and willing to assist in every way possible any movement started for the good of his community.

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#### EUGENE L. HUTCHISON.

Eugene L. Hutchison, a successful farmer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, resides on section 6, township 33, range 24, and has been identified with the history of the development of western Nebraska from its beginning.

Mr. Hutchison was born in Calhoun county, Michigan, October 4, 1856, and in 1858 went with his parents to Wisconsin, living for ten years in Walworth county and in Juneau county two years, when they removed to Carroll county, Illinois, where they resided for the next decade. His parents came from New York, the father being a wagon-maker in his early days, and later a farmer. Our subject was the seventh in a family of twelve children, and when twenty-two years old left home and came to Nebraska, settling in Buffalo county. There he bought railroad land and started a farm, "batching it" for several years. He built up a good place, and did fairly well, but in 1884 rented his farm and moved to Keya Paha county, where he took a pre-emption, which is his present farm. He was unable to prove up on it, so took out homestead papers and now has a farm of one hundred and seventy-one acres, besides some leased school land. This is all well improved with buildings, fences, etc., and he runs forty cattle, the same number of horses and about sixty hogs, cultivating eighty acres, on which he raises good crops, having sufficient pasture



for his stock. When first coming here he had a hard time to make a living, and in 1893-'94 he lost all his crops and was compelled to work out by the day, hauling cordwood to Fort Niobrara, fording the river with his load, to make enough to support his family; also hauled bones from the prairies to Valentine.

Mr. Hutchison was married in Loup City, Nebraska, November 26, 1881, to Miss Rebecca Roberts, whose parents were early settlers in Sherman county, where she grew up. Her father, James Roberts, was a soldier in the Union army. The mother was Susannah Ballard. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison, named as follows: James R., Alice, Effa, Lee, Blanche, Lawrence, Ballard, Joseph and Neva, most of whom are settled near their parents' home.

Mr. Hutchison is a strong Democrat, and has always voted that ticket. He has at various times held local office, and always has been an active worker in school affairs.

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#### ORLANDO M. GUNNELL.

Among the very old settlers of western Nebraska we mention the gentleman whose name heads this review. Since locating here many years ago he has done much in the way of helping to develop the country, and is one of the successful and prosperous business men of Keith county at the present time. He is engaged in the general merchandise business at Paxton, and is a leading citizen and active in local affairs.

Orlando M. Gunnell was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, August 8, 1849. His father, John Gunnell, a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, was a farmer in Illinois, settling in Rock Island in 1852. He came to York county, Nebraska, in 1876 and moved on to Keith county in 1893, where he died twelve years later. He married Clarissa Mitchell, a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania. She lives at present at Benedict, York county, with a daughter, Mrs. Charles Wonderly. Our subject was raised on a farm in Illinois, following that occupation during his boyhood, also learning the plow maker's trade, at which he worked in Rock Island and later at Moline, Illinois. In 1884 he came to York county, Nebraska, with his family, where he farmed for one year, then located at Stromsburg, engaging in the livery business for five years. In 1890 he moved to Big Springs, and established a lumber and grain business, remaining at that for about six years, but from 1893 to 1896 trade was not very prof-

itable owing to the hard times in that vicinity. He disposed of this business and settled in Paxton, where he opened a store of general merchandise, and has done exceedingly well since coming here, having built up a good patronage throughout the surrounding country. He has a well equipped store, and a full line of general goods.

On May 25, 1881, while living in Rock Island, Illinois, Mr. Gunnell was married to Miss Catherine Johnston, whose father, William A. Johnston, a shoemaker, came to America from Ireland about 1851 or 1852 when a young man. He plied his trade in Philadelphia for a time and then came to Rock Island. Her mother, Mary Kane in maidenhood, was also born in the north of Ireland. Both parents were Protestant Irish and both died in Rock Island. Mr. and Mrs. Gunnell have one child, Clarissa, born at Rock Island, Illinois, August 27, 1882. She is now the wife of John Clair Cox, holding a responsible position with the Colorado Southern railroad, at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Mr. Gunnell is a strong Republican in politics, a member of the Odd Fellows and the Masonic order, holding membership in the blue lodge at Stromsburg, the Chapter and the Commandery at North Platte and the Shrine at Omaha.

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#### JOHN HENRY FRANK.

Among the most respected and worthy of the old settlers of Loup county is John Henry Frank, who came to Nebraska in 1890 and has ever since identified himself with the interests of that grand western state.

Mr. Frank was born in Jackson county, Iowa, April 4, 1861, being the son of George W. and Mary S. (Wilcox) Frank. The father was born in Montgomery county, New York, where he remained until early manhood and then, in 1857, came to Iowa with the early pioneers, serving in the Civil war in Company F, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry. The mother was a native of Jackson county, Iowa.

John Henry Frank and Miss Ida M. Burlison were united in marriage November 12, 1887. Mrs. Frank's father, Charles Burlison, was a pioneer settler of Iowa, saw active service in the Civil war in the same regiment in which Mr. Frank's father served, and thus the elder men were old-time chums and comrades. Mrs. Frank's mother's maiden name was Mary Little, a native of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Frank have had two children to brighten their home—Ralph S. and Viola Pearl.

When Mr. Frank brought his family to Loup county he found the most primitive pioneer conditions. The nearest railroad towns were Burwell and Broken Bow, but he had come to found a home and he went to work with a strong will. For six years he rented land in both Loup and Custer counties. He had almost nothing to start with—no team nor household goods, two trunks and six dollars and fifty cents in money and a wife and child were all his possessions. But these were enough when coupled with hard work and a strong determination to win. He got along, worked all the time, fought prairie fires many times to save his property and experienced all the rigors of pioneer life until finally he won out and now has a fine farm and ranch of six hundred and eighty acres. In 1897 he located a homestead on section 34, township 21, range 20, on which there were twelve acres plowed and a sod house with no roof. This became the start of his fine farm, on which he now has a fine house, also barn and sheds, the land being fenced and cross fenced. Mr. Frank has made a good home and is entitled to the competency he has attained as the result of constant and intelligent effort. He has done his share in developing the country as a pioneer settler.

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#### HENRY I. DANTON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is a well known citizen and very successful farmer with a pleasant home on section 22, township 24, range 50, in Box Butte county. He is a man of untiring energy and enjoys an enviable reputation as a public-spirited citizen and industrious agriculturist, who has placed himself in the front ranks of the well-to-do residents of that region, and who has acquired a valuable estate by his perseverance and good management.

Mr. Danton was born in England. His father, Isaac Danton, was also born and reared in England, following the trade of stonemason all his lifetime. He married Elizabeth Langdon, also born and bred in that country. When our subject was but one year of age the family left England and emigrated to the United States, and on landing in New York immediately went west to Wisconsin, where they located on a farm near Milwaukee. In 1875 they came to Nebraska, at first settling in Saline county, and lived there for about three years, then moved to York county, where Henry grew to manhood and the family saw many pioneer experiences while living in that region. In 1886 our subject came to Box

Butte county and filed on a homestead in the sand hills, twenty miles from Alliance, and worked on the railroad in that vicinity during a good part of the time, also worked in the silver mines of Colorado. Mr. Danton kept on improving his farm and bought additional land as he became able, and got into the ranching business on quite an extensive scale, and now has a well developed ranch consisting of nineteen hundred and twenty acres, all good land, and has built all good farm buildings on the ranch. Soon after arriving here, after filing on his homestead, he had just fifty cents in money in his pocket, and from this start he has accumulated a nice property by dint of hard labor and strict attention to business. He has witnessed all the changes that have taken place in the vicinity since its early settlement, and has done his full share in helping to develop the region, establish schools, etc.

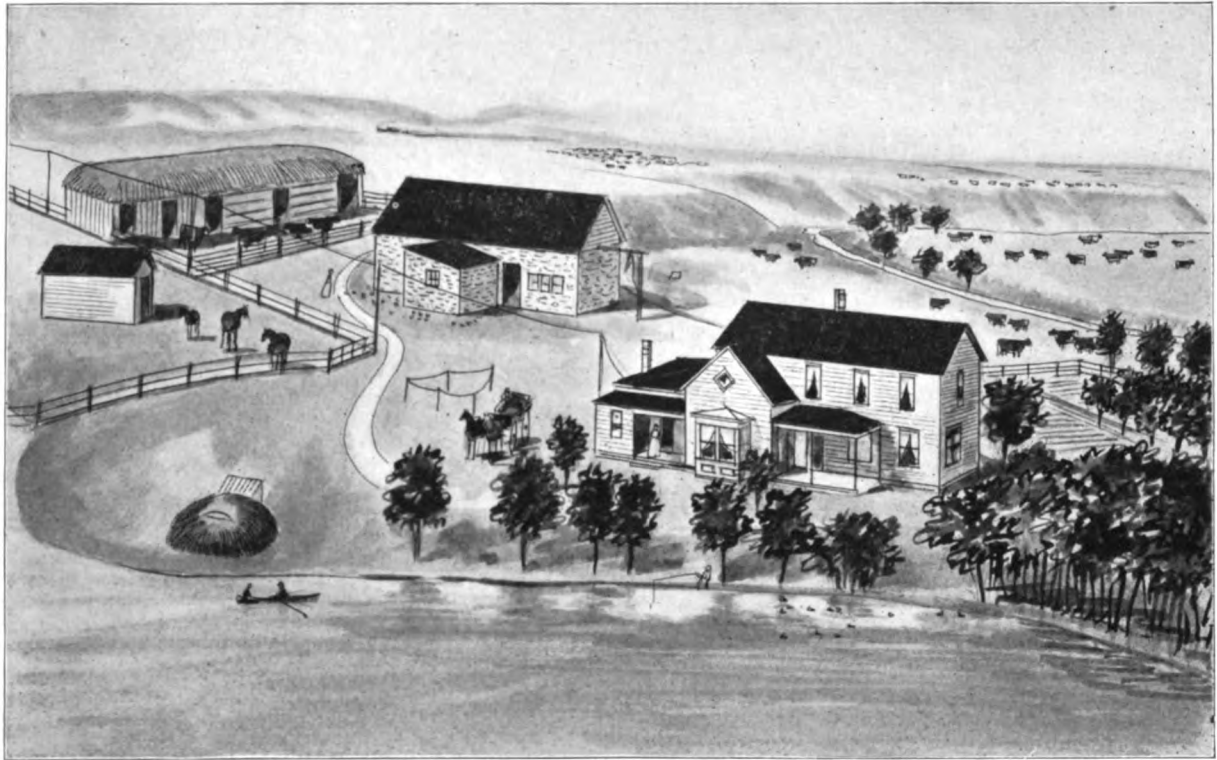
Mr. Danton was married in 1894 to Miss Delia Steyer, born in Pennsylvania in 1870. Her father, George Steyer, was a farmer all his life, son of Absalom Steyer, a well known pioneer in the eastern states, who fought with General Washington in the Revolutionary war and had a brilliant record as a soldier. Our subject and his good wife are the parents of six children, who are named as follows: Chester I., Roy, George, Wayne, Anna and Frederick Archie. The family occupy a pleasant home and are well liked by all in their community as congenial neighbors and worthy citizens.

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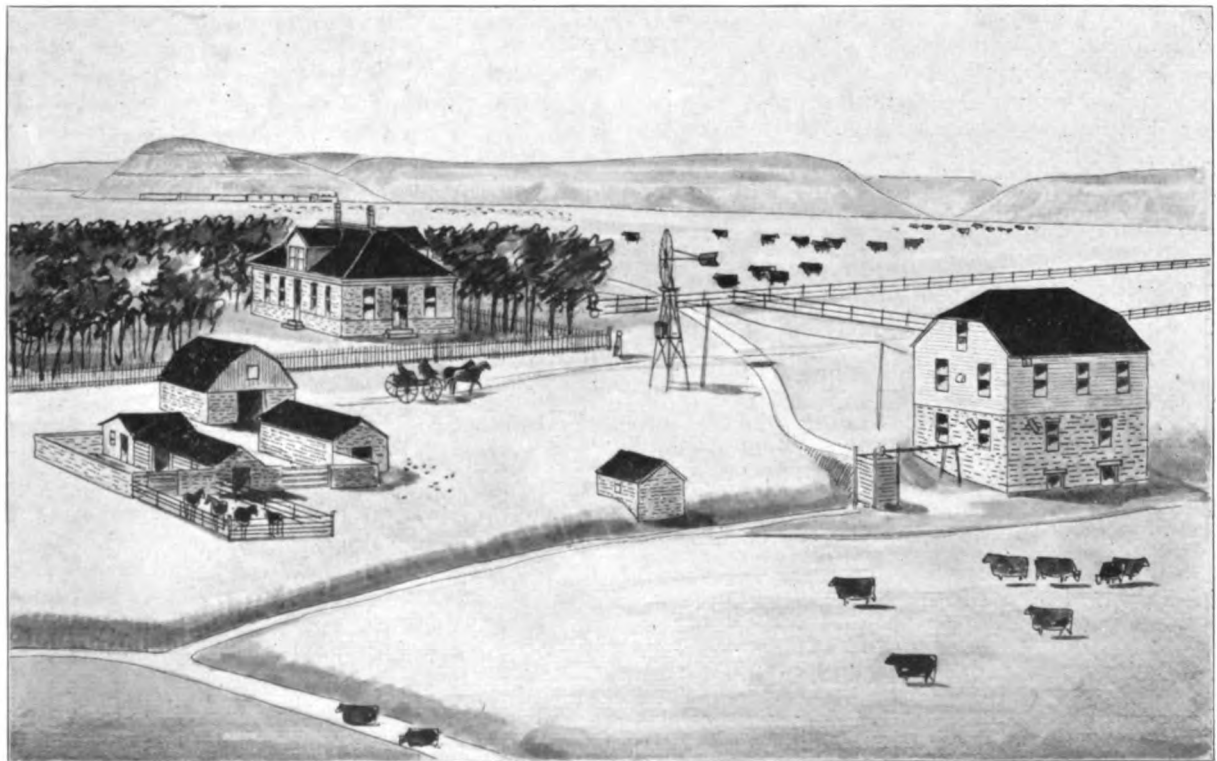
#### JOHN N. SCHERER.

John N. Scherer, whose biography forms an interesting page in the history of the early settlement of Nebraska, is a resident of Court House Rock precinct, Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, where he has become widely and favorably known. He has developed a fine ranch there and is one of the energetic and progressive agriculturists of his community, where he enjoys a pleasant home.

Mr. Scherer was born seven miles north of Hillsboro, in Montgomery county, Illinois, March 15, 1859, a son of John H. and Nancy (Peters) Scherer, grew up there, attending the country schools and passing through the usual experiences of the country boy in those days and remained in his native vicinity until 1887. In 1886 he made a trip to western Nebraska, and being favorably impressed with the country filed a homestead entry in section 4, township 16, range 49, and also on a tree claim. The following year, as above noted, he brought his family to the west and has been a citi-



**"MUD SPRINGS RANCH," RESIDENCE OF JOHN N. SCHERER,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.**



**RESIDENCE OF ADAM GUNDERSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



zen of the country ever since. In 1889 the parents came west, and since the death of his father in 1896 our subject has secured title to the old homestead and in 1907 enlarged and greatly improved the dwelling, making a finely finished two-story home. A large concrete barn adds to the comfort of the stock and to the looks of the place. One of the three large reservoirs on the ranch is in front of the dwelling, making a beautiful lake and rural view. We present an engraving of the place, known as the Mud Springs ranch, on another page. The mother has filed on a homestead in the same section, but makes her residence most of the time in Sidney, where she owns a commodious town house.

Mr. Scherer is the owner of a fine ranch of eight hundred acres, of which he cultivates eighty, raising good crops of small grain, corn, etc. He uses a part of his ranch for stock, having plenty of hay and pasture land. His herd consists of one hundred head of cattle and thirty horses. He has a good set of farm buildings and all improvements. The ranch has a number of living springs, which furnish a fine supply of good water for all purposes, and from these come the name of the place, which is called the Mud Springs ranch. Since coming to this ranch Mr. Scherer has done exceedingly well, and although he has passed through some hard times in building up a valuable estate, he has a fine property to show for his efforts, and is counted among the successful and prosperous ranchmen and farmers of his locality.

Mr. Scherer was married in Montgomery county, Illinois, on January 1, 1884, to Miss Etta Lipe, a native of that county, and daughter of Noah and Elizabeth (Weller) Lipe. They have a family of three children, namely: Pearl, wife of M. M. Davis, residing in Sioux county; Leitha Fay and Ralph L., both at home.

In politics Mr. Scherer is a Republican and is of active public spirit, a gentleman of the strictest integrity of word and deed, who has a host of friends in his community. He is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen at Sidney.

#### ADAM GUNDERSON.

The well regulated farms of Potter precinct contribute largely to the wealth of Cheyenne county. The gentleman whose name introduces this review is proprietor of a fine estate in section 12, township 14, range 52, is one of the substantial and highly esteemed citizens of his locality and has aided materially in its growth and development.

Mr. Gunderson was born in the village of Eskow, Norway, on October 20, 1847. He grew up in his native village and followed the occupation of farming and lumbering during his young manhood. In 1869 he left home and took passage July 10 from Christiana to Leeds, Scotland, proceeding thence to Glasgow, whence he sailed in an Anchor Line steamer, and after a stormy passage of nineteen days landed in New York. He came directly to Omaha and secured work at Florence, where he followed farming and logging on the river for about three years. He next came to Cheyenne county, arriving here on August 5, 1872, and for four years worked in the track department of the Union Pacific railroad, being promoted to a foremanship within nine months. For ten years he lived on section 2, township 14, range 52, without the formality of making a regular entry. In 1886 he filed on a homestead located in section 12, township 14, range 52, which is his present farm. He had a hard time in getting along during the first few years, suffering all the hardships and privations that fell to the lot of the early settlers in this section, but he never thought of giving up the struggle, and by dint of hard work and sturdy determination that marks the courage of the brave Norwegian emigrant to this country, has succeeded in accumulating a nice property. He is now owner of nine hundred and sixty acres, situated on Lodgepole creek, of which he has about one hundred acres under cultivation, all irrigated and a large portion is used for pasture and hay meadow. He runs about two hundred head of cattle and keeps fifteen horses for farming and domestic purposes. He is also owner and runs a fine flour and feed mill, which is located on his premises, the motive power being supplied by water from Lodgepole creek. To this, in 1908, he added a dynamo, installing electric lights in his residence, one of the finest and most substantial stone ranch houses in the valley. The stables, granary and other outbuildings are also of stone construction, making one of the best equipped establishments in the county. A view of this excellent place is to be found in our illustrated pages.

Our subject was married at Potter, Nebraska, November 20, 1873, to Miss Mary Rasmussen, who is a native of Denmark, born in 1854. She came to the United States in 1871 and located in Nebraska the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have a family of nine children, named as follows: Robert, Gustave, Charles, Albena, Elmer, Anna, Emma, Walter and Myrtle. The four eldest are set-

tled in establishments of their own, and the rest live on the home farm with their parents. In political sentiment Mr. Gunderson is a strong Republican and in religion adheres to the faith of the Lutheran church.

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#### REV. JOHN P. GARDINER.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent hard labors the gentleman here named has acquired a well developed farm and is now enabled to enjoy the comforts of a modern farm home. He resides on section 2, township 33, range 35, and is numbered among the successful agriculturists and worthy citizens of Cherry county.

Mr. Gardiner is a native of Canada, born July 16, 1849. His father, Robert Gardiner, was of English birth, married in Ireland to Miss Matilda Becket, of Scotch-English descent. Our subject was the seventh member in a family of eleven children, and came to the United States with his parents when a young lad. When he was nine years old his father died, and after this he remained on their farm in Dallas county, Iowa, assisting his mother up to the time of her remarriage, and then he cared for the three younger children for three years. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Colorado Springs and spent one summer, then took up a claim in Greeley county, Nebraska. After a time he disposed of this and moved into Lincoln, where he lived for three years, following ministerial work in the pulpit of the Seventh Day Baptist. He first struck Cherry county in 1894, locating on a homestead, and has remained on this place up to the present time. He has added to his farm until it now comprises sixteen hundred acres, all lying next to the Niobrara river. Here he engages in stock raising and farming about six hundred acres of tillable land, on a part of which he has a good meadow of timothy hay. He keeps about one hundred head of cattle, a number of horses and sheep, and has at times a drove of two hundred hogs. He has a well improved place, where he has built up a fine home here. Fronting on the Niobrara river, the farm is well supplied with good water and a bountiful supply of wild fruit, etc.

On March 8, 1881, Mr. Gardiner was married to Miss Nora Weeks, born in St. Clair, Michigan, in 1863. With her mother and one brother she moved to Petersburg, Boone county, Nebraska, in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner have a family of ten children, namely: James R., Myrtle M., Dora, Rosa (deceased), Carl,

Lulu (deceased), Erma, Ralph, Emogene and Bernice, eight born and reared in Nebraska; Rosa and Lulu died in infancy.

Mr. Gardiner takes a deep interest in local and especially school affairs but has never held any office. He is a Republican, but is not a strict party man, voting for the best man every time.

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#### JOHN W. ABBOTT.

The subject of this review, J. W. Abbott, is well and favorably known through Lincoln county, Nebraska, as an enterprising and prosperous business man of Hershey, where he has resided for the past several years.

Mr. Abbott is a native of Prince Edward Island, Dominion of Canada, and was born in 1871. His father, Theodore Abbott, came from England and his mother, Jessie Farquharson, is a native of Prince Edward Island, and sister of the Hon. Donald Farquharson, at one time premier of that province and a prominent member of the Dominion parliament. Our subject was reared in Canada and in 1889 came to the States, where he spent some years in traveling over the country, then came to Nebraska and settled in Hershey in 1891, being employed as agent and operator for the Union Pacific Railway. He held this position up to 1893, making this his headquarters, and then went farther west, traveling all over the western part of the United States. In 1900 he returned to Hershey, and was one of the organizers of the Bank of Lincoln County, being elected as cashier of that institution, at the same time engaging in the real estate and insurance business, in which he has been very successful. Under his management the bank has prospered and is one of the most reliable establishments in this part of Nebraska. Mr. E. F. Seeberger, of North Platte, is president of the institution. The town of Hershey has grown wonderfully in the past few years, owing to several large ranches in the locality having been cut up into small farms and sold to men who have gone into the sugar beet culture very extensively, this industry having made great progress in Lincoln county. Fully fifty farmers have located near the town of Hershey during the past two years, and this has been the means of increasing business of all kinds in mostly all lines, the trade having quadrupled in that time. There are about two thousand acres of sugar beets under cultivation near this town at the present time. The Burlington & Missouri railway has surveyed its lines to within one-half mile north of Her-

shey, and real estate values have gone up accordingly. All the country north of Hershey is well irrigated, and land sells at seventy-five dollars per acre. The farmers are able to obtain five dollars per ton for their beets, and fifteen tons per acre is an average yield.

Mr. Abbott was married to Myrtle A. Caine, a native of Kansas, and has one child, Charles T. Abbott.

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#### NELS NORMAN.

Nels Norman, a prosperous and highly respected farmer of Dawes county, Nebraska, has a valuable estate in section 9, township 32, range 50. He has gained this property by good management and strict attention to the work in every detail, and is well known as a leading old settler and worthy citizen of his community.

Mr. Norman was born in Osterjotland, Sweden, in 1847. His parents were born, lived and died in Sweden, following farm work all their lives, and our subject was raised on a farm, where he learned to do all kinds of hard work, which fitted him for the struggles of later life in a new country. At the age of twenty-two he left home and came to America. After landing in New York city he came to Chicago, where he remained for a time, then drifted to the lumber woods of Michigan, where he worked during one winter. He next was employed on the railroad in Missouri for a year, and later was one year in Iowa, following farm work. In 1871 he returned to Chicago, where he was married to Miss Charlotte Boo, also born in Sweden, who came to this country in 1869. After his marriage Mr. Norman worked in Chicago for about nine years, being employed by an ice company, the firm of Griffin & Conley. About the year 1880 Mr. Norman went to Iowa and there worked on the railway for one year, then came to Wayne county, Nebraska, where he farmed for a short time. He moved to Holt county in 1883, and located in Dawes county two years later, in 1885, driving from Holt county, and camping out along the road at night during the trip. He brought with him two cows and a plug team to start with, settling on section 9, where he built a log house. He went through the drouth periods on that place, and met with many losses, and in 1901 moved to section 4. Here he has good buildings, house, barns, sheds, fences, etc., and plenty of good running water the year around, Indian creek running through his farm. His farm consists of nine hundred and sixty acres, and he also owns

six hundred and forty acres lying two miles west of Whitney. He engages in stock raising extensively, running three hundred and fifty head of cattle and a few horses. His place is well supplied with timber, and he has a good orchard, and all kinds of wild fruit, etc.

Mr. Norman's family consists of eleven children, namely: Charles; Edward and Pete, twins; Hilma, Elmer, Ben and Willie, twins; Betsey, Tilda, Harry and Cal.

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#### GEORGE A. SMITH.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is numbered among the old-time settlers in western Nebraska, where he has spent many years of his life in building up a home and an enviable reputation as a successful business man. Mr. Smith, by his faithful efforts to improve his circumstances and advance the growth of his locality, has placed himself among the prosperous and worthy citizens of Long Pine, where he now resides.

Mr. Smith was born at Yonkers, Westchester county, New York, in 1842. His father, Michael Smith, was born in England, a marine engineer by trade, who came to America when a young man of twenty-two years of age, and his mother was a native of New Jersey, born of English parents. In a family of nine children our subject was the fourth member, and he was obliged to strike out for himself at the age of ten years. When he was thirteen years old he obtained employment on a farm in Wisconsin and worked there for five years, then enlisted in Company F, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry.

He was with the Army of the Potomac in the Peninsula campaign, which included the battle of Fair Oaks and the seven-day fight. He received a wound which disabled him so that he was discharged in September, 1863. He was in the thick of the fight at Shenandoah Valley and was wounded five times. After leaving the army service he returned to Wisconsin, where he learned the blacksmith trade, and for twenty years followed this work, remaining in Wisconsin for three years, then going to Wyoming, where he worked for different stage companies at shoeing horses. He went back to Wisconsin in 1871 and worked as a blacksmith for six years, then came to Nebraska as a pioneer, still working at his trade. In 1882 he moved to Long Pine and opened up a lumber yard, the first ever started in the town, and ran it for a year, then sold out and located on a ranch fourteen miles



southwest of Long Pine. He followed the ranching business for two years. In 1895 Mr. Smith and a son opened a large general store in Long Pine, and have run this store ever since, building up a good trade and having a complete and up-to-date stock of general merchandise. Mr. Smith was married in 1874 to Miss Alicia Chester, born in Canada and raised in Wisconsin. Her father, William Chester, was a native of the north of Ireland and her mother of old American stock, born in Vermont, she dying in Long Pine in 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born three children, named as follows: L. E., William C. and George A., Jr.

Mr. Smith has always taken an active and leading part in politics and has stumped Brown county for President McKinley. He is well known all over this section of the country, and is prominent in local and county politics, attending all the county conventions as a delegate. He is a staunch Republican.

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#### JAMES M. NELSON AND VERNON A. NELSON.

The gentlemen above mentioned are prominent citizens of Chambers precinct, Cheyenne county, and have made western Nebraska their home for many years past, both being well known as active public-spirited men and always willing and ready to do all in their power to aid in the development of that region.

James M. Nelson was born in Lee county, Illinois, February 9, 1876, and Vernon A. in the same house with his brother, his birthday being February 1st of the following year. When small boys their parents came west with their family, settling in Dodge county, Nebraska, there taking up a farm, on which they lived for eight years. They next moved to Soquel, California, residing there three years, then returned to Nebraska and settled in Kimball county. James Nelson filed on a homestead and Kincaid claim, both in section 32, township 13, range 52, while Vernon secured a like tract in section 14, township 13, range 53. The former place has been transformed from prairie land to a fertile farm with good buildings, ample water supply with immense tanks for irrigation. He cultivates about two hundred acres, raising good crops, and runs about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and fifteen horses.

Vernon A. Nelson owns and carries on a ranch and farm which he took as a Kincaid homestead, containing five hundred and twenty

acres, situated in section 14, township 13, range 53, Cheyenne county.

Both parents of our subjects, Lars K. and Anna M. (Dibdale) Nelson, natives of Denmark, are living and still occupy and operate a good ranch in Kimball county.

James M. Nelson was married February 22, 1905, at his father's ranch in Kimball county to Miss Gertrude Rasmussen, a native of Denmark, who came to America as a young girl and was reared and educated in Omaha, South Dakota, Colorado and Nebraska, where her parents from time to time resided. They are now living in Cheyenne county, where they own a good farm situated thirteen miles south of Potter, adjoining the Kimball county line. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two children, namely: Alice Evaline and Freda Shirley.

Mr. Nelson is active in local political affairs, and an independent voter, and always standing for the best interests of his community, helping to build the schools and taking an active part in their welfare.

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#### VALENTINE HYDE.

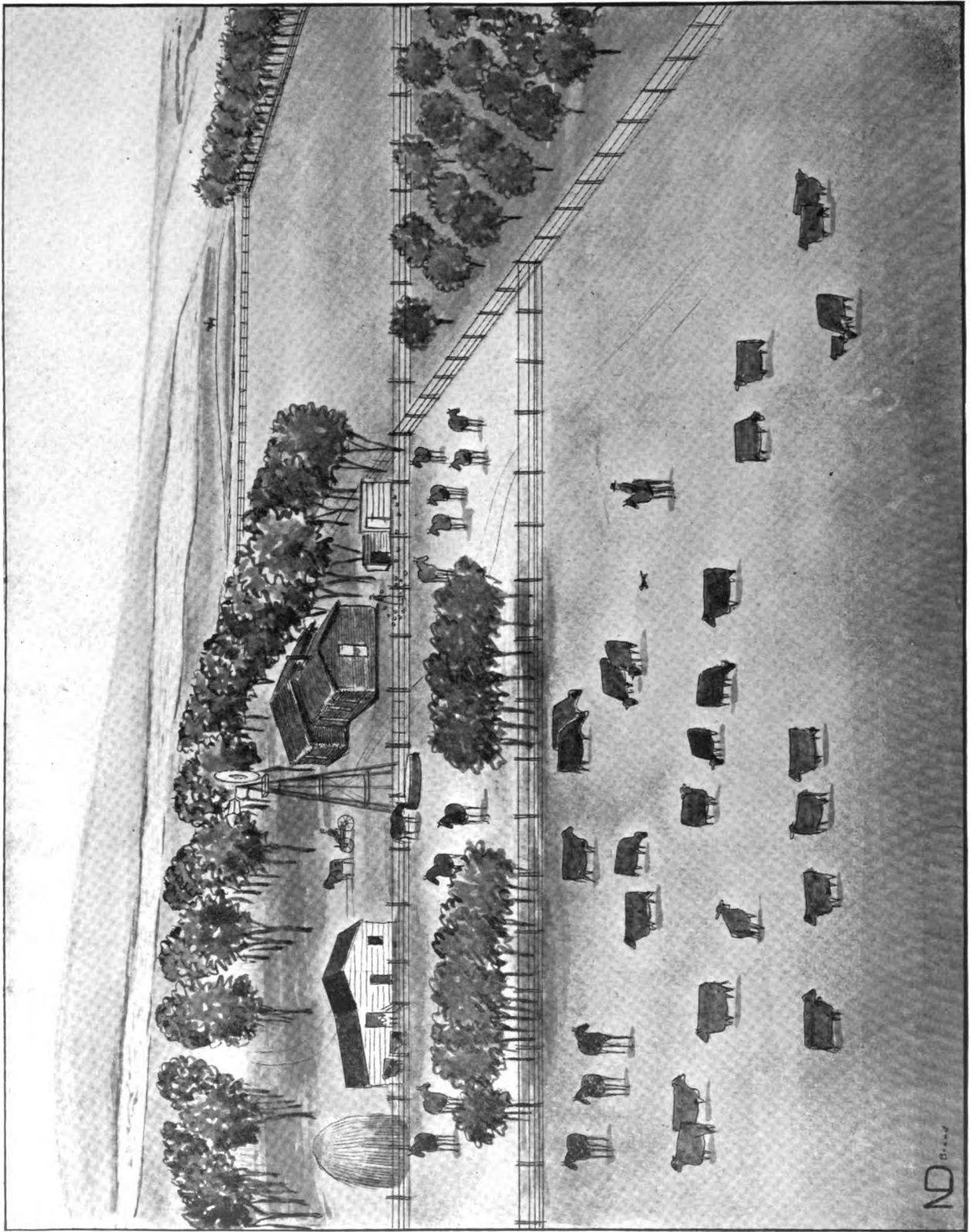
Among the old settlers who are most esteemed for their successful record in the community is the gentleman whose name heads this biographical review. Valentine Hyde claims New York as his native state, having been born on a farm near Buffalo, May 30, 1849. His father was of German nativity, but came to America when he was young, following the shoemaker's trade and proving his love for his adopted land by becoming a Civil war veteran. Valentine Hyde's mother was Susan Holl before she was married and she was a native of Germany.

The subject of this history spent his youthful days in Cattaraugus county, New York, and in the village of Allegheny on the banks of the Allegheny river. He learned his father's trade and worked at it a considerable portion of the time, having a shop of his own in Allegheny up to the year 1884.

The marriage of Valentine Hyde took place in 1871 when he was wedded to Miss Malissa A. Holl. This union has resulted in ten children—Henry, Garrison, Vina (married), Fred, Susan (married), Roy, Guy, Stella, Leo and Jessie. Mrs. Hyde's parents were David Holl, a farmer and lumberman, and Amanda (Garrison) Holl, of Mohawk German descent.

In 1884 the lure of the far west fell upon Mr. Hyde, and gathering his effects together he came with his family and settled in Loup county, Nebraska, locating a prairie home-





RESIDENCE OF NELSON A. GREEN,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

stead on section 19, township 21, range 19. These were early days and the nearest railroad point was North Loup, sixty miles away. Mr. Hyde had but little means to start with, but he had pluck and untiring energy and he kept adding to his possessions every year. He built a sod house, which was usually the first home of every pioneer settler, and commenced improving his land. The succeeding years brought many hardships, the years of drouth being among the hardest to bear, but he always raised a little of various crops and success crowned his efforts in the end. He now owns a fine ranch of six hundred and fifty-eight acres, good buildings and a fine grove of forest trees and a nice orchard of various fruit trees. He cultivates about one hundred acres, the balance of his farm being devoted to pasture for his cattle and his horses.

Mr. Hyde has witnessed the country grow from a wild expanse of raw prairie to a land covered with fine homes and widespread evidences of thrift and prosperity. And in all this advance Mr. Hyde has largely contributed. It marks a great change from the day when deer and antelope were occasionally seen roaming the almost deserted prairies in the vicinity of Mr. Hyde's farm.

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#### GUSTAV F. MITTELSTADT.

Gustav F. Mittelstadt, a worthy representative of an old and honored pioneer family of western Nebraska, is a successful and prosperous farmer and ranchman of Camp Clarke precinct. He is a man of integrity and honest principle, and a leading citizen of his community.

Mr. Mittelstadt was born in Germany December 18, 1863. When he was but three years of age his family, including father and mother, two sons and one daughter, immigrated to the United States, settling in Effingham, Illinois, where the father worked on the railroad and at his trade, that of a blacksmith, remaining there for several years. They went to Iron Mountain, Missouri, next, where Mr. Mittelstadt, Sr., was foreman at the smelting works for five years. Returning to Illinois, they settled at Altamont, engaged in blacksmithing until 1886, when they came to Nebraska, becoming residents of Cheyenne county. Here the father filed on a homestead in section 10, township 13, range 47, the place being situated four miles west and three miles south of Lodgepole, still occupied by the old folks. Gustav lived at home for a few years after coming here, then started out for him-

self, filing on a tract in the same section with the old folks, on which he proved up in due time, working in Cheyenne in a wagon shop to support himself and help the old folks until he could prove up on his claim. Selling this he bought in section 10, township 20, range 51, in 1897, and now owns two hundred and eighty acres of fine land. A large part of the place is under irrigation, on which he raises grain, hay and alfalfa, of which he has forty acres growing. Besides farming he engages to quite an extent in stock raising, running a large bunch of cattle and horses. He is developing interest in dairying, shipping the cream produced by ten or twelve cows. Mr. Mittelstadt has his place all in first-class condition, improved with a new residence and other good buildings, plenty of good water and windmills, fences and groves, and it is one of the valuable estates in the locality.

In 1888 Mr. Mittelstadt was united in marriage to Miss Freeland Abby at Lodgepole. She was a faithful wife and loving mother, and in 1902 departed this life, leaving five children, who are named as follows: Edith, Elma, Albert, Josephine and Edward. Mr. Mittelstadt was married to Miss Emma Ruepke at Siegel, Illinois, December 25, 1906.

Our subject is a man of active public spirit, taking a commendable interest in all affairs which tend to the benefit of his locality, and in political views is a staunch Democrat. He was reared in the Lutheran church.

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#### NELSON A. GREEN.

Nelson A. Green was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, November 8, 1852, his father being Lucius Green, a native of New York and of Irish stock. The mother, Sarah Miller, was born in New York.

The family came to Iowa in 1855 and became pioneers of Allamakee county, where they remained until after the war. Our subject started out for himself when he was sixteen years of age, spending eight winters in the big woods and for six summers was engaged in rafting the logs from the woods to St. Louis, and many are the stories he relates of life on the river in early days.

In 1885 he came west to Nebraska, locating on his present farm in section 32, township 16, range 41, in Keith county. At that time provisions had to be hauled from Ogallala, thirty miles distant, the trip consuming two days. There being no bridges, the North Platte had to be forded, a dangerous proceeding at times. He started on wild prairie land

with no improvements. He put up a small shack and commenced work in earnest. He was fortunate in spite of the years of drouth in the country, losing only one crop, while the other settlers lost several crops. Mr. Green continued improving his land and now has a splendid ranch of three hundred and twenty acres on the bottoms of the North Platte river, two hundred acres of which are irrigated with one hundred and sixty acres in highly productive alfalfa. In 1908 the seed from one fifteen-acre lot of this netted nearly six hundred and fifty dollars. He has a grove of fine trees and two acres of orchard that are hard to equal in the county. We show a view of the home and surroundings on another page that may give some impression of the luxuriance and beauty of his orchard and groves. Ruthton Station, with section house, stockyards and siding, are on his ranch.

Nelson A. Green was married in Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, September 23, 1873, to Miss Mary Burns, whose parents, John and Caroline (Darr) Burns, were natives of Pennsylvania. This union has been blessed with two children: Roy T., who has a ranch of eleven hundred acres in Logan county, Colorado, and Norman D., who is still under the parental roof.

In politics Mr. Green affiliates with the Republican party and has held several local offices, among them assessor and road overseer. Mr. Green has won his way by reason of his industry and his sterling traits of character and has filled a prominent place among the pioneer settlers of the county.

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#### ERNEST T. BANIGAN.

Ernest T. Banigan, well known throughout Cherry county, Nebraska, as an early settler in the western part of the state, lives on section 26, township 33, range 34, where he owns a fine farm and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Banigan was born at Lena, Stephenson county, Illinois, November 25, 1867, and came to Hardin county, Iowa, with his parents in his childhood, where he was reared on a farm. His father, Peter Banigan, was born in Ireland, and when one week old sailed for America with his parents, who settled first in Canada, later moving to New York. He married Celestia Seaberry, whose ancestors were among the first settlers in America. Our subject was the third member of a family of six children, and when nineteen years of age started out for himself, having prior to that time

been employed as a jockey on the race tracks. He came to Cherry county in 1885, took up a homestead, but was unable to prove up, so he relinquished it and sought employment on one of the many farms of the Boiling Spring flats. In 1901 he took up his present farm and owns a section of good land, farming part of it and keeping a few good horses, but not dealing in stock to any great extent.

Mr. Banigan likes Nebraska as a place of residence and intends to make it his permanent home. Politically our subject is a Republican.

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#### A. J. FALK.

A. J. Falk, an enterprising and successful business man of Holdrege, Nebraska, is one of the leading carpenters and contractors of that city, where he has built up a profitable trade and has established a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Falk was born in Sweden in 1855 and came to the United States when a young man, settling in Goodhue county, Minnesota, in 1867. In 1892 he came west and located in Holdrege, where he has lived ever since with a brief exception. Previous to this, about 1878, he settled on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres located in section 32, Center township, and farmed this land for two years, when he took up his work as a builder, and since then has followed this exclusively. He had learned this trade in Goodhue, Minnesota, where he did a good deal of carpenter work in the locality where he resided. During the past twenty-seven years he has built residences and taken contracts all over Phelps and some in the adjoining counties, and his reputation is of the very best and his work all first-class. For the past several years since residing in Holdrege he has put up many of the finest residences. In 1905 he built sixteen houses here, many of them large, all fitted with modern improvements, both in town and the country.

Mr. Falk was married in 1880 to Miss Ellen Swanson, born in Sweden. He has two children, a son, Frank Falk, holding the position of bookkeeper with the Phelps County Lumber Company, located in Holdrege, and a daughter, Tillie.

Mr. Falk is a member of the Swedish Mission church here, and has filled the office of trustee for some time past. He is an earnest worker in all religious matters, and a man of active public spirit. He does not seek public preferment in political affairs, but gives his whole attention to attending strictly to his business requirements in contracting.

## ROBERT HARRISON.

A prominent ranchman and leading citizen is found in the person above mentioned, who is owner of a valuable estate in Sioux county, which he has built up during the past twenty years, going through all the pioneer experiences when first settling in the region. Mr. Harrison has succeeded remarkably well in his ventures along ranching and farming lines, has done his full share in the development of the locality where he chose his home, and is known throughout the county and vicinity as a worthy and substantial citizen.

Robert Harrison was born in Texas, in 1859. His parents were residents of the town of Indianola, Calhoun county, which lies along the gulf of Mexico, and his father followed the sea as an occupation for many years, being captain and pilot on a large ship in southern waters. He married Margaret Smith, of German descent, who died when our subject was a lad of four years. He was reared and educated in Texas, and when he was but seven years of age was obliged to shift for himself, living as best he could, and his father died when he was ten years old. He lived with different families, working for his board and keep, mostly on the ranches in that section of the country, and attended school when he was able, at times when he could not work at home, during the dull seasons, receiving a limited schooling. He began working as a cowboy when but a lad and rode all over the Texas ranges for years, and when but about seventeen trailed cattle from that state to Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota. After that he worked on the White River range and was appointed foreman of Half Diamond E ranch. Seven years were spent on Chadron creek, in Dawes county, and, in fact, during those years he worked all over this country as a cowboy and ranchman, traveling from South Platte into South Dakota and Wyoming, leading the roughest kind of a life, and passed through many thrilling experiences in following his work.

After the region became more thickly settled Mr. Harrison went to Chadron, where he spent one year, and in 1887 came to Hat creek valley, locating on a homestead in section 13, township 33, range 54, in the foothills of Pine Ridge. There he built a log cabin and gathered together a few head of cattle and started in the ranching business. He worked hard and gradually accumulated property, added to his original ranch, and now has twenty-eight hundred acres of his own, besides leasing six hundred and forty acres, which he uses as pasture for his stock. The place is all fenced

and in first-class shape, having some timber and numerous springs of running water, which he uses to good advantage in irrigating many acres. He has planted many trees, and has one of the finest apple orchards in the section, in 1905 having a yield of over two hundred bushels of the fruit from his trees. He also has many cherry and plum trees in bearing, and smaller fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, etc. Our subject has erected all good buildings, including a fine residence, with all kinds of barns, sheds and corrals, and altogether has one of the best improved properties in the county.

In the fall of 1887 Mr. Harrison was united in marriage to Sarah McIntyre, whose father was a well known old settler in Dawes county. Mrs. Harrison was born in Illinois and reared in Nebraska. To them have been born three children, namely: Robert W., Margaret E. and Helen.

## JOHN DAUGHERTY.

John Daugherty is one of the old settlers of western Nebraska who well deserves a place in a volume of this kind. His home is on section 12, township 15, range 51, and he has long been regarded as one of the most substantial and highly respected citizens of Cheyenne county.

Mr. Daugherty was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, on the 29th of August, 1855. He spent his early life and received his early schooling in his native county, remaining there until 1886. On reaching early manhood he began life on his own account and engaged in the grocery business in Dawson, Sangamon county, Illinois, following this from 1880 to 1885. His next move was to Nebraska. He reached Cheyenne county in March, 1886, and took a homestead on section 24, township 16, range 53, which he sold in 1907. His present home on section 12, township 15, range 51, shows evidence of thrift and prosperity. Previous to taking up his present home—during 1891-1893—Mr. Daugherty was engaged in the grocery business in Sidney, and met with success in that vocation. He was elected sheriff of Cheyenne county in 1894, serving one term, and then entered the employ of the Union Pacific railroad and continued in train service and yard work up to 1906. He is at present filling the office of county assessor, elected in 1908, and will serve up to 1912. He has always been active in local affairs, taking an active part in politics, is a staunch Democrat, and his services are in demand at any impor-

tant function pertaining to state or county matters of moment.

Mr. Daugherty was married in Sangamon county, Illinois, to Miss Arabella Conway on February 13, 1878. She was a native of Indiana and a daughter of Reuben Conway. She made a brave helpmeet and was greatly beloved by all who knew her for her many womanly qualities and sweet disposition. She departed this life in November, 1897, sincerely mourned by her family and many friends. Two daughters had been born of their union—Bertha C., who followed the profession of a trained nurse, and who is now the widow of J. C. Newbauer, and Grace C., living at home.

In September, 1899, our subject was married to Miss Kizzie Cushing, a native of England, who came to America with her parents in 1872. She was a child of ten years when the family located on the North Platte near the edge of the Pawnee reservation. At one time they fled to the roundhouse at Sidney, fearing an uprising of the tribe. Of his second marriage Mr. Daugherty has three sons, namely: John Peter, Charles Henry and Arthur Harris.

The family have a pleasant home and are among the prominent residents of their community. Mr. Daugherty is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Workmen and the Knights of Pythias at Sidney.

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#### HENRY MICHEEL.

Henry Micheel, known throughout Brown county, Nebraska, as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy, is a resident of Johnstown precinct, where he owns and operates successfully an extensive farm. He has been identified with the agricultural and business interests of this locality for many years, and while acquiring for himself a valuable estate, has also gained an enviable reputation as a good citizen and neighbor.

Mr. Micheel is a native of the village of Rellin, Holstein, Germany, born January 13, 1851. His father, Carl Micheel, was a farmer, who lived and died in Germany. In a family of seven children our subject was the oldest member, and he was reared and educated in his native land, at the age of seventeen starting out for himself, learning agriculture on a large farm, where he remained for three years. He then worked on another farm as foreman for one year and again as foreman and inspector for two years. Following that he entered the army and served for six and a half years, rising to the rank of sergeant in eight

teen months. After leaving the army service he spent a year at home, then came to the United States, sailing from Hamburg on the steamer Selesia, landing in New York after a thirteen days' voyage in November, 1880. He came across the states to Nebraska, locating in Dixon county, and there settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of unimproved land, renting also two hundred and sixty acres adjoining, and there farmed for two years. In 1883 he sold out his holding there and moved to Cherry county, where he took up a homestead and timber claim, some five miles south from Wood Lake, living in a tent for three weeks. He then built a house. The following year a tornado swept the vicinity in July, which turned his house about half way around on its foundation, and a severe hailstorm which struck them at the same time greatly injured his crops, a misfortune that happened time and again while living in Cherry county. In 1889 he sold that place and moved to Johnstown, where he ran a livery barn for three years. At the end of that time he sold out and went back to farming and worked on rented land for five years, then bought his present farm in 1897, located in section 8, township 29, range 24, which was entirely unimproved land, except for a fine growth of natural timber. Here he put on many improvements, building a good house and farm buildings. He has a ranch of six hundred and forty acres and engages in stock and grain raising. While farming in this county he lost seven crops, two years from excess of water and the other year through dearth of it. He has seen hard times, especially during the dry years, but came through all to final success and is now well satisfied with what he has accomplished here. He was the first settler in Fisher valley, his nearest neighbor being five miles away. While living in Johnstown he was active in local affairs, acting as constable, and also held several school offices.

Mr. Micheel was married in Dixon county in 1882 to Miss Bertha Reimers, a native of Germany, who came to this country in 1881, landing in New York in August of that year. To them have been born five children, named as follows: Carl, Harry, Nannie, Ella and Fritz.

Mr. Micheel is independent in politics, a member of the Lutheran church and affiliates with the Odd Fellows.

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#### GEORGE ENGEL.

George Engel, of Perkins county, has made his way in the world by virtue of hard knocks



and much work, and richly deserves the reward of that substantial success which has come to his industry and perseverance. He was born in Alsace, Germany, in 1857. His father was a carpenter in his native country, and there Mr. Engel was raised and educated, receiving the training usual to children of the middle class, and during his boyhood was apprentice to his father in the carpenter work, following the trade during his residence in Germany. He came to America when about twenty-seven years of age, landing in New York city, and came directly west, locating in Cass county, Nebraska. There he followed his trade, and in May, 1885, moved to Perkins county and filed on a homestead on section 6, township 11, range 39. When he landed here his start in money was a capital of three hundred dollars, and while it was not a very large sum, it was much more than the pioneer in this section usually had. He "batched it" at first and tried hard to get a home started, but often went through hard times, during the drouth periods, and many discouragements which fell to the lot of the average early settler.

In 1886 he married Miss Carrie Schaffner, who was born in Germany and came to this country in 1885. They have six children, namely: Will, Carrie, Herman, Walter, Emma and Anna, all bright and intelligent young people, and they form a happy and congenial family.

Mr. Engel has a ranch of about eight hundred acres, with two hundred acres devoted to farming, and plenty of pasture and range for his stock, of which he has quite a herd. He has good barns, sheds, windmill, fences and a fine residence built of cement blocks, thirty by thirty-six feet, and fitted with many modern improvements. He has gone through many hard experiences in building up this home, but is now happy in the thought of his success, which has come to him through his own individual efforts.

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#### C. L. JOHNSON.

C. L. Johnson, who is classed among the intelligent and progressive agriculturists of Kimball county, Nebraska, is a resident of section 14, township 14, range 59. He has been located there since about 1885, and during the years of his residence has become one of the important factors in the development of that region. He is the owner of a valuable property there, and conducts successfully his extensive farming and ranching interests.

Mr. Johnson was born in Sweden March 2, 1856, and grew to the age of twenty-six

years in that country. He was one of a family of eleven children, he being the fifth in order of birth, and he received the usual sturdy training of the children of that class in his native land, beginning at an early age to look out for himself and make his own way in the world. He came to America in 1882, locating in Vermont at first, but remaining but a short time, then came west to Omaha, Nebraska. There he passed through many different experiences as a stranger in a strange land, at one time having all his money stolen and being left without a cent. He worked in eastern Nebraska for over two years, then took a pre-emption and later homesteaded in Kimball county, settling on sections 6 and 14, township 14, range 59, which is now his home ranch. There he passed through all the early experiences of the settlers of that time, devoting most of his energies to the stock business. He has seen many hardships and privations in getting his start, but has come out victorious in the battle for a home and is now successful and prosperous, being owner of a fine ranch of four hundred acres, besides controlling leased land in his vicinity. He runs considerable stock, having a nice bunch of high-grade horses and cattle, which he sends to market and from which he derives a nice income. He has considerable of his land under cultivation and raises good crops of grain, etc. His place is improved with good buildings, the house being of a large L shape type, and the barn sixty by sixty-two feet, besides many good outbuildings, sheds, etc. He has a good water system on the premises and in the barn, making in all a model farm.

Mr. Johnson was married in Sweden in 1877, to Miss Caroline Anderson, and together they came to the new world to seek their fortune. They have no children. Politically Mr. Johnson is a Republican and he takes a commendable interest in all local affairs, looking to the best development of his community and the public good. He has served two terms as assessor of Kimball county. He has certainly done his share as an old settler, building his ranch from the wild prairie land.

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#### GEORGE B. McNAMEE.

The gentleman whose name heads this review is classed among the prominent farmers of Merriman precinct, and is an old settler of Cherry county, Nebraska. He has acquired a valuable property by his labors and good management, and enjoys pleasant surroundings and an enviable reputation as a citizen.

Mr. McNamee was born in Jackson county, Ohio, November 7, 1850, and reared there until ten years of age when his parents moved to Harrison county, Missouri. His father, Hiram McNamee, a native of Ohio, of Scotch descent, was a member of the Home Guard, in Missouri during the Civil war. Our subject is the second member in a family of nine children, and at the age of twelve years went to live with an uncle near Mitchelville, Harrison county, with whom he remained for twenty-nine years, assisting him in the work on his farm, then left to start for himself. In 1889 he landed in Merriam, Nebraska, and lived on rented land for four years, then he took a homestead in Cherry county, twenty-five miles southeast of Gordon. During his residence here he was but two nights off his claim. He worked his farm and also handled cattle for J. C. Jordan during the following five years, and then started in the cattle business for himself. He began with twenty-five head of cattle and kept getting more until he sold at one time a drove of one thousand head. After this he started at farming and cattle raising on rented land on the Niobrara river, continuing this up to 1903. After living one year on Missouri Flats he took up his present homestead of four hundred and eighty acres on section 2, township 32, range 37, in 1904, and it comprises about one hundred acres of good hay land, the rest being excellent range. He constantly keeps about forty head of cattle and some horses. He also has a threshing outfit, having followed this business for thirty-two consecutive seasons and still enjoys that work. During the drouth seasons between 1893 and 1896 he lost all his crops, and these were his hardest times; to support his family he was obliged to haul posts and timber from his farm to town, making a bare living; he also did ploughing and other farm work for his neighbors in the spring, taking as payment for this work meat and vegetables to supply his family with provisions.

A view of the family residence will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. McNamee was married September 5, 186—, to Miss Nancy Ballard, a native of Indiana, born in 1851. Children have been born to them named as follows: Thompson G., deceased; Mary A., wife of H. A. Glendenning; Lora A., deceased; Lydia C., deceased; Warren P., deceased; Elma E., deceased; Dora M., deceased; Goldie E., wife of C. H. Stratton; George F., Clay N., Claude H., five of whom are living and two having died in infancy, before being named.

Mr. McNamee is an earnest and upright citizen, lends his influence and aid for the up-

building of the better interests of his community, taking an active interest in all public affairs. He is a Republican in politics, has been justice of the peace for twenty-five years, having served in that capacity for eight years in Missouri before coming west. The family are members of the Methodist church.

#### PETER Z. GENTRY.

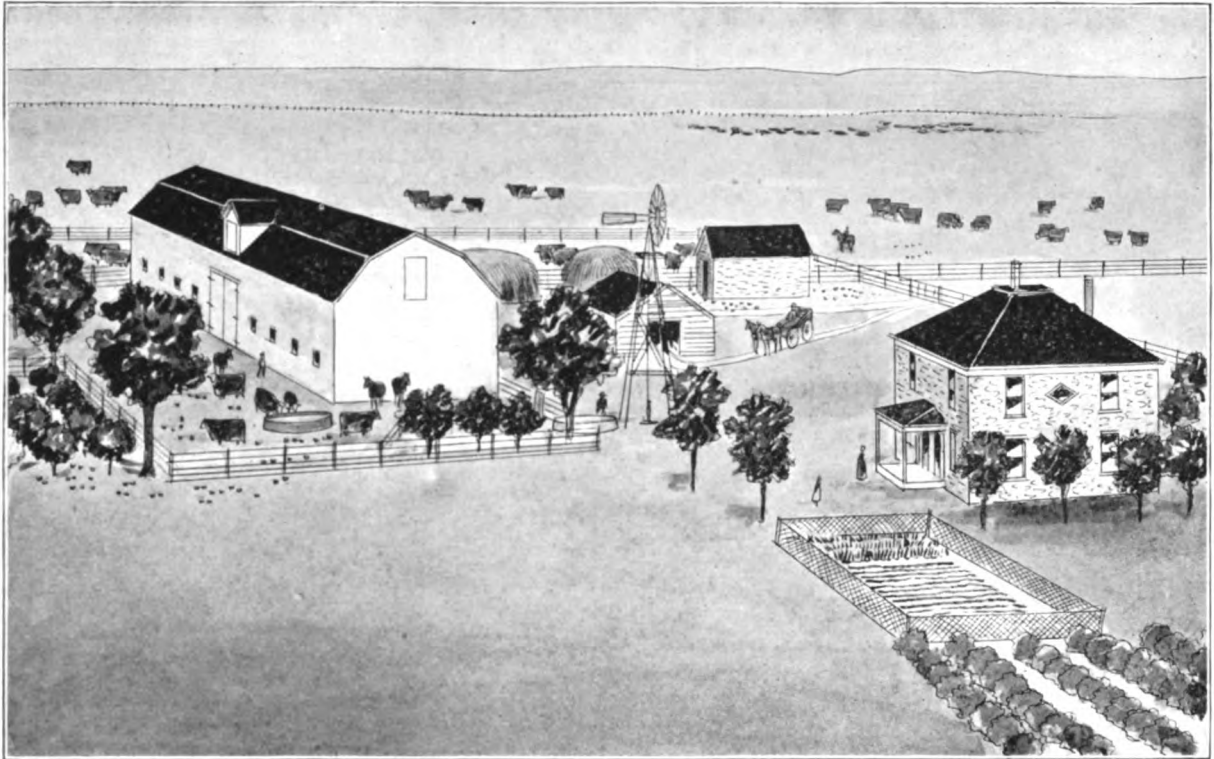
Peter Z. Gentry, one of the well-known farmers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is a prosperous agriculturist of Colton precinct, where he has spent the past twenty years. He has followed farming during his entire career, and despite many discouragements during his early residence in western Nebraska, he has thoroughly improved his farm and has become one of the well-to-do and substantial men of his community.

Mr. Gentry is a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, born November 5, 1863, and was raised there. Both parents are now dead, the mother dying when he was about two years old. He migrated to Keokuk county, Iowa, in 1881, where he remained for a number of years, then came to Nebraska, reaching Cheyenne county in 1886; he at once took up a homestead in section 24, township 13, range 48, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. This he developed into a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, having secured the entire north half of section 34 and the southwest quarter of section 26. He has about fifty acres under cultivation, and runs about seventy-five head of cattle and twenty horses. In 1908 he erected a fine two-story dwelling of ornamental concrete blocks, which is to be followed shortly by a large and commodious concrete barn of sufficient dimensions to shelter all his stock and a large supply of hay and grain.

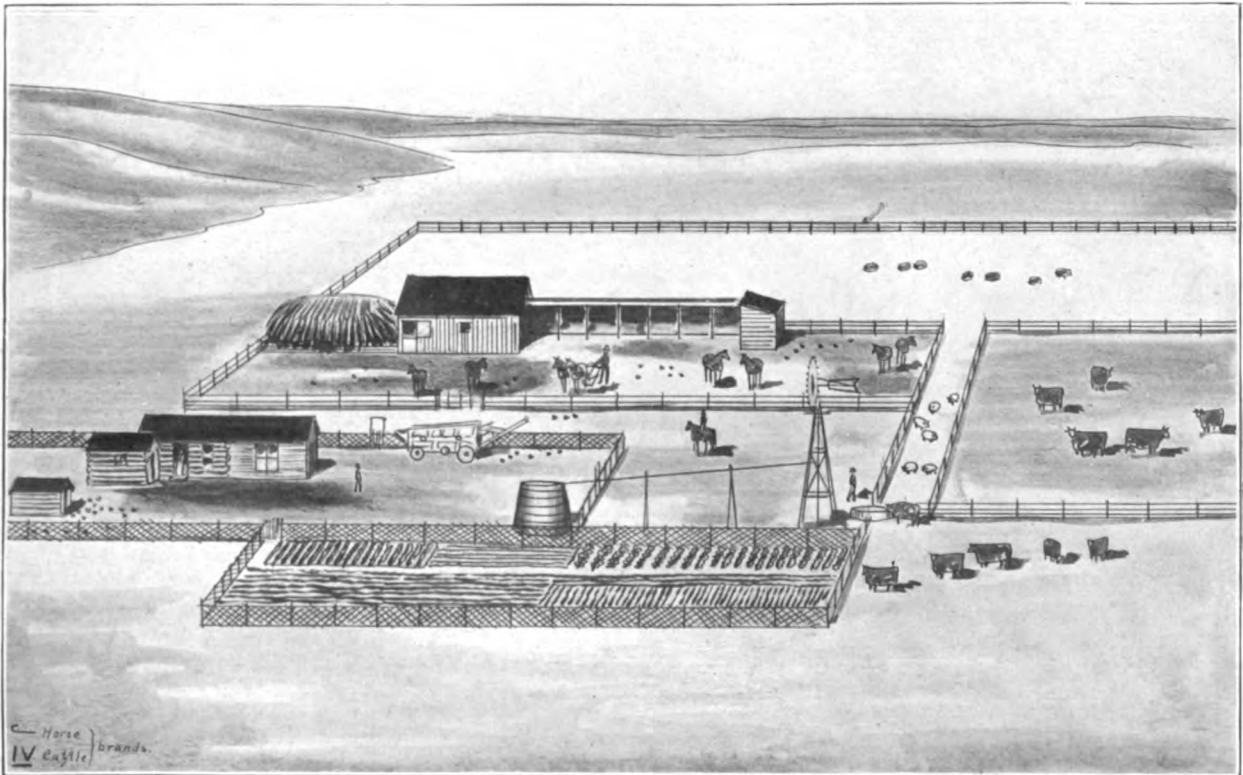
Mr. Gentry was married in Cheyenne county, on Christmas day, 1892, to Anna Lingenfelter. Mrs. Gentry was born in Scioto county, Ohio, in 1859; and her parents, Christopher and Phoebe (Serans) Lingenfelter, natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, have both been dead for a number of years.

Four children were born to Mr. Gentry and his estimable wife, all living excepting the eldest, and they are a very happy family, and enjoy a comfortable and peaceful home. They are named as follows: Roy (deceased), Mabel Alice, Earl Dewey and Ralph Schley.

Mr. Gentry is an active and wide-awake citizen, keeps abreast of the times and takes an active part in local affairs. He is an independent voter, and stands firmly for reform prin-



RESIDENCE OF P. Z. GENTRY,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE B. McNAMEE,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



ciples and the right. A fine view of the family residence with its substantial surroundings is presented in this work.

#### CHARLES ANDERSON.

Charles Anderson, who occupies a prominent place among the successful farmers of Sheridan county, Nebraska, owns a valuable estate in township 13, range 46. Mr. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1864, and was raised on his father's farm there. His father, Andrew Anderson, never left his native country, and the mother died when our subject was ten years old, he being the youngest of eight children. His father died March 1, 1908. At fourteen years of age he began working out, following farming for two years, then came to this country, locating in Des Moines, Iowa, working at anything he could get to do for three years. He then went to Marshalltown, where he worked for some time, and in the fall of 1885 came to Nebraska and filed on a homestead and timber claim in Dawes county, which he still holds. In the winter of 1885-1886 he returned to Iowa, and the following spring came back and put up some sod buildings on his claim. His house and barn were combined, as he was very short of money and had to take care of the pennies, having but a dollar and a half when he struck this vicinity. He at once began to build up his farm, putting in twenty-two acres the first year. He had only one team and one cow. About the time the dry years came on he was farming on quite a large scale, and he got some crops the first few seasons, then gave it up in despair, except raising a few potatoes and provisions for five years, during which time he was compelled to work out to support his family. All this time he saved his money and invested every cent he could in cattle, working on the irrigation ditch all the time he could spare. After working hard for ten years he was worse off than when he came, and was obliged to borrow money, paying seven per cent. per month for small loans. However, after a time he got started in the stock business and has bought more land, now owning seventeen quarter sections in Dawes county, and three quarters near Hay Springs. He farms eighty acres on the latter place and has two hundred head of cattle on his ranch, hiring a man to run that place all the time, he living on his Hay Springs farm in order to give his children the benefit of the better schools.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1887 to Miss Laura Stoudt, born and raised in Pennsylvania

of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, her father Jacob Stoudt, having been a school teacher in the early days, the family settling in Dawes county in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a family of four children, all born and raised on the old homestead, and named as follows: Jennie, Wallace, Emma and Francis. Our subject and his wife were the first couple ever married in the new court house at Rushville, Nebraska.

Mr. Anderson is well satisfied with what he has made here, all of which he has accumulated within the past ten years. He bought land because he was unable to sell his own, offering at one time to sell four hundred and eighty acres for six hundred dollars, and could get no bid on his place. He is glad now that he did not have a chance to sell, as he is satisfied here and should he make a change would go further west rather than east. Politically Mr. Anderson is a Populist. He has never held any office, as in the early days he had all he could do to make a living, and he has no desire for a public life.

#### THEODORE JOHNSON.

Theodore Johnson, who is widely known as a progressive tiller of the soil, has done much to quicken thought and help western farmers to a better understanding of the conditions under which the work must be carried on if they wish success. He owns a good farm in Box Butte county, which he has improved in fine shape, and is considered one of the well-to-do men of that locality.

Mr. Johnson was born in Larvig, Norway, in 1863, and was reared there. His parents came to America in 1887. As a young man our subject followed the life of a sailor in his native land, making trips to St. Johns, New Brunswick, also had visited Denmark twice, and in 1882 he came to the United States. He landed in Baltimore and immediately struck out for the west, locating in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was accompanied by a brother, and they intended to secure work as sailors on the Great Lakes, but at the time they arrived here it was winter and the lakes were frozen over, so they went to work in the big saw mills in that region, and remained in the lumber woods for about five years. They spent some time at Ashland, Wisconsin, working in the lumber yards, and made good wages, receiving as high as three dollars and a half per day for their labor, which was considered very high in those days. Theodore was a sawyer in the mills, and in order to fill that position was obliged to do all the work connected with the

lumber business to fit himself properly. Mr. Johnson came to Nebraska in the spring of 1886. He filed on a homestead in Box Butte county the following fall, locating seven miles southeast of Hemingford, and began with very little capital. The following spring he bought a yoke of oxen and began to improve his claim, building a sod shanty and dug-out combined, and there "batched it." The first summer he broke up some ground and put in a crop of sod corn. He also worked out by the day in the vicinity of his home to make extra money with which to improve his place, proved up on his land and lived there for fifteen years, going through the drouth periods and seeing his crops fail for several successive years. In 1900 our subject came to his present location in section 17, township 27, range 48, and here he has a good home. He has all good buildings, fences, windmills, etc., having expended in all about five thousand dollars in building and improvements. His ranch consists of about four thousand acres, and he farms only a small portion of it, using the balance as a ranch, engaging principally in cattle and horse raising. Mr. Johnson has accomplished all of this by his own unaided efforts, as when he located in this section there were no buildings of any kind or improvements on the place, and he often had to hunt out the boundaries of his farm by locating the corner stakes which had been set by the surveyors in the early days.

In 1888 Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Laura Anderson, born and reared in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a family of five children, named as follows: Oscar, Lizzie, Alfred, Christine and Olga.

Mr. Johnson is one of the oldest settlers of western Nebraska and has been closely identified with the development of the agricultural interests of the region since its beginning. He is a Republican, and active in local affairs. He has helped to build up the schools in the section, and is at present serving as school director in his district.

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#### WILLIAM H. KAISER.

The gentleman above named is one of the well-known old timers in Dawes county. He was born in Evertsville, Pennsylvania, in 1839, of German stock. His father, was a cabinet maker by trade, born in Germany, who came to the United States as a young man, and he married Elizabeth Cessena, and she was born in the same house in which our subject was. When the latter was five years of age the family moved to Mahoning county, Ohio, and were

among the pioneers in that vicinity, and there he was raised and educated. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Indiana and there worked as a brickmaker and painter for quite a long time. Then he enlisted in the Seventy-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Company D, in August, 1862. He was twice rejected, but persevered and the third time was accepted. He saw service in the Army of the Cumberland, was at the battle of Perryville, Stone River, Tennessee, and on one of Stuart's raids was captured at Rome, Georgia. He was held prisoner at Belle Island and Richmond, Va., and later saw service in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. Mr. Kaiser received his discharge from the army in July, 1865, then returned to his home and remained in Indiana up to 1871, then came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he was a pioneer and farmed for two years, leasing school land. About 1877 he bought a farm and lived on it up to 1887, and while on that land made a success of his work. He came to Dawes county in 1887 and settled upon a homestead located on Indian creek, south of Whitney, which at that time was all wild prairie with no improvements at all. Here he put up a board shack and lived in it the first winter and has steadily built up the place from that time on. He owns a ranch of one thousand and forty acres lying along both Indian and Butte Trunk creeks, and has spent eighteen years on this ranch. He is counted among the old timers of the locality and has done his share in building up the community.

Mr. Kaiser was married July 24, 1862, to Miss Nancy A. Stallard, daughter of James Stallard, a Methodist Episcopal minister, well known in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser have a family of six children, named as follows: Frank, Emma, Nettie, Omar, Grace and Fred.

Mr. Kaiser was justice of the peace for many years, and also was postmaster at Coxville, and his wife also held the office for about eight years, when it was discontinued in about 1905.

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#### GEORGE P. EWING.

For the past twenty-three years the gentleman here named has been known to the citizens of Deuel county, and has gained a high station as a citizen and farmer. He has brought a wild and uncultivated tract under high cultivation and improvement, and is now one of the substantial landowners of the county, and stands foremost among the old-time residents of this locality.

George P. Ewing was born in New York

state, on February 17, 1844, and grew up in his native community, receiving a common schooling, following farm work as a boy. He enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Eighth New York Volunteers, in 1862, and served for three years. During his career as a soldier he participated in thirty-two heavy engagements, and was at the front all of the time. His father was a member of the same regiment with his son, and both have brilliant records as soldiers. Mr. Ewing was mustered out at Bailey's Cross Roads, Virginia, in 1865, returned to New York state, and about 1870 went to Michigan, where he remained up to 1885, at that time coming to what was Cheyenne county, now known as Deuel county. He filed on a homestead on section 6, township 15, range 44, and started to establish a farm and build up a home. During the first few years he had up-hill work, as the country was utterly wild and uncultivated, with settlers few and far between, and he had the usual experiences of the pioneers in the region. He was one of the very first settlers on the river, and started with very small capital, living in a rude shanty which he built himself, for a number of years, and worked hard to improve his place, eventually proving up on it. He took a Kincaid claim of four hundred and eighty acres, situated on section 10, township 18, range 45, and now has his home ranch on this tract, of which he farms two hundred acres, and is engaged in the stock business to quite an extent. He has made an ideal ranch out of the place, having it improved with good buildings, and every sort of modern machinery, etc.

Mr. Ewing was married in 1875 to Mrs. Anna Shove, who was a widow with two children. Six children were born to them, all of whom are now dead, and the mother is also deceased, her death occurring at Chappell, Nebraska, in 1903.

Mr. Ewing is a gentleman of broad mind and active public spirit, and keeps pace with the times in all matters of public interest. He is a Republican, and lends his influence for the best interests of his community.

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#### JOSEPH LANGER, DECEASED.

Joseph Langer, born in the village of Freienthal, Austria, in 1863, was reared on his father's farm there until nineteen years of age, when he came to this country with his parents, locating in Polk county, Nebraska, where they found work for a time. He remained with them until 1864, then came to Keya Paha county, where he took up a homestead in section 24, township 34, range 24, on which he resided up

to 1903, when he bought the present home of the family in section 11, township 33, range 24. Here he built up a good home and farm, consisting of seven hundred acres, about four hundred of which are under cultivation. He dealt extensively in stock, keeping about fifty cattle and twenty-five horses. He built a fine house, fitted up with many modern improvements, making one of the pleasantest homes in his locality. There is a fine orchard which he planted growing nicely, and everything on the place is in excellent order.

Mr. Langer, besides running his farm, was interested in Langer Bros.' general merchandise store in Norden. They have a large trade and as fine a stock of goods as can be found anywhere in a town the size of Norden, and are doing exceedingly well in the enterprise.

Mr. Langer was married in 1893, to Mary Korallewsky, born in Germany in 1873, coming to this country when ten years of age, with her parents, they being pioneers of Cherry county. To Mr. and Mrs. Langer were born a family of seven children, named as follows: Rosa, Joseph, Charles, Martha, Marie, Theodore and Agnes, all living at home at this time. The family is highly esteemed in their community, and popular members of society. Mr. Langer died October 12, 1907. He had been active in local politics, serving as county commissioner from 1903 to 1906, being the only Populist on the board. He saw his share of pioneer experiences, and had hard times since coming here, losing two crops by drouths, but never an acre through hailstorms.

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#### RUDOLPH LANGER.

The gentleman above named, a younger brother of Joseph, whose sketch appears in this work, was also born in Austria, July 26, 1879. The family came to America in 1882, locating in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they lived for a year, then came to Nebraska, settling in Polk county. Two years were spent there, then they moved to Keya Paha county, where our subject grew up. The father, Lorenz Langer, served in the Austrian army for ten years; his death occurred here three miles north of Norden, where he had been farming for several years. He was one of the leading citizens of his community, and his death was a severe loss to his family and friends. The mother, whose maiden name was Allouisia English, was also born and reared in Austria, and is at present living with our subject in the town of Norden. She was the mother of nine children, of whom Rudolph was the seventh. At the age



of fourteen he began working for himself, giving his wages to his mother after his father's death. He rented the home place and added to it, running the farm until 1904, when, in partnership with his brother Joseph, he established the retail general merchandise store mentioned. They carry a five-thousand-dollar stock of goods, and have the finest store building in Norden, enjoying an extensive trade from the surrounding country. When they first started this business they began in a rented store, but in 1905 erected a fine building, moving in the new place in February, 1906. Besides his town property, Mr. Langer has three hundred and twenty acres of fine land four miles from Norden.

Mr. Langer has never married, and lives with his mother who keeps house for him. He has done his share in developing the commercial resources of this region, and is one of the successful and prosperous business men of his locality. He is a Democrat and a communicant of the Catholic church.

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#### FRANK B. CODR.

Frank B. Codr is a native of Moravia, Germany, where he was born in the year 1855. His father, Bartholomew Codr, was a farmer and emigrated with his family to America in 1872, landing at Baltimore, Maryland, and from thence coming to Nebraska, settling on a farm in Saunders county.

Frank B. Codr was reared on a farm and learned what the work of farming meant, but he was also able to spend considerable time in the country schools. At the age of twenty-three years he commenced farming for himself in Saunders county on rented land.

In the year 1880 Mr. Frank Codr was united in marriage with Miss Barbara Novak, a native of Bohemia. Ten children have blessed this union: Frank, Annie, Barbara, Joe, John, Anton, Lewis, Ella, Mary and Lillie.

In the fall of 1855 Frank B. Codr, with his family, moved from Saunders county to Loup county, driving over the country by team and wagon, and leading one cow. The family had five dollars in money after getting settled on their homestead on section 26, township 21, range 20. All the house that they had was a sod shanty to live in, and a sod stable, and they had to haul water a distance of two miles. For three or four years Mr. Codr had to work out in order to make a living for the family. A year after their arrival a horse was lost and thus they were left with only one horse, which was not enough to do the work required. Mr.

Codr had no money, so he had to buy a horse on time, giving his note drawing interest at the rate of three per cent. per month. It took five years to pay for the horse. Besides this there was the loss of several crops owing to dry periods. All this illustrates the hardships that sometimes seem to be a necessary part of the life of a pioneer. Mr. Codr fought a good fight, however, and at last has succeeded in accumulating eight hundred and forty acres, all deeded land, two hundred acres of which he cultivates, while the balance is devoted to the pasturage of his stock.

Mr. Codr's farm is a fine one, nearly all fenced, and there are large forest trees, and also a nice orchard of about two acres. Mr. Codr has done much toward improving the looks and values of his neighborhood and his work is appreciated by his associates.

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#### THOMAS DENTLER.

Thomas Dentler, a representative farmer of Thomas county, Nebraska, resides on his well kept farm in section 12, township 26, range 26. He is classed among the successful agriculturists and ranchmen of his locality, and personally is a man of firm characteristics whose high standing as a citizen is well merited.

Mr. Dentler was born in 1850, in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. He is of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, his father, Henry Dentler, having been a shoemaker by trade. He married Mary Stoughton, who was his second cousin, and when the Civil war broke out the father answered the call of his country to arms, saw hard service and was taken prisoner by the enemy, thrown into Andersonville prison, where he died in 1863. Thomas was reared in his native state, following farming and other occupations as a boy, and when he was about nineteen years of age came west, locating in Dodge county, Nebraska, where he had relatives, working on farms, also clerked in a store for two years, and later was employed in a lumber and coal yard in Scribner, Nebraska. He finally settled on a farm in that vicinity and spent many years there, building up two good farms, and in 1884 he brought his family to Johnstown, Nebraska. This was in 1884, and he filed on a pre-emption and tree claim and began a farm in Cherry county. During the first few years there the country abounded in wild game of all kinds, and he killed many deer close to his home. He put up a good eight-room house, and this was a famous stopping house for travelers and freighters for a number of years, his location being fifteen miles southwest of the town of Johns-





**RESIDENCE OF JOHN ENGELHORN,  
Box Butte County, Nebraska.**

town. In 1888 he sold that place and went to Colorado, where he spent one summer, but returned to Nebraska and started a boarding house in Scribner and also ran the hotel at that place for one year. The summer of 1891 he spent in Colorado, and in the fall of that year drifted into the sand hills of Cherry county, Nebraska, and for a number of years went from one place to another, visiting Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and part of the time in Fremont and other towns in Nebraska.

Mr. Dentler first came to Thomas county in 1895, rented land which he farmed, also took up a homestead on section 12, township 24, range 26, and has lived there ever since. He now has six hundred and forty acres, and has developed a fine ranch, planting trees, fruits, etc., and has above seventy acres cultivated.

On July 3, 1871, our subject married Mary E. Cummings, daughter of William Cummings, a well-to-do farmer in Indiana, who died when she was a young girl, her mother having departed this life when Mrs. Dentler was but nine years old. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Dentler, named as follows: Harry, Birge, deceased; Edith and Guy. They have an adopted daughter named Nina Pauline. The family occupy a pleasant and comfortable home, surrounded by all the conveniences of modern rural life, and their home is one of the most hospitable in the community, all well liked by their associates. During the time Mr. Dentler lived in Dodge county he served as justice of the peace for several years, and since coming to his present location has been assessor of the precinct for a number of terms.

### JOHN ENGLEHORN.

John Englehorn, who is the possessor of a good home and well developed farm in section 9, township 24, range 49, Box Butte county, is one of the representative members of the farming community of that region. He is one of the old-timers of western Nebraska, coming here in 1888, and has watched the growth and development of the region from the days of its early settlement, and, incidentally, has taken an active part in its upbuilding.

Mr. Englehorn was born in the village of Baden, Germany, in 1843. His father, Jacob, was a farmer in the old country, and came to the United States with his family in 1849. There were seven children in the family group, of whom our subject was the third member. Their first location after landing on American soil, was at Lansing, Iowa, and there the father occupied a farm up to the time of his death, which

occurred in 1881. Our subject was raised and educated in Iowa, and was early taught to do all kinds of farm work, receiving a common school education attending the country schools. After growing to manhood he lived at home and carried on the home farm for about fifteen years.

In 1888 Mr. Englehorn came to Nebraska settling in Box Butte county, purchasing the relinquishment on the tract of land which is his present location. This is situated in section 9, township 24, range 49. He started improving his place with a will, rapidly building it up and putting in crops, and while he met with the usual discouragements which came to every pioneer, has done exceedingly well. He spent considerable money in building up the place, planting trees, etc., and has one of the valuable farms in his section. In 1893 he had the misfortune to lose his barn by fire. This happened when his wife was the only person at home, and through the hardest work on her part she managed to save their stock and residence. However, a large quantity of hay and grain was burned up, and had it not been for Mrs. Englehorn's courage and presence of mind the loss would have been much greater, and great credit is due her. As it was, this caused a severe loss which they keenly felt, as during those times crops were poor and they had a hard time to get along. Several crops were complete failures during the drouths, but after these periods had passed they were able to get ahead, and constantly added improvements and bought more land, so that he is now owner of one thousand acres lying along the Snake creek, located about seven miles from Alliance. This is all fenced, and improved with good buildings, and he is mostly engaged in stock raising, finding this branch of ranching the most profitable in his locality.

Mr. John Englehorn was married in 1874 while residing in Iowa to Miss Emma Larson, who was born and raised in that state. Her father, O. C. Larson, was a native of Norway, who emigrated to this country in 1849, and settled in Iowa, where he was among the pioneers, and they occupied a farm in Taylor township, Allamakee county, for many years, both Mr. Larson and his wife dying on the homestead there, the former in 1899 and the latter in 1897. Mr. and Mrs. John Englehorn have three children living, namely: Minnie, now the wife of Odie Schofield, living at Salt Lake City, Utah; Hattie, who is a stenographer in Seattle, Washington, and Elmer, now a civil engineer in Seattle, Washington. They are all well educated and children any parent might be proud of, all filling honorable positions in the world. All were reared and educated in Box Butte county,

and are proud of their home county. Otto W. Englehorn, another son of Mr. and Mrs. Englehorn, was drowned at the age of about twenty-five years in the shipwreck of the Valencia, near Vancouver Island, January 23, 1906. The remains were brought back to Box Butte county, where they were interred. A large number of people were present and paid their last respects to the deceased.

A picture of Mr. John Englehorn's residence will be found on another page of this volume.

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### GEORGE H. SEAGER.

George H. Seager has resided in Cherry county for the past twenty-two years, and nearly all of that time occupied a homestead, situated in section 18, township 31, range 35, where he had a pleasant home and valuable estate. This he sold in the fall of 1907 and moved to Cody, where he has a goodly amount of income property.

Mr. Seager was born in Orange county, New York, May 16, 1836, of American parents, his father, John Seager, having taken part in the War of 1812, the grandfather Jacob in the Revolutionary war and the great-grandfather in the French and Indian war, while the great-great-grandfather participated in the war under the last king of Poland. George H. is the youngest in a family of nine children, and at the age of thirteen years started out for himself. He ran away from home at that age and since that time has seen his parents but twice. He was obliged to take whatever he could get to do in order to make a living, and during the first three weeks after he left home worked for sixty cents a week. He followed farming for several years, and at the age of sixteen learned the cigarmaker's trade, and later the carpenter's trade. He devoted most of his time to the former work, however, and continued at it for nearly thirty-two years. In 1862 he enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-seventh New York Regiment, serving as color-bearer until the end of the war. He comes of fighting stock. After the war he returned to New York, where he took charge of the John Kirch Company's cigar business, at Elmira, and was manager of this concern for three years, then engaged in the cigar trade and livery business. He next moved to Tioga county and there took a farm of fifty acres, on which he lived for nine years. When he took this place he was in debt three thousand five hundred dollars, and after nine years' hard work sold this farm to pay off his debt. He came to Nebraska in 1885, landing here with seventy dollars in his pocket and

a family of four children. After getting settled he bought horse feed, groceries and provisions, and had absolutely nothing left. He first located on Boiling Springs flats, and remained there for three years, then settled on his above mentioned homestead. Here he worked very hard and went through many hard times, living in a sod house without floors for five years before he was able to put up a better dwelling.

July 4, 1861, Mr. Seager was married to Miss Elvira Walker, a native of Tioga county, New York, born in 1837, her death occurring in Nebraska in 1902. Four children were born of this marriage, namely: Clara, now Mrs. George Hawver; Hattie, wife of Chris Holts; Adison (deceased), and John.

Mr. Seager has seen this locality grow from its early development, and has had an active part in its success. He does not want any more frontier or homesteaders' experiences, and is glad that those times are past. He has always been a Republican, but has never sought public preferment, devoting his entire attention to his home and family.

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### JOHN A. STRANDBERG.

John A. Strandberg, who has passed through pioneer experiences in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is the owner of a fine farm in Trognitz precinct. He has a wide circle of acquaintances and is held in the highest respect and esteem throughout the community in which he resides.

Mr. Strandberg was born in Sweden, January 5, 1870, and was reared in his native province. He came to America when but fifteen years of age, the family joining the father in Kansas, whither he had preceded them, and in 1888 they all moved to Cheyenne county, with the exception of John, who joined them in 1891, having spent two years of the intervening time in Colorado. The father filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 18, township 16, range 52, also took up a Kincaid claim of one hundred and sixty acres. The balance of the section named is now in the possession of John A. Strandberg, the subject of this sketch. The country was entirely unimproved land, and they had hard work during the first few years to get it into condition to raise crops, but worked hard and faithfully to develop a good farm, and have succeeded in a marked degree. There are now over seventy-five acres under cultivation, and they run quite a large herd of cattle and other stock, including a number of ranch horses, with which all their work is accomplished.

Mr. Strandberg's parents are now dead, the

father's death occurring in 1900, and the mother following him a year later. There were the following children left besides our subject: Charles E., living on a homestead adjoining his brother's farm. Ida C., married to J. J. Johnson, now residing in Kimball county, Nebraska. Annie, married to John Johnson, living in Sheridan, Wyoming, and Rena, who lives with Charles. John A. is the eldest of the family, and he was married at Sidney, on October 13, 1893, to Klara Ternstrand, whose parents are deceased. Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of the following children: Clarence V., Charles E., Martin T. and Alfred E. and Esther.

Mr. Strandberg is active in local affairs, and is a loyal supporter of the Republican party. He is of the Lutheran faith.

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#### HENRY VON BARGEN.

Henry Von Bargen, whose honest life and unflagging industry has been crowned with a large measure of success, came of that race and blood which has been so prominently identified with the affairs of this country. He was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1866 on a farm. He is a son of Frederick Bargen, who was a farmer, and who worked in the cement factories of the old country. His mother's name was Richter Bargen. Both parents died in their native land.

Until the age of sixteen years, Mr. Von Bargen remained in his native land, where he received his education. He then decided to seek his fortunes in the new world, and coming to America, landed in New York city in June, 1882. He did not tarry long in that section of the country, but came west, settling in Sibley county, Minnesota, where he remained for seven years following the occupation of the farmer.

In 1889 the subject of this sketch came to Box Butte county and located on the farm which is his present home in section 1, township 26, range 49. Here he built a sod house, and for seven or eight years lived the life of a bachelor. The first two years he worked his farm with a team of oxen. He did not escape the periods of drouth which were so frequent in this section of the country. Finding it impossible to make a living out of his farm during this period, he employed his time at grade work in Wyoming. During the seasons of 1891 and 1892 his crops were fair, and he began to realize the success which his unremitting efforts merited. Mr. Von Bargen is now the possessor of a fine ranch of one thousand acres of land, one hundred and fifty acres of which he has under cultivation, the

balance being pasture and grass land. He has erected a pleasant house and substantial farm buildings, and has a good well and wind mill.

The marriage of Mr. Von Bargen and Miss Annie Donner occurred in 1897. She was born in Pomeran, Germany, where her father lived and died. Her mother is still living and resides in America. Mr. and Mrs. Von Bargen are the parents of three children: William, Emil and Carl.

In political matters Mr. Von Bargen is a Republican. Since taking up his residence in Box Butte county he has done a great deal toward the development and improvement of this part of the state, and has always taken a keen interest in the affairs of the locality in which he resides. His career should be an excellent example to the young men of the present generation, for in it they can see what thrift and economy, honesty and integrity can always accomplish.

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#### A. J. WITHERS.

A. J. Withers, who is extensively engaged in farming, is one of the pioneer settlers of Deuel county. He has a wide acquaintance in the vicinity, and is universally respected and esteemed.

Mr. Withers was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, October 29, 1846. There were eight children in his father's family, six boys and two girls, and in 1856 the family came to Ogle county, Illinois, where they settled on a farm and made that their home for many years. Our subject enlisted at Mt. Morris, Illinois, in Company I, Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, in February, 1863. He went through the Knoxville siege, was on the Morgan raid through Ohio and Indiana, and was thrown into Andersonville prison and kept there for nine months, suffering terrible privations with others held there. He was also in the battle of Atlanta and other large engagements. In May, 1865, he was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois. His father and one brother were privates in the Thirty-fourth Illinois, another brother was in the Ninety-second Illinois, and still another in the Fourth Cavalry. His father had also been through the War of 1812, enlisting at the age of eleven years, and serving as "powder monkey." When the latter enlisted in the Civil war he was sixty years of age, and one brother of our subject was but fifteen years old.

After leaving the army Mr. Withers traveled through different parts of the country, finally coming to western Nebraska in 1885. He homesteaded on section 22, township 15, range 46, and proved up on a quarter section, adding

to his original tract afterwards, and now owns half a section of good land, using one hundred and twenty-five acres as a farm, and the balance as a stock ranch, running about eighty head of cattle and quite a number of horses. He has the place well improved, all good buildings, etc., and is classed among the prosperous and successful men of this region. He has been a resident of Deuel county during all the good, bad and indifferent times, and was one of the first homesteaders on the table land.

Mr. Withers was married on September 26, 1872, at Oregon, Illinois, to Miss Hattie Coggins, who is a native of that state. They have a family of eight children, who are named as follows: Thomas W., married and a ranch owner in Deuel county; Edith Olive, wife of Oscar Meyer, living in Cheyenne county; Harvey O., also married and living in Cheyenne county; Hattie Ethel, wife of Luther Allington, they residing in South Dakota; Myrtle May, Logan A., Sarah Locada and Leola Elsie, the four last mentioned living at home. All were born and raised on the home ranch, and form an interesting family group.

Mr. Withers is prominent in local affairs. He is a Republican and firm in his convictions.

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#### ALBERT M. JACOX.

Albert M. Jacox, whose home is to be found at the postoffice of Thurman, Rock county, Nebraska, is a fair representative of the earnest and wide-awake young men who have come into this region and have wrought the revolution of settlement, making the wilderness a cultivated land, and the wild prairie a home of a great people. He is a farmer by choice, and is an honor to his calling.

Albert M. Jacox was born on a farm in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, December 30, 1855, and from his early youth was familiar with hard work. His parents, Edward H. and Margaret (Davis) Jacox, were of German descent: his father, in addition to farming, followed blacksmithing for a living. When Albert reached the age of fourteen years he assumed the burden of his own support, and when he was twenty we find him in Madison county, Nebraska, engaged in farm work. In 1882 he established himself on a homestead in section 19, township 29, range 18, Rock county, and there he has lived to the present writing, building up a fine estate and becoming one of the solid men of the county. At the time of his coming here, the country was so thinly settled, and points of trade so remote, that he was compelled to go to Long Pine for the lumber needed in the con-

struction of his first modest home. This was in the month of February, and the long drives were attended with not a little discomfort. He now owns a well appointed ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, of which seventy acres are under active cultivation, and the balance devoted to stock raising and the making of hay, for which there is always a brisk demand. There is a fine grove upon it, which he planted himself, and watched the growth of the trees with a solicitous interest. The flowing wells are of inestimable value on the farm, supplying an endless supply of excellent water for stock and irrigation if so needed. The Jacoxes have passed through dry seasons, and have shared in the experiences common to a new country, but they have never lost courage, and a large success has crowned their efforts.

Mr. Jacox takes a political position in line with the doctrines of the Democratic party with which he has long been associated. In 1886 he was appointer postmaster at Thurman, a position which he still retains. In 1896 he was elected as one of the board of commissioners of Rock county, and for three years he rendered very acceptable service to the people of the county. In strictly local affairs he is prominent, having served as school director for a quarter of a century. He has also been county assessor, and is known throughout the county as an industrious citizen and a reliable man.

Mr. Jacox was married March 5, 1883, to Miss Amy Dennis, whose people had removed from Iowa to make early settlement in Madison county, Nebraska. To this union have come the following children: Edward G., Charles F., Leroy C., James B., Melville Ray, William Guy, Minnie E., deceased, Amy May, Clarence David and an infant, unnamed. The husband and father comes himself of a prolific family, and was the youngest of a family of sixteen children born to his parents. Three of his brothers and two brothers-in-law served in the Union army during the Civil war. He is a member of the subordinate lodge of the Odd Fellows at Bassett and of the encampment at O'Neill.

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#### L. K. NELSON.

In the person of the gentleman whose name heads this personal history, we find one of the sturdy old-timers who has passed many years on the frontier, going through all the different phases of pioneer life in the west, and coming out victorious in the struggle for a home and competence for his declining years. Mr. Nelson is well and favorably known throughout his section of Kimball county.



Our subject was born in Denmark, August 13, 1848, and grew up in his native land, following farming there during his boyhood and remained there up to 1872, when he came to the United States, settling in Lee county, Illinois, where he was among the pioneer farmers, and made that vicinity his home for about six years. He then went to Fremont, Nebraska, spent a short time there, and his next move was to California for three years, returning to Nebraska in 1889, and locating in Kimball county. Here he filed on a homestead, proved up on the land, and has occupied it as a home ranch since that time. He has a good farm of four hundred and eighty acres, besides other property in the county. Sixty-five acres are devoted to farming, on which Mr. Nelson raises good crops of grains, etc., and the balance of the farm is used for hay and pasture for quite a herd of stock.

Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Annie Gybgall, in February, 1875, in Illinois. Mrs. Nelson was born and reared in Germany, coming to this country as a young girl. The parents of both Mr. Nelson and his wife are deceased. They have a family of seven children, who are named as follows: J. M., Jr., and Vernon, both married and living in this locality. Katie, wife of Delbert Keith, residing in Denver, Colorado. Edward, single, Agnes, wife of Harry Luckhart; and Elmer and Gladys, also unmarried.

Mr. Nelson has always been one of the prominent public-spirited citizens of his community, and has done his full share in its up-building since coming to the region. In politics he is a staunch Republican.

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CARL E. A. ESTLER.

Carl E. A. Estler, one of the best known citizens of Sioux county, Nebraska, is proprietor of a fine farm in section 10, township 31, range 55, where he has spent the past fourteen years of his career. He is numbered among the old settlers, and is foremost among those who have aided materially in the development of this region, and has always been closely identified with the growth of its agricultural and commercial interests.

Our subject is a native of Germany, born in 1871 in the city of Dresden. His father, Edmund, was a piano maker there, and the family were in very comfortable circumstances. When Carl was a lad of seven years his parents came to America with their little family, and after landing in New York city, struck out immediately for the west, locating in Geary county, Kansas, at a point about one hundred and thirty-

eight miles west of Kansas City, where they lived for seven years. In 1885 Carl and the whole family went to Baltimore, Maryland, remained there for just one month, then to New York city, where part of the family still lives. Carl remained in New York up to the year 1894. He had served an apprenticeship as a cabinet-maker while a boy, and followed that employment while in New York city and for several years worked in a piano factory in that city. He returned to Kansas in 1894, spent two years there, and then came to Sioux county, Nebraska, where he took up a location near the head of Soldier creek, filing on a homestead. Here he went through hard times during the first years, and after a time went to Harrison and followed the carpenter's trade for several years. In 1904 he filed on a Kincaid homestead in section 10, township 31, range 55, which is his present location. He has put up good buildings and improvements, erecting substantial buildings, including a handsome and comfortable modern house, commodious barns, etc. The ranch consists of four hundred and forty acres, and he is engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, and is making a success of his work.

During Mr. Estler's residence in this part of the state he has done a great deal of carpentering, having built quite a number of houses, and is a skillful and conscientious worker, strictly honest in all his dealings, thereby gaining the respect and confidence of all with whom he has had to do. He has also taken a commendable interest in local affairs, has served as road overseer, also as constable, and in performing the duties of office has become familiar with the people and all the surrounding country, in the northern part of Sioux county. He is a loyal Republican.

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WILLIAM C. COUCH.

William C. Couch a prominent resident of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, also a veteran of the United States army, is one of the leading men of his community. He occupies a pleasant home in Brownson precinct, where he owns a well improved farm and enjoys the respect and confidence of everyone in his locality. Mr. Couch was born in Lincoln county, middle Tennessee, on July 17, 1840. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Rebecca (Casey) Couch, who died in 1854, aged sixty-three respectively, in Madison county, Missouri. whither they emigrated in 1850. Mr. Couch carried the mail between Frederickstown and Iron Mountain from the fall of 1863 until the spring of 1864, when he secured employment in the quartermaster's department of the Union army at Iron Moun-

tain. In September he was captured in one of Price's raids, and carried as prisoner through De Soto, Potosi, Lexington, and on down into the country of the Cherokee and Choctaw nations. Escaping about November 24th he made his way back to Pilot Knob, December 4th, and resumed his duties. He enlisted at Alton, Illinois, in the Fifth United States Volunteer Infantry, and served all over the west, being at times at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, Fort Kearney, Fort Collins, Fort Halleck, Fort Reno, Fort C. F. Smith, Fort Laramie, Fort Phil Kearney, Fort Saunders, Fort Morgan, Fort Sedgwick, Fort McPherson and other parts. Much of the time he was wagon master of the regimental train. He also made a trip of inspection in the service of the government, in company with General Grant and General Sherman and other famous army officers, and had intimate acquaintance with many of the noted men of those days. On October 11, 1866, he received honorable discharge from the army at Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and remained at that fort up to June of the following year. He next went to Fort Fetterman, remained a short time, then came to Cheyenne county with the wagon train and there turned over the train to Colonel E. B. Carter, who was stationed at the mouth of Lodgepole creek during the month of July of that year. Mr. Couch was in the employ of the government up to September, 1868, then worked at overland freighting during the time there were so many encounters with the Indians in western Nebraska, and he had several serious experiences and a number of narrow escapes from them. He was wounded a number of times during skirmishes with the redskins, and was extremely fortunate in getting out of the affrays without severe injury. For several years he followed freighting, travelling all over the western part of Nebraska, between Sidney and the Black Hills, and saw every phase of a frontiersman's life. After giving up this work in about the year 1883, he filed on a homestead in section 4, township 13, range 49, on Lodgepole creek, on which he settled permanently. He purchased additional land in the vicinity which he still owns. His present home is on section 20, township 14, range 50, also situated on the creek, and here he has a good home and well improved farm and ranch, owning six hundred and forty acres, all good land. Until retiring in the fall of 1908 he engaged in farming and stock raising. He keeps about one hundred head of cattle and from twenty-five to fifty horses the year around. A view of the residence and the large stone barn for which the place is distinguished is to be found on another page in our work.

Mr. Couch was married on June 13, 1875, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Miss Arabella Hutchings. Mr. and Mrs. Couch have reared several adopted children, and they form a happy and congenial family, occupying a pleasant and comfortable home, all being popular members of society in their community.

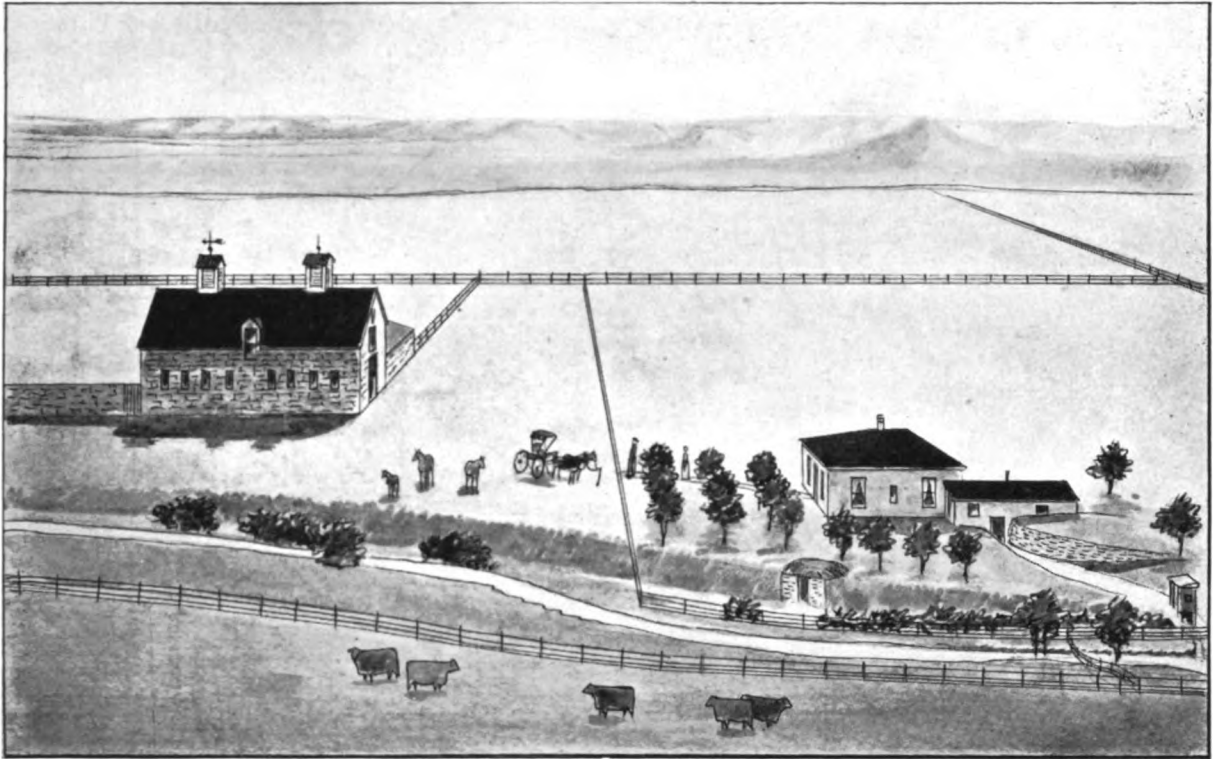
In political faith Mr. Couch is a Democrat.

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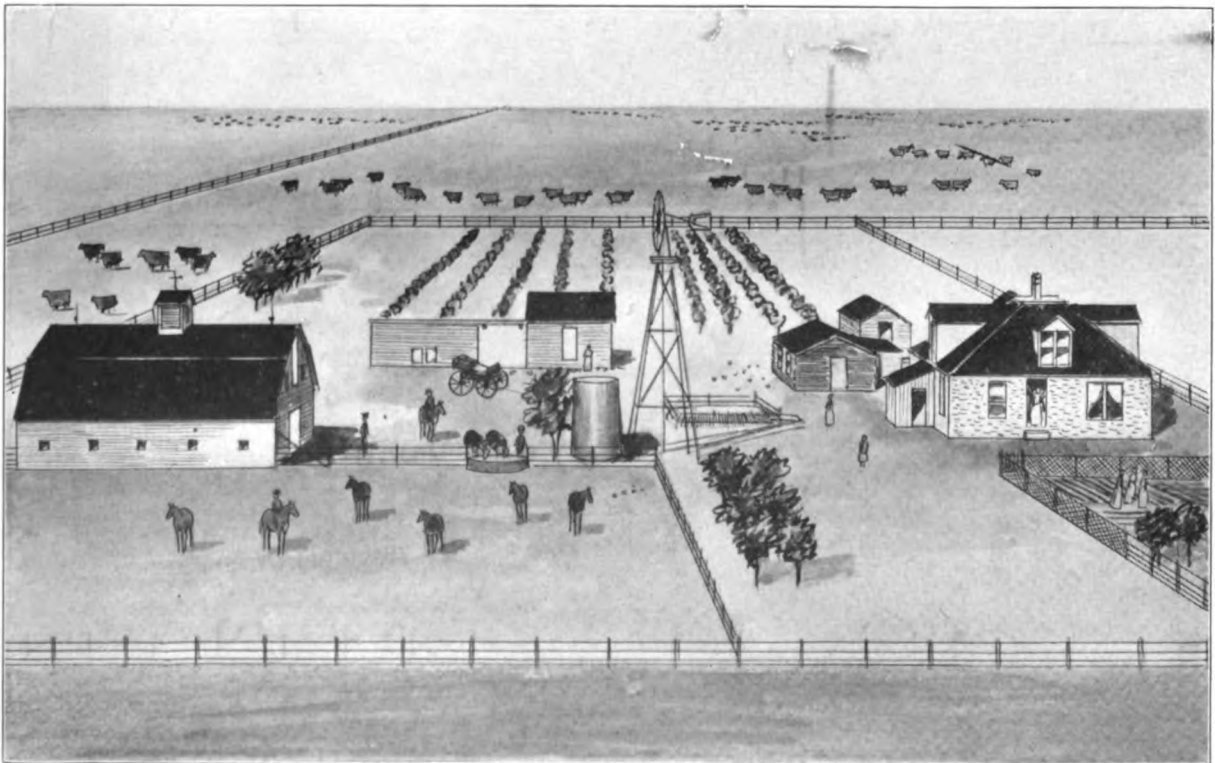
#### FRANK RIHN.

Frank Rihn, a highly respected citizen and old settler of western Nebraska, is among the prominent farmers of Union Valley precinct, Cheyenne county, where he owns a valuable estate. He resides on a fine farm and ranch of six hundred and forty acres, a large part of which is under good cultivation; he well merits the success which has come to him from his labors and the high station which he holds as an agriculturist and worthy citizen.

Mr. Rihn was born in the village of Westhouser, Alsace, Germany, then a part of France, November 15, 1853, and lived to the age of fourteen years in his native province. Then with two older brothers he came to America, sailing from Havre, France, in September, 1868, landing in New York after a voyage of nineteen days. Our subject was the eighth in a family of nine children, six boys and three girls, born to their parents, who lived and died in Alsace. The three boys settled first near St. Jacobs, in Madison county, Illinois, where our subject lived with and worked for an uncle for one year; then he was employed for two years by William Faires, a well known farmer of that region. Later he spent one year in St. Louis, driving a delivery wagon for a brother who was engaged in the bakery business. He then returned to Illinois, entering the employ of his uncle again. He remained in the employ of his uncle for some years, during which time he sowed ten acres of wheat on his own account, having in the meantime bought a horse. For the following five years he worked for Nicholas Michaels, in whose employ he remained until he came west in 1884. In the fall of 1884, he came to Nebraska and filed on a homestead and tree claim, near Sidney. He remained in Nebraska but a short time, however returning to Illinois. In the spring of 1885 he settled with his family permanently in Cheyenne county. He was the first settler on the North Divide, passing through all the pioneer experiences of the early period of Nebraska settlement. He saw settlers come into the region, strive hard to build up homes, fail and abandon their homesteads, while others were



**RESIDENCE OF W. C. COUCH,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE OF FRANK RIHN,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



more successful and remained through the early years and secured a competency. He was one of the latter class, and although he had a hard time to get along during some years when crops were failures, and there seemed to be no way to make a living, yet he stuck bravely to his farm and is now one of the well-to-do men of his locality. He has a good farm, with a complete set of substantial buildings, located in section 30, township 16, range 49, and farms about one hundred and sixty acres, running about seventy head of cattle and fifteen horses. An especially substantial stone dwelling has replaced the old sod house in which the family at first resided. A large and convenient barn was built in 1907. A view of the place will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Rihn was married to Miss Minnie Branger, born in Madison county, Illinois, the wedding taking place on February 16, 1882. Together they went through pioneer times in Nebraska, and raised an interesting family of eight children, who are named as follows: Mary, Katherine, Lena, William, Edwin, Julia, Emma and Joseph, all living at home at the present time. Katherine and Lena are successful teachers in the county.

Our subject has always been active in local and county affairs, having been the first assessor of his precinct, and also served as justice of the peace for a number of years, and was county commissioner during the years 1903-1904 and 1905, proving a faithful and efficient public official. For many years past he has been a member of the school board in district No. 138. Politically he is a Democrat. In religious matters he was reared in the Catholic church

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 WILLIAM COLMAN, DECEASED.

Prior to his demise the gentleman whose name heads this personal history resided on his valuable estate on section 33, township 31, range 46, Sheridan county, Nebraska, and was well known throughout this locality as a successful and prosperous agriculturist and stockman. Mr. Coleman was born in county Antrim, Ireland, in 1837, and raised on a farm there. He remained at home up to 1859, when he was married to Miss Rachel Gaston, a native of Antrim county also, born in 1840, daughter of John Gaston, of French descent.

The week following their marriage the young couple set out for America, landing in New York in May, 1859, and their first home was at Bristol, Rhode Island, where Mr. Colman worked in the sugar refinery for one year.

The following year they came to Lenawee county, Michigan, where he bought a twenty-acre farm and had a very nice little home, remaining there for four years. In 1864 they lived near Valparaiso on a farm, where he did lumbering and teaming. In April, 1879, they moved to Knox county, Nebraska, and took a homestead, and there our subject did well for seven years. However he was anxious to get where his children could take up homesteads, so in 1885 the family came to Sheridan county and took pre-emption on their present place and also took up a timber claim located a short distance south of it. The family lived in a tent on first coming to the locality until they were able to put up a log house, being compelled to haul the logs from Pine Ridge. On coming here they drove through the country from Knox county with a team and wagon, and came across the country from Indiana to Knox county in the same way, the trip taking four weeks on the road. Mr. Colman was in poor health, and they traveled this way in the hopes of benefiting him. After settling here they steadily improved the farm and lived on it up to the time of his death which occurred November 18, 1903, from Bright's disease. He had taken a trip to the coast in 1903 in hopes of finding relief, but it was of no avail, and in his death the community suffered the loss of one of its most influential and public-spirited citizens. He was always first in the offer of aid when there was a question of improving the conditions of his locality and was generally beloved by all who knew him. The family still live on the home farm, and continue in stock raising in the same manner of the father, not depending entirely upon crops, so did not experience such heavy losses as many of the settlers in this locality did during the dry years. In 1891 the crops were destroyed by hail storms and he became somewhat discouraged, and did not buy any more land from that time on. The farm contains six hundred and forty acres, of which two hundred acres are under cultivation, but his family only farms a small piece now, running a bunch of stock on the balance of the farm. His widow and son William live on the homestead and are contented to remain, not caring to go back east to live. Mrs. Colman returned to Indiana for a visit in 1884, but found a great change and everything seemed unfamiliar, so was glad to return to this part of the country where they had built up a pleasant home and found new friends. They have gone through their share of pioneer experiences, and helped build up two counties in this state, and the name of Mr. Colman will always be a familiar one to the early settlers in this section of the

country. When he first settled in Knox county he had to freight for about sixty miles, and during the winter of 1883-'84 freighted to Fort Pierre, South Dakota. On one trip he got caught in Chamberlain and was compelled to stay all winter, as the river was neither frozen or open and there was no way in which to cross.

Mr. Colman's family consists of the following children: Margaret, Elizabeth, Anna, Jennie, Hannah, Nancy, John, Myrtle, William, Katie, May, Eva and Emma, two of whom died in infancy. Mr. John Colman is now serving a three-year term as county commissioner. He was elected in the fall of 1908.

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#### CHARLES STEWART.

Among the highly esteemed citizens of Dawes county, a man of sterling character and strictest integrity, we mention the name of Mr. Charles Stewart, who resides on section 24, township 33, range 51, where he has spent many years in building up a good home and farm, and incidentally gained an enviable reputation as a leading old settler.

Mr. Stewart was born in Lee county, Iowa, in 1861, on a farm. His father, Erastus Stewart, was of old American blood, from Indiana, and followed farming all his life, he having married Miss Elizabeth Woods, of Iowa. Our subject was raised in Iowa, where he received a good education, attending the common schools, and later the Commercial College at Ft. Madison, Iowa. After leaving college he taught school in his native state for three years, also in Nebraska, after he came to this state, following the work for twelve years here in the neighborhood of Whitney and in that town. In 1885 he left home and came to Dawes county, locating on a pre-emption in section 23, township 33, range 51, and remained there until he had proved up. His first building was a dugout, and he later put up a log cabin, and lived there for several years. In 1887 he moved to section 24, where he took up a homestead and proved up, building up the place in good shape, and also has taken a Kincaid homestead additional. The log cabin in which our subject lived while proving up on his pre-emption is now being occupied by another party who is homesteading a claim. Mr. Stewart lived in a dugout for about ten years, and while there went through drouths, and many discouragements, losing his crops several seasons, and that was the hardest times in his career, and he would not care to go through the same experience again. He now owns a ranch of thirty-two hundred acres, located along the White river, Big Cottonwood creek and Dry

creek. Here he has running water the year around for his stock, and he has all of his ranch fenced. There are comfortable and substantial buildings on the ranch, and he has two windmills. He is engaged quite extensively in stock raising, running a large number of cattle and horses for market.

Mr. Stewart was married in 1885, to Miss Belle Anderson, daughter of Salvadore Anderson, a farmer of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Stewart the following children have been born: Grover C., Claude J. and Clem W.

Mr. Stewart devotes his whole time and attention to the building up of his home and ranch, and has met with deserved success. He is a loyal Democrat.

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#### CAPT. H. T. SWEET.

Captain H. T. Sweet, one of the leading pioneers of Dawes county, Nebraska, resides in his pleasant home in Chadron, where he has always been highly esteemed as one of the foremost citizens and public-spirited men of his community. He is the owner of valuable property in that town, as well as in different parts of Dawes county, all of which has been accumulated by dint of perseverance and good management.

Mr. Sweet was born in Vermont in 1833. His birthplace was within eight miles of the famous Bennington battlefield. His father, John Sweet, was of English descent, and his mother was Lucy Exford, also of American blood, born in Vermont, both later settling in Nebraska, where they died. The father was a Methodist minister, and followed that calling all his life.

Our subject grew up in Vermont and at the breaking out of the war enlisted in the Second New York Infantry, and later was with the Twelfth New York Cavalry, and followed a soldier's fortunes for over four years, building up a brilliant record for himself in the army. He saw service in Vermont, North and South Carolina and Tennessee. Was in the Peninsula campaign, with Sherman to the sea, also at Bentonville. On March 8, 1865, he was severely wounded at Wise Forks in North Carolina. At the close of the war he had won the title of captain and quartermaster. At the close of the war he returned to Vermont and remained there for some little time, then came to Illinois, where his wife had moved some time previous, while he was still in the war, and there he followed rail-roading, being employed on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway as trainman, also was on construction work for eighteen years, and was obliged to resign his post on account of ill health. He first came to Nebraska in 1880,

and came through the western part of the state, footing it from Valentine to White river. He spent the first few weeks camping out in the locality, and finally located at Lone Tree creek, north of Whitney, and was the first white man to settle in that part. He first built a sod shanty and lived in it for a few years, and started in the stock business. In the fall of 1886 he was joined by his family, and remained on the farm up to 1903, then moved to Chadron, selling his place, and has since made his home in town.

Mr. Sweet was married in 1853 to Betsey A. Camp, of Vermont. To Mr. and Mrs. Sweet were born seven children, namely: James Henry, John, Eva Estelle, William, Nancy, Frank and Frederick. Mrs. Sweet died in Nebraska, while the family still lived on the ranch. In 1902 our subject was married again, to Elizabeth O. Griffith, a pioneer on Ash creek, there being no children by this marriage. Mrs. Sweet is the owner of a fine ranch in that locality and built it up in good shape by her own individual efforts and is well known as an old settler in that vicinity, and pioneer in Dawes county. By her first marriage she had four children: Isaac, Sherman, John and Maud Griffith.

Mr. Sweet has always taken an active interest in local affairs, and has been a delegate to numerous conventions, also served on the central committee, representing the Republican party.

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#### LUTHER G. PITTS.

Luther G. Pitts, one of the very few really "old-timers" of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, left in that section, resides on his valuable estate in Potter precinct. He has watched this region grow from a barren prairie to its present fertile state, and has been an important factor in that growth and development, having taken an active and leading part in every movement started to advance the public good since locating in western Nebraska.

Mr. Pitts was born in Kalamazoo county, Michigan, twelve miles from the city of Kalamazoo, on March 27, 1852. When he was a small boy he went with his mother to Branch county, Michigan, where they spent a few years, and then went to northern Michigan. At that time he was fourteen years of age, and he soon afterward began working in the lumber camps in that vicinity, on log drives, etc. He later went from Michigan to Iowa where he spent two years, then came to Cedar county, Nebraska, lived there for four months, and from there came to Cheyenne county, arriving here October 7, 1885. He filed on a homestead on section 34,

township 13, range 52, and later took a Kincaid homestead on section 6, township 12, proving up on one and still lives on the other. He passed through all the early Nebraska times, starting with very limited means when he landed here, his sole capital being a team, wagon and a dollar and fifty cents in cash, and from this small beginning has accumulated his present valuable ranch. He has been engaged in mixed farming and stock raising, cultivating about fifty acres, and runs over two hundred head of stock. The ranch contains nine hundred and sixty acres, all fine land, with plenty of pasture and hay land, some timber, and a good water supply.

In March, 1882, Mr. Pitts was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Hysell, at Pentwater, Michigan. Mrs. Pitts died August 1, 1900, leaving a family of seven children, who are named as follows: Nettie, wife of Calvin Morfort, living at Cheyenne, Wyoming; and the balance at home; Lillie, Elga, Ray, Eunice, Roland and Oren. They are all bright and intelligent, and have been a great help to their parents in carrying on the home ranch. Mr. Pitts is a loyal Republican, deeply interested in county, state and national affairs. He is a man of superior ability, up-to-date and progressive in every way, and a great reader, keeping thoroughly abreast of the times. A man of strict integrity, who justly takes a pride in his honesty, and the fact that all he has was made honestly, he is a splendid type of the highest grade of Nebraska's citizenship. He stands high in the esteem of all who know him, and among the business men and banks of the county his word is regarded as good as a bond.

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#### JOHN A. WILSON.

During the quarter of a century that the gentleman here named has resided in Keya Paha county, he has been an important factor in the development of the agricultural and commercial resources of the county, and he stands in a foremost place among the old settlers and substantial citizens of Garfield precinct, where he owns a pleasant home and a very valuable farm property.

Mr. Wilson was born in Tippecanoe, Boone county, Indiana, on August 16, 1850. His father, William Wilson, was a miller by trade, of Irish stock, and his mother, Martha Reed, was of German descent. Our subject was the fifth child in a family of ten, all of whom came west to settle on homes of their own. He was reared and educated in his native county, and at the age of seventeen years started out for himself, working at milling until twenty years of age,



but was compelled to quit that work because of failing eyesight, and took up farming. In 1873 he went to Iowa, and remained there until 1884, then immigrated to Keya Paha county, taking a homestead on section 17, township 32, range 21, which his son occupies while he resides on a homestead of two hundred and sixty acres in section 25, township 33, range 22, which he uses for a horse ranch. He has bought more land from time to time, and now is proprietor of three hundred and twenty acres, all good farming land, cultivating about ninety acres, and has twelve acres of fine alfalfa, eight under irrigation, and in 1908 cut forty tons from two and a half acres of the latter. He has set out an orchard of six hundred apple trees, also a great deal of small fruit, and from this source receives an annual income of six hundred dollars each year, and this will increase each year as his trees grow larger and bear larger crops.

He has an irrigation plant in operation with which he can irrigate about ten acres of his orchard, and without a doubt his is the finest orchard in this portion of the state, a fact in which he takes much pride.

Mr. Wilson keeps thirty head of horses all the time, which he raises for the market, also other stock for farm use. He has a fine residence and home, and everything that goes to make up a comfortable and pleasant rural life. When he first landed in this county he had a hard enough time to get started. He has gone through all the pioneer experiences, beginning with only seventy-five cents in money, living in a dugout for several years, then a log house, and many times not knowing how he was going to earn enough to keep his family from want. At one time he and his family lived for six weeks on nothing but potatoes, and although those times are long since past and they are now surrounded with every comfort their thoughts often go back to the time of their hardships and privations and have no desire to again go through them.

Mr. Wilson was married in Indiana in 1870 to Miss Rebecca Trout, of German descent, and they are the parents of the following children: John Henry, James, Jennie, wife of David Overstreet, of Keya Paha county; and Harry, all living near the old homestead. One son, Harvey, their first born, was drowned while the family lived in Iowa.

All of Mr. Wilson's time is devoted to caring for his farm and orchards, and he has never taken an active part in politics, although he has always been a strong Democrat. The family belong to the Freewill Baptist church of Springview, and take an active interest in its advancement and prosperity.

## BERNHARD UHLKEN.

Bernhard Uhlken, a prominent farmer and ranchman of Dawes county, and a man whose unremitting efforts toward success have been rapidly rewarded, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, in 1856, a son of a clothing merchant of that place. The early years of our subject's life were spent in his native land, where he worked as a laborer and farmer. He was married in Germany to Miss Minnie Molstad in 1889. She was born in Germany in 1865. This happy union was blessed with four children, Bernhard, Johanna, Minnie and Sophia.

Realizing that the opportunities to be found in America were extremely inviting to those willing to embrace them, Mr. Uhlken accompanied by his family immigrated to this country in 1893. He spent two years in Saline county, Illinois, where he hired out. He was economical, saved his money, and learning of the great opportunities which western Nebraska held out to the ambitious and thrifty, he came west to Dawes county in 1895, where he purchased his present farm in section 9, township 30, range 50. There was nothing but a log house on the place when it came into his possession, but to a man possessing the thrift and energy of Mr. Uhlken this was no obstacle. He went to work with a strong will, and in a remarkable short space of time began to realize the reward of his untiring efforts. He now has a substantial and commodious stone house, a barn, forty by sixty-six feet, and good sheds. He has added adjacent lands to his original possessions, and is now the proprietor of a ranch of eight hundred and twenty-seven acres of good land. One hundred and twenty acres of this he has under cultivation, eighty acres are of fine timber land, while the balance is pasture and hay land.

While Mr. Uhlken has worked hard and devoted his time and energy toward making for himself and family a comfortable home in Dawes county, he has taken a lively interest in local affairs, and is a man who enjoys the respect and esteem of the surrounding community. Since coming to Dawes county his success has been most remarkable, and his upright and honorable career should be an encouragement to the young men of the present generation, as in it they can see what thrift and industry, honesty and integrity can always accomplish.

## JOSHUA H. BROWN.

Joshua H. Brown, a prominent resident and old-timer of Deuel county, Nebraska, makes his home in Chappell precinct, where he has a very extensive ranch and pleasant surroundings. Mr.

Brown was born in Mercer county, Illinois, July 6, 1841. His father was one of the earliest pioneers of that county, settling in the region in 1831.

Our subject grew up in his native county, living there until he was twenty-one, enlisting in Company H, Eighty-fourth Illinois Infantry, on July 22, 1862. He saw hard service as a soldier, taking part in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, and was through the entire campaign march from Louisville to Nashville under General Buell, following Bragg's army. His company went into winter quarters at Nashville in December, 1862. At the battle of Stone River he received quite a severe wound, but was only disabled for a short time, and never left his regiment for a day. Afterward he was in the battles of Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, through the Atlanta campaign and the battles of Franklin and Nashville, seeing every phase of army life and suffering all the hardships of war. He was mustered out of service at Springfield, Illinois, in June, 1865, at that time returning to Mercer county, remaining there up to the spring of 1888, following farming all of the time. While living in that locality he was prominent as a public-spirited citizen, and served as sheriff of his county, holding that office during 1879-1880.

Mr. Brown first came to Nebraska in the fall of 1885, when he took a tree claim, locating in Deuel county, afterward spending considerable time away, and then settled permanently on a homestead on section 18, township 13, range 44, in the spring of 1888. This homestead is now his home farm, and he is proprietor of eleven hundred and twenty acres altogether. He has improved his ranch in fine shape, having about two hundred acres under cultivation, and is engaged extensively in the stock business, keeping about one hundred head of cattle and a bunch of horses and mules. He is one of the wealthy men of his region, and highly esteemed as a friend and neighbor.

On January 1, 1868, our subject married Mrs. Mary Rodgers, whose maiden name was Mary Dilley, born and reared in Mercer county, Illinois, their marriage occurring there. They have a family of six children living, and had the misfortune to lose a little girl in 1881, when she was a baby a year old. The living children are named as follows: Vinnie R., wife of A. A. Bradley, now living in Kansas; Gus B., married, and occupying a farm of his own which adjoins the ranch of his father; Cyrus D., Joshua Logan, Vernice and Benjamin F., attending the Agricultural College at Lincoln, Nebraska. The three older sons all have homesteads of their own in the county, on which they have proved up.

The whole family are exceedingly bright and well educated young people, nearly all having been teachers in Deuel county at one time. They are a most interesting group, of whom their parents are justly proud.

Politically Mr. Brown is a stanch Republican, and takes a leading part in local affairs. He has built up a fine home and ranch from the wild prairie land, and has good buildings, timber, etc.

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#### OTTO PERSO.

Otto Perso, a prosperous and highly respected farmer of Davison precinct, Cheyenne county, has a well kept and comfortable estate in sections 1 and 2, where he has spent many years of his career. He owns a ranch consisting of eight hundred acres, and is one of the well-to-do, progressive farmers and ranchmen of his locality.

Mr. Perso was born in Monroe county, Wisconsin, May 16, 1865. His father, Ferdinand Perso, a native of Brandenburg, married Mrs. Minnie Zibbell, whose husband had died on the voyage to America. Otto followed farm work and attended the country schools until he came west, arriving in Cheyenne county in the fall of 1886. He immediately filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 2, township 16, range 50, and proved up on the place, and later added to it, until his boundaries enclose the acreage above mentioned. He cultivates one hundred and thirty acres, growing small grains, and raises considerable stock as well, having seventy-five head of cattle and a small bunch of horses. He makes a specialty of the raising of high-grade Hereford cattle, and has some fine animals of this breed at the head of his herd. A typical westerner, he is a recognized authority on stock in his section of the country, having had a long experience in ranching. His buildings are far above the average of western country dwellings and his house is furnished in keeping with outward appearance. A large stone barn shelters his stock and a new granary has a capacity for storing large crops of grain. The place is the subject of one of our finest illustrations, which will be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Perso was married December 12, 1893, in Monroe county, Wisconsin, to Miss Emma Harr, a daughter of John and Caroline (Slaver) Harr, natives of Germany. She was born and reared in La Crosse county, Wisconsin, where her father died several years ago, her mother still living in Wisconsin. Four children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife,

who are named as follows: Edith, Vida, Ralph and Edwin, all at home. Mr. Perso was one of a family of nine children, seven of whom are still living, and Mrs. Perso is one of fourteen children, all of whom are living at the present writing.

Mr. Perso is actively awake to the interests of his community, and aids materially in its advancement along commercial and agricultural lines, also taking a keen interest in local and county politics, voting the Democratic ticket. He is a member of the Sidney lodge, Modern Woodmen of America, and with the family, a member of the Methodist church.

### HENRY SCHURMANN.

Henry Schurmann, one of the younger residents of Brown county, Nebraska, is well known as a progressive farmer and worthy citizen of his locality. He is a native of Kansas, born at Yates Center, November 3, 1881. His father, Rudolph Schurmann, was a prominent farmer in Dodge county, living for many years about a mile and a half east of the town of Scribner, coming to this state from Indiana, where he was born, his father settling there in the early days as an emigrant from Germany and a well known Lutheran minister, also following that calling at times after locating in Indiana. Our subject's mother was born in Germany, coming to America about 1870. She was a lady of most estimable character and charming personality, and her death, which occurred on March 3, 1906, was deeply deplored by her devoted family and a host of friends. Rudolph Schurmann only survived his wife by about one year, when he was also laid to rest.

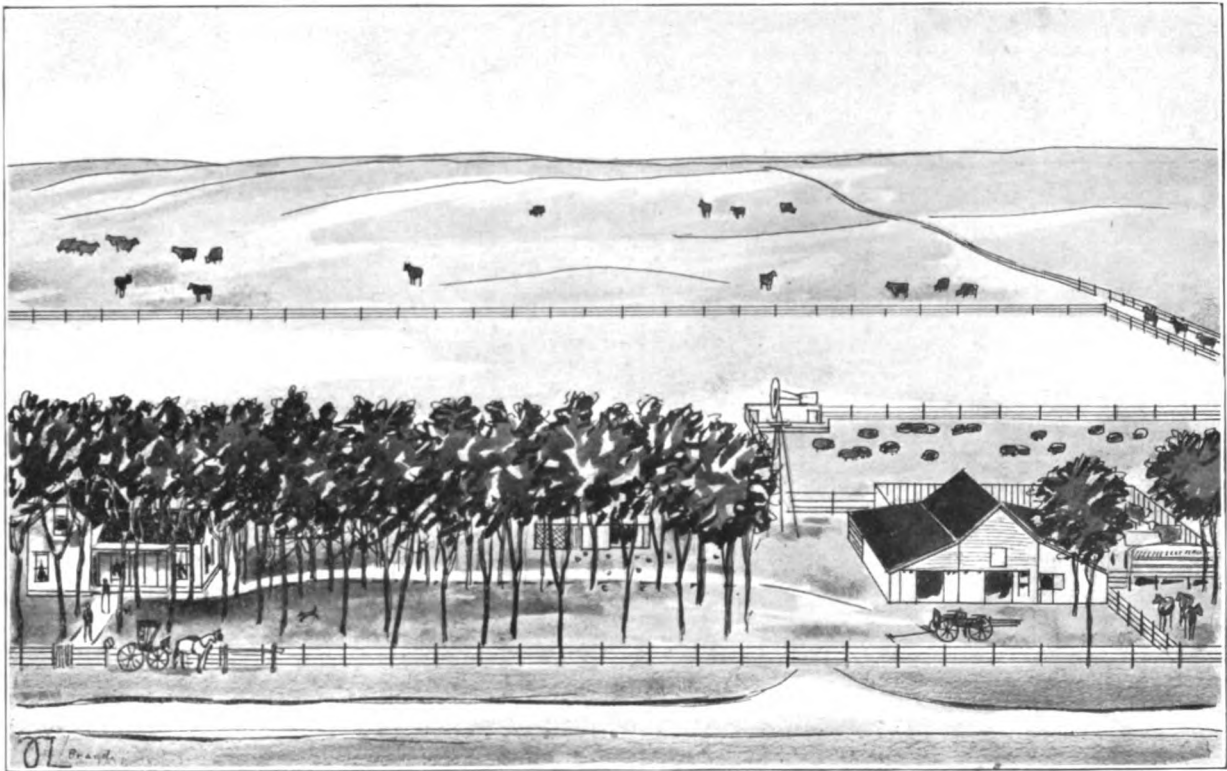
In 1868 the father of Rudolph Schurmann settled in Iowa county, Iowa, and there the latter grew to manhood, when he was twenty-one leaving his parents' home and emigrating to Scribner, Nebraska. He traveled the entire distance by team with a covered wagon, camping out along the way, the trip taking about ten days, and upon reaching Dodge county immediately homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres, which he proved up on, and later relinquished on eighty acres, retiring from his farming operations in 1896, when he purchased a house in Scribner and made that his home until the time of his death. He was one of the leading citizens of that place, serving as postmaster from 1896 to 1900 under the McKinley regime. After locating there he bought a half interest in a meat market and later secured the entire business, running the establishment for two years then sold out. His wife's health was poor much of

the time, and in 1903 they took a trip to Germany, leaving in May of that year and returning in October.

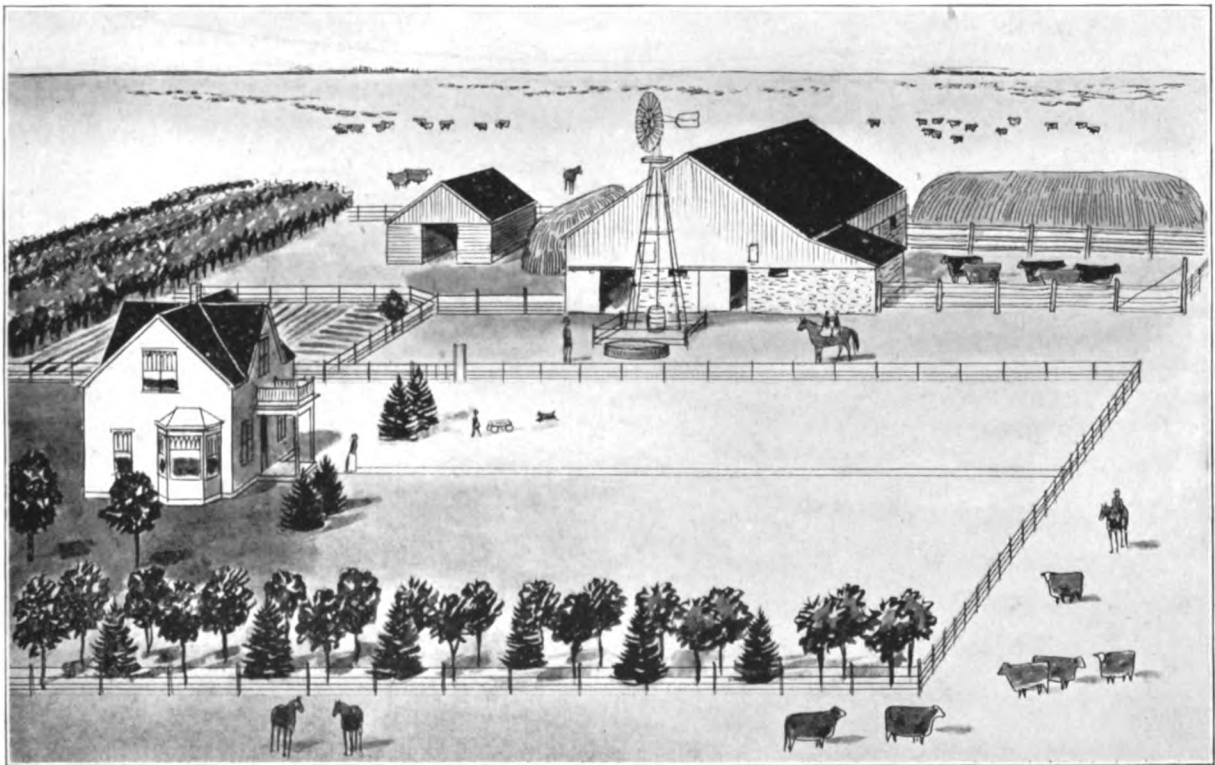
Our subject lived at home until he was fourteen years of age, then worked out on farms in the vicinity for three years, at that time going to Casper, Wyoming, where he was employed on a sheep ranch owned by P. Nicheleyson, remaining for one year, then returned to Brown county. In the spring of 1900 he rented his brother's farm, which lies four and a half miles southwest of Ainsworth, harvested one crop, which he sold to his brother, then came to Scribner on a visit and from here went to Washington and obtained the position of night watchman in a saw mill, and spent about a year there. He returned to Nebraska and worked for Tom Seals on the latter's farm near Ainsworth for about one year, in the spring of 1903 again entering the employ of Squire Jones, helping him trail a herd of three hundred cattle to Pierre, South Dakota, and on the return trip bringing seventy-five head of horses with them. In July of the latter year he began working for Joseph Bishop, engaged in farming and was with him until April 1, 1904.

In the spring of 1906, Mr. Schurmann came to his present location, in section 15, township 29, range 22, which at that time was owned by his wife's mother. The place contained one hundred and sixty acres, and to this he has since added another quarter section, and has made a fine farm of it. He is interested to a large extent in grain raising and dairying, having a fine herd of cattle, and is making a success of his undertakings. The place is improved in splendid shape with good buildings, having a fine house, large barns and all necessary buildings, including a concrete milk house, barn, house and other buildings being supplied with running water from two good wells and windmills, supply tanks, etc. There is a nice grove surrounding the residence part of the farm, and every convenience, such as telephone service, mail route, etc. A view of the place will be found elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Schurmann was married on March 14, 1906, to Miss Floy E. Hutchinson, born at Kasson, Minnesota, daughter of Charles M. Hutchinson and Rosalie Dudley Hutchinson, both natives of Ohio. Mrs. Schurmann's father was a carpenter, and her childhood days were spent in her native state, the family coming to Nebraska in October, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Schurmann are members of the Lutheran church of Scribner, and are highly esteemed in the community. He is a Republican and takes an active part in party affairs as well as the general advancement of his community.



RESIDENCE OF HENRY SCHURMANN,  
Brown County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF OTTO PERSO,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



## C. H. KUHNS.

C. H. Kuhns, the popular and efficient postmaster of Maxwell, and one of the most competent officials who has ever held that office, is also a business man of enterprise and capability.

Mr. Kuhns is a native of Missouri, and came to Nebraska in 1872 with his father, Jerry Kuhns, from Jasper county, Iowa, who took up a tract of land in Fillmore county and began farming and building up a home. The family remained on this farm for some time, and in 1883 our subject moved to Lincoln county and obtained employment as a clerk in one of the stores of North Platte, holding this position for five years. He was industrious and energetic, and kept hard at work, saving his money, and in 1894 he opened up an establishment of his own in Maxwell. His entire capital was three hundred dollars in cash, and although this was not a very large start he began in a small way and gradually increased his stock and by giving the people what they desired and strict honesty in all his dealings, built up a thriving trade in this and neighboring localities. He now has a wide patronage, doing a heavy business with the farmers all over Lincoln, Logan and adjoining counties. He now owns the store which he occupies, a comfortable modern dwelling house, and other town property, and is one of the prosperous business men of the town, and a worthy citizen. In 1899 he was appointed postmaster at Maxwell under President McKinley, and later re-appointed by President Roosevelt, and has faithfully performed his duties in the discharge of this work. He also takes an active part in all local commerce and has served acceptably the people of his community in acting as treasurer of the Maxwell schools for two terms. He is also a notary public, having held this position for two terms, and has represented his locality on the county central committee.

He was married in 1891 to Miss Minnie Brown, daughter of I. W. Brown, who is a veteran of the Civil war, serving for four years and four months in the Second Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kuhns, namely: Vernon, Raymond and Martha.

Mr. Kuhns is a stanch Republican.

## JOHN W. BARTLEY.

John W. Bartley, residing at Old Indian Crossing, on the Snake river, is an old settler and highly respected citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska, with his home on section 5, township 30, range 35.

Mr. Bartley was born on a farm in Boone county, Iowa, August 24, 1868, and has spent all his life in farming. His father, James Bartley, was an American, of Irish descent, and served in a Kansas regiment during the Civil war. He married Rebecca Case, a native of Ohio, and they had a family of five children, our subject being the third member. At the age of fifteen he started out for himself, coming to Holt county, Nebraska, where he worked out for two years. In 1885 he came to Cherry county, working on the Hart ranch, and remained for three years, then went to Montana where he followed ranching for six years. In 1898 he returned to Nebraska and the following year took up his present ranch as a homestead, engaging in horse raising, later adding a herd of cattle. He keeps about seventy-five horses, and seventy-five head of cattle, and has been very successful from the beginning. Mr. Bartley now owns a section of good land, and his mother, who keeps house for him, has a claim of four hundred and eighty acres lying south of his ranch, which he farms for her. He is well satisfied with the result of his labors since coming here, and intends to make this his home for the future. His entire time is devoted to the building up of his home and ranch, and although he is interested in local affairs which tend to the development and advancement of his locality, he does not take any active part in public affairs. In political affairs he is a Democrat, and actively interested in the welfare of his party.

## FRANK I. MEYERS.

Frank I. Meyers, whose fine farm in Sioux county is a credit to his locality, is a man of untiring energy, and is classed among the substantial agriculturists and ranchmen of the community. He has cleared a wild timber and prairie tract and has improved it in good shape, now being owner of four hundred and eighty acres and classed among the prosperous and leading citizens.

Mr. Meyers was born in Fayette county, Iowa, in 1866, on a farm. His father, John Meyers, was born in Pennsylvania and came west, where he was an early settler in Sioux county, locating here in 1886, before the railroad was laid through the section, and he was obliged to freight from Crawford and Chadron. His wife's maiden name was Frances Augerner, born in Austria. Our subject was raised in Iowa, where he was obliged to help in carrying on the home farm, and when he was about nineteen years of age the family came to eastern Nebraska, locating in Dickson county. He learned



the blacksmith's trade, and has worked at it almost constantly all his life, off and on. Three years were spent in Montrose, Sioux county, Nebraska, where he had a blacksmith shop, and he settled on his present homestead in 1890, still working at his trade, having a shop on his farm, which he has run for about eighteen years. He also worked hard to develop his farm and build up a good home, and succeeded splendidly, accumulating a fine property, all of which has been gained by his own unaided efforts and strict attention to duty. He has about forty acres under cultivation, raising good crops of small grain, and he keeps quite a good deal of stock. Besides his homestead, Mr. Meyers has a piece of land which he took under the Kincaid act, his home being located on section 15, township 33, range 54.

Our subject came to this region with but eighteen dollars in money and one horse as capital, and from this small beginning he has become one of the well-to-do men of his locality. He has met with some failures, and experienced different hardships in building up his home, one instance of which was in 1894, when he lost his blacksmith shop and all its contents by fire, entailing a loss of several hundred dollars. However, he has rebuilt it, and made many improvements since that time. Mr. Meyers has always taken an active part in the upbuilding of his locality, and his business and social standing is beyond question.

#### PETER LINGWALL.

Peter Lingwall, an extensive farmer and stock raiser of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, makes his home on section 2, township 13, range 52. He is the owner of six hundred and forty acres of land, and has forty head of cattle and about fifteen horses, besides quite a good deal of smaller stock, on his farm. He cultivates about forty-five acres, raising small grain, and has met with remarkable success in his agricultural and stock raising operations.

Mr. Lingwall was born in Sweden on May 24, 1849, grew up there and came to America in 1868, at the age of nineteen years. He first settled in Illinois, remained there for about eleven years, then came to eastern Nebraska in 1879, and after farming there for some years struck out for the western part of the state, landing in Cheyenne county finally in 1889, and settling on a school section, located in township 14, range 52. He has since acquired additional land, and his home ranch is now situated in section 2, township 13, range 52. He has put up all good buildings and improvements, and has a fine prop-

erty and good ranch. His postoffice is Sidney, which is also his nearest trading point.

Mr. Lingwall was married at Columbus, Nebraska, August 26, 1880, to Anna Prince, and they have a family of three children, namely: Peter Olaf, now married and living in Potter; John, living on the home ranch, and Anna still with her parents. The family have a very pleasant home, and enjoy a host of warm friends and are prominent in the affairs of their community. Mr. Lingwall is a Republican.

#### CAPT. JOHN S. RICHMOND.

Captain John S. Richmond, one of the enterprising and energetic citizens of Brown county, Nebraska, is one of the early settlers of this region and has spent many years in building up a good home and farm for himself, while aiding materially in developing the agricultural and commercial resources of his locality.

Mr. Richmond was born in Middletown, Butler county, Ohio, November 25, 1838. His father, Sheldon Richmond, was a wool carder by trade, born in Montpelier, Vermont, and his mother, Elizabeth Currick, a Kentuckian, was born near Covington. There was a family of five children, our subject being the third member. He was reared in his native state, the family moving to Indiana, near Valparaiso, in Porter county, about 1848, and later to LaPorte county, where they were among the pioneer settlers. In 1856 they moved to Sangamon county, Illinois, near Old Berlin. At the breaking out of the Civil war our subject enlisted in Company I, Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the first company accepted and sent into service from the state. He saw service at Chattanooga, Nashville, Vicksburg, Savannah and through the Carolinas, and then went to Washington where his company was color company with the flag wreathed in flowers at the grand review. He was wounded in battle near Atlanta, being hit with a twelve-pound shell, rendering him unconscious and keeping him in the hospital for a month. A comrade throwing the shell out of the breastworks before it burst was all that saved the lives of many of them. During the time he served as a soldier he had risen from a private to be captain of the company, and earned the reputation of a brave and faithful leader. He was mustered out at Louisville and discharged at Springfield.

After the war Mr. Richmond went back to Illinois, and was married December 20, 1866, to Miss Jennie Parker, a native of Sangamon county, Illinois. Three children were born of this union, namely: Lou, wife of George A.



Fairman, a druggist in Ainsworth; John F., in the drug business at Salt Lake, Utah, and Henrietta, deceased. The mother died July 24, 1894. In 1873 the subject came to Nebraska, settling in Saline county, where the family was among the pioneers. There he farmed until 1884, when he came to Brown county for the purpose of engaging in stock raising. Here he settled on a homestead in section 32, township 30, range 24, and built the first frame house south of Johnstown and dug the first well in that vicinity which is kept intact today as it was when first dug, including the buckets twenty-four years old. He now has a ranch of six hundred and forty acres, cultivating one hundred acres of this and the rest is in pasture and grass land. He engages principally in stock raising, and has built up a good home and farm.

Mr. Richmond is prominent in politics, a strong Republican, and always attends the county and state conventions as a delegate for his party. In 1888 he was elected county commissioner and served one term. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, although the charter of the post at Johnstown was surrendered because of lack of membership.

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#### PETER LEEF.

Peter Leef, a progressive farmer of Deuel county, resides on the northwest quarter, section 26, township 14, range 44. He is the owner of a fine tract of land, and is a gentleman of untiring energy, perseverance and strict integrity, who well merits his success and high standing as a citizen.

Our subject was born in Sweden, December 7, 1843, lived there until he was a young man twenty-five years of age, then came to America, landing in New York city on July 14, 1868, and coming to Knox county, Illinois, where he lived for fourteen years, working as a coal miner and farmer. From there he moved to Iowa, remained for five years, then came to Nebraska, settling in Deuel county in March, 1887. He immediately filed on a homestead on section 30, township 14, range 43, proved up and succeeded in improving the land in good shape. He later took additional land and now lives on section 26, township 14, range 44, owning the entire west half of the section. He has erected good buildings of all kinds, put up fences, built wells and planted a large number of trees on his ranch, and has one of the best equipped farms and ranches in the vicinity. He has about ninety acres cultivated, and runs quite a bunch of cattle and horses.

Mr. Leef is an old-timer on the table land,

being one of the first to settle in the locality, and since his arrival here has taken an active part in the development of the community, passing through all the pioneer experiences and hardships that fell to the lot of the early settlers. He went through the hard years when he was hardly able to make a living, but stuck to his farm, and is now reaping the reward of his many years of perseverance and faithful effort.

Mr. Leef was married in Sweden in the spring of 1868, shortly before striking out for the new world, taking as his bride Miss Martie Seastrom. Together they crossed the sea to seek a competence and build up a home. They have had a family of seventeen children, nine of whom are now living, named as follows: Martie Christina, wife of Otto Amberg, they residing on a ranch adjoining our subject's; Amanda, married to William Moon, living in Denver, Colorado; Jennie, now Mrs. Pat Marvin, residing at Julesburg, Colorado; Emma, wife of Charles Frogd, of Julesburg, Colorado; Annie, wife of Swan Friskopp, living in Deuel county; John, single; Eric, married, also living in this county; Ida, single, and Albine, the two latter living at home. Mr. Leef is a staunch Republican, and is deeply interested in local and national affairs.

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#### CHARLES W. WRIGHT.

One of the best appearing farms in Loup county, one that pleases the eye and shows evidence of the most intelligent care, is that of Charles W. Wright. The passer-by never fails to note the fine orchard, the forest trees growing on this farm, and the comfortable residence. As an old settler Mr. Wright has done his share in advancing the interests of the county and he is referred to as one of the thrifty old timers.

Charles W. Wright was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1854, and was the son of William B. and Samantha (Tutt) Wright, the former a native of Kentucky, and the latter of Ohio.

Charles W. Wright remained at home assisting in the work on his father's farm in Miami county, Ohio, until 1878, when he came west to Nebraska, engaging in farming in Nemaha county. In 1883 he came to what is now Loup county, before the village of Taylor was started and even before the organization of Loup county. He located a homestead two miles southwest of where Taylor now stands, put up a sod house and lived alone and "batched" for the first ten years, the nearest railroad town being North Loup, sixty or seventy miles distant. Mr. Wright experienced all the discouragements of pioneer life, but he fought them all

successfully. When he came he had to drive across country from the distant town of Tecumseh, in Johnson county, Nebraska. He well remembers the county seat fights that have vexed the people of Loup county and his participation in the making of that interesting history. The drouth years were years of hardship for the pioneers and Mr. Wright had his trouble with the rest of his neighbors; one year a total failure of crops and several years when the loss was only partial. But his pluck and industry brought him success, as is evidenced by his finely improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres all thoroughly fenced on all road lines and also with cross fences. Mr. Wright sold out his personal property a few years ago and went to the Pacific coast, but returned to Loup county, saying it was good enough for him.

Charles W. Wright was married in the year 1893 to Miss Lillian Adams, whose father, Henry W. Adams, is an old settler of Loup county. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have three children: Henry, Frank and Cecil, all at school and at home making an interesting family group.

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#### ELI E. LEWIS.

One of the pioneers of Keith county who has attained marked success is Eli E. Lewis. Mr. Lewis was born in Springfield, Illinois, April 12, 1849, his father being Henry Lewis, a farmer by occupation and a native of the east, probably Virginia; he died when Eli was only four years old; his mother, India Slater, was a native of Indiana.

Mr. Lewis received his early training on farms in Illinois, going to Fulton about 1866 where he lived until he was about twenty-six years of age. In 1875 he came to Iowa, settling in Cass county, in an entirely new country, where he was one of the first of the pioneers. He made his home in Iowa for about eight years, removing thence to Colorado and later to Carbondale, Kansas, where he became salesman for a coal company; after two years, he moved to Keith county, Nebraska, in 1885 and thus became one of Nebraska's pioneers. He built a sod shanty on his wild prairie farm and commenced operations in the primitive way of the pioneer; this proved to be across the line on another tract of land; he moved his dwelling and found himself after a careful survey within a few feet of the line, so he built on a third site before he found a permanent abiding place. For six months he "batched it" on his homestead, and was then married to Miss Ella Graham, whose father, James Graham, a native of Pennsylvania, was a farmer and pioneer of Iowa and

came to Nebraska with the first settlers; the mother was Lovina McCracken, also a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have had two children: Mary, now teaching in their home district, and Charles, who assists his father in the work on the ranch. In December, 1908, Mr. Lewis bought four hundred and eighty acres in the daughter's name, comprising the east half of section 27 and the southeast quarter of section 21, township 16, range 41.

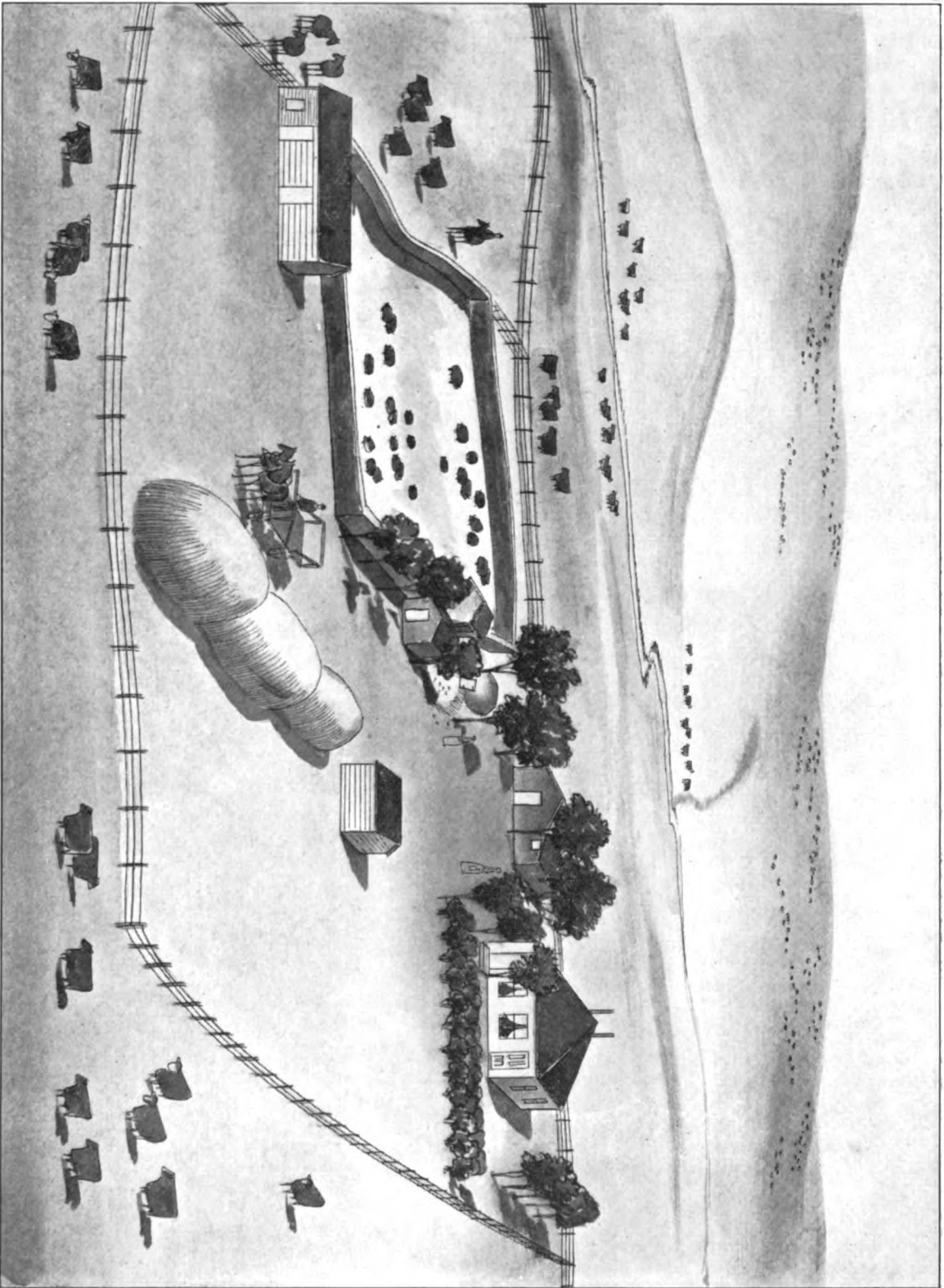
Mr. Lewis has worked faithfully to achieve success and has accomplished things in a masterful way. He broke forty acres of land in 1886 and tried farming, but owing to drouth and crop failures he concluded that he could do better at stock raising. And this has been his policy ever since. He has a fine ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres along Clear creek, but he cultivates only about eighty acres of land, devoting the balance to pasturage and hay. Mr. Lewis has certainly performed well his share in the advancement of the community in which he lives. He has held the office of assessor and overseer and has been school director for twelve years. In political sentiment he is Republican.

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#### EDWARD J. SCHILL.

Edward J. Schill, a prosperous and much respected farmer of Sheridan county, Nebraska, is a man of progressive ideas and good business judgment, well known throughout the locality in which he resides as a citizen of true worth.

Mr. Schill was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1866, and raised on his father's farm there. He is a son of Joseph Schill, a native of Germany. His mother, who was Miss Margaret Martin, is a native of Canada, of German descent. When our subject was eighteen years of age he came to the United States and struck out for the west, stopping in Indiana, where he spent two years engaged in farming. He drifted along farther west, and in 1886 landed in this county, putting in the next few years railroading through the western part of the state. During one summer he worked on a railroad in Colorado, and then took a homestead in section 29, township 28, range 46, in Sheridan county, living on this through the winter and working out on ranches during the summer months. In 1890 he started in farming for himself, raised a fair crop, also got a good crop the following year, remained here up to 1896, when he left the farm and came to the sand hills. By this time he and a brother had gotten together about eighty head of stock, having purchased them in



RESIDENCE OF ELI E. LEWIS,  
Keith County, Nebraska.



the fall of 1895, and they tried farming and stock raising. In this venture he met with fair success. He then settled in the sand hills permanently, and since locating here has devoted his entire attention to stock raising, keeping both cattle and horses, running altogether about four hundred and fifty head. He does most of the work on the ranch himself, but is obliged to hire men during haying time to assist him in putting this up. He is doing well, and is satisfied with the locality, intending to remain here until he has more money than he needs and is not obliged to work. He has plenty of hay and grazing land for his stock here, and leases a portion of his range land.

Mr. Schill was married in 1902 to Miss Nann Blair, a native of Illinois, born in 1881, daughter of David Blair, who came to Illinois from Pennsylvania in 1866, and later settled in eastern Nebraska, coming to this county in 1892. The postoffice in Mr. Schill's locality is named after him. He is not a party man and does not take any active part in political affairs, but votes for the best man.

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#### PAUL WUNDER.

While the gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the early settlers of Sioux county, Nebraska, he is a comparatively young man, and for the time he has been engaged in the farming and ranching business he has succeeded admirably, and is now one of the well-to-do and progressive men of his locality. Mr. Wunder has always lived with his father and assisted in the operation of the latter's extensive estate, and has, since the death of Mr. Wunder, Sr., on July 17, 1902, assumed entire control of his property, which he has managed to the best advantage, and is rapidly coming to the front as one of the foremost residents of his county. He lives on his Kincaid homestead and manages his father's estate on section 11, township 33, range 54.

Paul Wunder was born in Illinois in 1875. His father, Andrew, was a native of Germany, grew up and was married there in 1865 to Miss Barbara Wunder, who is now seventy years of age and quite active. They raised a family of six children, as follows: Maggie, Kate, Peter, Paul, Frank and Henry, and also Kate and Peter, both deceased. After they had been married three years Mr. and Mrs. Wunder came to America, settling in Illinois, where the father followed farming for about nine years, then moved to Iowa and farmed there for eight years, Paul growing up in that state. They next came to Platte county, Nebraska, and farmed for two

years, and in 1888 landed in Sioux county, settling on what is now their home ranch. Here they built a small log house and occupied it for many years, going through all the pioneer experiences in developing their farm, meeting with many discouragements and failures in getting started. They saw many hard times, losing crops, then gave up trying to farm and began in the cattle business, which has proven very successful. The ranch now contains twelve hundred and forty acres, all fenced and cross-fenced, and with good buildings and improvements. There are about fifty acres under cultivation, on which good crops are raised.

When Mr. Wunder first located here he landed at Harrison, coming over the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, and settled here at once, where he commenced to improve his claim. Mr. Wunder is a strong Democrat in his political views.

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#### ROBERT H. WALTZ.

Robert H. Waltz, one of the prosperous and successful citizens of Chadron, Dawes county, Nebraska, has lived in this vicinity for the past many years, and is well known as a good business man and progressive agriculturist, and has done his full share in the development of his locality.

Mr. Waltz is a native of Harrison county, Missouri, born in 1857. His father, William Waltz, was a farmer and old settler in Dawes county, coming here in 1885. He was born in Germany, and was married in Ohio to Susan Swan, of American blood, born in Ohio. Our subject was reared in Missouri, where he helped his parents in the farm work and attended the country schools during his boyhood, and in 1885 came to this county by team from Valentine, and after he had been here for six months was joined by his father. He had camped out at night during this time, and many nights slept through severe snow storms. He located on section 9, township 33, range 48, near Chadron. The family lived in a tent at first, and put up the best log house in his region, of commodious size—eighteen by twenty feet and one and a half story high. This house is still in good condition and it is the intention of Mr. Waltz to preserve it as a reminder of the early days he spent here. He built up a good home and farm, owning twelve hundred and eighty acres in all, and has thirty acres of irrigated land. He moved to his farm in section 15 in 1900, and has good buildings and all improvements, and everything in good shape. His house is fitted with every modern convenience, with the water piped through the place. He has been engaged in the

ice business for some years past, and made a great success of it. His farm extends along the Bordeaux creek for about a mile, and three-quarters of a mile on Pope creek, so he has plenty of water front to supply ice for his business. He has built up a nice property, but has also been through many hard times, and now deserves the success which he has attained. In the fall of 1891 he was burned out, losing his barn, grain, horses and machinery, which was a severe loss to him at that time. On May 26, 1908, Mr. Waltz had a severe wind storm which blew his barn down and also his ice house, but he has erected fine ones in their stead. He is a hard man to down and never gives up.

Mr. Waltz was married in the fall of 1885, to Miss Ida Brown, daughter of Austin Brown, an old timer in California and Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Waltz have three children, namely: Renny and Ralph, twins; and Harvey, the former being the first pair of twins born in Dawes county. Mr. Waltz has given his children every advantage and they are all well educated.

Although Mr. Waltz is a staunch Democrat he has never had the time to devote to public matters, but lends his influence to the building up of his home community and giving his whole energy to the work of carrying on his farm and home.

### JOHN JENIK.

John Jenik, a progressive and enterprising farmer, is one of the early settlers of Cheyenne county. He went onto a wild prairie tract, and has succeeded in building up one of the valuable estates of the locality, and is considered one of the substantial agriculturists of his community. He has been intimately identified with the development of that region and has gained an enviable reputation as a citizen.

Mr. Jenik was born in Bohemia, May 3, 1865, and came to America when ten years of age, with his parents. The family settled in Washington county, Kansas, remained for quite a number of years, and he helped his father build up a good home in that state. In 1887 he came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, locating on a homestead in section 6, township 13, range 47, and after several years sold out that place and purchased his present farm in section 14, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. He has since added to this, and is now proprietor of eight hundred acres in all, of which he cultivates about seventy acres, and runs about fifty head of cattle and ten horses. He has erected good buildings of all descriptions on his ranch, has it all fenced, and is doing splendidly in his grain and stock raising operations.

Mr. Jenik was married to Miss Annie Koles, on April 19, 1892, in Cheyenne county. Mrs. Jenik was born in Marshall county, Kansas, the 23d day of August, 1872, and came to Cheyenne county the same year she married our subject. Her mother is still living in Kansas, and the father is dead. Mr. Jenik's father and mother still live on the home ranch on section 12. To Mr. and Mrs. Jenik have been born the following children: Annie, Victoria, John and Angeline Odessa, all at home, and they are a charming and interesting group.

Mr. Jenik is a Republican politically, and takes an active part in all local public affairs. He has served as road overseer in district No. 2, and is school director of district No. 144.

### OLIVER J. HYDE.

Probably one of the best known former residents of Keya Paha county is the gentleman above named, who has retired and is now living in Ainsworth, where he has a comfortable and pleasant home, highly esteemed by his fellowmen. Mr. Hyde is also a carpenter by trade, and has worked in this line all over the county. Mr. Hyde was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1831. His father, Joseph Hyde, of English descent, was born in Connecticut, and all his life followed farm work, and he married Miss Amanda Jinks, also a native of Connecticut. They had a family of six children, our subject being the fifth in order of birth, and at the age of nine years he started to make his own way in the world, obtaining employment as a sailor on the lake boats and continuing at this business for six years, then worked on the canal for three years. He learned the carpenter's trade in Erie, Pennsylvania, when he was eighteen, and from that time on almost constantly followed that work. He has followed his trade in thirteen states in the Union, and is a thorough master of his business. He moved from Pennsylvania to Indiana, then to Wisconsin, where he enlisted in 1863 in Company F, First Wisconsin Cavalry, serving for a year and a half.

At the close of the war he located in Iowa and worked as a carpenter, next went to Washington where he spent a year and a half, then returned to Iowa. In 1883 he came to Keya Paha county, settling on section 8, township 32, range 22, and has made that his home ever since. The second year he lived on the place he planted a fine grove of trees around his home, carrying some of them from the river. The place is now well timbered with young growing trees. He has a few orchard trees, most of which are small fruit. He has lived through some of the hardest

times of the country, but has only lost one entire crop since coming here. He had some fine farming land, and his corn crop averaged about thirty-five bushels per acre. His farm consisted of two hundred and eighty acres, and of this he farmed sixty-five acres, using the balance for hay and pasture. Besides farming Mr. Hyde has built some of the first buildings in Ainsworth, and has the distinction of having erected the first church ever put up there.

Mr. Hyde was married in 1857 to Miss Abigail L. Bowerman, born in the same county our subject was, in 1838. To them have been born the following children: Estelle, Abbie, Anna and Cleo, the last three named married and settled near the old home.

In February Mr. Hyde sold his farm and in May he removed to Ainsworth, where he is enjoying a well earned rest after years of an active and successful life. An interesting event, and one enjoyed but by very few in this life of uncertainties, was the celebration by Mr. and Mrs. Hyde of their golden wedding anniversary on November 19, 1908. Mr. Hyde is one of the leading old-timers of this section of the state, and has taken an active part in the development and growth of his locality. He is a Republican.

#### GUSTAV JOCHEM.

One of the prominent and successful younger ranchmen of Blaine county, Nebraska, is the gentleman whose name heads this review. He was born in West Prussia, Germany, in 1879. His father, John Jochem, was a native of the fatherland and served in the German army. The mother's maiden name was Wilhelmina Bomgaardt. In 1881 the family emigrated from their native land, coming to America, lived for a time in New York city, and from thence they went to Kendall county, Illinois, where they remained for about five years. Thence they removed to Omaha, whence, after about a year, they moved to Blaine county, Nebraska, settling on a homestead in what is known as German Valley. This was in the early days of 1887, and our subject became one of the pioneers of the territory, and with the family he experienced all the hardships that usually come to pioneer life.

Mr. Jochem was married in 1902 to Miss Louise Schipporeit, daughter of Christian Schipporeit, one of the old settlers of Blaine county. Mr. and Mrs. Jochem have been blessed with four children: Edwin, Oscar, Freda and Louise.

In 1901 our subject started out for himself, and by hard work and good management has established himself on a fine financial basis and he has a splendid ranch home. In 1903 he took

a homestead on section 9, township 24, range 22, and made this the nucleus of the farm he now occupies. He owns eight hundred acres and leases and operates a school section of six hundred and forty acres. His ranch is well improved with good house, barns, fences, well and windmill. He has a large grove started and an orchard of fruit trees, with a variety of small fruits.

Mr. Jochem has been moderator of his school district and has held other positions of trust and responsibility in his community, having won the high regard of his associates by his public spirit and enterprise. He has done his part toward the material development of the locality in which he lives.

#### EDWARD R. WESTING.

The gentleman above named is one of the well known residents of Adams county, Nebraska, an extensive land owner and prominent stockman of his locality. He is a man of excellent business capacity, broad mind and energetic character, and has exerted his influence for many years past in the upbuilding of the community of Heartwell, where he made his home up to 1908, and is held in the highest esteem by his fellowmen. With his family Mr. Westing occupies a beautiful home in Hastings.

Mr. Westing was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, and raised there. His father, William Westing, was a farmer and an old settler in that state, his death occurring there in 1874. In 1891 our subject came to Nebraska, accompanied by his brothers, Samuel A., now of Kenesaw, and Charles, of Grant county, Nebraska, all three brothers now being large land owners. All own extensive ranches and engage in farming and the stock business. Our subject bought a tract of four hundred acres of land in 1890 located just west of the town of Heartwell, section 17. He resided on this place for eight years, then left and spent one year in California, but returned in 1899 and erected a fine residence in Heartwell, where he lived until 1908. He has added to his acreage of his farm right along since first coming here, and is now owner of about three thousand acres in Kearney county. He has been engaged in raising, buying and shipping high-grade cattle and hogs all this time, and for a number of years bought at Heartwell Station as a shipper. He now feeds from one hundred to two hundred cattle each year, besides from two hundred to four hundred hogs. He also farms a large part of his land, and feeds his crop all out, besides being obliged



to buy about ten thousand bushels of corn each year to run his stock on. In the spring of 1907 Mr. Westing had in his herd three steers which weighed a total of six thousand pounds, also twenty-nine head averaging seventeen hundred pounds each, and he has the distinction of being one of the foremost stockmen in this section of the country. He thinks Kearney county one of the best farming and stock counties in the world, as there is so much corn raised right at home and plenty to be had at all times, while the market holds about steady all the time and never gets wild. There is a good deal of hay raised here, too, which makes it easy for the large stock feeders, and Mr. Westing has many acres devoted to hay land and raises all he feeds on his farm.

Our subject was married in 1894 to Miss Jennie Moon, daughter of George Moon, a well known citizen of Easton township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Westing have two children, Elmer, aged eleven, and Hazel, eight years of age. Mr. Westing's father and mother were both natives of Germany, who came to this country when quite young and settled in Ohio, and later moved to Wisconsin.

For many years Mr. Westing was justice of the peace here, also was a member of the town board for a number of years. He has served on the school board of Heartwell for several years.

In 1908 Mr. Westing bought property in the College addition to Hastings and has erected a fine residence, where he makes his home.

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#### SIMON P. WITTERS.

Simon P. Witters, one of the prominent ranchmen of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is one of the well known old-timers of that region, having located in western Nebraska during the early part of its development, and beginning with very little except his strong hands and brave heart to build up a home and accumulate a competence from a tract of prairie land. He has succeeded remarkably well in his different enterprises, and is now one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Witters was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on January 18, 1854. When he was two years old his parents moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where they lived for about thirteen years in Wea township. Our subject received the education usual to the youth of those times and was of great help to his father on the home farm during his boyhood.

Our subject came to Nebraska in Febru-

ary, 1885, settling in York county, and lived there for about a year, then came on to Cheyenne county, filing on a homestead in section 4, township 14, range 48, which is now the home ranch. He has since added considerable land to the original homestead, owning in all at the present time eleven hundred and twenty acres, and has it well improved. He engages principally in ranching, although he has about one hundred and twenty acres under cultivation. The ranch is stocked with a large herd of cattle, Mr. Witters being well known as a breeder of Hereford stock, of which he has some fine specimens on his place.

A view of the dwelling, together with a drawing of the original "soddy," is to be found elsewhere in this work.

On December 27, 1881, Mr. Witters was married to Miss Lizzie Whisler, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, she born in Ross county, Ohio, November 14, 1858. Our subject's parents, John and Nancy A. (Kraft) Witters, are both dead, but his wife's father and mother, Jacob and Martha (Cummins) Whisler, are now living in Cheyenne county, having settled here in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Witters are the parents of five children, namely: Alva O., who married Viola Clark, is now living in Colorado and is the father of one child; Gertrude, wife of Milo E. Webster, resides in Cheyenne county, west of Dalton; Newton E., Harry E. and John L., living on the home ranch. The family have a pleasant and comfortable home, and are highly esteemed by their associates.

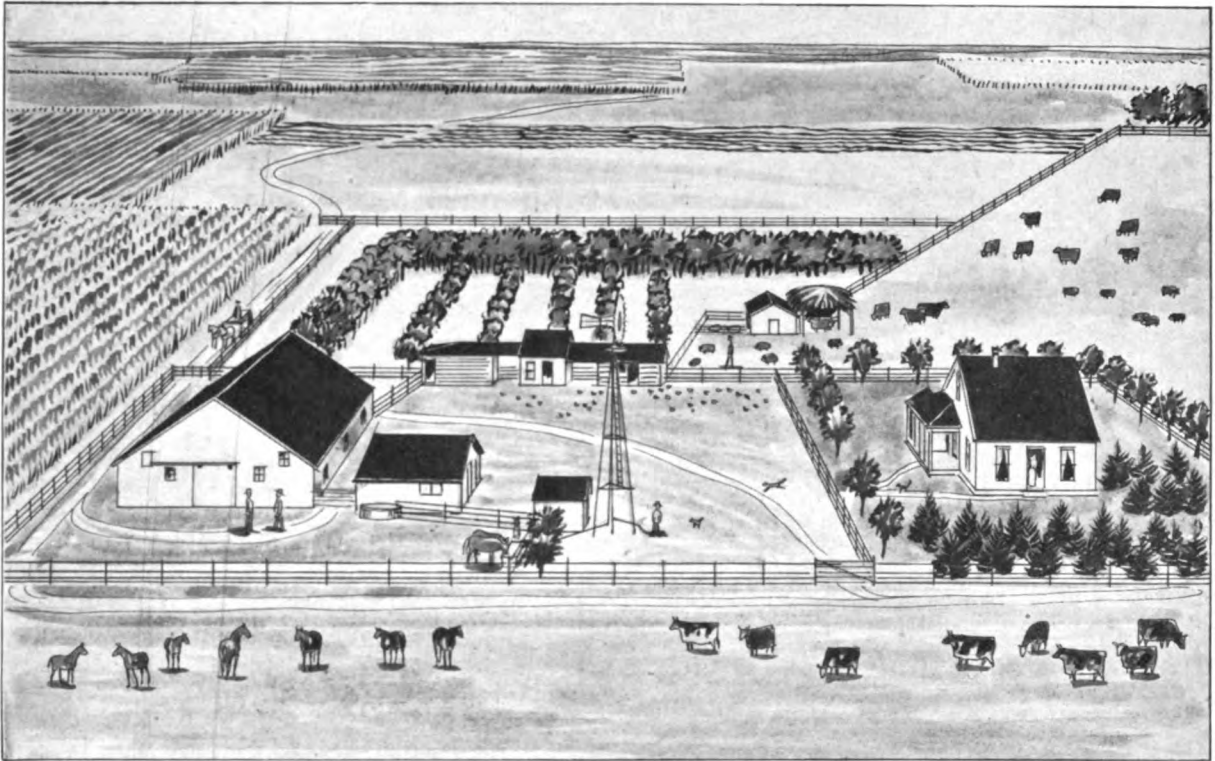
Many and varied have been the experiences of Mr. Witters since coming to Nebraska. As late as the fall of 1890 there was considerable uneasiness on account of Indian troubles. This occurred at a time when the men were away at work, and the women and children were alone.

Mr. Witters has been most successful in his ranching enterprises since locating here, and also has taken an active part in the public welfare of his community. He is a Republican and prominent in party affairs in the county, state and nation. The family are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Witters affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America at Sidney.

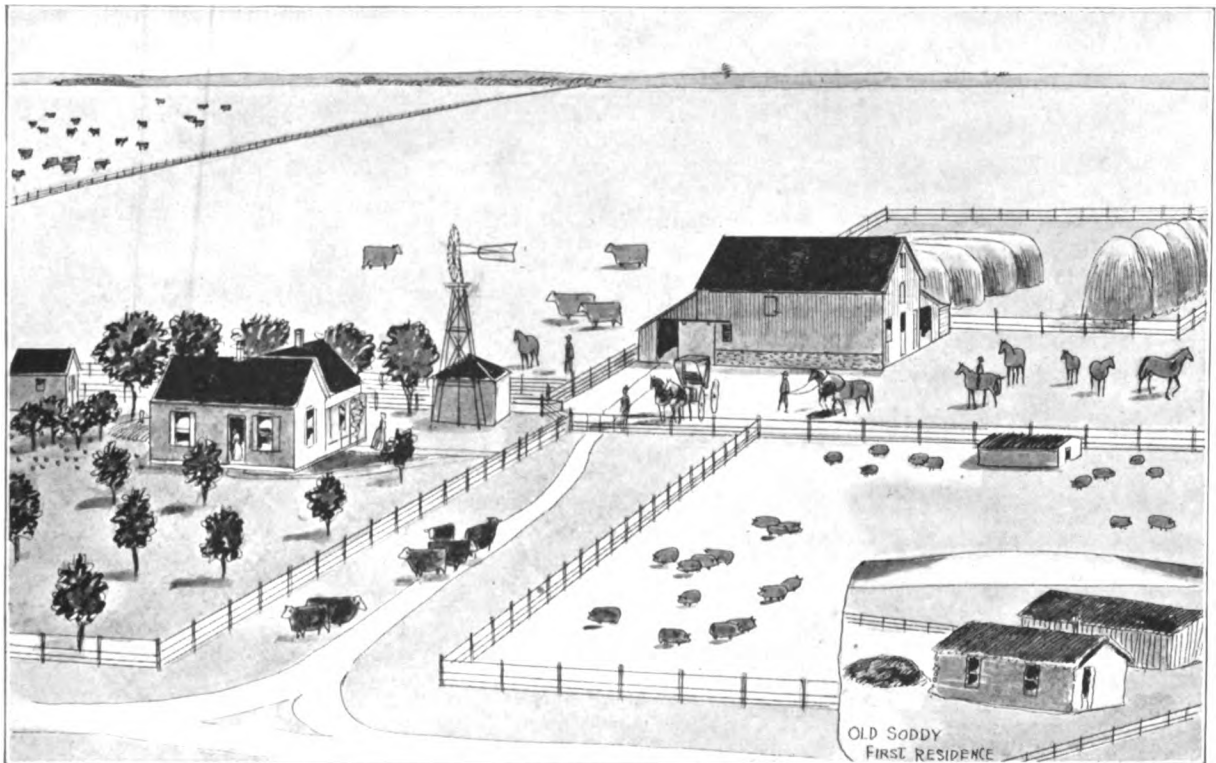
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#### ISAAC NEWTON KNOWLES.

Isaac Newton Knowles, one of the active and hustling citizens of Rock county, Nebraska, has a homestead farm in Harrison precinct and is numbered among the prosperous



RESIDENCE OF I. N. KNOWLES,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF S. P. WITTERS,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



agriculturists of this portion of the state. He passed through pioneer days and though suffering much from the drouth, never lost courage or faith in the future of the country round about him. He was always ready to turn his hand to any honorable work that he might earn his living, and became quite noted as a house mover in the seasons when the earth was burning brown and bare under a blazing sky and rainless clouds, and farming was not to be contemplated.

Mr. Knowles was born on a farm in Gibson county, Indiana, August 15, 1854, a son of William and Cynthia (Kimball) Knowles, both of whom came of old American stock, and inherited the best traditions of a Pennsylvania ancestry. He has two full brothers and three sisters and one brother of half blood, and was the second born in this family. Reared and educated in his Indiana home, he had a thorough training in such work as was common to a wooded country—cut trees, grubbed stumps, made rails, split boards and grew up into a strong and sturdy manhood.

Mr. Knowles was married October 1, 1879, to Miss Mary Allen, whose parents were born in Ireland. Her father, John Allen, was a life-long farmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Knowles were born the following children: Andrew, Charles, Cynthia, John, Joe and Newton. While in Indiana they lived on a rented farm, though Mr. Knowles had bought a small tract of land. It was difficult to meet the conditions of success in so old a country, and in 1886 the Knowles family is found in Rock county, Nebraska, where they bought a farm one mile north of Long Pine. It was a quarter section of desirable land and has proved a very remunerative investment. During four years Mr. Knowles was overwhelmed by the drouth, and lost all his crops. Later on he came to his present farm and made a homestead entry on section 12, township 30, range 20, on which he has put all the improvements—house, barn, granaries, trees and other necessities. At this writing (1906) he owns four hundred and eighty acres, and in addition is cultivating another half section. He makes horse breeding a specialty, and has some seventy or eighty horses and mules on the place. He is milking about twenty cows, and is widely known as one of the best dairy and stockmen of Nebraska. In political matters he has affiliated with the Populist party in former years, and takes a keen interest in whatever concerns the general welfare of his home and country. He affiliates with the Modern Woodmen and with his family is a member of the General Baptist church. A view of the family home and sur-

roundings is presented in another part of this work.

#### WILLIAM M. HARNAN.

William M. Harnan was born in Peoria county, Illinois, October 12, 1868. He is a son of William and Mary (Halligan) Harnan, both born in Ireland. The former came to America in the forties, settling in Illinois, and later located near Grand Island, Nebraska, where he started farming, but owing to drouths and grasshopper raids he lost nearly everything he had. His wife's death occurred in November, 1893, and he survived her only five years, leaving a family of eleven children, of whom our subject is the tenth member.

Mr. Harnan came to Cherry county in 1889, locating on Mud Lake, taking a homestead and living on this for six years. In 1894 he bought his present home and has been engaged in the cattle business ever since settling here. When he started in he had only twenty-seven dollars, and for several years he and his brothers "batched it" on the ranch; he always acting in the capacity of cook for the outfit. He endured some hard times during the early days, losing considerable stock in blizzards and from other causes, but he gradually got ahead and is now owner of a ranch of four hundred acres of deeded land and a homestead of four hundred and eighty acres. He keeps about three hundred head of stock on the place and gives them good shelter. He is living in a sod house at present, but by the time of the publication of this volume will have a commodious residence of concrete blocks. In 1898 Mr. Harnan moved to property near Bassett, Rock county, and remained there, farming for about three years, and then returned to Cherry county, leaving two brothers on the Rock county farm.

Mr. Harnan was married December 26, 1900, to Miss Mary M. Russell, born in Whiting, Iowa, in 1876. Her parents moved to Nebraska in the spring of 1890, the father losing his life by accident the following September. The mother has a claim adjoining her daughter's home, which comprises some highly valuable land.

Since coming to this locality our subject has done exceedingly well, although he has had many discouragements and losses at different times. He now has a fine farm and comfortable home overlooking the beautiful valley of Snake river. He takes an active interest in all matters of local interest and is always ready to do his share toward advancing the

interests of his community. Politically he is an independent voter, always casting his vote for the best man on the ticket. Fraternally he holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America.

#### J. V. AND D. HARRISON.

The above named gentlemen are among the well known residents of Indianola, Nebraska, the former being at the head of the live stock business of Harrison & Harrison, and full manager of the same, while the last named is manager of their merchandise store in this city.

Messrs. Harrison are natives of County Donegal, Ireland, and came to the United States when young men, and were raised on their father's farm, where they were engaged in the breeding of pure bred Shorthorn cattle. In 1885 they went into the ranching business, also opening a general merchandise establishment in Indianola. On their ranch they handled several hundred grade cattle, but in 1892 closed these out and went in for a pure bred Angus herd, starting without any experience in this line, buying a small herd of these cattle in Kansas, and soon after bought another herd in Iowa, and a few years later purchased a herd in eastern Nebraska. This made a herd of two hundred registered cattle, and they now have one hundred fine animals, most of them being Blackbirds, Erickes, Prides, Queen Mothers and Barbaras, all from the very best strains. The first four mentioned are the best Angus strains in the world. This firm has raised more good Queen Mothers and Barbaras than any other breed. Their sales have been at best prices, and at the first combination sale they topped three out of five, receiving two hundred and fifty dollars for one cow. They sell bulls at their farm, receiving one hundred and one hundred and fifty dollars for an animal as a yearling or under, and their cows are sold when about two years of age. Every man who comes to their place is pleased with the stock and never goes away without purchasing. They ask a reasonable price, and insist on getting it, never cutting the established figure. They have sold stock to parties all over Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas, but mostly in Iowa and Nebraska. Two years ago they sold thirty-eight bulls within a radius of fifty miles from their home. They keep in touch with conditions at the home and foreign markets, take records of prices at the Chicago market, which competes with the world, and in this manner know just exactly how things are going all over the country. They have

found that the Angus cattle are the best for beef in quality, weight and prices obtained at all times, and hence are the best grade for the farmer. At the present time their herd is headed by an imported Pride bull, which was the first selection out of fifty head imported by Charles Esher, of Irwin, Iowa. He was bred in England, and is called Squire of Theskston. Their second herd bull, Scotch Eric, a Trogan Erico, was bred by the noted breeder, L. McWhorter, of Aledo, Illinois. The get of Squire Theskston proves that he is one of the best bulls at the head of any herd, and has a remarkable record as a sire. On their ranch of one thousand acres situated half a mile from Indianola they keep their cattle, which is called the Alfalfa herd, being one of the best herds in Nebraska. Only a short time ago Harrison & Harrison refused one hundred dollars per acre for the part of this ranch which lies near Indianola. On this they have eighty acres of alfalfa and are constantly increasing it, with the aim of raising enough to feed their cattle. They recently made a trip to Iowa and purchased five Blackbird cows, paying as high as five hundred dollars for one animal, which they added to their herd. The firm is starting in the horse business now, beginning with registered Percheron mares, and they recently sold two of these mares for eleven hundred dollars. They always have on hand some of the best trotting stock of the Morgan-Wilkes and Electioneer strains, one of which sold in Omaha for the round sum of one thousand dollars, and also have a number of fine ponies. They bred Nebraska Chief and sold him to Mat Hedland, of Holdrege, Nebraska, and this horse is a prize winner wherever shown.

The Harrison brothers are the type of men who have made the sons of Erin famous the world over in all departments of business. They carefully study the subject in hand in all its bearings and then aim to produce the best the market affords and to produce from this start better than the original stock, and are honest and fair in all their dealings.

J. V. Harrison is married, but has no children. D. Harrison has a son, John T. Harrison, who resides on the ranch and takes an active part in the raising and development of the splendid stock placed there by his father and uncle. Several years since J. V. Harrison visited his native country, and was greatly impressed by the wonderful changes which had taken place there. Small towns had sprung up and many improvements added, so that it was hard to recognize it as the same place where he spent his boyhood years.

## LARS E. FODNESS.

Lars E. Fodness, a popular farmer and leading citizen of Box Butte county, presents in his own career a striking illustration of the field of opportunity this new western country offers the ambitious children of the old world, as well as the rich results which have long waited on industry and integrity. He was born in Valdres, Norway, on a farm, in 1865. His father, who was a farmer, came to America with his family, arriving July 4, 1872. They settled in Alamakee county, Iowa, where his father rented a farm and spent two years. They then went to Stanton, Nebraska, where they lived for one year, and finally located in Boone county. Here they settled on a homestead and are numbered among the prominent pioneer citizens of that county.

The early days of our subject's life were spent on his father's farm, where he assisted materially with the work, starting in the harvest fields at the early age of ten years. He received his education attending the country school, which was held at the neighboring houses.

In 1894 Mr. Fodness was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Johnson, a native of Norway. Her parents were pioneers of Box Butte county, having settled here in 1887. Mr. Fodness's wife had taken a homestead in section 6, township 26, range 48, and after their marriage they settled on this place and started the work of making it a comfortable home in which to pass their lives. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fodness: Lewis and Ludwick, the latter deceased. They have an adopted son named Walter.

The first building the family lived in was made of sod, but Mr. Fodness set himself to the task of erecting a more commodious building. He has worked with unremitting zeal and has met with a great measure of success. He is now the possessor of six hundred and forty acres of well appointed land, which is well fenced, and upon which are good farm buildings, wells and windmills. He cultivates about ninety acres. His first two years were trying ones indeed, his crops being almost total failures. He went to Pine Ridge, where he chopped wood and hauled it to Alliance in order to help make a living.

Mr. Fodness engages in the raising of horses and cattle, of which he has over sixty-five head. In matters of politics he adheres to Republican principles, and takes a lively interest in local affairs. Through years of adversity and prosperity he has held the handles of the plow, working out for himself a

comfortable home and giving his energies to the upbuilding of the locality in which he resides.

## EDMOND ROOT.

Edmond Root is one of the leading old settlers of Cheyenne county. He is a farmer and stockman, thoroughly understands both lines, and has gained an enviable reputation throughout his community as a man of upright character and industrious habits. Mr. Root is a successful horseman and widely known as a dealer and breeder of fine animals.

Our subject was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 27, 1862. He was reared and educated in Michigan, living in his native locality until he reached the age of twenty-five and then in 1887 came to Nebraska, locating in Potter. He later filed on a homestead in section 14, township 16, range 52, the tract comprising one hundred and sixty acres, on which he proved up and later sold. He next took a Kincaid claim in section 6, township 13, range 51, filing on this on the 28th day of June, 1904, which is his present location. He owns four hundred and eighty acres, and has developed a good ranch, using most of the land as hay land and pasture for quite a herd of stock, a few cattle and about seventy-five head of horses.

Mr. Root has gone through both good and bad times since coming to Nebraska, and during the early years passed through the usual experiences of the pioneers in that region in getting his home started, but is now comfortably situated financially and is a prosperous, progressive and successful rancher and horseman.

Mr. Root takes an independent position in politics, although he has strong Democratic tendencies.

## ARTHUR SCATTERGOOD.

Among those who have in a large measure contributed to the success of the city of Johnston, Nebraska, the gentleman whose name heads this personal history takes a leading place. Mr. Scattergood was born at Burton-Trent, Staffordshire, England, May 8, 1841. His father, Robert Scattergood, was a brick manufacturer, and his mother, who was Mary Oakton, was a lineal descendant of the Offlows of Derbyshire, whose ancestors can be traced back nine hundred years. The father also comes of proud old English stock, the ancestors being known for eight centuries. Our



subject was reared and educated in his native land and married there on June 11, 1865, to Miss Caroline Blake, also of pure English stock.

In 1882 Mr. Scattergood came to America, sailing from Liverpool July 22 on the steamship *Alaska*, and landing in New York city August 1st. He came directly west to Omaha and in the winter came to what is now Brown county. On February 25th he located on a homestead in section 18, township 30, range 23, where his first house was a shanty twelve by fourteen feet, in which he lived alone for a time, the family following three years later. Here he built up and improved his farm, the original piece of land containing one hundred and sixty acres, and from this has grown to a ranch of four thousand acres. He has loaned considerable money on land in the vicinity, and as hard times came on the owners, unable after ample opportunity to redeem, relinquished their land, and much of his property comes from that source. He started here with small capital, bringing with him less than two thousand dollars, and has made the balance through his thrift and good management, now being numbered among the largest land holders in this part of the state. During the dry periods of 1893-'94 he started the town of Fairfax, South Dakota, at one time sending fifteen families there to settle. He owned the first hotel and the first four stores put up there and still owns much property in that place. He organized and opened the first bank in Johnstown, established in 1887, and is active in the building up of the place. Mr. Scattergood has been justice of the peace for many years, and also held the office of school director for a long time, being deeply interested in all educational movements in the locality. Politically he is a Republican and a member of the Episcopal church.

His family consists of one son and four daughters, named as follows: Arthur W., an attorney, of Ainsworth; Eva, Clara, Bessie and Mabel, all born in England.

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#### J. E. BURGE.

Among those who have recently come to Holdrege and taken up their residence here none has met with greater success in a business way or manifested more true public spirit and gained the esteem of his associates by his honesty and persistent labors than the subject of this personal history.

Mr. Burge is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, born April 26, 1875. He came to Hold-

rege in 1899 with the Burlington railway as train dispatcher. Previous to this he had been connected with the Rock Island road as dispatcher, and in 1902 he resigned from the railroad service to take up the telephone business. He was one of the organizers of the Phelps County Telephone Company, formed in December, 1902, and since that time has held the office of vice-president and general manager of that company. It is largely owing to his business ability and "push," combined with his obliging ways in dealing with the public, that during the year 1906 the Bell Telephone Company capitulated and sold to the Phelps County Telephone Company their rights here and have withdrawn from the county. In March, 1904, this company began operations by putting up ten thousand feet of aerial cables and providing for four hundred telephones, and in one and a half years they have grown to fifteen miles of aerial cables and have in operation seven hundred and fifty city telephones and twenty-two hundred county telephones, with exchanges at Holdrege, Funk, Loomis, Atlanta and Holcomb, and long distance connections nearly all over the state of Nebraska and adjoining states. The business has grown to immense proportions, and its service is of the very best to be found anywhere. The company has a capitalization of sixty thousand dollars, with W. H. Cowgill as president, our subject vice-president and general manager and E. P. Dunlop as secretary and treasurer, all of whom are prominent and successful business men of Holdrege.

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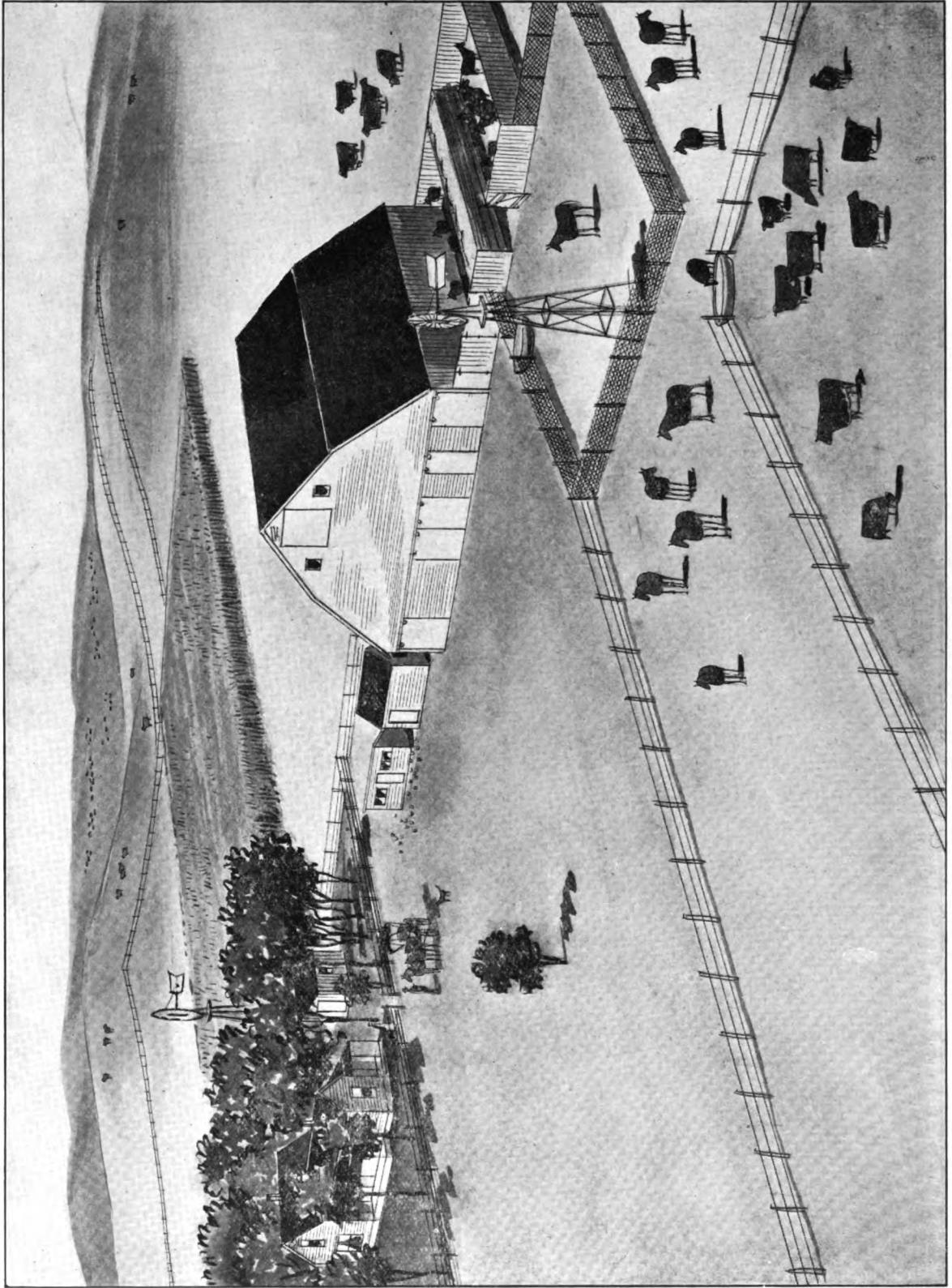
#### A. I. SCRIBNER.

A. I. Scribner, one of the oldest settlers in Sheridan county, Nebraska, is a successful stock raiser and farmer, who has acquired a snug property by dint of faithful efforts and honest labor. He has seen all the ups and downs of pioneer life in the west, and although often meeting discouragements has steadily kept onward and richly deserves the success he has attained.

Mr. Scribner was born in Washington county, Iowa, in 1847. His father, Abraham Scribner, was a farmer, and died when our subject was a lad of five years, and in 1857 the mother moved to Stark county, Illinois, with her family of six children, all of whom are now dead except himself and brother. The family was one of the earliest to settle in Washington county, and after the father's death his widow gave up her farm and from the time he was ten years old he has made his







RESIDENCE OF ILUS COUCH,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

own way in the world. Up to the time he was eighteen years old he never received any wages for his labor, merely getting his board, and attending school during the winter months, then only part of the time. He has always had a hard time and knows what it is to be thrown on his own resources and obliged to go out among strangers from the time he was little more than a baby. In 1865 he went to Oregon, where he spent six years, working out by the month there, and in 1871 returned to Washington county, Iowa. The following year he took up a homestead in Webster county, Nebraska, and at that time buffalo were still running so thickly through that region that the settlers were afraid they would ruin the crops by roaming through them, but in about three years they were almost cleaned out. He improved his farm and lived on it up to 1884, then his health failed and he decided to make a change and came to Sheridan county, where he liked the looks of the place so well that he filed on a tree claim in section 20, also an pre-emption on section 17, township 30, range 45, and still owns these places. Here he engaged in farming and continued at it until he was unable to buy seed, losing several crops in succession, and one year after putting in two hundred and fifty acres of grain did not even get back enough for seed. He then began to gather stock, and has followed that line of work ever since. He rented his farm and moved into the sand hills, remaining there up to 1900, then came back to his old place and went to farming and stock raising, now operating six hundred and forty acres of land, all fenced and improved with good buildings, etc., one hundred and sixty acres being under cultivation, and he raises large crops of grain, selling only his wheat and feeding out the balance on his farm, running one hundred head of stock.

Mr. Scribner has seen his share of the hard times in a new country and does not want any more frontier life. He is satisfied with what he has accomplished and would not care to go east to live. Many times he wanted to leave the place and would have sold out had he received a good offer, but is now thankful he could not get away. When he first came here he filed on the first pre-emption in this precinct and was one of the first settlers in this valley. During the years 1885 and 1886 he went to Webster county and stayed for two and a half years in order to give his children the advantages of better schools, and this and the time spent in the sand hills is the only time he has left his farm since settling on it.

Mr. Scribner was married in 1876 to Miss Ellen Smelser, born in Washington county, Iowa, in 1857, a daughter of David Clark Smelser. Mr. and Mrs. Scribner have a family of six children, named as follows: Bertha, Omar, Ira, Effie L., Cora and E. Ross, all born and reared in Nebraska. Mr. Scribner is a Populist in political sentiment, but does not take an active part in politics.

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### ILUS COUCH.

Ilus Couch occupies an enviable position among the extensive ranchers and prominent settlers of the valley of the South Platte river, where he operates a very large and growing stock business. Ilus Couch was born in Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois, October 7, 1857. His father, Benjamin C. Couch, was a native of New Hampshire, born in the village of Boscawen, September 19, 1822. His parents were natives of England. Our subject's mother, Martha J. Calf, was also a native of Salisbury, New Hampshire, born March 3, 1825, and died December 31, 1860, when he was but three years old.

The subject of our sketch was reared in the state of his nativity and attended the common schools. At the age of fourteen he started to work out at farm labor and various other employments. In the spring of 1882 he married, came west and followed farming for two seasons in Carroll county, Iowa, after which he came farther west to Clay county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1884, and remained during the summer. In August of that year he located a homestead in Keith county, his present place, and built a house, his family joining him in the fall. The country was very new and when they arrived in Ogallala they found it to be a typical wild west town. Pioneer days were full of trying experiences and many hardships and losses of crops, but our subject kept at his improvements and made a grand success.

The first crop in 1885 was a good one and this helped to give the family a start, but in 1890 and 1894 the crops were poor and Mr. Couch gradually turned his attention from farming to cattle and horse raising. He has now a splendid ranch comprising eighteen hundred and fifty-eight acres along the South Platte river and running back into the hills. He cultivates only about fifty acres of this, devoting the remainder to his extensive cattle and horse business. He has fine buildings, has the farm well fenced and has a fine grove of forest trees and some apple, plum and cherry

trees. Our subject has been an interested witness of the growth of this region. When he first settled here his house was one of the only two between Ogallala and Big Springs, twenty miles distant, and for three months Mrs. Couch never saw a woman in all the country.

The marriage of Ilus Couch with Miss Charity Horton occurred in Buda, Illinois, February 9, 1882. The bride was a native of Illinois, a daughter of Eli and Mary (Hamilton) Horton, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Couch has done his share toward making the present high material standard of prosperity which obtains in Keith county, and he has taken a prominent place among the old settlers. His interest in political matters has been earnest and practical and he has held various offices of trust and responsibility. He has served as school treasurer for five years and has acceptably filled other minor offices. He is independent in politics and a member of the Ogallala lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. A view of Mr. Couch's comfortable residence with its fine grove, large barn and pleasing landscape surrounding, is presented for inspection on another page.

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#### WALTER R. KENT.

The above named gentleman is a leading citizen of Sheridan county, residing in township 26, range 46, where he has built up a comfortable home and valuable estate.

Mr. Kent is a native of Highland, Wisconsin, born in 1863, and is a son of Patrick Kent, who came from Ireland in 1844 and settled in Wisconsin immediately after striking this country, remaining there on a farm all his life, and it was there that our subject was raised and educated. There was a family of eleven children, of whom he was the ninth, and at the age of eighteen he started out for himself, securing a position as a teacher in a district school, which occupation he followed for three years, one year of which he served as principal of a high school, then resigned. He is a graduate of the Highland high school, of Highland, Wisconsin, and later of the State Normal School at Platteville, Wisconsin. He came to Nebraska in 1886 and took a pre-emption in section 17, township 25, range 47, and established a farm, remaining until proving up, and six months later took a homestead and still lives adjacent to the latter place. While he was holding down this claim he was engaged in teaching, and for a year and a half

was cashier of a bank at Alliance, Nebraska. In this way he managed to make a living and save a little money, and had just started to farming on a larger scale when the dry years commenced, and through loss of several crops and other misfortunes got in debt and was obliged to go back to teaching to make this . . . He held his land for ten years without doing much in the way of improving it, and would have sold it at different times had he received a good offer. In 1897 he bought some calves, and this was his start in the cattle business. He gradually added to his herd until he now runs about three hundred head, and also is extensively engaged in the horse business, keeping about one hundred and fifty head all the time. Since he began this line of work he has been very successful and steadily increased his holdings and improved his farm, but during the early years here he went through hard times. He tried hard to farm his land, but found that conditions were against him. He had a large portion of his land in hay and pasture, and sold his hay, but could not make anything by so doing and was unable to get enough off it to pay the taxes, and that decided him on starting in the stock raising business. Most of his land is valley land and he cuts about four hundred tons of hay on the ranch, all of which is fed out to his stock. He has some alfalfa and intends to seed more of this, as it makes good fodder for cattle and hogs. He has dealt considerably in the latter animals, but quit that branch of the work in 1906.

Mr. Kent was married in 1904 to Miss Laura Gibbs, a native of this state, born in 1877. She is of English descent, her father, George Gibbs, having come from that country when a young man, settling in Nebraska in the early stage of its development. Mr. and Mrs. Kent have one child, William Walter, having lost twins, Ellen and Elizabeth, their death occurring in January, 1907, at the age of two months.

Mr. Kent has resided on his present farm continuously since 1897, excepting for two years, 1901 to 1903, when he was serving his county as superintendent of schools, although he personally superintended the management of his ranch at that time. He owns thirteen quarter sections of deeded land, and in addition to this leases land adjacent to his ranch, and has just completed a fine dwelling on this place. Mr. Kent is a Republican and always takes an active interest in party politics. He has held local offices and is at present postmaster at Long Lake, a position he is well qualified to fill.

## HENRY PILSTER.

Should the reader ask for a representative type of the successful and energetic western ranchman, who has spent many years of his life in building up a home and reputation by honest industry and good management, we would mention the gentleman above. Mr. Pilster is a man who embodies all the attributes of a careful and capable manager of things, and wherever he is put would make a success through his sheer determination and perseverance in the object to be attained. He relived his first year. There were practically sides in section 23, township 33, range 51, and is one of the well known and worthy citizens of Dawes county.

Mr. Pilster was born in the kingdom of Hanover, Germany, in 1853, on a farm. His parents lived and died in that country, where the father followed the life of a farmer. Our subject remained at home until he was fifteen years of age, then came to America, landing in New York city in 1868, and from there went to Boston, where he remained for three years, learning the cooper's trade with a man named Leopold Charley. He went to Pittsburg in 1879 and there built a house, which he afterwards traded for a one hundred and twenty-acre farm, soon selling the land for a good round sum, and in the transaction got a house to boot in Pittsburg.

In 1886 Mr. Pilster came to Nebraska and settled in Dawes county, and after a short time disposed of his property in Pittsburg and put the money in improvements on his ranch here, having taken a pre-emption in section 15, township 33, range 51. His first building was of frame and he built a large cellar, in which he lived during the first winter, **remaining there only one year**, then moved to his present location. Here he has a ranch of four hundred and sixty acres, all deeded land, and he also leases some land adjoining his ranch. He has put up good buildings, corals, fences and improvements, and has a fine property. Besides this ranch he has four hundred and eighty acres of Kincaid homestead land, on which he now resides. He is engaged in the stock business quite extensively, running one hundred and fifty cattle, and has made a great success of his undertaking in spite of many drawbacks.

In 1877 Mr. Pilster was married to Miss Huldah J. Stuebgen, whose father was a well known farmer and hotel keeper of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, born in Saxony, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Pilster are the parents of nine children, named as follows: Edward Henry, William August, John Adam, Edith

Jane, Minnie Maria, Sadie Jane, Emma M., Flora Virginia and Mabel Belle. The family are popular in their community and enjoy a peaceful and happy home.

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 PETE LECHER.

Pete Lecher, who resides in a comfortable home in Dawes county, is one of the old-timers of western Nebraska. He owns a nice property, which he has gathered together by dint of his industry and good management, and is held in high esteem by all with whom he has to do.

Mr. Lecher was born in Ozaukee county, Wisconsin, in 1861. His father, John Lecher, was born in Germany and married there to Maggie Thomas, then came to this country to carve out their fortune in the new world. They settled in Wisconsin and there our subject was raised and educated, brought up on a farm until he was twenty-three years of age, then left home and struck out for himself, coming to eastern Nebraska and locating in Platte county, farming there for seven years. He came to his present location in Dawes county in 1894, purchasing a farm in section 14, township 33, range 48, which was partly improved land, and at once put up a house, barn and windmills. The place was well supplied with good water, being located on Big Bordeaux creek. He now has four hundred acres, farming one hundred acres of this, and has plenty of pasture, lots of natural timber, and altogether a fine farm. He plans to devote most of his attention to the raising of fine grade stock and to the dairying business, and is engaged in the latter work to quite an extent, making about ninety pounds of butter per week. He is also engaged in the ice business, putting up large quantities every winter to supply the town of Chadron and vicinity. During the first years in this region he had a hard time to get along and for quite a long time was only able to make a living by getting out stovewood from Pine Ridge.

Mr. Lecher was united in marriage in 1882 while living in Wisconsin to Miss Maggie Schommer, whose father was a prominent farmer and old settler in that state, and came from Germany to the United States when a young man. To Mr. and Mrs. Lecher have been born the following children: Casper, Annie, Katie, Barney, John, Jerry and Noah. All that are large enough are good workers, assisting their parents in the dairy, ice and general farming business.

## FRANK C. BATES.

Frank C. Bates, residing near Lodgepole, is one of the pioneer settlers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He has become widely known as a prosperous farmer and well-to-do ranchman, is a worthy citizen and enjoys the comforts of a rural home. He has followed the occupation of a farmer all his life, and has done his full share toward the development of the resources of the county where he chose his home in the early years.

Mr. Bates was born in Wayne county, New York, January 30, 1858, and remained in that state until he was twenty-nine years of age, then came to Cheyenne county, arriving in that region in April, 1887, took up a homestead in section 20, township 15, range 47, on which he followed farming for many years. He now lives in section 24, situated one mile northwest of Lodgepole, where he has a fine one hundred and sixty-acre farm and engages in mixed farming and stock raising. Mr. Bates has owned several farms since coming to Nebraska, built them up and then sold out at a good profit, and has helped materially in the development of the locality.

Our subject was married in his native county in the state of New York on April 22, 1883, to Miss Carrie A. Deuel. She is also a native of that state, and her mother is now living with our subject, the father being dead. Both Mr. Bates' parents are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Bates are the parents of two children, Louise and Ruth, both at home.

Our subject is prominent in local affairs and takes an active interest in county and state politics.

## E. D. FORD.

E. D. Ford, who has been identified with the agricultural interests of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, for many years, and is the owner of a valuable estate, was born in Harrison county, Missouri, in 1877, and when six years of age came with his parents to this county. His father, James B. Ford, was of Irish stock, born in Ohio, where he followed the carpenter's trade during his early life. He was an early settler in Iowa, and during the Civil war enlisted in an Iowa regiment and served for three years under General Grant. After the war he returned to Iowa and was there married to Miss Hannah Dennis, a native of Iowa, and to the couple two children were born, our subject being the only one living. At the age of eighteen years he started out for himself, going into the Dakotas, where he followed

farming for some years. He came to Nebraska in 1883, where he grew up, and in 1903 bought his present home, located in section 35, township 33, range 20. Here he has one hundred and sixty acres of good land, with eighty acres under plow and the balance in hay and pasture. He is engaged principally in mixed farming, and does not deal in stock to any great extent.

Mr. Ford and his father have done much toward the development of this county. They lived in a log house for many years and went through many hard times during the dry years. However, he has succeeded in getting together a comfortable property. They had the usual pioneer experiences here and in Missouri, but prospered through good management and industry. After the father's marriage he lived in Missouri for ten years, then came to Keya Paha county. In 1902 he sold out his place here and moved to Colorado and died there a short time afterwards. Our subject was married in 1900 to Miss Gertrude Ewing, of old American stock, raised in Nebraska. They are the parents of two children, named Bertha, aged six years, and Harold, aged three years. They enjoy a pleasant and happy home, surrounded by a host of good friends, and are highly esteemed throughout the community in which they reside. All of Mr. Ford's time is devoted to the care and management of his farm and home, and he has never taken an active part in public affairs. In political faith he is a Republican.

## C. W. JOHNSON.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is one of the representative citizens of western Nebraska, being one of the organizers of the Potter State Bank, and a director in the same institution. He is also a prosperous and successful business man, and a "booster" for his town, county and state. Mr. Johnson is at present engaged in a number of different enterprises, carrying on a large general merchandise business in Potter, where he makes his home, and also has large ranching and farming interests, and is among the large growers of small grains in the county. C. W. Johnson was born in Sweden, February 21, 1864, where he grew to the age of six years, then with his parents came to America, settling in Andover, Henry county, Illinois, where the family lived for two years. They then emigrated to Montgomery county, Iowa, remained for three years, and from there to Republic county, Kansas, finally coming into



Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in 1887, where the father homesteaded in Banner county in the spring of that year. Their location was in the southwest quarter of section 30, township 18, range 53, and they also took up a timber claim in section 34, which they later sold, but still own the homestead. Mr. Johnson's Banner county ranch is considered one of the most valuable properties in the west, and on this place he runs about three hundred head of cattle and sixty horses, with plenty of hay and pasture land for all his stock. The place contains twenty-seven hundred and twenty acres, and besides this large tract he leases a half section in the vicinity. The ranch is supplied with a complete set of good buildings and all improvements.

In 1897 our subject engaged in the mercantile business in Kirk, Banner county, and carried this on for a number of years. While living in that vicinity he was appointed postmaster of Kirk and held the position for fifteen years, remaining there until 1906, when he sold out his store and came to Potter, purchasing the general merchandise establishment of B. F. Thornburg. He is doing a good business and has a large patronage from the surrounding country. On April 21, 1886, our subject was united in marriage at Scandia, Kansas, to Ellen Nelson, who was born in Denmark and came to America in 1878. Mrs. Johnson's parents are both dead, but our subject's father and mother are at present living on the ranch in Banner county, which is owned jointly by father and son. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, eight of whom are now living, named as follows: Joseph G., Seola C., Victor, Clarence W., Leonard J., Lulu, Fred, Ervin (who died in 1905) and Nora, all living at home and making a most interesting family group. Mr. Johnson is one of the well known and leading citizens of his community and has served in numerous local offices, including justice of the peace and notary public. In political views he is a Republican. He affiliates with the Ancient Order United Workmen and is a member of the Methodist church.

#### HENRY JOCHEM.

Henry Jochem was born in Plano county, Illinois, May 24, 1882, and was reared on a farm. His father, John Jochem, was a native of West Prussia, Germany, and saw service in the army of the fatherland. His mother was Wilhelmina Bomgaardt, also a native of Germany.

Our subject came west with the family to Omaha and thence to Blaine county, Nebraska, in 1887, where he found his first home in a sod shanty with a hay roof, and became conversant with the ways of pioneer life. When he was seventeen years old our subject left home, going to Grand Island, where he spent five years engaged in agricultural pursuits, two years of which time he was on rented land. In 1904 he returned home, purchasing a small farm on which he lived about a year, and then sold out, doubling his money. He then took a Kincaid homestead in Blaine county, in section 22, township 24, range 22, in the German valley.

Mr. Jochem was married in 1905 to Miss Mollie Kaiser, whose father, Gottlieb Kaiser, was one of the pioneer settlers of the territory and whose biography will appear elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Jochem have been blessed with three children—Ella, Vena and Ora.

Henry Jochem, although still a young man, has achieved success and has accomplished it all as the result of his own efforts and planning. He has a splendid ranch of five hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and fifty acres of which he cultivates, and three hundred and twenty acres are deeded land. He has a good house, large barns, well and windmill, groves of forest trees and a fine orchard. He has made an enviable record as a man of energy and rare good business judgment and is willingly accorded a leading place among the old settlers of his locality.

#### JAMES BURNS.

James Burns, of Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, Nebraska, is a man whose history invites reflection on the secret of success in the great western country. There are very few men who have come to this section with assured financial standing, and those who have gained wealth and affluence are very largely those whose native industry, shrewd business insight and daring have brought its due reward. Success means in Nebraska more than it does in the older east. Here it means pluck, courage and self-reliance. There it may mean the bolstering help of friends and favoring circumstances, and the subject of this sketch is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, as he has been through every phase of western life, having at various times followed freighting, farming, ranching, etc., and well deserves his present prosperity.

Mr. Burns was born in St. Louis, Missouri,



February 22, 1864. He was left an orphan at the age of four years and has no knowledge of any living relatives. He was taken into the family of Alfred S. Weeks, of Hudson, Mc-Lain county, Illinois, and remained with them until he was twenty-one years old. During boyhood he attended the country schools at such times in the year as did not interfere with his helping in the farm work of his foster parents, and when he became of age entered the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, continuing for a year and a half, his only start when he left Mr. Weeks's family being the suit of clothes he wore. There was a good library in the Weeks home and of this the orphan boy availed himself. He worked his way through school and acquired his learning by dint of self-denial and hard work. After leaving school he was stricken with typhoid fever, and after a severe illness came to Nebraska, locating at Kearney, where he attended the institute for a short time and from there lived at the home of friends north of the town of Kearney, where he taught a three months' term of school. In the spring of 1886 he came to Sidney, landing there on March 17th, and pre-empted a claim just across the state line in Colorado. He held this claim and worked at different points in that section of the country, riding range for the Powell & Whitney ranching outfit. During the summer of 1888 he had the misfortune to be bitten by a rattlesnake and was laid up for some months, and after recovering abandoned his claim, selling the deeded land at less than the pre-emption value. He next took a homestead on Cedar creek, along the North Platte river, improved it to quite an extent and after proving up on it sold to the Belmont company.

Mr. Burns came on his present ranch on part of which Mrs. Burns had filed prior to her marriage, in 1895. Part of it was the original homestead of M. S. Boyer. There are eight hundred acres of land, all in one body, with five hundred acres of the tract under Chimney Rock ditch. One hundred acres are under cultivation, two hundred in alfalfa, and the balance is used for hay land, as Mr. Burns runs a large herd of cattle and quite a bunch of horses. The ranch is fully improved with good buildings and everything necessary for the operation of a model farm, and is one of the most valuable properties in the county. In addition to this extensive ranching interests, Mr. Burns owns town property in Bayard. A view of the ranch residence, with Chimney Rock in the distance, is to be found elsewhere in this work.

September 18, 1895, Mr. Burns married

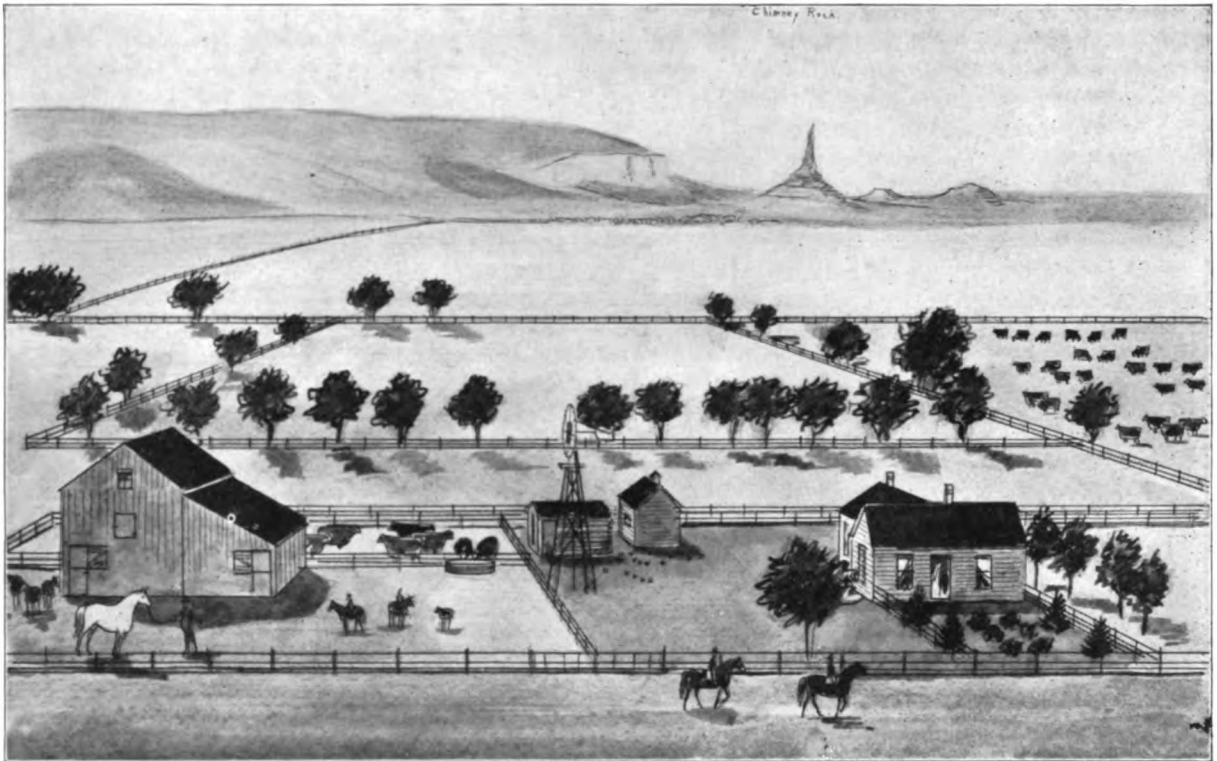
Mrs. Ora E. Boyer, whose maiden name was Ora E. Maylan, daughter of William Maylan, a veteran of the Civil war and a prominent old frontiersman. The mother was a native of Worth county, Missouri. Our subject has a family of four children, namely: Clinton W., Alice A., Haldane and Catherine O. They are a most congenial family and have a pleasant home and large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Burns is a Democrat and has taken an active part in local politics since locating here, having held the combined offices of county clerk and as clerk of the district court, serving from 1900 to 1904. Cheyenne county was strongly Republican and the fact that Mr. Burns received the office against strong opposition goes to prove his worth and popularity in the opinion of the people. He is also school treasurer of district No. 50. His lodge affiliations are at Sidney, where he is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Knights of Pythias, of which he served as chancellor commander two years.

#### QUINTON ROBERT McADAM.

Among the varied interests of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, stock raising and farming take a leading place. In fact, it may be said truthfully that it is the principal industry of that section. Many of the agriculturists have engaged successfully in this line, and the gentleman above named takes a prominent place among the number. He is the owner of a well improved place consisting of eight hundred and eighty-six acres, and is a substantial and highly esteemed citizen of his county.

Quinton R. McAdam was born in Argenteuil county, province of Quebec, Canada, August 18, 1865, and grew to manhood there. He came to the United States in 1890, direct to Potter, Nebraska, and after spending just three days there went on to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and worked in that vicinity for three years as a carpenter. He then went to Denver and was in the employ of a wholesale commission house for about four years. Returning to Cheyenne for two years, he worked in the Union Pacific railroad shops prior to engaging in business for himself. He was associated with his brother Andrew, contracting and building, and about this time they invested in ranch and cattle interests. A year after engaging in business with his brother, Robert came to Cheyenne county to take charge of the ranching interests, while Andrew attended to the building operations, following later. Robert filed on one hundred and sixty acres



**RESIDENCE OF JAMES BURNS,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.**



**RESIDENCE OF Q. R. McADAM,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



on section 34, township 15, range 52, which is now the home ranch, and together with his brother Andrew they own nearly two thousand acres of land, part of which is situated on Lodgepole creek and is mostly hay land. The partnership was dissolved in January, 1907, each taking his share of the cattle, the land having been owned severally from the beginning. Robert farms about one hundred and ten acres, running one hundred and sixty-six head of cattle and twenty horses and is prospering in his venture. He has the property well improved, the buildings being constructed of stone. The dwelling, remodeled in 1908-'09, is partly constructed of concrete and is a commodious and convenient dwelling. We are pleased to present a view of the ranch buildings on another page of this work.

On January 7, 1896, Mr. McAdam married Miss Catherine M. Gordon, near La Chute, Canada. She was born and reared in that country, and both parents are still living there. Mr. McAdam's parents are both dead.

Mr. McAdam has gained a deservedly high station as a citizen and has always taken an active part in local and county affairs. In political views he is a Republican, except in local issues. Members of the Presbyterian church in Canada, they, finding no congregation of their denomination at Potter, have united with the Methodist church. Mr. McAdam is a member of the Modern Woodmen order at Potter.

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#### GEORGE E. RUSSELL.

Among the younger members of the farming community of Gillaspie precinct, Cherry county, the gentleman above named takes a leading place. He has met with marked success as an agriculturist, and enjoys the esteem and respect of his fellowmen.

Mr. Russell was born in Monona county, Iowa, November 13, 1871. His father, Isaac N. Russell, was of American stock, a farmer and stock raiser, and came to Nebraska in 1889 with his family, locating in Cherry county, where he died September 14, 1900, and where his wife still resides. Our subject is the eldest in his father's family of four children, and was raised in Iowa until he was eighteen years old, and at the age of twenty-one started out for himself. He took up a homestead in 1894 in section 6, township 29, range 34, where he resides and to which he has since added four hundred and eighty acres, making a ranch of six hundred and forty acres of good land, well improved with good buildings and fences. He has about seventy-five

head of cattle and thirty horses, and devotes his time to joint farming and stock raising, using besides his own land a section adjoining, which belongs to his wife.

When Mr. Russell came to this region he had very little capital to start with, but by dint of his industry and perseverance he has built up a fine farm and valuable estate, and is satisfied that he has done much better here than he could have done in Iowa. He has seen much of the ups and downs of an old settler's life, but late years have been better and he has been able to forge ahead at greater speed and is now recognized as one of the prosperous and successful men of the county. He has almost six hundred and forty acres of fine hay land, and from this he cuts a splendid crop each year. Much of his farm is under lease to tenants, who cultivate the soil.

Mr. Russell was married September 29, 1896, to Miss Myrtle Doyle, born in Missouri in 1879, whose father, Theodore Doyle, formerly lived in this county, but is at present residing in Frontier county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, named as follows: Ruby, Dora, Theodore and Mildred, all born and reared in Cherry county. There is but one drawback to the location of Mr. Russell's farm, which is the distance to the nearest school, located four miles from his home, an inconvenience prevalent in the sparsely settled ranch country.

Mr. Russell is a Republican in political faith and in November, 1907, was elected county commissioner by that party.

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#### G. A. ANDERSON.

Among the enterprising and prosperous business men of Holdrege, Phelps county, Nebraska, none is better known or more universally respected than the subject of this review.

Mr. Anderson first learned the carpenter and cabinet trade with his father, A. J. Anderson, now a farmer and resident of Sheridan township, Phelps county, where our subject's three brothers are also successful farmers. Few men have enjoyed the mechanical and manual training that has fallen to the lot of Mr. Anderson. For four and a half years Mr. Anderson was carpenter and foreman of the house of correction at Chicago. For eleven years he was instructor in the carpenter and cabinet department of the Illinois state reformatory for boys at Pontiac, Illinois, where his class consisted of from sixty to one hundred and twenty pupils, one-half of each day

being given to manual training. The reports of the institution showed that sixty-five to eighty per cent. of the boys so trained followed the trade afterwards as a life work. For four years he was superintendent of construction for the Illinois state reformatory. Three and one-half years was spent with the Boland & Gormley Hardware Company, one of the most extensive of its kind in Chicago, as expert on fancy building hardware. He learned the trade of machinist at the McCormick Reaper Works, also in the Malleable Iron Works as a molder and brass finisher, and for several years was in the cabinet department of the Kimball organ factory, and while in Chicago worked on many of the finest residences being built at that time.

In 1904 Mr. Anderson came to Holdrege, Nebraska, and since then has been engaged in contracting and building, and has put up some of the finest residence buildings here, including the Carnegie library.

Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Amelia Christianson, daughter of C. M. Christianson, one of the pioneer settlers of Sheridan township, who at his death left over a section of land to his children and a reputation as a devout Christian, having been an active member and official of the Swedish Mission church during his life. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have no children.

Since Mr. Anderson's residence here he has earned the confidence of all with whom he has been associated, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a citizen.

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### SAMUEL KNORI.

Samuel Knori, residing in section 35, township 33, range 56, is one of the old-timers of Sioux county, and has watched the development of that region from almost a barren prairie to a fertile farming community, and has given liberally of his time and influence in effecting this change. He is a hard-working, industrious and worthy citizen and in spite of many discouragements has managed to accumulate a comfortable property, and is one of the substantial agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Knori was born in Switzerland in 1867 on a farm. His father, Andrew Knori, lived and died in that country, following farming all his life. Our subject grew up there, coming to America in 1891, landing in New York in May, and immediately struck out for the west, settling in Wisconsin, where he secured employment in a cheese factory and followed that work for two years. He then came to Sioux

county, Nebraska, locating in Sow Bellie creek, where he filed on a homestead and proved up. He had nothing to start with, and his first dwelling was a dugout, in which he "batched it" for eight years. He went through many hard times during those years, but gradually improved his place, and succeeded in developing a good farm. In 1901 he settled on his present farm, situated on section 35, township 33, range 56, which was not altogether unimproved land, and is lying along Big Monroe creek. He now owns a ranch of twenty-two hundred and fifty acres, and is engaged almost wholly in stock raising, keeping both beef and dairy cattle, and is one of the most prominent ranchmen of his locality. His ranch is all fenced and well supplied with running water the year around. He raises some crops, having about one hundred acres cultivated, with the balance in hay land and pasture. He has considerable irrigated land and raises a great deal of alfalfa. When Mr. Knori first started farming in this vicinity his only team was a pair of oxen, which did all his work for two years. He has had severe losses from drouths, etc., and in 1894 was burned out, losing property to the amount of three hundred dollars, which was a severe setback for him at that time.

In 1901 Mr. Knori was married to Miss Elizabeth Noreisch, a native of Germany, born in Germany in 1881, and who came to this country with her parents, who were old settlers in Sioux county and a sketch of whom appears in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Knori are the parents of four sons, named as follows: Samuel, Manuel, Lewis and Gustave.

Our subject is one of the leading men of his community, always active in local affairs, and is one of the substantial old-timers of his county. Politically he is a Democrat, but always votes for the best man. He is prominent in school matters in his township, at present serving as moderator.

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### L. H. BORDWELL.

L. H. Bordwell, of Cheyenne county, resides in Sidney, Nebraska. He is one of the earliest settlers in this locality, and can recount with accuracy many of the pioneer experiences of the settlers of this region who braved the hardships and privations of those days, and has gained the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Bordwell was born in Cazenovia, New York, December 29, 1845, and grew up in that state. His father and mother were natives of

Connecticut and Massachusetts, of English descent, both now being dead.

In 1865 Mr. Bordwell came west to Chicago, where he remained for one year, then came to Omaha and spent seven years, engaged in real estate business. From Omaha he came to Cheyenne county, landing here in 1874, and since that time has lived here continuously. He homesteaded a tract of land situated in section 28, township 14, range 49. After locating here he passed through all the various changes that struck this region, going through the good, bad and indifferent times, but in spite of many hardships kept up his courage and stuck to his determination to build up a good home and fortune by his own efforts.

In 1869 Mr. Bordwell was married to Margaret A. James, born in Hannibal, Missouri, and at the time of her marriage to our subject resided near Blair, Nebraska. Mrs. Bordwell died in 1901, leaving a family of three children, namely: Harry M., born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1871, and the other two, Frank J. and Vinnie E., born in this county in 1875 and 1884, respectively.

#### VAL ASHBAUGH.

Val Ashbaugh, who is widely known as a bright and progressive tiller of the soil, has done much to aid the farmers of the west to a better understanding of the conditions under which their work must be carried on if they wish to attain success. He has a good farm in Brown county, and for many years has devoted his entire time to the building up of his home and farm, and is recognized as a prosperous and successful agriculturist. Mr. Ashbaugh was born in Mercer county, Ohio, June 28, 1863, of American stock, his father being a farmer by occupation. There were nine children in his parents' family, of whom he was the eighth member in the order of birth. He was reared and educated in his native state, and at the age of twenty-one years he came west and filed on a homestead in sections 14 and 15, township 30, range 23, putting up a small house built of logs, in which he lived for several years. His first team with which he broke up land was a yoke of oxen, which he used for two years. He saw many hard times, witnessing the dry years, having two total losses of his crops, besides losing his barns by fire in 1901. He worked hard and faithfully to overcome all difficulties, and now owns a fine farm of four hundred acres, one hundred of which are under cultivation, and the balance in pasture and hay land, in-

cluding three acres of thrifty alfalfa. He has built up a good home and is well satisfied with the result of his labors. Mr. Ashbaugh was married in Mercer county, Ohio, October 2, 1883, to Miss Martha Fast, a native of Ohio, daughter of Daniel and Andora (Kiser) Fast, who were farmers and of American stock. Mr. and Mrs. Ashbaugh have six children—Nettie, the wife of James Crane, foreman of Plum creek section 52, Chicago & Northwestern railway; James, Mary, Eli, Willis and Lloyd. For the past six years Mr. Ashbaugh has been moderator of his school district, and has taken a deep interest in all school work. He is a Democrat politically, a Modern Woodman fraternally and in religion an adherent of the United Brethren church.

#### WILLIAM P. THORP.

Mr. William P. Thorp, of Burwell, Nebraska, is one of that city's substantial citizens and leading men. He conducts a real estate business there and has done his full share toward building up the section of the country where he chose his home by bringing many settlers to the state who have taken up land and established farms and homes. Mr. Thorp is credited with accomplishing more along the line of inducing emigrants to this state than any other four men in Nebraska.

Mr. Thorp was born in Clay county, Missouri, in 1855. His parents were of English descent, natives of Kentucky, who settled in Missouri in 1821, and there our subject grew up and was educated. His boyhood years were spent among the pioneers of the west and he grew up a sturdy, independent frontier lad, early learning to depend upon his own efforts and also to assist his parents in the building up of the home farm. In 1890 Mr. Thorp settled in Nebraska. He bought three hundred and sixty acres of land in Loup county, situated ten miles west of Burwell, and there followed farming and stock raising until 1897, when he moved to Burwell and established himself in the real estate business. For some time he owned and operated a general store here and made considerable money out of that enterprise. He is well known all over this part of the state and greatly admired for his excellent business ability and upright character, and is numbered among the well-to-do men financially of the county.

In 1880 Mr. Thorp was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Taylor, a native of Missouri, and they are the parents of four children, two of whom are living, namely: Clara and Wil-



liam T. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Burwell, and they are held in high esteem by every one in their community. Mr. Thorp has always taken an active interest in politics in his locality, and while living in Loup county served as county commissioner for seven years. In 1902 he was elected a member of the state legislature and served one term. He is a Democrat and a strong party man.

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#### JOHN D. OETKEN, DECEASED.

John D. Oetken, who was, in his lifetime, a bold and enterprising spirit, and who came to Dawes county in 1892, where he did much toward the development of this section of the state, was born in Oldenberg, Germany, in 1875. His parents were prominent farmers of that place.

The greater part of our subject's life was spent in his native country, from which so many of our thrifty and enterprising citizens came. Here he received his education and learned the bricklayer's trade, which occupation he followed in several different parts of Germany.

In 1868 Mr. Oetken and Miss Tomma Lottman were married and to this union ten children were born: Henry, George, Sena, Mollie, Minnie, Fred, Emma, Marie, John and Johanna, the last two dying in the old country. Some of Mr. Oetken's older children came to the United States in the early days and settled in Iowa in 1884 and 1887 and some of them live in that state now. It was not until 1892 that our subject, in company with two of his children, Fred and Minnie, came to America and located in Dawes county, Nebraska. In 1893 the wife and the three children, Mollie, Emma and Marie, came over the ocean and joined him in Dawes county, where the father had prepared a home for them in section 21, township 30, range 50.

When Mr. Oetken first settled on his farm in Dawes county there was nothing but a common board shanty on the place, and here he no improvements, but to one of his race and blood this was no obstacle. He set to work with a determination characteristic of the German race and in a wonderfully short space of time his place began to show the fruits of his untiring labors. He erected a comfortable home for his family, a good barn, three windmills and two good wells. On two occasions his crops were destroyed by hail, but with all the hardships he experienced in making a new home in this western country he was not dis-

couraged, but struggled on, and met with the success which was justly due his efforts. From time to time he secured adjoining lands, and engaged in the raising of cattle, horses and mixed farming.

During his lifetime in Dawes county Mr. Oetken took a lively interest in the affairs of the locality in which he resided, and did much toward the development of the county. In 1902 he passed away, leaving an estate of seven hundred and sixty acres, containing an abundance of good pine timber, which is now well looked after by his son Fred. He left behind him a host of loyal friends, who will ever honor his memory.

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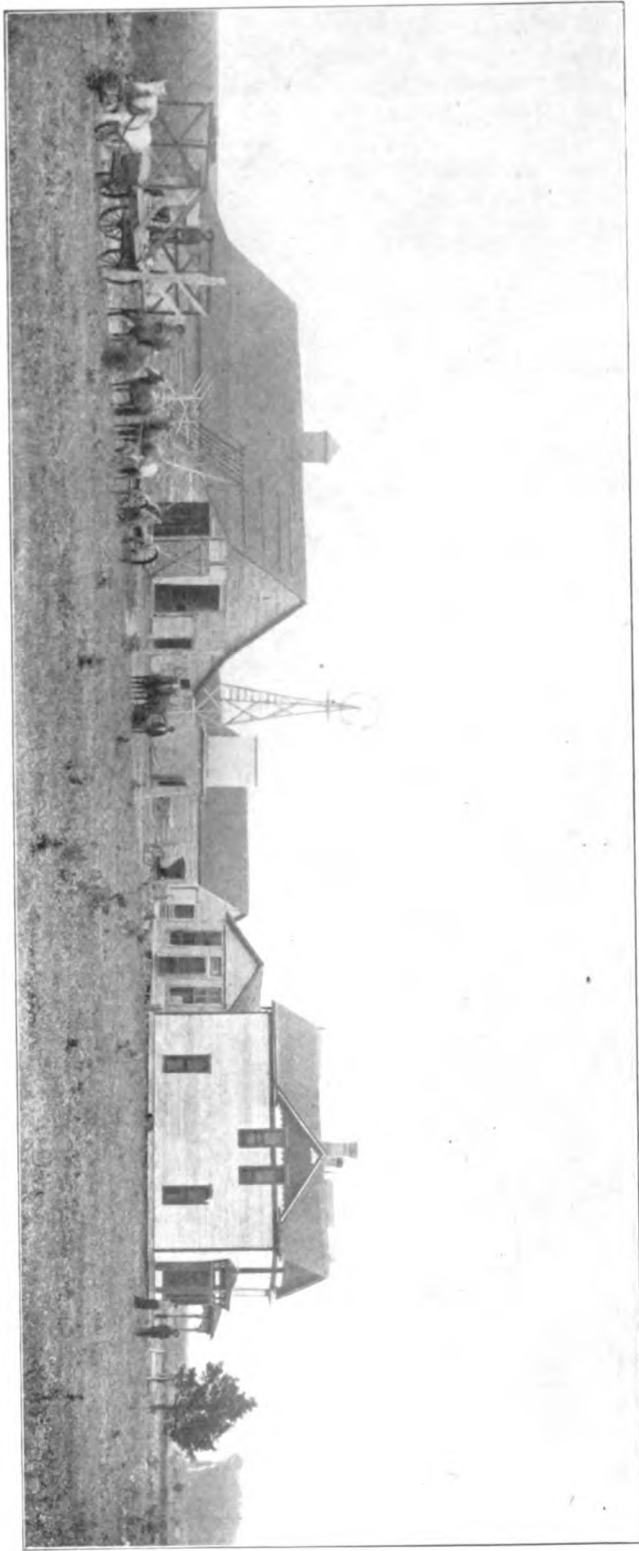
#### W. H. RADFORD.

W. H. Radford, of Newark township, Kearney county, is one of the well known stockmen and ranch owners of Nebraska. His ranch comprises thirteen hundred and sixty acres of fine valley land, located on the Platte river, and consists of fine farming and meadow lands, all on the military reservation of Fort Kearney. He is looked upon by the residents of his locality as one of the leading and most successful ranch owners of this part of Nebraska. Mr. Radford is a genial, kindly man, industrious and obliging, and highly esteemed as a good neighbor and a worthy citizen.

Mr. Radford was born in 1852 at Somersetshire, England, and came to Canada with his parents in 1854. Later they went to New York state and thence to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he was reared.

In 1876 he came to Nebraska, settling in Kearney county on a farm, and one year later homesteaded where he now lives, on section 30, township 8, range 14. He has been engaged in stock raising and mixed farming ever since locating here, and has accumulated a valuable estate, his ranch at first containing one hundred and sixty acres, to which he has added constantly until he is now proprietor of thirteen hundred and sixty acres, as above stated. Of this about three hundred and sixty acres are in meadow, seven hundred acres in pasture, and the balance cultivated. He keeps about three hundred head of cattle and feeds all the grain and hay he raises, besides being compelled to buy more. His cattle are good grades, and he has thoroughbred Hereford males in his herd. He runs a large number of hogs annually, and handles only Berkshires crossed. He has dealt in the red hogs but prefers the Berkshire for all purposes, having at the head of his herd a pedigreed boar, and runs





RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM H. RADFORD.



from fifty to three hundred hogs all the time. In 1908 Mr. Radford went into the Poland China strain and handles only that breed now, believing it to be the best of all. Mr. Radford raises five hundred tons of hay each year, and the place is abundantly supplied with good water, this combined with the fine valley land making it a splendid stock farm. His corn crop is always of the best and he has never had a failure in the thirty-one years he has been here, getting an average yield of thirty-five to forty bushels per acre. He raises some wheat and oats, the latter averaging thirty bushels for the past ten years, and has had a yield of one hundred and fifteen bushels per acre some years. He has twenty acres of fine alfalfa and cuts good crops each season, while he has so much Al wild hay that he does not need to sow alfalfa. There is seventy-six acres of red-top grass on his ranch which makes splendid fodder for cattle.

Mr. Radford was married in 1883 to Miss Lizzie Shaad, of Crawford county, Ohio, and to them have been born the following children: Boyd, who married Miss Meluzenia Gormley, daughter of William W. Gormley, whose sketch appears in this book; Budd, aged twenty-two years; and Nora, aged twenty. Since 1905 our subject's sons have been equal partners with their father in the stock and ranching business, and take a deep interest in the work. In this way he has kept them at home, and it would be a good plan for more farmers to try this method of keeping their sons on the farm, as it makes them ambitious to do the best possible and is a very good thing for both parents and children.

Mr. Radford takes an active interest in local public affairs. He has been road overseer for nine years, school director and treasurer for several terms, also town clerk for two years. Politically he is an Independent. We present a picture of Mr. Radford's residence on another page of this volume.

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#### W. G. WILSON.

W. G. Wilson, known throughout Sheridan county as an energetic and prosperous business man and ranchman, resides in section 9, township 24, range 45, where he has a pleasant home and owns a valuable property.

Mr. Wilson was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, in 1851, and is a son of Joshua Wilson, a farmer, and native of Indiana. He married Frances Templeton, born in Ohio of Irish-American stock, and they had a family of twelve children, of whom our subject is the second member, and all living at this writing. At the age of

twenty-one he started in to make his own way in the world, following farm work for a couple of years, then taught school for three years, spending part of his time in different work after he quit teaching. He journeyed through Montana, Washington and other western states, working on railroad grades, etc., for four years, and in 1887 came to Sheridan county, taking a contract for four miles of Burlington & Missouri grade, and after he had finished this work made up his mind to stay in Nebraska. He had here plenty of room, range and water, and thought no one else would care to locate in the region, so filed on a homestead on section 9, which he still holds. There was then only one house between his own and the town of Whitman, and his idea was to build up a big cattle ranch. He bought forty-two head of cattle in 1888, and that was his start in the business. He put up a sod house and lived in it up to 1901, then built a fine brick residence, bringing the brick from Box Butte county, as he could not stand the idea of living in a frame or sod house. He succeeded in his venture from the first, and now has nineteen quarter sections of land, besides leasing other land, nearly all of which is valley land lying along the railroad, and he can load his stock within a mile of his ranch. He runs three hundred head of cattle and the same number of horses, and thinks this is the best stock country he ever saw, and he has had wide experience all over the western states. Since he came here the region has developed considerably, and he is contented to stay as long as he cares to run a ranch, the dry seasons here really being better for him than wet ones.

Mr. Wilson was married in 1904 to Miss Mabel Taylor, born in Iowa in 1870. She is a daughter of J. C. and Nancy J. (Gray) Taylor, natives of Ohio, who settled in Iowa in the early days. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson had one child, Francis, who died in infancy, and one living, Mabel Louise, born December 25, 1907.

When Mr. Wilson located here Alliance was not located, but was started during the same fall, and has grown to be a thriving town. Antioch is his postoffice and Reno his railroad station, and his nearest trading post is Alliance, Nebraska. Mr. Wilson is popular in political circles, serving two terms as county surveyor, and refusing a third term because he could not devote the time necessary to the work. He could do considerable in this line of work; but his stock and ranch takes up all of his time and he prefers to attend to that business in preference to any other. He is a Populist, having voted that ticket ever since coming to this country. He has been justice of the peace for a number of years.

## L. E. STORY.

Among the business enterprises which contribute in a marked degree to the prosperity of Maxwell, Lincoln county, as a business point, the general merchandise store conducted by L. E. Story occupies a leading place. This is one of the best equipped establishments of its kind in this locality, and its proprietor is well known to the people of the county for his honest business methods and careful attention to their needs.

Mr. Story was born in Pennsylvania in 1870. His father was Charles A. Story, from Delaware county, Pennsylvania, and during the Civil war was a captain in a Pennsylvania regiment. Our subject came to Nebraska in 1879 and located on a farm near Amherst, Buffalo county, remaining on that place up to 1892, and for a time was in the agricultural implement business, and although he was very successful he decided to enter into the mercantile line of business, and in 1898 came to Maxwell and together with W. A. and W. H. Merrick, formed the firm of W. H. Merrick & Company, and opened up a fine general merchandise store in November of that year. The firm does a large business, their trade extending for twenty miles south and thirty miles north of the place, and they are steadily increasing their already complete stock, branching out with new lines, and making it one of the up-to-date establishments in this county.

In 1897 Mr. Story married Miss Edna Merrick, daughter of W. H. Merrick, an old settler of Kearney county, Nebraska, having located there in 1878. He has held the office of county commissioner of Kearney county for some years, and was also a merchant of Newark, Nebraska, carrying on a store there from 1888 until 1901, when he sold this out and started in business at Amherst. The Merricks are an old family, who for generations past have lived in New Jersey, and this branch came to Rockford, Illinois, in the pioneer days of that state. Mr. and Mrs. Story have a family of three children, two sons and one daughter, all of whom are at present attending school.

Mr. Story takes a commendable interest in all affairs which tend toward the advancement of conditions in his locality, and is highly respected and esteemed by his fellow associates. In political faith he is a Democrat.

## EMANUEL M. ROSENBAUM.

Emanuel M. Rosenbaum, who resides on his fine farm in section 36, township 33, range 48, is one of the old-timers of Dawes county, who

came here about 1893, and in the years since then has succeeded in building up a good home and farm by dint of his industry and persistent efforts. He is one of the well-to-do farmers in his locality, and enjoys a pleasant home surrounded by every comfort of rural life, and is held in high esteem as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Rosenbaum was born in Washington county, Virginia, in 1860, on a farm. His father, Joel Rosenbaum, was of American birth, of Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, born in Virginia, and he married Nancy Ramsey, also of American stock. Our subject grew up in Virginia, assisting his parents in the work of carrying on their home farm, attending the country schools where he received his early education. At the age of twenty-two years he came west to Washington county, Nebraska, and began farming near Blair, and spent eleven years in the eastern part of the state. In 1887 he was employed on the railroad, and that fall went to work in Douglas county, Nebraska. He came to Dawes county in 1893, first living on a farm south of his present location, remaining on that land for about nine years, living there continuously with the exception of one summer which he spent in Wyoming. Since coming here he has been engaged principally in farming, and at times has undergone severe losses in dry years, when all crops failed utterly. He was often discouraged and thought of moving away, but managed to stick to his farm, and gradually improved it, and is now glad he stayed. He owns a valuable tract of land located in section 36, township 33, range 48, having under his control nearly the whole section. He is engaged mostly in stock raising, and the fact of his being on Big Bordeaux creek makes it an ideal stock ranch, furnishing plenty of good running water for his stock and irrigation purposes.

In political views he is an independent voter, and bound by no party lines.

## WILLIS RECORD.

Willis Record, residing on section 12, township 12, range 36, is one of the well-known old-timers of Keith county. He settled in the region during the pioneer days, and has gone through all the "old" Nebraska times, remaining to share in the success which has come to those who worked hard and faithfully to bring about this end.

Mr. Record was born in Morgan county, Indiana, in 1836. His father was a native of Kentucky, a farmer by occupation, and he married Margaret Reynolds, they living in Indiana

for many years, and our subject was reared in that state. When he was twenty-six years of age he enlisted in the army, as a private in Company H, Seventieth Indiana Regiment, under Colonel Benjamin Harrison. On August 15, 1862, he took part in the skirmish at Bowling Green, Kentucky, later was in the Army of the Cumberland, in the Atlanta campaign. While he was on the latter expedition he was stricken with fever and afterward was sent to Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga. He was promoted from private to second lieutenant, but resigned from the post.

After he returned from the war, in 1865, he followed farming in Indiana, and was elected sheriff of Morgan county, serving for two terms, and later was elected county clerk, acting in that capacity for one term. In 1877 he went to Iowa, settling in Dallas county, and there farmed for five years, next moved to Calhoun county and remained up to 1886, when he came to Nebraska, locating in Keith county. He filed on a homestead south of Paxton, put up a house and other buildings and opened a farm. He experienced hard times during the first few years, while the drouths were general throughout that region and it was almost impossible to raise a crop. Mr. Record did contract work, putting in irrigation ditches in different parts of the neighboring counties. In this way he was able to improve his place, and gradually built it up in good shape, getting into the stock business on a large scale, and has done exceedingly well of late years. He has a valuable ranch, supplied with every improvement, good buildings, and plenty of good wells, etc., and he is recognized as one of the progressive and prosperous farmers and stock men of his locality.

Mr. Record married Melitta Williams, of Morgan county, Indiana, in 1858. She was a daughter of John Williams, a prominent farmer of that region. Her mother was Elizabeth Pruitt. Mrs. Melitta Record died May 25, 1903. Our subject has one daughter and one son, Laura and Charles Lincoln, the latter in partnership with his father on the farm and ranch. He was born in Indiana in 1860, spending his boyhood in Indiana and Iowa, coming to Nebraska in 1888. He also took a homestead and proved up on it, father and son combining the two places, and have made a fine ranch out of the two properties. Charles Record married Miss Lillie Everett in Iowa, in 1883. Mrs. Record is a daughter of William Everett, of Perry, Iowa, a veteran of the Civil war, who served in the Twenty-sixth Indiana Infantry. Six daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Record, namely: Edna Fern, Mary M., Harriet L., Athel Annie, Lucile and Pearl.

## NEWTON T. WHITE.

Newton T. White, who occupies a foremost place among the intelligent and prosperous farmers of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, has a fine farm and home in Custer precinct. He has devoted all his life to farming, secured a thorough knowledge of the business, and has prospered in a marked degree by good management and industry.

Mr. White is a native of Tennessee, born on a farm near Athens, February 12, 1858. His father, Daniel White, followed farming all his life. He was a soldier in his Confederate army, and married Miss Susan Pace, whose people were among the first in eastern Tennessee. Both parents died in Arkansas when our subject was three years of age, the father at Little Rock, while in the army, the mother prior to the beginning of the war. Newton was reared by an aunt until eight years of age and with her he went to Louisville, Kentucky, about 1862, and to Washington county, Indiana, about three years later. After reaching a mature age he followed farming as an occupation, opening up a farm for himself in Washington county, in 1876, where he lived up to 1884. At that time he came to Keya Paha county, settling on a homestead on section 29, township 33, range 20. He sold this after a short time, purchasing three hundred and twenty acres on Burton creek and occupied this until it was lost during the dry years. Moving to Cherry county in 1896, he conducted a hotel and livery stable for three years and then returning to Keya Paha county purchased his present farm which consists of three hundred and twenty acres, with three hundred and sixty acres under lease, of which about one hundred and twenty-five acres are under cultivation. The father and one son are engaged in raising Shorthorn cattle, having a herd of twenty-five, all registered. They also keep over thirty horses and a large number of hogs. Beside his farming interests Mr. White owns property in Springview, and moves in town during the winter to give his children the benefit of the city schools.

Mr. White was married at Plattsburg, while still living in Indiana, September 17, 1877, to Miss Ophelia Hatbaugh, daughter of Robert and Mary (Jackson) Hatbaugh, of German-American stock. Four children have been born to them, named as follows: Carl M., Jesse L., Bruce H. and Edwin D., all living on or near the old homestead.

Our subject is a strong Republican and a firm believer in party principles, but he has never taken an active interest in politics, his whole time being given up to the management of

his farm. He is a member of the Methodist church and the Knights of Pythias, of Springview.

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#### NELS LARSON.

Nels Larson, one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of western Nebraska, is a man of untiring energy and good business management, residing on section 24, township 13, range 53, Chambers precinct, Cheyenne county, where he occupies a high position as a leading citizen.

Mr. Larson was born in Denmark, July 26, 1863. He grew to the age of nineteen years in his native land, following farming as an occupation most of the time and then came to the United States, sailing April 12th from Copenhagen to New York on the Tingvallia. He came direct to Blair, Nebraska (whither a brother had preceded him), arriving in that vicinity May 5, 1882. He resided in Holt county three years and two years in Washington county, engaged in farm labor, then came to Cheyenne county, arriving here in March and making homestead entry the same month. For about seven years he was out of the county following railroad shop work, for three years at Missouri Valley, on what is now the Northwestern line; two years in Cheyenne, and an equal time on ranches near Blair. In the fall of 1904 he filed on a Kincaid homestead, and now has four hundred and eighty acres, all well improved, and is one of the well-to-do residents of the county. The place is fitted with good buildings and he farms fifty acres, using the balance as a stock ranch, running quite a herd of cattle and a small bunch of horses.

Mr. Larson was married May 10, 1907, in Union precinct, Kimball county, Nebraska, to Miss Carrie Nelson, a native of Denmark, whose parents are both dead.

Politically Mr. Larson is a Democrat, and while he has always taken a commendable interest in local affairs, has never sought office other than school service, acting at present as moderator of school district No. 17. His post-office is Potter. He votes independently of party lines and is a member of the Lutheran church.

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#### SWAN FRISKOPP.

Swan Friskopp, who is well known in Deuel county as a progressive agriculturist, where his character and ability command respect and retain confidence, was born on a farm in Sweden, and grew up there.

Mr. Friskopp is the youngest member of his father's family of three children, and has one

brother still living in Sweden, while his only sister lives in Dawson county, Nebraska. Both father and mother spent their entire lives in that country, dying there several years past. He left home in 1882, striking out at once for America, taking passage on an emigrant steamer. His first location was at Kearney, Nebraska, where he spent several years, and then came on to Deuel county, landing here in 1887. He had been through the country in 1884 and taken a homestead on section 20, township 13, range 43, and has now made permanent settlement on the land. He put up a rough shanty and other buildings, and kept "batchelor's hall" for a number of years, going through many hardships and discouragements in the failure of crops, etc. He had little capital, and was obliged to work out part of the time in order to lay by a little money with which to put improvements on his farm, and has seen every phase of the early Nebraska times.

Mr. Friskopp now owns six hundred and forty acres, farming about one hundred and forty of this, and the balance is used for pasture and hay land for his stock, of which he has eighty head of cattle and sixty horses. His place is well improved with a complete set of good buildings, fences, well and windmill, etc., and every appointment evidences thrift and painstaking care in its operation.

On August 30, 1895, Mr. Friskopp was married to Miss Annie Leef, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Mrs. Friskopp was born and raised in Knox county, Illinois, and is a most charming and intelligent lady, the mother of five children, named as follows: Laura S., Alice G., Anna Irene, Velma, Viola and Royal J., all at home, and forming an interesting family group. Mr. Friskopp has always taken an active interest in school affairs, and has served his township in various capacities as a public officer. In politics he is a Republican.

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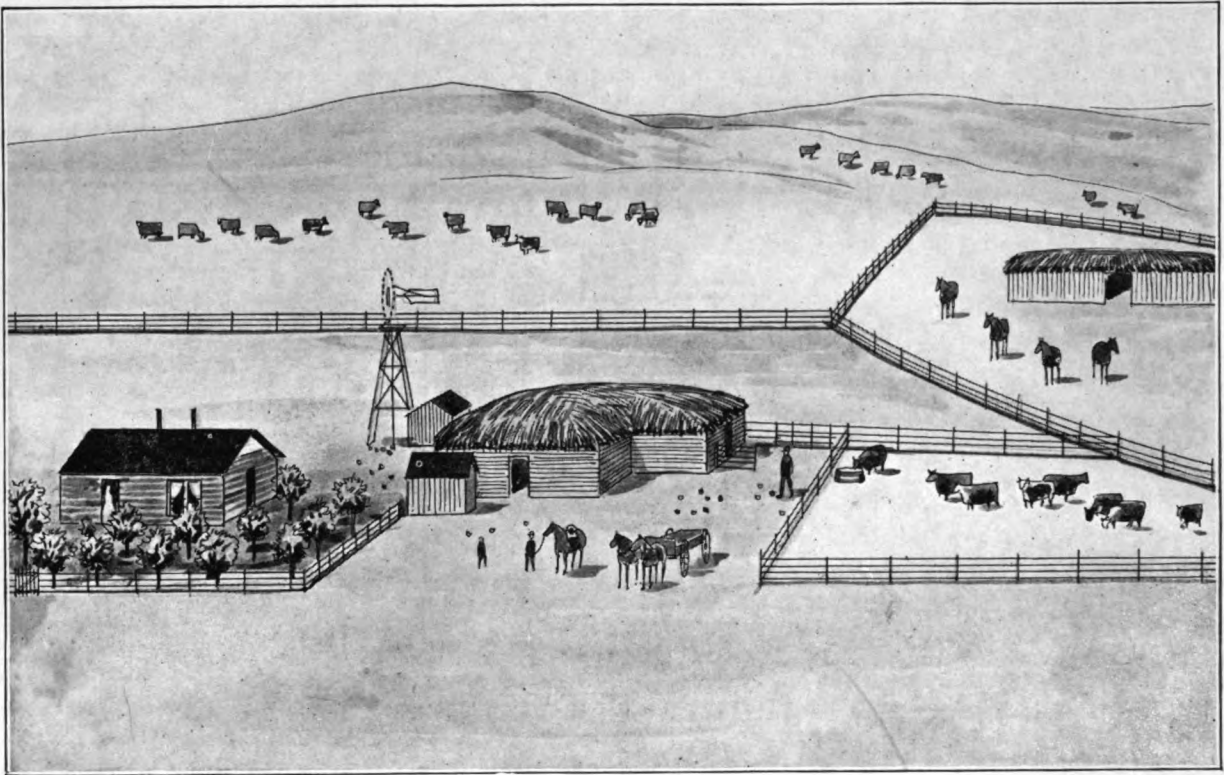
#### WILSON J. TEETERS.

Among the prominent ranchmen of Cherry county, Nebraska, the gentleman above named deserves a foremost place. Mr. Teeters is the owner of a valuable estate situated in section 10, township 29, range 34, and has made his home near here for the past ten years.

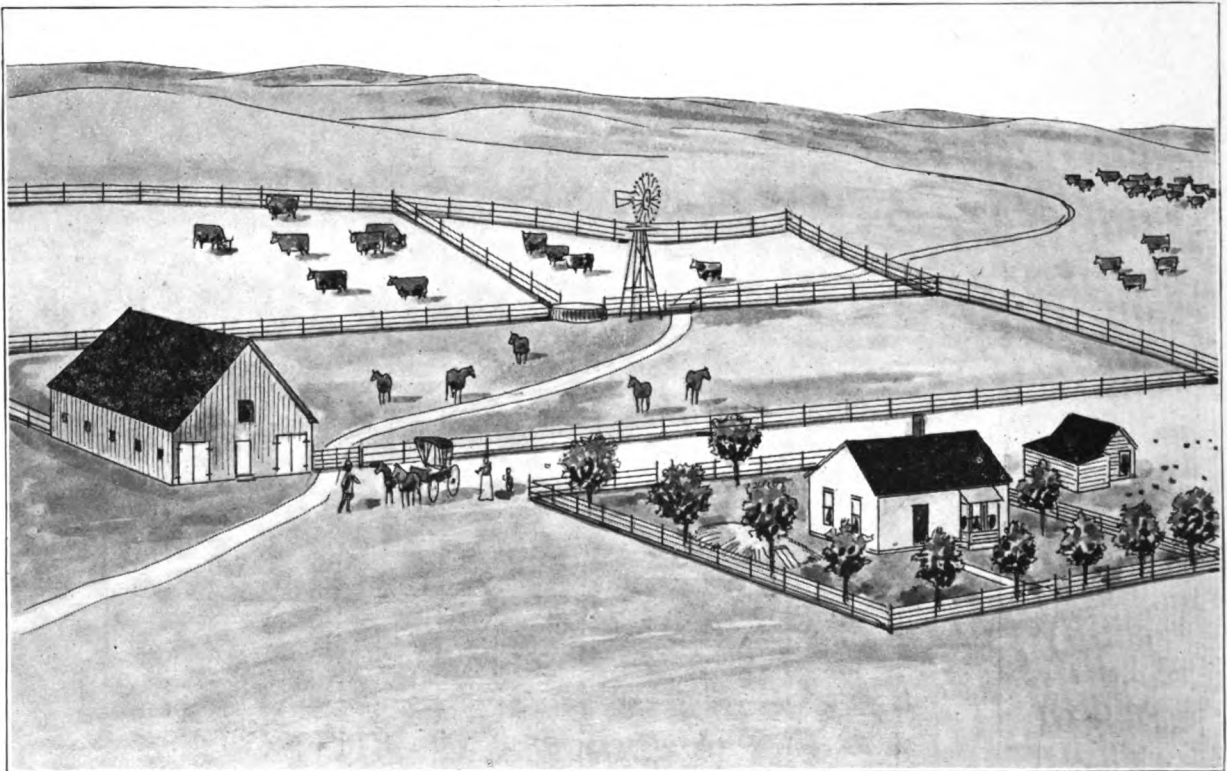
Mr. Teeters was born in Steuben county, Indiana, November 26, 1875, a twin brother of Willis J. Teeters, whose biography is to be found elsewhere in this work. His father, John Teeters, was a farmer and old settler in the eastern part of this state, arriving in Burt county about 1879. The mother's maiden name was Mary Russell, who died in Nebraska March







RESIDENCE OF WILSON J. TEETERS.  
Cherry County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIS J. TEETERS,  
Cherry County, Nebraska.

13, 1888, at the age of forty-six. One of a family of seven children, Mr. Teeters was reared in Nebraska. He attended the country schools, and during his spare time assisted his father and brothers in the work of carrying on their farm. During our subject's young manhood he and his brothers worked in partnership in Burt county, engaged in farming and they are still to some extent interested in cattle in common and are to some extent individual owners. In 1898 he came to Cherry county and settled on a homestead in section 2, later on section 10, township 29, range 34, where he now resides. He put up a sod shanty for his home, and lived in this for some time. His first farm contained eighty acres, and he soon took up an additional eighty, also another piece in section 2, township 10, range 11. He farmed part of this land and engaged in stock raising to some extent, meeting with good success in whatever he undertook. In 1904 he took four hundred and eighty acres of Kincaid homestead land, and he now owns a ranch of fourteen hundred and forty acres, all good land, and with his father and brothers is interested in over fifty-two hundred acres. He has a good set of farm buildings on his place, good wells and windmills, and all fenced. He is now devoting his entire attention to stock raising, and runs a herd of a hundred head of cattle and about thirty horses.

Mr. Teeters and his brothers, Jefferson D. and Willis J., of whom sketches appear in this work, have invented and secured a patent on a rotary cycle mower which gives promise of being a very successful invention. This is constructed so that each section runs on a chain belt, thus doing away with any reciprocal motion, which is the principle on which ordinary mowers run.

In 1900 Mr. Teeters was married to Miss Katie Herron, daughter of Lewis and Ellen E. (Morrain) Herron, the latter having died when Mrs. Teeters was a little girl about three years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Teeters have a family of three children, who are named as follows: Wilson J., Jr., born January 19, 1901; Benton Ray, born December 3, 1902, and Myrtle Adelia, born October 10, 1904.

The family is highly esteemed throughout the community in which they reside, and enjoy the friendship of a host of neighbors. A view of the family residence is one of the interesting illustrations in this work.

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#### WILLIS J. TEETERS.

Willis J. Teeters, a prominent ranchman of Cherry county, Nebraska, resides on his valu-

able estate, section 2, township 29, range 34, where he has a pleasant and comfortable home. Mr. Teeters is considered among the early settlers in this region, and is one of those who have contributed largely of their time and influence in building up the locality in which they chose their home.

Mr. Teeters is a native of Steuben county, Indiana, born November 26, 1875, and is a twin brother to Wilson J. Teeters, whose sketch appears on another page in this volume. He came to Cherry county when a young man of about twenty, and located on the homestead on which he now resides, and at once went to work building up his farm and home. He has a finely improved ranch of seven hundred and twenty acres, well stocked, and has been most successful in accumulating a nice property in the comparatively short time he has lived here. In common with his brother he runs about four hundred cattle and eighty head of horses. A view of the residence and surroundings will be found on another page in this work.

Mr. Teeters was married October 26, 1904, to Miss Blanche Miller, daughter of Gregory Miller, a farmer living at Clearwater, Antelope county. Mr. and Mrs. Teeters have two children: Ethel Mary, born November 23, 1905, and Norval, born August 14, 1907.

Mr. Teeters is a man of superior intelligence and marked business ability, supplemented by industrious habits and a level head. He is of an inventive turn of mind, being associated with his brothers in the perfecting of a rotary cycle mower, which they expect to put upon the market.

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#### LOUIS H. DEAVER.

As an industrious farmer and honest and worthy citizen, the gentleman herein named is known throughout Cherry county. He is the owner of a well improved property in section 4, township 31, range 34, and well deserves the success which he has acquired through many years of hard work and perseverance.

Mr. Deaver was born in Madison county, Nebraska, February 12, 1873. His father, Henry Deaver, was an American, a farmer by occupation, and served in an Indiana regiment during the Civil war. In a family of eleven children our subject was the fifth member, and at the age of thirteen started out to make his own way in the world, obtaining employment on farms in this state, where all his life has been spent. When he was twenty-four he started in farming for himself in Stanton county and remained there for two years, and then he made

his home in Antelope county for four years from whence he came to Cherry county. Here he took up a homestead in section 4, township 31, range 34. Since then he has taken up additional land amounting to four hundred and eighty acres, also three hundred and sixty acres of section 32, township 32, range 34, this being a part of the Heyne ranch, of which he was foreman for a number of years. The owners of the Heyne ranch, which is now reduced to four hundred and eighty acres, located here in 1898, and have run the place since that time. Mr. Deaver has good buildings and improvements on his home farm, and has also quite an orchard of fruit trees set out and growing well. He has prospered from the first, and is one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers and ranchmen of the county.

In 1897 Mr. Deaver was married to Miss Louisa Cleveland, a native of Ohio, but reared in Wisconsin. They have one child, Phyllis Joy.

Although Mr. Deaver takes a commendable interest in politics he has never had the time to devote to active participation in the game, and has never held any office. He is a Republican in sentiment; in fraternal relations he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Cody.

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#### E. S. BYFIELD.

E. S. Byfield, editor and proprietor of the Indianola Reporter, which is recognized as one of the most reliable news mediums of this locality, is foremost among the younger business men of the thriving town of Indianola, Nebraska.

Mr. Byfield was born in Pueblo, Colorado, and is a son of William Byfield, of McCook, who is the owner of a large ranch and elevator at Redwillow, besides one hundred and sixty acres of fine land on which he has built a beautiful residence, adjoining the town of McCook. He is also a heavy feeder, running from six to seven head of cattle every year. He is a large grower of grain, but in 1906 his crop consisted of one hundred acres of sugar beets, yielding fourteen tons to the acre, four thousand bushels of corn, and three thousand bushels of wheat. He feeds about five hundred hogs and four thousand lambs annually. His beet crop realized forty-six dollars per acre last year, and showed him a nice profit. He pays twenty-one dollars per acre for labor, seed, etc., and had the beet tops to feed his stock, which make the best kind of fodder for them. He states that this crop never has failed him, even during the dryest seasons. He does not use the land for the same crop every year, but raises corn and beets alternately on

the ground, and in this way obtains better results. He also has one hundred and twenty acres of fine alfalfa which yields him a splendid crop. He has farmed in Kansas and in his native land, Ontario, Canada, and from this wide experience is satisfied that the Republican valley is the best place for breeding and raising stock, also feeding, that he has ever seen. He was one of the first settlers of Redwillow county, coming here in 1872. Later he moved to Colorado, coming back to Redwillow county in 1885 with his family, of whom our subject is the eldest member. He first located at the junction of the Republican river and Redwillow creek. With him were J. F. Black and John Lonecker, who settled near his homestead, and both of these gentlemen still live in this county.

Our subject received his early education in the public schools of McCook, attending these until he reached the eleventh grade, and then entered Franklin Academy, from which he was graduated in 1904, and during the time he attended this academy he was also employed in the Free Press office at Franklin, gaining much practical knowledge from his connection with this paper. He spent one and a half years with the Danbury News, a leading newspaper issued at Danbury, Nebraska. Two years ago he purchased the Indianola Reporter, and in this short time has built the paper up and made it one of the best papers Indianola has had for years. He is an earnest advocate for the advancement of the best interests of his locality, and takes a foremost part in all public matters of the times. He is a young man of sterling qualities, and promises to become one of the prominent members of his chosen profession.

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#### ERIK RASMUSSEN.

Erik Rasmussen, a prosperous farmer of township 26, range 48, Box Butte county, has made his way to success by perseverance and diligence, supplemented by honest dealings. He is a man of wide experience, his career has been a busy one and he still has apparently many years left to enjoy the prosperity which he has attained since locating in this section of the country.

Mr. Rasmussen was born near Bergen, in the Province of Nordfjord, Norway, his birthplace being near the seacoast, where his parents owned a farm, the father spending his entire life in that vicinity. The mother still owns an interest in this homestead in the old country. Our subject grew up there, and at the age of seventeen years left home and started out for himself, following the life of a sailor for about seven-

teen years, working on ships that took him all over the world. He visited nearly all foreign countries, including the East Indies, Australia and South America. After a trip to New Zealand in 1881 he returned to Norway and remained at home for about two years, then took passage on an emigrant steamer for America, arriving in New York in the spring of 1886. He struck out across the country for the west, and landed in Albion, Nebraska, on July 7th, of the last mentioned year, spent one week there, then went to Hay Springs, and soon afterward located in Box Butte county. At that time Hemingford boasted of only two stores, one of which was a hardware store which was conducted in a sod shanty. He filed on a homestead in section 8, township 26, range 48, and for a time worked on the railroad, doing grade work. He began to improve his claim, putting up a sod house, and "batched it" for nine years, gradually developing a good farm and cultivating his ground with a team of mules. The drouth seasons came on and he suffered the loss of nearly all his crops. His first good crop was in the year 1888, when he had a good yield of sod corn, and the following year was also a good one. The year of 1890 was a complete failure and he was compelled to go out by the day to earn money to make a living. He met with many hardships and discouragements, but stuck to his farm, proving up on it, and in 1893 returned to Norway to look after some business affairs which arose on account of the death of a brother there. After being absent a few months he came back, continued to improve his place and bought more land, and is now the owner of a ranch of six hundred and forty acres, cultivating one hundred and forty-five acres of this, and using the balance as a cattle ranch. He raises quite a good many horses, also cattle each year for the markets. Mr. Rasmussen has a fine estate, well supplied with good buildings, having a nice story and a half house, large barns, and other necessary outbuildings.

Mr. Rasmussen was married in Iowa in 1895, to Miss Julia Lewison, who was born in Norway, coming to this country with her parents when a young girl, the family settling as pioneers in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen have been the parents of five children, who are named as follows: Elida, Hilda, Simon, Marion and Samuel Lewis, the last named dying at the age of twenty-one months.

Our subject has always lent his best efforts to the building up and improving of conditions in his locality, helping to establish the schools, and taking an active interest in all local school and political matters. He is a Republican in politics.

## DAVID H. SHULTZ.

David H. Shultz, a gentleman of superior education and splendid characteristics, is widely known and highly respected alike for his genuine worth of mind and heart, his upright business methods, honesty, and his friendly and courteous spirit. He resides in Potter, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the real estate business.

Mr. Shultz was born in Marklesburg, Pennsylvania, on March 9, 1843, and lived in his native state for thirty-three years. He was educated at Juniata University, and after coming out of college spent a number of years engaged in educational work at the Juniata Theological Seminary. He went to Lena, Illinois, in 1876, and served as pastor of a Lutheran church there for two years; from there he was transferred to Lanark, Illinois, following the same work for an equal length of time. He was then called to Rising City, Nebraska, and there organized the first Lutheran church, also at Surprise, and also the Bethel church in York county. He afterward organized a church at David City, and served as pastor for one year, then removed to Potter, where he again organized a church and became pastor. He was a faithful worker and was greatly beloved by his parishioners, but on account of failing eyesight was compelled to give up the work. Mr. Shultz is distinctly an organizer, building up the waste and desolate places. He has shown great strength in drawing together weak congregations and making them self-sustaining. After retiring from the ministry he engaged in ranching in 1894, taking up a homestead in section 32, township 16, range 53, which he has since sold. He later purchased a section of table land and a hay ranch on Pumpkin Seed creek, containing in all ten hundred and forty acres, which is devoted to ranching interests, and while he resides in Potter and carries on an extensive real estate business, he also personally supervises his ranch. Mr. Shultz takes an active interest in the welfare of the county and state, and is particularly interested in its progress along educational and religious lines, having been a prominent educator nearly all his life. When an effort was made by another denomination to purchase the Lutheran church at Potter, during the dry period in the early nineties when the congregation was scattered, Mr. Shultz influenced the synod to send out an energetic and active minister, and together they rejuvenated the organization and they now have a strong and growing congregation.

Mr. Shultz has been married twice, his first wife dying in Potter, March 24, 1907, leaving no children. She was a lady of most estimable

character and charming personality, and her death was sincerely deplored by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Shultz is a Republican in political views, and lends his influence for good government.

### GEORGE HAAS.

Constant industry, careful management and unswerving honesty are the secret of the noblest success possible on American soil. He who can work hard, plan and manage well, and stand "four-square to all the winds that blow," may be rich or poor, but he will be honored and respected by all who know him. Such a man is George Haas, who has borne his full share in the making of western Nebraska, and well merits an honored place among its pioneer and early settlers. Mr. Haas was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, August 4, 1847. His father, George Haas, Sr., came to American shores with part of his family about 1853, settling in Ohio on a farm, our subject following his father to this country in 1862, sailing from Hamburg in May and after a stormy passage of fifty-three days, landed in New York. Up to 1878 he made Ross county, Ohio, his home, having there a farm of forty-four acres, with a comfortable little house.

He came to Nebraska in 1878 and settled on a farm near Johnstown and remained there for five years, then bought his present homestead in section 9, township 30, range 23, where he has lived continuously since. He has seen hard times since coming here, going through the dry years when he lost two crops entirely and experienced all the discouragements of those years. He has now built up a good home and farm, owning one hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and fifteen acres of which is in a high state of cultivation, and all improved with good buildings including comfortable house, large barns, granary and other farm buildings, with his land all fenced and fitted with an ample supply of modern farm machinery. He devotes all his time to the building up of his place and well deserves the success he has attained. There is a grove of over a thousand trees on his place, affording shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter.

Mr. Haas was married in 1870 while living in Ohio to Miss Phoebe Lamenshimer, a native of the state of Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. Haas have been born the following children: Effie, Lizzie, Fred, Kate, John, Okey, William, Charles, Albert and Minnie. The family are highly esteemed in the community in which they reside, and are popular members of society.

Politically, Mr. Haas votes with the Democratic party.

### HENRY E. GOODALL.

Henry E. Goodall was born in London, England, September, 1849. His father, Thomas Goodall, was an importer of olive oil and remained in this business all his life. His mother, Ann Aldrich, was a descendant of Henry Aldrich, who was dean of Christ Church College, Oxford, England, in 1636. A great many of her people were college professors and clergymen. Our subject was reared and educated at a private school in Leeds, England, and after leaving this school he studied law with two different law firms. He also worked in the John Fowler Company steam plow works.

In 1872 he left Liverpool for America, embarking on the 26th day of March and coming direct to Nebraska. Our subject and his partner told the trainmen that they wanted to go as far as the train would take them. The last rail was then laid to Harvard, Clay county, and here he filed on a homestead on section 14, township 7, range 7. He has built up a home, improved it and proved up on the claim which was his home for ten years. Part of this time our subject drove an ox team, which was the first team he had ever learned to handle. The first building on his claim was a sod house, in which he lived for many years, and while living here he witnessed the grasshopper raids. After losing three crops by hail our subject leased his farm and moved to Clay Center, where he lived for some time. He was deputy clerk for one year, and deputy clerk of the district court.

He was married in 1885 to Miss Carrie A. Boyd, only daughter of Robert W. Boyd, an attorney at Eddyville, Iowa. In November, 1887, he moved to the town of Grant in Perkins county, where he opened the first abstract office in the county, and went into the real estate business. In May, 1889, he was admitted to the bar before Judge A. H. Church, and has practiced law continuously ever since. He was elected county attorney in Perkins county and has served as county attorney in both Perkins and Keith counties.

Feeling the need of a change, our subject bought a ranch in Keith county, where he has resided for several years. This ranch is located at Korty, between Ogallala and Paxton, in the South Platte river valley. He has all improvements on this ranch, good buildings and fences. Here he does considerable farming, having one hundred and forty acres under cultivation. The ranch comprises one thousand nine hundred and fifty acres, on which are growing numerous

shade and fruit trees. He also has property in Ogallala, which town our subject calls his home. He moved from Grant to Ogallala in 1897, engaging in the practice of law. Here his wife, who is a woman of remarkable literary attainments, became owner, editor and publisher of the Republican Argus, a weekly paper published in the town of Ogallala. Our subject has taken an active part in the affairs of his community for over thirty-six years and has watched the growth and advancement of the region in which he has resided and is regarded as one of the most progressive of the old settlers of the state. He has taken an active part in the development of the county and state in which he lives, and is a leader in all matters of public interest.

Our subject is an Episcopal churchman, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the State Bar Association. He has one son, Robert Aldrich Goodall, who was born October 8, 1891. Mr. Goodall is widely known throughout the state and is one of the most popular men in the state, where he is honored for his honesty of purpose and other sterling traits of character. He is a Republican in his political affiliations and has held many offices, the duties of which he has executed with great satisfaction to the people.

#### PHILIP CONARD.

Among those who have settled more recently in Garfield county, but nevertheless, during his short residence here, accumulated a nice property through his industrious habits and strict attention to duty, is the gentleman whose name heads this review. Mr. Conard owns a well developed farm in section 11, township 22, range 15, and is well known and highly respected in the community.

Philip Conard was born in Lee county, Illinois, in 1863. He is of German descent, his parents being natives of Pennsylvania, both dying when our subject was a small boy. He grew up in Iowa and Nebraska. In 1888 Mr. Conard came to Nebraska and settled in Rock county, where he took up a pre-emption of one hundred and sixty acres, remaining there up to 1892, then moved to Garfield county. Here he bought one hundred and sixty acres, also took three hundred and twenty acres under the Kincaid act, and now owns a valuable piece of property, engaging principally in the culture of small grains, and since locating here he has never had a crop failure and has made money. Mr. Conard much prefers this country to any in the east for the poor man, and says there is no excuse for a man not getting along who is willing to work and exercise good judgment in

his line of business, and especially if he follows farming. His farm is well improved with good buildings, commodious barns and other farm necessities. He is a thoroughly practical farmer, employing modern methods in all his operations, and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Conard has never married. Politically he is a Republican, but has never aspired to office.

#### JOHN E. HUNT.

John E. Hunt, who although comparatively a newcomer in Morrill county, has been a resident of Nebraska for many years past, is owner of a valuable property in Bayard precinct. Mr. Hunt is a native of Knox county, Ohio, born June 9, 1848, a son of George W. and Elizabeth R. (Eirp) Hunt, natives of Ohio and the District of Columbia respectively.

About 1855 the family, consisting of five sons and three daughters, moved to Fayette county, Illinois, where they lived for about six years, the father engaged in farming. From there they moved to Christian county and remained in Illinois near Pana until 1875, when our subject left home and emigrated to Nebraska, his first location being Fillmore county. Remaining there for about fourteen years, he moved to Box Butte county, where he took up some land and farmed for nine years, improving a good place.

Mr. Hunt finally settled in Morrill, formerly Cheyenne, county, in 1898, purchasing a home in section 36, township 21, range 52, and afterwards acquired sufficient additional land to make a ranch of two hundred and forty acres, of which two hundred and twenty acres are irrigable. Here he has made a success in building up a good home and is fast becoming one of the wealthy men of his locality. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods, industrious and thrifty and enjoys the esteem and respect of all who know him. Vigorous of mind and body, his epigrammatic expressions, short and crisp, are of never failing interest to his listeners. Quite a portion of his farm is devoted to grain raising and he also has plenty of hay land, with thirty-five acres of alfalfa. Besides his farming he raises considerable stock, having at present about one hundred and fifty head, including cattle, horses and hogs. He has improved his estate by erecting a good residence, large barns and other buildings and has a fine grove of tall trees surrounding the home buildings, with a thrifty orchard of a variety of fruit trees in bearing. A view of the dwelling in its fine grove and surrounding buildings is to be found on another page.



Mr. Hunt was married in 1872 to Miss Catherine Secrest. To them were born three children, Eva M., Lily M. and George H., but the wife and mother died in 1880. On December 27, 1886, our subject was married the second time to Miss Lily M. Gilmore, the first white child born in York county, Nebraska, where her parents were pioneers. The father, Jacob Rush Gilmore was a direct descendant of Benjamin Rush, of Revolutionary fame. He enlisted in the ninety-day service of the Union army in April, 1861, in Company D, Twentieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Pontiac, Illinois. Re-enlisted June 1, 1861, for three years, at Joliet, Illinois, and again April 9, 1865, at Black Run, Mississippi. He was discharged because of disabilities at Goldsboro, North Carolina. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and was one of the few who escaped alive from the awful explosion at "the crater" at Fort Hill.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hunt have been born the following children: Susa Bell, now the wife of Arthur Jones, they living in Moorfield, Nebraska; John E., Jr., Omar T. (deceased), Col E. and Nellie Hattie, all at home.

Both of Mr. Hunt's parents are dead, while Mrs. Hunt's father resides in California.

Mr. Hunt is a staunch Democrat in politics and his opponents know he is not a passive one. When he goes into a campaign the opposing side knows it has a fight to the finish on hand. Together with his wife he is a member of the Methodist church and the Loyal Mystic Legion.

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#### JOHN E. SANDERS.

John E. Sanders, widely known as a gentleman of enterprise and ability, is a prosperous farmer and ranchman of Davison precinct. He has followed farming since his boyhood, has a thorough knowledge of the same, and has met with marked success in his endeavors. He is one of the prominent old settlers of Cheyenne county, having lived there for the past twenty years, and since his residence there has done his full share toward the development of the resources of the county where he chose his home in the early days.

Mr. Sanders was born in Erie county, New York, August 19, 1853, and three years later, after the death of the father, the mother took her little family and emigrated to the state of Iowa, locating in Washington county, where John was reared and educated, receiving a good training; he followed farm work during his boyhood, remaining in Iowa up to 1883. After a year in Lancaster county, Nebraska, he returned to Iowa, where he remained five years. In 1889

he again turned westward, arriving in Sidney April 19. In the fall of that year he filed on a homestead in section 8, township 16, range 51. He proved up on the land and later took an additional Kincaid homestead of four hundred and eighty acres in section 6, which is now the home ranch. His first buildings were constructed of sod, and his start necessarily slow, owing to his limited means, but as he became able to raise good crops, he constantly improved his land with good buildings, and worked into the stock business until he is now one of the successful and well-to-do men of his community. At present he farms about two hundred acres, and runs from fifty to sixty head of cattle and sixty horses and mules. He is proprietor of six hundred and forty acres, all good farm and ranch land, with a good water supply, and every necessary piece of farm machinery. The dwelling was reconstructed in the spring of 1909, making a commodious country home. A view of the premises is shown on another page.

Mr. Sanders was married when he reached his twenty-first year, to Miss Elizabeth Pfeiffer, a native of Iowa, the event taking place in Brighton, Washington county, Iowa, on July 23, 1874. Twelve children were born to them, who are named as follows: Emmons H., married and living on section 12, west of his father's ranch; Edward C., owner of a good homestead on section 18; Frederick and John E., both deceased; Augustus R., who suffered an injury to his foot by a gunshot wound some years ago, is at home; Julia A., wife of George Moore, residing in Sidney; Myra A., married to Dan Aldrich, also living in Sidney; Grover C., who died in 1888; Leslie V., married and living in Cheyenne county; Luthera May, who sustained a severe bodily injury from a snake bite when eight years of age; with Sadie E. and Ida E., are living at home. They form a most interesting family, and are upright, energetic young people, and a credit to their parents, all filling useful places in the world. Mr. Sanders' mother is now living in Iowa, our subject and a younger brother being her only children by her first marriage.

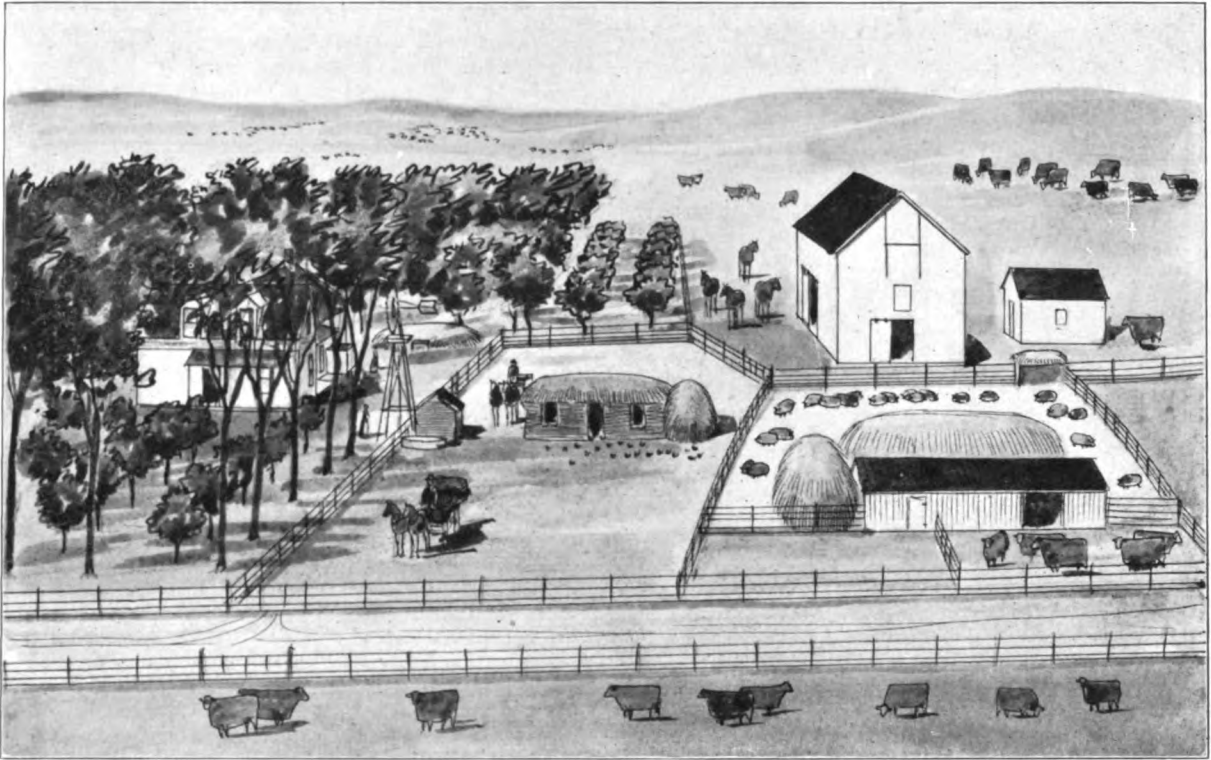
In political views Mr. Sanders adheres to the Democratic party, is a loyal supporter of his political faith and one of the prominent old-timers of the region in which he has spent so many years. Mrs. Sanders is a member of the Methodist church.

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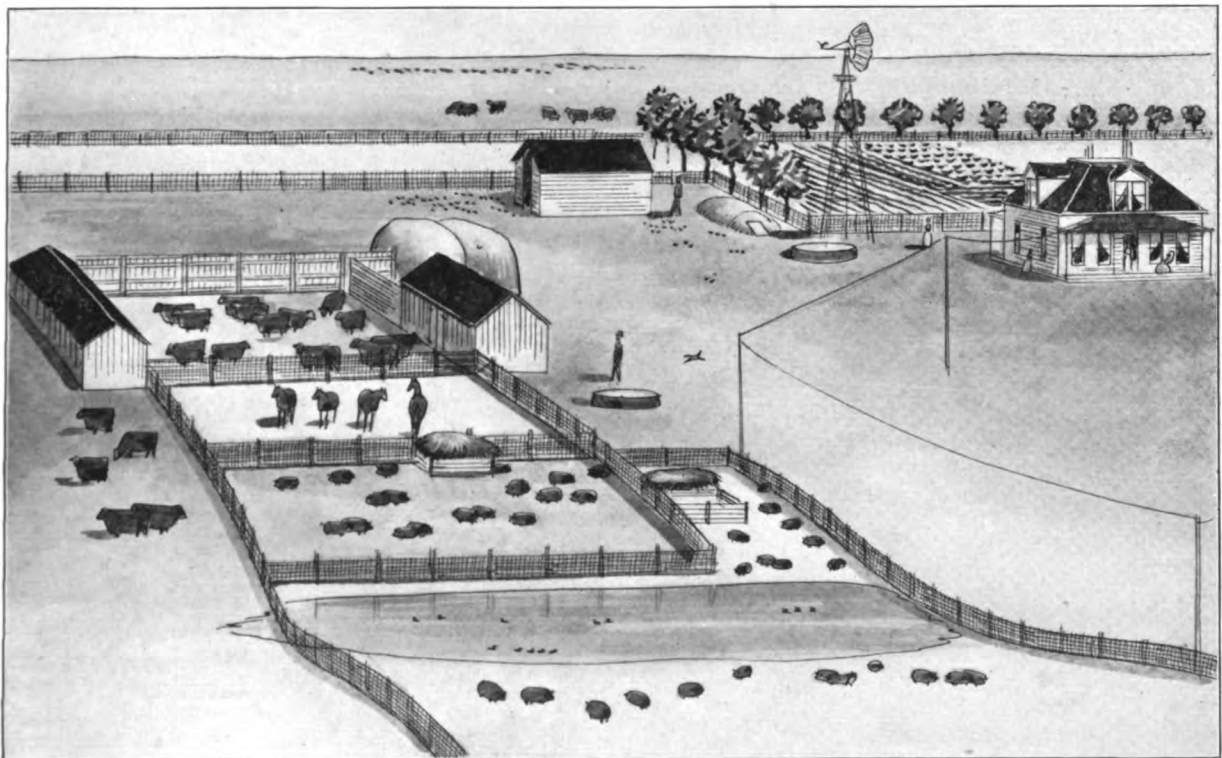
#### MARTIN ROCHFORD.

The gentleman whose name heads this review resides in section 13, township 24, range 43, Sheridan county, Nebraska. Mr. Rochford was born in Rochester, New York, in 1869, and





**RESIDENCE OF J. E. HUNT,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.**



**RESIDENCE OF JOHN E. SANDERS,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.**



was raised there of English stock, his father, Robert Rochford, being a miller by trade, both he and his wife having been born in England. When our subject was twelve years of age he left home and has made his own way ever since. At the age of sixteen years he was in business for himself, running a meat market in New York state, and followed that work up to 1887 when he came to Nebraska. Here he worked on ranches along the Platte river, a brother having located here before he came west. Soon after coming here he bought a bunch of horses and since that time has been engaged in the cattle and horse business, spending two years on the Platte river, then moving to the sand hills. In the fall of 1889 he went to Wyoming, but only stayed two years, returning then to the sand hills, remaining for three years, when he went to California looking for a new location, but found nothing to suit him there. He traveled all over the west, and in 1895 came back to Nebraska. He was engaged in the meat business in Hill City, South Dakota, for a time, but lost considerable money, and closed out his shop there.

Mr. Rochford has never used his homestead right here, but took a pre-emption and timber claim and rents these, but is unable to get a homestead with enough hay land to provide for his stock. He is now engaged in the horse business, has a hundred head around him, and is making a success of this line. He has always lived in this locality since coming to Nebraska, and although he has traveled a great deal through different cattle countries, considers that he can do better here than anywhere else. He has made considerable money at different times, but has spent a great deal in different enterprises, and when he needed more would return to this region and get a start again, but is now satisfied to remain permanently.

In 1898 Mr. Rochford was married to Miss Bridget Dunn, a native of Queens county, Ireland, whose parents never came to America. Mr. and Mrs. Rochford have four children, three of whom are now living, namely: Mary, Anna and Stella. The other child, Sarah, died at the age of six months. Mr. Rochford is serving as director in his school, but devotes most of his time to the building up of his home and ranch, taking no active part in politics, although he always votes the Republican ticket. His postoffice is Ellsworth, Nebraska.

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### JOHN R. LUCAS.

John R. Lucas, one of the prominent citizens of Cottonwood township, Phelps county, Nebraska, is an old settler in this locality and one

of the pioneers who came here when the country was practically a wilderness, and has watched the development and growth of the county since its organization.

Mr. Lucas was born in Illinois in 1861. His parents, Thomas and Minerva Lucas, were natives of Kentucky, and moved from that state to Illinois during the latter's pioneer days. The father, Thomas Lucas, died in the fall of 1907 at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

In the fall of 1879 his family came west to Nebraska and settled in Phelps county. Our subject first saw the county in 1878, his brother Manlius having come here as early as 1872, at which time there were only a few families in the county, and they went through all the privations and hardships which every pioneer experienced in those days. Buffalo, elk, deer and antelope roamed over the country in large numbers, and tribes of Indians still occupied the river banks and islands. The California trail passes through the lands now owned by our subject, along which for ages before Indians and probably the prehistoric races traveled to and fro from the valley of the Mississippi to the Rockies and beyond. Along this trail also went all who traveled to Denver, Pike's Peak, Salt Lake and California. During the height of the mad rush westward in the early days, as many as nineteen hundred wagons have passed this trail in one day, and many were the experiences of both settlers and travelers along the way. Mr. Lucas often finds relics of these days in cultivating his land, in the shape of iron tips which were used on oxen hoofs in traveling long distances, and also other curiosities, which vividly recall those primitive times. During the years when drouth caused the failure of all crops he was one of those who worked so hard to save at least a part of his products by irrigating, and people around his locality still tell of his endeavors along this line, and of the hard times they saw, when the daily wage paid to them each night was obliged to be used for keeping their families in bread.

Mr. Lucas' property now comprises about eight hundred acres of the finest river bottom land on the south side of the Platte, near Elm creek. He engages in both farming and stock raising, always keeping the best grades of animals, as he finds it much more profitable than those of scrub breeds. His farm is all fenced, and improved with fine substantial buildings, and all the modern machinery necessary for its operation. Besides this farm Mr. Lucas, together with his father and his brother, M. Lucas, is interested in about fourteen hundred acres of rich farming land in this same locality, which is used partly for farming and hay and pasture lands.

Mr. Lucas was married in 1887 to Miss Eliza Waller, of Kentucky, who died in the year 1892. They had one child, Francis.

Mr. Lucas is a Democrat politically. Since 1906 our subject and brother, M. Lucas, have bought three sections of land in Lincoln county. In the year 1908 our subject raised one thousand nine hundred bushels of wheat.

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### GEORGE K. COGDILL.

Prominent among the earliest settlers of Dawes county, Nebraska, a gentleman who has spent many years in building up a farm and home out of wild prairie land and solely through his own efforts and persistent labors become one of the prosperous citizens of the western part of his state, is George K. Cogdill, who resides in section 27, township 32, range 48. He was familiar with this section before there were any settlers in the region and no signs of towns or railroads, and has watched its development and growth from the very first, aiding very materially in its progress by his influence and help.

Mr. Cogdill was born in Gentry county, Missouri, in 1866. His father, Miles Cogdill, was a farmer and blacksmith, also a carpenter by trade, who settled in Missouri in the early days, and died there in 1872. Our subject grew up in that state, helping his mother in carrying on the home farm, and spent about five years in Stanberry, where he worked in different employments. When he was eighteen years of age he left home and came to Nebraska, being with a freighting outfit from Valentine, and in 1885 came out on another trip, and from here went to Wyoming, where he worked as a cowboy for six or seven years, and traveled all through that state, also Montana and northwestern Nebraska on horseback, camping out wherever he happened to be. He trailed three big bunches of cattle from Wyoming to Montana in 1889, and in 1891 trailed one bunch from Orange Junction to Red Water, Montana, for the H. S. outfit. In 1891 he went to Glendive, Montana, and from there to Chicago, paying a visit to his old home. Mr. Cogdill is a great lover of good horses and attributes his success to dealing in and training them; he has a fine lot of draft horses and roadsters on hand all the time. In the spring of 1891 he had filed on a homestead in section 27, township 32, range 48, and the following year took possession of it and started in to improve the place, which was nothing but a wilderness. His house is built of some of the first lumber ever cut on Big Bordeaux creek. His ranch consists of one thousand two hundred and

eighty acres, located near the head of Big Bordeaux creek, and it has plenty of good natural timber of all kinds, running water the year round for his stock and domestic use, and there are wild fruits of all kind on the farm. It is one of the best farming ranches in the section, and he has it well improved, and all this has been accumulated from a start of nothing, which speaks well for his ability and good management.

In 1891 Mr. Cogdill was married to Miss Eva Clark, daughter of William Clark, who was one of the pioneers of Dawes county. Her mother was Miss Louisa Conick. To Mr. and Mrs. Cogdill the following children have been born: Denver, Hazel, Edna, Dale and Raymond.

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### J. J. McCARTHY.

J. J. McCarthy was born in Cork county, Ireland, in the year 1860. His father, Charles M. McCarthy, was a native of Ireland and lived and died in that country. His mother, Margaret Murphy, was also a native of that country and still lives there. Mr. McCarthy came to America in 1880, coming first to Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained one year. From there he went to Pottawatomie county, Iowa, where he spent two years, leaving there for Keith county in 1884. He obtained employment with the Ogallala Land & Cattle Company when he first came to Keith county and continued with said company until they closed up their cattle business in Nebraska. When Cleveland ran for President in 1884, Mr. McCarthy carried the ballot box from White Tail precinct to Ogallala, enduring many hardships. At that time there was only one bridge across the North Platte river from North Platte to the Wyoming line, the tall bridge at Camp Clark. At that time he was obliged to swim the North Platte river through snow, slush and ice.

In 1888 he was married to Miss May H. Holway, daughter of David P. Holway, an early settler of Keith county, who is now at Spokane Washington. Her mother was Susan E. Stanly in her youth. Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy have four children: Margarett, Eleanor, Marie and Justina.

In 1888, shortly after his marriage, he settled on a homestead sixteen miles from Ogallala, close to Keystone postoffice. The first house they built was of sod and still stands on the place. It was the largest sod building in Keith county when built and in those days it was considered a palace. He first went into horse raising and was in that business to a great extent until 1893, when a prairie fire that devastated four-

teen western Nebraska counties, put him out of business. Mr. McCarthy has witnessed very hard times. During this great fire of 1893 he lost all his stock. At the present time he has a ranch of five thousand acres, but spends all his time at stock business.

Mr. McCarthy is a Democrat in his political belief and practice. He was elected county treasurer in November, 1907. He was Democratic candidate for state senator in 1904 in the thirtieth senatorial district. He has also been on the Democratic state central committee and was chairman of the county committee for years. He is a consistent member of the Catholic church. He is a charter member of the Ogallala camp, No. 2228, Modern Woodmen of America, and holds membership in the North Platte council, No. 1211, Knights of Columbus.

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#### LEANDER L. HAMILTON.

The gentleman here named is widely known as one of the leading old settlers and influential citizens of Keya Paha county, Nebraska. He is extensively engaged in farming, his home being situated in Holt precinct, and he is a prosperous and progressive farmer.

Mr. Hamilton was born in Monroe county, Ohio, February 8, 1850. His father, James Hamilton, was of Irish-American stock, who was a farmer all his life; the mother, who was Elizabeth Long, bore a family of eight children, our subject being the youngest. When he was one year old his parents moved to Bureau county, Illinois, where he was reared and educated on a farm, and in the spring of 1866 the family went to Harrison county, Iowa, whence after eighteen months they moved to Pottawatomie county, where they lived several years. Leander remained at home and assisted his father in the farming for six years, then started a farm for himself in the vicinity of his home. He remained there until 1884, then came to Washington county, Nebraska, and lived there for four years, coming thence to Keya Paha county, where he took a homestead on section 25, township 34, range 21, and still lives on the same place. Here he went to work building up a farm and home, planted five acres of forest trees, besides six hundred apple trees which he set out in 1905. He now has one hundred trees in bearing, including apple and small fruits, and is proud of the fact that his is the best orchard in the county. During the first years he saw many hard pioneer experiences, as he had not much capital to start with, but worked hard and stuck to it through all the hardships and privations of the early days, and has been well repaid for his

perseverance and industry. He is proprietor of seven hundred and twenty acres of land, two hundred and fifty acres of which are under the plow, with the balance in hay and pasture. He keeps forty head of cattle, and raises each year fifty hogs, and has just enough horses to use in carrying on his farm work. He has one of the best farms in the county, and has never had an entire failure of crops any year.

Mr. Hamilton was married in 1877 to Miss Geneva Lewis, a native of Wisconsin, reared in Iowa and Texas, whose people were of English-Yankee descent. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton are the parents of four children, who are named as follows: Amelda, wife of Fred Whitney, of Carroll, Iowa; Lila M., who married Fred Cherington, of Norfolk; and Charles A., living near the old home.

Mr. Hamilton is a Republican, but has never had time to taking an active part in political affairs. He is a member of the Methodist church.

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#### JOHN BYERLEY.

John Byerley was born in the city of Davenport, Iowa, in 1862, and was the son of Jacob and Anna (Bracher) Byerley, both natives of Germany. The father came to America when he was seventeen years of age, and the mother when she was but a little girl. Mr. Byerley, Sr., was a carpenter by trade, but engaged to some extent in farming.

John Byerley was reared on the farm in Iowa, in Jones, Jackson and Clinton counties. He came west in January, 1884, and located his present homestead on section 26, township 21, range 20. When he came, the nearest railroad point was North Loup, about sixty miles distant, and the long trips for supplies were tedious and discouraging. Part of the way was through an extensive Bohemian settlement, and these people were unfriendly and inhospitable, and several times Mr. Byerley has had to go supperless to bed under his wagon because no one would provide him with a meal or bed. On his land he built a sod hut, ten by sixteen feet in dimensions, with a small half window for light, and a rude home-made door. He had very little money to live on. He had started from his home in Iowa with one hundred dollars, but this was eaten up by railroad fares, filing fees and in getting located. His first crop was sod corn, and, as Mr. Byerley had to be away working, the crop was about destroyed between the deer and the antelopes in the spring and the geese in the fall. His crops continued poor for a number of years and in 1894 there was a total failure, but in spite of all this, Mr. Byerley has

stuck to it and has paved the way to success.

The subject of this sketch was first married in 1885, but his wife lived only two years thereafter. In 1890 Mr. Byerley was married to Miss Anna Meyers, whose father was an old settler of Loup county, but returned to Illinois, where he died. Mr. and Mrs. Byerley have five children, namely: Pearl, Claud, Bessie, Florence and Lola.

The history of any individual pioneer, when written in detail, reads like a romance. They pass through many trying experiences—experiences that seem overdrawn to the uninitiated. And the history of Mr. Byerley's pioneer life is no exception. He lived alone and "batched it" for months and months, improved his farm with very little hired help and worked early and late. All these years he was assisting, too, in the management of public affairs, helped organize and establish the school district, held various school offices, was assessor at different times and is now a justice of the peace. He has been public-spirited in every way and is esteemed and respected by all who know him. He has three hundred and twenty acres in his home farm and has land in other localities. By his thrift and industry he has built up a fine home place, has a good house, barns, farm implements and all necessary improvements. He has several good groves of forest trees and a nice orchard. It can be truly said that Mr. Byerley is one of the leading old settlers of Loup county.

#### HENRY E. RANDALL.

The prosperity enjoyed within the borders of Morrill, formerly Cheyenne county, Nebraska, is due almost altogether to the enterprise and thrift of the agriculturists of that region. Their well improved and well tilled farms evidence good management and painstaking care, and in no locality is this more apparent than in Bayard precinct, where the gentleman above mentioned resides. He is a substantial farmer and ranchman, who has acquired a good home by persistent industry and honest dealings, and is highly esteemed as a worthy citizen and progressive agriculturist.

Henry E. Randall was born in Trempeleau county, Wisconsin, April 25, 1869, where he grew to the age of nine years, at which time the family moved over the Mississippi into Minnesota, after a short time settling in Houston county, on Money creek. The father was James Randall, a native of Michigan, while the mother was born in Syracuse, New York, and died in Scotts Bluff county in 1886. James Randall served in the Civil war as a member of Company I, Thir-

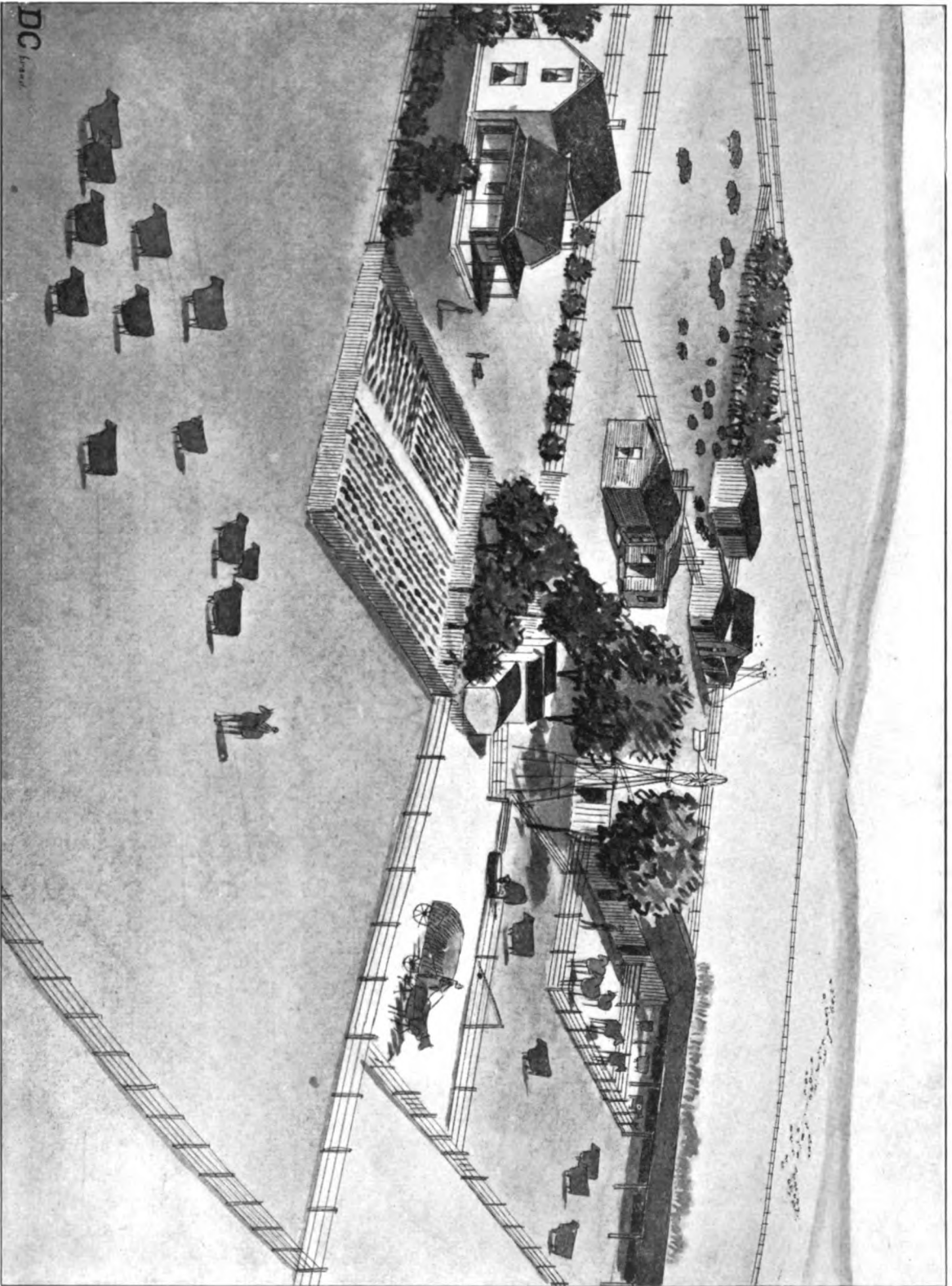
ty-sixth Wisconsin Infantry. He is now living at Gering, Nebraska. The entire family left Minnesota in the fall of 1885, coming to Butler county, Nebraska, and came on to Scotts Bluff county, which at that time was a part of Cheyenne county, the following spring. Our subject took a homestead in section 22, township 20, range 52, proved up on it, and has constantly added to his original quarter section until he is now owner of five hundred and sixty acres, two hundred acres of which are under the Chimney Rock ditch. He has improved the tract, erecting good buildings, built fences and has good wells, windmills, etc. About one hundred acres are cultivated, with one hundred acres in alfalfa, which in time will be doubled. The balance of the ranch is in hay and pasture land for about one hundred and forty head of cattle and a small bunch of horses.

On December 24, 1891, Mr. Randall married Miss Melissa Belden, who was born in Kansas, and came to Nebraska during girlhood. Her parents now live near Redington, in Morrill county. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Randall, Gerald, Gladys and Mack. In political faith Mr. Randall is a Republican, taking a deep interest in local, county and national politics. He is at present serving as director of school district No. 50. Fraternally he is a member of the Bayard lodges of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen.

#### DAVID CRUICKSHANK.

David Cruickshank, one of the early settlers of Keith county, lives on a fine farm home on section 24, township 13, range 41. He has a fine large ranch of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, and is one of the most successful stock raisers of western Nebraska.

Mr. Cruickshank was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the parish of Oyne, October 4, 1852, a son of William and Annie (Law) Cruickshank, natives of Scotland and farmers by occupation, who both died in their native land. Our subject was reared and educated in his native land, remaining there until 1885, when he sailed from Liverpool in the Liberia April 27, landing in Boston. On this trip he had in his charge fourteen fine blooded horses, all Clydes, which were consigned to owners in the United States. For about three years Mr. Cruickshank lived in Blandinsville, McDonough county, Illinois, whence he went to Fort Collins, Colorado, remaining for about four months. Thence, in 1888, he came to his present location in Keith county, joining the little band of pioneers who had settled in that territory. He began farm-



"SOUTH PLATTE VALLEY FARM," RESIDENCE OF DAVID CRUICKSHANK,  
Keith County, Nebraska.





ing in a very primitive style, building a sod shanty to live in and breaking his first land with a team of oxen. The years passed and although there were many disappointments in the yield of the farm, yet he has prospered and has developed a fine home and farm and built up a fine stock business. He runs about one hundred and forty head of cattle, cultivating only one hundred and sixty acres of this one thousand two hundred and eighty-acre ranch, most of the land being devoted to grazing purposes. A fine frame dwelling of six rooms was built near the old "soddy," so many years the family residence, in the fall of 1908, a dwelling of which he may well be proud. It is the subject of one of our illustrations on another page.

Mr. Cruickshank was married in Aberdeen, Scotland, February 7, 1880, to Miss Maggie Keith, a native of Aberdeenshire and daughter of William and Christina (Sim) Keith. This marriage has been blessed with the following named children: David, Jr., married and living on a ranch near the home place; Anna, wife of Frank Drake, a farmer of Dawson county, Nebraska; William (deceased); John, Jessie, wife of William Hecht, a meat dealer of Kearney, Nebraska; George, Bessie and Walter.

Mr. Cruickshank has been one of Keith county's most prominent and progressive citizens and has taken a deep interest in the growth and affairs of his community. He has done his share toward the material development of the locality in which he has lived for so many years. He is Republican in political views and religiously is a Presbyterian. In his younger days he was personally acquainted with George Cruickshank, then a very old man, Great Britain's most famous cartoonist, though no kinsman unless in a very remote degree.

#### GARDNER H. FOLSOM.

Gardner H. Folsom is one of the well-to-do farmers of Cherry county. Mr. Folsom was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, January 16, 1857, and reared on a farm. His father was Rodney Folsom, of English descent, his forefathers having emigrated from England in 1637. His mother was Charlotte Macomber, of Scotch-Irish descent, born in Vermont. During the Civil war Rodney Folsom served in the One Hundred and Ninth New York Regiment, and died in St. Lawrence county in 1873. Our subject is the third in a family of five children. He started in life for himself at the age of eighteen years, following all kinds of work, in 1876 going into the pineries of Wisconsin, and at the end of ten years was head sawyer at a salary of four dollars per day.

In 1881 he was married to Miss Jennie Kyen, born in Norway in 1859. Her father was Siven Kyen, and her mother, Christine Ross, they coming to America in 1867 with their family of four children, of whom Jennie was the second. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Folsom: Lottie, wife of Newton Gates, of Gordon; and Pearl C.

In 1886 our subject came to Cherry county, locating on his present home, taking a pre-emption and tree claim, holding the latter until 1904, also taking by purchase an additional seven or eight hundred acres. His ranch now comprises four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land and a homestead, situated in section 30, township 35, range 37, on which he has erected one of the finest ranch houses in the county. He controls by lease and otherwise about seventeen hundred acres of land, and is constantly improving his property, running one hundred head of cattle and eighty-five horses.

Mr. Folsom has met with reverses at different times, having been burned out, losing even all clothing, so that the family was obliged to wrap themselves in blankets until clothing could be borrowed from the neighbors. He was one of the old settlers in this locality and in the early days his wife cooked the family meals over a fire built in a hole in the ground as a substitute for a stove. They have had heavy financial losses, experiencing all the hard times that the pioneers saw, and Mr. Folsom yearns for more of the old-time frontier life, although Mrs. Folsom declares she has seen enough of it and prefers the comforts they are now able to enjoy. At one time in his career, Mr. Folsom went into the hotel business at Spencer, Wisconsin, coming out loser, having to work two years to pay his indebtedness before he could come west. He afterwards engaged in the cattle business with a partner and there lost considerable money, being obliged to dispose of a part of his land to get out of company debt and settle the estate.

Mr. Folsom is a Republican. He has been justice of the peace and has held other local offices.

#### CAPTAIN JAMES S. ROBBINS.

In the person of Capt. James S. Robbins, of Wallace, Lincoln county, Nebraska, we find the genial postmaster of that place, popular as a public official, and highly esteemed as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Robbins was born at Sodus Point, Wayne county, New York, April 25, 1838, going to Richland county, Ohio, with his parents

in 1839, and afterward to Huron county, that state, where they lived for fifteen years. They next moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, when he was eighteen years of age, and three years later he left home and went to DeKalb county, Illinois, following teaching at Malta for some time. On May 7, 1861, he enlisted in the Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, serving for three months, then re-enlisted in the Ninety-fifth Illinois and served up to the close of the war, being mustered out August 21, 1865. During all of this time he was with the Army of the Tennessee, and took part in the battles at Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Vicksburg, the Atlanta campaign, at Franklin and Nashville. He was at the capture of Fort Blakely, and received severe wounds at Vicksburg and Nashville, having the almost unparalleled record of his regiment, never making a march or fighting a battle in his absence. At the storming of Vicksburg the Ninety-fifth Regiment lost two hundred and sixty-two men killed and wounded in the short space of fifteen minutes. Our subject comes of a long line of fighting men, his grandfather, Serel Robbins, having been a soldier in a New York regiment during the war of 1812, in a company recruited from Wayne county. His father and mother, Lyman and Mary E. (Porter) Robbins, were natives of Oneida county, New York. He has an uncle, Reverend Samuel F. Porter, who is a minister of the Congregational denomination and lives at Oberlin, Ohio, now ninety-four years of age. Mr. Robbins came to Nebraska after leaving the army, in 1865, locating in Nemaha county, and lived there up to 1893, then moved to twelve miles south of Wallace, where he settled on a homestead. In 1898 he was appointed postmaster under McKinley, and moved to Wallace. He was the first postmaster at Grant, now Tallmade, Nebraska, appointed in 1867, and acted in this capacity for two years. Afterward he served as justice of the peace and assessor in Nemaha county. In 1880 he went to Tecumseh, Johnson county, where he was elected city clerk, and a member of the city council for several years. He was county commissioner for Lincoln county, from 1900 to 1903, and also served as county assessor, elected to that office in the year 1903 and his term expired January, 1908. He has always voted the Republican ticket, attended county and state conventions, and taken an active part in party affairs. He has followed teaching nearly all his life, and began this work while living in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1858, and afterward taught in Lincoln county for many years.

Mr. Robbins was married in 1861 to Miss Elizabeth H. Robb, of Warren county, In-

diana, daughter of Robert Robb, who settled in Johnson county, Nebraska, in 1868. Her oldest brother, Washington, served with him in the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins have one son, Herbert Clay, who owns a ranch of twelve hundred and eighty acres situated in Lincoln county. This is owned in partnership with his father, and is used for a stock ranch, raising cattle, horses and hogs, and is located near the Redwillow creek. One daughter, Annie B., wife of C. E. Wheaton, lives with her husband on a ranch in Hayes county. Mr. and Mrs. Robbins only raised two children, but have an even dozen grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton have eight children, four boys and four girls, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. have four, three boys and one girl.

#### GUSTAVE NOREISCH.

The gentleman above named is one of the well known old-timers of western Nebraska, having come to that region when the country was a barren prairie, just beginning to be settled by those brave pioneers who came here prepared to suffer all kinds of hardships and privations in order to carve out for themselves a name and acquire a home and fortune for themselves, many of whom have remained to see the wilderness develop into a fertile tract and are now the owners of fine farms and are leading citizens of their locality.

Gustave Noreisch was born in Germany in 1850, was brought up on a farm and as a boy was taught to do all kinds of hard labor. When he was a young man of twenty-two years he entered the German army and served the regulation time, also following farming until 1884, when he decided to try his fortune in the new world, so took passage on an emigrant ship for America, arriving in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1882. He at once struck out for the western states, landing in Cuming county, Nebraska, and worked out as a farm hand in that vicinity for five years. He then came to Sioux county and took a pre-emption at head of War Bonnet valley, building a dugout, which was his home for about two and a half years. He purchased a team of horses the first summer and put in a few crops, but was completely hauled out, and was obliged to secure employment on the railroad to make a living for his family. In 1891 he settled on his present location, section 9, township 32, range 56, lying along Prairie Dog creek, and his first dwelling on that farm was a log house, which they occupied for a number of years. His ranch comprises twelve hundred and eighty acres, part of which is leased land,

and he engages principally in stock raising. About ninety acres are under cultivation, on which he raises small grains, and receives a good yield each year. Mr. Noreisch has a good set of farm buildings, the place is well fenced, and every improvement has been put on by his own hands. He has met with many failures of crops and other losses, but has stuck to the place and is now one of the successful and prosperous men of his community.

Mr. Noreisch was married in Germany, in 1878, to Miss Louisa Westbrecht, whose parents spent their lives in Germany, as did our subject's father and mother. Together they came to the United States to seek home and fortune, and have raised a family of six children, all bright and intelligent young people, named as follows: Mary, Bertha, Emma, Augusta, Matilda and Martha.

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#### GEORGE W. POOLE.

Through exceptionally good management and persistent labors the gentleman herein named has acquired a well developed estate, and is enabled to enjoy the comforts of modern farming. He is of a progressive nature, has had a wide experience in his line of work, and every detail is looked after and personally supervised. Mr. Poole's pleasant home is in Deuel county, and he is one of the best known settlers in western Nebraska, known throughout the region as one of the oldest educators in point of years in this part of the country, he having been connected with the public schools here for eleven years, and previous to that was a teacher in Colfax county for fourteen years.

George W. Poole first saw the light on August 22, 1858, born in Wyandotte county, Ohio, and lived there until he was twenty-two years of age, at that time his father, mother, brother and two sisters coming to Nebraska, locating about eight miles northwest of Schuyler, where the father took a homestead and farmed for a number of years. The latter died in Colfax county in June, 1900, and his widow still survives, she living in Schuyler at the present time. Our subject made Colfax county his home up to 1894, then came to Deuel county, following farming and school teaching nearly all of his years. After four years in this vicinity he filed on a homestead on section 34, township 16, range 45, proved up on the land, and now has a ranch of three hundred and eighty acres. He has two hundred acres of this cultivated and raises splendid crops, using the balance as a stock ranch, running a bunch of horses and cattle.

Mr. Poole was married in 1894 to Anna Bott, born and reared in Colfax county, Nebraska. Her parents are still living in the state. Four children have come to bless their union, and they are named as follows: Anna Marie, Freda, Vera and Julia, who form a most interesting family group.

Politically Mr. Poole is a Republican, and is at present serving as assessor of Deuel county. He is a broad-minded man in all respects, and one who has won the respect and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact by his many sterling qualities.

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#### CLARENCE V. CASSELMAN.

Among the younger residents of Brown county who have met with marked success in the agricultural pursuits, we mention the name of Clarence V. Casselman, who occupies a finely improved estate in section 15, township 30, range 23. Mr. Casselman was born in Grundy county, Illinois, May 8, 1875, and was reared and educated there until ten years old, when he came to Nebraska with his parents. His father, Charles Casselman, of German descent, was one of the oldest settlers in Brown county; the mother of our subject, Mary Patterson in maidenhood, was of Scotch lineage, her parents coming to this country some time prior to her birth. There was a family of six children, Clarence being the second, and he began for himself when he reached the age of twenty-two years, following farming as an occupation. He tilled rented land for about five years, then bought a farm in 1903, settling on the southwest quarter of section 15, and here he has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, eighty of which lie in section 22, cultivating two hundred acres of this, with the rest in pasture and hay land. He has his place well improved, and employs thoroughly up-to-date methods and machinery in its operation.

Mr. Casselman was married December 23, 1896, to Miss Georgia Curry, born in Wisconsin, and daughter of James and Mary (Patten) Curry, old settlers in Nebraska. To them two children have been born, namely: Frank E. and Velma.

Mr. Casselman is a highly esteemed citizen of his community, and is well known as an energetic and enterprising young man who richly deserves much success in the work in which he is engaged. In political sentiment he is a Democrat; fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, his home lodge being at Ainsworth.

## B. D. HAYWARD.

The State Industrial School at Kearney, Nebraska, is an institution of which the people of the state are justly proud. They feel that every dollar spent in its construction and operation goes directly to the promotion of the public welfare. It deals with a class of boys who are more unfortunate than criminal, changes their conditions, and in a great majority of cases makes honorable and upright men out of what very largely found themselves as "misfits" in a world that seemed to them hard and cold and cruel. It is an educational, not a penal institution, and the endeavor is to so educate the mind, the hand and the heart, that the boys on whom its influence falls may be able to go out into the world and become honorable members of society. It has a magnificent plant consisting of three hundred and twenty acres of fine and mostly rolling land, two and a half miles west of the city of Kearney, on which are erected seven large buildings, consisting of five family or grade buildings, an administration building and an industrial building. In addition are many structures for farm purposes, such as horse and cow barns, hog houses, chicken house, boiler house, engine room, green house, paint shop and pump house. The various buildings are situated on elevated land, and the general view of the surrounding country is unusually good. This great interest was for four years under the management of Mr. Hayward, whose name heads this article, and who won many laurels for its rapid growth and development.

B. D. Hayward, whose name appears above, became superintendent of the State Industrial School in April, 1903. During the following four years he won a standing for himself in the work of industrial education second to no man in the work. He had previously been engaged in educational work for fifteen years as superintendent of schools at St. Paul, Nebraska, where he also practiced law for ten years, having graduated at the Law College of the University of Nebraska. He is a native of Pomeroy, Ohio, as is also his wife, who had been a teacher for twenty years, and was devoted heart and soul to the educational and uplifting processes that prevailed in the State Industrial School under her husband's care.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayward and their enthusiastic co-workers set their faces determinedly against the idea so widely prevalent that this was a penal school and the boys prisoners. Results proved the wisdom of this course; and citizens of the state as they visited this school and came to know of the good done there, changed their ideas and came to know the institution as the Haywards made it, an intellectual benefaction

to the neglected and homeless. The character of this work was wonderfully advanced by the abandonment of the country school idea, and the grading of the students under the public and city school system.

At the close of the fourth year in the service of the state, Mr. Hayward moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where on October 16, 1908, he opened the Nebraska Military Academy, having a magnificent building and campus, and a most flattering enrollment of cadets. At the close of the first month of school the academy building was totally destroyed by fire. Only a few days of school were lost, however, a temporary location being secured at once, and plans being made promptly for the securing of a permanent location. After receiving many most complimentary offers from other cities for the removal of the academy, Mr. Hayward has decided to stay in Lincoln, and will begin shortly to rebuild on the original site. By next September the academy will be housed in three new buildings, entirely separate except in front, where the appearance will be much the same as before. The academy already enjoys a liberal patronage, in spite of its misfortunes; and the prospects for next year are gratifying.

## EDWIN M. SEARLE, SR.

Edwin M. Searle, one of the most prominent of the early settlers, claims Allegany county, New York, for his birth place, having been born there January 1, 1849. The Searle family came from England in Colonial days. His father, Steadman B. Searle, was a farmer, and his mother, Angelina Rice, was from old American families of the state of New York, her grandfather having been a quartermaster in Washington's army. He came as a pioneer from Vermont to Allegany county in 1800 and cleared a farm. Our subject's father came to Indiana about 1825 and married in Logansport, where his wife's people had settled in the early thirties as pioneers of that state.

Our subject enlisted in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, serving through Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky. After leaving the army he went to a school at Syracuse, New York, where he learned telegraphy, following that and railroad-ing in Peru and Attica, Indiana, and came to Nebraska in 1867, where he held a position as operator on the Union Pacific railroad at North Platte. The road was being built to the coast with the terminal of that line in Keith county. He worked at North Platte for two months and then took an office out on the line and worked

for the company until 1884; part of this time he worked as agent at Paxton, served for a time at Ogallala, to which town he came as agent in 1879. Keith county was organized in 1874 and our subject was on the board of county commissioners. He was elected county treasurer, which office he held for four years. He was also county clerk four years and served two more terms as county commissioner. When school district No. 1 was organized, taking in all of Keith county, Mr. Searle was elected first school treasurer. He resigned from the operating department of the railway in 1884, and was appointed agent of their land department for Keith county. This department included Lodgepole in Cheyenne county, and all the land in Colorado to range 46, about one million acres. The head office was at Ogallala, with branch offices at Julesburg, Colorado, and Chappell, Nebraska. He has been in the real estate business since then. He filed on a homestead, which is now a part of the town site of Ogallala, in 1876, and proved up on it. He is also interested in ranching and stock raising, having a fine ranch of two thousand acres, one and one-half miles west of Ogallala in the valley of the South Platte river, on which he has two hundred and fifty acres seeded in alfalfa, ranging nine hundred cattle and one hundred horses. He also has a ranch in McPherson county in the forest reserves which he uses for a summer range. His son, Edwin M. Searle, Jr., is associated with him in the real estate business.

Our subject has made his home in Keith county for the past forty-two years and is well known and highly respected by all the residents of that county. Buffalo and Indians were the only inhabitants when he first came to Keith county, and he has seen herds of one million buffalo at one time. Herds of antelope were also common sights when he came to the county. One spring a herd of buffalo was to be seen extending from Cottonwood Springs on the east to Sterling, Colorado, one hundred and sixty miles on the west; the herd averaged one mile wide by one hundred and sixty miles long, for which trainmen who made the run through it can vouch.

Mr. Searle was married in the Wyoming hotel, Omaha, December 24, 1868, to Miss Eliza Gifford, Reverend Kuhus, a Lutheran minister, officiating. Simeon Gifford, the father of Mrs. Searle, was a farmer and old settler of Iowa and Minnesota, who died while in the United States army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. Her mother was Jane Savage before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Searle have three children: Charles F., in the insurance business at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Edwin M., Jr., associated with his father;

and Archie L., who is in business in Omaha. While Mr. Searle was living at Paxton, a big Indian saw Mrs. Searle and her baby sitting on the platform and offered Mr. Searle five ponies in trade for his white squaw and papoose. At times the Indians made war on the white settlers, marauding parties throwing trains off the track six miles west of Paxton in November, 1869, and had previously burned a train at Lexington two years before.

A trail was opened up from Texas to Ogallala by the Texas cattlemen in 1874, this being the most western station of the railway and the nearest place from which to ship cattle. Herds of three hundred thousand head were trailed to Ogallala every year from 1874 to 1882, which made Ogallala the typical western cowboy town it was. During the early days of Ogallala from two thousand to three thousand cars of cattle were shipped east in a season of sixty days.

Mr. Searle is a type of the pioneer who succeeded in spite of all discouragements and is now prominent in all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the town of Ogallala. He is Republican in politics, a member of the Congregational church and a member of the Masonic order and the Workmen, and is a Grand Army man.

#### FRED BRATZ.

Among the representative farmers and ranchmen of Cheyenne county, who have aided materially in its advancement and development since its early settlement, a prominent place is accorded Fred Bratz, who resides on his well improved estate in section 10, township 16, range 48, Union Valley precinct. He is a gentleman of energetic character and well merits his success and high standing.

Mr. Bratz is a native of the village of Helgerdhausen, Wurtemberg, Germany, born on the 14th of January, 1859, and grew to manhood in his native land. His parents, Michael and Barbara Bratz, spent their entire lives in Germany, and died there, the mother in 1899 and the father in 1907.

Our subject started out for himself when he was a young man of twenty-three years, taking passage at Hamburg for America on the emigrant ship Harmonia, and after a voyage of twelve days, landed in New York city in October of 1882. He joined a brother and sister in Hancock county, Illinois, where he spent two years at farm labor and one year farming for himself; he then came further west, settling in Cheyenne county, pre-empting one hundred and sixty acres, and later took a homestead on sec-

tion 10, township 16, range 48. He has remained on this place ever since, now owning a fine ranch of four hundred and eighty acres, of which he cultivates one hundred and twenty-five acres, and uses the balance as pasture and range for his cattle, keeping one hundred head of cattle and quite a number of horses. He has built up a good home, and the whole place is well improved with a neat concrete cottage, a large new barn, and other good buildings. There is a fine orchard, groves and an abundant water supply, and altogether he owns one of the valuable properties in the section. We are pleased to call attention to an engraving of the home and surroundings in the illustrative section of our work.

February 16, 1892, Mr. Bratz was united in marriage to Miss Annie Wettrich, in Cheyenne county. She was born in Burlington, Iowa. Her parents, Fred and Elizabeth M. (Reil) Wettrich, were natives of Germany; their deaths occurred in Illinois, where they had spent the latter years of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Bratz are the parents of one child, Otto, born on the 24th of March, 1896, a bright, sturdy boy, who is making good progress in his school work.

Mr. Bratz is active in local affairs, and is devoted to the interests of his adopted land. He is a Republican politically, and lends his influence for good government. At present he is serving as treasurer of school district No. 54, and is a leading citizen, highly esteemed by his associates. He was reared in the Lutheran church.

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### ENOS CHASE.

Among the interesting characters typical of a western life, and a man who has had many and varied experiences during his career as a pioneer in a new country and throughout his sojourn among the sturdy settlers of the west, the gentleman whose name heads this personal history occupies a foremost place. Mr. Chase is a genial, whole-souled individual, a wonderful story teller and enjoyable companion, beside enjoying the reputation of a leading old settler and one of the prominent citizens of his community. He resides on a very valuable estate in Dawes county, Nebraska.

Mr. Chase is a native of Grant county, Wisconsin, born in 1850, and raised on a farm. His father was Levi R. Chase, a farmer and miner, and an early settler in Wisconsin. He married Miss Lucinda Brown, and when our subject was but eleven years old the father died, and the following year the mother was also called away, leaving him at twelve years of age to fight the

battle of life alone. Since that time he has supported himself unaided, working out on farms and at anything he could find to do, and remained in Wisconsin up to the time he was twenty-one years of age. He then moved to Illinois, where he farmed for a time, then to Iowa, and there settled in Allemakee county. He lived there for several years, also spent seven years in New Albin, Iowa, and there engaged in general work and owned two lots in the town.

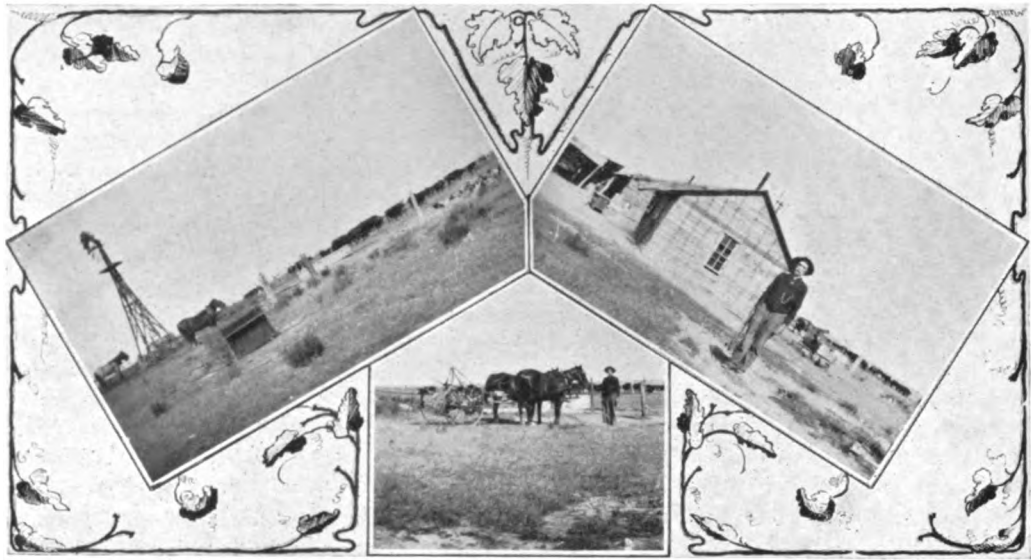
In 1892 Mr. Chase came to Dawes county, Nebraska, and filed on a homestead of eighty acres, on August 15th of that year. This homestead was located in section 31, township 31, range 47, and was entirely unimproved property. He at once started to build up a ranch and home, but was able to do very little at first owing to the fact that he was utterly without capital. However, he went to work with a will, and his first work was to build a sod house, fourteen by sixteen feet in size, also sod stable and chicken house, the former sixteen by twenty, and the latter twelve by fourteen, also a cow barn sixteen by fourteen, all of which were comfortable and substantial, and were in use for a number of years. He "batched it" for a year, and in 1893 his family joined him and they helped him in his work of improving the farm. The time was spent in cutting timber and hauling it, breaking up land, and doing all manner of work to raise crops and make a living for himself and family, and he proved up on the farm, remaining on it up to 1900, when he bought his present home in section 28, township 31, range 47. Here he has a finely improved, well-kept place, with good buildings, windmills, etc., and engages in farming and stock raising, both of which has been most successful. He has six hundred and forty acres of land in his farm, all fenced and all good land.

While still living in Wisconsin Mr. Chase was married to Miss Katherine Stubenhaver, whose parents came to America from Germany in their young days, and settled in Illinois, where she was born, and later moved to Wisconsin, where they were among the pioneers and where she grew to young womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Chase are the parents of four children, namely: Luvina and Lucinda, twins; William Stewart and Lizetta. The family is highly respected and popular among their fellow citizens.

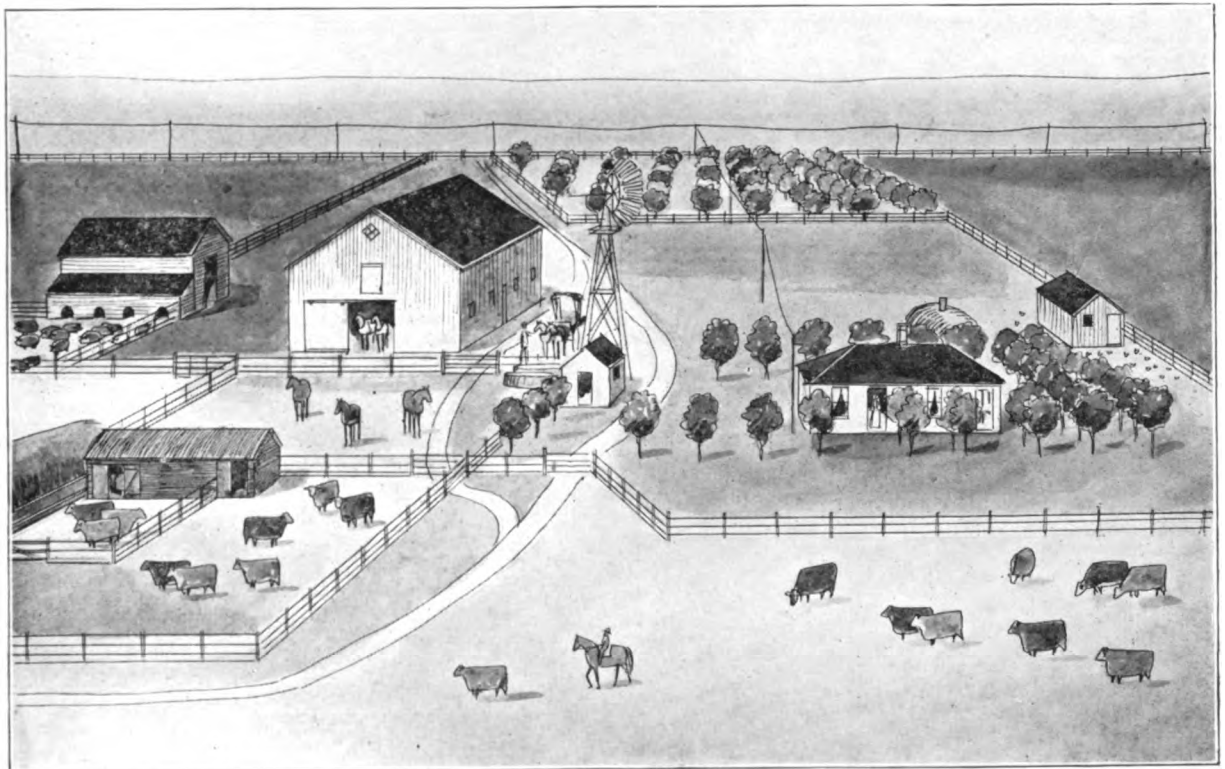
Mr. Chase is a leader in local affairs, and always lends his aid and influence for the benefit of his community. He has held different school offices for many years. In political sentiment Mr. Chase is a Republican.

On another page will be found a picture showing scenes on Mr. Chase's ranch.





SCENES ON RANCH OF ENOS CHASE,  
Dawes County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF FRED BRA'TZ,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



## A. A. COLSON.

The gentleman above named is one of the prosperous business men and farmers of Sheridan county, Nebraska. He has lived in this part of the country for many years past and has watched the development and growth of the region from the early days.

Mr. Colson was born in Newburgh, Maine, in 1859. His father, Ambrose Colson, of American blood, was also a native of Maine, and never left his home county until he was seventy years of age, always running a large farm there. Of a family of fourteen children our subject was the youngest, his father having married twice. When he was twenty-one years old he started west, coming to Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1879. The railroad ended there, and he went still further on into Pierce county, but the land did not look good to him there, although he remained for several years working rented land, then moved into Dawes county. In the spring of 1885 he filed on a pre-emption on section 11, township 31, range 47, and moved on it. He also took up a tree claim in the same section, "batching it" there for four years. He was obliged to mortgage the place to get the money to prove up on it, and then the dry years came on and he lost both places. He tried farming but ran out of seed and was unable to buy more, so went into the Black Hills. He took twelve cows with him and sold them, receiving sixteen dollars per head, which just put him out of debt. He stayed in the hills for a year, then returned to Sheridan county, locating ten miles south of Lakeside and filed on a homestead and later sold that, in 1901 moving to his present place at Bingham, where he bought three acres of land in the town site. He afterwards took his additional one hundred and sixty acres of homestead rights, which was all the land he could get in the locality, as it was all taken or leased around the place. Here he engages in farming and also runs a general merchandise store at Bingham, carrying a good stock of dry goods, groceries, flour and feed. He also has the Bingham postoffice, and is doing well in his different enterprises. Of late he has erected a fine hotel at Bingham, where he also conducts his store and postoffice in the same building.

In 1888 Mr. Colson was married to Miss Melissa Clark, born in Martin county, Minnesota, in 1871. Mrs. Colson is a daughter of William Clark, an early settler in Iowa, now a farmer in Dawes county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Colson the following children have been born, all living at home: Pearl, Lulu and Ida. Mr. Colson is a Republican, always interested in local and county affairs, but never seeking public preferment.

## RICHARD HIBBERD.

The above named gentleman is among the foremost business men of Kearney, Nebraska, where he has been engaged in the contracting and building trade for the past twenty-five years and more. He is a manufacturer of building, paving and sidewalk brick, and has an immense plant covering twelve acres, fitted with a new dryer which works day and night to fill orders for his work. He has a complete up-to-date outfit, and the yard will turn out from eight to ten million brick this year. Mr. Hibberd established this business in 1880, when he came to Kearney to erect the first building for the State Industrial School, assisting his contractor, W. L. Van Alstyne. They put up this building in sixty days, but with present facilities and improved methods, much less than this time would have been required.

Mr. Hibberd is a native of England, and learned the builder's trade there with his brother, John Hibberd, the family having rented and lived on one farm in North Staffordshire for over four hundred years, and was in the brick manufacturing and contracting business there for several generations. The family have always been strong Catholics, and one of the oldest families in England to adhere to this faith through all the struggles against this religion for centuries past.

Mr. Hibberd came to America in 1863, and settled in Whiteside county, Illinois. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Forty-seventh Illinois; was in the secret service also for some time. He was with the Army of the Cumberland under General George H. Thomas, first brigade, second separate division, and in the Fourth Army Corps. During his life as a soldier he did not miss a day of service and was at the battle of Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Resaca, Pullen's Ferry, Spring Place, Kenesaw and in the Atlanta campaign and with the march to the sea under General Sherman. After he was mustered out, he was chief clerk to Colonel Frank Clendenin, in the Freedmens' Bureau, located at Americus, Georgia, and Savannah, Georgia. Mr. Hibberd first came to Nebraska in 1871, settling at Lincoln and began the manufacture of brick and did contracting work at Seward, Lincoln and David City. Prior to this he had a plant at Atkinson and Geneseo, Illinois. In 1883 he put in a plant at Omaha, while he was building the State Deaf and Dumb Asylum. In 1884 he sold this and returned to Kearney, and he has since resided here continuously. Since coming to this city, he has been building and supplying the brick for all the school buildings in Kearney, for the five new buildings at the

State Industrial School, and for all the business blocks of any size in the city. He ships his product to Grand Island, Hastings, and all parts of the state. His son, W. E. Hibberd, now manages the brick yard, and two other sons, John C. and Charles F., are managers of the contracting and building end of the business. Another son, Adelbert L., works with the company, and is first lieutenant in the Second Nebraska National Guard, Company A, to which he gives a great deal of his time and attention. One daughter, Elma M., is a teacher in the Kearney public schools, and another, Lucy, is married to L. B. Clark, of Lincoln, Nebraska. Our subject was married while still in England to Miss Emma M. Gould, and the family is well and favorably known all through this community.

One fact which speaks volumes for Mr. Hibberd's character is that one foreman of his brickyard, Paul Beyer, has been with him in this capacity for twenty-eight years. During the panic of 1893 Mr. Hibberd lost heavily, but stuck to the town, and has come out all right. He has been a man of untiring energy and industrious habits all through his life, and has given his best efforts to whatever he has undertaken, and thereby achieved the greatest success, which he richly merits.

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#### SOLOMON HARTZELL.

Solomon Hartzell, one of the most substantial agriculturists of Dawes county, Nebraska, lives on his fine farm in section 13, township 33, range 48. He is an old soldier, a man of patriotic spirit, untiring energy and active mind, and has done his full share toward the development of the financial interests of the community where he has chosen his home. He has a wide acquaintance and enjoys an enviable reputation.

Mr. Hartzell was born in Canton, Ohio, in 1831. His father, Adam Hartzell, was a brick-maker by trade who also followed farming part of the time, and was a pioneer in Indiana. He married Susanna Ringo, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. When our subject was four years of age the family came to Indiana and settled in Wabash county on a farm, and there he grew up and was educated. At the age of eighteen he started to learn the carpenter's trade and worked at that for many years in different states. He was married in Michigan to Miss Louisa Hammond, his first wife, who died at Mankato, Minnesota. They had two children, both dead. He was married the second time at Mankato, Minnesota, to Miss Katherine Briton, and they were the parents of ten children. His second wife died in Chadron, Nebraska, and his third

wife was Mrs. Mattie Herron, of Dawes county, the marriage being held in his own house.

During the time Mr. Hartzell worked as a carpenter he was in different states, including Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri, and in this manner became familiar with many different sections. He also spent some time in Colorado, and in 1884 came to Dawes county, driving by team from Valentine. He took up his present homestead and built a dug-out and "batched it" for a time, until his people could come and join him. His farm is located on Little Bordeaux creek, and consists of three hundred and twenty acres, of which he farms eighty acres, which is irrigated. He has made a success of farming as well as at the carpenter's trade, at which he has worked off and on all his life. He furnished the plans for the Dawes county school house, and helped build that structure.

When Mr. Hartzell was thirty-one years of age he enlisted in the Ninth Minnesota Regiment, Company E, and saw hard service through the west, fighting the Indians in Minnesota, and has a brilliant record as a soldier.

Mr. Hartzell is a man who keeps abreast of the times and he is identified with the Republican party politically, although deeply in sympathy with the Prohibitionists.

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#### ALFRED E. WATKINS.

Alfred E. Watkins, one of the prominent young business men of Perkins county, engaged in the mercantile business at Venango, is a gentleman of intelligence and progressiveness.

Mr. Watkins was born in Will county, Illinois, in 1873. He is a son of Peter and Mary Phillips Watkins, both natives of England, who came to the United States during their youth, the former dying in Illinois in 1882, where he had spent many years engaged in farming, and there our subject was raised until he was fourteen years old. The family then came to Nebraska, settling on a homestead on section 25, township 9, range 41, which the mother and sons built up in good shape, Alfred remaining at home up to 1902, then came to Venango and started in the hotel and livery business, which he carried on for three years, building up a good patronage, then returned to the farm and lived on it for three years. In 1906 a brother, Frank Watkins, established a general store in Venango, and two years later our subject went in partnership with him in the business, and together they have increased their trade extensively and are doing exceedingly well in the work.

In 1902 Mr. Watkins was married to Miss

Martha Watkins, who is a daughter of W. J. Watkins, of Grant, Nebraska. Two children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife: Gerold, who died at the age of fourteen months, and Warren, who is now a sturdy lad of three years.

#### LOUIS E. TIFFANY.

Enterprise and perseverance, supplemented by honest industry, have been the stepping stones by which the gentleman above named has reached his present station. He is one of the prominent agriculturists of Keya Paha county, an old settler of that region who has aided materially in transforming a wilderness into a thriving farming district. Mr. Tiffany is widely known and universally esteemed in his community and enjoys a pleasant home and many warm friends.

Mr. Tiffany was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, May 11, 1872, in the midst of the oil fields of that state. His father, John N. Tiffany, was of English-German stock, and died in Nebraska, August 22, 1895. He married Miss Henrietta Foust, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, and they had a family of ten children, our subject being the ninth in order of birth. Four sons and one daughter came to Nebraska, where they built up good homes. When Louis was twenty-one years of age he began for himself, starting in the oil business at Pittsburg, drilling in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. In the fall of 1883 he came to Keya Paha county with his father, who took up a homestead on section 29, township 35, range 20, and in the early days they saw wild times in this region. Their homestead was about in the center of the tract for the horse and cattle rustlers of that time and they had a number of animals stolen, and as late as 1903 they were bothered with thieves, losing eighteen head of cattle. They were one of only two families who did not leave the neighborhood during the Indian scare of 1891. Mr. Tiffany and his father built up a fine farm and home, planted trees and built fences, and were among the influential citizens of the county. The former now has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, mostly good farming land, and he keeps one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and one hundred and fifty hogs. In 1906 he had eighty-five acres of the finest corn in the county, and his crops are always first-class. He has been successful in the stock business, and during the dry years that saved him from leaving his place, as he lost three crops in succession and had it not been for his cattle he would have had to quit the business. Their dwelling was the seat of Enterprise postoffice from 1890 to 1897, when his fa-

ther served as postmaster. This was the third office to be established in the county.

Mr. Tiffany was married near Springview June 18, 1902, to Miss Lillie Carnahan, whose parents were Jasper and Rutha (Atkinson) Carnahan. For fifteen years Mrs. Tiffany was one of the successful teachers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Tiffany have one adopted daughter, Minnie.

Our subject is and always has been a strong Democrat. He has never taken any active part in politics, as he has given his entire attention to the building up of his farm and home, although he is classed among the men who have had the interests of their community at heart and were willing at all times to aid in all matters wherein their locality would be benefited.

#### MACK RADCLIFF.

One of the leading old settlers of Cheyenne county, who has spent many years of his life in building up a home and fortune for himself, and who has incidentally aided materially in the development of the region where he chose his home, is found in the gentleman above named. Mr. Radcliff resides in Sidney, and with his family enjoys a comfortable home surrounded by many friends and acquaintances, and is held in the highest esteem by all.

Mr. Radcliff is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, born in 1854, on a farm. His father, Andrew Radcliff, was a farmer and laborer, who came to America from Ireland, when a young man, and his mother was also born in Ireland. When our subject was thirteen years of age he started out for himself, settling in Missouri, there following farm work for one year. He next went to Texas, and became a "cow-puncher," but remained only a short time, driving cattle over the line and into Kansas, and working as a "cow-puncher," as this vocation was called in early days. He gradually worked north, and in 1874 came into Nebraska, and worked on different ranches all over the western part of the state for many years, during the summer months sleeping on the ground and leading a rough cowboy's life. He was employed by a number of cattle outfits and liked the rough work and the exciting experiences which came to him.

About the year 1884 our subject took up a homestead situated thirty miles northeast of Sidney, and there put up a log house which he lived in for several years. He improved his ranch and built up the place in good shape, and now owns three thousand two hundred acres, and engages extensively in the cattle and horse business, running about four hundred head of

stock. In 1894 he moved his family to Sidney in order to give his children the benefit of the better schools, and he has a good residence there and owns besides other town property, and is one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of his section.

Mr. Radcliff was married in 1884 to Miss Bertie Gast, daughter of Sam Gast, who is a pioneer in this state. Mr. and Mrs. Radcliff are the parents of three children, all born in this section, named as follows: Harriett, Clayton and Anne.

Mr. Radcliff is an active public spirited citizen, and takes a commendable interest in local affairs, serving his locality in different capacities for a number of years. He is a Democrat.

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#### WILLIAM H. ROTHWELL.

William H. Rothwell, one of the leading old-time residents of Nebraska, has given liberally of his time and money to the upbuilding of the community where he makes his home, and he commands a high station as a worthy citizen and energetic business man. Both he and his estimable wife are descendants of good old Virginia stock, celebrated far and wide for their hospitality and cordiality to friend and stranger alike. Mr. Rothwell has a valuable estate and is proprietor of a model ranch, and his home and family both are worthy representatives of the good old Virginian stock from which they sprung.

Mr. Rothwell was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, in 1858, of English blood. His father, Warren, was a prominent farmer of that locality, and a soldier in the Civil war for two years, and died during war-time. Our subject's mother was Lucinda White, of Albemarle county, Virginia. He grew up in his native state until the age of thirty, engaged in the mercantile business at that time at Reunion, and operated a store there for over eight years.

In the year 1888 Mr. Rothwell came to Grant county, Nebraska, and took a pre-emption, going through pioneer experiences in the first few years. That place was situated twenty-five miles southeast of Hyannis, and his first dwelling was a sod house. He started to break up land with a team of oxen and used them for all his farm work during the first five years. He freighted through the country, making many long trips, camping out under his wagon many nights, and recites many interesting tales connected with those early days. At the first he tried to farm, but found it hard to raise good crops, so gradually drifted into the cattle business, and has met with splendid success in that

line of work. He has added to his ranch until he now is owner of two thousand acres, consisting of plenty of range land for his cattle, some timber, and the place has a fine supply of good clear water. He has erected good buildings, fine house and commodious barns and sheds, and the entire ranch is fenced.

On May 14, 1884, Mr. Rothwell was married to Jennie M. Weed, daughter of George Weed, a prominent merchant and educator, and son of William Weed, one of the leading merchants of Richmond, Virginia, well known through the war times. Mrs. Rothwell's mother was a descendant of a prominent old American family, of Albemarle county, Virginia, her maiden name being Blackwell. The following children were born to our subject and his wife: Anna W., Carrie (dead), William A., George W., Ambler M. and Ethel May. Both parents and children are among the popular members of society in their community, and all are well liked and have hosts of warm friends.

Mr. Rothwell is a Democrat in his political views. He has always taken a leading part in local public affairs, and served as assessor of his township for two years after the county was organized.

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#### JOSEPH GEORGE DENTER.

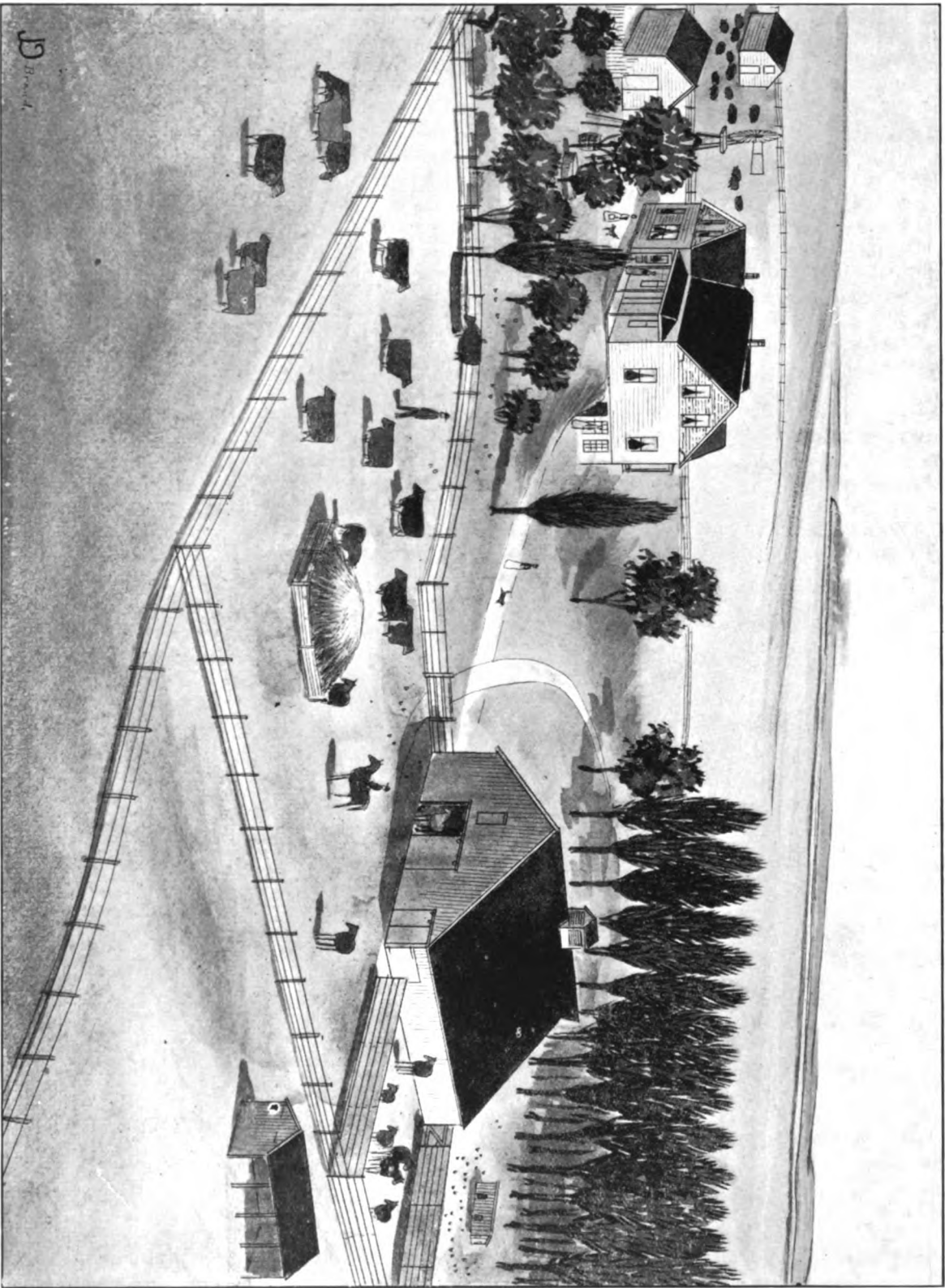
One of the best and most extensive ranch places in Keith county, Nebraska, is that owned by Joseph G. Denter, who is conceded to be one of the most successful stock men and farmers in the territory.

Mr. Denter was born in the small village of St. Jan in Bohemia, August 24, 1861, and came to America with his parents in 1866. The family sailed from Bremen and landed in New York after a voyage of seven weeks on the Atlantic. They came west by way of Baltimore and settled in Johnson county, Iowa, near North Liberty, where the father, Charles Denter, was a prosperous farmer; our subject's mother's name before marriage was Josephine Cerny.

Joseph G. Denter was reared and educated in the Hawkeye state and on March 3, 1886, he was married to Miss Mary Stirsky, a native of Bohemia, and daughter of Anthony and Dora (Cimburck) Stirsky, who came to America during Mary's infancy and settled in Lynn county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Denter have four children, Max L., Belle and Frances, twins, and Mabel, the three girls being successful teachers of the county.

The same year they were married, our subject and his wife started overland for a new location in western Nebraska. They drove all the way from Iowa in a covered wagon drawn





"POPLAR GROVE RANCH," RESIDENCE OF J. G. DENTER,  
Keith County, Nebraska.





by a team of three-year-old colts, camping out, the trip lasting five weeks on the road. They brought two cows with them, and this was their small start when they settled on their present homestead in Keith county. They built a small frame house, broke some land and commenced laying the foundation of the prosperity that is now their portion in life.

They passed through all the trying experiences so common to the life of the pioneer—the years of drouth and crop losses from various causes and the hard times beginning in 1893, at which time they were the only family left in the locality of all those who had come from Iowa in the same year. Mr. Denter secured a few head of cattle and gradually worked into stock raising. He has now a grand ranch of one thousand four hundred and forty acres in the valley of the South Platte river and he cultivates about two hundred acres of the land, of which eighty-four acres are irrigated, with one hundred and ten acres in a tract on the river that can be put under ditch. Most of his ranch is devoted to grazing and hay production. The original small claim dwelling was later incorporated into a larger house, and both into the fine large ten-room dwelling constructed in the summer of 1908. There are large barns and outbuildings, a fine grove of Lombardy poplar and other trees and a number of apple and cherry trees, with considerable small fruit. We are pleased to call attention to a view of the elegant residence with its fine location and surroundings depicted on another page.

Mr. Denter is a Democrat in politics. He has been assessor, county commissioner for six years and has been a member of the school board for fifteen years. He is deeply interested in educational matters, and, in fact, in all things pertaining to the betterment of local conditions. He is a man of strong convictions and earnest endeavor and is respected by everybody who knows him. The family are members of the Congregational church.

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#### ARTHUR E. BOWRING.

Arthur E. Bowring, a prosperous and enterprising ranchman of Cherry county, is a resident of Merriman precinct. He is a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence and good business ability, and has gained a valuable estate by his thrift and industry, and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellowmen.

Mr. Bowring was born in Crawford county, Iowa, of Scotch-English stock, April 20, 1873, and reared there until twelve years of age. His father, Henry C. Bowring, was a native of Eng-

land and came to America at the age of twelve, settling with his parents in Canada where he remained until 1867. He started railroading at an early age and followed that occupation until 1894, when he moved to Nebraska, and was the man who laid the Chicago & Northwestern tracks through Woodbine, Iowa. He worked as a watchman there when Woodbine was the end of the road, and for four years was yardmaster for that road at Dunlap, Iowa. He also laid the foundation for the first roundhouse at Iowa Falls, and even after going to Nebraska continued at railroad work for some time. He laid the tracks east of Yankton as far as Gayville, South Dakota, and all his life was spent in this work almost exclusively up to 1894. Our subject was the seventh member of his father's family of ten children, and on reaching his twenty-first birthday he struck out for himself, although for some time previous to this he had been engaged in the stock buying business. In 1894 he took his present homestead, and his ranch now consists of one thousand three hundred and twenty acres, a large portion of it being good hay land. He and his father together run five hundred and fifty head of cattle and a number of horses, and they have over a hundred head of the finest Shorthorn calves to be found in this locality. All of his brothers have followed in their father's footsteps and worked on railroads since growing up. When Mr. Bowring and his father first landed in Cherry county it was in an entirely undeveloped state, and they have been among those who have watched its growth and improvement almost from the time of its organization, and have seen the ups and downs of a pioneer's lot. Mr. Bowring takes a commendable interest in all affairs of the community where he resides, attending the conventions and assisting in all matters which tend to the betterment of conditions in his locality. He served as county commissioner for three years from the third commissioner's district. Both he and his father are stanch Republicans. Mr. Bowring is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors.

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#### BENDICK DANIELSON.

Bendick Danielson, one of the prominent farmers of Box Butte county, resides on section 9, township 26, range 48, where he owns four hundred and eighty acres of good farm and ranch land. He has been a resident of this locality for the past twenty years, and has developed a good farm and enjoys a comfortable rural home, and the esteem of all whom he meets.

Mr. Danielson was born in Norway, in the southeastern part, on a farm, in 1858. His father was a farmer and lived and died in his native land, and there our subject grew to manhood, following the work of a cabinetmaker by trade. He served for two years in the Norwegian army, and in 1882 left the land of his birth and came to the United States, landing in New York in September, 1882. He came directly west to Nance county, Nebraska, where he spent a short time, then went to Albion, in Boone county, and there followed the work of cabinet maker, having learned that trade when a boy in Norway. He worked in a furniture store for about four years after coming here, and in 1885 moved to Box Butte county, driving from Hay Springs with a wagon containing all his possessions. On this trip only a few houses were seen between Hay Springs and the place he located on. He had very little to start with and he first put up a rude sod shanty, and put in a crop of sod corn the first summer, also a few potatoes. He worked continually in building up his place and breaking up ground, working out in the neighborhood breaking land for others, digging wells, and also did railroading, working on the railroad grades on the roads being put through this section at that time. About three years were spent in the railroad yards at Alliance.

After Mr. Danielson had proved up on his claim, during the dry seasons he had a hard time to get along, and was obliged to work with a bridge gang, traveling through Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska, employed by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company. About 1892 the times began to get better and he devoted his whole attention to building up his place, and he gradually added to his acreage and is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres, engaging in stock raising, and farming on a small scale, raising Irish potatoes, small grains, etc.

In 1901 our subject had the misfortune to be burned out, losing the finest crop of grain he had ever raised (all of which was stacked), a good barn and other buildings, which was a very severe loss. He has rebuilt, and now has everything in first-class shape all over the place. He is one of the very foremost potato raisers in all Box Butte county.

In political sentiment Mr. Danielson is a strong Republican.

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#### CHARLES D. GASTON.

Charles D. Gaston, one of the most highly esteemed of the old settlers of Keith county,

was born May 2, 1859, in Halifax county, Nova Scotia. His father, John Gaston, was born in Canada, of Irish parents and lived there all his life, following the occupation of farming. He died about 1902 at the age of ninety. Our subject's mother, Marjoria Blackie, was also born in Nova Scotia, her people being of Scotch descent. Her mother was a Miss McKay, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, who died in Nova Scotia at the home of Mr. Gaston at the age of ninety. Two uncles of Mr. Gaston attained the ages of ninety-nine and one hundred and six.

Our subject lived in Nova Scotia until he was twenty years old and received his education there. He came to the states in 1879, sojourning first to New Hampshire and Vermont. He learned the iron moulder's trade with a brother-in-law at St. Johnsbury, Vermont, but remained at this trade but a short time, because of poor health. In 1884 he came west, working at Moline, Illinois, from February to May, and then moved on to Keith county, taking a homestead ten miles south of Ogallala, part of the time living on his farm and the remaining time working in the town. The first building on the homestead was a sod house. He proved up on his homestead and farmed there for twenty years. During this time he lost many crops from drouth; in 1890 he planted one hundred acres and reaped nothing. For a time after this loss, he had to work out by the day in order to make a living.

He was married, November 15, 1887, to Miss Fannie Hull, a native of Rolling Prairie, Indiana, whose father, Adam Hull, was a farmer and old settler in Nebraska. Her mother was Catherine Walt in her youth. Mr. and Mrs. Gaston have had seven children: Raymond (deceased), Frank, Isaac A., Kitty M., Charles A., Kenneth and Doritt.

In the early days before Keith county was thickly settled, Mr. Gaston witnessed occasional shootings at Ogallala, and saw one man killed during the wild days when the cowboys sometimes shot up the town. At that time it was not an uncommon occurrence for a man to be shot in the street for apparently no reason.

In 1904 our subject came to Ogallala and opened a feed store, with his father-in-law for a partner. In 1907 he established a general store, the business having been successful from the start.

Mr. Gaston is one of the earliest settlers and has watched the growth of the county for many years and has done his part in building it up, engaging in numerous enterprises during that time.

He helped to construct some of the first buildings erected in the town of Ogallala, among

them being the Methodist Episcopal church, which he assisted in dedicating.

He was prominent in the social affairs of the town in early days, having been one of a committee to arrange for the first masque ball ever held in Ogallala, a function that has not since been excelled.

Mr. Gaston has held many offices during his residence in Ogallala, among them being precinct assessor, which position he held in the early days, when politics first interested the settlers. In politics he is a Democrat, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Ogallala.

GEORGE J. DAVIDSON, DECEASED.

The magnificent estate which is known to have belonged to the gentleman whose name is at the beginning of this article is one of the finest and best ordered in the precinct of Brinkerhoff, Rock county, and is well worthy of comparison with any to be found in the state of Nebraska. It is conspicuous for the manner in which it has been cultivated and improved, and is especially notable from the fact that it is the only tree claim in a long distance that was able to meet the requirements that attended its proving-up. Mr. Davidson, deceased, had an ample tree culture, and he developed a grove that supplies all the fuel needed for the homes in which he and his son dwelt. The two Davidsons owned more than three thousand acres of land, out of which at least one section may be pronounced of the very best character of farm property. It all presents opportunities for a diversified farming that can take in every interest susceptible to Nebraska agriculture.

Mr. Davidson was born on a farm in Indiana in 1851, where his father, Thomas Davidson, had been living since he was nineteen years old. Born in Ireland, he early felt the inspiration of the larger and freer life across the ocean, and early came to the United States to make his home in the west. His wife, Isabelle Foster, was a native of county Durham, England, and was brought to this country when only nine years of age. George J. was the fourth member of a family of seven children that were born to his parents. They had their home on the White river, in Indiana, and there was much to do on a farm in a timbered country, and a full share of it came to him who in after years was to become the successful Nebraska agriculturist. The parental needs detained our subject at home until he was twenty-seven years of age when he struck out for himself, marrying, in 1870, Miss Amelia Doty, an American girl of Ger-

man antecedents. Her people had settled in Pennsylvania on their arrival in this country, and here Mrs. Davidson was reared and educated. She is the mother of three children: Arlanda, Amelia and Ruth.

After his marriage Mr. Davidson bought a farm in Pike county, Indiana, on which he expected to spend his days. However, he found his health failing so badly that removal to a more favoring clime became imperative, and trial was made of what Nebraska might do for him. When he reached this state he was so weak he had to be lifted off the train. For a time he stopped in the eastern part of the state, but in April, 1883, he appeared in Rock county, and found himself so much improved that he took a pre-emption claim, on which he presently "proved up," and found himself the proprietor of real Nebraska dirt. With gaining health his courage increased, and he made a timber tree claim, and later still a homestead entry in section 29, township 31, range 20. His first residence was but a frame shanty twelve by sixteen feet, and perhaps would hardly be thought a possible home for a family today; but then it was enough, and the wind-searched structures in which dwelt a people winning their homes were thought equal to palaces in another land. When Mr. Davidson first located here his nearest neighbor was miles away—Bassett was only a postoffice, and wild game abounded. The vastness of the change wrought since his coming can not possibly be appreciated by one who has not witnessed such a transformation here or elsewhere.

Mr. Davidson, deceased, was a prominent citizen and took an active part in public affairs. He affiliated with the Republican party, and was an influential worker in both county and state politics. He was a delegate to the national Republican convention when President Harrison was put in nomination.

GOTTLIEB KAISER.

The subject of this sketch, Gottlieb Kaiser, lives on a lovely farm and is surrounded by all those comforts which tend to make a happy and contented old age. He was born in East Prussia, Germany, February 1, 1845. His father died when our subject was but a child and the mother died when he was but ten years old. When but a small lad he took to a seafaring life and was on the water as a sailor for twenty-four years. He sailed many seas, visiting Russia, England, South America and ports of Africa.

In 1870 our subject was married to Miss Mollie Sulies, also a native of east Prussia, Ger-

many. Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser are the parents of twelve living children and two dead: Augusta, born in 1873; Louis, born in 1875; Adolph, born in 1877, now dead; Edward, born in 1879; Etta, born in 1881; Louise, born in 1882; Emma, born in 1883; Mollie, born in 1885; Lizzie, born in 1886; Franz, born in 1887, now dead; Mary, born in 1888; Magdelina, born in 1890; Max, born in 1892; and Minnie, born in 1896.

Mr. Kaiser came to America in 1885, and, coming westward located for four years at Columbus, Nebraska. In 1885 he came with a team of ponies and a covered wagon to his present farm in section 15, township 24, range 22, in Blaine county, and located a homestead. He had almost nothing to start with and had to live in his covered wagon most of the time during the first summer. He slept on a straw bed under his wagon, and had many a fight with bull snakes that sought to sleep in the straw of his bed. He had many hardships to undergo and one of the hardships was the death of one of his ponies, which left him badly crippled to do the work of the farm. His first small house was built of sods of the prairie and later he built a larger one of the same material. But now he has a splendid farm home—has four hundred and eighty acres of the best land in what is known as German valley. He has beautiful trees and his farm is thoroughly improved and up-to-date.

Mr. Kaiser had many hard trials in the pioneer days, but his native grit and his hang-on qualities and his persistent purpose to make a good home and farm have brought him success and prosperity. He is a man of sturdy, strong character, and merits the good esteem in which he is held by his friends and neighbors.

#### HARVEY H. KNIGHT.

Harvey H. Knight, one of the representative ranchmen of Keith county, Nebraska, resides in White Tail precinct, where he has a valuable estate and is one of the leading men of the community.

Mr. Knight was born near Quincy, Illinois, November 17, 1866. His father, James F. Knight, was a native of Kentucky, while the mother, Columbia A. (Wright), was born in old Virginia. Mr. Knight was a pioneer farmer in Coffee county, Kansas, settling there with his family about 1869, where our subject grew to manhood, attending the country schools during his boyhood, and was accustomed to all kinds of hard farm work and life on the frontier. Remaining in Kansas until 1887 he came to Keith county and filed on a homestead in section 12, township 15, range 38, and opened a

farm. He built a sod house and sod barn, and about the only start he had was a pair of old mules and one wagon. At first he had a hard time to get along and make a living, but he worked at whatever he could find to do in the vicinity, and proved up on his claim, remaining there for about six years. During the dry years he was unable to raise crops of any kind, so he quit trying to farm and began in the sheep business, and carried that on with good success for eleven years. He moved to his present location in 1892. This is now a ranch of four thousand acres, on section 1 and surrounding sections, township 14, range 37, and is devoted to cattle raising, principally, at the present time, although this is comparatively a new departure for Mr. Knight, he having started this branch only in 1901. The ranch is admirably located for the purpose, lying in the valley of the North Platte river, and is well equipped with good buildings, fences, wells and windmills, also has a number of natural springs furnishing an abundance of good clear water the year round. There is a good grove of trees, and Mr. Knight has planted different varieties of fruit trees and small fruits.

Since locating here Mr. Knight has met with severe losses from different causes, the principal one being the burning of a bunch of sheep and other property in a prairie fire, this having occurred in 1893; but through all the good, bad and indifferent times, Mr. Knight has kept up good courage; and is now rewarded for his efforts in the possession of one of the best improved and most valuable ranches in the region.

On May 9, 1886, Mr. Knight married Miss Rosa Miller, born in Anderson county, Kansas, a daughter of Adam and Annie (Guy) Miller, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. The father was a pioneer farmer of Kansas, and settled in Keith county in 1887. Two children have been born to our subject and wife, Herman Henry and Annie May. The family have a pleasant home, surrounded by every comfort of rural life, and all are highly esteemed in the community. Mr. Knight is a Republican in politics and a member of the Ogallala Lodge, Modern Woodmen of America. Associated with him in all his cattle and sheep enterprises is a brother, William F. Knight, who was born near Quincy, November 15, 1861. He came to Keith county in 1888 and has since been one of its substantial citizens.

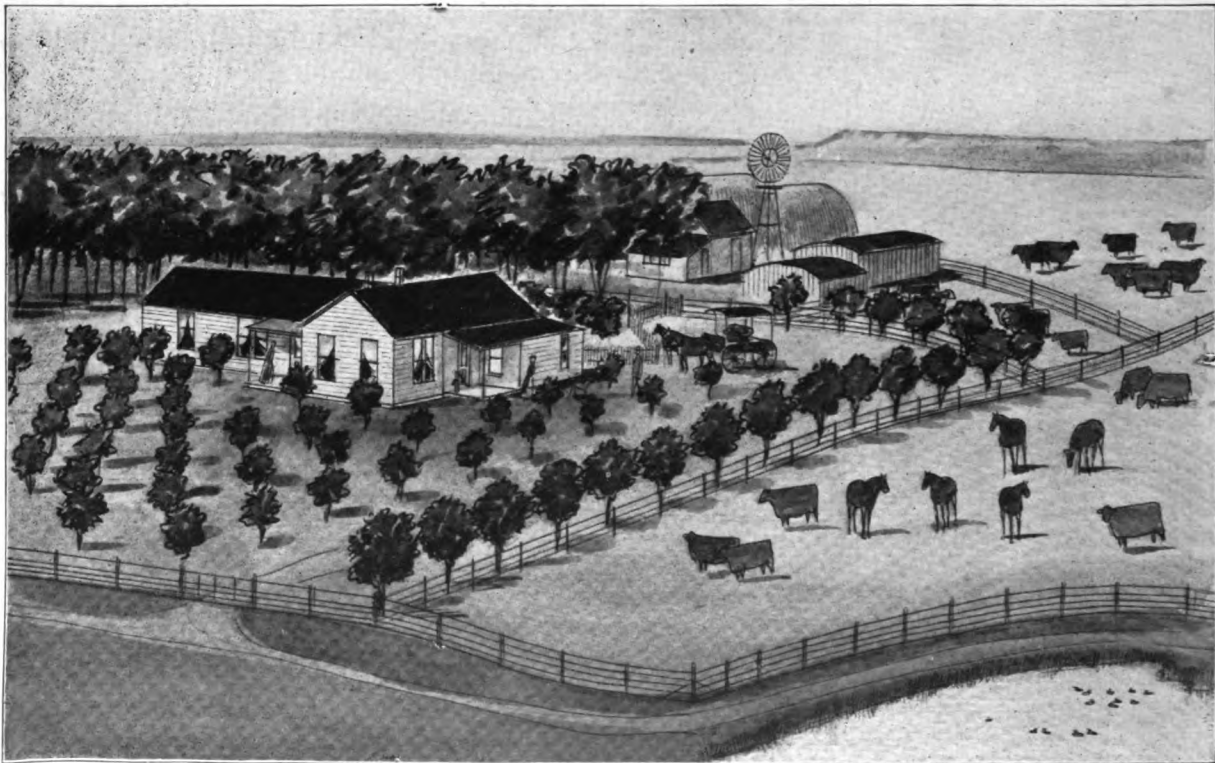
#### ANDREW W. ANDERSON.

One of the pleasant homes in Camp Clarke precinct, Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county,





RESIDENCE OF JEROME B. HAISTON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF A. W. ANDERSON,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.



is owned by Andrew W. Anderson, a well and favorably known citizen of that community, who has spent the past twenty years of his career there.

Mr. Anderson was born in the village of Jar-sos, province of Skone, Sweden, May 22, 1848, coming to the United States with his parents at the age of six years. Their first sojourn was at Galesburg, Illinois, where they spent one year, then moved on a farm at Andover. Here they lived for ten years, the father buying first ten acres, which he later increased to one hundred. They next moved to Iowa, settling in Garden township, Boone county, where the father bought one hundred and sixty acres, and here he died. Andrew Anderson was for twelve years a merchant in Slater, Iowa; selling his store in 1889, he came to Alliance, Nebraska, arriving here on April 19; he filed on a homestead on section 6, township 20, range 51, and proved up on a quarter section, later taking a timber claim, all of which he improved. He now owns over five hundred acres, all under the Alliance ditch, and has over one hundred acres cultivated, raising good crops of grain. He runs quite a bunch of stock, and has about twenty-five acres of fine alfalfa, with plenty of hay land. A large tract of his farm is set apart as an orchard, in which he has planted trees as follows: One hundred and sixty-five cherry trees, one hundred and twenty-five apple trees, one hundred and fifty plum trees, one hundred currant bushes and one hundred gooseberry bushes, all in fine growing condition.

Mr. Anderson has three brothers and two sisters living, both parents being dead. On July 5, 1876, he was married at Madrid, Iowa, to Miss Ulrica Cassel, who was born and raised in that state. They have no living children. Mrs. Anderson's remote ancestor, Baron Von Cassel, of Germany, came to Sweden under Johan Baner after the close of the thirty years' war and remained to become a citizen of that country.

Mr. Anderson is one of the leading men of his locality, taking an active part in all matters for the public good. He is treasurer of school district No. 44, also treasurer and secretary of the Alliance Irrigation Canal Water Power Company.

In politics he is a Republican and stands firmly for the principles of his party. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Lutheran church. An omniverous reader, Mr. Anderson has stored his mind with a wide range of knowledge, taking delight in branches of scientific learning little sought by the general reader. He is ingenious with tools, having built part of their neat cottage home. He is a man of broad, liberal views and intellectuality, far

above the average man of this section of the country. A view of his pleasant home, with its grove and orchard, is to be found on one of our illustrative pages.

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JEROME B. HAISTON.

Jerome B. Haiston, one of the most extensive and progressive ranchmen of Davison precinct, is an old settler of Cheyenne county. He is a man of wide experience, and by his good management and industry, supplemented by honest dealings, has acquired a valuable property and become recognized as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his community.

Mr. Haiston was born in Henry county, Iowa, on March 1, 1853. His mother, Catherine (Davison) Haiston, died when he was a small boy, and his father, Henry Haiston, was supposed to have died when he was thirteen years of age. At the age of three and a half years Jerome was taken into the family of J. B. Comerford, in Adams county, Illinois, and lived with them until he was twenty-one years of age, when he started out in life for himself. His sole capital consisted of a horse and saddle and a good suit of clothes; he began to work as a farm hand in Adams county, remaining there for several years. He was married there on the 8th of October, 1874, to Miss Mary D. Huff, who was a native of Augusta, Hancock county, Illinois, born May 16, 1856. Her parents, Abraham and Christina (Eckles) Huff, are now both dead. The young couple spent several years in Adams county, and in 1885 came west, settling in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, where they filed on a homestead in section 34, township 16, range 50, on which they have made their home ever since. There they went through pioneer experiences, suffering many hardships and privations in getting their home started, but sticking to their determination to succeed, and have been richly rewarded for their efforts, as one can see by glancing at the beautiful fields and broad acres surrounding their comfortable home residence. Mr. Haiston owns altogether eight hundred acres. He cultivates one hundred and sixty acres, raises small grains with splendid success, having good yields each season and a good quality of each variety of grain. He keeps about seventy-five head of cattle and twenty horses. During the early years he suffered severely by drouths, but had no losses from prairie fires nor from hail. An elegant new dwelling was erected in 1907, which was destroyed August 11 before being fairly completed. With true western grit, Mr. Haiston rebuilt a seven-room two-story house in the sum-

mer of 1908, and now has one of the finest country residences in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Haiston are the parents of the following children: John A., William F., Thomas O., Zilla T. (deceased), Minnie A., Mary E., Frank E., Charlotte M. and Mabel D. J. A., W. F., T. O. and Minnie A., the wife of Edward A. Mayer, are all married and well settled in homes of their own, and all are filling honorable positions in the world.

Mr. Haiston is a stanch Republican, and takes a leading part in party affairs. He is chairman of the board of county commissioners and was re-elected in November, 1908. He is at present serving as postmaster of the Higgins postoffice, which is located on his ranch. He is a member of the Frank Welch lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Sidney. On another page of this volume will be found a picture of Mr. Haiston's residence.

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#### WILLIAM WELCH.

William Welch, residing on section 17, township 24, range 42, Sheridan county, is one of the men who settled in the sand hills a number of years ago, and through persistent efforts and industry has acquired a nice property and enjoys a pleasant home. He is a great admirer of this section of the country, and is contented to make Nebraska his home during the future, as he is satisfied with conditions and the opportunities, which are within the easy grasp of anyone of energetic mind and industrious habits.

Mr. Welch was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1861, coming to America with his parents when he was nine years of age, the family being among the early settlers in Nebraska. William was the third member in their family of seven children, and at the age of twenty he started out for himself, working on farms in Sarpy county, Nebraska, up to 1884, then came to Cherry county and took a homestead located twelve miles east of Gordon, just in the edge of the sand hills, remaining on that place for twelve years. He farmed there, keeping a few head of stock, and accumulated a ranch of four hundred and eighty acres of good land, but the dry years hit him, and for two years he had three hundred acres in crops and did not raise enough to pay for threshing, so he eventually lost his land and stock through these failures. He then went to work for the Spade ranch outfit, and remained with that concern for eight years, and in 1901 got started again for himself, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sheridan county. He had some stock and went to work in that business, as he has had enough of all

farming. He had thirty head of cattle when he took this place, purchasing them with money he earned in working for others in this vicinity, and he increased his herd until he now has two hundred head or more, and also has taken an additional four hundred and eighty acres of land. His place is partly fenced, and he raises some grain, but has to buy part of his hay for his stock, although he has a good piece of ground seeded to alfalfa and expects to make a success of this grass. When Mr. Welch came to Cherry county in 1884 he drove through from Sarpy county, Nebraska, and at that time there was not a broken road in the country.

Mr. Welch was married in 1883 to Miss Katherine Donahue, a native of the state of Nebraska. Her father, John Donahue, was born and raised in Ireland, as was also her mother, both now living in this state. To Mr. and Mrs. Welch have been born the following children, both born and raised in this locality: Ellen, aged twenty-four, and Patrick, aged twenty. Our subject is an independent voter, Democratic in national affairs, but does not dabble much in politics. His postoffice is Bingham, Nebraska.

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#### HANS S. HANSEN.

Hans S. Hansen, whose pleasant home is located in section 3, township 26, range 49, where his genial countenance and friendly spirit have made him hosts of well-wishers, which his manly character and genuine worth have long retained, was born on a farm in the southeastern part of Norway in 1865. He spent the earlier years of his life in his native land, where he received his education and was reared to manhood.

After the death of his father, which occurred in the old country, our subject, in the company of his mother, started on the journey across the ocean to America, and while on this trip his mother died. He landed in New York city in 1885, and coming west located in Wisconsin, where he spent some time working in Oconomowoc and farming.

In 1888 Mr. Hansen came to Box Butte county, Nebraska, and settled on a homestead about five miles from Hemingford. Alliance was the nearest railroad station. Here he erected a sod shanty, and for five years lived a bachelor, working his place without the assistance of a team. He spent ten years at bridge construction work for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and traveled through parts of Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. In 1889 our subject purchased his present farm. During the years of drouth he experienced re-

peated failure of crops, but continued his work with a determination which never failed. He now has five quarter sections of good land, all of which is well fenced. He has a pleasant house on his land, good farm buildings, wells and windmills, and he has eighty acres under cultivation.

In 1905 Mr. Hansen and Miss Annie Nortness were married. She was born in Norway, a daughter of O. C. Nortness, a prominent old settler of Nebraska.

Mr. Hansen votes the Republican ticket. From the beginning he has taken an active interest in the affairs of the surrounding community, and as an old settler has done his share of the work toward the development and improvement of the country in which he resides. He is a man whose career is a striking illustration of the persistence, pluck and energy of his native blood, and shows what possibilities this new western country has opened to men of that hardy race, who could see an opportunity and had the courage to embrace it.

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PETER KRUSE.

Peter Kruse, one of the wealthy and influential agriculturists of Dawes county, Nebraska, resides on one of the fine estates in his township. He has accumulated his fortune by his push and energy, and his high station as a citizen and farmer is well deserved.

Mr. Kruse was born in Schleswig, Germany, in 1846, on a farm. His father, Jacob Kruse, was a farmer, who lived and died in his native land. Our subject was raised there, coming to the United States in 1869, and after landing in New York city, traveled west to Clinton county, Iowa, and there followed farming for five years. He next moved to Goose Lake, Iowa, where he run a hotel and saloon for seventeen years, building up a good business, and made a good deal of money in that place. He was obliged to leave the town on account of serious sickness in his family, so sold out and came to Dawes county in 1889. Here he bought a farm in section 17, township 33, range 47, which at that time was perfectly unimproved prairie land, with scarcely an improvement on the place. He at once put up a house and began farming, and for a time went through hard times, witnessing the drouth years, when some seasons he was unable to raise even enough for seed the following year. He made a living by hauling and selling wood and hay from his farm, and as the times grew better was able to build up his farm and home. His ranch now comprises four hundred and eighty acres of good land, and he has

a complete set of substantial farm buildings, and cultivates one hundred and twenty-five acres, with the balance in hay and pasture for stock, of which he runs quite a number. He has been unfortunate in many things, having lost his barn in 1902 by fire, including two sets of good harness, and even this was a very serious setback to him; but he has built a fine new barn, completed in the year 1908. Mr. Kruse makes his dairy pay him well, and has regular customers who take his output of butter at twenty-five cents per pound the year around.

Mr. Kruse was united in marriage in 1873 to Miss Anna Berrickson, of German descent, who came to this country when a young girl. Mrs. Kruse died in 1889, when the children were small, leaving a family of five, named as follows: John, Emma, Pete, Annie and Minnie. The two oldest are married. The other three still help the father with his farm work.

Mr. Kruse has always been prominent in local public affairs, and served on the school board as director of his district for ten years. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

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E. GUS LINN.

In compiling a list of the prominent business men of Kimball, Nebraska, who have been intimately identified with the upbuilding of the commercial interests of that locality and are widely and favorably known, a foremost place must be given E. Gus Linn. This gentleman has been engaged in business in Kimball for many years past, handling different enterprises, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances.

Mr. Linn was born in Sweden, December 6, 1862, and was the third child in his father's family of five, the father still living in his native land, while the mother is dead. At the age of twenty Mr. Linn left Sweden and came to America, settling in Pennsylvania in June, 1882, where he spent six months, then went to Michigan and secured employment in the lumber mills. In 1884 he came to Nebraska, locating in Omaha, and was connected with a lumber company in that city for two years, then moved to Kimball to take charge of the Kimball Lumber Company, which was then managed by the W. T. Robinson Company. He remained in the employ of the concern up to 1893, then purchased the business, soon afterward adding hardware, implements, etc., to the stock. In 1907 he sold the lumber branch to the Foster Lumber Company, and he now has the largest hardware, implement, wagon and buggy establishment in

the west, handling also paints, windmills, pumps and fittings to his line.

In 1892 Mr. Linn was elected county treasurer, and held the office for four years, receiving the election as county judge in 1897 and serving for two years. He is now county commissioner, elected in 1905. He has also been mayor of Kimball, holding office during 1907 and 1908, and is president of the Bank of Kimball and a member of the school board. Mr. Linn is a representative western "booster," progressive in his business methods, and possesses extraordinary ability as an organizer and leader of men. He is a Republican and strong party man.

On June 18, 1888, our subject was united in marriage to Anna C. Willing, at Sidney, Nebraska. Mrs. Linn was born in Sweden, coming to the United States as a young girl, and her parents are both dead. They have a family of seven children, all living at home, who are named as follows: Oscar G., Vernon E., Herbert E., Ernest A., John T., Frank W. and Kenneth.

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#### HENRY C. KENYON.

The gentleman herein named has passed many years in western Nebraska, coming to Brown county when a young man, and here he has resided almost constantly for over thirty years, becoming thoroughly familiar with this section of the country and its opportunities and resources. Mr. Kenyon resides in section 4, township 30, where he has a good home and farm, and is highly esteemed as a citizen and fellow townsman.

Mr. Kenyon was born in Oneida, New York state, in 1865. His father, Milton Kenyon, was also a native of that state, born in 1822, and his mother, who was Melinda Manchester, was born there in 1825. His parents had a family of three children, he being the youngest, and he was reared in his native state until ten years old, then came to Minnesota, where the family spent a year in Steele county. From there they went to Omaha and remained one year, then on a farm near Omaha up to 1882. In the spring of 1881 our subject's father came to Brown county and took up a homestead in section 4, township 30, range 23. With him was a friend and neighbor, Tom Johnson, and they drove through the country into the county with a team and covered wagon, and were almost the first settlers in that locality.

The following year our subject came to Brown county with a carload of goods, but did not locate, returning to Ainsworth, where he

worked for the Chicago & Northwestern railway, running between Johnstown and the former place. He continued at this for some years, spending part of his time at home and assisting his father in building up his home and farm. The latter died January 18, 1899, and his death was deeply mourned by all who knew him as one of the leading citizens of his community and a highly esteemed old settler of this locality. Their first house on the homestead was a sod shanty, in which they lived for two years, then built a log house. There were many hard times and discouragements to contend with during the early years, going through the drouth periods, when for several years they were unable to raise even a fair crop, but as times grew better the farm was gradually improved and added to until it now contains three hundred and twenty acres of good land, two hundred and fifty acres of which are in a high state of cultivation. It is all fenced, and has good buildings and is one of the well kept and valuable estates in the county.

In September, 1888, Mr. Kenyon was married to Miss Jennie Freeman, daughter of a farmer and old settler in this county, and to Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon have been born the following children: Carl, Guy, Blanche and Glenn. The family have a pleasant and happy home and a host of warm friends in the community.

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#### ISAAC N. WARE.

Another one of Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county's old-timers is found in the gentleman whose name heads this personal history. Mr. Ware is a man of interesting personality, genial and whole-souled, and has the esteem and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. He is a successful and prosperous agriculturist, residing in Camp Clark precinct, where he has a pleasant home.

Isaac N. Ware was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, April 5, 1859, the fourth in a family of five children. He was reared to the age of eighteen in that state, going from there to Henry county, near Newcastle, Indiana, where his parents spent one year, then moved to Lawrence county, Tennessee. Our subject's next move was to Nebraska, locating in North Platte, where he was overseer of a large ranch for two years, coming thence to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1887. He filed on a homestead on section 4, township 16, range 48, on which he proved up and improved, then sold it. Later he bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 12, township 20, range 51, all of which is under irrigation. Here

he engages in general farming and is making a success of his work. His place has good buildings and improvements and he is a progressive, up-to-date agriculturist.

Mr. Ware's father, John Ware, is dead, and the mother, who was Mary Gross in maidenhood, is living in Hershey, Nebraska. He was married in Tennessee on January 18, 1879, to Miss Ella Wickard, who is a native of Indiana and sister of Mr. Joel Wickard, of Cheyenne county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. They are the parents of five children, as follows: Grace, wife of C. C. Carrier, a native of eastern Nebraska, born May 17, 1884, coming into Cheyenne county at the age of four years, where his parents were pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. Carrier were married on June 28, 1905, settling on a farm adjoining our subject's homestead. They have two children, Clarence and Edwin. The remaining children of Mr. Ware are John Leroy, Charles, George and Horace, who are industrious, energetic boys, helping their father carry on his farm.

Mr. Ware is a Democrat in political sentiment and affiliates with the Bridgeport camp, Modern Woodmen of America.

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ROBERT N. BIGGS.

Robert N. Biggs, who occupies a prominent place among the younger members of the farming and ranching community of Chambers precinct, is one of the successful men in that line in Cheyenne county, Nebraska. There he has built up a fine estate and gained an enviable reputation as a citizen and has a host of friends.

Mr. Biggs was born in Cloud county, Kansas, July 17, 1876. When he was four years of age his parents left that state, going to a farm near St. Joseph, Missouri, where they spent two years, and from there moved to Boulder, Colorado. After two years' residence at that place they returned to Kansas, where our subject grew to the age of eleven. Their next move was to Kearney county, Nebraska, and after living there for four years, removed to Kimball county, where they resided until 1901, at which time they came to Cheyenne county and filed on the place which is now Mr. Biggs' home ranch. This is situated on sections 34 and 27, township 13, range 52, consisting of six hundred and forty acres. About one hundred acres are cultivated, and he is engaged in stock raising on a large scale, dealing in both cattle and horses. The ranch is fitted with a complete set of substantial

buildings and every improvement, and is one of the valuable tracts in the section.

Prior to coming to Cheyenne county Mr. Biggs traveled for a number of years, being engaged on different cattle ranches throughout nearly all of the central and western states.

On November 2, 1900, Mr. Biggs was married at Sidney, Nebraska, to Miss Mary Ann Patton, whose parents, John and Mary (Carse) Patton, resided on a ranch in Banner county, Nebraska, twenty miles north of the town of Kimball. Both our subject's parents, John and Florence (Rutledge) Biggs, are living, residing part of the time on their ranch in Colorado and at other times in Kimball, where they have a fine residence. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs have two children, Francis and John.

In politics Mr. Biggs is a staunch Democrat and takes an active part in local and school affairs. He has been a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen since 1896 at Kimball.

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ROBERT A. EMANUELSON.

Robert A. Emanuelson, who enjoys the distinction of being one of the old settlers of Cheyenne county, is a gentleman of untiring perseverance, possessed of a broad mind and good business ability, as is evidenced by his success in the accumulation of the valuable property which he possesses, all gained through his own efforts. He has met with many hardships and disappointments since coming to Nebraska, but has surmounted them all, and is now one of the substantial farmers of that region. He is interested to quite an extent in the dairy business at present, shipping the cream from about twenty cows. He devotes considerable of his attention to that branch of agriculture.

Mr. Emanuelson was born in Wilmington, Will county, Illinois, January 9, 1861. He was reared there, attending the common schools, where he received a substantial education, and followed farming in that vicinity during his young manhood. Coming west to Nebraska, he located in Cheyenne county in 1886, taking up his residence in Lodgepole at first. He secured work as section hand in the spring of 1889 and in the fall of 1890 became foreman, which position he held until the spring of 1897, resigning to give his entire attention to his ranch. In 1886 he took up a homestead in section 2, township 16, range 47, which he afterwards sold to the Club ranch. He then moved onto section 32, township 14, range 46, and ac-

quired additional land, until he is now owner of five hundred and sixty acres, two hundred and forty in section 32 and three hundred and twenty acres in the west half of section 29. The ranch is situated within half a mile of Lodgepole, on Lodgepole creek, and is a valuable piece of property. He cultivates about sixty acres, and uses the balance for hay land and pasture for his stock, running about seventy-five head of cattle and horses. His ranch is known as the Locust Grove ranch, taking its name from the large number of locust trees on the place. He has it all well improved with good buildings, fences and everything necessary for its proper operation.

We call attention to a fine view of the premises with late improvements, presented on another page.

On December 13, 1890, in Eagle precinct, Cheyenne county, Mr. Emanuelson was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Bohlken, who was born in Germany, coming to America with her parents when quite a small girl. Her parents, George and Katherine (Hemen) Bohlken, lived for seventeen years in Adams county, Illinois, prior to their coming to Nebraska. After one year's residence in Clay county they came to Cheyenne county in the spring of 1887. The father is now making his home in Bates county, Missouri. The mother has been dead for some years. Our subject and his estimable wife are the parents of eight children, who are named as follows: Anna, William, Ilene, Rosella, Robert, Charles, George and Margaret, all living at home. Our subject's parents, Charles and Mary (Miller) Emanuelson, still occupy the old homestead in Wilmington, Will county, Illinois.

Mr. Emanuelson is a Republican and is serving as village trustee at the present time. He was formerly a member of the board of county commissioners during the years 1901-1907, inclusive. He affiliates with the Odd Fellows at Sidney and the Modern Woodmen at Lodgepole.

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#### ORRIN E. SMITH.

Among those who have in a great measure contributed to the success of Rock county, Nebraska, the above mentioned gentleman occupies a foremost place. He has resided in this region for many years, and is well known as one of the prominent citizens and public-spirited men. He has held the office of sheriff of the county ten years (five terms), and proved one of the most efficient officials the county ever had, being highly esteemed by all of the people.

Mr. Smith was born in Lake county, Illinois, August 29, 1851. His father, a native of New York, settled in Illinois when a young man, while his mother, Fatha Bower, was of German parentage. There were nine children in his father's family, and he was the third member. He was reared and educated in Woodbury county, Iowa, where his parents settled in 1852, having been among the oldest residents of that locality. He was brought up to do all kinds of work to be found in operating a farm, and early learned to depend upon his own efforts, and the training thus instilled into his mind stood him in good stead in the later years of his life. At the age of sixteen years he left home and began working out on farms in Iowa. He remained in that region up to 1884, when he came to Nebraska and settled on a farm near Newport, Rock county. There he took a homestead and remained for about eight years. He built two good houses and improved the farm in other ways. He also filed on a pre-emption and timber claim, planting a large number of trees, which grew into a fine grove. He endured hard work and suffered many discouragements and much loss, but was determined to succeed so persevered until at one time he was the owner of eight hundred acres of good land. He has always been more or less engaged in stock raising, and has been very successful in this line as well as in grain raising. He took a homestead in section 32, township 31, range 19, in October, 1901, and finally secured the entire section, of which he cultivates fifty acres, keeping the rest as hay and grazing land. Dairying is a branch of farming now receiving some attention from Mr. Smith, the product of about fifteen cows being shipped to the eastern creameries.

Mr. Smith was married in Iowa on Christmas day, 1875, to Miss Bridget McGann, who bore him two children, Ulla and Maud. Mrs. Smith died while the family lived in Newport, and in 1897 he married Miss Carrie Courtney, whose father, John Courtney, was an old settler in Rock county. Two children resulted from this union, De Cleo and Ella.

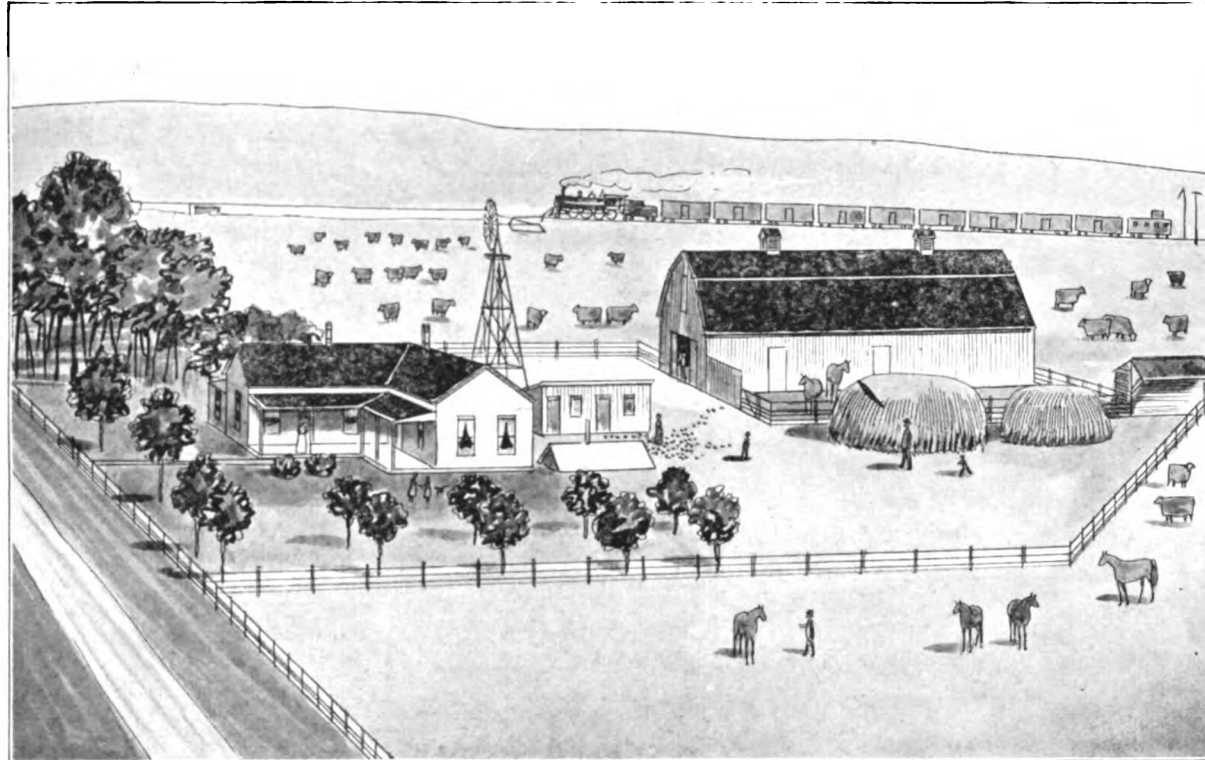
Mr. Smith is a Republican politically and one of the leading men in all affairs of local interest. A view of the home and recent improvements and additions is to be seen on another page.

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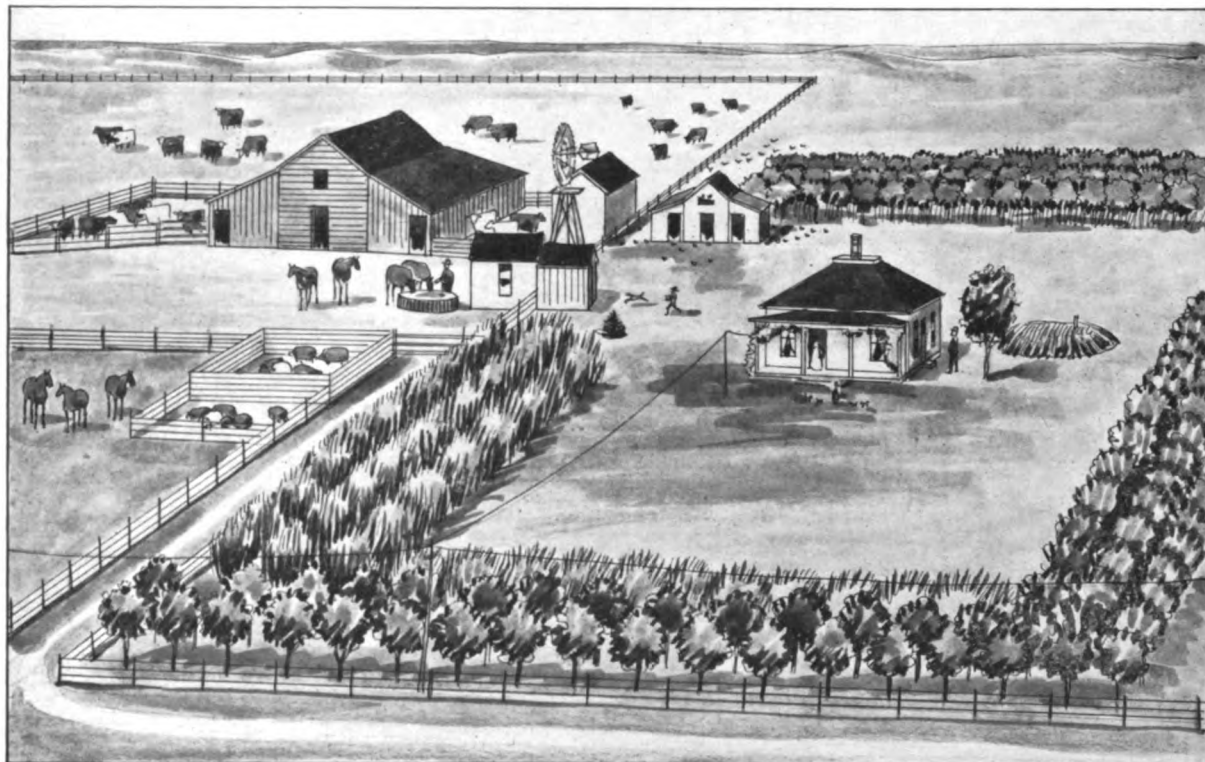
#### GEORGE JESSEN.

The above named gentleman is an old settler of Cherry county, and is one of the most prosperous ranchmen in that part of the coun-





"LOCUST GROVE FARM" RESIDENCE OF ROBERT EMANUELSON,  
At Lodge Pole, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF O. E. SMITH,  
Rock County, Nebraska.





try. He was born in Germany, October 10, 1854, and was reared there, and with his father, Christ Jessen, followed the occupation of carpenter upon reaching his fifteenth year. His mother, Catherine Detlefson, was also born in Germany, and neither his father nor his mother ever left Germany. George Jessen is the first of a family of seven children, of whom four are living.

Mr. Jessen was married in 1878 to Mary Rosine Peterson, who was born in Germany in 1852. Although her parents never left the old country, one brother came to America and located in Rushville, Cherry county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Jessen left their native home in 1872, sailing from Hamburg July 29th on the steamer India, and after a voyage of seventeen days they landed in New York. Later he settled in Clinton, Iowa, where he was manager of a large stock farm for four years. Then for two years Mr. Jessen worked at his trade of carpenter in Iowa and in 1888 he moved to Cherry and took a tree claim and later a homestead one and one-half miles east of Merriman. This he sold and bought four hundred and eighty acres of deeded land and also has an equal amount of Kincaid homestead land. Mr. Jessen worked as section foreman for three years at Merriman and then spent three years in Douglas, Wyoming, in the same capacity. He then left the employ of the railroad and started in as a ranchman. He went to work with a will and today owns nine hundred and sixty acres in section 7, township 34, range 36, all of which is fenced and improved, and stocked with one hundred and seventy-five head of cattle and about thirty horses. Mrs. Jessen also owns in her own right one hundred and seventy-five acres. He takes great pride in building up his farm, has a comfortable home, and will be contented to spend the balance of his life in Cherry county.

Mr. Jessen is one of the first settlers in this locality and has seen many hardships since coming to Nebraska, and says that he has had all the frontier life that he wants. However, he is well satisfied with what he has accomplished and is now prepared to enjoy the comfortable home which he has built up for himself and family. He has five children, named as follows: Catherine, wife of Alf Pruden; Nannie, teacher in Cherry county; Minnie and William (twins) and Bertha. They all have musical ability, playing a variety of instruments in their home concerts.

Mr. Jessen is a Republican and always votes a straight ticket. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Lutheran church.

#### JOHN A. ANDERSON.

The opportunities afforded honest industry to gain a footing in America were embraced by the gentleman whose name heads this article, and he is now one of the recognized substantial ranchmen of Sioux county, Nebraska. He owns a valuable estate in section 21, township 33, range 56, and has the place improved so that it is indeed one of the model ranches of the region, its every appointment being the finest, and every corner showing the most painstaking care and splendid management in its operation. He is also one of the old settlers of western Nebraska who has done his share in developing it into its present prosperity and has watched the growth and success that has come to the region through the efforts of those brave pioneers who have suffered many hardships in order to gain a home and competence in the far west.

Mr. Anderson was born near Christiana, in Norway, in 1866. He grew up in this western country in reality, coming here when a lad of fifteen years. His father was a farmer, born in Scotland. When John was a lad of fifteen years he left his native land and struck out for himself, taking passage on an emigrant ship bound for the new world, and after landing in America, traveled across the country to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he secured employment with the Brewster & Emmons Cattle Company and rode the range for some time, finally going into Colorado, where he spent a short while in the mountains. In 1884 he came to Sioux county and remained through the summer, then returned to Colorado, finally coming back to Sioux county in 1885, being to and fro between the two points for a number of years, being constantly in the employ of the War Bonnet Live Stock Company as a cowboy. He was in the vicinity of Harrison when that town was first started, and saw the beginning of the first white settlement in Sioux county, also being one of those who was present when the county was organized.

In 1887, in partnership with B. E. Brewster and P. O. Brewster, also Nels Anderson, a brother, Mr. Anderson formed a partnership and the syndicate bought out the War Bonnet Live Stock Company, the ranch being located in War Bonnet creek valley, and they continued this company for twenty-one years. Their interests extended all over this part of the country, and was one of the strongest concerns of its kind in the west. Mr. Anderson was foreman and general manager of the company, and they were phenomenally successful in their operations. He finally bought out his partners

in the fall of 1907, and is at present so of the extensive ranching interests. It consists of six thousand acres, located on Bonnet creek valley, lying along Pix and all of it is fenced and in first-class condition, supplied with a complete set of buildings. Our subject has about a hundred acres irrigated for hay land, large quantities of grass each season and a large herd of high-grade Hereford cattle on the ranch, and ships many carloads each year.

Mr. Anderson married Miss Emma in 1892. Mrs. Anderson was born in Laramie, Wyoming, and is a daughter of George Walker, a prominent old settler of that region. Our subject and his amiableness the parents of a charming family, of the following children: Mabel, Nellie, Jessie and Grace. They have a pleasant happy home, surrounded by all the comforts of rural life and are highly esteemed by the community as worthy resident citizens.

DR. H. J. ARBOGAST.

The above mentioned gentleman is a well known citizen of Bartley, Nebraska, a leading physician of Red Willow county, highly esteemed by all who know him. He has built up an enviable reputation as a successful and exceptional practitioner, and is a man of exceptional ability in his chosen profession.

Dr. Arbogast is a native of Tucker county, West Virginia, and came to Red Willow county with his parents when an infant. The Arbogasts lived in Tucker county, Virginia. There were seven generations of our subject's father was the seventh in order of birth of thirteen and four on his mother's side, two of whom are still living in the southern army, and all are still living in the now dead settled in this locality. He was Salem a farmer by occupation. There were twelve children in his father's family, and these only one has died. In his mother's family (the Teters) there were fourteen children, three of whom are deceased, and these facts show the great vitality of these pioneer American-German families. The Teter family also of German descent, but came to America and settled in Pennsylvania and Virginia before the Revolutionary war. Mrs. (Teter) Arbogast's grandfather on her mother's side is of the same family as Hon. Richard P. Bland, and bore that name, and served in the revolution-

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ary war, and all the family were a part of the early history of this country. Dr. Arbogast was reared on his father's farm and educated at the Bartley high school, from which he graduated in 1899. He entered the University of Nebraska and took up the study of medicine, and graduated from this institution in 1905, at once beginning the practice of his profession in his home town, and has been very successful. He was appointed county coroner, and is serving his second term in that capacity. He is a Republican. In 1906 Dr. Arbogast was married to Miss Bessie Enlow, of Cambridge, Nebraska, daughter of W. E. Enlow and Mary Bird Enlow. Mr. Enlow has been one of the leading merchants of Cambridge since 1886, coming here from Illinois in 1884. He is a prominent Mason and highly respected in the community.

ISAAC ROUSH.

Isaac Roush, one of the leading citizens of Kimball county, is known well and favorably as the genial postmaster at Kimball, having held this position continuously for the past eleven years. He has the confidence and esteem of everyone with whom he comes in contact in a business or social way, and takes a prominent part in every movement for the advancement or benefit of his locality. Mr. Roush was born in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, on August 13, 1863, and was reared there to the age of nineteen years. He was the sixth member in order of birth in a family of nine children, and is the only one who chose Nebraska as his permanent residence. In 1882 he left his native state and settled in Elkhart county, Indiana, following farming in that vicinity for about two years, at the end of that time coming to Kearney county, Nebraska, and worked on a sheep ranch for three years. Later he was connected with the John Biggs Lumber Company for about three years. In the latter part of April, 1890, Mr. Roush landed in Kimball county, and was manager of the Biggs Lumber Company at Kimball until 1894. The following year he went into the L. E. Schaffer general mercantile establishment, and was with that concern until 1898. On January 1 of that year he was appointed postmaster at Kimball and has since then filled the office continuously and exceptionally well and is liked by all. Mr. Roush is a thoroughly good business man, self-educated and self-made in every sense of the word, well read and possessing superior attainments, keen perception and sterling qualities of heart and mind.

Politically our subject is a Republican. He is a member of the village board of trustees. Mr. Roush is unmarried.

ERNEST L. MYERS.

The gentleman whose name introduces this article is widely known as one of the leading business men of the thrifty little city of Newport, Rock county, Nebraska, which owes not a little of its present prosperity to the establishment of his lumber yard at that time, where he developed those peculiar characteristics that put him in the very front rank. His congenial spirit and friendly ways have made him popular wherever he is known, and his unquestioned honesty and square dealing have retained the friends his habits have won.

Mr. Myers was born in Union City, Pennsylvania, January 26, 1863, and was reared on a farm. The family belongs to an old American stock still represented in Union City. When Mr. Myers started in life for himself he was twenty-three years of age. For two years he was employed in his native town, and in 1888 he made his first appearance in Newport, Nebraska, where he was later to accomplish such substantial results. He made pre-emption entry on section 12, township 29, range 17, and devoted himself to the development of his claim. For two years he lived in a sod house and worked with a tireless energy to bring these virgin acres into a profitable cultivation. In November, 1885, he was married to Miss May A. Tillotson, and to this happy union have come two children, Ruth and Raymond.

In 1890 Mr. Myers opened a lumber yard in Newport, which was the second one to be established in the place, and from the first it has commanded a large and profitable trade. Ten years later he established the Bassett Hardware and Supply Company at Bassett, which has become a widely known and popular institution. In 1902 he opened the E. L. Myers Mercantile Company at Carns, with which he operates an extensive lumber yard and seeks to serve the general welfare of that prosperous and extensive region. Mr. Myers has a largely patronized general store at Newport, of which Mr. M. Paradise is the local manager, a worthy coadjutor of his resourceful and energetic principal. Mr. Myers, in addition to his extensive and complicated mercantile enterprises, gives much attention to the real estate business, and handles lands in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. He engaged in the hay business at Bassett in 1900, and this, like all his other enterprises, has proved successful from its inception.

It is hardly too much to say that Mr. Myers has done more than almost any other man in the development of this great section of imperial Nebraska, and the history of Newport is much in evidence to this effect. In 1890, when Mr. Myers located here his lumber yard, it was almost an abandoned western town, but his coming to it seemed to be the signal for a new awakening that has transformed the place.

In political matters Mr. Myers has been identified with the Republican party, and was elected to the general assembly on that ticket in 1895. The following year he was a delegate to the St. Louis national convention, and has served on the state central committee. He is a member of the governor's staff, participating in the presentation of the silver service to the battleship Nebraska, at San Francisco in the spring of 1908. He takes an active part in local affairs, and is an energetic citizen and upright business man. He is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the blue lodge at Bassett, the chapter at Long Pine, the commandery at Norfolk and the consistory and shrine at Omaha. He also holds membership in the Odd Fellows, the Woodmen, the Royal Highlanders and the Elks.

EDWARD R. YEAGLE.

Among those who have come to western Nebraska during recent years and through thrift and industry have accumulated a large amount of property and aided in the building up of the commercial and financial interests of the locality where he chose his home, the gentleman above named deserves prominent mention. Mr. Yeagle resides in Sidney, Cheyenne county, where he is engaged in business, and is regarded as a worthy citizen and substantial business man.

Mr. Yeagle was born at Charleston, Virginia, in 1866. His father was of Southern blood, engaged in the general merchandise business in Charleston and well known through that section of the country. He married Amelia Yeagle. Our subject was raised and educated in the city of his birth, and was a clerk in his father's store as a boy and young man, and when about eighteen years old started out to make his own way. He spent some years as a sailor, during which time he made two trips around the globe. He afterward learned the cook's trade in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and followed the work in that state and later at Grand Rapids and Saginaw, Michigan. In 1895 he came west to Kearney, Nebraska, and there engaged in the restaurant business and run it for a year. Next he moved to Sidney, where he went into the same business, but his place was destroyed by

fire soon after and he lost everything, as there was no insurance on the place or contents. However, he stuck to it and opened another restaurant there, and is doing well. His place is located on one of the most prominent corners of the town, and it is the first and best restaurant of the first class of the town. Aside from this business he has made a study of his line of work on Main street, where he intends to erect a stone hotel and knows the restaurant business having a man and his old settler and prominent farmer in the neighborhood. In 1897 Mr. Yeagle was married to Miss Emily Jamison, daughter of James Jamison, an old settler and prominent farmer of Amherst, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Yeagle have two children, namely: Harold and Mabel. The family are well liked by all, and Mr. Yeagle is active in all local affairs in his community.

I. L. MERCURE.

I. L. Mercure, known throughout Hooker county, Nebraska, as a man of good citizenship and untiring energy in the pursuit of duty, is a resident of township 24, range 32, where he owns and operates an extensive ranch. He has been identified with the upbuilding of that locality for many years, and while acquiring his valuable estate has also gained for himself an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen. He is also a leading old settler of that region, and from its beginning has taken an active part in its development and commercial growth.

Mr. Mercure was born in New York state in 1844, in the town of Ticonderoga. He is a son of Joseph L. Mercure, of Canadian birth, who was a ship carpenter by trade, working on Lake Champlain. He married Charlotte Cossey, the United States American born. The father came to the subject man followed up in his native state, and as a young man followed the life of a sailor on different lakes, rivers and canals in the east, and continued a partner for over twenty years. He became a partner with his father in the shipyards, and in the business for about eight years, building canal boats. Mr. Mercure next started in the mercantile business, buying produce and shipping it into New York city, and carried on a large trade in that vicinity for ten years or more. He came to western Iowa, settling in Sloan, Woodbury county, where he engaged in the furniture business in partnership with a brother, and remained in that vicinity for two years, and remained in that vicinity for two years, then followed

construction and building for several years, in that time helping to build the Chicago & Northwestern railway up the White river into Wyoming. He has the distinction of putting in the first mile of grading west of Thedford, Nebraska, on that line. In the spring of 1888 he, together with several others, went into Cherry county and took up government land, and there his daughter was the first teacher in their school district. He settled on Loup river, still continuing in the carpenter trade in Seneca, making that place his home for a number of years.

Mr. Mercure started in the cattle business in 1900, locating on his present ranch the following year, and has developed a fine property. He is proprietor of a splendid ranch containing three thousand acres, situated four miles southeast of Mullen, and on this place he has erected a fine residence, twenty-six by twenty-eight, which is one of the show places of the locality. He has also put up all good barns and outbuildings and has every improvement for operating a model ranch. He had the misfortune in 1907 to lose his house and entire contents by fire, suffering a loss of fifteen hundred dollars.

In March, 1867, our subject was married at Sandy Hill, New York, to Emma Cossey, born and reared in that locality. Five children were born of this union, namely: Minnie A., Nelson D., Myron O., Clarence P. and Fred R.

Mr. Mercure has always been one of the leading men of his community, active in public affairs, and has served as justice of the peace at different times, also has held the office of township assessor for several terms. He is a Republican in politics.

L. C. KINNEY.

L. C. Kinney, numbered among the prominent pioneers in western Nebraska, has built up a good estate in Kimball county, and there resides, surrounded by the comforts of life and esteemed by his associates.

Mr. Kinney was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, on July 9, 1843. He grew to manhood there, removing to New Hampshire at the age of twenty-three, and from there to different states in the east for several years, finally landing in Nebraska about 1882, coming here from Wyoming, where he had spent one year. He at once settled on the homestead which is now his home ranch in section 2, township 14, range 58. When he located here there was only one other settler near him and only five ranches in Kimball county (formerly included in Cheyenne county). Here he passed through all the early Nebraska times so familiar to the old settlers





L. C. KINNEY.





MRS. L. C. KINNEY.



that there is little need to review the incidents, but managed to prove up on his claim and improve the same, slowly at first, but as the years grew better and conditions were more favorable for the development of the agricultural resources he was able to accumulate a little money and add to his original holdings, and is now proprietor of fifteen hundred acres, all good range and farm land, which he devotes to stock raising principally. He is known throughout this part of Nebraska as a thorough stockman, dealing extensively in high bred horses, handling at the present time from three to four hundred head. He has some very fine animals in his herd, knows every detail of the business, and stands high as an authority in breeding and raising standard bred trotting and pacing horses. He handles many Kentucky bred animals, and has produced some fine specimens of this breed. His name is familiar to horsemen all over the western states, and, in fact, throughout the states. His fifteen hundred acres of ranch above mentioned is located on both sides of Lodgepole creek, three hundred acres of which is under the best kind of irrigating ditches. This insures a good crop every year.

While living in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, Mr. Kinney was married to Miss Addie Webster, who is a descendant of the celebrated Webster family, the event occurring on March 20, 1856, and they are the parents of one child, Mabel, wife of Samuel E. Rutledge, residing in Denver, Colo. Our subject was one of a family of six children, of whom, beside himself, but one sister and a brother are living.

During his lifetime here in Nebraska Mr. Kinney has built up two distinct ranches, which are classed among the best, and he has taken a most active part in the development of this part of the state. On another page of this volume will be found portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Kinney.

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#### FRANCIS McDERMOTT.

Among the prominent old settlers of Cherry county none is more widely known or highly respected than the man whose name heads this article, and who now resides on section 15, township 34, range 29.

Mr. McDermott was born in Leitrim county, Ireland, in 1875. His father, Bernard McDermott, was a native of Ireland, and worked there in the mills. His mother, in maidenhood, was Mary Daley. Shortly after the birth of our subject the family moved to Liverpool, England, where they remained until Mr. McDermott was twelve years of age, when the family moved to New York, where they remained a short time,

then moved to New Jersey, and in 1885 moved to Cherry county, Nebraska.

Mr. McDermott's mother settled in Cherry county in 1886 and took up a homestead claim, which she later proved up on. She lived on this place up to her death, which occurred in 1903. When the family settled in Cherry county they took up farming and stock raising in a small way. They were handicapped because of a lack of money with which to operate. The first buildings erected were very flimsy, rickety affairs, and the only teams they had were small ponies. Then another thing they had to contend with was poor crops. The dry years came on and the crops were almost totally destroyed. However, this did not discourage them; they persevered, and as a reward for their industry and energy they today own one of the finest places in western Nebraska.

The place consists of five hundred and sixty acres, most of which is devoted to stock raising, which is carried on on a large scale. One hundred and sixty acres of the farm is under cultivation and produces good crops. The entire place is fenced and cross-fenced, and is thoroughly improved with all modern conveniences, a good dwelling house, good barns and outbuildings, and the place is well supplied with an abundance of good water.

Mr. McDermott has taken an active part in all public affairs in his neighborhood. He is highly esteemed in the community in which he resides. He has traveled and read extensively and is one of the best posted men in Cherry county.

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#### A. A. GUSTAFSON.

A. A. Gustafson, residing on section 1, Divide township, has been a resident of this section since 1882, and is one of the best known old-timers in Phelps county. He is a farmer and owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which is operated by his son Julius. Mr. Gustafson is a builder and contractor by trade, and one of the best in his line of work, and a man of sterling character, held in the very highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Gustafson was born in Sweden and raised there, in his young manhood learning his trade as a builder at Ostergotland, and followed the work there for several years, in 1872 coming to America and settling in Illinois. He first located in Nebraska in 1882, coming from Rock Island, Illinois, where he had worked as a contractor for a number of years. He at once bought his present farm and has built up a splendid place here, having erected a set of the



being put through this part of the state, and he secured employment on the construction work and also started to build up a home, having filed on a claim, which is his location at the present time. His first dwelling was a dug-out, and later had a sod house, in which he lived for a number of years, then put up a new sod shanty. During the drouth years he witnessed hard times, part of the time being obliged to work out in order to make a living, spending some time at Kearney, and also at Greeley, Colorado. He was unable to raise a good crop on his land during the dry years, so gradually worked into the cattle business, and gathered together quite a bunch of stock and was most successful in this venture. He put good buildings and improvements on the farm, which now consists of eight hundred and forty acres, and he has four hundred acres devoted to mixed farming at the present time, the balance being in hay and pasture land. The ranch is about all fenced and every part of it bespeaks the good management of our subject. He has a large barn, forty by sixty, erected in 1908, and numerous other smaller buildings.

Mr. Weekly was married in 1885 to Miss Mary Maxwell, born and reared in West Virginia. Mrs. Weekly's father died in April, 1907. Eleven children have come to bless the union of our subject and his esteemed wife, named as follows: Goldie, Harry, Winnie, Addie, Mattie, Ward, Rose, Edna, Walter, Edith and Raymond, forming a happy and congenial family group. They enjoy a comfortable home, Mr. Weekly having recently erected a handsome residence, twenty-six by twenty-six, two stories in height, and their home is one of the most hospitable in the community.

Mr. Weekly votes independent of party politics. He has been assessor, and has always taken an active part in the upbuilding of his section. He is now on the school board, and has been an important factor in the establishment of the schools in the county.

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DAVID A. CLOPTON.

David A. Clopton, who is closely identified with the farming interests of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, is a resident of Custer precinct, where he has met with marked success in operating his fine estate. Mr. Clopton is one of the old-timers in this region, and is widely known as an industrious and energetic farmer, universally esteemed as a worthy citizen.

Mr. Clopton was born in Green county, Iowa, May 15, 1859. His father, Isaac Clopton, a native of Illinois, of American stock, was an early

settler in that county, and is living there at the present time. The mother was Nancy Salmon. Our subject was the fourth child in a family of twelve, and during his boyhood years assisted in carrying on the home farm, learning to do all kinds of hard farm work when a small boy. At the age of twenty-one years he began for himself, working for his father for four years, then took a farm in that vicinity, on which he lived for a year. In 1885 he came to Keya Paha county, and settled on a homestead on section 1, township 33, range 21, and still occupies this place. He lived with his brother-in-law until he had proved up on his place, planting four thousand trees on his homestead, also assisting his neighbors in starting their groves. He broke up seventy-five acres, which he farms, and has two hundred acres of hay and pasture, owning in all three hundred and twenty acres. He keeps fifty head of cattle, fifteen horses and quite a lot of hogs, and has good buildings and fences. He has one of the finest homes in the county and has accumulated all this property from a start of practically nothing, as all he had when he landed here was a team and wagon and two cows. He was one of the first settlers in this locality, and grew with the region, and is now considered among the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Clopton was married in Springview, January 1, 1889, to Miss Katie Blakeley, whose parents, John and Lydia (Sampson) Blakeley, were pioneers in this county and still reside here. Mr. and Mrs. Clopton are the parents of the following children: Myrtle J., Ira B., Ray W. and Genevieve.

Although our subject has never taken a leading part in politics, he has given his aid for the best interests of the people of his locality, and aided materially in the advancement of the agricultural and commercial opportunities. He is a loyal Republican, having always voted that ticket, and a member of the Baptist church.

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MR. AND MRS. OSCAR C. LUTZ.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar C. Lutz are numbered among the pioneers of eastern Nebraska, settling in York county in 1872.

At the time of their settlement much of York county was open for homestead settlement. However, they preferred to purchase railroad land, and secured a tract of four hundred and eighty acres in section 13, township 11, range 2 east, at a purchase price of five dollars per acre. They erected a frame dwelling on the land, hauling the lumber from Seward, a distance of thirty-five miles, and the same was afterward used as

a public school building, and was the school house erected in the school district.

As there was no homestead land in the school district, their taxes on the school were very high, being one hundred and fifty dollars for a year or two. They were the sufferers from the grasshopper plague and lost their crops in the drouth years of the early nineties. Mr. Lutz first saw the valley of the North Loup while buffalo hunting in 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Lutz are of genuine pioneer stock, their parents having settled in Mercer county, Illinois, in 1832, when that portion of Illinois was almost wholly unsettled, and wild game in abundance. Mr. Lutz and family came to Garfield county in 1898, where they now reside. Their first property in the county was the steam flouring mills of Burwell. Their present residence is on section 21, township 21, range 15 west, on a tract of eight hundred and forty acres, their residence being one of the best of elm and cottonwood in Mercer county, situated in a beautiful grove of elm and cottonwood. Mr. Lutz was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, March 14, 1845, and was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, October 12, 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Lutz were married November 1, 1870, the fruit of their union being five children, viz.: Orley L., who died in infancy; Mrs. Iola Lutz, of Custer county, Nebraska; Ora C., who died in childhood; Marie, who is a member of the Science church, and Mrs. Lutz is a Christian Science practitioner, having had much success in the practice of Christian Science. To the grand achievement of pioneers of Nebraska we are greatly indebted, and among the number we honor Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lutz.

GEORGE G. CLARK

George G. Clarke, one of the successful and prosperous farmers of Box Butte county, has acquired a fine estate and enjoys all the comforts of rural life. He is a gentleman of good business judgment, and has a gentle and amiable reputation as a worthy citizen and an excellent neighbor. His home is in section 27, township 24, range 49, and he had to freight all of his lumber fifty-five miles from Pine Ridge to his farm, and all of his lumber buildings were hauled about eighty miles from wood for fuel. He was hauled from the northwestern Crawford county.

Mr. Clarke, was born at Lockport, New York, in 1872. His father, J. W. Clarke, was of Scotch descent, a machinist by trade. His father married Christina Kailey, and they settled in Penn-

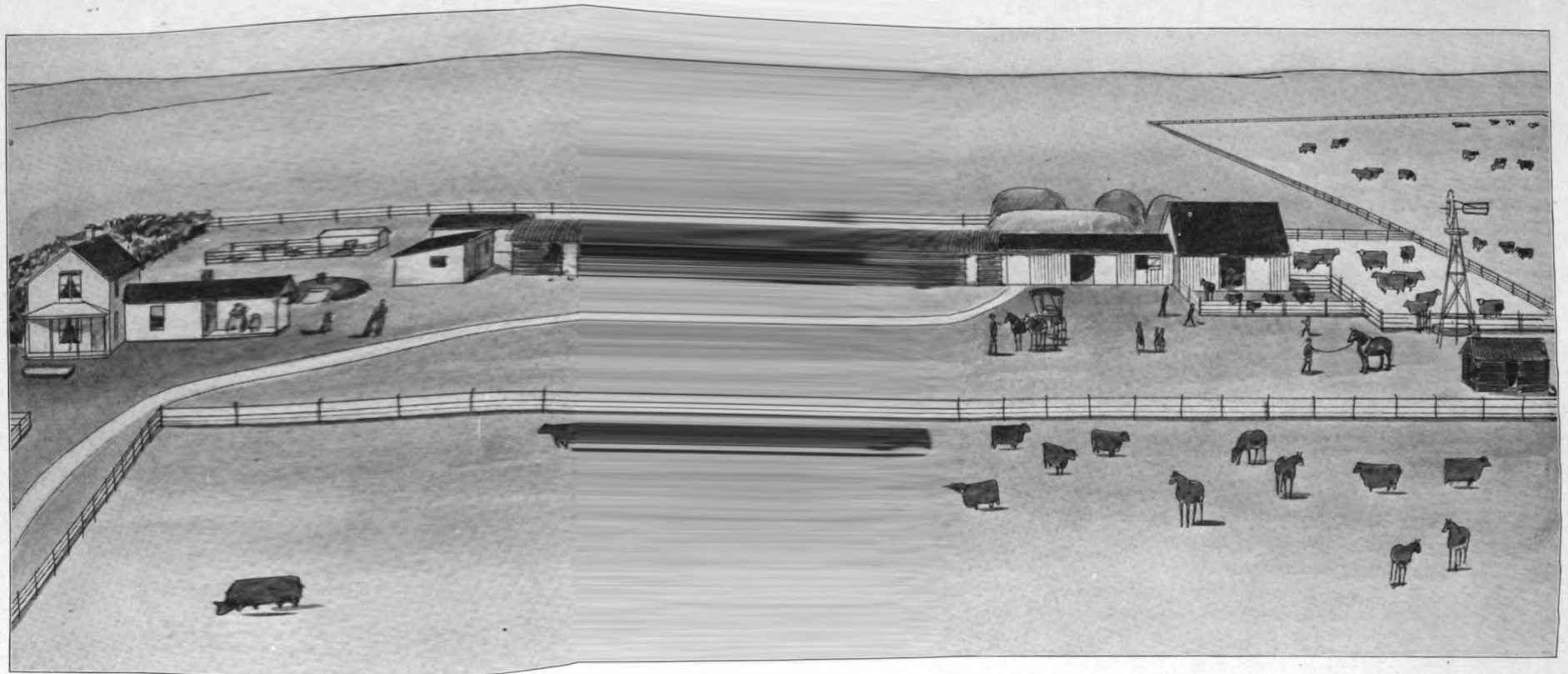
sylvania. The family came to Illinois during our subject's boyhood, remaining there up to 1883, and then came west to Nebraska, locating at North Platte, where they lived for seven years, when George left his parents' home and came to Box Butte county. For some little time he worked in Alliance, and later his mother moved there, and now lives in Aurora, Hamilton county. In the fall of 1891 he located on a ranch which belonged to his mother, and was situated ten miles southwest of Alliance. There he has lived ever since, building it up in fine shape, and has made money. When he first took the place all he had as a start was seven head of cattle and a pony, and was obliged to borrow money to begin work on the place, and during the first years had a hard time to get along, "batching it" for the first few years. He managed to secure some work in the vicinity to make a living and put on some improvements in the way of buildings, and soon got into the stock business. He freighted through the country for one year for the railroad, etc. He has been very successful in his stock raising ventures, and has made plenty of money during the past several years, owning a finely improved ranch of four hundred acres, and is called one of the well-to-do men of his locality. On June 26, 1898, Mr. Clarke was united in marriage to Miss Minnie J. Hawkins, daughter of J. C. Hawkins, who is a prominent old settler in this region. Her mother was Rebecca Anderson, and they settled in western Nebraska about 1887, living for many years in that locality, where Mrs. Clarke was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke are the parents of two children, George H., aged five years in November, 1908, and Stella Minnie, aged four months.

NICHOLAS JACOBSON.

Nicholas Jacobson, owner of a valuable estate in Trognitz precinct, Cheyenne county, was born near the little seaport of Rone, in Sweden, August 6, 1862. His father was a farmer, and raised his family in his native country, where our subject assisted in the labor on the home farm, and was early taught to do all kinds of work, receiving the usual common school education of the children of his station in life. The father finally decided to come to America to seek a fortune and build up a home for his family, and leaving his family on the homestead, left his native land for the new world, and after landing in the United States he proceeded to Chicago, where he labored for two years, securing funds to send for his family. Shortly before their arrival he went to western Iowa, and







RESIDENCE OF NICHOLAS JACOBSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF A. W. OLSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

here they resided some six months. They then moved to Saunders county, Nebraska, living two years near Mead before making a permanent residence in Cheyenne county. Here the father filed on a homestead in section 32, township 16, range 52, and still occupies that farm. In the fall of 1885 he sent for his family, and the mother came with her three children. Proceeding from Stockholm to Gottenberg, they took steamer for Hull, whence they crossed England to Liverpool; thence they sailed for New York on the City of Berlin, landing after a voyage of eleven days. After a two years' residence with his father in Cheyenne county, our subject filed on a homestead for himself, in section 32, township 16, range 52, and in 1900 secured three hundred and twenty acres in section 20, now owning a fine ranch of four hundred and eighty acres. Here he has gone through all the pioneer experiences, suffering losses from failures of crops due to the drouths, etc., but has worked hard and is well rewarded for his efforts. He farms about two hundred acres, and is extensively engaged in the stock business, running one hundred head of cattle and twenty-five horses. Of late years he has developed the dairy interests, shipping the cream from a herd of twelve to fifteen cows to Cheyenne. His place is well fenced, has good buildings of every kind and every improvement in the way of farm machinery, wells, windmills, etc. The barns, with all their contents and three fine horses, were lost by fire in August, 1907. He has planted orchard trees, besides having different varieties of small fruits. His homestead is one of the best kept and most prosperous appearing farms of the locality, and he enjoys a good competence as a result of his many years of hard labor. A view of the home is to be found on another page of this work.

Mr. Jacobson was married at the age of twenty-four years to Christina Jacobson, the wedding taking place at Hastings, Iowa. Mrs. Jacobson was born and reared in Sweden, coming to this country in 1885, her parents still residing in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson are the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living; the two eldest are married and settled in homes of their own. They are named as follows: Mary, wife of Oscar Johnson, now living in Canada; Paulina, wife of Leslie Sanders, living on a ranch in Cheyenne county. Annie, who married Edward Anderson in July, 1907, died two weeks after her wedding day. The following are at home: Elmer, Ellen, Albert, Rose, Lillie, Roy and Mildred. They are all bright and intelligent children, and Mr. Jacobson is justly proud of his interesting family.

In local affairs he takes a leading part, keep-

ing in close touch with all matters pertaining to the good of the locality. He is a Republican and firm in his convictions, keeping well posted on state, county and national politics. At present he is serving as director of school district No. 47. With his family Mr. Jacobson was reared in the Swedish Lutheran church.

AUGUST W. OLSON.

August W. Olson, owner of a fine estate in Trognitz precinct, has been a resident of Cheyenne county for the past twenty years, and during that time has become one of the successful ranchmen and substantial citizens of that region. Mr. Olson was born in Sweden, three-quarters of a mile from the market town of Verserum, January 1, 1852, living with his parents until he was a lad of sixteen years. He was reared on a farm, and followed the usual life of that country as a boy, receiving a common school education, and came to America with some friends in 1868. His first location was at Galesburg, Illinois, and he spent twenty-two years in that section, following the carpenter's trade; fourteen years of this time he was employed in the car shops of the Burlington railroad. From there he came direct to Cheyenne county, arriving here in the spring of 1888, and immediately filed on a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in section 28, township 16, range 52, and is now owner of the whole section, besides four hundred and eighty acres of land, all but one hundred and sixty acres of it adjoining his home ranch. He has gone through all the pioneer experiences in accumulating this property, and since coming here has remained continuously on his present farm. As a result of his faithful labor, his handsome farm and its well-kept appearance, all stocked with one hundred and twenty-five cattle and twenty-five good horses, is evidence of his prosperity. He farms about one hundred and seventy acres, raising good crops of small grains, beside having plenty of pasture. We call attention to a view of the home and surroundings presented elsewhere in this work.

Both parents of Mr. Olson remained in Sweden, dying at the ages of eighty and eighty-one. He was married to Miss Emma Erickson, at Galesburg, Illinois, March 6, 1884. She was also a native of Sweden, coming to this country with her parents in 1867; her father is at present living in Peoria, Illinois, with a daughter; the mother died soon after reaching America.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson are the parents of five children, named as follows: Minnie, wife of Charles Alquist, employed in the hardware busi-

ness at Morrell, Nebraska; Frank Frederick, entered for a four years' course in the Knox Business College at Galesburg, Iowa; Ruth Agnes and Elsie, living at home. The family have a pleasant rural home, surrounded by every convenience, and are well liked by all in their community.

Mr. Olson takes an active and leading part in neighborhood affairs, is prominent in school matters, at present serving as moderator of district No. 47. Politically he is a Republican. The family was reared in the Swedish Lutheran church.

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SAMUEL J. PALMER.

The gentleman whose name heads this personal history is well known as one of the most hospitable and congenial of men, a typical representative of the sturdy ranchman of the west, happy and contented with his home life and surroundings, and one whom it is a pleasure to know. He lives on section 35, township 34, range 50, where he has a comfortable home and everything in first-class order.

Mr. Palmer is a native of Butler county, Iowa, born on a farm in 1860. His father, John Palmer, was born in England, and was a pioneer in Iowa, who married Miss Louisa Jeffrey, also born in England. When our subject was a small boy his parents moved to Black Hawk county, where he grew up. He attended the country schools and during his spare time assisted his father in carrying on the farm work, remaining at home until he reached the age of twenty-two years, then located in Wright county, where he engaged in the livery and pump business, running the business for two years. From there he moved to Rock Valley, Iowa, where he run a pump business for one year. In 1885 he came to Dawes county, landing here in June of that year, driving from Rock Valley with a team and covered wagon. He had a tent along with him and every night pitched the tent and spent the nights in sleeping on the ground. With him were three other men also coming here to settle. After arriving here he located near Lone Tree creek, situated on a branch of Main creek, and there put up a shack and "batched it" for five years, and in the winter of 1890 or 1891 was married to Miss Nancy A. Sweet. Two years later they moved to his present ranch, in section 35, township 34, range 50, moving his buildings, and here has built up a good home and farm. He has all good substantial farm buildings, the place well fenced, and has good running water the year around. There is plenty of hay land, and he engages principally in stock raising, doing a little farming. He is now running one hundred and sixty cattle and twenty-five horses, and is doing well in his different enterprises. During the first years in this section he went through hard times, witnessing the drouths, etc., but stuck to it through all discouragements, and has made a good thing of it.

Mr. Palmer is a daughter of Henry Sweet, who settled in Dawes county in March, 1885. He is an old soldier. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer are the parents of the following children: Arthur, born November 27, 1891; Roy, now deceased; Ernest, born October 15, 1894; Eva, born August 17, 1897; Elsie, born December 28, 1899; Ruby, born October 4, 1902, and Thomas, born March 2, 1907.

WILSON I. CADY.

Wilson I. Cady, classed among the old settlers of Cherry county, although he has been in the section only since 1898, has since his residence here been a potent factor in the development of the agricultural resources of the county. He is known throughout the county as a prosperous and energetic farmer and a worthy and highly esteemed citizen.

Mr. Cady was born in New York state in 1833, and raised on a farm in Schenectady county. His father, Silas, and his mother, whose maiden name was Susanna Coffin, were both natives of that state, and when Wilson was a lad of ten years the whole family emigrated to Michigan, where he grew to manhood. He helped his parents carry on the farm and in the meantime obtained a somewhat limited schooling, learning early to depend upon his own labors and resources. In 1868 he came to Nebraska, and was among the pioneers near Tecumseh, Johnson county, where he spent thirty years, building up a good home from raw prairie land, and improved it in good shape, and the land is now worth one hundred red dollars an acre. He left that place and came to Cherry county in 1898, settling on section 2, township 25, range 27, and here he has also developed a fine ranch, consisting of eight hundred acres. He has seventy-five acres under cultivation and raises fine crops, besides running a considerable stock. The ranch is situated on Calf creek, and is beautifully located, having a fine water supply, plenty of timber, pasture and hay land, and altogether is one of the valuable estates in the county.

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Mr. Cady was married in Michigan, in 1855, to Miss Catherine A. Wing, daughter of Thomas Wing, a well-known carpenter and farmer in that locality. Both her father and mother were from Massachusetts. Mr. Cady and Mrs. Cady have two children, namely: William E. and Emma.

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OLE A. DAVIG.

Ole A. Davig, who is classed among the leading citizens of Box Butte county, resides on section 9, township 26, range 48, where he has a well improved farm and comfortable home.

Mr. Davig was born in Norfjord, Norway, in 1864. His father was a farmer all his life, lived and died in his native land, his death occurring when our subject was a lad of ten years, and at the age of sixteen the latter left home and took passage for the United States. Immediately after landing on American soil he started for the west and came to Albion, Nebraska, locating in Boone county, where he had an uncle living on a farm, and he started to work on his place. One year was spent in working in the brick yards in that locality, and he remained there for about five years in all. In 1886 he came farther west and settled in Box Butte county, accompanying a party of eleven pioneers, and was obliged to pay one dollar for the privilege of walking out from Hay Springs with these people, marching behind a wagon whose driver acted as guide for the rest of the party. Mr. Davig selected a location in section 27, township 26, range 48, and started to improve his claim, hiring a man to break up a piece of ground so that he could put in some seed. He began to build a sod house, putting up a building eight by ten feet, with half a window fitted in the south side of the shanty, and here he "batched it" while getting a start by working out for his neighbors, doing anything that he found to do. His first team was a good pair of oxen, and with these he broke up his land and did all the work on his farm. He proved up on his claim, constantly improving his place, and now has a fine set of farm buildings, including good residence, barn, granaries, cattle sheds, etc. His house is a commodious frame building, twenty by thirty-two feet, with a good sod addition, sixteen by forty-six feet. His farm is well supplied with good water, pumped by windmills fitted with supply tanks at different points on the farm. Mr. Davig's ranch consists of six hundred and forty acres of deeded land, and he also owns one hundred and fifty-two acres of land in Sherman county, and this is also well improved. Also, he has seven hundred and twenty acres of leased land, which he operates in this township, and he is making plenty of money by his different enterprises. He is counted among the well-to-do residents of his locality, but has gone through many discouragements and hardships during the first years in this region, but was never obliged to mortgage his property as so many of the pioneers were forced to do. At one time he was compelled to travel on foot from his farm to Whitman, a distance of eighty

miles east of Alliance, to seek for work, and on the trip he became so exhausted from hunger and fatigue that he could scarcely walk. He was so thirsty that he nearly died, and all the water he could find to drink was out of Duck Lake, which was nothing more than a mud hole.

In 1892 Mr. Davig was married to Hattie Robinson, a native of Mercer county, Illinois. Her father, E. G. Robinson, was a well-known farmer and liveryman, and one of the old settlers in Sherman county, Nebraska, where Mrs. Davig grew up among the pioneers. She came to the western part of the state and took up a homestead in Box Butte county in 1892 and proved up on the claim, and still owns it. She was a teacher in the schools in this county for some years prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Davig are the parents of the following children: Albert, aged fifteen; Margaret, aged thirteen; Archie, aged five years, and Clarence, one month old.

Mr. Davig is at present serving his township as road overseer. Mrs. Davig has held the office of school director for six years, and the school is situated on his farm. In political sentiments Mr. Davig is a staunch Republican.

Mr. Davig returned to his native land in December, 1904, on account of the death of a sister, who left three orphan children, two boys and one girl, named Osmes, Alfred and Amanda. Mr. Davig returned to America in April, 1905, with the children, and is doing an uncle's, and indeed a father's, part by them, educating them and rearing them along the lines of uprightness and that integrity of character that makes honorable and successful citizens.

JACOB PEDRETT.

The gentleman above named is one of the prominent stockmen of Kimball county, and a foremost citizen of his community, having done much to build up and improve conditions in his county. He has spent many years in Nebraska, has prospered financially through good management, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a business man and worthy citizen.

Jacob Pedrett was born in Switzerland, November 7, 1856, and grew up there. Both his parents are now dead, they having spent their entire lives in their native country. During his boyhood he followed farming, and at the age of thirty years came to the United States to seek his fortune. After landing in New York city he came directly west, locating near Hastings, in Adams county, Nebraska, where he engaged in the cheese and dairy business, carrying that work on for four years, then came to Kimball

county, where he homesteaded a quarter section and proved up on it. He afterwards as sheepmen forced him out, and then one hundred and sixty acres on section ship 15, range 52. He settled on the and has improved it in splendid shape ing one hundred acres under cultivation. He runs a large herd of cattle and horses had a Kincaid claim of four hundred acres in the vicinity of his home ranch.

Mr. Pedrett is largely interested in business, being in partnership with the latter having a fine ranch adjoining village, and together they own a fine registered Hereford cattle, also a bunch of high bred horses. Both men are good judges and their cattle and horses are pronounced best in that section of the country. Mr. Pedrett was among the first to introduce registered stock in this region. He has made a success and is recognized as one of the prominent old-timers.

Mr. Pedrett was united in marriage to Louise Grothaus, in Hastings, Nebraska, 31, 1887. Mrs. Pedrett was a native of born April 10, 1864, and came to Nebraska in 1885. Five children were born to her, of whom are living, named as follows: Freda, Willie (who died at the age of six years), Louise and Harry, forming a very interesting family. Ulrich attended the State Agricultural School at Lincoln and graduated in 1906. Mrs. Pedrett's mother is still living in Germany, at the age of seventy-six years. Politically Mr. Pedrett is a Republican. He is active in local affairs, and has served as school director in his district for a number of years, and the office of assessor and road overseer.

quarter section sold it, purchased 30, township 15, range 52, in 1901. He also now has a fine ranch, and eighty acres of stock. Mr. Clark Kimball has a fine herd of high bred Hereford cattle, also a bunch of high bred horses. Both men are good judges and their cattle and horses are pronounced best in that section of the country. Mr. Pedrett was among the first to introduce registered stock in this region. He has made a success and is recognized as one of the prominent old-timers. He was united in marriage to Marie Grothaus, in Hastings, Nebraska, 31, 1887. Mrs. Pedrett was a native of born April 10, 1864, and came to Nebraska in 1885. Five children were born to her, of whom are living, named as follows: Freda, Willie (who died at the age of six years), Louise and Harry, forming a very interesting family. Ulrich attended the State Agricultural School at Lincoln and graduated in 1906. Mrs. Pedrett's mother is still living in Germany, at the age of seventy-six years. Politically Mr. Pedrett is a Republican. He is active in local affairs, and has served as school director in his district for a number of years, and the office of assessor and road overseer.

kind in sight at that time. For ten years he lived there. In 1880 he was married to Miss May C. Kellison, this event taking place in the spring of that year, then came to Atkinson where he spent a year. He also took up a timber claim in Brown county on which he built a board shanty, the lumber for which was hauled from Niobrara City, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. He spent his time in freighting from Oakdale to Fort Niobrara, making many trips which took several days on the road, camping out at night and leading a regular frontiersman's life. While he was working hard to build up his home and farm he met with many discouragements in the way of drouths, storms, and other destructive elements, and for four years lost nearly all of his crops, and during this time he was compelled to cut posts and wood, which he hauled a long distance to sell in order to make a living for his family. In 1897 he sold out his homestead and bought his last farm and from the beginning made a success of this enterprise. He built up his place in good shape and had a complete set of good farm buildings, fences, etc., and owned a valuable property. His crops were of the best, and grain of the finest quality, which was his chief product. At one time during the dry years he had a field of forty acres of corn from which he picked four bushels fit to use. When he first settled here, there were only three houses between his home and Stuart, and he watched the growth and development of this part of the state from its earliest beginning.

Mr. Allen's family consists of himself, wife and seven children, named as follows: Ed, Walter, Hattie, Loretta, Claude, William and Audrey.

Mr. Allen died July 19, 1906. He was working in the harvest field at the time and was at work behind the binder, when he was stricken without any warning, thus closing a life in the very midst of the activities which had made his life a success.

CHARLES ALLEN, DECEASED.

Charles Allen was one of the prominent influential citizens of Brown county, Nebraska, where he had a well-improved farm of six hundred and forty acres, and was farmed by the representative farmers of numerous counties. Mr. Allen was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1852. His father, Samuel Allen, was also a native of Irish descent, and his mother was the second member of six children of his native country, and he was raised in his family. The family came to the United States in 1870, settling in Saline county, Nebraska, the eastern part of the state. When Mr. Allen walked from Atlantic to Lincoln, Nebraska, he was one of the first to take up a homestead on section 22, township 22, range 17, and has proved up on his land. He has an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres, im-

prosperous and well-improved farm of six hundred and forty acres, and was farmed by the representative farmers of numerous counties. Mr. Allen was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1852. His father, Samuel Allen, was also a native of Irish descent, and his mother was the second member of six children of his native country, and he was raised in his family. The family came to the United States in 1870, settling in Saline county, Nebraska, the eastern part of the state. When Mr. Allen walked from Atlantic to Lincoln, Nebraska, he was one of the first to take up a homestead on section 22, township 22, range 17, and has proved up on his land. He has an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres, im-

MILTON HESSELGESSER.

Milton Hesselgesser was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, in 1875, his parents being Samuel and Mary Alice (Watson) Hesselgesser, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. They were pioneer farmers and old settlers of Loup county, Nebraska.

Our subject came to the county with his parents and grew up on the farm, living on the old home place until 1892. He located a homestead on section 22, township 22, range 17, and has proved up on his land. He has an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres, im-

proved in fine shape with good buildings, barns, fences, etc. Mr. Hesselgesser has been successful in his farming operations and has established himself firmly on the way to wealth and prosperity. He has taken an active interest in local affairs and has won his way to the high esteem of his friends and associates.

Our subject was married in the spring of 1892 to Miss Lottie Cronk, daughter of Adolphus Cronk, one of the old leading pioneer settlers of Valley county, Nebraska, now a resident of Loup county. Mr. and Mrs. Hesselgesser have been blessed with three children: Wayne, Earl and Lila, which form a most intelligent group.

WALTON A. KENASTON.

Walton A. Kenaston is one of the most prominent old settlers in northwestern Nebraska and has taken an active part in the development of that region. Walton A. Kenaston is a son of Dr. J. A. and Mrs. C. E. Kenaston, born in Marion county, Iowa, in 1858 and moved with his parents to Nebraska in 1868. His father took up a homestead in Cass county, half way between Plattsmouth and Lincoln, and lived there most of the time for twelve years. In the year 1880 our subject removed to Long Pine, Nebraska, which was unorganized territory at that time.

In the spring of 1881, Walton A. Kenaston was married to Minnie B. Gordon, who was a native of Massachusetts.

Mr. Kenaston took an active part in the affairs at Long Pine, and was one of the promoters of this place before it had a railroad and helped to organize the county of Brown. In February, 1883, with his wife and one child, Edward, and his brother Logan, he again moved over into what is now known as Keya Paha county, it being at that time a part of Brown county. In 1891 he moved with his family to Butte, Nebraska, and was one of the promoters of that thriving little city, and afterward helped to organize the county of Boyd out of a part of the Sioux reservation which extended into Nebraska, and which had been opened to settlement. He put up the second livery barn and first implement building in Butte and afterward engaged in the real estate business with T. S. Armstrong. He helped to establish and lay out the little town of Bonesteel, South Dakota, and built the first livery barn there.

In 1898 he sold his interests in Boyd county and again returned to Keya Paha county, where he has since resided, engaged in farming and stock raising.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenaston have a family of four boys, Edward, Orrie, Floyd and Willard; and two girls, Gracie and Nellie.

GEORGE KRETZ.

Among the representative farmers of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, who have aided materially in its development and advancement, a prominent place is accorded George Kretz, who resides on his well improved estate in section 10, township 13, range 50, Sidney precinct. He is a gentleman of energetic character, and well merits his success and high standing.

Mr. Kretz was born in Germany, in the village of Bruchsal, province of Baden, April 24, 1866, and grew to the age of thirteen years in his native town. In October, 1879, he started alone for the United States, sailing from Bremen on the Werra, then making her second trip. After a passage of eleven days, he landed in New York, where he spent four years in the wine establishment of Peter Leuk, and in George Gerhard's bottling works. He then went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and later came to Cheyenne county, arriving in April, 1883. He soon afterwards filed on a homestead in the southeast quarter of section 10, township 13, range 50, and later took up a Kincaid homestead in the same section, and is now owner of four hundred and eighty acres in all. He has built up a good home and has done well, having been largely engaged in stock raising. He has all good stone buildings on the ranch, and every appointment about the farm bespeaks careful attention to details in every part of the work. The milk house with its concrete tank is especially noteworthy. He has seen hard times, but is now on the high road to wealth, and well deserves his success, as he has spent all his time in developing his home. A new dwelling constructed in the spring of 1907 is a great improvement to the place. A view of the ranch buildings and rugged scenery surrounding it, is presented elsewhere in this work.

Our subject was married on April 25, 1900, in Cheyenne county, to Miss Mabel Spicknall, daughter of James Spicknall. The latter is a native of Dearborn county, Indiana, born April 19, 1844, and made that locality his home for twenty-five years. He enlisted in Company C, Fifty-second Indiana Infantry, on November 28, 1861, saw hard service for about a year and a half, and on account of serious illness was discharged from the army April 12, 1863. Returning to his Indiana home, he followed farming there some eight years; coming to Nebraska in 1871, settling in Webster county. He remained there up to 1888 and then moved to Cheyenne

county, where he filed on a tree cla still owns, the place adjoining ou the same section. He married Cyn man, in Bladen, Webster county, 2, 1877, and from this union four sulted, of whom Mrs. Kretz is th lowed by Thomas A., Bertha M. Spicknall. Mr. Spicknall now resid where he is well known and highly one of the foremost citizens. He local affairs, and an Independent

Mr. Kretz and his wife are the p children, named as follows: Wi Clement, George and Andreas Pet ject is a Republican, and takes a in party affairs; he affiliates with Order of United Workmen of Sid

n, which he subject's in hia C. Hoff n December children re- eldest, fol and Roy W. s in Bladen, respected as is active in oter. arents of five arfield, Fred, r. Our sub- deep interest the Ancient ey.

WILLIAM M. DUGGER

Among the pioneers settlers in part of Nebraska, who has always share towards the upbuilding of th one has a better claim to distincti gentleman whose name heads this tory. Mr. Dugger resides in Lon cinct, Rock county, and is one of t citizens of that locality.

Mr. Dugger was born in Ogle nois, November 24, 1853. He is a Dugger, a farmer of Scotch-Irish in Kentucky, and his mother was Corder, of Kentucky, born of Fr Our subject is the third member i six children, and was reared and Adams county, Iowa, where the in the year 1865. He attended schools there during his boyhoo age of twenty-one years starte in the world, following farming where he had bought land of the Missouri railroad. He owned the places there, and gained a se success in the work. At this time ried to Miss Amanda McCance Ohio, then residing in Iowa. Cance son and Isabella (Field) McCance of Ohio, where the father died. Dugger remembers seeing her family of Morgan on one of his family In 1883 the family moved to r- township 31, range 19, this bein improvements whatever, and the paratively new. There were no to this place, and they were amor tlers of that locality. He put up

the western done his full at region, no ion than the personal his- ng Pine pre- the prominent county, Illi- son of James descent, born Miss Susan French parents. in a family of educated in family settled the common d, and at the d for himself in that state, Burlington & veral different t measure of he was mar- a native of parents, Man- e, were natives The mother i n 1874. Mrs. ops in pursuit aids into Ohio. k county, Ne- in section 14, without any country com- ose neighbors the first set- dugout which

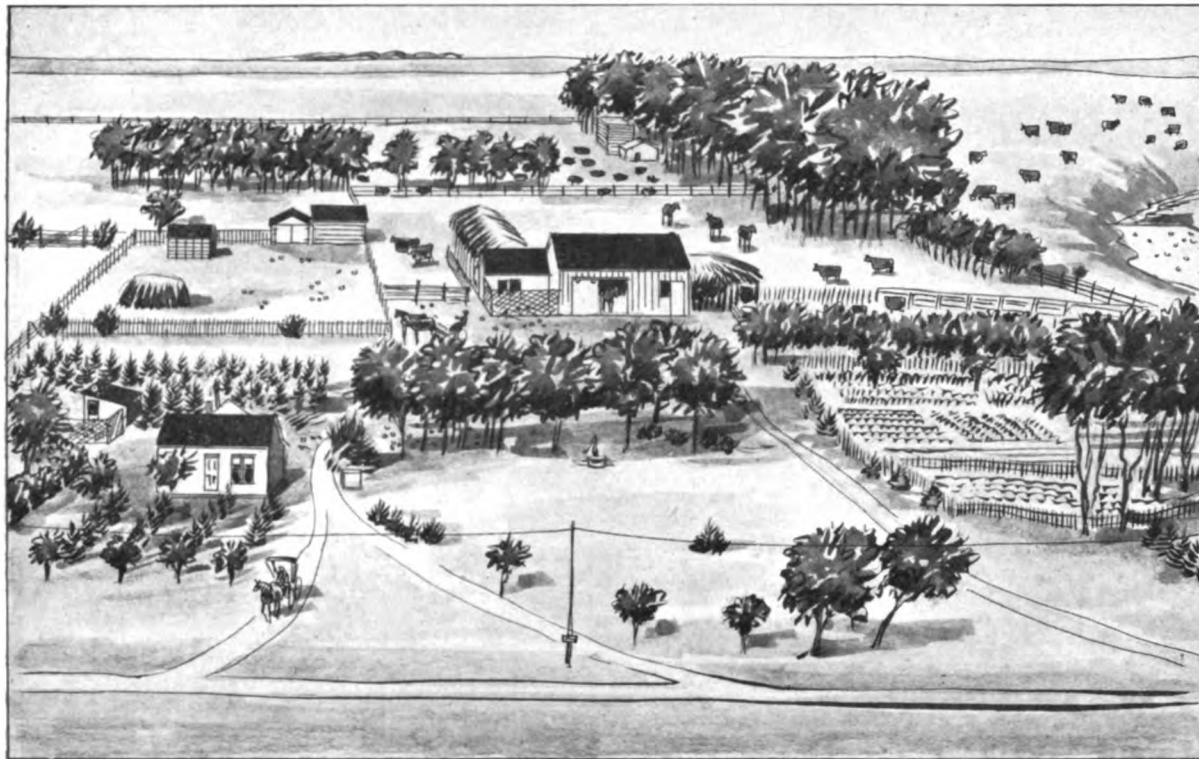
was covered with tar paper, and they lived in this for a few years. He set to work improving the farm, planted trees, which have developed into a fine grove of many varieties, containing a good number of small fruits; a special feature of the place is the profusion of evergreens, some of which are neatly trimmed, giving to the smoothly cropped lawn a park effect. When he came to this place he had not even a team to start with. Bassett was so new that there was only one store building besides the section house, while Newport lacked even that extra one. His farm now contains three hundred and twenty acres of land, and he is engaged principally in stock raising, which he finds to be a very profitable enterprise. He is now in a position to enjoy his possessions and says that he does not care to go back to the old days when they had to endure so many privations on account of the drouth periods, and the many pests which troubled them. During those days Mr. Dugger sold nursery stock for a livelihood, and for a period of four years the wife was left at home alone much of the time, on one occasion for a whole fortnight, which was not agreeable in those lonely days. For a number of years he worked on the hay flats during the season which kept him away from home many days at a time.

Mr. Dugger is a strong Democrat, and has held different offices in his community, being assessor for several years. A view of the home and its beautiful groves and garden is to be seen elsewhere in this volume.

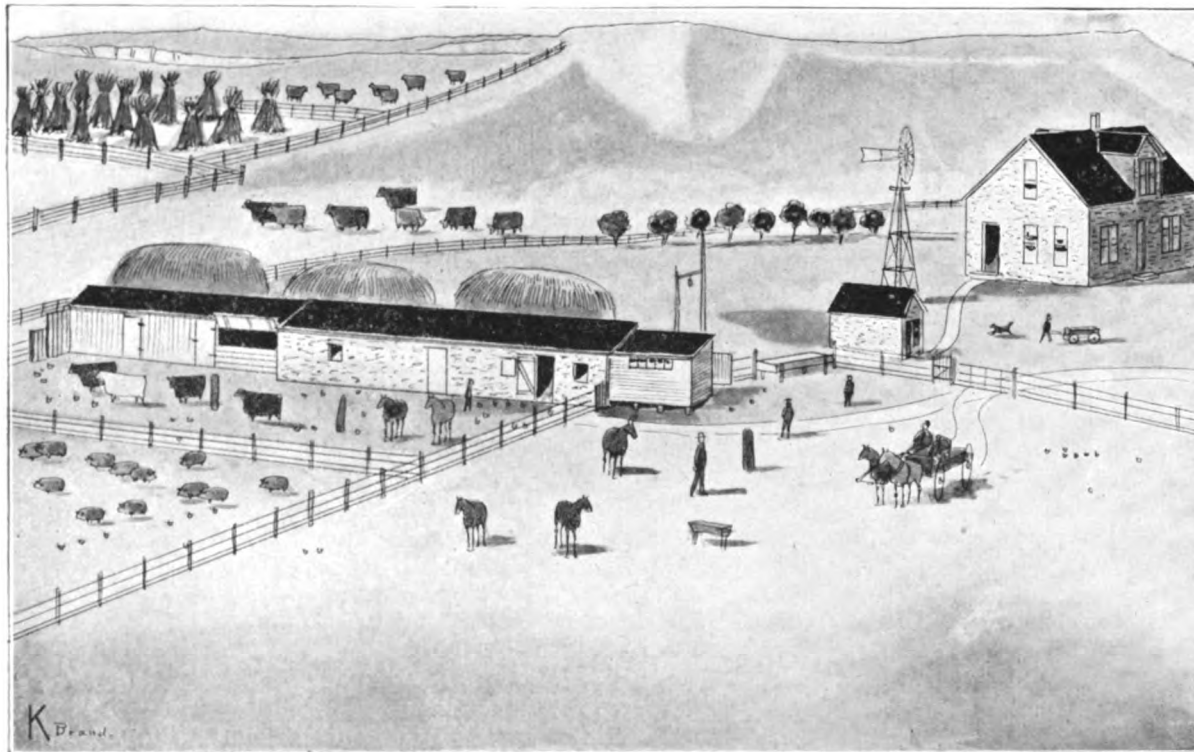
GERALD M. G. COOPER.

Gerald M. G. Cooper, a prominent citizen of Rushville, Nebraska, was born in London, England, in 1862. His father, George Armytage Cooper, was educated for the law, but drifted into business and later the lecture platform, becoming a speaker of ability, traveling all over the United Kingdom. Of a family of eleven children our subject was the youngest and received the rudiments of his education in Manchester, England, where he lived with his two youngest sisters during the time his parents were traveling. He was moved from Manchester to Grimsby, Lincolnshire, where he was for over a year under a guardian, a Mrs. Lincoln, whose memory he treasures with the utmost veneration, for she was a woman of noble character and bore some of the qualities of the great emancipator, of whose deeds he was to read in later years. After several years traveling with his parents, he was apprenticed to Charles Frederick Reynolds on the Barrow Herald, published at Barrow-in-Furness,

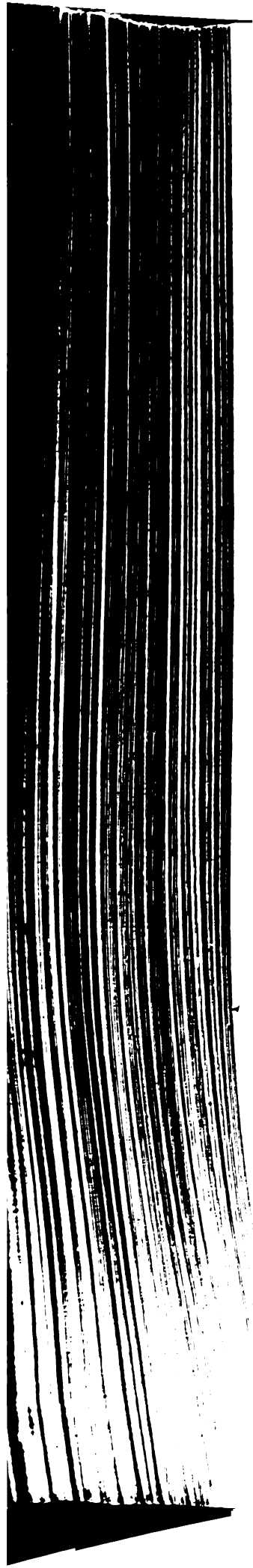




RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM M. DUGGER,  
Rock County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE KRETZ,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



Northwest Lancashire, where he was for nine years on the staff, the paper being the oldest established in that city of fifty thousand inhabitants. After severing his connection with the Herald he went to London to be with his parents, and gravitated to the office of Shepard & St. John, publishers of The Civilian and the Civil Service Competitor. Here he extended his knowledge of the business, particularly in book work. After being with this firm five years, he joined his brother, Godfrey C. Cooper, in business in High Holborn, where he became manager of a sportsman's outfitting establishment.

In the spring of 1892 Mr. Cooper came to the United States, coming direct to Gordon, Sheridan county, Nebraska, and filed on a homestead just across the line in Cherry county. He remained here five years, and drifted into the newspaper business on the Gordon Journal, where he ultimately acquired an interest with H. G. Lyon, and assisted in the work of publishing this paper for some time. In September, 1907, he moved to Rushville and bought the Recorder from Charles P. Bresee, paying a hundred dollars for the outfit, which consisted of an old army press and a hatful of type. This paper was first established May 8, 1895, by Dodge Hemming, and was afterwards owned by a company until it passed into the hands of Mr. Bresee, who sold it to our subject. When Mr. Cooper first took hold of the paper there was practically little or nothing to it. The subscription list was small, and everything had run down at the elbows. For the first six months it did not pay its expenses, but at the end of that time our subject threw off his coat and by dint of hard work and careful management he has built up the most modern plant in the county, doing a large job printing business and increasing the circulation to a remarkable extent.

Mr. Cooper was married in 1897 to Miss Emma Hetzel, whose parents are old settlers in Sheridan county, now living at Gordon. They moved from New York, where they came over from Baden Baden, Germany, to LeMars, Iowa, and from thence moved to Sheridan county, Nebraska, in 1886. Mr. Cooper now owns one of the finest residences in the county, besides his own office, and is blessed with two children—Vera Grace and Gerald Frederick Cooper.

S. C. McCOMBER.

The subject of this sketch is an efficient railroad man connected with the Union Pacific railway and well known all over that line

as a popular and trustworthy employe, and has an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen in North Platte, where he resides.

Mr. McComber is a native of Syracuse, New York, and was raised and educated in that city. His father, William C. McComber, came from Vermont, and his mother, who was Miss Jerusha Tyler, was a native of the state of Massachusetts. When he had finished school he started out for himself and struck out west, locating in Denver, and began work with the Union Pacific railway in 1886. He remained there for two years, then moved to North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, and since that time has been a conductor with that road. Previous to beginning with the Union Pacific he was with the Southern Pacific railway for about five years, and knows the work from the ground up, and has made a splendid success of his chosen profession. He is one of the most active men and earnest workers in the railway ranks, in all matters pertaining to that business, and for the benefit of railway employes. From 1898 to 1904, inclusive, he was general chairman of the Order of Railway Conductors for the entire Union Pacific system, in which organization there are about five hundred conductors, and eleven lodges, and he also served on the local committee of this lodge for a great many years. He has attended the national convention six times, and is always one of the committee of insurance appeals in that convention. He was appointed a member of the legislative committee, which office he has held for the past four years. In 1904, when the Nebraska state legislative committee was formed he was made chairman of that body, and is at present filling this position. This committee meets when the legislature holds its session, and the chairman remains at the capitol during that time.

Mr. McComber was married to Miss Nellie Fraser, a native of Rome, New York, whose father, Edwin Fraser, was a soldier in the Union army and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. Mr. and Mrs. McComber have two children, Roy and Claude.

Mr. McComber is a man of active public spirit, and takes a commendable interest in all affairs relating to the good of his fellowmen. He is a prominent member of the Masonic lodge, and also of the United Workmen.

JOHN KURT.

Persistent industry has placed this gentleman among the prosperous agriculturists of Dawes county, Nebraska. He is one of the earliest settlers in this section of the state and

has done his full share in aiding i  
 vancement, and his home in section  
 ship 33, range 47, has been gained th  
 strictest economy and excellent mar  
 The hardships which have fallen to  
 Mr. Kurt would have greatly discour  
 of less persistent nature, but they l  
 tended to make him more determ  
 spurred him to stronger action.  
 daunted courage he has faced misfort  
 tering and privation incident to the  
 pioneer of the west, and has remain  
 joy a fitting reward for his labors. I  
 the owner of a fine property, and has  
 est esteem of all with whom he has

Mr. Kurt was born in Switzerland  
 on a farm. His father, Jacob Kur  
 farmer and factory hand in the old  
 and there our subject grew up, servi  
 army for several years. He also s  
 years in a cheese factory, and lea  
 cheese and butter making business.

In 1880 he came to America, and a  
 ing in New York city, where he spe  
 time, came west to Canton, Ohio,  
 worked in the brick yard and sawmil  
 ing two years in that locality. He  
 employed by the Canadian Pacific r  
 Canada, and traveled all through Ka  
 orado and Iowa, also Illinois.

In 1884 Mr. Kurt first came to  
 freighting from Valentine, hauling p  
 blasting purposes in railroad buil  
 came to Dawes county, and at tha  
 some work on the grade himself.  
 back in 1885 and settled on a tra  
 northeast of Chadron, eight miles  
 town. His first building was a  
 sod building combined. He had  
 which he purchased on coming her  
 of these he lost.

He started to build up a farm, a  
 to help eke out a living dug wells  
 the section. He suffered consider  
 the dry years, but kept on consider  
 home and farm, constantly adding  
 age, and is now proprietor of a fi  
 nine hundred and twenty acres of  
 own, and besides this leases tw  
 acres, running large herds of catt  
 plenty of good water, windmills an  
 improvement necessary to the proper  
 a model ranch, and farms one hu

Mr. Kurt was united in marria  
 ber, 1901, to Miss Maggie E. Mail  
 of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Maika, of  
 scent, and old settlers in Dawes  
 Maika is deceased, but Mrs. Maik  
 ing at the ripe old age of seventy

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 German de  
 unty. Mr.  
 is still liv  
 ears, and is

as active as a young girl. Mr. and Mrs. Kurt  
 are the parents of one son (deceased), born  
 June 10, 1907, and Anna Rose Kurt, born June  
 10, 1907.

Politically Mr. Kurt is a Democrat, but is  
 not party bound, and lends his influence and  
 aid in bettering conditions in his locality at  
 all times.

HENRY A. SHERMAN.

Henry A. Sherman was born in Worcester  
 county, Massachusetts, in 1853, and was the  
 son of John Adam and Katherine (Bigelow)  
 Sherman, of English ancestry.

In 1872 our subject came west, going first  
 to Nevada, where he worked on a sheep ranch  
 operated by his relatives. He went to Oregon  
 in 1874 and lived there for ten years, when  
 he spent some time in Idaho. He was occu  
 pied as a cowboy and roughed it in winter and  
 summer through the states named, many a  
 morning kicking away the snow that during  
 the night had covered the blankets in which  
 he was sleeping. In his travels he visited near  
 ly all the Pacific coast states and he had many  
 thrilling experiences with the Indians, who  
 were almost always on the warpath, once dis  
 covering the body of a white man who had  
 been shot to death by an Indian bullet. In 1877  
 he crossed the Rocky mountains with a drove  
 of seven hundred head of cattle.

In 1889 and 1890 our subject came into Ne  
 braska, locating first in Deuel county, close  
 to the Keith county line, where he bought  
 school land and went to farming and hog rais  
 ing. One year he lost one hundred and forty  
 acres of crops, and becoming disgusted with  
 this setback determined to try another loca  
 tion. He settled on a homestead of wild prai  
 rie land in section 4, township 13, range 39,  
 in Keith county, and started to build up a new  
 home. He broke up his land and built a house,  
 which was destroyed by fire in 1902. The  
 house has been reconstructed and our sub  
 ject has now a fine home. He owns about  
 seven hundred and twenty acres, with a Kin  
 caid homestead of four hundred and eighty  
 acres back in the hills and he tills about one  
 hundred acres. The ranch is finely improved  
 with buildings, wells, windmills, etc., and our  
 subject is at present engaged in stock raising  
 and dairying, at the present time milking about  
 twenty cows.

Mr. Sherman's first wife died in Massachu  
 setts, leaving two daughters, Carrie L. and  
 Lettie E., both of whom were born in Oregon  
 in a log cabin constructed by our subject. Mr.  
 Sherman was married in 1890 to Miss Geor



giana Rice, whose parents were old settlers and homesteaders of Keith county. The marriage was celebrated in the city of Ogallala.

Henry A. Sherman is a Republican in politics and takes an active interest in all such matters. He has especially aided in the establishment of the schools and has done all in his power to increase the educational facilities of the community.

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JOSEPH C. JOHNSON.

In the person of this gentleman we have one of the oldest settlers of western Nebraska, and a man who is well and favorably known to all as a worthy and representative pioneer of the region.

Joseph C. Johnson was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, in 1842, and reared on a farm. His father was of Irish descent, and was a farmer and stockman, who settled in Missouri as a pioneer. He married Fannie Bryant, also of Irish stock. The family lived in Missouri until Joseph was sixteen years old; he then left home and went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, landing at that place May 11, 1885, and began work as a teamster for the United States government, traveling over the plains. He was with a train of thirty wagons and a battalion of troops, going to Fort Laramie, and on this trip had a skirmish with the Indians, the encounter taking place at Horse Creek, Wyoming. He made subsequent trips across the plains, and during the winter of 1855 had an escort of troops to protect them from the herds of buffalo which would cross their path, as they would attempt to stampede the animals with the wagon train. He also crossed the plains to California, where he remained for three years, working in the mines near Hangtown for three months, then went to Santa Rosa valley and engaged in the stock business. While in that region he organized a company of twenty-four citizens, and on May 1, 1860, started to recross the plains, made a very successful trip, arriving at St. Joe, Missouri, on October 10. In coming through the mountains they were hindered in their progress to some extent by the heavy snows, and were obliged to reduce to one-third rations in order to make their supply last, and on reaching Salt Lake City were on the very last of their provisions.

In the fall of 1861 Mr. Johnson first served in the "six months state militia." Enlisted in Company G, Sixth Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, and served with this regiment one year

and six months, then veteranized in the Thirteenth Missouri Cavalry until the end of the war, most of the time on duty in Colorado. He received an honorable discharge June 13, 1866, and during his service was all through Missouri, Texas and Arkansas.

After his retirement from the army Mr. Johnson settled in Harrison county, Missouri, and engaged in business in Bethany, living in that vicinity up to 1884, when he came to Nebraska to what is now Deuel county, and took a homestead one mile east of Chappell, also bought a section of land from the railroad. Chappell was then a mere siding station. He built up a good home and ranch, the place extending from Lodgepole creek to the South Platte river, and devoted himself principally to stock raising. He is owner of seventeen hundred and sixty acres of deeded land, all fenced and improved with good buildings, and has one hundred acres of irrigated land. He has watched the growth and aided in the development of this region from its earliest settlement by the whites, and when he came here in 1884 was the only man to live in a frame house in these parts. At that time the section was known as Cheyenne county, and he was one of the first county commissioners, helping in the organization of Deuel county and the location of the county seat.

Our subject was married in 1870 to Miss Laura Lewellen, who was born and raised in Pennsylvania, of American stock. To them have been born the following children, all now filling honorable positions in life: Thomas, Helen, Cloy, Lucy, Mollie and Stella. Politically Mr. Johnson is a Republican.

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ROBERT O. JONES.

Robert O. Jones, a progressive and enterprising farmer of Keya Paha county, Nebraska, resides on section 30, township 34, range 24, where he has a fine farm and home. Mr. Jones is among the early settlers in this part of the state, and has seen all the changes which have taken place in this locality from its beginning, and aided materially in the development and growth of its agricultural and commercial resources.

Mr. Jones was born on his parents' farm in Wales in 1856. His father, William Jones, followed farming all his career and lived and died in his native country, leaving a widow and five children, of whom our subject is the eldest. He left home at the age of twenty-five years and came to America. He spent a short time in New York and then came west,

settling in Columbia county, Wisconsin he remained for six years. From there he went to Colorado and worked in the mines and concentrating mills for a time.

In 1887 Mr. Jones first came to Nebraska locating in Keya Paha county, purchasing his present farm. Here he put up a good house and has added to his farm until he is proprietor of four hundred and eighty acres of land, one-third of which is under cultivation, and he engages in stock raising, running a number of cattle all the time. He was here during the dry years, and experienced hard times, as did so many of the settlers in this locality, one year gathering twenty-five bushels of corn from a patch of twenty-five acres. He often became discouraged and was tempted to leave, but stuck to it, and has made a success, taking a foremost place among the successful and substantial farmers of Keya Paha county.

Mr. Jones has been a member of the school board for a number of years, also held the office of road overseer for some time. He is a Republican in politics.

F. A. CUSCADEN.

The gentleman above named is a native of Chillicothe, Ohio, born on September 11, 1880. His father, John A. Cuscaden, was born in New York city in 1838, of Irish parents, soon after they landed in America from the old country. John A. Cuscaden married Alice Jones, a native of Ross county, Ohio, who was emigrated from Virginia in the early part of the century from the subject of this sketch was born. In his younger years his father was a fisherman and an experient oarsman. They finally settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the late fifties, where he learned the trade of mechanical engineer. When the trade broke out in the country's war he answered his call by enlisting in the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Ohio during the Volunteer Infantry and saw service during the struggle, suffering hard-ship and soon after his honorable discharge from the army he entered the Lebanon College, from which he was graduated in 1872. He was elected principal of the (Ohio) schools and taught there up to 1878. He was married to Miss Alice Jones, of Chillicothe, Ohio, who died after one short year of happy life. After sincerely mourning her death Mr. Cuscaden was married to Miss Gert

... where he went and con- Nebraska, his house Proprietor of good cultivation, quite was here ed hard in this ve bush- ve acres. tempted He a suc- the suc- ya Paha the school d the of- He is a

native of 11, 1880. born in parents, soon the old died Alice who was emigrated in Virginia subject of years his t oarsman. hio, in the de of me- broke out enlisting urth Ohio during the cluring the ring hard- Mr. Cus- and soon e army he lege, from was elect- (Ohio) schools was mar- the, Ohio, y married death Mr. ide Jones,

his deceased wife's sister, who had just completed a course in the School of Medicine at the University of Michigan, and the couple moved to Omaha, Nebraska, in the spring of 1884. Two children were born of this union—Alex, born in 1886, and Thomas S., in 1893. The father continued his profession as a teacher in Omaha up to 1890, when he went into the Omaha postoffice, where he has since remained. In business ventures outside of his profession he was uniformly successful, owning considerable property in Omaha, as well as in central Texas.

Fred A. Cuscaden, the subject of this personal history, came to Omaha with his parents in 1884. He attended the public schools and graduated from the Omaha high school in 1898. His brother Robert left for Europe this year (1898) to complete his studies in music, and the chance was offered Fred to accompany him, but the profession of law called him to further study, and he entered the University of Nebraska as a law student in 1898, graduating from there in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Law.

In June of the latter year he married Miss Maude Macomber, second daughter of Judge and Mrs. J. H. Macomber, of Omaha, and to this union was born one child, Gertrude, in 1903.

It was while in the office of Judge Macomber that the opportunity was presented to him by the latter, who was a director in the Union National Bank of Omaha, of learning the banking business, and he became actively engaged in this business shortly afterward, continuing up to 1905, when he organized the Erickson State Bank and resigned his position with the Union National Bank to take entire charge of the new institution. At the opening of this bank the business of banking in Wheeler county was looked upon more as a speculation by a large number of people, and not a few doubted the wisdom of opening up in a country where no one had previously ventured. However, the new bank was started and prospered from the first, more than realizing the fondest hopes of the organizer.

Wheeler county, along with the rest of the state, has responded nicely to the call of good times, and as a county it has a much larger sphere to fill than is generally recognized. Its early builders have great faith in its ability, and their broad and fertile farms and ranches attest the statement that it is the place for the farmers of moderate means, which class is rapidly filling up the few remaining homesteads and buying up the cheap pieces of land. Farming and grazing of cattle form two of







RESIDENCE OF JOHN HENRY MEYER,  
Keith County, Nebraska.

Wheeler county's most important lines of business. The country is especially adapted to dairying, and this industry brings a snug income into many homes yearly. As a county it is putting its best foot forward, and its soil is awakening to the touch of the practical farmer who can make two blades of grass grow where his predecessor failed on one. Mr. Cuscaden occupies a beautiful home in Erickson and is one of the leading citizens of his town.

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JOHN H. MEYER.

John H. Meyer was born on a farm in the village of Oerdinghausen, Kries Hoya, province of Hanover, Germany, June 27, 1866. His parents were Frederick and Dora (Klusmann) Meyer. Our subject remained in his native land until he was about twenty-five years of age, serving three years in the German army. In 1891 he came to America, sailing October 22d from Bremen Haven on the Neurenberg and after a voyage of seventeen days landed in Baltimore. He at once came west and on November 10th joined a brother in Brule, Keith county, where he was employed in railroad work until 1895, when he came to his present farm in section 14, township 13, range 38.

On July 18, 1895, Mr. Meyer was married to a widow, Mrs. Holscher, who died in January, 1897, leaving three children—Frank, Fred and Margaretta Holscher. Mr. Meyer was again married September 27, 1900, to Miss Martha Tuenge. They have four children—Mary, Anna, Sophia and Henry.

Mr. Meyer settled on partly improved land and has labored constantly to make his farm one of the best in the neighborhood. He has done his work in a masterly manner and now has a fine ranch of eight hundred and eighty acres, with a large house, extensive barns and outbuildings, fences, orchards and groves. Since coming here Mr. Meyer has done his share toward the material development of his locality. In politics our subject affiliates with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

A fine view of Mr. Meyer's substantial home and extensive buildings is to be found on another page of our work.

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HERMAN A. PETERS.

Herman A. Peters, formerly one of the large ranchmen of Sheridan county, now resides in his comfortable home in Hay Springs,

Nebraska, where he is numbered among the prominent and worthy citizens of this locality.

Mr. Peters was born in Edwards county, Illinois, in 1866. His father, John L. Peters, of German birth, was a farmer and his family of five children grew up in Illinois. Our subject was the fourth in order of birth, and was left an orphan at an early age, being obliged to get out and hustle for himself when he was six years old. When he reached the age of eighteen he began working out on farms near Hartington, Nebraska, and continued in this until the year 1884. During this time he had spent nine months attending a business college at Burlington, Iowa, then to Hartington, where he again worked out by the day, and the following year came to Hay Springs, taking a pre-emption seven miles southwest of the town. He proved up on this, having lived in a dugout for some time. He afterwards moved to the town of Hay Springs, where he was marshal of the village for three or four years. In 1889 he went into the hardware business and ran a store a short time, then sold out and began shipping horses in partnership with H. J. Simpson, under the firm name of Simpson & Peters, also loaning money, and was in this enterprise for two years. During the Indian war of the winter of 1890-91 they had a contract on Pine Ridge Agency for sixty days. They had forty-four teams there, and shod all the government horses. In 1901 he returned to Hay Springs and formed a partnership with C. D. Byram, under the firm name of Byram & Peters, and during the spring of 1892 the concern sold over thirty thousand dollars' worth of horses here. They also ran a livery barn, and in 1894 Mr. Peters bought out his partner and continued the business alone. The main part of the barn was sixty-four by sixty feet, with a shed twenty-six by sixty feet, and office sixteen by thirty-two, and he did a large business, but became tired of the business and soon sold out. In 1896 he built nine miles of irrigation ditch south of the Niobrara river, and there purchased land and opened a large ranch. Since that time he has been engaged principally in sheep, horse and hog raising, using his ranch of twenty-three thousand acres for this purpose, it being the largest ranch of deeded land in the county. He has a fine set of buildings on his place, has five hundred acres under irrigation, many forest and small fruit trees, three hundred acres of alfalfa and raises immense crops of grain—this year his yield amounted to ten thousand bushels of small grain and twelve thousand bushels of corn.



He runs eight thousand head of sheep, five mules, one hundred and twenty-five horses, eight hundred head of hogs and of cattle. Since putting the irrigation he has a lake of one hundred acres, deep, which is within forty rods from ranch. He has seventeen miles of water on the farm, five windmills and pumps, cuts one thousand tons of hay each year, and has the place improved with three sets of good buildings, all of construction, one of the new barns just being sixty by seventy-six feet. The ranch is situated in Sheridan, Dawes and Crook counties, and is owned by the Peters & Williams Company. H. A. Peters owns a controlling interest. Mr. Peters has a fine residence in Hay Springs, moved in 1904. This house is strictly modern, fitted up with every convenience, including furnace heat, water works, etc., and is one of the finest in the town.

Mr. Peters was married on February 24, 1897, to Miss Alice R. Rhodes, daughter of George H. Rhodes, who was cashier of the Bank of Hay Springs, now deceased. Mr. Rhodes was the organizer of that bank, established in 1886, and was the first bank in town. He died in the year that his daughter married our subject.

Mr. Peters is counted among the earliest settlers of this section, and has taken an active part in the history of the region from its beginning. During the early days he drove stage from Chadron into the Black Hills, and his first postoffice was at Bordeaux. He is a strong Republican and has attended many county and state conventions as delegate.

PETER N. SUMMERS.

Among the representative ranchmen and farmers of Sioux county who have aided materially in its advancement and development, a prominent place is accorded Peter N. Summers, who resides on his well improved estate in section 23, township 33, range 57. He is a gentleman of energetic character, and well merits his success and high standing.

Mr. Summers is a native of Illinois, born in Cass county in 1859. His father, Charles Summers, followed farming in Illinois and is now engaged in farming in the southeastern part of Nebraska. He married Sarah Alexander, of Illinois.

While our subject was a boy his parents lived in Iowa, later Missouri, and finally settled in Nebraska, and when he became

seventy-five years of age he started out for himself, following farming in the southeastern part of this state, remaining there up to 1887. He then came to western Nebraska, locating near the South Dakota line in Fall River county, where he spent two years. That place was thirty-five miles from Harrison, and sixty-five miles from Crawford, and there he engaged in the ranching business, working as a cowboy, "punching" cows and horses for about fifteen years. He followed the regular frontier life, camping out on the plains many nights, scarcely knowing what it was to sleep in a house, and went through all the hard times known to the early settler in that region.

For a number of years Mr. Summers was located at Converse, Wyoming, engaged in the horse business, and made quite a little money in that line of work. He finally returned to Nebraska, purchasing his present ranch, which is situated at the head of Jim creek, close to Pine Ridge. The place contains fourteen hundred and eighty acres, all fenced, and supplied with good buildings. He cultivates about fifty acres and has some irrigated land, also plenty of hay and pasture land, running quite a large herd of cattle.

In 1884 Mr. Summers was united in marriage to Miss Mary Easley, of Fremont county, Iowa, whose father was an old settler in that state.

Mr. Summers has always taken an active part in affairs of his locality, and is an active public-spirited citizen. He is a typical Nebraskan, for while he has lived most of his life in the west, spending many years in South Dakota and Wyoming, he was always thoroughly familiar with Nebraska and took an interest in her welfare from the earliest years of settlement, having traveled over nearly every part of the state as a cowboy.

PRINCE C. G. LAING.

Prince C. G. Laing, an old settler of that part of Cheyenne that is now Morrill county, Nebraska, has done his full share toward the development and improvement of its fertile lands. He is owner of a valuable estate in King precinct, and is a prosperous and successful citizen who has the esteem and respect of all who know him.

Mr. Laing was born in Fremont county, Iowa, December 25, 1861, and while yet an infant his parents moved to Nebraska, locating south of Omaha, then to Sarpy county, Mr. Laing remaining in the latter vicinity until the spring of 1887, at which time he came to Chey-

enne county, homesteading in section 1, township 19, range 49. He also took a tree claim in section 2, and at present has the home ranch in the northeast quarter of section 9, township 19, range 49, which was acquired by purchase, and consists of one hundred and sixty acres, about eighty of it being under irrigation. In all he has about four hundred and eighty-six acres of fine land. He has passed through all the early Nebraska times, meeting with many discouragements and often failure of crops, but stuck to his farm through all hardships, and has been well repaid for his endeavors. He has a well improved property, cultivating about twenty-five acres, and runs twenty cattle and the same number of horses.

Mr. Laing was married to Miss Alice M. Covalt on March 11, 1891. Mrs. Laing is a native of Nebraska, her parents, John and Charlotte (Keeler) Covalt, now residing in Cheyenne county, while Mr. Laing's parents, Charles G. and Louisa (Roberts) Laing, still live in Sarpy county. Five children have been born to this worthy couple, named as follows: Victor K., John A., Charlotte, Lena and Kenneth C., all living at home. They have a pleasant home, surrounded by a large circle of acquaintances. Mr. Laing is president of Brown Creek Irrigation Canal Company, and is also moderator of school district No. 3, taking an active part in all local affairs. In political views he is a Democrat.

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MICHAEL BUTLER.

In driving through the country districts of Box Butte county, many well kept, highly cultivated and well improved farms are in evidence, and none are more carefully conducted or furnish a better opportunity for gaining a good livelihood than that owned by the subject of this review. Mr. Butler has spent the past twenty years of his career on this ranch, and has become well versed in all the modern methods of operating a model farm, and acquired a wide knowledge by experience and observation, to which his success is in a large measure due.

Mr. Butler was born in Milbury, Massachusetts, in 1855, and is of Irish-Scotch descent. His father was born in Ireland, learned the blacksmith's trade as a young man and followed that occupation in his native land for many years, then came to the United States, and worked at his trade a number of years. He came west in 1878 and farmed in Platte county, Nebraska. Our subject was reared in Massachusetts, and lived there until

he was of age, working on the railroad as a young man, and after coming west, was a trainman in Wyoming, Dakota, Montana, Colorado and Nebraska. In 1885 Mr. Butler came to Nebraska, settling on a claim in Box Butte county, and was one of the earliest settlers in that part of the country. When he landed here he had some money which he had saved from his railroad work, and had a better start than most of the emigrants to this region. His first location was in the vicinity of Valentine, which was his postoffice and nearest supply point, but soon afterwards Chadron and Hay Springs were started and grew rapidly into thriving towns. He did his share in building the railroads through the region, and remembers well every movement toward the development and growth of the locality in which he took an active part.

Our subject has accumulated a nice property. He has lived on his ranch for the past fifteen years, and during that time has built it up in good shape, adding every improvement necessary in the way of buildings, fences, machinery, etc. He owns in all one thousand nine hundred and sixty acres, all deeded land, and, besides this, leases a large tract for ranching purposes. He has erected a handsome house, forty by twenty, fitted with many modern conveniences, and has another good frame house on the place. He keeps one hundred and fifty head of cattle and twenty horses. Mr. Butler raises some crops, and during the year 1907 had a crop of oats which showed a yield of sixty bushels to the acre, corn twenty-five, and potatoes one hundred bushels per acre.

In 1883 Mr. Butler was married to Miss Elizabeth Weber. Her father was of German descent, born in that country, a farmer by occupation and who settled in America during his youth. Mr. and Mrs. Butler have one child, a daughter, named Mary.

In political sentiment, Mr. Butler is a Republican.

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CHARLES COWLEY, DECEASED.

Should the reader of this work ask for the name of a man who was a representative old citizen and early settler of Brown county, a man who came in mature life to breast the storms of the wilderness, and beyond the dreams of youth, to hammer a home and fortune out of adversity, let him have the name that introduces this article.

Mr. Cowley was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1829. His father, Thomas Cowley, was a factory hand in England, and his

mother was Miss Rebecca Hill. thirteen children in his parents whom he is the seventh member, ily came to America in 1836, sett ell, Massachusetts, where all of th enough to work were put in the f They remained in Lowell only a then moved to Pennsylvania, whe worked in a factory for some time to New Jersey and afterwards t and were pioneer settlers in Colu At this place our subject starte himself, following farm work, through a pioneer's life, coming t in 1860.

September 22, 1864, he enlisted B, Minnesota Heavy Artillery, ment, walking the entire distanc Earth to Rochester, to enlist. He to Tennessee with his regiment, a service at Chattanooga and ot After the close of the war he w Minnesota, purchasing some land nebago reservation, and farmed 1879, when he sold out and came t locating in Brown county. He dro from Minnesota by team, accor John Brill, bringing his family wi the spring of 1880 he got out logs log cabin, which was the first dv built on the prairie. While putting house his eldest son was accident and this sad accident was a hard little family. His first team we which he used for farming purpose years. During the hard winter of family experienced much suffering ship, but they bravely went thro vation and after getting started di on this place. This was no new for Mr. Cowley, as he had gone th pioneer experiences, in Wisconsin, and this state, and did his best in develop the country and build up himself and family. He was one of helped to organize and build the f in this section, and did his share i terprise that looked to the advance community.

Mr. Cowley was married in 18 Eliza Wright and five children we this union, namely: Alfred, Kate now residing in Washington, Geo Roy. In 1901 the family suffered wife and mother, and in her deat the sympathy of the entire comm was a highly estimable lady, and all who knew her. Mr. Cowley de life a few years after the death

There were family, of nd the fam- ing in Low- e family old ctory there. short time, e the father then moved Wisconsin ia county. in life for and went Minnesota

in Company First Regi- from Blue was ordered nd saw hard ther places. ent back to On the Win- there up to to Nebraska, ove through mpanied by ith him. In and built a welling ever up this log tally killed, blow to the re of oxen, s for several 1880-81, the and hard- ough all pri- id very well experience rough three Minnesota, helping to a home for f those who first schools n every en- ment of his

1868 to Miss ere born of L., Charles, rge I., and the loss of h they had unity. She beloved by parted this f his wife,

thus closing the career of one who had lived a just life and who did much for the betterment of mankind.

CHARLES S. ANDERSON.

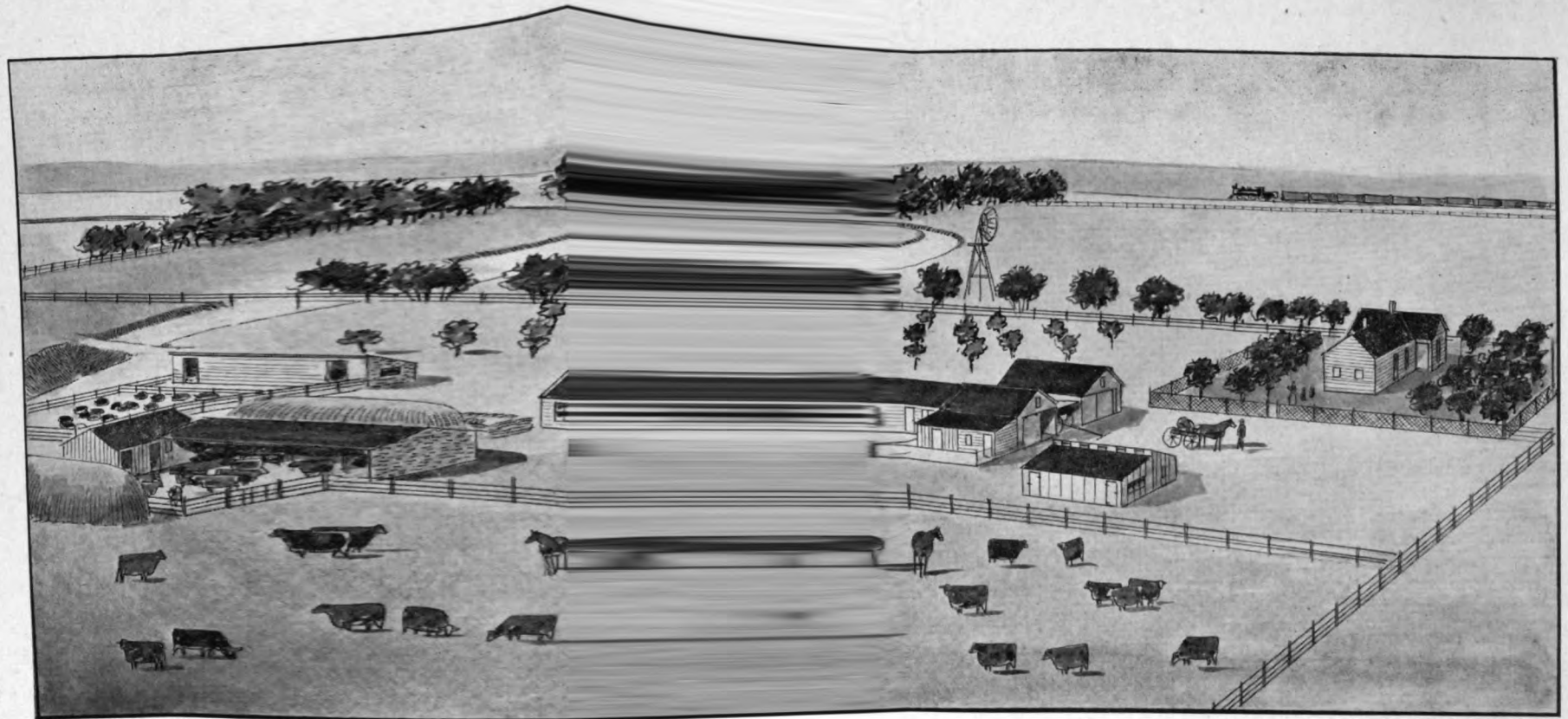
In compiling a list of the names of those who have spent many years of their life in western Nebraska, we mention that of Charles S. Anderson, who was born and reared in this state, and is a typical representative of his native soil. He has seen all the changes which have taken place here since its earliest settle- ment, and has been a part of its growth and development. Mr. Anderson is now a prosper- ous and successful young farmer, residing on section 10, township 14, range 51, in Brownson precinct.

Our subject was born in section 9, town- ship 14, range 51, Cheyenne county, on Sep- tember 15, 1874, and was reared and educated in his native township, attending the country schools. He was the second white child born in the county. His father and mother reside on the old home place, a farm adjoining his own. In 1902 Mr. Anderson left home and started farming on his own account, and is now owner of one hundred and sixty acres, which was originally a timber claim belong- ing to his father, John Anderson. He farms about fifty acres and keeps a small herd of cattle and stock for his own use. He is en- gaged in the dairy business, shipping the cream of a herd of twelve to fifteen cows. He is extensively engaged in poultry raising and has annually a large drove of hogs. Mr. Anderson's farm is admirably situated on Lodgepole creek, which furnishes a splendid supply of water for irrigating and farming purposes; twenty-five acres are already supplied with ditches and the entire farm, excepting a few acres in the southwest corner, may be subjected to irrigation. Since coming to this place he has had some discouragements in the way of loss of crops by hail and drouths, but has been generally successfully and is well satisfied with the result of his efforts, now enjoying a pleasant home and in a fair way to be the possessor of a competence for his declining years. A view of the home and sur- rounding buildings is to be found on another page of our work.

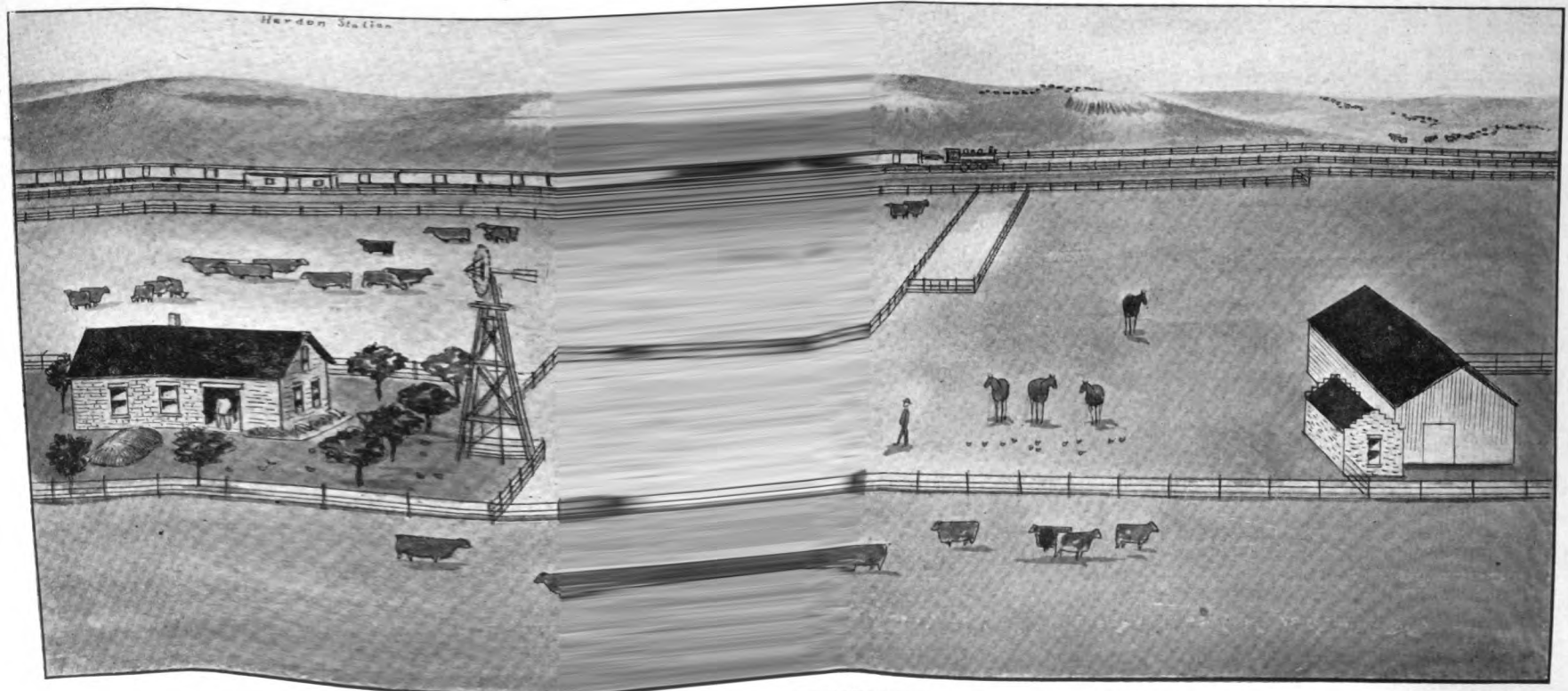
Mr. Anderson was united in marriage June 10, 1903, to Miss Effie Yoakum, the wedding taking place at Kimball, Nebraska. Mrs. An- derson is a native of Johnson county, Iowa, a daughter of David A. and Mary E. (Oldaker) Yoakum. Three children have been born as







RESIDENCE OF CHARLES S. ANDERSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF HENRY CRONBERG,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



a result of this union, namely: Susie Lucile, Lowell Rupert and Ella Adelaide.

In national politics, Mr. Anderson is a Democrat, but in local issues entirely independent. He was reared in the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he affiliates with the Odd Fellows and Royal Highlanders, while Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Degree of Honor of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

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#### EMERY H. HIGGINS.

Emery H. Higgins, representative of one of the oldest settlers in Nebraska, is a resident of section 12, township 23, range 29, Thomas county, Nebraska, and is one of the best known of the pioneers in Furnas county, where his parents settled in 1884. He has been identified with the upbuilding of the western part of the state for many years, and owns a valuable estate in Thomas county.

Mr. Higgins was born in Nemaha county, Nebraska, October 29, 1868, and his entire life has been spent in his native state, with the exception of short trips to different states. His father, Jonathan, came here in 1857, from Grayson county, Virginia. He freighted a good deal after coming to this state, from Nebraska City to Denver, Colorado, with ox teams, before the Union Pacific railroad was built through the country. He first settled in Nuckolls county, later removed to Furnas county, where he spent many years. He married Mary Good, a native of Indiana, who came west with her parents about 1860, and she was reared and educated in Nebraska and died in Nuckolls county, in 1881. The father is seventy-two years old and now resides in North Platte city.

Our subject received his education in the country schools in Furnas county, and from the time he was eight years of age worked on a farm, doing all kinds of hard work assisting his father in the development of a good home and farm. In 1898 he started for himself, purchasing land there and did very well, succeeded in building up a good home, remaining there up to 1904, when he came to Thomas county. Here he has a ranch of three hundred and twenty acres of deeded land, besides controlling six hundred and forty acres situated three miles west of Thedford on Middle Loup river. He has all of the land well improved, engages in stock and grain raising, and has made considerable money in his ventures.

While living in Furnas county our subject opened a place of one hundred and seventy

acres in the Republican Valley east of Cambridge, making of it one of the best improved in the vicinity, and there he was married in 1904, to Jennie E. Carr, a widow, and most estimable lady of very charming personality, and they have two children, Clinton, aged nine years, and Eula, aged seven years. They have a pleasant home and are popular in neighborhood affairs. Mr. Higgins takes an active part in local government.

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#### HENRY CRONBERG.

Among the prosperous younger members of the farming community of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, we mention the name of Henry Cronberg, born in Denmark, January 15, 1877, and who spent his boyhood years in that country, receiving a common school education, and early learning to do all kinds of hard labor. The whole family came to the United States about the year 1885, sailing from Hamburg to New York in the Bohemia. Settling in Nebraska, they took up a homestead in Brownson precinct, Cheyenne county, and began to develop a farm and build up a home on section 6, township 14, range 52. They went through the usual experiences of the pioneers of this region, having a hard time to make a living and suffering many discouragements, but managed to keep their farm through all their hardships. In 1889 occurred the death of the father, Hans Cronberg. The mother, who was Hannah Rasmussen, resides in Wyoming, where she has four sons and one daughter living, all prosperous and contented.

Our subject remained in Nebraska on the old home place, working faithfully, and has met with deserved success. He is now the owner of a good farm consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, lying along the banks of Lodgepole creek, the whole place being well improved with good stone buildings, fences and groves, and has about fifty acres under cultivation. Mr. Cronberg is quite extensively engaged in cattle raising, running about two hundred head with quite a number of good horses. Mr. Cronberg has an enviable reputation as a progressive ranchman, and is well-known throughout the county as a capable business man possessing superior attainments as a gentleman and scholar, esteemed by all who know him. Though a bachelor, he takes a commendable interest in local affairs, voting an Independent ticket. A view of his substantial residence and farm buildings is to be found on another page of this work.

R. M. SWINDELL.

R. M. Swindell, residing in Spring Grove township, is one of the prominent citizens and successful men of this section of Nebraska, and for many years past has been engaged in ranching and farming in Harlan county. He is a man of integrity and true worth, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. Swindell is a native of North Carolina, where his family for generations has lived. His grandfather, John Swindell, was a sailor for many years, originally from England. In 1859 our subject's father, L. H. Swindell, left his native state and came west with his family. His wife was Miss Nancy Petty, also born in North Carolina, and is now living in Henry county, Indiana, active and enjoying a splendid health at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Her family were old settlers in North Carolina. Our subject's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Polk, lived to be over ninety years old, and all of her brothers lived to a great age. The Polks were relatives of James K. Polk, once president of the United States.

In 1870 Mr. Swindell came to Nebraska, from Henry county, Indiana, where he had lived for some years, and had farmed in Cass county up to 1885. Two brothers also came west with him, Frank settling in Kansas and was killed at Lincoln, Missouri, in 1890. The other brother, W. R., lives in Harlan county. On locating in Harlan county, Mr. Swindell bought one hundred acres of land and soon after added another quarter section to it, and farmed it that for a time. Since then land has advanced in value the proprietor of over four thousand acres, all in this county. He raises stock and also does farming, feeding all his crop on his ranch. He keeps about two hundred head of cattle on hand all the time and sells large numbers each year. He also breeds horses for the market, and sells from one hundred to one hundred and fifty each year. He is the owner of Colwell, a thoroughbred stallion, and owns other very fine animals. Mr. Swindell has been locating here, and much prefers this as a stock and grain raising state to the eastern sections, and as he has had experience in different sections he knows whereof he speaks. His entire attention is given to his ranching and farming interests, and it is no light task to personally manage his extensive possessions. He has some of his farms rented, and on each one is a comfortable and commodious tenant house and build-

Our subject was married in 1877, to Miss Mary Philby, of Iowa, and they are the parents of the following children: L. L., M. R., Willie, Flora, now Mrs. Baxter, and Ella, wife of C. D. Dexter, the two latter residing in Spring Grove township near their parents' home.

Mr. Swindell has always taken an active part in local affairs and is one of the leading men of his section. He is interested in educational affairs, and has served on the school board for many years, and as town treasurer, besides holding numerous local offices. In political views he is a Republican. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Masonic lodges at Oxford.

G. A. HANSON.

G. A. Hanson, an old resident of Phelps county, Nebraska, who has watched the growth of this locality for the past many years, is an enthusiastic admirer of the region, considering it one of the very best farming countries known, with unlimited capacities under improved methods and more careful tilling of the soil than the pioneers were able to give it. Mr. Hanson is a resident of Loomis, where he is engaged in the agricultural implement business. He is also owner of a fine farm consisting of four hundred and eighty acres near the town of Loomis, most of which he rents out.

Mr. Hanson started in business at Holdrege in 1892, having settled in the county in 1879, coming to the locality as representative of the Chicago Broom Company as buyer for that concern, and he shipped about one hundred cars per year from this territory. He continued in the employ of that company up to 1888, then started in business on his own account, establishing a house in Loomis at first and later moving to Holdrege, remaining in the latter town up to 1895, then came back to Loomis, and has since made this his permanent residence. Here he has done exceedingly well, building up a good business, and enjoys the confidence of the entire community.

At different times Mr. Hanson has been a large landowner, purchasing his first quarter section in 1882, situated near the town of Loomis, then scarcely more than a village. During later years he has built on this land a fine residence, and now occupies it as a home. He is a man of energetic habits, of genial disposition, greatly admired by all with whom he has to do either in a business or social way. He takes a leading part in public

matters in his community, has served as justice of the peace, and during the past several years has been a member of the town school board, acting as treasurer for a considerable time.

Mr. Hanson is a native of Sweden, coming to America at the age of fourteen years. He was married in 1893, to Miss Abbie Barnum, who is a daughter of Edwin Barnum, the latter well known in this vicinity, having held the position of postmaster at Loomis for eight years. He is now a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota. The Barnum family originally came from New York state, and are of the same stock as the celebrated P. T. Barnum, of world-wide fame as the originator of the modern circus.

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C. W. TILTON.

C. W. Tilton, known throughout Rock county as one of the prominent citizens of that locality, is a prosperous and energetic farmer who has built up a valuable property there. He has resided on his present homestead for many years, and during that time by good management and industry has become one of the substantial agriculturists of his locality.

Mr. Tilton was born in Illinois in 1852, and was raised on a farm. His father, James M. Tilton, was of German descent, coming to Nebraska in 1884 and settling in Rock county on death occurring on the homestead in 1886. He a farm which he improved in good shape, his death occurring on the homestead in 1866. He married Susan Hardsty, also of German-American stock, whose parents were pioneers in Ohio. Our subject followed farm work as a boy, and after growing to manhood took a homestead on section 7, township 29, range 19, which is his present home. He is one of the few residents of this region who has not passed through sod house experience, although he has seen some pretty hard times and has suffered privations at different times during the early years. From 1893 to 1895, inclusive, he had the misfortune to lose three crops in succession, but he never once had any notion of giving up the struggle as he was sure that the country offered excellent opportunities to those who were willing to work and wait. Since better times have come he has prospered and is now owner of a fine quarter section, all well improved. He cultivates forty acres and has the same amount in pasture for quite a herd of stock which he keeps each year.

Several years ago Mr. Tilton planted three acres of trees, including apples, cherries and pears, which are now in fine bearing condition. He also has some splendid cedars on the ranch.

Mr. Tilton is unmarried. He devotes his entire time to the improvement of his farm, and has also taken an active part in local affairs doing all in his power to further the best interests of his locality. He is a Republican, but has never sought office.

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PETE A. BOWER.

Pete A. Bower, a worthy and highly respected citizen of Ainsworth, is a pioneer settler of this section of Nebraska, and has done his full share toward the development of its commercial resources. Mr. Bower is a homesteader in these parts, and while he has done but little farming during recent years the greater part of his time has been devoted to the following of his trade, that of builder and contractor, and he has erected a large number of the residences in and around the town of Ainsworth.

Mr. Bower was born in Pennsylvania in 1852, and was reared on a farm there. His father, Thomas Bower, was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, and he followed farming in that state up to 1884, then came with his entire family to Brown county, Nebraska. During his boyhood, Pete spent most of his time working in the iron foundries, following it up to 1879, when he came west and settled in Iowa, working as a farm hand for five years. He then came to Ainsworth and took a pre-emption, on which he proved up in due time, and when times were slack on his farm did carpenter work in Ainsworth and the surrounding country. In this way he was able to improve his farm, erected good buildings, and managed to make a nice income. He is thrifty and a good manager, and by hard labor and persistent efforts has gained a comfortable property and the respect and esteem of the entire community.

Shortly before leaving Pennsylvania Mr. Bower was married to Miss Leah Hoffman, also born and reared in that state. To them have been born the following children: Lydia, born in Iowa; Fred, Thomas, Pete, Amy and Oliver, the last mentioned five having been born in Ainsworth, and all educated in the public schools here. They are a very congenial family, and enjoy the friendship of a host of people.

W. W. AND GEORGE R. WERTZ.

The above named gentlemen, under the firm name of Wertz Brothers, dealers in cattle and hogs in Nebraska, and joint owners of a fine ranch consisting of one thousand one hundred and twenty acres situated on the Prairie Dog river, five miles southwest of Alma.

The Wertz brothers came from Ogle county, Illinois, where they were reared and where the father was a well known farmer. They came to this section and began in the stock feeding business in 1901, rapidly accumulating property and constantly widening their operations until at times they had a herd of two thousand cattle and the same number of hogs on the ranch. All of their cattle were brought from the West Slope and from the Sand Hills, this state, and nearly every year they had five thousand head which they purchased and fed, marketing them on the St. Joseph, Omaha and Chicago markets, being among the largest shippers in the west. The location of their ranch is the best in the world for the business, as there is no spot known where the climate is so favorable. Also, this region has never been swept by the severe storms which are so frequent west of McCook and east of Superior.

Prior to locating in Harlan county, Messrs. Wertz had been residents of Richardson county for about fifteen years, being engaged in raising and feeding business all of that time. They have exhibited specimens of their stock at different fairs and exposition in the county, and on one occasion had a car of fat yearling steers and heifers at the Interstate Stock Show at St. Joseph, Missouri, which took six first prizes and one second. These cattle were fattened at Alma and secured sweet prize at the Royal Stock Show which was held at Kansas City in 1906, two weeks after the fair at St. Joe.

Messrs. Wertz claim that the climate and the freedom from the mud and dampness, which is the chief drawback to the proper development of the cattle in that state. The position to know whereof they speak regarding these matters, as they have had considerable experience in both sections, and have been successful in a marked degree since locating here. They are classed among the wealthy and influential residents of their locality, and are classed among the largest handlers of cattle in Nebraska. Both are interesting com-

panions and genial good fellows, and are well liked by all with whom they come in contact.

Both are members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Alma.

JOHN O. BELDEN.

John O. Belden, an industrious younger member of the farming community of Court House Rock precinct, Morrill township, formerly of Cheyenne county, has a fine estate on section 30. He has been engaged in agriculture and stock raising but comparatively a few years, but in that time has met with decided success, and is classed among the successful and progressive men of the locality. A view of his residence is presented on another page.

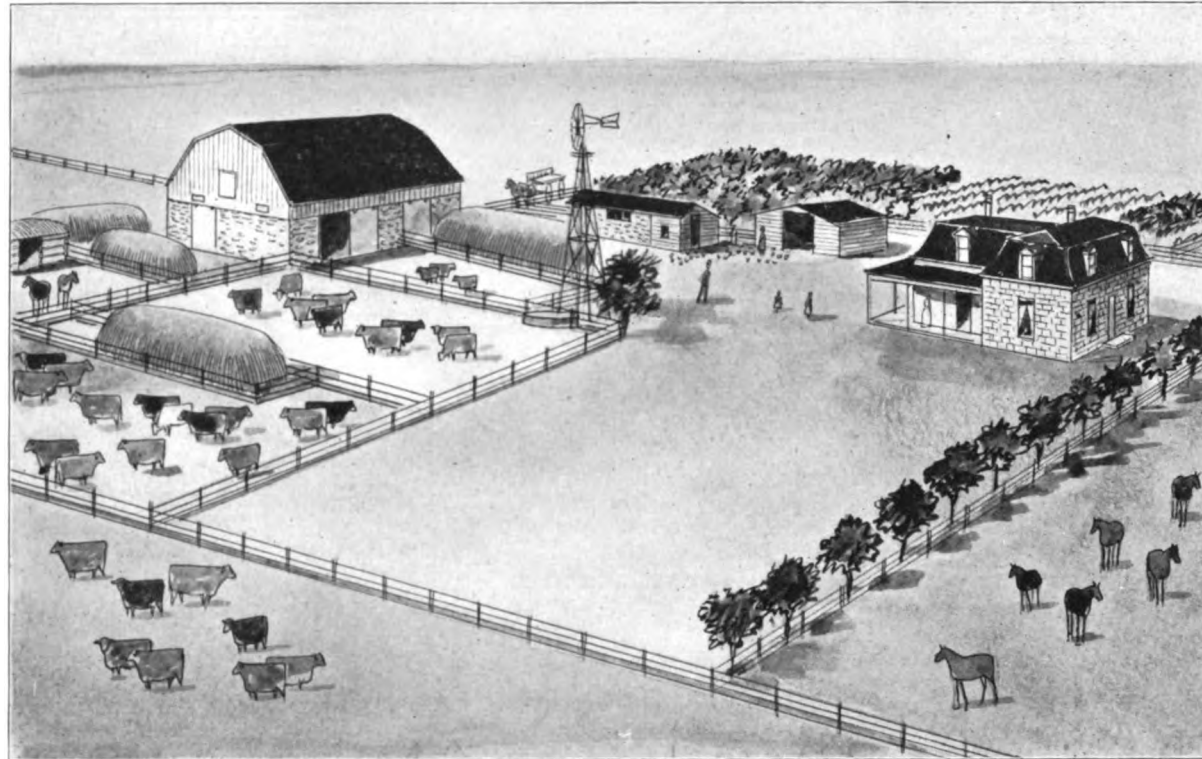
Mr. Belden was born in Cloud county, Kansas, April 6, 1878, and is a son of W. W. Belden, whose sketch appears in this volume on another page. He came to Cheyenne county with his parents in 1886 and grew up on the home ranch. After having an interest in ranch property on the tableland and elsewhere in the county, he bought his present homestead in 1907, situated south of the famous Court House Rock. One hundred and fifty acres of the land are under irrigation, the ditch and Pumpkin Seed creek passing through the ranch. It contains in all four hundred and eighty acres of good land. He has seventy acres cultivated, raising corn and other small grain, and also is engaged quite extensively in the stock business, running one hundred and seventy-five head of cattle and fifty horses. He has his farm improved with good buildings, considerable timber, and plenty of good water the year round, and everything bespeaks the utmost care and careful management in its operation.

On November 26, 1902, Mr. Belden married Miss Lovina Judd, and to them have been born four children, namely: Wallace, Mary, Lillie and Amanda. They have a pleasant and comfortable home and are highly esteemed as worthy citizens throughout the community in which they live. Mr. Belden holds the office of treasurer of the Court House Rock Ditch Company, and is also moderator of school district No. 7. He is a Republican in politics and a charter member of Baird Camp, No. 5141, Modern Woodmen of America.

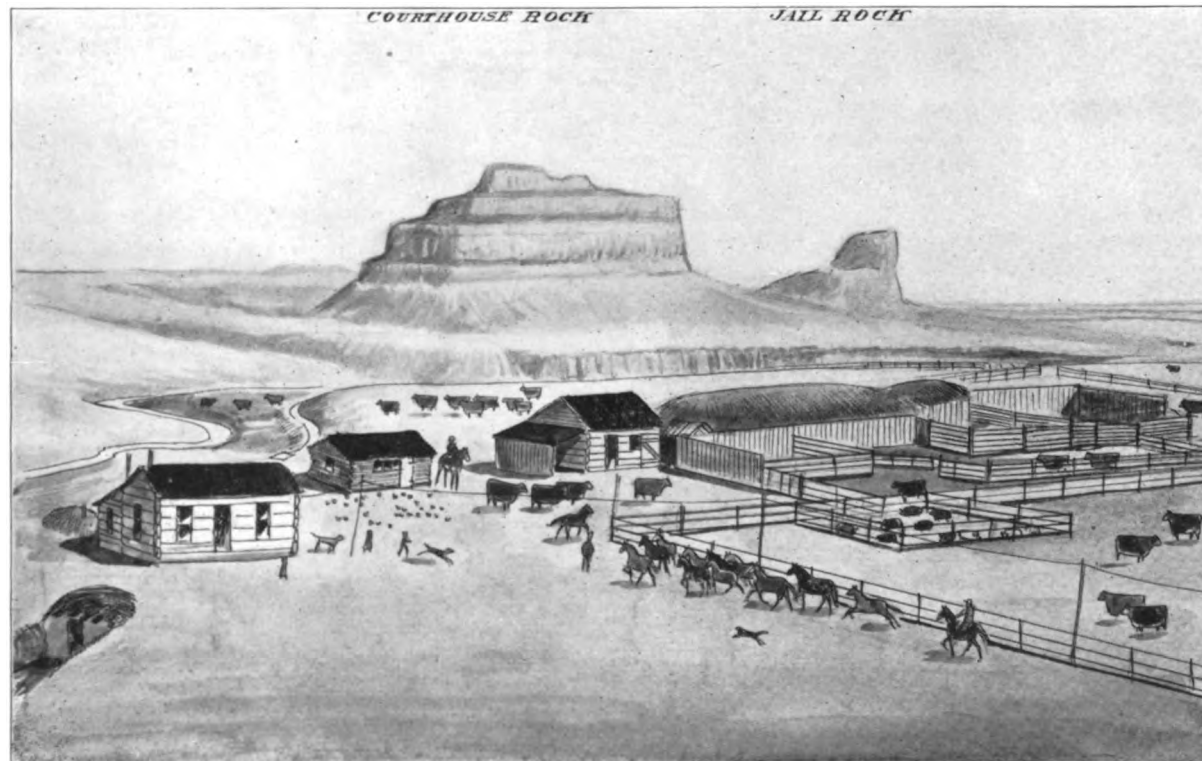
FREDERICK J. HARR.

The gentleman above named is one of the prominent old timers of western Nebraska, who has spent the past twenty-five years of his career in that region, and during that time





**RESIDENCE OF FRED J. HARR,**  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



**RESIDENCE OF JOHN O. BELDEN,**  
Morrill County, Nebraska.



has become one of the leading citizens, watching the growth and development of the locality from almost its earliest stages of settlement. He has passed through all the good, bad and indifferent times so familiar to the pioneers of the state, and has come through it all with great success, now being proprietor of a fine estate in Davison precinct, Cheyenne county, where he occupies a handsome residence. He and his family are among the well-liked and influential residents.

Fred J. Harr was born in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, on April 8, 1862. There he was reared and educated, his parents living on a farm. Here he learned to do all kinds of hard farm work, thus fitting himself for his later labors in this line. When he was twenty-two years of age, he left home and came to Nebraska, locating near Lincoln, securing employment on ranches and spent two years in that vicinity as a cowboy, becoming familiar with all the surrounding country in following that work.

In the spring of 1886 he came to Cheyenne county and filed on a homestead in section 8, township 16, range 50, and since then he has added to his original one hundred and sixty acres until he now owns five hundred and sixty acres of deeded land and controls one whole section of school land. He has one hundred and twenty-five acres under cultivation, on which he raises fine crops, being progressive and up-to-date in his farming methods. For the past few years Mr. Harr has been government crop reporter for this section of the country. He has his ranch fitted up with good substantial buildings of all kinds, and every necessary improvement for its successful operation, engaging extensively in the stock raising business. He runs about seventy-five head of cattle annually and quite a bunch of horses. A view of the remodeled dwelling, with the large stone barn and other buildings, is to be found on another page in this volume.

Mr. Harr was one of a family of twelve children, all of whom are living at the present time. The father, John G. Harr, died in Wisconsin, in 1904, but the mother, Caroline Slaver, in maidenhood, still resides in that state.

In April, 1887, our subject was married in Cheyenne county to Miss Hattie Hill, a native of Nebraska, where her parents, William and Arabella (Seman) Hill, were pioneers. The mother lives near Seattle, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Harr have a family of five children, named as follows: Ruth A., Florence A., Eva M., Mary A. and Vera F.

Mr. Harr takes a deep interest in state,

county and local affairs, and is treasurer of school district No. 61. In politics, he is an independent voter. He affiliates with the Maccabees at Sidney, and, with the family, is a member of the Methodist church.

FRANK A. STEVENSON.

Frank A. Stevenson, for many years a successful stockman and agriculturist of Brown county, is the owner of a splendid estate consisting of two thousand seven hundred and sixty acres, conveniently located near the town of Ainsworth. He was one of the earliest settlers of this locality, is widely known and enjoys an enviable reputation as an enterprising and public spirited citizen.

Mr. Stevenson was born in Illinois in 1862, and was reared on a farm there. His father was of Irish descent and his mother a French Canadian. There were five children in the family, Frank being the second, and all were educated in the common schools of Harrison county, Iowa, where they settled during the early days. At the age of sixteen our subject left home and secured employment on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, spending five years in the shops of that company. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and filed on a homestead on section 31, township 32, range 21, put up a shanty and began to build up a farm. He met with fair success for several years, but during the drouth periods was unable to raise any crops, and lost nearly everything he had made up to that time. Conditions were very disheartening, and he had about decided to abandon his farm, but owing to certain circumstances delayed moving from time to time. Things began to brighten up considerably and prospects appeared more favorable, so he took a fresh start and determined to remain and make another trial. His crops were better than they had ever been and he was soon able to put up better buildings and also purchased land adjoining his homestead and increased his herd of stock constantly. He is now owner of eight hundred acres of cultivated land, and the balance of his ranch is used for hay and pasture for his stock, having at present two hundred and fifty head of high grade Hereford cattle on the ranch. He is considered one of the largest ranchmen in the vicinity, and is a thorough judge of his business, practical and up-to-date in operating his extensive ranching interests. He has erected a splendid set of buildings and has every improvement in the way of wells, windmills, fences, corrals, etc. All of this he has ac-



quired by strict attention to duty, no capital to start with, and he has his success and the reputation of the leading citizens and one of the best men of the region.

Mr. Stevenson was married in 1884, to Miss Eliza Taylor, who is a native of Missouri and a daughter of Samuel Taylor, whose life history may be found in this volume on another page. Three children have come to bless our subject's home, namely: Pearl, George and Taylor, all bright and intelligent young people and well liked by all. They have a pleasant home and a host of friends in their community.

During our subject's early residence in this section he gave freely many dollars to help develop the community, and has been one of the foremost citizens in establishing and building up the schools and promoting the general welfare. He has also taken a leading part in local and county politics and has served in different capacities, holding the office of precinct assessor, besides other offices of trust in his township.

JEFF PATTERSON

For nearly a quarter of a century the gentleman above named has been a resident of Keya Paha county, and during that time he has closely identified himself with the history of the region. He has succeeded in building up a fine farm in section 21, township 33, range 22, and incidentally gained an enviable reputation as a citizen. Personally he is a man of untiring energy, honest principles and good business management, and is one of the well-to-do men of his locality.

Mr. Patterson is a native of Tennessee, born in 1853. His father, William Patterson, was of American stock and one of the pioneer settlers of Tennessee and later of the pioneer state in Iowa, enlisting in that company C, Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He returned after his discharge from the army, and followed farming here in 1867. He moved with his family into Missouri in 1867, where Jeff was educated. About 1888 they came to Keya Paha county and lived here up to the time of his death, which occurred several years ago. Mrs. Patterson's maiden name was Betsy Jones, also of American stock, and she died when Jeff was a small boy, leaving three children, of whom our subject was the second. He started to make his own way in the world at the early age of fourteen years, following farm work in Iowa and later in Missouri, also spent some time in Ohio, working

as he had well merits of being one of the wealthiest. In 1884, to Miss Eliza Taylor, whose life history may be found in this volume on another page. Three children have come to bless our subject's home, namely: Pearl, George and Taylor, all bright and intelligent young people and well liked by all. They have a pleasant home and a host of friends in their community. During our subject's early residence in this section he gave freely many dollars to help develop the community, and has been one of the foremost citizens in establishing and building up the schools and promoting the general welfare. He has also taken a leading part in local and county politics and has served in different capacities, holding the office of precinct assessor, besides other offices of trust in his township.

there for one man for six years. In 1883 he came into Keya Paha county and filed on a homestead, and still occupies this tract as his home ranch. There was considerable natural timber on the land, and in addition to this Mr. Patterson has planted a large number of shade and fruit trees and now has one of the finest groves and orchards in the vicinity. His first dwelling was a building made of sod, logs and rough lumber, and he occupied it for eighteen years, then erected a fine frame residence.

During his early residence in this region Mr. Patterson passed through some hard times, suffering crop losses, etc., but never gave up hoping for better times, and he has been well repaid for his efforts in the accumulating of a nice property consisting of four hundred and eighty acres of good land, all lying along Cub creek. About one hundred and fifty acres are cultivated and the balance is used for hay and pasture for his stock, having a small herd of cattle and quite a bunch of horses and mules, making a specialty of breeding and raising the latter. He also aims to feed about a carload of hogs each year, which he finds a ready market for at Ainsworth.

In 1887 Mr. Patterson was married to Miss Geneva Dale, of Nesbit, Nebraska, who settled in this state with her parents when a young girl. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are the parents of the following children: Ona F., Eva C., Lulu V., June M., William D. and Ezra Keith, all of whom are living at home at the present time.

Mr. Patterson is a Populist, and while he has never taken an active part in politics or held office, he is without doubt one of the leading old settlers of the country, and has done his share in bringing about the present prosperity enjoyed in the region.

JOHN STEVENS, JR.

John Stevens, Jr., of Arapahoe, Furnas county, Nebraska, is a son of Hon. John Stevens, who is a prominent resident of the same place and a native of Virginia.

Our subject is a widely known attorney with a practice extending over the entire western country tributary to Arapahoe, having established his office here in 1896, and in that time had become very successful in his profession. He is a native of Polk county, Iowa, where his father was a pioneer settler, and also was one of the first to settle in this part of Nebraska, coming here in 1878 and

homesteading in Arapahoe precinct, later removing to Edison. He was one of the organizers of the Populist party in this county and was elected by his party to represent this district in the state legislature, serving during the years 1890 and 1892, inclusive, and is still active in supporting the principles of his party. Prior to his settlement here Mr. Stevens, Sr., was also an active worker in Polk county, Iowa, for the Greenback party. He is a prominent veteran of the Civil war, having been a member of Company A, Tenth Iowa Infantry, who served his country faithfully and well for three years, taking part in many battles, in the Army of the Cumberland, at Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, and in the different sieges of Vicksburg. He is an interesting raconteur and relates many interesting adventures of his life as a soldier.

John Stevens, Jr., is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and held the office of reporter for two terms, serving under the fourteenth judicial district. In 1896 he was elected county attorney and served one term. He has been unusually successful in his career as an attorney, gaining a large and lucrative patronage throughout the country. He is a brilliant orator and has been thoroughly fitted for his life work by a thorough education derived by years of study.

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#### LOU WHEELER.

For the past twenty-five years the gentleman above named has made western Nebraska his home, and during the greater part of that time has been intimately associated with the agricultural and commercial interests of Brown county, where he has acquired a comfortable property by dint of industry and honesty. He has a nice home and owns a well cultivated farm of eighty acres located on section 2, township 30, range 21, and is one of the substantial and highly esteemed citizens of his community.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Wisconsin in 1868 and reared on a farm. He is a son of J. T. Wheeler, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this book, and is the sixth child in a family of thirteen. When he was about one year old his parents located in Iowa and he grew up there, attending the country schools. In 1880 the whole family came to Nebraska, settling in Hall county. They were practically without funds when they struck that region, and had a hard time to get along, experiencing every form of privation and hardship during their three years' residence in that vicinity.

While there they went through the drouth years, losing several crops during the dry times, and constantly getting worse off, finally leaving there without a dollar and worse off than when they landed. They then came to Brown county, arriving here in the spring of 1883. The father settled on a homestead, and after a short time our subject started for himself, securing employment on neighboring farms, and worked out until he was twenty years of age, then rented a farm and began to build up a home. He worked on rented farms for a number of years in different parts of the county, mostly on Buffalo flats. In 1889 he purchased his present farm and has improved it in good shape, now having a comfortable home and well equipped farm, also works quite a good deal of rented land. For the past several years Mr. Wheeler has been owner of a threshing rig in partnership with a brother, and they have operated this all over their section of the country, from this source deriving a nice income.

Mr. Wheeler was married in 1888 to Miss Stults, who is a daughter of M. D. Stults, one of the old-timers in Brown county. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, named as follows: Russell, Maggie, Willie, Dewey, Eddie, Hazel and a baby.

Mr. Wheeler takes a commendable interest in local affairs, is industrious and intelligent, and keeps well posted on the current events of the times.

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#### GEORGE H. LAW.

George H. Law, widely known as an upright and industrious citizen, resides on section 4, township 12, range 44, Deuel county, where he operates a farm. He is one of the pioneers of the table land, and can recount many experiences of the early settlers there. He is energetic and progressive, has opened up a good farm in the locality, and has been an important factor in the development of the agricultural interests in the region, and well merits his success as a farmer and enviable reputation as a citizen.

Our subject was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on the 24th day of September, 1870. He was reared and educated there, coming to Deuel county, Nebraska, with his parents in March, 1886. The father homesteaded on section 10, township 12, range 44, and proved up in due time, going through the usual experiences of the earliest settlers in the section. In 1892 our subject filed on a homestead, proved up and then sold out. He came to the farm he now occupies, and here has made a

success, cultivating about one  
twenty acres, and runs a small  
and about fifty head of horses.  
married in Bellwood, Nebraska,  
1897, to Miss Carrie Hofrichter,  
and reared in Illinois.

Our subject is a Republican  
supporter of the principles of  
is active in township affairs, and  
ing as treasurer of school district

hundred and  
erd of cattle  
Mr. Law was  
December 30,  
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and a stanch  
e party. He  
is now serv-  
No. 34.

THOMAS MOORE

Thomas Moore, of Franklin  
braska, is one of the leading res  
locality. He is a retired mercha  
this county in 1879, establishi  
store at Macon, which he carried

Mr. Moore was born in Onta  
up in his native land. His father,  
served for five years in the Gren  
and was mustered out at Mont  
locating in Ontario. When Th  
small boy the family moved to Ne  
settling near Plattsburg. The f  
dead, and one of our subject's mo  
sessions is the former's discharge

grew up in New York state, an  
listed in the Ninety-sixth Infantr  
in the Army of the Potomac, taki  
of the big battles, including Gett  
ericksburg, Chancellorsville, etc.  
seamy side of a soldier's career, su  
privation, and while he was fortu  
being severely wounded during  
engagements in which he part  
much of the horrors of war, and l  
else was heartily glad when the  
over. He left the army with a  
ord and is now one of the promi

in his part of the country. A  
charge he returned to New York  
gaged in the lumber business, w  
ried on for eleven years, then can  
ka, making his first settlement  
landing here in 1879. Soon after  
cated permanently in Macon, w  
time was a village with a few hu  
itants, and established a mercan  
which he continued up to 1903.

of the first men to put a stock of  
town, and much of his patronag  
from the Indians during the earli  
was appointed postmaster at Mac  
ly after locating here and held the  
teen years. He has served as co  
sioner, holding the office one term  
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Thomas was a  
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struggle was  
brilliant rec-  
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office for six-  
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, and in 1880,  
l to the first

board of supervisors, also serving for one term.  
In 1884, during the hard times which prevailed  
in that locality, he was appointed president  
of the state board of relief for the settlers who  
had suffered from loss of crops and were un-  
able to make a living, and he was one of the  
most active in securing this help and assisting  
in their relief.

Mr. Moore was the leading spirit in estab-  
lishing the Methodist Episcopal church in Ma-  
con, and was superintendent of the Sabbath  
school for twenty-four years, also acted as  
trustee of the church. For twelve years he  
served on the school board of the town. All  
this time his trade was increasing and he did  
well in a business way, constantly increasing  
his line of goods, and his success was due  
wholly to his energy and honesty of principle  
in dealing with the public, making him one of  
the most influential and highly respected citi-  
zens this region has ever known.

In 1903 Mr. Moore came to Franklin and  
founded the Moore Mercantile Company in  
Franklin, taking in partnership his two sons-  
in-law, John Garrett, who formerly lived in  
Hexton, Colorado, and E. J. Briggs, of Tren-  
ton, Nebraska, where he owns a fine twelve  
hundred-acre ranch. They carried on this busi-  
ness up to 1906, then sold out to Messrs. Hesse  
& Co., who now operate the store. Mr. Moore  
also is owner of three hundred and twenty  
acres in Trenton, which is well stocked with  
cattle, horses and hogs, and his intention is to  
remove to this property in a short time and  
permanently reside there.

Mr. Moore has a family of two daughters  
and two sons. He is a member of the Masonic  
lodge. Ancient Order United Workmen and  
a prominent Grand Army of the Republic man.

JOHN T. WHEELER.

The gentleman whose name heads this per-  
sonal history is one of the very old settlers  
of western Nebraska, coming here from Iowa  
about 1880 and settling at that time near Hast-  
ings, which then was a very small town with  
many Indian inhabitants. He moved to Brown  
county in 1882 and was among the earliest set-  
tlers in this region, voting at the first election  
ever held in the county. Since his early res-  
idence here he has been an important figure  
in the affairs of his community, and has passed  
through all the old Nebraska times, watch-  
ing its growth from the primitive state into  
the thriving agricultural and commercial dis-  
trict it has now become.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Northhampton-

shire, England, in 1831. His father, Benjamin Wheeler, was a soap and candle maker in that country, bringing his family to America when our subject was a lad of ten years. They crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel, experiencing the usual hardships during the voyage, spending several weeks, and sometimes even months, on the sea. After landing in New York city they came west, settling in Wisconsin in the town of Waukesha, which was at that time called Prairieville, and there John was raised, receiving a common school education and following farm work during most of the time, also threshing, teaming, etc., as a young man. During wartime he enlisted in Company G, First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, and with his regiment saw service at Fort Ellsworth, Virginia, and other points in the east, remaining with his company until the close of the war, then returned to his home town. He remained in Wisconsin for a short time, then moved to Iowa, settling on a farm, and spent ten years there, and as many were emigrating to Nebraska about this time, he joined a party who were traveling overland to that state, landing near Hastings, where he located on a homestead. There he started as the majority of the pioneers did, with very little money and a few household goods, team, wagon and a few tools, going through many hardships and much privation. The family witnessed the drouth seasons there, living in a sod house for a number of years, and many times hardly knew where their next meal was coming from, as they were unable to raise any crops during the dry years excepting a few vegetables and a very little grain. However, he remained on the place up to 1890, then came to his present location, owning at the present time a well improved quarter section, and is doing well. The farm is well supplied with good water, some timber and he has erected good buildings, and is succeeding in building up a very productive farm.

Mr. Wheeler was married November 15, 1855, to Miss Electa T. Palmer, who is now deceased. She left a family of the following children, namely: Emma Jane, Joseph L., Charles H., Caroline E., Alfred Benoni, Lucius F., Rosena H., James Franklin, Fred H., Ralph Waldo E., Harry Albert, Harvey U. and George C. All are now grown and settled in different parts of the country, and all are filling honorable vocations in life. Mr. Wheeler was again married on March 6, 1890, to Mrs. Elsie DeWitt, who was an early settler in these parts, her first husband being a pioneer homesteader, he dying during their early residence here, leaving his widow with a family of three

children, as follows: Osa, Ira and Emma, all now married and living in homes of their own. Of his second marriage one child was born, Grace L., who is now a charming young lady. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler and family are held in high esteem in the community and have a large circle of friends.

#### J. G. MEYERS.

Among the leading citizens of Cheyenne county none stands higher in the minds of his associates than the gentleman here named. For many years he has been engaged in farming near Dixon, has developed a fine farm and enjoys all the comforts of a rural home and the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Meyers was born in the kingdom of Wittenberg, Germany, January 12, 1868, and grew up in that country. When he was seventeen years of age he came to America with his father, mother, three brothers and two sisters. They located in Sidney, Nebraska, and soon afterwards settled on a homestead about four miles southwest of the town of Potter, in Cheyenne county. There they started in the humble way of all the pioneers and rapidly developed a good farm, making good headway considering the different little discouragements they met with in the way of unfavorable weather conditions, etc. They saw some hard times, and after living on the homestead about three years the father was taken ill and his death occurred on Christmas day, 1888. The mother and children continued working the farm and succeeded in building up a comfortable home, and Mrs. Meyers and one daughter still occupy the place, which is situated on section 14, township 14, range 53.

Our subject began working for the Union Pacific Railroad Company about 1890, and remained in the employ of that concern for nine years, finally settling on a homestead on section 32, township 15, range 54, which originally belonged to his wife, and they have added to the farm until it now contains twelve hundred and eighty acres. Mr. Meyers has put about seventy-five acres under the plow, and raises considerable grain, also has a herd of one hundred cattle and other stock, including a nice bunch of horses. The ranch is fully equipped with good buildings of all kinds, and everything about the place is in fine shape, bespeaking good management and care in its operation.

Mr. Meyers was married to Miss Christina Stengel in December, 1905. Mrs. Meyers was born and reared in Germany, and came to this

country with her parents when a few years ago.

Mr. Meyers is classed among the prosperous residents of his locality and takes a commendable interest in local affairs, lending his influence to the upbuilding of every enterprise which tends to its advancement and the welfare of those of his community.

child of eight years died here

the prosperous makes a commendable enterprise and the welfare

In the latter year he bought the Johnstown Hotel and has run the place since that time, being very successful in the venture. He is a man of pleasant manners and good business ability, and has the faculty of making friends, which is a necessary quality in a man who successfully carries on a hotel business.

During his early residence here Mr. Deutler traveled all through this country as surveyor, having been elected county surveyor on the Republican ticket and serving two terms in that capacity. In this manner he became well acquainted with most all of the settlers in the region, making him one of the best known men in this part of the state. In 1905 he was Republican nominee for county treasurer, but was beaten by a small majority. He has always been active in local and county politics and is a staunch supporter of party principles.

ELMER E. DEUTLER

Elmer E. Deutler, the genial manager and owner of the Johnstown Hotel, of Johnstown, Brown county, is one of the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, and a highly esteemed resident of his community.

manager and owner of the Johnstown Hotel, of Johnstown, Brown county, is one of the oldest settlers in western Nebraska, and a highly esteemed resident of his community.

Mr. Deutler was born in Lewisburg, Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1861. His father, Henry G., was a shoemaker of German descent. He enlisted in the United States army at the beginning of the Civil war, and served in Company D, Fifty-first Pennsylvania Regiment. During a battle he was taken prisoner, where he died. His widow, who was Mary Stough-ton, was also a native of Pennsylvania, of English and German descent, was left with a family of four boys, of whom our subject was the youngest, and when he was nine years of age the mother came to Nebraska with her little family, locating in Dodge county, where she took a homestead, settling on the land in 1871. There they went through pioneer experiences in getting their home started, witnessing the grasshopper raids, drouths, etc., but managed to make a scant living by working out in the vicinity at whatever they could find to do, remaining there up to 1884, then left the place and came to Cherry county. There they settled northwest of the town, and began a homestead twelve miles south and west, and went through all the work then small village of Johnstown to improve their home. They and hauling on the farm, breaking the land and fuel, etc., for about four years. They tried hard to raise grain, but found climatic conditions and soil was not especially adapted to the work, so he stock business gradually got into successful, enabling them to accumulate a nice property in time.

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In 1893 Mr. Deutler was married to Miss Lillian Beebout, whose father, William Beebout, is a well-known old settler of Brown county. Four children have been born of this union, namely: Jessie, Merle, Ellsworth and Clara, all born in Brown county.

MILO E. WEBSTER.

Milo E. Webster, one of the early settlers and prosperous farmers and ranchers of Davison precinct, Cheyenne county, lives on his finely improved estate of one thousand two hundred and eighty acres, where he has spent many years of his life. He is one of the pioneers who have gone through all the old-time "cow-men" and ranching experiences and come out successful in a wordly and spiritual way, gaining the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has had to do, and is now one of the leading citizens of his community.

Mr. Webster was born in the town of Sandsfield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, September 3, 1860, receiving a common school education, helping his parents carry on the home farm, and after reaching manhood was employed in farm labor in his native county some five years. In 1887 he emigrated to the western country, arriving in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in the spring.

He at once filed on a homestead in section 18, township 16, range 51, to which he secured complete title and then sold. He was employed for ten years on the Pomeroy ranch before starting into cattle raising for himself. In 1896 he purchased land in section 4, township 16, range 50, acquiring additional land surrounding until he now owns one thousand two hundred and eighty acres by purchase, and still

Mr. Deutler filed on a homestead claim on his own account during this time, proving up on both, and in 1889 moved to Johnstown. For a number of years he farmed on rented land near the town, and later purchased a farm which he operated up to 1906.

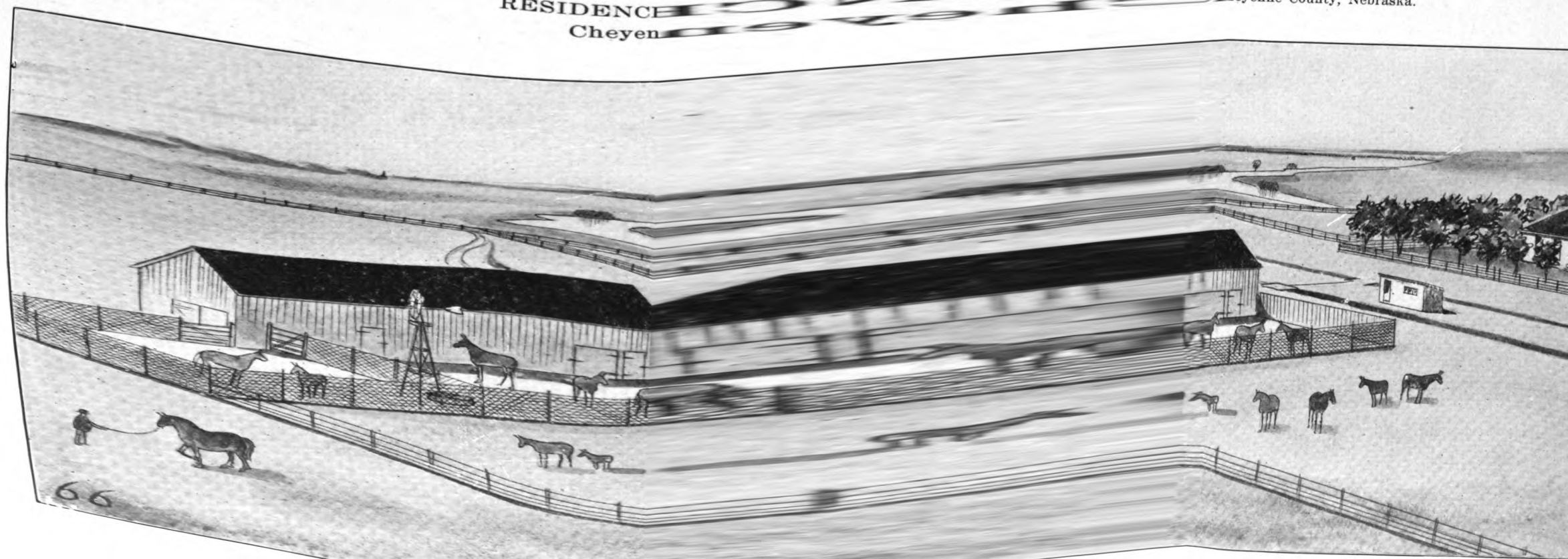
claim on his own account during this time, proving up on both, and in 1889 moved to Johnstown. For a number of years he farmed on rented land near the town, and later purchased a farm which he operated up to 1906.







RESIDENCE OF MILO E. WEBSTER,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.



"SIXTY-SIX RANCH."  
Morris

"CH." PROPERTY OF C. C. NELSON,  
Morris County, Nebraska.



occupies this farm. Here he has built up a fine home and ranch, having recently erected a large two-story, eight-room residence, which is tastefully furnished far beyond the average farm or ranch house in any of the western states. The barn and outbuildings are partly of stone and all are substantial and commodious. A view of the home and surroundings is to be found on another page.

Including a timber claim of one hundred and sixty acres in section 26, township 15, range 51, he is owner of one thousand four hundred and forty acres of good farm and ranch land, cultivating about a quarter of a section, on which he raises mostly small grains; he also deals extensively in stock, running one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle and twenty-five horses.

He makes a specialty of raising high grade Hereford cattle, and has quite a herd of fine animals of this breed.

Mr. Webster's father, Daniel Webster, is now dead, while his mother, who was Orpha Northrup in maidenhood, resides in Connecticut. Four of the five children in the family are living and of these Milo is second in order of birth. On February 14, 1907, Mr. Webster was married in Coulton precinct to Gertrude Witters, who was born in Indiana. Her father, S. P. Witters, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this work, came to Cheyenne county with his family in 1886.

One child, Clifford D., has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Webster. They worship with the Center congregation of the Methodist church in Davison precinct. Mr. Webster is active in local affairs, being a leading politician in state, county and national matters, voting an independent ticket. He affiliates with Sidney Camp, No. 1091, Modern Woodmen of America.

WM. SHATTUCK, JR.

Keya Paha county has no more enterprising or worthy citizen within her borders than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. While he is a young man and not numbered among the real old-timers in the region, Mr. Shattuck has spent quite a number of years here, during which time he has acquired an extensive acquaintance and is esteemed and respected by his fellowmen.

Mr. Shattuck was born in Illinois, in 1879. His father, Wm. Shattuck, Sr., was owner of a good farm in that state. He was a native of Massachusetts, of American stock, and married Lucy Barney, also of the same birth and state, and they reared a family of three chil-

dren, our subject being the second child. He lived at home until he was twenty-one, then started out for himself, following farm work in Boyd county, Nebraska, where he had located in 1895. He spent about seven years in that vicinity, then came to Keya Paha county and took up a homestead on section 24, township 35, range 18, put up a dwelling and proved up on the claim. He improved it in good shape and still makes it his home ranch, having ninety acres under cultivation, and engages in mixed farming and stock raising.

Mr. Shattuck is owner of a very fine registered French draught horse which is valued at one thousand five hundred dollars. He has had wide experience in the horse business and is considered a first-class judge of horses, having owned some very good animals since living in the region.

Mr. Shattuck was married in March, 1900, to Plausa Stoss, who is of Belgian stock, born in Omaha in 1879. They have two children, Ralph and Lucy. They occupy a comfortable home and our subject is classed among the leading young men of his locality, and considering the comparatively short time he has occupied his farm, has done exceedingly well. He is progressive and up-to-date in his methods of farming, and his success speaks well for his thrift and good business ability.

Politically Mr. Shattuck is a Republican but he has never taken an active part in politics, preferring to devote his entire time to the building up of his home and farm.

CHARLES C. NELSON.

Charles C. Nelson, classed among the prosperous and leading ranchmen of Morrill, formerly Cheyenne, county, Nebraska, is owner of a fine estate comprising one thousand three hundred and forty acres, situated on sections 29 and 30, township 19, range 51, and in addition to this property has three hundred and twenty acres on Cedar creek, both of which are "under ditch." Mr. Nelson is a genuine old-time stockman and cattle rancher, during a large part of his career following the range and becoming familiar with every phase of life on the western plains. His pleasant home in Camp Clarke precinct bespeaks the most painstaking care and good management in its operation.

Mr. Nelson was born in Windsor, Missouri, July 17, 1852, his parents having moved to Henry county, that state, in the forties. His father, James A. Nelson, was a native of Richmond, Virginia. The mother, Margaret A.

(Trinnier), was also a native of Virginia and died in Nebraska. Both parents were descendants of Irish stock. Charles Nelson, an only child, lived in Missouri until 1870, when he went to Texas, where for nine years he engaged in the stock business, riding the ranches in that state. He then came to Nebraska, settling in Cheyenne county, where he was employed by Tussler Bros., on the Merchant & Wheeler ranch, acting as foreman for that concern, he finally purchasing property in 1894, and operated it up to when he sold it. The ranch contained two thousand two hundred and forty acres and was stocked with three hundred horses and six hundred head of cattle. When he came to Nebraska he had no capital and started out one hundred dollars in debt at the beginning of his career. He took a home on Greenwood creek, proved up on it and sold. At one time he was engaged in liquor business at Bridgeport, but soon out and devotes his entire time to his ranch interests. The greater part of his land is devoted to hay, with two hundred acres alfalfa. During his residence in this region has met with some hard luck, but despite numerous drawbacks has managed to accumulate nice property, and is now in good circumstances and enjoys a comfortable home peace and plenty.

Mr. Nelson married Miss Alice Clark Windsor, Missouri, in 1874. Mrs. Nelson a native of Virginia, and after ten years happy married life she died leaving two daughters, Fredonia, wife of J. H. Clauges, mother of four children, now living at Bridgeport, the second daughter, Margaret, is the wife of Albert Cudy, living in Scotts Bluff. Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Lillian B. Franklin of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in April, 1908.

Mr. Nelson was active in local affairs and without question one of the leading men in Cheyenne county. He is a Republican in politics, member of Frank Welch Lodge, No. 75 of Eureka Springs, and Accepted Masons, of Sidr We present a view of Mr. Nelson's residence on another page.

F. N. PHILLIPS.

F. N. Phillips is the fortunate owner of a beautifully located farm known throughout the region as "Park Valley." This place is situated in the shadow of Lookout Mountain in a charming narrow valley covered with many lovely trees and supplied with spa



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Mr. Phillips is a native of Cheyenne county, in this state, and later spent a number of years in Iowa, following nearly all of the time. While in Iowa he was active in local affairs, serving ten years as justice of the peace and various local offices. He is a veteran, having enlisted and served in the struggle. After returning to Nebraska, he only remained a short time in Cheyenne county, Iowa, where he farmed, coming to Nebraska with his family and settling in Tecumseh county. The subject was raised and educated in Iowa. Mr. Phillips came to Franklin county, settling on a farm of 160 acres, and engaged in stock raising. He afterwards spent some time in the eastern part of the state, returning in 1898 and purchased 40 acres, to which he has made various improvements and also bought adjoining his original tract. He now has 100 acres under cultivation, considerable hay and pasture land, a herd of Shorthorns, having registered cows and standardbred horses, which he expects to raise some more. The farm is well equipped with every convenience for his different enterprises, and is one of the prosperous and up-to-date farms in the county.

Mr. Phillips was married to Mrs. Douglas, daughter of Sanford Douglas, New York state, the latter a prominent pioneer. Our subject is the father of two sons, Carl and Carl, both now grown and home farm.

Politically Mr. Phillips is a Democrat. He has always been prominent in the community, serving for a number of years as justice of the peace in this county, also as treasurer and holding other local offices.

SETH R. BATES, D.

The gentleman above named was for many years a prominent citizen of Brown county, where he owned

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tate and was highly esteemed by all who knew him.

Mr. Bates was born in 1845, in New York state. He was of Yankee stock, his parents being farmers in New England, and he was raised and educated on a farm, living at home until he was thirteen years of age, then came with his parents to Illinois and after a few years spent in that state, coming to Nebraska and locating in Plattsmouth, arriving here shortly after the close of the war. Shortly afterwards Seth left home and started for himself, locating in Cass county, remaining there but a few months, then moved to Seward county. He was married there, in 1872, to Miss Martha Rickard, whose parents were of American stock, raised in New York state. To our subject were born nine children, six of whom are now living, named as follows: Ada, Bert, Dudley, Leed, May and Lloyd, all of whom are now grown and filling honorable positions in life.

Mr. Bates came to Rock county with his family in 1880, settling on the Niobrara river on a homestead. They traveled to their new home by team in a covered wagon, and upon landing here built a sod shanty in which they lived for several seasons, then built a house of logs and used this as a dwelling for many years. All household supplies had to be hauled from Oakdale, and during these tedious trips Mr. Bates was obliged to camp out by night under his wagon. They saw many hard times during these years, witnessing the drouths and unable to raise scarcely any crops, one year also having their entire season's planting hailed out. The country was very thinly settled, their nearest neighbor living three miles from their homestead. Mr. Bates had very little capital when he landed here, but through sheer persistence and energy he succeeded in building up a good home and accumulated a property consisting of two hundred acres of good farming land lying along the Niobrara river, on which he put good improvements, including a fine orchard and every comfort and convenience of rural life. He settled on Pine creek in 1901, purchasing a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. This place he put in first-class shape, and was getting along nicely, when the father was taken ill and died in December, 1905. Since his death Mrs. Bates has occupied the homestead and carried on the farm, assisted by her sons.

Mr. Bates was a man of exemplary habits, industrious and a good friend and neighbor, and his loss was deeply felt by all who knew him. He was always active in promoting the general welfare of his community, and he will

long be remembered in the hearts of the old timers of the region.

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#### F. A. ROWAN.

Among the successful and well-known citizens of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, who has made that region his home for the past twenty years, we mention the name of F. A. Rowan, residing on section 30, township 16, range 48.

Mr. Rowan was born in Butler county, Ohio, on September 5, 1862. At the age of four years he went to Illinois with his parents, settling in Woodford county, and there he grew to manhood, receiving a common school education, and helping his father carry on the home farm. The father still makes Illinois his home, now residing at Eureka, while the mother died a number of years ago.

In the spring of 1887 Mr. Rowan came into Cheyenne county, Nebraska. He at once filed on a homestead, taking the land as a timber claim, and now occupies the tract as the home ranch. He has succeeded in building up a fine farm, has erected good buildings of all kinds, and his ranch is one of the best equipped in the locality. It is situated on the "table," and here he has planted a fine grove of trees and has every convenience of modern farming in the way of machinery, etc. The place contains in all about nine hundred acres of deeded land, and besides this he has one section of leased school land which he operates in connection with his own ranch. About one hundred and sixty acres are under cultivation, and he has a large portion in pasture and hay land for about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and a bunch of horses.

Mr. Rowan was married in Cheyenne county, on February 1, 1893, to Miss Lottie J. Ravert, who is also a native of Ohio. Her parents were early settlers in Cheyenne county, coming here in 1887, where the father improved a homestead, he dying here some sixteen years ago. Mrs. Ravert is still living on her fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres, which was taken as a Kincaid claim. She is the mother of three children, Lottie, wife of our subject, William Lee, who is owner of a Kincaid homestead of six hundred and forty acres in section 7, township 17, range 48, this county, and Charles Neal Ravert, also a homesteader near Dalton.

Mr. Rowan has a family of five children, named as follows: Harold, Edna, Marjorie, Neal and Arthur, all living at home.

Mr. Rowan has taken an important part in the upbuilding of the region since he has lived



here, helping establish the schools, and ing his influence in every instance to promote the welfare of the settlers. During the 1897-1902 he held the office of county commissioner in the county, and has always considered one of the foremost old time the region. He is an Independent in polit

and lend- o promote the years unty com- ways been timers of politics.

AUGUST NAMUTH

The gentleman above named leading farmers and stockmen county, where he has spent many years, and during that time has accumulating a nice property his work and faithful attention to operations. He is a man of steady istics, and has an enviable r worthy citizen and good neighbor

Mr. Namuth was born in E many, September 3, 1871, and receiving the education usual to his native land. Both parents years ago. When August was years of age he left home and America, coming directly to worked on farms and ranches county for a number of years, early settlers of the region, through all the experiences of the drouth years, seeing crops erty destroyed by the severe st ing the dangers of Indian wa those years he filed on home afterwards relinquished the sa put them in good condition years he has spent in Colorado different times, but always r braska, finally settling here p ing a Kincaid homestead on ship 12, range 47, in July, 190 fair condition, and during the s lived on the property has adde ments, having good buildings hundred and twenty acres u He has about one hundred h present, and raises considerable market, which brings him in a snug income.

Mr. Namuth was married c 1900, to Katie Sukovaty, who hemia in 1876 and came to th her parents when a child of living in Cheyenne county, a good farm.

Mr. Namuth is an Indepe and takes a commendable int matters of interest to his com

S. P. JAMISON

S. P. Jamison, who throug dence in Keya Paha county, a perience in farming, having homesteads in this region, all utterly unimproved land whe

BURCH L. HARTUNG.

Burch L. Hartung, classed among the successful young agriculturists of Rock county Nebraska, has acquired a valuable estate located near the town of Bassett, and is widely and favorably known throughout the local as an industrious and thrifty citizen.

Mr. Hartung was born in Iowa in 1871 is a son of George W. Hartung, the latter German descent, a native of Pennsylvania who came west when a young man, settling the western part of Nebraska, where he resided for the past thirty years and more. Here he has gone through every form of tier life, witnessing grasshopper raids, dro and other conditions which made it so for the pioneers in the vicinity. He tra were put through, making long journey horseback and in prairie schooners. He ried Miss Laura Applegate, who is of good Yankee stock, and their entire married life been spent in Cuming and Rock coun where our subject was raised and educ The Hartungs have made Bassett their for about six years, finally locating on se 30, township 31, range 19, putting up a farm buildings, and there went through pio experiences.

Burch Hartung started out for himse a boy, working on the ranches in the vic of his father's homestead and later in Paha county, becoming thoroughly far with the country in this part of the state. has been all through the region on horse roughing it summer and winter, and i quainted with nearly all the old settlers i country. Several years ago he took a l stead on section 25, township 31, range 20 hundred and twenty acres, which he ha proved in good shape, having a good farm buildings, fences, and many conven of modern farming, engaged in grain ra also keeping quite a bunch of stock.

Mr. Hartung is a young man of ene habits, endowed with good business abilit is classed among the representative Ne stockmen and farmers.

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them, has become thoroughly conversant with the topography and development of this part of Nebraska. He is one of the leading citizens of his community, and has acquired a nice property by industry and good management, supplemented by honesty and integrity. He now resides in the town of Jamison.

Mr. Jamison was born in Atchison, Missouri, in 1861. When he was but one year old his parents moved to Nebraska City, making that their home for ten years, then went into Gage county and settled on a homestead, and there our subject was raised and educated. His father, Thomas B. Jamison, of Scotch origin, born in America, followed farming all his life, he now residing in Oklahoma. He married Sarah E. Hackler, who was of German descent, also born in America, died in Oklahoma March 6, 1906. There were five children in the family, our subject being the second in order of birth. One brother is now a practicing physician in San Francisco and one brother lives near his father's home in Oklahoma.

When our subject was of age he started for himself, engaging in farming and stock raising in Holt county, and there carried on the work successfully for eight years, then moved to Butte, Boyd county, Nebraska. At the time of their settlement in Butte, Mrs. Jamison was the first white woman in the town, as this was almost entirely an Indian settlement. Mr. Jamison bought a tract of land near the town, but devoted most of his time to politics. He was one of the organizers of Boyd county, drafted the bill which was presented to the legislature, and was the first sheriff elected in the county. He remained in the county up to 1903, taking an active part in its growth and development, then sold out his interests there and came to Keya Paha county, and soon after surveyed and located the town which bears his name. In partnership with two other men he owns the town site consisting of forty acres, also owns a homestead in Gregory county, South Dakota. At Jamison he is proprietor of a general store, carrying a four thousand dollar stock of merchandise, and enjoys a good trade from the surrounding country.

During his early residence in Nebraska Mr. Jamison saw some very hard times, at one time being obliged to burn hay to keep from freezing, as he was unable to get any other fuel. Often he became thoroughly discouraged, although he never felt inclined to give up, the difficulties which he passed through making him the more determined to succeed, which he has certainly done. During his career as a farmer and stockman he fed and shipped in one year seventy-six head of steers which

brought his just one hundred dollars per head on the market. He has always been classed among the leading pioneers of the state, coming here as he did when a child and growing up with the country, and is now one of the wealthiest men of Keya Paha county. Since leaving Boyd county he has not taken an active part in politics, devoting all his time and attention to his different business enterprises. He votes a straight Democratic ticket and has always been a staunch supporter of his party.

In 1879 our subject married Miss Maggie B. Shirk, who was born and raised in Pennsylvania, and they are the parents of the following children: Orville J., Gracie Ellen, Della M. and Sarah, all of whom are married and settled in homes of their own excepting the last mentioned, who lives at home.

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#### HENRY HUMMELS.

Henry Hummels, of Macon township, Franklin county, is a prosperous and widely known real estate dealer of that part of Nebraska. He also handles insurance, loans, etc. and has a wide reputation as a public auctioneer, officiating at nearly every large sale of live stock in the region, his services being in demand at every important sale held.

Mr. Hummels was born in Illinois. His father, Harmon Hummels, was a farmer in Menard county there, and came to Petersburg, Nebraska, in 1885, settling on a farm in Macon township, and on this homestead our subject has spent the greater part of his career, although he started in the real estate business at Hildreth in 1899 and has given the past ten years almost exclusively to his land deals. He advertises extensively in the Chicago and local newspapers, and lived in Hildreth for five years doing a nice business, then moved to Macon and since locating in the latter place has sold more of the land in this and adjoining counties, including Furnas, Redwillow and Frontier counties, than any agent in this section of the state. Besides Nebraska lands Mr. Hummels handles farm property in all of the different western states from Illinois to Colorado, making a specialty of settling homesteaders, and in this manner has been instrumental in bringing many settlers here from the east who have improved many fine farms and helped build up the locality.

In the insurance line Mr. Hummels represents some of the best old line companies, insuring against fire, lightning and accidents, and possibly writes more policies than any other agent in the county.



Mr. Hummels is enthusiastic about the future of Nebraska, and declares that people buy land here now will be able to double investments in the next year or two. At present time he has over forty thousand acres of picked land on his list for sale in this vicinity, and also has considerable land in South Dakota. He is a thorough business man and convincing talker and through honesty of purpose has gained the confidence of all whom he has any dealings by his straightforward principles. Mr. Hummels is a well-do man, and has accumulated his property through his persistence and strict integrity word and deed.

In political faith our subject is a Republican. He has taken a leading part in local affairs tending to promote the best interests of his community, and well deserves the success which has come to him as a reward of many years of labor. Mr. Hummels is a member of the local lodge of the Ancient Order United Workmen.

HENRY W. LOGAN.

For nearly a quarter of a century the gentleman above named has been identified with the history of the growth and development of western Nebraska, and his present prosperous condition evidences his earnest labors during these years. He now resides in the town of Norden, Keya Paha county, where he is engaged in the banking business and is regarded as one of the leading citizens and enjoys confidence of all with whom he has to do.

Mr. Logan was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1847. His father, John, was of Irish blood, American born, and a farmer by occupation. He married Maria Wheeler, who was of old American stock. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom our subject is the fifth member, and all were raised in the country, receiving common school education. Henry started for himself when but a boy, following farm work, and became three miles from his parents' home, and engaged in sheep raising principally. He was very successful and came to Nebraska. Upon arriving in this state he located in Springview and established one of the first business enterprises in the section, carrying a stock of general goods and operated his store for six years, during that time doing a nice business. He sold his store, although he still owns a fine residence property there. In 1899 Mr. Logan

at the future of the people who are able to do so. At the present time he has over forty thousand acres of picked land on his list for sale in this vicinity, and also has considerable land in South Dakota. He is a thorough business man and convincing talker and through honesty of purpose has gained the confidence of all whom he has any dealings by his straightforward principles. Mr. Hummels is a well-do man, and has accumulated his property through his persistence and strict integrity word and deed.

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to Norden and purchased the bank of M. P. Meholin, the latter having the business in 1887, which at the first bank in that end of Keya Paha and during the years 1892 to 1893 was the only banking institution in the county. Here our subject has been a successful business, doing a banking business, drawing his property many miles around the town of Norden. He is a thorough business man, conscientious, and stands very high in the estimation of his fellowmen, and is an authority on all matters of business pertaining to the good of the community.

In 1882 Mr. Logan was married to Mary L. Wolf, daughter of Thomas Wolf, who was a Quaker, and Emily C. Wolf, who was a Quaker stock. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have a family of four children, namely: Ernest, who is employed in his father's bank; Clarence, who is attending school at the Fremont College; Emma, who is deceased; and a daughter, Emma, who is deceased.

Mr. Logan was elected treasurer of Norden, Paha county in 1893, serving in that position for two terms. He has always taken an active part in politics, and is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party.

W. I. HIETT.

W. I. Hiett, a prosperous and successful citizen of Sidney, Nebraska, is the owner of a valuable estate on section 30, township 49, which he has put into fine shape. It is one of the best improved in the county, and is a man of keen business perception, formed on every subject of common importance, and takes a leading part in the promotion of every enterprise for the benefit to his community.

Mr. Hiett was born in Henning County, Virginia, May 21, 1847. His father, John Hiett, was of Scotch descent and lived in that portion of Virginia. Our subject grew up in his native state, coming west to settle in York county, Nebraska, where he remained up to 1892, then removed to Sidney, Nebraska. Here he filed on a homestead of 160 acres, which he still occupies, having added to his acreage since then, owning in all at present time three hundred and thirty acres. During the drouth seasons a number of his neighbors were driven to abandon their farms on account of the hard times, and Mr. Hiett also experienced some difficulty, but he was not inclined to be discouraged, and he managed to stick to his farm and to keep it in good shape, although he had several crops

the gen- ed with ment of prospero- s during town of e is en- egarded oys the do. county, of Irish y occu- who was parents ject was d in the cations boy, fol- mer of a files from eep rais- and hen sold iving in d estab- prises in , during sold out ine resi- an came

now cultivates eighty acres and keeps the balance for pasture and hay land, although the entire place is splendid farming land. He engaged in stock raising to quite an extent, running about fifty head all the time.

Mr. Hiett was married on December 13, 1874, to Dora Wilson, daughter of D. W. and Anna Wilson, old settlers in Illinois, where Mrs. Hiett was born and reared. Mr. and Mrs. Hiett have a family of four children, who are named as follows: Myrtle A., now a teacher in the public schools of Sidney, E. E. Hiett, who lives on a farm adjoining his father's, having a three hundred and twenty-acre farm; Estelle Verne and Herman Logan, the two last mentioned living at home and assisting in carrying on the farm.

Mr. Hiett is a man of superior attainments of mind, having a good education and one who has wide knowledge of affairs, having been an inveterate reader, and has for many years past handled numerous publications and standard works. He was a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting in the Fifteenth West Virginia as a private in 1864, and after seeing service in different states, was discharged from the army on August 16, 1865.

In political views Mr. Hiett is a staunch Republican and takes a deep interest in county and national politics.

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#### SANFORD Q. SPAIN.

Sanford Q. Spain, classed among the prosperous and successful business men of Simeon, Cherry county, is also one of the very oldest settlers in that region. When he first came here his nearest neighbor was one and a half miles away and the second nearest a distance of twelve miles from his homestead. He has passed through all the old Nebraska times, and by dint of industry and economy has managed to acquire a valuable property, and enjoys a comfortable home and pleasant surroundings, besides an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and good neighbor.

Mr. Spain was born in Ohio in 1850. His father was a merchant in a small village there, and he raised a family of six children, our subject being the third in order of birth. When the latter was a small boy the family moved to Iowa, and at the early age of thirteen years Sanford left home and enlisted in the army, serving in Company I, Ninth Iowa Cavalry. He was with his regiment on marches through Arkansas, Texas and Missouri, participating in different engagements, and saw every side of a soldier's life. He remained in the service un-

til the close of the war, then returned to Iowa and made that his home up to the fall of 1881. At that time he came to Polk county, Nebraska, settling in Osceola, and there engaged in the bakery business, carrying this on for five years. He next moved to Cherry county, filing homestead rights on a quarter section situated on Snake river, starting as most of the pioneer settlers did, with very little capital, erecting a sod shanty in which he lived with his family for a number of years, then built a log house. His first team was a pair of oxen which he used for all kinds of work, and despite many hardships and unfavorable conditions, succeeded in improving his place in good shape. He witnessed the drouth periods when he had hard work to raise any kind of a crop, also suffered from prairie fires which swept the region and at different times threatened the destruction of his farm buildings and other property. Many times he was obliged to fight these destroying fires night and day in order to save himself serious losses.

In 1890 Mr. Spain moved to Kennedy and there engaged in the stock business, continuing in this line of work up to 1905, when he settled in Simeon and opened a store, carrying a good line of general merchandise. He was also appointed postmaster of the town and has held this position during the past three years. He is considered one of the representative citizens of his locality, taking an active part in all matters pertaining to the best interests of the town, has held various offices of trust and served as justice of the peace for a number of years. He is now acting as school director. In political circles he stands very high, and has attended numerous conventions, acting as committeeman for several years. He is a Republican.

Mr. Spain was married in 1870, to Miss Mary Morgan, daughter of U. S. and Harriet Fry Morgan, who were for many years prominent farmers in Iowa, where Mrs. Spain was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Spain are the parents of the following named children: Rose, married and living at Spearfish, South Dakota; Grant, Nellie and Clement, all living in Valentine, Nebraska; Bessie, married and residing at Edgemont, South Dakota, while Nettie, Charles and Mary are still at home.

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#### DAVID M. HUSTON.

David M. Huston, of Antelope township, Harlan county, is owner of a good farm in section 17, which consists of a homestead and tree claim comprising three hundred and twen-



ty acres of good land. He settled on this in 1878 and has made this his home ever

Mr. Huston is a native of Ohio, born Bloomfield. His father, Frederick Huston, moved from Ohio to Peoria county, Illinois with his family in 1866, and there David to manhood. The father enlisted in the war and served in a great many different engagements, being with the Army of the Potomac on its various campaigns, and suffered all the hardships and privations of a soldier's career. After the close of the war he returned to Illinois and remained there up to 1886, when he came to Nebraska, locating in Harlan county. Mr. Huston, Sr., is an intelligent and well-read gentleman, still in good health, and is at present living with David on the latter's homestead. He is now in his eighty-fifth year.

Our subject has succeeded in building a good farm and comfortable home here though he has passed through some very trying times in accumulating his present property. During the early years he suffered all the discouragements incident to the life of the pioneer settlers, but states that conditions here are much more favorable for farming and stock raising than in Illinois, and he is in a position to know, as he has tried it in both states. Mr. Huston says that one man can work much land in Nebraska as would take two to work in Illinois.

In addition to his farming enterprises Huston owns a threshing rig in partnership with his son, J. J. Huston, and they operate all over the section and manage to make a good income during the season.

Mr. Huston was married to Miss Fanny Herndon, daughter of Joseph Herndon, who was an early settler in this county, coming here in 1882. He is a large landowner here and is well known throughout this part of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Huston are the parents of two daughters, Ella M. and Carrie E., and three sons, J. J., mentioned above, John and J. McKinley, all living at home and assisting their father in carrying on the farm. Mr. Huston has been assessor of his precinct for a number of years. He is also a member of the school board and active in all local affairs tending to the betterment of conditions in his locality, at present serving as president of the Antelope Fine Stock Company.

THEODORE SAGERT.

Theodore Sagert, an early settler and highly respected citizen of Sioux county, fought his way through many difficulties



this land ever since. He is a man of keen business executive ability, and has proved his worth in many ways. Mr. Sagert was born in Brainerd, Minnesota, in 1862, and his parents moved to the old homestead there. The father, Theodore, assisted him in the business of farming all his life, and during the war Theodore assisted him in the business of bricklaying. At the age of nineteen he returned to America and came to Nebraska, locating in Page county, where he remained for two years, then moved to Leadville, Colorado. He lived in Denver for a short time, and after spending a short time in Page county, he came to Nebraska, where he spent the most part of his life. He was a pioneer in stock raising and stock raising in both states. He has worked as a partner in partnership with his son, J. J. Sagert, and after stopping at Chadron, Nebraska, he went into the Black Hills with his partner, C. H. Hollenbeck, and each picked out a location, Mr. Sagert a homestead on Horsehead creek, and proved up on the land. In 1886 he began railroading, following for five years. He was appointed roadmaster of the Black Hills division, and held that position for two years, receiving the appointment of division superintendent for the West Line into the Black Hills division, being on that line for the same length of time. He remained as such for six years, and during that time he supervised the building of the Deadwood branch, and was superintendent of the job. He is the oldest railroad man in this country.

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In May, 1904, Mr. Sagert quit his position and settled in Harrison, Nebraska, where he has done much in the way of building up the county, one of the most important contributions being the building of the

water works system. He has done all in his power to promote the best interests of the place in a commercial and educational way, and at present is serving as alderman of his ward.

Mr. Sagert was married in 1899 to Miss Freda D. Tripple, who was born in Hanover, Germany. They are the parents of two children, Emma and Freda, the latter now attending school away from home. The family have a pleasant home and are well liked by all who know them either in a business or social way.

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#### JOHN JACOB GEISERT.

The subject of this sketch, John Jacob Geisert, was born in Baden Baden, in Germany, in 1868. His father, Matthew Geisert, lived and died in Germany, and his mother, Louisa Hornecker, was also a German. Mr. Geisert spent his youth in Germany, attending the German schools and afterward learning the trade of painting and paper hanging. He worked at these trades until 1886, and, in that year, he and the rest of the family joined an elder brother, who had emigrated to America at an earlier date. When this brother came to America in 1884, he located in Keith county, where he took a homestead on which the family lived after arrival.

Our subject worked as a clerk in a grocery store for two years, at the end of which time he began work at his trade, traveling through the states and visiting the cities of Buffalo, New York, Chicago and Denver.

In the fall of 1892 he was married in New York City to Miss Ernestina Bossert, who was a German by birth. Mr. and Mrs. Geisert have two children, Louise and Henry Jacob.

After his marriage Mr. Geisert came to Ogallala and followed his trade for a time, afterward going into business for himself. He opened a store in 1896, carrying a large and varied line of paints, wallpaper, furniture, carpets and the like. He also does contract work in painting and has built up an extensive business in this line. He has made a success of everything he has undertaken and has done his share in developing the natural resources of this region.

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#### D. S. BATTERSHELL.

D. S. Battershell, another of the really old-timers of western Nebraska, is now owner and manager of the Paxton Hotel, the leading hostelry of the town of Paxton, and is held in high esteem as a public-spirited citizen. He

has passed through every form of pioneer life since coming to this state, and during his residence here, covering a period of about fifteen years, has managed to gather together a comfortable property, and has made his influence felt in all matters of interest to the public.

Mr. Battershell was born in Indiana in April, 1863. When he was an infant his parents removed to Illinois, and he was raised in Champaign county. His mother and father were both natives of Kentucky, the mother now dead, while his father resides in Indiana. Our subject came to Clay county, Nebraska, in 1884 and farmed there for five years, then moved into Lincoln county, where he filed on homestead rights on section 26, township 11, range 33, and still owns this farm. He came to Cheyenne county in 1904, purchasing a piece of land on section 28, township 14, range 48, containing four hundred and eighty acres, and succeeded in building up a good home and developing a productive farm. This ranch he disposed of in 1907, and at that time moved into Paxton and engaged in the hotel business, which he also succeeded in carrying on at a profit.

In 1884 Mr. Battershell was married to Miss Laura Atkinson, who died in 1904, leaving a family of five children. In November, 1906, our subject was married to Clara Homer Kluckhuhn, and they have one child, Ada, a charming little miss.

Mr. Battershell is a Republican, and a staunch supporter of party principles.

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#### H. G. GUMAER.

H. G. Gumaer, one of the early settlers of Nebraska, who has passed through all the pioneer experiences of the region, is now prosperous and successful as a result of many years of labor and persistence. He resides on his valuable estate situated on the North Platte river adjoining the old town of Oshkosh, where he is surrounded by all the comforts of rural life.

Mr. Gumaer was born in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, on October 31, 1856. He was the second child in a family of seven, three boys and four girls, and both father and mother are now dead. The former died while the family still lived in Wisconsin, about 1887, and the latter's death occurred when our subject was about nineteen years of age. Both parents originally came from New York state.

Mr. Gumaer left Wisconsin when he became of age, locating in St. Paul, Nebraska, in the spring of 1879, in company with his brother



Alfred W., and they engaged in the lumber business at that place, their's being the venture of its kind in the town. In 1881 subject came to Oshkosh. He trailed a bunch of cattle from Howard to Deuel county, launched into the ranching and cattle business which he has followed continuously ever since. He selected a tract of land lying on the North Platte river, consisting of about one thousand acres, and has added every improvement to the place, and it is called one of the most valuable ranches in the region. He has it stocked with about five hundred cattle and a bunch of horses, and is rapidly becoming one of the wealthiest residents of the county. Gumaer is unmarried. He is a Democrat, was elected the first county commissioner of Deuel county, and again in 1903 was elected to the same office, and has served continuously in that capacity for the past six years. He is prominent in all county and state affairs.

Alfred W. Gumaer, brother of our subject, who was born in Wisconsin in September, 1854, is now living in Deuel county. He is in the United States custom service for several years, and is equally well known with G. Gumaer. He also is unmarried.

W. F. Gumaer, another brother, was born in Wisconsin in 1874. He came to Howard county, Nebraska, shortly after his father's death, and located at St. Paul, where he attended high school and graduated from that institution. He returned to Wisconsin, where he spent some years, and in 1906 came to Oshkosh. He was married here in the same year to a daughter of W. W. Bowers, and is now engaged in the general mercantile business.

Two sisters of our subject, Mrs. A. Covey and Mrs. H. B. Vandecar, are living in St. Paul, Nebraska, while another sister is the wife of H. L. Cook, residing at Lincoln. The other sister, Mrs. H. W. Potter, still lives in Wisconsin.

W H. PARRIOTT.

W. H. Parriott, who has devoted his entire career to agricultural pursuits, has met with pronounced success in Keya Paha county, Nebraska. He is owner of a fine farm there, has brought his land to a good state of cultivation and has aided in many ways in the development of the agricultural interests of his region. He is also one of the old-timers of the region, and has gained a high station through his integrity and industrious habits. He has a pleasant home on section 35, township 33, range 23, and there enjoys well served success.

the lumber the first 1885 our d a bunch unty, and business, ver since. the North thousand ement to most val- it stocked d a fine ming one unty. Mr. crat, and sioner of s elected tinuously s. He is fairs. subject, ptember, He was for six G. H.

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Mr. Parriott was born in P Indiana, in 1854. He grew up age of eleven years, then came ents to Fort Des Moines, Iowa, ceived his later education in the of the town. His father, Adam was of American stock, and he f ing all his life. He married S French descent, a native of Can reared a family of six children, subject was the second member to make his way in the world twenty-four years, following farm up to the spring of 1883, when Keya Paha county and settled o this being his present location.

region during the hard times wh portion of the state and has p all the trials of pioneer life, often couraged, but never thought of g ing bravely every difficulty that path, and he has been well re forts. When he landed here h and from this start, by dint of omy, energy and persistence he in accumulating a nice property prising nine hundred and sixty land, and about two hundred a The balance he uses as hay an keeping about three hundred Several years ago Mr. Parriott chard and now has nearly eve mestic fruit for home use. The farm buildings, a nice residence about five and a half miles of g

In 1879 Mr. Parriott made a and there was married to Miss gart, who is also a native of She is a daughter of a promin the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Pa child, Gordon W., now twenty age. He is also a homesteader owning a quarter section, whi father's ranch.

Mr. Parriott has always be terested in school affairs in his l done much toward establishing build up the different school di ically he is a Republican, an porter of party principles, alth never sought public preferment.

JAMES SCOTT, DECEASED

A history or biographical wo the early days and the pionee Nebraska would not be comple sketch of the career of James S

parted this life in 1894. James Scott spent a long and useful life in Keith county and by his death the community lost an upright and conscientious neighbor and citizen.

James Scott, deceased, was a native of Galway, Ireland, where he was born in 1830. He was reared and educated and married in his native land, taking as his helpmeet Sarah Britton, who was also of Irish nativity. This union was blessed with five children—Patrick, Martin, Delia, Kate and John.

James Scott came to America in 1880, and the balance of the family came the following year. For a time they lived in New Jersey, then later in Connecticut, from whence they came west to Wisconsin, settling on a farm. Here they sustained a severe loss by fire, losing house, household goods and all of the family records. The two sons, Patrick and Martin, were the first to try their fortunes farther west, coming to Keith county, Nebraska, in 1885. The next year the father and the rest of the family followed, locating on a homestead.

The boys worked on the section for the Union Pacific Railway Company and our subject ran the section house to help with the finances during the hard times and the drouth years.

Our subject's uncle, Tom Scott, came to the territory first in 1876, and November 26th located a homestead on the North Platte river. He lived there through all the years and was one of the prominent and successful old settlers of the region in which he located. He followed railroading a great part of the time.

James Scott was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising and built up a splendid home. The family now has a ranch comprising two thousand and eighty acres and one hundred and sixty acres of leased land, the farm being located on both sides of the South Platte river and extending back into the hills. The ranch is finely improved in every respect with good house, barns, spring, windmills, fences, trees and everything necessary in the conduct of a modern and prosperous stock and farm business.

James Scott passed through all the trying experiences common to the lot of the pioneer, but his persistent industry and constant endeavor left a good patrimony for his family when his death occurred.

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#### SAMUEL H. OSBORNE.

Samuel H. Osborne, a very well known and highly respected citizen of Morrill (formerly Cheyenne) county, Nebraska, has a valuable

estate in Bayard precinct, besides land in other localities near. He is one of the prominent old settlers in the region, and has passed through all the old Nebraska times, assisting in no small degree in the upbuilding and development of the vicinity.

Mr. Osborne was born in Licking county, Ohio, February 16, 1841, where he spent the first seven years of his life. In 1848 his parents, Joshua and Harriett (Rigby) Osborne, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, moved to Steuben county, Indiana, with their family of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, and there our subject grew to manhood. He enlisted in Company H, Eighty-eighth Indiana Infantry, and was with Company A, First United States Engineers, for three years and three months, in active service all of that time in the Army of the Cumberland under Buell and later Rosecrans. He was discharged from the army at Nashville, Tennessee, having a brilliant record as a soldier. Three brothers were also in the service. One met his death in battle at Stone River, December 31, 1862; another brother was severely wounded at Huntsville, Alabama. Our subject was in the battles of Stone River and Perryville, Kentucky, at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and all the skirmishes between the latter place and Atlanta, Georgia. Here he turned back to Nashville under Thomas.

After the war closed Mr. Osborne returned to Indiana and remained there up to 1869, going at that time to McLean county, Illinois, and later to Iowa. In March, 1871, he came to Nebraska, and in October removed to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he worked for three years. Returning to McLean county, he followed farming until 1887, when he came to Nebraska, settling in that part of Cheyenne county which is now Morrill. Here he filed on a homestead on section 25, township 21, range 52, at that time entirely unimproved land. He pre-empted about three hundred acres in section 2, township 20, range 52, ninety acres of which were under irrigation; also acquired a Kincaid claim of four hundred and eighty acres in section 35, township 23, range 52. He improved these tracts extensively, having two irrigation ditches on the home place and has been engaged in grain and stock raising during all of the time he has been in the region. At the present time he has about fifty head of cattle and a small bunch of horses. He has a complete set of good farm and ranch buildings and every convenience and improvement for the proper operation of a model ranch. We call attention to a view of the home to be found in our illustrative pages.



Mr. Osborne is a Republican political active in local affairs, having served as of the peace for twenty-one years.

Mr. Osborne married Miss Emily W son in Oak Grove, Illinois, December 4, she being a native of McLean county, c state, a daughter of James and Polly (Henshaw) Benson. They have a fam four children, namely: Dale, married an living in Idaho; Thomas C. Osborne, m and living in Wayne, Nebraska, where l charge of the Presbyterian church; Eva and Dean H., living on the home ranch.

Mrs. Osborne is a member of the Chr church, while Mr. Osborne is a comra the Bayard Post, No. 350, Grand Army o Republic.

ANDREW NELSON.

Andrew Nelson, residing in Potter cinct, came to Cheyenne county in 1889 here has become well known as one o leading old settlers of the section.

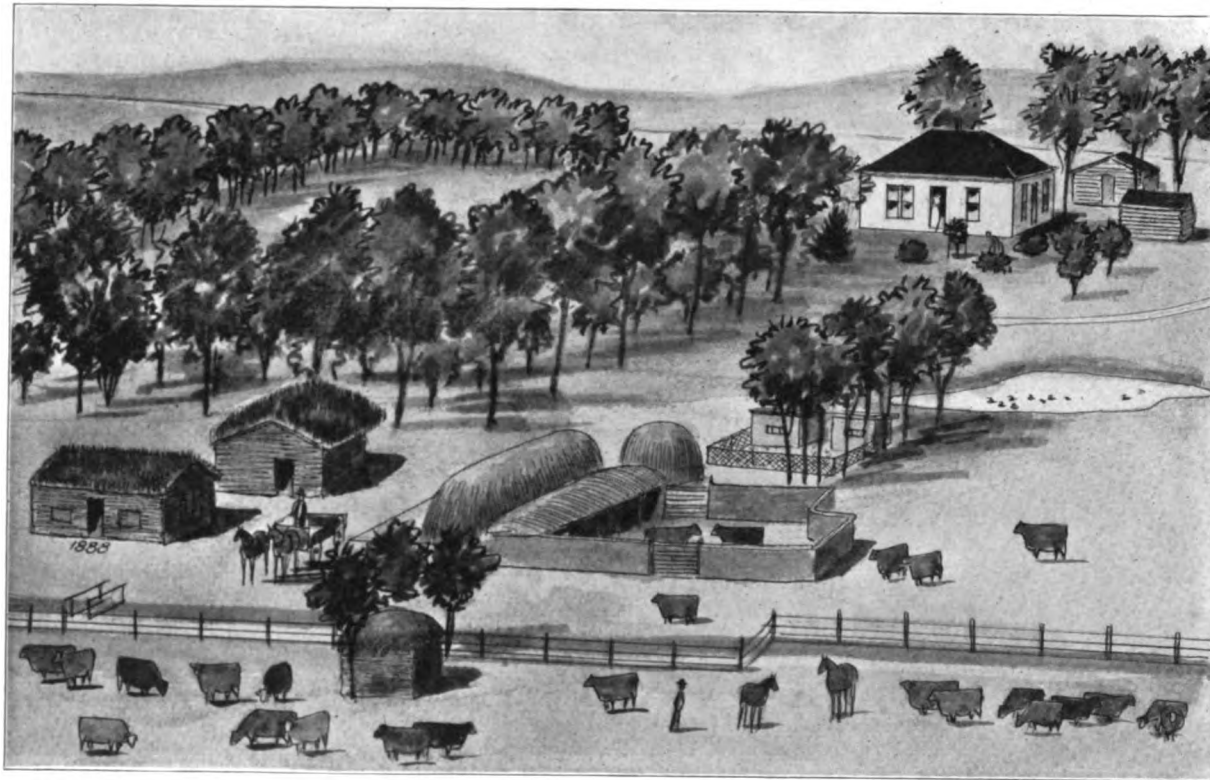
Mr. Nelson was born in Sweden, Septe 19, 1848, grew up there, and at the ag twenty concluded to try his fortune in the world, so took passage at Goettenberg for penhagen and thence in the old side-wheel sel Accellera, which was soon afterward lo sea, landing in New York city May 6, He came direct to Mineral Ridge, Iowa, w he made his home for one year, and at Gli two and a half years while working in the construction department of the Illinois railroa tween Sioux City and Dubuque. From t he went to Cheyenne Wells, Colorado, sp ing one winter, and next to Missouri, w he remained up to 1876. From there he mo to Knox county, Illinois, attending schoo ing to improve his somewhat neglected ed tion, and afterwards spent four years in J sonville, Illinois, half of that time as atten at the insane hospital. During the time was in that state he made a trip back to native land to visit the scenes of his ch hood. From 1882 to 1889 he resided in county, Illinois, cultivating rented land. he next came to Potter, Nebraska. At this t he filed on a homestead in section 28, town 15, range 52, which is now his home ranch. made a success of ranching from the first though he passed through all of the pioneer periences and saw hard times, but stuck the place through all the good, bad and i ferent times, finally succeeding in improv with a good stone dwelling and other bu ings, fences and windmills, continually ad

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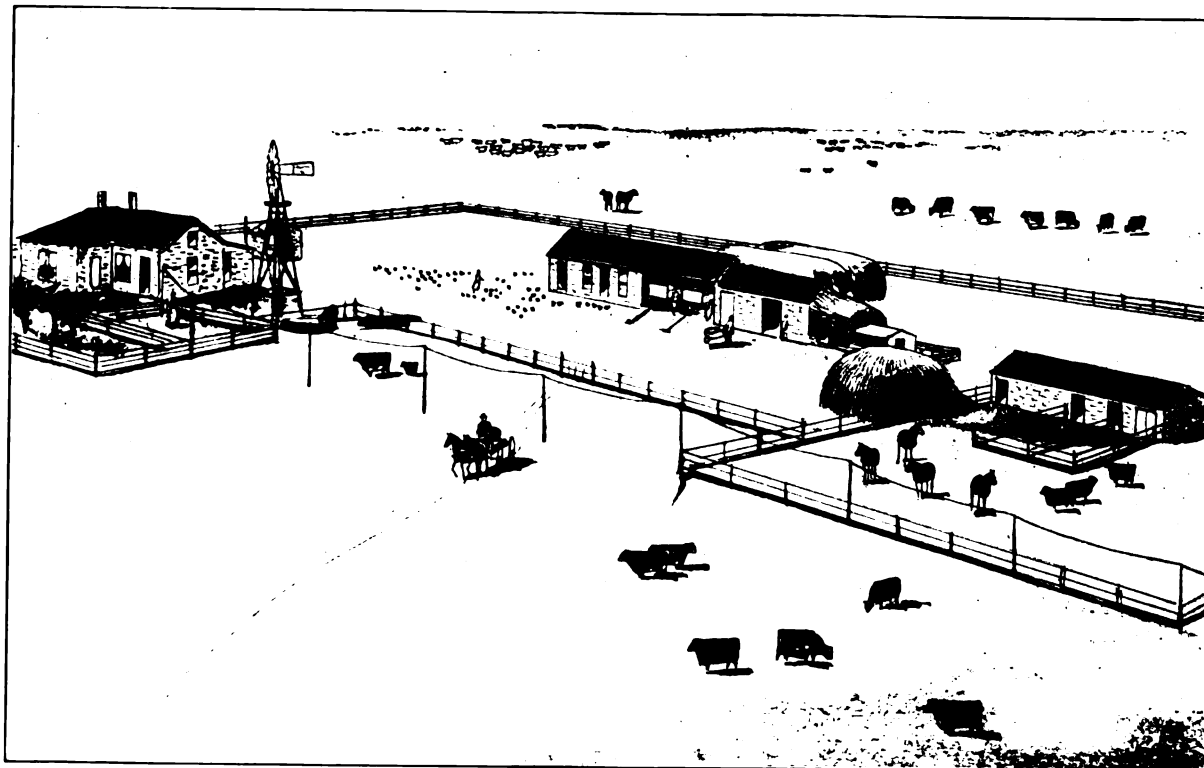
otter pre- 1889, and ne of the eptember he age of n the new ng for Co- wheel ves- d lost at 6, 1869. wa, where Glidden the con- ilroad be- om there Phelps county. The ranch is s a half miles southeast of Atla the Burlington & Missouri ra sists of three hundred and tw was established in 1902 and into ing and raising of Duroc Je hogs, and this has been carried ter, they being now the owner of hogs and considered the lea dustry in their section of the s Our subject's herd is head Beat No. 10239. The cost of t six thousand and fifty dollars, he of King Hustler and dam. He priced boar in the world of any been shown fifty-eight times in th fifty-seven first prizes and sweep been exhibited at all of the gre eastern states, including New Yo Illinois and Nebraska, and he most perfect specimen in the weight is ten hundred and sixty show ring. The ownership of t

HOPKINS BRO

Two brothers, Earl and Br comprise the above firm, who ranchers of section 35, Indust Phelps county. The ranch is s a half miles southeast of Atla the Burlington & Missouri ra sists of three hundred and tw was established in 1902 and into ing and raising of Duroc Je hogs, and this has been carried ter, they being now the owner of hogs and considered the lea dustry in their section of the s Our subject's herd is head Beat No. 10239. The cost of t six thousand and fifty dollars, he of King Hustler and dam. He priced boar in the world of any been shown fifty-eight times in th fifty-seven first prizes and sweep been exhibited at all of the gre eastern states, including New Yo Illinois and Nebraska, and he most perfect specimen in the weight is ten hundred and sixty show ring. The ownership of t



RESIDENCE OF S. H. OSBORNE,  
Morrill County, Nebraska.



RESIDENCE OF ANDREW NELSON,  
Cheyenne County, Nebraska.





Hopkins Bros. and their partners at the head of the red hog business. His get in 1906 won seventy-nine premiums at the different exhibitions out of ninety-two in which he had been entered.

Besides this celebrated animal Hopkins Bros. also own Red Prince Iam, by old Rea Chief Iam and dam Garnet, the latter being the sow that topped John Briggs & Son's sale held at Clay Center, Nebraska, in 1907, this sow bringing the fancy price of six hundred and ten dollars, purchased by Henry G. Warren, of Inland, Nebraska. Another splendid animal owned by Hopkins Bros. is Earl's Ohio Chief, sired by the six thousand-dollar Ohio Chief, and while the former is not a show hog, he is the sire of first-class stock and appeals strongly to breeders on account of qualities which make him a very desirable animal for market. At the present time Hopkins Bros. have on hand seventy-five pure bred hogs. Each year they hold a large sale at Holdrege, the sale taking place on the 17th day of February, and as it is advertised widely every breeder of note is well aware of the kind of stock which they will find. Some very high prices are realized for their offerings, and the demand is growing each year as breeders realize the superiority of pure-bred stock.

Besides the pure bred red hogs, Messrs. Hopkins feed and raise high-grade red Durocs for market. They have built up a paying business and their ranch is equipped with all the necessary buildings and conveniences, including pastures and pens for the accommodation of their stock. They have forty acres fenced off in three lots, with one ten-acre timber tract, also patches of alfalfa and grass land. The balance of the place is used for pasture. The ranch is elegantly situated, of the best soil, and everything is of the very highest class, both men devoting their entire time to the hog breeding business, which they declare is the best road they know of to success. They have the judgment to buy the best animals in the first place, and the industry and energy to develop from this stock something still better, and together with this ability they possess the necessary adjunct of proclaiming the merits of their herd in all its excellence from the housetops, so to speak, in order that all in need of such stock as they produce may know where to apply. They are among the leading advertisers of pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs in the country, and for these energetic and enterprising young men one is safe in predicting that their career will bring the profit and substantial reward which they so richly deserve.

#### WILLIAM MIKA.

Among the successful and prosperous farmers and stockmen of Cheyenne county, we give the name of William Mika, who is owner of a fine estate in section 18, township 13, range 47. He has made this region his home for the past twenty years and more, and during his residence here has built up a good home and gained the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

Mr. Mika was born in Fort Madison, Lee county, Iowa, on the 21st day of September, 1859. The first ten years of his life were spent in that vicinity, then his parents gave him into the charge of an uncle, who took him to Hanover, Washington county, Kansas, and he remained there for five years, returning to his boyhood home in 1874, being called there by the serious illness of his father, who died January 1, 1875. He spent three or four years with his mother, then returned to Kansas, and was back and forth between Iowa and Kansas a number of times during the next several years. He was married at Hanover, Kansas, August 8, 1882, to Miss Catherine Hlava, and together they came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in the spring of 1887. Mr. Mika took a homestead on section 18 in the fall of the previous year, and they located on this land and began to develop a farm, starting as was usual with the pioneers in a sod shanty, and going through many privations and meeting many discouragements in the shape of failure of crops, etc., and it was a number of years before he was able to get ahead any, managing, however, to make a comfortable living. After times grew better he began to improve his place by the erection of good buildings, and adding land to his original possessions, so that he is now owner of about eight hundred acres, cultivating about one hundred acres and using the balance as a stock ranch, and running a large herd of cattle and small bunch of horses.

Mr. Mika has one of the pleasantest homes in his locality, and he has a charming family of children, two of whom are married and the rest living at home, named as follows: Mary, wife of Frank Oliverious, and Agnes, wife of Frank Stimka, both families living in Cheyenne county; Kate, Willie, Eva, Lillie, Frankie and Sophia, who assist their parents in carrying on the home farm. Mr. Mika's mother still resides in Fort Madison, Iowa, while both parents of Mrs. Mika died in Bohemia some years ago. Mr. Mika takes a commendable interest in local matters, and has done his full share as a good citizen of his community. In political sentiment he is a Democrat.

FRANK W. PEACOCK.

Frank W. Peacock, one of the substantial residents of Cherry county, has played an important part in the upbuilding of this region. He has been engaged in various enterprises during the years of his residence in this section and has been an important factor in bringing about its present prosperity. He is the owner of a good estate here, and well merits his success and high standing.

Mr. Peacock was born in Huron county, Ohio, in 1861. His father, William, was an old settler in Sheridan county, Nebraska, in England, and following ranching in this for many years. He married Ann Dickson, who was of Irish descent, born in America. They were the parents of six children, subject being the eldest, and all were reared in Ohio, receiving a common school education. Frank lived at home until he was two years of age, when he emigrated to Iowa, settling on a farm, which he carried on about a year, then came to Sheridan county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a tract of land some distance south of the town of Don. His first dwelling was a sod house with dirt floors, and he began as nearly the pioneers were obliged to do in those days handling ox teams, etc. He went through every part of pioneer experience, all of which were met with a sturdy determination and fortitude that would discourage one of the present-day farmers. He succeeded in proving up on his farm and worked faithfully to improve it in every way, meeting with losses caused by the drouth seasons, and one through his entire crop by hailstorms. He passed through eight hard years, during which he was unable to raise one good crop, then began to get a little better, he was able to make a little headway, and continued to live it up to 1898. At that time he undertook the management of the Balch ranch and acted as foreman of the place for two years. He was next employed on Shaddock's ranch in the same capacity for one year, both being situated in Cherry county.

In 1901 Mr. Peacock moved to Merriman and engaged in the hotel and livery business which he carried on for a time, then sold both and started a grocery and butcher business. This he kept for several months, then purchased his present store, into which he has a complete line of drugs. He built up a good trade and did a thriving business for three years, then sold out his drug stock. Mr. Peacock has met with considerable success in different enterprises, and is classed among

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In 1885 Mr. Peacock married  
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WILLIAM

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operations have also taken him into Ogallala county, where he has put up many splendid homes and business blocks. He has won a name and reputation as one of the most successful and honorable contractors and builders in western Nebraska.

William J. Cooney was married in 1881 to Miss Laura Radcliffe, of Mt. Ayr, Iowa, her parents being from Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Cooney have been blessed with eight children—Eva, Lena M., Benjamin W., Emerson R., Bertha Lucile, William J., Laura C. and Olive Eona.

#### A. E. WHETSTONE.

Keya Paha county has no more enterprising or worthy citizen within her borders than the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review. Mr. Whetstone has been a resident of this locality for the past nine years, and during that time he has acquired an extensive acquaintance, by all of whom he is highly esteemed and respected for his true worth of character.

Mr. Whetstone was born in Henry county, Illinois, in 1860, and reared there on a farm. His father, W. J. Whetstone, was born in America of German parentage, and followed the blacksmith's trade, also farmed much of the time. During the war he served in the Fifty-fourth Indiana Infantry for about eighteen months and saw much hard service in that time. He married Cynthia Barkus, who was a native of Indiana, and they reared a family of eight children, our subject being the third in order of birth. When the latter was about eighteen years of age he left home and began on his own account, emigrating to Kansas, where he spent one year, then came into Dawes county, Nebraska, following farm work in Kansas and later in Nebraska. After a short time in Dawes county he filed on a homestead and pre-emption, proving up on both tracts, and during those first years here he passed through pioneer experiences, seeing some pretty hard times. He lived in a sod shanty for a number of years, witnessed the drouths and met with many discouragements so common to the early settlers in the section, and although he often became disheartened he never gave up hope, but continued to devote all his efforts to improving his property and eventually succeeded in building up a good home there.

In 1901 Mr. Whetstone came to Keya Paha county, purchasing a partly improved farm of two hundred acres on section 16, township 33, range 24. He has been engaged principally in the stock business since locating here and

has done well. At the present time he has twenty-five head of cattle and about seventy-five horses, besides quite a bunch of hogs. His farm is well supplied with substantial buildings and improvements of all kinds, and Mr. Whetstone is progressive and up-to-date in his methods of operating his ranch.

In 1883 Mr. Whetstone was married to Miss Corinne Crandall, daughter of Leroy and Elizabeth Golden Crandall, the former dying when Mrs. Whetstone was a small girl. Six children have been born to our subject and his estimable wife, named as follows: Bertha, Jennie, Harry, William, Mabel and Mildred, all living at home except two, who are married. Mr. Whetstone is a Democrat and while he does not take an active part in politics he evinces a great interest in local matters, and has been especially helpful in establishing and building up the schools of this locality as well as in other sections where he has made his home.

#### REV. M. E. DOLAN.

Rev. M. E. Dolan, pastor of St. Patrick's church in Chadron, Nebraska, who during the comparatively short time he has been engaged in ecclesiastical work here (about two years) has gained a host of friends and made his influence felt in many ways throughout the community, is highly esteemed by all regardless of religious faith, and under his guidance the parish of which he has charge has prospered in a marked degree.

Rev. Dolan was born in the city of Loc Ray, County Galway, Ireland, in 1872. When he was a child of five years his parents came to America and settled in Omaha, Nebraska. There our subject grew up, attending the public schools and later entered the Creighton University. He spent some time in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he took a theological course, and then went to Harvard University, thus preparing himself thoroughly for his church work. In 1904 he was ordained a priest of the Holy Catholic church, and for one year acted as assistant pastor in the church at O'Neil, Nebraska, and later in the same capacity at the new cathedral in Omaha.

In 1907 Father Dolan accepted the pastorate of St. Patrick's church in Chadron, and during his brief residence here he has become greatly beloved by the people of his congregation, always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need of his services, either as pastor or friend, and his labors are thoroughly appreciated by the entire community.



JAMES CHILDERS, DECEASED.

James Childers, deceased, was for  
ber of years prior to his demise a pro  
citizen of Cherry county, Nebraska.  
engaged in various enterprises in the  
including the cattle business, ranchi  
restaurant and saloon business. He wa  
of active public spirit and did much  
his lifetime to help in building up the  
and his loss was deeply felt by the enti  
munity.

Mr. Childers was born near the t  
Mystic, Iowa, in 1858, and raised on  
there. His father, James, who was of  
descent, followed farming during all  
time. He raised a family of three child  
subject being the youngest, and he  
home until he was twenty years of a  
started for himself, coming to Tilden,  
ka, where he engaged in the mercanti  
ness and carried it on up to 1885. He  
to Cody from Tilden, opened a restaur  
built up a good trade, and at the sar  
bought and shipped cattle for market.  
living in Cody he made a trip to Texa  
ing for a new location, but after look  
ground over thoroughly was unable  
anything that suited him, so decided  
back to Nebraska. He spent about on  
half years in the south altogether, t  
turned to Nebraska, and spent the fo  
years in Cody, Cherry county, until  
which time he moved to Merriman and  
in the saloon business, which he car  
up to the time of his death, when  
Clyde took charge of the establishment  
ing his residence in western Nebras  
Childers succeeded in accumulating a c  
able property. He was classed among  
settlers of these parts, coming here dur  
very early settlement of the region,  
practically nothing to start with, went  
ox team and every other pioneer exp  
and stayed to see the section grow to  
of the good farming countries of the w  
was enthusiastic regarding the possibili  
and felt satisfied that a man could do  
here as any place on earth, provided  
willing to work in earnest.

Mr. Childers was married at  
Grove in 1883 to Miss Martha Ames  
a native of Iowa and reared in that sta  
had two children, Clyde, mentioned  
and Cleve. The former is also mar  
wife's maiden name having been Miss  
Stuart. She is a daughter of Ed Stu  
is well known here as one of the earl  
tlers in Cody, coming here in 1882.  
has one child.

TORY, REMINISCENCE

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FRAN

Frank B. Lance,  
kins county, is a n  
agricultural pursui  
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he chose farming as  
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ment has acquired a  
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Mr. Lance was born  
Illinois, July 20, 1869,  
there until he was six  
that time he came to N  
eral years in the easter  
cating in Perkins county  
in the fall of the year.  
father had settled here in  
ing made his own way fr  
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having nothing in the w  
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farming ventures, never  
crops, and was able to in  
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is situated one and a half  
Grant. Here he owns tw  
eighty acres. He has two hu  
five acres under cultivation a  
pasture and hay meadow.  
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buildings, including a comfo  
plenty of barns, sheds, etc.,  
in stock raising on a large sc  
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MR. A. \_\_\_\_\_ AND MRS. HERVEY FORD.

ing the hard times here taught for three years. He became very much discouraged with conditions at that time and made a trip to Missouri with the intention of trading his homestead for land there, but on looking the ground over was satisfied that this was the better place of the two and returned, determined to make a success, which he has accomplished in a remarkable degree, as is evidenced by his present holdings.

When Mr. Lance first ran for county clerk he was elected by a majority of seven votes. The second time he won over his competitor by a plurality of one hundred and twelve votes, and the third time carried every precinct in the county. He is now acting as chairman of the Populist committee, and has been secretary or chairman of the same ever since coming here. He is active in all matters of public interest, and his influence is felt in every movement pertaining to the welfare of the people of his community.

Mr. Lance was married in the spring of 1890 to Miss Carrie Sloan, born and raised in Iowa, and they have three children, namely: Laura A., Charles J. and Samuel S.

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#### HERVEY FORD.

Hervey Ford, a leading citizen of Brown county, Nebraska, was one of the first men to settle on a homestead and build a house on Buffalo Flats. Mr. Ford was born on a farm in Coshocton county, Ohio, August 2, 1837. His father, Robert Ford, was born in Ireland, came to this country with his parents when but three years of age, grew up in Coshocton county, Ohio, and married Miss Sally Boyd, American-born but also of Irish descent. Our subject was reared in Ohio, assisting his father in the farm work, and attending school during the winter months. At the age of twelve years he started out to shift for himself, working on farms near his home until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in Company C, Fifty-first Ohio Infantry, September 3, 1861. After being thoroughly drilled his company was ordered south to Kentucky, and was with the Army of the Cumberland until 1863, marching all over the state of Tennessee. Through exposure and hardship he became afflicted with rheumatism and other diseases and received his discharge on account of disability. He recovered fully from this and in 1864 enlisted in the one-hundred-day service, going to Petersburg and Richmond, where he participated in the siege of those places, and during the summer of that year was

almost constantly under fire from the batteries. After the war had closed he went back to Ohio and lived there until 1869, when he came west to Kansas, settling in Wilson, where he lived among the Osage Indians, leading a regular pioneer's life. He remained there for five years, going through all the rough experiences which fell to the lot of the sturdy old settlers of those days, then went on to Indian Territory, where he was engaged in farming on Indian lands for the Cherokees in that region for two years, then returned to Kansas. He was without money and obliged to make his living working at whatever he could find to do, for the most part hiring out to different farmers and ranchmen. He soon became dissatisfied with this, and, leaving Chautauqua county the 7th of June, came to Nebraska, arriving in Brown county August 8, 1880. Here he settled on a homestead in Buffalo Flats, driving through to Buffalo Flats with two yoke of oxen and covered wagon, leading a pony. After the rough journey of two months in the open he took up a homestead and went to work at once, erecting a log shanty sixteen by twenty-four feet, afterwards adding a sod room to it, making a fairly comfortable dwelling. He lived in this for some time, and then took up a tree claim, on which he now resides. He endured hard times while establishing his farm, experiencing much suffering during the winter of 1880-81, being snowed under in his shanty and unable to get out for supplies, which became so low that they were in danger of being entirely without food. At last he was able to dig his way out and secure more provisions to alleviate their hunger. During the summer of 1880 he had broken about ten acres of ground and the next year raised his first crop on this homestead. In 1882 his yield was thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, and from that time on he has produced good crops and enough provisions to supply his family. This place consists of one hundred and sixty acres, one hundred of which are under cultivation, and the balance in pasture. He enjoys a comfortable income annually as a result of his hard labor in the past and with his place well improved and well stocked, with a good set of substantial farm buildings, he can rest content, knowing he is provided for in old age.

In 1868 Mr. Ford was married to Miss Martha A. McMunn, a native of Ohio, of Irish descent. They have a family of three children, who are named as follows: Clemmie May, wife of Howard C. Lewis; Theron B. and Thadius K. Mr. Ford enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him, and takes a warm interest in all religious and educational



matters in his locality. He has served district in different capacities, having been rector for a number of years past. Politically he is independent, voting for men and principles instead of party. He is a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Ford will be found on another page of this volume.

A. A. SCOUTT.

A. A. Scoutt, one of the successful business men and stock growers residing in Kearney, Nebraska, has made that region his home for the past fourteen years, and that time has won for himself an enviable reputation as a worthy citizen and prosperous agriculturist, and stands high in the estimation of all who have been associated with him in a business or social way.

Since coming here Mr. Scoutt has made a specialty of raising hay during the summer months and feeding sheep through the winter and in these different enterprises has been successful. During the season of 1907 he and put up twelve hundred acres of hay and the previous winter fed one thousand head of sheep and got them through in fine shape making him a nice profit when shipped to market. He is an enthusiastic admirer of the state of Nebraska, considering the crops of alfalfa and the feeding facilities of Buffalo county better than any place he has ever known and justifies the high price of land prevailing in Kearney especially, believing that there is a better chance to succeed or obtain better results from his operations.

Mr. Scoutt controls a large tract of land known as the Watson ranch, from which he secures his hay crop and also carries on his sheep feeding work there.

A brother of our subject, who lives in Chicago, Illinois, is a partner with Mr. Watson, owner of the Watson ranch, in the block machinery business, and their offices are located in that city, at 510 New York Life building. They have succeeded in building up a large business and are making money in it.

SIDNEY C. MANNING.

Sidney C. Manning, prominent among the early settlers and prosperous farmers of Grant county, has passed through the experiences of

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the pioneer Nebraskan, and has come through privation and discouragement a substantial and influential man. He resides on his elegant farm, but has retired from its active management, devoting most of his time to his home, and every comfort, and is preparing for the evening of his life the harvest of his earlier labors.

Mr. Manning was born in Anderson, Missouri, in 1857, and comes of good American stock. His father was a successful farmer, and the family lived in Michigan until our subject was nine years old, then he came to Denver, Colorado, settling on a ranch near that city. This ranch was situated six hundred miles from a railroad, and there they lived for a number of years following the range and roughing it through the summer, and went through all the vicissitudes of life on the frontier. During the years he owned ranches in that vicinity he carried on a successful business. In 1892 he came to Grant county, Nebraska, where the county was at that time very sparsely settled. He began to develop a farm through sod house experience, and during the first few years was obliged to haul all his alfalfa from North Platte, which was eighty miles distant from his homestead, making the wagon many times in all kinds of rough weather, often encountering dangers in the mountains of hordes of Indians and wild beasts who roamed the prairies. He occupied the farm up to 1904 and succeeded in building up a large herd of sheep each year, and was one of the leading ranchmen of his locality, his place being one of the best equipped in the way of good buildings and every modern convenience of a laboring nature.

In 1904 Mr. Manning left his ranch and moved to Denver, making that his home for four years, when he returned to Grant county and settled on a ranch which lies near his son's place, in township 22, range 37. Here he has six hundred and forty acres of land, with every improvement, and is very comfortably situated.

Mr. Manning was married in 1876 to Miss Mollie Dodd, of Colorado. They have one son mentioned above. Our subject has been a resident of Grant county off and on ever since it was organized. He has always taken an active part in county affairs, and was the first county clerk elected to the office, holding the same for four years.

## VACLAV VACIK.

Vaclav Vacik was born February 8, 1851, in Strejckovicich, Krajs, Plaen county, Prestic, Bohemia, Europe. His father owned a very large farm there and was a dealer in horses, cattle and grain. They had the handsomest house and largest barns in the village of Strejckovicich. His mother was of German descent, a very charming and accomplished woman. There were four boys in the family and four girls, Vaclav being the youngest of the sons, and was always the pet of his mother. On one occasion several of the children came to the house to play, and while the family were in the house the youngsters set the barn on fire and everything was burned to the ground, and the fire even spread to neighboring houses. The Vacik family lost house, barns, grain, horses and cattle, and were completely ruined by the disaster. They started to build up their home again, and during the construction of some building the father was killed. He was at work and in stepping backward over a log fell and broke his neck, although he was not instantly killed, living about two hours after the accident, but not being able to speak before he died. He was fifty-four years of age at the time of his death. After the father's death Mrs. Vacik was obliged to go ahead and finish the building, and Vaclav was compelled to go out to work, as they were running into debt. His first job was working for a cousin at seventeen dollars a year and his board, and after a while was able to earn twenty-two dollars a year.

When our subject grew to manhood he more and more disliked the idea of being under the Austrian government, also the thought that he was compelled to serve as a soldier, so decided that he would leave home and come to America, and when but little more than sixteen years of age started out alone on his trip into the world, taking passage on an emigrant ship for America. His mother begged him not to leave his native land, but he told her that he could not bear the thought of having to be a soldier, which was his only object in leaving Austria. He left there on October 6, 1867, and was on the ocean thirteen weeks, landing in Baltimore, and from there came directly to Chicago, Illinois, arriving there on January 22, 1868. He was without money and had a hard time to get along, as he was unable to speak a word of English, and had been used to every comfort and luxury in his own home. For twelve weeks he was not able to secure any employment and in that time got into debt, having met some Bohemian friends who aided

him, and he finally secured work from a Frenchman, for which he received three dollars and a half per week for sandpapering molding in a lumber yard. He continued in the work for one year, then went to Champaign county, Illinois, and picked corn on a farm, for which he received twenty dollars a month and board all winter. He returned to Chicago in the spring and began working for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway. This was in 1869, and he held his position for two years, working in the freight yards, saving his money, and at the end of that time had considerable laid by. In 1871 he left Chicago, going to Columbus, Mississippi, but after a stay of ten days and not finding it pleasant to live where the negroes were so plentiful, he decided to try another location. He was told that he could do well in Alabama, so went to Mobile, where he expected to make a good living, but instead of bettering himself found conditions worse and more negroes than in Columbus. He began to think Chicago was not so bad a place after all, and got his partner to go back there, but their money was all gone by this time, and they were obliged to beat their way the best they could. They had to cross the Mississippi river from Columbus, Kentucky, to Cairo, Illinois, and stole aboard one of the steamers and got under a bed, being unobserved by any of the crew, arriving at their destination safely. On trying to leave Cairo they watched their chance and tried to board a freight train, but after Vaclav had thrown his grip in a car he was unable to board it himself and the train rolled away with all his clothes and possessions. He went to the station and tried to get the agent to give him a ticket, but the latter told him he could not do it, so after Vaclav had told him of the loss of his grip and described it the agent told him that the brakeman had found such a grip and gave it back to him, and you may be sure that he was a very pleased person on regaining possession of it. He again started on his journey, getting as far as Broadline, Illinois, and there hired out as a farm hand on the farm of John Alexander, spending a short time there, then went to Chicago, where he worked for a blacksmith on Michigan street, remaining there through the winter. He again got a job with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and continued with them up to 1872, and during this time he became acquainted with Miss Maria Chervenka, and they were married February 11, 1874.

Mr. Vacik made his home in Chicago for one year, then with his wife came to Wilber, Saline county, Nebraska, where Mrs. Vacik's



parents resided. After about three years that vicinity they returned to Chicago when they had just gotten located there a big strike started and a man was unable to secure hardly any kind of employment. The strike is well remembered by most of the timers, as the state troops were called to suppress the mobs. After walking the streets for a whole month Mr. Vacik had the fortune to obtain employment at the present wage of one dollar per day, but being dissatisfied and returned to Wilber, Nebraska where he bought a farm of eighty acres for six dollars and eighty cents per acre also bought a team of oxen, cultivator and up a sod shanty, and began to farm. He was exceptionally well there at first, and soon changed, when he was able to trade an oxen for a team of horses, put up better trappings of frame, and rented land from a neighbor. He raised as high as twenty-five hundred bushels of corn one season alone, and crops were good. He finally got into the business, starting with a herd of two hogs and fifty hogs, fed them for two years when nearly ready for market they began to sicken and die. The first he noticed was one day when he took a load of the pens and was throwing it to the hogs that they appeared sick, and they began until he only had three of his entire drove. This was a serious loss to him and so he went back greatly, so he decided to try some part of the state, and moved west, locating through the advice of an agent named Kuiera, who had land advertised in the range 48, in Cheyenne county, and he went here in 1886. Here he started in full of and expected to raise a crop the same way as was used to do in Saline county, and he and sowed, but never reaped up to 1887 when he was fortunate enough to raise a crop. At this time the drouths began to take the region and people began leaving claims, there remaining only besides one subject, Adam Schimka, who had come here from Wilber county at the same time. After some of the old settlers came back and reside here.

Mr. Vacik had poor crops for a number of years, then times began to improve. In the year 1904 he had a fine crop of grain all ready to harvest when along came a storm and destroyed it utterly. Since then he has met with better success and has raised very good crop every year. He has ninety-three and sixty acres of land and believes

years in Chicago and here was unable to get any work. This was the old time when the streets were full of the good people. He became a member of the Nebraska, res, pay-cre. He and put He did and times trade his er build-a neigh-ive hun-, and all the hog hundred rs, then began to of this corn in ogs, saw an to die ove left. set him me other cating on me here d Vaclav he paper. ship 13, e landed of hope, ne as he e plowed 1891-92, e a small to devas-ing their our sub-ere from er a time and still

is no better farming country than Nebraska. Mr. Vacik engages in quite extensively, having at the one hundred and fifty cattle and horses. The ranch is supplied with a set of good farm buildings, including sheds, granary, and handsome machinery. He is considered among the wealthy locality, and states that he is well and happy, and if any one wants to see him, his start to come and see him and them, as his life's history is too long to tell.

Mrs. Vacik was born in Nevers, Nebraska, July 4, 1854. She lived in a small town until twelve years of age and was very hard as a young girl, as she was an invalid most of the time, afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism. She was in the family and all the work of the home fell upon her shoulders, as she was poor and not able to hire a servant. She lived in a cottage and about their sessions were two cows and five chickens had about two acres of ground, on which she raised potatoes and other vegetables, and a rye, which the mother was obliged to cut. She had been a soldier for eight years, cutting the grain with a hand sickle. She was a rough rider in 1848, taking part in the Mexican war. Mrs. Vacik had younger brothers and sisters, only two of whom were living beyond childhood. After her father recovered from his illness she was able to work, receiving wages of twenty cents a day and obliged to find his meals. They were deeply in debt, having incurred a doctor's bill of over four hundred dollars, and were compelled to sell their chickens, grain and even the home, to pay the bills. After settling all obligations they had enough to bring them to America, leaving Prague on June 10, 1866. After arriving in Chicago and Maria secured work as a servant at one dollar per week. Her father could not get steady employment, got a handsaw and went from house to house and chopped and sawed wood, for which he received a few cents a day, and in this manner they managed to make a scant living. When Maria was fifteen years of age she went to work in a tobacco factory and at first received three dollars per week, and after a time making as high as eight dollars, and were so able to buy a home, purchasing a cottage on Burlington street, which was in the district afterwards swept by the fire, and the memory of the great Chicago fire is still fresh in her memory, as it started in the barn of one of

their neighbors. Every one knows the origin of the fire—starting as the result of an overturned lantern when milking a cow, so it is unnecessary to repeat this story.

After the fire they were very fortunate in every way and saved up considerable money. They left Chicago and came to Nebraska, locating on a farm of eighty acres, which Mr. Chervenka purchased for eight dollars an acre, and they still reside on the homestead. He is now eighty-five years of age and enjoys good health. Mrs. Chervenka died eleven years ago at the age of seventy-three years, and one daughter lives with the father and cares for the home. Maria was married to our subject before coming to Nebraska, at the age of twenty.

Mr. Vacik and his family have become wealthy during the past few years, and they

have a pleasant and happy home. Some bad luck has attended them, one instance being when their house was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, this misfortune occurring in 1891, and for some little time they were obliged to live in the cellar until another house was built. In the following year, after harvest time, his straw stacks caught fire and quite a loss was entailed. This fire was started Mr. Vacik's little son, who had crawled in a hole in the side of a stack where there were some little dogs which he wanted to see, and as it was dark he lighted a match, with disastrous results. During the same year he lost thirty-six head of cattle and three horses. In spite of all these misfortunes he has come out victorious and is still full of energy and ambition, and feels well repaid for all his labors by his present prosperity and peace.









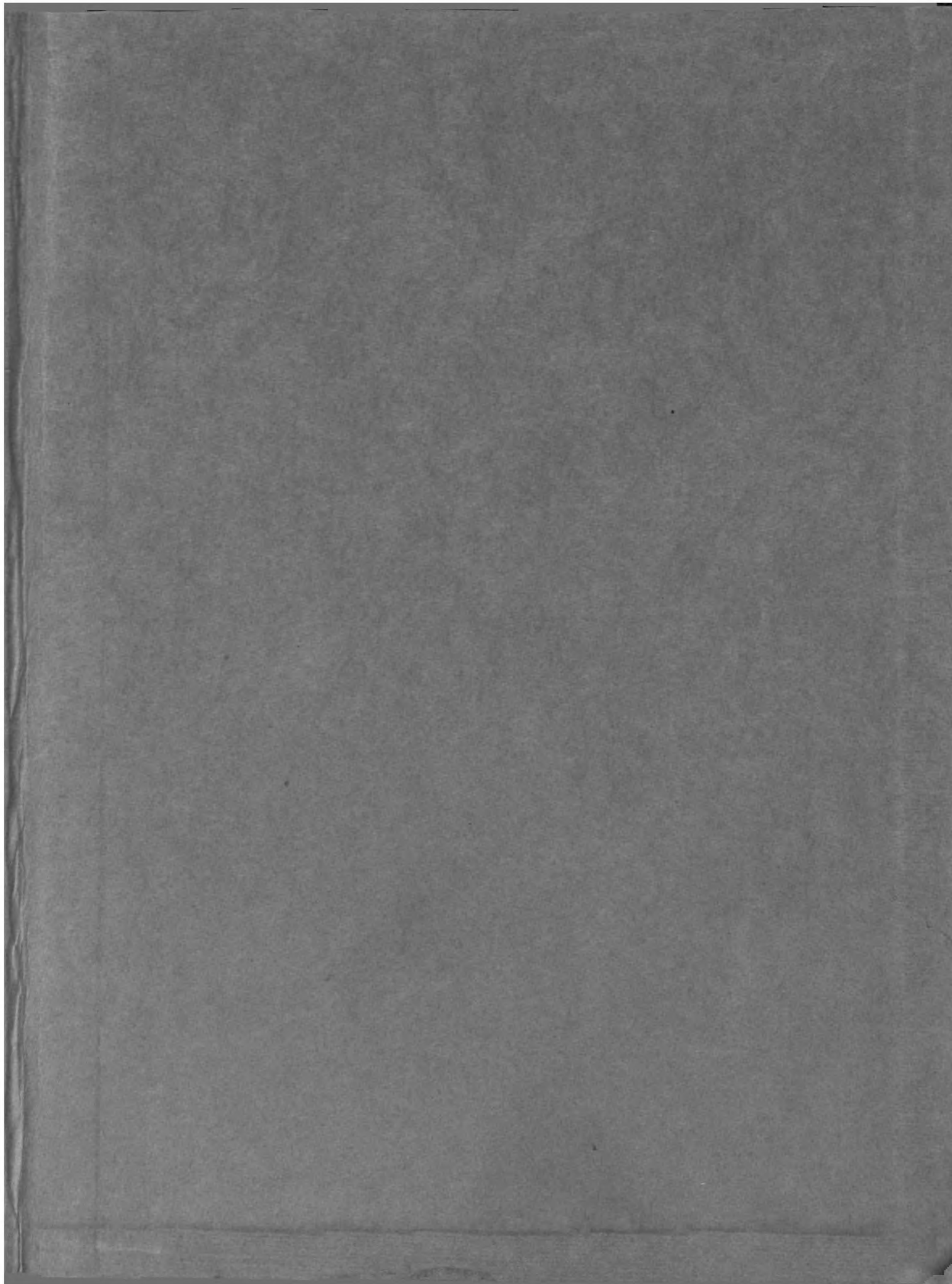




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