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An Illustrated History

OF

Lincoln County, Nebraska

And Her People

v. 2

A Narrative of the Past with Special Emphasis Upon the Pioneer  
Period of the County's History; Particular Attention Also  
Given to the Social, Commercial, Educational, Religious  
and Civic Development of the County from  
the Early Days to the Present Time

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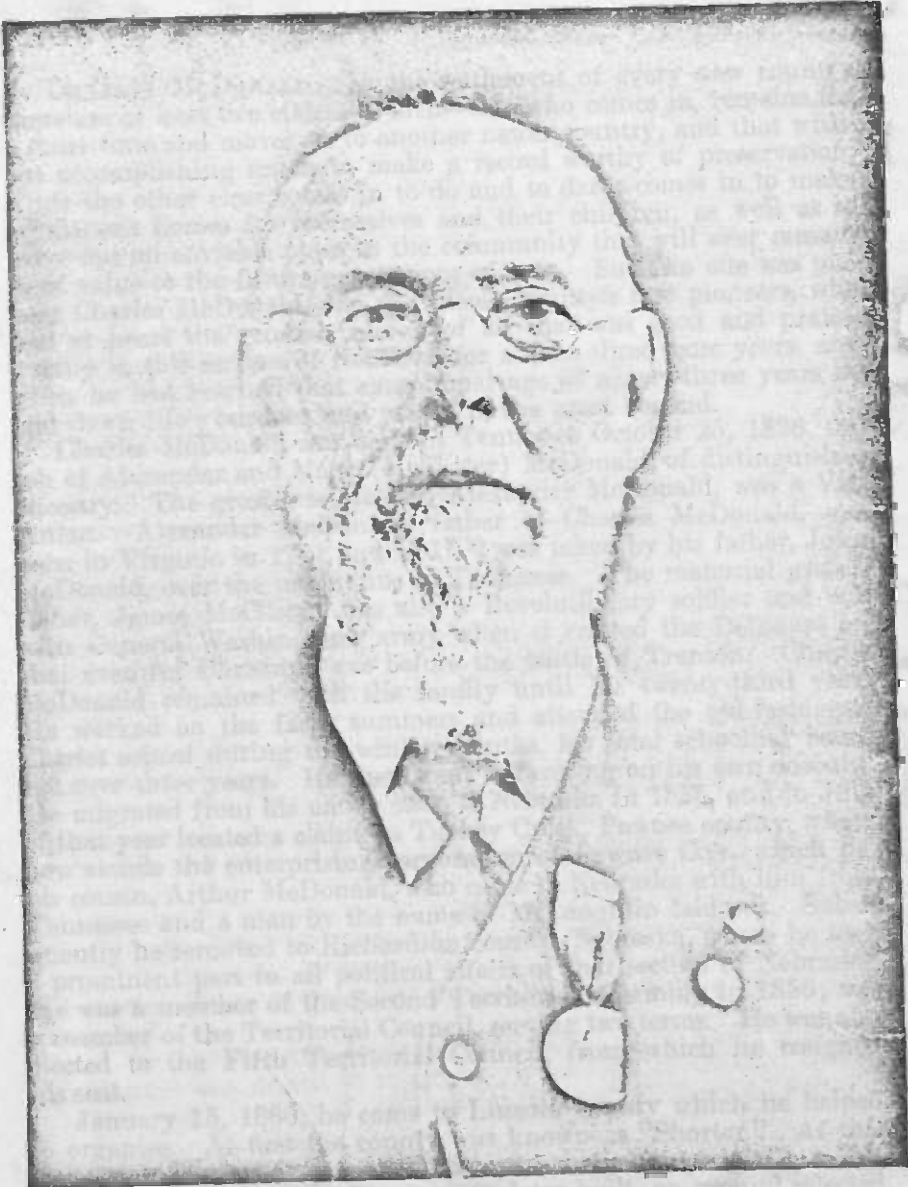
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*Chas. M. Conrad*

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# History of Lincoln County



*Chas McDonald*

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# History of Lincoln County

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**CHARLES McDONALD.** In the settlement of every new country there are at least two classes of men—one who comes in, remains for a short time and moves on to another newer country, and that without accomplishing much to make a record worthy of preservation, while the other class comes in to do and to dare; comes in to make permanent homes for themselves and their children, as well as to carve out an enviable place in the community that will ever remain as of value to the future generations of men. Such an one was pioneer Charles McDonald, one of Lincoln county's first pioneers, who had at heart the general interest of all that was good and praiseworthy in this section of Nebraska for almost three score years, and when he had reached that exceptional age of ninety-three years he laid down life's burdens and passed to the great beyond.

Charles McDonald was born in Tennessee October 25, 1826, the son of Alexander and Mary (McClister) McDonald, of distinguished ancestry. The great-grandfather, Alexander McDonald, was a Virginian. Alexander McDonald, father of Charles McDonald, was born in Virginia in 1791 and in 1792 was taken by his father, John McDonald, over the mountains to Tennessee. The maternal grandfather, James McClister, was also a Revolutionary soldier and was with General Washington's army when it crossed the Delaware on that eventful Christmas eve before the battle of Trenton. Charles McDonald remained with the family until his twenty-third year. He worked on the farm summers and attended the old-fashioned district school during the winter months, his total schooling being not over three years. He then went to farming on his own account. He migrated from his native state to Nebraska in 1855, and in July of that year located a claim on Turkey Creek, Pawnee county, where now stands the enterprising corporation of Pawnee City, which he, his cousin, Arthur McDonald, who came to Nebraska with him from Tennessee and a man by the name of McLaughlin laid out. Subsequently he removed to Richardson county, Nebraska, where he took a prominent part in all political affairs of that section of Nebraska. He was a member of the Second Territorial Assembly in 1856; was a member of the Territorial Council, serving two terms. He was also elected to the Fifth Territorial Council, from which he resigned his seat.

January 15, 1860, he came to Lincoln county which he helped to organize. At first the county was known as "Shorter." At this time he resided at Cottonwood Springs, where he operated a ranch and store, where Fort McPherson was later built, on ground selected by him. He was the first county officer, being elected county judge immediately following the county's organization. July 10, 1860, he issued a marriage license and performed the marriage ceremony of the first couple united in marriage in Lincoln county. He also held the office of county clerk one term. Politically Mr. McDonald was affiliated with the democratic party.

He sold out his property at Cottonwood Springs to the United States Government for \$6,000, it being converted into Fort McPherson, a military post and reservation, and moved to North Platte April 24, 1872, where he ever afterward resided. There he was afterwards re-elected as county school superintendent, serving two terms, and later was a county commissioner one term. In 1873 he opened a general merchandise store, continuing in such business until January, 1899. He was also a large land owner, having several hundred acres of the best land in the county.

In 1878 he established a bank at North Platte. It was a private institution known as the Bank of Charles McDonald. In 1902 it was incorporated as the McDonald State Bank, of which he was president until his death, when his son, W. H. McDonald, who had been vice president, was made president. In point of actual service this is the oldest bank in Western Nebraska (see Banking Chapter), Mr. McDonald having been a banker over forty years.

From the time he opened his pioneer store in this county up to the last years of his eventful, successful career, Mr. McDonald was known as a man of excellent business judgment and possessed of sterling qualities and unusual integrity.

With relation to his civic society fraternities it may be said that he was the oldest Mason in Nebraska at the date of his death. He was made a Mason in Rogersville, Tennessee, in January, 1851, and at the time of his decease was the wearer of the Jordan Jewel, presented to him by the Grand Lodge of the state. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of Platte Valley Lodge No. 22, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Fort McPherson in 1870. For six years he was worshipful master and for thirteen years was treasurer of the lodge. He was also a worthy member of Euphrates Chapter No. 15, Royal Arch Masons, and of Palestine Commandery No. 13; also was a thirty-second degree Mason. He belonged to Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at North Platte.

Mr. McDonald was reared in the faith of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, but there being no such denomination here he attended the Presbyterian Church and also the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which his wife was a member.

He was one of the county's most enterprising and public spirited citizens, and was closely identified with every praiseworthy enterprise in his home city and county. He was intensely patriotic, and when the late World war was waging he bought more Liberty Loan bonds than any other resident of Lincoln county, and also War Savings Stamps, that the Government he loved so well might be upheld.

Concerning his domestic relations let it be stated that Mr. McDonald was united in marriage in the City of Omaha, October 14, 1858, to Miss Orra B. Henry, daughter of Anan and Lydia (Swift) Henry. Mr. Henry was born in Stoddard, New Hampshire, and his wife in Plainfield, Massachusetts. They were married in New York, going west to Ohio and to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1856, being among the first settlers of Omaha. Subsequently they came to this county, when he died in March, 1870, and is buried at Fort McPherson. Mrs. McDonald was born March 8, 1840, in Hamilton, New York, a descendant of Richard Warren and Peter Brown who came to America on the Mayflower. Mrs. McDonald accompanied her husband to Lincoln county, where she was the first white woman to locate. She died at North Platte, December 28, 1898. Of this



*O. B. McDonald*



Arthur McDonald

marriage union there were children as follows: Frank, deceased; William H., a banker of North Platte; Nettie V., wife of William C. Reynolds; Charles A., deceased; James Boyd, of Omaha, Nebraska; George W., deceased; and Callie E., deceased wife of Frank L. Mooney, a North Platte banker. This pioneer couple had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The grandchildren are: Charles McDonald Reynolds, of Omaha, president of the Nebraska Fuel Co.; William Edward Reynolds, deceased; Mrs. William Daub, of Fostoria, Ohio; Miss Janet McDonald and Master Frank A. Mooney, of North Platte. The great-grandchildren are: Charles McDonald Reynolds, Jr., William Neville Reynolds, and Ruth Daub.

After having spent a highly successful life, as one of the sturdy upbuilders of Nebraska, which he helped reclaim from wilderness, desert, Indians, grasshoppers and drought, until it blossomed like the rose, Charles McDonald contracted pneumonia, from which he died April 22, 1919, at 8:30 at night. He was buried at North Platte, in the country where he had lived, labored and loved so many years.

**WILLIAM H. McDONALD.** The biographical contents of this publication would be incomplete without at least a brief sketch of the career of North Platte's pioneer citizen and banker, W. H. McDonald. Concerning his honored father, the late Charles McDonald, a separate article appears preceding. Through his mother, Orra Belle Henry, who was born near Elmira, New York, he is descended from Richard Warren and Peter Brown, passengers on the Mayflower at the very beginning of New England's history.

W. H. McDonald was born at Cottonwood Springs, Nebraska, June 14, 1861, one of the oldest native sons still living. It would be difficult to conceive of a man whose intimate relations with the history of this section of Nebraska make better qualified as a touchstone of historical authority. He attended the first school held in Lincoln county in a dug-out, the teacher being a married woman who opened a small private school for a few small children living near Fort McPherson in 1866, and later at Fort McPherson. He also was a student in the first "log school" at North Platte, and in 1868-69 attended a private school at Omaha. His later education was acquired in Bailey's Commercial College at Keokuk, Iowa, the North High School at North Platte and in Lincoln University at Lincoln, Illinois.

The best part of education is adaptation of personal character and abilities to the needs of an environment. In that direction Mr. McDonald was a true pioneer son. As soon as he could ride a horse, which was about five or six years of age, he began herding cattle, and become known as the "youngest bull whacker" in the country. Handling cattle was his greatest enthusiasm while a youth. He drove two yoke of oxen and hauled hay across the Platte River when but ten years of age, and too small to lift one end of an ox yoke. In 1873 his father opened up a big farm adjoining North Platte and also a general store in the town and besides attending school W. H. drove delivery wagon after school, worked on the farm and looked after the stock cattle which had to be driven to and from their grazing grounds, sometimes only a mile but sometimes forty miles away. For about ten years he was general utility boy and man in the store and on the farm, and also performed all the duties of a regular cowboy, attending "roundups" for years and helping "cut out" and brand the stock and convoy them to market.

When he was a small youth his father had large government contracts for hay and wood for Fort McPherson, and had about twenty ox teams to do the hauling. It was not always easy to get men who could drive a bull team, and W. H. McDonald was always willing to be pressed into this service. When the family moved to North Platte April 24, 1872, though only ten years of age, he drove three yoke of oxen into the town and was the envy of all the town small boys.

What is now the McDonald State Bank was established in 1878. Four years later in April, 1882, W. H. McDonald entered that institution, performing a miscellany of duties as janitor, messenger, collector and teller. He was promoted to acting cashier in 1884 and the following year to cashier, a post of duty he held until September, 1894. On the 4th of that month he was appointed and entered upon his duties as Receiver of the United States Land Office at North Platte and served until September 8, 1898. For several months following his retirement from office he was in the life insurance business, a line which he intended to follow permanently. However, on account of his father's serious illness he returned to the bank as cashier and when the private bank was incorporated under the name of the McDonald State Bank on January 2, 1902, he continued as cashier of the new institution. At the annual stockholders meeting of January, 1911, he was elected vice president and cashier. In April, 1919, following the death of his father, he was chosen president, the office he occupies at present.

For many years Mr. McDonald has been interested as a stockholder and officer in various banks in Nebraska. In October, 1903, he organized the Maxwell State Bank and was its president for about twelve years. In June, 1906, he incorporated as the chief stockholder the Gandy Bank, and bought out the old Bank of Gandy, becoming its president. When the Stapleton branch of the Union Pacific road was completed to Stapleton he removed this bank to Stapleton, changing its name to the Bank of Stapleton, where it is now the oldest and largest bank in Logan county. He is also president of the Bank of Stapleton.

Mr. McDonald served a short term as a member of the Board of Education of North Platte. He helped incorporate and organize the North Platte Country Club in 1916, being chairman of the committee which located and bought 146 acres of land adjoining the city and built a fine club house and other buildings at a cost of about \$12,000. When the club house was formally opened June 28, 1920, Mr. McDonald was president of the club. In politics he acts independently though usually voting as a democrat. He has been affiliated with Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, since April, 1889, is a Past High Priest of Euphrates Chapter No. 15, Royal Arch Masons, is past commander of Palestine Commandery No. 13, Knights Templar, and is also a life member of Tangier Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He belongs to Elk Lodge No. 985. Mrs. McDonald and their daughter are members of the Presbyterian Church of North Platte, her parents having been charter members of that church.

June 16, 1886, Mr. McDonald married Miss Mary (always called Minnie) Belton, daughter of James and Caroline Belton. Her parents settled at North Platte in 1870. This made her a pioneer of the town, and she also acquired part of her education in the old log school and was the first to finish the course of the North High



School. After graduating from the Western Female College at Oxford, Ohio, she returned to North Platte and became a book-keeper in her father's mercantile store, and continued that work until 1889. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald's first two daughters died in infancy. Their third daughter Janet graduated from Vassar College in 1918, then took a post-graduate course in music and art at Northwestern University in Chicago. Since the fall of 1919 she has been gaining business experience in the McDonald State Bank.

**JAMES M. CALHOUN.** The more progressive men of Nebraska, as elsewhere, recognize that agricultural education today means much more to the country than any other kind of education, and that the farmer must be taught not only the profit but the necessity of raising live stock on his farm to maintain its fertility, and to provide for the actual wants of the world. They also hold that an intelligent appreciation by all of the people of the individual obligation each one is under to the soil, and to those who are engaged in cultivating it, will bring about a further recognition of the importance of the work of the farmer, and a realization on his part of the dignity of his calling. One of the men of Lincoln county who has done much in the way of inculcating the above ideas in his community is James M. Calhoun, one of the large landowners of the North Platte neighborhood, whose farm is in section 7, township 14.

James M. Calhoun was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, on June 24, 1866, a son of Noah W. and Julia A. (Parkinson) Calhoun. Noah W. Calhoun was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, on April 4, 1839, and died at Los Angeles, California, in 1915. His wife, who is also deceased, was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, in 1842. During the greater portion of his life Noah W. Calhoun was engaged in contracting, although in young manhood he did some farming in Illinois. Later on in life he came west to Grand Island, Nebraska, and carried on a contracting business at that place and also at Aurora, but subsequently returned to Illinois. After his retirement he went to Los Angeles, California, where he passed away. He and his wife had nine children, as follows: Bertha, who is the wife of Milton Wingert, of Wood River, Nebraska; Cressa, who is the wife of Will Burnett, lives at Beaumont, Texas; James M., who was third in order of birth; Russell W., who lived at Nichols, Nebraska, is now deceased; John S., who is also deceased; Hattie, who is the wife of Will Barmour, of the State of Washington; Josephine, who is the wife of James Stewart, lives at Houston, Texas; Charles W., who lives at Seattle, Washington; and Jennie, who lives at Chicago, Illinois. During the war between the states Noah W. Calhoun served as a soldier in the Union Army, enlisting in Fifty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remaining in it for nine months, when he was honorably discharged. He always supported the principles and candidates of the republican party. With the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic he joined a local post and always maintained his connection with it during the remainder of his life, he passing away at the Soldiers' Home at Los Angeles, California. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and active in forwarding its good work.

James M. Calhoun attended the public schools of his native county and supplemented that knowledge by a business education. He came west as a teacher in the Indian school in South Dakota, but left it and came to Nebraska in 1884, and was a teacher in the public schools

of York county for a time. He then homesteaded in McPherson county, and proved up his claim. Coming to Lincoln county, he invested heavily in land and now owns something like 4,000 acres of land in this and other counties. Here he is engaged in general farming and stockraising, and he specializes on registered Hereford cattle. His improvements are excellent ones, and all of his agricultural work is well superintended.

In 1892 Mr. Calhoun was united in marriage with Minnie Wisner, born in Michigan, a daughter of William E. Wisner, who was an early settler in McPherson county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun had the following children born to them: James M., who is residing in McPherson county, is a veteran of the great war, having served in the Twentieth United States Infantry, and was discharged at Fort Benjamin Harrison; Hazel, who is the wife of Arthur Qualley, a schoolteacher of Lincoln county; William, who is also a veteran of the great war, served in an officers' training camp, and now lives in McPherson county; and Cecil Clyde, Alva, Minnie and Emeline, all of whom are at home. In his political life Mr. Calhoun has carried out the policy of not connecting himself definitely with any party, but giving his vote to the man best suited for the office. He has been a Mason for a number of years. Much more intelligent and scholarly than many who are engaged in his calling, Mr. Calhoun has been able, because of his superior knowledge and training, to take the lead in a number of things, and as this leadership has always been in the direction of securing permanent improvements and better conditions of living, his influence has always been a constructive one in his neighborhood and one that is much appreciated.

**JOHN WING.** One of the progressive farmers of Lincoln county who is operating upon quite an extensive scale as a farmer and stockraiser is John Wing of section 9, township 14, in the neighborhood of North Platte. He was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, on April 8, 1864, a son of Joel and Elizabeth (Page) Wing. Joel Wing was born in the State of Maine and lived to be fifty-six years of age, while his wife, a native of New York, died at the age of seventy-six years. He was a farmer in Maine, and came from that state to Washington county, Wisconsin, where he acquired timber land. There are four children living of the family born to Joel Wing and his wife, namely: Louisa, who is the wife of Henry Campbell, lives in Wisconsin; David, who lives in Alaska; Eva, who is the wife of Ray Briggs, lives in Wisconsin; and John, whose name heads this review.

Growing up in Wisconsin, John Wing attended its common schools, and when he was a young man bought land in Wisconsin. In a later day, in 1909, he came to Brule, Nebraska, and worked as a farm hand until he located permanently in Lincoln county. Mr. Wing now leases 560 acres of land and carries on a general line of farming and stockraising, specializing on hay production. He handles a high grade of live stock, experiments having convinced him that the poorer grades do not yield sufficient profits.

In 1886 Mr. Wing was married in Wisconsin to Myrtle Willey, a native of Wisconsin, and a daughter of George Willey. They became the parents of the following children: Lola, who is the wife of Ernest Redinger, of North Platte; George, who is mentioned below; John, who is mentioned below; David, who works on the farm with his father; Isaiah, who is at home; Lafayette, who is at home;

and Gladys, Gertrude and Myrtle, all of whom are attending school. In politics Mr. Wing is an independent voter. Mrs. Wing is a member of the Christian Church and interested in religious work.

George Wing is a veteran of the great war, having been in the United States ambulance service for fifteen months, and received his honorable discharge.

John Wing is also a veteran of the late war, being a member of an infantry division and in training at Camp Funston. Owing to the signing of the armistice, he was not sent across, but was discharged from camp.

The Wings, father and sons, are held in the highest esteem in this region. They have contributed much toward the agricultural development of the county, and when their country needed them the sons went into the service, and the father did his part in increasing his production and contributing generously toward war work.

**R. E. PETERJOHN.** The United States can boast of no better or more law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of Germans who have found homes within her borders. There have come to this county from that country and other lands men with limited financial resources but imbued with a sturdy independence and a laudable ambition to succeed, and who have taken advantage of the wonderful possibilities afforded here. Gradually, step by step, they have risen to places of prominence in various lines of activity. Of these there can be none mentioned who deserves more favorable attention than the gentleman whose name opens this biographical sketch and who has for a number of years been an honored and industrious resident of Lincoln county, where he is well known and highly esteemed for his many commendable characteristics.

R. E. Peterjohn was born in Germany on February 27, 1868, and is a son of Ernest and Fredrica Peterjohn, also natives of Germany, where they spent their entire lives and where the father followed agricultural pursuits. They are both deceased, the father dying at the age of sixty-five years and the mother when fifty-six years of age. The subject was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of his native community. In 1884, when sixteen years of age, he and a sister came to the United States to make their future homes. This sister is now deceased. Mr. Peterjohn came at once to Iowa, where for a year he was employed in farm work. He then went to California, where he remained for a time, but in 1888 he came to Webster county, Nebraska, where he bought land, which he improved, but two years later he sold that tract and moved to Kimball county, Nebraska, where he entered a homestead. He lived in that county ten years and then, in March, 1900, he came to Lincoln county, bought eighty acres of land, and has since made this his home. For a time after locating here he had a hard time, but gradually he forged ahead and for several years has been in very comfortable circumstances, being now considered one of the successful and representative farmers of his locality. He has carried on general farming operations, and has also given considerable attention to the raising of livestock, in which he has met with a very gratifying degree of success. He has specialized on hogs, keeping a fine grade of Duroc Jerseys, of which he has had as many as 300 head at a time. The farm buildings are of a substantial character and are well arranged for the convenient handling of the farm work. Mr. Peterjohn is intensely practical in his farming operations, exercising

sound judgment and a wise discrimination in his labors, and is eminently deserving of the splendid success which has come to him.

In 1907, at North Platte, Mr. Peterjohn was married to Winifred Vedder, the daughter of Riley and Hannah (Daggett) Vedder, natives of Madison county, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Vedder moved from New York State to Illinois, whence in 1879 or 1880 they came to Nebraska, taking up a homestead in Dawson county, where they lived until August, 1919. They are now living at Cozad, Nebraska. Their active years were devoted to farming pursuits. Mrs. Peterjohn is the owner of 476 acres of land, which she homesteaded herself. She was formerly engaged in teaching school, having been so occupied in Dawson and Lincoln counties. To Mr. and Mrs. Peterjohn have been born five children, namely: Elsie, twelve years of age; Fern, ten years of age; Laura, seven years of age; Florence, three years old; and Nellie, two years old.

Politically Mr. Peterjohn has been a supporter of the republican party ever since attaining his majority, and takes a commendable interest in public affairs, especially as relating to his own community. Both he and his wife attend the Presbyterian Church, to which he gives earnest support. He has ever enjoyed the respect and esteem of those who know him for his friendly manner, business ability, his interest in public affairs and upright living, and is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his community.

**WILLIAM A. GAUNT.** In all that constitutes true manhood and good citizenship, William A. Gaunt, one of the best known and most substantial of Lincoln county farmers, is a notable example and none stand higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community honored by his citizenship. His career has been characterized by duty faithfully done, and by industry, thrift and wisely directed efforts he has acquired a liberal share of this world's goods, besides earning a reputation which has never been clouded by unworthy acts. He is a man of good judgment and pronounced views, keeping himself well informed on current events and taking a lively interest in all the public affairs of his community. He has worked hard for that which he now possesses and knows how to appreciate the true dignity of labor and to place a correct estimate on the value of money. Nevertheless he is liberal in his benefactions and stands ever ready to support with his influence and means all measures for the material and moral welfare of his community.

William A. Gaunt was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 1841, and is the son of Henry Gaunt. The father was a native of Scotland, who came to the United States in an early day and here followed farming, locating first in Germantown. Subsequently he moved to Cain county, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring when he was sixty-nine years of age. He was survived by his widow, who died when seventy-eight years old. They were the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, namely: W. A., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mark, of Elburn, Illinois; Frank, also of Elburn; Washington, who lives in Florida; Elizabeth, deceased; and Emma (Mrs. Morris), who lives in Iowa.

William A. Gaunt was reared to manhood in Cain county, Illinois, whither the family moved from Pennsylvania when he was quite young, and he secured a good practical education in the public schools. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company F,

One Hundred Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry, and served faithfully for four years and three months. He took part in many of the most hotly contested battles of that great conflict, and in one engagement was severely wounded in the leg. He remained in Illinois until 1871, when he moved to Thayer county, Nebraska, where he lived for eighteen years. While there he homesteaded a tract of land, which he proved up, but he finally sold that farm and in 1889 he came to Lincoln county and located in North Platte, where for twenty years he was engaged in blacksmithing. He then entered a homestead, comprising his present farm of 480 acres, and here he devoted himself to its improvement and cultivation for many years. This was largely sand land, which at that time did not present a very inviting prospect, but he had faith in the land and his judgment was abundantly vindicated in the splendid farm which he developed from it. He has carried on general farming and stockraising and has been eminently successful in his operations, his work being characterized by sound judgment and sound discrimination. He has accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to enable him to retire from active labor and he is now enjoying that rest which he has so richly earned. In the period when he first came to this locality there were no railroads here, and he was compelled to haul the lumber for his first buildings from Brownsville. He was compelled to endure many privations and hardships, and he makes the statement that in those days oftentimes a cornmeal sandwich was considered pretty good eating.

On July 3, 1873, at Belvidere, Nebraska, Mr. Gaunt was married to Jennette Morgan, who was born in Hall county, Michigan, the daughter of Willard and Miranda (Lyon) Morgan, both of whom were born in Rochester, New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Gaunt have been born four children: Hugh L., who is operating a ranch of his own in Lincoln county; Roy V., who remains at home; Williard H., who was a brakeman, was killed on the Union Pacific Railroad at thirty-three years; and Lillian May, who died when two weeks old.

Politically, Mr. Gaunt gives his support to the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs, while religiously he is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His career presents a notable example of those qualities of mind and character which overcome obstacles and win success. His life has been a busy and successful one, and his record is eminently worthy of perusal by the student who would learn the intrinsic essence of individuality and its influence in molding a successful career in the face of adverse circumstances. Because of these things he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of all who know him. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

**CHRIST JOHNSON.** To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our great country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterizes the foreign element that has entered largely into our population. By comparison with their old country surroundings these people have already recognized the fact that in America lie the greatest opportunities for the man of ambition and energy. And because of this many have broken the ties of home and native land and have entered earnestly upon the task of gaining in the new world a name and competence. Among this class may be mentioned the late Christ Johnson, who by reason of indefatigable labor and honest effort not

only acquired a well merited material prosperity but also richly earned the highest esteem of all with whom he was associated.

Christ Johnson was born in Denmark on March 1, 1851, and was the son of James and Dorothy Anderson, who were born, reared and spent their entire lives in their native Denmark. He was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of his native community. He lived there until twenty-nine years old, when, in 1880, he immigrated to the United States. He first located in Wisconsin, where he spent a year, and then, in 1881, came to North Platte, Nebraska, where he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with whom he remained for sixteen years. Deciding that that line of work did not offer the opportunities for advancement in a material way for which he was ambitious, he relinquished that work and turned his attention to the soil, homesteading a tract of land about ten miles north of North Platte. His first tract was 160 acres, in addition to which he acquired 320 acres, and still later acquired another eighty, so that at the time of his death he was the owner of 560 acres of land. Much of this land was originally composed of sand hills, which did not present a very inviting prospect, but he had faith in his ability to make that soil productive, a faith which subsequent events proved to be well founded, for the sand hills eventually bore fine crops of grass and grain and today this farm is among the best in the community. The property is well improved, the buildings being substantial and commodious in character and well adapted to the purposes of the farm. The first years spent on this farm by Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were characterized by the severest sort of hardships and privations, which would have utterly discouraged persons of less heroic mettle, but they had abundant faith in the final outcome of their efforts and persisted until finally they realized that their efforts had borne fruit. Mr. Johnson's death occurred in October, 1918, and the farm is being operated by Mrs. Johnson and her children.

On November 22, 1884, Mr. Johnson was married at Chapman, Nebraska, to Mary Rassmasen, who was born in Denmark on April 18, 1862, the daughter of Hans and Stena (Balle) Rassmasen. Both of these parents were born in Denmark and both are deceased, the father dying at the age of sixty-two years, and the mother when fifty-one years of age. Hans Rassmasen came to America in 1880, locating at Chapman, Nebraska, where he engaged in farming and where he spent the remainder of his life. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born eleven children, namely: Mrs. Anna Haddock, who is living in Lingo, Nebraska; Pete, of North Platte; Hans, of North Platte; Mrs. Mary Hansen, whose husband is a farmer and ranchman in Lincoln county; Ida Bass lives with her mother; Christ and Charley are also at home; Lena died at the age of one year; Ellen died at the age of six months; Dewey and Blanch are at home.

Politically Mr. Johnson gave his support to the republican party and he took an intelligent interest in public affairs, though he was not a seeker after public office. Religiously the family are affiliated with the Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Johnson was an earnest member. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In this record there was much that was commendable, and his character forcibly illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims and high ideals. In his business career as well as his private life no word of suspicion was ever breathed against him. His

death removed from Lincoln county one of her most substantial and highly esteemed citizens, and the many beautiful tributes to his high standing as a man and citizen attested to the abiding place he had in the hearts of his many friends.

WILBUR H. ANDERSON, whose life since boyhood has been spent in Lincoln county, where, beginning his independent career without resources, he has progressed through his innate qualities of industry, perseverance, economy and integrity to the ownership of a highly productive farm and the position of a substantial influential and useful member of the community. He was born in 1874 in York county, Nebraska, a son of Boone Anderson.

Boone Anderson was born in Scott county, Illinois, May 15, 1848, a son of John Spencer and Mary L. (Hall) Anderson, both natives of Kentucky. These good people were farmers in the Blue Grass State for a number of years, but later moved to Illinois, where in Scott county they became well-to-do and highly respected residents, and known as faithful members of the Church of Christ. Mr. Anderson was a democrat, although not a politician, preferring to devote himself exclusively to the interests represented in his farm and his home. He and his wife were the parents of eighteen children, of whom ten are still living, five coming to Nebraska, the latter being: James G., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in York county; William, who after a long career as a farmer is living in retirement in Nuckolls county, Nebraska; John H., who is engaged in farming in Fillmore county, this state; Permelia, who is the wife of Oliver Crowder, of Seward county; and Boone.

John Spencer Anderson's good qualities were inherited by his son Boone who attended the public schools of Illinois and resided in that state until 1864, at which time he came to York county, Nebraska, settling on the Blue River, where his father and the eldest son, William, took up the first homestead claim in the county. This they proved up and disposed of, and Boone Anderson later took up a claim, which he proved and sold, and carried on general farming in addition to raising a good grade of livestock. In 1886 he came to Lincoln county, where he took up a tree claim, which has since continued to be his home. He is one of the substantial citizens of his community and a man who through his good citizenship and personal integrity has won and held the esteem and respect of his fellow men in great degree. He is a democrat in his political views and wields some influence in his locality. Mr. Anderson was married in 1870 to Miss Louisa Mann, who was born in Ohio, and to this union there were born eleven children: Nora, who is the wife of Charles Smith, of Gothenburg; Wilbur H., of this notice; Esther M., the wife of William Swancutt, a Lincoln county agriculturist; Francis, a resident of Gothenburg; Joseph, a resident of Brady Island; Jesse B., who is engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sterling, Colorado; Bertie E., who is deceased; Lula, who is the wife of Lewis Hayworth of Lincoln county; Eleanor, who is the wife of Roy Chittiek, a Lincoln county farmer; Myron, who is engaged in farming operations in Dawson county, this state; and Ethel, the wife of Robert Karskadon, who is engaged in teaching in Lincoln county.

Wilbur H. Anderson was given his educational training in the public schools of the country districts of York and Lincoln counties. He was a boy when he came to the latter with his parents, and here grew to manhood. Later he homesteaded a property in this county,

on which he proved up, and has since been successfully engaged in general farming activities, owning here 320 acres and 640 acres in another tract three miles south of his home. He also raises a good grade of livestock.

He has excellent modern improvements on his property, and his operations are carried on with improved machinery and by the latest approved methods known to scientific agriculture. He has a number of important business connections, indicating his standing and ability in business, and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Gothenburg.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1895 to Miss Ada Middleton, daughter of Mrs. Clara Middleton, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work, and to this union there have been born nine children: Lee, Avis, Harlan, Paul and Harry, twins, Owen and Lyle, twins, and Mary, all at home, and Jean, deceased. All the children have been given good educational opportunities and are growing up to be a credit to their training, to their name and to their community. They have been reared in the faith of the Church of Christ, to which their parents belong. Lee Anderson, the eldest son and child, enlisted in motor section of the Coast Artillery, Company A, and trained at Logan, Utah, and Fort McArthur, California. After four months of service he received his honorable discharge.

**PERRY G. GRADY.** During a period covering more than a quarter of a century Perry G. Grady has been a resident of Lincoln county, where he has made the most of his opportunities for improvement and has advanced and prospered with the advancement and prosperity of the section which he adopted as his permanent home. As a farmer and raiser of good stock he has achieved a satisfying success, and as a citizen he has attained an enviable place in the confidence of those among whom his activities have been prosecuted.

Mr. Grady is a native of the Keystone State, born in 1858, a son of Edward and Louisa (Hunsinger) Grady, both native also of Pennsylvania. His father, who followed an agricultural career, achieved success in his farming and stockraising operations because of his good judgment, enterprise and marked industry, and although he was a man who applied himself diligently to his work, he never lost sight of his responsibilities of citizenship, and served capably in a number of township offices. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife were faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, in the faith of which they reared the members of their family. They were the parents to ten children, of whom five are living.

Perry G. Grady received his education in the public schools of his native state, and was there reared to manhood on his father's farm, where he assisted the elder man in the various duties pertaining to the cultivation and development of a country estate. His training was thorough, and by the time he was ready to start upon a career of his own he was fully equipped to compete with others in the fight for agricultural supremacy. Mr. Grady answered the call of the West in 1893, when he made his way to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and purchased land, upon which he erected a sod house, or "soddy." That continued to be his home while he was completing the work of development on his property, but it has long since been replaced by a modern residence, around which have sprung up barns and outbuildings of a substantial and attractive character. Mr. Grady's



improvements are modern in character and his methods also. His enterprise has been no less than his industry, and he has determinedly applied himself to a course of principles which include integrity, fair dealing and honorable transactions. His reputation in commercial and other circles is correspondingly high. He has various interests and connections of a business nature, and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Gothenburg, this state.

In 1889 Mr. Grady was united in marriage with Miss Anna Swift, a native of Pennsylvania, and they are the parents of six children: Pearl, the wife of Ira McPheeters, an agriculturist of Lincoln county; Daisy, the wife of Roy Galloway, who is engaged in farming in Dawson county, this state; Grace the wife of Vernon Atkinson, a Lincoln county farmer; Lloyd, who resides at home and assists his father in the work of the property; Helen, who is attending public school at Gothenburg; and Blanche, at home. Mr. Grady takes an independent stand upon political questions, and is inclined to support the man rather than the party at elections. His fraternal interest is manifested by his membership in the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and Mrs. Grady are faithful members of the Methodist Church, in which religion they have reared their children.

**WILLIAM BLOOM.** Among the honored citizens of Lincoln county who have now passed to their reward after many years spent in agricultural pursuits was the late William Bloom, for a quarter of a century or more a successful farmer and highly respected citizen of the Peckham precinct. Mr. Bloom was a man of numerous admirable traits of character who won the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens not alone through his honorable business transactions, but for the faithful manner in which he discharged the duties of several public offices to which he was elected.

Mr. Bloom was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1842, a son of Jacob and Julia (Bartholomew) Bloom, natives of the same state, where Jacob Bloom applied himself to farming and also followed the trade of wheelwright. He was a democrat in politics and for some years served in the capacity of justice of the peace, and he and his worthy wife were faithful members of the Lutheran Church. They became the parents of nine children, of whom three are living, one of whom is P. B. Bloom, a successful farmer in the Brady community.

William Bloom was educated in his native state and was still comparatively a young man when he migrated to Nebraska, first locating in Clay county and later, in 1886, moving to Lincoln county, where he secured a tree claim. This he developed into a valuable property, and continued to be engaged in farming and stockraising until his death, which occurred January 19, 1917. He made good improvements on his land, set out a small orchard, and in various ways evidenced that he was a good farmer and a progressive man. He was a democrat in his political tendencies, and was the holder of official positions for many years, having been justice of the peace of his precinct for a quarter of a century and treasurer of the school board for several years. His public record was clean and commendable, and his private life was an open book. He belongs to the Lutheran Church, of which his widow, who survives him as one of the highly esteemed ladies of her community, is a member and active worker.

Mr. Bloom married Miss Turie Hollenbach, who was born, reared

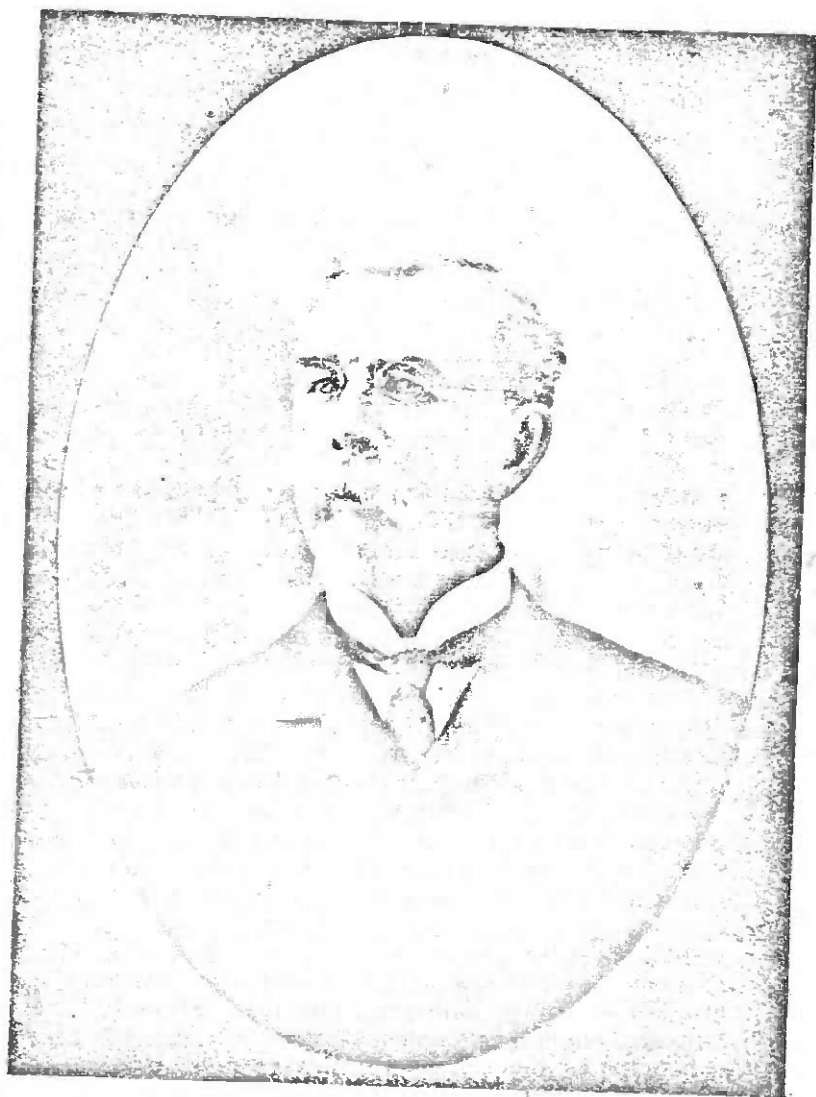
and educated in Pennsylvania, daughter of Paul and Mary Hoffenback, natives of that state, where they passed their lives and were greatly respected. Mrs. Bloom had been married previously to John Hepner, a native of Pennsylvania, and she had one daughter by her first marriage, Virginia, the wife of C. A. Spidle, at Kimball, Nebraska. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, Rollo W., who is operating the home place for his mother.

**JOHN W. MOORE.** The historic Prairie State has contributed many native sons to the upbuilding of Lincoln county, and their names appear among those who have maintained its best agricultural and business standards, as well as its best ideals of character and citizenship. In this connection mention is due John W. Moore, the owner of a valuable farm in section 23 in the Gothenburg community, whose earliest years were spent on a farm in LaSalle county, Illinois, where he was born in 1875, a son of Edwin and Sarah (Cottew) Moore, the former a native of England and the latter of Illinois.

Edwin Moore was a young man when he immigrated to the United States, where his first settlement was in LaSalle county, Illinois. There he married, bought land and settled down to a career in farming, but later was attached to Nebraska, and for a time lived at Otoe county. Later, in 1889, he moved to Dawson county, where he purchased a relinquishment, on which he proved up and continued to be engaged in farming and stockraising during the remainder of his life. He was a man of marked public spirit, giving his assistance to all worthy projects, and was one of the builders of the Gothenburg South Side Ditch. In politics he was independent. His widow, who survives him and resides on the old homestead, is one of the well-known ladies of her community and is a faithful member of the Baptist Church. Of their ten children seven are living: James, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; John W.; Flora, the wife of Charles Fink, of Kansas; Mary, the wife of Myron Anderson, a Dawson county farmer; and Charles, Joseph and Fred, all farmers of that county.

John W. Moore received a public school education in Nebraska and came from Dawson county to Lincoln county in 1900. Here he worked for the Ninety-six cattle outfit for a time, but eventually accumulated sufficient capital with which to purchase a farm, and to this he has added from time to time until he now owns 160 acres in his home farm and 640 acres in Dawson county, a highly cultivated and productive property. Mr. Moore's energies have been applied to general farming and stockraising, and he is accounted a capable and thoroughly informed agriculturist and an excellent judge of livestock. He has good improvements on his land, and everything pertaining to his estate suggests good management and a progressive spirit. Mr. Moore is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator at Gothenberg.

In 1899 Mr. Moore was united in marriage with Hannah E. Anderson, a daughter of Magnus Anderson, a native of Sweden, who homesteaded in Lincoln county in 1889 and subsequently became one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of his community, a man well liked and one who backed up good propositions for the general welfare. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Moore: Florence, Minnie, Fern F. and Virginia May, all at home with their parents. As to political allegiance Mr. Moore maintains democratic



*Lester Wacker*

principles, but has never been a seeker for preferment on his own account.

**MAJOR LEICESTER WALKER.** With a life time devoted to military tactics there have been few men who knew their country's history more intimately than did the late Major Leicester Walker of North Platte. He was born in Sandusky, Ohio, September 3, 1836, and died April 9, 1916, in North Platte, and by reason of his strength his days had been almost four score years in the world. For many years his life was spent in military duty, and he lived in many parts of the country.

On May 8, 1861, Leicester Walker was appointed second lieutenant in the Second United States Cavalry, and he joined his company in Washington, District of Columbia, in the same month. The company was garrisoned in the White House Building, but in June it was transferred south of the Potomac, where he did scout duty until July 18. On April 18th he was a member of Louis Frontier Guard of 100 men and was stationed in the White House to protect the president until April 27th when he was discharged. On July 18th the company was ordered to the front and he fought in the battle of Cub Run the same day. On July 21st the company engaged in the first battle of Bull Run, and from that time the regiment was stationed at Camp Clifford, Washington, District of Columbia, all through the winter of '61 and '62, and here on January 15, 1862, he was appointed first lieutenant of Company C, Fifth United States Cavalry, and remained in command during all the engagements from the Peninsular campaign to Yorktown and Williamsburg, having several days of hard fighting. He then took part in the second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain and Antietam.

During the winter of 1863 Lieutenant Walker was with the army near Falmouth, Virginia, doing scout and picket duty on the Rappahannock River. He was in the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, under General Burnside. At this time General Pleasanton was in command and Major Walker served on the staff as musterer and chief of ordnance. He was on General Meade's staff at the battle of Gettysburg. After serving in all of the battles of the Potomac Major Walker was transferred to the staff of General Sheridan as chief commissary of musterers and chief of ordnance. He remained with General Sheridan until they reached the James River, when he was sent to a hospital in Washington, suffering from an attack of pneumonia.

Major Walker was unable to join his command again until after the end of the Civil war. At the close of the war he was ordered to Charleston, South Carolina, with four companies, and from there to Columbia, South Carolina, by General Sickles. At this point he met with a serious accident, his team running away, and he suffered a broken ankle. He was laid up for some time on account of it. When he was ready for service again in 1866 he was placed in command of the post at Aiken, South Carolina, this post embracing districts in five states. He was head of the Freedman's Aid Bureau in his territory, and thus he had charge of all elections. He was again ordered west to fight the Indians, and was under command of General Sheridan again. They spent a winter in Kansas, Colorado and Texas.

In the spring of 1869, Major Walker marched with a command of 400 men from Fort Harker, Kansas, to Fort McPherson, Nebraska. He encountered Indians on the Republican River and other streams

all through that summer, and on July 1 he fought in the battle of Summit Springs, in which Chief Tall Bull was killed, and capturing many squaws and papooses. In 1870 Major Walker was located at North Platte in command of the post, with a company from the Ninth Infantry. They were detailed to scout duty protecting settlers and the Union Pacific Railway. On December 30, 1870, Major Walker resigned, and he spent the remainder of his life in North Platte.

While in military service Major Walker received two brevets for gallantry on the field of action: Brevet Captain and Brevet Major in the United States Army. He was also recommended for Brevet Lieutenant-General for gallantry in the battle of Summit Springs. While stationed at Aiken, South Carolina, Major Walker met and married Georgia Warren, a young woman from Georgia. She is a daughter of John and Sophia (Evans) Warren. The father came from Wales and the mother was a Georgian. Her father was a slave owner, and they were a prominent southern family living at Columbus, Georgia. For many years he was a merchant in Columbus. Mrs. Walker's brother, James W. Warren, was a prominent man in Georgia, serving as private secretary for the different governors for more than a quarter of a century.

This brother, who was thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the South, did not speak to Mrs. Walker for sixteen years after she married her Yankee husband, but she had no regret on account of her marriage relation. Their son, Leicester Warren Walker, was born August 26, 1868, at Aiken, South Carolina, and he was educated in North Platte and at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. He is an electrical engineer by profession, and followed the business until 1901, when he built the local electric light plant. He owned and operated it until February, 1914, when he sold out and has since then been a traveling salesman, having five states in his territory. He represents a number of manufacturers in the sale of all kinds of signs used as advertisements.

On September 9, 1909, L. W. Walker married Maude Dillon (see sketch of Isaac Dillon), and they have one daughter, Margaret. He is a member of the following fraternal orders: Free and Accepted Masons and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and usually casts his ballot with the democrats.

Miss May Walker died February 10, 1920, in North Platte. Major Walker was a prominent member of the local Grand Army of the Republic, and at the time of his death he was the post commander. He was an active member on the staff of the commander of the National Grand Army of the Republic, and always attended the encampments. He was also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Major Walker was a democrat, and his party honored him by electing him mayor of North Platte for two terms, and for many years he served on the board of Lincoln county commissioners. In 1871 he homesteaded near North Platte, when there were only about 200 people in the town. He organized the Walker Brothers Bank, the first savings bank in the county (see history of banks), and he later sold it to Charles McDonald. He also sold his old homestead—a ranch five miles north of the city, where he had raised cattle extensively. Major Walker bore the name of his father, Leicester Walker, who came from England.

**IRA WILSON.** The career of Ira Wilson, now one of the substantial farmers and stockraisers of Lincoln county, has been one in which he has triumphed over early disadvantages, made his own opportunities and emerged with the rewards which are given those who labor faithfully and live their lives honorably. He was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, January 30, 1856, a son of Elam and Emmeline (Haskel) Wilson, natives of the Empire State, where the mother died as an Adventist when her son was only one year old.

In New York Elam Wilson was a farmer and had a good property, but decided that there was a better opportunity for success in the West, and accordingly disposed of his eastern interests and removed to Todd county, Minnesota. Subsequently he moved to Drain, Oregon, where he bought land and engaged in fruit growing, but in his declining years came to Nebraska, where his death occurred at the home of his son in Lincoln county. He was a man of good qualities, a member of the Methodist Church, was a Mason, and in his political allegiance a republican. After his first wife's death he married Rosilla Gibbs, by whom he had one son, Watson, who is now deceased, and one daughter, Amy. By his first marriage he had but one son, Ira.

Ira Wilson was educated in New York State, where he grew to manhood, and at the age of twenty-five years came to Nebraska and in March, 1881, located in Dawson county, where he secured employment pulling wool from dead sheep on the sheep ranch of Kennedy & Platt. This work did not agree with his health, and he accordingly turned his attention to farming in Dawson county as a hand. After three years he went to Scottsbluff county, where for a like period he farmed and freighted, and by the end of that period had accumulated sufficient means to invest in a small property of his own. Through judicious investment, good management and hard work, he has increased his holdings to 280 acres, and at present is the owner of a valuable property, which boasts of modern improvements, and upon which he carries on successful general farming and stockraising operations. He is one of the substantial agriculturists of the Brady community, and a citizen of public spirit and general worth.

Mr. Wilson was married in 1885 to Miss Jennie Murphy, daughter of Benjamin Murphy, an early settler in Lincoln county, and they are the parents of three children: Sybil, who is deceased, and Iva M. and Bennie L., who reside with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the Methodist Church, while Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Rebekahs and Mr. Wilson of the local lodge of Odd Fellows. He maintains an independent stand in regard to political affairs.

**GEORGE A. BAILEY.** Belonging to that class of workers whose practical education, quick perceptions and great capacity for painstaking industry have advanced them to positions of business and agricultural prominence formerly occupied by men many years their senior, George A. Bailey, while representing the vigorous and resourceful present of the West, gives promise of participating in its more enlightened future, more especially in Lincoln county, where he is now carrying on extensive operations as a farmer and raiser of livestock.

Mr. Bailey was born in Wisconsin in 1884, a son of Jason and Anna (Orie) Bailey. His parents, who were farming people, went from Wisconsin to Colorado, where they spent some years, but eventually returned to Wisconsin, where the father is still making his

home, the mother having passed away there. George A. Bailey was but eight years of age when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he made his home with an uncle for six years, in the meantime obtaining his education in the public schools. He was still a youth of tender years when he started out on his own account, and as all of his training had been along agricultural lines, it was but natural that he should follow that avenue of endeavor. He was industrious and economical, working steadily and saving his wages, and thus finally became the possessor of sufficient capital to establish himself as a farmer and stockraiser on his own account. At this time he is the owner of a valuable property of 320 acres in section 5, township 11, range 26, which stands as a monument to his ability, industry, perseverance and good management. Here he has a country estate that is distinctive not only for its substantial buildings and other improvements, but for its productiveness. He has made a close study of the vocation to which he has devoted his life, and is conversant with the methods that combine to gain success in the extensive and interesting field of agriculture. Mr. Bailey carries on both general farming and stockraising, and has made a success in each, his cattle being of a high grade and his produce meeting with a ready and favorable market.

On January 10, 1906, Mr. Bailey was united in marriage with Miss Anna Johnson, who was born in Nebraska, a daughter of Olaf Johnson, one of the early settlers of Lincoln county, where he has passed an honorable and successful career as an agriculturist. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey: Ernest and Kenneth, who are attending the district school, and Anna and Lyle. Mr. Bailey is a popular and valued member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has numerous friends. As a voter he is independent in his tendencies, preferring not to be prejudiced by party influences in his selection of candidates for public office. His own connection with public affairs has been merely that of a good citizen, supporting constructive and beneficial measures and working for the welfare of his community.

**FRED PECKHAM.** A resident of Nebraska since the age of fourteen years, Fred Peckham's experiences in this community have included various phases of life in the country. During the earlier days he was a range-rider for some of the well-known outfits, but for a number of years has been devoting himself to farming and stockraising in Lincoln county, where he is the owner of a valuable property, and where the high regard in which he is held has led to his election to several positions of public trust and responsibility.

Mr. Peckham was born in Green county, Wisconsin, in 1865, a son of Halsey and Pauline (Paulina) Peckham, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. Halsey Peckham was a boy when he went to Wisconsin with his father, but after growing to manhood homesteaded a property, settled down, and was married. He made his home in Green county until 1879, when he answered the call of the West, traveling overland to Nebraska, where he took up the first homestead secured in Peckham Precinct, July 26, 1879. Like other early settlers, his original home was made of sod, and in this he lived while he was passing through the lean, hard years, in which the work of early development was slow and tedious. Later, however, he made good improvements, became one of the well-to-do men of his locality, and in 1900 disposed of his property at a

good figure and went to California, where he built a home and purchased a fruit farm. There his death occurred in 1906, his widow surviving him until 1917. Mr. Peckham was highly respected in his community as a man of sound integrity, good judgment and intelligence, and was called upon to act in several public capacities, at one time having been assessor of his precinct. In politics he always supported the candidates and principles of the republican party. He and his worthy and estimable wife were faithful members of the Methodist Church. They were the parents of two children: Charles, an electrician, who accompanied his parents to California and still makes his home there; and Fred.

Fred Peckham attended the public schools in Green county, Wisconsin, until he was fourteen years of age, at which time he accompanied his parents on their trip to Nebraska, and from that time forward he secured little education of a school character. It was not long ere his services were in demand as a rider of the range, and for some years he worked for the Ninety-six and Circle-Bar outfits and for the Pratt interests, but eventually he accumulated a stake which allowed him to start operations on his own account. He has been thrifty and industrious, and at the present time is the owner of 160 acres of good land, highly productive because of intelligent, modern treatment of the soil, and well improved with good buildings and modern equipment. He has a good grade of livestock and has been successful in both departments of his work.

In 1886 Mr. Peckham was married to Miss Adelaide Parsons, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of George W. Parsons, who located in Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1882, and is now a resident of Brady. Mrs. Peckham is a member of the Methodist Church and takes an active interest and part in its work. Mr. Peckham as a fraternalist belongs to the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is popular with his fellow-members in all three. A supporter of republican principles as to politics, he wields some influence in his community, and has not been too busy with his personal affairs to discharge the duties of citizenship, having served capably as assessor and as a member of the board of school directors for several years. His career has been one of earnest endeavor and honorable citizenship, and he is eminently deserving of the prosperity and esteem which have come as rewards to him.

LEO E. SCOTT. That agriculture can be made one of the most satisfying and agreeable occupations of human life, that industry, good judgment and perseverance transform one's dreams into realities, and that honesty and fairmindedness are among the most useful of human assets, are facts emphasized in the career of Leo E. Scott, who after several years spent in other pursuits returned to the vocations of the soil and is now one of the prominent men of his part of Lincoln county, being president of the High Line Short Horn Breeders' Association.

Mr. Scott was born at Neosho Falls, Kansas, in 1886, a son of George B. and Selina (Marcott) Scott, the former born in Illinois and the latter in Canada. Mr. Scott was but a lad when he was brought by his parents from Kansas to Nebraska, the family settling in the rural district of Lincoln county, where the youth acquired his education in the district schools and at the Brady High School. Also he attended Boyle's College at Omaha, a commercial institu-



tion, and when he had completed the course there was employed by a wagoner for a time. Subsequently he gave his services to the M. C. Keen Motor Car Company, for which concern he did office work, but neither of these employments proved congenial, nor could he see ahead his goal for desirable success. About this time Mr. Scott was married to Miss Jennie Stout, also a native of Kansas, and, following their union, moved to Lincoln county, where Mr. Scott became associated in a partnership with his father. From that time to the present he has been engaged in farming and stockraising, and has made a speciality of pure-blooded Poland-China hogs and pure-bred Short-horn cattle. He is accounted one of the authorities upon the subject of cattle raising, and his advice is frequently sought by his associates in the business. The high esteem in which he is held by those who know him for his knowledge of the subject is evidenced in the fact that he has been elected vice president of the High Line Short Horn Breeders' Association several times, and holds the position of president at the present time.

As a citizen Mr. Scott has been a consistent supporter of constructive and beneficial measures, and his co-operation has imparted strength and substantiality to all undertakings in which his strength and ability have been enlisted. As a fraternalist he holds membership in the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America at Brady, and is also affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus. In politics he adheres to the principles of the democratic party, whose candidates he has staunchly supported since the time he cast his first vote. Both he and Mrs. Scott are devout members of the Catholic Church. They are the parents of two children: Itha Irene, who resides with her parents at the comfortable farm home in section 7, near Brady; and Howard G.

**EUGENE E. ATKINSON.** The grotesque appearing farmer with whom the comic artist has made us familiar has gone out of style in Nebraska, if, indeed, he ever existed, and in his place we find a man who appears well, thinks well, is informed on current events and has that sincere desire to elevate himself to the top notch of his calling which cannot fail to secure him some measure of success. He is robust and intelligent and commands respect and attention wherever he goes. To this class belongs Eugene E. Atkinson, a representative of the second generation of his family in Lincoln county, and the owner of 800 acres of good land.

Eugene E. Atkinson was born at Albany, Green county, Wisconsin, in 1877, a son of William and Emma (Francis) Atkinson, natives of England. The parents were farming people in Wisconsin for a number of years, and on first migrating to Nebraska settled in the eastern part of the state, but later took up a homestead in Lincoln county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. They were Adventists in religion and were people who were greatly respected because of their admirable qualities. William Atkinson was an independent voter. In the family there were five children: Robert, who is engaged in farming in Canada; Eugene E.; Ray, who follows farming in Lincoln county; Charles, who is associated with his brother Eugene; and Gertrude, the wife of Dick Craig, a farmer of Lincoln county.

Eugene E. Atkinson was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin and accompanied his parents to Lincoln county in early manhood. For a time he worked with his father on the homestead, and then left the parental roof and gave his services to other farmers for

a monthly wage. He was industrious and energetic, and, being ambitious, carefully saved a goodly part of his earnings, eventually placing himself in a position where he could become proprietor of a property of his own. From this small beginning he has built up a large estate, and at this time has 800 acres of land. He was forced to go slowly at the start, but as the years have passed his operations have increased in volume, value and effectiveness, and he is now accounted one of the large farmers and extensive cattle raisers of his part of the county, having a good grade of livestock, including some pure-blooded Chester White hogs. His improvements are modern and substantial, and his property shows in every way that good management is at the helm of his agricultural craft.

Mr. Atkinson was married in 1906 to Miss Marie Anderson, who was born on the property now owned by her husband, a daughter of August Anderson, who was one of the early settlers of Lincoln county. To this union there have been born two children: Clifford and Russell, both of whom are attending the district school. Like his father, Mr. Atkinson maintains an independent position in regard to politics, voting rather for the man than for the party. He and Mrs. Atkinson are Adventists in religion, and have done much to support the movements of their church as well as the institutions of education and good citizenship.

**T. LOGAN MARCOTT.** Among the younger representatives of the farming element of Lincoln county few have made more substantial progress since reaching years of maturity than has the gentleman whose name furnishes the caption for this personal record. His entire career has been passed in Lincoln county, where the family has been known from pioneer times, a complete history of the Marcotts being found in the review of Thomas Marcott elsewhere in this work.

T. Logan Marcott was born on the old homestead place of his father in Lincoln county in 1895, a son of Thomas and Ruby (Atkinson) Marcott. As a youth he divided his time between assisting his father and attending the district schools, where he secured an ordinary literary training, and when he reached his majority he was prepared in body and mind to compete with those who were already established in the ownership of properties. For some time Mr. Marcott worked as a hand by the month, but his ambition and determination finally led him into the ownership of a property of his own, to the cultivation and development of which he has since applied his best energies. His efforts have proved uniformly successful, and his property is now considered one of the valuable ones of the community of Brady, where it is located in section 12, township 11, range 27. For the most part the fundamental improvements on this estate were installed by Mr. Marcott's father, but the son has also been active in this direction and has added numerous labor-saving devices, etc. He does a good business in the line of general farming, raising all the standard crops of the region and finding a ready and profitable market for his products. As a stockraiser he has also found a remunerative and receptive market, and his cattle and hogs invariably have brought top prices, one of his chief lines of income being the feeding of stock for the big markets.

In 1916 Mr. Marcott was united in marriage with Miss Jean Worden, who, like her husband, is a native of Nebraska, having been born at the town of Wymore, Nebraska. She taught school before her marriage in the little community of Cozad. Mr. and Mrs.

Marcott are the parents of two children, a little daughter, Ruth M., and a son, Robert W. Mrs. Marcott is a devout member of the Methodist Church, in the work of which she takes an interest and active part, while her husband is a supporter of all worthy causes, although not a professed member of any religious denomination. He has not been inclined to allow himself to be swayed as to political sentiment by either of the large parties, and is still independent in his choice of candidates, being convinced that better results are attained when candidates are chosen for their own personal worth rather than because of their allegiance with a certain organization.

**OLAF JOHNSON.** Forty-three years of association with the agricultural interests of Lincoln county established for the late Olaf Johnson a reputation for ability, resource and unflagging industry. He was one of the captains of success who have piloted their own craft to harbor. In his many varieties of experience he won the confidence of his fellow-men, and out of all his struggles evolved the firm belief that hard work rarely injures anyone and that honesty always pays.

Mr. Johnson was born in Norway, March 2, 1857, and came to Lincoln county in 1871. For several years he conducted a tailor shop, but later took up a homestead, which is still occupied by his sons. He was married January 4, 1876, at North Platte, to Christina Sorenson, who was born in Denmark and died in Lincoln county October 31, 1917. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom eight are living: John, who is engaged in farming near Gothenburg; Harry S., a locomotive engineer on the Union Pacific Railroad, who resides at North Platte; Mayme V., the wife of Charles Lierk, the owner of a flour mill at North Platte; Louisa, the wife of Walford Larson, a farmer near Gothenburg; Anna, the wife of George Bailey, a Lincoln county farmer; Ben Leif, and Ray, who are carrying on operations on the old homestead, and Mary, Milton and Harry, who are deceased.

Olaf Johnson was one of the first settlers of Gaslin precinct, and was a man of some influence in his community, where he served as postmaster for several years. Likewise he served as assessor and road overseer, and did much to advance his locality in various ways, being a friend of progress, education and good citizenship. His political tendencies made him a republican. At the time of his settlement he built a sod house, which was his home for some years, but later this was replaced by a more comfortable and commodious home, and gradually he inaugurated other good improvements which added to the value and attractiveness of his property. He was successful as a general farmer, for he made a study of his vocation and was always industrious and a good manager, and likewise secured good results in raising a high grade of livestock. He was a man universally respected, and when he died, September 6, 1914, his community lost a good citizen and he was mourned by a wide circle of friends.

Ben Johnson, son of Olaf, enlisted in the United States Army at North Platte, July 25, 1918, and was sent to Camp Dodge, where he was assigned to Motor Transport Corps Company No. 310. He was next sent to Camp Jessup, Georgia, and then went overseas, later being with the Army of Occupation in Germany. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Dodge September 23, 1919, and since that time has been associated with his two brothers in carrying on the work of cultivating the home farm.

**ROBERT HOATSON.** In compiling this volume of representative citizens of Lincoln county occasion has been afforded to give the records of men in many walks of life. Here will be found appropriate mention of worthy citizens of all vocations and at this juncture we are permitted to offer a resume of the career of one of the enterprising and successful agriculturists of the county, Robert Hoatson, whose splendid farm is located in section 5, township 14, range 32, where he has attained a high degree of success in his chosen field of labor and enterprise.

Robert Hoatson was born in Michigan on March 15, 1867, and is the son of John and Christina Hoatson, who are referred to specifically in the sketch of Adam Hoatson, which appear elsewhere in this work. When Mr. Hoatson was but seven years old the family moved to Thayer county, Nebraska, where he was reared to manhood. During his youth conditions were such that he was not permitted to attend school as much as he would like to have done, and when still a boy he was doing a man's work as a farmer. He remained in that locality and was identified with agricultural pursuits until 1906, when he came to Lincoln county and bought land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his every energy. He was successful and has bought additional land until now he is the owner of five sections, or 3,200 acres, of excellent land. While this would ordinarily be considered a typical cattle ranch, and probably would be so used by many men, Mr. Hoatson has put much of it under the plow and has raised some very fine crops. Last year he produced 14,000 bushels of fine corn, as well as other grains. He also gives some attention to the raising of cattle, preferring the white faced breed exclusively. Through his persistent and well-directed industry he has achieved a noteworthy success and is numbered among the enterprising and progressive farmers of Lincoln county.

In 1891 Mr. Hoatson was married to Lizzie Getz, a native of Illinois, and they are the parents of six children, namely: John, who lives in McPherson county, Nebraska; William, of Lincoln county; Thomas, Christina, David and Beatrice, who remain at home. Mr. Hoatson is a republican in his political views and takes an intelligent interest in public affairs, especially as affecting the community in which he lives, standing ever ready to give his hearty support to every movement for the advancement of the people's welfare, and therefore he enjoys the confidence and esteem of all classes.

**D. E. MARTIN.** A worthy representative of that type of American farmer who may properly be termed "progressive," the character which promotes public good while advancing individual prosperity, is the gentleman whose name forms the caption to this sketch, and whose splendid farm is located in section 36, township 15, range 33. For a number of years he has been prominently identified with the farming and stock raising interests of this community, and is numbered among the leading men of his section of the county.

D. E. Martin was born in Illinois on July 15, 1868, and is the son of William and Hannah (Kirk) Martin, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The father was a farmer during all of his active years, and was an early settler in Illinois. At the outbreak of the Civil war he offered his services to his country and was one of its valiant defenders. He is now living in Iowa, to which state he moved in the fall of 1868. His wife died some years ago. They were the parents of seven children. Though born in Illinois, the subject of this sketch received his education in Iowa, to which state the family

moved when he was but two months old. He was reared to the life of a farmer and has wisely never forsaken that vocation. He remained in Iowa until 1897, when he moved to Holt county, Nebraska, where he remained for a time, going from there to Madison county, Nebraska, and thence in 1906 to Lincoln county, where he has since remained. On his arrival here he bought 2,240 acres of land, on which he engaged in the cattle business. He has been successful, but has since reduced his land holdings until he now owns 800 acres. This land is well situated and finely adapted to the purposes for which it is used. Mr. Martin is a good manager and has achieved a distinct success since coming to this county, gaining a good reputation as an energetic, persistent and successful business man.

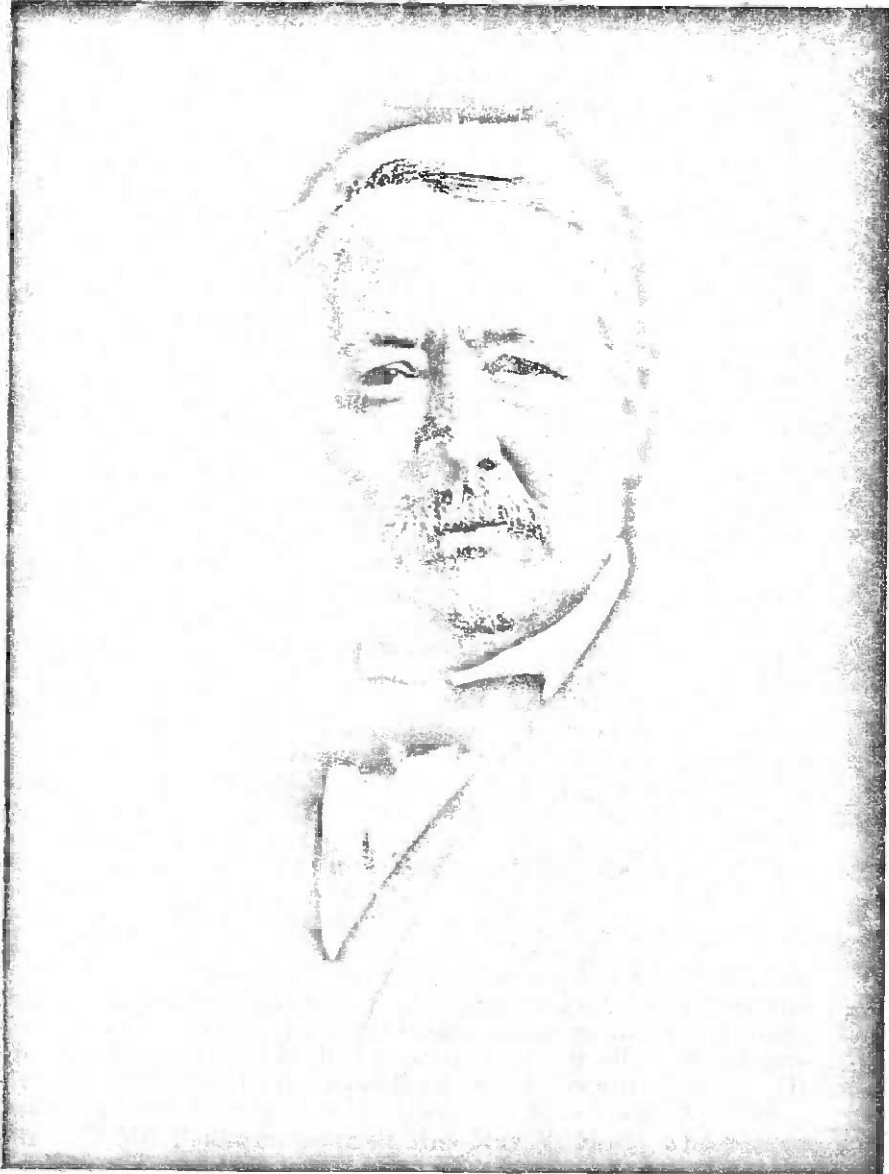
Mr. Martin was married on November 6, 1894, to Nora Ewart, who was born in Iowa, and they have become the parents of four children, Delbert, Otho, Paul and Gladys. Paul enlisted in the United States Army during the recent World war, was sent to France as a member of the Fourth Division, and was killed in battle on September 30, 1918, during the Argonne drive.

Mr. Martin is a republican in his political faith and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has ever enjoyed the respect and esteem of those who know him for his friendly manner, business ability, his interest in public affairs and upright living, and he is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of his section of the county.

THOMAS C. PATTERSON is one of the names deserving of most frequent repetition in connection with the history of North Platte during a period of more than half a century. "Seest thou a man diligent at his business; he shall stand before kings." Diligence seems to have been the keynote in the career of Mr. Patterson. There has never been a time in the past fifty years when he has not been engaged in some line of useful service, and much of it in behalf of the community. His is a rare instance of a man achieving individual prosperity after passing the prime of his years.

Mr. Patterson was born in County Down, Ireland, February 3, 1846. His parents, W. J. and Mary (Cartright) Patterson, brought their family to the United States in 1854. After a brief residence at Paterson, New Jersey, they moved to Chicago. W. J. Patterson was a blacksmith by trade, and made that occupation a life-long pursuit. From Chicago the parents came to North Platte, Nebraska, in 1868, and W. J. Patterson continued work at his trade practically to the end of his life. He died in 1909 and his wife in 1913.

Thomas C. Patterson had met the test of patriotic manhood before he came to North Platte. He acquired most of his education in the grammar schools of Chicago. In 1862, when sixteen years of age, he enlisted in Company E of the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry. He was with that regiment twenty months, and for twelve months served with Battery B, First Illinois Light Artillery. He is one of the few surviving veterans of the Union Army who saw much of the strenuous fighting of the war. He was in the Tullahoma campaign with the Army of the Cumberland, also participated in the Atlanta campaign, and afterward fought in the battles of Nashville and Franklin. He performed the full duty of a brave and faithful soldier until his honorable discharge.



Thos C. Patterson

After the war Mr. Patterson returned to Chicago and for several years conducted a book and stationery store. In 1868, on coming to North Platte, he entered the service of the Union Pacific Railway as fireman, and is now one of the oldest ex-employees of that road living at North Platte. After a brief service as fireman he went into the shops, and worked there a little over a year. Among the many interesting distinctions belonging to the career of Mr. Patterson is that he taught school in the original log school building on the site of the new city. He was a teacher for one year and in 1871 was appointed and began a long period of service as postmaster. He held the office until 1882, and from 1873 to 1877 also conducted a general merchandise store. While in the postoffice he was studying law, was admitted to the bar in 1882, and began practice immediately after he surrendered his duties to the Government. Mr. Patterson was actively engaged in law practice until 1907, and earned a high place for himself in the Lincoln county bar.

His next work after leaving the law was in the real estate business with Mr. Buchanan. Their associations had begun in 1890 and continued with mutual profit and satisfaction until January, 1919.

At present Mr. Patterson devotes most of his time to the Mutual Loan Association of North Platte. His part in developing this institution is a distinction that alone would be sufficient to satisfy the business ambitions of most men. He helped organize the Association in 1887, and has been the first and only president. This is one of the oldest organizations of the kind in western Nebraska, and is the largest in resources and in the great aggregate of good it has performed. The Association now has total resources of over \$1,100,000, and its loans total more than \$1,000,000.

While Mr. Patterson is considered one of the wealthy men of Lincoln county, for many years he was just one of the humble and hard working citizens and enjoyed no particular advantages over his neighbors. It is said that when he was sixty years of age his personal resources would not have permitted him to raise \$10,000. His present prosperity is largely a reflection of the great increase in wealth that has come to this western country. For many years he judiciously invested in lands, developed farms, and until recently owned five farms, not one of them with the incumbrance of a mortgage. During 1919 he sold his farming property, realizing nearly \$100,000 for it. Besides his position as president of the Building and Loan Association he is still doing a general farm loan business, but after fifty years of hard work he is quite ready to accept classification as a retired business man.

Mr. Patterson has enjoyed many honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. He is commander of S. A. Douglas Post No. 69, Grand Army of the Republic. He served three terms as mayor of North Platte. In two elections he had no opposition for office, being generally supported by both the republican and democratic parties. He is himself a republican, and is affiliated with Elks Lodge No. 985.

In 1869 Mr. Patterson married Miss May V. Moris, who became the mother of two children. The daughter Ruth was educated in the North Platte High School and is now a teacher at Omaha. The only son of this union, George Thomas Patterson, earned distinction as a soldier. He was a graduate of the West Point Military Academy and attained the rank of colonel in the Regular Army. He died while still in the service at Fort Constitution, New Hampshire, in August, 1918.

For his second wife Mr. Patterson married in 1884 Mary Trumble

Bradley. Five children were born to their marriage and four died in infancy. The only living daughter is Edith, now at home. She is a graduate of the Nebraska State University, and was a teacher for several terms.

**HENRY REAM.** One of the well remembered and highly esteemed citizens of Lincoln county, who performed well his allotted task and then fell serenely into that sleep which wakes not to toil, leaving behind him a rich heritage in a good reputation and an honored name, was Henry Ream, whose well improved farm is located in section 20, township 14, range 31. He was of that type of man who commanded respect because of the force of his character, and he died secure in the respect and esteem of all who knew him.

Henry Ream was born in Pennsylvania on May 16, 1836, and lived there until he was twelve years of age, when the family moved to Indiana. On attaining maturity he engaged in farming pursuits, which he followed there until 1878, when he moved to Saline county, Nebraska. He remained there, engaging in agricultural pursuits, for twenty-four years, or until 1902, when he moved to Frontier county, Nebraska, where he remained three years, then moving, in 1905, to Lincoln county, where his sons and daughter Anna bought the farm and he lived with them and devoted himself to farming and stock raising until his death, which occurred in May, 1917. He was a good farmer, progressive and industrious, and enjoyed a most excellent reputation in his locality.

Mr. Ream married Mary Ann Waymire, and their union was blessed with fourteen children, ten of whom are still living, namely: John, who lives in Portland, Oregon; Elizabeth, the wife of Allen Moore, of Lincoln county; Ella, the wife of A. S. Gardner, of Arapaho, Nebraska; Robert W.; Edward B., who with his twin brother Robert W. live on the home farm, where they conduct general farming and stock raising, and they were born on September 27, 1868; Samuel lives in Grand Island, Nebraska; Anna, Charles and Hattie live on the home farm; and George lives in Hershey. The father was a democrat in his political views and took a deep interest in public affairs, though he did not take an active part. He stood "four square to every wind that blows," his support being ever on the side of morality and high standards of living, and his example is worthy of emulation.

**G. WALTER RECKARD.** One of the sons of Iowa who have come to Lincoln county and achieved success as farmers and stock raisers is he whose name forms the caption to this paragraph. Through his industry and right living he has become well established here and is numbered among the enterprising and successful agriculturists of this locality.

G. Walter Reckard was born in Iowa on December 29, 1878, and is the son of Charles A. and Mary (Poor) Reckard, the former of whom is a native of Iowa and the latter of Pennsylvania. The subject was the only child of these parents. The father has been a life-long farmer, and still lives on the old homestead in Iowa, where he has been successful in his vocation. The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of his home community. He, too, followed agricultural pursuits in his home community until 1903, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and for a time was employed in railroad work. Later he resumed farming, and is still so engaged. He follows





a diversified system of agricultural, raising all the crops common to this locality and has been successful in his operation. He has made substantial improvements on his place, the general appearance of the farm reflecting credit on its owner.

In 1906 Mr. Reckard was married to Hattie Coolidge, a native of Lincoln county and the daughter of Albert and Delia A. Coolidge, and they are the parents of one child, Clayton, who is at home. In politics Mr. Reckard is independent, and he is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. The splendid success which has come to him is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder, which he has mounted unaided, and therefore richly deserves the confidence and esteem which are so freely accorded to him throughout this community.

IRA L. BARE, who is one of the editors of this History of Lincoln County, has been prominently identified with the life and affairs of North Platte and vicinity for over thirty-five years. Mr. Bare is, as everyone in Lincoln county knows, editor and publisher of the Semi-Weekly Tribune.

He was born in 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 Mr. Bare bought a half interest in the paper. That was the beginning of his active association with newspapers and with the people of Lincoln county. From the first he has been editor of the paper and since 1901 has been sole proprietor. Mr. Bare married in 1887 Mollie Thompson, of Pennsylvania, and of their children one son and one daughter are living.

Mr. Bare has always had a high sense of his responsibilities as a newspaper editor and publisher. The Tribune has always been republican in politics and has been influential in promoting the welfare of the party, though the pre-eminent object in the mind of the editor has been the welfare and advancement of North Platte and Lincoln county. Every substantial improvement affecting them have had the earnest advocacy of the Tribune. The force of its influence has again and again been used to improve local school advantages. The Tribune has also taken just attitude toward business institutions, and the confidence in its editorial policy is well indicated by the fact that it enjoys one of the largest circulations of any paper in Western Nebraska.

ISAAC DILLON was one of the most constructive figures in the business and industrial affairs of Western Nebraska for many years.

He was born in Wisconsin October 14, 1845, and died at his home in North Platte July 11, 1910. His father, James Dillon, was a native of New York state, was an early settler in Wisconsin, and later lived in Iowa. James Dillon was a brother of Sidney Dillon, who twice served as president of the Union Pacific Railway.

Isaac Dillon received his education near Davenport, Iowa, and when about twenty-two years of age went to New York and engaged in railroad construction work. He followed that in New Jersey and Connecticut, two years on Long Island, and in New York City had charge of some important contracts for the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad.

From New York he came to North Platte in April, 1877. In Western Nebraska his interests were chiefly ranching and stock rais-

ing. He bought the interests of M. C. Keith in the firm of Keith & Barton, and in 1882 the firm changed to Dillon & Collins. Owing to the invasion of homesteaders the firm had to restrict its extensive operations as cattlemen, and eventually moved their herds to Northern Wyoming, in the Powder River region, about 1884, where the business was finally closed out.

Throughout his residence at North Platte Isaac Dillon became widely known as a horseman. He owned some splendid specimens of racing stock and took the greatest pride in their handling and training. He also foresaw a great future for the mule industry and brought to his ranch at Birdwood one of the finest jacks found in Missouri. He was also interested in real estate, and at the time of his death owned about eighteen hundred acres, more than a third of which is in the best part of the valley, near North Platte. For some years he was president of the North Platte Land and Water Company, the first irrigation enterprise in Western Nebraska, and in 1893 he and the late Col. W. F. Cody built the canal bearing their name and completing it down the north line of the City of North Platte made it more than a private enterprise, in fact a boon to a large community.

During his thirty-three years residence in North Platte Isaac Dillon proved a man of integrity, one whose word was as good as his bond, with a kind disposition that made him never hesitate to help those in need, his cheerful disposition bringing sunshine to others, and a citizen from whom radiated a constant light and warmth and spirit of helpfulness.

Mr. Dillon married in Connecticut June 25, 1870, Miss Nancy Hull, of Newtown, Connecticut, daughter of Loren and Hanna (Tongue) Hull. Her parents were natives of Connecticut, and the Hulls are of Mayflower stock. Mr. and Mrs. Dillon had four children: Grace, who died in infancy; Sidney, a graduate of Yale University and a civil engineer by profession, died in North Platte in 1913, at the age of thirty-six; Maude, wife of L. W. Walker; and Ethel, wife of Donald Goodwill, a wealthy planter in Louisiana.

**WILLIAM C. ELDER.** Among the prominent citizens whom North Platte has been called upon to mourn within the past few years, none are more missed than he whose name appears above, his services as clerk of the District Court and as a judge, and his record as a man and a citizen being eminently worthy of recognition and praise along with the achievements of those who have labored in other fields of endeavor. A native of Pennsylvania, William C. Elder was born in Indiana county in September, 1845, and as a lad of eight years accompanied his parents to Green county, Iowa, where he grew to man's estate.

During the Civil war Mr. Elder served bravely as a member of Company C, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry. Making his first trip to Nebraska in 1880, he took up a timber claim, and later settled there with his family. In 1881 he came to Lincoln county, and lived for a year on a place owned by I. B. Bostwick, it having been located about two miles east of the present site of Wellfleet. The following year Mr. Elder took up a homestead claim situated two miles west of Wellfleet, and there resided until 1889.

Having been elected clerk of the district court in 1889, Mr. Elder held the office until January, 1904, performing the duties devolving upon him ably and faithfully. In November, 1904, he was elected county judge, an honorable position which he conscientiously

and satisfactorily filled until his death, March 6, 1911. Mr. Elder was twice married. His first wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Rinehart, died in 1893. He subsequently married Mrs. Mary H. Clark, a widow, with six daughters and one son. Mr. Elder is survived by his widow, seven step-children, and children of his own as follows: O. E., a prominent abstractor of North Platte; Mrs. Guy Boyer, of St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Rose Starkey, of Buffalo, Wyoming; and Mrs. Fannie Short, of Omaha.

The following resolution was passed by the bar of Lincoln county at the time of Mr. Elder's death, and spread upon the county records:

Honorable W. C. Elder served fourteen years as clerk of the District Court of Lincoln county, where by close application and vigorous attention to duty he became a valuable auxiliary to the bench and bar, no labor being too great or detail too small to receive his careful and painstaking attention. After his long service as clerk of the District Court of this county, his ability, his untiring devotion to duty, and his strict integrity being well recognized by the bar and the public at large caused him to be elected county judge in this county, where he presided with justness and fairness to all. The estate of a poor man received the same painstaking attention as that of the rich, and the rights of the infant and the widow, of the rich and the poor, were alike given every legal and proper attention, with the result that throughout the length and breadth of this large county Judge Elder's reputation for fairness, integrity and honesty of purpose was second to that of no man residing therein. In dealing with the erring and unfortunate his big heart, noble purpose and vast knowledge of human nature put into practice the best and foremost methods of our advanced theories.

Judge Elder's self-imposed daily task was to administer to the poor, the afflicted, and to the man who was down and out. Many a shipwrecked hulk of humanity left his presence feeling that if there were more men of Judge Elder's kind heart in the world life for him would not be such a tragedy. He was not a practicing attorney, although amply qualified for admission. His ability was second to none in our county. His early training as a soldier taught him that orders and decrees were made and obeyed, a fact that he impressed upon attorney and litigant alike. His influence as a public servant, his great influence for good, and last, but not least, his untiring work for the weak gave him first place as a worthy and beloved citizen of our county.

**BEACH ISAAC HINMAN.** The late Beach Isaac Hinman, lawyer and philanthropist of North Platte, was born May 23, 1827, in Wysox, Pennsylvania. He died September 10, 1905, in North Platte. The following sketch of him appeared recently in an Encyclopedia of Biography.

Beach Isaac Hinman was a son of Abner Curtis and Augusta E. (York) Hinman. His earliest paternal ancestor was one of two brothers who came from England in the early part of the seventeenth century and settled in Connecticut the line of descent being traced through several generations to John Hinman of Connecticut, who became a pioneer settler at Towanda, Pennsylvania, and was the grandfather of B. I. Hinman. The founder of the family in America had been one of Cromwell's bodyguards, and on the maternal side the ancestry is traced to the House of York.

In the eighteenth century Amos York, the maternal grandfather, was taken prisoner by the British and Indians in 1778, and later he

was ransomed and returned to Philadelphia, soon after the Wyoming massacre. Abner Curtis, father of B. I. Hinman, was a farmer, and the son became a student at Towanda Academy and Franklin University in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. At the age of nineteen he was sent by the president of the institution to teach a school at Lewisberg, Pennsylvania, and while thus employed he devoted his spare time to the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania in 1857, and in that year he began the practice of law in Minnesota.

During the years 1860 and 1862 Mr. Hinman was associated with his brother Washington M. Hinman on his ranch near the present site of North Platte. In 1862 he resumed the practice of law in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and two years later he went to Montana, where he was engaged in mining until 1868, when he returned to Nebraska, and upon the founding of North Platte in 1869 he became a citizen of Lincoln county. For a year he engaged in mercantile pursuits and then resumed the practice of law as the community developed, and until 1890 he remained in the active practice of his profession.

As a lawyer Mr. Hinman gained a wide acquaintance and established an enviable reputation for his integrity and faithful devotion to the interests of a large clientele. He was counsel in the defense of thirty-five different homicide cases, and only two were given the death sentence, and upon appeal to a higher court one decision was reversed and the defendant was acquitted and the other was found guilty of manslaughter. Among the most famous of these cases was that of Manning, who was charged with killing his sister. Mr. Hinman defended Manning and secured his release, and although the judge of the court and others complimented him on the able way in which he handled the case, a mob gathered and threatened to lynch him. When a wealthy cattle man was tried for murder at Hastings, a mob gathered for the purpose of lynching both the prisoner and Mr. Hinman, but with his associates he withstood the attempt and secured the freedom of his client.

Mr. Hinman was delegate to the Nebraska Constitutional Convention in 1871, and again in 1875, and he was a member of the State Senate of 1877, being elected on the democratic ticket from a strong republican district. In 1884 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention when Grover Cleveland was nominated, and Mr. Hinman was twice a candidate for district judge. He was widely known for his philanthropic spirit, it being his method to assist the poor to help themselves. His plan was to help them to own their own homes, and with this idea in mind he platted a large tract into small parcels and allowed families to acquire homes on small advance payments, thus enabling them to pay for property instead of paying rentals.

Mr. Hinman was a communicant in the Presbyterian church and he found his chief recreation in traveling and in hunting. He held memberships in a number of fraternal associations. Mr. Hinman married Sarah E. Minshall November 2, 1869, at Plattsmouth. She is a daughter of James Minshall, who was born in Norwalk, Ohio, February 15, 1839. She was educated in Ohio and went to Plattsmouth in 1857 with her father, who was a merchant. She came to North Platte immediately after marriage and moved out to the homestead that adjoins the town of North Platte. With three children she survives him. Curtis Hinman is a stockman of North Platte; Cora H. is now deceased, and Minor is an automobile sales-

man. He is located in Kansas City. Mrs. Hinman lives with the family of her son Curtis Hinman, in the old Hinman homestead where she has lived for fifty-one years. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

**GEORGE E. SULLIVAN.** It is a remarkable fact that the majority of the agriculturists of Lincoln county have recognized the importance of breeding up their grade of cattle and other livestock. In earlier years the idea prevailed that almost any kind was good enough, and the pioneers in the "better livestock movement" had to contend with much before they convinced the average man that in spite of the heavier initial expense it was good economy to raise none but high grades. Now it is the exception to find any inferior stock on the farms of this county, and the profits of the farmers have been correspondingly increased. One of these modern and capable agriculturists who has made a success of his undertakings is George E. Sullivan of section 24, township 14, range 32, west.

George E. Sullivan was born in Green county, Wisconsin, May 20, 1856, and is a son of David and Jane (Doty) Sullivan, natives of New York state, both of whom are now deceased. The father, after being engaged in farming in his native state for some years, migrated west to Wisconsin and homesteaded in the timber of Green county. There was so heavy a growth on his land that he had to do considerable clearing before he could put in a crop. At last he managed to get his land under cultivation and devoted it to a general line of crops and stock raising. He was also a business man and freighted between Green county and Milwaukee for some time during the period antedating the construction of the railroad.

The children born to David Sullivan and his wife were as follows: Henrietta, who is the widow of Edward Ellis, lives in Kansas; Caroline, who is also a resident of Kansas; William H., who is a prosperous farmer of Kansas; George E., whose name heads this review; and Oscar, who is also engaged in farming in Kansas. David Sullivan was a republican in his political views, but did not care to do more than exert his right of suffrage. Both he and his wife early connected themselves with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and continued enthusiastic workers in it the remainder of their lives. While not highly educated people, never having risen above the common schools, they were practical, and their sound common sense guided them and the kindly natures prompted them, so that their lives were filled with good deeds and successful industry.

George E. Sullivan grew up in Wisconsin amid pioneer conditions and learned the value of work properly carried on. He attended the local schools and learned lessons in industry and thrift as well as Christian living at home. Coming to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1885, he secured a relinquishment claim, and still resides on the farm he thus obtained. His farming is directed toward the raising of a mixed crop, and his stock ventures are profitable and he is constantly raising the grade.

In 1889 Mr. Sullivan was married at Paxton, Nebraska, to Kate Layton, born in Wisconsin. She died August 18, 1904. The children born of this marriage are as follows: Charles V., who is at home; Morris Hartley, who is at home; an unnamed infant now deceased, and Clarence E., who is also at home. By inheritance and conviction Mr. Sullivan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and his wife belongs to the same religious faith. He is a member of the Loyal Mystic Legion of America. In every respect Mr. Sullivan

measures up to the highest standards of American citizenship, and his influence is directed toward constructive work in his community.

PATRICK H. SULLIVAN, a retired business man of North Platte and a justice of the peace, is one of the substantial men of Lincoln county, and one who is held in the highest esteem of all over this section. He was born in Hinsdale, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, on March 9, 1842, a son of John and Johanna (Lynch) Sullivan, both natives of Ireland. They came to the United States in the '30s, he arriving here first, and after he had made a home for them, sent for his family, then comprising his wife and two children, who were born in Ireland. Owing to being wrecked on the shores of Newfoundland, his wife was three months on the trip to him, and while detained in Newfoundland, earned money for current expenses by helping the fishermen mend their nets, and made a needle for her own use which was such an improvement on their own that the fishermen adopted her method. John Sullivan was a blaster, and worked as such on the Boston & Albany Railroad while it was in process of construction, and died at Richmond, Virginia, in 1854, his widow surviving him for many years, not dying until she was ninety years of age. They were Catholics in religious belief, and he was a democrat in politics. Of the ten children three now survive, namely: Catherine, who married Thomas Moore, is now a widow and lives at Richmond, Virginia; Patrick H., whose name heads this review, and Daniel, who is a cooper of Brooklyn, New York. The eldest sister, Mary Ferriter, died in February, 1917, when eighty-nine years of age, at Richmond, Virginia.

Patrick H. Sullivan was educated at Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, until he was twelve years old, at which time he left the place and began learning the trade of coopering and worked at it in a barrel factory. He was also engaged in the cooperage business at Richmond, Virginia, for a time, but left the South for Washington, District of Columbia, and worked in the National Hotel of that city. It was while he was in Washington, during 1865, that he was married to Catheryne T. Highland, who died on January 27, 1911, having borne him twelve children, six of whom survive, namely: John M., who was foreman in the Union Pacific Railroad shops at North Platte for some time, is now master mechanic in a smelter at East Helena, Montana; Mary E., who married Joseph L. Roddy, of North Platte, who was an engineer, is now a watchman; Ella G., who married J. H. G. Chamberlain, of Denver, Colorado, a passenger brakeman; Edna M., who is living at home, works for the Tribune, and was secretary for the local exemption board during the World war, is correspondent for the Bee and World-Herald, of Omaha, Nebraska, and is a graduate of the North Platte High School; Alice, who married Homer Mussleman, of Alexandria, Virginia, is employed in the shipyard of that city, and Robert J., who is air inspector of the Union Pacific Railroad roundhouse at North Platte.

In 1876 Mr. Sullivan came to North Platte, and began working for the Union Pacific Railroad, first in the roundhouse and then as fireman. In November, 1876, he was promoted to be fireman, and in 1881 was made locomotive engineer, running an engine for twelve years. He retired from railroad work in 1892, and bought a second-hand shop, which he ran for twenty-two years at North Platte, finally selling it and retiring. He is now a justice of the peace, and was police magistrate for a number of years, his decisions being recognized as so just and equitable that they are seldom reversed. He

built his present house in 1878, and it is at No. 418 East Fourth street, and in it he has since resided. Mr. Sullivan had nothing when he reached North Platte, but he has since then amassed a considerable competency, brought up a family of nice children, and is regarded very highly in North Platte and its vicinity. He served in the City Council two terms, and on the School Board eight years, being secretary two years of this time. He and his family all belong to the Roman Catholic Church. In his fraternal relations Mr. Sullivan maintains membership with the Knights of Columbus, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and is interested in all of them.

During the World war Mr. Sullivan's grandson, Francis Roddy, served in the United States Navy, and other members of his family did all that was possible to assist the administration in carrying out its policies.

**W. D. PULVER.** The late W. D. Pulver was for many years a successful carpenter and contractor of North Platte, and when he died his widow took up and continued the good work, so that their name is held in grateful remembrance by many in this vicinity. Mr. Pulver was born in New York state in 1849, and he died at North Platte, Nebraska, in 1904. He came to Nebraska in 1894, settling at North Platte, and continued to work at his trade and as a contractor until his death.

In 1899 Mr. Pulver was united in marriage with Mrs. Emma (Freeman) Cooper, born at Liverpool, England, where she was married to William Cooper, by whom she had six children, three of whom survive, namely: Mrs. Lewis, a widow of North Platte, has two children, Hazel and Guy Lewis; Emily, who married A. Coates, lives with Mrs. Pulver and has two children, Navita and Harold; and Margaret, who married Guy C. Swope, of North Platte, has three children, Louise, Lucille and Guy. The deceased children are May, who married L. C. Hansen, and died May 1, 1916, at the age of thirty-seven years, leaving eight children: Freeman, who was in the great war in France, and is now attending the State University, Edward, now in the navy, Gladys, in school, Arthur, with Mrs. Pulver, and Wilmer, Katherine, Ruth and Marvin; Lena, who died at the age of twenty-one, and Victoria, who died at five years of age. There were no children of Mrs. Pulver's second marriage. The Coopers came to the United States in 1881, direct to North Platte, which city has continued to be Mrs. Pulver's home. She is a member of the Episcopal Church. In his fraternal relation Mr. Pulver maintained membership with the Maccabees and Woodmen. In politics he was a republican.

Mrs. Pulver has had charge of the county poor and those without a home for thirty years, but has only three inmates at present. A nurse by profession, she has made it her work to take care of the unfortunates, doing this out of the innate goodness of her heart. She never refuses anyone assistance and is noted for her goodness and kindness, and her beautiful character is reflected in her smiling, happy countenance. Her residence, which is a very comfortable one, is at No. 516 East Fifth street.

When Mr. Cooper died his widow was left with five children, and practically nothing with which to take care of them. She is a woman of remarkable character. Where another less strong probably would have fallen by the way, she "girded up her loins" and set to work at anything she could find to do. Nothing was too hard or distaste-



ful for this brave-hearted mother of helpless little ones. She cleaned the floor in the schoolhouse, washed dishes after banquets, did nursing, and was always ready and willing to take over those tasks no one else wanted to do, and in time prospered. Now she owns almost a block of business houses and flats on Pine street, and several cottages and houses all over North Platte. The majority when they have emerged from poverty try and forget their hardships, but not so Mrs. Pulver. She knows by sad experience what it is to need assistance, to look for work and not find it, and to have little mouths empty and not a sufficient amount to fill them, and she does not disregard the troubles of those now less fortunate than she, but ministers to them with a kindly, open-handed generosity that takes from it all the chill of charity and becomes but a pleasant rendering of a Christian service by one woman to another. Truly of her may be said, "of such are the kingdom of Heaven."

NICHOLAS McCABE, M. D. Engaged in one of the most exacting of all of the higher lines of occupation to which a man may devote his time and talents, Nicholas McCabe, M. D., a distinguished physician and surgeon of North Platte, has not only gained success in his profession but has acquired a place of note among the active and leading citizens of the place. He was born December 25, 1854, in County Louth, Ireland, where he obtained the rudiments of his education.

John McCabe, the Doctor's father, was a life-long resident of Ireland, and a successful tiller of the soil. His well improved farm is still in the family, being owned and occupied by one of his sons. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Murphy, ten children were born, eight of whom are living, two, only, being in this country, the Doctor and a daughter living in Connecticut. Both parents belonged to the Catholic Church, and reared their family in the same religious faith.

Running away from home at the age of twenty years, Nicholas McCabe secured passage on an ocean bound vessel and disembarked in New York. Subsequently making his way to Buffalo, New York, he began the study of medicine, and in 1884 was graduated from the medical department of the University of Buffalo with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His father, by the way, paid his tuition through college, but otherwise the Doctor paid his own expenses while in school, working at any honorable employment, and spending all of his summer vacations in agricultural labor. Remaining in western New York for two years, Doctor McCabe practiced in Lockport and Niagara, meeting with encouraging success in his profession. In 1886 he came to North Platte, Nebraska, in which, although it was a comparatively new place, four doctors were located, all of whom have gone, having either died or moved away.

Dr. McCabe has built up a large and highly remunerative practice, his reputation for skill both as a physician and surgeon being widely recognized, and as a man of marked business ability and judgment has acquired property of much value. He has served as railroad surgeon for a quarter of a century, and is examiner for many of the old line insurance companies. In addition to owning a ranch containing 2,000 acres of good land, he owns the McCabe Hotel Building, which he erected, and until recently owned two drug stores in North Platte, both of which he sold in July, 1919.

A staunch democrat in politics, the Doctor has ever evinced a warm interest in public affairs, and for three consecutive terms served as mayor of the city, a position to which he was first elected in 1906.



N. M. Cole

He has also served as coroner. Fraternally he is a member, and was the first grand knight, of the Knights of Columbus; and he is a member of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Dr. McCabe married in 1888 Mary O'Connor, who was born in Omaha, Nebraska, a daughter of Thomas O'Connor, a pioneer settler of Douglas county, and its first clerk, and a niece of General Luke O'Connor, of the British Army. The Doctor and Mrs. McCabe are the parents of four children, namely: Arthur, who is now in the United States Navy, enlisted in the radio service at the outbreak of the World war; Marie, who was graduated from Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame, Indiana, is now teaching in that city; Clarence J., a freshman at the University of Notre Dame at the outbreak of the World war, enlisted for service in the Signal Corps, and while in France was on the Marne two months, and took an active part in five major engagements, later attending the American Expeditionary University in France, from whence he sent home splendid reports of his scholarship; and Nicholas, now in school. The Doctor and Mrs. McCabe are members of the Catholic Church, as are their children.

ANDERS P. CARLSON was probably the first tailor to establish himself in North Platte, and was one of the earliest business men of the city. He carried on business successfully for thirty-five years, and besides the material evidences of his success he left behind an honored name in the community.

Mr. Carlson was born near Gothenburg, Sweden, May 14, 1845, son of Carl and Marie Carlson. The Carlsons spent all their lives on a farm in Sweden. Anders P. Carlson was educated in his native country, and was twenty-one years of age when he came to the United States in 1866. His first location was at Boone, Iowa, where he worked for the railroad, hauling timber. At Omaha, January 2, 1870, he married Anna S. Petersen. She was also born near Gothenburg, Sweden, daughter of Anders and Johanna (Anderson) Peterson. Her parents spent all their lives in Sweden as farmers, and Mrs. Carlson came to the United States with her two brothers and an uncle and located in Iowa. She finished her education in that state.

Mr. Carlson had brought with him from his native country an expert knowledge of the tailoring trade, and for a time he followed that occupation in Boone, Iowa, but in 1868 came out to North Platte, then the western terminus of the Union Pacific Railway. After two years of employment with the railway company he established himself in the tailoring business and followed that line continuously for thirty-five years. He was active in work at his trade and as a merchant tailor almost until the time of his death, which occurred September 5, 1910. Mr. Carlson was a republican in politics and was one of the founders and a charter member of the Lutheran Church at North Platte, and both he and his wife took a prominent part in its affairs. He was also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias.

Mrs. Carlson is still living in the home which her husband built in 1873, and which is one of the older residences of the city, located at 122 West Fifth street. She came to North Platte in 1870. Mrs. Carlson was the mother of two children. Her only son, Albert L., died in 1875, at the age of two years. Her daughter is Jennie W. Carlson, a graduate of the North Platte High School, and who taught in the local schools for twelve years.

JOHN D. COX is one of the veteran engineers of the Union Pacific Company, with home at North Platte, and for several years past has had one of the good passenger runs between North Platte and Grand Island. Mr. Cox is one of the efficient men in the service of the Union Pacific, has kept steadily at his work for over twenty years, and at the same time has satisfied his ambition for a good home and other evidences of thrift and industry.

Mr. Cox was born in Cornwall, England, April 10, 1869. However, he has practically no memory of that great mining section of southwestern England. His parents, John and Jennima (Varcoe) Cox, were farmers in Cornwall, but in 1872 brought their family to the United States and settled in Pennsylvania, where the father became a miner. In 1884 the family moved out to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and John Cox homesteaded. After ten years on his homestead he moved to Iowa for two years, but then returned to North Platte, and he and his wife died in that city. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their three children are still living at North Platte: Richard W., a former railway engineer and now chief engineer at the North Platte Flour Mills; John D., and Betha, wife of Robert Dean, who is connected with the firm of Derryberry & Forbes.

John D. Cox acquired his early education in the schools of Pennsylvania. He joined the family at the homestead in Lincoln county in 1886, and for about ten years his experiences were those of the open country and the farm. On August 20, 1897, he moved to North Platte, and was taken into the service of the Union Pacific as a fireman. He was promoted to engineer in 1902 and subsequently became a passenger engineer.

In July, 1899, Mr. Cox married Olive Muir, a native of New York state. Her parents were Peter and Catherine (Libolt) Muir, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of New York, where they were married. The Muir family came out to Nebraska in 1880, settling first in Nance county and afterward in Lincoln county, where Peter Muir homesteaded, and continued farming. Mrs. Muir died in May, 1900, and a few years later he moved to Sutherland, where his death occurred in July, 1915. Beside Mrs. Cox there are two other daughters, Ida, unmarried and living at Sutherland, and Eva, wife of Charles Wallace of Filley, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Cox have one son, Harold D., born November 6, 1901, now a student in the North Platte High School.

Mrs. Cox is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and in politics votes as a republican. About the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Cox bought a lot in North Platte and for several years put up with the inconveniences of a small and uncomfortable house. They saved and managed well, and in 1911 their plans bore fruit in the erection of a two-story residence at 317 West Sixth street, where they now have a real home and enjoy it to the full.

JOHN H. VAN CLEAVE has been a resident of North Platte for twenty years. His sole recommendation on coming here was skill and honest workmanship as a blacksmith. Those qualities still distinguish him, but he has in two decades developed a flourishing, profitable business, and is accounted one of the substantial men of the city.

Mr. Van Cleave was born in Wabash county, Indiana, November 10, 1866, a son of Silas and Rosanna (Broadston) Van Cleave. His parents were also natives of Indiana. In 1867 the family moved from Indiana to Iowa. Silas Van Cleave followed farming in Iowa for twenty years, and in 1898 moved to Richardson county, Nebraska, and died at Steele City in 1915. The mother died April 15, 1920. Both were members of the Christian Church. Silas Van Cleave was an active prohibitionist, and when that subject was not an issue in campaigns he was inclined to be a democrat.

John H. Van Cleave was the only child of his parents. He acquired his early education in Page county, Iowa, and at the age of sixteen began his apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade. He has worked steadily at that occupation now for over thirty-five years. After leaving Iowa he located at Curtis, Nebraska, was there one year and in 1900 came to North Platte. Here he engaged in business with W. E. Price on the north side for one year, then bought out his partner, and moving to the south side bought the shop and plant of Gaunt & Carson. Later he acquired the shop, tools and building at 110 West Sixth street from M. A. Carrier, and has had his headquarters there since 1905. Mr. Van Cleave does a general blacksmith and repair business, is a wagon maker, and has facilities for all local custom work in iron and steel.

March 2, 1894, he married Mary E. Jenkins, who was born in Cedar county, Iowa. They have the following children: Irene, wife of C. O. Wilson, who is local general manager at North Platte for the Pacific Fruit Express Company; Ruth, at home; Grace, wife of W. E. Banks, a railroad brakeman living at North Platte; Dorothy and Margaret, who are still getting their education in the schools of North Platte. The family are members of the Christian Church.

Mr. Van Cleave, like his father, is a prohibitionist. He served one term in the City Council, and is now a member of the Board of Public Welfare.

Mrs. WILHELMENA BLANKENBURG is one of the oldest residents of North Platte, where she has lived since the pioneer times of the early '70s. Her late husband was a prominent business man of the city many years, and Mrs. Blankenburg helped him in his prosperity, and has shown much ability in managing her affairs since his death.

She was born at Mount Vernon in Westchester county, New York, in 1854, a daughter of Peter and Louise (Kauffman) Schmidt. Her parents were natives of Germany, but were married in New York state. Her father, a shoemaker by trade, followed his occupation in New York for many years and later did gardening. He died in New York, while the mother died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Blankenburg, in North Platte. Of four children three are still living, Mrs. Blankenburg being the oldest. The second sister is Mrs. Quant, in California, and the brother is William Schmidt, who owns a horse ranch in Montana.

Mrs. Blankenburg came to Lincoln county in 1873, and was married at North Platte the same year to Mr. Edward Blankenburg. Mr. Blankenburg was a native of Saxony, Germany, and in 1873 established the first harness shop and business at North Platte. He and his wife had only about fifteen hundred dollars when they came to the city, but in succeeding years their affairs were prospered and in addition to the harness business Mr. Blankenburg also acquired and bought and sold much real estate and was one of the well-to-do citi-

zens of Lincoln county. He died in August, 1912. Mrs. Blankenburg owns one of the substantial business houses of North Platte, also her own residence, and has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the community. Mr. Blankenburg was a republican, a Lutheran, and at one time served as a member of the City Council.

Four children were born to their marriage. Albert F., born in North Platte April 9, 1874, was educated in the public schools and is now associated with his brother, Robert E., who was born July 9, 1875, and was similarly educated, in operating truck gardens on the edge of North Platte. Both sons learned the trade of harness maker and worked at the business in their father's shop for fifteen years. Most of the gardening is done by Albert, while Robert E. gives much of his time to training horses. The third child, Matilda, is at home, and Jessie, the youngest, is the wife of Bert Reynolds, a North Platte architect.

**WILLIAM S. DOLSON.** Apart from his veteran service of over forty-five years as a Union Pacific engineer, William S. Dolson has always been known as a man among men, forceful in action, ready to meet and solve the problems of life as they come, and it can be said of him that he has been faithful to every trust.

Mr. Dolson was born at Lansing, Iowa, in 1857, son of John A. and Lucretia (Taylor) Dolson. His parents were born and married in the State of Missouri, moving from there to Iowa, and in 1871 to Beatrice, Nebraska. John A. Dolson was also a railroad man, being a locomotive engineer for several years. At the time of his death he owned a farm at Oshkosh, Nebraska. For a number of years he lived retired at Grand Island, Nebraska, where he died in 1914. His wife passed away in North Platte in 1903. Of their nine children five are still living: Charles H., a retired farmer at Oshkosh, Nebraska; Julia A. Arndt, a widow living at Portland, Oregon; William S.; Emma, wife of Henry Schott, a tinner in the Union Pacific shops, and their son, Percy Schott, spent several years in the National Army, nearly two years on the Mexican border as lieutenant, then going overseas to France, and since his discharge has been employed in the railway shops at Omaha, and Mrs. Fannie Moynahan, who is a widow and operates a hotel at Broadwater, Nebraska. John A. Dolson and wife were members of the Catholic Church. At the time of his death he was distinguished as the last survivor of the Mexican war living in western Nebraska. He was also an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic by virtue of his service in the Civil war. He was captain of the Twenty-first Iowa Regiment. Politically he voted as a democrat.

William S. Dolson acquired his education in the schools of Iowa and has never known any other business or vocation than railroad-ing. His career began as a machinist's helper at Sidney. In 1874 he was promoted to fireman, and since 1887 has been continuously in the service of the Union Pacific as a locomotive engineer. He is one of the oldest engineers in the employ of the company, and for several years past has had one of the preferred runs out of North Platte.

Mr. Dolson has exercised a good business judgment and acquired a large amount of property. A few years ago he platted and sold the twenty acre Dolson addition to North Platte. At one time he owned twenty-six hundred acres of land in Texas, and had considerable city property at North Platte. In past years he has built three beautiful residences, two of which he has sold. He still enjoys the

comforts of a home he built in 1912. This house, which required eight months to complete, is one of the most attractive homes in North Platte. All the interior finish downstairs is hard wood, and the home is modern in every particular.

A great many people who know nothing of Mr. Dolson as a veteran railroad man recognize his name in association with shooting tournaments, where he was a prominent figure for many years. Hunting is undoubtedly his favorite recreation. In younger years he went after the big game in the forest and mountain fastnesses and has killed his share of deer and antelope. As a marksman he has come out triumphant in many memorable contests. From 1900 to 1912 he attended all the state shooting tournaments, and was winner of several of them. For a number of years he was manager of the local Gun Club at North Platte. In the tournament of 1906 he and Jim Denman were the only men that lasted through the day's grind, and in all that time Mr. Dolson never missed a live bird. In 1907 he was matched against George Winkowitch in a hundred twenty bird contest. Mr. Winkowitch missed one bird and Mr. Dolson had a perfect score. Among many trophies Mr. Dolson holds the medal given by the Buffalo Bill Gun Club in 1903 and 1904, and also the vase awarded by the Hunter Arms Company at the Omaha contest in 1903.

April 10, 1878. Mr. Dolson married Miss Margaret E. Platt. Her father, William Platt, a native of Michigan, was an early settler at Grand Island, Nebraska, but being well to do never engaged in business in that city. His son, W. H. Platt, became prominent in Nebraska politics, was local attorney for the Union Pacific Railway at Grand Island, also mayor of the city five terms, and is now living at Santa Rosa, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Dolson had five children. Ralph Leo, born at Sidney Nebraska, was graduated from the North Platte High School, finished his education in Omaha, and became a railway fireman. His death was a peculiarly tragic event. At Gothenburg, Nebraska, in 1903, occurred a collision between two trains, William S. Dolson being engineer of one, while his son Ralph was fireman on the other, and he was killed almost before the eyes of the father. The second child, Frances E., is the wife of J. D. Wolbach, who is an engineer at North Platte. William A. is employed by the Grain Exchange at Omaha. Frederick C. is in the machine and welding business at Oakland, California. Howard F. died of the influenza at Grand Junction, Colorado, in 1918.

Mrs. Dolson, who died May 30, 1913, was one of the best loved women in North Platte. She was a graduate of Brownell Hall, at Omaha, was a woman of fine intellect as well as character, and the esteem in which she was held was well expressed by the attendance at her funeral, said to have been one of the largest ever held in North Platte. She was a member of the Episcopal Church.

May 21, 1914, Mr. Dolson married Mrs. Anna T. Guendell, widow of Julius Guendell, at one time a prominent business man of Grand Island. Mrs. Dolson was born in Germany, and located at Grand Island, Nebraska, with her mother and stepfather when she was fourteen years of age. By her first husband she has three children: Arthur, cashier and vice president of the Nebraska State Bank at Grand Island; Emil, in the trust department of the same bank, and Florence, who is completing her education with a course of shorthand and typewriting.

**JULIUS HAHLER**, one of the retired business men and honored residents of North Platte, is one of the best examples of the self-made men afforded in Lincoln county. He began his business career with absolutely nothing, but through his untiring industry, self-sacrificing thrift and willingness to exert his intellect, he acquired a somewhat unusual measure of success and is now enjoying a well-earned leisure.

The birth of Julius Hahler took place in Bavaria, Germany, April 9, 1859, and he is a son of Johann and Catherine (Hahler) Hahler, natives of Germany, where they were married and where both died. They had nine children, only two of whom survive, namely: Catherine, who is a widow, lives in Germany; and Julius, whose name heads this review. The family are all Catholics. Johann Hahler was a wholesale dealer in lumber, and also became general foreman of some important iron works, and was a man of influence in his community.

Julius Hahler received a public school education in Germany and learned the butcher trade. He left his native land in 1874, and coming to the United States landed in New York. He spent the first months in this country in Connecticut, but left that state and in 1876 came to Omaha, Nebraska, and for about six years was engaged in working at the butchering trade in that city. Mr. Hahler then left Omaha for North Platte, and for two years was employed in the butcher shop of David Cash. He then went to Wyoming and later to Montana, and had some valuable experiences on ranches, but returned to Nebraska and operated a butcher shop at Chadron from 1886 to 1889. In the latter year he went to Pierre, South Dakota, and conducted a market in that city from 1889 to 1898, when he sold the business and once more engaged in ranching, this time in South Dakota. Selling his interests, Mr. Hahler returned to North Platte in 1900, and established a first-class meat market of his own, conducting it very successfully until 1909, when he disposed of it at an excellent price, and since then has been retired, feeling entitled to do so after such hard work for so many years.

July 23, 1891, Mr. Hahler was united in marriage with Miss Frances Henish, born in Bohemia, March 2, 1862. She was brought to the United States by her parents when she was three years of age. They settled in Butler county, Nebraska, where Mr. Henish homesteaded, and where he and his wife, Josephine, both died. They had thirteen children, of whom Mrs. Hahler was the fourth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Hahler have one son, John J., a veteran of the World war. He was graduated from the North Platte High School when only sixteen years old and was unusually bright for his age. In 1918 he entered the army, received his training at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and was honorably discharged in February, 1919, at Lincoln, Nebraska. He is now attending Notre Dame College at Notre Dame, Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Hahler also reared two children, Albina and Frank Hahler, she now living in California, and he conducting a meat market at Sidney, Nebraska. They are all members of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Hahler is a director of the Monarch Cement Company at Humboldt, Kansas, and he owns his residence and several business buildings at North Platte, the former being located at No. 620 East Fifth street. A man of the highest character, Mr. Hahler has won and retains the respect of his fellow citizens, and he is often cited as one worthy of emulation because he has lived up to high business standards and taken into his everyday life the religion he professes.



FRANK C. PIELSTICKER, one of the best business men of North Platte, is president of the Platte Valley State Bank, vice president of the Fidelity Life Insurance Company, and interested in other banking institutions in Lincoln county. He was born in Carroll county, Iowa, August 17, 1880, a son of Frank C. and Mary Pielsticker, who died in Iowa. They became the parents of seven children, five of whom survive, namely: Lena, who married Joe Leiter, of Carroll, Iowa, a railroad man; Anna, who was second in order of birth; John, who is a ranchman of Wallace, Nebraska; Fred, who is an oilman of Eldorado, Kansas; and Frank C., who is the youngest. Both parents were consistent members of the Catholic Church. They were farming people all of their lives.

Frank C. Pielsticker, the younger, was reared and educated in Iowa, attending the public schools of Des Moines. His early training in usefulness was obtained on the farm under his father's watchful supervision, and he was engaged in that calling for some years, but in 1905, when he came to Nebraska, he embarked in a banking business at Wallace, and remained there for seven years. Having placed that institution upon a solid foundation, he left Wallace for North Platte in 1911, and organized the Platte Valley State Bank, of which he has remained president. This bank has a capital stock of \$50,000, a surplus of \$15,000, and its deposits average \$900,000. Later Mr. Pielsticker became connected with the Fidelity Life Insurance Company of North Platte, of which he is vice president; and he is also president of the Farmers State Bank at Wallace, president of the First State Bank of Dickens, a director of the Farmers State Bank of Sutherland, president of the Maxwell State Bank of Maxwell, and president of the Commercial State Bank of Paxton, Nebraska. He owns considerable farm land in Lincoln county and other sections of the state, and is recognized as one of the wealthy men of Lincoln county.

In March, 1916, Mr. Pielsticker was united in marriage with Anna Farrall, who was born in Iowa, and they have one son, Frank Edward. Both Mr. Pielsticker and his wife are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Pielsticker belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. A man of uncommon strength of character, he has always preferred to pick his own candidates and cast his vote independent of party ties. His advance has been steady and normal, for Mr. Pielsticker never does anything spectacular, and his success is but the natural outcome of intelligent effort directed along legitimate lines.

JOHN R. RITNER gained his early experience in Western Nebraska as a cowboy. He rode the range for a number of years. When Lincoln county agriculture was still in its infancy of development he took up a homestead, and for many years did farming and stock raising. Mr. Ritner for a number of years past has lived at North Platte, has been well known in local business circles and has rendered some very valuable service to the county as supervisor and inspector of bridges.

Mr. Ritner was born in Pennsylvania April 27, 1862, son of John R. and Martha (Rice) Ritner. He is of the same Pennsylvania family which supplied a governor to that commonwealth, Joseph Ritner, who was born in 1780 and died in 1869. The father of Governor Joseph Ritner came from Alsace. Joseph Ritner had a long and prominent career in Pennsylvania politics. He was elected a member of the Legislature in 1820 and in 1835 was elected gover-

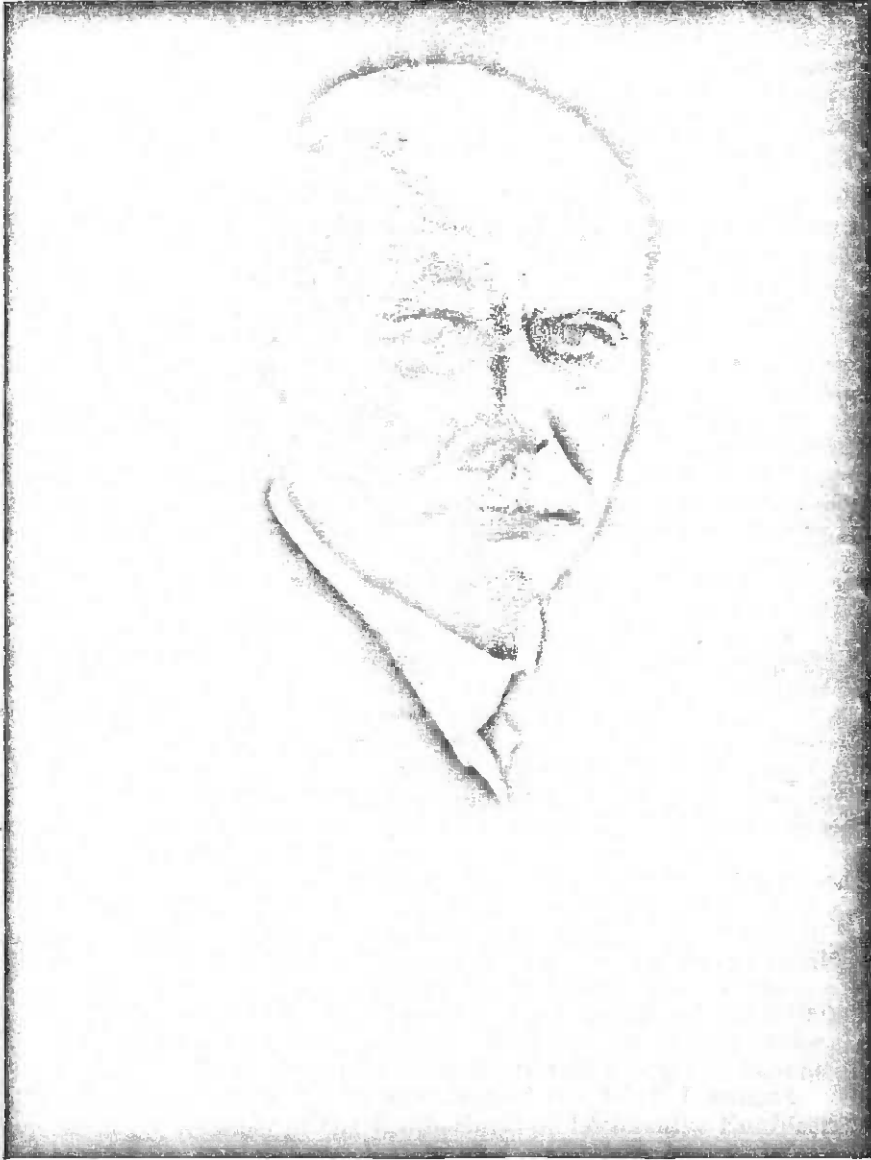
nor, serving four years. He was elected governor on the anti-Masonic ticket. He was one of the originators of the public school system in Pennsylvania, and at one time was a director of the mint at Philadelphia.

Mr. John R. Ritner is a brother of William C. Ritner, also a prominent business man of North Platte. John R. Ritner received his early education at Newport, Pennsylvania, graduating from High School, and in March, 1879, at the age of seventeen, came to Western Nebraska. For ten years he enjoyed the outdoor life, the adventure, the excitement, the hard work of the cowboy, and for three years of that time worked for the noted cattle outfit of John Bratt. Mr. Ritner filed on his homestead in Lincoln county in 1884, but did not settle down and begin its development until 1889. He laid the foundation of his prosperity as a rancher, but in 1900 moved to North Platte in order to educate his family. For a number of years he was in the wholesale and retail feed business at North Platte, and while looking after that enterprise was first employed about fifteen years ago by the county to look after the bridges. He resigned from this office two or three times, but the county needed his services and could find no one whose work was so satisfactory, and eventually he deemed it his duty to be with the county and accordingly sold his business and for the past six years has devoted practically all his time to looking after the small bridges and culverts and acting as inspector for all the big bridges. Mr. Ritner owns two business properties in North Platte and also his own residence.

In 1889 he married Miss Gertrude M. Thompson, a native of Michigan. Her father, George Thompson, was in the real estate business at Chicago at the time of the great fire in 1871, and disappeared at that time and was never heard of again. Mr. and Mrs. Ritner have nine children: Lillian, wife of Homer G. Rector, a Union Pacific Railway man; Grace, wife of Herbert Tramp, of North Platte; Edith Viola, who is a clerk in the county clerk's office; William M., now deputy county clerk; Glenn T., manager of the local ten cent store; John, who is the sixth in age, employed by the Rush Mercantile Company; Gertrude and Earl, both in school; and Irma, born in 1914. Mr. Ritner takes pride in the fact that two of his sons, William and Glenn, were in the service of the Government during the war. William was a sergeant in the Eighth Ammunition Train, while Glenn was a first class fireman in the Navy. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Ritner is a republican.

JACOB I. SMITH is dean of the locomotive engineers whose home and headquarters are at North Platte. He is now retired on a pension after forty-seven years with the Union Pacific Company. Mr. Smith is a large property owner, and though he came to North Platte a poor man he has achieved all those things that an ambitious man desires, a competence, a fine family, and the esteem of friends and neighbors.

Mr. Smith was born at Danville, Illinois, October 15, 1854, son of John N. and Elizabeth A. (Trosper) Smith. His parents spent all their lives in Illinois, where his father was a well to do farmer. John C. Smith enlisted and served in the Union Army during the Civil war for one year and was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his wife were Methodists in religion. They had a large family of thirteen children, and six are still living: Louise, a widow in Idaho; Lillie D. Johnson, of Los Angeles, California; Jacob I.; Grant, a livestock dealer at St. Paul, Minnesota;



John J. Halligan

Cassius C., a railroad worker at Seattle, Washington; and Della, a widow, living at Danville, Illinois.

Jacob I. Smith acquired most of his education in Illinois, though he attended school for a time after coming to Nebraska. It was in 1872, at the age of eighteen, that he came out to Nebraska and worked on a farm in Otto county about a year. Later in the same year he came to North Platte, and after six months of working on a claim he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railway Company. He was a fireman for several years, and in 1881 was promoted to engineer, and he has grown gray in the service of this great railway company. Mr. Smith had a passenger run from 1888 until March 2, 1920, when he made his last run and retired. He now draws a pension for forty-seven years of service for the Union Pacific Railway Company.

December 29, 1880, he married Miss Annie J. Nolan. She was born at Chilton, Wisconsin, a daughter of Mart and Ann (Smith) Nolan. Her parents were natives of Ireland and on coming to this country lived for a time in New York and then went to Wisconsin, lived for eight years at Bloomington, Illinois, and in 1870 settled at Wood River, Nebraska, where they spent the rest of their lives. They were Catholics. Of their three children the two now living are William Nolan, of Grand Island, and Mrs. Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have a family of seven interesting children. Oscar, the oldest, was superintendent of the Ford automobile plant at Omaha until August, 1919, and now has the Ford agency at Auburn, Nebraska. Frank lives at Omaha and is a traveling salesman for the McCord & Brady Company. Harry, who is studying medicine, is physical director and coach at the West High School in Akron, Ohio, and gave that institution championship teams in football and other sports, the football team not losing a single game. The fourth of the family, Bessie, is a teacher in the Junior High School of North Platte. Jay entered the army November 18, 1917, was trained at Camp Grant and three or four other camps, and going overseas spent thirteen months in France. He was a motor mechanic with the rank of corporal. He was honorably discharged and returned home July 10, 1919. He is now a traveling salesman for the Morris Packing Company. The daughter Hazel is employed by C. S. Clinton in North Platte, and Helen, the youngest, is a student in Mount St. Joseph College at Dubuque, Iowa.

When Mr. Smith married he had only eighty dollars to start him in housekeeping. Forty years of good management at home and constant work at his business have effected a great change in his fortunes. Much of his savings he invested in lands, and until recently owned two fine farms near North Platte. One of these sold at a profit of \$21,000. For his other farm he was offered \$40,000. This farm is operated by a tenant. Much of his land is under the suburban ditch, an irrigation ditch thirty miles long and benefiting 8,000 acres. Mr. Smith is president of the Ditch Company. He is an active member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, a democrat in politics, and he and his family are members of the Catholic Church. The Smith family have lived at 203 West Second street for over thirty years. The home was extensively remodeled in 1912, and now has every comfort of a modern city residence.

JOHN J. HALLIGAN. An able and influential member of the Nebraska bar, John J. Halligan, of North Platte, possesses a wide knowledge of law, and a quickness of perception that has won him

distinguished success as an attorney and gained him a place of distinction in the legal world. A native of Monroe county, New York, he was born November 10, 1856, on the home farm.

His parents, James and Eliza (Castles) Halligan, were born and reared in Ireland. In 1853 they immigrated to the United States, the land of promise, and located first on a farm in New York state. Starting westward in search of more favorable opportunities for improving their fortunes, they lived for a brief time in Michigan, and in 1868 came to Nebraska, settling in Nebraska City. Subsequently buying a tract of land in Keith county, they improved a valuable homestead, on which they spent the remainder of their lives in comfort and plenty. They were both faithful members of the Catholic Church. The father was a democrat in politics, and a successful business man, acquiring considerable land, having owned a large acreage in Otoe county in addition to his home farm. Two children were born of their union, as follows: John J., the subject of this sketch; and George H., a farmer in Keith county.

Laying a substantial foundation for his future education in the public schools of Nebraska, John J. Halligan entered the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he took a special course until 1883. He subsequently read law in Lincoln, and was there admitted to the bar in 1885. Moving soon after to Keith county, Nebraska, he began the practice of his profession at Ogallala, where he remained four years. The following five years he was similarly engaged in Omaha, gaining experience of value. Settling in North Platte, Mr. Halligan opened an office in this city on January 1, 1896, and formed a partnership with Mr. Wilcox, becoming junior member of the firm of Wilcox & Halligan, which built up an extensive and highly remunerative patronage. After the retirement of the senior member of the firm Mr. Halligan's younger son became junior member of the firm, which is now known as Halligan, Beatty & Halligan.

Mr. Halligan married, November 10, 1886, Carrie Swanson, a native of Sweden, and they have two children, Rolfe and Victor H. Rolfe Halligan, a successful attorney, served on the Mexican border in 1913, and while there was elected county attorney of Lincoln county. When the United States entered the World war he gave up his position as attorney, and as captain in the Fourth Division did special work in Germany as officer in charge of civil affairs. Victor H. Halligan, a lawyer, now in partnership with his father, served as a captain in the field artillery during the World war, having been graduated from the Officers' Training School at Fort Snelling, and later being transferred to Camp Cody, New Mexico. Mr. Halligan is independent in politics, voting for the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and of the Knights Templars and Shriners, and also belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

JOHN T. STUART began railroading at North Platte in 1885, and has recently rounded out thirty years of consecutive service as an engineer, the greater part of that time with a passenger run. Mr. Stuart for many years has been an influential member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is prominent among his fellow railroad men and with all classes of citizens at North Platte, and has earned their esteem in a life through which hard work and diligent service have been the dominating characteristics.

Mr. Stuart was born at Cazenovia, New York, March 24, 1854.

son of Henry and Annie (Winslow) Stuart, mention of whom will be found in the sketch of a brother, William J., on other pages of this volume.

John T. Stuart was reared and received his early education at Aurora, Illinois. After leaving school he found work in a silver plating factory, learned the trade, followed it as a journeyman, and was more or less consecutively identified with the business from 1872 until 1883. In the meantime, in May, 1878, he had come out to Republican Valley, Nebraska, and taken up a homestead. He did the necessary work of proving it up for three years, and then went back to Illinois and worked at his trade.

Coming to North Platte in 1885, he was put on the payroll of the Union Pacific Company as a locomotive fireman, was promoted to freight engineer in 1890, and since 1901 has been in the passenger service. He now has one of the best passenger runs out of North Platte to Sterling, Colorado.

As a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Mr. Stuart was secretary of the local division for a number of years, also secretary of its insurance organization, and is now secretary of the Pension Association. He is a republican in politics, affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife are members of the Episcopal Church. For many years their home at North Platte has been at 510 West A street. When they first located there the site was considered out in the country.

Mr. Stuart married April 16, 1885, Miss Frances Irene Meagher. She was born at Ottawa, Illinois, daughter of William and Margaret (Devine) Meagher. Her father was born near Dublin, Ireland, and her mother at Penn Yan, New York. The Devine family were early settlers in Northern Illinois, going there at a time when it was necessary to clear away the woods to find room for their log home. The Meagher family were Catholics in religious faith. Of the six children three are living, Mrs. Stuart being the oldest. William T. Meagher is in the bakery business at Aurora, and Marie is the wife of C. H. Venn, a farmer in Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart have three living children: Lieutenant Frank M. Stuart graduated from the North Platte High School in 1906, spent two years in the Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, Indiana, and in 1909 graduated from Highland Park College at Des Moines. He had a thorough technical training, and as a civil engineer was employed by the Interstate Commerce Commission until America entered the World war. In September, 1917, he enrolled for service, received training at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, as a member of the Forty-first Infantry, was assigned to duty at Fort Crook, later at Camp Funston, and on being transferred to the Twenty-second Engineers was sent overseas to France July 29, 1919. He was discharged in January, 1920, and enrolled in the National Reserve and is now assistant district engineer at Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Stuart's two daughters are Irene and Marie. The former was educated in the public schools of North Platte and is the wife of H. E. Jacobs, who is in the fruit business at Denver, Colorado. Marie is relief chief at the North Platte Telephone Exchange, and has been with the company for several years.

ALBERT E. TIMMERMAN is one of the successful hotel men of Western Nebraska, and at North Platte is widely known among the traveling public as proprietor of the Timmerman House, a thor-

oughly well equipped establishment, providing comforts and all facilities for its guests.

Mr. Timmerman is a native Nebraskan, having been born in Nemaha county July 3, 1873. His parents were Sidney and Sarah (Shuck) Timmerman, the former a native of New York state. They were married in Nemaha county, Nebraska, and the father took up a homestead and developed a farm in Jewell county, Kansas. From there he moved to Superior, Nebraska, where for twenty years he was in the hotel business. He was retired ten or twelve years before his death, which occurred at North Platte in 1919. The widowed mother is still living at North Platte with her daughter. Of four children, only two are living, Albert and Verda, the latter the wife of E. B. Payne, a painter at North Platte. The parents were both Lutherans and the father was a member of the Knights of Pythias and a republican in politics.

Albert E. Timmerman acquired his education in the Superior High School, and his first occupation after leaving school was in the drug business at Stella, Nebraska. He was there four years, and then took up the business for which his talents best qualified him, and for three years conducted a good hotel at Waterloo, Nebraska. He came to North Platte in 1905, and was in the saloon business four years. In 1910 he opened the Timmerman Hotel, a house with forty-six rooms and especially well situated for the traveling public, being just across the street from the Union Pacific depot.

Mr. Timmerman married Leona Allerman on June 26, 1899. She was also born in Nemaha county, Nebraska. They have two children: Albert E., Jr., born in 1905; and Fanchion, born in 1907. Mrs. Timmerman is a member of the Lutheran Church. He is affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose and in politics is a republican.

CHARLES F. TRACY is the second oldest railroad engineer living in North Platte. For forty years he was an engineer of the Union Pacific, with headquarters at North Platte, and for his long and faithful service he now enjoys a well earned pension. He is a man held in the highest respect not only by his fellow railroad men but by all classes of citizens.

Mr. Tracy was born at Port Kent, New York, June 13, 1851, son of Hezekiah and Abigail Agnes (Garvin) Tracy. His father was born in New York and his mother at Charlotte, Vermont. They were married in New York state and lived on a farm until the death of the father in 1859, at the age of forty-two. He was a republican in politics and was a Methodist in religion. There were only two children: Ira A. and Charles F. The former was a carpenter who lived for a number of years at North Platte, where he died.

Charles F. Tracy was eight years old when his father died. He received his early education at Mooers and in a college at Plattsburg, New York. His first occupation was clerking in a general store at Sciota, New York, and he left that to become a fireman on a steamboat on Lake Champlain. Later he joined his mother and stepfather at Appleton, Wisconsin, and was employed as bookkeeper in a general store at Prescott in that state until he came to North Platte in September, 1869.

The Union Pacific had been in operation through North Platte only about two years when Mr. Tracy secured his place on the company payroll as a locomotive fireman. He is one of the men who can speak from the basis of long experience of the remarkable im-

provements in railway equipment during the last half century. The first engines on which he rode would now be interesting relics in a museum. At Christmas, 1872, he gained promotion to engineer, and was continued with that rank for more than forty years, until November 17, 1913, when he was put on the retired list with a pension. Mr. Tracy during all these years, while possessing the typical generosity of a railroad man, was also looking to the future and made some investments that have earned him a comfortable competence. At one time he owned thirty-four lots in North Platte and also had a good residence, which he maintained until after the death of his wife. He has long been prominent and influential in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and served as secretary and treasurer of Division No. 88 of the order from 1888 to 1898, and from the latter date has been secretary and treasurer of the General Committee of Adjustment. He is a republican in politics, is affiliated with the Degree of Honor, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Royal Highlanders and is a Presbyterian, as was Mrs. Tracy.

November 4, 1880, Mr. Tracy married Miss Lizzie L. Stinchcomb. She was born in Ohio in 1850 and died at North Platte May 28, 1911. Of the four children of their union only one is now living, Ora Margaret. She is the wife of William Wylie Walker, owner of a musical store at North Platte. Her first husband was Delmer Deford, and by that union she has one daughter, Tracy Margaret Deford. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have two children, Grace Ora and William Wylie, Jr.

ARTHUR C. HOWARD, one of the valued employes of the Union Pacific Railroad, on which he is now a conductor, has the distinction of being the first white child born at North Platte, where he still resides. He was born in this city on July 27, 1869, a son of George F. and Carrie (Holmes) Howard, she born at Bordeaux, France, and he on the ocean while his parents were crossing from England to the United States. George F. Howard and his wife were married at Omaha, Nebraska, and he worked out of that city as a locomotive engineer. Later he came to North Platte, arriving here in 1868, and was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company for a number of years, and in his latter days ran a switch engine for that same road. His death occurred on April 15, 1874. His widow survives him and now lives at Burkett, Nebraska, in the home for soldiers' widows, being entitled to a place in it through the service her husband rendered during the war between the states when he was on a gunboat and participated in a number of the engagements on the Mississippi River, including the campaign against Island No. 10. He first enlisted in 1861, and after the expiration of his first period he re-enlisted in Company G, Third Ohio Cavalry, and was mustered out at Monroeville, Ohio, in 1865. Arthur C. Howard was the only child born to that marriage. After her husband's death Mrs. Howard was married to H. T. Crockett, and by her second marriage she had a son, J. W. Crockett, who is a railroad conductor living at Ogden, Utah. All her life she has been a consistent member of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Howard was strong in his support of the republican party.

Arthur C. Howard attended the public schools of North Platte, and when only twelve years old began to be self-supporting, as at that early age he began working in a hotel, running messages and calling the railroad men who patronized the hotel for their trains. As was but natural, considering that he was reared in a railroad atmosphere, he has spent all of his mature years in railroad work,



and on August 10, 1892, entered the service of the Union Pacific Railroad with which he has since remained. He was for a time connected with the freight service, but has been promoted and is now passenger conductor on the run from North Platte to Cheyenne.

On November 26, 1901, Mr. Howard was married to Mabel C. Fredling, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of Eric and Ada (Peterson) Fredling, both of whom were born in Sweden and married in Iowa. Mr. Fredling is a retired railroad man, and he and his wife now live at Seattle, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have two sons, namely: Arthur and Everett, both of whom are attending school and are very bright, promising boys. Mr. Howard belongs to the Baptist Church, and also to the Order of Railroad Conductors, in which he has received the Degree of Honor, and is a Yeoman, and he has passed all of the chairs of the former organization. Like his father he is a strong republican. Quite recently he remodeled his residence at No. 809 East Fourth street, and it is now a very comfortable and modern home. Mr. Howard's time is fully occupied with his railroad work, so he has never gone into politics, but is interested in the progress of his city and county, is a man of high standing both with his road and locally.

**JOHN TWINEM, M. D.** If definite accomplishment in the utilization of subjective power and ability is to be the criterion of success, then Dr. John Twinem, of North Platte, one of the best known physicians of Lincoln county, certainly has achieved success in one of the noblest of callings. Looking into the clear perspective of his career, there may be seen the strong lines of courage, persistence, determination and self-confidence—qualities which alone work forward to the goal of worthy and distinct achievement. To achieve an eminent standing in as exacting a calling as the medical profession requires something more than mediocre talents—a fidelity to duty and the happy faculty of winning and retaining the confidence and good will of all classes. These qualifications the gentleman whose life record is briefly outlined in the following paragraphs seems to possess, for he has, unaided, gradually overcome all obstacles until he stands in the front rank of the medical profession of Lincoln county, a locality widely known for the high order of its medical talent.

John Twinem was born in County Armagh, near Belfast, Ireland, and is the son of William and Mary Jane (McNally) Twinem, both of whom also were natives of Ireland, where they were reared, married and spent their entire lives, both being now deceased. They became the parents of six children, of which number only one, the subject of this sketch, came to the United States. The father was a farmer by vocation and was highly respected in his home community. He and his wife were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John Twinem received his elementary education in the national schools of his native country, where he lived until 1893, when, desirous of better opportunities for advancement than were afforded in his own country, he immigrated to the United States. After obtaining employment here he decided to secure a more complete education and entered Wheaton College, near Chicago, Illinois, where he was graduated in due course of time. Then, having determined to devote his life to the practice of the healing art, he matriculated in the Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago, where he was graduated in 1903, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Immediately thereafter he came to North Platte and established himself in the practice

of his profession, in which he has been engaged continuously to the present time, having built up a large and representative patronage throughout this community, his reputation as a successful physician and surgeon having extended far beyond the bounds of his own locality. For some time he has had a hospital for the treatment and care of patients who wish to place themselves entirely under his personal care and for those who come from outside points. Recently he has purchased other lots, on which it is his intention to erect another and better hospital. Not only has he gained wide notoriety in his chosen profession, but he has also established a sound reputation for uprightness and noble character in all the relations of life.

In 1905 Doctor Twinem was married to Martha Armstrong, of Glidden, Iowa, and they are the parents of three children, Linn, Mary Jane and William. Politically the doctor is a republican, and, while his professional duties precludes his taking a very active part in politics, he exhibits a keen and intelligent interest in the public affairs of the locality, for he consistently gives his support to every movement having for its object the advancement of the community along material, civic or moral lines. Fraternaly he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while he and his family are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Douglas County Medical Society and the American Institute of Homeopathy. It is his intention shortly to take a post-graduate course in surgery, it being his constant endeavor to keep thoroughly in touch with all the latest advances in his profession. Doctor Twinem has had a splendid record as a physician, and as a citizen he is numbered among the progressive and enterprising men of the community. Genial and approachable, he has easily made friends and is deservedly popular among those who know him.

**HENRY C. RIDINGER.** It is a far cry from the present, when all employment of those under sixteen years is either forbidden or discouraged, to the days when little children were expected to be self-supporting, and yet there are a number of men still living who have earned for themselves everything they had from a period antedating their twelfth year. When asked they will tell their questioner that their early employment made them self-reliant, aggressive and capable, but it is to be noticed that they have taken good care to so provide for their own children as to make such early endeavors unnecessary. One of these self-made men of Nebraska, who stands high in public esteem, is Henry C. Ridinger, one of the large farmers and hay producers of Lincoln county, whose leased farm is in section 21, township 14, in the North Platte neighborhood.

Henry C. Ridinger was born in Clark county, Illinois, about sixty-seven years ago, a son of William and Margaret Ridinger, both of whom are deceased. They went to Kansas in 1857, becoming pioneers of that state during the most exciting period of its history. By calling he was a farmer. He and his wife had six children, of whom Henry C. was the youngest.

In his boyhood Henry C. Ridinger worked at whatever presented itself, and long before he left childhood was doing a man's work. He trailed cattle for several years in Kansas for a man by the name of Robert Walker, and then hired out as a farm hand by the month at different places, earning his own living from the time he was eleven years old. About 1885 he came to Nebraska and rode the range for McCully & Jewett and Plummer & Roberts, early cattle men of Dawson county. After four years he came to Lincoln county

and leased his present property of 420 acres, where he is doing general farming and raising a good grade of live stock. He specializes on hay production to a large extent.

Mr. Ridinger was married in 1887 to Lena Walter, born in Ohio and married in Iowa. They became the parents of the following children, namely: Fred, who is a railroad man, lives at North Platte; Ernest, who is also a railroad man and a resident of North Platte; Roy, who is on the farm with his father; Lola, who is the wife of Frank Steele, of North Platte; Thelma and Millard, who are at home; and one who is deceased.

In his political views Mr. Ridinger is a republican, and he has been a member of the school board of district 91 for several years. He was assessor of Cox precinct, and a man of considerable moment in his party in local affairs. Mrs. Ridinger is a member of the Lutheran Church, but Mr. Ridinger has not identified himself with any religious organization. When it is remembered that he started out so early in life and gradually worked his way up not only what he has accomplished is greatly to his credit but that he has also won such universal respect and warm personal regard from his associates.

**GUSTAVE O. JOHNSON.** Until the people of Nebraska recognized the need for adequate irrigation, farming was not very profitable in portions of the state, but since the construction of these systems thousands of acres of land have been redeemed and are now producing banner crops. These farms are held to a large degree by individuals, who have invested in them for the purpose of securing permanent homes, and are consequently deeply interested in the growth and development of this great commonwealth and their local communities. One of these progressive farmers of Lincoln county is Gustave O. Johnson, who owns and operates a farm in section 14, township 14, in the neighborhood of Hershey.

Gustave O. Johnson was born in Henry county, Illinois, on October 2, 1874, a son of Carl and Christina (Sonburg) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Sweden. They came to the United States many years ago, locating in Henry county, Illinois, where he found employment in railroad work. Subsequently he brought his family to Polk county, Nebraska, and bought a farm in the vicinity of Stromsburg, where he carried on general farming until he retired. Then he and his wife moved to Stromsburg and there lived the remainder of their useful lives, passing away in that city. From childhood both were consistent members of the Lutheran Church. From the time he was naturalized Carl Johnson supported the candidates of the democratic party. Carl Johnson and his wife had the following family: Emma, who is the wife of Oscar Rodine, of Polk county, Nebraska; Clara, who is the wife of Axel Lindholnd, of Ocoola, Nebraska; Gustave O., whose name heads this review; and Axel, who lives in Lincoln county, Nebraska.

Gustave O. Johnson was reared in Polk county, Nebraska, and came from there to Lincoln county and bought the eighty-acre farm he now owns, all of which is irrigated. Here he carries on general farming and stockraising and has put in a number of high-class improvements, so that his property has been greatly increased in value.

In 1899 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Manda Swanson, born in Sweden, the ceremony taking place in Polk county, Nebraska, where Mr. and Mrs. Swanson still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson became the parents of three children, namely: Mildred,

who is attending the O'Fallon school; Reuben, who is also attending the O'Fallon school; and Kenneth, who is at home. Like his father, Mr. Johnson supports the democratic ticket, although sometimes locally he casts his vote for the man rather than for the party. Both he and his wife are strong supporters of the local Lutheran Church, of which they have long been members. They are both friends of the public schools, for it was in those of Polk county that they received educational training. Hard-working, upright and thrifty, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have made a success of their farming, and at the same time gained the respect of their neighbors.

**PETER YOUNG.** Since 1905 Peter Young has been engaged in farming and stockraising in Lincoln county, and his rural property is one of the best developed in the Hershey neighborhood. He is a native of Sweden, where he was born in 1871, a son of Peter and Anna (Burgstrom) Young, both natives of Sweden. The father was a miner, and died in his native land. Following his demise his widow came to the United States in 1887, bringing her four children with her, hoping to give them better opportunities here than they would secure in Sweden, and lived to see her hopes for them realized. These children were as follows: Nels J., who is a farmer of Lincoln county; Anna, who is the wife of John Johnson, lives in South Omaha, Nebraska; Peter, whose name appears in this review; and Mary, who is deceased.

Peter Young attended the public schools of Sweden, and after reaching this country took a business course in the Omaha Commercial College, which gave him a fair knowledge of business customs here. After his arrival in the United States in 1887 he spent some time in Boone county, Iowa, and from there went to Omaha, Nebraska, as butcher for a packing company, holding that position for about thirteen years. He then spent two years in Kansas, when he returned to Omaha, and in 1905 came to Lincoln county and bought 130 acres of land in section 14, township 14, range 33, all of which is irrigated. His operations include general farming and the raising of a high grade of stock. In addition to his agricultural interests Mr. Young is a stockholder in the Farmers' Union State Exchange of Omaha and the Farmers' Union at Hershey, and is treasurer of the Paxton and Hershey Water Company.

In June, 1898, Mr. Young was married to Martha Johnson, a native of Sweden, and their children are as follows: Melba, who is attending Midland College at Fremont, Nebraska; Linnea, who is attending the O'Fallon High School; and Carl, Albert, Doris, Carolina, Norma, Myrtle, Thaine, Etta and Hildegard, who are all at home.

In his political views Mr. Young is a republican, and is now serving as treasurer of the O'Fallon school board. He belongs to the Swedish Lutheran Church, and is a generous contributor to its support. The Modern Woodmen of America holds his membership.

There are a number of men of the same country in Lincoln county and all of them are doing well, their industry and thrift resulting in their ultimate prosperity. They have developed into fine citizens, and are held in the highest esteem by their neighbors, who appreciate their excellent qualities, and are prepared to welcome to this region any others who claim Sweden as a place of birth.

**JOHN W. FOWLER.** On his fine farming property located northwest of Hershey John W. Fowler is engaged in raising beets. He

is also engaged in the cattle industry, and is recognized as one of the progressive men of this region. He was born at Stewartsville, Missouri, March 27, 1877, a son of John W. and Cornelia (Weddle) Fowler, natives of Illinois and Missouri, respectively. The father was a Union soldier, having served in Company B of an Illinois cavalry regiment during the period of the war, and contracted tuberculosis, caused by measles, and died from it in 1877, when forty-two years of age. His widow is still living and makes her home at Lebanon, Kansas. By trade he was a carpenter. His political convictions made him a republican. In religious matters he was a Baptist and his widow is a Methodist. Their children were as follows: Alice, who is the wife of H. H. Hendricks, of Marion, Nebraska; George, who is a farmer of Sutherland, Nebraska; Emma, who is the wife of H. J. Randall, proprietor of a paint store; William, who is employed in the machine shops of North Platte; and John W., who is the youngest of the family.

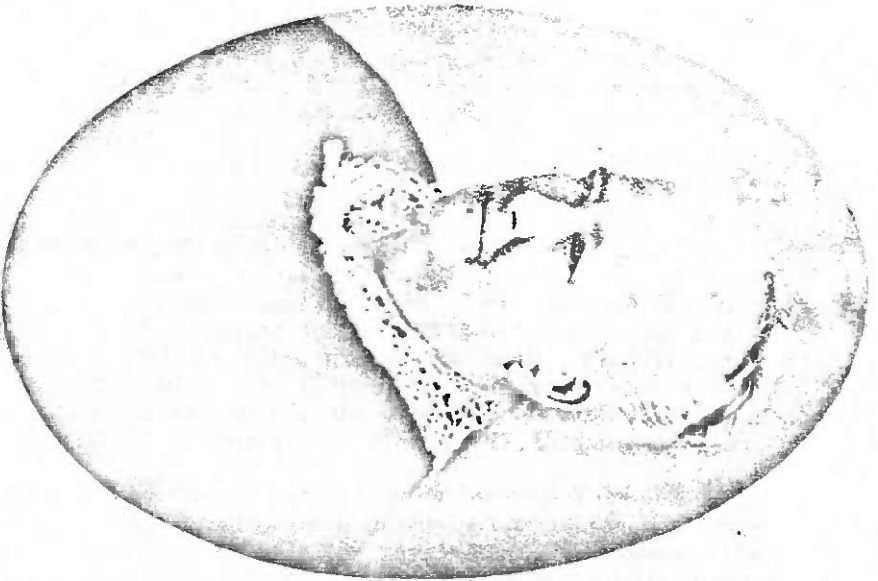
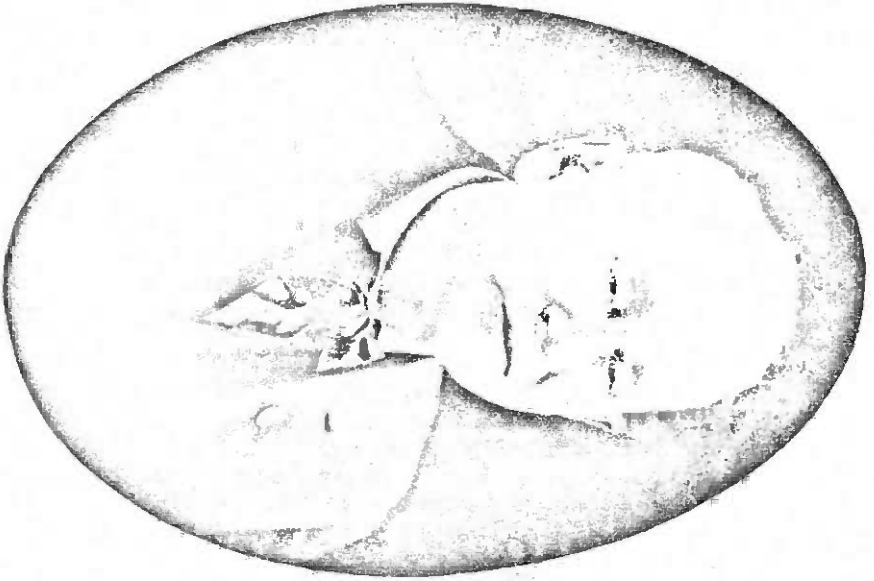
Left with a family to support by the death of her husband, the mother of John W. Fowler took her children to Smith county, Kansas, and there homesteaded, and there John W. was reared and acquired a common school education. From Smith county he went to Russell, Kansas, where he worked as a farm laborer, and then, coming to Lincoln county, homesteaded and bought a relinquishment claim south of North Platte, and there carried on general farming and raised a good grade of stock, specializing in cattle. After he had this property well improved he sold at a good profit and bought his present farm, and since then has developed into a beet grower on an extensive scale. He also handles some cattle, feeding quite a number during the winter.

In 1899 Mr. Fowler was united in marriage with Bertha L. Anderson, a native of Van Buren county, Iowa, who later went to Kansas, where the marriage occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have no children of their own, but they have adopted three, namely: John Miller, Verne Fowler and Gladys. Mr. Fowler is a strong republican. His fraternal connections are those he maintains with the local Lodge of Odd Fellows and Yeomen, and Mrs. Fowler belongs to the latter organization. She was a school teacher in Kansas prior to her marriage.

John Miller, adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, was in the Fifth Brigade of the Marines during the late war, and after being trained at Paris Island, South Carolina, was sent overseas, arriving in France just a week prior to the signing of the Armistice, much to his regret and that of his comrades, who had hoped to see service at the front.

**PLATT J. GILMAN.** Many railroad men with interesting careers live at North Platte, but probably Platt J. Gilman is the only one whose record and service with the Union Pacific and whose memories go back to the time when North Platte was the terminus of the Union Pacific and which was in process of construction as the first trans-continental line of the West. The historical prominence enjoyed by Platt J. Gilman is also shared by Mrs. Gilman, who has the distinction of being the first school teacher at North Platte.

Platt J. Gilman was born at Plattsburg, New York, June 23, 1847, son of R. A. and Ann H. (Moocers) Gilman. His father was born in New Hampshire in 1801 and his mother in New York State in 1809. Shortly after their marriage they came west, locating in Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1859. R. A. Gilman was a machinist



Mr & Mrs Easton

and mill man, and in Wisconsin built and operated a sawmill on his farm and helped develop the lumber resources of that state. About 1883 he moved out to Denver, Colorado, where he died in December, 1886. His widow survived him and died at the home of her son in North Platte in 1889. Both were members of the Presbyterian Church and the father was a republican voter. Of eight children only three are now living: Julia Struthers, a widow at Los Angeles, California; Platt J.; and Charles, who is an agent for the Santa Fe Railway Company in California.

Platt J. Gilman acquired his early education in the City of Milwaukee. One of his first experiences and one that constitutes another distinction of his career was as a Union soldier. He enlisted in 1864, at the age of seventeen, in Company I of the Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. All his service was at Memphis, Tennessee. After the war he returned to Wisconsin, learned telegraphy, and for two years was with the Chicago & Milwaukee Railway.

It was in March, 1867, that Mr. Gilman arrived at North Platte, which even then marked one of the westernmost posts of the frontier. He had crossed the Missouri River when the stream was filled with floating ice. The first three years he spent in the train service of the Pacific Company, and January 1, 1870, resumed his duties as a telegrapher. He remained as a telegraph operator and as manager of the local office through many years of faithful service, until November, 1908. Mr. Gilman has a well merited pension from two services, one from the Union Pacific Railway Company, the second for his services as a Union soldier during the Civil war.

Mr. Gilman has always been a good and careful business man. He has acquired some valuable property interests at North Platte, including his home at 315 West Fifth Street. Mr. Gilman is a Knight Templar Mason and is tyler in all the Masonic bodies at North Platte. He is also a past grand Odd Fellow, and is a republican in politics. He served three terms as a member of the School Board. Both he and his wife are members of the Episcopal Church and Mrs. Gilman was one of the organizers of the church in North Platte and has given much of her time to its affairs. She was also deeply interested in war auxiliary work, especially in the Red Cross and Civilian Relief.

In 1875 Mr. Gilman married Mary E. (Hubbard) Kramph. Mrs. Gilman was born January 10, 1846, near Palmyra, New York, and at the time of her marriage to Mr. Gilman was the widow of John Kramph and daughter of Alfred and Lydia (Shove) Hubbard. Her parents were natives of New York State and for many years lived in Palmyra, where her father died. Her mother died at the home of Mrs. Gilman in North Platte. Her father was a wagonmaker, a trade he followed until his death. The Hubbards were a Quaker family. Mrs. Gilman is the only survivor of four children. She was educated in the grade schools of Palmyra and for one year taught at Canandaigua, New York. Undoubtedly it required no small degree of courage for her to leave her eastern home surroundings and come out to the frontier town of North Platte in 1868, where she was hired to teach the first school established. She remained a school teacher only one year, and in 1869 became the wife of John Frederick Kramph. Mr. Kramph died in December, 1872, and of Mrs. Gilman's two children by that union only one is now living, Anna Kramph. Mrs. Kramph was born at North

Platte, was educated in the local high school, for three years was employed in the superintendent's office of the Union Pacific Railway, and then entered the First National Bank, where she has been one of the efficient and trusted employes for many years. She is now assistant cashier, and is one of the few women in Nebraska to attain such responsibilities. She is active with her mother in church, Red Cross and other local organizations.

To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Gilman were born six children, only four now living: Alfred, the son, born at North Platte in 1878, was educated in Nebraska State University, attended Theological school at Philadelphia, and is an ordained Episcopal minister. In 1903 he went to China as a missionary, and is now president of the Boone Episcopal College at Wauchang, China. The oldest daughter, Kate, is a graduate of the North Platte schools, of the Peru Normal, and was a teacher at North Platte until her marriage to Mr. J. A. Woolsey, who is a traveling man, their home being at Vancouver, Washington. Margaret Gilman is the wife of George A. Saint, a civil engineer with the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company and a resident of Elmhurst, Illinois. Orilla, the youngest of the family, is the wife of R. D. Birge, a prominent young lumberman at North Platte, son of W. W. Birge, of whom mention will be found on other pages of this volume.

**C. E. CARLSON.** Anyone who is the owner of irrigated Lincoln county farm land need not take much heed of his future, for he is assured an income from it whether he operates it himself or rents it to someone else. Since this region has been placed under an irrigation system its lands have become very productive and consequently valuable, and are held at figures that a few years ago would have been deemed impossible. One of these prosperous landowners now taking life somewhat easy after years of unremitting toil is C. E. Carlson of section 13, township 14. He was born in Sweden in 1854, a son of Carl Carlson, a carpenter by trade, now deceased. His wife has also passed away, both of them having been devout members of the Lutheran Church.

C. E. Carlson was reared in Sweden, where he attended the public schools, but not being contented with conditions there he sought better opportunities in the United States, landing in this country in the spring of 1879. For a time he worked at farm labor in Illinois, and then came on west to Harmony, Nebraska. Still later he homesteaded in Phelps county, proved up his claim and improved it, and then sold it at a profit. Mr. Carlson then came to Lincoln county, buying 196 acres of land in 1906, all of which is irrigated, and here he carried on general farming until he practically retired. His comfortable residence, big barns, fine fences and other good improvements have all been made by him.

In 1891 Mr. Carlson was united in marriage with Sophia Anderson, and they had one child, Richard, who died in 1916. Since securing his naturalization papers Mr. Carlson has been an independent voter. The Lutheran Church holds his membership. Mr. Carlson is another instance of one of his countrymen who made good. Coming here with but little knowledge of the language and customs, he has become one of the prosperous men of his community because he was not afraid of hard work or unwilling to save his money. He went through the hardships which always accompany homesteading, and with the money he made from the sale of the property he thus



acquired he was able to better himself. His has been no royal road to fortune, but rather a stony path leading up a steep incline, but he has now reached level ground where he can afford to pause for rest and enjoyment. His material success is not all that he has gained, however, for while he was acquiring it his honesty, sincerity and helpfulness gained him many warm friends and the respect of his neighbors.

**J. W. CLEMENS.** The traveler through Lincoln county is impressed by the fine improved farms and high grade of the livestock, which bear testimony to the progressive spirit of the agriculturalists of this region. Much of this land has been redeemed through the installation of systems of irrigation, and none of the farms have been brought to their present condition except through unremitting hard work on the part of the owners. One of the men who owns and operates a valuable farming property of eighty acres on section 23, township 14, in the neighborhood of North Platte, is J. W. Clemens, one of the substantial men of the county.

J. W. Clemens was born in Noble county, Indiana, in 1856, a son of L. N. Clemens, a native of Virginia, born in the Shenandoah Valley, and his wife, Sarah A. (Rathburn) Clemens, a direct descendant of one of the passengers on the historic "Mayflower." At an early day L. N. Clemens came to Indiana, and the neighborhood in which he located was then so sparsely settled that he had to ride for two days before he could find men to put up for him a log cabin. He developed into a general farmer and prominent resident of Noble county, and was a justice of the peace for a number of years. After the organization of the republican party he gave his undivided support to its candidates and principles. His death occurred at the age of eighty-three years, his widow surviving him and living to be eighty-five years. All of her life she was very active as a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while her husband was equally faithful in his adherence to the creed of the Baptist faith. They had eleven children, as follows: Martha, Eliza, John R. and Malinda, all of whom are deceased; Henderson C., who is now living retired in Indiana; Harrison B., who is deceased; Henry S., who is a resident of Minnesota; Sarah J., who is a widow living at Garrett, Indiana; two who died in infancy; and J. W., who was the youngest born. The father of this family was enrolling officer for his township during the war between the states, and owing to the presence in the neighborhood of a number of disloyal people he had some narrow escapes from death and disability.

Growing up on his father's farm, J. W. Clemens was early taught the lessons of right living and the dignity of labor, which he has never forgotten, and at the same time he was sent to the schools of his neighborhood, where he acquired a knowledge of the fundamentals of an education. In May, 1885, seeking better opportunities, Mr. Clemens came from Indiana to Lincoln county and homesteaded eight miles south of Wallace, proved up his claim, and made a number of improvements on it, and then sold it at a profit and began working for the railroad. In 1892 he bought his present farm, on which he has placed excellent improvements and now has a valuable property. His orchard, planted by him, is one of the best in this locality, and he takes great pride in it. Mr. Clemens is doing a general farming and livestock business, and keeps up the grade of his stock.

In 1878 Mr. Clemens was united in marriage with Eliza E. Fulk in Noble county, Indiana. She was born in Ohio. Their children are as follows: Ulysses H., who was killed on the railroad at Chappell, Nebraska, while engaged in railroad work; Blanche N., who is at home; Howard N., who is a farmer of Lincoln county; Myrtle, who is deceased; Maude E. and Edgar E., both of whom are at home.

While living in Wallace precinct Mr. Clemens was elected assessor of his precinct. He is an independent voter. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in high esteem by their fellow members. In fraternal matters Mr. Clemens is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, while his wife belongs to the Royal Neighbors. Since coming to Lincoln county Mr. Clemens has firmly established himself in the confidence of his neighbors, and is recognized as one of the best representatives of the agricultural interests of this part of the state.

**SWAN C. ECKLUND.** One of the experienced agriculturists of Lincoln county is Swan C. Ecklund, who has recently returned to his fine farm in section 17, township 14, after several years spent away from the farm in Denver, Colorado, the call of the soil being too strong for him to longer resist it. He was born in Sweden July 11, 1851, a son of Swan and Bertha (Johnson) Ecklund, both of whom are now deceased, the latter attaining to the remarkable age of ninety-six years.

Swan C. Ecklund came to the United States in 1870 and first located at Red Wing, Minnesota, and was there employed for about eighteen months. He was then attracted to Chicago, Illinois, by the demand for laborers in the reconstruction of the city following the great fire of 1871, and he found employment at his trade of a cabinet-maker. In November, 1872, he returned to Sweden and spent 2½ years, but the old conditions did not suit him, and so he came back to the United States in 1875, this time selecting Cherokee, Iowa, and was occupied with construction work on the new county buildings. In the fall of 1877 he made the journey by horse and mule team to the Coast and spent three years at different places along it, working at his trade and prospecting. Returning to Iowa, where he still owned land, he spent two more years in that state, still working at his trade, and during that time he was married at Marcus, Iowa, to Matilda Nelson, a native of Illinois, and they started a store and handled a general line of merchandise at Marcus for four years. Mrs. Ecklund then died, leaving a son, George P., now musical director with the Gaiety Theatre of Springfield, Illinois.

After the death of his wife Mr. Ecklund sold his business at Marcus, Iowa, and came to Holdrege, Nebraska, where he opened up a hardware store, but later sold it. He then went into an insurance business, and after he had developed it he disposed of it and opened a grocery at Holdrege, and conducted it for ten years. His health failing him, he embarked in the cattle business on a ranch at Overton, Nebraska, and for five years carried it on, but then sold it and returned to Holdrege, where he dealt in real estate, securing the agency for Paxton & Hershey in Lincoln county. While handling land for this firm Mr. Ecklund became impressed with the value of property in Lincoln county, and invested in some of it, and in 1905 moved his family to the farm he had secured, comprising 202 acres. This he operated for nine years, and then rented it and went to Denver, Colorado, but on March 1, 1919, returned to it. At one time

Mr. Ecklund was engaged in teaming between Ogden, Utah and Butte, Montana. He has been a director and treasurer of the Paxton & Hershey Water Company for some time, and is a man of varied experience and wide knowledge.

Mr. Ecklund was married second, November 9, 1887, to Emma Hedlund, a native of Illinois, born April 9, 1865, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Carl, who rents his father's farm; Oscar and Evelyn, both of whom are attending the Hershey school. Mr. Ecklund is an independent voter, and both Mr. and Mrs. Ecklund are members of the Lutheran Church.

**DEWEY WISNER.** One of the men of Lincoln county who has found farming and stockraising profitable, and who has proven his faith in this part of the state by investing heavily in farm land, is Dewey Wisner of section 35, township 15. He was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, on May 18, 1876, a son of William E. and Emeline (Whelan) Wisner, natives of Michigan. William E. Wisner was a farmer who came to Nebraska, homesteaded in McPherson county, and proved up his claim in 1890. There he was engaged in general farming and the raising of stock until his death in 1911. A strong republican, he was elected on his party ticket supervisor of Lenawee county, Michigan, and as treasurer of McPherson county, Nebraska. A very well educated man, he alternated farming with school teaching after he came to Nebraska, and some of his pupils in those early days have become prominent in this and other states. William E. Wisner and his wife were both consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. Their children were as follows: Dr. W. O., who is a physician and surgeon of Spokane, Washington; Anna, who is the wife of A. G. Waits, of McPherson county; Mrs. J. M. Calhoun, who resides in Lincoln county; Dewey, whose name heads this review; Emily, who is the wife of H. E. Waits, of McPherson county; Scott, who is agent of the Hugo Cole Company; and Stella, who is deceased, married A. G. Waits.

Dewey Wisner acquired a common school education and a knowledge of farming during the formative period of his life. Like his father, he homesteaded in McPherson county and proved up his claim, and in 1913 came to Lincoln county. He has added to his holdings until he now owns  $3\frac{3}{4}$  sections of land and is extensively engaged in a general line of farming and the raising of registered Durham cattle and a good line of other stock. His improvements, which are excellent, have been made by him and he takes a pride in keeping his property up to the highest standards.

In 1907 Mr. Wisner was married to Dora Harrison, a daughter of B. F. Harrison, one of the pioneers of McPherson county, and a man of some prominence in his day. Mr. and Mrs. Wisner have two children, namely: Edith and Hazel, both of whom are at home. Although he does not feel himself bound down to party ties, Mr. Wisner is a republican on general principles. He is one of the most experienced farmers of the North Platte neighborhood, and his experiments have proven satisfactory and his example is followed by a number of his fellow citizens, who recognize that he knows what he is about and when he adopts a certain method he does so because he knows it to be the best for his purposes. As a man he stands well in public esteem and he deserves the confidence he has always inspired.

MAURICE J. CRONEN was a veteran railroad man, one of the early employes of the Union Pacific at North Platte, and during his residence in that city gained a host of friends outside of railroad circles.

Mr. Cronen was born at Great Bend, Pennsylvania, October 20, 1855, and died at Grand Island, Nebraska, February 10, 1902. His father, Owen J. Cronen, was a native of Ireland, was married in that country, and became an early settler at Waverly, Iowa, where he died. Maurice J. Cronen received his education in the district schools and high schools of Iowa, and as a boy became interested in railroading, and made no other occupation constitute a serious claim upon his energies. He began as a locomotive fireman and for several years was an engineer with the Illinois Central in the Iowa Division. Mr. Cronen located at North Platte in 1879 as roundhouse foreman, and the responsibilities of that office he filled the rest of his life. He was roundhouse foreman at Grand Island at the time of his death. Mr. Cronen was a Lutheran in religion, was a democrat in politics, and was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Woodmen of the World.

In 1885 he married Miss Lottie Koeken, a daughter of Andrew O. and Christina Millander Koeken. Her parents were both born in Sweden, and came to the United States in 1869, first living in Iowa, going to Omaha for four years, and settling at North Platte, Nebraska, in 1875. Andrew Koeken is a well known citizen of North Platte, was industrious in his business as a tailor for many years, and is now retired. Mrs. Koeken died in 1917. Mrs. Cronen was the second in a family of ten children, eight of whom are still living. The late Mr. Cronen was a good business man, and Mrs. Cronen has shown much capability in handling her affairs since his death. She is owner of two good properties in North Platte. Three children were born to her: Nelle, who died at the age of sixteen years; Walter, in the insurance business in Kansas; and Gordon, who is a veterinary surgeon now in the Government civil service and located at Pierre, South Dakota.

ROGER A. DAVIDSON, who died in 1903, was a resident of Lincoln county for several years, and his family, consisting of Mrs. Davidson and their three daughters, now reside at North Platte.

Mr. Davidson was born in Ohio in 1858, a son of James R. and Rachel Davidson. His father was an attorney by profession, and when Roger was a small boy the family settled at Hillsboro, Henry county, Iowa. James Davidson served two terms as sheriff of Henry county, and otherwise was active in the practice of law until his death. He was a member of the Baptist Church and a republican in politics.

Roger A. Davidson acquired his early education in Iowa, and for four years was deputy sheriff under his father. In 1880 he married Miss Callie A. Buchanan, a sister of Butler Buchanan of Lincoln county. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson came to Lincoln county in 1882, locating on a ranch, and subsequently Mr. Davidson conducted a store and restaurant at Curtis in Frontier county. In 1895 he took his family back to Iowa, where he engaged in farming. He was a good business man, successful in various enterprises, and left his family well provided for when he died in 1903.

Mrs. Davidson afterward returned to North Platte, and now enjoys the comforts of a good home at 415 West Sixth Street. During the war she took a very active part in canteen work, and was one of the local captains. Mr. Davidson was a member of the Baptist

Church, a republican in politics and was a Knight Templar Mason and member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was also a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The three daughters of Mrs. Davidson are Ella, Helen and Ruth. The two older are married. Ella is the wife of R. D. Batie, a Union Pacific engineer living at Kearney, Nebraska; Helen is the wife of F. W. Laughlin, a Union Pacific conductor with home at North Platte.

ARTHUR F. FINK has been a resident of North Platte over twenty years, an active business man of the city, and is head of a well established and amply stocked harness and saddlery store. He gives all his time to business and his customers, and has a great deal to show for an active career that started as a farm boy without capital.

Mr. Fink was born at Danville, Illinois, in 1887, only son and child of Frank and Susie (Youger) Fink. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of New England. They were married in Illinois, where they followed farming, and for many years past have been residents of Kansas. They are members of the Presbyterian Church, and in politics the father has always voted the republican ticket.

Arthur F. Fink secured his education in the district schools of Kansas, and the routine of the farm was his first occupation. Later he learned the trade of harnessmaker, and when he came to North Platte in 1899 he went into the harness goods department of the Wilcox department store. He remained there eight years, making himself useful to the business and acquiring a wide acquaintance with the people of Lincoln county. He then bought the harness department of the store and has since conducted it as an independent business and has maintained a service adequate to all the demands of his trade.

Mr. Fink married, September 23, 1902, Miss Eugenia Guillaume, daughter of Eugene and Ann Marie (Denney) Guillaume. Her parents were both born in France, her mother in Alsace-Lorraine. They were married near Ottawa, Illinois, having come to this country when young people, and both spent their last years in North Platte. The Guillaume family settled in North Platte in 1904, and lived on a farm.

Mr. Fink is a member of the Presbyterian Church, while Mrs. Fink is a Catholic, the faith in which she was reared. Politically he supports the republican party.

VICTOR VON GOETZ was educated as a machinist and when he first came to North Platte nearly forty years ago he was in the shops of the Union Pacific Railway. He has had an active business career in the city, and as a man of much technical proficiency has applied his attention successfully for over twenty years to the photographic profession.

Mr. Von Goetz was born in Vienna, Austria, August 23, 1849, son of Charles Matthew and Fannie (Adami) Von Goetz. His parents spent all their lives in Austria, and of their ten children three are living, Victor Von Goetz being the only one in America. The father was a civil engineer by profession and belonged to the official class in Austria. He was in the government service for forty-two years. He held the rank of lieutenant in the Austrian army during the

Napoleonic wars. He participated in the battle of Leipsic in 1813 and was also at Waterloo in 1815. The Von Goetz family in Austria were of the Catholic faith.

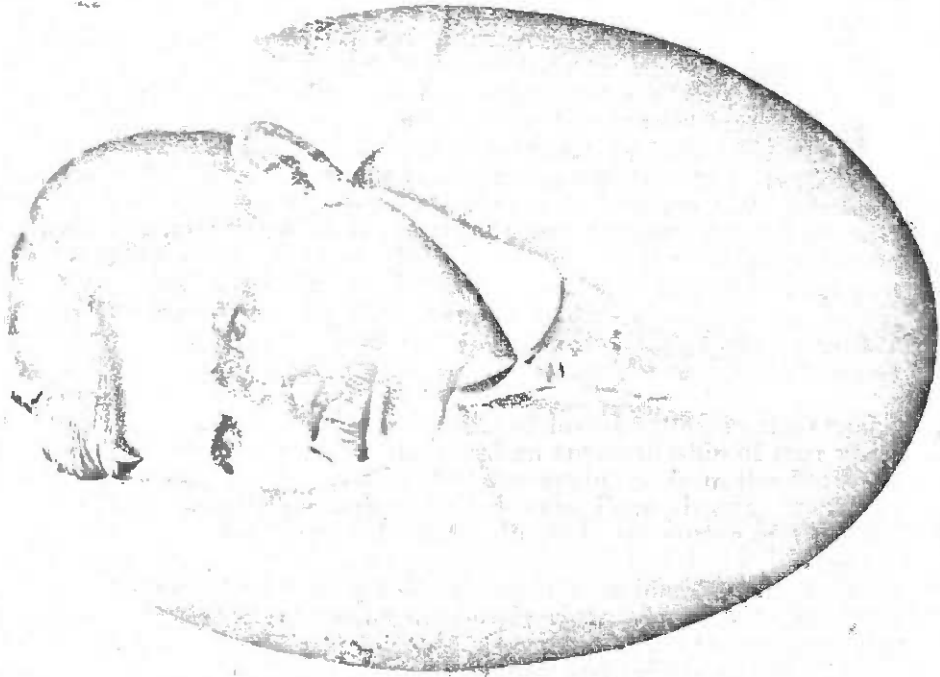
Victor Von Goetz was educated in Vienna, attending a gymnasium corresponding to an American college. He learned the machinist's trade in Vienna, and for four years was employed as a machinist in the Austrian navy. Mr. Von Goetz came to America alone in 1872, and for nearly ten years was in the shops of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company at Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. Looking for better prospects further west, he arrived at North Platte in 1881, and for seven years was in the service of the Union Pacific. He then engaged in the grocery business for eight years, and in 1896 took up photography, an art in which he had gained special proficiency and to which he had given studious attention. He has one of the oldest studios in this section of Nebraska.

Mr. Von Goetz has frequently been honored by his fellow citizens. He was elected mayor of North Platte in 1904 and for nine years was a member of the Board of Education and also for several years in the City Council. He is a republican in politics, and is affiliated with the Masonic Order, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Knights of the Maccabees. His family are members of the Episcopal Church.

In 1873 he married Miss Anna Stolle, a native of Bohemia. Eight children were born to them. Ida is the wife of K. D. Small, express agent at Omaha. Bertha is the wife of Charles B. Winegar, a bank president at Lebanon, Kansas. Fannie is the wife of Clyde Drew, an insurance man at Omaha. Anna was married to O. R. Handley, who owns the United Auto Parts Company at Omaha. Victor is ticket agent at the Union Depot at Portland, Oregon. Hedwig is the wife of W. C. Patterson, owner of a sign business at Minneapolis. Marie became the wife of L. J. Knoll, cashier of a bank at Liberty, Nebraska; and Maximillian, the youngest of the family, is in the automobile repair business at North Platte.

**WALTER J. THOMAS.** In front of the farm owned by Walter J. Thomas in Lincoln county passes the Lincoln Highway, daily traversed by a stream of automobiles. But when Mr. Thomas came to Lincoln county more than forty-five years ago the only highways were Indian trails and there were still Indians in great numbers to keep those trails alive, though they showed no active hostility to the few white settlers. Game was also in abundance, including the buffalo. The Thomas family were therefore homesteaders and part of the vanguard of civilization occupying the western frontier of Nebraska. Between the old Thomas homestead and North Platte there stood one lone house as a landmark.

Walter J. Thomas was born in New York State March 30, 1857, but has spent the greater part of his life in Nebraska. His parents were David S. and Elizabeth (Strang) Thomas, also natives of New York State. The paternal grandfather was W. J. Thomas, who spent his last years on a farm near Ithaca, New York. The maternal grandfather was Benjamin Strang, also a New York State man. David S. Thomas joined the Fifteenth New York Regiment and served during the last year of the Civil war. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a republican in politics, and he died in the National Sanitarium at Hot Springs, South Dakota, when eighty-three years of age. He frequently responded to the impulse to move to new scenes, and had gone out to California in 1859 and also



A. Streitz  
Mrs. A. J. Streitz

went to the gold diggings in the Black Hills of Dakota. He and his family also lived for some time in Iowa, later in Missouri and Illinois, and in 1874 drove with a horse team from Illinois to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded. Later he sold his homestead and lived with his son Walter for a number of years. He and his wife had three children, two of whom are still living, Walter J. and Sara. The latter is the wife of W. J. Bickley. Mr. Bickley, a pioneer of Madison county, Nebraska, was born in Wales but has lived in Nebraska since 1870, and is now living retired at North Platte. He was educated in Madison county and has always been a farmer.

Walter J. Thomas received his early education in New York, Illinois, and at St. Louis, Missouri, and his first experiences were farming. In 1879 he homesteaded in Lincoln county and still owns that homestead, located three miles northwest of North Platte on the Lincoln Highway. Altogether he has three quarters of a section, a half section being southwest of Hershey. Part of his land is under irrigation, but he has always relied chiefly upon stockraising, and has followed that industry rather extensively. Mr. Thomas has never married and now makes his home with his sister at North Platte. While his farm is rented he is still financially interested as a partner in the livestock. He has developed and improved a very valuable farm and has well earned the leisure and competence he now enjoys.

ALEXANDER F. STREITZ. Having a practical knowledge of the needs of a prosperous and growing municipality, and ever maintaining a broad-minded and intelligent interest in the affairs of the day, Alexander F. Streitz, mayor of North Platte, is performing the duties of his responsible office in a most creditable manner. A native of northern Michigan, he was born May 10, 1860.

His father, Ferdinand Streitz, was born, reared and educated in Germany, and during the revolution of 1848 served in the German Army. In 1850 he was united in marriage with Hannah Fest, and immediately after came with his bride to the United States, settling first in Wisconsin, then moving to Minnesota, from there going to northern Michigan. Coming with his family to Nebraska in 1860, he made the trip from St. Louis to Omaha by boat. He was quite successful in life, accumulating a good property. As a freighter he made four overland trips from Omaha to Virginia City, Montana. He was a democrat in his political views, and both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran Church. Of their seven children, five are living, as follows: William, a farmer living twelve miles west of Omaha; Alexander F., the subject of this sketch; G. A., a civil engineer of Phoenix, Arizona; E. E., of Richfield, Idaho, a banker and ranchman; and Edward J., engaged in the real estate business in Omaha.

Having obtained the rudiments of his education in the Omaha schools, Alexander F. Streitz served an apprenticeship of four years in a local drug store, and in 1884 was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Embarking in the drug business in North Platte in the spring of 1885, he continued until 1908, when, on account of ill health, he disposed of his store and stock, wisely deciding to take a long rest from active pursuits, finally recovering his former vigor. Mr. Streitz has been identified with the best interests of the city, at the present time devoting his attention to his official duties and private affairs.

A stalwart supporter of the principles of the democratic party, Mr. Streitz has filled various offices within the gift of his fellow citi-



zens. Elected coroner of Lincoln county in 1885, he served two years, and the ensuing three years was a member of the State Board of Pharmacy. From 1909 until 1912 he was county commissioner, and from 1907 until 1919 was a member of the City School Board, serving as its secretary the most of the time. In April, 1919, Mr. Streitz was elected mayor of North Platte, an office for which he is amply qualified, and is ably filling. Fraternally he is prominent in the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, having served as senior warden of the Blue Lodge, as generalissimo of the Commandery, and at the present time being secretary of the Chapter.

Mr. Streitz married, October 30, 1887, Grace A. Stewart, who was born at Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 20, 1865, a daughter of Alexander Stewart, who was for several years a master mechanic on the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad. After coming to North Platte in 1870 he was engineer on a passenger train on the Union Pacific Railroad until 1889 when he was promoted to master mechanic of the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad. He died March 2, 1892. He was a pioneer here and built one of the best homes in North Platte in 1870, when this was a very small and wild place. There he made his home until promoted to master mechanic in 1889, when he moved to St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Streitz, who own and occupy a beautiful home at the corner of Fourth and Sycamore streets, have two children, Ruth and Ferdinand. Ruth Streitz attended the Bristol School in Washington, District of Columbia, and graduated from Brownell Hall in Omaha, and in the University of Chicago. She graduated from the Kindergarten Training School. She is now in Madison, Wisconsin, serving as superintendent of the Child's Welfare Department. Ferdinand Streitz enlisted for service in the World war on December 5, 1917, and was stationed in three or four different camps while in training, going overseas in March, 1918. He had enlisted in the Twenty-third Engineers Corps, and continued in it until his return to this country in July, 1919. Mrs. Streitz is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Streitz served as secretary of the Red Cross all through the great war and was active in all war interests.

HERSHEY S. WELCH, the North Platte waterwork commissioner, was born, May 3, 1881, at Epworth, Iowa, his ancestry belongs farther east, his father, Samuel Welch, hailing from Bangor, Maine. The mother, Harriet Eliza (Snyder) Welch, hails from Cincinnati. Her people immigrated to Iowa in 1841, and there Mr. Welch met and married her. They lived there many years and he was a postoffice clerk there. In 1874 he came to Fort McPherson and worked on a ranch for his brother, E. H. Welch, and also in a store. The brothers had two ranches, one on Cottonwood Springs and the other on the site of Bignell.

There were five children in the Welch household, four of them living today. Hattie Maude is the widow of Joe Hershey and lives in North Platte; May Welch is a clerk under her brother in the waterworks; Lutie S. is the wife of a North Platte taxi man; and Hershey S. While the father was a Methodist the mother was an Episcopalian. He had lived for a time at Spear Fish, North Dakota, and Mrs. Welch now lives in North Platte.

The maternal grandfather, Thomas Snyder, was an architect and builder in Iowa City, Iowa, and died there. He built the first unsupported circular stairway in Iowa, and he built many churches in the vicinity of Iowa City. His ancestry came from Holland, and the family name in Holland was originally spelled Heerselee.

H. S. Welch graduated in 1899 from the North Platte High School and in 1903 he received the B. S. degree from the University of Iowa. In 1904 he began civil engineering with the Iowa Engineering Company of Clinton, Iowa, remaining there two years. In 1906 he came to North Platte and in 1907 he was made city engineer, remaining in that position three years. In 1913 Mr. Welch became water commissioner, and has since occupied that position. He is independent in politics and a communicant in the Episcopalian Church. In December, 1912, Mr. Welch purchased the old Buffalo Bill homestead, and with his mother and sister he lives there today.

**JOHN T. ABERNATHY.** While the name Abernathy bespeaks Scotch blood, John T. Abernathy, of the North Platte monumental works, has British ancestry on both sides, his father, Andrew Abernathy, coming from Scotland and his mother, Elizabeth Gray, from England. The name Abernathy goes back to Aberdeen, although the parents married at Weiser, Idaho. Their son was born in 1878 at Weiser, Idaho. The father went there when he was eighteen years old, and he died there at the age of sixty-four. The mother now lives in Seattle, Washington. Their children are: John T. Abernathy, of North Platte, who enrolls the family; Adelia, wife of Noble Parker, of Grant's Pass, Oregon; and Esther, the wife of Charles Robertson, of Willapa, Washington.

The Abernathys are Presbyterians—Scotch Presbyterians—and the father was a professor of music. He studied in Des Moines, Iowa, and followed teaching for a number of years. When he located in Idaho he made money in placer mines, finally engaging in the business of buying and selling horses. He was engaged in the horse business at the time of his death.

John T. Abernathy was educated at Columbus, Nebraska, and he planned to become a physician and surgeon but abandoned his studies and engaged in the monument business as an artist and engraver. In 1894 he came to Lincoln county and then went west for study, returning in 1899 to North Platte. He worked for a number of years for W. C. Ritner as an engraver and then he went with the Union Pacific for six years as an inspector. In 1916 he again engaged in the monument business with F. H. Woodgate, and their territory reaches from Casad and Gothenburg to Torrington, Wyoming. They have one solicitor on the road and many patrons visit the monument works in North Platte. Mr. Abernathy devotes all of his time to the engraving side of the monument trade.

In 1902 he married Grace Welliver, of Gothenberg, and their children are: Andrew and Twila. They are Presbyterians and Mr. Abernathy is a republican.

**FRED D. WESTENFELD.** The last of a family of four children born to Dick and Minnie (Spille) Westenfeld in Germany is the life story of Fred D. Westenfeld of North Platte. He was born February 20, 1860, and his parents lived and died in Germany. They were Lutherans. The father was a lifetime butcher, and was a successful business man.

F. D. Westenfeld had his education in Germany, and when he was a young man of twenty-three he immigrated to America, coming in 1883 to Lincoln county. He worked twenty-five years for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, his duties being in the round-

house. In 1909 Mr. Westenfeld engaged in the grocery business on the north side in North Platte. He employs four clerks and has a fine patronage.

In 1884 Mr. Westenfeld married Dora Pohlmeier. She was also born in Germany. They have five sons: Henry owns the North Platte pool hall; Fred is a musician at Mackey, Idaho; Carl and Albert are clerks in the Westenfeld grocery; and Otto is a clerk in a freighthouse. All the sons enlisted in the army, and Carl, Albert and Otto were "Somewhere in France." Not many families have a better army record than the Westenfelds.

Mr. Westenfeld has been a successful business man although he started without capital save only his own earnings. Left entirely to his own resources, he is ahead in the world. Aside from the Lutheran Church relation he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is interested in community development. He has lived longer in America than he lived in Germany.

**GEORGE A. AUSTIN.** Longevity among Union Pacific Railway engineers located in North Platte is demonstrated in the fact that George A. Austin has been riding an engine since August, 1881, and there are two other engineers in active service who were on the job when he came to it. They are his brother-in-law, Charles E. Ell, and J. Q. Smith. In point of length of service Mr. Austin is the third man out of North Platte.

Mr. Austin is an American from choice, having been born, in April, 1851, in Ireland. His parents were Patrick and Catherine (Connors) Austin, and when he was eleven they immigrated to the United States, settling in 1862 at Pittsfield, Illinois. The father was a day laborer, and the parents both died at Pittsfield. Mr. Austin has one sister, Jane Austin, who lives in Denver. They are Catholics, and received their education in Ireland and in Pittsfield. Mr. Austin worked on a farm while living in Illinois.

In 1874 he married Eliza McGinn, and their children are: George T. Austin, who owns a garage in Pasco, Washington; Nellie, the wife of E. F. Seeberger, president of the First National Bank in North Platte; Theresa, the wife of Joseph B. Hayes, with the Simmons Hardware Company in Omaha; and Charles P. Austin, engaged in the sale of clothing in Bakersfield, California.

This generation of Austins are Catholics and members of the Knights of Columbus and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and, as was the grandfather, they are democrats. The Austin family story was transferred to North Platte in May, 1874, when George A. Austin went to work on the section on the Union Pacific. In 1876 he began firing an engine, five years later was promoted to engineer, and since 1890 he has had passenger trains—thirty years a passenger engineer, with forty-six years on an engine. Mr. Austin had the right idea of investments and the year he came to North Platte he purchased some inside lots at Walnut and Fifth streets. There was a house on one of the lots which sheltered him thirty-three years, and in 1909 he built a house for himself, and he and his wife live in it today.

It is not always smooth sailing on the Union Pacific and Mr. Austin relates a thrilling adventure with train robbers on the night of August 21, 1895—an incident he will always remember because of the nature of it. On the night in question train No. 8 was half an hour late pulling out of North Platte at midnight. As it approached Brady Island there was a signal to stop and take off passengers, and as the crew was in a hurry in order to make up time little time was lost

at this way-station. Mr. Austin and his fireman both saw two men leap on to the baggage car next to the engine, and almost before they realized it Mr. Austin heard the fireman say: "For God's sake don't shoot," and looking around he saw two men coming over the coal box, one with revolver in either hand and the other armed with a Winchester.

When Mr. Austin moved to stop the train the bandits told him to keep on and they would direct him when to stop, meantime covering him with firearms, and he obeyed their orders. They told him to run to the second curve, and when he slowed down they said: "Go on, we'll tell you when to stop," and shortly they ordered the train stopped at a point where their horses were tied to some trees. The men were then ordered off their engine, Mr. Austin on one side and the fireman on the other, and thus they could not co-operate in any plan of escape, and under the cover of firearms, Mr. Austin was ordered back toward the coaches. He was instructed to climb up and uncouple the baggage car from the rest of the train, and thus the bandits would be rid of the remainder of the train crew and the passengers.

After Mr. Austin had tried in vain to uncouple the train and had almost exhausted himself, he folded his arms in front of the desperado, saying: "You will have to shoot. I cannot uncouple the train," and at this juncture the conductor looked out from the door of the passenger car. The bandit ordered him back or he would shoot his head off, and that was the last they saw of the conductor. The bandit then went to the engine and turned out the lights and ordered the fireman back to help the engineer uncouple the train. They were unable to do it, and Mr. Austin suggested that some one should be on the engine to prevent an explosion. While they would not allow Mr. Austin to go they sent the fireman.

The bandit ordered Mr. Austin to rap on the door of the express car, and when the messenger opened it he entered and compelled the man to open the local safe, and after rifling it he ordered the through safe opened, but with its time lock that was an impossibility. The robbers then produced a sack of dynamite they had carried along and, charging the safe, they left the car to allow it to explode. Meanwhile Mr. Austin persuaded them to move farther away for safety. They sat on the bank some little time awaiting developments when the desperado remarked: "The damned thing isn't going off," and he started to investigate but changed his mind and came back to Mr. Austin, and meantime the fireman was planning things.

There was a terrific explosion and the robber hurried into the express car only to find the outside door blown off of the safe. At this moment the fireman cut loose and ran the engine to Gothenburg, where he spread the alarm. The bandits were frightened and mounted their horses without obtaining the loot, and they disappeared in the canyon. One of the horses was disabled in a barbed wire fence and both men astride the other horse kept on their journey. When the horse was exhausted they walked into Mason City, where they ordered breakfast. The railway agent happened to see them and concluded they filled the description he had of the train robbers. The section men were asked to watch while he went after the marshal, known as "Rattle Snake Pete," and when the men had finished their breakfast they started on foot down the track. When they stopped to take a plunge in the stream the marshal and posse were on their trail.

When "Rattle Snake Pete" ordered them out of the water they would have drossed, but the officer told the biggest man that if he

touched his clothes he was a dead one, and the arrest was accomplished and the bandits were brought to Grand Island and from there to North Platte. Court was in session and they were at once "sent over the road" for ten years. Mr. Austin was on the engine that pulled them to Grand Island on their way to the penitentiary. The bandits had \$40, and their horses were afterward found, and today Mr. Austin exhibits a fine gold watch that was given to him by the Pacific Express Company in recognition of his courage. The inscription reads: "For meritorious conduct in robbery of August 21, 1895," and while virtue is its own reward he fully appreciates this token of appreciation.

WILLIAM S. PENISTON was the first merchant at North Platte. Years before that he had sold goods along the old California Trail following the banks of the Platte River. He was a frontiersman and his character comprised the courage and all the other virtues constantly associated with the pioneer. His name occurs again and again in both the early and late annals of Lincoln county.

He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1834. He was a young man of twenty-five, active, adventurous, ready to assume a risk or responsibility, when he came to Nebraska Territory in 1859. At that time he bought a ranch opposite Willow Island, put up a log house, and was soon displaying a stock of goods which he sold to the travelers along the old California Trail. For several years he continued to serve that patronage.

In 1866 he moved his store and dwelling to Front Street, North Platte. It was the first store on the site. In the meantime the Union Pacific Railway was in process of construction, but on reaching North Platte the town remained the western terminus for one year and that of course brought a great impetus to the trade and commerce of the frontier town. Next after Judge Peniston Jack Morrow moved a store to North Platte. Mr. Peniston's partner in his early merchandising at North Platte was A. J. Miller, who is now living at Rawlins, Wyoming.

Mr. Peniston took up the first homestead in this part of Lincoln county, and part of the land he platted, and it was included in the townsite. Besides his business affairs he was very influential among the early settlers, was well educated and a natural leader of men, and was frequently given the responsibilities of public office. He was elected and served seven terms in the Nebraska Territorial Legislature. He was also chosen county judge of Lincoln county several times, was for two terms county treasurer, and at the time of his death was justice of the peace and also United States Commissioner, having been appointed to the latter office about thirty years ago.

His native place in England was known as Peniston, and he came with his parents, Richard Peniston and wife, to America. The family first located at Quebec, Canada, where Judge Peniston finished his education. In 1865, at Auburn, New York, he married Anna A. Webb, daughter of Z. L. and Polly Maria (Hoffman) Webb. Immediately after their marriage the young people came west to the Nebraska home which he had previously established. Mrs. Peniston and the wife of Doctor Dick, now of North Platte, are sisters.

Judge Peniston was a democrat in politics. He was a veteran member of the Odd Fellows and in 1906 his lodge presented him with the Jewel as a token of fraternal esteem. His death occurred that year, in October.

In the early days while he and his partner were operating a store at North Platte they were once driven away by the Indians, and

another time a party of Indians entered the store, shot out the lights and created general confusion.

Judge Peniston is survived by a number of children: William, a stockman and rancher at Rawlins, Wyoming; Charles, a stockman; Mrs. Catherine Blood, of Cheyenne; Mrs. Carrie Marti, of North Platte; Mary E., of North Platte; Mrs. Anna Gannt, of North Platte; Mrs. Nellie Bennett, of Rawlins, Wyoming; and Mrs. Elsie House, of Rawlins.

FRED MARTI is a native of Nebraska and has been a resident of North Platte since 1882. For more than a generation the people of the city have appreciated his skill both as a baker and as a retail butcher, and many of the best families of the city regard his market as indispensable to the proper provisioning of their homes.

Mr. Marti was born at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, May 12, 1866, son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Brotherman) Marti. His parents were natives of Switzerland. When they came to America they first located in Ohio, then moved to Omaha. His father was a carpenter for a number of years at Omaha, and died in that city. His wife died at Oswego, New York. They were members of the Lutheran Church. Of their eight children only three are now living: Fred; Mrs. W. F. Gates, a widow at North Platte; and Emma, who is also widowed and living at Oswego, New York.

Fred Marti acquired his education at Omaha, and while in that city learned the baking trade. He followed that occupation in different localities until he came to North Platte in 1882, and here conducted a bakery for fifteen years. He also acquired a knowledge of the butcher's trade and since 1908 has given his attention exclusively to the retail meat business, having one of the large meat markets in the city. He has a good business and also a good home on West Fourth Street, and can enjoy his prosperity the more because every dollar has been earned by his own efforts. Mr. Marti is a democrat and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and Lodge No. 985 of the Elks.

In 1892 he married Miss Carrie Elizabeth Peniston. Mrs. Marti was born at North Platte. Her father was Judge W. S. Peniston, a prominent figure in the pioneer times of Lincoln county. He served as county judge and was also in the Land Office at North Platte, and enjoyed many honors at the hands of his fellow citizens. Mrs. Marti died in June, 1916. She was a member of the Episcopal Church and her children are of the same faith. These children are five in number: Carrie Elizabeth, wife of Andrew McGovern, a brakeman with the Union Pacific living at North Platte; Fred D., who is employed by his father; Paul O., who spent twenty-six months in the uniform of the United States soldier in Company E, Forty-seventh Regiment, Fourth Division, Third Army, was overseas ten months, was honorably discharged August 7, 1919; and Florence Marjorie, born in 1909, and Hazel Mildred, born in 1911, are both at home and attending school.

DORSEY M. LEYPOLDT was born in Saunders county in 1877, and is a son of George and Clara (Houck) Leypoldt, the father a native of Germany. They came to Nebraska in 1866, and they were married in Omaha. The father worked in the Union Pacific shops there, later locating in North Platte. At that time there were troublesome Indians in the country, and many families would sleep at the round-house for protection from them. The men were armed at all times.

George Leypoldt and family now live in Hershey. Many years ago he went on a farm near Omaha, where he lived until he gave up business activities and retired to Hershey. There were eleven children, nine of them living, and Dorsey M. Leypoldt, who relates the family history, is the fifth child in the family. William and Rosa are twins. He lives on a farm at Hershey and she is the wife of Fred Iske, of Fort Crook. Alice is the wife of Charles McKain, a carpenter at Hershey. Charles and Fred are farmers at Hershey, and Edward is the manager of The Leypoldt-Pennington Company office at Hershey. Belle is employed in the First National Bank of Hershey and Kathryn is the wife of J. W. Abbott, the real estate dealer of Hershey.

The Leypoldt family are Methodists and democratic in their political sentiments. Dorsey M. Leypoldt graduated in 1894 from the Omaha High School, and his first business venture was in buying hay and grain. He formed a partnership with E. F. Seeberger at Hershey in 1895, and they continued together eight years, when he bought out his partner and was alone for two years. For thirteen years following the business was in the name of Leypoldt and Wickstrom, Mr. Wickstrom then selling to Mr. Leypoldt.

At this time Mr. Leypoldt incorporated the business at Hershey under the name of The D. M. Leypoldt Company, and the business in North Platte was Leypoldt and Pennington, the two concerns running for two years, when they were incorporated under the name The Leypoldt & Pennington Company with a capital stock of \$200,000 and \$115,000 paid up capital. Mr. Leypoldt is president and general manager, and Mr. Pennington is vice president. Other stockholders and directors are William Simants, Henry Hansen, and W. E. Starr, Mr. Starr being secretary and treasurer of the company.

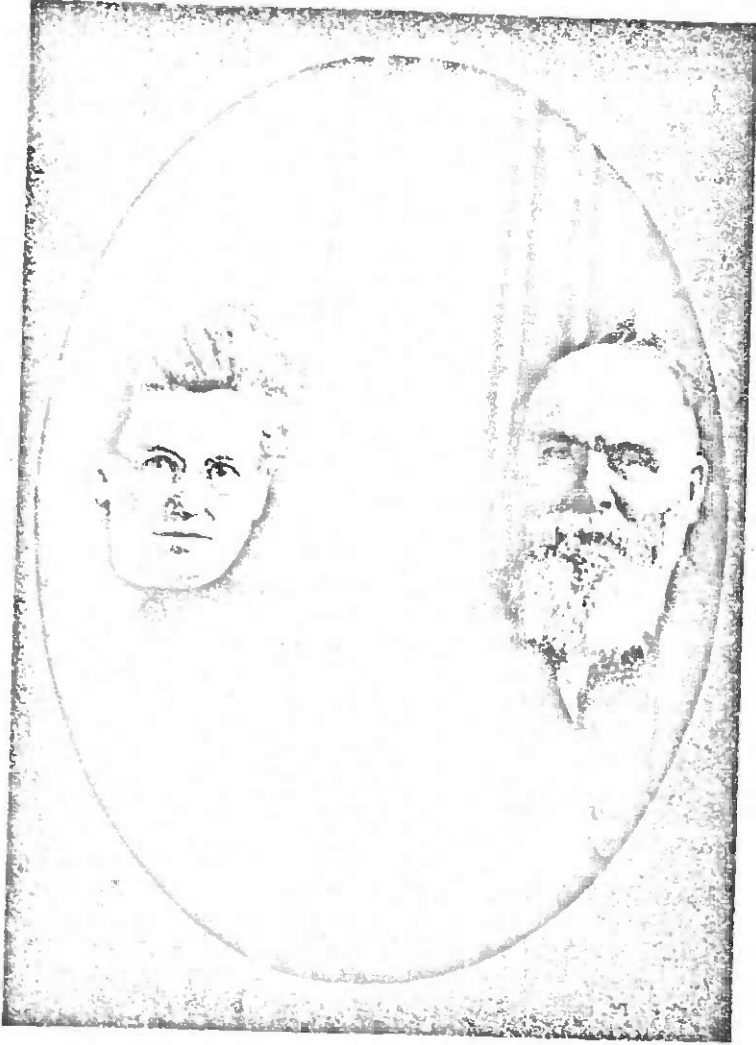
The Leypoldt & Pennington Hay and Grain Company operates at all stations on the Union Pacific, Northwestern and Burlington lines, dealing in hay, grain and seeds of all kinds, buying and shipping in carload lots and doing business in almost all of the states of the Union. Mr. Leypoldt began business with a capital of \$480, and he employed three men. The business has grown and is now one of the strongest financial concerns in Lincoln county.

On November 11, 1899, Mr. Leypoldt married Nelle Wills, a daughter of Edwin Wills, who came from Illinois to Nebraska many years ago. Their children are: Emil, Evelyn and Burdette. They belong to the Methodist Church and Mr. Leypoldt votes with the republicans. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen.

**ARNOLD F. BEELER.** While he located at North Platte and engaged in the grocery business only after the close of the World war, Arnold F. Beeler is widely known throughout Lincoln county for many years. He homesteaded in this county in 1886, and has been in business and public affairs nearly ever since.

He was born in Holland September 2, 1861, son of Frank and Margaret (Noorda) Beeler. His mother died in the old country and his father brought his family to the United States and was in business as a druggist in Illinois until his death in 1872. Arnold F. Beeler is a brother of the well known North Platte lawyer, Joseph G. Beeler.

Arnold F. Beeler while living in Illinois attended Hedding Col-



MR. AND MRS. MARTIN H. McDERMOTT



lege at Abingdon, and for several years was a successful teacher. His record of teaching covers a period of twelve years, part of the time in Gosper county and part of the time in Lincoln county. He taught while looking after his homestead in Lincoln county. During his career as a teacher he graded the O'Fallon schools.

In 1903 Mr. Beeler engaged in the general merchandise business at Hershey in Lincoln county, associated with I. E. Ware for three years, and after that was in business for himself twelve years more. For three years Mr. Beeler was receiver of the Land Office, and then during part of the World war was examiner in charge of the Employment Office. In August, 1919, he embarked his capital and experience in the grocery business at North Platte, and has one of the best stores of the kind in the city.

In 1888 Mr. Beeler married Miss Melissa L. Hiser, a native of Jay county, Indiana. Four children were born to their marriage: Regina A., wife of Edwin B. Scott, a farmer in the State of Washington; Ethel D., wife of Roy Edmisten, a farmer at Big Springs, Nebraska; Lucile and J. G., Jr., both high school students.

Mr. Beeler is affiliated with the Masonic Order and is secretary of Lodge No. 985 of the Elks. Politically he is a democrat, and has served as secretary of the County Central Committee.

MARTIN H. McDERMOTT, owner of a large farm and ranch in section 2, township 9, range 31, is one of the old timers of Lincoln county, was here when the Indian still gave grudging consent to occupation by the white men, and he saw the last of the buffalo disappear from the prairies. His business has been cattle raising, first on the open range, and later he acquired ownership to lands sufficient to handle his extensive herds.

Mr. McDermott, who is now retired in comfort and plenty, was born in Wisconsin October 24, 1854. His father, Michael McDermott, was a native of Ireland, and married a Miss Peckham. Both are now deceased. Michael McDermott also came to Nebraska in 1885 and took up a homestead and tree claim.

Martin H. McDermott was a young man of twenty-eight when he came to Nebraska in 1882. He first went to Kansas, where he had a homestead and he lived there until he came to Nebraska. He rode the range and was in the service of cattle outfits and also got together a small bunch of stock of his own. In 1883 he pre-empted 160 acres, and with the curtailment of the range he has more and more developed his farming enterprise. He is now owner of 2,500 acres. Since moving to his present location Mr. McDermott has broken thirteen pair of oxen for work on the farm. He has done general farming and stockraising and in recent years has handled the Black Angus cattle. At the present time he has forty head of calves. His competency is the result of many hard working years and he has deserved all that has come to him.

Mr. McDermott is a Mason in fraternal affiliation and has been active in local affairs, filling school offices, as road overseer and for thirteen years a justice of the peace. He married for his first wife Emily Porter, who was the mother of three children: S. W. McDermott, Alfred E. McDermott and Albert F. McDermott. For his present wife Mr. McDermott married Mary McGuire in 1906. She has lived in Nebraska for thirty-five years.

WILLIAM B. BROWN is one of the veteran freight engineers of the Union Pacific, and since 1907 has been steadily pulling the throttle

out of North Platte, where he has his home and is well established in the esteem of the community.

Mr. Brown was born at Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, in September, 1876. His parents, Nathan L. and Rosanna (Moser) Brown, are now living at Kimball, Nebraska. His father was born in Westchester, Pennsylvania, in 1853, and his mother in Saxonburg in 1855. Nathan L. Brown has spent his active life as a contractor, following his trade in Pennsylvania and Kansas. A number of years ago he homesteaded in Kimball county, Nebraska, but has retired from the farm and makes his home in the Town of Kimball. He and his wife are both members of the Rebekahs. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and his wife is a member of the Congregational Church. In politics he is a republican. Of their ten children, nine are living, and two are in North Platte, William and M. L. Brown, the latter also a Union Pacific engineer.

William B. Brown acquired his education in the schools of Axtell, Kansas. His earlier years were given to helping his father in the contracting and carpenter business. In June, 1898, he enlisted in Company I, Sixth Pennsylvania Volunteers, for service in the Spanish-American war and was discharged in October, 1898. In 1896 he entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railway Company as locomotive fireman at Philadelphia, and received several promotions while with that company. In 1906 he joined the Union Pacific at Rawlins, Wyoming, and in the fall of 1907 was transferred to North Platte. Mr. Brown came to North Platte without having acquired any property. He borrowed money to make a first payment on a lot, and in 1911 built a comfortable home. He has been a steady worker, has been economical and thrifty, and is an optimist, looking into the future with unconcern.

In 1898 he married Miss Frances Hammond, a native of Westchester, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of the Christian Science Church. He is affiliated with Lodge No. 985 of the Elks and is a member of Division No. 88 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Politically he votes as a republican.

HARRY M. PORTER has been a business man of North Platte since 1908, and gives all his time to the operation of the plant and business of the Star Bottling and Mercantile Company, one of the leading concerns of its kind in western Nebraska. He is also one of the largest jobbers of crushed fruits and fountain supplies west of Omaha, and is adding lines of tobaccos, fruits and vegetables, and expects to make these an important addition to the business.

Mr. Porter has spent nearly all his life in Nebraska, though he was born in Defiance county, Ohio, September 4, 1875. His parents, Fred and Mary A. (Hall) Porter, born and married in Ohio, were Nebraska pioneers of the year 1877. At that time they homesteaded in Franklin county. Their homestead was forty-five miles from market, isolated and in a sparsely settled district, but they set their faces against discouragement and managed to overcome many difficulties. In order to buy supplies they had to travel by ox team to Hastings, Nebraska, forty-five miles distant. About 1887 the family moved to Upland, where they remained about eight years, and since then the parents have made their home at Holdrege, where they are now retired. Fred Porter was postmaster at his country home, known as the Atlee Postoffice, and later held a similar position at Upland for a number of years. He is a democrat, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife are

Methodists. Their family consisted of nine children, five sons and four daughters, all living but one.

Harry M. Porter, who was the second child, was two years of age when brought to Nebraska, and his earliest recollections center around the old homestead in Franklin county. He took a business course in the Franklin Academy and is a graduate of the school at Upland. Up to the age of twenty his life was spent on a farm, and he began his business career in the hotel and restaurant at Holdrege. Later with his brother C. C. Porter he entered the bottling industry and also cigar making, and they conducted a plant at Holdrege for six years. In February, 1908, Mr. Porter removed to North Platte and established the Star Bottling Works. It was small concern, modestly capitalized, and the demand for his goods is now far more than local. In fact the output of the Star Bottling Works is shipped all over eastern and western Nebraska and along the line of the Union Pacific, Wyoming and Colorado. On April 1, 1919, Mr. Porter had the business incorporated, with \$40,000 of paid up capital. He is vice president and general manager of the business and is the responsible head, while Julius Pizer is president of the company and Ray C. Langford, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Porter served as a member of the City Council of North Platte four years. He votes independently and is affiliated with Lodge No. 985 of the Elks. In March, 1899, he married Miss Olga M. Larsen, who was born in Denmark in 1877 and came to this country in girlhood. They have three daughters, Lois, Leah and Ardis. Ardis was born in 1918, and the two older daughters are now in school.

CHARLES A. WYMAN. While many American families have pardonable pride in their Revolutionary ancestry, it remains for Charles A. Wyman of North Platte to visit the monument of Col. John Wyman in a Boston cemetery and read his Revolutionary antecedents, and further back into the misty past he points to ancestors who came over in the Mayflower. However, since 1867 the Wyman name has been associated with the development of North Platte.

Charles A. Wyman was born October 12, 1856, at Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He is a son of Russell J. and Susan (Herrick) Wyman. In this one family North Platte has drawn from the citizenship of three different New England states. The father was born October 25, 1828, in Vermont and he died January 1, 1894, in North Platte. The mother was a Connecticut woman, born in 1835, and she died December 14, 1873, six years after coming to Nebraska. They were married November 8, 1855, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Their son was born one year later.

R. J. Wyman served all through the Civil war as general master mechanic of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, a Government railroad, at Alexandria, Virginia. He remained on the road until the engines and supplies were disposed of, and then he returned to Massachusetts. He had been a local engineer and was promoted to traveling engineer, and August 31, 1866, he started for Omaha. Mr. Wyman had the distinction of running the second engine out of Omaha on the Union Pacific. The road was being graded at the time. He was on the pile driver engine and drove all the piles between Omaha and Laramie, Wyoming. In 1867 he located in North Platte, and his regular run was to Grand Island. He afterward spent four years in the Union Pacific machine shops in North Platte.

R. J. Wyman was well educated and well read, being versed on all of the topics of the day. He not only read the news of the day,

but he read the scientific magazines and other periodicals. He had a remarkable memory and could spell all of the words in use at the time. There were two daughters, who died in infancy, and the sons are: Charles A. Wyman, and Arthur B. Wyman, who is a passenger conductor between North Platte and Denver. The father later married a Mrs. Cal Park.

R. J. Wyman was a member of the Unitarian Church, and he was a great Bible student. He was a whig, and from its birth he voted with the republican party. He was one time mayor of North Platte and had much to do with making it a dry community in its early history. He was postmaster when the office only paid a salary of \$36 a year. He was a Mason in the early history of the order in North Platte. He was a son of Anson Wyman, of Vermont, and there is a direct line of descent from the Pilgrims. It is now 300 years since they came to the "stern and rock bound coast" of Massachusetts.

Although Massachusetts born, Charles A. Wyman secured his education in North Platte, and he pays tribute to Anna Gilman, who was one of his early teachers and who is still a resident of the community. When he was ready for employment Mr. Wyman entered the Union Pacific machine shops and remained twenty-three years. He then engaged in dairying, and remained in the business twenty years. When he sold the dairy in 1909 he engaged in farming, but in 1916 he retired to North Platte.

On December 22, 1885, Mr. Wyman married Lola Stebbins, of Pittsfield, Illinois. She is a daughter of Cyrus and Mary (McFaddin) Stebbins. The father was born in Massachusetts and the mother in Ohio. They were married in Illinois, and in 1900 removed to Lincoln county. He was a carpenter and builder. He died in 1918 at the age of eighty-two, and Mrs. Stebbins lives with the Wymans, she being now eighty years of age. The Wyman children are: Russell, an engineer on the Union Pacific; Martin, a blacksmith in North Platte; Mabel, wife of James Craig, on a homestead at Holly, Colorado; Frank, who is an Iowa farmer; Lula, wife of Charles Durbin, of Ramona, California; and Lester, who is in North Platte clerking.

Mr. Wyman is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Carson City, Nevada. He is a republican, and has been assessor for many years. He still owns a farm near North Platte, where he lived for fifty years. While on the farm he raised a great many cattle and always found it a profitable industry. The Wymans of future generations will have no trouble establishing their right of membership in the American patriotic societies. Col. John Wyman left a fine heritage to his posterity.

**CLARENCE M. NEWTON.** Few men in any community are more intimately associated with both its business and social life than Clarence M. Newton, who is engaged in the book and stationery business in North Platte. He is a son of Bitt M. and Huldah (Matthews) Newton, and was born in the State of New York. His father and mother were both natives of Oswego county, New York. The father was in business at Sandy Creek where he died at the age of seventy-three, and she died in Rochester at the age of eighty-eight. He was a merchant in Sandy Creek for many years.

Their children are: Lill E. Newton, of Rochester; Cora A., widow of Attorney P. M. French, of Rochester; Clarence M., of

this sketch, and Harlan L., of Syracuse, New York, who has traveled extensively. The Newtons are members of the Congregational Church and vote with the republican party.

C. M. Newton was educated at Sandy Creek and in Mexico Academy, Mexico, New York. He went to Eastman's Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York. His first employment was in the Home Insurance office for two years, and then for eleven years he was associated with his father in mercantile business in Sandy Creek. After that Mr. Newton spent 3½ years in the construction of water-works at Cornwall, Canada, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and other places for Moffitt, Hodgkins & Clark, of Watertown, New York.

Mr. Newton came to North Platte in 1890, and for one year he worked in a general store. His next employment was in the E. W. Hammond Book Store until his brother bought it, and then he worked with his brother 1½ years. Later he worked 1½ years in the same store for John E. Evans. At that time he bought the store from Mr. Evans on credit, paying for it as the business would allow, and he increased the stock until he had an up-to-date book and stationery store.

When the store was in good running condition, Mr. Newton sold it to Milton Doolittle and he engaged in the laundry business for a time. After nine months he sold the laundry and later opened a wall-paper and paint store, carrying window shades and framing pictures. In time he drifted back to the book and stationery business, and he now does a fine business in newspapers and periodicals in connection with it. He furnishes other dealers with daily papers and magazines.

In 1881 Mr. Newton married Nettie Rich, of Adams, New York. Their son Ralph is located as an electrician at Carper, Wyoming. They had a son Karl who died in 1901 at the age of seventeen with pneumonia. Mrs. Newton died in 1885. She was a Baptist. In 1894 Mr. Newton married Mrs. Lucy Laubenheimer, who was an Iowa woman. Their son, Donald B., graduated in 1919 from the North Platte High School and he is a student at the Nebraska State University, beginning the course in engineering. Mrs. Newton is a Presbyterian. He belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons and Knights Templar, to the Knights of Pythias, to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Moose and the Maccabees. He has been record keeper for the Maccabees for fifteen years. He is secretary of the North Platte Country Club.

**GEORGE FRATER.** While only five years of his business career have been identified with North Platte, George Frater is an old time Nebraska business man, is a highly qualified and experienced pharmacist and druggist, and has made a splendid success of his business at North Platte. Mr. Frater believes in the gospel of hard work as a means to success, and his friends think that he devotes about eighteen hours of his day to his business.

Mr. Frater was born at Sheperdstown, Ohio, July 29, 1866, a son of John D. and Sarah Jane (Queen) Frater. His grandfather, George Douglas Frater, was a native of Scotland, came to America soon after his marriage, and from New York moved to Virginia and thence to Ohio, where he died. The maternal grandfather was Jonah Queen, a native of Ireland, who also died in Ohio. John D. Frater was born in Virginia and his wife in Carroll county, Ohio. They were married in that state and spent their lives as farmers. Both died at the age of eighty-two. They were members of the United

Presbyterian Church, and in politics John D. Frater was a republican. During the Civil war he spent three months in an army training camp. He and his wife had twelve children, eight of whom lived to maturity and six are still living. Two are in Nebraska, J. J. and George. J. J. Frater is also a veteran druggist, having been in the business for more than forty years. He came to Nebraska in 1890, and was in the drug business at David City twenty-two years and is now living at Rising City.

George Frater acquired his early education in the country schools of eastern Ohio, and his experience up to the time he left home was that of an Ohio farm boy. For two years he worked on a farm in eastern Iowa at monthly wages and in 1886 acquired his first knowledge of the drug business as clerk in a drug store. He has been continuously in that line of business ever since. In 1890 he acquired a half interest in a store at Thurman, Iowa, but sold out and came to Nebraska in 1894. For one year he was at David City, four years was at Rising City, and was in business at Louisville, Nebraska, for thirteen years. Then after a year in Texas he came to North Platte on January 4, 1914. For three years he was with the Rincker Book & Drug Co., and in 1917 established his present store and has rapidly built up a splendid business.

In 1890 Mr. Frater married Birdie Jones, who was born in southwestern Iowa. Of their three children two are living: Dulcie, who graduated from the high school at Louisville, Nebraska, at the age of fifteen, during the World war was an army nurse, being still in the army hospital at San Francisco, California. The daughter Thelma is employed in the office of the North Platte Tribune. The family are members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Frater is a York Rite Mason and Shriner and a republican. While living at Louisville he was village treasurer five years, and helped establish a waterworks system there.

**HENRY WALTEMATH.** Among the large element of foreign-born citizens who have cast their lot with the people of Lincoln county and have won success through their industry and close application is Henry Waltemath, one of the enterprising business men of this community. Many years ago he bade farewell to the fatherland, crossed the great Atlantic, and eventually sought a freer life in the comparatively new country of western Nebraska, where he decided to make his permanent home, and, having met with encouraging success here, he is still numbered among our progressive and highly esteemed citizens.

Henry Waltemath was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1865, and is the son of F. W. and Minnie (Weiman) Waltemath, both of whom spent their entire lives in their native land, and are now both deceased. The father followed the vocation of farming and was highly respected in his home community. To him and his wife were born six children, of whom three came to the United States, namely: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Fred, who is connected with his brother's lumber business; Dora, who is the wife of John Schrader, a grocer. The parents of these children were worthy members of the Lutheran Church.

The subject of this review received his educational training in the public schools of Hanover, and remained under the parental roof until about seventeen years of age, when, in 1882, he immigrated to the United States. He came at once to Nebraska and first settled on

the Republican River, being engaged as a stage driver for about a year. In the latter part of 1882 he came to North Platte and for a while drove a livery wagon, but subsequently he engaged in the saloon business in partnership with Hans Gardner. He remained in that business about twenty years, when he retired from it. In 1916 he organized the Waltemath Lumber and Coal Company, which was incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000, and of which he became president. This business has prospered and is now numbered among the leading enterprises of the kind in Lincoln county, its success being mainly due to the progressive and energetic efforts of Mr. Waltemath, who has devoted his entire time to the direction of the business.

In 1886 Mr. Waltemath was united in marriage with Marie Brant, a native of Germany, and to them have been born four children, namely: William, who is associated with his father in the lumber business, being manager of the plant, was married to Margaret Ware, and they have two children, Bettie Marie and William, Jr., William Waltemath being a graduate of the North Platte High School and of the University of Pennsylvania; Alma, who remains at home, is a graduate of the North Platte High School and the National Park College, at Washington, D. C.; Helen, who is the wife of Charles Dixon, a jeweler at North Platte, is a graduate of the high school here and of Notre Dame Academy at Baltimore, Maryland; Harry, who is now a student in the Wisconsin State University, at Madison, served in the United States Army during the World war, having enlisted in September, 1918, in the Student Officers Training Camp at Lincoln.

Politically Mr. Waltemath is an earnest supporter of the republican party and has taken an active part in local public affairs, having served as mayor of North Platte in 1917-18. Fraternally he is a member of Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Waltemath and her children are members of the Lutheran Church. In 1888 Mr. Waltemath erected a splendid home here, but subsequently sold that place and built his present beautiful home at No. 420 West Fourth Street. Mr. Waltemath has not permitted the accumulation of wealth to affect in any way his relations with those less fortunate than he, and he has always had a cheerful word and a helping hand for those in need. Because of his fine personal qualities and his genial disposition he has won a host of warm and loyal friends throughout the community where so many of his active years have been spent.

**DR. DELBERT E. MORRILL.** When a man has attained to middle life in North Platte it seems that he began life in some other heritage, and such is true of Dr. Delbert E. Morrill, now the oldest practicing dentist in the city. Doctor Morrill has had frequent post-graduate work and always keeps in touch with the latest methods in dentistry. He is a graduate of the dental department of Northwestern University, and in 1887 he began practice in St. Paul, where he remained ten years. In 1897 Doctor Morrill located in North Platte.

Doctor Morrill is a son of Brayman A. and Anna (Woodworth) Morrill, and he was born February 3, 1864, in Prophetstown, Illinois. The parents were from New York, and in an early day they made the journey from New York to Illinois in a covered wagon. At that time railways were not so numerous and covered wagons were every day seen crossing the country bearing emigrant families into the frontier communities. There were five children, four sur-

living, and Doctor Morrill was the oldest of them. A sister, Flora, married Oscar Leath, of Netawata, Kansas. He is a banker and engaged in the lumber trade there. Charles W. Morrill is a retired merchant in Tampico, Illinois, and Oris W. Morrill is in business at Prophetstown, the old home of the Morrill family in Illinois.

The Morrills are Methodists and they are all republicans. The father was a farmer and horsedealer, buying horses in the south and selling them in the north, and he made a fortune at it. Brayman A. Morrill was in the One Hundred Day service in the Civil war. Doctor Morrill was born at the time of the war between the north and the south, while the family lived at Prophetstown.

In 1889 Doctor Morrill married Bessie K. Kelley, who was born in Cleveland. Her father was born on the Isle of Man, and came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was a carpenter and contractor. Two children have been born to Doctor and Mrs. Morrill: Merton Morrill is in the regular army. He entered the military academy at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1914. He is now a radio operator at San Antonio, Texas. He is a non-commissioned lieutenant and is serving his second enlistment. Alma Morrill is a graduate of Fremont College, has studied art, and she is an artist in North Platte.

The Morrill family of North Platte are Presbyterians. Doctor Morrill belongs to the Order of the Royal Highlanders and the Yeomen. He is among the prominent business and professional men in the community.

**YORK A. HINMAN.** The advice of Horace Greeley was taken by the Hinman family of Pennsylvania, of which York A. Hinman, the Union Pacific engineer of North Platte, is a member, and his parents came west in an ox cart, passing by the site of Chicago and stopping awhile in Wisconsin before hitting the trail again for Nebraska. York A. Hinman was born March 7, 1870, in Bradford county, Pennsylvania. His father was Washington and his mother Rebecca (Vaughan) Hinman, and they were natives of that community.

A well written sketch of the life of Washington Mallory Hinman has been submitted as auxiliary to the York A. Hinman sketch, and it is herewith incorporated into the family story. It reads: In the commercial and public affairs of Lincoln county probably no man was better known than the gentleman whose life history is here presented. Mr. Hinman was a man of unusual business ability, and he has the enviable reputation of a citizen of active public service, and one who helped build up this part of the country.

Mr. Hinman passed through here in 1849 on his way overland to California. He was a native of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, born at Wysox September 14, 1819, a son of Abner Curtis and Augusta York Hinman, the former having been Grand Master of Pennsylvania for the Independent Order of Good Templars for many years. The Hinmans were pioneer settlers in Pennsylvania, all the male members doing service in the Indian wars and in the American Revolution. Beach I. Hinman, brother of Washington Hinman, was a pioneer attorney of North Platte, and he represented the district in the Nebraska State Legislature. Two of the Hinman brothers lost their lives in the Civil war, showing that the military spirit has always asserted itself.

Washington M. Hinman was a millwright, and he set up mills in Vancouver, Oregon, and all along the Pacific Coast, receiving sixteen dollars a day building sawmills all over the timber country.



This line of work took him from British Columbia along the Pacific Coast to Panama in the pioneer days, and he recounted many interesting experiences in developing the country. He was once sent by the United States Government to install a steam sawmill plant at South Pass, Wyoming. He returned from California in 1854, and a few years later located at Cottonwood Springs, near Fort McPherson, where he was later established. On his ranch four miles from the Springs he opened a general supply store for travelers passing over the California Trail. He installed a steam sawmill and shingle mill and blacksmith shop at the ranch, and many people had employment there.

From 1864 to 1867 Mr. Hinman was an Indian interpreter at Fort McPherson, attending all the conferences between the Indian chiefs and the government representatives. He had a contract to furnish all the lumber used in the buildings at Fort McPherson, and of furnishing the beef used there. One voucher now in possession of the family is made out for \$14,000, showing that Mr. Hinman did a profitable business at the Fort. He also supplied wood to the government. In 1864 he lost \$1,000 in merchandise through theft by the Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull. Although the government allowed him for this loss, through democratic influences payment has been deferred.

Mr. Hinman was intimate with all of the great Indian chiefs, among whom was Sitting Bull. In 1860 Shorter, now Lincoln, county was organized, with Mr. Hinman as county treasurer, but this organization did not go into effect, and in 1866 the name was changed and Lincoln county was organized properly, with the county seat at North Platte, and Mr. Hinman was elected county commissioner, which position he held for many years. For a long time he served the community as probate judge, being elected by the republican party.

In the fall of 1867 thousands of Indians met in North Platte, where Mr. Hinman resided, having sold his mills in South Pass, Wyoming, afterward bringing them back to the Republican Valley, where he had homesteaded and pre-empted 400 acres  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Indianola. This band of Indians went through North Platte, camping at the present intersection of Front and Locust streets, where General Sherman and the peace commissioners met them, and the Redskins promised to remain peaceable and go away in the spring without trouble if the government would give them rations for the winter.

On Sunday, April 7, 1868, there was great commotion in town when the citizens discovered that the Indians had removed their squaws and all their effects to the north side of the river, returning in a short time riding through town and shooting into the stores and raising a disturbance generally. Mr. Hinman at once placed the papers relating to civil affairs in Lincoln county into the hands of the military, the saloons were closed, and there were squads of soldiers stationed to guard lives and property. The Indians then went southeast of the town, near Fort McPherson in Snells Canyon, and on April 8 they attacked seven men who were employed by Mr. Hinman in getting out wood for his sub-contract to supply Fort A. P. Russell, and the Redskins murdered them, taking all their scalps, and one of the horses belonging to them returned home with a scalp tied to it.

The soldiers immediately went in pursuit of the Indians and they found one white man pinned to the ground with arrows through his

heart and still alive. He survived two days after they found him. In 1876 Mr. Hinman and his family moved back to North Platte. He had bought land at one time and another until he owned 1,100 acres adjacent to and a portion of it within the corporation of the town. He was senior county commissioner, and since the Union Pacific had paid no taxes into the town corporation he closed its business and took possession of the roundhouse in North Platte. The taxes were shortly paid and it was quite a sum added to the revenue of the town. In 1879 Mr. Hinman moved out to his farm west of town.

In 1867 Mr. Hinman married Rebecca Franklin Vaughan, daughter of Elias Vaughan, Jr., and Susan Franklin Dodge of Connecticut. The Vaughans and Dodges were both pioneer Connecticut families, the Dodges being related to Benjamin Franklin and William Penn. Captain Vaughan of the United States Navy at Watertown on Lake Erie, and an officer in the War of 1812, was an uncle to Mrs. Hinman.

The children born to W. M. Hinman and his wife are: Vaughan Elias Hinman, first white child born in North Platte, and the second in Lincoln county, who married Minnie Distel, a daughter of Frederick Distel of Germany. Her father came to Omaha in 1873, and later to North Platte, where he built and operated a brewery and was well known all through Nebraska. They have one son, Charles Vaughan Hinman and one daughter, Iva. York Abner Hinman is the second son born to the pioneer Hinmans, and he married Daisy C. Crusen, a daughter of W. J. Crusen of North Platte and they have three children: York A., Jr., Elizabeth Frances and Dorothy C. Hinman. Luezilla Hinman was the third child, and she is the wife of George Eves, of Oakland, California and they have the following children: William Vaughan, deceased, and Washington York were twins, Gerard Wesley, Margaret Reba, Arthur Glenn and Harold.

Mr. Hinman died at his farm near North Platte January 27, 1904, at the age of eighty-four years. A year prior to his death a prairie fire burned a good residence which contained many valuable papers, records, etc., and all his personal effects. With the methods of business and the energy that characterized Mrs. Hinman she had shortly before that taken out insurance, so that the fire was not a total loss to the family. When he was twenty-one Mr. Hinman was admitted as a Mason. He had taken the Royal Knight degree and was high priest of the North Platte Chapter—a devoted member of the lodge. He was also an earnest worker in the Presbyterian Church of North Platte. Mrs. Hinman followed him to the grave in 1910, and thus ended the career of two Lincoln county pioneers.

York A. Hinman received his education in the North Platte public school, and his first occupation was on his father's ranch. When he was twenty years old he began firing on the Union Pacific Railroad, and when he was twenty-eight he had an engine and still has a passenger run between North Platte and Haig, Nebraska. His family story was partially detailed in the newspaper article just quoted. His marriage occurred December 20, 1892, Daisy Crusen being a daughter of William J. and Elizabeth Crusen. Hinman was born at Terre Haute, Indiana, and in 1881 they came to Nebraska.

W. J. Crusen was born in Ohio and enlisted in the Civil war in Company E, Twelfth Ohio Infantry. He spent the entire four years in the service. He was a railway engineer when he came to Nebraska. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. York Hinman, Elizabeth is the wife of Earl Ford, who is in the oil business in Lexington,

Kentucky. He was a lieutenant in the World war and served on the border in the Mexican difficulty. He served thirty months and was discharged as a major. Dorothy is a stenographer in the chief dispatcher's office of the Union Pacific at North Platte, Nebraska. York A., Jr., is still a school boy. Mr. Hinman is a liberal democrat. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He is a member of the Episcopal Church and the family are members of the Methodist Church.

**JOHN F. HINMAN.** Although he has passed the eightieth milestone of his life, John F. Hinman, a carpenter and contractor of North Platte, still retains much of the vigor that marked his youthful days, and is actively engaged in his chosen occupation, his mechanical ability and skill, and his honest, durable work having won him extensive patronage in his line of industry. A son of the late Abner Hinman, he was born March 13, 1840, in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and is the only surviving child of the parental household.

Abner Hinman was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and spent his entire life in his native state. He was a mechanic by trade, but followed farming throughout his active career. He was a whig in politics until the formation of the republican party, when he became one of its staunch adherents. He belonged to the New School Presbyterian Church, while his wife was a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church. He married Augusta York, a native of Pennsylvania, where her death occurred. She made one visit to Nebraska, bringing with her a feather bed, which she gave to her son, who found it acceptable, as he was then sleeping on a buffalo robe. Of the eleven children born of their union two were killed in the Civil war, and four came to Nebraska, Washington, Beach I., Minor and John F. The three first named died in Nebraska, and all left families.

Receiving a limited education in the public schools of his native state, John F. Hinman taught school three years, and afterwards worked in the hard coal mines near Wilkes-Barre, building coal breakers. Coming to North Platte, Nebraska, in 1865, he worked for two years on the Union Pacific Railroad, having the management of a construction firm and doing contracting. He was subsequently employed in railroad work in Texas until 1877, when he returned to North Platte, which has since been his home, although he has spent two winters in California, being kept busy while there in erecting some buildings for his daughter. For a time Mr. Hinman was engaged in the cattle business, buying his stock in Texas, and being four months on the road while driving them to the range. Since 1883 he has been actively employed as a contractor and carpenter, and has been eminently successful, the greater number of the old brick buildings of the city having been erected under his careful supervision.

Mr. Hinman married in Texas, in 1876, Gussie Hyatt, a daughter of Benjamin Hyatt, a railroad contractor who with Mr. Hinman built all of the railroad bridges between Houston and San Antonio. Mrs. Hinman died in 1896, leaving one child, Maude B., wife of Louis Helmond, of Oakland, California, a manufacturer of catsup and pickles. Mrs. Hinman was a devoted member of the Episcopal Church. A strong democrat in politics, Mr. Hinman served as registrar of the Nebraska Land Office during Cleveland's second term as president. Fraternally he belongs to the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, in which he is a Knight Templar.

**JOSEPH G. BEELER.** Well equipped for the duties of his profession, as well by natural gifts and temperament as by mental training and untiring industry, Joseph G. Beeler, of North Platte, occupies a place of prominence in the legal circles of the city, county and state. A son of Frank Beeler, he was born June 15, 1857, in Holland, where his earlier life was spent.

Frank Beeler was born, bred and educated in Holland, and there married Margaret Noorda, who died in early womanhood, having spent her entire life in her native land. After the death of his wife Frank Beeler immigrated to the United States, settling in Danforth, Illinois, where he was engaged in business as a druggist until his death in 1872. He was employed in the government service in Holland, performing the duties devolving upon a district clerk in this country. Religiously he was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. To him and his wife three children were born, as follows: Joseph G., the special subject of this sketch; Fenna, who married J. Van Asendof in Holland, and is now engaged in government school work in the East Indies, as is her husband, her speciality being the teaching of languages; and Arnold F., a prosperous grocer of North Platte.

After coming to this country with his father Joseph G. Beeler entered Hedding College in Abingdon, Illinois, and after completing the junior year of study read law in Bushnell, Illinois, where, in 1895, he was admitted to the bar. Coming to Lincoln county, Nebraska, Mr. Beeler was engaged in the practice of law at Wallace until 1895, when he opened an office in North Platte and began the practice of his profession alone, meeting with good success. From 1898 until 1905 he was associated with Albert Muldoon, the partnership then being dissolved. In 1914 Mr. Beeler formed a copartnership with M. E. Crosby, becoming head of the well known firm of Beeler & Crosby. In November, 1919, L. E. Baskins joined the firm, and it is known as Beeler, Crosby & Baskins and is enjoying a large and exceedingly lucrative patronage, its practice extending into Keith, Deuel, Garden, Dawson, Logan, Lincoln and other counties, Mr. Beeler working mostly in the Supreme Court of the state and in the United States Courts.

Mr. Beeler served as city attorney from 1909 until 1912, inclusive, and was a member of the local Board of Education from 1900 until 1912, being president of the board six years, and secretary three years. For three years he was a member of the examining board for the admission of candidates to practice law in the courts, and in 1919 and 1920 served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of the State of Nebraska. An independent democrat, he takes an active and intelligent interest in politics. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Mr. Beeler married in Abingdon, Illinois, March 17, 1881, Anna D. Thomas, who was born near Galva, Illinois, and they are the parents of four children, namely: Winnie O., wife of M. E. Scott, cashier of the Platte Valley State Bank; Fenna, wife of J. S. Simms, M. D., a noted physician and surgeon, of North Platte, who served with Unit No. 49 in the World war, being behind the lines at Argonne and Meuse; Jennie G., wife of C. F. Temple, a real estate and insurance man of North Platte; and Myrtle H., wife of C. F. Day, a geological engineer at Shreveport, Louisiana.

**FRANK L. MOONEY.** It is not an easy task to describe adequately a man who has led an eminently active and busy life and who has attained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. But biography finds its most perfect justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history. It is, then, with a full appreciation of all that is demanded and of the painstaking scrutiny that must be accorded each statement, and yet with a feeling of satisfaction, that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon the details of such a record as has been that of the honored subject whose life now comes under review, Mr. Frank L. Mooney, cashier of the First National Bank of North Platte.

Frank L. Mooney was born in Minonk, Illinois, on the 14th day of December, 1872, and is the son of David and Mary F. (Ogle) Mooney, the former a native of Cortland, New York, and the latter of Bluffton, Wells county, Indiana. In both the paternal and maternal lines the subject's ancestral history runs back over two hundred years in America, the Mooney family having been established in Connecticut in a very early day, and in that state the paternal grandfather, George Mooney, was born and reared. Subsequently he moved to New York state, where his death occurred. The subject's maternal grandfather, John Ogle, was a native of Licking county, Ohio, who subsequently moved to Illinois, where his death occurred. David Mooney was reared and educated in his native state, but shortly prior to the Civil war he came to Illinois, to which state she who was to become his wife had come in 1856. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in Company B, Fifty-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he had a most honorable service record. At the bloody battle of Shiloh he was made a lieutenant in recognition of his valor. He was completely exhausted there and was taken to Benton Barracks Hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, where he remained for six months, and was then given an honorable discharge, not being physically fit to re-enter the service. Before the war he had operated a nursery at Bloomington, Illinois, under the name of the Phoenix Nursery, and upon his return from the army he again took up the work, in which he was an expert. In April, 1878, he came to Nebraska and located in Furnas county, where he entered a homestead, the family following him to their new home in 1879. In 1885 they moved to Lexington, Nebraska, where they again started in the nursery business, in which he continued with success up to a short time prior to his death, when he retired from active business life. He was a man of more than ordinary mental ability and stood high in the communities where he lived. In 1880 he served as supervisor of the census in southwestern Nebraska, and for fifteen years he gave effective service as assessor of the City of Lexington. His religious membership was with the Methodist Episcopal Church, while fraternally he was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Grand Army of the Republic. Politically he was at first a democrat, but later transferred his allegiance to the republican party. To him and his wife were born six children, five sons and a daughter, of which number four survive, namely: George L., an amusement promoter in St. Louis, Missouri; Brenton D., who is engaged in the jewelry business in Cleveland, Ohio; Frank L., the immediate subject of this sketch; and Grace E., who makes her home with her brother Frank.

Frank L. Mooney was but six years of age when the family came to Nebraska, therefore his education was received in the common

schools of this state, completing his studies in the high school at Lexington, Nebraska. His first employment was as a clerk in a drug store at Lexington, where he remained for five years. He then became identified with the Dawson County National Bank at Lexington, with which he remained from August, 1892, until February, 1894, when he came to North Platte and became bookkeeper in the First National Bank. He has remained connected with that institution to the present time and enjoys the unique distinction of being the oldest banker in point of continuous service in western Nebraska. On January 1, 1901, Mr. Mooney became assistant cashier of the First National Bank, and in July, 1904, was made cashier and a director. He has devoted himself indefatigably to the interests of the First National, and not a little of the splendid growth which this bank has enjoyed has been due to the splendid business ability and the personal popularity of its cashier. Mr. Mooney is also interested in four other banks in western Nebraska, being a director in two of them. He has attained an enviable reputation in financial circles as a man of sound judgment, keen foresight and absolute integrity, his ability being given substantial recognition when he was elected city treasurer of North Platte and retained in that position twelve years consecutively. During the World war he was chairman of the Second District of Nebraska for all the Liberty Loan campaigns, and in many other ways exhibited a deep interest in the war activities of this community.

On September 26, 1898, Mr. Mooney was united in marriage with Callie E. McDonald, the daughter of Charles McDonald, a prominent pioneer of Lincoln county, of whom mention will be found elsewhere in this volume. The union has been blessed in the birth of a son, Frank Alfred, who is now a junior in the North Platte High School. Mrs. Mooney died on March 22, 1900.

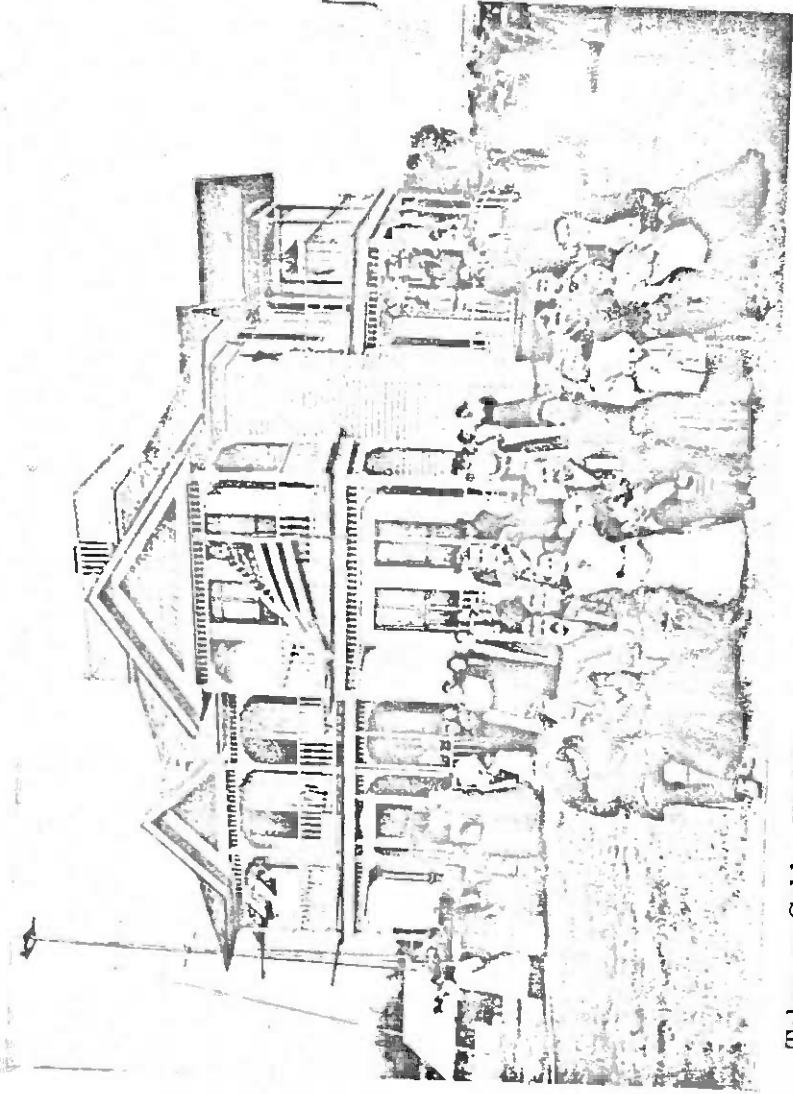
Politically Mr. Mooney is an earnest supporter of the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs, especially as pertaining to the community in which he lives. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has attained all the degrees of the York Rite, including that of Knight Templar, and is also a member of Tangier Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Omaha. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge No. 985, North Platte, Nebraska. He holds worthy prestige in banking and business circles, being regarded as distinctively a man of affairs and wielding a potent influence in the community, while personally he is extremely popular among those who have come into contact with him.

**CHARLES FREMONT PECKHAM.** The characteristics of adaptability, persistence, common sense and good judgment have prevailed in the energetic life of Charles F. Peckham, winning for him an enviable rank among the business, agricultural and social elements of the Brady community in Lincoln county. Mr. Peckham is a product of the agricultural regions of Crawford county, Wisconsin, his birth having occurred July 21, 1857, and he belongs to a family that is well, honorably and favorably known in Lincoln county, being a son of Joshua Peckham, a review of whose career will be found in the sketch of H. K. Peckham elsewhere in this work.

Charles Fremont Peckham was educated in the public schools of his native state, and was in young manhood when he accompanied



MR. AND MRS. C. F. PECKHAM



Taken on Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. JOSHUA S. PECKHAM.



his parents to Nebraska, the family locating in Dawson county, where they lived on a homestead claim until the father's demise. Mr. Peckham was a teacher here for one winter after coming to Nebraska. Following his father's death, Mr. Peckham came to Lincoln county and moved to his father's old homestead, and here has continued to be engaged in general farming and stockraising to the present time. He owns 160 acres in his home place. He owned at one time over 2,000 acres in the hills, but has recently sold all but 480 acres of his hill land. He is a skilled, energetic, modern and scientific farmer, and is accounted an excellent judge of livestock. As a citizen he ranks high in supporting beneficial measures, and his friends were numerous throughout this and surrounding counties.

In 1886 Mr. Peckham married Miss Mary Russell, a native of Wisconsin, who, at her death, had become the mother of seven children, of whom two survive: Alta May, who resides with her father; and Hubert B., who is attending public school at Gothenburg. The present Mrs. Peckham was formerly Miss Matilda Seger, and is a native of Sweden. She came to America when fifteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Peckham are members of the Methodist Church. He maintains an independent stand in regard to matters of a political character.

**JOHN GRANT.** Devoted to his profession, thorough and methodical in the preparation of his cases, and skilled and judicious in their management, John Grant, of North Platte, has won a place of honor and distinction among the gifted and successful lawyers of Lincoln county, a position the more highly valued as it was gained through his own determined efforts. A son of William Grant, he was born in New York City in 1862, of Irish ancestry on both sides of the house.

William Grant was born, reared and married in Ireland. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Doolen. Coming with his family to the United States in 1862, he landed in New York City, and the ensuing five years remained in the East. In 1867, following the trail of the pioneer westward, he located at Columbus, Nebraska, and having taken up a homestead of 160 acres cleared and improved it, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. He was a democrat in politics, and both he and his wife were faithful members of the Catholic Church. Of the eight children born of their union, five are living, as follows: Thomas, a retired farmer, lives in Maryville, Missouri; Mary, wife of Thomas Flynn, an agriculturist living in Columbus, Nebraska; Edward, of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Johanna Dinnen, a widow living in Platte county, this state; and John.

Reared on his father's homestead, with very few advantages in his youthful days, John Grant is a fine representative of the self-made and self-educated men of the state, his knowledge of books having been largely acquired after he had attained his majority. A careful, diligent and intelligent reader, and an ambitious scholar, he prepared himself for college, and on June 10, 1896, was graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa. Opening an office at North Platte the same year, Mr. Grant has since practiced in all of the courts, and has gained a very large and profitable patronage. From 1911 until 1914, inclusive, he served as county judge, and in that capacity showed himself to be keen and accurate, and in his decisions was invariably just and impartial.

Judge Grant married in 1904 Hattie Johnston, of Clinton, Michigan. They have no children. Religiously Mrs. Grant is a member of the Episcopal Church, and the judge is identified by membership with the Catholic Church. In his political affiliations he is a sound democrat, and a warm supporter of all enterprises calculated to advance the interests of city or county.

**WESLEY J. SHINKLE.** Nebraska is rapidly forging to the front as an agricultural state now that irrigation is being developed, and farmers are proving in their everyday operations that banner crops can be raised on land that only a few years ago was regarded as entirely unproductive. As a result of these developments the value of land has risen very considerably, and those who had faith enough in the future of the state to buy in the earlier days are now profiting from their far-sightedness. One of these substantial farmers and stockraisers of Lincoln county, who has lived in this county since 1884, with intervals of absence, and continuously in the Hershey district since 1898, is Wesley J. Shinkle.

The birth of Wesley J. Shinkle occurred in Clermont county, Ohio, on December 21, 1864. He is a son of Benjamin and Amanda (Tatman) Shinkle, natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, respectively, both of whom are now deceased. In 1884 they moved and bought land near Saint Paul in Howard county. That same year they homesteaded in Lincoln county, and proved up their claim, which was located in the southwestern part, and here Benjamin Shinkle died in 1892, his wife surviving him and passing away at Lincoln, Nebraska. In politics he was a strong republican, and during the war between the states he gave expression to his sentiments by serving in the Union Army for four years, and was wounded on the battlefield. Both he and his estimable wife were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. For many years he maintained membership with the Grand Army of the Republic. The children born to Benjamin Shinkle and his wife were six in number, and three of them survive, namely: Susan, who is the wife of Robert Jacobs, lives at Streator, Illinois; Wesley J., whose name heads this review; and James, who resides at Stromburg, Nebraska. Those deceased are Maude, Ella and Eva.

Wesley J. Shinkle, although born in Ohio was reared in Illinois, to which state his father moved in 1868. He attended its public schools. He then came west to Dakota and was engaged in punching cattle in the Black Hills district of that state, and in Wyoming. In 1884 he came to Nebraska and homesteaded near Wallace, and carried on a cattle business while proving up his claim. He later sold his property and went to Wyoming and spent several years, but came back to Nebraska in 1898 and bought 160 acres of land, all under ditch, in section 18, township 14, in the Hershey neighborhood, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He handles only a good grade of stock, experiments having proved that the best results are obtained from this class of stock.

In 1887 Mr. Shinkle was united in marriage with Minnie Rounds, born in Illinois, a daughter of Reynolds Rounds, one of the early settlers of Lincoln county, who is now a resident of Duncan, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Shinkle have five children, namely: Claude, who is a locomotive engineer, has the run out of Bridgeport, Nebraska; Ivan, who is mentioned below; and Eva, Earl and Amanda, all of whom are at home. Mr. Shinkle is a republican in his political views. He maintains fraternal connections with the Independent

Order of Odd Fellows. For some years Mrs. Shinkle has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. She was educated in the common and high schools of Illinois, and is an intelligent, well informed lady.

There was one star on the service flag of the Shinkle family during the great war, representing the presence in the army of the second son, Ivan, who was a member of the motor transport service. He was trained at Camp Jesup, Georgia, and was sent overseas to France. After the signing of the Armistice he became a member of the Army of Occupation, and served until September, 1919, when he was discharged and sent home.

**SAMUEL G. ANDERSON.** One of the prosperous farmers of Lincoln county, who is an excellent type of his countrymen, is Samuel G. Anderson, of section 19, township 14. He was born in Sweden on September 21, 1861, a son of Andrew and Lena (Fall) Anderson. Andrew Anderson was a blacksmith, gunsmith and farmer, and he rounded out his life in Sweden. He and his wife had ten children, as follows: Alfred J., who is at Oakland, Nebraska, is a farmer; Frank O., who is a farmer of Axtel, Nebraska; Albert H., who lives north of Sutherland, Nebraska; Samuel G., whose name heads this review, and six who never left Sweden.

Samuel G. Anderson grew up in his native land and attended its schools. On May 6, 1885, he came to the United States, and for a time rented land at Axtel, Nebraska, and then, in 1906, located permanently in Lincoln county, buying 280 acres of land, on which he is raising a general line of crops and stock, all of the latter being of a good grade. Mr. Anderson has a comfortable residence, large barn and other farm buildings, his fences are well kept up and his other improvements are of a like character, for he takes pride in having his place neat and in good order. The seven-acre orchard on the farm is bearing nicely and was planted when he bought the farm.

On November 2, 1885, Mr. Anderson was married at Axtel, Nebraska, to Hattie M. Anderson, who was born in Sweden, and came to the United States on the same ship with Mr. Anderson. She died on December 19, 1918, having borne her husband the following children: Alice, who married Howard Clemens, a farmer of this district; Nannie, who is the wife of Frank Ströberg, a farmer of Lincoln county; Bertha, who is the wife of Tom Molenski, of North Platte; Mabel, who is the wife of Ray Dorham, of North Platte; Emelia, who is the wife of Joe Souder, of North Platte; Gilbert V., who is mentioned below; and Clarence, Viola and LaVerna, who are all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson early joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hershey, and he still holds membership in it. Mr. Anderson is an independent voter, and gives his support to the candidate he thinks will be the best man in the office, but has never himself cared for public life.

Gilbert V. Anderson is a veteran of the World war, and served in an infantry corps on the front line, and also as a member of the Army of Occupation, being in the service for nearly two years. During this period he was wounded in the leg and in the arm. He was married September 7, 1919, to Miss Iva L. Winters. The Andersons are among the most highly respected people of the county, their industry, thrift and uprightness commending them to their neighbors and winning for them the confidence of all with whom they do busi-

ness or maintain social relations. Mrs. Anderson was a most excellent lady, a true Christian, and her untimely death was much deplored.

**JOHN B. TOILLION.** Lincoln county is one of the best agricultural sections of Nebraska since irrigation systems have been built, and the farms in this locality show the effects of care and the improvements on them are of a modern character, greatly adding to their appearance and value. One of the intelligent and successful farmers of this county is John B. Toillion of section 24, township 14, range 32. He was born in Lincoln county, Ohio, on July 8, 1863, a son of John B. and Louise (Vena) Toillion, natives of France, who were married in that country and in about 1857 came to the United States. He was a shoemaker by trade, but after coming here engaged in farming and raising stock. He bought land in Ohio and lived there until 1887, when he migrated west to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and bought land which he cultivated. Subsequently he moved to Iowa to live with one of his sons, and both he and his wife passed away in that state. During the war between the states he served in the Union army, enlisting from Ohio, and was in the service for one year and ten months. After securing his naturalization papers he was first a democrat, but later became a republican, and voted the ticket of that party until his death. With the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic he joined it and transferred his membership to the local posts of the several communities in which he resided. Both he and his wife were Catholics, and brought up their children in that faith. These children were as follows: Victor, who died in France; Henry, who was a soldier in the Union Army, having enlisted from Ohio to serve during the war between the states, was killed at the battle of Chickamauga; Felicia, who is deceased; Frank, who is a retired farmer of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Mary, who is the wife of Mack July, resides in South Dakota; Charles, who is living retired in Iowa; Xavier, who is living retired at North Bend, Nebraska; John B., whose name heads this review, and Louis, who lives at Brighton, Colorado, is engaged in farming.

John B. Toillion was educated in the schools of Ohio, and accompanied his father to Lincoln county, Nebraska. He invested in land and now owns a well improved farm of sixty-five acres in the neighborhood of North Platte. Here he is carrying on general farming and the raising of an excellent grade of livestock. His comfortable residence, ample barns and numerous outbuildings, well-kept fences and other improvements have all been made by him, and he has every reason to be proud of his property.

About 1889 Mr. Toillion was married at North Platte to Ida McWilliam, a native of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Toillion became the parents of the following children: Charles, who is a farmer of Lincoln county; Alma, who is at home; Henry, who is also a farmer of Lincoln county; Harvey, who lives with his brother Henry, and Leo and Marie, both of whom are at home. The family are all Catholics. Mr. Toillion belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a strong republican, having been reared in the faith of that party, and is now road overseer. Capable, alert and industrious, Mr. Toillion has made his own way in the world, and won the confidence and respect of the community in which he has been a resident for so many years.

**MAINARD E. CROSBY.** Well versed in the intricacies of law, having conducted and won suits of importance. Mainard E. Crosby, of

North Platte, member of the firm of Beeler, Crosby & Baskins, has won an honored name in the legal profession of Lincoln county. A native of Nebraska, he was born in Adams county, September 26, 1884, a son of E. A. Crosby and a grandson of Sidney A. and Julia (Daggett) Crosby.

E. A. Crosby was born and reared in Illinois, and as a boy and youth was engaged in agricultural labor. Coming to Nebraska in 1880, he rented land in Adams county, and when he had accumulated sufficient means to warrant him in so doing took up a homestead claim in Lincoln county. Having cleared and improved a valuable farm, he is now living retired from active pursuit, having a pleasant home in Sutherland. A republican in politics, he is much interested in local affairs, and has served on the town board and the school board. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons. He married in Nebraska Lucy A. Powers, a native of Illinois, and they have four children, as follows: George H., living two miles north of Sutherland, is prosperously engaged in farming; Mainard E., the special subject of this sketch; Elmer A., a successful farmer living two miles west of Sutherland, and Mary B., wife of Eben D. Warner, of Chadron, Nebraska, a telephone man. The mother is an active member of the Presbyterian Church. Her father, John H. Powers, was a pioneer of Adams county, and very prominent in public matters, in 1890 having been a candidate on the populist ticket for governor of Nebraska.

Spending his younger days in the wise pursuit of knowledge, Mainard E. Crosby completed the course of study in the Sutherland High School, and in 1908 was graduated from the law department of the University of Nebraska. Admitted to the bar immediately after receiving his diploma, he located at North Platte, and for eighteen months was engaged in the practice of law in the office of Albert Muldoon. Mr. Crosby subsequently practiced alone until 1914, when he formed a co-partnership with Joseph G. Beeler, and the firm of Beeler & Crosby thus established built up a wide and remunerative practice, both members being men of keen intellect and full of professional zeal and ability. Mr. Crosby served as attorney of McPherson county for three years, and is now attorney of the City of North Platte.

On October 2, 1909, Mr. Crosby was united in marriage with Cora M. Berkey, who was born in Thayer county, Nebraska, and was graduated from the University of Nebraska in the same year that he was. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby have two children, Robert and Horace. Politically Mr. Crosby is identified with the republican party, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Both Mr. and Mrs. Crosby are members of the Presbyterian Church, and generous contributors toward its support.

**KEITH NEVILLE.** Distinguished not only as a native born resident of North Platte, and as one who has ably filled the highest position within the gift of the commonwealth, but for the long line of honored ancestry from which he traces his descent, Keith Neville is eminently worthy of representation in a work of this character. He was born February 25, 1884, in North Platte, a son of the late Honorable William Neville, a man of much prominence and influence.

William Neville, a son of Harvey Neville, was born and brought up in Illinois. Having acquired an excellent preliminary education, he was graduated from Lebanon College, Lebanon, Illinois,

and after his admission to the bar began the practice of his profession in his native state. In the early '70s, desirous of broadening his scope of action, he came to Nebraska, and for several years practiced law in North Platte, being one of the leading attorneys of the place. Moving to Arizona, he was there engaged in the practice of his profession until his death.

He took a lively interest in public affairs, becoming a leader in any movement with which he was associated, and served in the legislatures of three states, Illinois, Nebraska and Arizona, an honor accorded to but few, and also represented the North Platte District in Congress, and was judge from the same district. In his early life he was identified with the democratic party, but later became a populist, and was elected to Congress on that ticket. In his religious beliefs he was a Baptist, while his wife was an Episcopalian.

William Neville married Mollie A. M. Keith, a native of New York state, their marriage being solemnized in North Platte. Her father, Morrell Case Keith, was a hotel keeper at Silver Creek, New York, for many years. Following the trail of the emigrant westward, he settled in Iowa in the late '50s, and afterward located in Kansas, living first in Leavenworth and later in Topeka, being then engaged in the freighting business. Coming with his family to North Platte in the '60s, he managed the old Depot Hotel for a time, after which, in partnership with Guy C. Burton, he engaged in the cattle business on an extensive scale, continuing his operations with such eminent success that at the time of his death, in 1899, he was a capitalist. Mrs. Mollie A. M. (Keith) Neville died in early womanhood, leaving one child, Keith Neville, with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned. William Neville subsequently married a second wife, and of that union two children were born, as follows: William, who died when young, and Irnie, wife of C. M. Reynolds, a coal merchant in Omaha.

Receiving exceptional educational advantages when young, Keith Neville was graduated from Saint John's College, in Annapolis, Maryland, with the clas of 1905. Returning to North Platte, he assumed the management of the valuable estate of his grandfather, the late M. C. Keith, and has since devoted his time to his personal interests when not employed in official work. He owns not only the North Platte Opera House, but other city property of value, and is vice president of the First National Bank.

In his political adherence Mr. Neville is a stalwart democrat, and has rendered excellent service on the school board and in the City Council. In 1916 he was elected governor of the state, and brought to the office the same intelligent force that had made his business ventures successful, his administration of the affairs of the state during his one term of office having been highly efficient. Fraternally Mr. Neville is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, belonging to Lodge, Chapter and Commandery; of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; of North Platte Lodge No. 985. Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of which he is past exalted ruler, and of the Loyal Order of Moose.

In March, 1908, Mr. Neville was united in marriage with Mary Virginia Neill, who was born in Charleston, West Virginia, a daughter of Dr. William Neill, a prominent physician and surgeon, and they have four children, namely: Mary Nelson, Frances Elizabeth, Virginia Neill and Irnie Morrell. Mr. and Mrs. Neville are consistent members of the Episcopal Church, and liberal contributors toward its support.

GEORGE B. DENT, M. D. It is widely recognized that among the various professions and pursuits to which a man may devote his time and abilities not one is of more importance than the medical profession, with which George B. Dent, M. D., of North Platte, is actively identified, human destiny from the cradle to the grave being largely in the hands of the physician, or, mayhap in these days, of the surgeon. A native of Maryland, he was born September 13, 1868, in Saint Mary's county.

The Doctor's parents, Robert M. and Laura (Higdon) Dent, were born in Maryland, where the father, a prosperous agriculturist, spent his entire life, and where the widowed mother still resides. They were the parents of eight children, four of whom are living, as follows: Laura, wife of Eston W. Hungerford, a fruit grower of Marshall, Maryland; George B., of whom we write; Cora, living with her mother at Townshend, Maryland, and Howard M., principal of the high school at Baden, Maryland.

Having acquired his academic and collegiate education in his native state, George B. Dent turned his attention to the study of medicine, and in 1898 was graduated from the medical department of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. In the fall of that year, lured westward by the wonderful reports of the prosperity of the newer country, Doctor Dent located in North Platte, and the large and lucrative practice that he has since built up shows that he made no mistake in coming to Nebraska. He makes a specialty of surgery, in which he is very skillful, and in 1915 further perfected himself in that branch of his profession by doing post-graduate work in a polyclinic institute in New York City.

The Doctor is connected with the North Platte General Hospital, and is financially interested in the Gummer-Dent Drug Company, which is incorporated, having a capital stock of \$15,000, and is carrying on a large and extensive business. Politically he is a republican, and has served as county physician for ten years, and as city physician eight years. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and of the Knights of Pythias.

Doctor Dent married in 1900 Marie Townsend, who was born in Angola, Indiana, a sister of Howard Townsend, of the Supreme Court of Indiana. Two children have been born of the union of Doctor and Mrs. Dent, namely: Townsend E., born in 1901, is a student at Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska, and George B., Jr., a pupil in the North Platte High School.

ELMER COATES. Possessing the qualities necessary to achieve success in any line of industry, Elmer Coates, of North Platte, president and general manager of the Coates Lumber and Coal Company, owes but little to what is termed good luck, every advancing step of his active career having been the result of his foresight, integrity and willing labor. A son of the late Henry Coates, he was born December 17, 1868, in Richland county, Wisconsin. His parental grandfather, Francis A. Coates, a native of Yorkshire, England, immigrated to America when but sixteen years old, locating first in Canada, finally moving to Ohio, and from there going to Wisconsin, where he spent the closing years of his life.

Henry Coates was born in Toronto, Canada, but was brought up in Ohio, where his parents located when he was four years old.

Subsequently going with the family to Wisconsin, he was there employed in business as a miller and lumberman for several years. Coming to Nebraska in 1883, he took up a homestead claim in Keith county, south of Paxton, and there carried on general farming a number of seasons. Retiring from active labor, he moved to Sutherland, and there resided until his death. He was a staunch republican in politics, and very prominent in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having served as noble grand in Wisconsin, and in all the local offices of the organization. Religiously he and his wife were valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Henry Coates married in Wisconsin Nancy A. Connor, who was born in Virginia, which was also the birthplace of her father, Henry Connor, one of the early pioneers of Wisconsin. Mr. Connor moved with his family from Virginia to Wisconsin when the country was practically in its primitive wildness and with John Combs built a block house as a protection against the Indians. He became very prominent and influential in public affairs, holding various official positions. For many years he was justice of the peace, and he represented his district in the first territorial legislature. A man of strong physique, he attained the remarkable age of ninety-eight years. Of the eight children born of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Coates, six are living, as follows: V. D., engaged in farming at Beason, Illinois; Frank, engaged in the lumber business at Sutherland, Nebraska; A. S., of Sutherland; Elmer, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Frank Coker, whose husband is a ranchman in Sutherland, and Mrs. A. L. Chase, whose husband is an attorney in Lincoln. The mother's death occurred in Sutherland, where she had lived for several years.

Completing his early studies in the Excelsior High School, Elmer Coates secured a position with a hardware and lumber dealer, and later entered the employ of C. F. Iddings, an extensive lumber dealer of Sutherland, this state. About 1894 Mr. Coates came to North Platte to assume the management of the Iddings interests in this locality, and in his undertakings met with signal success. Buying the interests of the firm in 1914, Mr. Coates, with a guaranteed capital of \$100,000, organized the Coates Lumber and Coal Company, of which he has since been president and general manager, a responsible position for which his known ability and previous broad experience amply qualify him. Under his wise supervision the business has grown rapidly, being now one of the most extensive and prosperous of its kind in this section of Lincoln county.

Mr. Coates married December 25, 1892, Almeta Bowman, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of S. S. Bowman, who came with his family to Nebraska in 1882, and was subsequently engaged in farming in Hall county until his death. Four children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Coates, namely: Fern, wife of H. A. Chambers, a druggist at Keystone, Nebraska; Ralph, operating a lumber yard at Maxwell, Nebraska, served in the Students' Training Camp at Lincoln during the World war; Wilma, a graduate of the North Platte High School, is a student at the University of Nebraska, and Elmer, Jr., who is still in school. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Coates are esteemed members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically Mr. Coates is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, being past master of the Blue Lodge, and a Knight Templar; a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.



**CHARLES F. TEMPLE.** A brainy, wide-awake man, allowing nothing to escape his attention that might improve his business methods or advance the welfare of his community, Charles F. Temple holds a position of prominence and influence among the esteemed and valued citizens of North Platte, and as a dealer in real estate and president of the Home Builders' Association has been an important factor in the upbuilding of the city. He was born in Washington, District of Columbia, March 4, 1885, of honored Virginian stock.

His parents, Charles F. and Agnes (O'Eleharty) Temple, were born, bred and educated in West Virginia. His father, a gifted musician, was accidentally killed when a piano which he was moving fell upon him. His mother subsequently married for her second husband John W. Boyer, and in 1889 settled in North Platte, Nebraska. Previous to that time Mr. Boyer had worked on the Cody ranch, and for a while was with the Buffalo Bill Show. From 1889 until 1901 he had the management as foreman of the Cody ranch, and is now in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, working in the round house. Mrs. Boyer, who was born in 1861, is state manager of the Woman's Benefit Association of the Ladies Maccabees of the World, and spends much of her time in Omaha. She is a bright, active woman, and a member of the Catholic Church.

Thrown, practically, upon his own resources while yet a boy, Charles F. Temple has made steady progress along the pathway of success, and now occupies an honored position among the self-made men of our times. Leaving the high school when young, he embarked in the telephone business under the supervision of George Fields. Keen of comprehension and quick to learn, he gained the confidence of his employers, and was subsequently made superintendent of the North Platte telephone office, serving as such for five years. Then, after taking a course of study at the North Platte Commercial College, Mr. Temple studied law for a year in the office of J. G. Beeler, in the meantime becoming interested in real estate and insurance affairs, with which he was actively identified on his own account for ten years. At the end of that period of time he became associated with the Fidelity Reserve Life Insurance Company, which he served as secretary for two years. From that time until March 1, 1920, he was assistant manager of the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, and had charge of the selling of city realty for the Hollman & Sebastian Agency. On March 1, 1920, he severed his connection with the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company and accepted the general agency for western Nebraska with the Farmers Life Insurance Company of Denver, Colorado, which position he now holds.

In 1912 Mr. Temple platted the Cody additions and Buffalo Bill's sub-division west of town, a large and valuable addition to the city, and during the latter years of Mrs. Cody's life had charge of her real estate interests. In 1918 he helped organize the North Platte Home Builders' Association, Incorporated, which has a capital of \$25,000, and was made its president. Very successful as a salesman, Mr. Temple handled the Cody additions very skillfully, selling \$22,000 worth of lots within the first ten days after the property was put on the market. During the World war he served as chairman for the county committee that had charge of the Liberty Bond sale.

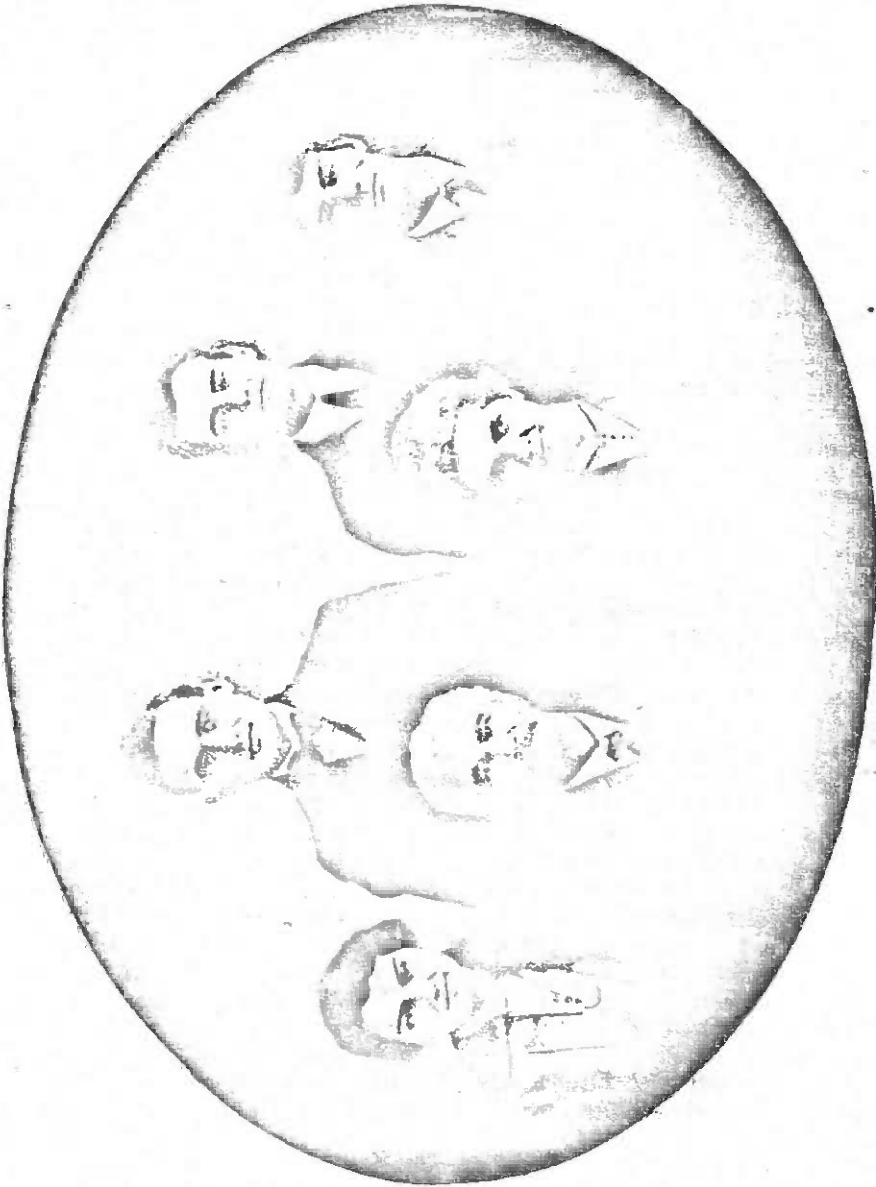
Mr. Temple married August 21, 1907, Jennie G., daughter of J. G. Beeler, and they are the parents of six children, namely: Bernard B., Joseph G., Dorothy J., Fenna, Agnes and Grace F. Religiously Mrs. Temple is a worthy member of the Methodist Church. Politically Mr. Temple uniformly casts his vote in favor of the democratic party, and for nine years was city clerk. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of the Knights of the Maccabees, and of the Yeomen of America.

**FREDERICK J. DIENER.** Having met with unquestioned success as a farmer, real estate dealer and insurance agent, Frederick J. Diener, of North Platte, has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods, and at the present writing is enjoying a well-earned vacation. He was born in 1861 in Pennsylvania, and there spent the days of his childhood and youth.

His parents, Jacob and Catherine (Diehl) Diener, were born in Germany, came to the United States when very young, and were married in Pennsylvania. In 1889 they came to Nebraska, and after living a short time in Otoe county bought land in Lincoln county, improved a good farm, on which they resided until the death of the father. The mother, now more than ninety years old, resides in North Platte. Of the nine children born of this union, Albert is dead, those living being as follows: Louis J., farming on the old homestead; August, of North Platte, a retired farmer; Laura, wife of Harry T. Johnson, of Pennsylvania; Lizzie, wife of Peter Lloyd, of North Platte; Frederick J., the subject of this sketch; Henry J., of North Platte, an agriculturist; George W., a Lincoln county farmer, and William H., of whom a sketch may be found on another page of this work.

Being well trained in the public schools of the Keystone state, Frederick J. Diener came with the family to Nebraska in 1889, settling in Otoe county, where he subsequently bought land, and was actively and profitably employed as a tiller of the soil until 1908. Coming to North Platte in that year, he invested a part of his surplus money in city property, and for upward of ten years thereafter was successfully engaged in the real estate business, doing a little insurance as a side issue, his operations being confined largely to Nebraska. Since the spring of 1919 he has taken things very leisurely, being practically retired from active business cares. When Mr. Diener began his career as a farmer he had as his sole capital one team, a breaking plow, a wagon and ten dollars in cash. Making judicious use of these, he has steadily climbed the ladder of success, his present prosperous condition being ample proof of his industry, enterprise and business ability.

Mr. Diener married in 1888 Elizabeth E. Everhart, a native of Ohio, and they have one child, Lucretia, wife of F. A. Baldwin, a veterinary surgeon of Callaway, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin have one child, Harold Wayne Baldwin. Politically identified with the republican party, Mr. Diener served for eight years as city assessor, and is now a member of the City Council. Fraternally he has passed through all the chairs of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has served as captain in the Canton. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Diener are faithful members of the Christian Church.



MIR. AND MRS. JACOB H. COLEMAN AND FAMILY

JACOB H. COLEMAN, whose life was conspicuously identified with the agricultural development of Lincoln county during the early history of this region, was among the prominent pioneer toilers who left the impress of their strong characters upon the growth of the new settlement. He was born in Holland in June, 1850.

Mr. Coleman was still a lad when his father died, and he was bound out to his uncle, Jacob Coleman. He and his mother, Mrs. Anna (West) Coleman, subsequently joined this uncle in the United States. His father had been a farmer in Holland, and this vocation his uncle took up in New York state, where he continued as an agriculturist until the time of his death. After the demise of his uncle Jacob H. Coleman severed connections with New York and moved to Illinois, where he found employment as a farm hand and at other occupations. He was energetic and determined, and in making the most of his opportunities was always careful to save a part of his earnings, so that by the year 1879 he was ready to make a start on his own account. After carefully canvassing the field, he decided that the west held out the greatest attractions, and in the year mentioned drove through in a wagon to what was then one of the frontiers, Lincoln county. Here he took up an unimproved homestead and began his existence with a small tent for a home. Later this primitive dwelling was replaced by one not much better, this being a sod house 10 by 14 feet, which proved sufficient for his needs for some years. As time went on he gradually added to his improvements. In addition to his homestead he took up a lumber claim of 160 acres, all of which join. Large trees which are now standing were planted by him, and the buildings erected by him are substantial in character and attractive in appearance. He was an astute man in business affairs, although always honorable, and as a farmer was industrious and enterprising, always alive to the advancements being made in his vocation. He developed into one of the skilled agriculturists of his locality, and as a raiser of stock always kept a good grade of cattle and hogs and found a ready and profitable market for his product.

Mr. Coleman was united in marriage in 1883 with Miss Katie Hecox, a native of DeKalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas H. and Kate (Young) Hecox, the former a native of New York and the latter of Toronto, Canada. The parents of Mrs. Coleman, who survives her husband as a resident of the homestead, settled on the Fort Kearney Reservation in Kearney county, and there rounded out long and honorable careers as agriculturists, the father passing away at the age of seventy-seven years and the mother dying at the age of eighty-two. To Mr. and Mrs. Coleman there were born four children, all of whom reside on the home place with their mother: Oscar, Earl, Ray and Ethel. Of these children, Ray Coleman served in the Third United States Army Division during the great World war. After spending six months in training at Camp Funston, he was sent overseas and took part in the great engagement in the Argonne, where he was wounded in the left elbow. He was invalided home on a hospital ship, and received his honorable discharge at Camp Dodge. Jacob H. Coleman was a democrat in politics. He took no prominent part in public life, but in his capacity as a private citizen he ably and faithfully discharged his responsibilities, and his death, which occurred July 8, 1916, removed from his community one who had done much to advance its welfare and who had attracted to himself many friends and well-wishers during a long and eminently honorable career.

**WILLIAM H. DIENER.** A well-known, prosperous and highly esteemed resident of North Platte, William H. Diener has been identified with various interests, and the success which has invariably attended his undertakings shows him to be a man of good judgment, and one who keeps in close touch with the varying conditions of business opportunities. A son of the late Jacob Diener, he was born in 1868 in Pennsylvania, of German lineage.

A native of Germany, Jacob Diener came with his parents to the United States when six years of age, and spent the earlier years of his life in Pennsylvania, where for upward of twenty-five years he was employed in the coal mines. Coming to Nebraska in 1889, he first bought land in Otoe county, and the following year purchased a tract of unimproved land in Lincoln county, and on the homestead which he cleared and improved spent his remaining years as a farmer, having met with very satisfactory success. At his death, at the age of seventy-five years, he left a fine estate. He married in Pennsylvania Caroline Diehl, who came from Germany to the United States with her parents when a child of four summers, and to them nine children were born, as follows: Louis J., living on the old home farm; August, of North Platte, a retired farmer; Laura, wife of Harry T. Johnson, operator of a stationary engine in Pennsylvania; Albert, deceased; Lizzie, wife of Peter Lloyd, of North Platte; F. J., a retired farmer of North Platte; Henry J., of North Platte, a dairy and fruit farmer; George W., engaged in farming in Lincoln county; and William H. The mother, a venerable woman of ninety years, resides in North Platte. She is a devout member of the Lutheran Church, to which her husband also belonged.

Brought up in Otoe county, and receiving a high school education, William H. Diener became well trained in the different branches of agriculture on the old homestead in Lincoln county, but farming had no attractions for him, and for four years he was employed in railroad work, being with the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Embarking then in mercantile pursuits, he carried on a substantial business as a shoe dealer in North Platte for ten years. In January, 1919, Mr. Diener disposed of his interests in that line, and having formed a partnership with W. H. Barrett, under the firm name of Diener & Company, has since successfully devoted his time and attention to the real estate and insurance business, representing among other well known companies the Equitable Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Diener has been twice married. He married first, in 1892, Hattie M. Wilson, who died in 1893, leaving one son, James W. Diener, a ranchman in South Dakota. Mr. Diener married for his second wife, in 1900, Mary M. Boden, a native of Germany, and they are the parents of three children, Marie, Evelyn and Louise. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Diener are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically Mr. Diener is a republican. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Modern Woodmen of America, and of the Yeomen of America.

**JAMES E. SEBASTIAN.** Identified with a business, one might say profession, that requires superior business ability, judgment and tact, James E. Sebastian, of North Platte, is devoting his thought and energy to its advancement, and is now one of the most prominent and successful life insurance men to be found within the limits of the state. A son of H. N. Sebastian, he was born December 5, 1886, in Carroll county, Missouri, and there grew to man's estate.

H. N. Sebastian was born April 29, 1857, in Dare county, Kentucky, where his parents settled on leaving their native state. As a young man he migrated to Missouri, settling in Carroll county, where he met with much success in life, for twenty-three years having been one of the best and most popular auctioneers of his community, his specialty having been in the sale of high grade cattle. He has been very successful, and since January, 1919, has lived retired from active pursuits, enjoying a well-earned leisure. His father, who spent his last years in Missouri, had four sons in the Union Army during the Civil war. James, Thomas, William and John, three of them being wounded in action. The maiden name of the wife of H. N. Sebastian was Mary A. Smith. She was born in Carroll county, Missouri, and has spent her entire life in her native state, her birth having occurred May 16, 1866. Of her eleven children, nine are living, James E. being the only one residing in Nebraska.

The oldest child of his parents, James E. Sebastian was educated in Missouri, attending the Chillicothe High School a year, the State Normal School one year, and then taking an eighteen months' commercial course. He began life as clerk in a general store in Roads, Missouri, but afterward entered the employ of an uncle, C. E. Sprose, and under his training obtained a practical knowledge of the real estate and insurance business. Thus equipped, Mr. Sebastian came to Nebraska in 1903, locating in Holdrege, where for a time he was agent for the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Lincoln.

Removing to Chappell, Nebraska, in 1905, Mr. Sebastian embarked in the real estate business, and also handled life and fire insurance, working first for the New York Life Insurance Company, then for the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Company for two years, after which he became district agent for the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company of St. Paul, Minnesota, the district over which he had control covering nine counties. In 1911 he sold his real estate and fire insurance agency for \$2,000, and in August of that year, at the urgent solicitation of the Life Company, who offered to pay all of his expenses for moving, he came to North Platte and opened the J. E. Sebastian Agency, which is carrying on a substantial and extensive business. During the first year of its existence this agency, which works in thirty-two counties, wrote \$240,000 worth of insurance. Mr. Sebastian subsequently secured other agents, having now thirty-six local agents and twelve full time men under his control, and in 1916 the agency wrote \$356,000 worth of insurance, \$264,000 worth being personal. In May, 1917, the company made Mr. Sebastian manager of all Nebraska counties excepting Douglas and Lancaster. In January, 1918, his territory was reduced to those counties west of Buffalo county. With the agency Mr. Sebastian wrote in 1918 \$475,000 worth of insurance, \$284,000 worth having been personal; the agency now averages two million dollars worth of new business a year, Mr. Sebastian himself having written \$314,500 worth from September, 1918, until September 1, 1919, making him a member of his company's Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Club for two consecutive years.

Mr. Sebastian married August 18, 1908, Ethel C. Hemming, a native of Bedford, Pennsylvania. Three children have been born of their union, namely: James Dolan, born September 29, 1910; Gladys C., born July 19, 1913, and Stanley William, born February 13, 1919. Religiously Mr. Sebastian is an active member of

the Lutheran Church, being a member of the church council and building committee and president of the Lutheran Brotherhood. Politically he is a democrat. Fraternally he is a member and past grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Aside from being a member of the firm and general manager of the Hollman & Sebastian Agency, with a number of other personal interests and a director of the North Platte Home Builders, Incorporated, which was organized with a capital of \$25,000 on July 1, 1919.

**J. CARL HOLLMAN.** Energetic, enterprising and progressive, J. Carl Hollman, of North Platte, holds a noteworthy position in the legal circles of Lincoln county, and is widely known in the real estate and insurance world as head of the Hollman & Sebastian Agency, which is carrying on a large and flourishing business. He was born in North Platte September 15, 1887.

John D. Hollman, his father, was born in Germany in 1850, and as a young lad immigrated to the United States. Coming to Nebraska in the latter part of the '60s, he was first a cow puncher, and subsequently had charge of the "E. W." Ranch for a number of years. Locating in North Platte, he was successfully engaged in the hardware business with Joseph Hershey until his death in 1895, while yet in the prime of life. He was a republican in politics, and belonged to the Presbyterian Church. He married Maude Welch, a native of Iowa, and the subject of this sketch was their only child.

Attending the public schools of North Platte until after he had passed through the seventh grade, J. Carl Hollman entered the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, and was graduated from its literary department in 1909, and from its law department in 1911. Being admitted to the bar very soon afterward, Mr. Hollman was engaged in the practice of his profession with J. G. Beeler for two years, but has since practiced by himself, and well deserves the reputation he has earned as being one of the most able and skillful lawyers of this section of the country. In 1916 Mr. Hollman embarked in the real estate and insurance business, becoming associated with James E. Sebastian, and, as senior member of the firm known as the Hollman & Sebastian Agency, has built up an extensive and highly remunerative business. He is also connected as a member of the board of directors with the North Platte Home Builders, an association formed and incorporated in 1919 for the purpose of building homes on the plan put in use by the building and loan associations.

Mr. Hollman married in 1913 Claire L. Neiman, of Tipton, Iowa, and they have two children, Louise and Dorothy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hillman are consistent members of the Presbyterian Church, and he has been for several years president of the Board of Trustees. Politically Mr. Hollman supports the principles of the republican party by voice and vote. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Always interested in advancing the interests and welfare of the young people, Mr. Hollman was for several years scout master for the Boy Scouts, and is now scout commissioner for North Platte.

H. A. BROOKS. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor, and it is the function of works of this nature to prepare for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages, and the value of such a publication is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of which generic history is ever engendered. The record of the gentleman whose name forms the caption to these paragraphs is well worthy of mention, for he has exhibited those qualities of character which have commended him to the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

H. A. Brooks is a native of the old Keystone state, having been born in Pennsylvania on March 7, 1888, and is the son of I. J. and Sarah (Martin) Brooks, both of whom were also natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared to maturity and were married. In 1890 they moved to Cozad, Dawson county, Nebraska, but a year later they returned to their native state. In 1895 they again came to Nebraska and homesteaded a tract of land near Cozad. To the improvement and cultivation of this tract the father applied himself until 1910, when he moved to Julesburg, Colorado, where he engaged in the operation of a garage for about two years, or until 1912, in the fall of which year he came to North Platte, where he has since resided. Here he is employed mostly at carpenter work.

Politically he is a supporter of the democratic party, while fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are highly respected in this community. Their union was blessed in the birth of six children, namely: O. J., who is engaged in the electrical repair business; H. A., the immediate subject of this review; Mary, who became the wife of Clinton Nichols, a farmer at Cook, Nebraska; John, who is engaged in the automobile tire repair business at Gothenburg, Nebraska; Margaret became the wife of Garry Hotelling, an employe of the American Express Company at North Platte; David is connected with the Willard Service Station in North Platte. H. A. Brooks received his educational training in the public schools of Gothenburg, Nebraska, graduating from the high school in 1908. Soon afterward he applied himself to a study of photography with the idea of devoting himself to that art, being employed in a studio at Lexington, Dawson county, for some time. In 1912 he came to North Platte and established his present studio, which in every respect is up-to-date and equipped for the best class of work. Mr. Brooks is an artist by instinct, as is abundantly evidenced by the superb quality of the work produced by him, and his reputation for careful, conscientious and thoroughly artistic work has drawn to him a large patronage from a wide radius of surrounding country. He began here in a modest way, his business amounting to an average of about two hundred dollars a month, but he now commands from twelve to fifteen times that much business, and his work is found in practically every locality in this section of the state.

On October 5, 1912, Mr. Brooks was married to Leta Loan, who is a native of Nebraska, and to them have been born two children, Harold and George Irwin. Politically Mr. Brooks is independent, giving his support to those candidates which meet with his approval, regardless of party lines. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while fraternally he is a mem-



ber of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masous. In all that constitutes good citizenship he is a worthy example and none stands higher in the confidence and esteem of the people than he, for he has ever stood for the best things in the community life, giving his support consistently for everything which promised to advance the material, civic or moral welfare of the community.

**MARSHALL E. SCOTT.** The office of biographer is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch the writer aims to avoid fulsome encomium and extravagant praise; yet he desires to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life—a life characterized by perseverance, energy, ability and well defined purpose. To do this will be but to reiterate the dictum pronounced upon the man by the people among whom he is best known.

Marshall E. Scott was born in Port Republic, Virginia, on October 5, 1881, and is the son of George L. and Edmonia (Ewan) Scott, both of whom also were natives of the Old Dominion state. They grew to maturity there and were married. In 1883 they moved to Cuba, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming and stock raising, and also became interested in the milling business. They still reside at Cuba. They became the parents of four children, namely: Marshall E., the immediate subject of this sketch; Carrie, who became the wife of C. E. Baylor, president of the State Bank of Cuba, Illinois; R. A., who is vice president of the Farmers State Bank at Sutherland, Nebraska; Martha V., the wife of Halbert Mighell, who is a grain merchant at Lanesboro, Iowa. George L. Scott gives his support to the democratic party and is an influential citizen in his community.

Marshall E. Scott received his educational training in the public schools of Cuba, Illinois, to which place the family moved when he was about two years old. He then took a course in the Gem City Business College at Quincy, Illinois, and immediately thereafter obtained a position in the Farmers State Bank, now the First National Bank of Cuba, where he remained until 1911, when he came to North Platte and became the first cashier of the newly organized Platte Valley State Bank, which position he has filled to the present time, to the entire satisfaction of the bank officials and the patrons of that institution. This bank has enjoyed a splendid growth, being now numbered among the strong and influential financial institutions of this community, and much of the success is due directly to the personal efforts and business ability of its cashier. He devotes himself closely to the interests of the bank, and is considered a man of sound business judgment and keen foresight. He is also interested in and a director of several other banks in this section of the state, including those at Sutherland, Wallace, Dickens, Paxton and Maxwell.

In 1906 Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Winifred B. Beeler, and to them have been born two children, Beeler, aged twelve years, and Virginia, aged ten years. Politically Mr. Scott gives his support to the democratic party and takes an intelligent interest in public affairs. He gives his support to every movement which promises to advance the material, civic and moral interests

of the community. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being treasurer of the subordinate lodge, and of Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a splendid example of the virile, progressive business man who believes in doing well whatever is worth doing at all; broadminded and public spirited, and because of these qualities and his affable disposition in his relations with his fellow men, he enjoys the confidence and good will of all who know him.

**J. GUY SWOPE.** The early life of J. Guy Swope of North Platte dates back to historic ground, the battle of Gettysburg having been a decisive one in the Civil war. He was born February 7, 1886, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. His relatives still live there. He is a son of E. B. and Lauretta (Gelbach) Swope, both of whom are natives of Gettysburg. The father is a merchant engaged in the sale of shoes and clothing, and has had one location for fifty years. At the time of the birth of J. Guy Swope the family lived in the house that had been the headquarters of General Meade at the time of the battle of Gettysburg.

There were eleven children born in the Swope family at Gettysburg, although only five are living: Ella, the widow of Dr. J. E. Glenn, lives in Gettysburg; Walter R. is a wholesale butcher in Baltimore; J. Guy Swope, who relates the family history, lives in North Platte; Stanley S. is a special detective for the Pennsylvania Railway and lives in Baltimore; Alice is the wife of Stanley Schefter and lives on a farm near Gettysburg. The Gettysburg family of Swope are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the father is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a republican and has been a representative in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. He is a son of Colonel Rufus C. Swope, who was an officer in the Civil war.

J. Guy Swope's first experience in business was in a grocery in Indian Territory in 1899 with his uncle. He remained there three years, coming from there to North Platte, and worked one year on a farm before he took a clerkship in the Yellow Front Shoe Store. Three years later he went from the Yellow Front Shoe Store to the Star Clothing Company, where he began buying stock, and in 1908 he became a joint owner (see E. J. VanDerhoof sketch) and secretary of the business, and today he has a wide business acquaintance in Lincoln county.

In 1908 Mr. Swope married Margaret Cooper, of North Platte. The father died while on a visit in England, but the mother is a resident of North Platte. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Swope are: Emma Louise, Laura Lucile and J. Donald. They worship with the Episcopalians and he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Independent Order of Odd Fellow Lodges. He has filled all the chairs in the local lodge and is now Grand Senior Warden of Nebraska. He is soon to become a Grand Patriarch in the order. While Mr. Swope has social obligations, he devotes himself strictly to the business of the Star Clothing Company. It is another example of the advice given the young men of America by Horace Greeley: "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country."

**ERNEST T. TRAMP.** While the business was started in a small way and had to be developed, Ernest T. Tramp now conducts a

splendid mercantile business in North Platte. For fifteen years Mr. Tramp has been a member of the North Platte Chamber of Commerce, and he has been a member of the library board from the time the library was opened in North Platte. He was born April 7, 1867, in Germany, and he was twelve years old when he came with his mother to the United States. He bears the full name of his father, Ernest T. Tramp, who was killed in the war of 1871 in the German army. The mother had the same family name, Wilhelmina Tramp, before she was the wife of E. T. Tramp in Germany.

Ernest T. Tramp had one full sister, Marie, who is now Mrs. Vongarine. She lives in Wisconsin on a farm. His mother married again in Germany. She is the wife of Ferdinand Tanger. They first located in Wisconsin when they came to America, but since 1907 they have lived retired in North Platte. They were farmers in Wisconsin. The family all belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

While Mr. Tramp was partly educated in Germany, he began his life activities in America on a farm in Wisconsin. When he first visited North Platte he was prospecting for land on which the family might file a homestead claim, and the Tanger family lived nine years on this land and then returned to Wisconsin. In 1909 they returned to North Platte to end their days in quietude.

In 1897 Mr. Tramp opened a grocery store in North Platte, which he owned and operated until 1918, when he sold it and engaged exclusively in dry goods and ready-to-wear clothing. On January 22, 1919, in partnership with his sons, Mr. Tramp bought a shoe stock, and they operate a separate store. In 1889 Mr. Tramp married Matilda Pohlmeier, who was born in Hanover, Germany. She is a daughter of Carl and Julia (Bravos) Pohlmeier, her parents coming from Germany in 1881 to the United States. They homesteaded in Lincoln county, and in turn their children did the same thing, all of them acquiring homes in Nebraska from the United States government. The mother died on the farm, while the father died in the home of Mrs. Tramp in North Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Tramp have two sons. Herbert, associated with his father in business, married Grace Ritner. They have one daughter, Gladys Margaret. Arthur enlisted in the United States Navy in July, 1918, and served until after the Armistice. He married Oneta Krauss. Mr. Tramp is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, a Royal Arch Mason, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of North Platte. Aside from his work for the community in the Chamber of Commerce as a member of the Library Board, he has for fifteen years been a member of the School Board, and while he is an active business man, few men devote more time to public welfare.

**CHARLES S. CLINTON.** There is both Connecticut and Michigan atmosphere in the life story of Charles S. Clinton, the North Platte jeweler and watchmaker. While he dates back to 1867 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, his parents, Joseph and Louise (Bliss) Clinton, both came there from New Haven, Connecticut. While in Grand Rapids the father conducted a butcher business, and the son attended public school, and at the age of fourteen he entered a jewelry store. When he was nineteen years old he came from Grand Rapids to North Platte.

It was in 1886 that Joseph Clinton and his family located in Nebraska, buying a ranch west of North Platte, where he lived for several years. His death occurred after they had retired to North Platte, and the mother died while on a visit to Denver. Their living children are: Benjamin C. Clinton, of Long Beach, California, who is in the railroad business, and Charles S. Clinton, who enrolls the family in the history of Lincoln county. The parents were Episcopalians, and the father was a Mason. The political faith is republicanism.

Charles S. Clinton had given five years of apprenticeship as a jeweler before coming to North Platte, where he first worked for Louis Thelock as a salesman and expert workman, and then for a time he was with his father on a ranch. After a few months he returned to North Platte and worked at a jeweler's bench on his own account in a furniture store. He opened his first real store in 1886 with a small stock, but the business increased and since that time there has been a Clinton jewelry store in North Platte. Mr. Clinton is a good watchmaker himself and only employs expert workmen. Repair work is a specialty at the Clinton Jewelry Store.

In 1888 Mr. Clinton married Augusta D. Kusterer, who was also from Grand Rapids. Their children are: Irma, wife of Arthur McNamara, of Oakland, California, who is in the oil business on the Pacific Coast, but while a resident of North Platte he was president of the First National Bank; C. P. Clinton, who is now connected with his father's jewelry store, entered the service of his country in 1917 in the United States Navy, had his training in California, and was overseas in the Marine Hospital Corps; Hildegarde is the wife of Dean Richardson, who has a farm in Oklahoma and who was stationed at Fort Riley while in the service, and she was a nurse at Fort Riley and at Fort Grant.

Mr. Clinton has been senior and is now junior warden in the Episcopal Church. He is a Mason and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and votes the republican ticket. While some attention is given to social life, his first thought is for the success of the business at the Clinton Jewelry Store in North Platte. It has grown from a bench in a furniture store to its present prosperous business, and eternal vigilance has been the price of Mr. Clinton's success.

PROFESSOR WILSON TOUT, superintendent of the North Platte public schools, has always lived in Nebraska, although not always in Lincoln county. He was born, in 1876, in Clay county. His parents are J. A. and Celestia (Gray) Tout, the father a native of Indiana and the mother of Iowa. They were married in 1872 at Sutton, Nebraska.

J. A. Tout was a carpenter and worked at the trade while his wife homesteaded and proved her claim on a farmstead near York. They had seven children, the oldest being Professor Wilson Tout. Fred is a painter and paperhanger in Minnesota. George is a druggist at York. Marsh is manager of a moving picture show at York. Clinton is an automobile dealer in California. Abe is in the moving picture business with his brother Marsh, at York. Mildred is the wife of Lieutenant Oxley, of Fort Dodge, Iowa. He had his training at Camp Meade, but he is now out of the service.

Professor Tout had his high school education at York and was a teacher before he entered the University of Nebraska. He taught

near York, receiving twenty-nine dollars a month for his service, but later he had charge of the Utica public school for two years. From there he went to Dunbar and remained six years. In 1907 Professor Tout came to North Platte as principal of the high school, but at the end of the first year he was made the city schools superintendent. There are six separate schools with fifty-two teachers under his management. There is an enrollment of about 1,800 pupils in the North Platte public schools.

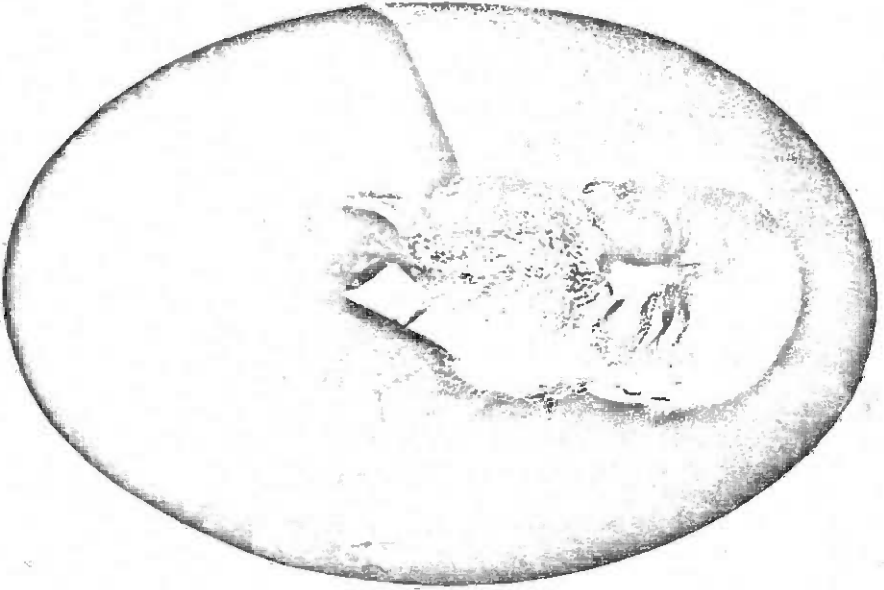
In March, 1903, Professor Tout married Nell Harrison, of York, and their children are Harrison and Rebecca. The family belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Professor Tout is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons in North Platte, and is a Yeoman. He is a member of the Musicians' Union and plays both in the band and in orchestra. He is independent in politics and devotes all of his time to educational interests.

**TRUMAN D. TINGLEY.** Of the supreme agencies which mold the tendencies and beckon most persistently to the mind of youth, none exceed in potency the example of those who already have fought the battles of life and passed on to the higher award. And who shall say that the great lesson in the life of a good and capable man, next to the intelligent application of the forces within him for the benefit of mankind in general, is not the encouragement disseminated by his rise from obscurity to prominence. These reflections are brought forcibly to mind in the career of the late Truman D. Tingley, whose devotion to the science of farming won him a competence and a business reputation throughout Lincoln county.

Mr. Tingley was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1832, a son of Naaman Tingley, who passed most of his life in that state. Naaman Tingley was a prominent and influential farmer in Pennsylvania, where he was one of the founders of Harvard Township, and also served for some years as justice of the peace of that community, where he was one of the leaders of the democratic party. Truman D. Tingley received his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania, and was still a young man when he came to Nebraska, first buying a pre-emption in Lincoln county. Later he homesteaded a property, and on this the remainder of his life was passed, his death occurring December 17, 1910. He was always a farmer and livestock raiser, and during a long period of years his industry was such as to gain him a splendid income and to place him among the financially independent men of his community. He participated in the development that changed the whole appearance and condition of Lincoln county, and himself advanced from the ownership of a dugout to the occupancy of a modern residence. Public-spirited and progressive, he joined in any enterprise calculated to advance the prosperity or happiness of the men, women and children who came within the range of his environment.

In 1860 Mr. Tingley married Lovisa Bailey, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Charles S. and Nancy (Stone) Bailey, natives of Rhode Island and farming people in Pennsylvania, where both died. He was a democrat and they were members of the Baptist Church. Of their eight children only two, Mrs. Tingley and a brother, Nathan W., are living. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tingley: Viola, the widow of William Millard, of Wisconsin; Eleanor, the wife of John Brady, a farmer of Dawson county, Nebraska; and Clyde C., who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county. Mrs. Tingley still survives her husband and makes her

Mrs. AND MRS. THOMAS D. TINGLEY



residence on the original family homestead. She has numerous friends in this community and is widely known for her many sterling traits of character. She is a woman of superior intellect and education, being a graduate of Waverly Academy, Pennsylvania, and is a faithful member of the Baptist Church, to which her late husband also belonged. He was a democrat in politics, and at one time served as a justice of the peace.

**THOMAS F. HEALEY.** Enterprising, industrious and far-seeing, Thomas F. Healey is actively identified with some of the leading interests of North Platte, and as a dealer in real estate has handled many large and valuable pieces of city, town and county property. A son of Luke F. Healey, he was born April 30, 1874, at Fort McPherson, Lincoln county, Nebraska, in the house that "Buffalo Bill" ever called home.

Born in Ireland, Luke F. Healey came to America when young, and served as a soldier during the Civil war, having been a member of the Seventy-second New York Volunteer Infantry. Coming to Lincoln county, Nebraska, July 4, 1866, as a soldier, he took up a homestead claim, and for many years devoted his ranch to the raising of cattle. In 1881 he moved to North Platte, where he still resides, for a long time, however, retaining the management of his valuable ranch. A democrat in politics, he has taken great interest in public affairs, and for two years, from 1886 until 1888, was sheriff of Lincoln county. He married and had one child, Thomas F.

After completing his early studies in the North Platte High School Thomas F. Healey began life for himself as a dealer in real estate. His ventures not proving as profitable as he had hoped, he was employed in railroad work for several years. Subsequently, in partnership with S. M. Souder, he opened the Liberty Land Office, and has since carried on an extensive and thriving business in real estate, many of his transactions involving large sums of money.

Mr. Healey married in 1900 Catherine Barker, who was born in Illinois, and into their home two children have been born, Darrell and Catherine. True to the religious faith in which they were reared, Mr. and Mrs. Healey are members of the Catholic Church. Although he has always voted the democratic ticket, Mr. Healey is rather independent in his political views, supporting all beneficial measures but never seeking public office. Fraternally he is a member and exalted ruler of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**DR. JOHN S. SIMMS.** It was the privilege of Dr. John S. Simms of North Platte to be "Somewhere in France" for ten months in his overseas service in Base Hospital No. 49 in the surgical service representing the University of Nebraska Unit in the war of the nations. He entered the service in February, 1918, and was discharged May 20, 1919, when he returned to his practice in North Platte.

Doctor Simms is a native Nebraskan, having been born November 24, 1883, at Alma. He is a son of B. M. and Alice (Schick) Simms, the father from New Jersey and the mother from Maryland. They came to Nebraska in 1879, the father owning a drug store in Alma for many years. At the time of his death, August 31,

1919, he was in the drug business at Hastings. Doctor Simms was the first born child, and he has a brother, David Simms, now engaged in the drug business in Hastings.

In its early history the Simms family were Methodists, and the mother, who still lives, is a member of that church. The father, B. M. Simms, was a Mason, Knight Templar, and Shriner. He served both as a representative and senator in the Nebraska Legislature, elected by the democratic party. He was active in local politics and was once mayor of Alma. The sons were educated there, Doctor Simms having graduated from the Alma High School in 1901, and from the Omaha College of Pharmacy two years later. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1909, and in 1911 he graduated from Rush Medical College. He served as interne in the Cook County Hospital for eighteen months, and January 1, 1914, Doctor Simms began the practice of medicine in North Platte.

In 1912 Doctor Simms married Fenne Beeler (See sketch of J. G. Beeler), and their children are: Alice Ruth, John, Jr., and Thomas C. The Doctor is a Mason, Knight Templar and Shriner, and he has served as prelate in the Templar Lodge. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and in his college days he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity and the Phi Rho Sigma medical fraternity, and the T. N. E.

Doctor Simms now holds the appointment of city physician, the position being given him as a democratic recognition. As a practitioner his specialty is surgery. When the war ended he had no further mission to serve overseas and hastened back to North Platte to the practice suspended in his absence.

**CASSIUS M. AUSTIN.** While most of his life has been spent in Nebraska, Cassius M. Austin, the North Platte jeweler, was born in Channahon, Illinois. Horace Austin, the father, was a Canadian who came to Illinois as a young man, and there he married Narcissa Leach, who had come from Ohio. He was a building contractor and crossed the great plains in 1858 in the vicinity of North Platte. He went to Denver, where he erected the first shanty in the town. In the early '70s he returned to Lincoln county, and lived for a time in North Platte. For fifteen years he lived on a farm, but he spent the last seven years of his life in Denver.

The four out of seven children born in the Austin family living today are: Judge Austin, who is a carpenter in North Platte; Mrs. Harry Dixon, of North Platte; Cassius M. Austin, who relates the family history; and Mrs. Charles Marvin, of Sugar City, Colorado. The mother was a member of the Methodist Church and the father was a very ardent republican.

C. M. Austin was educated in North Platte, and as a boy he entered a jewelry store as a clerk. In time he learned the trade, and he remained in one store 16½ years. In 1916 Mr. Austin started in business for himself. He has an up-to-date jewelry store on Front street in North Platte, and has built up a very satisfactory business there. He carries jewelry of all kinds, and the repair business has assumed immense proportions.

On May 12, 1915, Mr. Austin married Zetta Reynolds (see sketch of B. M. Reynolds), and they have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Mr. Austin is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he has passed all the chairs in the Knights of Pythias Lodge.



**BERT M. REYNOLDS.** While some families leave it all to the carpenter when they are ready to build a house, others consult Bert M. Reynolds, the North Platte architect, and there is a difference in results. Mr. Reynolds is a native Nebraskan, having been born March 6, 1873, in Butler county. He is a son of Foster M. and Charlotte E. (Reed) Reynolds. The parents were born in Pennsylvania.

In 1868 Foster M. Reynolds came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Butler county. When he had proved up on the land he returned to Pennsylvania, married a young woman and brought her to the frontier, and they lived on this homestead till three sons were born, and in 1876 the mother died there. Their children are: Edgar C. Reynolds, on a ranch near Kearney; Bert M., who relates the family history; and Scott, who is a ranchman near North Platte.

The Reynolds family were members of the Methodist Church and the father was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He was an active prohibitionist and a member of the State Prohibition Central Committee. He died in 1903. Mr. Reynolds married for his second wife, Mary E. Crunley, and there were six children born, and those living are: J. LeRoy Reynolds, who is a ranchman at Motley, Minnesota, his mother with him there; Winifred is the wife of Alexander Petre, a clothing merchant in Sheridan, Wyoming; Mabel is deceased; Zetta is the living wife of Cash Austin, the North Platte jeweler; Carl lives in Minnesota; Sarah lives with the Petres in Wyoming.

Bert M. Reynolds supplemented his common school education by studying in the State University at Lincoln, in the Lincoln Business College, the Lincoln Normal and in the Wesleyan University there. In his second year at Wesleyan University he began a course in architecture, and continued his work in engineering, but misfortune overtook him and he did not finish it. He was interested with a brother in some cattle on the Van Broclin Ranch in Lincoln county, and a cyclone killed seventeen head of them, and the college student had to go to work without completing his studies. He started in a small way as an architect, contracting work in Kearney and other small towns and in the country before locating in North Platte.

There is an old saying about the school of experience being the best teacher, and in 1910, when he located in North Platte, Mr. Reynolds had no difficulty securing contracts and has always had his share of the construction work in the community. His first job was a garage, and he has been the architect for the Jefferson school, the Mutual Building and Loan Association, the two McCabe hotel buildings, the Junior High School, the Twinem Building, the Reynolds Building, the Hendy and Ogier Garages and a great many buildings all along the Union Pacific, and numerous smaller buildings in North Platte.

The Reynolds Terrace was built in 1917-18, having six flats, all separate apartments. It is of frame and stucco and one of the attractive residences in the city. In 1912 Mr. Reynolds married Jessie Blankenberg, a daughter of Edward Blankenberg, who came to North Platte in the time of the Indians in the community, and he ended his days in the city. He was engaged in the harness and hardware trade. Mrs. Blankenberg, of whom more complete mention will be found on other pages of this volume, still lives in North

Platte. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have one daughter, Charlotte Wilhelmina.

While Mr. Reynolds is a Methodist his wife is a Presbyterian, and their missionary contributions go both ways in carrying the gospel to the rest of the world. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Yeomen. He is an independent republican—the man above the party. While he had no capital in the beginning, he has enjoyed prosperity from the beginning of his business venture in North Platte.

**GILBERT D. GOLDSMITH.** In all the relations of life Gilbert D. Goldsmith, one of the substantial and well-known citizens of Lincoln county, has proved signally true to every trust. He has spent many years in this state, and he has been successful in his business affairs, building up, through his close application and careful management, a valuable landed estate and accumulated a competency, so that, now the snows of old age have settled on him, he can spend his last years in peace, quiet and plenty, at the same time enjoying the good will and esteem of all who know him, for his life has been lived in accord with sound ethics and a due regard as to his relations with the world about him.

Gilbert D. Goldsmith is a native of Adams county, Illinois, where he was born on October 7, 1841, and he is the son of Gilbert and Abigail (Durfee) Goldsmith, both of whom were born in New York state. Both parents died when the subject of this sketch was quite young. They were the parents of seven children, of whom two are living, Gilbert D. and Mrs. Eliza Dean, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gilbert D. Goldsmith was reared and educated in Adams county, Illinois, and thereafter he gave his attention to the vocation to which he had been reared, that of agriculture. In the fall of 1888 he came to Nebraska locating first in Cass county, where he entered and proved up a homestead farm. Subsequently he moved to Polk county, this state, where he purchased land and farmed until 1909. He was successful in his business affairs, being practical and up-to-date in his methods, so that when in 1909 he came to Lincoln county he was able to buy 320 acres of excellent land in section 8, township 13, range 31, where he lived until February, 1920, when he removed to North Platte. Mr. Goldsmith does not, however, now give much personal attention to the active management of his farm, the details of which have been taken over by his son Harry. The land is devoted to general farming and stockraising and the place is characterized by the best of improvements, all of which are of a substantial and convenient character.

Mr. Goldsmith has been married twice; first to Lucy Black, whose death occurred in 1878. To this union were born six children, namely: Mrs. Abbie Richard, who is living in Polk county, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Harris, of Ashland, Nebraska; Charles, of Cass county, Nebraska; Mrs. Rose Elliott, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Alta Johnson, also of Omaha; and Mrs. Fannie Lewis, of St. Joseph, Missouri. In Cass county, this state, Mr. Goldsmith married for his second wife Helen Bevan, a native of McLean county, Illinois, and the daughter of Abel and Catherine (Flamm) Bevan, both of whom also were natives of Illinois. Her parents were farmers in Illinois, but subsequently moved to Cass county, Nebraska, and took up a homestead, where they spent the remainder of their lives and died. To the subject's second union have been

born eight children, as follows: Mrs. Edna Smith, who lives on a farm in Lincoln county; Mrs. Clara Kelley, of Bridgeport, Nebraska; Mrs. Jessie Mustard, of North Platte; Mrs. Georgie Payne, who lives in Montana; Mrs. Marie Thompson, of Chapel, Nebraska; Mrs. Zola Pennington, of North Platte; Harry, who is in Wyoming; and Lucile, who remains at home.

Politically Mr. Goldsmith has remained independent of party ties, though he has always taken a deep interest in public affairs and has consistently given his support to those men and measures which he believed to be for the highest welfare of the people. Mrs. Goldsmith is a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Goldsmith has been a witness of and participant in the wonderful development of the great State of Nebraska during the past four decades, and has so ordered his own life as to win the confidence and respect of all who know him. Earnest purpose and tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense, have been among his most prominent characteristics, and he has merited the respect which is accorded him.

Mr. Goldsmith enlisted in February, 1864, in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Illinois Infantry, and serving until the close of the Civil war. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post in Polk county.

**P. W. OLSON.** Many of the more thriving and enterprising agriculturists of Lincoln county have come from the land beyond the sea, and of this number, P. W. Olson, of North Platte, is a worthy representative. A native of Sweden, he was born June 6, 1870, in Oland. His father, Olaf Larson, spent his entire life of forty-five years in Sweden, during his active career having been employed at the carpenter's trade.

Having acquired a practical education in his native land. Mr. Olson, being of an adventurous spirit, determined, as a lad of seventeen years, to seek his fortune in America, the land of liberty. Immigrating to the United States in 1887, he came directly to Nebraska, locating in the central part of the state. Laboring industriously, he saved his money, and subsequently bought a tract of land there and began farming on his own account, remaining there until 1907. Coming in that year to Lincoln county, Mr. Olson purchased at North Platte 140 acres of land, and in its improvement has taken much pride. With characteristic perseverance and diligent labor he has carried on mixed farming and stockraising with ability and success, his estate, with its improvements and equipments, ranking with the best in the vicinity.

Mr. Olson has been twice married. He married first Hannah Hemming, a native of Iowa, whose father, Augustus Hemming, immigrated from Sweden to the United States, and after farming for a time in Iowa settled in Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he still resides. She passed to the life beyond in 1914, leaving two children, Oscar and Ethel. Mr. Olson married for his second wife, 1919, Elizabeth Winans, who was born in Ohio, where her parents, neither of whom are now living, settled. Mr. Olson is independent in politics, voting for the best men and measures, regardless of party restrictions. Religiously he belongs to the Methodist Church.

**THOMAS DOOLITTLE.** Prominent among the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of Lincoln county is Thomas Doolittle, who is familiarly known to the people of North Platte as the owner

of one of the finest and best appointed homesteads within its limits, on which he is successfully engaged in cultivating the soil. Coming from New England stock, he was born November 15, 1858, in New Haven, Connecticut.

His father, Elkanah Doolittle, was born in New York state, and during his earlier life was there engaged in civil engineering. He was a captain in the Civil war, enlisting from Connecticut. Going with his family to Illinois in 1866, he bought land in the eastern part of the state, and there continued as a general farmer until his death. His wife, whose name before marriage was Tryphena Pangborn, was a native of Ohio. Three children were born of their union, as follows: Milton, a resident of California; Thomas, the special subject of this brief review; and Warren, deceased.

Growing to manhood in Illinois, Thomas Doolittle acquired his early education in the district schools, and graduated from Yale College in 1880. While young he became familiar with the manual labor incidental to life on a farm. In 1883, desirous of taking advantage of cheaper lands in the then far west, he made his way to Nebraska. Pre-empting a claim in Holt county, Mr. Doolittle proved up, and was there prosperously engaged in general farming for seventeen years. Removing to Lincoln county in 1900, in the improvement of his farm here he has spared neither pains nor expense. He has also added to its extent, at the present time having title to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  sections of valuable land, well adapted to farming and cattle raising, branches of industry in which he is especially successful.

Mr. Doolittle married Lillian Brown, who was born and educated in Minnesota, where her parents were life-long residents, her father having been a successful agriculturist. Into the household thus established six children have made their advent, namely: Milton, who is deceased, resided in California; Warren A., engaged in farming the home place and he is married; Florence, deceased; and Thomas, Emily and Hosmer, all single, live in California. Mr. Doolittle is a steadfast democrat in politics, and both he and his wife are devout members of the Episcopal Church.

**THOMAS G. ROWLEY.** For many years closely identified with the development and advancement of the agricultural prosperity of Lincoln county. Thomas G. Rowley, of North Platte, has accomplished a satisfactory work, and is now living retired from active pursuits, enjoying to the utmost the fruits of his arduous but successful labors. A son of the late John Rowley, he was born June 19, 1853, in New York state, the birthplace of both of his parents.

Pursuing the pleasant and peaceful occupation of a farmer, John Rowley followed it first in his native state, later going to Ohio, where he resided several seasons. He subsequently migrated to Canada, but afterward returned to New York and from there went to Michigan where he died when but fifty years of age. His wife, whose name before marriage was Emily Goldsmith, survived him and died in 1899 in North Platte, Nebraska, aged sixty-five years. Seven sons and three daughters were born of their union, Thomas G., the subject of this brief sketch, being the second child in succession of birth. Seven of the children are yet living, as follows: Thomas G.; Mrs. John Baggott; Mrs. James McMichiel; Nelson S., a farmer in Cherry county, Nebraska; Nathan, living in Michigan; Adelbert F., of Alaska; and George, a resident of Cali-

formia. The father supported the principles of the republican party by voice and vote, and both he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Church.

Soon after attaining his majority, in 1874, Thomas G. Rowley came from the central part of Michigan to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in search of a favorable location. Immediately taking a homestead pre-emption and a timber claim, he began the improvement of both. He sold his homestead and moved to his present farm in 1881. As a general farmer and stockraiser he has met with unquestioned success, his farm being one of the best in its appointments of any in the vicinity. Having by dint of sturdy labor and good management won a competency, he is living retired from active labor, his two sons having assumed charge of the home place.

Mr. Rowley married, September 10, 1890, in North Platte, Jennie Myers, who was born in New York state, a daughter of J. J. and Jane (Slavy) Meyers, natives of the Empire State. In 1871 Mr. Myers came with his family to Nebraska, and having taken up a homestead claim in Lincoln county was here prosperously engaged in general farming for many years, both he and his wife spending their remaining years on the farm they improved. They both died in North Platte, where they moved in 1895. Five children have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Rowley, namely: Leonard E., Roy, N. T. Paul, Isla B., and Ruby H. Mrs. Rowley taught in the rural schools of Lincoln and Dawson counties for ten years. Her education was received in the public schools and the State Normal at Pennsylvania.

Active and influential in public affairs, Mr. Rowley assisted in the organization of School District No. 39, and for twenty-three years served that district as school director. At the present writing, in 1920, he is assistant deputy assessor. In politics he is independent, voting for what he deems the best men and measures. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rowley are consistent members of the Methodist Church, and contribute liberally towards its support.

**HENRY FACKA.** For many years Henry Facka, late of North Platte, was well known throughout this section of Lincoln county as an industrious and enterprising farmer, a kind neighbor, and a loving husband and father: and his death, which occurred in June, 1906, on the homestead where he had so long resided, was a cause of general regret. A native of Illinois, he was born in Jo Daviess county July 5, 1857.

William Facka, his father, was born and reared in Germany. Early in life he immigrated to the United States, settling in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he subsequently bought land, and was thereafter successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death.

Born, bred and educated in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, Henry Facka there began life for himself as a merchant. Coming to Nebraska in 1874, he pre-empted a homestead in Lincoln county, taking up eighty acres of land, and likewise a timber claim, on both of which he proved up. A man of persistent energy, he toiled unceasingly in his efforts to improve his land, and, notwithstanding all the privations and hardships incidental to pioneer life, he succeeded well, and in course of time added another eighty acres of land, by purchase, to his original homestead. His death, which occurred while he was yet in manhood's prime, was deeply mourned throughout the community in which he had so long resided.

Henry Facka married in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, Mary Donigan, who was born in that county, of Irish parentage. Her father, Michael Donigan, was born and brought up in Ireland. Immigrating to the United States in early life, he lived for a time in Pennsylvania, from there moving to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where he carried on general farming for many years, continuing a resident of that county until his death, at the venerable age of eighty-six years. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret Moran, was born in Ireland, and died on the home farm in Illinois when but sixty-four years of age. They were both faithful members of the Catholic Church.

Five children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Facka, namely: William, a farmer in Lincoln county, is married; Anna, wife of Pete McLeone, of Iowa; Elizabeth, wife of Charles Merrian, of Sterling, Colorado; Frank, having charge of the home farm; and a child that died in infancy. Mrs. Facka is a woman of good business ability, and with the able assistance of her son Frank is carrying on general farming and stockraising most successfully. In 1904 she took up a homestead claim, and at the present time has a large estate of one section, or 640 acres, much of which is under a good state of tillage. She is a member of the Catholic Church, to which Mr. Facka also belonged, and has reared her children in the same faith.

**CHARLES MARION JACOX.** The growth of sound optimism and intelligence has advanced agriculture to a combination of science and art, the profound possibilities of which can be but generally mastered by any one individual during his comparatively brief span of years. Of the men who have shown their capability in thoroughly learning the various principles and methods of cultivating the soil, one who has achieved marked success through his own industry is Charles Marion Jacox, of the Gothenburg locality of Lincoln county, where he is the owner of a valuable and attractive property and the possessor of an enviable reputation for integrity and good citizenship.

Mr. Jacox was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, in 1863, a son of William and Lydia (Morthouse) Jacox, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Illinois. William Jacox, who was an agriculturist in Illinois, died when his son Charles M. was but a child, and his widow subsequently married his brother, Isaac Jacox, by whom she had two children: Myra and Calvin. The educational training of Charles M. Jacox was secured in the public schools of his native state, and as a young man he removed to Iowa, where he secured employment in driving cattle to the market at St. Louis, Missouri. Later, when he was ready to enter upon his independent career, he moved to Saline county, Nebraska, where he was engaged in farming until coming to Lincoln county, and here pre-empted a tree claim, where he lived until he moved to his present farm of 160 acres, and he also has 320 acres in another farm. He has installed many modern improvements, making his property valuable and attractive. He has devoted himself unreservedly to farming and stockraising, and has a good grade of livestock. Among his associates his reputation is that of an able and far-sighted business man, who observes the highest ethics in his transactions and who is to be trusted implicitly.

Mr. Jacox wedded Miss Jane Youngs, and they have become the parents of twelve children: Malisia B., deceased, Charles, Kitty M.,

RESIDENCE OF CHARLES M. JACON



William Elmer, Cora Margaret, Pearl, Orville, Arthur, Lydia J., Chester C., Francis L., Mearl Floyd. Mr. Jacox is an independent voter. He is interested in fraternalism to the extent of holding membership in the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has numerous friends.

**WILLIAM P. SNYDER.** Having made an especial study of the various branches of agriculture, one of the most important industries to which a far-seeing, progressive man may devote his energy and ability, William P. Snyder, superintendent of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Substation at North Platte, possesses in an eminent degree the knowledge, experience and force of character requisite for the responsible position he has so ably and faithfully filled since 1904. Beginning life for himself even with the world as regarded his finances, he has steadily climbed the ladder of attainments, and is assuredly a fine representative of the self-made men of our times. A son of Hiram Snyder, he was born August 17, 1875, in Butler county, Pennsylvania, and there spent his boyhood days.

Hiram Snyder, a native of Butler county, Pennsylvania, migrated with his family to Nebraska in 1888. Locating in Hayes county, he took up a homestead claim, and on the farm which he improved spent the remainder of his life. He married Eliza Braham, also a native of Butler county, Pennsylvania, and of the eleven children born of their union ten are living, William P. being the youngest child. The father was a staunch republican in politics, and both he and his wife were worthy members of the United Presbyterian Church.

Having obtained the rudiments of his education in his native state, William P. Snyder continued his early studies in the rural schools of Hayes county, this state. Being fitted for college, he subsequently entered the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he was graduated with the class of 1901. Going then to Lansing, Michigan, he studied for a year at the Michigan Agricultural College, taking a special course in agriculture and graduating with the degree of Master of Arts. Returning to Nebraska, Mr. Snyder spent two years in Lincoln, having charge of the animal husbandry and extension work of the State University. In 1904 he accepted his present position as superintendent of the Nebraska Agricultural Experimental Substation at North Platte, and in the care of its 1920 acres of land he employs from fifteen to twenty men, doing experimental farming, including stockraising and dairying, in the latter industry keeping full-blooded Holsteins.

Mr. Snyder married, October 27, 1905, Rachael I. Pollock, a native also of Pennsylvania, whose parents, Amander and Laura (Porter) Pollock, settled in Minden, Kearney county, Nebraska, in 1885, but later took up a homestead claim in Perkins county, this state. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder, namely: William and Bruce and Marjorie, whose death in the fall of 1919 was a great sorrow to the family. Mr. Snyder has acquired property of value, including a good farm in Keith county. He is a steadfast republican in politics, but not an aspirant for public office, his entire time being devoted to his agricultural work. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons at North Platte; and also belongs to the Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Fraternities.



**FRED BROOKS.** A man of sterling worth and ability, Fred Brooks, of North Platte, an enterprising and self-reliant farmer, occupies a leading position among the practical and skilful agriculturists of his community, and has established for himself a worthy record for good citizenship. A son of Henry and Mary Brooks, he was born January 7, 1870, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where his childhood days were passed.

Henry Brooks and his wife were natives of New York state. There he learned the carpenter's trade, which he subsequently followed for some time in Pennsylvania. In 1880, responding to the lure of the far western country, he came with his family to Lincoln county, Nebraska, which was then in its infancy, and as a pioneer carpenter did much of the early building in North Platte. He met with undoubted success, and continued a resident of the place until his death, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. His wife preceded him in death, passing away at the age of fifty years. Three children blessed their union, as follows: George A.; Earl, deceased; and Fred, of whom we write.

But ten years old when he came with his parents to North Platte, Fred Brooks attended the public schools, and as a young man was variously employed, his chief occupation having been that of a cook. Wise in his savings, and prudent in expenditures, he accumulated considerable money, and in 1897 invested it in land, buying 339½ acres of farm and ranch land. In the management of his property Mr. Brooks has been eminently successful, attaining a noteworthy position among the foremost farmers and cattle raisers in this part of the county. He is an uncompromising republican in politics, and both he and his wife are consistent members of the Episcopal Church.

Mr. Brooks married Bertie M. Fraizer, who was born in Lincoln county, Nebraska, September 8, 1872, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Fraizer, natives of England. Neither of her parents are living. Her father was for many years a clerk in the office of a railroad superintendent, a position he was filling at the time of his death. Seven children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, namely: William, who did his part in the World war, being in the truck service; Harold E., living in Lincoln county; Genevieve, wife of R. V. McMaster, of North Platte; Milledge; Helen; Homer; and Kenneth.

**JAMES L. PELL.** A prominent business man of Bignell, and its only merchant, James L. Pell has built up a substantial trade, his honest, upright dealings, courtesy and prompt attention to the wants of his numerous customers having won him an extensive and lucrative patronage. A son of the late Henry Pell, he was born July 24, 1861, in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, the birth-place also of both of his parents. Learning the carpenter's trade when young, Henry Pell followed it in his native state until 1879, when he came with his family to Lincoln county, Nebraska. Taking up and proving a homestead claim, he turned his attention to agriculture, and was thereafter successfully engaged in farming and stockraising until his death in 1914, at the age of three score and ten years. His wife, whose maiden name was Amanda Smith, died on the homestead at the age of sixty-nine years. They were the parents of six children, as follows: James L., of whom we write; Mary, wife of Robert Faekler, lives in Iowa; George, of Iowa City, Iowa; and Harry, Will and John, engaged in farming in Lincoln county.

A sturdy, ambitious youth of eighteen years when he came with the family to Nebraska, James L. Pell assisted his father to some extent in improving a homestead, his chief occupation for sixteen years, however, having been that of a cowboy. In 1883 he homesteaded, proved up, and for a number of seasons devoted his time and energies to the improvement of his property. Embarking in mercantile pursuits in 1909, Mr. Pell has been successful in building up an extensive business, and has the distinction of being the only merchant in Bignell, and its postmaster. He is independent in politics, and at the present time, in 1920, is serving as county assistant.

Mr. Pell married in 1885 at North Platte, Mary Dowhower, a native of the Keystone state. Her parents, Jacob and Rosetta (Stape) Dowhower, were life-long residents of Pennsylvania, her father, a blacksmith by trade, attaining the age of seventy-two years, while her mother died at the age of sixty-nine years. Mr. and Mrs. Pell have two children, Elmer and Lulu, both living at home. They are both consistent and active members of the Presbyterian Church.

**JOHN DISCOE.** An industrious and exceedingly skillful agriculturist, John Discoe is following his chosen vocation with good results, his rich and well cultivated land yielding abundant crops of hay and grain. He was born October 17, 1873, in Germany, where he spent the first eight years of his life.

His father, August Discoe, was born, reared and married in Germany. Seeking better opportunities for advancing his material welfare, he followed in the pathway of so many of his countrymen that have immigrated to America, and in 1881 came with his family to the United States, locating in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was engaged in the lumber business for five years. In 1886, taking advantage of the opportunity to buy land from the Government, he migrated to Nebraska, and having taken up a homestead claim immediately began its improvement. Succeeding well in his agricultural labors, he accumulated a goodly sum, and now, at the age of three score and ten years, is living retired from active labor in South Dakota. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Rnek, was born in Germany, and died on the homestead in Lincoln county when but forty-two years of age.

Eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, John Discoe was educated, chiefly, in the public schools of Cleveland. He subsequently assisted his father in the pioneer work of clearing and improving a ranch from its primeval wilderness, incidentally acquiring an excellent knowledge of the many branches of agriculture. In 1897, being well equipped for his future occupation, Mr. Discoe purchased 160 acres of land in township 13, range 29, section 34, and has since devoted his time and energies to general farming and stock-raising. He has materially added to the improvements previously begun, having now a large part of his ranch under cultivation, and amply supplied with comfortable and convenient farm buildings. Mr. Discoe is an independent voter, being bound to no party restrictions, and as a man and a citizen is held in high esteem.

Mr. Discoe married Mary Mang, who was born in Germany, and as a girl came with her parents to Nebraska, where he father lived on a farm in Lincoln county until his death, which occurred in 1882. Six children were born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Discoe,

namely: Daisy, wife of Owen Davis, a ranchman in Lincoln county; Mary, wife of Charles McGee, resides in Lincoln, Nebraska; Charles, deceased; Archie, who enlisted in the United States service during the World war, died of the Spanish influenza while a member of Company 14, Royce Army School, at Kansas City, Missouri, his death occurring December 3, 1919; Ora, living at home; and Nellie, also at home.

**NELSON M. PETTIT.** A prominent and able representative of the agricultural interests of Lincoln county, Nelson M. Pettit, of North Platte, began life for himself on a low rung of the ladder of success, and through wise management, well-directed toil and superior business ability and judgment has attained a position of affluence and influence, being one of the leading farmers and citizens of his community. A son of Peter Pettit, he was born March 12, 1850, in Allen county, Indiana, where he was bred and educated.

A native of Pennsylvania, Peter Pettit became a farmer from choice, and early in life migrated to Allen county, Indiana, where he bought land, improved a farm, and there lived and labored until his death, which occurred in 1886. He married in Indiana Isabelle Sunderland, who was likewise a Pennsylvanian by birth. Eight sons and nine daughters were born of their union, Nelson M., the subject of this sketch, being the youngest boy in the family.

Nelson M. Pettit pursued his early studies in the rural schools of Indiana, and during the days of his youth and early manhood was practically educated in the work of general husbandry, acquiring his knowledge when the toils of the field were arduous and almost endless, the labor-saving machinery of today being then unknown and undreamed of. Subsequently following the tide of migration westward, he first located in Missouri, from there going to Iowa, where he embarked in general farming, an industry in which he has been exceedingly fortunate. In 1906 Mr. Pettit purchased land in Overton, Dawson county, Nebraska, and began the improvement of a farm. Coming from there to Lincoln county in 1913, he bought 390 acres of hay and ranch land, and in its management has met with unquestioned success, the result of his labors being evident to the most casual observer. Beginning life with no other capital than strong hands, a willing heart and an unlimited amount of courage, he has labored unceasingly, and through wise economy and judicious investment has acquired a property valued at not less than \$50,000, a record of which he may well be proud.

Mr. Pettit married Flora Jane Williams, who was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, a daughter of George and Mary Williams, both of whom were born and reared in Pennsylvania, and died in Ohio. Frederick G. Pettit, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Pettit, married Ida Zimmerman and resides in Lancaster county, Nebraska. There are three children by that marriage, namely John, Alice and Joe Arthur. A staunch republican in politics, Mr. Pettit takes great interest in local affairs, heartily indorsing all enterprises calculated to benefit town, county or state.

**PHILIP L. WAGNER.** An extensive and prosperous agriculturist, Philip L. Wagner is successfully engaged in his independent vocation on one of the best managed and most desirable homesteads in North Platte. A native of eastern Nebraska, he was born on May 5, 1872, a son of the late Frederick Wagner.

Frederick Wagner was born in central Indiana, and was there bred and educated. Coming to Nebraska in early life, he was an early homesteader of Saline county, where he cleared and improved a valuable farm, on which he resided many years. Nine years previous to his death, which occurred when he was seventy-six years of age, he lived retired from active business cares. He was a staunch republican in politics, and as a man and a citizen was held in high esteem. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Wickey, was born in Germany, and at the age of eighteen years came to this country. She is now living in Friend, Nebraska, an active woman of three score and ten years. She is a member of the Methodist Church, and one of its liberal supporters.

Nine children were born of the union of Frederick and Caroline Wagner, namely: Wesley, of Diller, Nebraska, is a Methodist minister; Mary, wife of Nathan Gallup, a farmer in Friend, Nebraska; Anna, wife of Bert Blakely, of California; Philip L., the special subject of this sketch; Edward, unmarried, resides at Friend; Alfred, also single, lives at Big Spring, Nebraska; Lydia, wife of Harvey Howell, of Friend; Emma, wife of Jesse Good, of Omaha; and Leonard, who is married and resides in Montana.

Brought up and educated in Saline county, Nebraska, Philip L. Wagner became thoroughly familiar with agricultural work when young, beginning as a boy to do his full share of the labor required on the home farm. Continuing in the occupation to which he was reared, he met with well merited success as a general farmer. Coming to Lincoln county in 1916, Mr. Wagner purchased a farm, and in its management has shown excellent judgment and skill, a large part of his estate of 800 acres being productive and yielding easily to cultivation. In addition to general farming Mr. Wagner raises stock on a rather extensive scale, it being a branch of industry in which he takes much interest and pleasure. He invariably supports the principles of the republican party at the polls. Religiously he is not identified with any church. He has never taken upon himself the responsibilities of a married man, but is apparently enjoying his life of single blessedness.

**JAMES W. ROSE.** An active, prosperous and progressive agriculturist, James W. Rose, of North Platte, has won success by steady toil, persistent energy and good management, and is well deserving of the confidence and respect so generously accorded him by his neighbors, associates and friends. A native of Nebraska, he was born May 25, 1885, in Gosper county, of pioneer stock.

His father, William H. Rose, was born in Darke county, Ohio, August 29, 1846. Following the track of civilization westward, he first engaged in farming in central Iowa. Coming from there to Nebraska in 1867, he proved up on a homestead claim in Saline county, and began the pioneer task of redeeming a farm from its primeval condition. He subsequently took up other homestead claims, and in 1891 proved up a homestead claim in Lincoln county, it being the seventh homestead which he has himself proved. As a general farmer and stock grower he has been fairly successful, and is now living retired, doing just a little general work to keep him from rusting out. To him and his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Kennedy, six children were born, as follows: Nelson, living in Missouri; Cora, wife of Frank Whitford, of Hitchcock county; Edith, deceased; Ernest, a farmer in Lincoln county; Rowley, a resi-

dent of Sterling, Colorado; and James W. The mother, a native of Illinois, died in Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1918.

In 1891 James W. Rose came with his parents to Lincoln county, and in 1894 went with them to Kansas, returning, however, the following year to Lincoln county, where he has since continued his residence. Taking kindly to agricultural pursuits, he assisted his father in the improvement of different homesteads, doing pioneer work chiefly, while thus employed gaining knowledge and experience of value. Beginning life on his own account in 1904, Mr. Rose rented land for five years, and as a general farmer met with encouraging results. Purchasing his present ranch of forty acres in 1909, he has been exceedingly successful in its management, each year adding to its improvements, value and attractiveness, its general appearance giving evidence of the industry, thrift and prosperity of the owner.

At Maxwell, Nebraska, in June, 1913, Mr. Rose was united in marriage with Elsie Garman, who was born in Beloit, Wisconsin. Her parents, William and Elizabeth (Doan) Garman, were natives of Wisconsin, and her widowed mother is now a resident of Beloit, that state. Her father, a veteran of the Civil war, was a farmer by occupation, being first thus employed in Wisconsin and later in Illinois, where his death occurred. Three children have blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Rose, namely: Garman, Merle and Gertrude. Politically Mr. Rose is independent; religiously both Mr. and Mrs. Rose are attendants of the Baptist Church, Mrs. Rose belonging to the church of that denomination in Maxwell.

JAKE S. SMITH, whose handsome property is located in township 13, range 29, section 34, is a man of good business capacity, much intelligence and enterprise, and occupies an assured position among the more successful agriculturists of Lincoln county. A native of Nebraska, he was born May 19, 1884, in Howard county.

Henry Smith, his father, was born and brought up in Henry county, Iowa, where he began life for himself as a farmer. He subsequently farmed for awhile in Missouri, from there coming to Nebraska in 1881. Buying land in Howard county, he accumulated considerable wealth as a farmer and stockraiser, and now, at the age of seventy-six years, is living retired from active labor, enjoying the fruits of his earlier years of toil. His wife, whose maiden name was Frances Van Cycle, was born and educated in Mason county, Missouri, her birth having occurred in 1854. Into their household eight children have been born, as follows: Lettie, wife of John Tucker, of Garden county, Nebraska; Flora, who married James Scott, lives in Alaska; a child that died infancy; Charley, residing in Lincoln county; Harry, a resident of the State of Washington; Bruce, of Burwell, Nebraska; Jake S., the subject of this sketch; and Mary, wife of George Hansen, of Howard county, this state.

Well trained in agricultural pursuits as a boy and youth, Jake S. Smith naturally adopted the farmer's occupation, which was congenial to his tastes, and soon after his marriage homesteaded in Garfield county, Nebraska. Not entirely satisfied with his future prospects in that locality, Mr. Smith sold his relinquishment in 1909 and came to Lincoln county, where he has since been successfully engaged in general farming and stockraising, both profitable branches of industry in this section of the country. He has title to 680 acres of choice land, a large part of which is improved and well supplied with machinery and equipment for carrying on his chosen work

after the best approved modern methods. A man of integrity and worth, Mr. Smith is a valued member of his community, and as an independent voter uses his influence in establishing all proposed beneficial enterprises.

Mr. Smith married, in Garfield county, Nebraska, Mary E. Freeman, who was born in Warren county, Tennessee. Her father, the late Samuel Freeman, a native of Illinois, spent a part of his early life in Tennessee, from there moving to Iowa, where he was engaged in tilling the soil until his death, at the age of forty-eight years. He married America Pitzer, who was born in Missouri in 1856, and is now living in Garfield county, Nebraska, where she homesteaded in 1905, and proved up on her claim. Three children have brightened the union of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, namely: Fern, Illa and Alene.

**ARCHIE R. LEAVITT.** A man of much force of character, full of push and energy, Archie R. Leavitt, of North Platte, occupies a position of prominence in his community and holds high rank among the more enterprising agriculturists of Lincoln county. He was born November 23, 1880, in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, in which the birth of his parents, George W. and Evelyn (Cook) Leavitt, occurred.

A farmer by occupation, George W. Leavitt was living in the Territory of Dakota when it was divided into two states, North Dakota and South Dakota. Going from there to Mills county, Iowa, in 1890, he remained there as a farmer for eight years. Coming to Nebraska in 1898 he carried on general farming in Greeley county until forced to retire on account of ill health. Hoping to regain his former physical vigor in a milder climate, he went to Denver, Colorado, where he died at the comparatively early age of fifty-three years. His widow subsequently returned to Wisconsin, where she now resides. Two children were born of their marriage, as follows: Archie R., the special subject of this sketch; and Florence, a student at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Acquiring a practical education in the rural schools of Iowa, Archie R. Leavitt came with his parents to Greeley county, Nebraska, in 1898 and being an industrious worker greatly assisted his father in the care of the home farm, during one of the years of the time being also profitably engaged in buying grain in the Town of Sumner. Migrating to Colorado, Mr. Leavitt was engaged in the real estate business at Denver for a short time, after which he spent four years in Omaha, Nebraska, being in the employ of the Telephone and Western Electric Company. Locating in Lincoln county in 1908, he rented land for a brief time, when, having gained a practical knowledge of agriculture, he bought his present valuable estate of 480 acres, and as a general farmer and stockraiser has been very successful. He is considered an authority on many branches of his vocation, and was one of the organizers of the Lincoln County Farm Bureau, which he is now ably serving as secretary. He is a sound democrat in politics, and an active member of the Christian Church, to which his wife also belongs.

Mr. Leavitt married Grace Edmisten, who was born in Nuckolls county, Nebraska, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Edmisten, of North Platte, where Mr. Edmisten is engaged in real estate transactions. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Eleanor, Bernard, George and Milan.

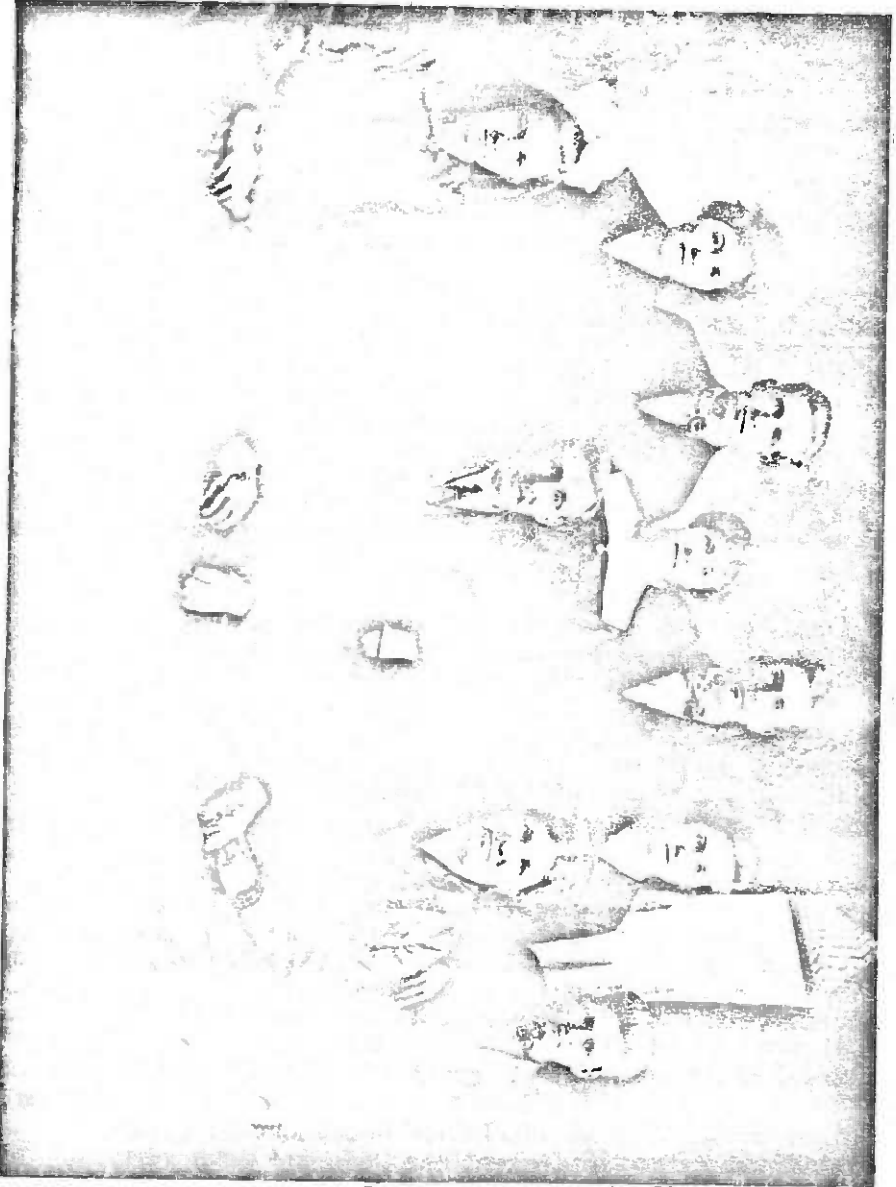
**JOHN REYNOLDS.** Lincoln county has profited by the stable citizenship and faithful industry of the Reynolds family since the later '80s, and one who has borne the name honorably and who has upheld the best principles of citizenship in a long and consistently active and successful career is John Reynolds, who is carrying on extensive general farming and stockraising operations in the vicinity of Gothenburg.

Mr. Reynolds is a native of Sweden, born in 1858, a son of Peter and May Reynolds, farming people who passed their lives in their native land. John Reynolds immigrated to the United States in 1880. He had received ordinary educational opportunities in Sweden, but had little else to aid him in his efforts for advancement, save inherent ability and a burning ambition to make his life a success. These qualities soon established him firmly in Clay county, Nebraska, the place of his first settlement, where he remained for several years, then going to Perkins county, where he proved up on a homestead. When he disposed of this property in 1890 he came to Lincoln county, and here has succeeded in placing himself among the substantial and highly regarded people of his community. He is the owner of an estate of 650 acres, which compares favorably with those of his neighbors in the way of improvements and productiveness, and in the fields of general farming and stockraising has achieved what may be termed a justly-deserved prosperity. His land is cultivated under improved modern methods, and his business transactions, while reflecting credit upon his astuteness and shrewdness, have at the same time given him a reputation for fairness and honorable dealing with his fellow men.

In 1885 Mr. Reynolds was united in marriage with Miss Lottie Larson, who was also born, reared and educated in Sweden, and to them there have been born seven children: Harvey, who is carrying on operations on his Colorado farm; David, who is deceased; Lydia, the wife of Bert Diget, a Dawson county farmer; Lilly, the wife of Lowell McKim, also engaged in farming in that county; Della, who is attending the public school at Gothenburg; Mabel, a pupil in the district school; and Paul, also attending district school. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are members of the Lutheran Church, and their children have been carefully reared in that faith. As to political matters Mr. Reynolds maintains an independent attitude. He has had no desire for political or public honors, but has shown a commendable willingness to faithfully perform all duties devolving upon him in his capacity of a public-spirited citizen.

**WILLIAM HENRY BUCKLEY.** Prominently identified with the promotion of the agricultural interests of Lincoln county, William Henry Buckley, of North Platte, has nearly all of his life been a tiller of the soil, and still finds therein great pleasure and satisfaction. He was born February 26, 1873, in New York State, of Irish descent.

His parents, Morris and Maggie Buckley, were born, reared and married in Ireland. Immigrating to the United States in 1850, they located in New York State, where the father was variously employed. Subsequently going westward to Iowa, the family had been there but a brief time when the mother died, her death occurring at the early age of thirty-six years. After the death of his wife Morris Buckley took up a homestead claim in Guthrie county, Nebraska, proved up, and in 1885 became a homesteader in Lincoln county, where he carried on general farming until his death, at the age of



MIR. AND MRS. JOHN REYNOLDS AND FAMILY



sixty-three years. To him and his wife seven children were born, as follows: Mike; William Henry, the subject of this brief sketch; Morris, living in Denver, Colorado; John, of Hershey, Nebraska; Joe; Leo, of North Platte; and Edward, deceased.

Coming with the family to Lincoln county in 1885, William H. Buckley grew to manhood on the home ranch, and has always followed the independent calling to which he was reared. A man of unquestioned business ability and judgment, he has been very fortunate in his undertakings, and has at different times owned valuable land in Lincoln county. At the present time, in 1920, Mr. Buckley has charge of the valuable ranch of 320 acres belonging to his brother Morris, and is managing it with characteristic ability and success. He is independent in politics, voting without regard to party lines, and is a valued member of the Catholic Church. Mr. Buckley is enjoying, doubtless, all the joys of single blessedness, having never taken unto himself a wife.

**ROBERT R. DICKEY.** It requires a versatile man to make a success of more than one line of business, but Robert R. Dickey of North Platte has combined the bakery, creamery and candy trade with his wholesale ice cream trade. Before settling down to business in North Platte he had found employment in different parts of the country. He was born in 1877, in Eldorado, Kansas, a son of John Harvey and Ella Imogene (Keene) Dickey. The father, who died in 1884, was born near Miami, Ohio, and the mother in Joliet, Illinois. She is now a resident of North Platte. Their children are: Harvey Edmund, who runs a laundry in North Platte; Mrs. P. M. Sorenson, of North Platte, Mr. Sorenson being a carpenter and contractor; and Robert R.

J. H. Dickey was a cattleman, and followed the frontier pasture lands. His early life was spent in Illinois and Kansas when there was plenty of outlying pasture country. Mr. Dickey was a Civil war soldier, serving in Company E of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry. He died from the effects of an injury received while in the army. He went to Oregon for his health and died there. His father, William Dickey, was a wealthy contractor in Ohio. He constructed the Erie Canal and made a fortune on it. He owned a great deal of land there.

While R. R. Dickey was born in Kansas his school days were passed in Illinois and North Platte. His first employment was in a carbon factory at Noblesville, Indiana, and he later had the same employment in Lancaster, Ohio. He remained thirteen years in Lancaster, where he was superintendent of the factory. From Lancaster Mr. Dickey went to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he conducted a grocery store and meat market. He had the largest store in the town and remained there four years, coming in 1907 to North Platte.

When Mr. Dickey located in North Platte the wholesale ice cream business claimed his attention, and he recently bought the North Platte Creamery and its equipment, property, etc., and now he operates the creamery, a bakery and the Gem Candy business in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice cream at wholesale. Since milk is a requisite in all the products, it is a satisfactory combination of business interests.

In 1899 Mr. Dickey married La Vanche Marie Gaines from Noblesville, Indiana, and they have one son, Robert R. Dickey, Jr.

Mr. Dickey is a member of the Presbyterian Church, while his fraternal interest is in the Free and Accepted Masons and Consistory. While he votes with the republican party, Mr. Dickey gives his entire time to his business interests.

**DR. H. CLAY BROCK.** While Dr. H. Clay Brock, of North Platte, has always lived in Nebraska, save a short absence in Montana, where he practiced dentistry, the Brock family history reverts to Fairbury, where he was born September 20, 1876—the first American centennial year—just 100 years after the birth of the Nation. Doctor Brock is a son of Robert and Margaret (Tower) Brock, the father from Canada and the mother from Ohio. They were married at Muscatine, Iowa. He is still living at Fairbury, aged eighty-three years, but she died thirty-five years ago. The Brock family came in 1868 to Jefferson county.

Robert Brock was a farmer, stockman and butcher in his days of activity, thus marketing much of his own products over the counter in a butcher shop, realizing all of the profit arising from the butcher trade. Dr. H. Clay Brock was the seventh in a family of nine children, six of them living today. Mrs. F. W. Gage lives in Chicago. Mrs. Lina Sullivan lives in Idaho. C. W. Brock is a ranchman near Douglas, Wyoming. Next is Dr. H. Clay Brock, of North Platte. Dill Brock and Glenn Brock are employed on the Rock Island Railroad at Fairbury, Nebraska.

The Brock family belongs to the Episcopal Church and all along the line they have voted the republican ticket. Robert Brock was a soldier in the Civil war in an Iowa regiment. He was wounded and spent nine months in an army hospital. The children were all given common school educational advantages, and Dr. H. Clay Brock graduated in 1894 from public school in Fairbury. He graduated from the dental department of Northwestern University in 1898, and for five years he practiced dentistry in Fairbury. He spent almost one year in Montana, and in 1904 he located in North Platte. Every year Doctor Brock spends from four to six weeks in post graduate study, and he has given special attention to X-ray treatment in connection with the mechanical side of dentistry.

In 1899 Doctor Brock married Alice Groff, who was born in Gage county. They have one son, Henry C. Brock. The family are Episcopalians, and he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons at North Platte, having the Rite of Shriner, and he is a member of Delta Sigma Delta, the oldest dental fraternity in the world. Doctor Brock has been secretary of the State Dental Board for five years, and while he has served one term as a member of the North Platte City Council, he devotes himself in the main to the practice of dentistry.

**WINFRED E. STARR.** Holding the responsible position of cashier of the McDonald State Bank of North Platte, Winfred E. Starr has brought to the enterprise a rare knowledge of business, an active brain, and a financial ability that renders this institution one of the best paying ones in the city. A native of this state, he was born March 3, 1882, in Brock, Nemaha county, a son of the late Philip H. Starr.

Born and reared in Illinois, Philip H. Starr began life for himself with no other capital save an unlimited stock of energy, enterprise, and a determination to win out in whatever occupation he might be engaged. Coming to Nebraska in 1855, he bought land in Nemaha county, cleared and improved a fine homestead, and was successfully

engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years, during the latter part of the time being a miller as well as farmer. The last ten years of his life he spent in Franklin, Nebraska, dying there in 1913. His wife, whose maiden name was Harriet A. Good, was born in Illinois, and is now living in Franklin. Five children blessed their union, as follows: Clarence H., engaged in farming at Franklin; Albion E., who died in 1908, aged thirty-three years; Leroy L., of Franklin, a farmer; Winfred E., the special subject of this sketch; and Glenn F., owner and manager of a garage at Benkelman, Nebraska. Both parents united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. The father was a republican in politics, and was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

After his graduation from the Brock High School, Winfred E. Starr attended the Fremont Normal and Business Institute. Leaving school, he was employed as clerk in a drug store for nine months, gaining his first business experience. The following three years he was bookkeeper in the Bank of Brock, and later was connected with the United States National Bank of Omaha for three years as collection teller, assisting both at windows as receiving and paying teller. On November 17, 1905, Mr. Starr accepted a position as bookkeeper in the McDonald State Bank, with which he has since been officially connected, having first been promoted to assistant cashier, and then made cashier. In this capacity he is conducting the affairs entrusted to him most successfully. A man of Mr. Starr's ability and high financial standing is frequently called to places of trust, and he is now serving as secretary and treasurer of the Leyboldt & Pennington Company, which is incorporated, and has a paid-up capital of \$115,000, he being also a stockholder in the concern and one of its directors.

Mr. Starr married, March 21, 1906, Lutie May Figard, who was born in Seward, Nebraska, where her father, John W. Figard, settled in pioneer days. He improved the land on which he located, constantly adding to its value through improvements until now, in 1920, it is worth fully \$300 an acre. Mr. and Mrs. Starr have one child, Thelma Gladys, a school girl. Both are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Starr is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Order of Free and Accepted Masons, Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, and of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**ADAM W. HOATSON.** The men who succeed in any community are those who are progressive enough to move with the times and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the adoption of improved appliances and machinery. There was a time when the horse was king, but, like other monarchs, he is not nearly as important now as formerly, and many of the men who used to devote all their time to the livery business have embarked in the industry which has for its object the handling, storage and repair of the automobile, the successor to the horse. One of these men who is making good in his new line, as he did in his old, is Adam W. Hoatson of Sutherland.

Adam W. Hoatson was born in Michigan on April 2, 1862, a son of John and Christina (Wallace) Hoatson, who became the parents of the following children: James, who is a resident of Oregon; Adam W., who was the second in the family; John, who is deceased; Robert, whose sketch also appears in this work; and an unnamed infant, deceased. John Hoatson was a miner, and was engaged in this call-

ing all of his life, which terminated in 1871. His widow survived him until 1897, when she passed away at the age of seventy-two years.

Adam W. Hoatson was brought to Nebraska when nine years old by his widowed mother, who came to the state at that time, and he attended the public schools until he was eighteen years of age, then returned to Michigan, where for a time he worked in the mines. Again he came west, this time going as far as Wyoming, and until 1886 was engaged in riding the range for a big cattle outfit. In that year Mr. Hoatson came to Lincoln county and homesteaded on the Birdwood table, continuing to live on his claim for seven years. He then moved down on the river bottom, locating at Sutherland in 1906, where he established himself in a livery business and expanding into the garage business when the demand justified such action. He now has a very large and well equipped garage and devotes practically all of his time to its operation.

In 1896 Mr. Hoatson was married to Gay Moorehouse, born in Iowa, and they have six children, all of whom are at home, namely: Ray, Clinton, Morris, Elsie, Grace and Robert. The family belong to the Adventist Church. Mr. Hoatson is a republican in his political faith, and his fraternal connections are those maintained with the Modern Woodmen of America.

GEORGE O. GORDON, M. D. When the work of the physician is passed in review the biographer feels that too much praise cannot be accorded to these faithful, conscientious men to whose efforts is due not only the health of individuals, but communities. No other profession entails so much sacrifice of comfort and material welfare as does that connected with the healing of mankind, and it is doubtful if there are any members of it who do not measure up to much higher standards of humanity and citizenship than are reached by the majority in other callings. One of the physicians and surgeons of Lincoln county who is deserving of all of the above tribute, and much more, is Dr. George O. Gordon of Sutherland.

Doctor Gordon was born in Nevada, Story county, Iowa, on August 13, 1878, a son of Reuben and Rosetta (Patrick) Gordon, natives of New York and Illinois, respectively. They became the parents of nine children, of whom eight survive, namely: Anna, who married William H. Colter, of Broken Bow, Nebraska; Leila D., who married Alexander S. Robertson, lives at Boise City, Idaho; Affie, who married Adelbert J. Read, lives at Merna, Nebraska; Merritt E., who is a carpenter of Sutherland; Rollin R., who is a hardware merchant of Merna, Nebraska; Ida, who married N. S. Gibson and lives at Los Angeles, California; Doctor Gordon, who was seventh in order of birth; Susie Etta, who married Theodore Miller, died in 1905; and Nathan B., who lives in Colorado, where he engaged in farming.

Reuben Gordon was a farmer who came to Nebraska in 1880, and after a period of residence in Fillmore county he moved to Custer county and homesteaded there in 1881. His family joined him in 1883, having made the trip overland in a prairie schooner, as was the mode of travel for homesteaders at that time. He continued to carry on general farming on his property after he had placed it under cultivation until his death, which occurred in February, 1904. Both he and his excellent wife were consistent members of the United Brethren Church, and very religious. In politics he was a populist, but never held any offices.

After he had completed his training at the Merna High School, Doctor Gordon taught school for a number of years, during which time he read medicine in his leisure time, and then matriculated at the Lincoln Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1911 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Immediately thereafter he established himself in a general practice at Broken Bow, Nebraska, remaining there until December 1, 1913, when he came to Sutherland, and this has been his place of residence ever since. Doctor Gordon bought a drug store upon coming to Sutherland, but soon found that the sole responsibility of it and his practice was too heavy for him, and he therefore sold a half interest in it to Frank Garman.

In 1903 Doctor Gordon was married to Frances R. Correll, a native of Nebraska, and they have three children, namely Lowell, Lucille and Bonnie Frances. Doctor Gordon belongs to Sutherland Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is now master, and he also belong to the Odd Fellows. In the creed of the Christian Church Dr. Gordon finds his expression for a higher life, and he votes the democratic ticket, as the principles of that party comes nearest to his ideals of good citizenship. A man of the highest character and standing. Doctor Gordon fully deserves the support he has received since coming to Sutherland, and is rightly numbered among the worth-while citizens of Lincoln county and the dependable members of his honored profession.

**FRANK R. GARMAN.** Sutherland is fortunate in having among its worthwhile citizens young men of the highest capacity who have proved their mettle by the noblest test, having given their country a military service during the period it was at war. One of these aggressive men who can be depended upon for public-spirited action in times of peace is Frank R. Garman, a veteran of the great war, and co-partner with Dr. G. O. Gordon in the drug business at Sutherland.

Frank R. Garman was born in Michigan on January 16, 1887, a son of William and Susan (Campbell) Garman, who had the following children: Grace, who married Charles Sutherland, lives in Elyria, Ohio; George, who lives at North Platte; Ralph, who is also a resident of North Platte, Nebraska; Clarence, who lives at North Platte; Clyde, who is deceased; Ray, who married E. N. Ogier, lives at North Platte; and Frank R., who is the youngest.

William Garman was a carpenter, but finding the demands of his increasing family too heavy for conditions surrounding him in Michigan, he decided to strike out and try to secure government land in Nebraska, and so, in 1890, he moved to Lincoln county and homesteaded, proved up his land, placed it under cultivation and was here engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in October, 1915. He served in the Civil war in a Michigan company. His wife is also deceased.

But a little child at the time the family migrated to Nebraska, Frank R. Garman has been reared in this state and educated in the public schools of North Platte and in the Creighton College of Pharmacy, from which latter institution he was graduated. Following his graduation Mr. Garman came to Sutherland and was in the employ of Doctor Gordon until the United States entered the World war, at which time Mr. Garman entered the service and was stationed at Camp Funston, where he was made useful in the medical department. After his honorable discharge he returned to Sutherland, bought a

half interest in the drug store and is now engaged in the practice of his profession of pharmacist.

Mr. Garman was married on March 14, 1918, to Agnes Allison, born near Mason, Illinois. Fraternaly Mr. Garman belongs to the Odd Fellows and Masons and also to the American Legion. He is independent in his political views. Having made the necessary sacrifice of his time and inclinations to live up to his conception of good citizenship, Mr. Garman, like other veterans of the war, has gained a broader view of civic responsibility and in the years to come is sure to render to his community a better service because of this. History teaches that after any great conflict in which the souls of men are purged by self-sacrifice, there results an awakening of spirituality and a general uplifting of conditions, and such effects are already coming to light among the better class in every community in the country.

**IRA E. SAGE.** The power of the press has never been so strong as it is now, and those engaged in molding public opinion through its medium have to be, through necessity, alert men of unusual mentality. If they are not they go under, forced to sink because of the strenuous demands of the times which force exceptional service from all of those connected with the production of newspapers. One of the men keenly alive to the necessities of his times and calling in Lincoln county is Ira E. Sage of Maxwell, proprietor and editor of the "Maxwell Telepost," one of the flourishing journals of this part of the state.

Ira E. Sage was born in Ionia county, Michigan, on October 10, 1881, a son of David and Helen (Worden) Sage, natives of Canada and New York, respectively. They had the following children born to them: Madison, who lives at Ruskin, Nebraska; Charles, who lives at Deming, New Mexico; Ada, who married Thomas Rosling, is now deceased; Ira E., who was the fourth in order of birth; and Myrtle, who lives at Ruskin, Nebraska. David Sage was actively engaged in farming in Ionia county, Michigan, until 1881, when he went to the West and there continued his agricultural operations, becoming quite successful as a general farmer and stockraiser of Nebraska. He is now deceased.

Ira E. Sage attended the public schools of Nebraska and prepared himself for the calling of an educator. For some years he was engaged in this important line of work and became a well known figure in the educational field, but finding his influence a somewhat limited one after all, he decided to go into journalism, and coming to Maxwell he bought the Maxwell "Telepost" in 1919, since which time he has been directing its policies with admirable results.

In 1910 Mr. Sage was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Roberts, who was born in Vermont. Mrs. Sage is a member of the Baptist Church, and very active in its good work. Both she and Mr. Sage are centers of a congenial social circle and are justly numbered among the leaders of the younger set at Maxwell.

**JAMES W. ELLIOTT.** It is not given to every man to own and develop his business connections. Many go through life as employes perhaps not content to remain as such, but always lacking sufficient initiative to forge ahead and pass into the class of employers. Some of the most successful business men today began their individual operations upon a very small scale, even going heavily into debt, but



MR. AND MRS. LORENZO S. MACOMBER

as they possessed the ability to produce results and handle their problems efficiently they made good, and feel that the end certainly justified all of the price they paid. One of the leading young business men of Maxwell, who is doing well and deserves his prosperity, for he has earned it himself, is James W. Elliott, owner of one of the first-class drug stores in this city.

James W. Elliott was born in Clay county, Nebraska, on September 13, 1881, a son of James B. and Louise H. (Carson) Elliott, natives of Ohio and Virginia, respectively. They became the parents of the following children: Addie, who married V. E. Benson, lives at North Platte, Nebraska; Ralph, who lives at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Daisy J., who married H. T. Baker, now deceased, lives at Maxwell; Frank R., who lives in North Platte, Nebraska; Stella, who married Fred J. Tetro, lives at Brady, Nebraska; Alexander B., who lives on a farm in Lincoln county; and James W., who was the youngest of the family. The father was originally a farmer, but later on in life entered the grain and lumber business. In 1869 he came to Clay county, Nebraska, and there homesteaded, but in 1905 came to Lincoln county, where he is still living, being now retired from active participation in business affairs. During the war between the states he served in the Union Army as a member of the Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

James W. Elliott was educated in the public schools of Clay county, Nebraska, and the Fremont School of Pharmacy, being graduated from the latter institution after taking the regulation course. He then moved to North Platte and worked in a drug store there until 1918, when he came to Maxwell and bought his present drug store, to which he is now devoting all his attention. Mr. Elliott is unmarried. He is a sound and reliable man, and is recognized as an authority in his profession and is a good citizen in every respect.

**LORENZO S. MACOMBER.** One of the sterling pioneer citizens of Lincoln county was Lorenzo S. Macomber, who is eminently entitled to specific mention in his county's history. He was industrious and persevering in whatever enterprises he undertook, and by diligence and economy accumulated a competency for his declining years. His straightforward, manly course in life may well be held up as an example, and it proved an inspiration to many, so that even after he was removed from among us by "the reaper whose name is death" his memory is revered by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Lorenzo S. Macomber was born on November 4, 1842, in Norfolk county, Massachusetts, and was the son of John and Mary (Smith) Macomber. He was educated in the district schools of his native community, where he lived until about nineteen years of age, when, in 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil war, he offered his services in defense of the Union, serving with faithfulness and honor to the close of the conflict. In 1870 Mr. Macomber moved to Iowa, where he remained until 1873, when he moved to Sidney, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, which was his home for three years. In 1876 he came to Lincoln county and bought a tract of land. About the same time he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at North Platte as a blacksmith, serving efficiently in that capacity for a number of years. He was faithful to whatever he applied himself and enjoyed the respect of all who knew him. Though he did not give much of his personal attention to farming operations,



he was the owner of 160 acres of excellent land at the time of his death and where his widow now lives. In 1879 he pre-empted 160 acres of land between the rivers, which he sold to Buffalo Bill and which is now embraced in the Cody Ranch. Mr. Macomber lived there three years, was then in the sheep business for three years and then came to the farm where he spent his last years.

In 1868 Mr. Macomber was married to Abbie D. Hemenway, a native of the State of Maine, and to them were born eight children, namely: Charles H., of North Platte; George A., who lives in North Platte; David W., also a farmer in this county; Abbie Nettie, the wife of George F. Pattison; Chester Arthur, of North Platte; Harry H., who lives at home; Frank, at home; and Lorenzo S.

Mr. Macomber died on December 24, 1916, and was buried at Fort McPherson. He was an appreciative member of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In his political faith he was republican, though he did not take an active part in public affairs. Although he was one of the most unostentatious of men, open-hearted and candid in manner, he so ordered his actions as to impress all with his honesty of purpose and motive, and he richly deserved the universal esteem which was accorded to him.

**FRANK E. KNAPP.** In every community there are certain men to whom may be traced much of the present day prosperity, although they may now be retired from active participation in business life. They deserve the leisure and comfort they are now enjoying, for they have earned it by hard work and the utilizing of natural faculties in both public and private enterprises. One of these men of Lincoln county whose name is associated with much of the progress of this region, and who is now engaged in enforcing the law and maintaining order at Maxwell is Frank E. Knapp, city marshal and former man of large affairs.

Frank E. Knapp was born in Iowa on October 26, 1860, a son of E. W. and Melissa (Otto) Knapp, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. They became the parents of eight children. E. W. Knapp was a miller, first in Iowa and later in Kansas, where he died in 1907, his widow surviving him until 1912, when she, too, passed away.

Growing up in Iowa and Kansas, Frank E. Knapp attended the public schools, and was taught by his excellent parents to make himself useful from an early age. For some years he was engaged in ranching at different points, and then, on October 25, 1889, he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded, proved up his claim and for several years devoted himself to farming and stockraising, but after he had put his farm in first-class shape he sought other fields of endeavor, and came to Maxwell. Here he built the Maxwell Hotel and conducted it for some years, but has practically retired from business life. In the meanwhile he was made deputy sheriff under Sheriff Mittenberger, and gained an experience which led to his appointment as marshal of Maxwell, which office he still holds.

In 1882 Mr. Knapp was united in marriage with Maleda Seely, born in Missouri, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Myrtle, who married H. V. Layton, of Maxwell; George E., who is also a resident of Maxwell; Frank D., who lives at Maxwell; Bernice V., who married Perley Pebles, lives at Kearney, Nebraska; Gladys, who is at home; and Edith, who married Benjamin Briggs.

Mr. Knapp belongs to the Church of the Latter Day Saints. In politics he is a republican. In every respect Mr. Knapp is a fine man, and he is held in the deepest respect by all who know him.

**LOUIS E. STORY.** The man who establishes and successfully conducts a mercantile establishment of high character as surely renders a service to his community as though he represented its interests in legislative bodies or upheld its dignity as a member of one or other of the learned professions. The needs of a constantly augmented population, combined with the present difficulties experienced by all dealers, make it necessary for the men engaged in meeting the demands of their customers to possess qualities of an unusual character, and therefore those who have weathered the storms of the last few years have proven their ability and shown their good citizenship in numerous ways. One of these dependable merchants of Lincoln county who measures up to the above standards in all particulars is Louis E. Story, of Maxwell.

The birth of Louis E. Story took place in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1870, and he is a son of Charles and Melvina (Deyo) Story, natives of Pennsylvania and New York, respectively. The father was a tobaccoist who in 1879 came west to Kearney, Nebraska, and homesteaded in Buffalo county, and continued to be occupied with agricultural activities the remainder of his life. He died in 1889, but Mrs. Story is still living at Newark, Nebraska.

Practically all of the educational training of Mr. Story was received in Nebraska, for he was but nine years old at the time of the family migration to this state. Following the completion of his school days he engaged in farming, and was so occupied until 1897, when he came to Lincoln county and embarked in a mercantile business, with W. A. Merrick as his partner, at Maxwell, since which time he has devoted all of his attention to the store. The business has been expanded and the firm are recognized as being among the leading merchants of their part of the county.

In March, 1899, Mr. Story was united in marriage to Miss Edna L. Merrick, and they became the parents of the following children: William, Irene, Charles, Grace, Donald and Howard. Mr. Story belongs to Maxwell Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is interested in its growth. He is a level-headed man of affairs, deeply immersed in business, but still broadminded enough to recognize the need for public improvements and to be willing to support any movement to get those that he believes will be practical.

**WILLIAM C. DOLAN.** Lincoln county is admirably adapted for many lines of business activity, and its progressive men are taking advantage of the opportunity this region offers them, so that they are themselves acquiring a material prosperity and increasing the prestige of their locality. One of these men is William C. Dolan of Maxwell, who is extensively interested in the cattle business.

William C. Dolan was born in Lincoln county on July 16, 1875, a son of Peter F. and Anna G. (Kelleher) Dolan, natives of Ireland and New York. They became the parents of the following children: William C., who was the eldest born; Mary G., who lives at Chicago, Illinois, where she is engaged in teaching school; Ferrill F., who lives in North Dakota; Joseph C., who is a veteran of the great war, saw service overseas, and is now a second lieutenant stationed at Camp Pike; and Lenore, who lives at Chicago, Illinois.

Peter F. Dolan was a railroad man who came to the United States in 1865, and spent some time in Texas, after which he came to Nebraska, locating at Maxwell in 1873, and working out of this place on the railroad. His death occurred in 1897, but his widow survives him and makes her home at Chicago, Illinois.

Not only was William C. Dolan given the advantage of a public school education, but also that afforded by Saint Mary's School in Kansas. After completing his schooling he returned to Lincoln county and taught school for five years, but, although he became very popular as an educator, he felt that his abilities were such as to better fit him for a business life, and he began handling cattle, meeting with such success that he has remained in this line ever since.

In 1902 Mr. Dolan was united in marriage with Mammie E. Nugent, daughter of John W., of whom mention is made on other pages of this volume. She was born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Dolan have one daughter, Viola A., who is at home. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church, and Mr. Dolan belongs to the Knights of Columbus. In his politics he has always been a democrat, and his father voted the same ticket, but neither held office. Mr. Dolan is a man widely and favorably known, for he possesses those individual characteristics which not only make for good citizenship, but warm, personal friendships.

**CHARLES H. LONGPRE.** The traveler through Lincoln county has difficulty in realizing that not so many years ago the present scene of fertile farms and thriving communities was the home of herds of buffalo, and uncultivated save here and there a patch of stunted corn put in by an Indian squaw less improvident than the majority. And yet this is true, and also the fact that present day conditions have been brought about through the energy, industry and brave courage of the pioneers, who, coming here as homesteaders, were broad-shouldered enough to see the possibilities of this great state and to labor unceasingly to develop them. All of this development has taken place in the lifetime of many of the present residents of the state, whose years still fall short of the biblical limit of three score years and ten, and there are others, born in the state, who vividly remember when life was still full of hardships and the various occupations carried on in a somewhat crude manner. One of the native sons of Lincoln county, Nebraska, who is still in the prime of vigorous young manhood, pleasantly recalling personal experiences similar to the above, is Charles H. Longpre of Maxwell.

The birth of Charles H. Longpre took place in Lincoln county on February 13, 1889, and he is a son of Anthony B. and Lulu E. (Hays) Longpre, natives of Canada and Kansas. They became the parents of the following children: Anthony Edward, who lives at Missoula, Montana; Ella J., who married A. F. Nugent, lives in Shreveport, Louisiana; Albert F., who lives in Curran, Michigan; William B., who lives in Lincoln county; Clara G., who lives in Lincoln county, married H. D. Lewis; George O., who lives in South Dakota; Roy J., who lives at Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Anna Laura, who married Edward Faulkner, lives at Fruitdale, South Dakota; and Charles H., whose name heads this review. The father of this family was a farmer who came to Lincoln county at a very early day and homesteaded, thereafter following farming and stock-raising. He assisted in cutting the lumber for the government fort in this vicinity, and hunted buffalo with William F. Cody, and otherwise participated in pioneer incidents.

Charles H. Longpre attended the public schools of Lincoln county, and after completing his education began farming, and he has also been interested in ranching, being successful in both lines. He was married in 1913 to Marguerite Ritter, who died on February 21, 1918, leaving behind her a wide circle of sympathizing friends, who mourned her loss.

**FRED R. FINCH.** To no class of men does a community owe a deeper obligation than to those who devote their abilities, natural and cultivated, to the handling of real estate, and the development of new sections of their cities. A real estate man is a natural booster, and long before the average citizen has awakened to the necessity of making known the advantages of his locality, the alert business man who has concentrated his interest upon this special line has brought before the public many facts which lead sound investors and progressive homeseekers to look into the claims made by him. Fred R. Finch of Maxwell is one of these men and not only is he doing a fine business in handling city and rural properties, but he is making the name of Maxwell known all over Lincoln and surrounding counties, and is recognized as one of the live wires in his line.

Fred R. Finch was born in Ohio on February 11, 1869, a son of John and Mary L. (Balls) Finch, both natives of Ohio, to whom were born four children. John Finch was a farmer until his death, which occurred in 1915, and since his demise his widow has been making her home at Barnesville, Ohio. After completing his educational training, which was accorded him in the public schools of Ohio, Fred R. Finch embarked in merchandising and farming in Ohio, where he remained until 1906, but in that year came to Nebraska and spent a year in Custer county. He then came to Lincoln county, where he homesteaded, proved up his claim and farmed it for a time, but then came to Maxwell and engaged in the real estate business, and now devotes all of his time and energies to it.

In 1899 Mr. Finch was united in marriage with Lydia E. Warrick, also a native of Ohio, and they have two children, Oscar and Ethel, both of whom are at home. For some years past Mr. Finch has been a Mason. In the creed of the Methodist Episcopal Church he finds expression for his religious belief, and he lives up to the ideals of both his church and his fraternity. A man of broad vision, he has been able to see the possibilities of Maxwell, and his sincerity and enthusiasm with reference to it have convinced others and he undoubtedly has been the means of bringing a number to this vicinity and of interesting outside capital in its progress, so that in every way he is one of the public-spirited men of Maxwell and Lincoln county.

**CLYDE E. KENNON, M. D.** The profession of medicine opens up to a man a wide range of usefulness. Its sphere is many-sided, and that phase which accomplishes the more than splendid work of preserving God-given life says nothing of the world of sorrow that is banished or the happiness and continued love that is re-enthroned in health restored through the exercise of the divine art of healing, for it is indeed a divine art, and those who study it, mellowed and enriched as they are through their association with unmasked humanity, are possessed of a priceless ability to obey the command "heal the sick." Few of the members of this honored profession fail to live up to the highest conception of its ideals, and Lincoln county has its full quota of these skilled, self-sacrificing, experienced and devoted men of medicine whose presence in a sickroom brings confidence and hope

and work in behalf of their community, greatly improved sanitary conditions. One of these able physicians and surgeons of the county who is worthy of all praise that can be given him is Dr. Clyde E. Kennon of Maxwell.

Doctor Kennon was born at Malcolm, Iowa, on June 26, 1879, a son of John W. and Elizabeth G. (Griffin) Kennon, natives of Ohio and Canada, respectively, the latter having been brought to the United States when a child and reared in this country. John W. Kennon was a farmer by calling, who moved to Furnas county Nebraska, in 1892, there continuing his agricultural activities until his retirement, at which time he located permanently at Maxwell, where he still resides.

After attending the Nebraska public schools Doctor Kennon took the regular course at the Creighton Medical College at Omaha, Nebraska, from which he was graduated in 1906 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He immediately thereafter established himself in a general medical practice at Amberst, Nebraska, but in 1908 came to Maxwell, where he has since remained, and he has here built up a large and paying practice which extends over quite a wide territory, for his skill is universally admitted, and his services are in great demand by those who appreciate the value of a physician of his capabilities.

In 1907 Doctor Kennon was married to Ruby Cobleigh, born in Nebraska, and they have two children, Gerald and Donald. Doctor Kennon is a Mason, and he belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

**R. A. SCOTT.** Owing to his connection with the banking business of the western part of Lincoln county, the subject of this sketch needs no formal introduction to the readers of this volume. In a straightforward, conservative manner he has sought to perform the duties of a progressive citizen while advancing his own interests, and his support can always be depended upon in the furtherance of any laudable movement having for its object the welfare of the general public.

R. A. Scott was born in Cuba, Illinois, on October 31, 1888, and is the son of George L. and Edmonia (Ewan) Scott, both of whom are natives of Virginia, and who are referred to more specifically in the sketch of M. E. Scott, of North Platte, which appears elsewhere in this work. R. A. Scott received his education in the public schools of his native town, graduating from the high school. He then took a commercial course in the Gem City Business College at Quincy, Illinois, and next entered the Benton College of Law, where he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. In 1914 he located in North Platte, but in the following year he came to Sutherland and became connected with the Farmers State Bank, of which he became vice president. This well-known institution has a capital of \$25,000, a surplus of \$5,000 and average deposits of about \$300,000. Mr. Scott has devoted himself pretty closely to the interests of the bank, and not a little of its prosperity has been attributable to his sound business judgment and advice and his personal popularity.

On April 24, 1915, Mr. Scott was united in marriage with Sallie Southerland Pentress, who was born in Missouri, and to them has been born one child, Jerome. In political affairs Mr. Scott gives his support to the democratic party, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Mrs. Scott is a member of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Scott's life

has been a busy and successful one, characterized by duty well and faithfully performed, and because of his sterling qualities of character, his success and his public spirit he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and regard of the entire community.

**JOHN W. COX.** The best history of a community or state is the one that deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially those who by their own endeavor and indomitable energy have forged to the front and placed themselves where they well deserve the title of progressive men. In the following lines will be found the record of one who has by a life consistent in motive and action achieved a definite success in his chosen vocation and who today enjoys the good opinion of all who know him because of his upright life and his thrift and industry.

John W. Cox was born in Iowa on September 11, 1868, and is the son of Joshua and Martha (Crowell) Cox. The father was born in Ohio and his wife in Illinois, and their union was blessed by the birth of six children, namely: William, of Keith county, Nebraska; Elva, the wife of A. W. Shanor, of Emerson, Iowa; John W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Clarence, of Benson, Minnesota; Frank A., of Sutherland, Lincoln county; and James, of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Joshua Cox followed agricultural pursuits in Iowa for many years, or until 1901, when he came to Lincoln county and bought land, which he devoted to general farming and stockraising until his death in 1912. He was a democrat in his political faith and a Baptist in his religious affiliation. His widow is now living in Sutherland.

John W. Cox was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the public schools of Iowa. On attaining mature years he turned his attention to farming, which he pursued until 1896, when he came to Lincoln county and bought a tract of land, to the improvement of which he applied himself and which he has since devoted to farming and stockraising. A man of good judgment, sound discrimination and indefatigable industry, he has been prospered in all his undertakings and is numbered among the substantial and prosperous farmers of his section of the county. The improvements on his place are permanent and substantial in character, the general appearance of the place indicating the owner to be a man of excellent taste and judgment.

Mr. Cox was married to Lucy A. McGrew, a native of Iowa, and they have become the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living, namely: Eva, the wife of Charles White, of Sutherland; Russell A., a farmer near Sutherland; Merl E., who lives on the farm with his brother Russell; Sarah, the wife of Ray Pierson, of Sutherland; Kenneth, who lives near Sutherland; and Clara, Vance and Irma are at home.

Mr. Cox is independent in his political attitude, not being bound by party ties, but preferring to follow the dictates of his judgment. He is a member of the Baptist Church, while fraternally he is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Although his life has been a busy one, he has never shrunk from his duties as a citizen and gives his support to every movement for the advancement of the public welfare. Because of his excellent character he is deservedly popular throughout the community.

**CLARENCE A. LAU.** It cannot be other than interesting to note in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work the varying

conditions that have compassed those whose careers are outlined, and the effort has been made in each case to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each respective career. The banks of Lincoln county have ever maintained a high standing, and among the able workers in this field of endeavor is Clarence A. Lau, cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Sutherland, who has, through his sterling business qualifications and his high personal character, won the confidence and good will of the entire community.

Clarence A. Lau was born in Amherst, Lorain county, Ohio, on September 21, 1884, and is the son of Fred and Martha (Dute) Lau, both of whom were born and reared in Ohio. The father was a farmer by vocation and in 1886 moved to Cass county, Nebraska, where he bought land and continued his farming operations. His death occurred there on April 27, 1918. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was a republican in his political views. He is survived by his widow, who still lives in Cass county. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only survivor.

Clarence A. Lau received his education in the public schools of Cass county, Nebraska, where the family had settled when he was about two years old. He completed his education in the Nebraska Wesleyan University, and then entered the old Sutherland State Bank in 1910. A year later he resigned and became connected with the Farmers State Bank at Sutherland, of which he has since been cashier. He has handled the responsible duties of that position in a manner that has won the approval not only of his business associates but of the patrons of the bank, for he possesses the tact and courtesy which are essential qualifications in a position of this kind. In addition he has that solid business judgment and sound discrimination which is equally necessary in the successful conduct of a banking business.

In 1912 Mr. Lau was married to Lillie White, a native of Illinois. He is a republican in his political views, while fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and his wife of the Presbyterian Church. His life history exhibits a career of unswerving integrity, indefatigable private industry and wholesome social relations, and because of his success and his qualities of character he enjoys an enviable standing in this community.

ALBERT COOLIDGE. No citizen of a past generation in Lincoln county was better or more favorably known than the late Albert Coolidge, long an enterprising farmer and stock raiser and a citizen who, while advancing his own interests, never neglected his duties to the public. Whatever of success he attained was entirely owing to his individual efforts, his energy and natural ability. From small beginnings he gradually attained a prominence which entitled him to the high esteem which he enjoyed among his neighbors, all of whom reposed in him the utmost confidence.

Albert Coolidge was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, on the first day of April, 1842, and was a son of John and Harriet (Towne) Coolidge. The father, who was a farmer by vocation, was a native of the State of Massachusetts, while his wife was born in New Hampshire. They became the parents of five children, all of whom are deceased. The subject of this sketch received only a common school



*A. Carlisle*



education in his native town, where he lived until eighteen years of age, when he began clerking in a store in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At the age of twenty years Mr. Coolidge moved west, locating in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in teaching school for a time. He next entered the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company at Clarence, Iowa, but afterward went to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was connected with the ordnance department of the United States Army until 1865. In the latter year Mr. Coolidge went to Omaha, Nebraska, where he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in various capacities for two years, or until 1867, which year marked his arrival in Lincoln county, with which he remained identified during the remainder of his life. He homesteaded a tract of land here, and thereafter during his active years devoted his time and attention to farming and stock raising. In these allied lines he was eminently successful and at one time owned over twelve hundred acres of land, and kept an average of from 500 to 600 head of cattle on his land. He was partial to the Holstein breed, and many fine animals were shipped from his farm.

On October 11, 1870, Mr. Coolidge was married to Delia A. Crookes, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Hattie M., the wife of G. Walter Reckard, of near Hershey; and Maude L. and Clarence L. are living at home. Mr. Coolidge died on June 26, 1919, highly respected throughout the community where so many years of his life were spent. Politically he gave his support to the republican party, but did not take an active part in public affairs. He was an attendant of the Congregational Church and supported every worthy movement for the advancement of the best interests of the community. He was one of the sturdy spirits of the community, and because of his public spirit and his high personal character, as well as his business success, he enjoyed the confidence and respect of all who knew him.

**RICHARD HARTMAN.** It is a pleasure to revert to the career of a successful self-made man. Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the great struggle of life alone and unaided, gradually overcomes the obstacles in the pathway of success and succeeds in forging his way to the front and winning for himself a position of esteem and influence among his fellows. Such is the record of the popular citizen and successful business man of Sutherland and a brief synopsis of whose life the following paragraphs are devoted.

Richard Hartman was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 29, 1886, and is the son of John and Bertha Hartman. The father was an expert decorator and followed that business for many years. The subject received his educational training in the public schools of Chicago, and remained in that city until about twenty-four years of age, when, in 1910, he came to Lincoln county, and during the following four years was engaged in farming. In 1914 Mr. Hartman came to Sutherland and, forming a partnership with William Thompson, engaged in the real estate business, to which he has closely devoted his attention continuously since. They have handled an enormous amount of real estate during the subsequent years, and Mr. Hartman has a high reputation as a competent and well qualified judge of land and property values.

On June 7, 1912, Mr. Hartman was married to Ethel Merritt, who was born in Iowa, and to them have been born four children, Loraine, Elsa, Howard and Donald. Politically Mr. Hartman is inde-

pendent, declining to be bound by strict party lines, but preferring to follow the dictates of his own judgment as to men and measures. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is public spirited in his attitude toward all enterprises or movements looking to the advancement of the best interests of the community, and is held in the highest esteem by the people generally.

**WILL M. DUNN.** It is a well recognized fact that the most powerful influence in shaping and controlling public life is the press. It reaches a greater number of people than any other agency, and thus has always been and, in the hands of persons competent to direct it, always will be a most important factor in molding public opinion and shaping the destiny of the nation. The gentleman to a brief review of whose life these lines are devoted is prominently connected with the journalism of Lincoln county, being at this time owner and publisher of the Sutherland Courier, one of the popular papers of the county, comparing favorably with the best local sheets in this section of the state in news, editorial ability and mechanical execution. The county recognizes in Mr. Dunn not only one of the keenest newspaper men, but also a representative citizen whose interest in all that affects the general welfare has been of such a character as to win for him a high place in the confidence and esteem of the people.

Will M. Dunn was born in Warren county, Iowa, on January 12, 1867, and is the son of J. B. and Maria M. (Hiatt) Dunn, both of whom were natives of Indiana. They became the parents of nine children, of whom seven are living. J. B. Dunn was a lawyer by profession in Iowa for many years, being very successful in the practice. In 1906 he moved to Custer county, Nebraska, where he spent the remainder of his years, his death occurring there in March, 1918. He was a member of the Masonic Order, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while his political support was given to the republican party.

Will M. Dunn received his educational training in the public schools of Adair county, Iowa, and after completing his education he became identified with the newspaper business. He became the owner of the only republican newspaper in the County of Ray, at Richmond, Missouri, in competition with nine of the opposite political faith, and he exerted a powerful influence in that community. He was the first newspaper man in the state to mention Herbert S. Hadley for governor, and persisted in his advocacy until his candidate was elected. In 1908 Mr. Dunn came to Nebraska, and for a time ran a paper at Callaway. From there he went to McPherson county, where he published a paper until February 1, 1918, when he came to Lincoln county and bought the Sutherland Courier, an independent newspaper, of which he is still the owner and editor. He has doubled its circulation and made it a power among the newspapers of the county.

In May, 1892, Mr. Dunn was married to Nancy Wilson, and they are the parents of six children, namely: Frank, who is engaged in the newspaper business in Stapleton; Harold, in the drug business at Stapleton; Ethel M., Doris, Lillian and Will M., Jr., who are at home.

Politically Mr. Dunn is an ardent supporter of the republican party, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of the World. He and his wife are

members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A man of tireless energy, recognized ability and genial disposition, he has not only been successful in his individual affairs, but has won and retains to a notable degree the esteem and good will of all who know him.

**E. C. Brown.** Among the earnest and enterprising men whose ability and depth of character had gained them a prominent place in the community and the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens is E. C. Brown, the well-known hardware dealer at Sutherland. A man of decided views and laudable ambitions, his influence has ever made for the advancement of the community, and for a number of years he has ranked among the successful and representative business men of this locality.

E. C. Brown is a Yankee by nativity, his birth having occurred in the State of Vermont on August 20, 1862, and he is the son of Jerry and Martha (Thompson) Brown, both of whom also were born and reared in Vermont. They became the parents of five children, of whom four are living. Jerry Brown was reared to the life of a farmer, and followed that vocation practically during his entire life. In 1864 he moved to Iowa, where he continued his agricultural operations up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1884. He was survived a number of years by his widow, whose death occurred in 1909.

E. C. Brown was about two years of age when the family moved from Vermont to Iowa, and in the latter state he received his educational training. He remained there until 1893, when he came to Lincoln county and organized the first bank at Sutherland, under the name of the Bank of Sutherland, in which he remained interested until 1900, when he bought a hardware store at Sutherland and has since devoted his efforts to that business, in which he has met with a very satisfactory degree of success. He carries a large and complete line of shelf and heavy hardware, besides implements and other accessory lines, and has built up a large and representative patronage throughout the surrounding country.

In 1900 Mr. Brown was married to Lena Godhardt, and to their union three children have been born, Clarence, Edith and Cora. Politically Mr. Brown gives his support to the republican party, while Mrs. Brown is a member of the Lutheran Church. They are extremely popular in the social circles in which they move and have a large circle of warm and loyal friends. Mr. Brown is public-spirited and gives his hearty support to every movement for the advancement of the welfare of the community in which he lives.

**WALTER COKER.** The subject of this review enjoys distinctive prestige among the citizens of the Town of Sutherland, Lincoln county, where he is successfully engaged in the mercantile business, and as a neighbor and citizen he is highly esteemed by all who know him. He has earned the right to be called one of the progressive men of his community.

Walter Coker is a native of Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he was born on October 17, 1871, and is the son of John and Adelaide (Calame) Coker. The father was a native of England and the mother of Wisconsin. John Coker, who was a miner in Wisconsin for many years, was the discoverer of the famous Coker mine and was successful in his line, but finally he quit mining and in 1883 he moved to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a tract of land. To this he added by purchase until he became the owner of

several hundred acres of land, on which he raised stock for the market. He was successful in his affairs and was held in high esteem in his community. He died in 1914, and his widow died in Sutherland April 29, 1920. He was a republican in politics, a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Presbyterian Church. To him and his wife were born nine children, seven of whom are now living, namely: Sarah, the wife of James Raw, of Hobson, Montana; Charles, who married Rhusban Ellsworth and now lives in Beloit, Wisconsin; Henry, of Sutherland; William S., who lives near Sutherland; Frank, also living near Sutherland; Walter, the immediate subject of this review; Edwin, who is a business partner of the subject and is referred to on other pages of this work; and two who died in infancy.

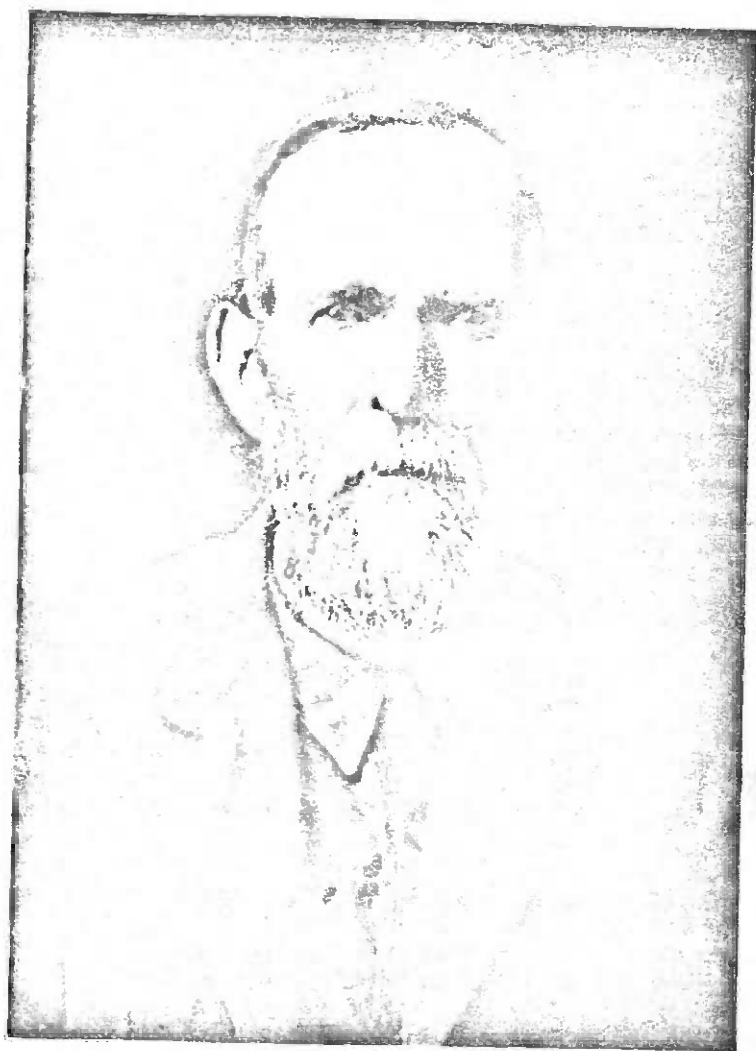
Walter Coker was about twelve years of age when the family came to Lincoln county, and he received the major portion of his education in the schools of North Platte. For a while after leaving school he was a cowboy, and was engaged by the government to deliver cattle to the Pine Ridge Indians from 1896 to 1900. He then engaged in stockraising, which occupied his attention until 1913, when he formed a partnership with his brother Edwin and they engaged in the general mercantile business in Sutherland. They have been successful in this enterprise, carrying a large and well selected stock of goods, and enjoying a large and representative patronage drawn from a wide radius of surrounding country.

Mr. Coker was married in 1900 to Eva L. Peyton, who is a native of Nebraska, and they are the parents of two children, Maynard and Lucille. Mr. Coker is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Presbyterian Church, while his political support is given to the republican party. He is a man of tact and sound judgment, which, combined with his industry and genial personality, have rendered him popular with all classes and he has won and retains a host of warm and loyal friends.

EDWIN COKER, who, in partnership with his brother Walter, is engaged in the mercantile business in Sutherland, was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, on April 12, 1874, the son of John and Adelaide (Calame) Coker, the former a native of England and the latter of Wisconsin. (See sketch of Walter Coker for family history.)

Edwin Coker was about nine years of age when the family came to Lincoln county, and he received his education in the public schools of North Platte. His first active work was as a rancher, in which he was engaged until 1910. As a barber he opened the first shop in Sutherland and operated it for nine years. He then opened the first undertaking establishment in Sutherland in partnership with W. R. Maloney but in 1911 the partnership was dissolved. In 1913 he and his brother Walter engaged in the general mercantile business in Sutherland, in which they have met with pronounced success.

In 1899 Mr. Coker was married to Eva Yates, who was born in Illinois but reared in Nebraska, and they have one child, Marjorie, thirteen years of age. Mr. Coker gives his support to the republican party, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and he gives his support to every worthy moral or benevolent object. He is a man of excellent business qualifications and is deservedly popular throughout the community.



JONATHAN HIGGINS

**JONATHAN HIGGINS.** A veteran Nebraska citizen, now living retired at North Platte, Jonathan Higgins came to this western country about the time the great discussion was going on in Congress over the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and his life here has been practically coincident with that of the territory and state.

Mr. Higgins was born in North Carolina October 14, 1837, and has attained the dignity of fourscore years and three. His parents were Vincent and Jane (Wilson) Higgins, his father a native of North Carolina and his mother of Virginia, in which state they were married and where they spent many years as farming people. Of their eight children Jonathan is the only one now left. His mother was a Quaker in religion, while his father was a Baptist, and in younger years voted the whig ticket and later was a Jacksonian democrat.

Jonathan Higgins was member of a family that never succeeded in raising its condition above the line of self-respecting poverty, and consequently he was obliged to confront the serious problems of life at an early age. He had a limited schooling in subscription schools in North Carolina, but attended school only when the weather did not permit work in the open fields. He had some farming experience in Virginia, and was about seventeen years of age when he came to Nebraska in 1854. As one of the pioneers of the territory his first location was in Nemaha county, where he pre-empted a claim. Mr. Higgins remained a resident of Nemaha county until 1880. Some of his hardest experiences were experienced there, even when he had his land reclaimed it was a difficult matter to make a living. For a number of years he was isolated from markets, and also had to contend with dry, hot weather, grasshoppers, and nearly every other visitation of hard luck known to western settlers. At the time of the Civil war he was engaged in freighting, operating an ox team outfit over the Oregon trail between Nebraska City and Denver, western government posts. He was engaged in that work, carrying government supplies, for four years.

In 1880 Mr. Higgins moved to Nuckolls county, where he bought land, in 1884 bought other land in Furnas county, and was actively identified with stockraising on a large scale in that section of the state until 1908. He then sold his ranch and coming to Lincoln county bought land near Bignell. He still owns 340 acres, but since 1916 has lived in comfortable retirement at North Platte. His many friends in Lincoln county, knowing the vicissitudes of his early life, take special pleasure in the fact that he now has an ample competence for all his needs. During the great panic of 1873 Mr. Higgins lost every cent of his hard won accumulations. He had other difficulties to contend with in other years, but he never lost his elastic spirit and determination, that being the key to his subsequent success.

In 1857, in Nemaha county, Mr. Higgins married Mary F. Good, a native of Indiana. She died in 1880, the mother of twelve children, only three of whom are now living: Belle, wife of J. H. Edmedstien, a real estate man at North Platte; Ulysses G., who is a breeder of full blood Red hogs at Fairmont, Nebraska; and Mary, wife of A. R. McCain, an oil operator in Wyoming. In 1882 Mr. Higgins married Phoebe Delay, who was born at Nemaha, Nebraska, in 1857. Three children have been born to their marriage: W. C., a farmer at Cambridge, Nebraska; Clara, wife of H. C. Woodgate, who lives on a farm south of North Platte; and Jennings Bryan, at home with his father.

Mr. Higgins is a Methodist, a Mason, and an independent voter. While living in Nemaha county he served two terms as county commissioner, also as justice of the peace and member of the school board.

**JOHN H. JOHNSON.** One of the most widely known and highly honored of Lincoln county's pioneers is John H. Johnson, of Sutherland, who came to this favored region more than thirty-five years ago and has lived here continuously since. He early had the sagacity to discern the eminence which the future had in store for this section of the state and, acting in accordance with the dictates of faith and judgment, he reaped in the fullness of time the generous benefits which are the just recompense of indomitable industry, sterling integrity and sound discrimination.

John H. Johnson was born in Putnam county, Indiana, on May 29, 1847, and is the son of Abraham and Lucinda (Woods) Johnson. To these parents, who are both deceased, were born eight children, of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch and Sarah Ellen, a widow who is living in Mount Ayr, Iowa. Abraham Johnson was a farmer by vocation, following that calling in Indiana until 1855, when he moved to Ringgold county, Iowa, where he was similarly engaged during the remainder of his life. The subject of this sketch was about eight years of age when the family moved to Iowa, and in the schools of that state he received his educational training. On completing his education Mr. Johnson engaged in farming there until 1885, when he came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead, the northwest half of section 30, township 13, range 34, twelve miles southwest of Sutherland. He was among the early settlers of his section of the county and has been an eye witness of and a participant in the wonderful transformation which has taken place here during the subsequent years. His first years here were characterized by toil of the most strenuous sort, but he persisted and, by unremitting industry and sound judgment in his operation, he finally realized the success which was bound to result from his enterprise. He conducted general farming operations until a few years ago, when he retired from active labor and is now residing in Sutherland, in the enjoyment of that rest which he so richly earned. He has eight acres in the Town of Sutherland.

On the 14th of April, 1870, Mr. Johnson was married to Caroline Sinco, a native of Jefferson county, Iowa, and they became the parents of ten children, namely: Leona J., the wife of Fred Pierson, of Sutherland; Oattie, the wife of C. B. McKinstry, a banker at Sedgwick, Colorado; Eunice, the wife of S. E. Anderson, of Lincoln county; Mabel, the wife of J. N. Buchanan, of Sedgwick, Colorado; Mary, the wife of Harry Stewart, a farmer near Sutherland; Bertha, who is a teacher in the public schools of Sutherland; Mortimer, who lives in Sedgwick, Colorado, engaged in the hardware and implement business; Abraham, a farmer near Elsie, Nebraska; Alger, who lives at Laramie, Wyoming, engaged in the furniture and hardware business; Otto V., who at the outbreak of the war between the United States and Germany offered his services to his country, becoming a member of Company K, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, Eighty-ninth Division. He was sent overseas with his regiment and after active and faithful service was killed in battle on November 6, 1918, but five days before the signing of the armistice. Otto was a young man of excellent qualities of character, popular

among his associates, and his death was greatly regretted throughout the community where he lived.

Mr. Johnson gives his political support to the democratic party, while religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Johnson played well his part in the work of upbuilding his community and has always tried to be fully abreast the times, doing as much good as he could in all the relations of life, and consequently he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**JOHN H. AND BENTON MILLER.** The most elaborate history is perforce a merciless abridgment, the historian being obliged to select his facts and materials from manifold details and to marshal them in concise and logical order. This applies to specific as well as to generic history, and in the former category is included the interesting and important department of biography. In every life of honor and usefulness there is no dearth of interesting situations and incidents, and yet in summing up such careers as those of the subjects of this sketch the writer must needs touch only on the more salient facts, giving the keynote of the character and eliminating all that is superfluous to the continuity of the narrative. The gentlemen whose names appear above have led active and useful lives, not entirely void of the exciting, but the more prominent incidents or facts have been so identified with the useful and practical that it is to them almost entirely that the writer refers in the following paragraphs.

John H. Miller was born in Cedar county, Iowa, on November 30, 1875, and is the son of John A. and Martha Miller, both of whom are now deceased, the father dying at the age of eighty years and his wife when fifty-seven years old. John A. Miller was a native of New York state, where he was reared to the life of a farmer and where he received his education in the public schools. Subsequently he moved to Cedar county, Iowa, where he lived until 1892, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where the remainder of his life was spent. John H. Miller was reared under the parental roof and secured his educational training in the schools of his native county. He accompanied the family on their removal to Lincoln county in 1892, and has here devoted his life to farming and stockraising. In 1899 he filed a homestead entry on a quarter section of land here and afterwards took by kinkade. He made many good improvements on this farm and has been very successful in its operation. In association with his brother Benton, Mr. Miller bought 6,000 acres of land, the greater part of which they have devoted to stockraising and in which they are meeting with very gratifying success. They specialize principally on Hereford cattle and are well known throughout this section of the county because of their success in this line and on account of their general success.

On August 5, 1908, John H. Miller was united in marriage with Ida Pitts, who was born and reared in Logan county, Nebraska, the daughter of James and Della Pitts, who were the parents of nine children. James Pitts was a native of Iowa and followed farming during all his active years. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born four children, Martha, Irene, Wayne and Mildred.

Benton Miller was born in Cedar county, Iowa, on February 24, 1882, and lived there until he was about ten years of age, when the family came to Lincoln county, where he received the major portion of his school training. His wife homesteaded 160 acres of land



here and he went into partnership with his brother John H. and purchased 6,000 acres of land, which they have devoted to stock-raising purposes. He gives attention to the cultivation of his wife's land, which is devoted to the raising of general crops and which is a well improved and productive farm. Mr. Miller has made a success of his operations since starting out in life on his own account and is numbered among the successful men of his community.

Benton Miller was married to May Pitts, who was born in the State of Kansas, the daughter of James Pitts, who is a farmer and now lives at Orleans, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born four children, namely: Loyd, Dorothy, Buclah and Marjorie. Politically Benton Miller is independent, giving his support to the men and measures which meet with his approval, regardless of party lines. He has served as a member of the school board and in other ways has shown a keen interest in the welfare of the community.

While advancing their individual interests, the Miller brothers have never lost sight of their obligations to the community in general. They are essentially men of affairs, sound of judgment, keen discernment and far-seeing in what they undertake. Their extensive business interests are the fruitage of consecutive effort, directed and controlled not only by good judgment, but also by correct moral principles, so that they are eminently deserving of the high position which they occupy in the esteem and confidence of all who know them.

**FRANK A. JOHNSON.** In Frank A. Johnson Wellfleet has a citizen who has contributed to its upbuilding a conservative and reliable drug business, which he has conducted since 1892 and which has netted him a sufficient income for his practical needs. A man who recognizes the value of principle as a desirable financial asset, he has built up a splendid reputation for uprightness of conduct and unwavering integrity, while his citizenship has been of a constructive and helpful character, reflecting his desire to be useful to his community.

Mr. Johnson was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1867, a son of James and Mary (Robinson) Johnson, the former a native of Orange county, New York, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mr. Johnson, the elder, a cabinet-maker by trade, followed that vocation in Pennsylvania, where he also devoted some attention to the business of truck gardening, but in 1878 was attracted to the West, settled in Phelps county, on a homestead southeast of Holdredge, Nebraska, at a time when there were but six people in that part of the country. He proved up on his homestead and in the meantime found time to devote to general contracting and building among the early settlers, and throughout his life was a man of industry and marked achievement. He was a republican in political principles and as a fraternalist was a Mason in high standing. His death occurred in 1904, while his wife passed away in 1888. They were the parents of a large family of children, as follows: Galen, who is retired from active affairs and a resident of Memphis, Tennessee; Crella, Nelson, Eugene and Charles, who are all deceased; May, the wife of James Glandon, of Twin Falls, Idaho; Jessie, the wife of H. T. Wilson, a printer of Lincoln; Frank A., of this notice; Holloway, a contractor of Sheridan, Wyoming; Lucy, who is deceased; Jennie, the wife of George Shutler, a resident of Oregon; Ellery, a printer of that state; and Weston, a railroad engineer residing at Alliance, Nebraska.

Frank A. Johnson attended the graded schools of Pennsylvania until he was eleven years of age, at which time he accompanied his parents to Phelps county, Nebraska. There he completed his primary education and also finished the course at the high school at Holdrege, following which he entered upon his independent career as a public school teacher, and for three terms had classes in a sod schoolhouse in the country districts of Phelps county. Before he had given up the profession of teaching he entered upon an apprenticeship in a drug store under Lester Ellsworth at Holdrege, and passed the state examination as a pharmacist in 1890. For two years he clerked for Alex Streitz at North Platte, and then came to Wellfleet and entered business on his own account. He has continued as the proprietor of the pharmacy at Wellfleet ever since, and has built up an excellent business, which has been attracted by the reliability of his goods, the integrity of the proprietor, and a natural courtesy and obligingness that makes and keeps friends and well-wishers.

In 1891 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Davis, who was born in Kentucky, although married at Wellfleet, a daughter of John A. Davis, who was an early settler of Lincoln county. To this union there were born four children: Floyd, who is engaged in the drug business at Torrington, Wyoming; Ruth, Rena and Galen, all in school at Omaha. Mr. Johnson is a Mason and in politics a democrat. He has displayed a high order of citizenship and is accounted one of the helpfully progressive men of his thriving little city.

**JOSEPH McMICHAEL.** That Lincoln county ranks high among the agricultural regions of Nebraska is largely due to the exertions of such strong and forceful personalities as Joseph McMichael, who in the isolation and loneliness of his little sod house as a pioneer of 1886 drew the horseshoe of his surroundings and planned and built and labored unceasingly to make his dream come true. The legitimate accumulation of a large and valuable property, such as is owned today by Mr. McMichael, argues the possession of worthwhile business qualities, and no other conclusion can be drawn regarding this agrarian promoter than that he has embodied the best of brain and heart produced by the experiences of the frontier.

Joseph McMichael was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, in 1863, a son of James and Elizabeth (Hoten) McMichael, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of New York. As a young man James McMichael went to Illinois, where he served as a station agent for the Northwestern Railroad, then turned his attention to general farming, and in 1863 removed to Iowa, where he continued as an agriculturist on land of his own until his death, his wife also passing away in that state. He was an independent voter, and he and Mrs. McMichael were Adventists. They had nine children: William, who is postmaster at Maywood, Nebraska; John, engaged in farming in Iowa; James; Susan, the wife of S. L. King, a carpenter of Iowa; Joseph; Mary, the wife of R. B. Banister, a newspaper man of California; Elmer, a street car man of Omaha; Hattie, deceased; and Bertha, of Perry, Iowa.

Joseph McMichael was an infant when his parents removed to Iowa, in which state he received his education in the public schools, and there made his home until 1886, in which year he came to Nebraska. Here he homesteaded in Lincoln county and remained on that property, which he improved, until 1901, when he went to the

State of Washington, but in 1903 returned to Lincoln county and purchased land. He has since followed general farming and stock-raising, and at this time makes a speciality of Galloway cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has proved a capable master of circumstances, forcing the latent fertility of the soil into channels of usefulness for mankind, and marketing his products with the skill and forethought of the born man of business. Mr. McMichael also conducts a Ford garage at Wellfleet in connection with his farming and stock interests. He has always been an independent voter, and he and Mrs. McMichael are members of the Baptist Church.

Mr. McMichael was married in 1889 to May Brown, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of R. C. and Sarah Brown, who located in Nebraska in 1886, on a Lincoln county homestead, where the father still lives at the advanced age of ninety years. Mr. and Mrs. McMichael have been the parents of the following children: Erma, a bookkeeper who resides at North Platte; Joseph Clyde, who is engaged in farming in Colorado; Stacy C., who enlisted in the United States Army during the World war, was trained at Camp Logan, Texas, and Fort Scott, California, and stationed at the latter as a member of the Coast Artillery, and received his honorable discharge at Camp Funston; Edna, the wife of Ray Smith, of Wellfleet; Josephine, an assistant bookkeeper at North Platte; Elmer and Jessie, who reside with their parents; Belva, who attends high school at North Platte; Edward, who is deceased; and Dale, residing at home.

**BENJAMIN F. B. CRANDELL.** In the less extensive and populous towns and villages of a state the postmaster is very likely to be brought into contact with a greater number of the inhabitants and at more frequent intervals than any other member of the community. Few are the individual residents of either sex who do not become familiar with his presence and deportment and cognizant of his habits and characteristics, and there are likewise few, on the other hand, even to the older children, whom he has not learned to know. With such an intimate relationship existing between the man conducting the postoffice and the townspeople depending upon it, fortunate and thrice happy is the incumbent of that office when all the men, women and youth of the place have for him only words of commendation. Such is the favored position of Benjamin F. B. Crandell, the efficient and popular postmaster at Wellfleet, Lincoln county, who is the possessor of those qualities of candor, sincerity, faithfulness and affability which give the best class of public officials a high standing in the estimation of those whose interests are intrusted to their care.

Benjamin F. B. Crandell was born on a farm in White county, Indiana, in 1867, a son of Wilson A. and Frances (Rogers) Crandell, farming people of the Hoosier state who came to Nebraska in 1872 and first settled at Beaver Crossing. Ten years later the father homesteaded a tract in York county, after which he spent some time farming in Kansas, and finally came to Lincoln county, where he homesteaded a tract, proved up thereon, and continued to be engaged in the vocations of raising stock and farming until the time of his death, his wife having also passed away. He was an independent voter and was a man of some influence in his community, where he served as postmaster at Wellfleet for some years and also in the capacity of justice of the peace. He was fraternally affiliated with the Masons, and he and his wife were both faithful members of the



MR. AND MRS. JAMES C. WILSON

Christian Church. They were the parents of a large family of children: John, a resident of Craig, Colorado; David, also of that place, where he conducts a rooming house; Benjamin F. B.; Norman, who resides on the old homestead; Anna, the wife of Louis Blacey, of Lincoln county; Ella, the wife of Nelson Wells, a Lincoln county farmer; Ethel, the wife of Girley Cosand, of Michigan; Hannah Ash, who is deceased; and four children who died in infancy.

Benjamin F. B. Crandell was but five years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, and his education was secured in the schools of Beaver Crossing, York county, and Kansas. When he came to Lincoln county he homesteaded a tract of land, which he developed to a high state of productiveness and continued to carry on farming and stockraising until his retirement from active farm labor, at which time he disposed of his homestead property, although he still has interests of an agricultural nature. As postmaster at Wellfleet Mr. Crandell's conduct of the office has met with the approval of the community, and under his direction the service has been bettered and expedited. He has also served several terms as justice of the peace, and subscribes to the principles of the democratic party. He and Mrs. Crandell are members of the Baptist Church and their children have been reared in that faith.

Mr. Crandell was married in 1909 to Miss Rena Costick, daughter of John Costick, an early and honored settler of Lincoln county, and to this union there have been born four children: Lula, who is attending the graded school at Wellfleet; Benjamin, who is also a public school pupil here; and Ruth and Lewis, who reside at home.

JAMES C. WILSON was one of the first purchasers of land in the irrigation belt in Lincoln county. Something like thirty successive crops, with a judicious combination of livestock farming, have given him a well-earned competence, and he is now practically retired, a resident of North Platte, where he enjoys the fruits of his former labors and the esteem of all citizens of Lincoln county.

Mr. Wilson was born near Bedford, Iowa, April 3, 1863, a son of J. A. and Caroline (Sharps) Wilson. His father was a native of Virginia. His parents were married in Missouri, where both families settled in early days. When the Civil war came on J. A. Wilson sided with the Confederacy. After the war he moved to Iowa. He was a miller by trade, followed that occupation for a number of years, was engaged in farming about ten years, and was then again engaged in the milling business until his death. He died at Gentryville in Gentry county, Missouri, and his widow is now living at Sheridan, Missouri. He was a democrat, and the family has long been identified with the Christian Church. James C. Wilson is the oldest of twelve children, eight of whom are living. Three are residents of Lincoln county, the other two being Ellen Jenkins, of Sutherland, and George, a farmer at Hershey.

James C. Wilson acquired his education in the public schools of Iowa, and his early experiences were those of a farm boy in that state. In 1881, at the age of eighteen, he came to Nebraska and for several years farmed in Lancaster county. From there he moved to Lincoln county in 1887. Three years previously, in 1884, he had bought the first piece of land sold by the Ditch Company in Lincoln county, but was unable to take possession and used it for crops until 1889. Mr. Wilson arrived in Lincoln county with only thirty-six dollars in cash and a team. He made his first farm pay dividends, then bought other lands, and this process of accumulation has gone

on until he is now the owner of 1,200 acres in Nebraska and a quarter section of land in Colorado. All his land has the benefit of the irrigation ditch, and is much more valuable than the average of western Nebraska land. Since 1915 his farm has been operated by tenants, and he has enjoyed the comforts of a good residence in North Platte. His home is at 405 West Third street, which he built in 1916. Mr. Wilson casts his vote according to the dictates of his independent judgment. He and his family are members of the Christian Church.

On March 17, 1885, he married Miss Etta Grigsby, a native of Lewistown, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas and Didama Grigsby, both natives of Illinois. They came to Lancaster county, Nebraska about 1882 and took a farm, where both died. They were Methodists and he was a republican. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson: Walter, a farmer in Lincoln county; Pearl Mahan, wife of an insurance man at Curtis, Nebraska; Ora, who lives on his father's farm; Ethel, at home; Everett, Elva and Lesley, all attending school at North Platte.

**MIKE UGHKIN.** Of those resourceful citizens of foreign birth who have fashioned their careers within the boundaries of Lincoln county, few have achieved well-merited success in greater degree than has Mike Ughrin, the owner of a well-cultivated and valuable property lying in the vicinity of Wellfleet. Mr. Ughrin has been the architect of his own fortunes, for he entered upon his independent life with only those aids which were his by inheritance and nature.

Mr. Ughrin was born in 1867, in Austria, a son of Andrew and Mary Ughrin, natives of the same country, who settled in New Jersey upon their arrival in the United States, where Mrs. Ughrin died. Andrew Ughrin was a coal miner in New Jersey, where he made his home until 1884, in that year coming to North Platte, Nebraska, where he homesteaded. Later he bought a relinquishment in Frontier county, where he engaged in general farming during the remainder of his life, and died in the faith of the Catholic Church, of which his wife had also been a faithful member. As a voter Mr. Ughrin was independent of the influences of both large parties.

Mike Ughrin was seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska. In Lincoln county he first homesteaded and worked out among other farmers, then purchased a relinquishment, again homesteaded, and at the present time is the owner of a good property. His entire life has been devoted to the pursuits of agriculture, and at the present time he is engaged in raising graded live stock. He has met with success because his operations have been well directed and his industry has been great. His clean and upright life commands respect and good will, and, as the legitimate owner and custodian of a large estate, he inspires admiration for his sagacious and thrifty management and control.

In 1895 Mr. Ughrin married Mary Phillips, of North Platte, who was also born in Austria, and to them there have been born ten children: Mary, the wife of Floy Williams, of Lincoln county; Anna and Andrew, who reside with their parents; Elizabeth, who is attending school at Curtis; Catherine, wife of Charles Glaze; Emma, Helen, Rena and Tina, who are attending school; and John, who is deceased. Mr. Ughrin is a republican voter, and he and his wife belong to the Catholic Church, in the faith of which they have carefully reared their children.

**PETER B. BLOOM.** Nearly a half a century has passed since the advent in Nebraska of Peter B. Bloom, and all of this period has been spent in Lincoln county, where he has contributed to the development of the agricultural industry and to the elevating of a high form of citizenship. While he is now in his seventy-sixth year, this sturdy son of the Keystone state is still actively engaged in his various duties around his home farm of 115 acres, located in the Brady community, a locality in which he is widely known and where he has the respect that always comes to a man who displays his sterling qualities of character.

Mr. Bloom was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1844, a son of Jacob and Julia (Bartholomew) Bloom, natives of the same state, where Jacob Bloom applied himself to farming as well as to his trade of wheelwright. He was a democrat in politics and served for some years in the capacity of justice of the peace, and he and his worthy wife were faithful members of the Lutheran Church. They became the parents of nine children, of whom three are living. William Bloom, who located in the Peckham precinct of Lincoln county and was the owner of a timber claim, died January 19, 1917.

Peter B. Bloom was educated in the public schools of his native state, and in his boyhood and youth was engaged in assisting his father with the work of the home farm. After he had attained his majority he remained in Pennsylvania for several years, but eventually listened to the call of the west, and in 1878 came to Nebraska. His destination was Clay county, but after remaining there for two years he came on to Lincoln county in 1880, arriving January 7. He continued to be variously occupied until 1881, when he took up a homestead, but in 1893 disposed of this property and moved to his present farm, a tract of 115 acres lying in section 13, township 12, range 28. He has always been engaged in general farming and stockraising, and is accounted one of the progressive agriculturists of his county, his modern methods and ideas having combined with his natural activity and industry to bring him well-merited success.

Mr. Bloom was married on January 26, 1873, to Miss Frances Folk, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of Isaac and Amy (Snyder) Folk, natives of the same state, who migrated to Nebraska and settled in Lincoln county December 5, 1889. Both died at Maxwell. Of their five children, three are living: Mary, the wife of Silas Clark, a retired resident of California; Charles E., who is living a retired life at Brady, Nebraska; and Frances, who is Mrs. Bloom. Mr. and Mrs. Bloom have been the parents of seven children, of whom six are living: Clinton, who is deceased; Charles F., who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county, Nebraska, is married and has four children, Amy B., Ivah O., Harold L. and Howard M.; William C., county superintendent of schools, of Lexington, Nebraska, has four children, Velma M., Mildred, Kenneth W., and Margaret; Eugene W., a blacksmith at Crook, Colorado, has one child, Merle Eugene; Myrtle is at home; Mabel is the wife of Benjamin A. Johnson, a farmer of Spana, Nebraska, and they have three children, Velma, Elden and Lavey; and Benjamin P., chief machinist on the transport Great Northern, United States Navy, who, during the great war, made five trips across the Atlantic Ocean carrying troops to France. Mr. Bloom has always been a democrat in his political allegiance and has supported his party's candidates staunchly, but aside from that has taken only a good citizen's interest in political affairs and has never desired public preferment on his own account.

He and Mrs. Bloom are members of the Lutheran Church, and their children have been reared in that faith.

**OTTO H. THEOLECKE.** For many years identified with the business interests of North Platte, Otto H. Theolecke has operated successfully in real estate, handling property of much value, his annual sales being large and ever increasing. A native of Iowa, he was born March 6, 1873, in Iowa City, where his parents resided a short time.

Louis D. Theolecke, his father, was born and educated in Germany, and there married Bertha Weste. Immigrating to the United States with his family in 1870, he located first in Illinois, later moving to Iowa. Coming from there to Nebraska in 1874, he pre-empted land and took up homestead and timber claims in Lincoln county, and was engaged in tilling the soil and raising cattle for many years. He was also a pioneer jeweler, in an early day, later building two large brick store buildings and occupied one. He sold to the Indians, not only from the store, but traveling through the country with a pack horse. In 1907 he removed to Omaha, where he and his wife spent the closing years of their lives. He owned an 800 acre ranch four miles southeast of North Platte, and several other tracts of land. He was a good business man, active and public-spirited, and was one of the promoters of the South Side Canal. Both he and his wife were charter members of the Lutheran Church. He was a very public-spirited man and helped a great many early settlers in a colony of a large area of land near Wellfleet, this county. He was independent in politics, leaning toward the republican party, and was affiliated by membership with the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. To him and his wife five children were born, as follows: Louis G., engaged in mercantile pursuits in Omaha; Bertha, principal of the Florence School in Omaha; Otto H., the special subject of this sketch; Herman, who died in March, 1919; and Emma, who died at the age of five years.

Having acquired a practical knowledge of books in the public schools of North Platte, Otto H. Theolecke worked as a ranchman in the Black Hills for a while, and later was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Changing his occupation, he traveled a few years in the interests of the live stock business, with which he became familiarly acquainted. About 1905 Mr. Theolecke embarked in the real estate business at North Platte, and in its management has been exceedingly prosperous, thousands upon thousands of acres having changed hands through his efforts. In the closing months of 1919 he sold three large ranches, one of them having contained 70,000 acres. He had the distinction of having sold the Buffalo Bill Ranch, and again has it listed for sale. When Mr. Theolecke embarked in the real estate industry he had not a penny to his name, but his sound judgment, keen vision and business acumen soon brought good results, and as a dealer in realty he has met with eminent success, through wise investments being now the owner of both city and farming property of value.

Mr. Theolecke married in March, 1913, Henrietta Clark, daughter of Henry and Mary Helen (Sweeney) Clark, of North Platte, the former of whom was born in England and the latter in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Theolecke have one child, Louise, born 1916. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Theolecke are members of the Lutheran Church. Politically Mr. Theolecke is a strong republican, and has



served as highway commissioner of Lincoln county. He is now a member of the board of park commissioners, and one of the prominent members of the County Fair Association. Fraternally he is a member of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

EDWIN W. WRIGHT, who has spent most of his life in Nebraska, owns a farm of fifty acres, known as Idyl Wild, and is a poultry fancier, giving attention to the Plymouth Rock breeds, and he finds time to work in the North Platte flouring mills. He was born November 25, 1867, in Ohio, and is a son of Lewis and Rhody Ann (Kelley) Wright. After the death of his father the mother married H. W. Foster, and the family then removed to Gage county, Nebraska, in 1877, and in 1886 they came to Lincoln county, where they homesteaded again.

Mr. Foster remained on the Lincoln county homestead for a number of years with his family, but he finally moved to North Platte, where he died in a short time. The mother now lives in Wyoming. She had four children after her marriage to Mr. Foster, but only Clara, the wife of William Arch, survives, and she lives in Denver. Mr. Foster was a soldier in an Ohio regiment in the Civil war.

Mr. Wright had common school advantages and began farm work when he was ten years old with an uncle in Gage county. In 1886 he came with the Fosters to Lincoln county. In 1889 he went to the Pacific Coast, where he worked on a fruit farm near Portland, Oregon. He worked the rest of the time in a sawmill, and in 1890 he went to Idaho, where he again worked in a sawmill till September, 1891, when he returned to North Platte. For three years he lived on the Foster Ranch, putting in the crops and working in the hay fields to make enough money to live on through the winter.

In 1913 Mr. Wright bought fifty acres of land one mile north of North Platte, and his specialty is poultry. In 1893 he married Blanche Jeannette Burns. She was a Wisconsin woman. Their son, Frank Wright, is a wanderer and they have not heard from him since he left home five years ago. Earle H., who was in Tien-tsin, China, a member of Company L, Fifteenth Infantry Regiment, entered the service October 12, 1917. He was discharged October 11, 1919, and is now working for the Union Pacific Railway Company.

Mr. Wright has passed the Grand and Patriarch degrees in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he has represented both branches in Grand Lodge. In politics he is an independent democrat. Along with the poultry industry at the farm some attention is given to the dairy business, and yet he finds time to work in the flouring mills every day, as Mrs. Wright looks after the poultry.

E. F. SEEBERGER. When a man starts at the bottom of the ladder and step by step mounts to the top, he is worthy of mention in the pages of history, and such has been the life story of E. F. Seeberger of North Platte. He was born January 6, 1860, in Sigourney, Iowa. His education was in the common school and his first business experience was in the First National Bank of Sigourney, Iowa, in 1874, an errand boy at the age of fourteen. He remained in this position five years, and then had charge of the office of a woolen mill five years.

From Sigourney, Iowa, Mr. Seeberger went to the frontier in Kansas, organized the town of Meade and started the Meade County Bank at that point. After another five years he removed from Meade, Kan-

sas, to Lamar, Colorado, where he was engaged in banking and in the irrigation business—the thing that brought that part of the country into prosperity. Mr. Seeberger remained five years at Lamar. From there he came to North Platte, where he took charge of the North Platte Canal and the lands connected with it, remaining eleven years as manager of the company's interests there.

Since living in North Platte Mr. Seeberger has been a stockholder and director in the bank, beginning his business career here in 1896. In 1905 he was made vice president of the North Platte Bank, and filled that position until 1912, since which time he has been its president. From messenger boy to bank president has been the experience of this man, his promotion always merited because of his ability.

Mr. Seeberger is a son of Dr. E. J. and Wilhelmina (Knappe) Seeberger. They were natives of Switzerland, and he was educated in Heidelberg University, both scholastic and medicine, entering the University in 1852. They immigrated to America and the Doctor practiced medicine in Iowa and Illinois. While four children were born to them, only E. F. Seeberger is living today. They were members of the Swiss Reformed or Lutheran Church, and the family has been republican. Doctor Seeberger practiced medicine at a time when the country doctor used a horse and buggy, and he knew all about the difficulties encountered by the pioneer. He died in 1874, and the wife went to the home of her son, and in 1918 she died in North Platte.

In 1882 Mr. Seeberger married Louise Wightman. Three children have been born and one is living, Mrs. Louise Tobin, of Denver. Mrs. Seeberger died in 1896, and ten years later Mr. Seeberger married Mrs. Nelle Bedell. She is a member of the Catholic Church in North Platte. Mr. Seeberger is a Shriner, Mason, and a past master and eminent commander, and also a member and a past exalted ruler of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 985.

Mr. Seeberger devotes his entire time to business interests in Lincoln county. Beside his interests in North Platte he is president of the Bank of Lincoln County at Hershey, which he helped organize in 1903. He is a director in the North Platte Country Club, and was president of the Lincoln County Chapter of the American and Red Cross Society during the war. He is in close touch and sympathy with all progressive movements in North Platte and Lincoln county.

ARCHIE D. MIDDLETON, the proprietor and operator of a valuable property in the neighborhood of Brady, Lincoln county, and a farmer and citizen of substantial standing, still in the prime of a useful and active life, has earned his present position by years of labor and intelligently directed industry. He is a native of Woolstock, Iowa, and a son of Elza E. Middleton, formerly one of Lincoln county's substantial men, who passed away October 4, 1891.

Elza E. Middleton was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, September 20, 1844, and died October 4, 1901. He was a son of Hutchinson and Achasa (Dennison) Middleton, natives also of the Buckeye state. They were farming people in Ohio, and when they moved to Iowa in 1862 became pioneer agriculturists of the frontier and there passed their lives in the pursuits of the soil. Elza E. Middleton had secured a public school education in his native state, and in Iowa completed his training as a farmer. He remained in the Hawkeye state until 1890, when he made removal to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and here settled on the homestead on which he died, and which his

widow proved up. Before coming to Nebraska Mr. Middleton had been one of the prominent and influential citizens of Woolstock, Iowa, where he had conducted a general store and served in the capacity of postmaster. He had also been county treasurer and a leading member of the republican county organization of Woolstock county. He was a member of the Grange, and he and Mrs. Middleton were faithful members of the Methodist Church, in which he served as superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty years. Mr. Middleton was married December 22, 1870, to Clarinda Lee, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Daniel and Mariah (Ruly) Lee, natives respectively of Virginia and West Virginia, who were pioneer settlers of Ohio. There were eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Middleton: Charles A., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Lincoln county; Walter W., who is the owner and operator of a fruit farm in California; Ada E., the wife of William Anderson, a farmer of Lincoln county; Mary E., the wife of Charles Soles, of Gothenburg, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of D. D. Paine, of Eagle Grove, Iowa; James G., who resides in Lincoln county on a farm; Archie D., of this notice; and William O., who died April 22, 1913.

Archie D. Middleton was educated in the public schools of Lincoln county and the Nebraska School of Agriculture. He was but a lad when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, and his entire subsequent life has been passed in Lincoln county, which witnessed the start of his independent career in 1910, and which has watched his development and progress. He has carried on general farming and made a specialty of raising blooded livestock, including Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs, and in each direction has achieved success because of his marked industry and the good judgment with which he has directed his activities. Mr. Middleton is an active and interested member of the local Grange, and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator Company at Gothenburg.

In 1916 Mr. Middleton was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Paine, a native of Iowa, daughter of Frank L. and Elizabeth (Stevenson) Paine, farming people. To this union there has been born one child: Frances Elaine. Mr. and Mrs. Middleton are members of the Methodist Church. While Mr. Middleton is a republican in principles, he is an independent voter, not allowing party lines to interfere with his choice of candidates. His interest in fraternalism is indicated by the fact that he has reached the fourteenth degree in Masonry.

**RAY C. LANGFORD.** A man of distinctive and forceful individuality, Ray C. Langford, of North Platte, has been conspicuously identified with the banking and financial interests of Lincoln and other counties for many years, laboring with a never varying energy and concentration of purpose that, so closely are industry and finance associated, he has won a position of prominence and influence in the business world. Since 1909 he has served as vice president of the First National Bank of North Platte, and is officially connected with various other financial organizations, being president of the Arthur State Bank at Arthur, Nebraska; president of the Sarben State Bank at Sarben, Nebraska; vice president of the Keystone Bank at Keystone, Nebraska; vice president of the Farmers State Bank at Maxwell, Nebraska; and a stockholder in the Bank of Lincoln county at Hershey, this state. He was born October 1, 1875, in Leamington, Canada, and there spent his childhood days.

R. H. Langford, his father, was born and educated in Canada, from whence in 1881 he came with his family to Nebraska, locating in Lincoln county on the first day of March. A man of culture and a gifted orator, he soon made for himself a noteworthy position in educational circles, serving for many years as superintendent of the schools of Lincoln county. His wife, whose maiden name was Amy Bee, was born in Canada, and died in 1918 in North Platte, Nebraska. Of the eight children born of their union, five are living in North Platte. The father is a republican in politics, and the mother was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The eldest child of the parental household, Ray C. Langford was graduated from the North Platte High School, and began life for himself as an employe at the postoffice, receiving a salary of seventeen dollars a month. He afterward worked for ten years in Mr. McDonald's grocery, acquiring while there an excellent knowledge of business methods. He was elected county treasurer, and served with such recognized ability that he was re-elected to the same office at the expiration of his first term without opposition, his re-election having been practically unanimous. In 1909 Mr. Langford was made vice president of the First National Bank of North Platte, which has a capital of \$100,000; a surplus of \$70,000; and an average deposit of \$1,400,000. Having risen from humble circumstances to his present prosperous condition by his own efforts, Mr. Langford may justly be termed a self-made man, having not only valuable financial interests, but being an extensive owner of land and cattle, most valuable assets in these days.

Mr. Langford married, December 27, 1899, Miss Mayme Watts, who was born in North Platte, a daughter of Russell Watts, one of the largest cattlemen of Lincoln county, of whom mention appears on other pages of this volume. Two sons have been born of their union, namely: Russell, who enlisted for service in 1918, served in the Coast Artillery in France, and soon after his return home, in February, 1919, entered the Leland Stanford, Jr., University in California; and Lester, who was graduated from the North Platte High School with the class of 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Langford are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Langford is affiliated with the republican party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a member and past exalted ruler of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, which he served as district deputy in 1917, while now, in 1919, he is president of the Nebraska Association of Elks.

**WILLIAM HITE.** Conspicuous among the representative agriculturists and stock men of Lincoln county is William Hite, whose splendid farm is located in section 25, township 12, range 30. He has made his influence felt for good in this community, his life having been closely interwoven with its history for a number of years. His efforts have been for the material advancement of the same, as well as for his own material welfare, and the well-regulated life he has led, thereby gaining the respect and admiration of all with whom he has come in contact, entitles him to representation in a work of the character of the one in hand.

William Hite was born in Monona, Iowa, on the 22d day of August, 1863, and is the son of James N. and Malinda Hite, both of whom were natives of Indiana. In the fall of 1860 they moved to Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their years, engaged in farming. At the time of their deaths they were aged, respectively,

fifty-six and forty-five years. They became the parents of seven children, Clara, Mary, Sarah, William, Herbert, Cora and one who died in infancy.

William Hite was reared to manhood in Iowa and secured a good practical education in the public schools. He remained in that locality until 1892, when he came to Nebraska, settling in Thayer county, where for eight years he was successfully engaged in agriculture. In 1900 Mr. Hite came to Lincoln county and bought 160 acres of farm land, to the cultivation of which he has since devoted his time and energies. His farm is well improved, the buildings being of a substantial, convenient and attractive character, while the general appearance of the place indicates the owner to be a man of industrious habits, practical ideas and good taste. His efforts here have been rewarded with a fair degree of success and he is numbered among the enterprising and progressive farmers of his section of the county.

Mr. Hite was married in Thayer county, Nebraska, on August 8, 1888, to Amanda Davenport, who was born in Mills county, Iowa, the daughter of James L. and Henrietta Davenport, who were general farmers in Mills county, and, later, in Thayer county, Nebraska, where they engaged in farming until their deaths. To Mr. and Mrs. Hite have been born three children, namely: Levi, of North Platte, Nebraska; Lawrence, a farmer in Lincoln county; and Mrs. Paul Soderman, a farmer in Lincoln county.

Politically Mr. Hite gives his support to the republican party and takes an intelligent interest in public affairs, though not himself a seeker after the honors of public office. Mrs. Hite is a member of the Christian Church. Mr. Hite is essentially a man among men, commanding respect because of his ability, success and personal traits. He has been successful in his own affairs and at the same time has had a commendable interest in the welfare of the community, giving his earnest support to every movement for the general welfare.

**ALFRED JOHNSON.** In no other country of the world would it be possible for men to develop from small beginnings into prosperous landowners as they do in America. When the lands of Nebraska, which were not sufficiently watered by natural sources, were placed under a proper irrigation system, those included in Lincoln county rose rapidly in value, and those today fortunate enough to own farms in this region are profiting accordingly. One of these well known general farmers and stockraisers of the Hershey neighborhood is Alfred Johnson, born in Sweden on July 11, 1858, a son of John and Anna M. (Swanson) Johnson, both of whom were born and died in Sweden, where they were farmers. They had seven children, three of whom came to the United States, namely: Gustaf, now deceased, who located at Jamestown, Ohio, and worked in a foundry; Andrew M., who is a farmer of Wheatland, Wyoming; and Alfred, who reached this country in March, 1882.

He had been reared in Sweden and acquired a public school education in his native language. After coming to the United States he spent some time on an Illinois farm, and then went to Iowa, where he continued to work at farm labor. Going on west to Colorado, he was employed in the stone quarries at Denver. His next venture was homesteading at Pine Bluff, Wyoming, and he proved up his claim, and then engaged in farming near Overton, Nebraska, remaining there for four years. Mr. Johnson then came to Hershey and invested his money in 191 acres of land, all irrigated, in section 11, township

14, which he has improved, and on which he is carrying on general farming and raising a good grade of livestock.

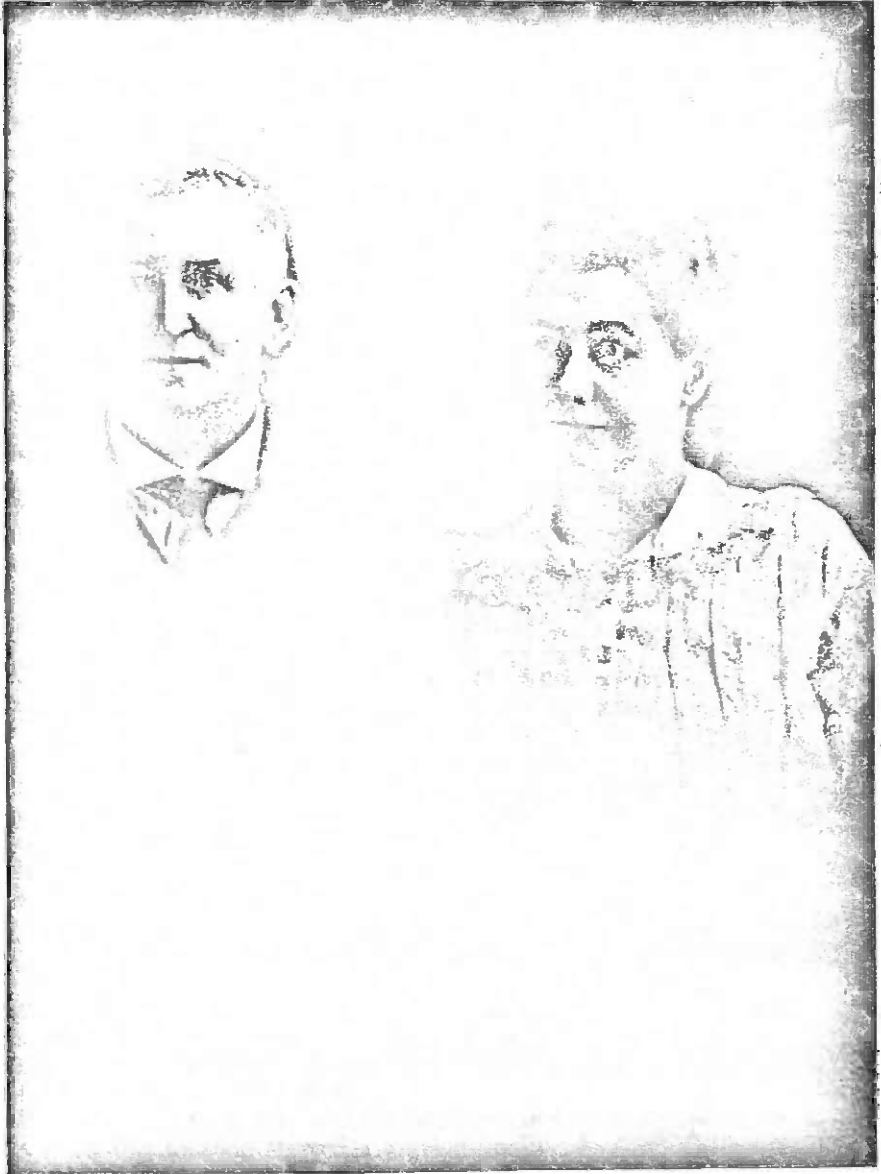
In 1890 Mr. Johnson was married at Salem, Wyoming, to Hannah Aberblade, born in Sweden. They became the parents of the following children: Oscar C., who is at home; Ida, who is also at home; Albert, who is mentioned below; Lloyd, who is also mentioned below; and Hulda, Eugene, Anna M. and Edna, all of whom are at home. Mr. Johnson votes the straight republican ticket. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, finding in it the proper expression of their religious faith.

During the late war two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson served their country as soldiers. Albert was a locomotive engineer of the American Expeditionary Forces in France; and Lloyd, a sergeant in the quartermaster's department of an infantry regiment, saw service as a member of the Army of Occupation in Germany, and was overseas for sixteen months. The Johnson family is recognized as being among the most representative ones of Lincoln county. All of its members are fine people, and deeply interested in the development of their section of the state.

**TRISTRAM ROBERTS.** One of the leading citizens and representative agriculturists of Lincoln county is Tristram Roberts, proprietor of one of the choice farms of the county, in section 24, township 13, range 28. His has been an eminently active and useful life, but the limited space at the disposal of the biographer forbids more than a casual mention of the leading events in his career, which will suffice to show that earnest endeavor and honesty of purpose rightly applied and persistently followed will lead to unqualified success. He is a man of influence in local affairs, and is looked upon as a man thoroughly in sympathy with any movement looking toward the betterment or advancement in any way of his community, where he has always been regarded as a man of sterling honesty and worthy of the utmost confidence and respect which his fellow citizens have been free to accord, owing to his upright, public-spirited and industrious life.

Tristram Roberts was born in York county, Maine, on June 19, 1858, and is a son of John A. and Louise Roberts, both of whom also were natives of the old Pine Tree state, where the father was a life-long farmer by vocation. Both parents are now deceased, the father dying at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, and the mother passing away when forty years of age. They were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters.

The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the common schools of his home neighborhood. The years of his young manhood were spent in Maine at various occupations and in fact he was thrown on the world on his own resources when a boy. When about twenty-three years of age he cast about for larger opportunities for advancement. In the spring of 1881 he came west, and on April 28th landed in Lincoln county, Nebraska. The country looked good to him, but not caring to locate definitely until he had learned more of the country he first went to work in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad, where he was employed for one year. In February, 1882, he homesteaded a quarter section of land, and later pre-empted the land where his present home is located, and immediately set to work to improve his land and get it in cultivation. The first years on this farm were years of hard and unremitting toil, with many discouraging and un-



MR. AND MRS. TRISTRAM ROBERTS

pleasant situations, but he had abundant faith in his ability to finally win success, and he persisted in his efforts, the final outcome being abundant justification of his judgment, for today he has one of the best improved and most prosperous farm in his section of the county. He owns 480 acres of land, which he devotes to general farming and stockraising. Formerly Mr. Roberts gave considerable attention to livestock, in which he was eminently successful, but of late years he does not take as active a part in the labors of the farm as formerly, being now able to enjoy to a considerable degree the fruits of his former years of toil and hardships.

In October, 1891, at Wahoo, Nebraska, Mr. Roberts was married to Inez Biggerstaff, a native of Ohio and the daughter of Elisha and Thedusa (Loveland) Biggerstaff, who were the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters. To Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have been born six children, namely: Vernon E., William L., Forest G., Everett L., Merle W. and Theodosia V. Of these, Everett died at the age of ten years.

In matters political Mr. Roberts is not bound by party ties, but votes for the best men in all parties and supports those measures which he believes will be for the general welfare. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. His life history shows what industry, good habits and stanch citizenship will accomplish in the battle of acquiring property and rearing children to lead steady and respectable lives. His life has been one replete with duty well and conscientiously performed in all its relations. He has come down to us from the pioneer period and has noted the wondrous transformation from that time to this, playing well his part in the drama of civilization, and as a result of his splendid personal qualities and his success he enjoys the confidence and good will of the people of his community.

**CHRIST BRODBECK.** Although he was born in Germany, Christ Brodbeck, the North Platte butcher, demonstrated his American citizenship when he gave his sons to the United States service in the War of the Nations. He was born in 1860, a son of Jacob and Anna (Bedas) Brodbeck, both natives of Germany. There were ten children in their family, but only two of them immigrated to the United States. Karl is in the employ of his brother, Christ Brodbeck, in North Platte.

Mr. Brodbeck received his education in Germany, and all the family belonged to the Lutheran denomination. He had learned the butcher trade in Germany, and in 1880, when he came to America, he had no difficulty in finding a situation as a butcher in Pittsburgh. He worked one year in Pittsburgh and another year in Chicago, when he came to Omaha and worked five years in one place. When he came to North Platte in 1887 he worked one year as a meat cutter and bought a store.

In 1896 Mr. Brodbeck sold the business and went on the railroad for a time, but he soon started a market again. In 1888 he married Anna Yost, who had also come from Germany. Four sons and four daughters were born to them: Harry had seven months of naval training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station; Billy was with the Twenty-third Engineers Corps and was "Over there" fourteen months; Karl, associated with his father in the market, spent four months in a training camp at Washington, District of Columbia; and Louis, the fourth son, lives at the family home. Marie is the wife of Burt Colton, of North Platte, who is a conductor on the Union



Pacific Railroad. Elizabeth is employed at the North Platte post-office. Helen is employed in the market and Myra the youngest is at home with her mother.

The church relation of the Brodbeck family is with the North Platte Lutheran denomination, and Mr. Brodbeck is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge of North Platte. The family vote is republican. Mr. Brodbeck's entire time is devoted to the success of the meat market. He has always had a prosperous business in North Platte. Three sons in the service would indicate his Americanism although he was born in Germany.

**THOMAS KELLY.** The Kelly farm in section 20, township 14, is one of the best managed in Lincoln county, and was entered from the government as a homestead by Patrick Kelly, father of the present occupant, Thomas Kelly. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, in 1871, his parents, Patrick and Margaret Kelly, being natives of Ireland. Growing up in Ireland, they came to the United States in 1862, after their marriage, and landed in New York City, from whence they came west as far as Chicago, Illinois. There he secured employment on the street railroad, and remained in that city for a time, but he was a farmer and city life did not suit him, so in 1875 he came to Nebraska and, as before stated, homesteaded in Lincoln county. Here he lived, conducting his farm, until death claimed him at the age of seventy-five years. His widow survives him and is now seventy-six years old.

The children of Patrick and Margaret Kelly were as follows: Joseph, who is in Oregon; Thomas, whose name heads this review; Margaret, who is the wife of Fred Bassett, of North Platte; Elizabeth and Edward, both of whom are at home; Dennis, who is deceased; and John, who is also deceased.

Thomas Kelly was only four years old when the family came to Lincoln county, so that practically all of his life has been spent in this region, and he is thoroughly identified with its best interests. Here he acquired his educational training, and here he has been developed into a successful farmer and stockraiser. He believes in handling only a good grade of stock, for his experience is that the poorer grades are not profitable enough to pay for the handling of them. The present improvements, which are suitable and designed to aid in transacting the business of the farm, have all been put in by Mr. Kelly, who has been the active manager of the property for some years.

The family are all members of the local Catholic Church, holding their religious opinions through heredity and conviction. Mr. Kelly does not care to tie himself down to any particular party, although he favors the democratic party. There are few men who are any more interested in the progress of this region than he, and he is always ready and willing to lend aid to bring about the successful carrying out of new projects, provided he believes they will be for the good of the majority.

**AUGUST OLSON.** No locality can prosper until it has a certain percentage of residents who have come into the neighborhood with the definite purpose of making a permanent home, because without them there is no settled population, and the men who only buy and hold on speculation have no special interest in developing the community in a lasting degree. Experience has proven that no country sends better people to our shores than does Sweden, and wherever

those of Swedish birth are found there is sure to be a healthy state of prosperity and excellent civic conditions. There are a number of these sturdy men who claim Sweden as a birthplace who have developed farming properties in the neighborhood of Hershey, and among them one worthy of special mention is August Olson of section 16, township 14.

August Olson was born in Sweden on February 16, 1872, a son of Lars E. and Mary C. (Anderson) Olson, natives of Sweden, both of whom are now deceased. They came to the United States in 1886 and homesteaded at Holdrege, Nebraska, and proved up their claim and there were engaged in general farming. When Lars E. Olson reached Nebraska he had thirty dollars in money and was in debt about \$800 for their passage over, but being a very industrious and thrifty man he cleared off his obligations, although for a number of years he and his family endured many hardships. For the first eight years all of his farm work was done with a yoke of oxen, he not feeling able to invest in a team as long as he was so deeply in debt. That he did succeed shows what can be accomplished provided a person is not afraid of hard work, and is not extravagant. Both he and his estimable wife were very active in the work of the Lutheran Church of their neighborhood, of which they were earnest members. From the time he secured his naturalization papers he exerted his right of suffrage, but usually voted independently. He and his wife had the following children: Anna, who is deceased; Albert, who is a farmer of Fairfax, South Dakota; August, whose name heads this review; and Ellen, who is the wife of August Steele, a farmer of Loomis, Nebraska.

August Olson attended the public schools of Bertrand, Nebraska, and assisted his father on the farm. After attaining his majority he went to South Dakota and homesteaded, and after he had proved up his claim disposed of it and in 1906 came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and bought 120 acres of land under irrigation, which is his present farm. He has put in his improvements, which are excellent, and here he is engaged in raising a diversified line of crops and a good grade of livestock, and has met with a remarkable degree of success in his undertakings.

In 1906 Mr. Olson was united in marriage at Holdrege, Nebraska, with Olive Sodergren, born in Sweden, whose parents were early settlers of Nebraska, owning a farm in the vicinity of Holdrege. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have five children, namely: Leonard, Carl, Naomi, Ellen and Alvin, all of whom are at home. They are all members of the Lutheran Church. Fraternally Mr. Olson maintains membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. A republican, he was elected on his party ticket to the office of treasurer of his school district while he was residing in South Dakota. Both Mr. Olson and his wife stand high in public esteem, and are recognized as being among the worthy residents of Lincoln county.

**ADEL L. LARSON.** Among the agriculturists of the younger generation in Lincoln county who are engaged in carrying on farming and stockraising operations on the properties formerly owned and operated by their fathers, one who has demonstrated the possession of sound ability and progressive tendencies is Adel L. Larson, of section 23 in the Gothenburg locality.

Mr. Larson was born in Perkins county, Nebraska, in 1886, and is a son of August and Emma Larson, natives of Sweden. His parents on immigrating to the United States first located in Clay county,

Nebraska, where they took up a homestead at Perkins, and this they proved up, although they later disposed of it after having made a number of improvements. In 1890 they came to Lincoln county, which continued to be the scene of August Larson's activities until his death. He was an industrious man who bore an excellent reputation for industry, integrity and good citizenship in his community, and was a republican in politics and a member of the Free Masons. He and Mrs. Larson, who survives him, were the parents of eight children: Charles, whose home is in Gothenburg; Lottie, who is the wife of John Reynolds, of Lincoln county; Gus, who is a Dawson county farmer; Minnie, the wife of W. H. Large, a rancher in Wyoming; Mrs. Anna Shires, whose husband is a Colorado farmer and ranchman; Herman, deceased; Oscar, who is carrying on agricultural operations near Brady; and Adel L., of this notice.

Adel L. Larson was four years of age when brought by his parents to Lincoln county, and this community has since continued to be his home. He received a public school education, was reared to farming pursuits, and at the time of his father's death took over the management of the homestead, which he has since conducted. He has met with success in his general farming activities, and is also known as a prosperous breeder of Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. Most of the improvements which now add to the value and attractiveness of the property have been installed by him, and the appearance of the property denotes the presence of able and effective management. He has for some years fed cattle and hogs for the markets, and in this connection has evidenced good business abilities, while those who have had business transactions with him will vouch for his integrity. He is independent as to his political allegiance, preferring to choose candidates by their individual character and ability rather than through the medium of party lines. His good citizenship has been shown in his support of worthy measures for the betterment of the community and the welfare of its people.

In 1909 Mr. Larson was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Sinderstrom, who, like her husband, was born in Nebraska, and to this union there have been born four children, all residing with their parents: Elva, Ellsworth, Clarence and Avin.

**DANIEL BAKER MCNEEL.** Among the citizens of Lincoln county to whom is vouchsafed an honored place in local history is the gentleman whose name appears as the caption to this sketch, who through an extended period has been connected with the farming and stock-raising interests of this locality, achieving a satisfactory degree of material success and winning the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

Daniel Baker McNeel was born in Washington county, Virginia, on September 5, 1850, and is the second in order of birth of the nine children who blessed the union of Austin D. and Emily (Davenport) McNeel, both of whom were also natives of the Old Dominion state. Austin McNeel followed agricultural pursuits all his life, carrying on general farming, and was a successful man in his business affairs. The children born to him and his wife were as follows: Austin, deceased; Daniel B., the immediate subject of this review; Walter B., deceased; Florence, who now lives in Butte, Montana; Allen G., deceased; Georgia, the wife of Jerry McCarty and lives in Texas; Augusta L., who lives in Sutherland, Nebraska; R. C., of Butte, Montana; and Gabriel, the wife of Timothy Martin, of Seattle, Washington.

Daniel B. McNeel secured his elementary education in the public schools of his home community in Virginia, upon the completion of which he became connected with the railroad business, which he followed for about twelve years. In 1874 Mr. McNeel came to Dawson county and in 1878 came to Lincoln county, where he worked as foreman of a section gang, and in 1885 homesteaded the place where he now lives. Through the subsequent years he has met with pronounced success and wisely has reinvested much of his earnings in more land, so that today he is the owner of about 12,000 acres of excellent deeded land, the greater part of which is classed as improved land. In addition to general farming operations Mr. McNeel has given considerable attention to the raising of livestock, principally Hereford cattle, in which his efforts have been rewarded with abundant success, he keeping herds of from 1,300 to 2,000 constantly grazing and preparing for market.

In 1873 Mr. McNeel was married to Elizabeth Caywood, a native of Virginia, and they have become the parents of seven children, namely: John A., of Sutherland, Nebraska; Emily E., who is the wife of C. E. Evans, of Lincoln county; Allen Grant, who lives on his father's ranch; Mabel, at home; Daniel B., Jr., and Edwin L. D., who live on the home ranch; and Georgie, who lives at home. Mr. McNeel gives his political support to the democratic party and fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is essentially a man among men, moving as one who commands respect by innate force, and he is numbered among the public-spirited, enterprising and popular farmers of his county.

**GEORGE SANDERS.** One of the successful and public-spirited citizens of Lincoln county is George Sanders, who withholds his cooperation from no movement which is calculated to advance the general welfare of the people. What he has achieved in life proves the force of his character and illustrates his steadfastness of purpose, his high standing in the various communities in which he has lived being the direct outcome of his persistent and worthy labors.

George Sanders was born in Missouri on June 13, 1887, and is the son of John and Susan E. (Rogers) Sanders, the former of whom was a native of Indiana and the latter of Missouri. The father, who has devoted his efforts to general farming in Missouri and, later, in Kansas, has been fairly successful in his business affairs and is held in high regard in his community. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and with his wife is now living in Kansas. To them were born eleven children, six of whom are living.

George Sanders received his educational training in the public schools of Missouri and Kansas and was reared to the life of a farmer, which vocation he has found to be satisfactory in every way. In 1908 he left Kansas and located in Colorado, where he remained for three years, at the end of which he returned to his old home in Kansas. In 1913 Mr. Sanders came to Lincoln county and bought the old William McDonald homestead, consisting of 160 acres of well improved land, to the cultivation of which he has since devoted himself. He carries on general farming operations, raising all the crops common to this locality and has shown good judgment and sound discrimination in all his operations.

In 1908 Mr. Sanders was married to Vea Land, and they have become the parents of two children, Jessie and Georgia. Mr. Sanders is independent of party ties in political affairs, reserving the right to vote for the men or measures which most nearly meet with his

approval. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. Essentially a man of affairs, Mr. Sanders is sound of judgment and far-seeing in all that he undertakes, and because of his success and his high personal character he has won and retains the confidence and esteem of all classes.

**W. S. Ross.** Among the influential citizens of Lincoln county the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, the gentleman whose name appears above has exerted a beneficial influence throughout the community where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also to largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

**W. S. Ross** is a native of Webster county, Iowa, where he was born on June 5, 1858, and is a son of Joseph and Mary (Barr) Ross, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. Joseph Ross was a farmer in Iowa for many years, and in 1887 he moved to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he entered a homestead. He remained there but a short time, however, returning to Iowa, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on March 19, 1900, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife died on September 3, 1898. They were the parents of nine children, of whom the following are still living: Thomas, of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Eanes, who lives at Aire, in the Missouri Ozark Mountains; Elizabeth is the wife of James I. Tracy, of Columbus, Kansas; **W. S.** is the subject of this sketch; E. G., who lives in the Ozark country, Missouri; and Charles of Atchison, Kansas.

**W. S. Ross** was reared and educated in Webster county, Iowa, remaining there as a farmer until 1888, when he came to Lincoln county and filed on a homestead, which he proved up, and then sold it for \$200. He then bought more land and is now the owner of 160 acres of splendid land in section 23, township 14, range 31. He has devoted his efforts indefatigably to the operation of this farm, and his efforts have been rewarded with splendid success through his good management and industry. For about twenty years he lived about eighteen miles north of his present place and gave much of his attention to stockraising, in which he prospered.

In 1883 Mr. Ross was married to Nancy Wheeler, a native of Iowa, and their union has been blessed by the birth of eight children, namely: Charles Leroy, of North Platte, Lincoln county; George Wesley, of North Platte; Leona, who is the wife of Nathan Scott, of this county; Mabel, who is the wife of Fred Brown, of Dickens, this county; William McKinley, Grace, Homer and Vern, who remain at home.

Politically Mr. Ross is independent, though with leanings toward the republican party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to both lodge and encampment. Essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and far-seeing in all he has undertaken, he has been eminently successful and has won and retained the confidence and esteem of all classes.

**VAN LAWRENCE.** Among the enterprising and successful younger ranchmen of Lincoln county none takes precedence over the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. Mr. Lawrence has exhibited in

his business operations those qualities of judgment and discrimination which always insure success, and he has made a most favorable impression on all who know him. Mr. Lawrence is the son of Fred and Ora, (Murdock) Lawrence, both of whom were natives of Missouri, and is one of the two children born to this worthy couple, he having a sister, Pearl, who is the wife of Leo Salers, of Maywood, Nebraska. Fred Lawrence has followed farming practically all his life, and came from Missouri to Lincoln county in 1905. He here entered a homestead and applied himself to general farming and stockraising, in which he is still engaged, and is numbered among the enterprising farmers of his locality.

Van Lawrence was born in Parnell, Missouri, on November 7, 1888, and received his education in the public schools of his locality. In 1905 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Lincoln county, and immediately engaged in the business of ranching. He has been more than ordinarily successful and is now the owner of 3,500 acres of land, which he is devoting to cattle raising. Energetic and sagacious, he is rapidly gaining an enviable reputation in his line and is considered a man of unusual ability.

In 1909 Mr. Lawrence was married to Vere Hurd, a native of Nebraska, and they are the parents of two children, Troy and Wayne. Mr. Lawrence is independent in his political attitude and is public-spirited in his attitude towards all movements which promise to advance the public welfare. Because of his success, his high character and his genial disposition, he has won a host of warm and loyal friends throughout this community.

**WILLIAM H. C. WOODHURST.** A man of versatile talents, well-educated, and full of the push and energy that commands success in any walk of life, William H. C. Woodhurst, a well-known and prosperous insurance man of North Platte, is now rendering able service as county judge of Lincoln county. A son of the late William Woodhurst, he was born April 17, 1860, in St. Joseph, Missouri.

William Woodhurst was born on board ship in New York harbor while his parents were crossing the Atlantic en route to the United States from their native country. Learning the trade of a plasterer and brick mason when young, he followed it first in St. Joseph, Missouri, and later in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1862 he made an overland trip to California, crossing the plains with his family in an ox team. During the four or more years he remained on the Pacific Coast he did some very good mining. Returning east with his wife and children, he made the trip by water, crossing the Isthmus of Panama and landing in New York. The voyage was rather tempestuous, a fearful storm off Cape Hatteras badly damaging the ship and delaying it four days. From New York he went to Indiana, from there coming to Omaha, Nebraska, in 1867. In 1868 he settled in Lincoln county, and soon after was made deputy sheriff. He was afterward twice elected sheriff, later serving as county commissioner, and subsequently being appointed warden of the State Penitentiary at Lincoln. He spent the closing years of his life in North Platte, dying in 1916.

William Woodhurst married in St. Joseph, Missouri, Mary Rodgers, a native of Indiana. She died in Denver, Colorado, leaving two children, Charles J., a civil engineer, who died in Billings, Montana, in 1917, and William H. C. Politically the father was a staunch supporter of the principles of the republican party, and religiously

he was broad and liberal in his views, and an active member of the Unitarian Church. The mother, true to the religious faith in which she was reared, was a member of the Christian Church.

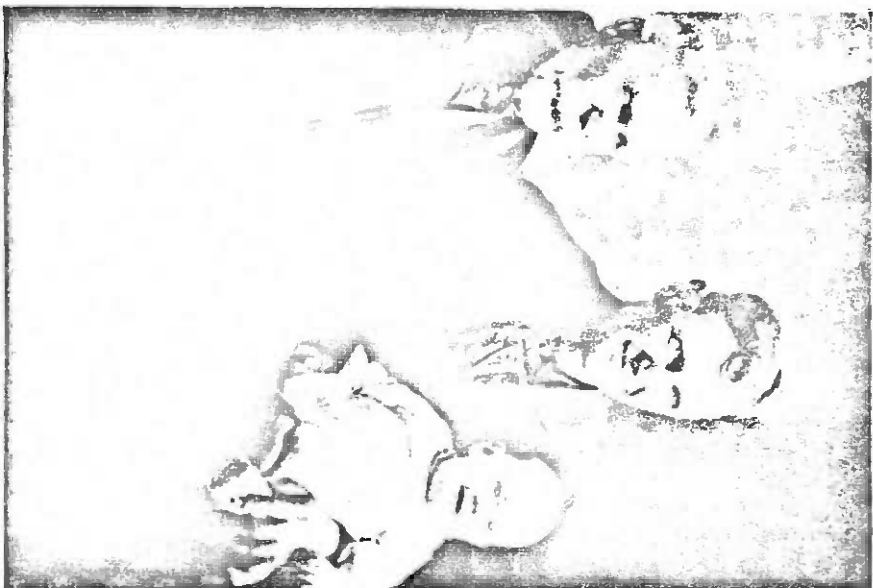
After leaving the public schools William H. C. Woodhurst continued his studies in different institutions of learning, attending the Gem City Business College in Quincy, Illinois; Tabor College in Tabor, Iowa; and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. His first employment as a wage-earner was at Pacific Junction, Iowa, where he was ticket agent for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad for two years. Going then to Quincy, Illinois, he completed the commercial course at the Gem City Business College, and immediately after, in 1886, went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, as clerk to the superintendent of the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1887 the company transferred him to North Platte, giving him the position of express and baggage agent. He was later travel, freight and passenger agent for the Des Moines & Kansas City Railway for a year, but subsequently resumed his work in the express and baggage office; continuing for four or five years.

Resigning from that position, Mr. Woodhurst accepted the receivership of the United States Land Office on March 11, 1892, and held it for 2½ years when, for alleged offensive partisanship, he was ousted by Grover Cleveland. He was then appointed deputy county clerk, and resigned that position. Embarking then in the insurance business, he was appointed state agent for the North British Mercantile Company, for which he traveled twelve years, having charge of the Nebraska and Black Hill territory. Resigning his agency, Mr. Woodhurst was again appointed Receiver for the United States Land Office, and held the office four years, after which he resumed his insurance business. In February, 1918, he was appointed county judge, and in November, 1919, was elected to that position, and is performing the duties devolving upon him in that capacity with characteristic zeal and fidelity.

Mr. Woodhurst married first, June 16, 1887, Bessie Anderson, daughter of William H. Anderson, a banker at Glenwood, Iowa. She was a woman of much culture and a valued member of the Episcopal Church. She passed to the higher life in 1894. Mr. Woodhurst married for his second wife Mattie D. Donohewer, a native of Hannibal, Missouri, their marriage being solemnized December 19, 1895. Mr. and Mrs. Woodhurst have two children. Sherwood, born in 1896, was discharged from the army at Camp Kearney, California, early in 1919, and is now with the Tollefson Motor Company of Kearney, Nebraska; and Thurston, born in 1897, is employed in a shoe store at North Platte.

An uncompromising republican, Mr. Woodhurst became identified with politics before attaining his majority, and in 1915 was elected to the State Legislature, representing in that body Dawson, Keith and Lincoln counties. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, being a Knight Templar and a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Mrs. Woodhurst is a member of the Episcopal Church, with which she united when young.

**SIMON WHITE.** One of the honored farmers and representative citizens of Lincoln county, specifically entitled to mention in a work of the nature of the one in hand, is Simon White, whose fine farm is located in section 31, township 13, range 32. As a result of his earlier years of strenuous endeavor he is now a man of substantial



SIMON WHITE, TAMMAGE WHITE (son)  
DEWITT WHITE (grandson)



MRS. SIMON WHITE



worth and ranks among the most enterprising farmers in his section of the county, where he enjoys an enviable standing among his fellow agriculturists.

Simon White was born in Greene county, Indiana, on the 8th day of September, 1852, and is the son of Warren and Dicey White, both of whom were natives of southern Indiana. The father always followed farming, in which he was successful, and he and his wife are both now deceased. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Simon, the immediate subject of this sketch; Joseph, deceased; Nancy, deceased; Dicey, who is living in Brown county, Indiana; Henry, who lives in California; David, also in California; Cyrus, who lives in Illinois; William, of Illinois.

Simon White was reared in his native state and received his education in the common schools of his home neighborhood. He remained there until 1884, when he came to Nebraska, settling in Kearney, where he remained for about a year, coming then to Lincoln county, where he obtained a tract of land by homestead entry. To the improvement and cultivation of this land he at once applied himself vigorously and in the course of time he developed it into one of the choice farms of this locality. He is now the owner of 480 acres of land, on which he is engaged in farming and stockraising and in the operation of which lines he has met with pronounced success. Energetic, up-to-date and discriminating in his judgment, he has devoted himself indefatigably to his business affairs and enjoys a high reputation among his fellows as a man of more than ordinary ability and success.

Mr. White was married in Indiana in 1871 to Sarah Stone, who was born in the southern part of Indiana, the daughter of Enoch and Sarah Stone, also natives of the Hoosier state, where they followed farming during all the years of their active lives, and are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. White were born the following children: Mrs. Minnie Moore, of North Platte; Mrs. Effie Reynolds, who lives in California; Mrs. Lulu Miller, of Lincoln county; Mrs. Myrtle Socup, who lives in Iowa; Mrs. Iola Danielson, of Sutherland, Nebraska; Mrs. Cora Danielson, of Sutherland; Talmage, a farmer in this county; and Mrs. Lummie Ecklund, of Lincoln county.

Mr. White is independent in his political attitude, casting his vote and influence as his judgment dictates. He takes an intelligent interest in local public affairs and at one time was a member of the School Board of District No. 17. He and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and give their support to every worthy benevolent object. They are popular members of the social circles in which they move, being generally liked by all who know them.

**H. M. GRIMES.** Among the able and influential members of the bar H. M. Grimes, of North Platte, has won unmistakable prestige in his professional career, and as district judge has jurisdiction over seven counties of Nebraska. A son of the late Firman Grimes, he was born in Russellville, Indiana, of good old Kentucky stock, his paternal grandfather, Edward L. Grimes, having been born and reared in Virginia, from whence he moved to Kentucky and from there to Indiana in 1831.

Firman Grimes was born in Kentucky, where his parents resided for a short time before locating in Indiana. Learning the trade of a saddle and harness maker, he followed it in Russellville, Indiana, until his death. He there married Nancy J. Evans, a daughter of

James Evans, who migrated from Virginia, his native state, to Kentucky, and from there moving to Indiana in 1829. Two children were born of their union, as follows: Henry M., who owns and manages the old homestead in Russellville, Indiana, the father having been a farmer as well as saddler; and H. M., the special subject of this brief sketch. The father was a republican in politics, and both he and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church during their lives.

After his graduation from Asbury University in Greencastle, Indiana, in 1875, H. M. Grimes entered the law department of the State University of Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1877. Immediately opening an office in Bedford, Iowa, he practiced law there two years, and then came to Nebraska, locating in Ord on April 1, 1880. In August, 1884, Mr. Grimes, wishing to secure a broader field of endeavor, settled in North Platte, where his professional skill and ability were soon recognized, attracting a large clientage, his practice becoming extensive and remunerative. In November, 1895, he was honored with an election as judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District, which includes Dawson, Lincoln, McPherson, Keith, Deuel and Cheyenne counties, and has since devoted his entire time and attention to the distinctive work of his professional position. For fourteen months previous to the election the judge was Registrar for the United States Land Office.

Judge Grimes married, October 5, 1880, Mary McCracken, who was born in Iowa, a daughter of Thomas McCracken, a pioneer merchant of Bedford, Iowa. Their only child, Lee D. Grimes, a civil engineer, builder and contractor of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and very prosperous in his work, died in December, 1918, at the age of thirty-three years, his death being not only a great sorrow to his parents, but a loss to the community in which he resided. Religiously Mrs. Grimes is a member of the Episcopal Church. Politically the judge is a staunch republican, and in 1883 represented Valley county in the State Legislature. Fraternally he joined the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons August 12, 1884, and he also belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

FRED W. ERICSSON. More than ordinary interest attaches to the farm of Fred W. Ericsson in the Brady community, for not only was this the first property homesteaded in Lincoln county, but it also comprised an old stage station from St. Joseph westward during the early history of white settlement in this region. The present owner, an agriculturist of progressive spirit and enterprise, who has become well-to-do by reason of his industry and good management, has the distinction of being the second white child born in Lincoln county, his birth having occurred at old Fort McPherson in 1868, a son of Emil E. and Marie (Olson) Ericsson, natives of Sweden.

Emil E. Ericsson was a young man when he immigrated to the United States in 1854, and was first a settler at Rock Island, Illinois, from whence he moved shortly thereafter to St. Louis, Missouri. There he was married, and during the period of the Civil war served in the Union Army as a member of the State Militia, being principally concerned in guard duty. In 1866 he went to Nebraska City and in the following year traveled overland to Lincoln county, where, while looking for a good location, he cut ties to be used in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, which was steadfastly pushing its rails westward. As noted, he became the first homesteader in Lincoln county, and for some years, until the railroad had become

the regular means of transportation, his farm served as a stage station. Mr. Ericsson paid the first taxes in Lincoln county and became a man of some importance and influence in his community, serving as assessor and justice of the peace and being a member of the board of county commissioners for about three terms. He was a stalwart democrat in his political adherence, and both he and his worthy wife were consistent members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Fannie, who is the wife of W. G. Mellon, a ranchman of North Park, Colorado; Louise, the wife of John Burke, of North Platte, Nebraska; Emma, the wife of J. D. Malon, who is interested in the potash business at Denver, Colorado; Emil E., a resident of Ontario, California; Fred W., of this notice; Christina, the wife of H. P. Votaw, a commission merchant of Denver; Anna, long a popular and efficient educator, who is now superintendent of schools of Clayton, New Mexico; and Royal S., who is engaged in farming near Brady, Nebraska.

Fred W. Ericsson was educated in the early schools of Lincoln county, and all of his early training was along the lines of agriculture, an industry which he learned thoroughly in all its branches. Until he reached man's estate he was engaged in assisting his father, and some time after he reached his majority purchased the old home place from his father and has continued to follow general farming and stockraising thereon. The home is still made of logs, but is commodious and comfortable, and other improvements on the place testify to the industry, progressiveness and good taste of the owner, while the general prosperity makes it evident that his management has been capable. He carries on general farming along modern lines and with improved machinery, and has also engaged extensively in the raising of pure blood Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs. He has found no time for matters outside of his agricultural work, and as to public affairs only shows a good citizen's interest, and is an independent voter.

Mr. Ericsson was married in 1900 to Miss Anna Johnson, who was born in Lincoln county, and a graduate of the high school at North Platte. She is a daughter of August Johnson, who was an early settler of the county and a highly respected man of his day. Mrs. Ericsson is a member of the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Ericsson attends its services and supports its movements.

**JONATHAN D. DRAKE.** In the passing away of Jonathan D. Drake in 1909 Lincoln county sustained an agricultural loss of more than average import. Mr. Drake left behind him a legacy not only of material wealth but of useful lessons, and he who would may read that early limitations develop rather than break the strong and resourceful.

Mr. Drake was born in Illinois, where his education was confined to intermittent attendance at the public schools, and in his youth was aided by only his own ability, industry and determination. He was reared in his native state, where he was married, following which he went to Iowa and there secured land and engaged in general farming and stockraising. From that state he continued to Nebraska, settling first in Frontier county, where he bought land and continued his operations for a time, and then came to Lincoln county, where the rest of his life was passed on his homestead. During his active life Mr. Drake drew to him many warm and devoted friends, and the confidence of the communities in which he lived and worthily labored. As far as general qualities were concerned, he was well adapted

to the occupation to which he devoted so many years of his life, and his properties always reflected his good management and industry. While a resident of Frontier county he served capably as constable, and in Lincoln county was a notary public for many years. In politics he invariably maintained an independent stand.

Mr. Drake was married in Illinois to a young lady who was also born in that state, Miss Ella M. Blunck, and who survives him and resides on the home place in the vicinity of Maxwell. They became the parents of four children: Edith, the wife of Ike Smith, of Maxwell; Lester, one of the operators of the home farm, who married Nettie Graves, a native of South Dakota, and has two children, Earl Gross and Ervin; Claude, born in Frontier county, in 1891, who conducts operations on the home farm with his brother Lester; and Maude, who is deceased.

**ULRICH FIKENSCHER.** To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our great country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterizes the foreign element, both those who have come direct from the European nations and their American-born children. By comparison with their "old country" surroundings these people have readily recognized the fact that in the United States lie the greatest opportunities for the man of ambition and energy. And because of this many have broken the ties of home and native land and have entered earnestly upon the task of gaining in the new world a home and a competence. Among this class may be mentioned the Fikenschers family, of whom Ulrich Fikenschers is a worthy representative, and because of his success and splendid attainments he is eminently worthy of representation in a work of this character.

Ulrich Fikenschers was born in Germany on the 8th day of January, 1849. He was reared and educated in his native land and there spent the first thirty-six years of his life. However, desiring larger opportunities for personal advancement than could be obtained in his native land, in 1885 he immigrated to the United States. His parents, John Domas and M. Barbara Fikenschers, never left their native land, and both are deceased. The father, who was born on a farm, became a carpet weaver in mature life, and lived to the age of seventy-two years.

On arriving in this country Ulrich Fikenschers came at once to Lincoln county and entered a homestead tract of 160 acres. The customs and language of the country were strange to him, but he courageously and energetically applied himself to the task of developing a farm, and how well he succeeded may be evidenced by the statement that eventually he became the owner of 960 acres of as good land as can be found in his section of the county. Those early years were not a path of roses by any means, however, for he had to contend with innumerable obstacles and discouragements, among which was the complete destruction of his home and farm buildings by fire and three successive years of complete ruination of his crops by hail. But these incidents served to prove the mettle of the man, who showed that he possessed the qualities that always insure success, and today he is enjoying the fruits of those years of toil and privations. He carries on a general line of farming operations, in connection with which he gives considerable attention to the breeding and raising of livestock, which has been a large contributory element to his success. The permanent improvements on the place are of a substantial character and all the machinery and implements are up-to-date.

In 1878 Mr. Fikenscher was married to Agatha Leupolt, and to this union have been born eight children, namely: John; Henry, deceased; Mrs. Emma Stephens, of Dawson county, Nebraska; Mrs. Mary Stephens, of Cheyenne county, Nebraska; George, who remains at home with his parents; Mrs. Sophie Hill, of Lincoln county; Martin; and Lizzie, who is at home. Martin enlisted in the United States service on September 5, 1918, and was in Camp Grant at Rockford, Illinois, and Camp Hancock, Georgia. He was assigned to Machine Gun Company Twenty-three, but was not sent overseas, being honorably discharged on February 28, 1919.

Politically Mr. Fikenscher is independent, preferring to support those men and policies which in his opinion are for the general welfare, regardless of party lines. His only public office has been that of road overseer. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, to which he gives generous support. In his record there is much that is commendable and his character forcibly illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles and high ideals.

**AUGUST BERGSTROM.** The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and character the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the favorably known and representative citizens of Lincoln county, where he has lived for more than a generation in time. Mr. Bergstrom has by his indomitable energy and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the advancement of his community during the course of an honorable career, and he has ascended through his individual efforts from the bottom of the ladder to a place of importance in his locality, having ever been known as a man of unswerving honesty, sound judgment and high purpose. His career may well be studied with profit by the youth whose fortune is yet a matter for the future to determine, for it shows what one may accomplish, although foreign born and thrown in none too favorable environment if one has courage, fortitude and energy, backed by right principles.

August Bergstrom, who is now in the eighty-eighth year of his life and retired from active business pursuits, was born in Sweden on the 23d day of December, 1832. His parents, who never came to this country, were Nels and Greta Sophia Donelson, farming folk in Sweden. Both are now deceased, passing away at the age of sixty years. August Bergstrom was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until twenty-eight years of age. In 1860 he came to the United States and secured employment with the government, following that work for five years. In 1865 he went to Lake county, Indiana, where for eleven years he was employed at railroad work. In 1876 he came to Phillips, Nebraska, and entered a homestead claim. This he afterwards sold and then came to Lincoln county and took up a tree claim of 160 acres. To the improvement of this tract he at once applied himself with energy and to such good purpose that prosperity attended his efforts and during the subsequent years he was enabled to add to his possessions from time to time until he became the owner of 640 acres in all. His first home here was a sod-house, and at that time he was about the only settler in his section of the county. There were no fences of any kind, the country being all open and without improvements of any character. His first years here were marked by labor of the most strenuous sort, and he endured many privations and made many sacrifices, but his efforts were eventually rewarded in a degree of prosperity which enabled him a

number of years ago to relinquish the active work of the farm and enjoy that rest to which his years of toil so richly entitled him.

On April 3, 1869, he was married in Chicago to Tilda Skoog, a native of Sweden, and they have become the parents of six children, namely: Mrs. Christina S. Manuson, who lives near Lexington, Nebraska; Amanda Sophia, the wife of Andrew Shostrum, of Custer county, Nebraska; Carl August, at home; George, also at home; Seth, of Lincoln county; and Thura, who died in infancy. The family are members of the Swedish Mission Church, while in political affairs Mr. Bergstrom is not bound by party ties, preferring to reserve for himself the right to support such candidates as meet with his approval. He has always been an earnest advocate of the best educational methods and served for a number of years as a member of the school board of his township. Measured by the true standard of excellence, he has been an honorable, upright gentleman, true to himself and to others, and his influence has always been potent for good. His life has been one of integrity and usefulness, and he today enjoys the unlimited esteem and regard of all who know him.

**GUST HELBERG.** It is a compliment worthily bestowed to say that Lincoln county is honored by the citizenship of Gust Helberg, whose fine farm is located in section 26, township 14, range 26, for he has achieved definite success through his own efforts and is thoroughly deserving of the proud title of self-made man, the term being one that in its better sense cannot but appeal to the loyal admiration of all who are appreciative of our national institutions and the privileges afforded for individual accomplishment, and it is a privilege, ever gratifying in this day and age, to meet a man who has the courage to face the battle of life with a strong heart and steady hand and to win in the stern conflict by bringing to bear only those forces with which nature has equipped him—self-reliance, self-respect, industry and integrity.

Gust Helberg was born in Sweden on the 2d day of April, 1858, and is the son of J. and Louise Olsen, both of whom also were natives of Sweden, and never left their native land. The father was a farmer by vocation and died at the age of sixty-five years, being survived a number of years by his widow, who passed away at the age of ninety years. They were the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters, of which number four are now residing in the United States, namely: Magnus, who lives in Arkansas; John, of Michigan; Mrs. Christina Lunden, of Michigan; and Gust.

Gust Helberg was reared in his native land and secured his education in the public schools. In 1880, desiring larger opportunities for advancement in material affairs, he came to the United States, and in 1886 he came to Lincoln county and filed on a homestead of 160 acres and also entered a tree claim. He at once entered upon the task of improving this land and getting it in cultivation, but his first years here were years of hard and unremitting toil, for the country was new, comparatively few settlers being in his locality when he settled here. However, his labors and sacrifices were in due time rewarded and success crowned his efforts. He is now the owner of 480 acres of fine land, about 160 acres of which are under cultivation, the remainder being developed to stockraising purposes, in which he has been very successful. He carries on general farming operations and has showed excellent judgment in his management of his farm. The farm buildings are substantial in character, and he does

not hesitate to adopt the latest ideas in agriculture when satisfied of their superiority over old methods.

On the 27th of April, 1885, in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Helberg was united in marriage with Betty Tareburg, who also is a native of Sweden, coming to the United States when she was twenty-three years of age. To this union seven children have been born, namely: Dennis, of Omaha, Nebraska; Lydia, who died at the age of twenty-nine years; Wilbert, who is a student in the Chicago University; Rollo, of Lincoln county; Benjamin, of Arnold, Nebraska; and Seth and Signe, at home. Mr. Helberg has been a busy man, but has not permitted his interest in his material affairs to interfere with his duty to the community as a private citizen, for he has always taken a keen interest in the public affairs of his locality, at all times giving his support to every movement for the welfare of the people. Because of his public-spirit, his amicable relations with his fellow men and his business success he occupies a warm place in the regard of all who know him.

**N. R. HENDRICKSON.** A man of naturally sound judgment and shrewd perception, characteristics of the Swedish race, to which N. R. Hendrickson belongs, he has so ordered his career as to be eminently eligible to representation in a work of this character. He has risen through his strictly moral habits, his attention to business and persistent industry, and his name stands high today among his fellow citizens. His domestic and social connections have ever been of the most pleasant character, and the fact that his surroundings are such as to make life enjoyable is due solely to his individual merits, for he has won his success by honest, hard work during the years of his residence here.

N. R. Hendrickson was born in Sweden on May 28, 1880, and is the son of A. P. and Mary Hendrickson, both of whom were natives of Sweden, where the father followed farming. In 1888 the family came to the United States, locating first in Phillips county, Nebraska for one year, and then came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded 160 acres of land, to the cultivation of which he applied his energies during the remaining active years of his life. He and his wife are both deceased, he dying at the age of seventy-three years and his wife at the age of seventy-one years. N. R. Hendrickson was but eight years of age when the family came to this country, and his educational training was therefore received in the public schools here. He accompanied his family on their removal from Phillips county to Lincoln county, and was reared to the life of a farmer, remaining at home with his parents and assisting his father in the farm work. He is now farming on his own account and is the owner of 320 acres of land, on which he carries on general farming operations. He also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, in which also he has been successful. The farm is well improved, and its general appearance indicates the owner to be a man of good taste and sound judgment. During his early years on the farm here he saw some hard times, enduring privations and sacrifices, but prosperity has crowned his efforts and today he is numbered among the leading farmers of his community.

In this county Mr. Hendrickson was married to Hilda Swanson, the daughter of Swan Swanson, of Sweden, where she was born and both her parents are still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson have been born four children, Ellen, Ethel, Verell and Herbert. Politically Mr. Hendrickson is independent, not being aligned with

either of the great parties and preferring to vote as he deems best for the general welfare. His religious membership is with the Lutheran Church, to which he is a liberal giver. He is a man of genial disposition and generous impulses, and has won a host of warm personal friends throughout this section of the county.

**GABRIEL OMAN.** An enumeration of the enterprising and representative Swedish citizens of Lincoln county would be incomplete without specific mention of Gabriel Oman, for since casting his lot with us he has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and benefited alike himself and his neighbors, for while laboring for his own advancement he has not been selfish and neglected his duties to the public in general, but he always supports such measures as make for the general good.

Gabriel Oman was born in Sweden February 17, 1843, and was reared and educated there. In 1871, when about twenty-eight years of age, he determined to seek a land where larger opportunities awaited the man of energy and ambition, and accordingly he sailed for the United States, whither so many of his neighbors and countrymen has preceded him. It was a well-advised move for him, for since coming to this country he has realized the fruition of his hopes and aspirations and is today in comfortable financial circumstances. Upon his arrival in this country he at once proceeded to Omaha, Nebraska, where for thirteen years he found employment as a laborer. In 1884 Mr. Oman came to Lincoln county and homesteaded 160 acres of land in section 24, township 14, range 26, where his present comfortable home is situated. He at once applied himself with energy to the task of improving this place and putting it into cultivation. His first home here was a sod-house, which served as a residence for the family for fifteen years. Mr. Oman carried on general farming operations and also gave some attention to the raising of livestock. He raises all the crops common to the section of the country and has showed excellent judgment in his farm management. His present fine farm comprises 640 acres of land, and the home and farm buildings are of such a character as reflect credit on their owner. Mr. Oman's first years here were trying and work was carried on under difficulties that would have discouraged a man of less mettle. For instance, it was necessary to haul water from Gothenburg and the Platte River twenty miles away. Now Mr. Oman has a fine well on his farm 440 feet deep giving the best of pure water. There is but little now to remind one of the primitive conditions under which the early settlers of that pioneer period were compelled to inaugurate their work here, and they deserve the thanks of the present generation for their early efforts in preparing the country for the succeeding generation.

In 1881 Mr. Oman was married to Johanna Nelson, who was born and reared in Sweden and who came to the United States at the age of twenty-one years. Six children have blessed this union, namely: Mrs. Bina Olson, of Elsie, Nebraska; Hilma, who is at home; Elmer, who lives in Custer county, Nebraska; Emil, at home; Emma, who is a successful school teacher in Lincoln county; and Victor, who is at home.

Politically Mr. Oman gives his support to the republican party and takes an intelligent interest in local public affairs, though not ambitious for public office. His religious membership is with the Swedish Mission Church, of which he is a liberal supporter. The



splendid success which has come to Mr. Oman is directly traceable to the salient points in his character. for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder, which he mounted unaided, his great energy, sound judgment, keen discrimination and perseverance resulting in the accumulation of a handsome property.

**F. A. WILL.** That the plentitude of satiety is seldom attained in the affairs of life is to be considered a most beneficial deprivation, for where ambition is satisfied and every ultimate end realized, if such be possible, apathy must follow. The men who have pushed forward the wheels of progress have been those to whom satisfaction lies ever in the future, who have labored continuously, always finding in each transition stage an incentive for further effort. F. A. Will, farmer and stockraiser of Lincoln county, is one whose well directed efforts have gained for him a position of desired prominence in the various circles in which he moves, and his energy and enterprise have been crowned by success. Thus, having ever had the interests of his county at heart and sought to promote them in every way possible, he has well earned a place along with his enterprising fellow citizens in the permanent history of Lincoln county.

F. A. Will was born in the State of Wisconsin on November 2, 1872, and is the son of Frederick and Louise (Mintz) Will. The father was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1856, settling in Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming during his active years. He spent the remainder of his life there, dying at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, and is survived by his widow, who is now eighty-five years of age. They became the parents of ten children, three sons and seven daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch is the youngest son and the only one surviving.

F. A. Will was reared under the parental roof and secured a good practical education in the common schools of his home neighborhood. He remained at home until reaching manhood's years, and then moved to Tilden, Madison county, Nebraska, where he lived for a number of years, at the end of which period he moved to Knox county, Nebraska. In 1907 Mr. Will came to Lincoln county and bought his present fine farm, comprising 320 acres of good land located in section 25, township 14, range 26, and here he has made a distinct success as a farmer and stockraiser, enjoying a splendid reputation in his community as an enterprising and progressive farmer. His place is well improved in every respect, including attractive and substantial farm buildings, while his methods are those of the up-to-date farmers who are not slow to adopt new methods when convinced of their superiority over former methods.

Politically Mr. Will takes an independent attitude, supporting the candidates and measures which in his opinion are for the general welfare. He is a member of the New Hope Church, to which he gives liberal support. He is well liked throughout the community because of his public-spirited attitude toward all local affairs of common interest and for his clean character and business success. His life has not been a path of roses, for he has richly earned his present handsome property by hard toil and indefatigable industry, appreciating the dignity of honest labor. In 1882 Mr. Will had an experience which nearly cost him his life, having been struck by lightning, which so affected him that he was unconscious for three days. The same stroke of lightning instantly killed his brother, who was standing near him.

**BUTLER BUCHANAN.** Coming to Nebraska with a scant supply of this world's goods, but with an unlimited stock of energy, courage and perseverance, Butler Buchanan, of North Platte, has steadily climbed the ladder of attainments, through his own efforts having accumulated a good property and gained a place of prominence and influence in the business and political circles of city and county. A son of the late O. H. P. Buchanan, he was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 16, 1854, and there spent the first five years of his life.

O. H. P. Buchanan was born in 1825, in Pennsylvania, near Independence, on his father's farm, through which the line separating the Keystone state from Virginia passed, while his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Waugh, was born on the other side of the line in Virginia. A camp meeting has been held on that same farm for many, many years, the annual attendance of Pennsylvania and Virginians being about equally divided. Migrating with his family to Iowa in 1859, O. H. P. Buchanan bought land and began the improvement of a homestead, but in the panic of 1873 was unfortunate and suffered a loss. In 1885 he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, bought a tract of land, and carried on general farming for several years. His ventures proving successful, he moved to North Platte, and there lived retired from active labor until his death in 1904. He was a man of more than average intelligence and ability, well-read and observant, possessing sound business judgment, and while in Iowa served as justice of the peace, and was one of the directors of the Iowa State College at Ames, and master of the State Grange of Iowa and active in the local Grange. In politics he was first identified with the democratic party, later joining the republican ranks, and at the time of his death was a democrat.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Buchanan seven children were born, four of whom are living, as follows: Butler, the special subject of this sketch; Jennie, wife of Ira L. Miltonberger, of North Platte; Sallie B., widow of the late Rodger A. Davidson, of North Platte; and Thomas D., a claim adjuster living in Omaha. The mother was born in 1832, and died at North Platte in 1916. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church.

Completing his studies in the State Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, Butler Buchanan was a tiller of the soil until twenty years old, when he embarked in the grocery business in Iowa. Desirous of trying the hazard of new fortunes, he sold out his store and stock, and on August 22, 1882, came to Nebraska, locating in the southern part of Lincoln county, where he pre-empted a tract of land and took up a homestead claim. After living there four years Mr. Buchanan, having lost all of his money, secured a position as clerk in a grocery store at North Platte, and began life anew, his employer being the county treasurer. Mr. Buchanan was subsequently made deputy county treasurer, and served so ably in that capacity that he was made county treasurer, and filled the office for four years.

Being elected county clerk in the fall of 1889, Mr. Buchanan held the position two years, and in 1894 was elected county treasurer, a position of trust and responsibility that he filled most acceptably from 1895 until 1898, inclusive. During the time he was thus occupied he worked on abstract books, continuing in abstract work for twenty-two years, his knowledge of its requirements and his accuracy making him especially competent for the work. He was likewise associated with the real estate and insurance business, from 1899 until

the spring of 1919 having been in partnership with T. C. Patterson. The firm being then dissolved and the business divided, Mr. Buchanan admitted his son Frank to a copartnership, and is continuing his work with the same good success that characterized his previous dealings. The firm of Buchanan & Patterson was noted for its extensive dealings, handling almost exclusively its own land, at one time having title to 10,000 acres.

Mr. Buchanan married, July 10, 1879, Emma Newbold, who was born in Van Buren county, Iowa. Her father, the late J. G. Newbold, was a man of much prominence in Iowa, conspicuously identified with the republican party, and for two years served as governor of the state. He had previously filled the office of lieutenant governor, succeeding Mr. Kirkwood when he was elected to the United States Senate. He served as a soldier in the Civil war, being captain of his company. His widow, a venerable woman of eighty-nine years, is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Buchanan. Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan have three children, namely: Perry G., managing the farm of his father, who owns about 1,200 acres of land; Frank M., in business with his father; and Clark, of Los Angeles, California, a member of the Auto Club of Southern California. Mr. Buchanan is a democrat in politics, and is a Mason.

**WILLIAM H. HOUSER.** The early settlers of Lincoln county passed through some experiences which will not come to those of the present generation if they remain in this locality. The pioneers of this section of the state had to exert their ingenuity to provide a shelter for their families and stock, for there was very little natural timber, and lumber was too expensive. The majority of them fashioned crude sod-houses and in them carried on their ordinary home activities until they had acquired a sufficient amount of this world's goods to replace their original home with one fashioned from better materials. It is remarkable how warm and comfortable those little houses were, and how happy the homes made in them, and one of the men who looks back with pleasure upon the memories of those days is William H. Houser of section 8, township 12, who now owns a finely improved farm in the Maxwell neighborhood.

He was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, on January 1, 1862, a son of Josiah and Elizabeth (Bronson) Houser, natives of Pennsylvania. Josiah Houser conducted a sawmill in Pennsylvania, but left it in 1868 and migrated west to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he homesteaded, proved up his claim and achieved a fair measure of success as a farmer and stockraiser. In politics he was a republican. While he was not a member of any religious organization, he gave his support to the Lutheran Church, of which his wife was a devout member. Their children were as follows: Edwin, who is a railroad man of Minnesota; Emma, who is the wife of Henry Fries of Upland, Nebraska; Amelia, who is the wife of Frank Wilsey, of the State of Washington; and three who are deceased.

William H. Houser came west to Kansas with his parents, and in 1892 left that state for Nebraska, renting land in Dawson county for six years, and then in 1898 he came to Lincoln county and bought a squatter's rights to his present farm. He has always raised a diversified line of crops and a good grade of livestock, and is now specializing on Duroc-Jersey and Poland-China hogs. All of the improvements on his farm have been made by him, and they reflect credit upon his good management and sense of order. The

present residence is a vast improvement on the original sod house, but the same kindly spirit of hospitality prevails in it as characterized the pioneer home of the Houser family. Mr. Houser is a stockholder in the Farmers Union of Omaha and of the Galloway Company.

In 1893 Mr. Houser was married in Dawson county, Nebraska to Grace Anderson, a daughter of A. G. Anderson, an early settler of Dawson county. Not only are both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson still living, but Mr. Anderson's mother survives, having reached the unusual age of ninety-two years. There were eight children in the Anderson family, six of whom survive, including: Mrs. Houser, who is the eldest; Ada, who is the wife of Lewis Sommer, of Lincoln county; Alma, who is the wife of Will Love, resides near Cozad, Nebraska; Ella, who is the wife of Andres Anderson; and Hazel, who is the wife of Roland Johnson, of Gothenburg, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Houser became the parents of the following children: Owen, who enlisted for service during the great war at North Platte, was trained at Lincoln, Nebraska, as a mechanic, and at Camp Hancock, Georgia, as a machine gunner; Willis, who is engaged in farming on the home place; Arthur, who is at home; and Alva, who is attending the home schools. Mr. Houser is an independent voter. Mrs. Houser is a consistent member of the Baptist Church. The prosperity now enjoyed by the Houser family is the result of hard work intelligently directed and right living, and no people stand any higher in the estimation of their neighbors than they.

**NATHANIEL BRATTEN.** America has always held the gates of her empty ports ajar to the sons of Sweden, and, having thus extended them a hearty hand of welcome and given them every opportunity to advance themselves after they got within our borders, they have come in large numbers from year to year and their substantial homes now dot the hills and plains of nearly every agricultural community of the Union, and there is hardly a city of any importance in which we do not find their homes and places of business. Thus they have aided us in developing this vast western hemisphere, and we have in turn benefited them. They were reared in a land where Mother Nature is somewhat unkind, where the winters are long and the country rugged, so there they had to expend every energy in their battle of life. This fact has enabled them to win success in this country of ours where there are unlimited opportunities, for they do not halt at any obstacle or permit any adversity to swerve them from their course.

Nathaniel Bratten was born in Sweden July 15, 1875, and is the son of Andrew and Anna L. Bratten. In 1881, when the subject was but six years of age, the family immigrated to the United States and settled first at Rock Island, Illinois, where the father obtained employment in a sawmill. Three years later they came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and here he homesteaded 160 acres of land and made his permanent home until his death. He is survived by his widow, who is the mother of three children.

Nathaniel Bratten remained with his parents and accompanied them on their removal to Lincoln county, securing his education in the schools of Rock Island and later in this county. After remaining with his parents until maturity he began life on his own account as a farmer, and has been eminently successful in his efforts, being

now the owner of 1,500 acres of fine land in section 26, the home being in township 13, range 26. He has here made many substantial and permanent improvements, the farm now ranking among the best in his section of the county. He has given his attention to general farming and stock raising, keeping good grades of horses, cattle and hogs. He came to this locality in the formative period of its development, and has therefore been a witness of the wonderful changes and development which has here taken place.

On July 20, 1901, Mr. Bratten was united in marriage to Olga Anderson, the daughter of Louis Anderson, who now lives in Lincoln county. To this union have been born eight children, namely: Julius E., Ruth, Ruben, Judith, Lydia, Seth, Martha and Eva.

Mr. Bratten and his family are members of the Swedish Mission Church, to which he gives liberal support. He takes a commendable interest in the public affairs of his locality. Success has been achieved by him because he has been persistent along legitimate lines and has been an advocate of twentieth-century methods, which he employs on his fine farm, as anyone may readily discover by even a cursory glance over his well kept premises and well improved fields. He has given evidence of the outcropping of many of the sterling attributes of his sturdy Swedish ancestors, and while laboring for his individual advancement he has not been neglectful of his duties to his neighbors and the general public, and he is therefore held in high favor by his many acquaintances.

**AUGUST ELANDER.** The chief characteristics of August Elander, well known citizen of this county, are keenness of perception, an unflagging energy, honesty of purpose and motive and everyday common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community. He has worked his way from a modest beginning, having landed from a foreign strand on our shores many years ago, rising step by step to a position of no mean importance by his individual efforts, which have been practically unaided. This fact renders him the more worthy of the praise that is freely accorded him by his fellow men, his life having been one of unceasing industry and perseverance.

August Elander was born in Sweden November 4, 1862, and he is the son of Andrew and Louise Anderson, both of whom spent their entire lives in their native land, where the father followed the vocation of farming. They both lived to advanced ages, being respectively eighty-seven and eighty-five years of age at the time of their deaths. They were the parents of nine sons, all of whom are deceased excepting the subject of this sketch, and there are two daughters living. August Elander was reared under the parental roof to the age of twenty years and secured his educational training in the schools of his native town. At the age of twenty-two he came to the United States and for four years lived in the State of Illinois, where he was employed at farm work. He then came to Lincoln county and entered a tract of land, applying himself at once to the task of rendering it fit for cultivation. His first years here were marked by hard and consecutive toil, for he was ambitious and industrious, elements which have been the secrets of his success. Abundant success attended his efforts and he added to his land holdings from time to time until he is now the owner of nearly 1,500 acres of land, comprising as fine a farm as can be found in his

section of the county. He has been methodical and systematic in his operations, exercising good judgment and excellent discrimination, so that among his fellow citizens he enjoys a wide reputation as an enterprising and progressive farmer.

In 1894 Mr. Elander was united in marriage with Annie Bratten, whose family is referred to elsewhere in this work. To this union have been born four children: Boyd Rudolph, Alf Victor, Signa M. and Alden.

Politically Mr. Elander is not permanently aligned with any of the great parties, preferring to maintain an independent attitude, voting for the candidates who meet with his approval regardless of party lines. He has always taken a commendable interest in the welfare of the community and rendered effective service as treasurer of the school board for thirteen years. In his religious faith he is a Lutheran, as is also his wife. His career presents a notable example of those qualities of mind and character which overcome obstacles and win success, and because of these things he enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**HENRY D. DISCOE.** Some of the men of Lincoln county who are now engaged in conducting their own land were formerly engaged in work along the same line for others, and in such capacities gained a practical knowledge of the business which later served them in good stead. Such a man is Henry D. Discoe of section 19, township 12, in the neighborhood of Brady. He was born at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1877, and a sketch of his family being given elsewhere in this work.

Henry D. Discoe was brought to Lincoln county by his parents when he was still a lad, they being among the pioneers of this region, and here he received his educational training in the district school. When the family came to Lincoln county they found conditions very primitive and passed through the usual experiences incident to life on the frontier. The majority of the early settlers of Lincoln county had to depend on sod-houses or dugouts for shelter during their first few years, and yet they thrived and were happy in their crude homes, and many of them cherish pleasant memories of those days. The open-handed hospitality, the neighborly helpfulness and generous sympathy which prevailed to an extent not known today united the pioneers and held them together by bonds no after experiences could sever.

When he began farming for himself Henry D. Discoe located on a quarter section of land near Fort McPherson, and here he carried on a general farming and stockraising business until April, 1912, when he removed to the H. L. Williams ranch of about eight sections. Since coming to this place Mr. Discoe has rendered appreciated service as foreman of this large acreage. This is the second time he has been foreman of the Williams ranch.

In 1900 Mr. Discoe was married to Minnie B. Rose, a daughter of Samuel Rose, one of the early settlers of Lincoln county. Mr. and Mrs. Discoe became the parents of five children: Edward, the oldest, who died in 1919, aged nineteen years; Harlen, who is attending school at Brady; Elsie, who died when young; Harry, who is attending the district schools; and Gertrude, who is also attending the district schools. Mr. Discoe believes that it is more important to secure good men for public office than it is to keep any one party in power, and so votes independently. Aside from his membership in

the Modern Woodmen of America he does not belong to any lodges or societies, devoting himself to his farm and family. Having spent so many years in this locality, and having all of his interests centered here, he is naturally a booster for it, and has borne his part in the making of recent neighborhood improvements.

**HARRY C. COHN.** One of the native sons of Lincoln county, Harry C. Cohn, has the distinction of residing on the farm on which he was born in 1883, and which his father, M. J. Cohn, homesteaded many years ago. Having been born, reared and educated in this neighborhood, Mr. Cohn naturally choose it as the scene of his manhood activities, and in time bought from his father the 160 acres of highly cultivated land he now owns.

At the time the Cohn family came into Lincoln county this part of Nebraska was practically undeveloped, and owing to the lack of moisture it was not then regarded as likely to become a great agricultural center. As the years went by and experiments proved the practicability of supplying the lack of moisture through irrigation ditches, movements were inaugurated for the purpose of building systems which would supply water through all of this region and enable the owners of the land to turn their attention to any branch of agriculture which suited their taste. In this work of reclamation the Cohn family bore their part, as they have in all of the constructive labors of the county, and while prosperity came to them as a resulting factor of this display of public spirit, they felt equally rewarded in the realization that they had but done their duty in thus forwarding measures which were so beneficial to all.

Harry C. Cohn has devoted all of his energies to general farming and stockraising, and is a recognized expert in his work. His stock is of an excellent grade, and his product shows the result of careful selection and breeding.

On January 1, 1914, Harry C. Cohn was married to Eva Towers, daughter of W. H. Towers, and a sketch of whose family will be found elsewhere in this work, as will be that of the Cohn family. Mr. and Mrs. Cohn became the parents of the following children: Theodore, Allwin and Evelyn, who are all living. A strong republican, he was elected on his party ticket in 1911 to the office of road overseer of his home district, and has held that office ever since. He is a friend of the "good roads" movement, and his work in its behalf is very effective. Alert, experienced and public-spirited, he is one of the representatives of the best element of American manhood to be found not only in Lincoln county but in this part of Nebraska, and he numbers his personal friends by the hundreds.

**M. W. HARDESTY.** It is a notable fact that the majority of the men who homesteaded in Lincoln county did so with the intention of becoming permanent residents of this region and not as a matter of speculation. That fact lies back of the rapid development of this part of the state, for the men who were here during the formative period of the county naturally knew its needs and how to meet the requirements of the expanding interests so as to have as little delay as possible, and in consequence improvements have been inaugurated and completed in a truly remarkable manner. One of the men who is numbered among the pioneers of the county, and whose fine farm in section 15, township 12, in the Brady neighborhood, came to him through homesteading is M. W. Hardesty of this review.

The birth of Mr. Hardesty occurred in Boone county, Indiana, on February 25, 1855. He is a son of Solomon and Harriet (Davis) Hardesty, natives of Ohio, who moved to Boone county, Indiana, where he worked as a millwright. Later they went to Iowa, where he died. His widow came west to Gosper county, Nebraska, homesteaded, proved up her claim, to which she later added more land by purchase, and had a large farm at the time of her death, which occurred in Nebraska. Solomon Hardesty was a democrat in his political convictions.

M. W. Hardesty was reared in Iowa, where he attended the public schools. He came from Iowa to Nebraska, and in 1886 located in Lincoln county. Here he homesteaded, proved up his claim, and has since lived upon it, developing it into one of the valuable rural properties of this section. All of the improvements have been made by him, and he carries on a general farming and stockraising business, his livestock being of a good grade.

In 1881 Mr. Hardesty was married in Iowa to Maggie Garwood, born in Indiana, and they became the parents of two children, namely: Edna, who is the wife of Charles Everly, of Maxwell; and Earl Elmer, who is at home. While he oftentimes votes for the man rather than according to party lines, Mr. Hardesty is a democrat on general principles. He has not associated himself with any religious organization, but Mrs. Hardesty is an active member of the Christian Church. The independence Mr. Hardesty now enjoys is the result of his own unaided efforts, and he deserves great credit for his foresight, industry and good management.

**HARRY J. PELL.** A farmer of remarkable force of character and an upright and worthy man, Harry J. Pell, of section 5, township 12, is one of the worthwhile men of Lincoln county who is entitled to a place in a work of this nature. He was brought up to hard work and strict discipline on the farm, and his present prosperity is probably due to his wholesome early life and the habits of self-restraint taught him through careful rearing by excellent parents.

Harry J. Pell was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in March, 1871, a son of Henry H. Pell, whose biography is given elsewhere in this volume. In 1879 the family came to North Platte, Nebraska, and Harry J. Pell was reared in the neighborhood of the county seat of Lincoln county and sent to its schools. When he was old enough to become self-supporting, he rode the range for three years with the Hershey outfit, and then went to Montana and worked for a time in the vicinity of Miles City, following which he rode the range for the Ogalalla Cross H and the Four H outfits, being engaged in all for ten years as a cowboy.

Returning to Nebraska in 1896, Mr. Pell came to his present farm and immediately went to work to improve it. These improvements are all first class and add very much to the value of his property. Here he carries on general farming and raises a good grade of stock for dairy purposes. He is interested in the Farmers Union of Omaha, Nebraska, and is active in it.

In 1897 Mr. Pell was united in marriage with Addie Dalton, born in Lincoln county, a daughter of William Dalton, one of the very early settlers of Lincoln county. Both he and Mrs. Dalton are now deceased.

In his politics Mr. Pell is an independent voter, for he believes it is better to select for office men who are capable of discharging



efficiently the responsibilities entailed by the occupancy of it than to be bound by close party ties. During his long experience in the West Mr. Pell has witnessed many changes, and had some adventures. While riding the range the presence of numerous rattlesnakes was not only unpleasant but dangerous, and he became quite proficient in exterminating them, one day making a record kill of eighteen of them. Since coming to Lincoln county as a permanent settler he has taken a good citizen's part in the development of his locality, and feels that it would be difficult to find a region better fitted for the development of valuable agricultural interests than the one in which he has lived for so long, an opinion which is shared by the majority of his neighbors. He and wife are members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

**ELERY A. CROSBY.** Certain definite qualities are demanded of the men of today who safeguard the people of their communities. They must be upright, courageous and shrewd, for they are obliged to pit honor against dishonor, bravery against cowardice and exert themselves to combat abnormal intelligence on the part of the law-breakers. Owing to the almost universal use of automobiles, the rural regions are infested by the worst type of city offenders who seek in them a refuge from the payment of the just penalty for their offenses against the law. Therefore the officers of justice in communities which have no criminal class of their own are forced to be prepared to deal with men who have placed themselves outside of ordinary living conditions. For this reason more care than ever is exercised in the choice of these officers, and the fact that they are selected is proof positive that they are men of unusual character and upright life. Elery A. Crosby, marshal of Sutherland, is no exception to this rule, and his strict enforcement of the law and fearlessness in dealing with such fugitives as may seek to escape by coming to his community make his name one not relished by the underworld.

Elery A. Crosby is a native son of Illinois, having been born in Cherry Valley, Winnebago county, that state, on December 11, 1858. He is a son of Sydney A. and Julia (Daggett) Crosby, the former of whom was born in New York State and the latter in Illinois. Sydney A. Crosby was a carpenter by trade and later in life became a contractor, operating principally in Illinois, to which state he came in young manhood. He died at the age of seventy-eight years, but his widow, now eighty-two years old, survives and lives at Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Crosby was a republican in politics, and he and his wife found expression for their religious faith in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which they were devout members. Of the six children born to them five survive, namely: Carrie Bell, who is the wife of W. N. Garrett, of Rockford, Illinois; Henry F., who is a carpenter of Mason City, Iowa; Laura E., who is the wife of Frank Garrett, of Rockford, Illinois; George M., who is a painter and lives in Illinois; and Elery A., whose name heads this review.

Elery A. Crosby attended the common schools of Illinois, and left his native state in 1878 to come to Hastings, Nebraska, where he worked at farming. In 1884 he came to Lincoln county, homesteaded, proved up his claim and carried on general farming and stockraising until he retired and came to Sutherland. He and his wife passed through all the incidents and participated in the hardships of pioneer life. Their first home was built of sod and was

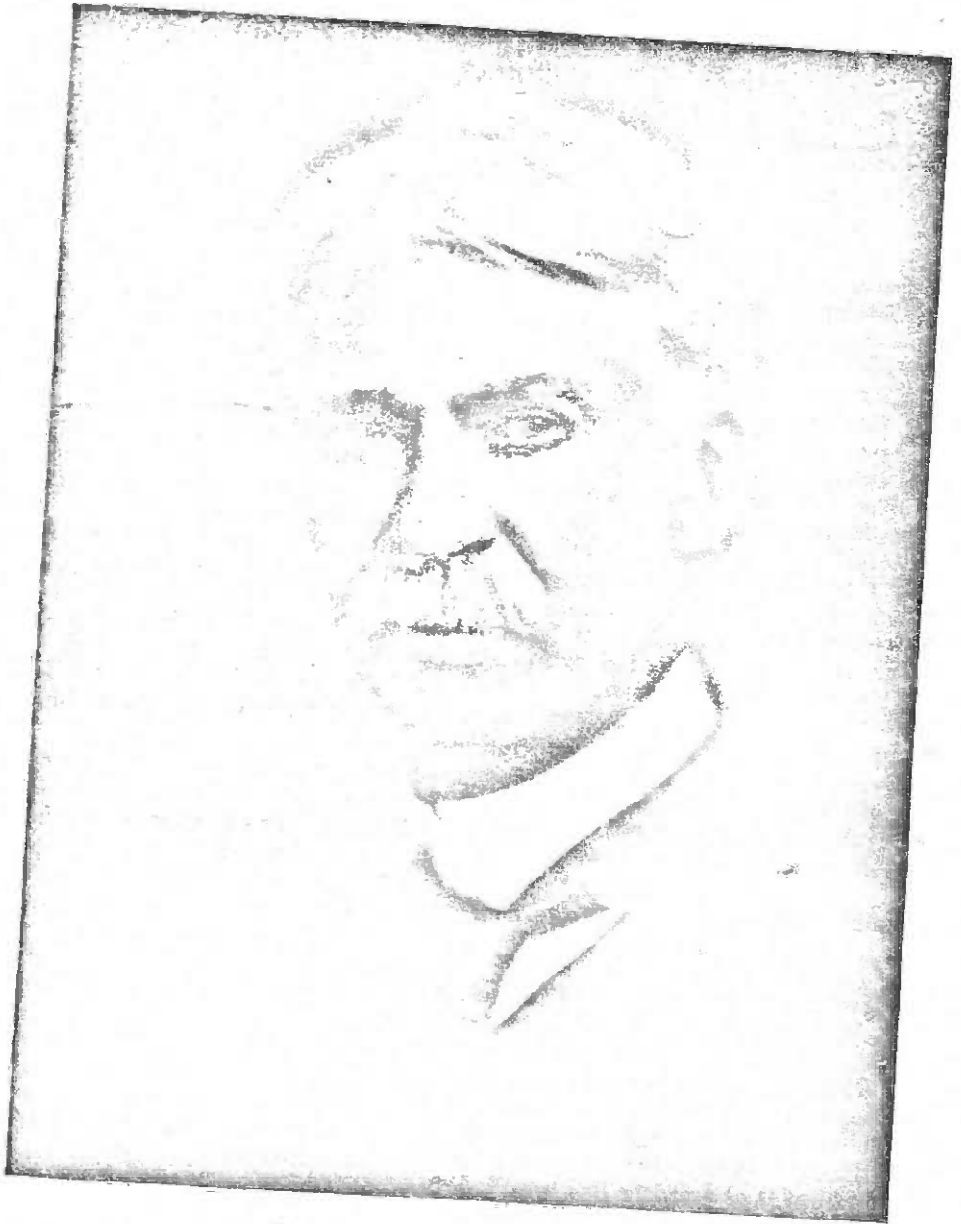
very different from their present comfortable residence at Sutherland, but they were willing to endure what they did so as to acquire a competency and bring up their children amid healthful rural surroundings.

On September 24, 1880, Mr. Crosby was united in marriage with Lucy A. Powers, a daughter of John H. Powers, one of the earliest settlers of Adams county, Nebraska. At one time he was candidate for the office of governor of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby became the parents of the following children: George, who is a farmer of Lincoln county; M. E., who is an attorney of North Platte, Nebraska; Elmer A., who is a farmer of Lincoln county; and Mary B., who is the wife of E. D. Warner, of Chadron, Nebraska, where he is engaged in the telephone business. Mr. Crosby is a Mason and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Eastern Star. Mrs. Crosby belongs to the Presbyterian Church. In politics the Crosbys are republicans, and Mr. Crosby served as assessor and a school director, and at present is the marshal of Sutherland. Clean-minded, considerate and dependable, he is a man among men, and no one stands any higher in public estimation than he.

**WILBUR H. TOWERS.** Lincoln county is admirably suited for farming purposes at the present day, and one of the men who is making a success of this line of endeavor is Wilbur H. Towers of section 33, township 13, of the Maxwell district. He was born at Waterbury, Vermont, in 1868, a son of Henry and Regina (Jewell) Towers, natives of Vermont. An ex-Union soldier and a farmer, Henry Towers found his old home too narrow for him after his return from the army, and at last decided to seek a broader field, and so came to Nebraska, homesteading near Gibbon in Buffalo county, where he was one of the pioneers. There he carried on general farming and stockraising and became one of the prominent men of that locality and held the office of county commissioner. Both he and his wife were Adventists in their religious belief. Their children were as follows: Ethel, who is the wife of Charles Luse, of South Dakota, who is a farmer; Anna, who is the wife of Mr. Newlin; Lena, who is the wife of Will Quell, a butcher; Allie, who died on the home farm; and Wilbur H., who was the youngest.

A little child when brought to Nebraska by his parents, Wilbur H. Towers attended the common schools of Buffalo county, and learned practical farming from his father. In 1903 he came from Buffalo county to Lincoln county and bought a farm, increasing it until he now owns a half section, on which he is now doing general farming and stockraising. His improvements are good ones, and he is constantly adding to them, for he recognizes the value of machinery and appliances and of keeping his property up to standard. His stock is of a good grade, and it meets with a ready sale in the market. In addition to his agricultural interests Mr. Towers is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Hershey, and is otherwise interested in Lincoln county matters.

In 1898 Mr. Towers was married to Rhoda Fay, a native of Iowa, and they became the parents of the following children: Eva, who is the wife of Harry Cohn, a farmer of Lincoln county; Wayne, who is at home; and Earl, who is deceased. After the death of the first Mrs. Towers, Mr. Towers was married to Madge Nickerson, a native of Ohio, who is also deceased, having borne her husband twins, Harold and Helen, who are both at home, attending the Maxwell



W. J. Stewart

schools. Mr. Towers is an independent voter, preferring to give his support to the man he believes is best fitted for the office in question than to tie himself down to any one party. As an agriculturist he has succeeded in amassing a competency, and as a citizen he has won the respect of his neighbors.

WILLIAM J. STUART is an old time railway man, and most of his active life has been spent at North Platte. His efficiency has secured for him several promotions to the higher official responsibilities of railroading, but he has derived the greatest satisfaction from the individual work of engineering, and after a time he gave up supervising the work of others and resumed his place with the men in the ranks. For several years past he has had one of the leading runs on the Union Pacific out of North Platte.

Mr. Stuart was born at Cazenovia, New York, May 7, 1852, son of Henry and Annie (Winslow) Stuart. His mother was a native of Edinburg, Scotland, and his father was born in New York state, where he married. Henry Stuart was a pioneer railroad man, one of the early engineers on the Lake Shore Railway. In 1855 he moved to Laporte, Indiana, and ran an engine into Chicago for several years. About 1861 he moved his family to Aurora, Illinois, and continued railroading until 1885. After that he operated a small fruit farm near Aurora, and he and his wife both died there. He was a Methodist, while his wife was a member of the Episcopal Church. Henry Stuart was a republican voter. There were nine children, and six are still living: Alfred, a railroad man in the South; Sam, who during 1880-81 was in the railroad service at North Platte, is now located at Kansas City; William J.; John T., a railroad man with home at North Platte of whom mention is made on other pages of this work; Mrs. Wright, who lives at Schenectady, New York; and Henry, a traction motorman out of Cleveland.

Mr. Stuart was about three years of age when the family moved to La Porte, Indiana, where he began his education, and was eleven years of age when they went to Aurora, Illinois. He finished his school work at Aurora, and after that was employed as clerk in a dry goods store. The year of the Chicago fire, 1871, he began railroading, in November of that year. His first experience was as an apprentice in the Missouri Pacific shops at Moberly, Missouri. He remained there five years, for a brief time as a fireman. Then, in 1876, Mr. Stuart came out to North Platte, and only a very few railroad men then in the service of the Union Pacific are still living and in active service. For three years he was a fireman, and in the fall of 1879 was first promoted to the post of engineer. He received a regular run in 1880 and continued to keep his post in the cab until 1901. He then accepted the offer to serve as traveling engineer on the Wyoming Division, and during the next six years his family lived at Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1907 he was appointed district foreman at North Platte, but soon resigned and was well satisfied to take over a passenger run. His run is now between North Platte and Sterling, Colorado.

Mr. Stuart is a past chief of Division No. 88 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and has rendered some good service on the Grievance Board. He is a republican in politics, he and his family are members of the Episcopal Church, and he is prominent in Masonry. He is a Knight Templar and Shriner, a past master of his Lodge, past high priest of the Chapter, and past eminent commander

of the Commandery, while he and his wife are active in the Eastern Star, Mrs. Stuart being a past matron of Signet Chapter No. 65. Mr. Stuart bought his home at 514 West A street in 1908.

June 9, 1880, he married for his first wife Mary G. Brown, who died in April, 1884. By that union there were three sons. Mr. Stuart is particularly proud of the patriotic record of his children. The oldest son, Robert B., is now assistant supervisor of the Trans-Pacific Radio Service for the government, with headquarters at Oakland, California. Arthur Wray is a newspaper man at Portland, Oregon. John T. is a Santa Fe Railroad engineer at Albuquerque, New Mexico. The mother of these sons was a member of the Episcopal Church.

September 6, 1887, Mr. Stuart married Annie E. Gibbs, a native of St. Joseph, Missouri. Three sons have also been born to their marriage: Edward Gibbs Stuart while living at Youngstown, Ohio, entered the army in May, 1918, received his first training in the infantry, but later was taken out and put in the transportation department, and was one of the Americans who did wonders in creating a real railroad system in France. He served as yardmaster at Brest and later at Le Mans. He returned from France in September, 1919, and is now connected with the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company in Ohio. The second, William F., a resident of San Francisco, was in the army from May, 1917, until discharged in July, 1919. He was with the Eighteenth Engineers, and went overseas with the first contingent of enlisted Americans. The third son, Harris Leslie, now a clerk with the Dixon Jewelry Store at North Platte, was enrolled in April, 1917, in Company E of the Sixth Nebraska Regiment, later was transferred to the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Heavy Artillery and still later was selected for tank service. He was in the special school for training officers for that service at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and later was assigned to recruiting duty at Denver, and was there when the Armistice was signed. Afterward he was in the Reserved Officers Training School and was not mustered out until December, 1919.

FRED MARQUETTE, who came to Lincoln county in an early day and has here become well established through his industry and right living, and therefore has benefitted himself and the community alike, is the well known farmer. Fred Marquette, a man who has merited in every way the success he has achieved in a material way and the esteem of his fellow citizens, which all who know him freely accord.

Fred Marquette was born in Germany on May 11, 1858, and is the son of Chris and Johannah Marquette. These parents were born, reared, educated and married in Germany, and in 1859 they came to the United States in the hope of bettering their fortunes. They settled in Ohio, where the father engaged in general farming until 1872, when they moved to Otoe county, Nebraska, where he farmed for about a year, and at the end of that time he came to Lincoln county. He here filed on a homestead, which he proved up and thereafter devoted himself to the operation of this farm until his death, which occurred in 1912, at the age of fifty-eight years, his wife also being deceased. The subject of this sketch is the only one of their children now living, and he was about one year old when the family came from the Fatherland to the United States. Therefore he was reared and educated in this country. In 1873 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Lincoln county, and he has ever since been identified with this locality. He is the owner of 710 acres of

land, which he is devoting to general farming and stockraising. His farm is well improved in every respect and is admirably adapted to the purposes to which it is devoted. Mr. Marquette is progressive and up-to-date in his agricultural methods and has met with pronounced success in his business affairs.

Mr. Marquette was married in this county to Louise Girkin, a native of West Virginia, but whose parents were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Marquette have no children of their own, but out of the kindness of their hearts they have adopted two children, Louise and George Hahn, both of whom are still with them. In political matters Mr. Marquette is independent, not being bound by party ties. Mrs. Marquette is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Marquette consistently gives his support to every worthy benevolent movement and to all enterprises which have for their object the welfare of the community. Because of these facts and his genial personality he enjoys the friendship and good will of all who know him.

**FREDRICK HEIN.** In the death of Fredrick Hein Lincoln county lost one of its valued citizens. The latter part of his life was spent here, and during that time he made a splendid impression on all who came into contact with him. Quiet and unostentatious in manner, he nevertheless possessed those attributes of character which count for success in material affairs and for proper relations with society, so that to know him was to respect and admire him.

Fredrick Hein was born in Germany on September 17, 1846, and his death occurred on March 8, 1918. He was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until 1873, when, ambitious for larger opportunities for material advancement, he came to the United States. His first location was near Bloomington, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming for about six years. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and settled in Stewart county, where he purchased land and was successfully engaged in farming for twenty-four years. In 1906 Mr. Hein came to Lincoln county and bought 320 acres of land located in section 22, township 13, range 32, on which he engaged in farming and stockraising until his labors were interrupted by his death. He was a practical and methodical man in all his operations, and his efforts were rewarded with prosperity.

In Stewart county, Nebraska, in 1882, Mr. Hein was married to Anna Lindner, who also was a native of Germany, and to them were born ten children, namely: Mrs. Matilda Meinke, who lives in Wisconsin; Mrs. Minnie Heitman, of Stewart county, Nebraska; Mrs. Clara Meinke, of Stewart county; Fred, at home; Anna, at home; Edward, who is now at home in the United States Army during the World war and was assigned to Machine Gun Company No. 18, at Camp Johnson, where he was in training, but did not get orders for overseas service; Heinie is deceased; Bertha, is at home; Herman is deceased; and William is at home. Mr. Hein was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church, to which he gave generous support. Unassuming in manner, Mr. Hein took a quiet but effective interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare of the communities in which he lived, ever giving his support to all movements for the advancement of the public good. Because of his success and his high personal character, he enjoyed the universal confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

**ALFRED LETH.** One of the progressive and enterprising farmers of Lincoln county is the gentleman whose name forms the caption to this brief review. His valuable property has been acquired through his own efforts, his persistency of purpose and his determination, and the prosperity which is the legitimate reward of all earnest efforts is today his. He is easily the peer of any of his fellows in the qualities that constitute correct manhood and good citizenship, and holds an enviable place in the estimation of those who know him.

Alfred Leth was born in Howard county, Nebraska, on April 23, 1887, and is the son of John and Marie (Demard) Leth, both of whom were born and reared in Denmark. John Leth came to the United States in 1882 and settled at once in Howard county, Nebraska, where for many years he was successfully engaged in farming. He is now retired from active business affairs and is living in St. Paul, Nebraska. To him and his wife were born seven children, namely: Chris, who lives in Howard county; Alfred, the subject of this sketch; James, who lives in Greeley, Nebraska; Morris, who lives in Howard county; Mrs. Alma Harvey, of Howard county; Mrs. Nora Christensen, of Howard county; and Algo, who is unmarried and lives in St. Paul, Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch remained on his father's farm until about twenty years of age, and in the schools of his home county he secured a good practical education. In 1907 he came to Lincoln county, and for the following two years was employed as a general farm hand. In 1909 he purchased 160 acres of good land in section 13, township 13, range 32, to which he has added by purchase until he is now the owner of 240 acres of excellent land, which is well improved and very productive. He carries on general farming operations, raising all the crops common to this locality and has met with gratifying success. He has made many permanent and substantial improvements on the place and has just completed the erection of an attractive and well arranged modern residence, which adds materially to the value and appearance of the place.

Mr. Leth was married in this county to Jennie Zauler, a native of Lincoln county and the daughter of Alvin and Lena (Helt) Zauler. Both of her parents were born and reared in Germany, but became early settlers of Lincoln county. To Mr. and Mrs. Leth have been born two children, Marie and Alvin, both of whom are at home.

Mr. Leth is independent in his political attitude, but takes an intelligent interest in local public affairs, having rendered good service as a member of the School Board in District No. 26. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and gives his support to all worthy benevolent objects. His success in life has been the legitimate result of his own efforts, and because of this fact and his sterling character he has won and retains the good will and esteem of the entire community in which he lives.

**HERMAN H. WENDEBORN.** One of our honored and successful farmers, who has led a worthy life and taken his proper interest in the affairs of the community while advancing his own interests is Herman H. Wendeborn, whose splendid farm is located in section 24, township 13, range 32. He is one of the substantial and worthy men of this part of the county, with no ambition for anything but the sphere of private citizen, and his fellow citizens bear willing testimony to his sterling characteristics.

Herman H. Wendeborn is a native of Germany, where he was born February 15, 1883, and is the son of Fred Wendeborn and

wife, who also were born in the Fatherland. They came to the United States in 1884, and came to Lincoln county, where they entered a homestead, which they proved up and on which they carried on general farming operations and stockraising for twenty-two years. Then, selling that farm, they moved to North Platte, where Mr. Wendeborn entered the employ of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. They are still living in North Platte and are highly respected by all who know them. They became the parents of five children, three of whom are living, namely: Herman H., the subject of this review; Edith, who lives with her parents in North Platte; and Mrs. Guy Cover, of North Platte.

Herman H. Wendeborn was about one year old when the family came to the United States, and in the schools of Lincoln county he secured his education. He has followed farming during all the active years of his life, remaining with his father until 1905, when he engaged in farming on his own account, buying a half section of land, which he now occupies and which he is devoting to general farming operations and stockraising. He is thoroughly practical in everything he does, and has achieved a distinct success in his vocation, being numbered among the enterprising and up-to-date agriculturists of his section of the county.

Mr. Wendeborn was married in Lincoln county in 1906 to Catherine Zauler, a native of Kansas and the daughter of Albin and Helt Zauler. These parents came from Germany in an early day, and became pioneer settlers of Kansas, where they lived for a number of years. Later they came to Lincoln county, where they obtained a farm by homestead entry, and are still engaged in farming there. To the subject and his wife have been born three children, Margaret, Adolph and Dorothy.

Politically Mr. Wendeborn is independent, but consistently votes for the best interests of his country and his community regardless of party claims. He has rendered efficient and appreciated service as a member of School Board No. 26. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He is a genial and unassuming man, whom to know is to like, and he has a host of warm and loyal friends in this community.

**AUGUST N. SANBARG.** One of the thrifty and highly respected natives of Sweden who cast their lot with the people of Lincoln county in its period of rapid development, and who has since prospered by his close application and the exercise of sound business principles is August N. Sanbarg, a distinctive type of the successful, self-made man. Not a pretentious life has been his, but one that has been true to itself and to which the biographer may refer with feelings of satisfaction and respect. He has shown himself to be a man of sterling character and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of the community along material, civic and moral lines, and today is recognized as one of the representative men of his section of the county.

August N. Sanbarg was born in Sweden on the 23d day of October, 1865, and is a son of Nels and Eline (Johnson) Anderson, both of whom also were natives of Sweden, where the mother is still living. They became the parents of four children, namely: Joel, a farmer in Lincoln county; August N., the immediate subject of this review; John, who lives in Montana; and Mrs. Tilda Peterson, also of Montana.



The subject of this sketch remained with his parents until he had attained his majority, in the meantime securing his educational training in the public schools. In 1886, seeking wider opportunities for material advancement, he came to the United States, and at once located at Gothenburg, Nebraska, where for about a year he was employed in general work. In 1887 he came to Lincoln county and afterward entered a homestead, which he eventually proved up, and which became the nucleus of his present splendid property. He made all the improvements, which are of a permanent and substantial character, and has devoted the land to general farming purposes, in addition to which he has given considerable attention to the raising of cattle, having met with gratifying success in both lines. His farm now comprises 800 acres of land, and great credit is due Mr. Sanbarg, for he had practically nothing when he came to this county and has accumulated his present property solely through his persistent and indefatigable efforts along legitimate lines. Having come to this locality in its formative period, he necessarily underwent many hardships and privations during his earlier years here, but he had abundant faith in the future of this section, and his judgment has been abundantly justified.

Politically Mr. Sanbarg is not aligned with either of the great political parties, but casts his vote for the men and measures which he deems for the best interests of the community. He has given good service as a former member of the School Board of District No. 17 and has consistently given his support to every measure for the general welfare. He is a member of the Lutheran Church. Because of his success and his sterling qualities of character, he is held in high esteem throughout the community.

**JOHN K. BARNETT.** An excellent way, perhaps, to come to a realization of the value of farmers to a country would be to consider public conditions without their activities. Very soon would commerce end, travel cease, the arts and sciences languish, and comfort and good health disappear preliminary to the final extinction of a large part of the human race, much of which has already been proven in the devastated regions of the old world, where agricultural production has been interrupted or destroyed by the war. On the other hand, when agriculture in its different branches flourishes plenty abounds and physical and mental growth leads a country onward and upward. Old-time methods have been largely displaced with wider agricultural knowledge, and through the gradual introduction of farm machinery the underlying principle cannot be changed that soil, very like human beings, will respond to the intelligent study that establishes complete understanding. When the modern farmer is successful in his agricultural industries it is pretty certain that he takes this broad view of his work, hence his rewards are certain and satisfactory. Until he does take this view he cannot hope to advance beyond a bare living, and sometimes cannot even secure that. One of the men of Lincoln county who has come to a realization of all this and is meeting with success is John K. Barnett of township 13.

Mr. Barnett was born in southeastern Iowa on May 4, 1870, a son of Lycurgus and Nina Barnett, natives of southeastern Ohio. Lycurgus Barnett came as far west as Iowa in young manhood, and was there successfully engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1881, when he was forty-nine years of age. His widow died the following year, aged forty-nine years. They became the par-

ents of the following children: Mrs. Ida Childon, of Iowa; John K., who was second in order of birth; Clarence, who is living at Greeley, Nebraska; and three who are deceased.

In 1881 John K. Barnett came to Nebraska and spent some time in Holt and Polk counties, but did not meet with very gratifying results, and at last went to Hitchcock county, but three years there convinced him he was simply losing time, and therefore in 1909 he came to Lincoln county as a last resort. At that time he was \$2,000 in debt, and borrowed more money to buy land, but so fortunate was he in his final selection that he not only has cleared off all his obligations but owns 640 acres of land that is well improved, and has just completed a fine modern residence at a cost of \$7,000. During 1919 he produced 9,000 bushels of wheat, and his crops for 1920 promise to be even better.

Mr. Barnett was married in Polk county, Nebraska, to Elizabeth Hasselbalch, a native of Denmark, and a daughter of Stein and Emma Hasselbalch, both of whom were born in Denmark. They came to the United States in 1888 and settled in Polk county, Nebraska, where Mr. Hasselbalch was engaged in farming until his death. His widow survives him and continues to live in Polk county. Mr. and Mrs. Barnett became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Bessie Zimmerman, who is living at her father's home; Charles, who is also at home; Mrs. Hazel Koch, who is living in Lincoln county; and Ralph, Gerda, Glenn and Neal, who are at home; an unnamed infant who is deceased; and Edna, Nels and John, who are also at home. Mrs. Barnett died on June 10, 1919, and her demise is mourned by her family and many friends, for she was a most excellent lady who carried into her everyday life the Christian virtues she professed as a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Barnett belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a republican, and at one time was on the School Board of District No. 39. For some time he has maintained membership with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**LINCOLN C. APPLGATE.** Without doubt there is no other calling which makes such substantial returns for time and money invested by the intelligent man as that of farming, but in order to succeed in this line the one engaging in it must be willing to exert himself to the utmost and keep abreast of the times in improvements and machinery. One of the men of Lincoln county who has every reason to be proud with what he has accomplished is Lincoln C. Applegate, whose magnificent 3,000 acre farm bears testimony to his skill as a farmer and business man.

Lincoln C. Applegate was born in Marion county, Iowa, a son of George Washington Applegate, and there he remained, acquired a common school education, and assisted his father until 1887, when, with his parents, he came to Lincoln county. After his arrival in this region Mr. Applegate homesteaded a quarter section, proved up his claim and placed it under cultivation. In the meanwhile some of his neighbors became unwilling to continue here on account of the hardships which always prevail in a new district, and he was able to buy more land at a reasonable figure. Still later he added to his holdings at a higher price, and now has 3,000 acres, on which he has made all of the improvements himself. He is engaged in a general farming and stockraising business and is very successful, and is admitted to be an authority upon these subjects.

Mr. Applegate was married to Emily S. Richards, born in Keith county, Nebraska, a daughter of Edward E. and Mary Jane (Tunstall) Richards, natives of England. Mr. Richards came to the United States when twenty-three years old, and coming to Nebraska, homesteaded in Keith county in 1884, continuing to live on his farm until his death. His wife was brought to the United States when a small child, and she, too, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Richards had eight children born to them, six of whom are now living. The date of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Applegate was November 24, 1897, and the ceremony took place at Cheyenne, Wyoming. They became the parents of the following children: May, who is engaged in teaching school near North Platte, Nebraska; Laura, who is also teaching school south of Maxwell; and Ellen, Harvey, Clarence, Elizabeth, Woodrow, Jeanette and Walter, all of whom are at home; and Francis and Chauncey, who are deceased. Mr. Applegate votes independently. For twenty years he was a member of School Board No. 27. Mrs. Applegate is a member of the Episcopal Church, but Mr. Applegate is not connected with any religious organization. They are very fine people and are held in the highest esteem by their wide circle of friends.

**HENRY T. FRELS.** One of the best instances to be found in Lincoln county of what can be accomplished through an intelligent application of the homely virtues of industry and thrift is afforded in the career of Henry T. Frels, president of the Farmers' Association, bank director and extensive farmer, whose magnificent rural property is located in section 24, township 13.

Henry T. Frels was born in Germany on October 2, 1879, a son of William and Catherine Frels, also natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1884 and settled in Fillmore county, Nebraska, where the father was engaged in a general line of farming for a year. Removal was then made to Hayes county, where he homesteaded, proved up his claim, and remained on it until 1894, when he came to Lincoln county and bought 160 acres of land. Thus the father placed his land under cultivation and became a man of ample means, dying there at the age of seventy-four years, in 1913. The mother is also deceased. They had the following children: Mrs. Jules Hoffman, who lives in Wisconsin; Will, who is living with his brother Henry; Gus, who is living in Fillmore county; Mrs. Jennie Kirchoff, who is living in Kansas; and Henry T., who was the youngest.

Until 1900 Henry T. Frels remained at home and helped his father, but in that year he began for himself, buying land and adding to it until he now has about 1,130 acres, all well improved, and has just completed a fine modern residence, which is one of the finest in this part of the county. Mr. Frels is engaged in general farming and stockraising and has been eminently successful. He votes independently. For some time he has served on the School Board of District No. 17. For three years he has been president of the Farmers' Association, and is a director of the Lincoln County Bank of Hershey. The Lutheran Church holds his membership.

On April 3, 1907, Mr. Frels was married at North Platte, Nebraska, to Anna Huebner, born in Lincoln county, Nebraska, a daughter of Fred Huebner, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Frels became the parents of the following children: Fred, Edith and Clarence, all of whom are at home. Hav-

ing always been engaged in farming, Mr. Frels is eminently fitted for his work and understands his business in all its details. He is one who stands well in his community, and his prosperity is regarded as evidence of the advantages offered by Lincoln county to the man willing to work hard to profit by them.

**FRED W. HACKBARTH.** For the money and efforts expended undoubtedly the farmer reaps very gratifying returns, and indeed they are so large as compared with the like investment in any other line of industry as to make comparisons almost an impossibility. Then, too, the life of the farmer is wholesome, and if he is intelligent enough to keep up his land it will continue to be a valuable possession as long as he lives. In no other branch of endeavor is a man able to retire at so early an age as the one devoted to farming. The average city man has to keep on working long after his inclination has departed because of the urge of economic conditions, but the farmer, even if only fairly successful, can rent his farm and retire to one or other of the neighborhood towns, and there proceed to enjoy life at his leisure. One of the men who is "making good" at his work and will, when his years pile up against him, be able to join the "retired" class of his calling without any anxiety as to his future, is Fred W. Hackbarth of section 12, township 13, Lincoln county.

Fred W. Hackbarth was born in Germany on January 6, 1872, a son of Carl T. and Bertha Hackbarth, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1898 and located in Custer county, Nebraska, where they homesteaded, proved up their claim and were successful farmers until their retirement, at which time they moved to Sutherland, and there they are living in comfort and ease.

Fred W. Hackbarth attended the public schools of his native land, and accompanied his parents to Custer county in 1898, and was there engaged in farming until 1906, when he came to Lincoln county and bought 160 acres of improved land, to which he has added until he now has a fine farm of 480 acres of well cultivated land, on which he is carrying on general farming. His present improvements have been put in by himself and he takes a great deal of pride in having everything neat and orderly.

The marriage of Mr. Hackbarth took place in Custer county, when he was united in marriage with Ruby Klump, a daughter of Jacob B. and Jennie Klump, the father a native of Germany, but the mother was born in Illinois. Mr. Klump located in Illinois, where Mrs. Hackbarth was born, but later came to Custer county, Nebraska, and is still living, residing now at Broken Bow, Nebraska, but his wife is deceased. During the war between the North and the South he served in the Union Army and was a brave soldier fighting in behalf of his adopted country. Mr. and Mrs. Hackbarth became the parents of the following children: Bertha, Walter, Olive and Freda, all of whom are at home. In politics Mr. Hackbarth is a strong republican, and at one time was a member of the School Board of District No. 38. The local Lutheran Church holds his membership and benefits from his donations. He is one of the sound and substantial men of this region, and one who believes in making necessary improvements, although his practicality prevents him from indorsing a wasteful expenditure of the taxpayers' money for those which will not be of permanent benefit. Always industrious and frugal, he has steadily advanced, investing his earnings in more land and placing each additional piece of property under improvement so that in

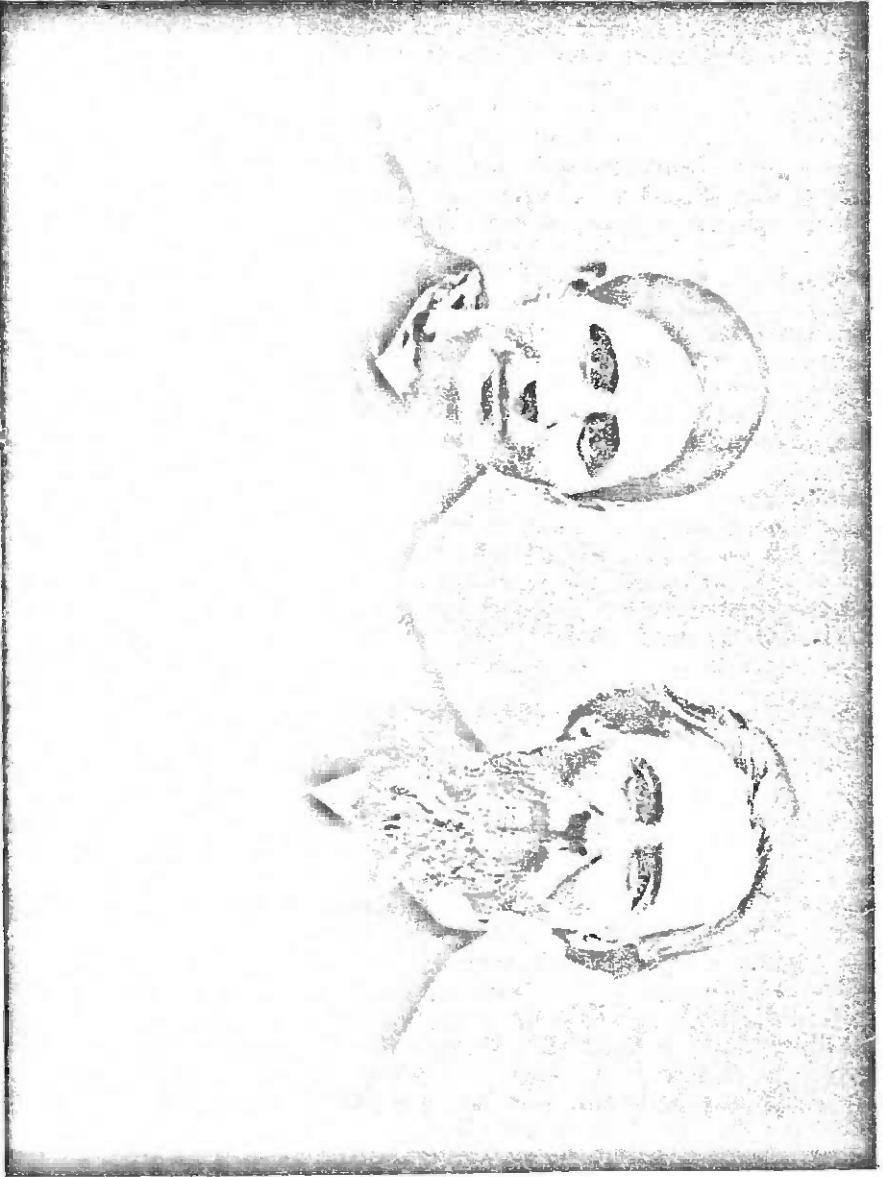
this, as in other ways, he has been of service to his section and county, and is recognized as one of the best citizens Lincoln county possesses.

**JAMES A. SHAW.** Few citizens of Lincoln county are more entitled to the esteem of their neighbors than is James A. Shaw, one of the progressive agriculturists of section 8, township 14, whose intimate relations with the farming and political interests of the county have made his name a familiar one in this locality. He was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, on January 4, 1876, a son of James Shaw, a native of Kentucky, born in 1827, and his wife, Anna (Bond) Shaw. He died at the age of sixty-three years, but his widow survives him and is making her home with her son, James A. Shaw. During his younger years James Shaw was engaged in farming in Indiana, but as his family increased he decided to move to a locality where land was cheaper, so came to Lincoln county, Nebraska in 1883, and bought the property then owned by the Ritchie family, a relinquishment, and at the time of his death in 1900 had 160 acres. He and his wife became the parents of three children, namely: Thomas, who is a resident of Hastings, Nebraska; Mary F., who married George Tolbert and she is deceased; and James A., whose name heads this review. In politics James Shaw was a republican, but aside from voting the ticket of his party did not participate in public life. His wife who was born in Park county, Indiana in 1840, was a birthright Quaker, and has held to the faith of the Society of Friends all her life.

James A. Shaw accompanied the family to Lincoln county, and here he attended the public schools, and at the same time acquired a practical knowledge of farming from his father. At the time of the latter's death James A. Shaw assumed charge of the homestead and is still conducting it. Here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising and feeds his own stock from the produce of his farm. One of the features of his place are the beautiful trees which add so much to the comfort of the occupants, and which have been set out by the Shaws.

In 1902 Mr. Shaw was united in marriage with Parthenia Dick, a native of Nebraska, a daughter of F. N. Dick, one of the early settlers of Lincoln county. Mrs. Shaw is a member of the Episcopal Church, but Mr. Shaw is not connected with any religious organization. For some years he has belonged to the Federal Aid Union. Like his father, he is a strong republican, and while he has never cared to run for office he takes an active part in the politics of his locality, and is a hard worker during the various campaigns. Understanding his business thoroughly, Mr. Shaw is able to conduct his farm in an efficient manner, and not only makes money, but sets an example in his agricultural operations that others are following to their advantage.

**FRED HUEBNER.** An enumeration of the enterprising and representative citizens of German birth now residing in Lincoln county would be incomplete without special mention of Fred Huebner, whose fine farm is located in section 22, township 13, range 32. Since casting his lot with this community he has stamped the impress of his individuality upon the community and benefited alike himself and his neighbors, for while laboring for his own advancement he has not neglected his duties to the public in general, but always supports such measures as make for the general good.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES A. SHAW

Fred Huebner was born in Germany on June 13, 1862, and is the son of William and Mary Huebner, both of whom were also born and reared in Germany. They were farming folk, and remained in their native land until 1891, when they came to the United States and settled in Iowa, where they again devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits, living there until their deaths. They were the parents of four children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and Mrs. Julia Jaunnerthal, of Plymouth county, Iowa.

Fred Huebner remained in his native land until he had attained his majority, and in the meantime secured a good practical education. He assisted his father in the farm work until 1883, when he came to the United States, proceeding at once to Iowa, where for two years he was engaged working out by the month. In 1885 he came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead, which he proved up and to the cultivation of which he has devoted himself with energy and good judgment. He has been successful in his operations and is now the owner of 1,320 acres of excellent land, which he devotes to farming and stockraising.

Mr. Huebner was married to Emily Hener, a native of Germany. Her father, who was a farmer in his native land, never came to this country, but the mother died here at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Huebner. To Mr. and Mrs. Huebner were born eight children, namely: Ella, deceased; Henry, deceased; Mrs. Anna Frels, of Lincoln county; Charles, of North Platte; Fred, at home; John, who is farming in Lincoln county; Lena and Emma, who remain at home.

While Mr. Huebner takes an intelligent interest in public affairs, especially as relating to local matters, he has not aligned himself with any party, but supports such candidates as he deems best fitted for office. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, to which they give generous support. Because of his sterling integrity and his excellent business record, Mr. Huebner enjoys to a marked degree the respect of the entire community.

FRANK ENGLAND, who was employed as a mechanic in the Union Pacific Railroad shops at North Platte for twenty years, was born November 15, 1873, in eastern Pennsylvania. He is a son of Alexander and Mary (Campbell) England. The father and mother were born in Scotland and came about 1870 to the United States, living for a time in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and going to Nebraska soon after the birth of their son Frank England. While they were Lincoln county homesteaders, they only lived on the claim long enough to prove up on it, when they located in North Platte. The father attained to the age of sixty-one and the mother to seventy-one years. Besides Frank England, the other children born to Alexander and Mary (Campbell) England are: Alexander, of California; Mrs. Margaret Delaney of Colorado; Alfred and James of Washington.

Frank England married Eva, a daughter of George W. and Jane (McHaffie) Edmiston. She is a native of Adams county, Ohio, but her parents were homesteaders in Kansas in 1883, and after proving their claim in Kansas they came to Lincoln county in 1899, buying land and becoming successful Nebraska farmers. The children born to Frank and Eva (Edmiston) England are: Bernard, Alfred, Merlin and Robert.

While Mr. England was not born in Lincoln county, he grew up in it and is part of its community of interests. His occupation

has always been agriculture, and at the present time he has 3,000 acres of pasture and general farming land. In political matters he is independent, and he has served the community as a member of the School Board. Mrs. England is a Methodist. The family is identified with the interests of the community.

**HERMAN JOHNSON.** Like many another of Lincoln county's prosperous and progressive agriculturists, Herman Johnson, of North Platte, was born on foreign soil, and has brought to the country of his adoption those habits of industry, integrity and thrift that are everywhere synonymous with success. A son of Johnsen Johnason, he was born February 24, 1873, in Sweden, the home of his ancestors for many generations.

Johnsen Johnason spent his entire life in Sweden, during his active career having been a tiller of the soil. He married Hadda Peterson, who was born in Sweden eighty-one years ago, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom Herman, the particular subject of this sketch, is the only survivor. In 1888 she came with her two sons, Herman and his brother, to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where she still resides, making her home with her only living child.

In 1888 Herman Johnson accompanied his mother and brother to the United States, arriving in Lincoln county, Nebraska, on the 5th day of June. The mother took up a homestead claim, on which her sons proved up, they in the meantime being employed in North Platte during the winter seasons and working on the farm summers. Beginning life with a very limited capital, Mr. Johnson has never allowed any opportunity to advance his interests to escape his observation. From time to time he has added by purchase to his original farm, and now owns 574 acres of farming and grazing land, and in its development and improvement takes pride and pleasure, as a farmer and stockraiser being successful.

Mr. Johnson married in North Platte Minnie Johnston, who was born and educated in Lincoln county, being a daughter of Joseph C. and Eunice Johnston, the father born in Iowa and the mother in Illinois, and they spent their last years in North Platte. Three children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, namely: Herman Albert, Marie and Josephine. Mr. Johnson is independent in politics, and he is a member of the Lutheran Church.

**HERBERT WOODGATE.** Beginning life for himself poor in pocket but rich in energy and ambition, Herbert Woodgate, a successful farmer of North Platte, is a fine representative of the self-made men of our times, his present prosperous condition being entirely due to his own unaided efforts. A native of Nebraska, he was born August 30, 1888, in Utica, Seward county, a son of Frank H. Woodgate. Born in England, Frank H. Woodgate came with his parents to the United States when quite young, locating in Nebraska. He subsequently established himself in business at Wellfleet, where for a few years he operated an elevator, and also did some farming. At the present time he is living in North Platte, being engaged in monumental work. His wife, whose maiden name was Katie O'Connell, spent her brief life of thirty-eight years in Nebraska. Seven children were born of their union, as follows: Mamie, wife of Henry Graham; Henry and Frank, deceased; Minnie, wife of Carl Fletcher, of Bignell, Nebraska; Herbert, the subject of this brief sketch; Goldie, residing at Bignell; and Sylvia, wife of Albert Baker, of Bignell.



Leaving home when but thirteen years old, Herbert Woodgate began to be self-supporting. With sturdy industry and judicious frugality he labored diligently at different jobs and in various places, his work having usually been on a farm. In 1904, having acquired a good knowledge of agriculture, he wisely invested his accumulations in land, buying 320 acres in Lincoln county, where he has since been actively engaged in general farming and stockraising. His farm, situated in section 24, township 13, is one of the most attractive in the vicinity of North Platte, and from its thrifty appearance it is evident that he takes pride in his occupation, his land being finely improved, and a large part of it under good cultivation.

Mr. Woodgate married Clara Higgins, who was born in Cambridge, Nebraska, a daughter of Jonathan Higgins, who was for many years a well known stockman of Cambridge, but who is now living retired in North Platte. A sketch of Mr. Higgins appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Woodgate have two children, Cecil and Vernon. In his political relations Mr. Woodgate is not identified with any party, but votes as he deems best for the people.

**JAMES HENRY FONDA.** More than forty-five years in the consecutive service of the Union Pacific Railway Company is an unusual and distinctive record. James Henry Fonda came to North Platte more than forty-five years ago, and since July 1, 1882, has been an engineer, and for more than twenty-three years has been in the regular passenger service. He is one of the oldest men in the service of the Union Pacific Company, and too much praise cannot be bestowed upon such an example of fidelity and useful service.

Mr. Fonda was born in Oswego county, New York, September 17, 1858, a son of James R. and Jane E. (Hendrix) Fonda. His parents were also natives of New York, his father of Troy and his mother of Wolcott. James R. Fonda was a blacksmith by trade. In April, 1867, he took his family to Illinois, where he bought a farm and for a number of years followed agriculture. He had been retired for several years before his death, which occurred when he was seventy-four years of age. His wife died on the Illinois farm at the age of sixty-five, and he died at Paw Paw, Illinois. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. James R. Fonda married for his first wife Elzina Bacon, and they were the parents of six children, all of whom are now deceased. One of them was the late E. R. Fonda, who died in August, 1919, at Salisbury, North Carolina, but was brought north for burial at Paw Paw, Illinois. He was a veteran of the Civil war, serving with the rank of captain. After the war he moved west and for twenty-eight years was an engineer in the service of the Union Pacific and an active member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He was a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and an honorary member of the Eastern Star. For several years and up to his death he was superintendent of the Federal Cemetery at Salisbury. While living in the South he fraternized with Confederate veterans. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Methodist, and a staunch republican.

James R. and Jane E. (Hendrix) Fonda had five children four of whom are living: Fred B., a farmer at Keithsburg, Illinois; James H.; Mrs. M. L. Neir, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; and M. L. Fonda, a Union Pacific engineer living at Council Bluffs.

James Henry Fonda acquired his early education in the district schools of Illinois, being about nine years of age when his parents moved to that state. His early life was spent on a farm, but at the

age of seventeen he entered the service of the Union Pacific Company as a freight handler at Council Bluffs, Iowa. In March, 1877, he came to North Platte and soon afterward became a laborer in the shops. In 1878 he was made fireman, and was promoted to engineer on July 1, 1882. He has been running an engine for thirty-nine years, and was in the freight service up to February, 1898, and since then has had a passenger run. Mr. Fonda is one of the prominent members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and has served as chief engineer of Local Division No. 88 of that order. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Lodge No. 985, and with the Loyal Order of Moose, No. 356, Grand Island, and in politics is a republican. His wife and children are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Fonda has provided well for his family and enjoys the comforts of a good home at 521 West Third street.

December 30, 1880, he married Nellie L. Moran. She was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, a daughter of Michael J. and Margaret Moran, natives of Ireland. The Morans were early settlers in Wisconsin, and Michael Moran left his farm to engage in railroad contracting. He helped build a part of the Milwaukee system west of St. Paul. Afterward for a number of years he was trainmaster of the Milwaukee Railway at Watertown, Wisconsin. Both he and his wife died in Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. Fonda have four children: Frank M., the oldest, was educated as an electrical engineer at Purdue University, Indiana, and is now following his profession at Portland, Oregon. Arthur H., who attended the North Platte High School and the Rohburg Business College at Omaha, is a train dispatcher with the Oregon Short Line at Salt Lake City. James Everett, who also attended the North Platte High School, spent two years in Nebraska University at Lincoln, and then prepared for a professional career in the Dental School of the University of Illinois and is now practicing at Winnetka, a Chicago suburb. The youngest of the family is Blanche M., is a graduate of the North Platte High School. On December 22, 1911, she married Dewey H. Tarkington, and they reside at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

**FATHER PATRICK McDAID.** As local priest Father Patrick McDaid has charge of the church and educational work of the Catholics in North Platte. He was born in Londonderry, Ireland, September 16, 1881, and had his education in Ireland. He is a son of Michael and Anna (Doherty) McDaid, the parents still alive in Ireland. There is a family of eleven children, all living in Ireland except Father McDaid and his brother Michael, who lives in Mexico. The father is an election commissioner and politician, and has filled different political offices in Ireland.

Bernard McDaid, an older brother of Father McDaid, was in an Irish regiment in the War of the Nations from November, 1914, until after the signing of the Armistice. He was in many of the leading battles of the war in France. The Irish people established an enviable reputation as soldiers.

Father McDaid had his theological training in Maynooth College, Kildare, Ireland. He was ordained to the priesthood June 17, 1906, and his first missionary service was as an assistant at Grand Island, Jackson, and St. Cecelia's Church in Omaha. He was in charge of the Catholic children of the Indian school at Genoa; Ne-

braska, and was located again at Grand Island before coming to North Platte. It was October 14, 1910, that Father McDaid took up his work in the local parish. There are 200 Catholic families with 185 pupils in the parochial schools.

There are ten sisters teaching, Ursulines from Louisville, Kentucky, and the school building is three stories and there are twelve grades being taught in it. There is no better school property in Nebraska than the Catholics own in North Platte. Father McDaid is a Knight of Columbus and the order has a home in North Platte.

JAMES W. PAYNE, of North Platte, while rated as one of the most successful and influential business men of the community, he began the struggle for a competency without a dollar and has accumulated his prosperity by industry and fortunate investment. He is a retired ranchman living in a splendid home at North Platte built in 1912, with all the up-to-date sanitary arrangements.

Mr. Payne was born in Canada April 2, 1858, son of James and Mary (Shall) Payne. His father and mother were both natives of England, and soon after their marriage immigrated to Canada, where the father died soon afterward. About 1860 the mother crossed the line into the United States. She was a Methodist and died in this country.

James W. Payne, only child of his parents, was educated in the common schools of Michigan, and when young left home and went out into the world for himself. He worked at almost anything in reach, attending school at intervals. In 1879, at the age of twenty-one, he went to Muscatine, Iowa, and became foreman of the Hershey Lumber Company of Muscatine, an organization with which he continued for seventeen years and seven months.

Mr. Payne came to Lincoln county in 1896. He had but a few thousand dollars that he had saved from his salary and dealing in real estate, and part of his capital had been borrowed from the firm in Muscatine to which he had given so many years of faithful service and who showed their confidence in him by helping him in a measure to make an independent start. On coming to Lincoln county he leased the E. W. ranch of 7,400 acres, and after a few years bought the property and operated it profitably until 1907, when he sold the ranch to the Lincoln Development Company. This concern has since subdivided it into small farms. In 1909 Mr. Payne bought back 539 acres of the original ranch, improved it with a modern home, and held it until he sold in 1918. He has bought and sold other land and has always made money in such transactions.

Mr. Payne married Elmira Richter, of Muscatine, Iowa, in 1883. While she was an Iowa woman, her father, Henry W. Richter, was a native of Hanover, Germany, and her mother, Johanna Marie (Brugging) Richter, came from Holland. Her father was a Union officer in the Civil war and was killed in action. Her mother died at Muscatine. One daughter, Ella Grace, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and she is now the wife of Allison Wilcox, mentioned elsewhere in the sketch of W. T. Wilcox. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have two children, Elmira Payne and James Allison.

Mrs. Payne is a member of the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Payne is affiliated with the Masonic Order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Elks, and both he and his wife are identified with the Rebekahs and Eastern Star.

Mr. Payne is active in the affairs of the independent democratic party in Lincoln county. While he lives in practical retirement after a life of unusual business activities, he still holds financial interests in the community. He assisted in its organization and is vice president of the Platte Valley State Bank in North Platte. While Mr. Payne is of English-Canadian birth, his education and business activities have all been in the United States, and he is thoroughly American in all his interests. He has lived in Michigan, Iowa and Nebraska.

JOHN S. DAVIS, of the J. S. Davis Auto Company of North Platte, while a native of Pennsylvania, since 1890 he has been a resident of Nebraska. He was born May 17, 1876, in Smicxburg, Pennsylvania, a son of Albert L. and Catharine C. (Stiteler) Davis, the parents having been born and reared there. They removed to Gothenburg, Nebraska, in 1890, where they invested in land and lived on a farm fifteen years. They now live at Long Beach, California. He is the owner of a furniture and undertaking business at Cozad, Nebraska.

There are five children in the Davis family: Grace Emma being the wife of Joe Woodsum, who is in the lumber trade at Redlands, California; John S.; Edwin, who is in the gasoline and oil business at Cozad; Clara, who lives at Loomis, Nebraska; and Guy W., who is in college at Berkeley, California. The Davis family are Baptists, and Albert L. Davis, who was elected a republican county commissioner in Dawson county, helped build the new courthouse there.

John S. Davis, of North Platte, was educated at Gothenburg and in the Fremont Normal, and he began life on a farm. He engaged in the implement business in 1901, at Cozad, remaining there until 1912, when he sold out and removed to North Platte. In 1909 he became interested with Frank Chaorpenning in the automobile business here, but in 1911 he bought his partner's interest and managed the business himself. January 1, 1919, it was incorporated under the name J. S. Davis Auto Company, with Mr. Davis as president and general manager. Mary E. Davis is vice president, and J. J. Crawford is secretary-treasurer. Others holding stock are: A. J. Kunkle, W. J. Tiley, J. E. Fillison and Guy L. Granger.

The Davis Auto Company handles the Nash and Stearns-Knight cars, and they have an auto repair shop in connection with the sales-room. They started in limited space and have had to increase it until they now have 26,500 square feet of floor space. The business has increased until it is now one of the largest automobile concerns in Lincoln county.

On April 12, 1904, Mr. Davis married Mary E. Larmon. She was an Iowa woman. Their children are Lois L. and Paul Albert. The family are Methodists, and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Royal Highlanders, the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Yeomen. Both Mr. Davis and his wife are members of the Order of Eastern Star. With all his social and fraternal obligations, Mr. Davis gives close attention to the business of buying and selling automobiles.

WILLIAM R. MALONEY, of North Platte, has more than one grasp of the financial problem in combining the hardware, furniture and

undertaking business, and because of his success as a business man he has found it possible to devote some time to affairs of the community. He was born in Green county, Iowa, September 18, 1882, a son of William and Hannah (Barrow) Maloney. While Maloney is an Irish name, the father was born in Canada and the mother in Ireland. Both came to Iowa as young people, and they met and married in Iowa City.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Maloney and the two of them living are Mrs. Harrigan, of Grand Island, wife of John Harrigan, connected with the Union Pacific shops, and W. R. Maloney, of North Platte, who relates the family story. The Maloney family vote has been democratic, and the family worship in the Catholic faith. Mr. Maloney has been connected with the North Platte community since 1898, the family activities before that time being in Iowa.

William Maloney was a farmer and stockraiser in Iowa, but after locating in Nebraska he retired from active business, and he and his wife now live in Grand Island. Their children were educated in Iowa, and when he first came to Nebraska William R. Maloney was employed as a clerk in a store. In 1898 he came to North Platte and became a brakeman on the Union Pacific lines, remaining two years on the railroad, when he again entered a clerkship in the C. A. Howe store. He worked a year and went to the Hohenschuh School of Embalming, completing the course in 1904, and returning to the old position, where he had charge of the undertaking branch of the business. In 1905 he bought one-eighth of the business, when it was capitalized at \$8,000, and he continued buying stock from time to time until he had the controlling interest, and became the general manager of the store. The store was incorporated, but in 1913 Mr. Howe died and Mr. Maloney bought the remaining shares of stock, the business now being known as the W. R. Maloney Company.

Under the present ownership the capital stock has been increased to \$50,000, the money all having been made out of the business, the furniture and hardware trade combining well with the business of an undertaker. There is a complete house furnishing business all under the management and ownership of Mr. Maloney. It is a case of industry winning out on its own merit.

March 16, 1910, Mr. Maloney married Erma Dye, who was born in Salina, Kansas. They have one daughter, Maureen Maloney. As in the generation preceding, the Maloneys are Catholics, and Mr. Maloney belongs to the Knights of Columbus. For two years he was the war-time district deputy for western Nebraska. He has been honored by the democratic party as a city councilman, and for nine years he was coroner of Lincoln county. For three years he was president of the Nebraska Board of Embalmers in connection with his business as an undertaker. Mr. Maloney has been chairman of the North Platte Cemetery Association and he has given much effort toward making it a beauty spot of North Platte. He is a director of the North Platte Building and Loan Association, and has the welfare of the community at heart. Mr. Maloney and his family have their place in the business and social life of North Platte.

J. VICTOR ROMIGH. The lure of the automobile business is such that J. Victor Romigh of North Platte abandoned his law practice

to enter it. While engaged in the practice of law in Omaha and Gothenberg, he carried on the sale of automobiles as a side issue, and found that his liking for business was stronger than his inclination to a profession. Mr. Romigh was born June 28, 1881, in Rochester, Pennsylvania. He is a son of James B. and Helen (Fezell) Romigh, the parents both born at Freedom, Pennsylvania.

In 1887 James B. Romigh moved to Omaha, where for twenty-seven years he was in the bridge building department of the Union Pacific. His wife died in Omaha, February 4, 1906, and he died August 4, 1919, 13½ years later. J. V. Romigh is their oldest son; C. A. Romigh resides at Longmont, Colorado; Grover D. Romigh is a linotype operator on the Rocky Mountain News, and the sister, Geneva, lives in Omaha. The Romighs were Baptists, and the family vote was cast with the republican party.

J. Victor Romigh secured his education in the Omaha public schools and in the University of Nebraska and Harvard Law School. He graduated in 1903 from the University of Nebraska and in 1906 from Harvard. He practiced law until 1917 in Omaha and Gothenberg, drifting into the automobile sales business while in Gothenberg, and when he came to North Platte he established a Dodge agency, handling also the Chandler cars.

In 1906 Mr. Romigh married Viola Luce of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts. Their children are Victor, Orrin and Philip. Mr. Romigh is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Mrs. Romigh belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution and the P. E. O.

**JOSIAH B. REDFIELD, M. D.** Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance, gift or purchase, but in what are known as the learned professions advancement is gained only through painstaking and long-continued effort. Prestige in the healing art is the outcome of strong mentality, close application, thorough mastery of its great underlying principles and the ability to apply theory to practice in the treatment of diseases. Good intellectual training, thorough professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes necessary to success have made the subject of this review eminent in his chosen calling and he stands today among the scholarly and enterprising physicians in a community noted for the high order of its medical talent.

Josiah B. Redfield was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on August 23, 1882, and is a son of Willis J. and May (Archer) Redfield, the former a native of Omaha and the latter of Plattsmouth, Nebraska, their marriage occurring in Omaha. The father was for a long time engaged in the mercantile trade, but later in life devoted himself to the printing business. He was a man of fine personal qualities, and was successful in his business affairs. He was a republican in politics, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church and of the Masonic Fraternity. He and his wife are both deceased. They were the parents of four children, namely: Willis, who is a physician and surgeon in Omaha, Nebraska; Harry, who is cashier of a bank in Topeka, Kansas; John, a farmer at Papillion, Sarpy county, Nebraska; and Josiah B., the immediate subject of this review.

Josiah B. Redfield secured his education in the public schools, graduating from the high school at Papillion, Nebraska, in 1898. Having determined to devote his life to the practice of the healing



*Dr. J. B. Redfield.*

art, he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he was graduated in 1908 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Immediately thereafter he located at Wood River, Nebraska, where he practiced his profession for six months, going then to Cairo, Nebraska, and remaining there for a year and a half. He then returned to Wood River and continued in practice there until 1911, when he came to North Platte, where he has since remained in the profession, building up a large and representative patronage. He has made a specialty of surgery, in which he has been far more than ordinarily successful, and in connection with which he uses an X-ray machine of the latest type. Doctor Redfield does a great deal of major surgery and is on the active staff of the General Hospital. He took post-graduate work at the Mayo Brothers Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, and has gained a widespread reputation because of the success which has attended his work. When he first came here Doctor Redfield was associated in the practice with his brother, and they were the owners of a hospital, but eventually he bought his brother's interest and then donated the hospital equipment to the Good Samaritan Hospital of North Platte. He is a stockholder in the General Hospital. From 1914 to 1916 he served as county physician and from 1918 to August, 1919, was city physician.

On November 11, 1918, Doctor Redfield entered the military service, being commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps and located at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was discharged on December 11, 1918. He also rendered effective service on the exemption board of McPherson county, serving without compensation and making the trip of thirty-two miles at his own expense.

In June, 1909, Doctor Redfield was married to Cassie Lelia Harris, of Lincoln, Nebraska. She was a graduate of the Lincoln High School and, later, of the University of Nebraska, and taught school at Cairo, Nebraska. To them have been born two children, Harris Beckley, seven years old, and John Josiah, three years old.

Politically Doctor Redfield gives his support to the republican party, and he takes a keen interest in public matters, especially as pertaining to local affairs. His religious membership is with the Protestant Episcopal Church. He is active in fraternal societies, being a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In the former order he is a past master of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, having completed the chairs in 1918; he served as high priest of Euphrates Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in 1917 and 1918, and at the present time is a member of the Commandery of Knights Templar. He is also a member of Sescostis Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, at Lincoln, Nebraska. Professionally he is a member of the Lincoln County Medical Society, of which he has served as president, the Nebraska State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, as well as the American Legion. Socially he is a member of the North Platte Country Club. The Doctor is of an inventive turn of mind and has recently perfected what is known as the Redfield Mouth Gag, said to be the best thing for the purpose in the market. Doctor Redfield's useful life as one of the world's workers has been one of devotion, almost consecration, to his calling, and he merits a place of honor in every history touching upon the lives and deeds of those who have given the best of their powers and talents for the aiding and betterment of their kind. Per-



sonally genial and companionable, he has won a host of warm and loyal personal friends and commands the respect and esteem of the entire community.

**AVERY DUVAL.** It is said that at some time in life every man is at the bottom of the ladder, and Avery Duvall of North Platte claims to have started there in the sale of automobiles, with the result that his business is increasing all of the time. He was born July 9, 1875, in Jefferson, Ash county, North Carolina, and when he was nine years old his parents removed to Nebraska. He is a son of John and Fannie (Newman) Duvall, the parents both native Carolinians. They came to Dawson county in 1884, where they homesteaded, but they had lived retired fifteen years when the mother died in 1916, and the father now lives in North Carolina.

John Duvall sold his Nebraska homestead and went to Colorado. He did not like it in the Centennial State, and returned to Nebraska, buying another farm in Austin county. He was a farmer until recently. The family belongs to the Evangelical Church and votes the democratic ticket. Avery Duvall is the oldest son. Elijah, who lives in Long Beach, was until recently a farmer in California. Rufus is a farmer in Dawson county.

Avery Duvall was a farmer until 1906, when he moved to Cozad and engaged in the hardware trade. He conducted an automobile sales business in connection with the hardware store. June 1, 1916, he disposed of the hardware store but continuing the automobile business, and in October, 1917, he located in North Platte, taking an interest in the Buick agency with S. F. Chorpenning. Their agency covers Lincoln and Dawson counties with overlapping territory in other counties, and with the result that they have a large repair establishment in connection with their sales agency in North Platte.

On January 12, 1898, Mr. Duvall married Virgie U. Whaley, who came with her parents, Lester and Nancy Whaley, from Kentucky to Dawson county. They came in the '80s and are now retired farmers living in Cozad. The Duvall children are: Anna May, widow of Frank E. Preston, Lester, Belle, Kenneth and Ruth. The church and political relation is the same as the Duvalls in the past, and Avery Duvall is a Yeoman in North Platte. He devotes all of his time to the sale of automobiles.

**JAMES H. EDMISTEN.** It is always the active, hustling real estate dealer who puts any given locality on the map of the world, and James H. Edmisten, of North Platte, in promoting his own private interests has had his part in developing the resources of the community. It has been his privilege to complete some of the largest real estate deals in the history of Lincoln county.

Mr. Edmisten was born December 19, 1855, in Texas, where he had common school advantages and began life on his own account as a hired man, working by the month for others. While some people depend upon their tailors for everything, Mr. Edmisten may be classified as a "self made man." What he has of this world's goods he accumulated through his own business ability and close application. He is a son of Jonathan and Ann (Dobkins) Edmisten, the father a Virginian and the mother a Tennessee woman. However, they met and married in Texas.

Jonathan Edmisten was always a farmer, and in 1870 the family removed to Nemaha county, Nebraska, and he was fortunate enough

to buy land afterward utilized as a town site for Brock, and sold it to advantage. He died in Custer county at the age of sixty-three years, while his wife, who afterward lived with her son, died in North Platte when she was seventy-four years of age. There were seven Edmisten children, five of them living today: James H., who relates the family history, lives in North Platte; Mrs. J. H. Robinson lives in California; J. A. Edmisten, of Kearney, is a farmer and stockman; Mrs. J. H. Wolfe lives in Idaho, and Mrs. Ora B. Vivian lives in Kearney.

The early Edmisten family were communicants in the Baptist Church. Jonathan Edmisten was a Mason and always voted with the democratic party. He served  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years in the Confederate army, and was captured with his regiment at Richmond, Virginia. The family always lived south of the Mason and Dixon line, and naturally he joined with his countrymen in an effort to establish the Southern Confederacy.

James H. Edmisten had normal school advantages and for two years he was a teacher, after which he engaged in farming in Nehama county. In 1878 he went to Nuckolls county, Nebraska, where he bought land, and in 1882 he sold it and settled in Custer county. He was fortunate enough to homestead at a point where a town was destined to spring up and Lomax marks the site of this homestead. He owned the tract five years, and his next homestead venture was a tree claim, and he sold the land later and began buying up undeveloped railroad land, at one time owning 800 acres in Custer county.

Mr. Edmisten's next homesteading venture was where Eddyville stands today, and he sold the townsite to the railroad, which developed the community. He was elected a member of the Custer County Board, but in 1884 he sold his interests there and removed to Dawson county, Nebraska. In Dawson county he bought land and remained there seven years. Again he was elected a member of the County Board, and he was twice elected treasurer of Dawson county.

While the early vote of the Edmisten family had been democratic, J. H. Edmisten was chairman of the Populist State Central Committee for many years when the "middle of the road" party was an issue before the country. He was for several years a member of the National Populist Party Committee, and under Governor Holcomb of Nebraska Mr. Edmisten served as state oil inspector. He was vice chairman of the National Populist Committee in 1900, when William Jennings Bryan made his second dash toward the White House as a democratic candidate for president of the United States. Mr. Edmisten had the honor and privilege of attending all the conventions held in the interests of the populist party while it was in existence.

In 1894 Mr. Edmisten went to Lincoln as state oil inspector, and he remained there twelve years, meantime investing his money in a ranch, and in 1906 he located on a ranch in Thomas county, where he remained four years. From there he moved back to Lincoln, and coming to North Platte he opened up a real estate office and has made himself felt in the business community. Mr. Edmisten owns a farm of 2,080 acres in Lincoln county. There are 700 acres of this land under cultivation. He farms by proxy, giving his attention to the real estate business in North Platte.

In 1877 Mr. Edmisten married Belle Higgins, and their daughter, Grace E., is the wife of A. R. Leavitt, a ranchman in Lincoln county. Mr. Edmisten is one of the big land owners of Lincoln county.

**MRS. AILEEN (GANTT) COCHRAN.** A woman of culture, scholarly in her attainments, and possessing a pleasing personality, Mrs. Aileen Cochran is rendering excellent and highly appreciated service as superintendent of the schools of Lincoln county, a position for which she is amply qualified. A daughter of the late T. Fulton Gantt, she was born in North Platte, Nebraska, coming on both sides of the house of honored ancestry. Her paternal grandfather, Daniel G. Gantt, was one of the first supreme justices of Nebraska, and was serving as chief justice at the time of his death.

T. Fulton Gantt, a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was educated for the bar, and began the practice of his profession in Washington, District of Columbia. Subsequently coming to Nebraska, he practiced first in Omaha, and then in North Platte for a short time, returning, however, to Washington to resume his professional labors in that city. Again coming to this state, he settled permanently in North Platte, and was here successfully employed as an attorney until his death August 24, 1897. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Episcopal Church. He married Edith Gruman, who was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, where her father, Charowell Gruman, was a prosperous merchant. Five children blessed their marriage, as follows: Paul, of North Platte, is an engineer on the Union Pacific Railroad; Aileen, now Mrs. Cochran; Edith, who was graduated from the New York Library School in 1917, is librarian at New Haven, Connecticut; Robert Fulton, who enlisted for service in the World war, was made first lieutenant at the Officers' Training School in Fort Snelling, and was afterward at Camp Dodge and Camp Hancock, is now in the employ of Swift & Company in charge of their plant at Sheldon, Iowa; and Sybil, a graduate of the North Platte High School, completed her studies at the University of Nebraska, and after teaching a year in Lincoln is now one of the successful teachers of North Platte.

Having finished the work of the first nine grades of the North Platte schools, Aileen Gantt continued her studies in Lincoln, receiving her diploma at the Lincoln High School, and in 1910 being graduated from the University of Nebraska, where she became a member of the Chi Omega fraternity. Accepting a position then as teacher of mathematics in the North Platte High School, she filled it most acceptably until 1915, when she was elected to her present high calling, in which she is now serving her third term, her re-elections to the office of county superintendent of schools giving evidence of her ability and popularity.

On March 18, 1919, Miss Gantt was united in marriage with Robert Le Roy Cochran, of North Platte. Mr. Cochran was born in Brady, Nebraska, and in 1910 was graduated as a civil engineer at the University of Nebraska. He was elected county surveyor in 1912, and was twice re-elected to the same office. Being appointed assistant state engineer after the last election, he settled in Lincoln. Enlisting in 1917, he was sent to Fortress Monroe, thence to France, where he remained fourteen months, having charge of the orientor department, a very important position, giving him the rank of captain. He is now division engineer, and has charge of twenty Nebraska

counties. He is a democrat in politics, and a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cochran are members of the Episcopal Church.

**ART J. SALISBURY.** Widely and familiarly known as sheriff of Lincoln county, Art J. Salisbury, of North Platte, is performing the duties falling upon him in that capacity with such credit to himself and party that he has been retained in the office by election and re-election since 1912, a period of time denoting his ability and popularity. A native of Illinois, he was born March 19, 1872, in Livingston county, a son of William N. Salisbury.

Born and brought up in Ohio, William N. Salisbury located in Illinois soon after attaining his majority, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years, his home for a time having been in Livingston county. Coming with his wife and children to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in the fall of 1889, he bought 800 acres of land, and for several seasons was engaged in general farming. Having by means of industry and thrift accumulated some property, he lived retired from active pursuits in North Platte until his death in 1911. He was a republican in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church.

William N. Salisbury married in Ohio Lena Matthews, a native of that state, and they became the parents of eight children, seven of whom, the following, are living: Edward, a merchant in Lena, Illinois; Ada, wife of James Robinson, a harness manufacturer of Luverne, Iowa; William, who has served as street commissioner in North Platte for the past thirteen years; May, wife of Joshua Isaman, a real estate agent in Aurora, Nebraska; Lulu, wife of Hoyt Hart, who is engaged in farming near North Platte; Bessie, living at home with her widowed mother and office manager of the Mutual Building and Loan Company, North Platte.

Acquiring his early education in Tonica, Illinois, Art J. Salisbury became familiar with farm work while young. After coming with the family to Nebraska he assisted in the improvement and management of the parental homestead for several years. Preferring a change of occupation, he embarked in the livery business at North Platte, and conducted it successfully for eleven years. Elected sheriff of Lincoln county in the fall of 1912, Mr. Salisbury has filled the position most acceptably ever since. A man of excellent business ability and judgment, he has other interests of value, holding title to 1,120 acres of land in Lincoln county; being a stockholder in a grain company, and, in partnership with his nephew, Ray Robinson, owning a service station in which he sells oil, gas and accessories, devoting his time to the business when not attending to his official duties.

Mr. Salisbury is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Politically he is a sound republican, loyal to the interests of his party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Loyal Order of Moose.

**ARTHUR S. ALLEN.** As clerk of Lincoln county, Arthur S. Allen, of North Platte, is brought into contact with "all sorts and conditions of men," to say nothing of women in these days of enlightenment, but being liberally endowed with the virtues of affa-

bility, patience, honesty and accuracy, is filling the position most acceptably to all concerned. He was born June 19, 1883, in Douglas county, Nebraska, a son of John J. Allen.

Born and bred in Ypsilanti, Michigan, John J. Allen came to Nebraska in early life, locating in Dawson county, where he took up a homestead claim and began the improvement of a farm. He moved with his family to Gothenburg in 1887, and was there engaged in the livery business until 1890, when he became foreman of the J. B. Curtis ranch, which is situated near Gothenburg. In 1893 he was employed in a brickyard and in 1894 again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1895 he bought land in Lincoln county, this state, and has since been successfully engaged in tilling the soil. He married, in Douglas county, Helen Avery, a native of Omaha, and to them four children have been born, as follows: Arthur S., with whom this sketch is chiefly concerned; Mary, who never married, died in 1917; Howard J., assisting his father on the home farm; and Charles Albert, who died in 1908, when but sixteen years of age. The father is a straightforward republican in politics, and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Both parents are members of the Congregational Church.

Having been graduated from the Farnam High School with the class of 1900, Arthur S. Allen attended Franklin Academy for a year, and afterward taught school successfully for six years. Interested in agriculture, he subsequently engaged in general farming until receiving his appointment of deputy clerk in 1911. Positive proof that his work in that official capacity was duly appreciated was given Mr. Allen in 1916, when he was elected to his present office, a position to which he was re-elected in 1918, his retention in the office bearing testimony of his efficiency and popularity.

Mr. Allen married, May 20, 1908, Georgia M. Raasch, a native of Antelope county, Nebraska, and they have five children, namely: Elsie, Robert, Mildred, Gertrude and Dorothy. Mr. Allen has ever evinced a warm interest in politics, being especially influential in republican ranks. Religiously he and his wife are members of the First Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he is a member and past grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and belongs to the Yeomen of America.

**CHRIS JENSEN.** Notwithstanding the fact that the Kingdom of Denmark is one of the smaller countries of the world, it has sent a large number of settlers to the United States. They have branched out into almost all sections of the Union, to which they have ever been loyal, supporting our institutions and reverencing our flag, for, appreciating the blessings of liberty, they have not been slow to recognize the possibilities that have opened out in splendid perspective before the emigrants who should locate in this country. Of this thrifty and freedom-loving people came the subject of this sketch.

Chris Jensen was born in Denmark on November 23, 1864, and is the son of Jens and Mary Christiansen. He was reared and educated in his native land, remaining there until he was nineteen years of age, when he came to the United States. He at once came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded a tract of land on the Birchwell table, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies. He made substantial and permanent improvements and operated the place with such success that he was later enabled to buy more land, so that today he is the owner of 845 acres

of excellent, well-improved land. Here Mr. Jensen follows a diversified system of farming, and also gives considerable attention to stock-raising, specializing in high grade Hereford cattle, of which breed he has some fine specimens. Industrious, persevering and discriminating in all that he does, his success is not the result of mere chance, but is the legitimate fruitage of his honest efforts.

In September, 1898, Mr. Jensen was married to Mary Mogensén, who also is a native of Denmark. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted daughter, Marie. They are members of the Lutheran Church, to which they give liberal support, and in political matters Mr. Jensen is independent. While not active in public affairs, he stands ready at all times to support every movement for the advancement of the material, civic or educational interests of the community, and because of his public spirit and commendable personal qualities he is deservedly popular among those who know him.

**ROBERT L. DOUGLASS.** An extensive landholder and one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of North Platte, Robert L. Douglass has been conspicuously identified with farming and stock interests of this section of Lincoln county for many years, and in the meantime has contributed his full quota toward rendering it one of the most productive regions of this part of the state. A native of Missouri, he was born March 9, 1868, in Saint Joseph county, where his father, William Douglass, was then engaged in agricultural pursuits.

William Douglass spent much of his early life in Ohio, being there employed as a railroad contractor and as a mining operator. In 1884, having previously spent a few seasons in Saint Joseph county, Missouri, he migrated with his family to Nebraska, and having bought land in Logan county carried on general farming with good success. Having accumulated a good property, he removed to North Platte, where he lived retired until his death at the age of sixty-six years. His wife, whose maiden name was Lavina Cheney, was born in Tennessee and died in Saint Joseph county, Missouri, leaving one child, Robert L., the subject of this brief sketch.

A youth of sixteen years when he came to Nebraska, Robert L. Douglass attended school for awhile, and later assisted his father in the clearing and improving of a farm, thereby becoming familiar with the rudiments of agriculture. Starting in life on his own account in 1891, Mr. Douglass bought  $3\frac{1}{4}$  sections of land in Lincoln county, near McPherson, and in its development and improvement has met with satisfactory success. From 1908 until 1918 Mr. Douglass carried on a prosperous business as a horse buyer and seller, operating in North Platte, at the same time retaining the management of his farming interests. He moved to his present place in the spring of 1918.

Mr. Douglass has been twice married. He married first Lizzie McNulty, a French-Canadian, whose father, William McNulty, was a native of Canada, while her mother, Lucinda (Stalling) McNulty, was born and reared in Iowa. Neither of her parents are now living, both having died on the farm which they improved. Mrs. Lizzie Douglass died in early womanhood, leaving five children, namely: Fern, wife of Carl Greison, of North Platte; William, who is married; Mabel, Edgar and Mary, at home. Mr. Douglass married for

his second wife, on August 21, 1917, at Lexington, Nebraska, Nora Jergenson, who was born in Dawson county, Nebraska, of German parentage. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jergenson, came from Germany to the United States in 1886, locating on a farm in Dawson county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Independent in politics, Mr. Douglass is ever mindful of the interests of town and county when casting his vote at the polls. Mrs. Douglass is a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and one of its active workers.

**ADOLPH SHERZ.** One of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of North Platte, and a prominent member of the agricultural community. Adolph Sherz, who died January 31, 1920, was widely and favorably known as a man of sterling worth, and a fine representative of those courageous pioneers who settled in Lincoln county in the days of its infancy and spent many of the best years of their busy lives in reclaiming a portion of the land from its original wilderness. He was born September 16, 1841, in Germany, where his parents were life-long residents, and successful agriculturists.

Growing to a sturdy manhood in his native land, Mr. Sherz acquired a good education in the public schools, and was afterward variously employed for a number of years. Immigrating to the United States in 1866, he obtained work first in New York City, remaining there five years. Not at all satisfied with the financial results of his labors, he turned his face westward in 1871, thinking that in some of the newer states he might find more favorable opportunities for advancing his fortunes. Locating in Lincoln county, Mr. Sherz immediately pre-empted a tract of land, and in 1873 took up a homestead claim, and later proved up on both. In common with the other pioneers of that day, he suffered hardships and privations little dreamed of by the present generation, but, as he said, he "stuck to the job," and eventually made good. At the time of his death he was living retired from active labor on the homestead which he improved, 480 acres of land, which is devoted to general farming and cattle raising, it being now superintended by his son Arthur.

Mr. Sherz married in 1890 in North Platte, Freida Werneke, who was born in Germany, a daughter of Frederick Werneke. Her father came with his family to this country many years ago, settling in Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he took up a homestead claim, and improved the valuable farm on which he has since resided, and on which the death of his wife occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Sherz had two children, Arthur and Alice, both living at home, Arthur, as previously mentioned, having charge of the home farm. A republican in his political affiliations, Mr. Sherz was interested in local affairs, and rendered acceptable service as a member of the school board. He was a devout member of the Lutheran Church, as is also his wife, and he contributed generously toward its support.

**CARL SWARTS.** One of the enterprising and progressive farmers and stockraisers of Lincoln county, who, though not long a resident of this community, has already made a most favorable impression on those who know him, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph, and whose home is located in section 20, township 12, range 31. Carl Swarts is a native son of the state now honored by his citizenship, having been born in Filmore county,



JOHN VEACH



Nebraska, on December 10, 1882, and he is the son of J. A. and Sarah A. (Pearson) Swarts. The father is a native of Canada, whence he came to the United States in young manhood and located in Illinois, where he engaged in general farming. In 1879 he came to Nebraska, locating in Fillmore county, where he purchased a tract of land, to the cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1905, when he moved once more, buying a farm near Lexington, Dawson county, and there engaging in the farming and stockraising lines. Though now sixty-seven years old, he still retains his physical vigor to a remarkable degree and still gives his personal attention to his farming operations. Mrs. Sarah Swarts was born in England, but came to the United States in young girlhood, being married to Mr. Swarts in Illinois. Their union was blessed in the birth of six children, namely: Ernest, of Lexington, Nebraska; Roy, who was born on February 1, 1884, and is in business partnership with his brother Carl; Carl is next in order of birth; Nellie is the wife of H. H. Crispin, of near Lexington, Nebraska; Lilian is the wife of Dr. R. H. Easton, of Eustis, Nebraska; Jessie lives in Lexington.

Carl Swarts was reared and secured his education in Fillmore county, Nebraska, and when old enough turned his attention to farming as a vocation, followed that calling there and in Dawson county until 1918, when he came to Lincoln county and in partnership with his brother Roy engaged in the farming and stockraising business, in which they have met with excellent results. Their farm comprises 1,600 acres of excellent land, well improved, and including well arranged and substantial farm buildings. They are good managers and up-to-date in their methods, which, combined with their industry and integrity, have insured them success.

Politically Carl Swarts gives his support to the republican party, while his fraternal relations are with the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and gives his support to every worthy benevolent object. Genial and unassuming, he has won a host of warm personal friends since coming to Lincoln county and is numbered among its popular and enterprising farmers.

**JOHN VEACH.** Agriculture may be said to have always been man's first and natural business, and no part of our country's history is so realistic or romantic as that which treats of the development of the farming industry and the home life of our rural people. When the progress of agriculture is traced, the entire record of a region has to be covered, because it is back of each movement. Without the farmer, the business of the world would be at a standstill, and this fact was never before made so important, although it has long been recognized. Now, with so many lands devastated, and young men wiped off the face of the earth, the necessity for the production of the raw materials has become paramount, and the dignity of the calling of the agriculturist established. It is hoped that this awakening to the needs of the world will induce many now struggling to maintain an existence in the more congested centers to immigrate into the rural regions and turn their hand to tilling the soil, resuming once more the natural occupation of man. Years before this "back to the farm" slogan was sounded, however, there were a number of intelligent men who recognized the importance of the farmer and the security arising from the ownership of land, and they, undeterred by promises of "get-rich-quick" schemes of

city promoters, took advantage of the opportunity offered by agriculture and lived to see their wisdom extolled. With the opening up of western lands farming gained many new recruits and some of the most prosperous men of these states today are proud of the fact that they are farmers and owe their wealth to their own efforts expended in the development, improvement and cultivation of their own farms. One of these men of Nebraska is John Veach, owner of 880 acres in the Sutherland district of Lincoln county.

John Veach was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1875, a son of Michael and Katherine (Shanuessey) Veach, natives of Ireland, both of whom are now deceased. After coming to the United States Michael Veach engaged in mining in Pennsylvania. Leaving that state, he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and was engaged in railroading and also farmed a property he purchased. Later he went to Buffalo county, Nebraska, to continue his railroad work. Returning to Lincoln county, he settled on the homestead his wife had taken up in that locality and lived on that 160 acres of land the rest of his life, passing away in 1912. His own homestead in Buffalo county he later sold. He and his wife had the following children: John, who was the first born; Maggie, who is the wife of Charles C. Wetzel, of Meadows, Colorado; and Joseph, who is deceased. After securing his naturalization papers Michael Veach became a democrat, and he gave that party his support the remainder of his life. He and his wife were devout Catholics and brought up their children in that faith.

When he first came to Nebraska John Veach began to be self-supporting by working for Ike Dillon of North Platte, later leaving him to begin railroading. After three years Mr. Veach decided to become a farmer, and has never regretted his choice. He homesteaded, took up a tree claim, and has added to his property holdings by purchase until now his acreage amounts to 880 acres of land, on which he is very profitably engaged in general farming and stock-raising. All of his improvements, which are excellent, have been put in by him, and his property is a model one. His cattle are of a good grade, and he receives excellent prices for them because of their quality. Like his father, he is a democrat, but he, too, has never desired to assume the responsibilities of public life. The Modern Woodmen of America hold his membership, and his connections with this organization constitutes his only fraternal obligation.

When Mr. Veach came to Lincoln county there were only a few houses between the present site of Sutherland and North Platte. Sutherland at that time was not even thought of by those who had the good of this region nearest at heart. The pioneer conditions were very hard, and those who passed through them and came out victors deserve all of the prosperity which has since come to them. The pioneers had practically no lumber with which to erect their claim "shacks," and so put up sod houses or lived in dugouts, or in a combination of the two. Food was scarce and the diet was not much varied, but these hardy settlers made the best they could of things and worked hard, saved every penny they could, and the results speak for themselves. Mr. Veach was never given very much schooling, his educational advantages being confined to those offered by the public schools of Nebraska at a period before they had reached their present fine condition, but he is an observing man and has added to his store of knowledge by contact with his fellows, and is now very well informed.

F. W. MEYER. The farmer is the fundamental producer, and his class is the indispensable one, for we can live without preachers, lawyers, editors and artists. We can get along without senators or congressmen, or school-teachers or governors, poorly perhaps, still we could manage to rub along somehow, but we could not keep the breath of life in us without the men who raise the wheat, corn, cattle and hogs. When it comes to production, wealth creation from the bottom, it is the farmer who is the important person. The only limits to his expansion are his necessities with reference to labor. When he solved the problem of securing an ample supply of intelligent labor, the American farmer can produce enough to feed, and do it well, too, the entire world. One of the men who is living up to the best conceptions of the alert, modern farmer of the West is F. W. Meyer of section 17, township 13, range 33, Lincoln county, who is making a record in breeding and raising pure-blooded hogs.

F. W. Meyer was born in eastern Indiana on January 26, 1878, a son of Fred and Mary (Scherer) Meyer, also natives of eastern Indiana, who were there engaged in farming until 1891, when they came to Nebraska and continued to be engaged in farming in Seward county until they retired. They became the parents of six children, of whom F. W. Meyer is the eldest born.

From boyhood Mr. Meyer has been engaged in farming, and in 1910 he came to Lincoln county and bought 320 acres of land that is very well improved, and on it he is doing general farming and specializes in the breeding and raising of thoroughbred Poland-China hogs, and has been so successful in the latter line that his product is in demand especially by breeders.

F. W. Meyer was married to Amelia Rieling, a daughter of Henry Rieling, who with his wife survives and lives in eastern Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer became the parents of three children, Alfred, Andrew and Verna, all of whom are at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are consistent members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Meyer is an independent voter, for he believes he can render a more efficient service as a citizen if he picks out his own candidates instead of binding himself with party ties. His time and attention have been too much occupied in the past for him to form connections with fraternities, and he has taken his relaxation in his home and with his family. His sterling honesty, his industry and his sound ideas on community matters have won for him the confidence and respect of his neighbors, with whom he stands deservedly high.

CLARENCE E. KING. It is a recognized fact that no man can become a successful farmer simply by reading books and bulletins, any more than he can become a good soldier through the same method. He must be trained and grow into his work, and every facility should be provided for such training and growth. Agriculture calls for the best thought and effort. Farming is the biggest, the most important job on earth, because every other man's job depends upon the job of the farmer. If the farmer quits, so will the manufacturer, the railroad man and the laboring man have to do likewise. The whole machinery of human endeavor and human government will cease—even life itself, unless the farmer is willing to continue to remain at his post. Never before in the history of the world has this been brought before the people so forcibly, the strength of the arguments being backed by personal experience and widespread information with reference to the needs of the world, and

their interdependence upon the exertion of the farmer. Lincoln county has within its confines some of the most modern agriculturists of Nebraska, and not all of them are "old-timers" by any manner of means, some of them having come to the region at a comparatively recent date, and during their residence here developed into successful farmers and stockraisers. One of them who is achieving wonderful results along these extremely important lines is Clarence E. King of section 18, township 13.

Mr. King was born at Kearney, Buffalo county, Nebraska, on July 4, 1878, a son of Joshua R. and Alice May King, both of whom were born in eastern states and came to Buffalo county, Nebraska, when young married people. There the father died when his son Clarence was a child, but the mother survives him and is living in Watertown, Nebraska. They became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Gertrude Burton, who lives at Gibbons, Nebraska; Edgar, who is living at Riverdale, Nebraska; Mrs. Abbie Elliott, who is also living at Riverdale, Nebraska; Mrs. Jessie M. Armstrong, who is living in Montana; Mrs. Blanche Stubs, of Riverdale, Nebraska; and Clarence E.

Clarence E. King was married to Grace Eickmeier, born at Springfield, Illinois, a daughter of August and Ella Eickmeier, who were for years engaged in general farming in eastern Nebraska, but are now retired and making their home at Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. King became the parents of six children, namely: La Von, Byron, Edgar, Eugene, John Ray and Ruth, all of whom are at home.

After giving his parents a generous assistance in their farm work, Mr. King embarked in farming on his own account in Buffalo county, where he was engaged until March 1, 1908, at which time he came to Lincoln county and bought his present farm, his initial purchase being 270 acres, but he now owns 640 acres, on which he is specializing in pure bred Hereford cattle and Poland-China hogs, his farm being known as the Pleasant Hill Farm. This property is very well improved and equipped for the work in hand, and Mr. King anticipates branching out still further in the near future. His residence is one of the best in the county, and here a kindly hospitality is dispensed. Mrs. King, who was much beloved, died on October 17, 1918, and is deeply mourned in the neighborhood and in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she was a consistent member. Mr. King votes independently of party ties. For two years he has been precinct assessor, and is on the School Board of District No. 18.

**JOHN MAPES.** Agriculture may be said to be man's first and noblest business, and no part of our country's history is so realistic or romantic as that of the development of agriculture and the home life of our normal people. In tracing the advance made in this line we have the whole history of the country's progress, for upon the labor of the farmer rests the entire superstructure of industrial and commercial welfare. Without the farmer and his work the world not only would stand still, but human existence would no longer be possible. For these and equally important reasons, too numerous to be stated at length in an article of this brevity, the man who has devoted his life to agricultural industry is held in high esteem. Lincoln county has furnished some fine examples of this class of industrious citizens, and one of them deserving of more than passing mention is John Mapes of section 7, township 13.

John Mapes was born in Henry county, Illinois, on July 19, 1869,

a son of Franklin and Anna (Hickman) Mapes, natives of Canada and Morgan county, Ohio. Franklin Mapes came to the United States when he was fifteen years old and first settled in Illinois, leaving that state for Polk county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded in 1871 and proved up his claim. Both he and his wife are now deceased, she passing away when seventy-five years old, having survived her husband many years, he having died when only forty-seven years of age. They had three children, namely: John, who was the eldest; Mrs. Mary Keshan, who is now living in Boone county, Nebraska; and Robert, who is a farmer of Lincoln county.

For some years Mr. Mapes was engaged in farming in Polk county, Nebraska, but then came, in 1907, to Lincoln county and bought land, now owning 960 acres of highly improved land, on which he is carrying on general farming and stockraising with very gratifying results. His place is known as Fairview Farm.

Mr. Mapes was married in Polk county, Nebraska, to Alice Welch, born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, a daughter of James and Henrietta Welch, both natives of England, who came to the United States, and after some time spent in Wisconsin became general farmers of Platte county, Nebraska, living there until claimed by death. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mapes took place in April, 1894, and they became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Lottie Simmons, who lives on a farm in Lincoln county; Chester, who is at home; Margie, who was a teacher and now the wife of Norris McKinley; and Viva, John T., Dorothy, Donald, Henry, Randall and Betty M., who are all at home. In politics Mr. Mapes is a republican. He has no church connections. Mrs. Mapes belongs to the Royal Neighbors, and is popular in her lodge as she and her husband are in the neighborhood, where they are proving their worth to their associates and community.

**IRVING B. BOSTWICK.** While Irving B. Bostwick is a native of Warren county, Illinois, since August of 1878 he has been a resident of Lincoln county. For the first six years he was a cowboy, and after finally homesteading and proving his claim he sold it and later purchased the farm of almost two sections of land which he improved and which is his home today.

Mr. Bostwick belonged to a pioneer Illinois family, being a son of George L. and Harriet A. (Crissey) Bostwick, and he was born November 28, 1852, in Warren county. The longevity of the Bostwick family is apparent when it is noted that the father, born February 2, 1800, died November 17th, eighty-eight years later, and the mother, born November 7, 1822, died May 22, 1919, at the advanced age of ninety-seven years. They were natives of Connecticut, and had been farmers there and in Illinois, and in 1881 they joined their son in North Platte. He died in North Platte and she died in Beatrice, Nebraska.

Irving B. Bostwick was the fifth child born to this family. The others are: Catherine L., April 2, 1843; Samuel E., January 23, 1845; Theodore H., May 31, 1847; Sarah Jane, April 26, 1849; Ella, November 11, 1854; Francis C., January 25, 1857; and Fannie, May 20, 1859. Samuel E., Catherine L., Theodore, Ella and Francis are deceased.

Mr. Bostwick married Mary Minnie Kosbon, a daughter of Frederick Kosbon. He was a German emigrant who came to Nebraska and became a farmer in Lincoln county. Eight children have been born of this union: Ida, born August 21, 1889, married Atof Swan-

son and lives in Wyoming: Harry, born June 12, 1888; George, May 9, 1891; Annie, December 31, 1892; Lewis, November 9, 1894; Effie, June 17, 1897; Oliver, September 26, 1903; and Ivan, April 26, 1905.

Mr. Bostwick votes with the republican party, and he has served the community as county assessor and justice of the peace. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

**EDWARD F. ROURKE.** Agriculture is well adapted to build up true American citizenship, for it not only awakens interest and gives purpose, but it teaches industry and self-reliance. It is fortunate that so many of the sons of farmers are remaining on farm land, as that insures the operation of the land by practical men, but this impulse should be encouraged and those who have left the rural regions for more congested sections urged to return to the more normal conditions only to be found where the people live in close touch with nature. One of the enterprising young farmers of Lincoln county who has spent all of his life in agricultural industry is Edward F. Rourke of section 16, township 13.

Edward F. Rourke was born in the western part of Iowa on January 8, 1882, a son of John F. and Alice Rourke, both of whom were natives of Iowa, and farming people, who left their native state in 1902 and came to Custer county, Nebraska, where they are still engaged in the operation of their farm. They became the parents of the following children: Edward F., who was the eldest born; Edmund, who is living with his parents; Mrs. Fresa Ferguson, who is living in Colorado; John and Arthur, who are at home; Bridget, who is deceased; Alfred and Mamie, who are at home; Mrs. Mamie Strickland, who is living in Custer county, Nebraska; and Sylvester and Rita, both of whom are at home.

The marriage of Edward F. Rourke took place in Lincoln county to Miss Maude Fye, a daughter of Calvin L. and Margaret (Eby) Fye, prominent farming people of section 8, township 13, Lincoln county. A sketch of the Fye family appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Rourke became the parents of the following children: Alice M., Francis A., Virginia M., and Edward G., all of whom are at home.

Two years before he was married, or in 1909, Mr. Rourke came to Lincoln county and since then has acquired ownership of 320 acres of land, on which he is carrying on general farming. He is also renting farm land and doing exceedingly well. Both he and Mrs. Rourke are members of the Roman Catholic Church. In politics Mr. Rourke is a democrat. Believing in the value of co-operation among the farmers and an interchange of ideas, Mr. Rourke and his wife have long been members of the Yeomen, and active in that organization. They are held in the highest esteem in their neighborhood, and both come from fine families. On Mrs. Rourke's side they are pioneers of the state.

**GEORGE N. GIBBS.** Possessing a large measure of veritable talent, a well known and successful attorney of North Platte, George N. Gibbs has achieved splendid results through a systematic application of his abilities to the profession of his choice, having won an honored position in legal circles and a place of note among the esteemed and valued residents of the city. A son of J. M. Gibbs, he was born November 12, 1885 in Oskaloosa, Kansas. His paternal grandfather, Horace Gibbs, migrated from Kokomo, Indiana, to

Kansas in early pioneer days, from there following the gold hunter's trail to California. Not very successful in his mining operations, he returned to Kansas, settling in Jefferson county, of which he was the first sheriff, and there spent the remainder of his life.

Born in Iowa, J. M. Gibbs has lived in Oskaloosa, Kansas, for many years, being now retired from active pursuits. He carried on general farming successfully, and still owns 320 acres of valuable land, lying about forty miles west of Kansas City. He is a loyal republican in politics, and was formerly clerk of Jefferson county. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and religiously he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married in Oskaloosa, Kansas, Margaret Chapman, who was born in Kansas, and died in Oskaloosa in 1897.

Acquiring his elementary education in the Hyde School, Oskaloosa, George N. Gibbs attended Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas, and subsequently entered the law department of the University of Kansas at Lawrence, where he graduated in 1909. Deciding to locate in Nebraska, Mr. Gibbs came to North Platte in 1910, and has ever since been actively engaged in the practice of law, serving as county attorney of Lincoln two terms. The notable success which has attended his work is patent evidence of his ability and integrity.

Mr. Gibbs married in December, 1914, Alfa, daughter of Dr. J. C. McKinley, of York, Nebraska, and they have one child, Susan, born in 1915. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs are members of the Episcopal Church, toward the support of which they are generous contributors. Politically Mr. Gibbs supports the principles of the democratic party. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons; of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; and of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**ROBERT H. BEATTY.** The name Beatty suggests the Emerald Isle, and Robert H. Beatty, of the law firm of Halligan, Beatty and Halligan, is only one generation from the emigrant, his father, William Beatty, who is one of the best known residents of Lincoln county, having come from Ireland. His mother, Mary E. (Burke) Beatty, was an Iowa woman. They were married in North Platte. Robert H. Beatty was born July 29, 1887, at Brady, where the family lived many years.

William Beatty was born in Ireland in 1850, and immigrated to Canada in the early '70s, and in 1880 he came to Nebraska. Not much is known of the Beatty relatives in Ireland. When Mr. Beatty came to Nebraska he worked as a section hand on the Union Pacific, and after a time his industry and close application won for him a promotion and he was section boss on the Union Pacific at Brady Island for fourteen years. At the end of that time Mr. Beatty took up a homestead near Brady, and having a genius for business he accumulated considerable property there. He branched into the live-stock industry and made a success of it.

Mr. Beatty improved his farm and added to it from time to time as prosperity attended him, and he now has an estate of 6,000 acres in Lincoln county. He still resides on the original homestead, although the management is relegated to others. When a man has quit his bed at the break of day for seventy years he is entitled to quiet and pleasant environment when age overtakes him. There were six Beatty children, those living being: Robert H., the North Platte attorney; Essie, the wife of Justice Soderman, who lives on a

Lincoln county farmstead; Effie, in Hastings, Nebraska; Edith, wife of Rolley Camblin, who has charge of the Beatty farmstead near North Platte. All the children are accessible from the parental roof in Lincoln county.

The Beattys are Methodists and the father is a member of the Modern Woodmen and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and while he votes the democratic ticket he has never aspired to office, although Governor Morehead appointed him on his staff—an honor fully appreciated by the community. While nothing is known of the relatives in Ireland, the maternal grandfather, John Burke, had lived in Iowa and Idaho. In his old age he came to Nebraska and ended his days at Brady.

R. H. Beatty had local public school advantages as a boy, and he studied law in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln. He received his degree in 1912 and came at once to North Platte, where he entered the law office of J. G. Beeler, and from there he went to the office of Wilcox and Halligan. In July, 1919, a co-partnership was formed and Mr. Beatty became a member of the firm Halligan, Beatty and Halligan. Attorney Halligan has always enjoyed a lucrative practice, and the firm is ready for all emergencies.

On July 8, 1919, Mr. Beatty married Ethel Brown, a daughter of Charles Brown, who was an early settler in Lincoln county. They are Methodists, and he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodmen of America. After enlisting as a soldier in the World war Mr. Beatty spent two months in training at Camp Taylor and received his discharge from there.

**ALBERT N. DURBIN.** Although he has been active in republican politics in Lincoln county, and has been signally honored by the party, Albert N. Durbin of North Platte is now giving his undivided attention to the sale of automobiles. Mr. Durbin first saw the light of day October 4, 1883, in Prairie City, Iowa. He is a son of Joseph H. and Margaret (Underwood) Durbin, the parents having come from near Springfield, Illinois, to Iowa. The mother was a Kentucky woman, and they were married in Iowa. She died January 3, 1907, and he now lives at Ramona, California.

Albert N. Durbin, who relates the Durbin family history, was the first child born to Joseph H. and Margaret Durbin. Louella is the wife of John McDonald, a salesman for the Durbin Automobile Company and lives in North Platte. Effie is a resident of North Platte and employed by J. G. Beeler. Charles is a truck driver at Ramona, California. The mother was always a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in his active business life the father was a farmer in Illinois and Iowa, coming to Nebraska in 1886, where he homesteaded in Lincoln county. In 1917 he removed to California.

A. N. Durbin received a common school education in country schools, and later, while living with the W. C. Elder family, pursued the four year course of study given in the normal schools of North Platte at that time. He was a teacher for five years, when he received the appointment of deputy county treasurer under Ray C. Langford, and four years later he was elected to that office and served two years, when he was re-elected for a three year term. Mr. Durbin served for a time as secretary of the North Platte Commercial Club, but he resigned this position to enter upon the sale of automobiles.





MR. AND MRS. CHARLES H. DAMELER

When Mr. Durbin opened his place of business July 1, 1917, he had the agency for the Oldsmobile cars and trucks, and while he started in a small way the business has increased rapidly. He occupies a sales room in the Masonic Building and does repair work of all kinds. His acquaintance as treasurer of Lincoln county is to his advantage as a North Platte business man.

On August 16, 1905, Mr. Durbin married Mary C. Meyer. She had lived in Colby, Kansas. Their children are Oliver and Marguerite. The family are Baptists, and Mr. Durbin is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Yeomen. He is a community man, and interested in all of Lincoln county.

JAMES A. McMICHAEL is dean of the contracting and building profession in North Platte. His business record has been continuous for forty years. He is still active, maintains an adequate organization for handling contracts both big and small, and is a citizen of recognized usefulness and honor in his community.

Mr. McMichael was born in Pennsylvania April 22, 1861, son of Alonzo and Mary (Lackey) McMichael. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania. Alonzo McMichael came to North Platte in 1878, his family following him in 1880. The trade of carpenter seems to have been the principal one in the McMichael family. Alonzo was both carpenter and builder, and some of the early houses of North Platte testify to his expert handiwork. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted and served three years in a Pennsylvania regiment. Politically he voted as a republican, and he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. Of their ten children the following are still living: James A.; Bent, a carpenter at North Platte; John M., a merchant at North Platte; Clyde, also a carpenter at North Platte; George, who was a Young Men's Christian Association worker with the army in France; Howard, a carpenter; and Eva, wife of John Coons of North Platte.

James A. McMichael acquired his early education in Pennsylvania and was fourteen years of age when he began handling tools and doing work that amounted to an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade. His membership in the craft therefore covers a period of forty-five years. His work as a contractor includes some of the most conspicuous buildings at North Platte, including the McCade Hotel, the Palace Hotel, the Ford Garage, the High School Building, the Knights of Columbus Hall, and in 1890 he put up the first house on the site of Hershey in Lincoln county.

In 1888 Mr. McMichael married Miss Zota Rowley, a native of Michigan. They have four children. Mamie is the wife of Charles Mann, cashier of the First National Bank of Sidney, Nebraska. Daisy is the wife of William Baldwin, of California. Dollie and Ruby are both at home. Mrs. McMichael and her children are members of the Methodist Church. Mr. McMichael is a republican and is affiliated with Lodge No. 985 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

CHARLES H. DAMEIER. Probably no state is better adapted for agricultural purposes, when the land is properly irrigated and developed, than Nebraska, and the men who were far-sighted enough to recognize the possibilities here and secure land before it reached prohibitive prices are now reaping gratifying results. It took, however, more than average ability and courage of a high order on the part of the pioneers, and while their work has brought them success,

they deserve unqualified credit for what they went through before they were able to realize on their investment of time and money. One of these enterprising farmers and heavy landowners of Lincoln county, who has been residing here since 1899, is Charles H. Dameier of section 16, township 14, in the Sutherland region.

Charles H. Dameier was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, April 6, 1872, a son of Adolph and Mary (Albright) Dameier, natives of Germany and Illinois, respectively. The father is deceased, but the mother survives and is still living in Illinois. During his active life Adolph Dameier was engaged in farming and stockraising. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living, and one sister of Charles H. Dameier is now a teacher of the O'Fallon School. The parents early united with the Lutheran Church and gave it a hearty support, and Mrs. Dameier is still a member of that denomination. From the time he secured his papers Adolph Dameier was a republican, and at one time he served on the county board of supervisors.

In 1893 Mr. Dameier came to Nebraska from Illinois, where he had been reared, and spent the summer working on the Coker ranch in Lincoln county, but in the fall returned to Illinois. Having been impressed with what he had seen during that summer, in 1899 Mr. Dameier returned to Lincoln county and bought a farm, to which he has added until he now owns over 2,000 acres, well improved, which he devotes to general farming and stockraising. Experience has proven to him that he gets better results from the registered Polled-Durham cattle, and he specializes in this strain, although all of his other stock is of a good grade. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Union Association of Sutherland. In addition to his other improvements, Mr. Dameier has a nice orchard, which he planted himself, and he takes great pride in its growth.

February 9, 1910, Mr. Dameier was united in marriage with Laura Confer, of Illinois. Both of them are members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Dameier follows in his father's footsteps and gives his support to the republican party. His fraternal connections are those which make him a member of the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, and his wife belongs to the latter organization. Upright, enterprising and far-visioned, Mr. Dameier has risen to a prominent place in his community and fully deserves the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

HARRY E. MITCHELL, D. D. S., of North Platte, is not the first professional man to enter business before taking up his life work, but the lure is not all in one thing. Doctor Mitchell was born in 1880, at Sutton. His father and mother were married in Burlington, Iowa. Abram Mitchell was born at Burlington, and Margaret (White) Mitchell came from Maryland. He is a railway man employed by the Rock Island as yard foreman at Council Bluffs at present. Doctor Mitchell is the oldest of four children, the brothers being engaged in the oil business, Robert L. at Casper and R. Roy at Douglas, Wyoming. The sister, Myrtle, is the wife of R. I. Totten, in the oil brokerage business at Lewistown, Montana.

The Mitchells are Methodists, the mother being interested in missions. The father is a Modern Woodman, and he has always been actively interested in politics from the republican viewpoint. Doctor Mitchell graduated in 1899 from the Council Bluffs High School, and he worked eleven years in the postoffice there. He took his course

in dentistry at Creighton Dental College in Omaha. He graduated in 1910, and practiced in Omaha two years before locating in North Platte. In 1912 he opened dental parlors in North Platte, and from the beginning he had had an excellent practice and one of the best equipped offices in the country.

In 1907 Doctor Mitchell married Belia Allwine, whose father, Dr. H. W. Allwine, is an Omaha dentist. Their children are: Geraldine Nancy and Harry Edward, Jr. The family are Presbyterians, and Doctor Mitchell belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is now a Loyal Knight. In the way of professional interest he is a member of the different dental societies and frequently takes post graduate work in dentistry. The dentist of today and the dentist of yesterday—well, there are degrees in dentistry, and Doctor Mitchell is progressive in his profession.

W. HARRY CRAMER has been a resident of North Platte for over ten years, but his business interests have been widely dispersed. As a contractor for the building of elevators substantial results of his work may be seen over a number of the western states as far as the Rocky Mountains and east to the Missouri River.

Mr. Cramer was born at Smyrna, Delaware, May 9, 1881, a son of David Harry and Anna (McDowell) Cramer. His mother was also a native of Smyrna, while the father was born at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. They were married in Smyrna and David H. Cramer was also for many years in the business of building elevators. He was employed in Chicago during the great Chicago fire of 1871. In 1885 he came to Nebraska, settling at York, and during the next fifteen or twenty years he built more than two hundred grain elevators through the State of Nebraska. He died in 1911, and his widow is now living with her son Harry at North Platte. David H. Cramer was a very successful business man, was a republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He and his wife had six children, four sons and two daughters, the five now living being: E. H. Cramer, an elevator contractor at Hampton, Nebraska; George H., owner of extensive farming interests at Millboro, South Dakota; W. Harry; Elizabeth, wife of L. E. Doak, a farmer at Craig, Colorado; Daisy, wife of S. E. Woods, living on the old Cramer farm near St. Paul, Nebraska.

W. Harry Cramer was four years of age when brought to Nebraska, and graduated from the Lexington High School in that state in 1900. After leaving school he entered the service of the Omaha Elevator Company, and gained considerable experience in elevator construction with that corporation. A year and a half later he joined his father, but since 1904 has been in business for himself. His father had bought a farm near St. Paul in 1899, and Harry Cramer lived there with his parents when not on the road. In 1909 he moved to North Platte. In recent years Mr. Cramer's business has included the construction of elevators, many of them of the largest capacity, in Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and Iowa. He had the distinction of putting up the first farmer's elevator in the State of Wyoming at Carpenter in 1912. He also handled contracts involving \$32,000 at Burns, Wyoming.

July 12, 1911, Mr. Cramer married Miss Elizabeth Bonner, a daughter of North Platte's veteran railroad man, John N. Bonner, whose life and family are sketched elsewhere. Mrs. Cramer is a splendid home maker and has gifts and talents that make her one of the leading figures in local society. She was educated at North

Platte, spent two years in the music conservatory of the University school at Lincoln, and received diplomas in the Siegel Meyers School of Music at Chicago in piano, voice and composition. For thirteen years she was a successful teacher of music in North Platte. She is an active member and first reader in the Christian Science Church. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer have two sons, John Lesley, born May 15, 1914, and David Harry, born October 15, 1919.

Recently Mr. and Mrs. Cramer bought the Iddings home at 519 West Fifth street, one of the largest and most commodious residences in the city. It is reported that the price paid for this beautiful home was more than \$20,000. Mr. Cramer is affiliated with the Masonic Order, all branches of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Mrs. Cramer is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a Rebekah, and secretary of the local School Board.

**JOHN N. BONNER.** Of the many prominent railroad men who have their home and work at North Platte, one whose service was distinguished by length of years and the greatest fidelity and success was the late John N. Bonner, for over forty years a trusted man in the operating department of the Union Pacific. Mr. Bonner had the distinction of being the youngest man to pull a train out of North Platte as a locomotive engineer. He was not quite twenty-one years of age when this responsibility was reposed in him.

Mr. Bonner, who died in the complete esteem of his fellow railroad men and of the entire community of North Platte on June 24, 1916, was born at Appleton, Wisconsin, March 9, 1859, and had lived at North Platte from early boyhood. His parents were John N. and Clarissa Ann (Hall) Bonner. His father was a schoolmaster and spent many years at Knox, Indiana, where he died. The mother came to North Platte and died August 24, 1885.

John N. Bonner finished his education in the public schools of North Platte. He had a studious disposition and the leisure which many railroad men find distracting he used profitably in reading and studying. He was regarded as one of the best informed citizens of North Platte.

He had come to North Platte in 1873, at a pioneer date in the history of the town. He entered the service of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1876 as a brakeman, being then seventeen years of age. He was soon given a post as fireman, and at his majority achieved the dignity of engineer. He was one of the most trusted men that ever pulled a throttle for the Union Pacific Railroad. He was continuously in the service of that railroad as an engineer for thirty-five years, and altogether had completed forty years with the company. His record is remarkable in the fact that no accident was ever charged against him. He was a prominent member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was independent in politics, and though he began life with nothing he provided liberally for his family and left a good estate.

June 24, 1883, he married Miss Etta Stebbins. Mrs. Bonner, who is an honored resident of North Platte, was born at St. Joseph, Missouri, a daughter of Lucian and Elizabeth (Perry) (Walsh) Stebbins. Her parents settled in North Platte in 1873. Her father for many years was active in the business of farming, but is now retired and lives with Mrs. Bonner. Mrs. Bonner's mother died in 1900. Mrs. Bonner is the oldest of four children: Rufus P. Stebbins is a rancher near North Platte; T. L. Stebbins is interested with

his brother Rufus in the ranch; and Gilbert R. is a civil engineer at Napa, California.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bonner were also born four children: Carl S., the oldest, was formerly a bookkeeper and automobile man but is now engaged in farming at North Platte; Elizabeth B. is the wife of W. H. Cramer, an elevator builder at North Platte; A. L. Bonner is a talented musician, a violinist and an orchestra leader pursuing his profession in Chicago; Clarissa Helen, the youngest of the family, is a senior in the North Platte High School.

**Gus S. HUFFMAN** is an old and honored business man of North Platte. When he came to the city nearly forty years ago he was with the Union Pacific shops, but for several years past has been proprietor of one of the most liberally patronized cigar and tobacco shops in the city.

Mr. Huffman was born in Pennsylvania February 26, 1861, son of John W. and Margaret (McElphatrick) Huffman. His father was a native of Pennsylvania and his mother of Scotland. They were married in Pennsylvania and in 1868, in pioneer days, came west to Nebraska City. John W. Huffman was a carpenter by trade, and followed that occupation all his mature years. In 1878 the family moved to Omaha, where both parents spent the rest of their lives. They were members of the Lutheran Church and John W. Huffman was a republican voter. Of their five children three are living: Mary E., widow of J. C. Jordan; Gus S.; and Lawrence T., who is traveling auditor for the Union Pacific Railroad storehouse at Omaha.

Gus S. Huffman was seven years old when brought to Nebraska, and has the same degree of loyalty to this state as a native son. He acquired his education in Nebraska City and his first regular occupation was in the Union Pacific Railroad blacksmith shops at Omaha. He was there three years and on April 3, 1881, came to North Platte and continued his employment in the railway shops here for eight years. He then became interested in politics, and for ten years his business was in the courthouse as deputy county clerk. When he left public office he established a cigar and tobacco business, and it is in this shop that his old friends meet and enjoy his companionship. He is one of the popular residents of the city, is affiliated with Elks Lodge No. 985, also with the Maccabees and Ancient Order of United Workmen. A democrat, he has frequently exercised an independent choice in voting. Mrs. Huffman is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Huffman has a good home at 802 West Sixth street.

In 1889 he married Amanda Federhoof, who was born at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They have two talented children. The daughter, Irma, finished the high school course at North Platte and received a thorough musical education in Omaha and Chicago, and in 1918 received a diploma as a graduate of one of the leading music schools of New York City. The son, Harry G. Huffman, is preparing for the medical profession and in March, 1921, will complete a six years' course in the University Medical School at Omaha. During the World war he was enrolled in the Students Army Training Corps in the Medical Department, and by direction of the army authorities he continued his studies instead of being called or assigned to other duty.

**MARTIN R. MAGNUSON.** Improvement and progress may well be said to form the keynote of the character of Martin R. Magnuson, a

well-known farmer and stockraiser and one of Lincoln county's representative citizens, and he has not only been interested in the work of advancement of his individual affairs, but his influence is felt in the upbuilding of the community which is honored by his citizenship. The prosperity which he enjoys is the result of energy rightly applied and has been won by commendable qualities.

Martin R. Magnuson was born at Rockford, Illinois, and is the son of Magnus and Elizabeth Magnuson. His parents were both born and reared in Sweden, whence, early in life, they came to the United States, settling in Illinois, where the father engaged in general farming during the remainder of his years, he and his wife both being deceased. Of the eight children born to them, four are living, namely: Frank, who is engaged in farming in Logan county, Nebraska; William, who also is farming in Logan county; Harry, living at Wilber, Nebraska; and Martin R., the subject of this sketch.

Martin R. Magnuson was reared under the parental roof and attended the schools of his home community. He remained there until about twenty-three years of age, when, in 1885, he came to Nebraska, settling first in Custer county, where he pre-empted a claim. Later he entered a homestead in Logan county, which he proved up and on which he resided until 1895, when he came to Lincoln county. Up to that time Mr. Magnuson's efforts had not been attended with success, but he was determined to win and on his arrival in Lincoln county he homesteaded a section of land, kinkaided another, proved up in due time on both, and devoted himself indefatigably to the improvement and cultivation of this land. In this enterprise success was his, because of his indomitable perseverance, even in the face of discouraging circumstances, and he is now the owner of 1,475 acres of fine farm and grazing land, from the proceeds of which he derives a very comfortable income. He carries on general farming operations, and also gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle for market.

Mr. Magnuson was married to Jane Himes, a native of Illinois, whose death occurred in 1891. She was the daughter of John and Ellen Himes, natives of Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Magnuson was born one child, who died in infancy.

In political affairs Mr. Magnuson is not bound by party ties, but votes according to the dictates of his own judgment. His religious affiliation is with the Christian Science Church. He has ever held the unequivocal confidence and esteem of the people among whom he has lived, for he has been public-spirited and helpful in all the phases of the community life.

R. S. L. Voss. The name of R. S. L. Voss is well known among the leading farmers of Lincoln county, whither he came a number of years ago, and through close attention to business and unswerving industry he has met with a satisfactory degree of material success. He comes of sturdy Norwegian stock, his family on both sides going far back into the annals of the mountains, valleys and fjords of Norway. So he has in him many of the elements that always win in the battle of life, no matter where fought out, and because of his success and his high personal character he is held in well-deserved esteem throughout the community.

R. S. L. Voss was born in Norway on March 6, 1888, and is the son of Lars and Ingeborg Voss, both of whom were natives and life-long residents of Norway. They were farming folk, were held in high esteem, and both died while their son, the subject of this sketch,

was still an infant. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch and Louis Opedal. During the recent World war the latter was a captain in the British Navy and was in command of a merchant ship when it was torpedoed by the Germans and sunk, he and one other man being the only persons who escaped from the ship. Later he was put in command of another merchant ship.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native land and secured a good practical education in the public schools. In 1906, when about eighteen years of age, Mr. Voss came to the United States and located in Beloit, Wisconsin, where he completed his education in Beloit College, remaining as a student there for about a year and a half. He then came to North Platte, Nebraska, where he was engaged in carpenter work until 1911. He then wisely determined to devote himself to agriculture and purchased a relinquishment, which he proved up. He made permanent and substantial improvements on the place, which he has devoted to general farming operations, and during the subsequent years he met with splendid success in its operation.

Mr. Voss was married in Lexington, Nebraska, to Amanda Anderson, who came to the United States in 1907 from Sweden, where she was born and reared. Her parents were also natives of Sweden, where they were farmers, and they never left their native land, both being now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Voss have been born three children, Hazel Victoria, Harold Vernon and Helen Esther, all of whom remain at home.

Mr. Voss is a member of the Lutheran Church and is independent in his political attitude, preferring to vote only as his own judgment indicates. He has demonstrated unusual ability and judgment in his operations and is now the owner of 1,120 acres of good land, his home being located in sections 28 and 21, township 12, range 31. He stands strongly for all movements which have for their object the advancement of the best interests of the people generally, and by the latter he is held in high esteem.

**WILLIAM W. HUNTER.** One of the worthy citizens of Lincoln county is William W. Hunter, a progressive farmer, who is easily the peer of any of his fellows in the qualities that constitute good citizenship. His splendid property has been acquired through his own efforts, his persistency of purpose and his determination, and his present prosperity is the legitimate reward of his earnest efforts and his sound judgment.

William W. Hunter is a native of Carroll county, Illinois, where his birth occurred on the 25th of September, 1866, and he is the son of William and Sarah (Scotthorn) Hunter. The father was a native of Indiana, his birth having occurred near Logansport, where he was reared. During practically all of his active years he was a hotel-keeper, operating hotels in Indiana, Illinois and Kansas, and finally locating in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he spent his last days, his death occurring when he was sixty-eight years old. His wife, who was a native of Mississippi, died at the comparatively early age of thirty years. She became the mother of two children, the subject of this sketch and a sister, Mrs. May Spear, who lives in Hays, Kansas.

William W. Hunter was reared and educated in his native county, and thereafter devoted himself to farming and ranching at various places in Kansas and Colorado until 1889, when he came to Lincoln county and bought a tract of land, which he has since devoted to



farming and stockraising. He has been a good manager of his business affairs, being now the owner of 800 acres of land and sending about a carload of cattle to market annually.

Mr. Hunter has been married twice, first in 1908 to Dora May Welch, and they became the parents of six children, Edward, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county, and Raymond, Archie, Charles, Walter and Drusilla, who remain at home. Of these, Archie enlisted in the United States Army during the World war, being assigned to Company K of the Thirty-fourth Regiment of Infantry, and was in training at Camp McArthur and Camp Richfield. Finally he was sent overseas and spent ten months in France, including thirty-one days on the firing line. He was discharged on May 27, 1919. In August, 1912, Mr. Hunter married Anna Masters, a native of Ohio and the daughter of Benjamin and Malissa Masters, both of whom were natives of Ohio, but are now living in North Platte. To the subject's second marriage was born one child, Florence, who is at home. One child by Mrs. Hunter's first marriage is Carl Williams.

Mr. Hunter is independent in his political views and actions, while in his religious faith he is in accord with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He gives his support to every worthy movement for the advancement of the best interests of the community and enjoys a well-merited popularity throughout his section of the county.

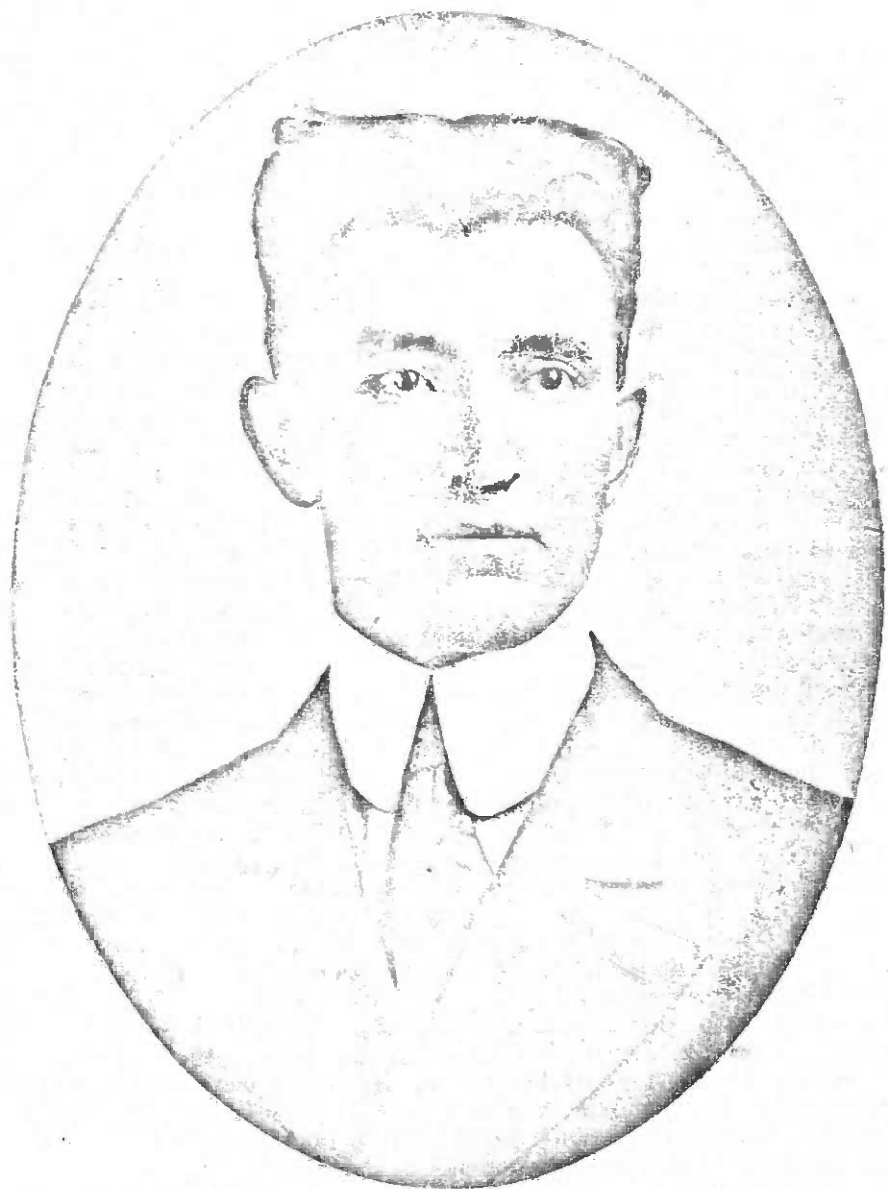
**HUGH SONGER.** Individual enterprise, which is the just boast of the people of Nebraska, is forcefully exhibited in the career of Hugh Songer, one of the substantial farmers of this county. He is a worthy representative of one of the old and highly honored families of this locality, and is himself deservedly held in the highest esteem because of his business success and excellent personal qualities of character.

Hugh Songer was born in Fountain county, Indiana, on November 11, 1880, and is the son of Allen and Mollie (Shuler) Songer. These parents also were natives of the Hoosier state, where they followed general farming, subsequently moving to Cass county, Nebraska, where the father is now living retired at the age of sixty-four years. Mrs. Songer is deceased. They became the parents of five children, namely: Rosie, living in Indiana; William H., of Iowa; Hugh, the subject of this sketch; Alva J., a citizen of Montana; Hazel, who lives in Indiana.

Hugh Songer came to Hayes county, Nebraska, in 1894, and he remained there, engaged in farming, until 1907, when he came to Lincoln county. During the following five years he was employed as a clerk in a mercantile establishment at Dickens, at the end of which period he homesteaded, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted himself energetically. He is now the owner of 1,920 acres, and divides his attention between farming and stock-raising, in both of which he has met with splendid success.

Mr. Songer was married to Audrey Orton, a native of this county and the daughter of Leroy and Alma Orton, who were natives of New York state. They came to Nebraska in 1884 and entered a homestead, which they afterwards proved up and there he became a successful farmer. They are now living in Oregon. To Mr. Songer and his wife have been born two children, Ethel and Vera, who are at home.

In matters political Mr. Songer is independent, giving allegiance to no particular party, but supporting those men and measures which



Theodore J. Kerr.

in his judgment are for the advantage of the common people. He is genial and companionable and has won a host of warm and loyal friends, who esteem him because of his sterling worth.

**THEODORE J. KERR.** Each calling or business, if honorable, has its place in human existence, constituting a part of the plan whereby life's methods are pursued and man reaches his ultimate destiny. Emerson said that "All are needed by each one." And that is as true in one avenue of life's activities as in another. However, the importance of a business or profession is in a very large measure determined by its beneficence or usefulness. So dependent is man upon his fellow men that the worth of each individual is largely reckoned by what he has done for humanity. There is no class to whom greater gratitude is due from the world at large than to those self-sacrificing, sympathetic, noble-minded men whose life work has been the alleviation of suffering that rests upon humanity, thus lengthening the span of human existence. There is no known standard by which their beneficent influence can be measured; their helpfulness is as broad as the universe and their power goes hand in hand with the wonderful laws of nature that come from the very source of life itself. Among the able and successful physicians and surgeons of Lincoln county he whose name forms the caption to this review occupies a leading place in professional ranks and is numbered among the representative citizens of his community.

Theodore J. Kerr was born in Union county, South Dakota, on September 8, 1879, and is a son of John R. and Anna C. (Clark) Kerr, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Maryland. They were married in Illinois and in about 1859 they moved to South Dakota, being among the very earliest settlers in their section of the state, two other families being their only neighbors in a radius of many miles. Mr. Kerr was a carpenter by trade and in order to make a living while they were proving up on their land and getting returns from the first crops, he went to Sioux City, Iowa, and found employment, leaving his wife and two children on the homestead alone. This plan was followed for some time, but finally conditions improved and he gave his entire time to the operation of the home farm until compelled by advancing years to relinquish the work. He died in 1916, at the age of eighty years, and is survived by his widow, who still makes her home on the old homestead in Union county. To these worthy parents were born eight children, namely: Robert, who is a traveling man and lives in New Mexico; Frank F., who remains with his mother on the home farm; Mrs. Ella C. Nixon, who lives on a farm in Gage county, South Dakota; J. William, a farmer in South Dakota; J. H., who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Akron, Iowa, was in France two years with the United States Army; Theodore J. is the immediate subject of this review; Mrs. Mary E. Hofsted lives on a farm in Union county, South Dakota; Maggie F. is training as a nurse in the Methodist Episcopal Hospital at Omaha, Nebraska. John R. Kerr was a republican in his political faith and his religious membership was with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was fairly successful in his business affairs, and was highly respected throughout the community where he lived.

Theodore J. Kerr received his elementary education in the public schools in Union county, South Dakota, and then was a student in the high school at Akron, Iowa, where he was graduated in 1898. He

then went to Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa, and took a complete course in electrical engineering, at the completion of which he went to Omaha, Nebraska, and for three years had charge of the electric light plant of that city. Then, having determined to devote his life to the practice of medicine, the subject matriculated in the medical department of the University of Nebraska, where he was graduated in 1908. Immediately thereafter he entered the Methodist Episcopal Hospital at Omaha as an interne, remaining there until 1909, when he came to North Platte and established himself in the active practice of his profession. He has remained here to the present time, with the exception of the period spent in the army during the World war. Early in the war, or soon after the entry of the United States into it, Doctor Kerr entered the First Officers' Training Camp at Fort Snelling, but was soon afterward transferred to the Medical Corps. Later he was permitted to return home, but was called to the service again in October, 1918, and reported to Fort Riley, Kansas. He was afterward transferred to Fort Humphries, Virginia, where he remained for seven months, or until the close of his military service.

Doctor Kerr devotes himself to general practice and is an exceedingly busy man, his success in the practice having brought him a large and representative patronage. His office is completely equipped with the latest and best appliances for successful professional work, including a fine X-ray machine, of which the Doctor is an expert operator and through the medium of which he has been enabled to achieve some remarkable results.

On August 30, 1911, Doctor Kerr was married to Selma Anderson, who was born in Vermilion, South Dakota. She is a lady of culture and refinement and is a popular member of the social circles in which she moves. She is a member of the Christian Church. Politically the Doctor gives his support to the democratic party, though his professional work precludes his taking a very active part in public affairs. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. He is a lover of athletic sports and outdoor life, especially of hunting and fishing. Personally Doctor Kerr is affable and popular with all classes and stands ready at all times to encourage and aid all laudable measures and enterprises for the general good. By a life consistent in motive and because of his many fine qualities of head and heart he has earned the sincere regard of a vast acquaintance, and his success in his chosen sphere of endeavor bespeaks for him the possession of superior attributes.

**WILLIAM D. McCRUM.** The true western spirit of progress and enterprise is strikingly exemplified in the lives of such men as William D. McCrum, one of Lincoln county's progressive and enterprising stockraisers, whose energetic nature and laudable ambition have enabled him to conquer many adverse circumstances and advance steadily. He has met and overcome many obstacles and has won for himself not only a comfortable competency, together with one of the choice farms of this locality, but also a prominent place among the stockmen and farmers of the county.

William D. McCrum is a native of Jackson county, Iowa, where his birth occurred on November 2, 1868, and he is the son of William and Elizabeth (Thompson) McCrum, both of whom were born and

reared in Mercer county, Pennsylvania. William McCrum engaged in farming for a time in Pennsylvania, but eventually moved to Iowa, where he remained until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-nine years old. He is survived by his widow, who still lives in eastern Iowa, at the advanced age of ninety years. They were the parents of six children, namely: Mary, deceased; Mrs. Sarah Jane Jinkens, who lives in Iowa; Mrs. Clara C. Bradway, who also lives in Iowa; Mrs. Mary M. Sutton, deceased; Wendel, who is in business with the subject and who came to Lincoln county in 1885, settled near Wallace, where he entered a homestead and engaged in farming; and William D., the subject.

William D. McCrum was reared and educated in Jackson county, Iowa, and remained at home until about eighteen years of age, when, in 1886, he went to Colorado and entered a homestead, on which he lived for a few years, but lost his land through tax difficulties. In 1895 he came to Lincoln county, where he has remained ever since. In 1904 he kinkaided a farm, which he proved up and has been engaged in the stockraising business continuously since. He and his brother own together over 1,800 acres of land, admirably adapted to the purpose to which it is devoted. Politically Mr. McCrum gives his support to the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs, especially as pertaining to local matters, though he is not in any sense a seeker after public office. Genial and unassuming in manner, he has made a host of warm and loyal friends in this community, and is eminently deserving of representation in a work of the character of the one in hand.

**HENRY COKER.** The name of Coker is a well known one in Nebraska, John Coker, father of Henry Coker, having been one of the very early settlers and prominent men of this region. One of his sons, Henry Coker, is living up to his ideas with regard to good citizenship and honorable manhood; and owns and operates a finely improved farm of 450 acres, his home being near Sutherland in Lincoln county. He was born in Iowa county, Wisconsin, and came to Lincoln, Nebraska, from his native state on August 22, 1888. For the first few years he worked on his father's ranch, and then took up a timber claim west of Sutherland in 1890 and proved it up, adding to it until he is now a heavy landowner, about 221 acres of his land being under irrigation. All of the magnificent improvements on this typical western farm have been put in by Mr. Coker, and he is naturally proud of his property.

In addition to carrying on general farming and stockraising upon a somewhat extensive scale Mr. Coker has found time to serve the government, and for twenty-four years has been on its payroll. He and his father circulated a petition for the creation of the Sutherland post-office, and for six years he was the postmaster in charge of it. He has been operating a mail route from Sutherland to Lena for sixteen years, and for twenty-three consecutive years has been precinct assessor.

On October 22, 1891, Mr. Coker was united in marriage with Alverda Peale, a daughter of Franklin and Mary Ann (Connelley) Peale, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. He came to North Platte, Nebraska, to become the first foreman painter at the shops of that place maintained by the Union Pacific Railroad. Mr. Peale later resigned to go into business for himself as a painter at North Platte, his shop standing on the present site of the Keith Theatre. In addition he homesteaded near North Platte, and donated a portion

of the land he thus obtained to be used by the North Platte Cemetery Association for burial purposes. His wife is now deceased, but he survives and makes his home at Denver, Colorado. During the war between the states he served in the Union Army and was a brave and gallant soldier.

Mrs. Coker was the first white female child born at North Platte, and she was reared there at a time when the most primitive conditions prevailed. She can remember very distinctly the great herds of buffalo which ran at large, and the not much less savage Indians who seemed everywhere present. Her recollections of those days are very interesting and instructive, and are worthy of preservation in some definite form. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Coker are as follows: Frank H., who is now at home, was in the service of the United States Government on the Mexican border; J. V., who is a railroad man, resides at Laramie, Wyoming; Ross H., who is at home, was a member of the Engineers Corps and served as a train dispatcher in France, receiving his honorable discharge from the service in July, 1919; Marie, who took a nurse's training course in the general hospital of North Platte, is now in Omaha completing her training; Walter J., Charles W., Gladys H., Theodore and Paul H., all of whom are at home; and Melvin, who is deceased. Mr. Coker is a strong republican, and steadfast in his support of the principles of his party. Fraternally he owes allegiance to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and Mrs. Coker are earnest members of the Presbyterian Church, and generous supporters of that denomination at Sutherland. For the past eighteen years Mr. Coker has held a commission as notary public. In every way he measures up as a man who does his duty, and his neighbors who have benefited through his careful discharge of the responsibilities he assumed appreciate his excellent qualities and accord him their confidence and respect in no small measure. The entire family is typical of the great spirit of the west, and the comfortable ranch-house is the scene of many happy gatherings when the numerous friends gather to enjoy the abounding hospitality always offered to anyone beneath the roof-tree.

**JOHN K. ESHLEMAN.** The life of John K. Eshleman, of Hershey, has been such as to elicit just praise from those who know him best, owing to the fact that he has been true to the trusts reposed in him and has been upright in his dealings with his fellow men, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

John K. Eshleman is a native of Pennsylvania, where he was born on December 7, 1855, and is the second in the order of birth of the three children born to Martin and Elizabeth (Kaufman) Eshleman, both of whom were also natives of the Keystone state. Their two children besides the subject were Mary, who is deceased, and Benjamin, who now lives in North Platte, Lincoln county. Martin Eshleman was a mason by trade, which vocation he followed for many years in his native state. At the outbreak of the Civil war he offered his services to his country and eventually gave up his life on his country's altar, having died from starvation while a prisoner in either Andersonville or Libby prison in 1863. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and had espoused the republican party.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the common

schools of his home neighborhood, following which he devoted his attention to farming operations until 1880, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska. Here he entered a homestead, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted himself indefatigably, bringing it up to a fine state of development and being numbered among the successful agriculturists of his locality. About seven years ago Mr. Eshleman sold his farm and moved into Hershey, where he now resides.

In 1877 Mr. Eshleman was married to Naomi Dowhower, who also was a native of Pennsylvania, and they have become the parents of eight children, of whom six are living, namely: William, who lives on the Palmer ranch, about forty miles north of Paxton; Bessie M. is the wife of John Show, of Denver, Colorado; B. F.; Mabel, the wife of John E. Ware, of Hershey; Clyde, deceased; Maude, who is now deceased, was the wife of Roy Montgomery; Earl, who served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, is now living in Hershey; Bernice is living at home.

Politically Mr. Eshleman is a supporter of the republican party, while his religious affiliation is with the Presbyterian Church. He is a splendid example of the virile, progressive, self-made man who believes in doing well whatever is worth doing at all, and because of his excellent qualities of character and his kindly disposition he is deservedly popular among those who know him.

**WILLIAM W. YOUNG.** The life history of him whose name heads this sketch is closely identified with the history of Hershey. His life has been one of untiring activity and has been crowned with a degree of success attained by those only who devote themselves indefatigably to the work before them. He is of a high type of a business man, and none more than he deserves a fitting recognition among the men whose abilities have achieved commendable results.

William W. Young was born in the State of Illinois on August 10, 1856, and is the son of Robert and Elizabeth (Reid) Young. On the paternal side the subject is of Scotch stock, his father having been a native of the land of hills and heather. Robert Young was reared and educated in his native land and remained there until 1841, when he came to the United States and located in Illinois, where he devoted himself to farming pursuits for thirty-three years. In 1874 he came to Saline county, Nebraska, where he bought a tract of land from the Burlington Railroad Company and devoted himself to farming and stockraising there until his death which occurred in 1876. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom two are living, John R. and William W.

William W. Young was educated in the public schools of Illinois, where he lived until the family came to Nebraska. Here he engaged in farming until 1892, when he moved to Cheyenne county and embarked in the lumber and hardware business. About twenty years ago he also established a hardware store in Hershey, over which he placed a manager, who conducted the business for him until 1911, when Mr. Young moved to Hershey and assumed personal charge of the store. During these years he has steadily increased his stock, which is now one of the largest and most complete in this section of the country, and he enjoys a large and constantly increasing trade, which comes to him from a wide radius of surrounding country.

In 1884 Mr. Young was married to Estella A. Shores, a native

of Pennsylvania, and to them were born two children, R. C., who lives in Hershey, and Viola, who died in 1918. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellow men, he has gained the good will and commendation of not only his immediate friends, but also of the general public because of his business ability and his excellent personal qualities. He is public spirited in his attitude toward the community, consistently giving his support to all movements for the advancement of the material, civic and moral welfare of the people.

**GEORGE W. BROWN.** The history of Lincoln county is not a very old one. It is the record of the steady growth of a community within the last half century and has reached its magnitude of today without other aids than those of industry. The people who redeemed this section from its primeval wildness were strong-armed, hardy sons of the soil, who hesitated at no difficulty and for whom hardships had little to appall. Many of the early pioneers, having blazed the path of civilization to this part of the state, finished their labors and passed from the scene, leaving the country to the possession of their descendants and to others who came at a later date and builded on the foundation which they laid so broad and deep. Among the latter class is the enterprising citizen and successful business man by whose name this article is introduced. While his arrival was not as early as some, yet he came in the formative period and has done much to develop the wonderful resources of a county that now occupies a proud position among the progressive and enlightened sections of Nebraska.

George W. Brown is a native son of the old Hoosier State, having been born in Steuben county, Indiana, on April 27, 1852, and is the son of George and Emily (Dowe) Brown, both of whom were natives of the New England states, the father having been born in Massachusetts. The father was a minister of the Presbyterian Church, who occupied pulpits in a number of Indiana towns until 1861, when he moved to Cedar county, Iowa, and there carried on his ministerial labors. In 1868 he located in Sac City, Iowa, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1916, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife had died in 1876. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living, namely: Eliza, who is the wife of George Totman; Angus, who lives in California; Bettie, who is the wife of George Gilbert, of Sac City, Iowa; George W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Emma, the wife of William Sutherland, of Sac City, Iowa; and Fred, of Oklahoma.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools of Sac City, Iowa, and afterward engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in August, 1887. On his arrival here he entered a homestead, and during the following twelve years he devoted his attention to farming and stockraising. In 1899 Mr. Brown moved to Hershey and established a dry goods and grocery store. He gave special attention to the grocery department, in which he carries a large and well selected stock of plain and fancy groceries, and by close attention to business and the wants of his patrons he has built up a large and representative patronage. He occupies his own cement store building and is well situated for the handling of his trade. He devoted himself indefatigably to his business until in recent years his son Walter has assumed a large part of the details of the business.



In 1873 Mr. Brown was married to Mary Marsden, a native of Michigan, and to them were born four children, namely: Walter, who is assisting his father; Delbert, deceased; Grace, deceased; and Valeria, who is the wife of Ivan Shingle, of Hershey. Politically Mr. Brown has for many years given his support to the prohibition party, believing that the suppression of the liquor traffic was the most important question before the American people. His religious membership is with the Presbyterian Church, to which he is a generous contributor. Mr. Brown's career presents a notable example of those qualities of mind and character which overcome obstacles and win success, and because of his success and his excellent personal qualities he enjoys the confidence and regard of the entire community.

**GEORGE L. MUDD.** The record of the subject of this sketch is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of comfort and influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods which he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens of Lincoln county.

George L. Mudd was born in Missouri on November 4, 1870, and is the son of Samuel and Jane (Dillion) Mudd. The father has been a lifelong farmer, conducting general operations, and has been very successful. He is a democrat in politics and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. To him and his wife have been born four children, namely: Robert, who lives in Missouri; Elizabeth, who is the wife of H. C. King, of Kansas City, Missouri; George L., the immediate subject of this review; and James, who lives in Missouri. The mother of these children is dead.

George L. Mudd was educated in the schools of his native community and was reared to the life of a farmer, which occupation he followed in Missouri until 1899, when he came to Lincoln county and bought a tract of land. During the first five years of his residence here he was in the employ of W. A. Paxton, since which time he has devoted himself to the operation of his farm. He conducts general operations, raising a general line of crops, in addition to which he gives considerable attention to the raising of livestock, mules and hogs, and has been very successful in all his enterprises.

In 1899 Mr. Mudd was married to Minnie Show, who was born in Missouri, and they are the parents of one child, Dorothy. Politically Mr. Mudd is independent, reserving the right to vote for the men and measures which most nearly meet with his approval, regardless of party lines. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Because of his business success, his integrity and his genial disposition he has won the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**JAMES W. ABBOTT.** The man who has made a success of life and won the honor and esteem of his fellow citizens deserves more than passing notice. Such is the record, briefly stated, of James W. Abbott, a well known citizen of the Town of Hershey. By a life of persistent and well-applied energy and commendable industry along honorable lines, he has justly earned the right to specific mention in a work of the province of this one, along with other progressive and public spirited men of his county, who have made their influence felt in their respective communities.

James W. Abbott was born December 20, 1871, in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and is the son of Theodoric and Jessie (Farquharson) Abbott, both of whom also were natives of Canada. The father was a farmer by vocation, a member of the Presbyterian Church and a liberal in his political views. He and his wife are both now deceased. They became the parents of the following children: Mary, deceased; Henry N. resides in Prince Edward Island; W. Charles lives in Somerville, Massachusetts; George T., of Prince Edward Island; Fanny, who is the wife of Ernest E. MacMillan, of Saskatoon, Canada; and the subject of this sketch, two others having died in their infancy.

James W. Abbott was reared on the paternal farmstead in Prince Edward Island until he was seventeen years old, and received his education in the public schools. In 1889 he came to Hershey, Lincoln county, where he spent a few months on the Paxton ranch. He had learned telegraphy as a boy and entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company as a telegraph operator, following that vocation at various places for fourteen years, until 1903. He then took a leading part in the organization of the Bank of Lincoln County, the enterprise having been perfected in what is now his office. Since that time he has devoted himself closely to the real estate business, in which he has met with a very gratifying measure of success. He possesses a very accurate knowledge of land values and other conditions essential to successful real estate business, and he has handled an enormous quantity of farm land and city property.

Mr. Abbott has been married twice, first, on September 23, 1902, to Myrtle Kane, a native of Kansas, to which union were born two children, Charles T. and Margaret B. Mrs. Abbott died on March 17, 1914, and on September 14, 1917, Mr. Abbott was married to Kathryn Leypoldt, a sister of D. M. Leypoldt, who is represented elsewhere in this work.

Politically Mr. Abbott gives his support to the republican party, and he is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Hershey. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he is a Knight Templar and Shriner, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has always been deeply interested in whatever tended to promote the prosperity of his chosen town and county, and he has been a prominent factor in the material development for which the community has long been noted. A man of splendid business ability and sound principles, he has won and retains the confidence and regard of all who know him.

**ORSON H. COVELL.** A man who boldly faces the responsibilities of life and by determined and untiring energy carves out for himself an honorable success exerts a powerful influence on all who come in contact with him. Such men constitute the foundation of our republican institutions and are the pride of our civilization. Such has been the record of the subject of this sketch, one of the successful and progressive farmers of Lincoln county.

Orson H. Covell, who owns and operates a fine farm in section 10, township 14, range 30, is a native son of Lincoln county, having been born at North Platte on February 27, 1887, and is the son of Walter K. and Frances C. (Kenyon) Covell, both of whom were natives of New York State. The father was born March 15, 1844,

MIR. AND MRS. WALTER K. GOVELL



and the mother July 13, 1845. Walter K. Covell served three years, three months and twenty days in the Civil war. He was chief bugler in the Third New York Light Artillery and was in twenty-four engagements. He was wounded once slightly. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. Their family was composed of five children, namely: Herbert, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, was recently discharged from the army with the rank of lieutenant, and he was a chaplain in the army; Edith is the wife of David Dobbins, of Buffalo county, Nebraska; Nellie is the wife of Edmund Dickey, of North Platte; Walter, who lives at St. Peter, Minnesota, served in the army during the World war and was recently discharged with the rank of captain, he having enlisted as a surgeon in the Two Hundred Eighteenth Squadron, Aviation Corps, and is now practicing medicine at St. Peter, Minnesota; Orson H. is the immediate subject of this sketch. Walter K. Covell came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1871, and entered a homestead, on which he engaged in farming for several years. He later worked in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad for fifteen years. He was energetic, a good manager and accumulated a fine estate of 800 acres of land, which at the time of his death was well improved. He passed through many exciting and unpleasant experiences during his early years here and at one time the family were driven from their home to the town by hostile Indians. Buffaloes were numerous and other wild game plentiful. Mr. Covell died on March 15, 1911, the sixty-seventh anniversary of his birth.

Orson H. Covell attended the common schools and completed his studies in the high school at North Platte. He at once thereafter engaged in farming, which he has followed continuously to the present time. His home farm comprises eighty acres of excellent land, which he maintains at a high state of improvement and on which he is realizing a gratifying degree of success.

In 1907 Mr. Covell was married to June Arnett, and they have become the parents of five children, Richard, Celia, Alice, Elsie, and Jennie, but the last named died in infancy. Politically Mr. Covell is a democrat, while fraternally he is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. He and his wife are members of the Episcopal Church. His success has been gained by his own individual efforts, and he stands today among the highly respected and representative men of his section of the county.

**F. A. RASMUSSEN.** Perhaps no one agency in all the world has done so much for public progress as the press, and an enterprising, well-edited journal is a most important factor in promoting the welfare and prosperity of any community. Lincoln county is certainly indebted to its wide-awake journals in no small degree, and one of the men who is doing a commendable work in the local newspaper field is F. A. Rasmussen, owner and editor of the *Hershey Times*. He has long been connected with journalistic work, and his power as a writer and editor, as well as a business man, is widely acknowledged among contemporary newspaper men and the public in general.

F. A. Rasmussen was born in Osceola, Nebraska, on July 27, 1884, and is the son of George and Matilda (Johnson) Rasmussen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The father was reared to the life of a farmer, which vocation he followed for a time, later

becoming engaged in the mercantile business. In 1868 he came to the United States, locating at once in Osceola, Polk county, where for several years he engaged in farming and stockraising, in which he met with success. He was one of the pioneer settlers of that locality and passed through the transformation period which ushered in the wonderful development and prosperity of this state. He saw eight-cent corn, which was oftentimes chiefly used for fuel, and hauled many loads of it to Columbus, fording the Loup River, and in these trips frequently was assisted by friendly Indians. Among the other unpleasant experiences through which he passed were the terrible droughts of 1893 and 1894. Subsequently he engaged in the mercantile business, in which he prospered, but for several years he has been retired from active affairs and is now living in Osceola, Nebraska. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, is affiliated with the Danish Lutheran Church, and gives his political support to the democratic party. To Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen were born six children, an equal number of sons and daughters, namely: Mary, who is now deceased, was the wife of E. L. Temple; George, Jr., is in the cattle business at Linwood, Nebraska; Amelia is the county superintendent of schools of Polk county, Nebraska; Anna is the wife of David Potter, sheriff of Polk county, Nebraska; F. O. is manager of a basket store in Omaha; and F. A. is the subject of this sketch.

F. A. Rasmussen was reared under the parental roof and attended the public schools of Osceola. After completing his education he became connected with the printing and publishing business there, remaining at Osceola until 1905 when he bought a half interest in the Keith County News at Ogalalla, and remained there until 1909, when he moved to North Platte and established a job printing office. He was thus engaged until 1910, when he sold out and, going to Hershey, established the Times, which he is still conducting. The Times is one of the live, newsy and influential journals of Lincoln county and has a well-established reputation as a newspaper that publishes the news while it is news, and which is typographically equal to any of its contemporaries. In 1912 Mr. Rasmussen was appointed postmaster of Hershey, and is still the incumbent of that position, performing his official duties in a manner that has won for him the commendation of the patrons of the office and the approval of his superiors in the department.

In 1907 Mr. Rasmussen was married to Helen Martini, who was born and reared in North Platte, and to them have been born two children, Geraldine and Claire. Politically Mr. Rasmussen gives his support to the democratic party. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. While his business and official interests make heavy demands upon his time, Mr. Rasmussen does not neglect his duties to the community, and his support can always be counted upon in favor of every movement for the advancement of the best interests of the people, materially, morally or educationally. Because of his business success, his public spirit and his excellent personal qualities, he is deservedly popular throughout the locality in which he lives.

**J. C. MOORE.** The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the foremost cattle raisers and farmers of Lincoln county, and has

by his enterprise and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the development and advancement of the county. He has in the course of an honorable career been most successful in the enterprises with which he has been connected and is well deserving of specific mention in the history of his county.

J. C. Moore was born in Franklin county, Illinois, on April 16, 1886, and is the sixth in the order of birth of the seven children which blessed the union of J. M. and Elizabeth (Griffith) Moore, the former of whom was a native of Tennessee and the latter of Illinois. J. M. Moore followed farming in Illinois for a number of years, or until 1900, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Boone county, where he followed farming and stockraising up to the time of his retirement, and he is now living at Hershey. He is a democrat in politics and a member of the Baptist Church. His wife died in 1909. Their children were as follows: Alice, who is the wife of J. W. Brogdon, of Topeka, Kansas; Laura, the wife of Amos Foster, of Nebraska; Clara, deceased; Anna, who became the wife of W. C. Taylor, of Clarke, Nebraska; Alta, the wife of W. S. Bunting, of Hershey; J. C., the immediate subject of this review; Nellie, who is the wife of A. H. Bunting, of Grand Island, Nebraska.

J. C. Moore received his elementary education in the public schools of Illinois, completing his studies in the high school of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. After leaving school Mr. Moore engaged in farming in Boone county, but two years later he came to Lincoln county, bringing with him three horses and five cows and \$100 of borrowed money. He entered a homestead, on which he built a "shack," 12 by 14 feet in size, and for two years he devoted himself to farming. He then went into the livestock and ranching business, and the first year he summered 750 head of Old Mexico cattle, for which he received twenty cents a head. This price was later raised to forty cents a head. Having thus gained an insight and practical experience in this line, Mr. Moore went into the cattle feeding business heavily on his own account, and has fed as many as 1,500 head of cattle at a time. He has made many improvements on his ranch, including the construction of thirty-two miles of fencing. He is now in partnership with D. M. Leypoldt, of North Platte, to whom he sold the original ranch for about \$13,000, and it was later sold for \$30,000. Mr. Moore sold the first piece of high-priced land in Lincoln county, receiving \$100 per acre, and later selling 118 acres of land for \$250 an acre. He also recently bought some land for \$350 an acre.

On February 21, 1906, Mr. Moore was married to Grace Cox, a native of Illinois, and to them have been born five children: Bernice, Beulah, Dorothy, Mildred, who died in infancy, and Lorene. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Moore is a democrat in political faith, though he does not take a very active part in public affairs. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Moore has literally been the architect of his own fortune and is distinctively entitled to be termed by that proud American title, a self-made man, worthy of the high esteem in which he is universally held. He is public spirited and consistently gives his support to every movement for the advancement of the best interests of the community honored by his citizenship.

**G. SHARPLEY THOMPSON.** The history of a county or community is but a record of the doings of its people and the story of the plain, common people who constitute the moral bone and sinew of the state should ever attract the attention and prove of interest to all true lovers of their kind. In the life story of the subject of this sketch there are no striking chapters or startling incidents, but it is merely the record of a life true to its highest ideals and fraught with much that should stimulate the youth just starting in the world as an independent factor.

G. Sharpley Thompson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 11, 1880, and is the son of George W. and Elizabeth (Kilpatrick) Thompson, both of whom were born in Ireland. The parents came to the United States in their youth and were here married, their union being blessed by the birth of six children, five of whom are living, namely: Maymie, who is the wife of John H. Cummings, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Tillie W. is the wife of William P. Bender, also of Philadelphia; Frank A., of New York; G. Sharpley, the subject of this review; and Edmund A., of Philadelphia. Both of the parents are still living in Philadelphia. George W. Thompson was a captain of police in that city for thirty-five years, and at the time of his retirement in 1915 he was the oldest man in the service in that city. He is a republican in politics and a member of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masous and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

G. Sharpley Thompson attended the public schools of Philadelphia, and completed his education in the University of Pennsylvania. He then entered the offices of the United Gas Improvement Company as office boy, and by faithful service and ability rose by promotion to the responsible position of cashier, having served in practically every department of that company. He remained with that company until 1908, when, on account of the failure of his health, he resigned and came west. His first occupation was as a farmer, in which he gained the health recuperation which he sought. He then moved to Hershey and engaged in the real estate and insurance business in which he met with splendid success. In 1917 Mr. Thompson was chiefly instrumental in the organization of the First National Bank of Hershey, of which he became a director and cashier, which position he still holds. Though a comparatively young institution, this bank has made a splendid record and is numbered among the strong and popular banks of the county. It has a capital stock of \$25,000 and average deposits of \$150,000. Mr. Thompson is devoting practically his entire time and attention to the bank and is eminently fitted by training and natural qualifications for this responsible post.

On April 21, 1909, Mr. Thompson was married to Anna J. Williams, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In politics Mr. Thompson gives his support to the republican party, and he is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite; he is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being secretary of the lodge of the last-named order at Hershey. He owes his success to no train of fortuitous circumstances, but simply to the persistency of his efforts and the application of sound business principles in all his affairs. His

career since becoming identified with this community has been such as to earn for him the universal respect and good will of all who know him.

I. EVERETT WARE. Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Lincoln county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears above, peculiar interest attaching to his career from the fact that practically his entire life has been spent within the borders of this county.

I. Everett Ware, vice president of the Bank of Lincoln County at Hershey, was born in Mount Pleasant, on March 3, 1875, and is a son of William and Mary (Webb) Ware, the former of whom was a native of Indiana and the latter bore the distinction of being the first white child born in the county of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom eight are living, namely: Jennie, the wife of W. M. Haist, of North Platte; I. Everett, the subject of this sketch; Edward, of Hershey; Maggie, the wife of Arthur Harvey, of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Luella, the wife of Albert McConnell, of North Platte; John, of Hershey; Ralph, of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Cora, the wife of John Jacobson, of Hershey. William Ware, the father of these children, following farming in Iowa until 1878, afterward he resided in Nuckolls county, Nebraska, until 1886, when he came to Lincoln county, homesteaded a tract of land, and thereafter devoted himself to agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, his death occurring in October, 1901. He was survived by his widow, whose death occurred in November, 1907. Mr. Ware was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, which affiliation was particularly consonant from the fact that he spent three years in the service of his country during the Civil war, as a member of Company B of the Seventh Regiment of Indiana Cavalry, having enlisted when but fifteen years of age. He spent about nine months of that period in the notorious Andersonville prison pen, where he endured untold hardships and sufferings, and from the effects of which experience he never fully recovered his health. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was originally a republican in politics, but late in life changed his support to the democratic party.

I. Everett Ware received his elementary education in the public schools, completing his studies in York College, and then taking a commercial course in the Bryant & Stratton Business College at North Platte, Nebraska. During the following seven years he was engaged in farming, after which for about seven years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Hershey. For three years Mr. Ware again gave his attention to farming, at the end of which time he established a hardware and implement store in Hershey, but subsequently sold that and acquired an interest in the Bank of Lincoln County at Hershey, of which he is now vice president. He has devoted his close attention to the bank, and the splendid prosperity which that well known and influential institution enjoys is undoubtedly very largely due to his efforts and personal popularity. The Bank of Lincoln County has a capital of \$25,000, a surplus of



\$6,000 and average deposits of \$340,000. the deposits having more than doubled since Mr. Ware became connected with the bank two years ago.

Mr. Ware was married in 1903 to Bertha Pierson, a native of Nebraska, and to them three children have been born, namely: Floy and Marvin, both of whom are deceased, and Kenneth, at home.

Politically Mr. Ware gives his support to the democratic party, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of genial disposition and generous impulses and enjoys a marked popularity throughout the community with which his interests have been identified for many years.

**CARL BROEDER.** By a life consistent in motive and action and because of his many commendable personal qualities, Carl Broeder, of section 20, township 12, range 31, has earned the sincere regard of all who know him. He has been industrious, persevering and discriminating in his labors, and has richly earned the splendid success which has crowned his efforts. Mr. Broeder is a native son of the state now honored by his citizenship, having been born in Jefferson county, Nebraska, on June 3, 1870, and he is the son of Tobias and Madaline (Weisel) Broeder. These parents were both natives of Germany, whence they came to the United States in 1862, settling in Jefferson county, Nebraska, where they entered and proved a homestead, which they improved and cultivated, and they lived there during the remainder of their lives. They were married in their native country and became the parents of four children, Catherine, deceased, one who died in infancy, William and Carl.

Carl Broeder was reared and educated in his native county, and on attaining mature years engaged in farming, first on the home farm with his father and later on his own account. In 1902 he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded a tract of land, to the improvement of which he applied himself and which was the nucleus of his present fine farm of 2,560 acres. A part of the land is devoted to general farming purposes, but Mr. Broeder gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle, of which he ships three or four carloads to market annually.

Mr. Broeder was married to Elsie Sinn, who was born near Moline, Illinois, the daughter of Jurgen and Alesa (Runge) Sinn. Her parents were born in Germany, but were reared and married in Moline, Illinois, where Mr. Sinn obtained employment with the Moline Plow Company. They subsequently moved to Iowa, where they remained about eight years, at the end of which time they came to Nebraska and located on a farm near Alexander, Thayer county, where they are still living, both being seventy-eight years old and retired from the active duties of the farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Broeder have been born seven children: Lewis T., who is married and is farming in Lincoln county, Lizzie, William J., Henry H., Hugo, Wilma and Agget.

Mr. Broeder is a republican in his political views and in religion he and his wife are members and earnest supporters of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Broeder is a fine type of the industrious, persistent type of men who have largely been responsible for the splendid growth which Lincoln county has enjoyed, and because of his success and his fine public-spirited attitude toward the best inter-

ests of the community he is deservedly popular throughout the community.

**CALVIN L. FYE.** The shocking devastation of many sections of Europe because of the warfare which has raged there for so many years has brought home very forcibly to Americans that sense of the ever recurring miracle of the crops and seasons and all of those homely notions of thrift and daily toil in the fields, and the conception of the earth as the source of all fruitfulness and prosperity is receiving a recognition never before accorded it by those who dwell away from close contact with nature. Lincoln county is a section of Nebraska which has been developed in a remarkable degree by the men who came into it during its early period, and who were far-sighted enough to know how to overcome some of the obstacles and develop the many resources. One of these men who has been associated with this region since 1885 and has borne his part in its improvement is Calvin L. Fye of section 8, township 13.

Mr. Fye was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, on April 15, 1866, a son of John and Henrietta Fye, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. They moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, where they were engaged in farming until 1874, when they came west to Nebraska and homesteaded in Butler county, proved up their claim, and then came on to Lincoln county in 1885, and there homesteaded and lived on their claim, becoming very successful as farmers. The father died when he was fifty years of age, but the mother lived to be eighty-two years of age. They became the parents of nine children, of whom Calvin L. was the fifth in order of birth.

Coming to Lincoln county in 1885, Calvin L. Fye homesteaded but afterward sold and moved in 1919 to his present farm. He now has 320 acres of well improved and valuable land. Here he is very successfully engaged in general farming and stockraising. He has put in all of his improvements and has things very convenient and comfortable, and takes a pride in having his property up-to-date.

Mr. Fye was married at North Platte, Nebraska, in the fall of 1887, to Margaret Eby, born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, a daughter of George and Susan Eby, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. Mr. Eby was a contractor and farmer, but is now deceased, having passed away at the age of fifty years, his widow surviving him until she was sixty-two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Fye became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Pearl Cady, who lives in Laramie, Wyoming; Mrs. Maude Rourke, who is living in Lincoln county; Mrs. Florence Lapping, who is a resident of Lincoln county; Mrs. Fern McCall, who lives in Lincoln county; Mrs. Mabel Coker, who lives at Laramie, Wyoming; Harold, who is at home; and Blanche, Elmer and Madge, who are also at home.

Mr. Fye votes independently of party lines, preferring to choose his own candidates. He and his family belong to the Baptist Church. While Mr. Fye has not held any public office, Mrs. Fye has been a member of the school board of district No. 18 at intervals for the past twenty-five years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fye are fine people, and they are held in the highest esteem in their neighborhood, where their many excellent characteristics are known and appreciated.

**WESLEY T. WILCOX.** A talented and successful attorney of North Platte, Wesley T. Wilcox has been associated in his professional labors with several lawyers of acknowledged skill, and by means of his industry, prudent expenditure and wise investments, has accumulated considerable property, and is now living retired from active work, devoting his time to his private interests. A son of Thomas Wilcox, he was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1857, and was there reared and educated. His paternal grandfather, John Wilcox, spent the greater part of his life in England, coming to the United States when well advanced in years, and spending his last days in Trumbull county, Ohio.

Born and bred in England, Thomas Wilcox migrated to Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1836, and having bought a tract of land, improved a fine farm on which he lived and labored until his death, about sixty years later. Politically he was first identified with the whig party, but was afterward a sound republican. Both he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Dunkerton, was born in England, a daughter of Richard Dunkerton, who came with his family to the United States, locating in Trumbull county, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming until his death. Of the seven children born to Thomas and Eliza Wilcox, six are living, Wesley T., the youngest child, being the only one to leave Ohio.

Acquiring his elementary education in Trumbull County, Ohio, Wesley T. Wilcox was graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, and began the practice of his profession in Pottawattamie county, that state. Coming from there to Nebraska in the spring of 1886, he was for a short time associated in practice with George E. French, later becoming head of the firm of Wilcox & Williams. He was subsequently in partnership with H. M. Grimes until 1895, when Mr. Grimes was called to the bench. Forming a co-partnership with John J. Halligan in January, 1896, Mr. Wilcox continued a member of the prosperous firm of Wilcox & Halligan until July, 1919, when he retired from active practice, his personal interests demanding his attention. A man of good financial ability as well as a skillful lawyer, Mr. Wilcox has accumulated a goodly share of this world's goods, and has now leisure to enjoy the fruits of his arduous professional labors.

Mr. Wilcox married, November 25, 1886, Minnie A. Dabney, who was born in Madison county, Iowa, a daughter of William H. H. Dabney, a pioneer freighter from Iowa to Salt Lake City. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox have four children, namely: Alice, wife of Walter O. Coner, of North Platte, a merchant; Allison W., of North Platte, was formerly an extensive farmer, but is now a rural mail carrier; Lucile H., a graduate of the University of Nebraska, is now teaching in the North Platte schools; and Florence G., who was graduated from the North Platte High School, is now a junior in the University of Nebraska. Politically Mr. Wilcox is an active and influential member of the republican party, and in addition to having served as county attorney one term and as a member of the State Legislature in 1899, he is now a candidate for commissioner to the Constitutional Convention. Fraternally he is a member of Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, belonging to Lodge, Chapter and Commandery and to the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, to the Knights of Pythias, to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and to the Modern Woodmen of America.

**WILLIAM C. RITNER.** It is the lot of some men to be born great, while others have to achieve greatness, and a careful perusal of the sketch of William C. Ritner, a prominent business man of North Platte, will show that he was destined to be the architect of his own fortune. Industrious, energetic and far-sighted, he has arisen from humble surroundings and limited circumstances, and without assistance of friends or financial advantages of any kind has made steady advances along the pathway of progress, being now one of the leading marble manufacturers and dealers of Lincoln county. He was born November 15, 1855, in Pennsylvania, which was also the birthplace of his parents, John R. and Martha (Rice) Ritner.

A life-long resident of Pennsylvania, John R. Ritner, whose brother Joseph was elected governor of Pennsylvania in 1835, was quite a successful man and a much respected citizen. He died in 1865, while in manhood's prime. The family in the United States dates back to his grandfather, the immigrant, who landed in this country in 1750 from Alsace, France. Of the four children born to John R. Ritner and his wife, three are living, as follows: Fannie, wife of Jacob Coble, of Pennsylvania, a retired business man; William C., the special subject of this sketch; and John R., of North Platte, who has charge of the cement department of the county, and whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. The mother, now eighty-five years of age, is still a resident of the Keystone State. She is a devout member of the Lutheran Church, to which her husband also belongs.

At the age of sixteen years, having acquired a limited education in the district schools, William C. Ritner began serving an apprenticeship at the marble cutter's trade, for which his keen eye, artistic tastes and deftness gave him a natural aptitude. Subsequently coming west, Mr. Ritner helped quell several of the Indian uprisings during the three years he was in service. On November 25, 1876, just after the massacre in which General Custer lost his life, he took an active part in a tremendous fight that began before daylight and lasted until nine o'clock at night. One hundred and seventy-three tepees were captured, furs valued at the least at \$10,000 were burned, 450 horses were captured, the Indians defeated, and of the relics taken Mr. Ritner has many curious and valuable ones.

From 1876 until discharged in 1878, Mr. Ritner was at Fort McPherson, from there locating on his ranch in Lincoln county, in Ritner precinct. In 1883, while still on the ranch, he embarked in the marble business at North Platte, and in 1885 took up his residence in this city. Succeeding well in his undertakings, Mr. Ritner broadened his field of operation, having established plants at Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at Greeley, Colorado, all of which were in a highly flourishing condition, but about eight years ago he disposed of all but the one at North Platte. As Mr. Ritner was without means when he settled in Nebraska, his first money having been made as a ranchman and cattle dealer, and is now proprietor of a substantial business and considerable city property, including a North Platte hotel, the Ritner Hotel, which he rents, it is evident that he has made judicious use of his time and abilities. He keeps three salesmen busy in supplying the demands of his patrons in Lincoln county, Wyoming and Colorado, the monuments and memorials from his plant being sold in many places.

Mr. Ritner married Mrs. Helen Randall, a native of Elmira, New York, and widow of Alexander W. Randall, who was elected

governor of Wisconsin in 1857 and re-elected in 1859, and who later served as postmaster-general under Lincoln, who sent him to Rome as ambassador in 1861. Mrs. Ritner, then Mrs. Randall, made a trip around the world, Secretary Seward being one of the party with which she traveled. Mrs. Ritner was a woman of pleasing address, cultured and accomplished, and her death October 6, 1918, was deeply mourned not only by her family, but by the community. She was an active and consistent member of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Ritner is a republican in politics, and though business demanded the greater part of his time he has served as road supervisor. Ritner Precinct was named for the Ritner family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritner were not blessed with children, but they did both possess that kindly feeling for five boys who were homeless and cared for them as only considerate people can. These boys remained as members of the Ritner household until they reached man's estate, then married and made homes of their own. They also reared four girls, who were blessed with the tender watch-care of Mrs. Ritner until they had reached womanhood and left to make good homes for themselves.

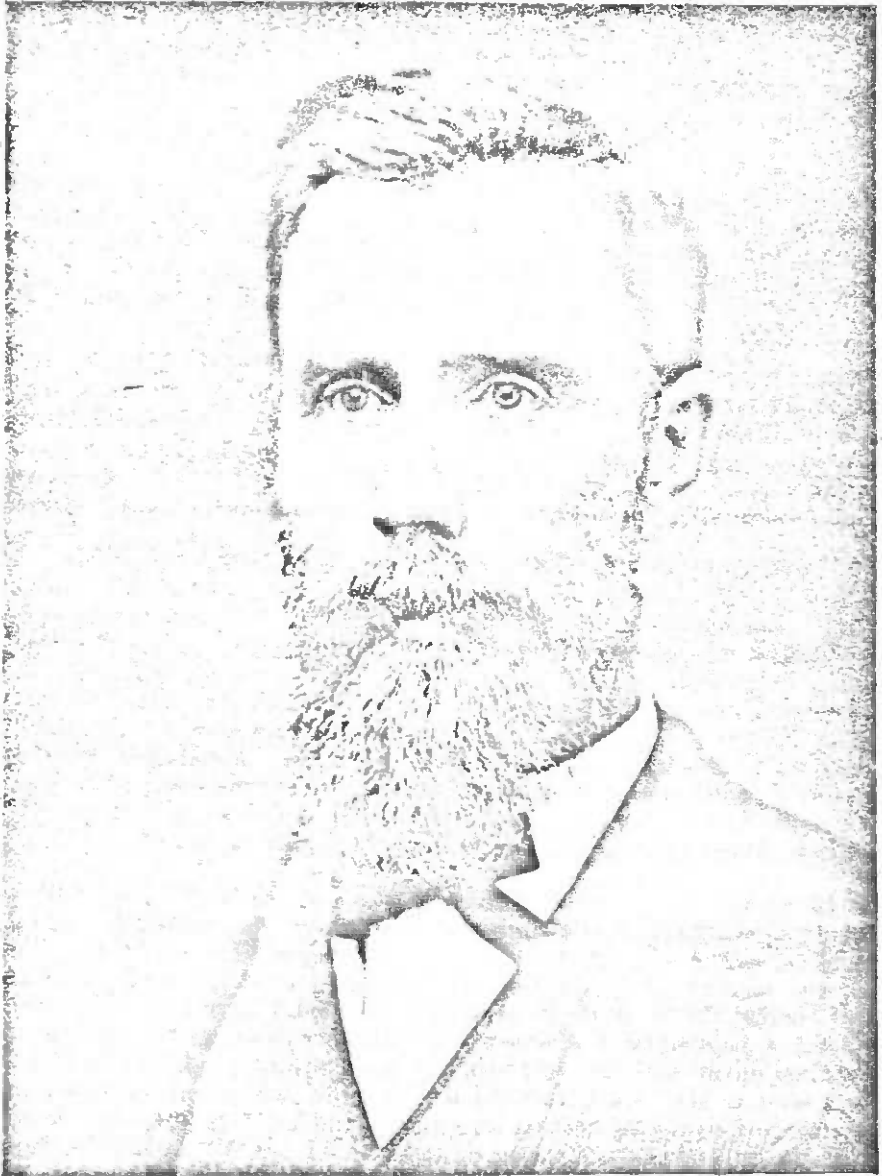
To have given so large a number of boys and girls homes and to have taught them the true path of life, making them all worthy citizens and household heads, is no mean record for a man and his wife to leave as their memorial. Indeed this is a remarkable case, one well suited as an example to other childless fathers and mothers who have the means to care for others in childhood and youth. Mrs. Ritner came to this county an invalid in 1872 and invested in real estate. She regained her health and she was a remarkable woman in many ways.

**RUSSELL WATTS.** Fifty years ago Lincoln county was almost wholly a cattle country, its great area being parceled out in large leaseholds among the owners of the extensive herds and flocks that pastured here. One of those early cattlemen was the late Russell Watts, who became permanently identified with Lincoln county, and for twenty years was one of its outstanding citizens and business men.

Mr. Watts, who died April 17, 1891, was born at Brasher, St. Lawrence county, New York, August 24, 1836, a son of Isaac and Jenima (Nevin) Watts. His mother was a native of Ireland and his father of Scotland. Soon after marriage they moved to Sangamon county, Illinois, and Isaac Watts became an extensive farmer and stockraiser in that state, where he and his wife died. They were members of the Methodist Church, and he was a democrat in politics.

Russell Watts grew up and received his education at Jacksonville, Illinois. He was trained as a farmer, took to the business of stock-growing, and had a thorough training in that industry in his native state. From Illinois he moved to Iowa, and August 8, 1871, the year he married, came on to Lincoln county, Nebraska. His stock-raising enterprise was conducted near Paxton, where he leased many thousands of acres and also had a great deal of patented land. He fed hundreds of carloads of cattle and was a man of discriminating judgment and great ability, thoroughly deserving his success.

He was also active in public affairs, and for several years held the office of county commissioner, being elected on the democratic ticket. He was very progressive in his civic attitude and is also



RUSSELL WATTS

remembered for his many personal benefactions. He and his family were all Methodists.

In Iowa on August 8, 1871, Mr. Watts married Miss Mary E. Hardin, born October 21, 1849, a daughter of Elisha and Nancy (Polson) Hardin. Her parents were born at Hardinburg, Indiana, and moved to Iowa with team and covered wagon in 1851. They settled on a wilderness farm and Mr. Hardin developed a stock business on a large scale. He and his wife for many years made their home at Pleasantville, Iowa. The Hardin family were Methodists and Mrs. Watts' father was a democrat.

Mrs. Watts since 1914 has been a resident of North Platte, completing in that year the building of a beautiful home at 316 West Fifth Street. She was the mother of three children, two of whom are living: Isaac Watts, who has followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, is an expert stockman and carries on an extensive business at Corning, Iowa, where he has a stock farm and buys and sells and ships stock. The daughter, Mayme, is the wife of Ray C. Langford, vice president of the First National Bank and a prominent resident of North Platte.

**ORLIN L. WATKINS.** The study of the life of the representative American never fails to offer much of pleasing interest and valuable instruction, developing a mastering of expedients which had brought most wonderful results. The subject of this review is a worthy representative of that type of American character and of that progressive spirit which promotes public good in advancing individual prosperity and conserving popular interests.

Orlin L. Watkins was born in northern Indiana on April 4, 1864, and is the son of Rev. Orlin and Mary (Lee) Watkins, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Michigan. The subject's father was a minister of the gospel in Indiana for a number of years, but moved to northern Michigan in 1880, and there spent the remainder of his life, both he and his wife being now deceased. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Dwight, who lives in Oklahoma; George, of McCook, Nebraska; Lewis, who is a land owner and carries on general farming operations, though living in North Platte; Orlin L., the immediate subject of this sketch; William, deceased; Mary, deceased; and Jennie, who lives in Michigan.

Orlin L. Watkins was reared and educated in his native state and in Michigan, and remained there until about twenty-three years old, when, in 1887, he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, settling near Wallace, on land which he had secured by homestead entry. He proved up this land and cultivated it until 1892, when he moved to the eastern part of the state, where he was engaged in farming for five years. In 1902 Mr. Watkins returned to Lincoln county and entered homestead land, which he proved up. He is now the owner of 1,400 acres of land, the major portion of which is devoted to stockraising, though he also carries on some general farming operations. Systematic and methodical in his work, and exercising sound judgment in all his business affairs, Mr. Watkins has been rewarded with abundant success and is today numbered among the progressive, up-to-date and substantial men of his section of the county.

The subject was married to Stenna Jole, who was born and reared in Iowa, but whose parents were natives of Denmark. They came

to this country and settled in the Hawkeye State in an early day and devoted their lives to farming pursuits, both being now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Watkins have been born six children, William, Sadie, Clarence, Frank, Fred and Florence, all of whom are still at home.

In his political views Mr. Watkins is a socialist and consistently stands for the highest standards in community life, giving his support to all movements which in his opinion are likely to prove of public benefit. Mrs. Watkins is a member of the Baptist Church. Because of his success and his high personal character, Mr. Watkins occupies an enviable position in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

**JOSEPH E. NELSON.** There could be no more comprehensive history written of a community, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life work of those who by their own endeavor and indomitable energy have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has gained a definite degree of success and won his way to the front in agricultural affairs, and who, though not long a resident of the county, has made a definite and favorable impression on the community.

Joseph E. Nelson was born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 30, 1874, and is the son of N. P. and Mary Nelson. Both of his parents were born, reared and married in Sweden, and there conducted a farm until 1873, when they came to the United States, locating first in Chicago, Illinois, later moving to Polk county, Nebraska, where they spent the remainder of their years and died. They were the parents of three children, namely: Mrs. Hattie Watson, of Polk county; Mrs. Linda Lindablate, whose husband is a successful farmer in Polk county; and Joseph, the immediate subject of this sketch.

Joseph E. Nelson was about a year old when the family moved to Nebraska in 1875. When old enough he gave his assistance to his father, but subsequently became a salesman in a garage and implement house, which occupation he followed for about ten years. On March 1, 1918, he came to Lincoln county and purchased a section of land, to the operation of which he has persistently applied himself and from which he received a generous income. That Mr. Nelson showed good judgment in his choice of land is shown by the fact that today the land has doubled in value. The place is well improved and is devoted to general farming and stockraising purposes.

In Polk county, Nebraska, on June 29, 1899, Mr. Nelson was married to Amelia Anderson, a native of Polk county and the daughter of Peter J. Anderson and wife, who were early homesteaders in Polk county, but both are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been born three children, namely: Julius, who has served for three years in the United States Marines; and Lyle and Paul are at home.

Mr. Nelson occupies an independent attitude in political affairs, while fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a firm supporter of all great moral issues and in local affairs is found on the side of the best interests of the community. Because of these things he is held in high esteem throughout the community where he is known.

**PATRICK H. McEVoy.** A man of much force of character, patriotic and public spirited, Patrick H. McEvoy, of North Platte,



was a respected and valued member of the community in which he lived, and as postmaster filled the responsible position in a manner highly satisfactory to the general public. A son of the late John McEvoy, he was born August 23, 1855, in Boston, Massachusetts, and is of Irish descent, his paternal grandfather, Patrick McEvoy, having emigrated from Queen's county, Ireland, to the United States when young, spending his last years in Aroostook county, Maine.

Born in Eastport, Maine, John McEvoy spent the greater part of his life in Massachusetts, for a number of years having been superintendent of the Ames Shovel Works. A democrat in politics, he took great interest in public affairs, but was never an aspirant for office. In religion he was a Catholic. He married Catherine Murphy, who was born in Baltimore, Maryland, a daughter of Patrick Murphy, who was born in Cork, Ireland, and died in Massachusetts. They were the parents of seven children.

Brought up in New England, Patrick H. McEvoy was educated in the public schools, and as a boy was employed in the Ames Shovel Works near Boston, Massachusetts, later going to Maine to work on his grandfather McEvoy's farm. Running away from home in 1871, he enlisted in the regular army, with which he was associated for seven years, being a member of the Fifth United States Cavalry and stationed in the West at Fort McPherson in 1878. While in the army he fought the Indians in several uprisings, and took part in fights with "Crab Patch," receiving not only a pension for his services, but being awarded a medal for heroic conduct on the battlefield.

Coming to North Platte, Nebraska, in 1879, Mr. McEvoy first engaged in the gun, ammunition and cigar trade, and later embarked in the jewelry business. Retiring from mercantile pursuits, he was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company for twenty-eight years, first in the roundhouse and later serving as general car repairer for eighteen years, his services having been so well appreciated that he now receives a pension from the company. In 1915 Mr. McEvoy was appointed postmaster at North Platte, and ably and faithfully devoted his time to the management of the office until his death January 8, 1920.

Mr. McEvoy married in 1877 at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming, Laura Nixon, who was born at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and in addition to the thirteen children born to their union Mr. and Mrs. McEvoy adopted a little girl. Nine of the children and the adopted child are living, namely: James, of North Platte, a railroad man; Frank, of North Platte, a railway machinist; May, wife of Charles Crosby, a carpenter in North Platte, who served in the Spanish-American war, and was a first lieutenant in the World war, serving as such for eighteen months; Laura, living at home; Fred, of North Platte, also a railroad man; Charles, a railroad employe, living at Leds Ferry, Idaho; Harry, of North Platte, a railroad employe; Nellie, at home; Arthur, who served for fifteen months in the navy during the World war; and Elinor, a school girl. Mrs. McEvoy is also deceased, her death having occurred November 27, 1912. Religiously Mr. McEvoy was a member of the Catholic Church, to which his wife also belonged. Politically he was a democrat; and fraternally he was a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**JOSEPH S. HOAGLAND.** A man of broad intellectuality and sound judgment, Joseph S. Hoagland, of North Platte, has achieved success in many lines of endeavor, as a lawyer winning pronounced prestige, as a public official using his influence to promote the public welfare, and as a member of different fraternal organizations contributing his full share toward advancing the interests of each. A son of William V. F. Hoagland, he was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, February 10, 1847, coming from thrifty Dutch ancestry, the original Hoagland family having emigrated from Holland to the United States in colonial days. His grandfather, William Hoagland, was a life-long resident of New Jersey, and for several years served as sheriff.

William V. F. Hoagland was born in New Jersey, his birth occurring in a jail while his father was serving as sheriff of Somerset county, his birth occurring September 17, 1817. Migrating with his family to Illinois in 1850, he settled in Macoupin county, where he followed his trade of a carpenter and contractor for a number of years. Coming from there to Nebraska in 1885, he continued at his trade for a brief time, and afterward lived retired from active pursuits until his death, at the venerable age of eighty-seven years. He was a republican in politics, and while a resident of the east both he and his wife were members of the Dutch Reformed Church, but after coming west both united with the Congregational Church.

William V. F. Hoagland married Sarah P. Beekman, who was born in Somerset county, New Jersey, and died in Lincoln, Nebraska, aged ninety-three years. Of the eleven children born of their union, eight are now living, as follows: H. V., who took up a homestead claim near Holdrege, Nebraska, many years ago, and later was a prominent citizen of Lancaster county, serving as sheriff, and representing the county for two terms in the State Senate, is now living retired in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he has a pleasant home; Joseph S., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Sarah Tunnell, a widow, living in Virden, Illinois; Mrs. Jeannette Bagley, of Lincoln, Nebraska; William, managing a harness shop and hardware store in Central City, Nebraska; Susie, who has taught school since 1886, is now head of the art department of the public schools of Lincoln, Nebraska; Elizabeth, wife of H. H. Loughrige, who is engaged in the insurance business in Lincoln; and James, owning and occupying a ranch in Holt county, this state.

As a boy Joseph S. Hoagland attended the public schools of Bunker Hill, Illinois, later completing his early studies at the Bunker Hill Academy, in the building erected by his father. At the age of eighteen years, on February 10, 1865, he enlisted for service in the Union Army, and was sent to Telehoma, Tennessee, and subsequently went with his regiment through that state, caring for and protecting the returning soldiers, being thus occupied until receiving his honorable discharge November 10, 1865. Returning to Bunker Hill, Illinois, Mr. Hoagland taught school a year, then studied medicine a year. Turning his attention then to the study of law, he was admitted to the bar in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1878, with permission to practice in all of the courts. Immediately opening an office in Lincoln, Mr. Hoagland continued there for six years. In 1884 he took up a homestead claim in Logan county, at the same time establishing his home in North Platte, where he has since been successfully engaged in the practice of his chosen profession, being acknowledged the nester of the bar.

On December 29, 1869, Mr. Hoagland was united in marriage, in Madison county, Illinois, with Marie L. Waples, their union being solemnized in the house in which the bride was born. Two children have blessed their union, namely: Walter V., of whom mention is found elsewhere in this volume, is engaged in the practice of law with his father; and Arthur B., of North Platte, is assistant secretary of the Fidelity Life Insurance Company of North Platte.

An active and prominent member of the republican party, Mr. Hoagland was sheriff of Lancaster county in 1878; served as county judge a short time; and in 1895 served as senator from Nebraska, representing the fourteen counties extending from Lincoln county to the western part of the state. Fraternaly he united with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows January 20, 1876, and has passed all the chairs, and served as patriarch. One of the charter members of the Royal Highlanders, he has served as illustrious protector since its organization. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and from May, 1918, to May, 1919, served as department commander. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland are active members of the the Daughters of Rebekah, which she has represented in state conventions and as a delegate to the National Convention held in 1919 in Baltimore, Maryland.

**WALTER V. HOAGLAND.** Bringing to the practice of his profession much zeal, a well-trained mind, and the habits of industry characteristic of his Dutch ancestors, Walter V. Hoagland, of North Platte, occupies a place of note in legal circles, and in partnership with his father has built up an extensive and lucrative patronage. He was born in Macoupin county, Illinois, November 30, 1870, a son of Joseph S. and Marie L. (Waples) Hoagland.

Coming with his parents to Nebraska in childhood, Walter V. Hoagland obtained his preliminary education in the schools of Lincoln and North Platte. Completing the academic course of the University of Nebraska in 1895, he was graduated from its law department in 1896, and in June of that year was admitted to the bar. Soon after that event Mr. Hoagland formed a partnership with his father, and has since devoted his energies to the practice of his profession. As specialists in equity jurisprudence, the Messrs. Hoagland have met with undoubted success, their patronage extending from Dawson county on the east to the western part of the state. Mr. Hoagland is one of the directors of an old line insurance company, of which he is attorney and is a stockholder and a director of the Higgins Packing Company of Omaha.

Mr. Hoagland married, August 17, 1898, Hattie Singleton, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, and they have two children, namely: Eva, who was graduated from the North Platte High School with the class of 1919, is now attending the University of Nebraska; and Robert V. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Hoagland are members of the Presbyterian Church, in which Mrs. Hoagland is an especially active and valued worker.

Prominently identified with the republican party, Mr. Hoagland was elected to the State Senate in 1911, re-elected to the same in 1913, and after a lapse of five years was again elected state senator. In that capacity he served on important committees, having been chairman of the committee on committees, and of the judiciary and irrigation committee, also a member of the judiciary, finance and municipal affairs committee; and of the committee on ways and means.

Fraternally Mr. Hoagland is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has passed all the chairs, at the present writing having the honor of being grand representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of the World. He is likewise Department Commander, with the rank of brigadier-general, of the Patriarchs Militant branch of Nebraska. He is a valued member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and served in 1918 as vice president of the Nebraska organization. He is likewise a member of the Sons of Veterans, an organization in which he takes great interest.

**JAMES E. NISLEY.** A number of men who have learned a trade and worked at it successfully for a period have turned their attention toward farming, recognizing the independence of this calling, and some of them have found in Nebraska the ideal conditions for agricultural development. One of these men who after proving his skill as a carpenter located permanently in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and since then has grown into one of its prosperous farmers is James E. Nisley.

James E. Nisley was born near Galesburg, Knox county, Illinois, on September 30, 1886, a son of Abraham and Narcissa (Furgeson) Nisley, natives of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, respectively. For some years Abraham Nisley was engaged in farming in his native state, but subsequently moved to Knox county, Illinois, and still later to Page county, Iowa, in both localities developing valuable farming properties. He died in the latter county, but his widow survives him. Both were devout members of the Christian Church. In politics he was a democrat, but never aspired to public office. Their children were as follows: Walter, who is a farmer of Missouri; Ella, who is the wife of G. R. Scott, of North Platte county, Nebraska; Ira, who is a fruit farmer of Ava, Missouri; James E., whose name heads this review; George, who died in Page county, Iowa; Mary, who is the wife of Charles Atwood, a railroad man of Kansas City, Missouri; and Elizabeth, who is the wife of J. Radvins, of Kansas.

James E. Nisley came from Page county, Iowa, to York county, Nebraska, and after working at his trade as a carpenter there he returned to Iowa and continued to work as a carpenter at Council Bluffs, that state, and also was in the employ of a transfer company of that city. His next move was to Buffalo county, Nebraska, where he continued working at his trade. He then spent eight years in North Platte county, Nebraska, and then came to Lincoln county, where he is now engaged in operating a farm in section 22, township 14, that is in the neighborhood of Hershey. Here he is carrying on general farming and raising pure blooded Shorthorn cattle and Poland-China hogs, and commanding an excellent market for his produce.

Mr. Nisley was married to May Hunt, born in Nebraska, the ceremony taking place at York, Nebraska. They became the parents of nine children, seven of whom are now living, namely: Ruth, who is the wife of Earl Duvall, a railroad man; and Carl, Alice, Lucile, Ella, Moy, and Marjorie, who are at home. The seventh child, Edward, and the eighth, Katherine, are both deceased. Mr. Nisley is an independent voter, preferring to exercise his own judgment in the selection of the candidate to whom he is willing to give his support. In his fraternal relations he maintains a membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and Mrs. Nisley are consistent

members of the Christian Church, and hard workers in its behalf. Having permanently located in Lincoln county, Mr. Nisley is a strong booster for this locality, and a firm believer in its possibilities. He understands his business thoroughly, and is satisfied that he has entered a calling in which he can not only make good, but be independent of restrictions which might otherwise hamper his advancement.

**DAVID HUNTER.** Distinguished for their thrift and honesty, which two qualities in the inhabitants of any country will in the end make that country great, no people who have cast their lot in Lincoln county are worthier of our esteem than those of Scotch blood. Of this excellent class was David Hunter, of Sutherland, who, after many years of successful toil, lived retired from active business until his death May 29, 1920. He is eligible for representation in this work for several reasons, not the least of which is the fact that he fought gallantly for his adopted country during its darkest hours, and, indeed, in all the relations of life he was known as a man of sterling characteristics, consequently he succeeded in a material way and won the confidence and respect of his neighbors and friends.

David Hunter was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, on May 12, 1842, and was the son of Adam and Jennette Hunter, both of whom were born, reared and married in Scotland. They became the parents of eight children. When the subject of this sketch was but six weeks old the family came to the United States, locating in Illinois, where the father followed farming for a time, subsequently moving to Missouri, where he spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring in 1878. His wife had died many years prior, when the subject was very young.

David Hunter received his educational training in the public schools of Illinois and Missouri, and thereafter he followed the vocation to which he had been reared, that of a farmer. At the outbreak of the Civil war he offered his services to the defense of the Union, becoming a private in Company A of the Twenty-third Regiment of Missouri Volunteer Infantry, with which he served all through the war, being with General Sherman on the historic "march to the sea." After receiving his discharge, Mr. Hunter went to the Indian Territory, where he worked as a cowboy and remained in that locality until 1877, when he came to Nebraska. Here he became interested in the cattle business in partnership with his brother, Col. R. D. Hunter, and Capt. A. J. Evans, of St. Louis, Missouri. They made a big cattle deal with Mr. John Chislom of Lincoln county, New Mexico,—the cattle king of New Mexico. In 1876 and 1877 they drove thousands upon thousands of cattle from the Chislom ranch, some being shipped to the market and many thousands driven to the ranch on the Niobrara River, where they had the contract with the government to furnish cattle to the Indians. They furnished about 300 head of cattle every ten days. They had the contract for three or four years. They finally moved the cattle to Montana with headquarters at Miles City. They had good range, but the severe winter came, and with many other cattlemen they lost about all their cattle. It was in the following spring in the year 1887, that Mr. and Mrs. Hunter left their home in Omaha, Nebraska, and moved to Lincoln county. Here Mr. Hunter engaged in farming and stockraising, which commanded his attention until a few years ago he retired and was thereafter not actively engaged in business. He made many permanent and substantial im-

provements on the place, including a fine forty-acre apple orchard, which he planted twenty-two years ago and which has borne splendid fruit ever since.

In 1874 Mr. Hunter was married to Margaret L. Lothian, who is a native of Scotland, and they had one child, Grace, who is now the wife of George Crosby, of this county. Politically Mr. Hunter was a supporter of the democratic party, and gave his assistance to every movement for the welfare of the community. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and kept alive his old army associations through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Because of his splendid qualities of character, he was highly respected by all who know him.

**NELS OLESON.** In such men as Nels Oleson, a successful farmer of Lincoln county, there is peculiar satisfaction in offering their life histories—justification for the compilation of works of this character—not that their lives have been such as to gain them particularly wide notoriety or the admiring plaudits of men, but that they have been true to the trusts reposed in them and have shown such attributes of character as entitle them to the regard of all. In the course of an honorable career he has been successful in his chosen vocation and has enjoyed the confidence and good will of those with whom he has been associated with.

Nels Oleson was born in Sweden on January 15, 1852, and was reared and educated in his native land, remaining at home until twenty-three years of age. In 1875 he determined to seek a wider opportunity for material advancement, and he followed the example of so many of his countrymen, coming to the United States. He located first in the State of Maine, where for seven years he was employed as a laborer. He then moved to Illinois, where for two years he was engaged in farming. During the following five years he was employed on a ranch in Iowa, and then moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he lived for twelve years, being employed as a laborer. In 1901 Mr. Oleson came to Lincoln county, where in 1885 he had bought 160 acres of railroad land. To this land he devoted himself indefatigably and resolutely persisted in his labors, even in the face of discouraging circumstances, and in the course of time prosperity crowned his efforts and today he is numbered among the successful and enterprising farmers of his locality. He conducts general farming operations, in connection with which he also gives some attention to the raising of livestock.

Mr. Oleson was married to Hannah Olsen, who was born in Sweden, and whose marriage to Mr. Oleson occurred in Maine. Mrs. Oleson's death occurred in Omaha, Nebraska, at the age of forty years. To their union were born five children, namely: Hannah, who died at the age of twelve years; Mary, deceased; Henry, of North Platte, Nebraska; Ida, at home; and Charley, who is deceased.

Mr. Oleson is an earnest member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and stands for all the best things in the community life. He belongs to that sturdy class of foreign-born citizens to whom this country owes so much and who have ever been welcomed, for they have shown all the high qualities of good citizenship and have been loyal to our institutions. Because of his fine personal qualities and business success, he enjoys the esteem and regard of all who know him.



Samuel M. Lander

**SAMUEL M. SOUDER.** Standing prominent among the public officials of Lincoln county is Samuel M. Souder, of North Platte, a man of tried and trusted integrity, who was elected to the responsible position of treasurer of Lincoln county in 1917, and proved himself so wise a financial manager that he was re-elected to the same high office in 1919. A son of John M. Souder, he was born, June 3, 1886, in Washington county, Nebraska.

John M. Souder was a native of Indiana, and there spent the days of his childhood and youth. When ready to start in life on his own account he came westward in search of a favorable location, and for a few years lived in Washington county, while there serving as county commissioner. In 1891 he took up a homestead claim in Lincoln county, and devoted his time and interests to the clearing and improving of his land. He is now living in Moorefield, an esteemed and highly respected citizen. He is a republican in politics, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

John M. Souder married in Blair, Nebraska, Anna C. Bigford, who was born in Wisconsin and died in Moorefield, Nebraska, in 1907. Ten children blessed their union, as follows: Alice, wife of Irving Austin, a real estate man of Curtis; E. K., engaged in farming near Moorefield; Minnie, wife of A. E. Rishel, a traction engine operator of North Platte; Samuel M., the subject of this sketch; Susie, wife of Irle Sowle, a farmer living near Maxwell, Nebraska; Louise, wife of Roy De Late, a farmer in Moorefield; P. W., who enlisted in the Navy at the beginning of the World war, and is still in service; Joseph, sales manager for the Hendy-Oiger Auto Company; Clark, working on the home farm; and Edna, who died in February, 1920, married Clifford Dilman, of Curtis, a farmer.

Obtaining his preliminary education in the rural schools of Moorefield, Samuel M. Souder completed his early studies in Hastings College. He subsequently taught school several terms, meeting with good success in his pedagogical work. His leisure time he devoted to agriculture, and continued as a teacher and farmer until 1917, when he was elected treasurer of Lincoln county, an office which he is filling most ably and satisfactorily.

On June 3, 1914, Mr. Souder was united in marriage with Eva Spickerman, a native of Maryville, Missouri, and into their pleasant home three children have made their advent, namely: Mildred, Vivian and Carlton. True to the religious faith in which he was reared, Mr. Souder is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while Mrs. Souder belongs to the Baptist Church, with which she united when young. Politically Mr. Souder is a republican, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**EDWIN B. LEYPOLDT.** In the History of Lincoln County, as applying to the business interests, the name of Edwin B. Leypoldt, of Hershey, occupies a conspicuous place, for through a number of years he has been numbered among the representative citizens of the county and a business man in whom everyone has confidence, being progressive, enterprising and persevering. In addition to his business connections he has also won a high reputation as a man of intelligent public spirit, being ever ready to throw his support to those measures which are proposed for the welfare of the community.

Edwin B. Leypoldt was born in Sarpy county, Nebraska, on



May 12, 1888, and is the son of John G. and Clara (Hauck) Leypoldt, who are referred to more specifically in the sketch of D. M. Leypoldt, which appears elsewhere in this work. The subject was educated in the schools of his native county, where he lived until about sixteen years of age. In 1904, after completing his public school course, he came to Lincoln county and entered the employ of Leypoldt & Wickstrom, of Hershey, Nebraska, wholesale hay and grain dealers. Mr. Leypoldt remained with this company until their interests were taken over by the Leypoldt & Pennington Company, and he is now the manager for the company's branch at Hershey. He has so handled the duties of this responsible position as to win the approval of the company, his business ability, industry and genial disposition proving elements in the success which has accompanied his efforts here.

On July 16, 1912, Mr. Leypoldt was married to Anna Mary Johnston, a native of Buffalo county, Nebraska, and to them have been born two children, Clara May and Waldron Abbott. In matters political Mr. Leypoldt is independent, reserving the right to support such men and measures as meet with his approval. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His success in life has been the legitimate fruitage of consecutive effort, directed and controlled by good judgment and correct principles, and he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

GEORGE A. MACOMBER is one of the intelligent and enterprising citizens of Lincoln county who have developed this region, has spent nearly all his life here, and for upwards of twenty years his work and home were on the section of land which he took up from the government and which he developed to a large and fertile farm. His farm was in section 28, township 16, range 31.

Mr. Macomber was born at Marshalltown, Iowa, March 11, 1871. He was three years of age when his parents came to Nebraska, in 1874, living at Sidney, two years and coming to North Platte in October, 1876. After two years in North Platte the family preempted land west of North Platte, and there George A. Macomber was reared. He received his education in the local schools and at the time of his marriage in 1902 began for himself. After three years of renting he homesteaded in 1905, his homestead being seventeen miles northwest of North Platte. During the next fifteen years he made many improvements on the land, including a substantial home, and sold the property in 1919, turning it over to his successor in March, 1920.

Mr. Macomber has always taken an active interest in local affairs, serving as a member of the School Board for sixteen years and as precinct assessor for two years. He is a republican voter.

In 1902 he married Miss Mary Beehan, a native of Austria. They have four children, Clarence L., Nellie F., Alice G. and Vernon R.

LUKE F. HALEY. Having accomplished a satisfactory work in life, and through his own efforts acquired a competency to live on during his declining years, Luke F. Haley is now enjoying to the utmost the fruits of his earlier years of toil. A son of Luke F. Haley, Sr., he was born in Ireland in 1843, and while yet young immigrated to the United States.

Born and reared in Ireland, Luke F. Haley, Sr., spent his early life in his native land, working industriously to support his wife and children. Coming with his family to the United States in search of a favorable opportunity for advancing his fortunes, he settled in New Jersey, where he followed the tanner's trade most successfully, and he never afterward left New Jersey. He was a democrat in politics, a member of the Catholic Church, and a self-made man in every sense implied by the term. He married Bridget Torney, who was born in Ireland, and died in 1870 in Newark, New Jersey. Of their four children three are living, as follows: Mary and Rosie, both single, reside in New Jersey; and Luke F., the subject of this sketch.

Brought up and educated in Newark, New Jersey, Luke F. Haley is a veteran of the Civil war. For three years he served as a member of Company F, Seventy-second New York Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and at the engagement at Spottsylvania Courthouse in 1863 he was wounded. During the last year of the war he served in the Navy, from which he was honorably discharged in 1865. Coming to Nebraska in 1866, Mr. Haley did scout duty in this section of the country for awhile, afterward being employed as clerk in a store for ten years. Starting a saloon in North Platte in 1876, he managed it successfully until retiring from active pursuits.

Mr. Haley married in 1872 Lizzie Lindberry, who was born in Indiana, about twenty miles southwest of Indianapolis, where her parents, Alfred and Mary (Robinson) Lindberry, settled in pioneer days, going there from the south. Mr. and Mrs. Haley have one child, Thomas Haley. Politically Mr. Haley is a straightforward democrat, and from 1888 until 1891 served as sheriff of Lincoln county. Fraternaly he is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

**C. LESLIE BASKINS.** A rising young attorney of North Platte, C. Leslie Baskins is making rapid progress in his professional career, having established a practice that is constantly increasing in volume and importance, his legal ability and skill being much in evidence. He is distinguished as a native born citizen, his birth having occurred in North Platte January 30, 1889.

Charles W. Baskins, his father, was born March 6, 1860, at Duncans Island, Pennsylvania, where he was bred and educated. Coming to Nebraska in 1878, he has since been a resident of the state, and for full forty years has been an engineer on the Union Pacific Railroad, an occupation in which he is still engaged. He is a democrat in his political affiliations, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. Going back to his native state in 1884, he married Rose Ranck, who was born at New Columbia, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1853, and they became the parents of three children, two of whom are living, as follows: Lena, who never married, is in Omaha, working for the Union Pacific Railroad Company; and C. Leslie.

Acquiring his elementary education in the public schools, C. Leslie Baskins was graduated from the North Platte High School with the class of 1906. Going then to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, he entered Bucknell University, from which he was graduated in June, 1910. His inclinations leading him to take up the study of law, he entered the law department of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where he was graduated in 1913. In February, 1914, Mr. Baskins began the practice of law in North Platte, and though he had rather a hard struggle the first two years, he patiently persevered.

and by close application to his work overcame all difficulties arising, his patronage being now large and very gratifying.

Mr. Baskins married, December 31, 1913, Leah E. Jenkins, a native of Milton, Pennsylvania. She is a woman of culture, and a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. In his political views Mr. Baskins coincides with the principles of the democratic party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and a member and past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias.

**HARRY SCOTT WHITE.** The people of Lincoln county remember Harry Scott White as a banker, a trusted county official, one time mayor of North Platte, an old soldier, and a man who in the many relations of life proved true to every trust.

He was born in Kane county, Illinois, in 1841, was reared and educated in the northern part of that state, and was about twenty years of age when he enlisted for the war, joining the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. He saw four years of active service, in many campaigns both east and west. He had the unique experience of having three horses shot from under him while escaping injury himself. After the war he returned to Kane county, where he married a neighbor girl, Anna Platte, who was born in that section of Illinois in 1844. A few years later they moved to Nebraska and established their home in Dawson county, where Harry Scott White acquired and developed a ranch which was part of his estate when he died. From the duties of his ranch he was called to the county seat by election as county treasurer and gave a highly creditable administration of the office.

After his official term he became interested in banking, and in January, 1896, removed to North Platte. For the following eight years he was president of the First National Bank of that city and also served a term as mayor. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church.

Harry Scott White died in 1904. His first wife died in 1895, and their only son is Arthur Platte White, a North Platte business man. In 1896 Harry S. White married Mrs. Helen (White-Hill) Butt, who is still living in North Platte. She has a son by her first marriage, James W. Butt.

**WILLIAM B. SWANCUIT.** The successful operation of 400 acres of land in a community where competition is rife and high standards prevail pre-supposes the possession of a thorough knowledge of agricultural science, as well as of shrewd business ability. When these requisites are met in the representatives of a farming interest, and to them are added the progressive and enquiring tendencies of the younger and physically sturdier members of the family, a harmony should result as gratifying generally as it is financially. Such a combination of interests is found on the farm of William B. Swancutt, the owner of a valuable and productive property in the Gothenburg community of Lincoln county.

Mr. Swancutt was born at Albany, Wisconsin, in 1867, a son of Benjamin and Emma Swancutt, farming people of that state. The father died when Benjamin W. was a small boy, leaving four sons and one daughter, of whom William B. is the only survivor, and Mrs. Swancutt then married William Atkinson, by whom she had five children: Robert, who is engaged in farming in Canada; Eugene, an agriculturist of Lincoln county; Ray and Charles, also in Lincoln county, farmers; and Gertrude, the wife of Richard Craig, of

this county. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson came to Gage county, Nebraska, where they remained two years, then going to Lincoln county, where Mr. Atkinson secured a tree claim. This he proved up, and it continued to be the family home until Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson passed away. They were faithful members of the Adventist Church.

William B. Swancutt was educated in the public schools of Wisconsin, and was still a youth when he accompanied his mother and stepfather to Nebraska. After coming to Lincoln county and entering upon his independent career he purchased a relinquishment, proved up on the same, and settled down to the pursuits of farming and stockraising. From time to time he has added to his property through good investments and purchase, and at the present writing is the owner of 400 acres of good land, on which he has made modern improvements, attractive and substantial. He has been successful in his operations because he has been industrious, has used good judgment and has followed practical methods in a progressive way.

Mr. Swancutt was married in December, 1894, to Miss Esther Anderson, a daughter of Boone Anderson, whose history will be found in the review of Wilbur H. Anderson elsewhere in this work. To this union there have been born six children: Winaford B., who enlisted in Company L, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Division, United States National Army, trained at Loangrana, Texas, and was in the service 2½ years, spending three months overseas. He was honorably discharged at Camp Dodge, and is now assisting his father on the home farm. Triva is the wife of David A. Clark, a farmer of Dawson county. Della is the wife of Pearl E. Johnson, a creamery operator of Colorado. Gloe is engaged in teaching school in Dawson county, this state. Vida is attending school at Gothenburg and Percy is also attending school.

Mrs. Swancutt is a member of the Christian Church, while Mr. Swancutt is a contributor to all worthy movements. He is an independent voter and has shown his good citizenship and executive capacity by serving three terms as a member of the School Board of District No. 89.

**DAVID FULK.** Although Lincoln county has been brought into such a fine state of improvement, the days of the homesteader are not so far away but that the conditions then prevailing are recalled by many of the men who, now that they have begun to realize upon their property, are numbered among the substantial citizens. One of them, now a man of means, who passed through all of these hardships, and did so bravely and cheerfully, is David Fulk of township 9, whose homestead is in section 19.

David Fulk was born in Licking county, Ohio, on June 19, 1864, a son of Harvey and Martha Fulk, natives of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, respectively. Harvey Fulk went to Licking county, Ohio, where he was engaged in farming, leaving that state for the southern part of Illinois, where he continued farming, and then, in 1887, he located permanently in Noble county, Indiana, and remained there until his death, his wife also passing away in that state. They had the following children: John, who lives in Indiana; Mrs. Eliza Clemens, who is living at Hershey, Nebraska; William, who is living at Brimfield, Indiana; Douglas, who is living with his brother William; Alfred, who is living in Indiana; and David, whose name heads this review.

In 1886 Mr. Fulk came to Nebraska, but only remained there for

a year, then coming to Lincoln county and homesteading. It is difficult for his children, or indeed quite a number of his neighbors who came into this region at a much later date, to realize what he and his wife went through before they could be said to be at all comfortable. Water was a luxury and had to be hauled a distance of many miles. The pioneer shelter was a rude one, constructed of sod, and it had to suffice until there was time and money to spare for the erection of a better one. Both worked unceasingly to get in crops so as to have something to depend upon for food and some additional money, but in spite of poor seasons and many discouragements they have succeeded way beyond their original expectations, and now own 1,120 acres of land, the greater part of which is improved. They continue to reside on their original homestead, and all of the improvements on it were put in by them, so naturally they are proud of them and very much attached to the place to which they came early in their married life.

Mr. Fulk was married in Hays county to Hattie Clemens born in Indiana, a daughter of Harrison and Isabelle Clemens, both of whom were natives of Indiana. They were farming people in Indiana, and both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fulk became the parents of the following children: Harvey, Raymond, Wilma and Martha, all of whom are at home. Mr. Fulk is not a party man politically. He has no church or fraternal connections, having devoted all of his time and attention to developing his land.

**MICHAEL COHEN.** The late Michael Cohen was one of the homesteaders of Lincoln county who proved up his claim and lived long enough to improve it, and he also secured land in Perkins county in the same way, having come to Nebraska in 1888. He was a native of Ireland, where he was born in 1860, a son of William and Mary Cohen. The latter never left their native land, but rounded out their lives there as farming people, and as consistent members of the Roman Catholic Church. They became the parents of four children, of whom Michael was the eldest.

As a young man Michael Cohen came to the United States, and for a time after landing did general work in the State of New Jersey, but finally left it for Illinois and was engaged in farming until he left Illinois for Nebraska in 1888. In the latter year he homesteaded in Perkins county, proved up his claim, and operated it until 1901, when he moved to Lincoln county, and bought his farm, becoming the owner of 320 acres of land. This he placed under cultivation, improved it and made it into a valuable property, devoting it to general farming and stockraising until his death, which took place on May 21, 1909.

Michael Cohen was married at Winchester, Illinois, to Catherine Gilmore, born in Ireland, a daughter of Edward and Mary Gilmore, both natives of Ireland. Mr. Gilmore was a horse trainer, and both he and his wife never left Ireland, but died there. They were members of the Roman Catholic Church. Of their six children three survive, and Mrs. Cohen is the youngest living. Mr. and Mrs. Cohen had three children, namely: William, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Edward, who is engaged in conducting his mother's farm in Lincoln county; and Mary, who is the wife of Chester Agen.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cohen were brought up in the Catholic faith. He was a strong democrat, and his sons are of the same political party. In fraternal matters he maintained membership with the

Modern Brotherhood. Always a hard worker. Mr. Cohen never spared himself, and undoubtedly shortened his life by his devotion to his farming. He was a fine, upright and honorable man, giving to his adopted country a faithful service, and to his neighborhood the benefit of his years of experience in farming, so that when he passed away Lincoln county lost one of the best of its citizens.

**JAMES LIGHT.** The pioneer conditions of Lincoln county have passed, and the days that were once filled with the deeds of the early settlers have faded into the retrospective. Times have changed very materially. Civilization has advanced and claimed for its own the old grounds of the buffalo and Indians. Mighty railroad systems now traverse the sections over which the canvas-covered wagon drew the household effects of the homesteader. The primitive "dugout" and sodhouse of the forerunners of present day prosperity have given way to the comfortable modern residences, and farm tractors take the place of the oxen. Instead of home industries carried on by the wife and daughters, there are factories for supplying every household need, and close connection is maintained with adjacent cities through the medium of the telephone. Recreation after the day's work is completed is easy to obtain as the automobile brings the farmer into close touch with his neighbors. However, the days that are gone are remembered by those who passed through them, and these original homesteaders can appreciate much more deeply than others the remarkable changes which have been effected. One of the men who has not only witnessed these changes but helped to bring them about is James Light, of section 22, township 10.

James Light was born in Knox county, Indiana, on January 14, 1842, a son of Bluffard and Catherine Light, natives of Indiana and Virginia, respectively. They were farming people in Indiana, and both are now deceased. Their children were four in number, but James Light is the only survivor.

In 1884 Mr. Light came to Nebraska in company with five other men, and they were the first six to file claims and four of them proved up their homesteads, and also proved up tree claims. Mr. Light was very prosperous, and several years ago felt that he had earned the privilege of retiring, so left the farm for Wallace. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-third Indiana Regiment, and served three years and two months as a Civil war soldier.

Mr. Light was married to Jane Miller, also a native of Knox county, Indiana, born January 2, 1844, a daughter of Samuel and Lavina Miller, he born in Kentucky and she in Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Light became the parents of the following children: Ira, who is operating his father's homestead; Eli, who is living in South Carolina; Burton, who is operating his father's tree claim, and now owns it; Arie, who is married, lives in Arizona; Mrs. Mary Hammonds, who is living in Iowa; Mrs. Jane Wagaby, who is living in north-western Nebraska; and Mrs. Rachel Congers, who is living in Colorado.

A man of independent character. Mr. Light has never definitely connected himself with any political party, preferring to select his own candidate with reference to personal qualifications. He belongs to the Christian Church and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The recollections of those early days as related by Mr. Light are very entertaining, and from them it is evident that while the hardships were many, the pioneers had pleasure as well, and that they were encouraged and sustained by the realization

that not only were they acquiring valuable property, but were also building for the future of their children, and establishing the prestige of their state.

CHARLES HENDY, who now lives retired in North Platte, was born March 23, 1848, in New York City. His father was William and his mother was Frances (Hannah) Hendy, natives of Bath, England. After they came to the United States in 1845 they remained in New York City the rest of their days.

William Hendy served his apprenticeship in coach body building, in England, but he only worked one year at the trade in this country, until he went with Henry Erben as a builder of pipe organs. At that time he was the only organ builder in the United States. He remained with the organ builders until his death in 1871. Of their six children only two are living: William L. Hendy, of California, who is now a pensioner after serving twenty-three years in the New York City postoffice, and Charles Hendy of North Platte.

While the mother was a member of the Baptist Church, the father always leaned toward the Episcopalians—naturally, since it is an Americanized Church of England. For many years William Hendy played a church organ in New York City. Charles Hendy secured his education in the district schools at West Farms and West Chester counties, New York. His first employment was as an apprentice to learn the drug business, but he was forced to give it up and regain his health. He went to David Island and acted as hospital steward for a short time, when the military post was abandoned and he went to Governor's Island, remaining there four months before being assigned to Fort Sedgwick in 1870, but this post was abandoned in May and he remained there until the buildings were dismantled and taken across the river.

Mr. Hendy was next ordered to Sidney Barracks, where he remained only five days, when he was sent to Fort McPherson. He continued at Fort McPherson until his five year enlistment expired, but he remained in the community assisting in the organization of a school district and he taught school there two terms. From Fort McPherson Mr. Hendy came to North Platte. In 1874 he served as a deputy county clerk from July until December. Again he entered the government service and was sent to Fort Saunders, Wyoming, in December 1875, and he served as steward for ten months. From there he was ordered out on the Powder River Expedition against the Sioux Indians.

When Mr. Hendy was relieved from the Powder River Expedition he continued in service until the time of enlistment expired in 1880, when he entered private life and returned to Maxwell, Nebraska, and engaged as a ranchman in the cattle business. He remained on the plains until 1911, when he settled in North Platte again. June 1, 1872, Mr. Hendy married Katie Janett, who had come from Switzerland to America. She died March 4, 1911, and since that time Mr. Hendy has lived in retirement. His children are: William J. Hendy (see sketch), who lives in North Platte; Charles who established the branch Ford Motor Company in Denver and is now branch manager of the Ford Motor Company in Chicago; and Lillian Janett, wife of M. C. Westfall, who lives on a Lincoln county farm.

The church relation is Lutheran, and Mr. Hendy belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, the Royal Arch Chapter of the Knights



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES HENDY





Templar and Eastern Star. As a republican he has served on the School Board in North Platte. Because of scarcity of labor he helps about the automobile sales rooms of his son, W. J. Hendy.

**NORMAN C. BORDEN.** Strength of will, tenacity of purpose and grit, combined with an ability to overcome obstacles, these are some of the characteristics which have enabled Norman C. Borden to become the successful farmer he is today. His 320 acres of valuable land is located in section 20, township 10.

Norman C. Borden was born in Caldwell county, Missouri, on July 8, 1872, a son of Alonzo and Ardella Borden, natives of Pennsylvania and New York state. Alonzo Borden was a general farmer who moved to Missouri, and later came west to Kearney county, Nebraska, arriving in the state in 1874, and homesteading there. He proved up his claim and lived on it until he died at the age of sixty-eight years, his wife dying at the same age. They had five children, namely: Lewis, who is living in California; Mrs. Bertha Heath, who is living in Arthur county, Nebraska; Norman C., who was the third in order of birth; Archie, who is living in York county, Nebraska; and Mrs. Grace Hope, who is living in Iowa.

Coming to Kearney county, Nebraska, in 1875, Norman C. Borden was reared in that region and learned to be useful to his parents. About 1900 he began farming for himself, and homesteaded in Lincoln county, but did not prove up his claim owing to unforeseen circumstances. In 1904 he went to Missouri and spent four years, when he came back to Lincoln county. For the subsequent four years after he returned to Lincoln county Mr. Borden operated rented land and then bought his present farm of 320 acres of improved land, which he is now devoting to general farming. Mr. Borden does not belong to any party, casting his vote independently, and at one time he was on the School Board of District No. 46. He has no church or lodge connections, having devoted himself to his farming.

Norman C. Borden was married to Elsie Strawder, born in Gage county, Nebraska, a daughter of Ambrose and Lizzie Strawder, natives of Virginia who became homesteaders of Gage county, Nebraska, and farmers of Lincoln county in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Borden have three children, namely: Ardella, Clifford and Charles, all of whom are at home. Having reached a point where he can realize on his investment of time and money in his farming, Mr. Borden feels that he is succeeding in his life work, and as he has also won the respect and good will of his neighbors he is now taking the place in his community to which his personality entitles him.

**ANCIL WRIGHT PHELPS** came to Nebraska in the middle of the decade of the '70s, when the grasshopper flourished and spread desolation over the land. For over twenty years he has been identified with Lincoln county, where he is one of the most prominent farmers and stock men. His ranch and country home are in section 34, township 10, range 34.

Mr. Phelps is a member of a very old New England family, and at his suggestion some years ago another member of the family, Otto C. Phelps, compiled a family history which was published and from which the important data connected with the Phelps genealogy noted in this article is obtained.

The Phelps family were among the original settlers of Northampton, Massachusetts. Five men named Nathaniel and representing five successive generations of the Phelps family lived there. The

first was known as Deacon Nathaniel, who came from Windsor, Connecticut, and died May 2, 1702; the second Nathaniel died June 20, 1719; the third Nathaniel died October 14, 1747; the fourth Nathaniel died October 29, 1789; and the fifth Nathaniel died March 4, 1833.

The fifth Nathaniel was seventy-six years of age at the time of his death. On July 5, 1781, he married Lucy Strong, and they were the parents of a large family of children.

One of them was Ebenezer Strong Phelps, who was born September 3, 1788, at Northampton. He united with the Congregational Church of his native town in August, 1806. For several years he served as an apprentice at the jewelry business. February 24, 1812, he married Anna Wright, and their companionship continued for over sixty years. Soon after his marriage he set up in the jewelry business, and that was his line of work until his eyesight failed in 1851.

Ebenezer Phelps was a member of what was known as the Hampshire Colony Congregational Church, of which he was elected deacon at its organization in March, 1831. This colony went out to Illinois and settled the townsite of Princeton, Bureau county. The two oldest sons of Ebenezer S. Phelps came with the colony, leaving Northampton in May, 1831, and having a very arduous and adventurous journey at a time when there was not a railroad line in the Middle West. Ebenezer S. Phelps with the rest of his family followed in June of the same year, and traveled by the canal and river route to Buffalo, across Lake Erie to Cleveland, by canal through Ohio to Dresden, thence on the Muskingum River to Zanesville, Ohio, and on to Marietta, whence a steamboat took them to the mouth of the Ohio and up the Mississippi to St. Louis. From St. Louis they proceeded on their voyage up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to Beardstown, and thence to Springfield, where Ebenezer S. Phelps remained working at his trade until 1838, when he removed to Princeton. He became one of the prominent officials of the Congregational Church at Princeton, a church in which was cradled much of the classic history of Illinois. Like its great pastor, Rev. Mr. Lovejoy, Mr. Phelps was an ardent abolitionist, and he was also one of the first practical temperance men in his state, having abolished the use of liquor in his home in 1826. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding February 24, 1862, and ten years later they celebrated the sixtieth anniversary. He died March 19, 1872. His wife, Anna Wright, daughter of Ancil and Rachel Wright, was born May 10, 1789, and died at Princeton, July 6, 1873.

Of the eight children of this venerable couple Ebenezer Strong Phelps, Jr., was the third and was born October 15, 1817. August 12, 1839, near Hennepin in Putnam county, Illinois, he married Hannah Maria Morse, who was born February 23, 1822, a daughter of Horace and Sarah Morse of Shutesberry, Massachusetts. Their children were: Sarah Louise, born at Princeton October 12, 1841, and died near Hennepin December 21, 1847; Henry Lyman, born at Princeton October 22, 1844, and died March 25, 1845; Susan Maria, born at Princeton February 13, 1846, and died at Wyanet November 12, 1857; Lelia Emma, born near Hennepin July 16, 1848, and died June 17, 1869; Iva Gazelle, born August 11, 1851; Ancil Wright, born near Wyanet May 22, 1854; Minnie, born near Wyanet February 26, 1860, and died March 11, 1860; Otto C., born near Wyanet March 2, 1862.

Ancil Wright Phelps came with his parents to Nebraska in 1879, and settled in Hamilton county. He lived on a farm there for many years, and in 1899 came to Lincoln county, where he bought land. At the present time he has two sections, 1,280 acres, all well improved and much of it cultivated, and leases another section. He specializes in cattle and horses, and his affairs have been greatly prospered. He is a republican in politics, is a member of the Congregational Church, and a member of the Degree of Honor.

At Aurora, Nebraska, June 29, 1882, Mr. Phelps married Miss Lucetta Smith, who was born in Illinois and died December 30, 1908. Her parents went to Illinois from the east, and her father was killed while a Union soldier in the Civil war. Her mother afterward came to Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Phelps were born the following children: Lela May, born near Aurora April 8, 1883, whose husband, Mr. Spear, is a Lincoln county farmer; Earl A., born near Aurora July 19, 1886, who married March 10, 1908, Susie E. Trisler and is now living in Kansas; Elsie Mina, also born near Aurora, was married to Guy E. Stoner at Aurora April 11, 1904, and has a son, Ancil M., born February 6, 1907; and Orlo Wright, born near Aurora August 11, 1892, now a farmer in Lincoln county.

**JOHN HEATH.** The economic value of farm land is undisputed, just as is the importance of the farmer to the welfare of a country, and therefore it is easily seen why no history of any region is complete without considerable mention of those who are devoting themselves to the cultivation of the soil and the improvement of their farming properties. One of these representative men who has acquired prestige and success in Lincoln county through close attention to this industry is John Heath of section 29, township 10.

John Heath was born in central Illinois on August 13, 1869, a son of Fredrick and Flavila Heath, both natives of New York state. Frederick Heath was a contractor in New York and later in Illinois, and when, in 1884, he came to Kearney county, Nebraska, he continued in that line until 1888, when he homesteaded and proved up his land. His death occurred when he was eighty-four years old, and hers when she was seventy-four years. They became the parents of six children, namely: One who died in infancy; Mrs. Alice Valentine, who is living in Arthur county, Nebraska; Fred, who is also living in Arthur county; Mrs. Mary Hill, who is deceased; John, who was next in order of birth; and Clyde, who is a farmer of Lincoln county.

John Heath was first married to Cora Ferrell, born in Illinois, who died in 1898, having borne him four children, namely: Harvey, who is living at Maywood, Nebraska, is a veteran of the great war, was in one of the first American regiments to go into action in France, was wounded and continued in the service twenty-two months; Carl, who was killed in action in France on the night of November 10, 1918, being a member of Company C, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, Eighty-ninth Division; the third child, who died in infancy, was unnamed; and Mrs. Myrtle Cruger is living south of Wallace, Nebraska. After the death of his first wife Mr. Heath was married to Alice Shaw, a native of Indiana. Her parents, also natives of Indiana, came to Nebraska, where they were engaged in farming, but he is now deceased, and the mother is living at Kearney, Nebraska. By his second marriage Mr. Heath has three children, Ruby, Ruth and Minnie, all of whom are at home.

John Heath came to Nebraska with his parents and assisted

them until 1890, when he homesteaded 160 acres in Lincoln county and proved it up. Later he took a kinkaid claim and also proved it up, and has put in all of the improvements on his farm. At present he owns 1,280 acres of land, all of which is improved, and he is accounted one of the wealthy men of this neighborhood. Both he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He votes for the man he deems will best discharge the duties of the office in question, so has never definitely connected himself with party politics. He is a man who has contributed generously to the civic undertakings of the community, and is held in high respect by all who know him, having won a position in the county to which his abilities entitle him. As treasurer of the School Board of District No. 46 Mr. Heath is rendering the tax payers and children a valuable service. Fraternally he maintains membership in the Woodmen of the World.

**SETH E. FERRELL.** It takes more than an ordinary amount of courage to meet adversity bravely and cheerfully, and to refrain from giving way to dismay at a temporary failure to overcome obstacles. If this quality of courage is possessed progress is certain, and what appeared the worst of bad luck may be turned into a beneficent lesson by means of which similar trouble may be avoided. Seth E. Ferrell, of section 22, township 9, is one of the present prosperous farmers of Lincoln county who had to endure more than the ordinary amount of hardship and ill-fortune upon first coming to Nebraska, but has come through it all and made a success of his undertakings.

The birth of Seth E. Ferrell took place in Wayne county, Iowa, on December 28, 1860, he being a son of Joseph and Nancy A. (Bowhman) Ferrell, natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively. Joseph Ferrell had an adventurous life, and saw much of the country. Adopted when six years old, he was early forced to be self-supporting, and when little more than a child began working in the timber, making railroad ties. In 1861 he crossed the plains to the west and had many encounters with hostile Indians, but managed to escape without serious injury. On his homeward trip he was employed by the Hudson Bay Fur Company to do freighting, and began his journey with eight head of horses. Various mishaps resulted in the gradual reduction of these eight to one, with which he delivered his load. Later he engaged in farming in Wayne and Henry counties, Iowa, and subsequently moved to Oklahoma, where he lived from 1885 until his death in 1917, when he was eighty-seven years old, having been born on March 30, 1830. His wife died in Iowa when thirty-four years old. They became the parents of the following children: Joseph Edward, who is living in Oklahoma; John, who is deceased; Seth E., who was third in order of birth; Thomas Jefferson, who is deceased; Mrs. Susan May Carrier, who is living in Florida; Mrs. Emma Varner, who is living at North Platte, Nebraska; Mrs. Sadie Bell Bridson, who is living in California; and Lennie, who is living in Oklahoma. After the death of his first wife Joseph Ferrell was married to Sarah Ann Henderson, and they became the parents of four children, but Ernest is the only one living and is a resident of Oklahoma. The second Mrs. Ferrell is also deceased.

In 1883 Seth E. Ferrell left Iowa for Nebraska and for a time was employed doing general work. In the fall of 1884 he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded, but on account of serious illness was not able to prove up his claim. Later, however, he took up a

tree claim and also a pre-emption claim and now has 320 acres of valuable land. All of the improvements on both have been put in by him and he has a valuable property.

Mr. Ferrell was married in Iowa to Etta Neeley, born in Hancock county, Illinois, a daughter of John G. and Rebecca (White) Neeley, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. For some years they were engaged in farming in Illinois, but later moved to Wayne county, Iowa, where both died. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell became the parents of the following children: Alva Herold, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Ilo May, Sadie, Hazel, Mary, Lennie, Unitilla and Meryn, all living in Lincoln county. Mr. Ferrell votes for the man. He was reared in the faith of the Baptist Church and his wife in that of the Presbyterian Church, but they belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Both are highly esteemed throughout the county, and are very fine people who deserve the prosperity which has finally come to them.

**HENRY FAVINGER.** None but those who have passed through the hardships of pioneer life can appreciate what has been accomplished by the early settlers of any region, but Lincoln county, although now thoroughly abreast of any similar locality, is still young enough to render due credit where it is deserved for the remarkable expansion everywhere noticeable. One of the men who feels that he is now enjoying a fair measure of success because of his hard work in conjunction with the homesteading and proving up of a farm in this county is Henry Favinger, one of the leading agriculturists of township 9, section 17.

Henry Favinger was born in Noble county, Indiana, May 22, 1865, a son of Charles and Anna Favinger, natives of Pennsylvania and farming people. They came west and homesteaded in Adams county, Nebraska, and proved up their claim, and then went to Perkins county, Nebraska, in 1900, took up a tree claim and proved it up. Having accomplished this, they came to Lincoln county and here lived in retirement the remainder of their lives, both being now deceased. They had the following children: John, who is living in Lincoln county; Thomas, who is living in California; Henry, whose name heads this article; Abe, who is also living in Lincoln county; Sylvester, who is living in Lincoln county; and Mrs. Emma Liston, who is living in Adams county, Nebraska.

In 1872 Mr. Favinger came to Nebraska and lived in different sections of the state until 1892, when he reached Lincoln county. For the first four years of his residence in this county he was engaged in a general line of work, and then he took up a homestead in section 17, township 9, and having proved it up now owns 160 acres of finely cultivated land. Being but a boy at the time his parents brought him to Adams county, he acquired practically all his schooling in the district schools of that locality, and has grown up and matured in the state, so that his interests are centered in it and he is a booster for all things Nebraskan.

Mr. Favinger was married to Mary Emery, a native of Lincoln county, Nebraska, and they became the parents of two children, namely: George, who is assisting his father with the farm; and Mary Jane, who is living in Illinois. In politics Mr. Favinger is a republican, but aside from casting his vote for his party's candidates he takes no part in public affairs. He does not belong to any lodge or church, his time and attention having been occupied with the im-

provement of his farm. Those who know him best recognize his excellent characteristics and know that he is a hard-working and reliable man and one worthy of confidence.

**JOHN C. FAVINGER.** Belonging to the pioneers of Lincoln county, John C. Favinger is one of the prominent men of this locality, and owns a finely developed farm of 640 acres in section 20, township 9. He was born in Noble county, Indiana, on November 20, 1857, a son of Charles and Anna Favinger, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They were engaged in farming in Ohio, later in Indiana, and in 1888 they came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Adams county. Proving that up, they operated it until 1900, when removal was made to Perkins county, where once more they secured land, this time a tree claim and also proved it up. By this time they felt privileged to retire, and they spent their last days with their son John C., he dying when seventy-two years old, and she when eighty years of age. They became the parents of ten children, namely: John C., who was the first born; Thomas, who is living in California; Henry, who is living in Lincoln county; Abe, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Sylvester, who is also a farmer of Lincoln county; Mrs. Emma Liston of Adams county, Nebraska; and four children who are deceased.

In 1880 John C. Favinger came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Lincoln county, proving up his claim and improving it in many ways. He has been engaged in raising hogs, cattle and horses, but also does some general farming, and feels that his efforts have met with a merited success. Mr. Favinger votes the democratic ticket, and was at one time a member of the School Board. He and his wife are members of the local Methodist Episcopal Church.

On October 5, 1896, Mr. Favinger was married in Hayes county, Nebraska, to Flora Morgan, born in Ohio, a daughter of Benjamin and May Morgan, both of whom were natives of Ohio. They came to Nebraska in 1872, homesteading in Adams county, and proving up their claim. He died in Adams county when sixty-seven years old, but she survives and lives near Hastings, Nebraska. They had nine children, namely: Mrs. Favinger, who was the eldest born; Mrs. Alice McGregor of Fort Collins, Colorado; Mrs. Almeda Slocum, who is living in Virginia; Mrs. Arletta Mellinger, who is living at Hastings, Nebraska; Sylvester, who is living in South Dakota; Charles, who is living in Nebraska; George, who is living in Adams county, Nebraska, with his mother; Edgar and Harley, who are also living with their mother. Mr. and Mrs. Favinger have three children, namely: Fred, who is a farmer of Lincoln county; and Benjamin and Grace, both of whom are at home. The family is not only an old one in the county, but an honored one as well, and its members have been associated with much of the constructive work of the past forty years.

**BENJAMIN RODGERS.** Although it is not so many years since Nebraska was still the section toward which those seeking to acquire government land journeyed overland by primitive methods of locomotion, so rapid has been the progress of this region that today it is difficult for the stranger to understand the conditions that prevailed when such men as the late Benjamin Rodgers came to Lincoln county in the '80s, nor fully estimate the value of the work accomplished by them in redeeming from the prairies farms now regarded as among the most valuable in the state.

Benjamin Rodgers was born in Wisconsin on September 5, 1847, and died in Buffalo county, Nebraska, in January, 1916. He was a son of John and Nancy Rodgers, both natives of Ohio, and the eldest of the children of his parents, five of whom still survive. John Rodgers and his wife were farming people in Wisconsin, and later in Missouri, where both passed away.

Growing up on a farm, Benjamin Rodgers learned to do all kinds of farm labor, but did not find an opening to suit him in Missouri, and in 1885 he came west to Nebraska, and in 1886 homesteaded in Lincoln county. He proved up his land and improved it, and there carried on general farming and stockraising. His former experience and knowledge of these branches of agriculture stood him in good stead on his own farm, and he lived long enough to see the gratifying results of years of hard work, for he was a successful man. His farm was located seven miles southwest of Wallace.

His wife prior to her marriage was Mary E. Lyberger, and she was born in Scotland county, Missouri, a daughter of Lewis and Mary Lyberger, natives of Pennsylvania and Missouri, respectively. They were engaged in farming in Missouri until their migration to Nebraska, and they continued in this line upon the farm they homesteaded in Buffalo county. After proving up this farm they lived upon it the remainder of their useful lives. Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers became the parents of two children, namely: Will, who is engaged in farming in western Nebraska; and Nelly, who is now deceased.

Mr. Rodgers was not a man to seek publicity, but he did his full duty as he saw it in his quiet way, and never lost an opportunity to render a fellow man a kindly service. His aim was to provide a permanent home for his family, live up to the obligations of good citizenship, and to hurt no one by word or deed, and that he accomplished all this and more, the regard in which his memory is held conclusively proves.

**MRS. JULIA MERKEL.** Wholly devoted to home and domestic duties, doing through all of the best years of her life the lowly but sacred work that comes within her sphere, there is not much to record concerning the life of the average woman. A celebrated writer and biographer once said that the future destiny of a great nation depended upon its wives and mothers. In the settlement of the great west woman bore her full share of hardships, sufferings and vicissitudes, and in a work such as this one, woman should have no insignificant representation. As a man's equal in every qualification save the physical, and his superior in the gentle and loving amenities of life, she fully merits a much larger notice than she ordinarily receives, and the writer of these lines is optimistic enough to indulge the prediction that in a no distant future she will receive due credit for the important part she acts in life's great drama and be accorded her proper place in history and biography.

Julia Merkel was born in Gasconade county, Missouri, on October 1, 1856, and is the daughter of Mathews and Augustus (Stohr) Klenk. These parents were both born in Germany, and came to the United States with their parents when they were small. They landed at New Orleans and proceeded up the Mississippi River to Missouri, where they settled and spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Klenk took an active part in the activities about him and was a soldier in both the Mexican and Civil wars. He took a prominent

part in the construction of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, also owned a small freight boat. They were industrious and upright and died respected by all who knew them.

Mrs. Merkel was reared in Gasconade county, Missouri, and secured her education in the common schools of that locality. Upon reaching womanhood she was married to Joseph Merkel, but her married life was abruptly terminated by the death of her husband, who passed away at Houston, Texas, at the early age of twenty-seven years. In 1885 Mrs. Merkel came to Lincoln county and bought a homestead right or relinquishment, to the operation of which she devoted herself during the subsequent years. She is the owner of 320 acres of land, located about four miles north of North Platte, in section 2, township 30, range 14, and here she devoted the major part of her attention to the dairy business, in which she achieved a success. In former days she also gave considerable attention to the raising of cattle and horses. Mrs. Merkel recently moved from her farm to North Platte. For a number of years after coming to this county she also owned and helped to operate a meat market in North Platte, being in partnership with a brother. She has shown business qualifications of a high order and has managed her business affairs with skill and good judgment.

By her marriage with Joseph Merkel she became the mother of a daughter, Mrs. Isabelle Tagader. She is a member of the Lutheran Church and consistently gives her support to all worthy charitable and benevolent movements. Because of her earnest life and her success, she enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know her.

**AGRICOL ABERCROMBIE.** Among the substantial farmers of Lincoln county who have made an especially creditable record in husbandry and in citizenship is Agricol Abercrombie, the owner of a productive property in the vicinity of Brady. A resident of Lincoln county since the '80s, he has contributed materially to the development of this region and his success has been entirely due to his own efforts.

Mr. Abercrombie was born in Carroll county, Georgia, in 1860, a son of Isaac M. and Mary (Adams) Abercrombie, also natives of that state, where his father followed farming and stockraising for some years. In 1873 the family moved to Dawson county, Nebraska, where the father took up a timber claim and a pre-emption, and proved up on this land, spending the next few years in its development. Disposing of his Dawson county interests, he moved to Lincoln county, where both he and his wife died, greatly respected, and in the faith of the Baptist Church. They were the parents of four children: Agricol, of this notice; Joseph, who is deceased; Ella, the wife of James Harman, on a Lincoln county farm; and Ada, the wife of I. N. Abercrombie, of Bignell, Nebraska. Isaac M. Abercrombie was a democrat, although he never sought public office and only took a good citizen's interest in public affairs.

Agricol Abercrombie attended the public schools of Georgia, as well as those of Dawson county, Nebraska, to which locality he accompanied his parents as a youth of fourteen years. He was reared to the pursuits of agriculture, and when he attained his majority secured a homestead of his own, on which he proved up. After doing some work of improvement and development he disposed of this farm and came to Lincoln county, where he again homesteaded,





*C. Kelly, M.D.*

on the property which is now his home and the scene of his operations. He has installed a number of improvements and has brought his land to a high state of cultivation, he being known as one of the progressive and well-to-do farmers and stockraisers of his part of the county.

In 1886 Mr. Abercrombie was united in marriage with Miss Ida Bennett, born in Massachusetts, the daughter of Giles Bennett, who became an early settler of Lincoln county. To this union there have been born eight children, namely: Flossie, who is the wife of Fred Graves, a farmer in the vicinity of Douglas, Wyoming; Fay, the wife of Farrell McGovern, engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Mary, a well-known and popular educator, who is now teaching school at Shelton, Nebraska; Ethel, the wife of Harry Leafgreen, of Minatare, Nebraska; Kenneth, who served in the United States Army during the great World war and is now engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Edith, the wife of Miles Hart, a farmer of Dawson county, this state; and Dorothy and Francis, who are attending school in Lincoln county. Mr. Abercrombie is a democrat in politics, has kept thoroughly informed as to current events, and has faithfully discharged all the duties pertaining to an enlightened citizenship.

**CAPTAIN CLAUDE A. SELBY.** A North Platte physician and surgeon, a medical officer with the famous Forty-second or Rainbow Division, Captain Selby had a distinguished service in the World war, and his individual record serves to recall a particularly glorious phase of America's participation in the great war.

Captain Selby was born at Petersburg, Indiana, August 25, 1888, a son of Isaac and Mattie (Adams) Selby. His parents were natives of the same Indiana town, and his father for a number of years was in the grocery business there. In 1891 the family came to Nebraska, settling at Gandy on a farm, and a year later Isaac Selby entered the business of North Platte's veteran merchant W. T. Banks. For two years he was engaged in general merchandising and then removed to Callaway, Nebraska, where he continued as a merchant until 1904. In that year the family came to North Platte, where Isaac Selby again became associated with W. T. Banks for several years, and for two years conducted a store on the north side. Since 1917 he has been retired, and he and his wife are now living at Long Beach, California. They are members of the Methodist Church, and he is a republican in politics and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In 1917 he served as county assessor of Lincoln county. There are three children: Captain Claude A.; Bernice, wife of Milton E. Doolittle, of Los Angeles; and Genevieve, attending school at North Platte.

Claude A. Selby graduated from the North Platte High School with the class of 1907. The following year he remained at home working in the store, and then entered the Medical Department of the University of Illinois at Chicago, graduating Doctor of Medicine in 1913. He had eighteen months of training as an interne in St. Elizabeth's Hospital at Chicago, and then practiced on the north side of Chicago for over two years, part of the time being given to the City Health Department.

Captain Selby received his first military training as a member of the National Guard Field Hospital Company of Lincoln. As a

member of that organization he was called to the colors in 1917. The National Guard was mobilized at Lincoln and Captain Selby assisted in recruiting the Hospital Corps for the Rainbow Division. He was sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, in August, 1917, and landed in France in October, 1917. During the following winter he was given intensive training and in February, 1918, was brigaded with French troops in the Luneville sector, where the division remained six weeks and had its first introduction to first line duty. After three days Captain Selby, with the Rainbow Division, was taken out of the line and sent to the Bacarat sector, where he was part of the first American division to take over a sector on its own responsibility. Here they remained 110 days in trench warfare and under constant fire. June 28, 1918, they were relieved from the trenches and sent to the Champagne in the region north of Chalons-Sur-Marne. It was in this area that the Germans were repelled from their great offensive in the effort to advance upon Paris, and the Rainbow Division was the only American force assisting the French in that area. July 15, 1918, the Crown Prince made his disastrous attack upon this point, using more than 50,000 troops in an endeavor to break the line. Then by train and truck the Division was shifted to Chateau Thierry, where it relieved the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-eighth American Divisions and the Fifty-first and Fifty-second French Divisions, and with a front of four kilometers carried forward a rapid advance over fifteen kilometers against picked German troops, including the famous Prussian Guards. Here they crossed the river Ourc with a loss of about 8,500 killed and wounded. Next they were sent to the region of Neuf Chateau for re-equipment and replacement and after ten days were assigned to the Fourth Army Corps and marched overland 150 kilometers into the St. Mihiel district. At the beginning of that offensive they were assigned to the center of the drive, and advanced over twenty-two kilometers in forty-two hours, attaining every objective with comparatively small loss. After reducing the St. Mihiel salient they remained in that sector establishing new trenches and emplacements, and on September 28th was taken by truck to the Meuse-Argonne and participated in that phase. They relieved the First American Division at Exermont on October 12th and made an advance at a loss of 6,000 killed and wounded against most stubborn opposition on the part of the Germans. They were relieved October 31st by the Second American Division and the Rainbow followed up the advance toward Sedan, and at a point about twenty-six kilometers south of Sedan they re-entered the first line and carried on the advance to the heights of that famous battleground, resting there when the Armistice was signed.

For their brilliant record of service the Rainbow Division was named as one of the first of the Army of Occupation, and for that purpose they were withdrawn to the area of Busezancy for re-equipment and replacement, and then sent to the Bridge head at Coblenz, remaining there from December 15, 1918, until April 10, 1919. At the latter date the Rainbow Division was returned to Brest and landed at New York City April 26, 1919.

Captain Selby served with the rank of lieutenant up to September 13, 1918, and during the last two months of the war was a captain. He is now president of the Rainbow Division Veterans for the State of Nebraska, an honor that he appreciates as one of the highest that could possibly be given a veteran soldier. After his honorable discharge Captain Selby returned to his old home at North Platte, and is now busily engaged in a general practice.

September 22, 1915, he married Miss Mabel Duke, a native of Elsie, Nebraska. Her father, Levi R. Duke, is a decorating contractor at North Platte. They have two daughters, Phyllis and Lois Betty. Mrs. Selby is a member of the Episcopal Church. Fraternally Doctor Selby is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Royal Highlanders, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the North Platte Post, American Legion.

WILLIAM ANDREW LATIMER is a prominent pioneer settler of Lincoln county, and still lives on his home farm and ranch in section 10, township 10, range 32. Mr. Latimer has been a resident of Nebraska for four decades, and has tasted both the bitter and sweet of life in this state.

He was born in Iowa September 28, 1848, son of N. J. and Jane (Blackburn) Latimer. His father was a native of Illinois, a farmer, and an early settler both in Iowa and Nebraska. Both parents are now deceased. Their family consisted of nine sons and one daughter.

William A. Latimer came to Nebraska in 1888. His present farm comprised 480 acres. He has improved his land, has made it a valuable property, but at the present time has turned over most of the heavy responsibilities of farming and contents himself with the raising of a few cattle and chickens. Mr. Latimer and family went through the strenuous times of the early '90s, and it required all his courage and persistence to remain in the face of adverse circumstances.

He married in Missouri Miss Ella Given, a native of Illinois. They have four children: Mrs. Nora Jolliff, of Dickens; Mrs. Jennie Rafferty, living near Wellfleet; Gus Latimer, who lives near Dickens; and Mrs. Gertrude Staley, a resident of Iowa. Mr. Latimer is a Baptist and republican, and has rendered some public service in his home community, serving for several years as overseer, as assessor one year, and as a member of the School Board.

PHILIP K. HOFFMAN is an old timer in western Nebraska, having lived here since boyhood, for over forty years. He has one of the well improved farms and ranches in Lincoln county, located in section 8, township 10, range 32.

Mr. Hoffman was born in New Jersey April 4, 1874, and was four years of age when in 1878 his parents, Frederick and Mary Hoffman, came to Nebraska. They located on Buffalo Creek, near Kearney, where his father homesteaded. His father died at the age of seventy-four and the widowed mother is now living near Sutherland in Lincoln county.

Philip was the fourth in a family of five sons and four daughters. He acquired a common school education in Nebraska and has lived in Lincoln county since 1907, when he bought 160 acres and later increased his holdings to a complete section. He uses this land for general farming and stockraising, and keeps good grades of livestock. He has excellent improvements on his farm, and he is very loyal to Nebraska and Lincoln county for the prosperity he has achieved here. Mr. Hoffman has an interesting photograph showing the town of Dickens thirteen years ago. He is an independent voter, has served three years on the School Board, and eight years as road overseer. His only fraternity is the Woodmen of the World.

Mr. Hoffman married at Broken Bow, Nebraska, in 1899 Miss Anna Ahrendt, a native of Germany. She was brought to the

United States at the age of three years. They have two children, both at home, Kent and Otto.

**WILLIAM M. GRAVES.** Within the past year or two the confectionery business has become one of the important lines of industry in every community. With the passage and enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, the demand for sweets has grown to astounding proportions, and the sugar shortage has brought about conditions those in the business have never before had to face, but in spite of everything the confectioners of the country are making good and rendering a service that is first-class in every particular. They are placing upon the market goods which so far distance former products that any fair comparison seems almost impossible, while their prices, everything considered, are not excessive. One of the men who until just recently was engaged in this very important line at Maxwell is William M. Graves, whose store was known to discriminating patrons all over Lincoln county. In December, 1919, he sold the business and bought 160 acres of land near Sheridan Lake, Kiowa county, Colorado, which he will improve and make his future home.

William M. Graves was born in Illinois on September 25, 1850, a son of Delatus and Rhoda (Purple) Graves. Delatus Graves, a farmer, was one of the pioneers of South Dakota, where he continued to be engaged in farming for many years. He died in that state in 1907.

After receiving a public school education William M. Graves came to Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1882, and homesteaded in its vicinity, and was there engaged very successfully in farming until in April, 1919, when he came to Maxwell and embarked in the confectionery business.

In 1882 William M. Graves was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ewing, a native of Illinois, and they became the parents of seven children, namely: Bert, who lives in Idaho; Sallie, who married William Gregg, lives at Ogden, Utah; Deana, who married Hans Buhman, of Lincoln county; Luetta, who is deceased; Lena, who married Chester Cohn; L. B., who lives in Wyoming; and Nettie, who married Lester Drake. Since casting his first vote Mr. Graves has been a republican, and he sees no reason for changing his party, for in his estimation the affairs of the country are safer under republican administrations. He is a friend of the public schools and the good roads movement, but is only willing to advocate those improvements which will be practical, for he recognizes the fact that these are no times for an extravagant expenditure of public funds.

**A. E. Woods.** The people of Lincoln county are prosperous and demand of their merchants first-class goods and service. They can afford to pay for the best, and, while not extravagant, they feel that they are entitled to it and will not patronize those business men who are not enterprising enough to keep their stocks up-to-date. To those who do a liberal patronage is given, and such men are achieving a fair measure of prosperity. The fact that buying from local dealers is good business because it aids in advancing the community is now generally accepted, and consequently the supplying of the demands of the people in and around Brady, as is the case in similar localities all over the state, has developed into important proportions. One of the alert merchants, belonging to the most enter-

prising class, is A. E. Woods, who is making good at Brady, and winning the place in the village to which his abilities entitle him.

A. E. Woods was born in Illinois on February 13, 1878, a son of Allen and Sarah (Howard) Woods, natives of Illinois and Pennsylvania, respectively. They became the parents of the following children: Jennie, who married J. S. Carnes, lives at Neligh, Nebraska; Mattie, who married M. P. Wimberly, lives in California; Howard, who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Sadie, who married Harry Wolf, lives at Lost Springs, Wyoming; A. E., whose name heads this review; and Charles, who lives at Lincoln, Nebraska. Allen Woods was a contractor, and his first contract was secured in Chicago, Illinois, where he did business for some time, and then came to Nebraska, making Greenwood his home until his death, which occurred in 1913, his widow surviving him until 1916.

A. E. Woods was educated in Nebraska, and following the completion of his schooldays he came to Brady and established himself in a general mercantile business, which he has conducted ever since, gradually expanding to meet the requirements of his trade.

In 1902 Mr. Woods was united in marriage with Laura A. Will, who was born in Nebraska, and they became the parents to two children, namely: Margaret Elouise and Evelyn Nadine. Mr. Woods maintains fraternal relations with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**WILLIAM WINTERBOTTOM.** A number of the alert newspaper men of the country, especially in the smaller communities, have made good at both ends of the business, first learning to handle the mechanical part as printers, and developing their capabilities so that the way is an easy one from the case to the editorial desk. One of the owners and editors of a live journal of Lincoln county is William Winterbottom, who presides over the destinies of the "Vindicator" at Brady.

William Winterbottom was born at Jacksonville, Illinois, on March 30, 1869, a son of Jesse and Rhoda (Bloyd) Winterbottom, natives of England and Kentucky, respectively. They had two children born to them, but William Winterbottom is the only survivor, the other one having died in infancy. Jesse Winterbottom was a blacksmith by trade, and coming to the United States in young manhood he settled at Jacksonville, Illinois, and there lived until his death, which occurred in 1879.

William Winterbottom attended the common schools of Jacksonville, Illinois, and there learned the printing business. In 1904 he came to Nebraska, and was employed at his trade in a newspaper office in Douglas county for four years. In 1908 he located permanently at Brady and worked at the case until he was able to purchase the "Vindicator," since which time he has been the sole proprietor. This is one of the popular local journals, with a circulation of 500, and in connection with it Mr. Winterbottom has a large job printing establishment, and his patronage comes from a wide area, his knowledge of his business being so thorough as to insure satisfaction no matter what the job may be.

The maiden name of the wife of Mr. Winterbottom was Cora Booth, and they became the parents of one daughter, Bertha. Mr. Winterbottom belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. In his political views he is a democrat, and he supports the principles of his party in the columns of his paper, but at the same time

he is broad enough to give a fair and impartial review of current events, and his local news is up to the minute. Both through his paper and personally Mr. Winterbottom has been instrumental in advancing the interests of Brady and this section of Lincoln county, and in every respect is accepted as one of the constructive citizens of this region.

**CHARLES W. THOMAS.** The true western spirit of progress and enterprise is strikingly exemplified in the lives of such men as Charles W. Thomas, men whose energetic nature and laudable ambition have enabled them to conquer many adverse circumstances and advance steadily to leading positions among the business men of their community. The subject is a worthy representative of this class and is now a prominent figure in the commercial circles of his section of Lincoln county, having been successfully engaged in business in the town of Dickens for a number of years.

Charles W. Thomas was born in Hartford City, Indiana, on July 21, 1878, and is a son of James Willard and Rachel (Barnes) Thomas, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. They were married in the latter state and came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1892. Here the father engaged in farming for many years, his death occurring at North Platte on February 24, 1906. He is survived by his widow, who still lives in North Platte. They became the parents of six children, an equal number of sons and daughters, namely: Charles W., the immediate subject of this review; Mary, who lives in Colorado; Minnie, who is the wife of Lawrence Swartz, a farmer near North Platte; Eberly, who is an employe of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Grand Island, Nebraska; John, also an employe of the Union Pacific; and Pearl. James W. Thomas was a democrat in politics and he and his wife belonged to the Presbyterian Church.

Charles W. Thomas accompanied his parents in their removal to Nebraska when he was about fourteen years of age, and he completed his education in the schools of Hayes county. When little more than a boy he began active work on his own account, first on a farm, then for eleven years as the driver of a huckster wagon. In the latter capacity he began work at a salary of thirteen dollars a month, and when he quit that work he was earning twenty-eight dollars a month. In 1913 he came to Dickens and engaged in business on his own account, first in a modest way, but he has increased his stock from time to time until today he owns one of the best stores in this locality, carrying a large, complete and well-selected stock of goods, and enjoying a large trade from a wide radius of surrounding country. This success is due to his persistent and energetic efforts, his square dealing and prompt service, and he enjoys a high standing among the commercial enterprises of his locality.

On January 22, 1916, Mr. Thomas was married to Mamie Stackhouse. Politically he gives his support to the republican party, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In addition to his store interests Mr. Thomas owns 320 acres of fine farm land near Dickens and a very attractive home in Dickens, which he erected in 1915. His career most happily illustrates what may be accomplished by faithful and continued effort along any legitimate line of effort. It is a story of a life whose success is measured largely by its usefulness, for he has always stood for the best things in the community life, consistently giving his support

to every movement which promises to advance the general welfare. Because of his success and his excellent personal character he enjoys the respect of all who come in contact with him.

**FRANK E. WOOD.** The gentleman whose name heads this paragraph is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Wallace and Lincoln counties, Nebraska. He has lived in this community for many years and has been prominently identified with the agricultural and commercial interests of the locality. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of discouragements.

Frank E. Wood is a native of Sterling, Illinois, where he was born on June 16, 1861, and he is the son of John and Susan (Holdridge) Wood. Both of these parents were born, reared and married in New York state, the father being the son of John Wood, Sr., who spent his entire life in the Empire state. The Wood family originally came from Ireland, being founded in the United States by two brothers, one of them went south and the other remained in New York state. In 1857 John and Susan Wood moved to Illinois, where he owned large tracts of land. He did a good deal of land speculating and was also largely interested in the manufacture of wagons. He and his wife both passed away in Illinois. They became the parents of five children, three of whom survive, namely: Jennie is the widow of Frank Galt and lives at Sterling, Illinois; Frank E., the immediate subject of this sketch; and Harry H., of Sterling, Illinois, where he is engaged in the manufacture of auto hearses and buggies. The parents of these children were members of the Episcopal Church, while in politics the father gave his support to the democratic party.

Frank E. Wood received a good education at Sterling, Illinois, attending both the high school and a commercial school. In 1880, when about nineteen years of age, he came to Hastings, Nebraska, where he engaged in land speculating, until eventually he obtained a good farm adjoining that of his future wife. He came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1884 and homesteaded a tract of land northwest of Wallace and on which he located in 1886. He remained there, devoting his attention to general farming operations, until 1895, when he moved into Wallace, where he had become interested in commercial affairs. He was first engaged in the agricultural implement business, but later became the owner of a livery stable, which he conducted for a number of years. Then he became interested in the meat and general mercantile business. He has sold much of his land, but still retains some, on which he feeds hogs and cattle for market. Aside from these interests Mr. Wood is practically retired from active business affairs and is enjoying a leisure which he has richly earned.

In 1881 Mr. Wood was married to Susan Sadler, a native of Ohio and the daughter of Moses P. Sadler, who came to Nebraska in an early day and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He remained here until 1890, when he moved to Missouri, where his death occurred. To Mr. and Mrs. Wood six children have been born, namely: John, at home; Spencer, at home; Mary Alice, the wife of Henry



Smith, of Illinois, whose family was among the first settlers of that locality; Harry is a promoter and real estate man in Weiser, Idaho; Genevieve is the wife of Frank Pilkington, a farmer near Wallace; and Frank Holdridge is in school.

Mr. Wood is a democrat in politics and is deeply interested in local public affairs, though he is not a seeker after public office, his only official service being in the capacity of justice of the peace. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. In all the relations of life Mr. Wood has commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought into contact, and a biographical record of his community would not be complete without a record of his career.

**JOHN CORBITT.** There is no positive rule for achieving success, and yet in the life of the successful man there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who gains prosperity is he who can see and utilize the opportunity that came in his path, for the essential conditions of human nature are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly. Today among the successful farmers and respected citizens of Lincoln county must be included John Corbitt, who after many years of strenuous toil and unremitting efforts is now living retired in Wallace.

John Corbitt was born in Woodford county, Illinois, on January 22, 1854, and is the son of Patrick and Mary (Durney) Corbitt. Both of these parents were born and reared in Ireland, and upon their immigration to the United States they located in Woodford county, Illinois, where they located on a farm and there spent the remainder of their lives. They were faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church and Mr. Corbitt was a democrat in his political faith. They became the parents of eight children, of which number seven are now living, namely: John, the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, who became the wife of John Hines, of Bloomington, Illinois; Edward, a farmer in McLean county, Illinois; Nellie is the wife of Patrick Hines and lives in Iowa; Richard is a farmer in Champaign county, Illinois; James is a farmer in Woodford county, Illinois; Michael is a farmer at Missouri Valley, Iowa.

John Corbitt received a somewhat limited educational training in the schools of Illinois and early in life he began to work on the home farm, being the oldest of the children. He remained a resident of Illinois until the spring of 1890, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and bought a homestead. To the improvement and cultivation of this farm he applied himself, meeting with increasing success as the years passed by. He remained there for twenty years and in the spring of 1910 he rented his farm and moved into a new home which he had built in Wallace, where he is now living practically retired from the active labors which characterized his earlier years here. He was systematic, industrious and wisely economical in his methods and is therefore now able to enjoy a richly-earned rest. He has witnessed many changes in the progress of the development of this locality. His own first home was a small sodhouse, which was later succeeded by a larger one of similar character, and it in turn was succeeded by a splendid framehouse in 1909.

On February 14, 1882, Mr. Corbitt was married to Anna Hannifin, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois, and who died in February, 1919. They became the parents of three children, namely: Mamie, the wife of Clarence Harris, a farmer in Lincoln county; Maggie, the wife of John Dillin, a farmer and stockman of Douglas county, Colorado; and Ella, who remains at home with her father.

Mr. Corbitt gives his support to the democratic party, though he has never taken an active part in local public affairs aside from serving one year as chairman of the town board. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and a citizen who stands for all that is best in the life of the community. Because of what he accomplished here and his upright life, he is deserving of the high standing which he enjoys throughout the community.

**GEORGE SCHILLER.** The gentleman whose name appears above is too well known to the citizens of southwestern Lincoln county to need any formal introduction here. Eminently a self-made man, having carved his own way in the world and honestly earning every dollar in his possession, he ranks with the enterprising and successful of his compeers and has won a name and reputation which places him among the representative citizens of his county.

George Schiller was born in the southern part of Germany on September 13, 1859, and is the son of George and Kate Schiller, both of whom spent their entire lives in their native land. They became the parents of six children, of whom three are living: Kate, the wife of a Mr. Graf, a farmer in Germany; John, who also remains in Germany; and George, of this review. The parents were members of the Lutheran Church. The father was a blacksmith by trade and a respected citizen of his community.

George Schiller received his education in the schools of his native country and the United States. He came to this country at about the time he attained his majority, locating in Illinois, where he remained for about two years. In 1883 he came to eastern Nebraska, where he was variously employed for a time, being employed as a farmhand at eighteen dollars a month and working in the harvest field for seventy-five cents a day. Subsequently he came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Wallace, and it is a noteworthy fact that he still owns that particular tract, it being probably the only piece of land in this section of the county that has never been transferred. He lived on that farm, devoting himself to its cultivation, until 1887, when he moved into Wallace and for a number of years engaged in the blacksmith business. He attended closely to his business, in which he was rewarded with success, and at length engaged in a modest way in the hardware business. In this line also he has prospered and added to his stock from time to time until he found himself on the safe side of the ledger, when he erected a fine new store building, in 1896, in which he still continues the business. He has one of the best hardware stores in this section of the country, carrying a large and complete line of shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, harness and kindred lines, and enjoys a large and representative patronage from a wide radius of surrounding country.

In 1903 Mr. Schiller was married to Mrs. Allie West in North Platte. Mrs. Schiller has been a resident of Nebraska for many years and by her former marriage was the mother of three children, one of whom, Ball West, now lives with Mr. Schiller.

Mr. Schiller is independent in politics and takes a commendable interest in local public affairs. He has rendered appreciated service to his community as a justice of the peace and as a member of the Wallace town board. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, to which they give liberal support. His career has been a long, busy and useful one, his activities in a material way having added to his individual prosperity and to the welfare of the locality in which he lives. Because of his success and his splendid elements of character, he enjoys an enviable standing throughout the community where he has lived and labored to such goodly ends.

**FRED PIERSON.** The life of Fred Pierson, the well-known real estate dealer and president of the Farmers State Bank at Sutherland, has been characterized by industry, honesty and steadfastness of purpose, seldom if ever mistaken in matters of business. He is essentially a man of affairs, careful of his plans and exercising a judicious foresight, possessing energy, concentration of purpose and discernment that has brought to him the success which he now enjoys. He is public-spirited and lends his aid in the furtherance of all movements having for their object the general upbuilding of the community.

Fred Pierson was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, on October 22, 1863, and is the son of George and Jane (McLaughlin) Pierson, the former of whom was a native of Ohio and the latter of Ireland. They became the parents of twelve children, of which number ten are now living, namely: Emma, the wife of Milton White, of Washington, Iowa; Add. lives in Dewey, Oklahoma; Mary is the wife of J. R. Smith, of Hoopeston, Illinois; John is deceased; Lizzie is the wife of J. W. Martin, of Sutherland; Lewis lives in Sutherland; Anna is the wife of W. L. Martin, of Illinois; Sallie is deceased; Fred is the immediate subject of this review; Ida is the wife of Frank Klass, of Gary, Indiana; Clinton, of Bloomington, Illinois; and Minnie, the wife of W. J. Scott, of Hoopeston, Illinois. George Pierson, the father of these children, was a farmer and stock buyer, and in the latter line he drove his hogs on foot to the Cincinnati market before railroads had entered that city. He was successful in his business affairs and was highly respected in his community. He was a democrat in politics and was a member of the Baptist Church. He and his wife are both deceased.

Fred Pierson was reared at home and received his education in the public schools of his home neighborhood. In 1882, when nineteen years of age, he came to Keith county, Nebraska, where he remained until 1894, when he came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead. He improved this place and for a few years was engaged in stockraising, in which he met with success, but subsequently he came to Sutherland and engaged in the real estate business. He has followed this line of business to the present time and is accounted one of the best informed men in the county as to land values, having handled an enormous amount of land in this section of the country. He became a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Sutherland and is now president of that well-known institution. In addition he is the owner of several farms and has been an important factor in the development of Lincoln county.

On September 3, 1887, Mr. Pierson was married to Leona J. Johnson, and to them have been born four children, Florence and

Ben, who are deceased, and Grace and Lawrence Clem, who are at home. Mr. Pierson is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while his political support is given to no particular party, he reserving the right to vote for the men and measures which meet with his approval, regardless of party lines. He is a consistent supporter of every movement for the material, civic and moral advancement of the community and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**VOORHEES LUCAS, M. D.** A distinguished physician and surgeon of North Platte, Voorhees Lucas, M. D., has gained marked prestige in his profession, more especially in his treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, which he has made his specialty, his practice along these lines having so constantly increased as to demand the larger part of his time and attention. A son of the late Peter Lucas, he was born July 28, 1869, in Monroe county, Indiana, near Smithville.

A native of Kentucky, Peter Lucas was engaged in agricultural pursuits the greater part of his life, as a young man being located in Indiana, from there moving to Iowa. Subsequently coming to Nebraska, he bought land in Custer county, and by dint of hard labor improved the ranch on which he spent the closing years of his life. He was a democrat in politics, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married in Indiana Elizabeth Floyd, a native of that state, and to them six children were born, five of whom are living, as follows: Thomas H., a butcher in Curtis, Nebraska; Joseph McClelland, engaged in farming near Arnold, Nebraska; Mrs. Isaac Mahan, whose husband is a retired farmer and ranchman of Shelton, Nebraska; Charles, also of Shelton; and Voorhees, the subject of this sketch. The mother died in Iowa at a comparatively early age.

Although the earlier years of the life of Voorhees Lucas were beset by many trials, one of the most serious having been a lack of money, he managed through his own efforts to secure a good education, attending first the rural schools of Iowa, and later, after having clerked for a time in a North Platte drug store, entering the medical department of the University of Nebraska, from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1895. Doctor Lucas further perfected himself in his chosen profession by taking a post graduate course of nine months in the New York Polyclinic Hospital, which he entered in 1896, and in the winter of 1909-10 going to Vienna, Austria, where he made a special study of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, a tendency toward specialties in any profession or industry being one of the chief indications of progress. Doctor Lucas in addition to attending to his private practice does much of the surgery of the North Platte General Hospital, in which he is a stockholder, performing many major operations. He was city physician a number of terms, and for twelve years was railroad surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

On October 16, 1902, Doctor Lucas was united in marriage with Miss Susie Fraser, a woman of rare intellectuality, culture and refinement. A graduate of the Fremont Normal School, she taught school in North Platte and other places prior to her marriage, and was an instructor in the State Institute. She was born near Rome, New York, and died at her home in North Platte June 25, 1916, leaving no children. Mrs. Lucas was a devout member of the Metho-

dist Episcopal Church, and one of its most active and prominent workers. Politically the doctor is a republican. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to lodge and encampment; and of the Knights of Pythias, in which he has passed all the chairs in his lodge. He is a member of the Lincoln County and Nebraska State Medical Societies.

**HARRY I. BLOCK.** Probably no business house in North Platte has enjoyed a more rapid growth and prosperity than the store of Harry I. Block, known as Block's Ladies Outfitting Store. Mr. Block specializes in women's ready to wear garments, and as a merchant he has evidently discovered and estimated correctly the taste and the demands of the people of Lincoln county, who have given him an enormous patronage.

Mr. Block, who has been a resident of North Platte since 1913, came to this country a little more than twenty years ago with a cash capital of only twenty-two dollars and without the knowledge of a single word of English. He has shown remarkable ability to adapt himself and assimilate himself with American life and customs. He was born at Sudargen, Poland, November 28, 1878, a son of C. H. and Bertha (Yorkshire) Block. His parents spent all their lives in Poland and were of the Jewish faith. Of their eight children three came to the United States: Harry I.; Sam Block, who is proprietor of a woman's ready to wear business at Fremont, Nebraska; and Edith, wife of W. M. Geller, a merchant at St. Joseph, Missouri. Harry I. Block on account of the war and other conditions was practically shut off from news of his family and old home until a letter reached him September 22, 1919, bringing him the information that both his parents had died during the influenza epidemic in 1917.

Harry I. Block acquired the equivalent of a high school education in Europe, and was twenty-one years of age when he arrived in this country on Thanksgiving Day of 1899. Lack of money made it necessary for him to secure immediate employment, and that was not easy considering his lack of knowledge of the language and other conditions in the new world. Necessity acted as a spur to his enterprise, and he was soon canvassing on the road, with home and headquarters at Gouverneur, New York. He lived there until 1911, and during the last year four years was in the men's clothing business. From Gouverneur he removed to Syracuse, New York, in 1911 and engaged in the real estate and loan business.

In April, 1913, Mr. Block opened a stock of goods in the Neville Block at North Platte. He studied the new community, gave every hour of his attention to the business, and it grew rapidly until he had to move to the Haller Building, making the change to the new location in November, 1917. This new store he improved with modern fixtures and with increased stock, and he now has two floors of the building in use. It is one of the most modern and best stores of its kind in western Nebraska. Owing to the success of his main establishment he was justified in branching out and established another store, which now has a prosperous trade at Columbus, Nebraska.

In 1909 Mr. Block married Miss Minnie Levey, of Syracuse, New York. They have two children, Lawrence Arnold, born in November, 1910, and Nathalie Bernice, born January 9, 1919. The

family are members of the Jewish Church. Mr. Block is a Scottish rite Mason and is affiliated with Lodge No. 985 of the Elks of North Platte, Nebraska. Politically he votes as a republican and is one of the live members of the North Platte Commercial Club and generous of his time and efforts in behalf of every community project.

**CHARLES L. COOPER.** Upon the roll of representative citizens and prominent influential business men of Lincoln county consistently appears the name of Charles L. Cooper, cashier of the Farmers State Bank at Wallace. Since locating in this locality, more than a decade ago, Mr. Cooper has not only benefited himself in a very material manner, but has also been a live factor in the development of this section of the country. During this period he has won his way into the esteem of the people because of his sterling qualities of character and public spirit.

Charles L. Cooper was born in St. Charles county, Missouri, in 1871, and is the son of Charles S. and Francis (Sec) Cooper, the latter of whom was a native of Missouri. Charles S. Cooper is a native of West Virginia, whence he moved to Missouri, and is now living at Agency, Iowa. He was formerly an active minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but is now serving as superintendent of the Iowa Anti-Saloon League. He is a republican in his political views and, fraternally, a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom the following survive: Mrs. A. N. Grierson, of Ansley, Nebraska, whose husband is a retired farmer; Charles L., the immediate subject of this sketch; James, who is engaged in the general mercantile business at Arcadia, Nebraska; Nellie and Rin.

Charles L. Cooper received his education in the districts schools of Nebraska. His first independent business venture was as a druggist at Arcadia, Nebraska, in which business he remained engaged there for twenty years, meeting with splendid success. In 1909 Mr. Cooper came to Wallace, Lincoln county, and engaged in the operation of his ranch, which he had purchased sometime prior thereto. He was successful here, being numbered among the progressive and enterprising ranchmen of the county. In 1917 he was the prime mover in the organization of the Farmers State Bank at Wallace, of which he became cashier. This well known financial institution has a cash capital of \$20,000 and average deposits of \$150,000, much of its success being attributable to the efforts and personal popularity of its cashier.

Mr. Cooper was married to Marie Schaupp, who was born in Jackson county, Iowa, the daughter of John G. Schaupp, a native of Germany, and who was engaged in the milling business at Grand Island, Nebraska, for a number of years. To Mr. and Mrs. Cooper has been born one child, Marie.

Politically Mr. Cooper gives his support to the republican party and is active in his support of all measures for the advancement of the general good. He is now a member of the town board. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the first-named order he is a past master, having been the first master of the lodge in Wallace at the time of its organization. Mr. Cooper owes his success to no lucky train of fortunate incidents, but it is the reward of the application of good business ability, sound judgment and indefatigable industry. Because of his success and his splendid

personal qualities, he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and regard of the entire community.

**ANDREW J. MOTHERSEAD.** Among the citizens of Lincoln county who have built up a comfortable business and acquired a large landed estate and personal property, none have attained a higher standing in their respective communities than the subject of this sketch. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of making and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made an exceptional success of life and has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he has resided for so many years has been benefited by his counsel and his labors.

Andrew J. Mothersead was born in Gentry county, Missouri, on August 5, 1860, and is a son of Benjamin and Hannah (Jones) Mothersead. The father was a native of Kentucky and the mother of Gentry county, Missouri, and they are now living at Talmage, Nebraska, the father being eighty-five years of age and the mother eighty. They are members of the Christian Church. Mr. Mothersead is a democrat in his political belief and a member of the Masonic Order. He was numbered among the pioneers of Nebraska and was engaged for a number of years in the hotel business. To him and his wife were born seven children, namely: Andrew J., the immediate subject of this review; Fannie, the wife of William E. McLenan, a stationary engineer residing in California; Mrs. Ida Davis, a widow residing at Atchison, Kansas; Lizzie, the wife of Fred Scannell, a life insurance agent in Topeka, Kansas; Charles D., a telegraph operator at Truax, Canada; Mary, the wife of J. H. Norton, who is engaged in the hardware business at Talmage, Nebraska; Frank, who is connected with a laundry at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska.

The subject of this sketch was brought to Nebraska by his parents when about five years of age, the date of their arrival here being in February, 1865, so that they should be justly classed among the real pioneers of this state. They located in Otoe county, where Mr. Mothersead remained until he was eighteen years of age, and he received his educational training in the district schools of that neighborhood. He then learned the trade of a telegraph operator, which vocation he followed for about ten years, being located in various towns and cities in Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. Finally he came to Wallace, Lincoln county, and in partnership with a Mr. Prey opened a mercantile business, under the firm name of Mothersead & Prey, an association which was maintained about ten years, when Mr. Mothersead purchased his partner's interest and has continued to run the business alone ever since. He is probably the senior merchant in Wallace in the point of a continuous career here in that capacity, and during these years he has enjoyed at all times the absolute confidence of all who have had dealings with him.

On November 18, 1885, Mr. Mothersead was married to Mary Slade, a native of Andrew county, Missouri, and the daughter of William W. P. Slade, who was a native of Tennessee, but who died in Missouri at the age of eighty-seven years. To Mr. and Mrs. Mothersead have been born two sons. Benjamin Slade, who has been connected with the railroad business since fourteen years of age and who is now employed as a train dispatcher at Sheridan, Wyoming; and James G., who graduated from the Nebraska State University in 1908 and is now a member of the law firm of Wright, Mothersead & York at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska.

Mr. Mothersead gives his support to the democratic party and has been somewhat active in local public affairs, having served as postmaster of Wallace under the administration of President Cleveland, and as a member of the Village Council and School Board. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a past master in the former order. Mrs. Mothersead is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Mothersead has been an active man and richly deserves the abundant success which has rewarded his efforts. In addition to his mercantile interests he also engaged to some extent in the first insurance business and is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank, of which he is vice president. He is also the owner of over 1,100 acres of excellent farming and grazing land in Lincoln county. He has acted well his part in life and is a popular member of the circles in which he moves.

**WILLIAM P. KILLEN.** Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort will inevitably result in the attaining of a due measure of success, but in following out the career of one who has attained success by his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, and thus there is granted an objective incentive, while at the same time there is enkindled a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made Mr. Killen one of the successful men of Lincoln county have also brought him the esteem of his fellow men, for his career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

William P. Killen was born in Wisconsin on April 23, 1863, and is the third in order of birth of the nine children born to William D. and Nancy (McFarland) Killen, both of whom were of Scotch descent. William D. Killen was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and died on January 6, 1878. He went from Pennsylvania to Green Bay, Wisconsin, but later moved back to his native state, whence he eventually, in 1877, came to Gage county, Nebraska, where he spent the remainder of his days. In early life he was a civil engineer and was connected with some important construction operations, noteworthy among which was the building of the waterworks plant for Chicago, the intake being two miles out in the lake. So precise were his calculations and plans in the building of the tunnel that when the two gangs, one from the lake terminal and the one from the shore, met half way there was a variation of only  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Mr. Killen also followed milling and cabinet-making at different times. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and gave his support to the republican party. He was an active member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and was a past master of his lodge in Beatrice, Nebraska. While living in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Mr. Killen was married to Nancy McFarland, who was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in 1840, and who survived her husband many years, her death occurring in Gage county, Nebraska, on June 27, 1912. She too was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

William P. Killen attended the public schools, after which he was a student in the State Normal School at Peru, Nebraska, and then completed his scholastic studies in the Nebraska State University at Lincoln. He then engaged in teaching school, being employed for a number of years in Gage, Cass and Cheyenne counties,



Nebraska, later becoming principal of a high school near Sidney. He was elected superintendent of the Sidney schools and also of the Holyoke, Colorado, schools and was president of the Nebraska Teachers' Association. He then engaged in ranching in Chase county, Nebraska, and Phillips county, Colorado, until 1909, when he came to Wallace, Lincoln county, and engaged in the real estate business, to which he has devoted his efforts to the present time. During the subsequent years he has handled an enormous quantity of land in this section of the state and has been very successful, being a splendid judge of land values and a good buyer. He has in a very material way contributed to the development of this community through his successful efforts in inducing many to locate here for permanent residence.

On June 21, 1912, Mr. Killen was married to Agnes Lawton, who was born near Leeds, England, the daughter of Major Lawton, a cousin of General Lawton. Her father came to the United States in the '70s and located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he had supervision over a number of large coal mines. He and his wife are now deceased.

Mr. Killen is an independent republican in politics and takes a live interest in local public affairs, consistently giving his support to every movement for the advancement of the public welfare. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and is an Elk. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and Mrs. Killen is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Killen is essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and far-seeing in his undertakings, and he has won and retains the confidence and esteem of all classes.

**EMORY B. SPENCER.** The record of the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of affluence and influence in the business world. His life has been characterized by unceasing industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods which he has followed have won him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens of Wallace and Lincoln counties.

Emory B. Spencer was born in the State of New York on February 7, 1857, and is one of three children born to Perry R. and Delia M. (Smith) Spencer, the only other survivor of the family being a brother, Ellis L. Spencer, who is engaged in the music business in Detroit, Michigan. The subject's parents were both born and reared in New York state and were there married. In 1866 they moved to Iowa, where Mr. Spencer bought a tract of land and engaged in farming until his death. He was a democrat in his political faith and was a successful and respected man in his business affairs. The Spencer family is of English extraction.

Emory B. Spencer was about nine years of age when the family moved to Iowa, and he secured the major portion of his education in the district schools and the high school at Tama. His first occupation was as a farmer, which engaged his attention until 1885, when he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded a tract of land south of Wallace. He immediately applied himself to the improvement and cultivation of this ranch and remained on it for about

fifteen years, selling in 1905. He then moved into Wallace and engaged in the lumber business, under the name of the Wallace Lumber Company. He has been very successful in this enterprise, to which he has devoted himself for the past twenty years, and in 1918 his sales amounted to \$42,000. After coming to Wallace Mr. Spencer became associated with E. R. Ferrell in the general mercantile business, which they conducted together for ten years, at the end of which time Mr. Spencer acquired the sole ownership of the store and has since conducted it alone. He and Mr. Ferrell own a good business block in Wallace and Mr. Spencer has other interests, which place him in very comfortable circumstances. Coming to Lincoln county with practically nothing, he deserves the greatest credit for his accomplishments.

In 1880 Mr. Spencer was married to Julia Chase, a native of Iowa, and they are the parents of five children, namely: Rex, who is a farmer in Oklahoma; Loren is in the mercantile business at Wallace; Louis is a partner in the business with his brother Loren; Winnie is a clerk in the treasury department at Washington, District of Columbia; Howard is employed in the office of his father's lumber business.

Mr. Spencer is a supporter of the democratic party, though he does not take an active part in public affairs. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Congregational Church. In both agricultural and mercantile circles Mr. Spencer has been successful, and he has earned the enviable standing which he now enjoys in this community, where his splendid qualities have been appreciated at their true value.

**FRANK H. WOODGATE.** Not every man is able to make a success of several different lines of business, but such seems to be the life history of Frank H. Woodgate, at present engaged in the manufacture and sale of monuments in North Platte. Mr. Woodgate was born May 12, 1857, in London, his parents, Henry and Ann (Rose) Woodgate, having always lived in England. In 1870 they immigrated to the United States and settled in Illinois, but in 1884 they came to Seward county. Mr. Woodgate bought land and ended his days there. Being an English family the Woodgates have always been Episcopalians.

Frank H. Woodgate is one of the three survivors out of a family of six children. His sister Elizabeth is the wife of D. L. Francis and lives in Germantown, and a younger sister, Emily, is the wife of Henry Hans of Seward county. The Woodgate vote has always been democratic, and in his day Henry Woodgate was considered a successful man. The term self-made applies to him.

Frank H. Woodgate, was educated in Illinois, and farming was his first occupation. He was a farmer in Illinois and later in Seward county, Nebraska. When he sold the Seward county homestead he was engaged in the livestock business at Utica three years before he came to Lincoln county. He again bought farm land, although for seven years he was in the stock and grain business at Wellfleet. His next business venture was at Ingham, where he remained eighteen years, combining stock and grain and a general merchandise business, and he was also postmaster there.

In 1913 Mr. Woodgate came to North Platte, where he engaged in the vulcanizing business in connection with a second hand store. Since 1916 Mr. Woodgate has been engaged in the monument trade,

with salesmen on the road, this territory extending from Cazad to Laramie, Wyoming. By his business methods he has built up an excellent patronage in North Platte.

While living in Illinois Mr. Woodgate married Katie O'Connell. They were married in 1880, and she died in 1907. There were eight children, and those surviving are: Mamie, wife of H. E. Graham, of Bignell; Herbert on a farm near North Platte; Minnie, wife of Carl Fletcher, near Bignell; Goldie, in North Platte; and Sylvia, wife of Albert Baker, of North Platte.

Mr. Woodgate married Elizabeth Guise, and four children were born, three of them living. Teddy and Dora are twins, and their sister is Laura. Mrs. Woodgate died, and he married Marie Elizabeth Christensen, a daughter of Christian P. and Olive Christensen. She was born at Joliet, Illinois. They have one daughter, Frances Elizabeth. The family is now identified with the Lutherans. Mr. Woodgate votes the republican ticket, and he has served the community as justice of the peace.

S. JACOB KOCH, proprietor of the Plain View ranch of 2,870 acres in section 2, township 13, is one of the most prosperous farmers and stockraisers of Lincoln county, and his registered pure breed Hereford cattle are known throughout a wide area. He was born in Schenectady county, New York, on February 4, 1869, a son of Jacob and Regina Koch.

Growing up in New York state, Mr. Koch there acquired the fundamentals of a common school education. In the fall of 1885 he came to Nebraska and bought relinquishment land, which he proved up and placed under improvement, now having one of the finest ranches, and the second to be registered, in the county. He has had much success in breeding the registered Hereford cattle that he is now specializing in this branch. Mr. Koch is a friend of the public schools and has been on the School Board of District No. 38 for the past twenty-six years. A strong republican, he has long been one of the county commissioners. He and his family belong to the Hershey Methodist Episcopal Church. His fraternal connections are those he maintains as a member of the Woodmen of the World and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On October 30, 1892, Mr. Koch was married in Lincoln county to Miss Maggie Mason, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of John and Amanda Mason, also natives of Iowa, who became general farmers of Lincoln county. Mr. and Mrs. Koch became the parents of the following children: Florence, who is a music instructor and a graduate of Wesleyan University; Frank, who is engaged in farming on his father's place; Mabel, who is taking the teachers' course at the University of Omaha; Grace, who is attending the same university to fit herself for the career of a teacher; and George, who is at home.

When Mr. Koch first came to Nebraska there was only one bridge in Lincoln county, that being the one over the Platte River at North Platte. He shipped the first load of hay that went from the station at Hershey, and has been connected with practically all of the development work in this part of the state, and always as a constructive citizen. His recollections of pioneer days are very interesting, and teach a lesson, that of the rewards which came to the ones who are not afraid of hard work, and are willing to deny themselves so as to make permanent investments.

**MORRIS BREEN.** America is greatly indebted to the little Emerald Isle for having sent such a myriad host of her best citizens to help us develop the Union. They have been coming to our shores since the colonial days and have settled in almost every county in our half-hundred states, devoting themselves to all lines of endeavor, and succeeding, too, at whatever they undertook. They have been loyal to our institutions and have been ready on all occasions to defend our flag on occasions of national peril, in short, we have no better foreign-born citizens than the Irish.

Morris Breen was born in Ireland on the 9th day of November, 1841, and was reared and educated in his native land. In 1862, ambitious for larger opportunities for business advancement, he came to the United States and located first in Massachusetts, where for five years he was employed at his trade, that of a carpenter. From there he went to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he resided for twenty-three years, working the greater part of that time at carpentering and building. His next move was to Perkins county, Nebraska, where for sixteen years he was engaged in farming. He then came to Lincoln county, having sold the homestead which he had proved up on in Perkins county, and here he has since resided. He entered actively upon the development of his farm here, in the cultivation and operation of which he met with pronounced success, and it is a noteworthy fact that, in spite of many hardships and discouragements with which he met after locating here, he refused to be beaten and never failed to raise a crop. This perseverance and unconquerable persistence was the great secret of his prosperity and he added to his original holdings until he is now the owner of 800 acres of fine land, located in section 34, township 30, range 15, all well improved and in a fine state of cultivation. The farm buildings are substantial and comfortable and the Breen farm is numbered among the best in this locality. Mr. Breen is now practically retired from the active labors of the farm, the burden of which has been assumed by his son Dennis, who is now devoting himself to its operation.

While living in Massachusetts Mr. Breen was married to Mary Murphy, also a native of Ireland, and to them were born two children, John, who is engaged in business at Jacksonville, Illinois, and Dennis, who, as above stated, remains at home and operates the farm.

Politically Mr. Breen is independent preferring not to be bound by party ties and casting his vote for the men and measures which meet his approval. In religion he and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic Church. To write in detail a full account of his long and useful life would require a much more elaborate article than the nature of this work admits or requires. Sufficient has been said, however, to indicate the type of man Mr. Breen is—a man who, because of his industry, business ability and upright life, has won and retains the unlimited respect of all who know him.

**JOHN KOSTICK.** In all save the circumstances of birth, John Kostick is an American citizen, for he came to this country as a young man, is distinctively a product of the institutions of the United States, and it has been here that he has worked his way from humble circumstances to a place of recognized substantiality in his community. For many years he has been engaged in farming and stockraising in Lincoln county, where he has contributed to the upbuilding and development of his community, and holds

without question the good will and confidence of the people of his home community of Wellfleet.

Mr. Kostick was born in Austria, in 1862, a son of John and Elizabeth Kostick. His father was a farmer by vocation in Austria, and the youth grew up in the midst of agricultural surroundings, his education being that of the rural schools. He was ambitious and enterprising, and the outlook in his native land did not seem encouraging for the acquirement of such a success as he desired, and he accordingly gathered together his small means and immigrated to the United States. Arriving in this country without capital, he secured employment in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, where he worked until he had sufficient money to bring him to Nebraska, and here he entered upon the career that has since brought him prosperity and position. Starting as homesteader, he worked untiringly and perseveringly until he had developed a paying farm, and this he has since devoted to the growing of general produce and the raising of a good grade of livestock. Mr. Kostick has been content to remain a simple farmer and has not cared to mix in public affairs, although always ready to show his good citizenship by his support of worthy measures for the advancement of the welfare of his community and its people. He is an independent voter.

In 1888 occurred his marriage to Dorothy Leshnick, who was also born in Austria, and who is now deceased. For his second wife he married Josephine Lindsey, a native of Indiana. Mr. Kostick is the father of seven children: Mary, the wife of Sherman Glaze, of Maywood, Nebraska; Anna, the wife of Joe Elias, of Omaha; Elizabeth, the wife of Joe Wancharge, of Colorado; Emma, the wife of Carl Lisk, of Arkansas; Rena, the wife of Frank Crandell, of Wellfleet; Albert, of Big Springs, Nebraska; and John, who is his father's associate in the cultivation of the home farm.

**RICHARD F. WINKENWERDER.** When everything is said and done there can be no question but that the farmer is the most independent of men. Not only does he have his foodstuffs in plentiful abundance, but is housed comfortably, and at the same time his labor is giving him a property that increases in value with each year. To be sure, he has to work hard and manage intelligently, but no one gets very far along the road of success without doing this. Certain sections of the country, of course, are better adapted for agricultural activities than others, but it would be difficult to find one better suited for such operations than that included in Lincoln county. One of the men who, knowing all about farming from practical experience, chose it as his life work and invested in Lincoln county land is Richard F. Winkenwerder of section 14, township 13.

Richard F. Winkenwerder was born in Germany on February 18, 1879, a son of Bernhard and Emily Winkenwerder, also natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1882, and first settled in Kansas, where he worked on the section and as a stone mason for two years, but left that state for Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1884. The father proved up the farm he homesteaded, and conducted it for a number of years, but is now living retired, being now seventy-five years of age, as he was born April 12, 1845. The mother died in April 23, 1918. They became the parents of three children, namely: Marie, who is living in Wisconsin; Richard F.; Henry, who is living at home with his father, is engaged in farming in partnership with his brother; four children are deceased.

A child of three years of age when brought to this country by his parents. Richard F. Winkenwerder has spent practically all of his life in the United States, and he received a limited public school education in Lincoln county. After attaining his majority Mr. Winkenwerder left the farm for a time and was in Keith county, but returned to it in 1917, and he and Henry are operating the homestead and he also owns a half section in addition. Having made a success of his undertakings, Mr. Winkenwerder is satisfied with what he has accomplished. He is unmarried. In his political views he inclines toward the socialist party. The Lutheran Church holds his membership. Although he has never taken an active part in public affairs, he is interested in having Lincoln county kept up to standard, although being a sensible and practical man, does not favor an extravagant expenditure of the people's money.

**JOHN ANDERSON.** One of the leading citizens of Lincoln county is John Anderson, whose fine farm is located in section 22, township 14, range 26. He is one of the connecting links between the pioneer epoch and the present, having come here when the country was wild and only sparsely settled, and has lived to see the county develop from this primitive state into one of the leading agricultural sections of the great commonwealth of Nebraska, and no one has taken greater pride in the upbuilding of the same than he.

John Anderson was born in far-away Sweden on the 22d day of February, 1853, and was reared and educated in his native land, remaining there until after he had attained his majority. In 1875 he came to the United States and first located at Buffalo, New York, where he was employed at farm labor. Subsequently he was similarly engaged at Franklinville, New York, until 1883, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and entered a homestead. He did not move onto the homestead, however, until the following year, but from that time on he devoted himself energetically and persistently to its improvement and cultivation. His first home was a sod-house, in which he lived during the formative period of his estate, for those early years were characterized by toil of the most strenuous sort, accompanied by many privations and sacrifices which the settlers of later days know nothing of. When he came here his sole cash capital was but eighty dollars and economy of the most rigid sort was necessary. But as the years passed by he gradually forged ahead and prosperity crowned his efforts, so that for many years he has been numbered among the substantial and enterprising citizens of his section of the county. He has made many splendid permanent improvements on his farm, the general appearance of the place being very attractive, and he has adopted up-to-date methods in his farm work wherever possible. He carries on general farming operations and also feeds and raises considerable livestock, a part of his farm being devoted to grazing purposes.

While living at Buffalo, New York, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Mary Olsen, who also was a native of Sweden, and to this union have been born seven children, namely: Mrs. Ellen Ross, of North Platte, Lincoln county; Mrs. Dora Rosenberg, of Gothenburg, Dawson county, Nebraska; Ida, of San Francisco, California; Anna, Theodore and Walter, at home; and Mrs. Elsie Broger, of Dawson county.

Mr. Anderson has for many years been a leader in his community, giving his fellow citizens faithful and appreciated service in various ways. He served as road overseer, as assessor, twice as taker of the census, and six years as school moderator. He also

served six years as postmaster of Spannum, which office has since been discontinued. He has always been deeply interested in whatever tended to promote the prosperity of his chosen county, and to him as much as to any other man in his locality is the community indebted for the development for which it has long been noted. He has also used his influence for all moral and benevolent enterprises. He is an active member of the Swedish Mission Church, believing firmly that the church, in its broad sense, as an institution to be the most potential factor for substantial good the world has ever known or will ever know. He has lived and labored to worthy ends and enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and respect of all who know him.

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

John Forsberg was born in Sweden on October 1, 1857, and is the son of Andrew and Mary Forsberg, the former a carpenter and builder by vocation. These parents never left their native land and both are now deceased, the father dying at the age of seventy-eight years and the mother passing way when eighty-four years of age. They were the parents of eight children. The subject of this sketch was reared and educated in his native land. In the spring of 1883 he immigrated to the United States, in search of larger opportunities for advancement than could be found in his own country. He landed here on April 18th of that year and at once went to Michigan, where he remained for six months. He then traveled around for awhile looking the country over, and was in Omaha for a short period. In 1885 Mr. Forsberg came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead, to the improvement and cultivation of which he applied himself with energy and determination. His first years here were characterized by the most strenuous sort of labor, and he met with many discouragements, not the least of which was the burning of his home in 1899, when he lost practically everything except his land. However, in spite of these handicaps and obstacles he persisted in his efforts and at length fortune smiled on him and today he is numbered among the most prosperous farmers in his locality. He is now the owner of 1,120 acres of splendid and fertile land, on which he raises all the crops common to this locality, but he gives a great deal of his attention to the raising of cattle, in which he has met with splendid success. The farm buildings are substantial in character and the general appearance of the place indicates him to be a man of excellent judgment and sound discrimination.

On October 2, 1886, Mr. Forsberg was married to Augusta Nelson, a native of Sweden and the daughter of Nels Peterson. They are the parents of six children, namely: Edith R., Arthur W., Nathaniel, Vera, Thelma and Carl. Politically Mr. Forsberg takes

an independent attitude, supporting those candidates which he deems most worthy of the offices sought, regardless of party lines. Religiously he is a member of the Mission Church. While advancing his individual interests he has never lost sight of his obligations to the community in general and gives his influence in support of all worthy objects for the public welfare. Because of his finer personal qualities and his business success he is held in the highest regard by all who know him.

**BYRON S. APPLIGATE.** In studying the life history of Byron S. Applegate, a well known farmer of Lincoln county and one of the substantial citizens of his immediate locality, there are found many qualities in his makeup that always gain definite success in any career if properly directed. The splendid success which has come to Mr. Applegate is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder, which he has mounted unaided.

Byron S. Applegate was born in the State of Iowa on the 20th day of February, 1871, and is the son of George Washington and Mary J. Applegate, both of whom were born near Attica, Indiana. George W. Applegate was a life-long farmer, and was a soldier in the Civil war, having served as a member of the Thirty-third Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1887, and acquired a good farm by homestead right, and here was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1910, at the age of seventy-five years. He was survived several years by his widow, whose death occurred in 1916, when eighty-one years of age. They were the parents of nine children, namely: Harvey J., who is now living in Los Angeles, California; Ernest P., deceased; Malissa F., deceased; Lincoln C., a farmer in Lincoln county; U. Grant, of Cheyenne, Wyoming; Byron S., the subject of this sketch; Julia, the wife of George Shoup, of Sutherland, this county; Mrs. Bessie Paulson, of North Platte; and George L., deceased.

Byron S. Applegate secured his education in the schools of his native community and in Nebraska, and remained with his parents until about twenty-four years of age. He has always given his attention to farming, and in 1895 he entered that vocation on his own account. Success has accompanied his efforts and now he is the owner of 1,120 acres of excellent land, which he devotes to general farming and the raising of livestock, both of which lines have proven remunerative under his skillful direction and consecutive efforts.

Mr. Applegate was married in Lincoln county in 1895 to Fannie Shoup, a native of Missouri and the daughter of John W. and Mary Shoup. Her parents, who were both born and reared in Ohio, followed farming pursuits in that state until 1884, when they took up a homestead in Lincoln county, Nebraska, in the operation of which they were successful. They are both deceased, the father dying at the age of fifty-two years and the mother when seventy-one years old. Of the nine children born to them five are living, namely: Mrs. Cora Allison, who lives in Idaho; George T., who lives near Sutherland, this county; Mrs. Effie Jones, of Sutherland; James M., of Sutherland; and Fannie, Mrs. Applegate. To Mr. and Mrs. Applegate five children have been born, namely: Lohren, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Harold, of North Platte; Hildred and Mildred, twins, and George W., who are at home.



Mr. Applegate casts his votes in accordance with the dictates of his judgment, not being bound by party ties. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Sutherland, and Mrs. Applegate is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although his life has been a busy one, he has never shrank from his duties as a citizen and his obligations to his community, ever giving his support to every movement for the advancement of the best interests of the community. Therefore he is held in the highest regard and has the respect of all who know him.

**CHARLES E. ELL.** From coast to coast without incident or accident, with the greatest railroad magnate in the world riding behind him, is the unique record of Charles E. Ell, now the senior engineer in the employ of the Union Pacific, and this veteran engineer has the further honor of having carried all the presidents of the United States who have toured the country while in office, and he still mans an engine between Sterling and his home city—North Platte.

Charles E. Ell was born May 13, 1855, in Columbus, Ohio. He is of German blood, his father—John P. Ell, having been born in Bavaria and his mother, Mary Ann (Ramosier) Ell, in Wittenberg, Germany. They came to the United States when they were children, and they were married in Columbus. Few citizens of foreign birth have as much military experience in the land of their adoption, Mr. Ell doing service in the second war with England, the Mexican war and the Civil war. He enlisted in 1861, and remained in the army until 1870, doing valiant service in quelling Indian disturbances. He had some narrow escapes in the nine years he was in the United States army service. In one encounter, Reno Creek, Fort Phil Carney, only one other man escaped with his life, and he knew all the horrors of Indian warfare.

When John P. Ell left the army he went to the Union Pacific, working in a roundhouse at North Platte until 1877, when he bought a ranch near Curtis, Nebraska, and died there four years later at the age of sixty-four years. So much for the life history and patriotism of a German who sought citizenship in America. The mother died in 1915, at the age of eighty-nine years. This immigrant family had been financially successful, and economy and industry are the explanation. He voted with the democrats, and they were members of the Lutheran Church, the German nation having given Martin Luther to the world.

Of the five children born to the Ells, Charles E. Ell is alone in the world. His education was obtained in the public school in Columbus, and his first employment was driving a team to a scraper in grading the Hocking Valley track in the vicinity of Columbus. When he was thirteen years old, in 1868, he came to Lodgepole, stopped in Omaha and within the next year he was located in North Platte. In 1870 he returned to the railroad, beginning as a wiper, and by the middle of the next year he was firing an engine. He continued as a fireman for five years, and in November, 1876, he was given an engine and has had a regular run since that time. From his time of service he is the oldest man in service on the system—Union Pacific.

On February 22, 1876, American Centennial year, Mr. Ell married Maggie McGinn. She is a daughter of Owen and Mary (Mc-

Elroy) McGinn, and while she was born in Illinois her parents were born in Ireland. They were married in Ireland and came to this country. They had ten children, and five are living, but only Mrs. Ell and one sister, Mrs. George Austin are living in North Platte.

Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Ell. John Franklin was a railroad conductor on the Union Pacific and is now making his home in North Platte. George Paul is in the employ of the Union Pacific. They belong to the Catholic Church, and Mr. Ell is a Knight of Columbus and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. In 1908 he was the delegate to a convention in Columbus, Ohio, and he enjoyed the opportunity of visiting the city of his birth. As an expert engineer he has been detailed on many specials when eminent men were traveling over the Union Pacific, and in almost forty-nine years he has never had but one accident while in the service.

Mr. Ell was on the engine when Edward H. Harriman made his record trip from coast to coast, and he holds the record on the Union Pacific, having drawn a train from Sidney to North Platte—a distance of 123 miles—in 104 minutes. That means a mile a minute with nineteen miles to the good for another trial run. When a passenger is riding fifty miles an hour he usually thinks he is getting the worth of his money.

**JOHANNES JOHNSON.** Many of the pioneers of Lincoln county have passed to their last reward, but the result of their fearless and untiring courage and industry remain, and stand as a monument to their memory more enduring than imperishable granite. The land they labored to redeem from the wilderness is now producing banner crops which go to help feed the world; the effect of their influence in behalf of local improvements is felt in others completed or in process of promotion today. The results of their upright lives and sound teachings live in their children, and Nebraska and Lincoln county are all the better for their period of life within their borders. One of these typical pioneer farmers of the county, now deceased, was Johannes Johnson of section 15, township 13, range 23.

Johannes Johnson was born in Sweden on November 12, 1852, a son of Swedish parents, who spent their lives in Sweden, being actively engaged in farming until their deaths. In 1884 Johannes Johnson left his native land for the United States, his wife coming the next year, and they located at North Platte, Nebraska, where for two years he was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad. However, he had not come to this country to continue an employe, and as soon as he could arrange to do so he homesteaded in Lincoln county, and the family began the life of pioneers. He proved up his farm, placed it under cultivation, and gradually put in the improvements, the completion of each one being an epoch in the life of this honest, industrious and frugal man. In 1896 he moved to North Platte, but in 1897 he returned to the farm, where he died on April 27, 1913, and where his widow now lives. At the time of his death he owned 320 acres of well improved land. He was not a man who sought any public distinction, his aim in life being to secure land and build up a property that he could leave to his children. Self-sacrificing, he gave but little thought to his own comfort or pleasure, his family coming first in everything.

Johannes Johnson was married in Sweden to Engri Hoakensen, also a native of Sweden, whose parents, farming people, died in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson became the parents of the following children: John, who is deceased; Charles, who was born in Sweden in 1882, is managing the homestead and also owns a quarter section, and he is a member of school board number 17; Peter, who is living in Oregon; Ellen, who is at home, and who has been a school teacher; Mrs. Ida Heubner, who lives on a farm in Lincoln county; Ben, who was formerly a teacher in the Hershey, Nebraska, High School, is now engaged in a mercantile business at Sauborn, Nebraska; and Emil, who is deceased. The family all belong to the Lutheran Church.

J. R. BALDWIN. That period of the nineteenth century embracing the decade between 1880 and 1890 was characterized by the immigration of the pioneer element which has made the great County of Lincoln very largely what it is today. These immigrants were sturdy, heroic, sincere and, in the main, upright people, such as constitute the strength of the commonwealth. It scarcely appears probable that in the future another such period can occur, or, indeed, any period when such a solid phalanx of strong-minded, brawny-armed men and noble, self-sacrificing women will take possession of a new country. The period to which reference is made, therefore, cannot be too much or too well written up, and the only way to do justice to such a subject is to record the lives of those who led the van of civilization and founded the institutions which today are the pride of the community. Among those who braved the obstacles of Lincoln county in its early period of development is Julius R. Baldwin. He is known as a man of extraordinary characteristics, who, by reason of years of indefatigable labor and honest effort, has not only acquired a well-merited prosperity, but also richly earned the highest esteem of all with whom he has been associated.

Julius Richard Baldwin is a native son of the state now honored by his citizenship, having been born in Washington county, Nebraska, on April 28, 1869, and is the son of B. J. and Elizabeth (Lund) Baldwin. B. J. Baldwin was a native of Connecticut, where he was reared and educated. He began the active phase of his life as a school teacher, but eventually he turned his attention to farming, in which he was successful. He moved from his native state to Minden, Illinois, of which he was an early settler, subsequently moving to Fontanelle, where he bought government land and where the final years of his life were spent, his death occurring there when he was sixty-one years of age. In 1888 he had come to Lincoln county and bought the land which the subject of this sketch now owns. Mrs. Elizabeth Baldwin, his wife, was born in London, England, and when four years of age was brought to the United States by her parents, who settled in Minden, Illinois. Her father, who was a physician by profession, was successful in his business affairs, but died at the comparatively early age of thirty-seven years. To B. J. and Elizabeth Baldwin were born ten children, as follows: Ida Barriett, born July 29, 1858, died when two years old; Amelia, born February 14, 1860, was married in August, 1885, to Charles Schlinder, of Nealy, Nebraska; Carrie Alma, born September 16, 1861, was married on January 1, 1887, to Henry Johnston, who is now retired and living at Santa Ana, California; Cora Elizabeth, born August 17, 1863, was married in 1889 to Charles

Towl, of Deadwood, South Dakota; George Lum, born May 4, 1865, is a fruit raiser and farmer at Santa Ana, California; Mary Lucy, born April 27, 1867, was married in February, 1893, to Madison Mullion, who died in May, 1918; Julius Richard, the next in order of birth, is the immediate subject of this review; John Franklin, born March 1, 1871, died in 1891, at the age of twenty years; Maggie May, born October 16, 1872, was married in 1889 to Mr. Waller, of Salem, Oregon; Lizzie Lillian, born November 1, 1874, was married on December 30, 1892, to J. H. Denslow, of Colorado.

Julius Richard Baldwin was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the common schools. At about the time he reached his majority, in 1890, he came to Lincoln county, making the trip in a covered wagon and meeting with a number of unpleasant experiences on the way. At one place he was intercepted by two horse traders, who would have stolen his team had he not driven them off at the point of his shotgun. At another time he was kept awake all night by a mountain lion which kept prowling around his wagon. The year that he came was noted for an unusually long and severe drought, which utterly discouraged many who had previously come out to settle the new country, and on his way out he passed hundreds of them on their way back to their old eastern homes, generally without money or anything else except a poor team and broken down wagon. At that time there were no houses here north of what was known as the Sherman place, and about three miles north of there was the site of a former Indian village. During his early years here he plowed up many Indian relics of various kinds. The Bratt, Carter & Cole Cattle Company ran their stock all over the plains in this locality, their headquarters being at the mouth of Birdwood Creek, their ranch running north to Dismal River. Mr. Baldwin recounts many very interesting stories of those early days, especially as pertaining to the cowboys and their exploits. Incidentally, Mr. Baldwin was engaged as an expert horse breaker for the O. T. Cattle Company, and it is his boast that he could ride any horse that ever walked. Mr. Baldwin's first home here was a little sod house on the banks of Birdwood Creek, and at that time the only fence for miles around was one that he constructed around his soddy to prevent the cattle from rubbing the house down. This house was blown down by a cyclone in 1905, but the family fortunately escaped without injury. Another sod house was then built, which did service until the present comfortable residence was built. During those first years here Mr. Baldwin was frequently compelled to be away from home for weeks at a time, his heroic wife remaining at home, performing the necessary chores and caring for the children, seeing no one else for the entire period. However, they persevered and finally they found themselves on the road to better days. Prosperity crowned their united efforts and today they are numbered among the prosperous and substantial families of this locality. Mr. Baldwin is the owner of 590 acres of splendid valley land, which is all well improved and bearing beautiful crops. Of recent years Mr. Baldwin has given considerable attention to the breeding and raising of livestock, in which he has met with splendid success. The farm buildings are all substantial, convenient and comfortable, the general appearance of the place indicating the owner to be a man of good taste and excellent judgment.

In 1892, at Fremont, Nebraska, Mr. Baldwin was married to Elizabeth Leffler, who was born in Illinois on May 30, 1869, the daughter of John and Anna Marie (Lang) Leffler. John Leffler was born in Berlin, Germany, and was brought to the United States in infancy, the family settling in Louisville, Kentucky. He was reared and educated there, and in young manhood moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained about ten years. He was married in Louisville, of which city his wife was a native. From St. Louis they moved to Keokuk, Iowa, whence they came to Nebraska. Finally they moved to Warsaw, Illinois, where their deaths occurred, the father dying at the age of sixty-eight years and the mother at the age of forty-eight years. They were the parents of six children, namely: Helen, who died in Louisville, Kentucky, at the age of two years; Edward, who died in infancy; Henry, who died at Warsaw, Illinois, when twenty years of age; Mrs. Pauline Dennison, of Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. Emma Egan, of Omaha, Nebraska; Elizabeth, Mrs. Baldwin. The latter completed her public school education at Warsaw, Illinois, graduating from the high school, and then became a student in the Fremont Normal School, where she was graduated. Prior to her marriage she engaged in teaching school, being so engaged for six years in Cuming and Dodge counties, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin have been born six children, namely: Kimball, at home; Lila Belle, who is a graduate of the Sutherland High School and is engaged in teaching school in Lincoln county; Julius Richard, Jr., a student in the North Platte High School, and Maggie May, Alice Elizabeth and John Kenneth are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin are active members of the Birdwood Presbyterian Church, erected in 1907, and in the building of which Mr. Baldwin took an active part. Time and enterprise have wrought wonderful changes in this locality since the subject took up his residence here, through which he has kept well abreast of the times. His activities have benefited alike himself and the general public, his well directed efforts gaining for him an enviable standing in the community. His chief characteristics seem to be keenness of perception, tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and everyday common sense. He has been successful in business, respected in social life and as a neighbor he has discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of a community where the essential qualities of manhood have ever been duly recognized and prized at their true value.

**R. RENNER.** There are few farmers of Lincoln county who have met with more encouraging success here than R. Renner, of section 10, township 15, range 33, one of those strong, sturdy characters who has contributed largely to the material welfare of the community in which he resides, being a modern agriculturist and as a citizen public-spirited and progressive in all that the terms imply. The splendid success which has come to him is directly traceable to the salient points in his character, which have enabled him to overcome discouraging situations and obstacles which would have discouraged one of less sterner mettle, so that he is justly entitled to the enviable position which he holds among his fellow citizens.

R. Renner was born in Bureau county, Illinois, on June 15, 1859, and is the son of Christopher and Mary (Meek) Renner. The father was a native of Pennsylvania, where he was reared to the

life of a farmer. From his native state he moved to Illinois, and from there in 1881 he came to Thayer county, Nebraska, where he settled on a farm and there spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring when he was seventy-nine years of age. His wife, whom he married in Illinois, was a native of Ohio, and she bore him eight children.

The subject of this sketch remained with his parents during his youth and secured his educational training in the public schools. Upon taking up life's activities on his own account he first went to Kansas, where he remained a short time, going from there to Colorado, and thence to Idaho. During the following few years Mr. Renner traveled over the greater part of the west, working at various employments, but in 1902 he made his final move, coming to Lincoln county and homesteading a fine tract of land on Birdwood Creek. His first holding was a quarter section, but he has since been enabled to increase his possessions until today he is the owner of 480 acres of as good land as can be found in his locality. He carries on general farming, raising all the crops common to this locality, and also gives some attention to the raising of cattle, in which he has been successful. He has made many substantial improvements on his place, which is now classed among the up-to-date farms of the county. All that he now owns has been acquired solely through his own efforts, and Mr. Renner is entitled to much credit for his accomplishments.

In 1912, at North Platte, Nebraska, Mr. Brenner was married to Mary Brown, a native of Missouri and the daughter of A. C. and Nancy Rebecca (Troxel) Brown, who were married in Missouri and became the parents of eight children. A. C. Brown was for many years a successful farmer in Missouri, but eventually moved to Elsie, Perkins county, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Renner has been born a son, Elmer, who is at home.

Politically Mr. Renner is an earnest supporter of the republican party and has taken an active and intelligent interest in local public affairs. He has given effective service as a member of the School Board for twelve years and in other ways has shown a commendable interest in the advancement and welfare of the community in which he lives. While a resident of Colorado he served as a constable. To write in detail an account of his life would require a much more elaborate article than the nature of this work admits or requires, but sufficient has been said, it is believed, to form a correct conception of the man and to prove the assertion that indefatigable energy, perseverance and sound judgment are the necessary concomitants of success.

**WILLIAM A. VROMAN.** This representative and honored citizen of Lincoln county has been distinctively the architect of his own fortunes, has been true and loyal in all the relations of life and stands as a type of that sterling manhood which ever commands respect and honor. He is a man who would have won his way in any locality where fate might have placed him, for he has sound judgment, coupled with great energy and business tact, together with upright principles, all of which make for success wherever and whenever they are rightly and persistently applied. By reason of these principles he has won and retained a host of friends in whatever community he is known.

William A. Vroman is a native of the county now honored by

his citizenship, having been born at North Platte, Nebraska, on January 30, 1876, and is the son of William and Clara (Stevens) Vroman. William Vroman was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he was reared to manhood and educated. He was married in that state, and in 1873 they came to Lincoln county, homesteading a tract of land northwest of North Platte, where he engaged in raising sheep and was also a part of the time employed on the Union Pacific Railway. In 1880 he moved to the eastern part of the county, where he spent the remainder of his days, his death occurring when he was sixty-five years of age. He had practically nothing when he came to this county, and while he did not succeed in accumulating any great amount of material wealth, he was rich in those personal qualities which commend a man to the good opinion of his neighbors and he died honored by the communities in which he had lived. He is survived by his widow, who now makes her home in Madison, Wisconsin. They were the parents of three children, namely: William A., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Jessie Blomquist, of Omaha, Nebraska, and Louise, who is still unmarried and lives with her mother in Madison, Wisconsin.

William A. Vroman was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of this county. He has followed agricultural pursuits practically all his life and has been successful to a gratifying degree, being now numbered among the substantial, public-spirited and enterprising farmers of the section of the county in which he lives. His home farm comprises 146 acres of excellent land, which he devotes to general farming operations. He also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, chiefly cattle and hogs, in which he has met with splendid success. His farm is well improved in every respect, for Mr. Vroman is progressive and up-to-date in his tendencies and ideas, and he does not hesitate to adopt new methods in his work when convinced of their superiority over former methods.

In 1907 Mr. Vroman was married to Bessie Ferris, of Madison, Wisconsin, the daughter of Eugene and Catherine (Meyers) Ferris, the former of whom was a drayman in Madison, while his wife is deceased. They were the parents of three children, Bessie, Eugene and Emma. To Mr. and Mrs. Vroman have also been born three children, John, Charles and Mary, two of whom are attending school.

Politically Mr. Vroman is an earnest supporter of the democratic party and takes an intelligent interest in public affairs. He has been specially interested in educational matters and rendered eight years of effective and appreciated service as a member of the School Board. Religiously he and his family are members of the Presbyterian Church. While he has carried on his own business in such a way as to gain a comfortable competence for himself, he has also belonged to that class of men who find time to give attention to the public welfare, consistently giving his support to every movement which promises to promote the material, civic or moral status of the community. Because of his sterling qualities of character he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and good will of the entire community.

**GEORGE F. PALMER.** Not only is the irrigation of the dry lands of Nebraska redeeming many thousands of acres of land and making these parts of the state into fertile farming regions, but the con-

struction of these great systems is affording an opportunity for the expression of the skill of a number of men who are carrying out these contracts in a manner to win approval from not only the people of the districts affected, but also from those of other states where irrigation is a necessity if farming is to be successfully prosecuted. One of the men who is making a success of this line of work is George F. Palmer of Sutherland.

George F. Palmer was born in Clayton county, Iowa, on October 4, 1864, a son of Francis H. and Ellen (Spangler) Palmer, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively, who are now living at Battle Creek, Nebraska, having retired from farming. They spend their winters in California, and are in comfortable circumstances. In 1885 they left Iowa for Madison county, Nebraska, from whence they went to Logan county, and spent three years in the latter region. Moving into the town of Gandy, Francis H. Palmer conducted a livery barn there, and engaged in freighting between that point and North Platte. For the past twelve years, until his retirement, he was engaged in carpenter work. He and his excellent wife became the parents of thirteen children. Both are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they have always been effective workers. Since casting his first vote Francis H. Palmer has been a republican.

George F. Palmer was educated in the country schools of Iowa and was reared to be self-reliant and industrious. In 1888 he came to Gandy, Nebraska, and after eight years pre-empted a claim in Logan county, Nebraska, and also took up a tree claim in the same county, proving up both of them. For nine years he occupied the farm near North Platte, where he carried on general farming and stockraising. In 1906 he bought 110 acres of land three miles west of Hershey, and later added leased land to this property in order to carry on a large dairying business, and after developing it to a satisfactory degree he sold it at an excellent profit so as to give all of his attention to the construction of irrigation systems, and has just completed a ditch twelve miles in length. He has several other contracts for similar construction work, and intends to devote himself to this activity. Mr. Palmer maintains his home at Sutherland, where he owns a fine property of eight acres.

In 1886 Mr. Palmer was united in marriage with Iziabell Marr, a native of Michigan, and a daughter of Francis B. Marr, an early settler of Logan county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer belong to the Presbyterian Church. He is a strong supporter of republican principles and candidates, but confines his public service to casting his vote, as his time is too much occupied for him to assume the responsibilities of office. He and his wife have four children, namely: George E., who lives in Sutherland; Minnie I., who is the wife of Oscar Fransen, of Lincoln county, Nebraska; Francis E., who is mentioned below; and Lucina E., who is the wife of Mark McConnell, of Lincoln county.

Francis E. Palmer is one of the young heroes of the World war, having served his country as a member of the Thirty-second Division of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Infantry. He was trained at Camp Funston and Cody during the early part of 1918, and then sent abroad to France in July of that year, reaching there in time to participate in the great and decisive campaigns of Chateau Thierry and the Argonne Forest. Entering the service in October, 1917, he was discharged on May 30, 1919, at Camp Dodge in Iowa, as a corporal, and is now at home.



NELSON D. WELLS. It is proper to judge of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his fellow citizens. They see him at his work, hear his views on public questions, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of society, and are therefore competent to judge of his merits and demerits. In this connection it is not too much to say that the members of the Wells family of which the subject of this sketch is a representative have ever stood high in the estimation of the community, for their duty has been well performed, whether in public or private life, and they are accounted among the representative citizens of their locality.

Nelson D. Wells is a native of Henry county, Iowa, where he was born on June 16, 1870, and is the son of David and Electa S. Wells, both of whom were natives of Ohio. David Wells followed dairying and the meat business in Ohio and later in Henry county, Iowa, where he lived until 1871, when he came to Nebraska, locating in the eastern part of the state. Two years later he settled in Buffalo county, where he entered and proved up a homestead, and where he remained until 1903, coming then to Lincoln county. Here he was engaged in agricultural pursuits up to the time of his death, which occurred on January 10, 1910, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was successful in his business affairs and was highly respected in the various communities in which he lived. He is survived by his widow, who now, at the age of seventy-six years, is making her home in Seattle, Washington. To these worthy parents were born six children, of which number three are living: Clarence, of Seattle, Washington; Nelson D., the immediate subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Prentice, of Seattle, Washington.

Nelson D. Wells was about one year old when the family came to Nebraska, and here he was reared and received his educational training. Reared on a farm, he has not forsaken that calling and is today numbered among the substantial and successful farmers of his locality. For a few years prior to 1915 Mr. Wells was out of the county, but returning in that year he filed on an eighty-acre homestead, which he proved up and which he has developed and improved into a splendid farm. He raises all the crops common to this section of the country, and as a result of his industry and sound judgment he is realizing a satisfactory return for his labor.

Mr. Wells was married to Ella Crandell, who was born in Fillmore county, Nebraska, on April 5, 1876, the daughter of Wilson and Frances (Rodgers) Crandell. Her parents were natives of Switzerland county, Indiana, who came to Nebraska in an early day, becoming pioneer settlers of Fillmore county. Eventually they came to Lincoln county, where both died, the father passing away at the age of seventy-four years, and the mother when eighty-one years old. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells have been born four children, Nelson D., Jr., Norman C., Thelma R. and Elsie E. Mrs. Wells is a member of the Christian Church.

Politically Mr. Wells is independent of party lines, reserving the right of following his own judgment in matters concerning public affairs. Socially he is a member of the Royal Neighbors. Mr. Wells possesses those sterling traits which ever command uniform confidence and respect, and he is numbered among the progressive and enterprising men of his community.

EARL BROWNFIELD. Descended from sterling ancestry and himself numbered among the leading citizens of Lincoln county, the subject of this sketch is entitled to specific recognition in a work



Julius Peyer

of this character. A residence in this county of many years has but strengthened his hold on the hearts of the people with whom he has been associated, and today no one here enjoys a larger circle of warm friends and acquaintances, who esteem him because of his sterling qualities of character and his business ability.

Earl Brownfield was born in Urbana, Illinois, on April 24, 1882, and is the son of William and Lora (Savage) Brownfield, the former of whom was a native of Illinois and the latter of Indiana. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch, who is the oldest, and two brothers, I. D. and George, who live in Hershey, Lincoln county. William Brownfield followed the vocation of farming in Illinois until 1885, when he moved to Wallace, Lincoln county, and homesteaded a tract of land, on which he followed farming and stockraising during the remainder of his active years, finally retiring and moving to the town of Hershey, where he now lives. He was energetic and a good manager and made a success of his work. He is numbered among the pioneers of Lincoln county, having come here in the early days of its development, and has been an eye witness in the wonderful transformation which has taken place here.

Earl Brownfield was educated in the public schools of Wallace and Hershey, and he later took a business course in a commercial college in Grand Island, Nebraska. Shortly after returning home Mr. Brownfield became connected with the Bank of Lincoln County, at Hershey, of which institution he is now cashier. He has devoted himself indefatigably to the interests of this bank, the success of which is largely due to his personal efforts and popularity, and he is held in high esteem by his business associates as well as the patrons of the bank.

On June 12, 1907, Mr. Brownfield was married to Cora May Crick, who was born at Emporium, Pennsylvania, and reared at Sutherland, Nebraska, and to them were born two children, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Brownfield is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally Mr. Brownfield is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he is independent, giving his support to the men and measures which meet his approval, regardless of party lines. By a straightforward and commendable course he has won his way to an enviable position in the business world and enjoys a deserved popularity in the community.

**JULIUS PIZER.** Everywhere in our land men are found who have worked their way from humble and lowly beginnings to places of leadership, renown and high esteem in the material, civic and social world, and it has ever been one of the proudest boasts of our fair country that such visitors are accounted of a thousandfold more value and worth to the commonwealth than the aristocrat, with his inherited wealth, position and distinguished name. "Through struggles to triumph" appears to have long been the maxim which has held sway over many of our citizens, and though it is undeniably true that not a few fall exhausted by the wayside, some, by their inherent force of character and strong mentality, rise paramount to environment and all obstacles which sought to hinder them. Thus it has been with Julius Pizer, who for years has been one of the best known and most progressive of North Platte business men. He is recognized as a man of great energy and rare

judgment, which he has carried into all affairs in which he has been interested. He possesses a high degree of intelligence, which, coupled with his genial disposition and companionable manner, has made him one of the successful and popular men of the city. A man among men, the honor and esteem in which he is held by all who have come into contact with him, whether in a business, public or social way, is but a just tribute to his worth.

Julius Pizer was born in Russian Poland March 16, 1868, and is the son of Samuel and Rachel (Winkleman) Pizer, both of whom were also natives of that country, where they spent their entire lives and where both are now buried. The father was a merchant and investor, and was successful in his business affairs. To him and his wife were born twelve children, six of whom are yet living, and four of these are now in the United States, namely: J. B., who is engaged in the mercantile business at Grand Island, Nebraska; Julius, the immediate subject of this sketch; Peter, a merchant in Detroit, Michigan; and Simon, a merchant at Sargent, Nebraska. All of these brothers have done well in material affairs since coming to the United States, and to the subject of this sketch is due most of the credit for their success, for he induced them to come here and gave them each a good start in a financial way.

Julius Pizer was reared under the parental roof until he was fourteen years of age, and received a good education at Warsaw, Poland, where he attended the Rabinical College. On June 12, 1883, Mr. Pizer determined to come to the United States, where lay wider opportunities for material advancement, and after landing in New York located first at Waxahachie, Texas. His first employment there was as a curbstome peddler, in which he was so successful that he was soon able to forsake the street for a store, and step by step he rose in business status until during the years immediately prior to 1887 he was operating the largest grocery store in that city. Having some surplus funds, he then began to speculate in cotton, with the result that he lost everything he had. That was a hard blow, but, determined to make a new start without delay, he borrowed fifty dollars from a friend and went to Detroit, Michigan, where he bought a stock of spectacles and peddled them from door to door. He made money rapidly and then bought a stock of jewelry, which he peddled with the aid of a horse and buggy. Misfortune again overtook him, for in 1890 he was held up and robbed of his entire stock, which left him worse than penniless, for he was \$1,700 in debt. The mettle of the man was again in evidence, for he immediately made arrangements to re-enter business, in which he was backed and encouraged by his creditors, who had abundant faith in him. Buying another stock of jewelry, he resumed his old route and was so successful that inside of one year he was enabled to pay all his debts and had enough capital remaining with which to engage in the mercantile business at Harrisville, Michigan, where he met with splendid success from the beginning. In 1892 he was married in Denver, Colorado, to a former school-mate of his in Poland, Anna Friedman, who came to the United States and landed in New York May 30, 1885, and they went to housekeeping at Harrisville. One month later, however, he was taken sick with inflammatory rheumatism, which completely incapacitated him from any attention to his business, which naturally went to pieces, as his financial means were somewhat limited. By the time he had recovered his health he found himself \$2,200

in debt above his assets, and to make matters worse he was compelled to leave that locality because of the dampness of the climate, which threatened to renew his rheumatism. About that time he read an advertisement of North Platte, Nebraska, in which it was spoken of as a dry climate, so, in August, 1893, he came to this place. It was during the memorable panic of that year and he was without means, except his good name and credit, which also was good, for in all his vicissitudes of fortune he had handled his affairs in a fair and square way, showing an evident desire always to be fair with his creditors. Here he entered the mercantile business in a modest way, and his efforts were rewarded with such a measure of success that it was not long before he was enabled to enlarge his stock, and this procedure was repeated until he was handling the largest mercantile business in western Nebraska. He had boundless faith in North Platte, and from this time on he showed his faith by his actions, for as he accumulated means he invested in city property and made loans on farm lands. Later he invested in farms and business blocks in North Platte, and also made many purchases of property in Lincoln county outside of this city, his sagacity and shrewdness guiding him so accurately in these deals that he has been uniformly successful in practically every undertaking to which he has addressed himself here.

In 1916 Mr. Pizer suffered a physical break-down from overwork, for he had applied himself without rest or respite to his business affairs from the time he identified himself with this locality. He relinquished the active management of the mercantile business, this being made convenient by the incorporation of the business under the name of the Leader Mercantile Company, of which he became president. Since he retired from the active management of the store he has turned his attention to the buying and selling of land and city property, which he handles on a large scale—in fact, the statement has been made that he controls practically every good investment in North Platte and Lincoln county. He is today one of the largest taxpayers in Lincoln county and his investments include many different lines of business. He is president of the Star Bottling Mercantile Company and took a prominent part in the organization of the Platte Valley State Bank, with which, however, he is not now connected in a financial way. Mr. Pizer has been one of the most enterprising and progressive men who have been connected with the business interests of North Platte, and has been a very important factor in the splendid growth which has characterized this city. As has been related, his beginning was characterized by hard work and conscientious endeavor, and his splendid success is but the reward of the application of mental qualifications of a high order to the affairs of business, the combining of mental activity with keen perceptions that enabled him to grasp the opportunities that presented themselves. This he has done with success and, what is more important, with honor.

To Julius and Anna Pizer have been born three children, all of whom have been reared in North Platte. Mayme is a graduate of Wolfall College at Denver, Colorado; Harry graduated from the North Platte High School, after which he attended a military school and completed his education in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and is now connected with the Leader Mercantile Company; Joseph, who graduated from the North Platte High School in 1919, was one of the best athletes in the city and is deeply in-

terested in everything pertaining to that branch of sport. He is now a student in the University of Nebraska.

Politically Mr. Pizer is an earnest supporter of the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs, though not a seeker after public office or leadership. Nevertheless, at one time he was placed by his friends in the race for mayor of North Platte and ran second to the successful candidate, there being four competitors. In the spring of 1920 he is talked of as a business men's candidate for this office. He is an earnest member of the Jewish Church, to which he is a liberal giver, and his benefactions include many objects of benevolence throughout the community, though his gifts are made unostentatiously and without thought of public applause. His career presents a notable example of those qualities of mind and character which overcome obstacles and win success, and because of his accomplishments and his high personal character he enjoys the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

**JAMES MURRAY.** Throughout an active and interesting career duty has ever been the motive of action with James Murray, one of the old settlers and well known agriculturists of Lincoln county, and usefulness to his fellow men has by no means been a secondary consideration with him. Thus strong and forceful in his relations with his fellows, he has gained the good will and commendation of his associates and the general public, retaining his reputation among men for integrity and high character, and never losing the dignity which is the birthright of the true gentleman.

James Murray is a native son of the great Empire state, having been born in New York in 1847, and is the son of John and Margaret Murray. The father, who was a native of Ireland, immigrated to the United States and located first in New York state, where he followed farming pursuits. Eventually he moved to the State of Wisconsin, where he was similarly engaged up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty years of age. He was survived a number of years by his widow, who was seventy years old at the time of her death.

The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the public schools. He accompanied the family on their removal to Wisconsin, and lived there until he came to Nebraska in 1875, his first location in this state being in Custer county, where he homesteaded a tract of land. Subsequently disposing of that farm, he came to Lincoln county and bought his present farm, comprising 320 acres located in section 16, township 14, range 26. He has made a distinct success of his farming operations here, for he had practically nothing when he came here, but the years have dealt kindly with him, and his industry and persistence have been rewarded in the accumulation for a comfortable competence, so that in the evening of his life he is able to take things easy and enjoy to some degree that rest which he has so richly earned. He has carried on general farming operations, also giving some attention to the raising of livestock, and in all his business affairs he has exercised a soundness of judgment and a wise discrimination that has earned for him a high reputation as a progressive and enterprising farmer. The improvements on the place are of a permanent and substantial character, the whole presenting a very attractive appearance.

In Banner county, Nebraska, Mr. Murray was married to Belle

Huffman, and their union has been blessed in the birth of four children, namely: Roy, who remains at home; Mrs. Minnie Eckstrom, of Lincoln county; Frank and Hazel, who are at home. In Mr. Murray's record there is much that is commendable and his character forcibly illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles. He has been successful in business, respected in social life and as a neighbor he has discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of the state where the essential qualities of manhood have ever been duly recognized and prized at their true value.

**T. L. O'ROURKE.** One of the successful farmers of Lincoln county who is now engaged in conducting his rural property, but was formerly occupied in another calling, is T. L. O'Rourke of section 24, township 12, in the neighborhood of Brady. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1856, a son of P. I. O'Rourke and his wife, Mary (Hodgson) O'Rourke, natives of Cork, Ireland, and Paisley, England, respectively. Coming to the United States, P. I. O'Rourke established himself in business at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a merchant tailor, but his operations were interrupted by his service during the war between the states as colonel of the First Pennsylvania Reserves, which lasted for three years. He was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg and in another engagement in Virginia, and was honorably discharged from the army. Following the close of the war he went to Louisville, Kentucky, and after conducting a merchant tailoring business for a time, was appointed superintendent of the national cemetery at Fort McPherson, which position he held for eight years, and when he died his remains were interred in that cemetery in 1886. His widow only survived him for a year. He homesteaded the farm now occupied by his son T. L. O'Rourke. He and his wife had fourteen children, of whom seven died in infancy, the others being as follows: Washington B., who lives at San Jose, California, is an ex-Union soldier, having served in Company B, First Pennsylvania Reserves, for three years, was wounded at Gettysburg and at Chancellorville; J. J., who served as judge of Lincoln county; Frank, who is a resident of Lincoln county; T. L., whose name heads this review; Charles, who conducted a hardware business at Brady for twenty years, is now a resident of Denver, Colorado; Agnes, who is the wife of R. H. Hunt, of Nashville, Tennessee; and another who is deceased. Colonel O'Rourke was a strong democrat. He belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was very popular in both organizations. He and his wife were devout members of the Catholic Church.

T. L. O'Rourke learned the printer's trade on the Courier-Journal of Louisville, Kentucky, of which Henry Watterson was editor for so many years, and still belongs to the International Typographical Union. In 1878 he came to Lincoln county, and after the death of his father took charge of the farm he now owns. All of the improvements on the place have been made by him, and he is profitably engaged in farming and stockraising. While he attended the schools of Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Mr. O'Rourke, like the majority of printers, feels that he secured his practical training at his ease, and he has never lost his interest in his trade.

When he first came to Lincoln county this section was very different from what it is today, much of the development here having

come of recent years. His father was one of the pioneers, and Mr. O'Rourke is proud of what that gallant ex-officer accomplished out here in what was then one of the outposts of civilization. The O'Rourke family has been very active in the establishment and maintenance of the local Catholic Church of this neighborhood, and Mr. O'Rourke of this review is one of its members. In his political views Mr. O'Rourke is a republican, and at one time served as assessor. A man of more than average ability, he is utilizing his knowledge and training in his present work, and the results show that he understands what he is doing and how to do it in the most efficient manner. Few men of the county are held in higher esteem, and he has firm personal friends in every locality in which he has made his home.

**GEORGE C. WHITE.** It is a satisfaction to any man to be able to point out the various changes which have taken place in a community and feel that they have been brought about in part through his instrumentality, for in the heart of each one burns the fire of civic pride that is fed by each additional achievement. George C. White, manager of the telephone exchange at Sutherland, is particularly favored in this respect, for, as he is the oldest settler at this village, he not only has seen all of its development, but he has participated in it all, and in some instances been the one to inaugurate each measure for its advancement.

George C. White was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, on November 28, 1868, a son of W. P. and Matilda (Crebeling) White, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania, his father's birthplace being Columbia county. The mother is now deceased, but the father survives, although seventy-six years of age, and makes his home in Pennsylvania. Owning his own land in Columbia county, W. P. White spent his active years in conducting it as a general farmer. In his political faith he has always been a democrat, while in religious matters he has found the Presbyterian Church the exponent of his views. W. P. White and his wife had two children, the elder brother of George C. White being Albert F. White, a cabinetmaker.

Leaving home after acquiring a common school education and a knowledge of farm work. George C. White went first to Ohio and later to South Dakota, finding in both states employment as a farm hand. In 1890 he came to North Platte, Nebraska, and was a clerk in a grocery store owned by F. C. Bewick for two years, leaving that place to come to Sutherland in 1892. Here he embarked in a mercantile business of his own and conducted it until 1907. Mr. White is president of the Bliss-White Lumber and Hardware Company, Hillsdale, Wyoming, of the Sutherland Lumber Company, the North Platte Artificial Ice and Cold Storage Company, is secretary-treasurer of the Keith & Lincoln County Irrigation District; and is secretary-treasurer and principal owner of the Sutherland Telephone Company. He also owns an apartment building at Omaha, Nebraska. For ten years he has been in charge of the telephone exchange, and is giving the people of Sutherland and vicinity an excellent and satisfactory service.

In 1892 Mr. White was united in marriage with Elizabeth Hawley, born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of John Hawley, an early settler in Lincoln county, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. White became the parents of the following children: Alvin, who is at home; John,



who is manager of the lumber yard at Hillsdale, Wyoming; Myra, who is attending Rockford College at Rockford, Illinois; and Conner, who is attending school at Sutherland. In his fraternal connections Mr. White maintains membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Like his father he is a democrat, and strong in his support of the principles of his party, but aside from that does not participate in public life. Mrs. White is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is active in church work. The value of Mr. White's efforts to maintain a proper telephone service can scarcely be over-estimated, because through the telephone, together with the rural delivery, the most disagreeable feature of isolation has been removed from country life, and a healthy reaction has set in in favor of occupancy of the rural districts. This is especially important just at this time in the world's history when there is such urgent necessity for greatly expanded production, particularly in foodstuffs, and every means must be taken to make agricultural life attractive so as to wean more from city pursuits.

**ELMER ECKLUND.** The gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph is one of the native sons of Lincoln county, and we are glad to give our readers a brief outline of his life record, for he belongs to the energetic and enterprising class that has contributed to the later-day success of this favored section of this great commonwealth. He enjoys distinctive prestige in business circles, his practical intelligence, mature judgment and sound sense winning for him the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come into contact.

Elmer Ecklund was born in Lincoln county, Nebraska, on March 7, 1893, and he is a son of Andrew and Christina Ecklund, both of whom were born and reared in Sweden. Andrew Ecklund came to the United States when but a young man and settled in Saunders county, Nebraska, where he was employed in general work. Later he came to Lincoln county, where he took up a homestead, which he improved and cultivated with success up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1907, at the age of thirty-nine years. He is survived by his widow, who became the wife of A. T. Danielson and is living in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Ecklund were born six children, namely: Mrs. Alexander Morris, who is living at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska; Elmer, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Lawrence Rouch, of Sutherland, this county; Mrs. John Thompson, also living in Sutherland; Fred, of Scotts Bluff, Nebraska; and Harry, of Lincoln county.

Elmer Ecklund was reared on the paternal farmstead in this county and received his educational training in the public schools. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and its kindred line, stockraising, and he has been prospered in all his business affairs. He is now a renter of three sections of land, the major portion of which is devoted to stockraising, though he engages to some extent in general farming. His farm is well improved and he has gained an excellent reputation as an up-to-date and progressive business man in his lines.

Mr. Ecklund was married at North Platte in 1913 to Lummie White, a native of Lincoln county and the daughter of Simon and Sarah White, who are referred to specifically elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Ecklund have been born three children, Kenneth,

Elvin and Thelma. Mr. and Mrs. Ecklund are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which they give generous support. In political affairs Mr. Ecklund is independent, while fraternally he is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Hershey. Because of his success in business and his genial personal disposition, Mr. Ecklund enjoys marked popularity among the people of his section of the county.

WILLIAM J. HENDY, one of the oldest established dealers in automobiles in Lincoln county, is active head of the Hendy-Ogier Automobile Company of North Platte, a business known and appreciated by every car owner in the county.

He is a son of Charles and Kate (Janette) Hendy, a family to whom reference is made on other pages, and was born at their home at Fort McPherson July 11, 1873. He acquired his education in the North Platte schools, and his first serious effort was to learn the machinist's trade. For eleven years he worked as a machinist, and then took the management of his father's ranch, living there from 1903 to 1911. He then returned to North Platte, and started business as an automobile man on a small scale and alone. In this work he found his training as a machinist invaluable.

He started business in a barn, and had only three cars in his first shipment from the factory. March 1, 1912, he took in E. N. Ogier as a partner, at which time the firm became known as the Hendy-Ogier Automobile Company. In 1913 a building was erected for the firm, serving its purposes five years, and in 1918 they built one of the largest and finest salesrooms and garages in the state. The business of the first three cars has increased steadily, until at the present time they have sold 1,900 new Ford cars, besides other makes, and a large number of second hand cars taken in exchange when new ones are placed with customers. The Fordson Tractor & Farm Machinery was added to this business June 28, 1918, and to June 15, 1920, some ninety tractors had been placed with the farmers, besides a large amount of necessary machinery.

Mr. Hendy also owns a farm in Lincoln county, though his whole time is devoted to the sale of automobiles. On January 1, 1913, he married Maude Mollyneaux, of Sutton, Nebraska. Her father, John Mollyneaux, was an early settler in Clay county. To their marriage were born three children: William James, Katherine Louise and Frederick Charles. Mrs. Hendy is a graduate of the State Normal School of Peru, Nebraska, and for several years was a successful teacher at North Platte. The family are members of the Lutheran Church and Mr. Hendy is affiliated with the Masons, and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Hendy is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the P. E. O. Sisterhood.

LAWRENCE LARSON. The examples such men as Lawrence Larson, who resides in Gothenburg, Dawson county, but whose fine farm is located in Lincoln county, strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish, and there is always a full measure of satisfaction in adverting in even a casual way to their achievements in advancing the interests of their fellow men and in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of the community, for all will agree that it is the wide-awake men of affairs who make the real history of a community, and

Mr. Larson's influence as a potential factor in the body politic is difficult to estimate.

Mr. Larson was born in Sweden on the 11th day of March, 1849, and was reared and educated in his native land. His parents, Lars and Marie Larson, spent their entire lives in their native land and both are deceased, the father dying at the age of fifty-four years, and being survived a number of years by his widow, who was seventy-two years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch and a sister, Mrs. Anna Marie Nelson, who is still living in Sweden. In 1868 the subject of this sketch came to the United States and located first at Omaha, Nebraska, where for several years he was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1870 he homesteaded a tract of land in Saunders county, Nebraska, and remained there long enough to prove up on his claim, which he afterwards sold. He then went to Leslie, Colorado, where he engaged in the mercantile business and served as postmaster, spending six years there. In 1894 Mr. Larson came to Lincoln county and engaged in farming, acquiring a tract of land in the eastern part of the county, near the Dawson county line, and here he has since carried on farming operations with success. He has added to his holdings from time to time and is now the owner of 924 acres of as good land as can be found in his section of the county. He carries on general farming operations, but devotes the greater part of his attention to the breeding and raising of livestock, in which he has met a gratifying measure of success. The farm buildings are attractive in appearance and substantial in construction, the whole presenting a very inviting prospect. Mr. Larson has given the best years of his life to the improvement of this farm and is justifiably proud of his achievement, being today numbered among the leading farmers of that locality. He makes his home in Gothenburg, Dawson county, but gives his personal attention to his business.

In 1873, in Omaha, Nebraska, Mr. Larson was married to Lizzie Gadaberg, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States at the age of eighteen years. Her parents never left their native land and both are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born four children, namely: Mrs. Ruth Chaplin, whose husband is a farmer in Dawson county; Earnest, who is a farmer in Canada; Lee is a farmer in Custer county, Nebraska; and Roy, who is now at home, took an active part in the World war, having enlisted in the Navy on December 12, 1917, at Denver, Colorado, and was honorably discharged on the 8th of June, 1919, while on the United States battleship "Frederick."

Politically Mr. Larson is an earnest supporter of the democratic party, but does not take a very active part in political affairs. However, he takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of the locality in which he lives and gives his influence and support to every movement for the advancement of the best interests of the community. Mr. Larson owes his rise in business to no chain of mere fortunate incidents, but it is the reward of the application of mental qualifications of a high order to the affairs of business and keen perceptions which have enabled him to grasp the opportunities that presented themselves. This he did with success and, what is more important, with honor, as a result of which he stands deservedly high among the progressive and enterprising citizens of his locality.

**JULIUS ZIEGENHAGEN.** The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention is one of the best known farmers of Lincoln county, and also one of its most representative citizens. He was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but in spite of this, by perseverance, industry and a wise economy, he attained a comfortable station in life. His career is one that should encourage others to press on to greater achievements.

Julius Ziegenhagen, who was born in Germany on February 13, 1858, is the son of John and Caroline Ziegenhagen, both of whom are deceased, and who were also natives of Germany, where they followed the vocation of farming. To this union were born five children, two of whom are living, Mrs. Augustus Mantey, who lives in the State of Washington at the present time, and the subject.

When Julius Ziegenhagen came to the United States in 1884, without money or influence, he set to work to overcome all difficulties that might lay in his path to success, and the comfortable competency and the high standing which he now enjoys is the result. He first settled in York county, Nebraska, where he engaged in various occupations for two years. In 1886 Mr. Ziegenhagen moved to Thomas county, Kansas, where he took a timber claim and proved up a tract of land, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted all his energy. He came to Lincoln county in 1906 and purchased a relinquishment. At the present time he owns 600 acres of land and is successfully engaged in farming and stockraising. Earnest perseverance, careful management and a willingness to work, even in the face of obstacles, are the elements which brought him prosperity, and while he has labored for his own advancement he has at the same time ever been vigilant in his efforts to forward the interests of the community.

Mr. Ziegenhagen was united in marriage with Malinda Folmer, a native of New York state, the daughter of Herman and Anna Folmer, who are both deceased. To them were born ten children, namely: Mrs. Gertrude White, whose husband is a farmer in Lincoln county, Nebraska; Roy, at home; Earnest, deceased; Mrs. Jennie Burkland, living in Lincoln county; Elmer, at home; Earl and Merl, twins, at home; Alice, deceased; and Hazel and Orphia, at home.

In political affairs Mr. Ziegenhagen is not bound by any parties, but prefers to vote according to the dictates of his own judgment. He takes a deep interest in education and rendered efficient service as a member of the School Board in District No. 17. It is plainly seen that the prosperity which Mr. Ziegenhagen enjoys has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth that has gained him the high esteem of those who know him.

**WILLIAM B. SALISBURY** has been a member of Lincoln county more than thirty years, and for the past thirteen years has enjoyed the responsibilities and duties of street commissioner of North Platte. The people of North Platte know and have expressed their appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Salisbury in this office, and he gives all his time to the duties of keeping his streets in order.

Mr. Salisbury was born in Putnam county, Illinois, September 13, 1866, a son of William N. and Lena (Matthews) Salisbury. His father, a native of Ohio, was for many years a successful Illi-

nois farmer. In 1889 he brought his family to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and acquired a large tract of land here. Later he retired from the farm and died at North Platte in 1902. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church, and he was a republican. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living. One of the sons, Art J., is the present sheriff of Lincoln county.

William B. Salisbury was educated in the district schools of Illinois and was a farmer there until he came to Lincoln county in 1889, at the age of twenty-three. In Lincoln county Mr. Salisbury farmed as a renter and did exceedingly well in handling his crops and livestock. In May, 1904, he moved to North Platte, for two years was employed by the local sugar beet company, then did teaming, and since then has given undeviating attention to his duties as street commissioner.

November 6, 1889, Mr. Salisbury married Sarah J. Ross. She died nearly twenty-four years later, August 29, 1913. She was the mother of two children: Edna Marie, wife of W. D. Joder, a Union Pacific engineer living at North Platte; and Ida May, who lives at home and is employed in the local telephone exchange. On May 11, 1917, Mr. Salisbury married Mrs. Nellie Grimes, who died March 11, 1918. Both wives were members of the Presbyterian Church, and that is also Mr. Salisbury's religious affiliation. He is inclined to be an independent republican in politics. Since coming to Nebraska he has acquired practically a competence, and enjoys a pleasant home at 216 West Sixth street.

**LESLIE R. PRIOR.** No community can be stronger financially than its banking institutions, which are the backbone of every line of endeavor. With the banks on a sound and reliable foundation, the dependable men can easily secure outside credits and build up large industrial and commercial connections that will not only yield them gratifying returns, but give to their locality a prestige obtainable in no other way. For this and other cogent reasons it is very essential that great care be exercised in the selection of the men who are placed in charge of the affairs of these banks. In fact the employment of a man by a reliable bank has come to be recognized as proof of his special fitness for the position, not only as to training, but integrity as well. Therefore the men connected with financial institutions are considered to be, and constantly prove that they are, the best citizens of their community. One of these high-class men of Lincoln county, whose reliability and integrity have already been proven beyond question, although he is still numbered among the younger class of business men, is Leslie R. Prior, cashier of the Maxwell State Bank.

Leslie R. Prior was born at London, England, on March 6, 1891, a son of William and Jane (Napper) Prior, both of whom were natives of England. Leaving his native city in 1901, Leslie R. Prior came to the United States, and completed at Kearney, Nebraska, the education he had commenced in London. He has devoted himself to acquiring a practical and intimate knowledge of the banking business, and after occupying some of the inferior positions in different banking institutions, was offered that of cashier of the Maxwell State Bank in May, 1918, which he accepted and since that date has been very efficiently discharging its onerous duties. This bank has a capital of \$25,000, a surplus of \$1,000,

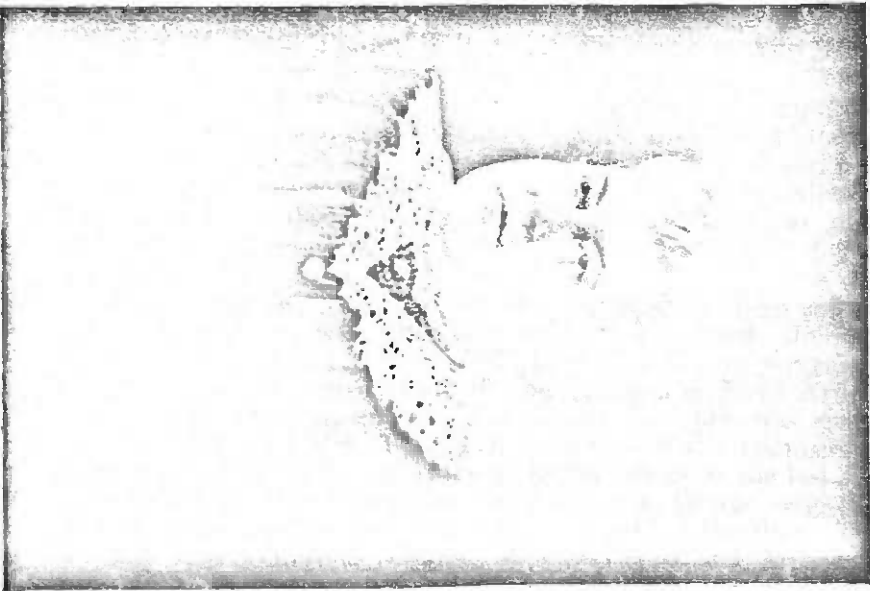
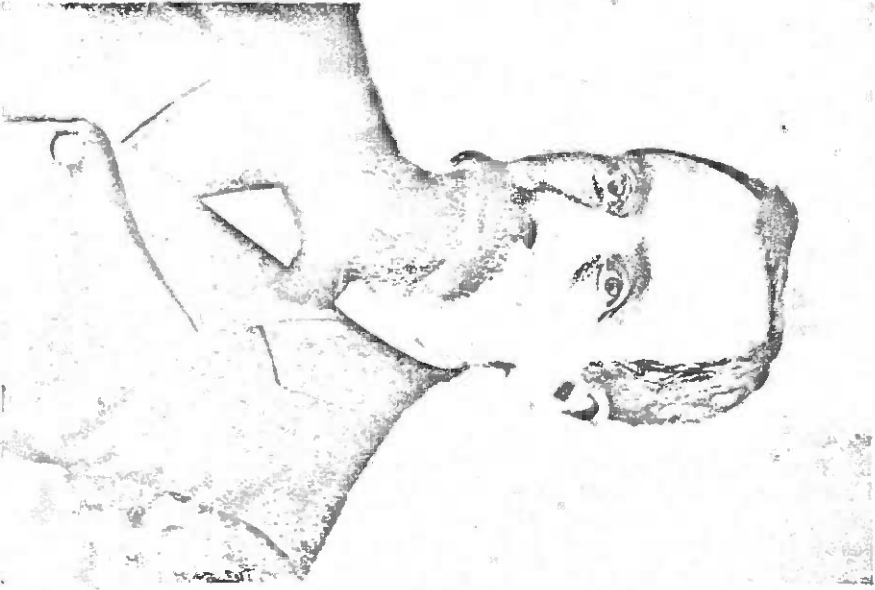
and deposits of about \$180,000, and is one of the entirely solvent institutions of the county.

Mr. Prior was married in 1916 to Minnie Buerstetta, born in Nebraska, and they have one child, Peggie Jane. In his fraternal affiliations Mr. Prior maintains membership with the Masons and Knights of Pythias. Both he and Mrs. Prior are members of the Episcopal Church. They are delightful young people, and admittedly leaders of their social set, and well known throughout Lincoln county.

MAGNUS J. COHN, one of the substantial men of Maxwell and one of the very early settlers of Lincoln county, is recognized as one of the best and most representative citizens of this section. He was born in Germany on December 22, 1844, a son of J. H. and Esther (Magnus) Cohn, both of whom were natives of Germany.

When he was twelve years old Magnus J. Cohn came to the United States and attended the common schools of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then learned the butcher trade. With the outbreak of the war between the states he enlisted in the Union Army in April, 1861, as a member of Company A, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served for three years, one month and five days, when he was mustered out, having participated in all of the important engagements of his command. In April, 1866, he enlisted in Company B, Second Cavalry, Regular Army, United States Army, and was sent to Fort McPherson in Lincoln county, Nebraska, arriving there on July 3, 1866, in time to assist in raising the first flag over that stronghold for the celebration of the Fourth of July. Mr. Cohn did guard duty on the Union Pacific Railroad to protect it against the attacks of the Indians who were very hostile to the whites in this region. In 1867 he was sent to Salt Lake and was also in Wyoming, at Fort Steel and Fort Russell. He did a brave man's duty and was mustered out in April, 1869. In May of the same year Mr. Cohn secured the contract for furnishing the beef consumed by the garrison, and held it until the fort was abandoned. He then opened a general store near the government reserve by permit of the government, and was appointed postmaster in 1878 and held that office until 1895, when he resigned. When the land was opened for settlement he filed on the southwest corner of section 14, township 12, range 28, which was given him on account of his military service.

On October 29, 1871, Mr. Cohn was united in marriage with Marie Louise Ullman, who was born in Mississippi, and they became the parents of the following children: Carrie Louise, who married George E. Wickland and lives at Goldendale, Washington; P. H., who lives at Lafayette, Colorado; George W., who lives at Sheridan, Wyoming; Jessie M., who married F. W. Myers, and lives in Brighton, Colorado; William F., who was killed by lightning on May 21, 1907; Grace Pearl, who married W. E. Wilson, and lives at Maxwell, and with whom Mr. Cohn makes his home; Harry C., who lives on the old homestead; Esther M., who married Theodore Voorhies, lives in Palasade, Colorado; and Chester D., who lives at Brady, Nebraska. Mrs. Cohn died on October 18, 1916, deeply mourned by a wide circle of warm, personal friends. Mr. Cohn is a member of North Platte Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He first joined the lodge at Fort McPherson, Nebraska, in 1870, and it was later moved to North Platte. He also belongs to North Platte Post, Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a republican.



MRS. AND MISS MAGNUS J. COHN

**WILLIAM THOMPSON.** Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Lincoln county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality, and to no class is greater appreciation due than to those who have been concerned in the transfer and sales of the lands and properties of our people, for they have in this sphere of action contributed in a definite way to the progress of the community and assisted in its legitimate growth. Among the successful real estate dealers of the county is William Thompson, of Sutherland, a man who enjoys marked favor in the opinion of those who know him.

William Thompson was born in Louise county, Iowa, on May 17, 1873, and is the son of Jacob and Adalaine (Blake) Thompson. These parents were blessed with eight children. Jacob Thompson was a farmer in Iowa during practically all his active life and is still living, his wife having passed away in February, 1905. William Thompson received his education in the schools of his native county and then engaged in farming, which occupation he followed there until 1909, when he moved to Nebraska. In 1911 he came to Lincoln county, and during the following five years was engaged in farming, at the end of which time he came to Sutherland and entered into a partnership with Richard Hartman and engaged in the real estate business. This has been one of the most successful and progressive firms in this line of business in Lincoln county and has been a prominent factor in the development of this section of the county.

In 1894 Mr. Thompson was married to Mary, daughter of George and Margaret (Derol) Browne, of Belfast, Ireland, at the home of her uncle, General Derol, at Kansas City, Missouri. To their union have been born five children, namely: John, who lives south of Sutherland; George, of Sutherland; Mary, the wife of Arthur Schivers, of North Platte; William, in the army at Fort Meade, South Dakota; and Margrete, who died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Thompson gives his support to the republican party, while his religious affiliation is with the Roman Catholic Church. Possessing many sterling characteristics of head and heart, Mr. Thompson has shown a public-spirited attitude toward all movements for the betterment of the community, and because of his business success and his high character he is deservedly popular among those who know him.

At the beginning of the war Mr. Thompson's three sons enlisted. George was rejected on account of a weak heart. John and William served until the close of the war, John as sergeant of Battery E. in the Three Hundred and Thirty-fifth Field Artillery and William in Company G. Fifth Engineers. John was severely injured. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were among the youngest war parents in the state, having two sons in the service at the last registration, when Mr. Thompson and his son George registered. Mrs. Thompson being just thirty-nine years old at the time. There are also four grandsons, George, William, John and Arthur, the sons of Mrs. Schivers.

**JAMES H. SEATON.** The community of Wellfleet has its full share of men who have stepped aside from the path of active labor to let pass the younger generation with its clear-cut hopes and un-realized ambitions, and to whom life is still a vast and unexplored



country. This turning aside may mean much or little to the one whose business tasks are finished; but if he has come from a small beginning and if he has friends and an optimistic outlook, there will always be those who would exchange with him success, as represented by a mere aggregation of wealth. To the former class belongs James H. Seaton, whose career as an agriculturist spanned a long period, and who of recent years has been living quietly at his comfortable home at Wellfleet.

Mr. Seaton was born at Henderson, Jefferson county, New York, in 1849, a son of Andrew and Laura (Ferguson) Seaton, natives of New York. Andrew Seaton, a tanner and currier by trade, followed those vocations in the Empire state until 1871, when he removed to Iowa and there settled on a farm which he cultivated during the remainder of his life. He was a man who was highly respected and esteemed in his community, and was a democrat in politics. He and his worthy wife, who was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were the parents of four children: Oren A., who is a retired citizen of Kansas; George, who is also retired and a resident of Iowa; James H., of this review; and Clara Seaton Morgan, deceased.

James H. Seaton was educated in the public schools of his native state, and was twenty-two years of age when he went to Iowa. That state continued to be his home until 1886, when he removed to Wallace, Nebraska, and there took up a pre-emption, on which he proved up. He followed farming and stockraising with a satisfying degree of success, being always industrious, practical and progressive, and his management resulted in the gaining of a competence. For ten years, also, he was an employe of the Beatrice Creamery Company, but finally retired from active labor, and at this time is making his home at Wellfleet, where he is surrounded by the various comforts which have come to him as rewards for his many years of faithful and well-directed labor.

Mr. Seaton was married August 22, 1872, to Miss Francelia A. Cotton, who was born, reared and educated in New York, a daughter of Robert and Sophia Cotton, natives of England, who passed their lives as farming people of New York, where both died. Of their nine children, four survive: John, Jane and Allen, all of whom are living in retirement in New York state; and Mrs. Seaton. To Mr. and Mrs. Seaton there have been born the following children: Hattie M., the wife of John Conger, of Lincoln county; Charles, a railroad man of North Platte, who enlisted for service in the United States Army during the Spanish-American war, but got only as far as Chickamauga when peace was declared and he was given his honorable discharge; Laura, the wife of George Meyer, a retired citizen of North Platte; James H., of Wellfleet; Merton, who lives at home; and Gertrude, Perry, Kittie and Cassie, deceased. Mr. Seaton is independent in his political views. He has not been an office seeker, but has been cognizant of the responsibilities of citizenship, and has served for some years as justice of the peace, an office in which he has won and held the confidence of the people of his community.

**SAMUEL R. DERRYBERRY.** Prominently identified with the North Platte business community as president of the Derryberry & Forbes Hardware and Implement Company, Samuel R. Derryberry is a native of Tennessee but has spent most of his life, thirty-five years, in Nebraska.

He was born April 9, 1871, in Dickson, Dickson county, son of John H. and Melvina (Reep) Derryberry, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Pennsylvania. The parents were married in Tennessee.

Many of the pioneers turned their attention to more than one thing in an effort to rear their families in comfort, and John H. Derryberry was at once a Methodist minister and a shoemaker and harness maker. Paul, the world's greatest preacher, was at the same time a tent maker and fisherman. It was in 1885 that the Derryberry family removed to Elm Creek, Nebraska. John H. Derryberry bought a relinquishment in Buffalo county, but in 1888 located in Lincoln county, buying and selling railroad land in the northern part of the county. His first wife died in Tennessee, and he is now living with his third wife, Mollie (Chapple) Derryberry, and they make their home in Florida. The two children of the first marriage were Samuel R. and Charles, the latter a railroad engineer at Grand Junction, Colorado. Of the three children of the second marriage two are living, Robert, of North Platte, with the Coates Lumber Company, and Mrs. Joshua Barnaclaugh, wife of a railway shop foreman at Grand Junction, Colorado.

John H. Derryberry was a member of the Methodist Church of North Platte, and he was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has always voted the republican ticket and has been a strong advocate of prohibition. John H. Derryberry when a young man in Tennessee ran away from home to join the Union Army, serving three years as a soldier, and became fife major in the infantry. In connection with farming he also gave his talents to the ministry after coming to Nebraska.

Samuel R. Derryberry was fourteen years of age when he came to Nebraska, finished his education in this state, attending district schools and also the Fremont and Wayne Normals. He taught in public school five years and was engaged in farming five years before engaging in the hardware and implement business in North Platte. His preliminary business experience was as a clerk in a store, and this was another five-year epoch with him. He then began the harness manufacture in a very small way but working for himself. Now there are two stores incorporated under the name Derryberry & Forbes, and he is president of the business organization. The stores occupy two floors, and everything in their line is carried in stock.

In 1896 Mr. Derryberry married Etta Gill, a native of Illinois. Their children are: Alta, Caryl and Russell. The Derryberrys are Methodists, and Mr. Derryberry is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is a republican, and in all respects is a thorough business man, well known for his probity as well as for his ability.

**HENRY C. HECHT.** Lincoln county numbers among some of its most substantial men, past and present, those whose birth occurred in another land than this. They came to this country to escape from unbearable conditions either political or financial, and finding in the United States a safe harbor, never ceased to be grateful to their adopted country. One of these men who became a substantial farmer and highly respected citizen was Henry C. Hecht, now deceased.

Henry C. Hecht was born in Germany on December 17, 1837,

a son of John F. and Caroline (Meyers) Hecht, both natives of Germany. They came to the United States in 1844, and settled in Maryland, through hard work and unceasing thrift acquired a farm, upon which she died when seventy-one years old, he surviving her until seventy-six years of age.

But a child when he came to the United States, Henry C. Hecht grew to manhood in Maryland and Ohio and developed a sturdy manhood and found expression for his abilities in farming activities. Reaching out for better opportunities, he came to Nebraska in 1880 and homesteaded in York county. Proving up his farm, he sold it in 1893 and came to Lincoln county and bought 320 acres two miles south of Wallace. As a result of his labors he became successful, but better than his material prosperity was the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him, and when he died at Wallace, Nebraska, to which he had retired, his fellow citizens realized that the community had lost one of its most highly respected residents. Mr. Hecht died on April 17, 1919, aged eighty-one years.

On February 1, 1858, Mr. Hecht was married at Canton, Ohio, to Christina McQuait, a native of Stark county, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Susan McQuait, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, who became farmers of Ohio, and later of Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Hecht became the parents of fourteen children, namely: Harvey, who is deceased; William Henry, who is living in York county, Nebraska; Harry Edward, who is at home; Mrs. Truby Robbins, whose husband is postmaster of Wallace, Nebraska; Mrs. Sarah Carson, who lives at Wallace, Nebraska; Emma, Frank and Cora, all of whom are deceased, and six, who died in infancy. Mr. Hecht belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church and was one of the solid members, and one on whom the utmost reliance was placed. The republican party had in him a strong supporter, and he always upheld law and order and advocated a sane manner of conducting local affairs.

**CHARLES S. EVERLEY.** With the adoption of the automobile as the popular means of rapid locomotion, there came into being a very important line of business, and it is doubtful if there is a single community in the country which rises above the class of a cross road settlement that does not have its garage, and in some of these even this omnipresent industry has its representative. One of the men who is using his knowledge of mechanics and his business ability in carrying on a garage at Maxwell is Charles S. Everley, one of the substantial men of this region.

Charles S. Everley was born in Ohio on June 12, 1876, a son of Alonzo and Martha (Doyle) Everley, who became the parents of the following children: Anna, who married Moses Elshire, lives in Minnesota; John, who lives at Ogden, Utah; Alice, who is deceased; Ellsworth, who lives in Monett, Missouri; Emma, who is deceased; Charles S., who was sixth in order of birth; Cyrus and Ross, both of whom are deceased; and Claude, who lives in Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Alonzo Everley was a farmer all of his active life, in Ohio, Missouri and Nebraska. He died at Red Fork, Oklahoma, May 12, 1920, at which place he is buried.

Charles S. Everley attended the public schools of Nebraska, and after he had completed his schooldays he learned the blacksmithing trade, at which he worked until 1894, when he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded, proved up his claim and was engaged in farming it for a time, during which period he made

some very desirable improvements and enhanced its value. Mr. Everley then moved into Maxwell and conducted a blacksmith shop. When he saw that the automobile had come to stay, Mr. Everley was far-sighted enough to realize that there would be a great demand for first-class service for it, and opened the first garage at Maxwell, and owned one of the first cars in the city. He has a fine trade and is recognized as one of the best men in his line for miles about. Practically all of his time was spent at the garage until poor health compelled him to retire from active work.

On April 25, 1899 Mr. Everley was married to Edna Hardsty, born in Iowa, and they have had the following children born to them: Charles, who is deceased, and Homer, Howard, Ella, Dorothy, Winona, Hazel and Clyde, all of whom are living. Mr. Everley belongs to Maxwell Camp, Modern Woodmen of America, and takes an active interest in this fraternity, in which he is highly esteemed, as he is wherever known.

**JOSEPH B. STECK.** Rolling along the highways of Lincoln county and admiring the finely cultivated and improved farms, it is difficult for the traveler to appreciate what wonderful changes have been wrought in this region within less than thirty years. When the pioneers selected Lincoln county for a permanent home, they did so with a sublime faith in the future of the locality and an abiding belief that their own strength and endurance would be equal to the hardships which were inevitable. Two great problems confronted them, how to provide material for the primitive shelter, and the other to get pure drinking water. The latter difficulty was overcome by hauling water from the nearest source of supply, sometimes as far distant as twenty miles; the former was solved by utilizing the material at hand, earth and sod. Those early dugouts and sod shelters were not at all uncomfortable, everything considered, and some of the settlers found it possible to live in them for several years so that all of the time and money might be applied to the plowing of the land under cultivation. Then, when the crops were well started, improvements were begun. Little by little these homesteads took on the semblance of prosperous farming plants with comfortable residences, ample barns and other outbuildings, neat fences, well-built silos, and in the fields were to be seen the latest models of farm machinery, propelled by tractors. The roomy "demoerat" drawn by a span of plow horses gave way to the automobile for the family use, and telephones were placed in each home, connecting the different farmhouses with each other and the nearby centers of industry.

All of this progress, however, has only come through the untiring efforts of the men who had the courage and initiative to go ahead and conquer the wilderness, and one of them who has become one of the wealthy landowners of this region is Joseph B. Steck of township 12. He was born in the central part of Wisconsin, a son of Isadore and Elizabeth Steck, both of whom were born in Germany, but, coming to the United States in 1842, located in Wisconsin, where they rounded out their useful lives, being always engaged in farming. They had nine children born to them, of whom Joseph B. was the eldest.

Joseph B. Steck was married in North Platte to Emilia Gabert, born in Wisconsin. She also homesteaded here before her marriage to Mr. Steck. Her parents were natives of Germany who became

Wisconsin farmers and there died. Mr. and Mrs. Steck became the parents of the following children: Clarence, who is engaged in farming in Wyoming; and Alfred, Mabel, Flora and Leonard, all of whom are at home.

In 1885 Mr. Steck came to Lincoln county and homesteaded that same year, and while proving up his claim he and his family went through the hardships mentioned in the beginning of this article, and many others as well. He later bought additional land and now owns four sections, about 480 acres being farm land. They are living on 320 acres of well improved land and have a very comfortable residence. Here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising. Mr. Steck has always voted for the man he deems best suited to the office, without regard to party lines. For some time he has been a member of the School Board of District No. 43. Both he and Mrs. Steck are members of the Lutheran Church. Having been connected with this neighborhood for so many years and seen practically all of the development take place, in most of which he has participated, naturally Mr. Steck is very much interested in Lincoln county and feels that it is one of the finest sections of the state if not of the country.

W. A. O'CONNOR. Some of the most successful farmers of Lincoln county are the men who, having tried other lines of endeavor, decided to go into farming, and having invested in land in this region are making good in a most remarkable manner. One of these representative agriculturists and good citizens is W. A. O'Connor of section 24, township 9.

The birth of W. A. O'Connor occurred at Denver, Colorado, on September 6, 1892, and he is a son of David and Mary O'Connor, natives of Ireland and Illinois, respectively. David O'Connor came to the United States in young manhood, and for a time did general work in Michigan and other states, and then came to Nebraska, becoming one of the pioneers of Lincoln county. Subsequently he went to Denver, Colorado, and spent some time, but returned to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and is living retired at Wallace. His wife is deceased.

In 1916 W. A. O'Connor was married in Lincoln county to Miss Anna Connelly, born in Lincoln county, a daughter of Luke and Catherine Connelly, both of whom were born in Ireland, but came to the United States and became pioneers of Lincoln county, Nebraska. They were among the very first homesteaders in the region south of Wallace, and filed their claim in 1884, on which they are still engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor became the parents of two children, namely: Richard and Loretta.

W. A. O'Connor was reared in Denver and there acquired his educational training. For three years he was in a wholesale and retail mercantile business, but decided to adopt farming, and came to Lincoln county and bought land which he has improved himself. He now has 800 acres, a good portion of which is cultivated, and he takes pride in having his farm equipment up-to-date. On his property he is doing general farming and stockraising, and his success proves that he was wise in selecting this occupation.

A student of politics. Mr. O'Connor has decided that according to his judgment it is better to vote for the man best qualified to discharge the duties of the office in question rather than to definitely tie up with one or other party, and so casts his vote accordingly.

Both he and Mrs. O'Connor are members of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus and is active in that order. A man of enterprise, Mr. O'Connor has not been content to rest upon his oars, but keeps on pulling steadily at them and each succeeding year finds him much nearer his goal, for intelligence is back of all he does, and this, combined with a sincere liking for his business and an appreciation of its importance and dignity, help him very considerably.

**WILLIAM COHEN.** It is a fortunate thing for this country that so many of its enterprising young men are devoting their time and attention to agricultural pursuits, for they form so important a factor in the life of every section that unless they are handled by efficient men who have a taste for their calling, every industry will suffer. Lincoln county is a section of Nebraska which has a number of these successful farmers who are making records for themselves, and among them none is more worthy of mention than William Cohen of section 1, township 9.

William Cohen was born in Illinois on October 5, 1887, a son of Michael and Catherine (Gilmore) Cohen, natives of Ireland, the former of whom is deceased, but was for some years one of the agriculturists of Lincoln county. A sketch of the Cohen family is given elsewhere in this work.

Coming with his parents to Nebraska, William Cohen assisted them on their farm in Perkins county, and then in 1901 accompanied them to Lincoln county. Later he began farming on his own account, and now owns 800 acres of well improved land, on which he is engaged in general farming and stockraising. His property is a fine one and he is constantly adding to its improvements, for he is a man who recognizes the importance of keeping everything up-to-date.

William Cohen was married to Mary Sullivan, born in Hays county, Nebraska, a daughter of Lawrence and Catherine (Dillon) Sullivan, both of whom were born in Illinois, where they were married and engaged in farming until 1885, when they came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Hays county, and they are still residing on this farm which they proved up. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan had four children. The children born to Mr. Cohen and his wife are Eugene and Francis.

In politics Mr. Cohen is a democrat, as was his father before him, and he has been a member of the School Board of District No. 93 for some years past. Both he and Mrs. Cohen belong to the Catholic Church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus. During the time he has resided in Lincoln county Mr. Cohen has proven his ability as a farmer and his worth as a citizen, and there are few men who stand any higher in public esteem than he.

**JAY LEONARD KIDWELL.** When a man has labored hard and steadfastly in some line of endeavor until he has achieved success, and at the same time contributed freely to the civic undertakings of his community, he is entitled to retire and enjoy the results of his prosperity. J. L. Kidwell, of Wallace, is one of the retired farmers of Lincoln county, and a man who stands very well in his neighborhood, both as a former agriculturist and a citizen.

The birth of J. L. Kidwell took place in Knox county, Ohio, on May 14, 1857, and he is a son of William and Rebecca Kid-

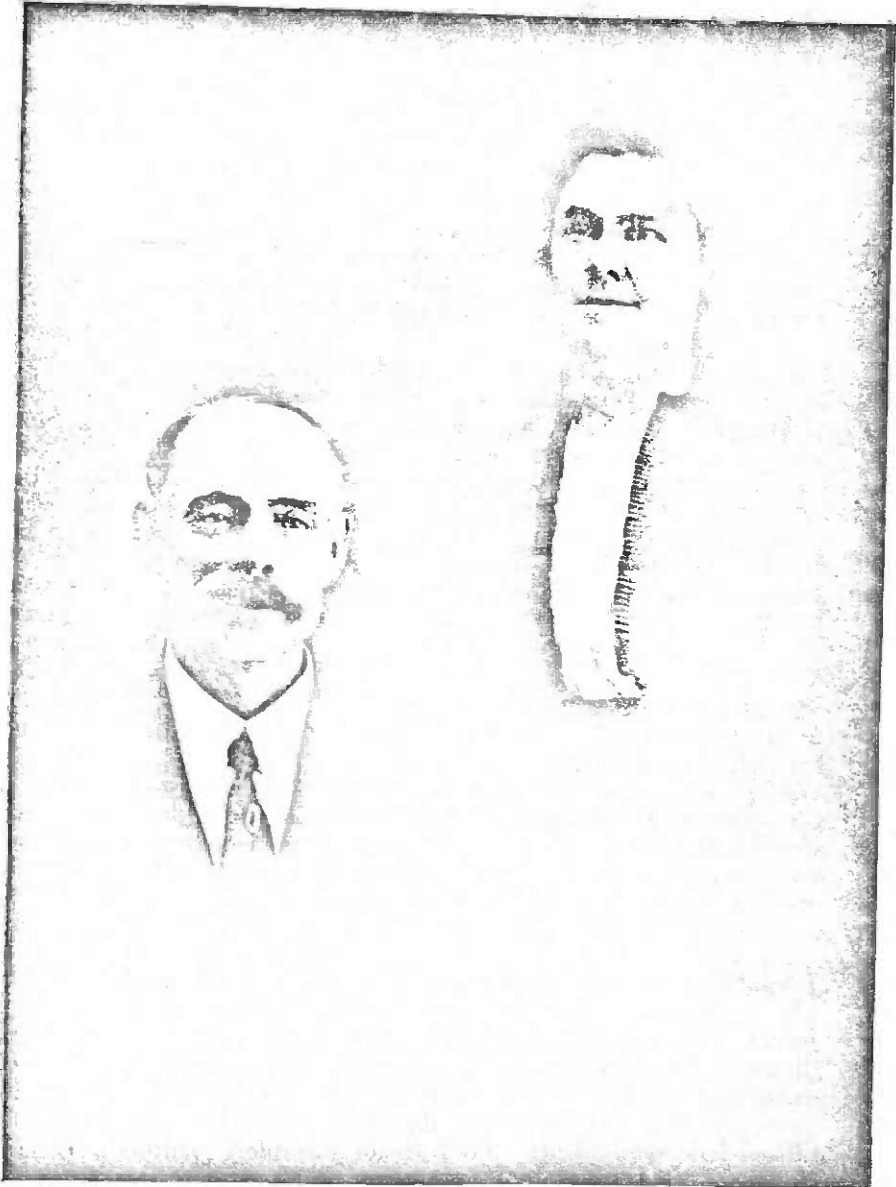
well, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, farming people, who died in Ohio, she at the age of seventy-two years, and he when eighty-three. They became the parents of the following children: Charlie, who is living in Ohio; Samuel, David William and Francis, all of whom are deceased; Jay Leonard, whose name heads this review; Joseph, who is living in Knox county, Ohio; Daniel B., who is living in Cleveland, Ohio; Nancy Ella, who is deceased; Mrs. Julia May Devon, who is living at Columbus, Ohio; and Mrs. Nellie Andcock, who is living in Knox county, Ohio.

In 1882 Mr. Kidwell came to Nebraska and in 1886 came to Lincoln county, and proved up his claim, upon which he lived for a number of years, when he sold it. He was engaged in general farming and stockraising. Mr. Kidwell is a republican, and at one time was deputy sheriff of Lincoln county. His fraternal connections are those he maintains as a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge of Wallace. Mrs. Kidwell belongs to the International Bible Students Association.

The first marriage of J. L. Kidwell was to Mary F. Way, now deceased, who was born in Ohio, a daughter of John and Caroline Way, natives of England, farming people, who first located in Ohio after coming to the United States, and later coming west to Nebraska, where they died. By this marriage Mr. Kidwell became the father of the following children: Homer J., who is deceased; Mrs. Daisy May Keenan, who is living at Denver, Colorado; Caroline, who is deceased; John William, who is living at Denver, Colorado; Sadie Allen Freid, who is also living at Denver, Colorado; Charles Henry, who is living at Lincoln, Nebraska; and Andy Byron, who is living at Sterling, Nebraska. After the death of his first wife Mr. Kidwell was married on October 1, 1918, to Mary E. (Lyberger) Rodgers, born in Scotland county, Missouri, a daughter of Lewis and Mary C. Lyberger, natives of Pennsylvania and Missouri, respectively, farming people, both of whom are deceased. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kidwell stand very high in public confidence, and have a number of warm, personal friends throughout the county.

**CLARENCE M. ALLISON.** Intelligent thinkers recognize the definite relationship of the farmer as a factor of modern civilization and the fact that the up-to-date agriculturist is at the point of focus of live forces, in whom are concentrated the great currents of modern life. This has always been true, but not until within recent years has it been generally admitted. The modern farmer brings to his work not only a love for it, but careful training; and he can take advantage of the experiments of others in carrying out his operations. For these and other equally forceful reasons the farmer of today is a man of importance; and thus many of the best men of any locality devote themselves to agricultural work. One of the men who succeeded in achieving a deserved success along this important line in Lincoln county was Clarence M. Allison of section 29, township 10.

Clarence M. Allison was born in Floyd county, Iowa, September 17, 1865, a son of Perry and Lavina Allison, natives of Illinois and Michigan, respectively. They were farming people in Iowa, and came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where they homesteaded and proved up their claim. Both are now deceased. They became the parents of the following children: Welby, who is living at



MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE M. ALLISON



Wallace, homesteaded in Lincoln county in 1885, and is now a retired farmer; Clarence M., whose name heads this review; Corlis, who was third in order of birth; Mrs. Nona Hettinger, who is living at Portland, Oregon; and Iva, who is deceased.

Clarence M. Allison was married in Perkins county, Nebraska, in 1889 to Sadie Jack, born in the southern part of Iowa, a daughter of John and Nannie Jack, both natives of Ohio, who came to Nebraska in 1885, where Mr. Jack was engaged in farming and freighting, and lived in Perkins county until 1889, when he moved to Colorado, and there died, his widow surviving him and making her home at Greeley, Colorado. They became the parents of four children, namely: Laura, wife of Wilby Allison, at Wallace; Mrs. Grace Spruggins, who is living in Falls City, Nebraska; Mrs. Allison, who was the third born; and Will, who is living at Greeley, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Allison had three children, namely: Archie and Hazel, both of whom are deceased; and Arthur, who is at home, carrying on the farm for his mother. They adopted a daughter, now Mrs. Wilda Bartmess, whose husband is a Lincoln county farmer.

In 1889, following his marriage, Clarence M. Allison returned to the homestead in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and proved up and owned at the time of his death 720 acres of land, all of which he had placed under cultivation, and on all of which he had made good improvements. He was a democrat in politics, but held no offices, nor did he belong to any lodges, taking his pleasure with his family in his own home. The Congregational Church of Wallace held his membership. Mr. Allison was a hard worker and was considered a very successful man. When he died on May 17, 1916, his community lost an excellent citizen and his family a kind husband and wise father.

**JAMES McCULLOUGH.** Nebraska's stock interests are very important, its fine pasture lands offering great inducements to agriculturalists to engage in the raising of stock, particularly cattle, for the more eastern markets; and to alert dealers to be the medium through which communications may be maintained between the producer and the stockyards, in which the cattle are dressed for consumption by the public. One of the men of Lincoln county who has found congenial employment for his abilities in this line of endeavor during all of his business career is James McCullough, a cattle dealer of Brady.

Mr. McCullough was born at Maxwell, Lincoln county, Nebraska, on December 14, 1870, a son of John and Mary (Gallagher) McCullough, who became the parents of the following children: James, who was the eldest; Ellen, who married Joe Shopp, of Maxwell; and Michael, who lives at North Platte, who are living, and seven who died young. John McCullough was a railroad man and came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, about 1865. He homesteaded in this county, proved up his claim and engaged in raising stock upon it. During the early days of his residence in Lincoln county he had some trouble with the Indians on several occasions, for they were still hostile, resenting the influx of the white settlers, but he came out ahead each time. This most excellent man died in 1907, after a life of usefulness, but his widow survived him until 1914, when she, too, passed away.

James McCullough was reared in Lincoln county, and attended

its schools. He early learned to be useful on the farm, and his work in assisting his father with stock turned his attention toward the cattle industry, and he has been very successful in his operations.

In 1897 Mr. McCullough was united in marriage with Miss Anna Snyder, born in Peru, Nebraska, and they became the parents of the following children: Mary Frances, who is a trained nurse connected with Saint Joseph Hospital at Omaha, Nebraska; John, who is at home; Donald; Miles; Maurine; Mirriam A.; and Dorris. The family all belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. McCullough maintains membership with the Knights of Columbus, and is very much interested in that organization. An intelligent citizen, he has always been interested in the growth and development of Brady and Lincoln county, and has done his part in bringing about present desirable conditions.

**JESSE LONG.** The gentleman of whom the biographer now writes is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Lincoln county, for Mr. Long has for many years been actively identified with the grazing and agricultural interests of this locality. His well directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment have brought to him prosperity, and his life demonstrates what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and has the perseverance to continue his labors, even in the face of seemingly discouraging circumstances.

Jesse Long was born in Brookfield, Missouri, on December 24, 1877, and is the son of George, Jr., and Lovella (Dorr) Long. George Long, Jr., was born in Missouri on February 14, 1849, and is the son of George Long, Sr., a native of New York City, who moved to Missouri, where he became a prosperous farmer, and died at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, whose Christian names were Mary Anne, died in Missouri at the age of sixty years. George Long, Jr., went from Missouri to Colorado in 1877 and was there engaged in the stock business until 1880, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he bought a tract of railroad land and later homesteaded land near North Platte. To him and his wife were born three children, namely: E. Jesse, the subject of this sketch; A. D., a retired ranchman now living in Oregon; and C. C., a ranchman of Lincoln county.

The subject of this sketch accompanied his father to Lincoln county in 1880 and spent his boyhood days on the ranch, assisting his father when old enough and until 1899, when he homesteaded on his own account. From the time that he embarked in business for himself he has been successful, devoting himself indefatigably to his ranch and adding to his land area from time to time until today he is the owner of 1,400 acres of land, 1,240 acres of which is grazing land and 160 acres of splendid farm land. He is eligibly located in section 30, township 14, range 29, and the improvements he has made on the place are of such a character as indicate him to be a man of sound judgment and excellent taste. He is entitled to all of the credit for the success which has crowned his efforts, for he has accomplished these results solely through his own perseverance and indefatigable efforts. Mr. Long gives comparatively little attention to farming, his main attention being given to the breeding and raising of cattle and horses, in which his success has been most pronounced.

In 1902 Mr. Long was married to Anna Esbelman, a native of Pennsylvania, and they have become the parents of three children, Kathrine, Charles and George, all of whom are at home. Mr. Long has not permitted his private affairs to so engross his attention as to exclude his participation in the public affairs of the community in which he lives, and he has given hearty support to every movement for the civic, educational and moral upbuilding of the community. He rendered effective service as a member of the School Board for one year and also served several years as road overseer. In political affairs he takes an independent attitude, preferring to vote for those men and measures which in his opinion will best advance the public welfare, regardless of party lines. Because of his many fine personal qualities and his business success he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

**CHARLES O. SOULES.** It has been the privilege of Charles O. Soules to have realized many of his worthy ambitions, and through the exercise of good judgment and business sagacity to have wrested from his opportunities financial and general success. For a number of years he was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Lincoln county, but of more recent years he has applied his abilities to business affairs at Gothenburg, where he has an excellent reputation for commercial integrity and good citizenship.

Mr. Soules was born in Kansas in 1873, a son of Oscar and Ellen (Touser) Soules, natives of Indiana, who resided for a time in Kansas and in 1880 came to Lincoln county, Nebraska. Here Oscar Soules took up a homestead, which he proved up, and the rest of his life was passed in farming and raising stock. In politics he was a republican. During the Civil war he enlisted in the First Indiana Cavalry, a regiment with which he served for three years, and for many years was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and his worthy wife were the parents of eight children: Allie, wife of Elmer Peckham, who is engaged in farming in Scotts Bluff county, Nebraska; Charles O., of this review; Minnie, the wife of Edwin Richards, of California; Mamie, of Watertown, South Dakota; Fedilia, deceased; Zella, the wife of Robert Holcomb, located near Laramie, Wyoming; Roy, a resident of North Platte; and Warren, of San Francisco, California. Of these children two sons, Roy and Warren, were in the United States service during the great World war. Warren enlisted in Lincoln county and was assigned to Coast Defense Company No. 41 in the Coast Artillery and was stationed at Corregador, Phillipine Islands. He served for two years, and was honorably discharged in October, 1919. Roy enlisted September 5, 1917, and was sent to Camp Funston with the Twelfth Engineers. From there he went to Camp Merritt, New Jersey, and sailed for France, being sent to the front lines. He was overseas thirteen months and took part in a number of engagements, but returned safely and was honorably discharged at Camp Dodge in May, 1919.

Charles O. Soules was seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Lincoln county, and here his education was acquired in the public schools. He was reared as a farmer, and when he entered upon his career it was as an agriculturist. For a number of years he followed farming and stockraising with a satisfying measure of success, but gave up those vocations and turned his attention to the automobile business at Gothenburg, where he had

a garage, sales department and repair shop, and this he also conducted with much success, although he later disposed of the business. At present he has a number of business interests and connections which occupy his time and attention. He is a broad-minded and progressive man, well posted on current events, and entertaining sensible opinions on questions of public interest. In politics he is a republican, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Soules was married June 8, 1898, to Mary Middleton, a daughter of Mrs. Clara Middleton, a sketch of whose life appears in the review of Archie Middleton, elsewhere in this work, and to this union there has been born one son, Willis.

**JAMES ROMINE, JR.** The rich farming regions of Lincoln county look to the more congested communities for their sources of supply, and are not content with anything but the best of goods. The time is long past when the people of the rural regions failed to keep up with progress along all lines of their times, and in nothing is this more clearly shown than in the demand which is made for up-to-date merchandise. For this and other reasons the handling of articles to meet this demand has acquired added importance and created new standards up to which the merchants have to measure if they hope to succeed in their chosen business. Because of these facts the men engaged in merchandising, especially in Lincoln county, are men of no ordinary ability, and one of them deserving of special mention is James Romine, Jr., of Maxwell, where he is a prominent figure in the commercial life of this thriving little city.

James Romine, Jr., was born in Kansas on January 20, 1876, a son of James Romine, Sr., one of the associate editors of this work and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. He was one of the pioneers of Custer county, Nebraska, to which region he came at an early day, and was closely identified with the development of that region. James Romine, Jr., distinctly remembers the trip overland of the family from the old home in Kansas to the new one in Custer county, and the hardships which somehow cannot be avoided in a new country. He also recalls a period of depression when corn was offered for fifteen cents a bushel, and eggs at five cents a dozen, so that, although prices today have raised the cost of living beyond any previous period in the history of the world, few in this country have to endure the privations the majority of the pioneers experienced in bringing about the civilization of the different portions of the United States.

After attending the public schools of Custer county James Romine, Jr., alternated farming with mercantile ventures until 1909, when he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded, and after he had proved up his land and put it under cultivation he came to Maxwell, and in 1913 opened his present store, which he has conducted ever since. Mr. Romine is a born merchant and knows just how to satisfy his customers and make money, and his stock is very timely and acceptable.

In 1897 Mr. Romine was married to Lillian Copass, a native of Kentucky, and they have one daughter, Florence, who is now one of the popular public school-teachers. At present Mr. Romine is camp commander of the Modern Woodmen of Maxwell. The Baptist Church holds his membership and benefits from his liberal

contributions to its support. Mr. Romine always votes the republican ticket, but has never aspired toward public office, preferring to exert his influence as a private citizen. He is very proud of the progress Maxwell has made, and is a friend of those public improvements which will give the city still further advantages, but is not inclined to favor extravagance in the handling of public money. Known all over Lincoln county, Mr. Romine is accepted as one of its most representative business men, and is living up to the traditions of his family in the best sense of the term.

**MAURICE J. RIELLY.** That farming is a very profitable calling the prosperity of the agriculturists of Nebraska conclusively prove, and one of them deserving of special mention because of his work and good improvements is Maurice J. Rielly of section 4, township 12 in Lincoln county. He was born in Iowa county, Iowa, in 1866, a son of William and Catherine (Conroy) Rielly, natives of Ireland, who came to the United States in 1845, and after some time spent in Illinois migrated to Iowa county, Iowa, and were engaged in farming activities all of their lives. During the war between the states William Rielly served as a Union soldier in the Twenty-third Illinois Infantry, Mulligan's Brigade, for three years and three months, and at the battle of Fort Donelson was wounded, the shot passing clear through his body. Both he and his excellent wife are now deceased. They had the following children: Ellen, who died in infancy; William P., who resides at Bethana, Nebraska; Cecelia, who is the wife of William D. Buchtel, of North Platte, Nebraska; and Maurice J., who is the youngest. Both parents were Catholics and brought up their children in that faith. William Rielly was a democrat in principle. In 1878 he was attracted to Nebraska and came here, locating in Otoe county, where his death later occurred.

Maurice J. Rielly attended the schools of Iowa and Otoe counties, and grew up with an excellent knowledge of farming and a determination to have a farm of his own. In 1891 he came to Lincoln county from Otoe county, and by homesteading was able to carry out this determination, and has since spent his life on his property, which he has greatly improved, and here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising, his stock being of a good grade.

Maurice J. Rielly was married to Matilda Burnes, born in Otoe county, Nebraska, and they have three children, namely: William, who is attending the Maxwell High School; Maurice, who is also attending the Maxwell High School; and Hugh, who is attending the rural schools. The members of the family are all Catholics. While he holds to the principles enunciated by the democratic leaders, in local affairs Mr. Rielly oftentimes prefers to give his support to the man who, in his estimation, will best discharge the duties of the office for which he is running, rather than to hold himself strictly to party lines. The Rielly family is a highly respected one on many accounts, and their home is oftentimes the gathering place for their numerous friends, who enjoy the lavish hospitality always accorded under the Rielly roof-tree.

**HERMAN K. PECKHAM.** More than forty years ago the Peckham family was founded in Lincoln county, and since that time its members have contributed materially to the agricultural development of this section, as well as to the elevation of the standards of

education, religion and good citizenship. A worthy member of this family is found in Herman K. Peckham, the owner of a well-cultivated and valuable ranch in the Brady neighborhood and a citizen of high standing and progressiveness.

Herman K. Peckham was born in Crawford county, Wisconsin, in 1860, a son of Joshua Stetson and Anna (Atkinson) Peckham, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Yorkshire, England. Joshua S. Peckham, who was a cooper by trade and a farmer by vocation, went to Wisconsin in 1850 with his father, and six years later purchased farming land in Crawford county. There he engaged in general agricultural pursuits, making a specialty of stockraising until 1879, and on July 27 of that year he arrived in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and took a homestead and timber claim in Peckham precinct, this being the first government land taken up in that precinct. There he continued to be engaged in stockraising and agricultural operations until his demise, which occurred April 5, 1917, his wife having passed away June 13, 1916. Mr. Peckham was a republican in politics, and was a man of substantial worth and integrity. He served several terms as assessor and in other offices of his precinct. He and his worthy wife were the parents of six children: Charles F., who is engaged in farming in Peckham precinct; Herman K., of this notice; Jane, who is deceased; Elmer, a resident of Scotts Bluff county; and Walter and Oscar, who are deceased.

Herman K. Peckham was educated in the public schools of Crawford county, Wisconsin, where he grew up in a rural atmosphere and spent his boyhood and youth in assisting his father in the cultivation of the home property. He was about nineteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Nebraska, and here he engaged in agriculture and stockraising with his father. In 1884 he took a timber claim, the site of his present home, but continued to reside under the parental roof until he was thirty-six years of age. In December, 1896, he moved on to his timber claim. Mr. Peckham is a general farmer, but has met with excellent results while specializing in livestock, and has an excellent grade of animals on his property. His improvements are up-to-date and attractive, and in his daily work he carries into use his modern ideas of farming, with the result that he makes his labor pay him well. He is accounted one of the well-to-do men of his community, and all that has come to him has been the result of his own enterprise, ambition and perseverance. Mr. Peckham believes in organization, and at this time is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative Association at Brady, a community in which he is well known for his integrity and in which he has many friends.

Mr. Peckham was married May 3, 1896, to Miss Stella Rich, who was born in Atchison county, Missouri, a daughter of Lewis D. Rich, who settled in Peckham precinct in 1893. To this union there have been born three children: Golda V., who is attending Wesleyan University at Lincoln; Harlan K. and Rich Stetson, both attending Brady High School.

The Peckham genealogy has been clearly traced by one line to nobility in Kent county, England, in the sixteenth century. John Peckham, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1279 to 1292, is generally considered the founder of the family. Another Sir John Peckham, descendant of the Archbishop of Canterbury, came to America in 1638 and settled in Rhode Island. The well known

Stetson family, of whom the "millionaire hat maker," John B. Stetson, is a member, is closely connected with the Peckham family. Herman K. Peckham's great-grandfather married Sarah Stetson, who traces her ancestry back to I Cornet Robert Stetson, who settled in Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1634. The Stetson kindred of America, of whom there are several hundred, hold their reunions every year at the shrine in Norwell, Massachusetts.

EMIL MERSCHIED is a prominent young business man of North Platte, a specialist in greenhouse management, and in a few brief years has established and built up a flourishing business.

He was born in Germany in 1886, a son of Fredrick and Barbara (Lawrence) Merscheid. His father was a fruit farmer. His mother is still living in Germany.

Emil Merscheid in addition to a common school education had a training as a florist in Germany, and for one year attended one of the foremost horticulture schools in the world, located on the Rhine River. With an expert knowledge of his business he came to America in 1913, and for about a year lived at Milwaukee, where he was assistant superintendent of the greenhouses on the private estate of Fred Pabst. From there he removed to Cambridge, Ohio, and was employed by C. H. Arnold, who made a specialty of growing potted plants and bulbs.

Mr. Merscheid came to North Platte in 1916 and had charge of the greenhouses of C. J. Pass for about a year. Then in 1917, with Mr. Ellis as a partner, he established a floral business of his own, constructing a greenhouse according to his own plans and classifications and carrying out some distinctly novel ideas. He now has 4,800 square feet under glass and the equipment is superlative. When his partner entered the army he bought his interest and is now sole owner and gives his time to a business that has come into great favor all over western Nebraska. Each season his greenhouse and hotbeds produce about half a million vegetables plants, which are widely distributed. This is a specialty of Mr. Merscheid. During the spring season he employs about ten people, and has recently added a nursery and is undertaking the production of perennials.

Mr. Merscheid is a republican in political affiliations. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masons.

ELMER LINDBERG. It is signally consonant that in this work be incorporated at least a brief mention of the life of Elmer Lindberg, who is one of the influential citizens of his section of Lincoln county, in fact, has spent his life here, being a connecting link with the pioneer period in which he spent his childhood and of which he has many interesting reminiscences. A man of forceful individuality, he is naturally well equipped for the duties of life, while his probity of character, genial personality, obliging nature and sound common sense have gained for him universal esteem and friendship in the locality where he has spent his life.

Elmer Lindberg is the son of Henry and Katrina Lindberg, both of whom were born, reared and educated in Sweden. In an early day they came to the United States, in search of wider opportunities for advancement, and after arriving in this country came direct to Lincoln county, of which section they had heard good re-

ports. Their confidence in this locality was not misplaced, and they reaped the fruits of their toil here to a very satisfactory degree. The father first filed on a homestead of 160 acres, to the improvement and cultivation of which he applied himself with energy and persistence to such good purpose that eventually he was enabled to increase his holdings to 320 acres, the present size of the home farm. He made many substantial and permanent improvements, and here he carried on general farming and stockraising, exercising sound judgment in all his operations. He died at the age of forty-six years and is survived by his widow. The union of these parents was blessed in the birth of seven children, Elmer, Harold, Elaine, Elsie, Martha and Ada. Abbie died aged twenty-one years. Elmer Lindberg has remained on the home farm and secured a good practical education in the common schools of his locality. He early learned the value and dignity of honest toil and has contributed of his best efforts in the operation of the farm. Industrious and energetic, he also possesses the attribute of sound discrimination in business affairs, and is ably carrying forward the work inaugurated by his father, being today numbered among the enterprising and progressive young agriculturists of his section of the county.

**ELMER SUNDQUIST.** The gentleman to a brief review of whose life and characteristics the reader's attention is herewith directed is among the favorably known and representative citizens of this section of Nebraska, in which he has spent his life. He has by his indomitable enterprise and progressive methods contributed in a material way to the advancement of his locality, and during the course of an honorable career has met with success as a general farmer and stockraiser, being a man of energy, sound judgment and honesty of purpose.

Elmer Sundquist was born in Hickory county, Missouri, on the 9th of June, 1879, and is the son of Nels and Carolina Sundquist. These parents were natives of Sweden, who came to the United States during the '60s and settled in Missouri, where the father applied himself to agricultural pursuits. He spent the remainder of his years there and in Dawson county, Nebraska, where he located in 1888, and died when sixty-seven years old. The subject of this sketch was brought to Dawson county, Nebraska, in 1888, when about nine years of age, and there he was reared to manhood, securing a good common school education. In 1902 he came to Lincoln county and filed on a homestead, but did not prove it up. Subsequently he bought his present home farm, comprising 320 acres, and here he has through the subsequent years been energetically pursuing the different phases of an agricultural life. He has made many substantial improvements on the place, which now ranks as one of the best farms in that locality, and he is securing splendid returns for the labor bestowed. The farm is located in section 27, township 13, range 26, and is mostly devoted to general crops, though Mr. Sundquist also gives much of his attention to the raising of a good grade of cattle, in which he has met with success.

In 1907 Mr. Sundquist was united in marriage with Alma Elander, and they have one child, Blanch, who is at home. Politically Mr. Sundquist has not allied himself with any particular party, but supports the best men in all parties. He stands for high ideals and consistently votes as he believes. He gives his unreserved support to every movement for the civic or moral betterment of





PHILANDER L. HARPER

the community and is numbered among the leaders of his locality, enjoying to a marked degree the respect and good will of the people with whom he is associated.

**PHILANDER L. HARPER.** That the west undoubtedly offers unusual opportunities to the aggressive man of affairs, the history of this region conclusively proves, and it also gives substance to the claims of westerners that theirs is the best part of the country for business operations on a large scale. Among the men of Lincoln county who are entitled to a large share of credit for the promotion and successful operation of several large enterprises in different localities in Nebraska is Philander L. Harper, to whose far-sightedness and faith in the natural resources of the place is due the founding and development of Wallace, of which he is still a heavy landowner.

Philander L. Harper was born at Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, on February 20, 1852, a son of John W. Harper and his wife, Salina (Dixon) Harper, both of whom were reared near Crawfordsville, Indiana. The Dixon family originated near Kennett Square, Chester county, Pennsylvania. In 1848 John W. Harper took his family to Knoxville, Marion county, Iowa, there establishing himself in a mercantile business which he conducted until his death in 1855. His widow continued to reside at Knoxville a great many years. She died at Portland, Oregon, while visiting her daughter, dying at the age of seventy-one years.

Philander L. Harper attended the public schools of Osceola, Clarke county, Iowa, completing his course in them in 1868, and in the fall of the following year was graduated from Bryant & Stratton's Business College at Burlington, Iowa. For the subsequent few months of 1869 Mr. Harper clerked in a general store at Corning, Iowa, and then became cashier of the Bank of Corning, and held that position for ten years, or until the fall of 1879, when he moved on his large farm near Osceola, Iowa, and lived there until the fall of 1883. At that time he moved to Osceola, Iowa, and for the next two years was engaged in a horse and cattle business, shipping in all directions. In 1886 he made his advent to the site of the present town of Wallace, and since then has been a forceful figure in the expansion of this town. In connection with the Lincoln Land Company he established the town and the Security Bank of Wallace, in which he later disposed of his interest and established the Citizens Security Bank of Wallace as president and William Harper was the vice president, but he has since disposed of that interest. He has promoted many other interests, still retaining a number of desirable pieces of realty. In 1895 he established the Wallace Elevator Company, but later disposed of same, and he has heavy investments in and about Wallace. From 1887 he owned and operated large, well-stocked ranches in Lincoln county until recent years, when he leased them to other parties. It is safe to say that no enterprise of any moment has been inaugurated at Wallace which has not had either Mr. Harper's money or personal supervision back of it, and a good many of them have had both. He is now president of the Citizens Bank of Wallace. Mr. Harper has no military record, for he was too young in 1861, and beyond the military age in 1917, but during the World war he rendered an effective service by supporting all of the war work, and contributing generously of both time and money to assist the administration in

carrying out its policies. He is a strong republican and was a member of the first town board of Wallace, and during the '90s served as treasurer of the School Board. He was vice chairman of the Lincoln County Republican Central Committee during the year that George E. French was chairman, but on account of sickness in his family was obliged to absent himself, so Mr. Harper presided. From 1886 Mr. Harper has been the delegate of his party to a number of county and state conventions, and has always been recognized as one of the leading republicans of the state.

During the erection of the edifice for the Methodist Episcopal Church of Wallace Mr. Harper was an active member of the building committee, and selected the plans, had charge of the building and furnishing of it, and continued to supervise its affairs until it was paid for in 1893, notwithstanding that was the year of the financial panic, which bore down so heavily upon the majority of the churches in western Nebraska. He joined this denomination at Corning, Iowa, in 1870, continuing a member there until later, when he transferred to the church at Osceola, Iowa, continuing to worship there until he came to Nebraska. For thirty years he has been a trustee of the church at Wallace; was a trustee of the Wesleyan University from 1890 until 1896, and during that period assisted in carrying the university through all of the financial difficulties of the panic and reverses of the early '90s.

Mr. Harper was married at Chariton, Iowa, to Zora Stewart, a daughter of George J. and Amanda Stewart, of that town. Mr. and Mrs. Harper have two daughters, namely: Eloise, Mrs. R. V. Evans, of Lincoln, and Helen, wife of P. M. La Velle, of Wallace, Nebraska. Mr. Harper is a man of ability and executive power, and possesses a broader sense of civic responsibility than the majority of men, so that he has been able to attain the full measure of the public esteem and confidence, and has reached the understanding of the public directly and surely. In everything he has undertaken he has had no difficulty in gaining the co-operation of the best people of the community, for his plans are always convincing in their simplicity and integrity, and he has easily attained to that place in public confidence to which his talents entitle him. His personality and public service are and have been of the highest character, and he has risen to positions of increasing responsibility and dignity, and handles with tact and success numberless difficult problems of both a business and public nature.

**JAMES A. KERR.** The name of Kerr is associated in Lincoln county not only with the finely developed and improved Crescent Farm in section 36, township 12, in the neighborhood of Brady, but also with the ministerial labors of Rev. James A. Kerr of the Methodist Church. Mr. Kerr has been engaged in his present calling since 1903, when he entered the ministry at Ericson, Nebraska, and his sincere eloquence and rugged simplicity of belief have brought many into the church and rescued from wrong doing more souls than outsiders known anything about. Mr. Kerr has been very active in the Prohibition movement, and the present condition of affairs in this respect has brought a greater degree of satisfaction to him that perhaps nothing else could have done, for he put his whole soul into the work and fought to bring the evils of the liquor traffic home to people when this movement was not at all in favor among his associates. Few men are held in more reverent and grate-

ful affection in this county than he, and his teachings are listened to as coming from one who speaks with authority and lives up to his own doctrines.

James A. Kerr was born in Illinois in 1856, a son of Oliver and Maria Kerr, natives of Ireland and Illinois, respectively, who are both deceased, having been farming people all of their lives. Going from Illinois to Missouri when he was sixteen years old, James A. Kerr lived there until 1884, when he came to Clay county, Nebraska, bought land and farmed it, and in 1889 bought relinquishment land in Lincoln county, and proved it up. The farm operated under the name of the Crescent Farm by his two sons, Herman and Harlen, contains 2,560 acres.

In 1883 Mr. Kerr was married to Alma Austin, born in Ohio, a daughter of E. D. and D. C. Austin, natives of Vermont and Pennsylvania, who located in Clay county, Nebraska, in 1884. Both of them survive and are living among their children. The two sons of this marriage are in partnership in the conduct of the farm, and are specializing on pure-blood Hereford cattle and a good grade of other stock. All of the improvements on the farm have been made by the Kerr family, and they are excellent and appropriate for the purposes for which they are designed. Father and sons are republicans, and all of the family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

During the late war E. Harlen enlisted in the Field Artillery at Omaha, Nebraska, in February, 1918, was trained at the balloon school in aviation, and was then honorably discharged. He re-enlisted at Fort Logan, was sent to Fremont, California, for training, and in July was sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for some weeks, when he was sent overseas, and became a member of Company E, Eighteenth Infantry and as such went through the British sector to the Hindenburg line. Following the signing of the Armistice he was sent into Germany as part of the Army of Occupation. After months of service across seas he was returned to the United States and discharged at Camp Dodge in September, 1919, following which he came home and resumed his ordinary occupations on the farm. He and his brother are worthy sons of their excellent father, and are making a name for themselves in agricultural circles.

**CHARLES OMAN.** Although born under another flag, in a country of widely different customs and surrounded by environments to which we of America are unused. Charles Oman, a well known and successful farmer of section 22, township 14, range 26, has been true to the duties of citizenship, faithful to every trust reposed in him and well worthy of the high regard in which he is held. A plain, straightforward, unassuming gentleman, he seems to ever had the good of the locality at heart and has advocated and supported every movement calculated to benefit the same in a material, civic or moral way, and he therefore enjoys the good will and esteem of all classes.

Charles Oman is a native of the Scandinavian peninsula, having been born in Sweden on September 15, 1858, and is the son of Lars Oman, who spent his entire life in that country, where he followed the vocation of farming. Charles Oman was reared under the parental roof and secured his educational training in the schools of his native community. In 1878, when twenty years of age, he came to the United States and went directly to Omaha, Nebraska,

where for ten years he was in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company. From there he went to Saunders county, Nebraska, and engaged in farming there until 1892, which year marked his arrival in Lincoln county. Upon coming here he homesteaded 160 acres of land and at once applied himself vigorously to its improvement and cultivation. Being a man of sound judgment and wise discrimination, success crowned his efforts from the beginning and he was enabled to add to his original holdings until now he is the owner of 640 acres of as good land as can be found in his locality. He has made many splendid improvements on the place, the buildings being attractive and substantial, while the general appearance of the farm indicates the owner to be a man of good taste and industrious habits. He carries on general farming operations, in connection with which he also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, in which also he has met with success.

Mr. Omar has been married twice, his first wife having been Hilda Frostrum, who was a native of Sweden, and to that union were born five children, namely: Phebe, deceased; Mrs. Anna Anderson, of Custer county, Nebraska; Mrs. Alice Blixt, also of Custer county; Alvin, who remains at home; and Roy, of Lincoln county. The mother of these children died at the age of twenty-nine years, and in 1906 Mr. Oman was married to Mary E. Bowen, a native of Clarksdale, Missouri.

Politically Mr. Oman is independent, preferring not to be bound by party ties, but votes for the men and measures which meet with his approval. He is a strong advocate of the best educational methods and facilities, and served his township acceptably for twelve years as a member of the School Board. For thirteen years he was postmaster of Spannum, but that office is now discontinued. He is a man of unusual tact and soundness of judgment; these and other commendable attributes, coupled with his industry and genial personality, render him popular with all classes and he has won and retained a host of friends and admirers throughout this section of the county.

**TALMAGE WHITE.** The subject of this sketch has spent practically his entire life within the borders of Lincoln county, and his persistent and commendable efforts have benefited alike himself and the community, for he has always had at heart the well being of the locality in which he lives, using his influence whenever possible for the promotion of enterprises calculated to be of lasting benefit to his fellow men. He is the scion of an excellent old pioneer family of this county—in fact, he himself may be said to have come down to us from the pioneer period, having noted the great changes which have taken place here within the last three decades and seen the wild prairies give way to as fine farmsteads as the state can boast.

Talmage White was born in Greene county, Indiana, on August 12, 1880, and is the son of Simon and Sarah (Stone) White, who also were born and reared in the Hoosier state. Simon White was born in Greene county, Indiana, in 1852, was there reared and educated, and lived there until 1884, when he moved to Kearney, Nebraska, and a year later to Lincoln county, where he obtained homestead land, which he developed into a good farm, increasing its acreage to 480 acres, which he now owns and devotes to farming and stockraising. To him and his wife were born the following

children: Mrs. Minnie Moore, of North Platte; Mrs. Effie Reynolds, who lives in California; Mrs. Lulu Miller, of Lincoln county; Mrs. Myrtle Sopkit, who lives in Iowa; Mrs. Lola Danielson, of Sutherland, Nebraska; Mrs. Cora Danielson, of Sutherland; Talmage, the immediate subject of this sketch; and Mrs. Lummie Ecklund, of Lincoln county.

Talmage White was about five years of age when the family came to Lincoln county, and he was here reared and educated. His first employment was as a school teacher, three years west of Sutherland and one year in District No. 17. He then engaged in farming in partnership with his father, with whom he remained until 1908, when he embarked in farming operations on his own account. He is the owner of three sections of land, his home being located in section 31, township 13, range 32. Besides carrying on general farming operations he gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle, specializing on the Whiteface breed, of which he handles from 200 to 300 annually. He also ships about a carload of hogs. Persistent industry, wise discrimination and sound judgment have so entered into his business operations as to bring him abundant success, and today he occupies an enviable position among the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of his county.

On January 1, 1908, Mr. White was married to Gertrude Ziegenhagen, who was born in Harlin county, Kansas, the daughter of Julius and Melinda (Folmer) Ziegenhagen, the former a native of Germany and the latter of New York state. Her father came to the United States in 1884, locating first in New York state, where he was employed in general work for two years. Then he went to Harlin county, Kansas, where he remained until 1906, when he came to Lincoln county and purchased a relinquishment. At the present time he owns 600 acres of land, on which he is conducting farming and stockraising operations. To him and his wife were born the following children: Gertrude, wife of the subject of this sketch; Roy, at home; Ernest, deceased; Mrs. Jennie Burklund, of Lincoln county; Elmer, at home; Earl and Merl, twins, who also are at home; Alice, deceased; Hazel and Orphia, at home. To Mr. and Mrs. White have been born five children, Garnette, Irene, Dorothy, Freda and Dewitt, all of whom remain at home.

Politically Mr. White gives his support to the republican ticket and is deeply interested in the general welfare of the community. He is especially interested in educational matters and is rendering effective service as a member of the School Board of District No. 17. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although a quiet and unassuming man, with no ambition for public position or leadership, he has contributed to the material, moral and civic advancement of his community, while his admirable qualities of head and heart have won for him the esteem and confidence of the circles in which he moves.

**EMERY B. MARTIN.** The history of the development of Lincoln county shows that the men who have achieved any measure of success in the various activities of this region are those who have bent their energies toward one end, have not been afraid of hard work, and have had confidence in the future of this section of the state. No man can advance further than his faith in his undertaking. In other words he must convince himself, first, before he can impress others; he must be certain that he will succeed before success

will come to him. One of the men who have never faltered in their belief that a good living could be made from the development and cultivation of Lincoln county farm land is Emery B. Martin of section 10, township 12, who owns a finely developed farm of 114 acres in the Brady neighborhood.

The birth of Mr. Martin occurred in Indiana in 1863, and he is a son of Jake and Mary (Hoover) Martin, the former of whom was a blacksmith by trade. Both parents died in Indiana when Emery B. Martin was a child, their children having been six in number, five of them still living. A brother, Isaac, is also a farmer of Lincoln county.

Leaving Indiana after he had reached his majority, Emery B. Martin came as far west as Iowa and was there employed as a farm hand. In 1886 he came on further west to Nebraska, and was on various farms for four years, when in 1890 he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded his present farm. All of the improvements on this farm were made by him, and he is very profitably engaged in general farming and stockraising. It is his belief that only the good grades of livestock are worth handling, and his product shows the result of careful selection and breeding.

In 1895 Mr. Martin was married to Mary Burns, born in Nebraska, her parents having been very early settlers in Otoe county. Mr. and Mrs. Martin became the parents of the following children: Mary, who is a member of the selling force of a mercantile establishment of Maxwell; John A., who is cashier for one of the branch houses of Armour & Company at Omaha, Nebraska; Ned, who is a farmer of Lincoln county; Ralph, who is at home; and Lawrence, who is attending the Maxwell public school. Mr. Martin is an independent voter. His wife belongs to the Catholic Church. The position Mr. Martin has attained through his own, unaided efforts shows what a man can accomplish, and gives encouragement to others seeking to advance themselves, and proves that few things are impossible to the industrious and thrifty man of this country.

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

Charles Bratten was born in Sweden on March 15, 1872, and is the son of Andrew and Anna L. Bratten. When twenty-one years of age, in 1893, he came to the United States and proceeded directly to Lincoln county. He has been identified with the farming interests of this locality ever since coming here and has been successful to an eminent degree. He is now the owner of 460 acres of excellent land, on which he has made many permanent and substantial improvements, the farm buildings being convenient and tasteful, the barns and outbuildings commodious and well arranged, while the general appearance of the place is attractive to the passerby. Mr. Bratten here conducts general farming operations,

in connection with which he has given some attention to the raising of cattle.

In 1901 Mr. Bratton was married to Hilda Elander, of this county, and they have become the parents of eight children, namely: Herman, Vendla, Joseph, Julia, Paul, Louise, David and Gideon. Mr. Bratton has always taken a keen interest in local public affairs, giving his support to every movement for the advancement of the general welfare. He is a strong supporter of the best educational methods and rendered effective service for six years as a member of the School Board. He is an earnest and faithful member of the Free Mission Church, to which he gives liberal support. His success in life has been the result of consecutive effort, directed and controlled by good judgment and correct principles, and because of his earnest character and business success he occupies an enviable position in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

**SCOTT W. SHANER.** Worthy of especial note among the energetic and successful agriculturists of North Platte is Scott W. Shaner, who ably assists in maintaining Lincoln county's acquired reputation as a rich farming region, his finely improved homestead being one of the best in its appointments to be found in this section of the state. A son of John Shaner, he was born January 15, 1865, in Henry county, Illinois, of pioneer stock.

A native of Illinois, John Shaner there spent his early life, for eleven years having there been engaged in tilling the soil on his own account. Subsequently migrating with his family to Iowa, he carried on farming in the southern part of that state several seasons. Locating in Nebraska in 1889, he took up a homestead claim in Lincoln county, proved up on it, and was afterward actively engaged in its improvement, continuing his successful labors until his death, when seventy-two years old. He married Cordelia Flook, who was born in Illinois, and died on the homestead in Lincoln county, Nebraska, at the age of sixty-three years. Of the ten children born of their marriage nine are living, Scott W. being the second child in succession of birth.

Thoroughly drilled in agricultural pursuits when young, Scott W. Shaner readily selected farming as his life work. About 1885 he located in Lincoln county, Nebraska, and having rented land began life for himself. Meeting with satisfactory returns from his labors, he proved up on a homestead claim, and has since met with success as a general farmer and stockraiser, year by year adding to the improvements, and thus increasing his wealth.

Mr. Shaner has been twice married. He married first Louisa D. Madison, who was born in Minnesota, where her parents were general farmers. She passed to the higher life in 1901, leaving six children, namely: Harry, engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Earl, a farmer in Wheeler county; Lila Richardson, living in Kansas; Forest, a well known agriculturist of Lincoln county; Artie, residing in Lincoln county; and Mrs. Nettie Jergenson, of this county. Mr. Shaner married second in 1906, at North Platte, Minnie Pickett, who was born in Greene county, Iowa, a daughter of Lafayette and Christine Pickett, both natives of Germany, and they have one child, Orval Shaner, living with his parents, and one child died when fifteen months old. In politics Mr. Shaner is independent, voting for the best men and measures regardless of party prejudices.



**DANIEL J. ANTONIDES.** A resident of Lincoln county over thirty years, a homesteader and farmer, and now proprietor of the North Side Hardware and Implement House of North Platte, Daniel J. Antonides has had a successful career, in which hard work has been the predominant characteristic.

He was born in New York city July 29, 1859, son of Henry D. P., and Phoebe A. Antonides. His father, a native of Freehold, New Jersey, died in 1862, when Daniel was three years old. In 1875, thirteen years later, his mother died, and in the meantime Daniel had been made acquainted with the common branches of learning taught in public schools and had also assumed some serious responsibilities. He followed several different occupations and in 1878, at the age of nineteen, moved west to Lee county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming.

September 9, 1880, he married Phoebe A. DePew, who was born on Staten Island. After their marriage they lived in northern Iowa until 1889, in which year they came to Lincoln county. Mr. Antonides homesteaded in the southwest part of the county, but after proving up his homestead he moved to Wallace and engaged in business. In the fall of 1903 he moved his home to North Platte and in 1911 started his present business, known as the North Side Hardware and Implement Store, and has made it one of the leading establishments of the kind in Lincoln county.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Antonides. Three are still living: Florence, who is the principal of the Junior High School in North Platte; Esther, in the hardware store with her father; and D. Joline, Jr., who enlisted in 1917, was trained as an aviator at Kelley Field in Texas, was in England four months, and received his honorable discharge December 21, 1918. He then returned to North Platte, and is now a student in the Nebraska State University.

**FRED LINDBERG.** A highly respected citizen of Lincoln county, who, although an American by adoption only, has had the interests of this community at heart for nearly forty years, is Fred Lindberg, a man who has won success in life because he has been persistent and never permitted obstacles to thwart him in his course when once he knew he was right. He came here with but little capital and, liking the country and having faith in its future, he cast his lot with the people of this locality. They soon began to admire him for his good habits and his thrifty ways, and he has enjoyed their esteem and good will all the while, and thus he and they have been alike benefited by his long residence here.

Fred Lindberg was born in Sweden on August 30, 1860, where he remained until the twentieth year of his age, in the meantime receiving a good education in the schools of his native community. In 1880 he came to the United States and located at once in Chicago, where he was employed for two years. In 1882 he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and entered a homestead of 160 acres, to the improvement and cultivation of which he applied himself with enthusiasm and vigor. His total cash capital at that time was but \$100, which had to see him through until such time as he could derive his support from the farm. Prices of produce at that time were ridiculously low as compared with prices of the present day, eggs, for example, bringing but five cents a dozen. Those early

years were characterized by endless toil of the most strenuous sort, and Mr. Lindberg met with many discouragements and obstacles. But he permitted nothing to thwart him from his purpose and eventually his labors were crowned with a well deserved success. He added to his possessions from time to time and is now the owner of 1,200 acres of excellent land. He carried on general farming operations and also gave some attention to the raising of livestock. Recently Mr. Lindberg has relinquished the active labors of the farm and is enjoying that rest to which he is so richly entitled. He is engaged in the erection of a comfortable home in Gothenburg, Dawson county, where he expects to make his future home.

On April 20, 1885, Mr. Lindberg was united in marriage with Marie Johnson, and to them have been born ten children, named as follows: David; Mrs. Ruth Garfield; Mrs. Esther McNamara; Mrs. Abby Johnson; Mabel, the wife of John Johnson; Adolph, of Lincoln county; Roland, who was in the United States during the World war, and is now living in California; Joe, of Lincoln county; Mrs. Sarah Une, of Lincoln county; and Arthur, who remains at home.

Politically Mr. Lindberg is independent, voting solely according to the dictates of his conscience and his best judgment, regardless of party lines. He holds worthy prestige in agricultural circles and is regarded as distinctively a man of affairs, wielding a potent influence among those with whom he has lived for so many years, having won definite success by his own legitimate efforts. He is extremely popular among his associates.

**JOHN A. WELLIVER.** Prominent among the old and honored citizens of Lincoln county is John A. Welliver, who has been a resident of Lincoln county for more than a quarter of a century and is the owner of a valuable and productive farm. Mr. Welliver has occupied his present homestead since his arrival, and in its development has contributed to the progress and advancement of his locality, as he has also by the high principles of citizenship which he has always advocated and manifested.

John A. Welliver was born on a farm in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1848, a son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth (Kitchen) Welliver, natives of the Keystone state. His father was a shoemaker by trade, a vocation which he followed throughout his life, and while an honest and industrious man never gained any great competence, being content to follow his modest calling and to give his children ordinary advantages. By his first marriage he was the father of five children, all now deceased, and by his second marriage, with Elizabeth Kitchen, he had two children: Alverna, deceased; and John A. He and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist Church. He was an Odd Fellow fraternally, was a democrat in politics, and served as justice of the peace in Pennsylvania for a period of fifteen years, during which time he won and held the confidence of the general public and did much to preserve peace in his community.

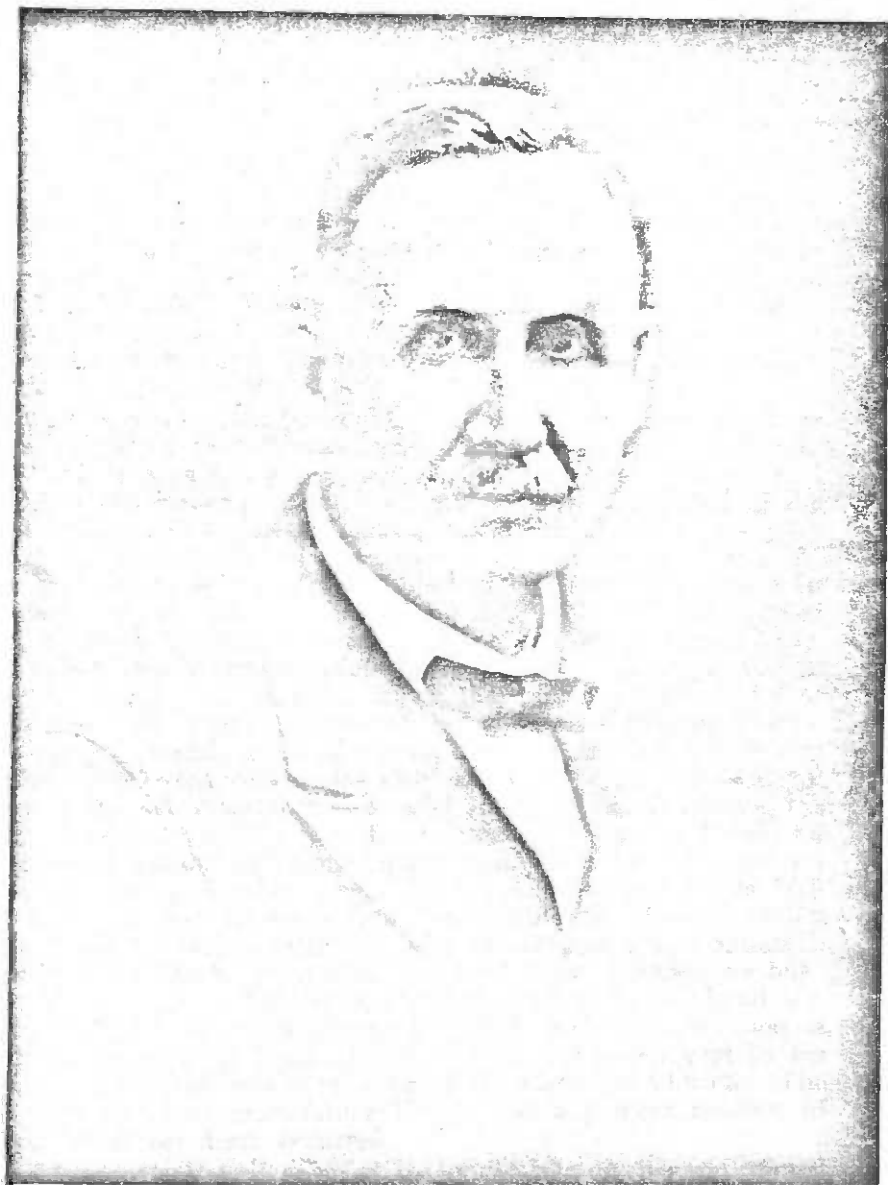
John A. Welliver received a public school education in his native state, and as a youth began to work in the steel mills. He was thus employed in several capacities, but subsequently turned his attention to railroading. While thus engaged he heard much in regard to the attractive opportunities opening up in the west for young men of ambition and determination, and eventually he de-

ecided to cast his lot with those who were engaged in the work of taming the frontier states. At first he went to Iowa, where he lived for several years, but in 1893 removed to Frontier county, Nebraska. In the following year he came to Lincoln county, where he secured a homestead, and this property has continued to be his home to the present time. Mr. Welliver has always been a general farmer and stockraiser and has made a success of his undertakings. He is industrious and painstaking, energetic and progressive, and at an age when men are usually willing to retire from active affairs is still capably discharging his daily routine of duties. He has made good improvements on his land, which is yearly increasing in value and productiveness. In politics Mr. Welliver is a republican.

Mr. Welliver was married July 9, 1872, to Miss Maggie Long, also a native of Pennsylvania, born in Luzerne county, a daughter of Joseph Long, who died in Pennsylvania, and who had six other children. To Mr. and Mrs. Welliver there have been born the following children: Sarah Elizabeth, who is a resident of the State of Oregon, and her twin, Margaret Addie, deceased, who was born November 8, 1873; Hattie May, who is deceased; Jesse Pearl, born January 30, 1885, a resident of Hershey, Nebraska; and Ora D., born April 5, 1887, a resident of Maxwell. Mr. Welliver has a substantial home, well constructed barns and outbuildings, and surrounds himself and family with many evidences of his forethought and taste. He is an energetic and painstaking man, fulfilling his obligations with conscientious exactness, and in his work exemplifying the belief that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

**JOHN W. NUGENT.** The career of John W. Nugent is an expression of practical and diversified activity, and in its range has invaded the fields of merchandising and agriculture, politics and society, all of which have profited by the breadth and conscientiousness which are distinctive features of his work and character. Born in New York City in 1851, he is a son of George and Margaret Nugent.

When the father of Mr. Nugent died the latter was a child of three years, and as his mother had been left in humble circumstances he was taken to an orphan's home, where he was reared and educated. In 1858 he went to Danville, Illinois, which continued to be his home for some thirty years. He was married in 1872 and engaged in farming and the mercantile business for eight years at Westville, Illinois, and then was employed as weighmaster for a coal company for four years. In December, 1887, he came to Lincoln county, and helped in the construction of the bridge on Brady Island, and in 1890 established himself in business at Maxwell as the proprietor of a store. In 1897 he secured a homestead, on which he proved up, and this he continued to operate with marked success until the latter part of 1919, when he disposed of it at a good figure. He made numerous improvements thereon, and through its development contributed to the upbuilding of his community. During his residence on the farm he dealt extensively in hay, and for the past twenty years has also been the proprietor of a flourishing ice business at Maxwell. Mr. Nugent is a man of large and practical ability, wide sympathies and large capacity for usefulness. His general worth is impressed upon the history of his county in no uncertain manner. A republican in politics, he has



*E. P. Zurell*

shown a marked interest in public affairs, and for twenty-one years has served as assessor.

Mr. Nugent was married September 11, 1872, to Miss Jemima V. Owen, a native of Indiana, who died in the Quaker faith in 1901, having been the mother of two children: A. F., a resident of Fransworth, Texas, where he has interests in the oil fields; and Mary E., the wife of N. C. Dolan, a ranchman of the Maxwell community in Lincoln county. Mr. Nugent is primarily a business man, but enjoys the companionship of his fellows, and holds membership in the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, in which he has numerous friends.

**EDWARD R. FERRELL.** Golden opportunity, awaiting the touch of ability, is not metropolitan in its abode, but is resident, too, far from the commercial turmoil of big cities. Upon the plains and benches of an immense western empire and in the busy municipalities of a newer domain has it beckoned to the capabilities of able and talented man. Among those who have achieved a satisfactory degree of success in Lincoln county, none enjoys to a more marked degree the respect and confidence of those who know him than he whose name appears at the head of this paragraph.

Edward R. Ferrell, president of the Citizens Security Bank at Wallace, was born in Wayne county, Iowa, on the 12th of March, 1862. He is descended from sterling Scotch ancestry, his paternal grandfather, Edward Ferrell, having been born and reared in the land of hills and heather. Coming to the United States soon after his marriage, he settled in Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life. His son Elijah, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Pennsylvania in 1823 and died March 19, 1886. He was married in Indiana to Amanda Wilson, a native of that state, born in 1840, and whose death occurred September 25, 1865. They moved to Iowa in about 1854 or 1855, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Ferrell was one of the original "Forty-niners" who, leaving St. Joseph, made the long, tiresome and dangerous trip across the western country to California, where he remained for three years. He was fairly successful and came home, making the long ocean trip by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. Thereafter he devoted himself to farming pursuits and was known as an industrious and well-to-do citizen. By his union with Amanda Wilson there were born three children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only survivor. After her death he was married to Elizabeth Reynolds, to which union were also born three children, namely: Mrs. Belle Pugh, of La Homa, Oklahoma, where her husband is a farmer; Elijah E., a ranchman in Texas; and John William, a railroad employe in Iowa. Elijah Ferrell was a democrat in his political faith and was a member of the Christian Church. The subject's maternal grandfather Wilson was a pioneer resident of Iowa, where his death occurred.

Edward R. Ferrell received the major part of his educational training in the district schools of Iowa, attending also one term in the public schools of Allerton. He was reared to the life of a farmer and remained with his father until he had attained his majority, when, in 1883, he came to Nebraska. He was employed on farms in several counties, including Butler, Colfax and Adams, breaking virgin farm land, running a threshing machine, and other phases

of farm work for a year. In 1884 Mr. Ferrell came to Lincoln county and homesteaded a tract of land, on which he resided from 1885 to 1907. He gave his attention closely to the improvement and cultivation of his farm, in which he met with pronounced success through the years. He devoted his attention not only to general farming, but also became widely known as a cattle raiser and dealer. He prospered in all his operations and still owns a large body of land and still gives considerable attention to the cattle business. In addition to his farm interests Mr. Ferrell was for nine years a partner with E. B. Spencer in the general mercantile business in Wallace, and is also a heavy stockholder in the Citizens Security Bank at Wallace, of which he is the president. This is one of the solid and influential financial institutions of Lincoln county, having a capital of \$15,000, a surplus of \$4,000, and average deposits of \$375,000. When Mr. Ferrell came to Lincoln county practically his only tangible asset was a good span of mules, but he had an unlimited supply of industry, perseverance and sound common sense, elements which have brought to him the success which is now his.

In January, 1892, Mr. Ferrell was married to Josephine Barenburg, a native of Cook county, Illinois, and the daughter of August Barenburg. The latter died January, 1920, in Cook county, where he owned seventy-five acres of land fourteen miles north of Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell have been born two children, namely: Floyd, who is assistant cashier of the Citizens Security Bank at Wallace, and Carrie, who is attending school at Curtis, Nebraska.

Politically Mr. Ferrell gives his support to the democratic party, while fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being a past noble grand of the subordinate lodge to which he belongs. He has been successful in business, respected in social life and as a neighbor he has discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of the state where the essential qualities of manhood have ever been duly recognized and prized at their true value.

**CHARLES A. DISCOE.** One of the enterprising and industrious farmers of Lincoln county who has earned his present prosperity is Charles A. Discoe, who was born in Germany in 1880, a son of August Discoe, who came to the United States in 1881, and located at Cleveland, Ohio, from whence he moved to North Platte, Nebraska, in 1887. A sketch of the Discoe family is given at length elsewhere in this work.

Charles A. Discoe is essentially a product of the west, for he has lived in Lincoln county since he was seven years old, and his educational training was received in the schools of North Platte. In 1903 he began farming on his own account, and utilized the opportunity which came to him to buy railroad land. He now owns three-quarters of a section, and is carrying on general farming and stockraising, his efforts having always been directed in these branches of agriculture. Ever since he began handling stock he has made it a practice to have a good grade, and his product shows the effect of careful selection and breeding. All of the improvements on this farm have been made by him, including the planting of a nice orchard. When he had completed the purchase of his farm Mr. Discoe had but fifty cents in money to his name, and yet such was his energy and ability to impress others with his stability that

it was not long before he was able to erect a large barn and make other necessary improvements which have greatly added to his property value. Mr. Discoe belongs to the stockholders of the Farmers' Union of Omaha, Nebraska, and of the Farmers' Co-Operative Elevator Company at Brady.

In 1904 Mr. Discoe was united in marriage with Pearl Rose, born in Nebraska, a daughter of Samuel Rose, one of the early settlers of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Discoe became the parents of the following children: Homer, who is attending District No. 2 school; Arthur, who is attending the same school as his brother; and Glenn, Erma and Charles, who are at home. Mr. Discoe is an independent voter and has been treasurer of his home school district for the past four years. An excellent farmer, his property shows that he takes a pride in it, and it is safe to say that he has never let an opportunity for advancement slip by him, for he is too shrewd a business man not to appreciate such at their true value, and seek to make use of them. At the same time he has put in more than his share of hard work, and has conducted his affairs thriftily and deserves the success which has attended him.

**FABIAN POHL.** The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished, and, as taken in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, there is particular interest attached to the history of the subject of this review, since he is a native son of Lincoln county, where his entire life has been passed, and has so directed his ability and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens of the community, being a worthy son of one of sterling pioneer families.

Fabian Pohl was born in Lincoln county, Nebraska, on the 17th day of January, 1894, and is the son of John and Anna (Horak) Pohl. The father was a native of Bavaria, where he was reared and educated. He immigrated to the United States and in 1886 homesteaded land in Lincoln county. In 1890 he was married to Anna Horak, and their union was blessed in the birth of ten children, named as follows: Antonia, a farmer of this county; Mrs. Mary Munson, of Custer county, Nebraska; Fabian, the immediate subject of this sketch; Charles, Lucy, Anna, Peter, Esther, Arthur and Roy.

The subject of this sketch was reared under the parental roof and secured his educational training in the public schools. He has never forsaken the vocation to which he was reared and has made a distinct success of agriculture. He started out on his own account in 1917, and is now the owner of 160 acres of good land situated near the parental farmstead, which he operates in connection with his own farm. He conducts general farming operations, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, principally cattle and hogs, in which he is meeting with encouraging success. Persistent industry and sound judgment are his chief characteristics, and if his operations so far are any criterion, he has a prosperous and successful future before him.

Politically Mr. Pohl is not aligned with either of the great parties, preferring to maintain an independent attitude and voting according to the dictates of his conscience and judgment. Genial in disposition, he readily makes friends and he is held in the high-

est regard throughout the community where his entire life has been spent.

**Mrs. MATILDA ERICKSON.** The family of which Mrs. Matilda Erickson is a creditable representative has been well known in Lincoln county for many years, and, without making any invidious comparisons, it can be truthfully said that no name is held in higher regard. Honored and respected by all, there is today no woman in this locality who occupies a more enviable position in the circles in which she moves. She possesses unusual tact and soundness of judgment; these and other commendable attributes, coupled with her industry and gracious personality, render her popular with all classes and she has won and retained a host of friends throughout this locality.

Mrs. Matilda Erickson was born in Sweden on January 16, 1868, and was reared and educated in her native land. When she had grown to womanhood she became the wife of Niels Erickson, who also was a native of Sweden. Upon his arrival in the United States he came at once to Phillips county, Nebraska, where he filed on a homestead claim, and then "kinkaided" 160 acres of land in Lincoln county. To the improvement and cultivation of this last tract he devoted himself with indefatigable energy and sound judgment, with the inevitable result that eventually success crowned his efforts. He was progressive and enterprising in his tendency and left no stone unturned to develop his farm to the highest degree of efficiency. He erected a good set of farm buildings on the place, all of which are substantial and attractive and everything else about the place is in evidence of the practical ability of the owner.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were married in 1887, and their union was blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Albin, who lives in Gothenburg, Dawson county; Amelia, Godfrey and Tillie, who are at home. The home farm of 160 acres is still operated by Mrs. Erickson and her children, and they have carried forward in a very commendable manner the work so well inaugurated by the husband and father, whose death occurred when he was seventy-four years of age. In his death Lincoln county lost one of its representative citizens. As the day, with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of complete and successful efforts, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this honored man. His career was a busy and useful one, and although he devoted his attention primarily to his individual affairs, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature, being to the end a kindly, genial friend and gentleman, commanding the respect of all who knew him.

Mrs. Erickson and her children are earnest members of the Swedish Mission Church and take an active interest in all benevolent and charitable objects in their community. They move in the best social circles of the community, and are well liked by all who know them.

**FRANK CHORPENNING.** Before living in Nebraska Frank Chorpennning, the North Platte automobile salesman, had lived in Pennsylvania and Iowa. He was born May 20, 1873, a son of Simon Austin and Martha (Baker) Chorpennning, and in 1879 they migrated from Pennsylvania to Waterloo, Iowa. They lived for a while on a farm near Waterloo, but in 1885 they bought land near



Cozad, Nebraska, and they located in Cozad, where the mother died in 1914, and the father five years later. Frank Chorpenning was their oldest son; Daniel lives in Oakland, California, where he is a railroad engineer; a sister, Mrs. Fannie Smith, lives in Jefferson, Iowa; Mrs. Hattie Griffith lives in Maxwell, Nebraska; and John Chorpenning lives on a farm near Cozad.

S. A. Chorpenning was a well-to-do and successful man from the standpoint of thrift and economy. He was a Civil war soldier, and voted the republican ticket. The family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they were in Nebraska early enough to understand the hardships and privations always vouchsafed to pioneers.

Frank Chorpenning attended school in Waterloo, Iowa. He worked on a farm until he was twenty-one years old, when he learned the plumber's trade, and he "railroaded" for five years before starting the garage business with J. S. Davis. They had the first garage in western Nebraska. He remained there two years, when he sold out and went into business again with Avery Duvall at Cozad. In 1917 both came to North Platte and opened a Buick agency. In 1898 Mr. Chorpenning married Laura McConn. Their children are: George, Edmond, Martha, Frank and Jack. He is a Mason and votes the republican ticket. His entire time is devoted to the sale of automobiles.

**JOHN BATEMAN.** One of the up-to-date farmers and stockraisers of Lincoln county, who worked hard for what he now possesses, is John Bateman, whose excellent farm of 160 acres is located in section 10, township 13, range 26. He knows how to appreciate the true dignity of labor and to place a correct estimate upon the value of money. Nevertheless, he is liberal in his benefactions and stands ever ready to support with his influence and means all measures for the material and moral welfare of the community in which he has so long resided. Among those who know him best he bears the reputation of a man who exercises sound judgment and who has pronounced views, keeping himself well informed upon all matters pertaining to the public weal or woe and always exercising the duties of citizenship in a conscientious manner.

John Bateman was born in Canada on July 23, 1846, and is the son of Richard and Mary Bateman, both of whom are now deceased. The father, who was of English descent, was a bricklayer by trade and was highly respected in his community. The subject was reared under the parental roof and secured a good practical common school education. In 1864 he went to Chicago, Illinois, where he remained a short time, going then to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and thence to Des Moines, that state, where he remained for thirteen years. In 1885 Mr. Bateman came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded 160 acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he applied himself with energy and enthusiasm. His early years here were characterized by hard and unremitting toil, with many discouragements to overcome, but his industry and persistency were eventually rewarded, for prosperity attended him and for many years he has been numbered among the substantial and enterprising farmers of his section of the county. The permanent improvements of the farm are of a substantial and convenient character and everything about the place attests the enterprising character of the owner.

In 1895 Mr. Bateman was married to Amanda Lamb, a native

of Arkansas, and the daughter of Benjamin and Jane Lamb, both of whom are deceased. To Mr. Bateman by two marriages have been born five children, namely: Maggie, Mabel, Lula, Elva and Vernon.

Politically Mr. Bateman gives his support to the democratic party and takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of his locality. He has several times been honored by election to local public office, having rendered effective service as road overseer, constable and as member of the School Board. He is a strong advocate of advanced educational methods and gives his earnest support to every measure for the general welfare of the people. Because of his earnest life, high character and industry he enjoys the confidence and esteem of all who know him and is eminently deserving of specific mention in a work of the character of the one in hand.

**MICHAEL W. McCULLOUGH**, a native of Lincoln county, is one of the vigorous examples of the second generation who are carrying forward the great industry of this county, farming and stockraising.

Mr. McCullough, who maintains his family in North Platte for the school advantages that city affords, was born at Maxwell in this county in 1878, son of John and Mary (Gallagher) McCullough. His father came to Lincoln county as a railroad man about 1865, later homesteaded and developed a substantial business as a farmer and stockman. He died in 1907.

Michael W. McCullough was educated in the common schools, and as a boy was given an increasing assignment of duties about the home farm and ranch, and by the time he reached his majority was a competent judge of livestock and an expert in handling all the work of ranch and range. He continues in the same business, raising good grades of livestock and feeding extensively for the market.

Mr. McCullough married in 1906 Dana Laytol. She was born in Wisconsin, daughter of Evlin and Eliza Laytol. Her parents were natives of England but were married in Ames, Iowa, and her mother lived for some time in Lincoln county. Mr. and Mrs. McCullough have two children, Philip and Mildred; both of whom are receiving good educational advantages at North Platte in the Sisters school. The family are members of the Catholic Church and Mr. McCullough is a Knight of Columbus. Politically he is an independent voter. Besides his ranching interests in Lincoln county he is interested in a lumber company in Colorado.

**EDMUND DICKEY**. A North Platte business man of thirty years' standing, Edmund Dickey has put forth his chief exertions in furnishing the community a high class modern laundry service, and that service has been well appreciated and the business is a thoroughly prosperous one.

Mr. Dickey was born January 3, 1875, at Eldorado, Kansas, and is a brother of R. R. Dickey, another North Platte business man. He was reared and educated at Eldorado, and the high school education he received there was supplemented in the Illinois Normal University at Normal. His first regular employment was in the office of the Registrar of Deeds at Eldorado, after which for twelve years he was engaged in farming and stockraising in Nebraska.

When Mr. Dickey moved to the town from the ranch in the year 1907, he and his brother R. R. Dickey took up the wholesale ice cream and bakery business. Later he entered the laundry industry,

and from year to year has given his business new equipment and better service until the Dickey Sanitary Laundry is one of the best in western Nebraska.

In 1897 he married Nellie E. Covell, whose father, Walter K. Covell, was an early resident of North Platte. They have two sons, W. Edmund, Jr., who helps his father manage the laundry, and Robert, attending the senior high school. The Dickeys are members of the Episcopal Church, Mr. Dickey being a vestryman of the church. For a number of years he has been the republican member of the North Platte School Board, and is on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. Fraternally he belongs to the Country Club, the Elks and the Lodge of Yeomen. While he enjoys church and social relations in the community, his first consideration is the success of the Dickey Sanitary Laundry.

**G. W. FERBRACHE.** Biographies should not be published unless there is something in the life and character of the individual worthy of emulation or imitation by others under like circumstances—certainly not for self-aggrandizement; but sufficient has been drawn from the life history of G. W. Ferbrache, one of the large land owners and most progressive agriculturists of Lincoln county, to show that there is something in the inner life of this man worthy of more than incidental mention. He began life practically at the bottom of the ladder, which he has climbed to the top with no help but a brave heart, industrious hands and an intelligent brain, and is a living example of what may be accomplished in this nature-favored country of ours by thrift and perseverance, even under circumstances that are frequently discouraging.

G. W. Ferbrache is a native of Illinois, where he was born on May 18, 1861, and is the son of Dr. Peter Andrew and Hannah (Ray) Ferbrache. The father was a native of Ohio, where he was reared and educated, and later he took full courses in both medicine and dentistry. He finally located at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where his death occurred when he was seventy-five years of age. His wife, who was born in Broad Ripple, Indiana, died at the age of seventy-eight years. The subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth of their eight children, six sons and two daughters.

G. W. Ferbrache remained under the parental roof until about twenty-two years of age, and secured his education in the common schools. In 1883 he came to Nebraska, locating in Saunders county, where he spent a year, and then came to North Platte. He worked a month on the B. and M. dump between Aurora and Grand Island in the spring of 1884, but one of his horses dying he went back to Saunders county and worked on a farm during that summer. He came to North Platte in the following fall, worked on Frederici's place a couple of weeks, then trapped on West Birdwood during the winter and took a homestead in the spring on the Birdwood Table, where he has been located ever since. His first employment hereabouts was on the Frederici Ranch, four miles west of North Platte, but in 1885 he turned his attention to farming. He homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 14, township 15, range 33, and immediately located on the land to prove it up and improve it. His first home there was a dug-out, and Mr. Ferbrache is responsible for the statement that when he had taken out the homestead his sole remaining cash capital was five cents! Certainly that was not a comfortable situation, but he was energetic

and ambitious, and had abundant faith in his own ability to carve success out of his environment. His first humble home was in the course of time succeeded by a fine concrete structure, and the other improvements on the place have been of a substantial and conventional character. The first few years here were characterized by toil of the most strenuous kind, but eventually the tide turned and prosperity attended his efforts. They added to their possessions from time to time as they were able and today are the owners of over 1,900 acres of splendid land, which includes the original homestead. When they came here there were but few houses in his locality and practically no fences, and he has been a witness and participant in the wonderful development which has characterized this section of the state. In addition to his own land, Mrs. Ferbrache is also the owner of the northwest quarter of section 14 and a timber claim in the southeast quarter of section 10, which she secured from the government, and which is included in the above.

Mr. Ferbrache was married in North Platte, Nebraska, on March 13, 1887, to Emma Beach, who was born in Princeville, Peoria county, Illinois, on January 30, 1849, the daughter of Lester and Leydia (Chase) Beach. These parents were both natives of New York state, the former born in Rochester and the latter in Penn Yan. The father was a cabinetmaker by trade and in an early day moved to Illinois, making the trip by wagon. Both are now deceased, the father dying in 1859, at the age of fifty-four years, and the mother died when eighty-eight years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Ferbrache has been born one child, Cora Star, who is the wife of Ray Green, of Idaho. During the World war the latter enlisted and saw active service in France, being in the Argonne drive and other important movements of the United States troops.

Politically Mr. Ferbrache gives his support to the democratic ticket and takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of the community, giving his support to every movement for the welfare of the people. Because of his earnest character and the success he has attained, he enjoys an enviable standing among his fellow citizens.

**P. R. PETERSON.** The march of improvement is accelerated day by day, and each successive moment seems to demand of men a broader intelligence and a greater discernment than did the preceding, showing that successful men must be live men in this age, bristling with activity. The purpose of biography is to preserve the records of such men for the edification of succeeding generations; thus the lesson of biography may be far-reaching to an extent not superficially evident. A man's reputation is the property of the world, for the laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being either submits to or rises above the controlling influence which touches, controls, guides or misdirects others. If he be honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, investigation will brighten his reputation and point the way along which others may follow with like success. The career of P. R. Peterson, a well known farmer of township 12, range 26, is of that class of enterprising citizens whose example is calculated to be an incentive to others, for his efforts have met with a fair measure of success in life's affairs.

P. R. Peterson was born in Henry county, Illinois, on November 13, 1867, and is the son of O. B. and Katherine (Helbon) Peter-



*E. W. Fetter,*

in Illinois and Iowa, but his death occurred in Los Angeles in 1909. Doctor Fetter's mother is now living in Illinois. She is a member of the Christian Church, as was her husband, and the latter was affiliated with the Masons and Odd Fellows, and in politics was a democrat. He enjoyed a number of official honors in town and county offices. William Fetter and wife had four children: A. T. Fetter, who is manager of the advertising and printing department of the Southern Pacific Railway Company at San Francisco; J. W. Fetter, who was a druggist at Maxwell, Nebraska, where he died in November, 1918; Mrs. Jens Summers, whose husband is proprietor of a general mercantile establishment at Maxwell; and Earl W.

Doctor Fetter had a thorough literary and professional education. He attended the high school of Oakland, Iowa, was also a student in the University of Missouri, and took his medical course in Creighton University at Omaha, where he graduated in 1909. Since then he has enjoyed the opportunities of post-graduate work in Rush Medical College at Chicago, and was abroad for a year in the University of Vienna. Doctor Fetter began practice at Macedonia, Iowa, but in 1910 came to Lincoln county and was a resident of Brady. He moved to North Platte in 1916, but had hardly become well established in the local profession when he entered the army in 1917. He was given his first training at Fort Riley, afterward did post-graduate work in army practice at Cornell University, and from there went overseas to France. He remained in the service until honorably discharged June 9, 1919, with the rank of captain in the Medical Corps. Doctor Fetter has a busy general practice, gives all his time to his profession, and is a member of the Lincoln County, State and American Medical Associations. In politics he is a republican, and he is affiliated with the Masonic Order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Lodge No. 985 of the Elks. Mrs. Fetter is a member of the Episcopal Church.

He married in 1914 Hazel P. Ellsworth. Mrs. Fetter is a native of Douglas county. They have one child, Jean.

**FRANK COATES.** In order to successfully conduct any business a man must bring to it enthusiasm, tempered by sound practical judgment especially designed to meet the needs of his patrons. Unless he possesses these qualities no one is likely to succeed, and unless success crowns a man's efforts he is not liable to be satisfied with his lot in life. Dissatisfaction with environment is productive of much of the unrest of today, consequently a cure for the ills of the world would seem to be the careful selection of a calling or trade so as to make the inclination and ability jibe with the work required. Frank Coates, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Sutherland Lumber Company, judged by the above standards is the right man in the right place, and because of his special fitness for his business is not only acquiring a well-earned prosperity, but is also giving his community an excellent service and affording the lumber interests with which he deals proper marketing facilities for their product.

Frank Coates was born in Richland county, Wisconsin, in 1863, a son of Henry F. and Nancy A. (Conner) Coates, natives of England and Virginia, respectively. They came to Wisconsin and became the owners of farming property in that state, conducting it as general farmers. In 1884 he brought his family to Lincoln county,

Nebraska, and homesteaded and proved up his claim, which he devoted to farming and stockraising until his death in 1900. A very strong republican, he was active in his party, and served as a justice of the peace. Both he and his wife were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and always participated in church work. For fifty years he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and at the time of his death there were three generations of his family belonging to the local lodge of that order in Lincoln county. Henry F. Coates and his wife had the following children: V. D., who lives in Illinois; Frank, whose name heads this biography; A. S., who is a resident of Sutherland; Elmer, who is in the lumber business at North Platte, Nebraska; Nora, who is the wife of Schuyler Gunnell; Myrtle, who is the wife of Frank Coker of Sutherland; and Clara, who is the wife of A. L. Chase, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

After attending the local schools of Wisconsin Frank Coates came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Perkins county, proved up his claim and farmed it until 1897, when he came to Sutherland and embarked in a lumber and coal business, which has since been expanded and is now operated under the name of the Sutherland Lumber Company, of which, as before stated, Mr. Coates is secretary, treasurer and manager.

In 1890 Mr. Coates was united in marriage with Dora E. Dille, a native of Wisconsin, the ceremony being performed at Mason City, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Coates became the parents of six children, five of whom survive, they being as follows: Guy, who is Nebraska manager of the H. F. Gilcrest Lumber Company at Elm Creek, Nebraska; Fay, who is in the employ of the Sutherland Lumber Company; Elsie, who is at home; Dorothy, who is attending school; Hazel, who is also attending school; and Edna, who is deceased.

Like his father, Mr. Coates is an enthusiastic member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Both Mr. and Mrs. Coates are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Sutherland, to which they contribute generous donations of time and money. Mr. Coates prefers to vote independently, supporting the man rather than the party.

During the late war Fay Coates was one of the young men of Lincoln county who served in the army, as a member of the Eighty-ninth Division of the Three Hundred and Fifty-fourth Infantry, and after being sent overseas was on the front line for 112 days between barrages, and participated in the campaigns of the Saint Mihiel, Argonne and Meuse sectors. His service extended over a period of eighteen months, and he received his honorable discharge at Camp Funston, Kansas, with the rank of sergeant.

**GEORGE T. FIELD.** A man of sterling integrity and ability, and of far more than average business acumen, the late George T. Field was for many years conspicuously identified with the development of the lumber interests of North Platte, and to him there will long be accorded a tribute of honor as one who contributed in no small measure toward the progress and prosperity of the city and county. A native of Illinois, he was born in 1860 in Peoria, coming from honored New England ancestry. His parents, George and Sarah (McClellan) Field, were born, reared and married in Massachusetts. After leaving their native state they lived a very short time in Peoria, Illinois, from there moving to Chicago, where the death of

the father occurred. The widowed mother subsequently came to North Platte, and spent her remaining years at the home of her son George, passing away at the advanced age of ninety years.

But a few days old when his parents removed to Chicago, George T. Field acquired his education in that city, and there began his active career as bookkeeper in a wholesale mercantile house. For a number of years he was associated with the Howell Lumber Company, which had yards in Iowa and Nebraska, and in the interests of the firm he made several trips to North Platte. Impressed with the business advantages of the enterprising and growing city, Mr. Field finally bought an interest in what was known as the North Platte Lumber Company, being associated in the purchase with Horton Boal. Subsequently buying out his partner, he carried on a large and lucrative business as head of the North Platte Lumber Company, continuing its management until his death, January 2, 1912.

Enterprising and progressive, and keenly alive to the needs of the hour, Mr. Field was among the foremost in aiding beneficial projects, and he built and owned the first telephone service installed in the city and surrounding country. He sold his telephone interest before his death, devoting his last years to his lumber business, from which he received a substantial income. In 1911 he built the beautiful home at 502 West Fifth street now occupied by Mrs. Field, and there took great pleasure in entertaining his many friends and associates. Fortunate in his business ventures, Mr. Field accumulated a handsome property, leaving at his death a valuable estate. Mrs. Field still retains an interest in the lumber business.

As a young man Mr. Field was a republican, but later became identified with the democratic party, and although he was never an office seeker he had decided views on all political questions, and was keenly interested in public matters. Fraternally he was a charter member of the North Platte Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and prominent in its affairs; and belonged to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On January 10, 1895, Mr. Field married Blanche Baker, who was born in Massachusetts, and was educated in Boston and at Wellesley College. Her father, Murray Baker, was born in Massachusetts, and died in Boston. He married Ella Bigelow, who was likewise a native of Massachusetts. She is now living in North Platte, making her home with Mrs. Field. Mr. and Mrs. Field united with the Episcopal Church many years ago, being among its most active and faithful members. Mr. Field's sister, Mrs. G. F. De Lany, resides in Los Angeles, California.

JOSEPH MORSCH is a North Platte business man whose name is entitled to the very highest respect and esteem. Mr. Morsch in his career illustrates what it is possible for a man to do in spite of the difficulties of physical handicap.

His life record began on board a ship in the harbor of Sydney, Australia, where he was born January 21, 1855, to Jacob and Clara (Frolich) Morsch. His parents were natives of Nassau, Germany, and his father was a merchant tailor. They had immigrated to Australia, but remained there only eleven months, and then started on another extensive sea voyage which took them to Santiago, Chili, South America. Jacob Morsch lived in South America and followed his trade for nine years. In 1865, when Joseph was ten years of



age, the family located in New York. He remained in that state many years, but came to live with his son in North Platte in 1900, and died here in 1908. The mother died in New York City. Of five children two are still living, the daughter Catherine being the wife of Mr. Gimpler, who is connected with a house wrecking concern at New York City. There are also three nephews, John G. Jenner and Joseph and Charles Ries, and one niece, Anna Ries Quetting, residing in New York and New Jersey. The Morsch family are Catholics.

Joseph Morsch secured his early education chiefly in the schools of New York City. The first regular employment he had was helping in a millinery store. For three years he was a messenger boy at the Clarendon Hotel. For 2½ years he worked at the jewelry trade and for three years was on the road selling notions. In Illinois he followed the milling business for 1½ years. As a young man he had learned the barber trade in New York City, and on coming to North Platte resumed that business and trade.

In 1896 Mr. Morsch was afflicted with an impairment of vision which has practically amounted to total blindness. In 1900, for a short time he attended the school for the blind, which is located at Nebraska City, Nebraska. He reads the raised point system and uses a Corona typewriter for his correspondence. He never thought of giving up the fight, and it is a remarkable testimony to his abilities that most of his prosperity has been won in the past twenty-five years. He had the aid and good sense of his wife to co-operate with him. His first enterprise was operating the Midway Restaurant, which he conducted successfully for eight years. Since then most of his time has been given to the real estate business. He and his wife own three large business buildings on Locust street, another building on Dewey street, and a comfortable home at 305 West Third street, besides some vacant property. Mr. Morsch still does some buying and selling of real estate, but is practically in a position to lead a life of leisure and retirement.

March 2, 1893, he married Mrs. Jennie S. Klenk, a widow, who was born in Missouri, a daughter of John and Sarah (Fostick) King. Her father was a native of Baltimore and her mother of Angelica, New York. Her parents were married in Illinois and in 1853 came to Nebraska and in 1879 settled in Buffalo county. Her father homesteaded, and developed the farm on which he lived until 1894. On selling his land he moved to North Platte, and he and his wife spent their last years with Mrs. Morsch. In the King family are eight living children: John W., a miner and railroad man at Lyons, Colorado; Franklin L., a machinist inspector in an automobile works at Elyria, Ohio; Victoria, widow of Albert Brundige, living at Berlin Heights, Ohio; Mary L., wife of Emory Welton, a real estate man and carpenter at Fresno, California; Flora, wife of Frank Colburn, a surveyor living in Illinois; Mrs. Morsch; Edwin, a farmer living at Lewellen, Nebraska; and Charles A., who began a career as a railroad man in 1898, and almost continuously has been in the service of the Union Pacific, and is now an engineer living at North Platte.

On December 25, 1888, Miss Jennie S. King became the wife of Philip M. Klenk, a native of Missouri. Mr. Klenk was proprietor of a meat market in North Platte several years and died there April 22, 1891. Mrs. Morsch has one child by her first marriage, George William Klenk, who for several years was an employe of the

North Platte postoffice, and is now a locomotive fireman living in North Platte. G. W. Klenk was married September 29, 1913, to Mary Anna Roofing, and they have two children, Jennie Anna Klenk and George William Klenk, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Morsch are members of the Episcopal Church. For forty-two years he has had affiliation with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has filled all the chairs in the subordinate lodges and is also a member of the grand lodge of Nebraska. Politically he casts his ballot independently.

WALTER W. ROSS is one of the railway men whose homes are at North Platte, and he has spent most of his life in Lincoln county, where he has had varied experiences, in commercial lines, as a homesteader and farmer, and also in railroading.

He was born at Catlettsburg, Kentucky, August 9, 1870, son of J. H. and Lydia (Boley) Ross. His parents were born in Ohio, were married in Kentucky, and both are now living in North Platte. The family came to Nebraska about 1875, and lived in Omaha for some years. J. H. Ross worked as a cooper there. He homesteaded in Buffalo county and after selling his homestead moved to Dawson county and operated a timber claim. In 1887 he came to Lincoln county and bought a farm on Birdwood Tableland, and still owns that property, though he is now retired from business. He and his wife are members of the Christian Church and in politics he votes as a republican. There were ten children in the family, seven still living, the oldest being Walter W., while the second, Bertha, is now deceased. James lives on Birdwood Creek in Lincoln county. Millard is a carpenter in Kansas City. William is a farmer on the Birdwood Table. Estella is the wife of William Smith, a farmer at Hershey. Benjamin, the youngest, is a farmer on Birdwood Table in Lincoln county. Amos Ross earned distinction as a soldier in the World war. He enlisted September 17, 1919, was trained at Camp Funston, later in a camp in New York, and went overseas with the Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division. He was in France eleven months, and in the great battle of San Mihiel was wounded, and was cared for in a field hospital for more than five months. He was returned home April 26, 1919, and is still suffering from his wounds. He received his discharge at Camp Dodge, Iowa, April 22, 1919. Amos Ross was born in Dawson county, Nebraska, January 17, 1888, was educated in the district schools of Lincoln county and the public schools of North Platte, and learned the carpenter's trade. He followed that and the painting trade until he entered the war, and had accumulated two good pieces of business property on West Sixth street, but sold this before entering the army. Recently with his brother-in-law and his brother he bought the Liberty Garage, and plans to take active charge of that business on November 1, 1919.

Walter W. Ross received his education in Omaha, and his early life was spent on a farm. When he came to Lincoln county in 1892 he farmed and homesteaded on Birdwood Creek. At North Platte he also worked in a store and as a barber, and in 1906 became an employe of the Union Pacific, being a locomotive fireman for six years and locomotive engineer six years, making twelve years of road service. Mr. Ross is now one of the men employed in the roundhouse.

In 1902 he married Miss Estella McCance, a native of Missouri. They have two children: Merle, now in high school, and Floyd, twelve years old. The family are members of the Christian Church. Mr. Ross some fifteen years ago served as assessor of Birdwood precinct. He is a republican in politics.

**WILLIAM KRUEGER.** The rate of progress of any section of the country depends largely upon the readiness of the people to profit from the advantages offered by it, and their willingness to work and save. Judging by the rapidity with which that part of Nebraska included in Lincoln county has been brought into a high state of civilization, its people must be especially efficient, industrious and thrifty. Certainly the majority of them are prosperous, and their cities and rural communities measure up to the best standards. One of the men of Lincoln county who is now living at Wallace, but still owns 480 acres of valuable land in the county, is William Krueger, who has won through hard labor and countless self-sacrifice his present prosperity.

William Krueger was born in Germany on November 10, 1843, a son of Christian and Christina Krueger, both natives of Germany. Christian Krueger was a shoemaker and worked at his trade until his death, which occurred in Germany. After his demise his widow came to the United States, arriving at the home of her son William in 1875, and she remained with him until she, too, passed away. She and her husband had two children, namely: Gotlieb, who is deceased; and William, whose name heads this review.

In 1874 William Krueger came to the United States and located in Putnam county, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming until 1890, when, learning of the opening up of government land, he decided to come to Nebraska, but he did not homestead until 1894, when he secured land in Lincoln county, proved up on it and has continued to improve it ever since, now having one of the best farms in this region. On it he carried on general farming, and from the time he put in his first crop, advanced, although only through the hardest of work.

On April 3, 1879, Mr. Krueger was married in Putnam county, Illinois, to Sophie Bieber, a daughter of Christian and Magdalena Bieber. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bieber were natives of Germany, who settled in Putnam county, Illinois, upon coming to the United States, and there they died. Mr. Bieber was a carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Krueger became the parents of six children, namely: John, who is deceased; Mrs. Etta Labor, who is living in South Dakota; Conrad, who is a farmer of Lincoln county, Nebraska; Henry, who is a veteran of the World war, is now living at Omaha, Nebraska and is a cartoonist; Lewis, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county, Nebraska; and Mrs. Rosie Seluman, who is living near Hayes Center, Nebraska. Henry H. Krueger took his examination for the army July 20, 1917, and was in the Sixty-first Aero Squadron, which was later changed to the Four Hundred and Seventy-third, and he was with the American Expeditionary Forces eleven months, receiving his discharge on the 24th of December, 1918, arriving home in time to eat New Year's dinner with his home folks. He is unmarried.

Reared in the faith of the Lutheran Church, to which his parents belonged, William Krueger early became connected with it, and he still maintains his membership, being valued in the church

of that denomination at Wallace. Mr. Krueger has not definitely connected himself with any party, preferring to cast his vote for the man who according to his judgment is best fitted for the office in question. A hard-headed man of affairs, deeply absorbed in developing his land and getting ahead, Mr. Krueger, through his innate honesty and fair dealing, was at the same time able to gain the respect of his neighbors, and is recognized as a good citizen and representative farmer.

**THOMAS SYKES.** Agricultural land is the foundation of all lasting prosperity, as has been proven since the beginning of the world, just as it is a recognized fact that good land is a safe anchor to the windward against the day when old age approaches. There are a number of men in this country who long ago recognized these facts as fundamental truths and governed their lives according to them, and Lincoln county has its full share of these progressive farmers, one of whom is Thomas Sykes of section 8, township 11.

Thomas Sykes was born in Illinois on May 13, 1870, a son of Henry and Sarah Sykes, both of whom are natives of England, who came to the United States in 1856 and located in Illinois. There they were engaged in farming activities until 1882, when they migrated to Nebraska, spending about eight years in Lancaster county and then, in 1890, locating permanently in Lincoln county, where the father homesteaded. He proved up his claim and was successfully engaged in farming it until his death, which occurred in old age, and his wife is also deceased. They had seven children, as follows: Mrs. Lida Tettington, who lives at Dickens, Nebraska; Jim, who is living in the State of Washington; Mrs. Eva Simpson, who is living in St. Joseph, Missouri; Lank, who is living in California; Mrs. Emma Coates, who is living in Kansas; Thomas, whose name heads this review; and Robert F., who is a farmer of Lincoln county.

Thomas Sykes came to Nebraska with his parents in 1882, and to Lincoln county in 1891, and received his educational training in Illinois and Nebraska. After coming to Lincoln county he homesteaded 160 acres, which he proved up, and later homesteaded 480 acres, proved it up, and later sold it. Still later he bought additional land and now owns 960 acres, a portion of which he rents, devoting the remainder to general farming and the raising of horses, having now 100 head. He has always believed in voting for the man rather than for the party, and has kept himself free of all such ties. Mr. Sykes does not belong to any religious organization. He is unmarried. Hard working and industrious, he has forged ahead and is recognized as one of the representative farmers and citizens of his locality.

**WILLIAM O. ANDERSON.** There is an old saying that nothing succeeds like success, but in order to secure the first advancement a man must possess certain characteristics, natural or cultivated, which will bring this about. He cannot loaf at his work and squander all that he does earn, and then expect to become prosperous. If he does not give to others an honest deal, they in turn cannot be expected to transact business with him according to the highest standards of probity. After all permanent success in a legitimate line of work proves more than business sagacity; it demonstrates that because of its lasting quality it has been erected upon a firm

foundation of right living and upright dealing, and is a superstructure that is a credit not only to its builder, but his community as well. Lincoln county is fortunate in having in its midst men who not only are successful, but are worthy of that success, and one of them is William O. Anderson, a farmer of section 22, township 9. He came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1886, and was among the early settlers who endured the hardships of its formative period. Buffalo chips were quite plentiful at that time, and were used as fuel, antelope were quite numerous, and Mr. Anderson and a man by the name of William Bundy killed one of the last deer in the southwestern part of the county. Mr. Anderson homesteaded before the Burlington High Line was built, and North Platte, some forty miles distant, was the nearest place to obtain supplies at that time.

William O. Anderson was born in Illinois on December 15, 1869, a son of August and Rachel Anderson, farming people who died in Kansas when their son William O. was nine years old. They had two other children, who are as follows: Ella Bundy, of New Mexico, and Lila Bragg, who is living in Kansas, William coming in between his sisters in point of birth.

William O. Anderson came to Lincoln county in 1886, and was at North Platte for a time. He homesteaded near Wallace, proved up and later took a tree claim and also proved it up, and now owns 320 acres of very valuable land, on all of which he has put in all of the improvements. His life has been devoted to farming, and he has made all of his own progress, for having become an orphan at such a tender age he was early forced to become self-supporting, and never had any backing.

In 1896 Mr. Anderson was married at North Platte to Emma Gardner, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Bert, who lives in South Dakota; Hugh, who is also in South Dakota; and Howard and Clarence, both of whom are at home. Mr. Anderson is an independent voter, and at one time was on the School Board of District No. 49. He has never connected himself with any religious organization. A hard worker, Mr. Anderson has never spared himself, but forged ahead and is recognized as one of the leading agriculturists of this part of the county.

**JOHN BURKE.** While John Burke, of North Platte, began life without any capital except his own effort to do something, he now lives retired after a successful venture as a stockman. He is a son of John and Margaret (Burke) Burke, and was born in 1858 in Warsaw, Illinois. The parents were born and married in Germany, and in 1853 they came to the United States. They settled first in Minnesota and went from there to Illinois. Mr. Burke had always been a farmer and stockman, and in 1861 the family removed from Warsaw to Tecumseh, Nebraska. He freighted for a number of years as far west as Jewelsburg, but finally located on a homestead in Lincoln county. Both died in Lincoln county.

In the spring of 1864 Mr. Burke took the government contract to construct the fort at Fort McPherson. He entered land there and for many years he furnished railroad ties and cord wood to the Union Pacific. He was well to do when drowned in the Platte River in 1872. In his work as a contractor Mr. Burke had built several bridges across the Platte. Mr. Burke knew the hardship of the pioneer in Lincoln county.

There were eight children in the Burke family. Those living are: Mrs. John Bratt, of North Platte; John, who relates the family story; Peter, a farmer and stockman near Fort McPherson; Louis, a retired stockman of Portland, Oregon; and Milo, who is a stockman in Wyoming. The parents of John Burke, Sr., died in Germany. The early members of the family were Episcopalians and the family vote was democratic.

John Burke, Jr., was educated in Nebraska City, Nebraska, and continued the freighting business established by his father and later he engaged in the livestock business, which he continued for many years. In 1895 he moved to North Platte, and for many years he had charge of the stock yards for the Union Pacific. He continued in the management of the stock yards until April, 1918, when he retired from active business and now lives quietly in North Platte.

In 1888 Mr. Burke married Louise Errickson. She is a daughter of Emil E. Errickson and is a native of St. Louis. For a time he lived in Nebraska, but he now lives in Denver. He was also a stockman in the days of the wild pasture lands in Nebraska.

There were seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Burke. They are: William Wesley, who is a bookkeeper for the Union Pacific Railway Company; Mabel, wife of Charles Strauss, of Plattville, Colorado, her husband being a cashier in a bank; Louella is the wife of R. B. Stannard, who is cashier of the Western Union Telegraph Company in Denver; Harold R. is a student in the Nebraska State University; Grace E. is a clerk in the Union Pacific freight house; John Bratt had the training for overseas service at the Government Training School at Atchison, Kansas, and he is now in Denver, and Herbert A. is in Junior High School in North Platte.

While Mr. Burke is independent in politics his inclination is toward the republican party. In local elections when he knows the man he is influenced by such knowledge. He votes for the man rather than the party.

**WILLIAM E. FLYNN.** As a lawyer William E. Flynn has earned distinction in several localities where he has practiced in the past thirty years. Mr. Flynn enjoys a large general practice at North Platte, but most of his material prosperity has been gained since he came to Nebraska and began investing in lands and developing farm interests. Today he is one of the large farm owners of the state, and has shown exceptional ability in farm and ranch management.

Mr. Flynn was born in Waynesville, Warren county, Ohio, February 28, 1860, but has spent all his life since early childhood in Kansas and Nebraska. His parents were John and Mary Maria (Moran) Flynn. His parents were both born in County Tipperary, Ireland, his father in 1816 and his mother in 1826. They came to this country as young people, and were married in Warren county, Ohio. In 1868 they moved to Bourbon county, Kansas. Bourbon county is in southeastern Kansas, and when they located there it was close to the Indian frontier. John Flynn bought land warrants, developed a farm, and lived there until his death. He was an independent voter and a member of the Catholic Church. He died in October, 1892, and his wife in 1872. Of their three children two are living, William E. and Thomas J. The latter, born in 1866, is a prosperous rancher, handling fancy stock at Twin Falls, Idaho.

William E. Flynn grew up in Bourbon county, and finished his literary education in the Normal College at Fort Scott, the county seat of Bourbon. Later he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating in 1885. He was associated in practice for several years with C. W. Blair. For fifteen years Mr. Flynn practiced law at Kansas City, Kansas. In 1905 he settled in McPherson county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded. He still owns his quarter section homestead, but has extended his holdings there to three sections of land. He also has 326 acres in Lincoln county. Mr. Flynn came to Nebraska a comparatively poor man and in the past fifteen years has made a modest fortune. He served as county attorney in McPherson county, held the post of United States Commissioner in Kansas, and as an attorney is well grounded in the law and has always handled his practice with great ability. Mr. Flynn votes independently.

In 1887 he married Miss Alice Keating, who was born in Bourbon county, Kansas, daughter of John Keating. Her father was a Kansas pioneer, locating in the territory in 1854 from Ohio. He homesteaded, developed a farm, and he and his wife both died on their old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Flynn have a family of five children, two sons and three daughters. Bertha Florence, the oldest, is the wife of J. R. McDougall, a rancher in Lincoln county. Catherine for more than ten years has been employed in the Omaha offices of the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Flynn is particularly proud of the fact that both his sons were in the service of the country during the late war. William E., Jr., was the first boy to volunteer in Lincoln county. He enlisted early in 1917, being first assigned to the Medical Corps, later was in the Field Artillery, and received a commission as lieutenant at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. Much to his regret he was never sent overseas, but was assigned duty as instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The other son, Charles W., enlisted in 1917 and joined the Forty-ninth Coast Artillery, and was overseas six months. He received his honorable discharge in April, 1919. The youngest of the family, Louise, is a stenographer at Omaha.

**JAMES SADLE.** Actively and intimately associated with the agricultural interests of Lincoln county, James Sadle, of North Platte, is pleasantly situated in township 13, where he is profitably engaged in general farming, managing his estate with ability and success. A son of James Sadle, he was born April 12, 1862, in Bohemia, where his childhood days were passed.

Natives of Bohemia, James Sadle, Sr., and his wife, Mary Sadle, came with their family to the United States, the land of promise, locating in Johnson county, Iowa. Subsequently buying a tract of land, they labored industriously and intelligently, and on the fine farm they improved spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring at the age of seventy-two years. They were the parents of nine children, all of whom came to this country, one son, James, and one daughter being the two residents of Nebraska.

The fifth child in succession of birth of the parental household, James Sadle, a lad of twelve years when he crossed the ocean with this parents, acquired his early education in the rural schools of Iowa, in the meantime obtaining a practical knowledge of agriculture while assisting his father in farm work. When ready to start life for himself he located in Jefferson county, Nebraska, where he

remained for a time. Coming from there to Lincoln county, in 1885, Mr. Sadle took up a homestead claim, proved up, and at once began the pioneer task of improving a farm. He now owns 320 acres of valuable land, and is carrying on general farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale, the result of his labors being extremely gratifying.

Mr. Sadle married in Jefferson county, Nebraska, Julia Kulhnek, who was a native of that county, her birth having occurred in Fairbury. Her father, John Kulhnek, was born, reared and married in Bohemia. In immigrating to this country, he bought land in Jefferson county, Nebraska, and on the farm which he improved both he and his wife spent their remaining days. Eight children have been born of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sadle, namely: Bertha, deceased; Jimmie, a farmer, who is married and lives in Paxton, Nebraska; William, also a resident of Paxton, is married; Anna, wife of George Refoir, a farmer in Lincoln county; Frank, living in this county, is married; Josie; Lewis; and Mary. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sadle are members of the Methodist Church. Mr. Sadle is independent in politics, voting according to the dictates of his conscience regardless of party lines.

**FRED J. TETRO.** Coming to Nebraska when he was but eleven years of age, Fred J. Tetro has continued to make his home in Lincoln county, where his early years were passed in railroading, but where he is now the owner of a good farm in the Brady community and applies himself to general agriculture and stock-raising. Mr. Tetro is a native of Menominee county, Michigan, born in 1873, and a son of Joseph O. Tetro.

Joseph O. Tetro was born in Canada, and was a young man when he crossed the line into the United States, his first settlement being in Wisconsin. He was living in that state when the Civil war broke out, and at that time was made captain of Company F, Seventeenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he fought until the close of the war. Later he went to Michigan, where he was a lumberman and a hotel keeper, and where his death occurred May 12, 1908. He was a republican in his political faith, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a Catholic in his religious belief. He married Agilda Marcott, a member of the Congregational Church, who survives him and resides in California.

Fred J. Tetro attended the public schools of Michigan until he was eleven years of age, at which time he accompanied his mother to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and here continued his studies until he had completed the high school course. When he started upon his career it was in connection with railroading at North Platte, where he was a trainman for five years, but eventually returned to farming, in which he has since been successfully engaged. He is now the owner of a well-cultivated and valuable tract of 2,700 acres, secured through his own efforts, and in addition to producing large crops keeps an excellent grade of livestock, and is known in his community as a progressive agriculturist of scientific methods, and of integrity in his transactions. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-operative Association at Brady.

In 1903 Mr. Tetro was married to Miss Stella Elliott, who was born in Nebraska, a daughter of James B. Elliott, who was born reared and educated in Iowa. Mr. Elliott served in the Civil war



as a member of the Tenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry for four years, and on first coming to Nebraska followed the vocation of school teacher in Clay county, where he also homesteaded a farm. After spending some years in farming he retired and for a time lived at North Platte, where he still resides. To Mr. and Mrs. Tetro there have been born two children: Maxine E. and Kenneth O., who are both attending District School No. 74. Mr. Tetro is a republican in his political allegiance, but has not cared for public affairs, nor has he ever sought public preferment on his own account at the hands of his fellow-citizens. As a fraternalist he holds membership in the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has numerous warm and appreciative friends.

**JAMES T. KEEFE.** An attorney and counselor-at-law of North Platte, James T. Keefe has achieved success in the practice of his profession, and in the handling of difficult cases in which he has been employed has shown such wisdom and skill that he has won the trust and confidence of the community to such an extent that he was elected county attorney in 1918. A son of James and Anna Keefe, he was born in Detroit, Michigan, May 9, 1886, of Irish ancestry, his paternal grandparents having immigrated from Ireland to America, settling permanently in Canada.

The eldest of a family of five children, and the only one residing in Nebraska, James T. Keefe acquired his preliminary education in the public schools of Sioux City, Iowa, and in 1907 was graduated from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana. He thereupon entered the law department of the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, and was there graduated with the class of 1910. Coming to North Platte in December of that year, he began practice with the firm of Hoagland & Hoagland, and in dealing with the cases brought before him showed such good judgment and ability that his success was assured from the start.

In August, 1917, Mr. Keefe was appointed county attorney, and in the fall of 1918 was elected to the same important office, and is performing the duties devolving upon him conscientiously and well, and to the satisfaction of all concerned. During the World war he enlisted in the army and was sent to the Field Artillery Officers Training School at Camp Taylor.

Mr. Keefe is not married. He is a member of the Catholic Church, being true to the religious faith in which he was reared. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member and past exalted ruler of North Platte Lodge No. 985, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a republican in politics, and for four years served as city attorney of North Platte.

**ED J. VAN DERHOOF.** One of the active characters in the business and social life of North Platte is Ed J. Van Derhoof. His birth occurred May 23, 1862, while his parents were living at Jonesville, Michigan. There is always polish given to a rolling stone, and the Van Derhoof family lived in different localities, and when E. J. Van Derhoof entered business as a commercial traveler he still changed from one locality to another until he bought a business in North Platte and settled down in the community.

Ed J. Van Derhoof is a son of John W. and Mary (Rooney) Van Derhoof, the father born in New Jersey and the mother in Ire-

land. The father was born January 1, 1838, and died December 12, 1917, having lived through a period of great development in the land of his adoption. The mother lives with a daughter at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They lived for a time in New Jersey, and moved from there to Buffalo, New York, from Buffalo to Cold Water, Michigan, and from Cold Water to Laporte, Indiana.

The paternal grandparents, Robert and Harriet Van Derhoof, were natives of Holland, and came to the United States in about 1836.

While living in Laporte, Indiana, John W. Van Derhoof enlisted in the Civil war, where he was made an officer, and except for leave of absence on account of a serious wound he served throughout the war. When he returned from the army the family again lived in Michigan. In 1868 he went to Fredonia, Kansas, where he helped lay out the town and name it, also built the first store building in the town, and was engaged in the mercantile business and was an Indian trader until 1871. In that year he went to Chicago, where he became engaged in a transfer business with his brother, but the great fire burned everything, and going then to Cold Water, Michigan, Mr. Van Derhoof remained there until he came to Nebraska in 1885. He homesteaded near Sidney, but his death occurred in Idaho. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Van Derhoof: Ed J.; C. O., who lives in St. Paul; and Ida R. Pritchard, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The Van Derhoof vote has always been republican, and in his day John W. Van Derhoof held both township and county offices. He was a Mason and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and both orders had part in his funeral services. He lies buried in a military cemetery. While the family lived in Michigan, E. J. Van Derhoof attended school in a frontier log school house, but later went to school in Coldwater, but also during this latter period worked in a store during his spare time. His first employment was as a clerk in a clothing and dry goods store in Coldwater. While he was yet young he went to Chicago and entered the wholesale branch of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company, remaining with them until 1885, when he removed to Sidney, Nebraska, took up a homestead and became the manager of an Indian trading post store.

While at this Indian post Mr. Van Derhoof was assistant quartermaster, post banker and postmaster, and while stationed at Fort Duchense he also held three different government commissions at one time. Returning then to Sidney, he engaged in a general ranch supply business, remaining there until 1890, when he disposed of his holdings and accepted a position with the firm of Hart, Schaffner & Marx as a traveling salesman, later becoming general salesman for the Ely, Walker Dry Goods Company of St. Louis. While traveling he became acquainted with the Star Clothing House in North Platte, and February 1, 1902, he came to the city and took charge of it. The business was established in 1878 by Louis Cohen, and Mr. Van Derhoof is the fourth man to own and operate it.

At the time he took charge of the store, J. Guy Swope entered his employ as a clerk in 1904, and continued as a salesman until October 4, 1914, when he became a partner, and the business is incorporated under the name of the Star Clothing Company, Mr. Van Derhoof being the president and treasurer, while Mr. Swope is secretary and assistant manager. Since 1904 they have worked harmoniously together. They handle everything in men's and

boy's wear, trunks and leather goods. The capital stock of the company is rated at \$40,000, and the Star Clothing Company is one of the substantial business concerns of North Platte.

In July, 1907, Mr. Van Derhoof married Eva Hartman, of Grand Island. Her parents came from Glenn Falls, New York, and located in Grand Island, where he was an engineer on the Union Pacific for many years, but is now on the retired list and lives in North Platte. Mr. and Mrs. Van Derhoof are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he also belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Elks, having been a charter member and helped organize the latter order. He was its secretary and a member of the purchasing committee when the building site was selected. He is the republican member of the North Platte School Board, and while he devotes his attention closely to business he also finds time for considerable effort in the line of public welfare. He is a charter member of the Rotary Club.

**ARTHUR W. PLUMER.** The name Plumer has been prominently associated with the cattle and ranching interests of western Nebraska, particularly Lincoln county, since pioneer times. Arthur W. Plumer, who was born on a ranch in Lincoln county, after completing his education took charge of the family properties, and for a quarter of a century has been one of the leading cattle raisers and shippers out of this section.

Mr. Plumer was born at McPherson Station in Lincoln county July 13, 1874. He is a son of George H. and Emily (Smith) Plumer, his father a native of Rollinsford, New Hampshire, and his mother of Albany, New York, where they were married. George Plumer came west to Lincoln county in 1869, and was one of the early station agents along the line of the Union Pacific in western Nebraska. He left the railroad about 1876 and employed his capital and energy in the cattle business. While death overtook him in the prime of his life on August 14, 1883, he had nevertheless achieved a reputation as one of the ablest cattlemen in this section. At the time of his death he left a valuable ranch property. He and his wife had two children, Arthur and Herbert. The latter died at the age of six years at Maxwell, Nebraska. Mrs. George Plumer is still living with her son at North Platte. She is a Presbyterian, while her husband was a Baptist. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and a republican in politics.

Arthur W. Plumer was sent east to acquire his education in the Berwick Academy at Berwick, Maine. He graduated in 1892, just a century after that school was established. It is the oldest school in the State of Maine. His education completed, Mr. Plumer returned to Lincoln county and took charge of his father's ranch and has given his undivided attention to that business ever since. He now owns one ranch at Maxwell and another twenty-five miles southeast of North Platte. Besides the stock he raises he buys large numbers of cattle and ships regularly to the Omaha and Kansas City markets. Mr. Plumer is a republican, is a York Rite Mason and Shriner, and affiliated with Elks Lodge No. 985 at North Platte.

In 1905 he married Miss Vera Reed, a native of Rochester, New York. She died in August, 1916. She was a member of the Congregational Church, while Mr. Plumer attends Presbyterian worship.

OLIVER FRY, who owns eighty acres of finely improved land in section 18, township 13, is one of the representative men of Lincoln county who not only finds it profitable to be engaged in agricultural occupations, but also does an excellent business renting farm lands. He has established an enviable reputation for good business judgment and efficiency, and deserves the prosperity which has attended him.

The birth of Oliver Fry took place at Falls City, Richardson county, Nebraska, and he came into the world on November 12, 1872, a son of Oliver and Anna Fry, natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a mason by trade, but after he left Pennsylvania for Richardson county, Nebraska, he was engaged in farming, and he was also engaged in farming in Jefferson county of the same state, although his death occurred in the former county. His widow survives and makes her home in Jefferson county. They became the parents of eight children, namely: William, who is living at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Edith, who is deceased; Milton H., who is living at Falls City, Nebraska; Daniel, who is living at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; an infant and Mabel, both of whom are deceased; Oliver, whose name heads this review; and Quinta, who is living with the mother.

Oliver Fry learned the trade of a mason from his father and worked at it at other points prior to 1905. In that year he came to Lincoln county and followed his trade for three years. In 1908 he began farming, and now owns a fine rural property on which he is carrying on general farming and stockraising, and his business of renting farm lands is growing to large proportions, his practical knowledge of agriculture enabling him to handle these farm properties intelligently and profitably.

Mr. Fry was married to Cora Hollingsworth, born in Missouri, a daughter of Clark and Cora Hollingsworth, natives of Indiana, who after some time spent in Missouri came to Nebraska in 1880 and settled on a homestead in Lincoln county, which is near Wallace. This they proved up and lived upon, passing through all of the hardships incident to pioneer days in this region. After they had become comfortably fixed they had the misfortune of losing their improvements through a disastrous fire. Several years ago they retired and are now living at Hershey, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Fry have five children, namely: Hugh, who is at home; Grace, who is deceased; Emma, who is engaged in teaching the school of district No. 17; Mrs. Nora Frame, who is living in Lincoln county; and Clark, who is at home. Mr. Fry is a republican, and a good one. He and his family belong to the local Christian Church, to which they give a generous support. Fraternally Mr. Fry belongs to the Woodmen of the World. His uprightness and integrity have won him confidence and he is very popular all over Lincoln county.

EARL FEAR. A purpose in life is as the helm of a ship, it shapes direction to the goal, stirs ambition, arouses determination, and is the mainspring of success. To have some definite aim, some target to shoot at, no matter how modest it may be, is already to be well on the way to achievement. Purpose is something for which men endure difficulties and hardships, take blows and rebuffs, and tolerate disappointments. If the farmers of Lincoln county had not come here with the definite purpose of acquiring land at a low price which, through their efforts they could so develop and improve that

it would become valuable property, they never would have been able to endure the hardships or make the sacrifices demanded of all of the homesteaders of this region. One of the men who has always worked with a purpose and has become, as a result, one of the substantial men of the county is Earl Fear of section 29, township 12.

Earl Fear was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, on February 23, 1887, a son of William and Judith Fear, natives of Iowa and Virginia, respectively. William Fear was one of the early settlers of Colfax county, Nebraska, who in 1902 came to Lincoln county and homesteaded 160 acres of land and proved it up, developing into a prosperous general farmer and stockraiser. He died when he was forty-eight years of age, and his wife is also deceased. They became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Ethel Dickerson, who lives at Gibbon, Nebraska; Guy, who is living at Wallace, Nebraska; and Earl, who was the youngest.

Earl Fear was reared to be a farmer, and received his educational training in the district schools of Nebraska and finished at the Fremont Normal. In 1908 he homesteaded 480 acres, proved it up, and has made this into one of the valuable farms of the neighborhood. He has put in all of the improvements himself, and takes a pride in having everything up-to-date. Here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising, and has introduced some new methods into his work.

The wife of Earl Fear was named Lela Phelps before her marriage, and her parents were early settlers in the vicinity of Aurora, Hamilton county, and were there engaged in farming until they came to Lincoln county in 1899. They continued to farm south of Wallace until just recently the father moved to Sutherland, the mother being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fear have the following children: Neal, Dale, William and Violet, all of whom are at home. Mr. Fear belongs to the order of Odd Fellows. He has never formed any church connections. Independent in his political ideas, he gives his vote and support to the man he deems best fitted to discharge the duties of the office in question.

**CHARLES L. DILLON.** Land is a possession for which men have striven since the beginning of recorded history, for from it can always be had a living, and if it is properly cultivated it will produce wealth as well. The men of Lincoln county realize the fact that their investment in the fertile Nebraska land was a wise one and are satisfied with results as they stand today. One of these progressive citizens and successful agriculturists is Charles L. Dillon of township 9.

Charles L. Dillon was born in Livingston county, Illinois, on September 3, 1880, a son of William F. and Bridget Dillon, both of whom were born in Ireland, but came to the United States and, locating in Livingston county, Illinois, were there engaged in farming until 1891, in which year they came west to Colorado and still later to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he died, she, surviving him, living at Wallace, Nebraska. They were both born and reared in the faith of the Roman Catholic Church, of which they early became members. Their children were as follows: Charles L., who was the first born; David, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; John, who is living in Colorado; and William, who is living in New Mexico.

In April, 1907, Mr. C. L. Dillon was married in Lincoln county

to Catherine Doyle, a native of Lincoln county, a daughter of James and Mary Doyle, natives of Maryland, and early settlers of Lincoln county, to which they came in 1885 and homesteaded. Mr. Doyle is now deceased, but Mrs. Doyle survives him and lives with Mr. and Mrs. Dillon. Both Mr. and Mrs. Doyle early became Catholics. They had five children, as follows: Richard, who is living near Dickens, Nebraska; Michael, who is living in Hayes county, Nebraska; Patrick, who is living in Colorado; Catherine, who is Mrs. Dillon; and Mary, who is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Dillon have two children, Mary and John.

Mr. Dillon has spent his life in farming and now owns 720 acres of very valuable land in section 28, township 9. His improvements are good and he carries on general farming in a modern manner. He and Mrs. Dillon are members of the Catholic Church, and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus. His vote is cast for the man rather than for party affiliations. Experienced and industrious, Mr. Dillon has forged ahead and has fairly earned his present place in his community, where he is recognized as one of the successful agriculturists of this region.

**E. E. RINEGAR.** When the early settlers of Nebraska reached this state they were impressed by the unusual color of the native grass, which in many sections was red and produced a beautiful effect, especially when stirred by the wind. Practically all of the great plains of the red grass have disappeared before the advance of civilization, but they are closely connected with the recollections of pioneer days in the minds of those who saw them in all their pristine beauty. Of course the present fields of grain are much more valuable, and much more to be desired, but the thought of the original coloring will bring back old memories of the days when the present prestige enjoyed by the state lived only in the hopes of the most optimistic. One of the men who came to Lincoln county during its earlier period and has lived through the different transition periods is E. E. Ringear, a prosperous farmer and stockraiser and large landowner of the Sutherland district.

E. E. Ringear was born in Highland county, Ohio, May 16, 1867, a son of William A. and Elizabeth Katherine (Henley) Ringear. William A. Ringear was born in Ohio, and died in Missouri when he was fifty-six years of age. His widow, also a native of Ohio, survived him until 1903, and then she too passed away in Missouri. Farmers in Ohio, they continued in that calling in Missouri, where they became the owners of land. Their children were as follows: Luella, who is the wife of George Henry, lives in western Oklahoma; E. E., whose name heads this review; George M., who is a resident of Appleton, Missouri, is in the employ of a lumber company; W. R., who is a farmer of Lincoln county; Albert E., who died in 1895 while a resident of Missouri; Edward E., who is a farmer of Lincoln county, Nebraska; M. H., who is a farmer of Lincoln county; and Mary Elizabeth, who is the wife of G. Frank Price, a farmer of Lincoln county. Both parents of these children were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The father always gave an intelligent support to the democratic party.

Coming to Lincoln county from Missouri in 1888, E. E. Ringear was engaged in farming for two years before he homesteaded in 1890, but his claim was not then valuable on account of lack of proper moisture. He later bought his present property of 420 acres

of land, section 22, township 14, in the Sutherland district, and here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising with very gratifying results. About one-half of his farm is under the plow.

On December 12, 1904, Mr. Rinegar was united in marriage with Maude E. Ridgeway, born in Missouri, and they have the following children: Letha M., who is attending the Sutherland School; and Chester H., Everett N., Melvin H. and Ruth E. Mr. Rinegar gives his support to democratic principles, although in local affairs he sometimes votes for the man rather than for the party. In his fraternal relationship he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Rinegar was educated in the common schools of Missouri. She belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church and is much interested in church affairs. It has taken a vast amount of work to bring the farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Rinegar to its present state of cultivation, but the results are so gratifying that they feel repaid for their endeavors. New community interests are coming up all the while, and these are aids to the farmer and his wife in keeping in touch with the work of more centralized sections. The time has gone by when the people on a farm were shut off from participation in the world's work. Now they are the very center of it all, the foundation stone of the welfare and life of the human race, and their importance is being recognized in many ways that afford new opportunities for proper expansion and a normal amount of relaxation through contact with others.

**J. GIFFIN KITTLE.** The changes which have taken place in Lincoln county since this region of the state has been opened for entry are so remarkable that only those who remember the early conditions can realize what has been really accomplished through the enterprise and enthusiasm of the settlers. Those who came in later have of course done their part, but had the pioneers not had faith in the future of the county they would not have endured all of the initial hardships and come out triumphant. One of the men who knows what he is talking about when he says that it is not so long ago since there were only four houses between Maxwell and Brady is J. Giffin Kittle of the latter village.

J. Giffin Kittle was born in Illinois on February 1, 1876, a son of Phineas and Nancy (Rollins) Kittle, both natives of Indiana, who became the parents of four children, namely: Carrie, who married G. S. Hall, lives in North Platte, Nebraska; Sophia, who married T. C. Stevens; J. Giffin, whose name heads this review; and Mason, who is deceased. Phineas Kittle was a farmer by occupation and came to Lincoln county in 1888, at which time he homesteaded, proved up his claim and on it carried on general farming until his death in 1908. His widow survived him until 1914, when she, too, passed away.

J. Giffin Kittle was a lad when his father came to Lincoln county, and he attended its schools until he had completed his educational training. He then began farming and continued to be engaged in that calling for eighteen years, when he moved to Maxwell and from 1912 to 1914 conducted a blacksmithing business. He then came to Brady and is now janitor of its schools. When Mr. Kittle began farming in Lincoln county there were but four houses between Maxwell and Brady, a distance of about twelve miles, and a comparison between those conditions and the ones now prevailing gives some idea of the advance that has been made.

In 1896 Mr. Kittle was united in marriage with Josephine DeWitt, born in Nebraska, and they have four children, namely: Elma, who married Frank Swartz, lives at Maxwell; Lelia, who is engaged in teaching in the public schools; and Lester and Glyn, both of whom are at home. Fraternally Mr. Kittle belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World and the Odd Fellows. He and his family belong to the Baptist Church, and he takes great comfort in his religious connections. In politics he is a democrat.

DAVID SCOTT, a prominent business man and well known citizen of North Platte, has spent the greater part of his lifetime in Nebraska and has some interesting recollections of pioneer days in the state.

He was born in Jackson county, Indiana, in 1861, and was about thirteen years of age when his parents, John and Mary Susan (White) Scott, also natives of Indiana, moved out to Nebraska. His father was a sawmill man and lumberman in Indiana for twelve years. Moving with his family to Orleans, Nebraska, in 1874, he homesteaded and lived there at a time when it was necessary to freight all his supplies and provisions from Kearney. He and his wife spent their last days in Nebraska, and both were buried at Orleans. They were members of the Methodist Church, and the father was a Mason, a democrat, and served for several years as constable in Harlan county. Of their eleven children eight are still living, James, David, Jacob, Samuel, Sarah, Malinda, Martha and Nancy. All the children took up homesteads in Harlan county.

David Scott acquired some education in Indiana and after coming to Nebraska attended a school at Orleans. The schoolhouse was a dugout of a type familiar to all the pioneer settlers of that region. He also homesteaded in Harlan county, but relinquished his claim and in 1881 came to North Platte. Here he did teaming and delivered coal. Later he entered the railroad service as a roundhouse worker, was fireman for a time and then in the car repair department until he and his comrades went on strike in 1911. At that time he associated himself with his son Carl in the contracting business for laying concrete work, and subsequently began contracting for sand. They have equipments for pumping sand from the Platte River, and do an extensive business in carload lots. In 1919 Mr. Scott and son also completed a large icehouse at North Platte, and that is now his chief business interest. Plans are now well under way for the construction of a pleasure resort on the Platte River, the enterprise and most of the capital being supplied by Mr. Scott.

May 7, 1882, he married Josephine Davis, a native of Chicago. They had five children: Alice, deceased; Bertha H., wife of Virgil Thayer, who is employed at the Stacy Grocery at North Platte; Carl, his father's business associate, married Pearl Smith, a native of Edgar, Nebraska; Sigsbee, a chauffeur living in California; and Frederick, at home.

Mr. Scott is affiliated with the Modern Brotherhood of America, the American Nobles, and with his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is independent in politics. He served two terms in the City Council of North Platte, has also been a member of the fire department and police department, and takes a good citizen's interest in all local enterprises.



JOSEPH H. McCONNELL has been a resident of Lincoln county for over twenty years and today is proprietor of and operates a fine farm, largely irrigated land. His home is in section 24, township 14, range 32.

Mr. McConnell was born in Scotland August 29, 1867, son of William and Jeanette (Waterson) McConnell. His father was a native of Ireland while his mother was of Scotch birth. William McConnell spent many years as a Scotch farmer. He was known for his skill and industry, and several times he was awarded first prize in plowing competitions. When he came to America he was employed for a time in Illinois, and then came to Nebraska with his family, first locating at Hastings, and in 1884 he homesteaded in Keith county. He was on his homestead there for thirteen years before he came to Lincoln county. In this county he rented land and both he and his wife died in Lincoln county. They were life-long members of the Presbyterian Church. They had a large family of eleven children: Maggie, deceased; James, a bee raiser at Highland Park, Illinois; Alexander, a gardener at Sacramento, California; Jessie, wife of Frank Heneka, of Lincoln county; William, a farmer at Sarben, Nebraska; David, whose farm is in Lincoln county; John, deceased; Mary, wife of John Smithwick, a gardener at Santa Cruz, California; Thomas, a retired resident of North Platte; Joseph H., who is the tenth of the family; while Albert, the youngest, is a retired resident of North Platte.

Joseph H. McConnell acquired his early education in the schools of Scotland. He learned farming on his father's homestead in Nebraska and came to Lincoln county with his parents in 1896. Soon afterward he bought land and today he owns ninety-five acres, eighty of which are under irrigation and productive of the splendid crops raised on the irrigated lands in the western section of the state. He does general farming and keeps good grades of livestock and has made his farm notable for its substantial improvements. The first house he lived in on the farm twenty years ago was a sod house.

In 1898 he married Miss Grace V. Brown, now deceased. She was a native of Sac City, Iowa, and was a member of the Congregational Church. She became the mother of two children: Ferne, who teaches in the Hershey School, and Lester, attending school at Hershey. Mr. McConnell married for his present wife Nora Liles. Politically he is a republican.

F. H. PREITAUER. Throughout an active and interesting career duty has even been the motive of action of F. H. Preitauer, one of the progressive agriculturists of Lincoln county and usefulness to his fellow men has not been by any means a secondary consideration. He has performed well his part of life, and it is a compliment worthily bestowed to say that this locality is honored in his citizenship, for he has achieved definite success through his own efforts and is thoroughly deserving of the proud American title of self-made man, the term being one that, in its better sense, cannot but appeal to the loyal admiration of all who are appreciative of our national institutions and the privileges afforded for individual accomplishment.

F. H. Preitauer was born in Clayton, Iowa, on the 19th day of October, 1880, and he is the son of C. F. and Elizabeth (Neidomier) Preitauer. The father was born in Germany, where he was reared to the age of thirteen years, when he came to the United States,

locating in Iowa, where he followed his trade, that of a printer. To him and his wife were born nine children, four brothers and five sisters. The subject of this sketch was brought to Lincoln county in 1884 and was there reared and educated. His father had homesteaded a tract of land, and as soon as old enough he became his father's assistant in the cultivation of this land, of which he has become the sole owner since the father's death. He is now the owner of 640 acres of choice land and is devoting himself indefatigably to its operation. The place is well improved in every respect and under Mr. Preitauer's wise direction it has been made to yield abundant returns for the labor bestowed upon it. The subject is a man of progressive and up-to-date ideas as to agricultural matters, and among his neighbors he is held in high regard.

In 1903 Mr. Preitauer was united in marriage with Grace Dewitt and they have become the parents of three children, Iva, Edith and Hazel, all of whom are at home. Politically the subject is independent of party ties, preferring to vote according to the dictates of his own judgment. However, he is deeply interested in the public affairs of his locality and his support may always be counted on in behalf of any movement for the general welfare. Because of his sterling qualities of character and his business ability he is highly respected in the community where he lives.

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

J. M. Saxton was born in the State of Wisconsin on November 28, 1867, and is the son of W. M. and Phebe (Roach) Saxton. W. M. Saxton was born, reared and educated in Wisconsin, where he followed farming pursuits. In 1873 he moved to Boone county, Nebraska, where his death occurred when fifty-six years of age. His wife was a native of Canada, who moved to Wisconsin, where her marriage occurred. They became the parents of ten children, seven sons and three daughters.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm in Wisconsin and secured a good, practical common school education. On taking up the affairs of life on his own account he moved to Colorado, where he rented land and conducted farming operations for three years, 1896 to 1899, when he moved to Missouri. After a brief period spent in that state he again moved to Colorado, where he remained until 1916, when he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and bought 171 acres of land in section 10, township 15, range 33, where he is carrying on general farming. He is progressive in his ideas and methodical in his operations, his farm showing evidences of careful and painstaking attention to details. He has been eminently successful in his labors here and enjoys a high reputation as a successful farmer.

At New Windsor, Colorado, Mr. Saxton was married to Iva Brad-

shaw, a native of Missouri, and to them have been born six children, namely: Louis, Earnest, Gladys, Hugh, Emma and Earl. Louis took an active part in the World war, having enlisted in August, 1918, in the United States Army. He received an honorable discharge in March, 1919, and then enlisted in the Marines.

Politically Mr. Saxton is not bound by party ties, preferring to cast his vote in favor of those men and measures which meet his approval. Religiously he is a member of the Reorganized Church of Latter-day Saints. He is recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of the community along material, civic and moral lines, and enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and good will of all who know him.

E. M. DIKEMAN is a native Nebraskan, has spent practically all his life in Lincoln county, and his productive years have been spent in cattle ranching and general farming. The home farm where he lives in section 26, township 15, range 33, was taken in a virgin state and directly developed by him.

Mr. Dikeman was born at Eddyville, Dawson county, Nebraska, November 12, 1884. He was six weeks of age when his parents came to Lincoln county, and he spent his early life in the country, attended district schools, and at the age of twenty-three started out for himself and homesteaded in 1907. He has always handled cattle and in later years has gone in for diversified agriculture. His farm has thoroughly modern improvements, including house and barns. Mr. Dikeman's farm comprises 160 acres.

He married Miss Edna Johnson, who was born near Cambridge in Furnas county, Nebraska, June 17, 1883. Her father, George S. Johnson, was a native of New Jersey, and at the age of three years his people came west to Illinois and when he was eighteen years of age settled in Cass county, Nebraska. He homesteaded in that community before a railroad was built through. Later he moved to Lincoln county, where he remained ten years, and is now a resident of Oregon. George S. Johnson married Miss Marilla Sowards, who was born at Madison, Wisconsin, and came to Cass county, Nebraska, at the age of twelve. She was sixteen when she married. There were five children in the Johnson family: Elma, Alta, Willis (who died at the age of eight years), Mrs. Dikeman and Ivan. Mr. Dikeman is an independent voter and fraternally is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JAMES ROMINE, who is one of the best known men of Lincoln county, has affected many lives through his earnest efforts to turn others to a serious consideration of Christianity, and is held in the highest esteem by everyone. He was born in Ohio on July 17, 1838, a son of Elias and Ruth (Williams) Romine, natives of Ohio.

James Romine was reared in Ohio, and when he was sixteen years old he was licensed to preach the faith of the Methodist Church. His educational training has been confined to that given him by the early schools of Ohio, and his reading, but he has a natural eloquence and understanding of the Bible, and the force of his teachings are felt wherever he holds services. With the outbreak of the war between the states he cast his lot with the Union,

and enlisted in Company H, Thirty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was offered a commission as chaplain, but refused it, and served as a common soldier until he received his honorable discharge, his period of enlistment covering all but eleven days of the entire war.

In 1868 Mr. Romine went to Missouri, and two years later came to Nebraska, where he and his family lived in a stockade at Red Cloud for a time. Later he homesteaded, and after he proved up his claim moved to Lincoln county in 1884, homesteading north of Maxwell. Although he has done considerable farming, he has regarded preaching as his life work.

In 1859 Mr. Romine was united in marriage with Cherry Eblin, a native of Ohio, and they became the parents of the following children: Mary Viola, who married Charles G. Anderson, now deceased, and she lives with her father; Arthur, who lives in Wyoming; Otto, who lives in Colorado; Adelaide, who married John Eberly, lives in Minnesota; Anna, who is deceased, married Sylvester Pettitt; James, Jr., who was sixth in order of birth; and Lottie, who died in infancy. Mr. Romine is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and very much enjoys meeting his old comrades. Since childhood he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and his work in its behalf can scarcely be overestimated. His genuine sincerity, his earnestness in pleading and his marvelous descriptions are too well known all over this region to need repetition. He is one of those men who take their religion into their everyday life and exert a powerful influence through example as well as by precept. Truthfully it may be said of him that he is "of the salt of the earth."

**HAROLD E. BROOKS.** Among the younger generation of agriculturists in Lincoln county is Harold E. Brooks, of North Platte, who is successfully engaged in his independent calling on rented land, and in its management is showing such intelligent and sound judgment that he is fast winning for himself a place of note among the able farmers of his community. A native of Lincoln county, he was born August 8, 1896, a descendant on the maternal side of one of the early families of the county.

Henry Brooks, his father, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and as a lad of ten summers came with his parents to North Platte, Nebraska, which he has since claimed as home. Since starting in life for himself, he has carried on general farming and cattle raising with excellent results. He is a decided republican in politics, and he and his family belong to the Episcopal Church. He married Bertie M. Fraizer, a native of Lincoln county, and into their household seven children have made their advent, as follows: William, who during the World war served as a truck driver; Harold E., the subject of this sketch; Geneva, wife of R. V. McMaster, of North Platte; Millage; Helen; Homer; and Kenneth.

After leaving school Harold E. Brooks assisted his father on the home farm, becoming familiar with the art and science of agriculture as carried on by the up-to-date farmer. In 1915 he rented three-fourths of a section of land, and as a general farmer has since met with well-deserved success, the good results of his diligent toil being evident in the neatness and orderly appearance of his home and its surroundings.

On May 7, 1919, Mr. Brooks was united in marriage with Grace Knizley, who was born, reared and educated in Lincoln county. Her father, Earl Knizley, took up a homestead claim in this county,

and was thereafter engaged in tilling the soil until his death. His widow, Mrs. Mary Knizley, subsequently married for her second husband John Beatty, and is now a resident of Bignell, Nebraska.

**HOMER MYLANDER.** An active and progressive agriculturist of North Platte, Homer Mylander has been a resident of Lincoln county since the day of his birth, which was July 31, 1889. He comes of pioneer stock, being a son of Claus Mylander, an early settler of Nebraska.

Brought up on the parental homestead, Homer Mylander acquired a practical knowledge and experience of the art of farming while working with his father, with whom he remained until attaining his majority. In 1910 he began work for himself, assuming the entire management of the home farm, and has since met with highly satisfactory results, year by year adding to his wealth, at the same time rapidly growing into the esteem and respect of his neighbors, being already a valuable member of the community and an important factor in advancing its prosperity.

Mr. Mylander married in 1910, at North Platte, Bessie Ebright, who was born in Illinois. Her father, William Ebright, a native of Pennsylvania, following the advice of Horace Greeley, migrated to Illinois in early life, from there subsequently coming as far west as Nebraska. A man of broad culture, prominent in educational matters, he was appointed superintendent of the public schools of Beatrice in 1883, and served in that capacity for eight years. Subsequently going to Nebraska City, Mr. Ebright was superintendent of the School for the Blind for three years. From 1896 until 1900 he served as superintendent of the city schools of North Platte, and on retiring from that position embarked in agricultural pursuits, forming a partnership with his son, Loy E. Ebright. In 1907 he was appointed county superintendent of the Lincoln county schools, and was twice re-elected to the same office, serving ably and acceptably for three consecutive terms. He is a republican in politics, and an highly esteemed citizen.

Mr. Ebright married Millicent Franks, a native of Ohio, and of their union four children were born, namely: Loy E., in partnership with his father, is married; Joy, wife of R. A. Christenson; Bessie, now Mrs. Mylander; and Oak Wood, who is married, and lives in Omaha. Both parents are members of the English Lutheran Church of North Platte.

Mr. and Mrs. Mylander have one child, Ellwood Oak, born in 1912. Mr. Mylander belongs to the non-partisan league. He takes an intelligent interest in local affairs, and is now serving as a member of the School Board of District No. 3. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Baptist Church.

**HARRY C. ANDERSON.** Although a newcomer to North Platte, Harry C. Anderson has already won the place in the commercial life of the community to which his abilities entitle him and is recognized as owning and operating one of the largest and most reliable grocery stores in the city. He was born in Callaway, Custer county, Nebraska, on August 28, 1894, a son of Lewis and Christine (Hanson) Anderson, natives of Denmark. They came to the United States when young and settled in Callaway, Nebraska, where they were married, and they still make that their place of residence, Lewis Anderson being prominent as a dealer in agricultural im-

plements. They had five children born to them, as follows: Harry C., whose name heads this review; Ruth, who married Carl Dean, a farmer of Custer county, Nebraska; Lula, Arthur and Andrew, all of whom are at home. Lewis Anderson is a Lutheran, and she belongs to the Evangelical Church. He is a member of the Royal Highlanders, and in politics is a democrat. In his line of business Mr. Anderson has been quite successful, and has the satisfaction of knowing that all he possesses has come to him through his own efforts.

Harry C. Anderson attended the public schools of his native place, and began his business career in a grocery, first working after school and on Saturdays from the time he was eleven years old until he completed his schooling. Later he went on the road, first as the representative of an implement house, and later for an automobile tire and accessories. In 1919 Mr. Anderson came to North Platte and bought the grocery of Lierk & Sandall, and now owns one of the largest grocery establishments in North Platte or Lincoln county, and is conducting it in a highly satisfactory manner. His stock is fresh and up-to-date, and his service excellent.

On July 23, 1919, Mr. Anderson was married to Josephine Jackman, of Grand Island, Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson belong to the Catholic Church. His political convictions are such as to make him give his support to the principles and candidates of the democratic party. Immersed in business, Mr. Anderson devotes all of his time and attention to his store, and the results show that he is wise in so doing, for he is building up a fine trade and making a name for himself all over this section.

WILLIAM T. BANKS is a veteran merchant of North Platte, having located there twenty-five years ago, and having built up an extensive mercantile enterprise known as the Hub store, which is still doing a flourishing business, though for the past four or five years it has gone along under the direction of younger members of the family. Mr. Banks and wife are now residents of Long Beach, California, though they regard many of their permanent interests and affections as still centered in North Platte and Lincoln county.

Mr. Banks was born in Jasper county, Iowa, in 1859, a son of Moses and Elizabeth (Blair) Banks, his father a native of Kentucky and his mother of Collinsville, Illinois. Grandfather Adam Banks was a native of Kentucky and was a pioneer circuit riding Methodist minister, preaching all over Kentucky and southern Indiana. The maternal grandfather, William Blair, was of Welsh descent and spent practically all his life in southern Illinois. Moses Banks when a young man spent a season in the logging industry in Minnesota, and then went down the Mississippi River to St. Louis. The first night in a hotel in St. Louis he woke up to find a man making away with his trousers, which he had put over the head of his bed. He pursued, overtaking the thief, and striking him such a blow with his fist that to all appearance the robber was killed. The keeper of the hotel advised Mr. Banks in order to avoid trouble to leave town at once, and he accordingly went across the river to Collinsville, Illinois, where he met and married Elizabeth Blair. After that for some time he farmed in Illinois, then moved to Iowa, and in 1866 to Nemaha, Nebraska, where he bought land and where he and his wife spent the rest of their days. Moses Banks died at the age of eighty-two and his wife at seventy-six. They were mem-

bers of the Christian Church and he was an ardent republican. Of their eleven children five are living. Anna, living in Oklahoma, widow of Robert Frost; Catherine is the widow of John Frazer and lives on a farm in Canada; William T. is the third; C. C. Banks is a merchant at Lexington; and Hattie is the wife of William Maxwell, a South Dakota farmer.

William T. Banks acquired a district school education at Nemaha, Nebraska, and to the age of twenty-two he lived on a farm. In 1881 he married Estella M. Combs, who was born in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Banks had six children. Jessie May is the wife of F. R. Elliott and Mr. Elliott is a business associate and partner with Mr. Banks in the Hub store at North Platte, and he was also county clerk of Lincoln county six years. Bertha Beatrice is the wife of Norman Edwards, of Brady, Nebraska. Roy E. is interested in the Hub store at North Platte. Estella and DeEtta, the fifth and sixth of the family, reside with their parents at Long Beach, while William E., the fourth in age, is a railroad man at North Platte. Mrs. Banks is a member of the Christian Church. Mr. Banks is affiliated with the Methodist denomination, is a Mason and a republican in politics.

After his marriage Mr. Banks engaged in merchandising at Nemaha City, Nebraska, and kept a general store for seven years. Selling out he moved to Gandy and successfully continued his mercantile enterprise in that locality for five years. Following that for six months he was a merchant at Lodgepole, and in 1894 located at North Platte, where he established a stock of general merchandise. That business has steadily grown and prospered and for many years has been known as the Hub. His son and son-in-law are now the active managers of the business, since Mr. Banks moved out to Long Beach, California, in 1915, for the sake of his wife's health. The Hub carries a large stock of clothing, shoes, millinery and dry goods.

Besides his interests as a merchant Mr. Banks has acquired and developed farm lands and city property, having laid out the Banks Addition to North Platte in the southwest part of the city. He built a large and beautiful home there when there was not another house in the neighborhood, and his enterprise effected development in that direction until he sold all the lots in his addition. He was interested in the Park Addition to North Platte. Real estate has been a fertile field for the energies of Mr. Banks. It is said that the county records show a volume of property transfers through Mr. Banks probably not exceeded by the agency of any other one man.

When Mr. Banks went out to Long Beach in 1915 he did not go to spend his time in idleness. He has acquired land and real estate interests in southern California, and now has a business that affords him full scope for his energetic disposition.

Mr. Banks is a regular attendant at the Sunday School of seven hundred or more at Long Beach, and he relates that recently when the superintendent requested that all natives of California stand up only two responded. Then to a second question as to how many came from east of the Rocky Mountains all but the first two arose. Hence even on the Pacific Coast Mr. Banks feels that he is with home people, including many other former Nebraskans.

CLAUDE O. WEINGAND. When he was eighteen years of age Claude O. Weingand, obeying an impulse and ambition that are

found in every young man of those years, left his old home in Illinois and started out to seek his fortune elsewhere. In the course of the same year his travels brought him to North Platte, and while business and pleasure have taken him away from this city at times he has always regarded it as his permanent home and the community in turn regard Mr. Weingand as one of its most useful and enterprising business men and citizens.

Mr. Weingand was born in Rossville, Illinois, June 4, 1870, son of Christopher and Louisa (Openlander) Weingand. His parents were both natives of Germany. They came to this country as young people and were married in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and soon afterward moved to Illinois. The father was a shoemaker, and followed that trade many years. He also had a public duty as carrier of the mail from the railway station to the postoffice at Rossville. He was a republican, and he and his wife affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. Both died at Rossville, where the mother had lived for over fifty years. Christopher Weingand was born in 1816 and died December 25, 1883, while his wife was born in 1826 and died March 20, 1917. Of their seven children six are still living: Mrs. Stamp, wife of a baker at North Platte; Mrs. Peterson, also of North Platte; Amanda, keeping house for her younger brother at Rossville, Illinois; G. F., foreman in the Union Pacific paint shops at Omaha; Claude O.; Alvin, a painter living at Rossville.

Claude O. Weingand grew up in Rossville, and in order to keep himself in school and acquire a substantial education he worked nights and mornings clerking in local stores. When he left Rossville he had the benefit of about five years of this experience. He came to North Platte in 1888, and for the first two years clerked for Victor von Goets. He then engaged in the confectionery business, having a small store, but doing a thriving and profitable trade with railway men. After that for a number of years he sold oil from the wagon and made considerable money in that enterprise. Mr. Weingand has always been a good business man, and if he has not become wealthy it is due his liberality and generosity. For three years he operated the Vienna restaurant, after which he was in the furniture and undertaking business, finally selling out his establishment to Howe and Maloney. He next formed a partnership with James B. McDonald, and they were associated in the clothing business for ten years. Beginning in 1912 Mr. Weingand was salesman of Texas lands for a year. He then opened the Edward Reynolds clothing store at North Platte, and in 1915 opened and became manager and landlord of the McCabe Hotel.

The traveling public know full well the quality of service and accommodations of the McCabe Hotel of North Platte. It is the popular place for traveling men and, like other hotels well managed, during these prosperous times its accommodations, even with seventy-five rooms, are inadequate, and Mr. Weingand is now planning an addition of twenty-five more rooms.

November 24, 1894, Mr. Weingand married Augusta Tanger, a native of Germany. Her father, Ferdinand Tanger, was a pioneer at Lodgepole in Cheyenne county, Nebraska, developing a homestead there. He and his wife are now living in North Platte. Mr. and Mrs. Weingand have three children: Claude, born in 1900; Alvin, born in 1904; and Theodore, born in 1910. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Weingand is a Knight Templar Mason and Shriner, and served as treasurer of his



lodge for seven years. A republican in politics, he did some good service for one term as a member of the City Council.

**CHRIS KOCH.** One of the men of Lincoln county who is carrying on general farming and stockraising on his own farm in such a manner as to bring him gratifying results and reflect credit on his methods is Chris Koch of section 23, township 14. He was born at Schnecktady, New York, September 27, 1871, a son of Jake A. and Regina (Schwilk) Koch, natives of Germany, who came to New York, where he engaged in carpentering. Later he located near Lincoln, Nebraska, when it was called Ogalla. From there he went to Grant, Nebraska, and soon thereafter moved to Missouri. Returning to Nebraska, he worked in Omaha, and was an expert carpenter whose services were in demand. Both he and his wife were consistent members of the Lutheran Church. Their educational training was secured in their native land.

Chris Koch came to Lincoln county about 1889, and he bought the 160 acres of land which now forms his present farm. This he has improved until it is a valuable property, and he devotes it to general farming and stockraising, his stock being of a good grade. One of the features of his farm is his fine orchard.

December 19, 1894, Mr. Koch was united in marriage at North Platte to Jennie Mason, born in Union, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Koch became the parents of the following children: Stanley, Clarence, Paul, Mae, Esther, June and Dorothy, all of whom are at home. Mrs. Koch is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an active worker in its ranks. Mr. Koch is an independent voter, and for five years has served as treasurer of the Platte Valley School, and held the same office for six years in the Nickols district. He has always been a friend of the public schools, to which he owes his own education, as he attended one in the vicinity of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Stanley Koch was one of the young men of Lincoln county who came in the first draft, and he was trained for service during the late war at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, as a member of an infantry division. From there he was sent to Camp Hancock, Georgia, for machine gun training. From there he was sent to Camp Dodge, and arrangements had been made to send his division overseas when the signing of the Armistice a week before the date of their sailing changed all the plans, and he received his honorable discharge from the army at Camp Dodge on March 4, 1919, and returned home.

**JONAS SWEDBERG.** The people of Sweden have always been noted for their persistent industry and practical thrift, and the representatives of that nation in Nebraska are living up to their reputation. The majority of them came to this country without much knowledge of its language or customs, and yet in spite of what might well be considered a handicap, have advanced until they are numbered among the most prosperous of its citizens. Especially is this true when they turned their attention to farming, and thousands of acres of land, now bearing excellent crops, owe their development to the hard work and expert knowledge of men of Swedish birth. One of these men who has made a fine farm out of the land he acquired in Lincoln county is Jonas Swedberg of section 14, township 14, in the Hershey neighborhood.

Jonas Swedberg was born in Sweden in 1878, a son of Christian and Christiana (Olsen) Swedberg, both of whom were also natives of Sweden, where they owned land and engaged in general farming. Of their nine children, three came to the United States, namely: Swan, who is a mine worker of Minnesota; Olaf, who is a farmer of Minnesota; and Jonas.

Upon his arrival in the United States in 1894, Jonas Swedberg came as far west as Holdrege, Nebraska, where he spent a year working in a brick yard at that place, and then in the following year he located permanently in Lincoln county, buying his present farm, on which he has since been very successfully engaged in farming and stockraising. His premises are kept in an orderly condition and he takes a pride in making improvements and introducing new machinery.

In 1911 Mr. Swedberg was united in marriage with Bertha Nation, born in Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Swedberg have four children, namely: Elmer, who is attending the O'Fallon School; Helen, who is also attending the O'Fallon School; and Herman and Jonas, who are at home. Mr. Swedberg maintains a membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, but aside from that is not connected with any organization, his time being fully occupied with his farming. However, he takes an intelligent interest in projects having for their object the improvement of the neighborhood, and realizes the value of development measures. He is giving his children much better advantages than fell to his lot, and both he and his wife are bending every energy to provide for them so that they will not have to endure all of the hardships of their parents.

**THOMAS M. JOHNSON.** Some persons who are not properly informed are inclined to think that the pioneers of Lincoln county acquired their land and present prosperity without much sacrifices, but this is not true, for there is not a single one of those who came into this region during its formative period who did not earn, through the hardest kind of labor and endurance, every cent he now possesses. True, land was acquired through homesteading, at a nominal figure, but it was wild land, there was no water, and building material was so scarce and expensive that sometimes for years the settlers had to live in rude shelters built of sod. There were no restricted periods of work in those days. Each member of the family put in as many hours of toil as there was light, and felt sorry that so much time had to be wasted on account of the night hours. That they succeeded the valuable, well cultivated farms and prosperous settlers of today give ample testimony, but they earned all of it and much more than they have ever received. Through their exertions, bravery and courage a wonderful region has been placed under cultivation, and today Lincoln county compares very favorably with similar localities all over the country, but this would not be true had the pioneers been less aggressive and hard-working. One of the men who belongs to this fine class of men is Thomas M. Johnson of township 16, whose fine farm of 420 acres is in section 13.

Thomas M. Johnson was born in Ohio on January 16, 1849, a son of Samuel and Eliza Johnson. Samuel Johnson was born in Ireland, but came to the United States when twenty-eight years old. He was a farmer all his active life, and died in Kansas when eighty-four years of age, his wife having passed away at the age of seventy years. They had ten children born to them.

Growing up in Ohio, Mr. Johnson went from that state to Shelby county, Illinois, where he spent sixteen years, and then left it for Decatur county, Iowa. After four years' residence in that region Mr. Johnson came to Nebraska, spent one year in Lancaster county, and then located in Lincoln county, which has continued to be his home ever since. He homesteaded a quarter section, but since then has added to his original farm until he has 420 acres, all well improved. When he first came here he had to haul all of his drinking water from the North Loup River, a distance of eighteen miles, but he in time sunk a well and has made many other improvements so that his place is one of the best equipped farms in the county. The trip from Lancaster to Lincoln county was made in a covered wagon, and after he had homesteaded Mr. Johnson's sole earthly possessions were his team of horses, a wagon and forty dollars in cash. This meagre capital had to be saved, for he did not dare be entirely without money, and in order to earn something to buy the necessary equipment for improving his homestead he hired out to work  $\frac{1}{2}$  of each day for 90 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per day. As he had no food for his horses he had to let them feed on the grass for half the day, and then worked them the other half. Little by little, however, he managed to advance, and is now one of the substantial men of the county. In politics he is a democrat, but aside from being on the School Board for eight years, he has not cared to hold office. He and his family belong to the Baptist Church.

In 1879 Mr. Johnson was married in Iowa to Hilda Hoffa, born in Indiana, and they became the parents of the following children: Charles B., who is a farmer near Stapleton, Logan county, Nebraska; Martha E. Johnson, who lives south of Brady in Lincoln county; Ada H. Wood, who lives in Logan county, Nebraska; Nancy B. Long, who lives in Lincoln county; and Samuel A. Johnson, who is at home. The Johnson family is one of the most highly esteemed in this part of the state, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have every reason to be proud of their children, who are maintaining the prestige of the name in the several localities in which they are now residing.

**JOE BROSIUS.** One of the old and prominent families of Logan and Lincoln counties is the Brosius, whose part here has been hard working and industrious homesteaders, farmers, stock growers and all around good citizens.

Joe Brosius was born in Germany December 13, 1883, and very soon after his birth his parents started for the United States. His father, John Brosius, settled in Logan county, just over the line from Lincoln county, and went through all the hardships of pioneering while developing his homestead. He died at the age of seventy-eight and his wife, Mary, at the age of sixty-eight. They had a family of seven children: Peter; John, deceased; Nick; Mrs. Katherine Clausen; Mrs. Eva Frolkey; Joe; and William.

Joe Brosius married in 1913 Miss Pearl Jensen, who was born in Cass county, Nebraska, daughter of Peter Jensen, who is a farmer at Bayard, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Brosius have two children, John and Aloise, both at home.

Mr. Brosius after getting his education went to farming and took up a homestead and has developed 400 acres in the good land in section 2, township 16, range 27 in Lincoln county. He de-

votes his land to general farming and stockraising. There were no fences in the country when the Brosius family came to this section of Nebraska, and much of the meat on the table of the pioneer homes was furnished by the antelope and deer, which abounded on the prairies. Mr. Brosius is an independent voter, has served as a member of the local school board, and has always shown a willingness to perform a full share of community responsibilities. He is a Catholic and is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus.

A. J. GOODENOW is one of the original homesteaders in Lincoln county, went through the hard times of the '80s and early '90s, and now has a large and valuable farm, but leaves most of its responsibilities to the younger shoulders of his sons.

Mr. Goodenow, whose farm is in section 15, township 16, range 27, was born in Will county, Illinois, September 6, 1865. His parents were Steven and Mary E. Goodenow. His father, a native of New York, spent all his active life as a farmer. He came to Nebraska in 1887 and took up a homestead on the Garfield table, where he developed 120 acres. He died at the age of seventy-six and his wife aged eighty-three.

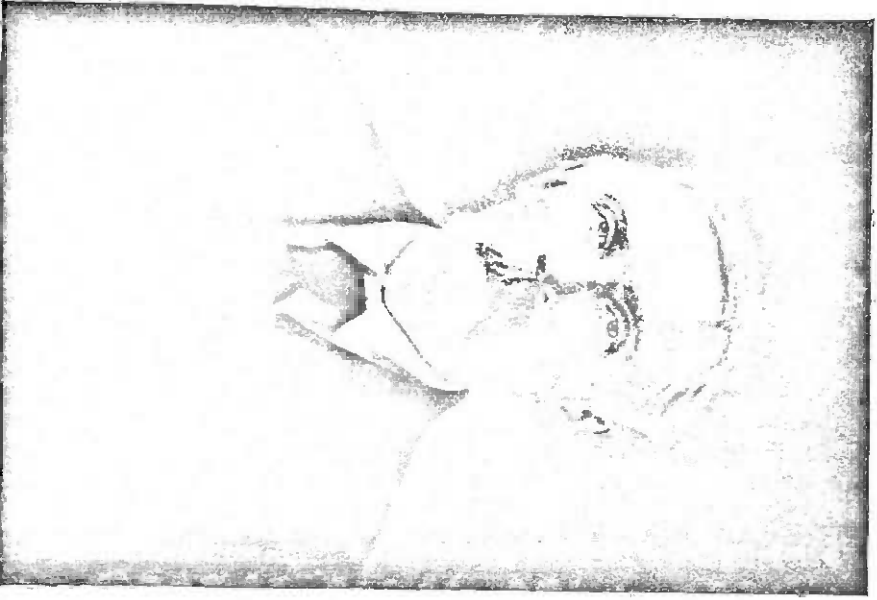
A. J. Goodenow came to Lincoln county by rail, leaving the train at Maxwell, and reached here with only \$200 of capital. He quickly adapted himself to the spirit of the place and time, took up a homestead, also acquired land by pre-emption, and now has 280 acres of fertile soil on the Garfield table. There were no fences anywhere in the country when he came, practically no highways, and deer and antelope abounded on the prairies. He has thoroughly improved his farm. Mr. Goodenow served eleven years as a member of his local school board, is a republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Church.

September 3, 1891, he married Miss Jennie Auble. They have five children: Edith, Harry, Mrs. Grace Lehmkuhler, Melvin and Attie.

HANS J. HANSEN. Among the men who assisted in the development of Lincoln county is recorded the name of Hans J. Hansen, one of the honored early pioneers of the community whose work has been finished and who has been called to his reward. He was born in Denmark December 19, 1848, and he came to the United States in 1866 and located first in Wisconsin. He remained in that state for three years, and in 1869 came to Howard county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded, but about 1870 removed from there to Lincoln county. During the early years of his residence there Mr. Hansen worked in North Platte and also on the section until finally, in 1878, he accumulated sufficient money to obtain a pre-emption. As a stockraiser he met with pronounced success, and at the time of his death, which occurred on the 19th of May, 1912, he was the owner of 5,200 acres of well improved land.

When Mr. Hansen came to this locality there was not a tree, fence post or other signs of white occupancy for many miles, so that he was a witness of and participant in the wonderful development of this county. On the 1st day of May, 1885, he was married to Anna F. Jensen, who was also born in Denmark, her birth occurring November 18, 1858. Both were members of the Lutheran Church, and were highly respected throughout this community.

Henry P. Hansen, the only child of this worthy pioneer couple,



MIR. AND MRS. HANS J. HANSEN

was born in Lincoln county September 28, 1887. He attended the public schools of this county and graduated from the North Platte High School, after which he took a commercial course in a business college in Omaha, Nebraska. Immediately thereafter he returned home and entered upon the business of stockraising, in which prosperity has attended his efforts. He owns from 300 to 500 head of high grade Hereford cattle, and by his energy and good business judgment he is forging to the front as one of the progressive and enterprising stockraisers and business men of his locality.

In 1911 Mr. Hansen was married to Gertrude M. Minshall, a native of Lincoln county, Nebraska, and to them have been born two children, Katherine H. and Wesley. Politically Mr. Hansen gives his support to the republican party, and his religious membership is with the Lutheran Church. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Because of his genial disposition and fine personal qualities he is deservedly popular among his acquaintances.

L. E. VANDIVER, M. D. The medical profession is for mankind, and its greatest problem is to secure honest and faithful performance of professional obligation. Whatever may be the favorite line of professional work, the physician cannot overlook the fact that he and his associates are a body of organized men laboring for the common good of humanity. Because so many of the world's most eminent physicians and surgeons recognize this fact, progress is constantly being made. The discoveries made by one are shared by all for the common good of humanity, and thus it is that remedies have been discovered for diseases once pronounced incurable. One of the men who is living up to the highest ideals of his honored calling and rendering the people of Lincoln county a valuable service is Dr. L. E. Vandiver of Brady.

Doctor Vandiver was born in Valley county, Nebraska, on March 23, 1884, a son of Charles E. and Luella (Barkley) Vandiver, both of whom were born in Missouri. The father was also a physician, and he moved to Keith county, Nebraska, and practiced medicine in that locality from 1883 until 1910, when he moved to Ogalla, Nebraska, where he is still living.

After coming through the common schools of Valley county, Nebraska, Dr. L. E. Vandiver took the medical course at Creighton Medical College of Omaha, Nebraska, and then located at Chappell, Deuel county, Nebraska, and was there engaged in a general practice, becoming one of the influential men of the county, which he served for two years as physician. Early in 1919 Doctor Vandiver came to Brady, and has already firmly established himself in the confidence of the community and is enjoying a large practice.

In January, 1916, Doctor Vandiver was united in marriage with Ruth K. Rees, born in Iowa, and they have one daughter, Virginia Alice. Doctor Vandiver belongs to the Order of the Elks, to the Moose, is a member of the Board of Health and a Union Pacific Railroad surgeon. A skilled physician and earnest student, Doctor Vandiver may be depended upon to keep fully abreast of the times in his profession and to give to his community the intelligent supervision which makes for better sanitary conditions and the improvement of the health of the public. Both he and Mrs. Vandiver are very popular socially, and have already gathered about them a congenial set of young married people.

**BENJAMIN F. BAKER.** The agriculturist of Nebraska is today enjoying many of the good things in life that the men of other vocations sometimes dream of, but seldom experience. In point of education and as a student and thinker he is very often the superior of his city brother, as far as practical matters go to make up life as it should be lived. The farmers of this state are giving their sons and daughters just as good facilities for acquiring an education as their city cousins, and on an average their mental equipment is fully as good, their physical qualifications better. They are taught to meet the real practical things of life and to know the value of successful living, and that is why so much of the energy and brains of the city come from the farms of the country. The farms turn out more thinkers than the city, for the environments are better calculated to foster brain building. Progress during the past decade has not been confined to the cities, especially in this state, but has touched the farm with equal or greater force, and not only in methods of labor and everyday living, but also in mental culture the standard reached is one that may well be envied of all men. One of these progressive farmers of Lincoln county is Benjamin F. Baker of section 34, township 13, in the Maxwell district.

Benjamin F. Baker was born in Waldo county, Maine, on October 9, 1835, a son of John and Hannah (Chapman) Baker, natives of Maine and New Hampshire, respectively. By trade the father was a stone mason, and in politics he was a whig.

Of the four children reared by his parents Benjamin F. Baker is the only survivor. During his boyhood he attended the common schools of Maine and learned to be a practical farmer. It was in 1853 that he began his westward progress, reaching Illinois as his first step. He was a resident of that state for several years before he went into the army.

With the bursting of the war cloud in 1861 he espoused the cause of the North and enlisted as a member of Company D, Seventy-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was with that organization three years and then re-enlisted. At his second enlistment he was made captain of Company H, Third United States Artillery, and closed his service with the rank of captain. Captain Baker was in many battles of the war, including the battle of Iuka and the siege of Vicksburg.

After the war he practically continued in the government service for nearly twenty years, in charge of various national cemeteries where the Union dead were sleeping under the flags of the country. The first post of responsibility of this kind was superintendent of the cemetery at Annapolis, Maryland, for about one year. He was then sent to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and for 6½ years had charge of the McPherson cemetery in Nebraska. From here he was again sent east, and had charge of the cemetery at Yorktown, Virginia, for eight months, following which for over six years he was at the National Cemetery at Philadelphia, following which for two years he was in Springfield, Missouri. For six months he was at Jefferson City, Missouri, and then resigned, after having given nearly twenty years to these duties. While in charge of the McPherson cemetery he superintended the removal of the bodies from Fort Flame, Fort Steele and other places, to the larger cemetery.

In 1901, returning to Nebraska, Captain Baker bought land in Lincoln county in the Gaslin precinct. He acquired 320 acres, but after about three years removed to Missouri, where he lived two years,



**CAPT. BENJAMIN F. BAKER AND WIFE**  
Taken out-of-doors in the National Cemetery, Philadelphia, Penna.,  
April 17, 1896, on their fortieth wedding anniversary.



and then returned to Lincoln county and bought 160 acres west of North Platte. He has lived there since 1907 and now has a highly developed farm of 120 acres, located, as noted above, in section 34, township 13, in the Maxwell district.

Captain Baker married in 1856 Mary E. Warnock. She was born in Illinois, where they were married, and at her death she left two children, Nellie M., wife of Frank R. Baker, and living in Lincoln county; and Charles O., who is a newspaper artist or designer with the Philadelphia Press.

Captain Baker is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. While he is not a member of any religious organization, he has always supported the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife was a member. Upright, faithful to every responsibility placed on his shoulders, Mr. Baker has earned and retains the respect of his fellow citizens, and is justly numbered among the most valued residents of Lincoln county. He is a republican.

A grandson of Captain Baker, Charles B. Baker, added to the patriotic record of his grandfather and served in the defense of his country in 1917-18, just as the elder man did in the '60s. Charles B. Baker entered the aviation branch of the service, receiving his training at Kelly field in Texas. Sent overseas in 1918, he was in England only two weeks when the Armistice was signed and received his honorable discharge on December 20, 1918. He held the rank of corporal.

**THURBER HARVEY.** From the beginning of the world the tilling of the soil and caring for livestock have occupied the attention of men, but never until within the past couple of years has agriculture reached the importance it now has in the eyes of the world. Today the farmer of America is not only the most independent man in the world, but he is also the most important. The very existence of the world depends upon his land and his production from this land. In the great world demand for foodstuffs, that from Nebraska has favorable considerations, and one of the farmers of Lincoln county who is aiding in meeting this universal need is Thurber Harvey of Sutherland. He was born in Franklin county, New York, in 1862, a son of Rufus and Sarah (Brigham) Harvey, natives of New York and Massachusetts, who died when their son Thurber was a child. During the war between the states Rufus Harvey left his work as a moulder in a foundry and enlisted in the Union Army as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded on the battlefield June 16, 1864. He and his wife had two children, Thurber Harvey's elder sister being Lizzie, who is the wife of Joseph Fulton of Salt Lake City, Utah. In his political faith Rufus Harvey was a republican, and in religious matters was a Methodist, and his wife belonged to the same church as he.

In 1885 Thurber Harvey came west to Lincoln county and homesteaded and pre-empted claims, proving up. He is still operating these properties, and has put in all of the improvements. Here he is carrying on general farming and stockraising, and his stock is of a good grade.

In 1887 Mr. Harvey was married to Jessie May Lord, born in Warren county, Illinois, a daughter of D. C. and Elizabeth (McCoy) Lord, natives of Dearborn county, Indiana, and Warren county, Illinois, who moved to Missouri, and later to Nebraska,

homesteading in Lincoln county and living on their farm until claimed by death. During the Mexican war Mr. Lord served as a member of Company G, Fifth Regiment of Infantry, enlisting from Indiana. He was for nine months in the hospital at Vera Cruz, Mexico. By calling he was a school teacher, and an educated man, and served as assessor of Adair county, Missouri, being elected to that office on the republican ticket, and after coming to Lincoln county was a justice of the peace. The Methodist Church held his membership, and his wife was equally faithful in her devotion to the creed of that church. Mr. Lord was a Master Mason.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey became the parents of the following children: R. Clark, who is on his father's farm in Lincoln county; Ida E., the wife of Nevin McCune, who is conducting the Arlington farm; Roy T., who is a farmer; Laurel, who is at home; Sarah, who is deceased; and Alice, who is attending the Wesleyan University at Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Harvey is a stockholder in the Farmers Union. A very intelligent man, he prefers to exercise his own judgment with reference to voting than to depend upon party classification. Both he and Mrs. Harvey are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Sutherland. In fraternal matters Mr. Harvey maintains connections with the Modern Woodmen of America.

**WILLIAM AND GEORGE SHERMAN.** We are all benefited by the delineation of those traits of character which find scope and exercise in the common walks of life. The unostentatious routine of private life, although in the aggregate more important to the welfare of the community than any meteoric public career, cannot, from its very nature, figure in the public annals, though each locality's history should contain the names of those individuals who contribute to the success of the material affairs of a community and to its public stability; men who lead wholesome and exemplary lives which might be profitably studied by the oncoming generation. In such a class must consistently appear the names of William and George Sherman, leading farmers and public-spirited citizens of Lincoln county, men who lead plain, industrious lives, endeavoring to deal honestly with their fellow-men and contribute somewhat to the general public good in an unobtrusive manner.

William Sherman was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, on December 18, 1846, and is a son of William Sherman, who was born and reared in Connecticut, but who subsequently became a pioneer settler of northwestern Pennsylvania, where he followed his trade, that of a sawmill man. His death occurred when his sons, the subjects of this sketch, were quite young and they were taken into the home of their cousin, Judson W. Sherman, of Alleghany county, New York. The latter was born on July 3, 1807, and was a second cousin to Senator John Sherman and Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, both of whom won imperishable fame in their country's history. Judson Sherman was prominent in political affairs of his community, serving as clerk of Alleghany county for two terms. In 1854 he was elected to represent his district in Congress, and at one time he served as deputy state treasurer. Early in the War of the Rebellion he was appointed commissary-general in General McCook's department, where he did effective work for the furtherance of the war. Originally a republican in his political

faith, he later became a democrat. His death occurred on November 12, 1889.

In 1889 William Sherman came to Nebraska, locating at Cozad, where he first pre-empted land, but later took it up as a homestead. He remained there about ten years, when he sold that land and came to North Platte and for a while was employed on the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1896 he bought a quarter section of land, to the cultivation of which he has since devoted himself. He has been a careful and discriminating man in his operations and abundant success has crowned his efforts, so that today he is numbered among the substantial farmers of his locality. He carries on diversified farming, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and also gives some attention to the raising of stock.

George Sherman was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, on April 15, 1850, and while he was still quite young he went to make his home with his cousin, Judson W. Sherman of Alleghany county, New York, his own father having died. He was there reared and educated, but later went back to Pennsylvania, where he lived for a time. In 1889 he came to Nebraska and pre-empted land at Cozad, where he remained for some time. Then, selling out there, he removed to the Birdwood, where he homesteaded 160 acres. He farmed there through the dry years of 1890-91-92-93 and 94. Then his heart failed him and he became discouraged and returned to his native land, Pennsylvania again. He bought and sold land there for sixteen years, when he again returned to Nebraska to remain only until his wife died in 1913, when he moved to Virginia, bought a home there and in 1918 he again returned to Nebraska with his second wife. He was married in Virginia. He stayed until 1920, when he moved back to New York state, where he now resides. His first years in Nebraska were characterized by plenty of hard labor of the most strenuous kind.

George Sherman has been married twice, first, on August 27, 1874, to Miss Emma G. Case, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, to which union were born two children, Lucy Abbott, born in 1880, in Bradford, McKean county, Pennsylvania, who died at the age of twenty-six years, and Florence Widstrand, who was born in North Platte on September 5, 1890. Mrs. Emma Sherman died when fifty-three years old, and on June 15, 1913, Mr. Sherman was married to Gertrude Barr, who was born and reared in Tennessee. Mrs. Sherman is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while Mrs. Emma Sherman was a Presbyterian in her church affiliation.

Politically, George Sherman is an earnest supporter of the democratic party, while William is a republican, though he holds no ambition for public office. They are earnest workers, however, along any line that promises to benefit the community. The blood of a long line of honored ancestors flows in their veins, for they are direct descendants of the Hon. Samuel Sherman, Rev. John Sherman, and Capt. John Sherman, who came from Dedham, County Essex, England, in 1634. They have in their own lives exhibited the same elements of character which actuated those hardy immigrants of nearly three centuries ago, and they have proved worthy members of the body politic, throwing their influence and active support to all worthy causes. Because of the success which has crowned their efforts here and elsewhere and their splendid personal characters, they enjoy the unlimited esteem of all who know them. William Sherman enlisted when a boy of eighteen years and

fought three years in the War between the North and South. He is a pensioner now.

**WILLIAM J. KAIN.** The opening up of lands of the public domain in Lincoln county gave an opportunity to substantial and reliable men to secure a homestead, and the majority of them after proving up their claims acquired ownership to other lands so that now their holdings amount to considerable. This land through their efforts has been greatly enhanced in value and their improvements compare favorably with those in any part of the country. One of these men who had been successful both as a homesteader and general farmer and stockraiser was William J. Kain of section 21, township 10, who died on December 5, 1918.

William J. Kain was born near Fort Edwards, New York, April 15, 1854, a son of John and Mary Kain, natives of Ireland, farming people after they had reached America, although prior to that had been engaged in linen weaving. Later on in life they moved from New York to Marion county, Iowa, where they died. Of their nine children five survive, namely: Mrs. Emma Hughes, John, Artie, Daniel, and Ellen, all of whom reside in Iowa. William J. Kain was the second child in order of birth. The parents were members of the Catholic Church.

Growing up on his father's farm, William J. Kain early learned to make himself useful and how to cultivate the soil, so that when he came to Butler county, Nebraska, in 1879, he was prepared to successfully conduct a farm. He left this farm on November 11, 1884, when he came to Lincoln county and not only homesteaded 160 acres, but also took up a tree claim and proved up both of them, thus having 320 acres of land at the time of his death. In spite of the disastrous period in 1895 Mr. Kain succeeded, and was considered as one of the well-to-do men of his neighborhood. He was a republican.

On November 11, 1875, Mr. Kain was married in Jasper county, Iowa, to Mary Cowman, born in Marion county, Iowa, a daughter of Preston and Clarissa Cowman, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively, who are deceased, having been for years engaged in farming in Iowa. They had six children, namely: Mrs. Kain, who was the eldest; William, who is deceased; Mrs. Alice Pattison, who is living in Iowa; Mrs. Ada Soule, who is living at Portland, Oregon; Ernest, who is a wanderer; and Mrs. Rose Schenck, who is living in Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Kain became the parents of four children, namely: Aaron, who is living in Lincoln county; Edward, who is deceased; Mrs. Nellie Light, who is living on a farm in Lincoln county; and Mrs. Mabel Reese, who is living on a farm in Lincoln county. Mrs. Kain survives and makes her home in Wallace, Nebraska. She is well known in the county and is held in high esteem both on her own account and also because of the respect her late husband always commanded.

**CHARLES M. HAYDEN.** There could be no more comprehensive history written of a community than that which deals with the life work of those who by their own endeavor and indomitable energy have placed themselves where they deserve the title of "prominent and progressive," and in this sketch will be found the record of one who has won success entirely by his own indomitable efforts and labors, so that he is now firmly entrenched in the esteem and respect of all who know him.

Charles M. Hayden was born at Monmouth, Illinois, on December 14, 1857, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (King) Hayden, both of whom were natives of Ohio. Jacob was the son of John Hayden, who was a native of Maryland, later moving to Ohio, where he died at the advanced age of ninety-six years. Jacob and Mary Hayden were married at Woodsfield, Monroe county, Ohio, and in 1849 moved to Monmouth, Illinois. At that time no railroads had been constructed to that locality, and they made the overland trip in a covered wagon. They shipped their household goods by water, but these were totally destroyed by fire while on the way, so that it left Mr. Hayden with practically nothing excepting his team of horses. However, he bravely went to work, opened up a tract of new land near Monmouth and created a good farm, where they spent the remainder of their years. They were members of the Christian Church, while in politics Mr. Hayden gave his support to the republican party. They were the parents of four children, of whom two are deceased, the survivors being the subject of this review and George, the latter being engaged in the lumber business at Enterprise, Oregon.

Charles M. Hayden was reared on the paternal farmstead at Monmouth, Illinois, and was early inured to the labors of a frontier farm. He secured his education in the district schools of that neighborhood. In 1882 he came to Stella, Richardson county, Nebraska, where he remained for three years. In May, 1885, Mr. Hayden came to Lincoln county and homesteaded a tract of land near Wallace, where he lived for five years, devoting himself to its improvement and cultivation. He was far from markets and railroads, shipping his produce overland to Culbertson, Nebraska, and hauling to Wallace by wagon, a distance of sixty miles. It required courage of a high order to induce Mr. Hayden to stick to that proposition, for not only did he start in here with practically nothing, but he had crop failures during the first four years, and indeed for eleven years he only succeeded in getting on by the most rigid economy and hard, consecutive labor. For a time he engaged in the livery business in Wallace and in the fall of 1894 he engaged in the mercantile business, which has since claimed his attention and in which he has met with well-deserved success.

In 1880 Mr. Hayden was married to Emily Ann Huston, who was born in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, the daughter of James C. Huston, who moved first to Illinois, and thence to Lincoln county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a tract of land and lived for a time. He and his wife are now living in Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Hayden are the parents of five children, namely: Nina, who is the wife of Edward Funk, a barber in Wallace; Carrie is the widow of Jesse Kuns and lives at home with her parents; Ralph, who is associated in business with his father; Lucile is the wife of Lewis Spencer, who is engaged in business in Wallace; Florence, who is the wife of Walker Kelley, a traveling man of Kansas City, Missouri. The latter enlisted for service in the United States Army during the World war and was in France and Germany a year, being with the Third Division.

Mr. Hayden is an ardent supporter of the republican party and takes a commendable interest in local public affairs, giving his support to all measures for the public welfare. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Hayden is a member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church. Because of his genuine worth and his public-spirited attitude toward the community generally Mr. Hayden is deservedly popular among those who know him.

DAVID W. MACOMBER. The biographies of the representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community, and it is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found tillers of the soil, mechanics, teachers, professional men, business men and those of varied vocations. David W. Macomber is one of the creditable representatives of the agricultural element in Lincoln county, and as such has made his influence felt and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and sound business ability.

David W. Macomber was born in Iowa on July 5, 1874, and is the son of Lorenzo S. and Abbie D. (Hemenway) Macomber. The father was a native of Norfolk county, Massachusetts, the son of John and Mary (Smith) Macomber. He was reared and educated in his native community, where he lived until about nineteen years of age, when he enlisted in the service of his country at the outbreak of the Civil war, serving until the close of that struggle. In 1870 he moved to Iowa, remaining there three years, his next move being to Sidney, Cheyenne county, Nebraska, where he remained for a similar period. In 1876 he came to Lincoln county, bought a tract of land and went to work for the Union Pacific Railroad Company as a blacksmith. He spent the rest of his days in this community and died on December 23, 1916. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in his political faith was a republican. To him and his wife were born the following children: Charles H., of North Platte; George A., who lives on the home farm; David W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Abbie Nettie, the wife of George F. Pattison; Chester Arthur, of North Platte; Harry H., who lives at home; Frank, at home; and Lorenzo S.

David W. Macomber was about two years of age when the family moved to Nebraska, and in this state he received his educational training, completing his studies in the North Platte High School. Since leaving school he has devoted himself almost solely to the pursuits of agriculture, in which he has met with a splendid degree of success. He is the owner of 160 acres of excellent land in section 17, township 14, range 30, which he maintains at a high standard of improvement and cultivation. He raises a general line of crops and also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, in which also he has prospered.

In 1901 Mr. Macomber was married to Essie Robinson, a native of Nebraska, and they have become the parents of eight children, namely: William, Renolds, Vivian, Clara, Abigail, Loren, Mainard, and Lucile.

Politically Mr. Macomber is a republican and stands squarely for everything that is best for the community life. Fraternally he is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his religious membership is with the Christian Church. Mr. Macomber was commissioned a lieutenant in Company B of the Home Guards at North Platte, having taken a leading part in the organization of the company. Quiet

and unassuming in manner, nevertheless he possesses to a marked degree those qualities which commend him to the good will and esteem of the community, and he is numbered among the progressive and public-spirited citizens of his locality.

**GUY FEAR.** It is always pleasant and profitable to contemplate the career of a man who has made a success of life and won the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such is the record of the well-known business man whose name heads this sketch, than whom a more whole-souled or popular man it would be difficult to find within the limits of the community where he lives.

Guy Fear was born in Colfax county, Nebraska, in 1884, and is the son of William E. and Dude (Ogier) Fear, both of whom were born in Iowa, where they were reared and married. They came to Nebraska in the '80s, the father entering a homestead in Lincoln county, to the operation of which he applied himself during the remainder of his life, he and his wife being now deceased. He was a democrat in his political belief, a member of the Presbyterian Church and, fraternally, of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. To him and his wife were born three children, namely: Ethel, the wife of David Dickerson, a farmer at Gibbon, Nebraska; Guy, the immediate subject of this review, and Earl, who lives on and operates the old homestead farm in Lincoln county.

Guy Fear was reared in his native county and secured his educational training in the public schools of Fremont, Nebraska. His first employment was as a farmer in that section of the state, but eventually he came to Lincoln county and entered a homestead, on which he lived ten years, making substantial improvements and bringing it up to a high state of cultivation. On April 1, 1913, Mr. Fear moved to Wallace and established the Ford Garage, in partnership with J. H. Howe, and they have continued to operate it to the present time. They have a large and well equipped garage, which they are now increasing by the addition of an extension, 50 by 140 feet and which will greatly facilitate their work. Because of their prompt service, courteous treatment and good work they have built up a large trade and are numbered among the enterprising and progressive business men of Wallace.

In 1908 Mr. Fear was married to Jennie Sanderson, a native of Custer county, Nebraska, and they are the parents of three children, Louis, Hazel and Frank. Politically he is a democrat, while fraternally he belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a man of genial and approachable disposition, who easily makes friends, and he enjoys an enviable standing in the estimation of all who know him.

**WALTER H. DUGGAN.** Among those persons who have by virtue of their strong individual qualities earned their way to a high standing in the estimation of their fellow citizens, Walter H. Duggan, whose fine farm is located in section 4, township 11, range 32, and who because of his splendid success and his sterling qualities of character is specifically entitled to mention in this work. Mr. Duggan was born in Washington county, Arkansas, on May 25, 1875, and is the first in order of birth of the six children born to William James and Etta (Black) Duggan. William J. Duggan was born and reared in Canada, but eventually came to the United States, settling in Tennessee, where he had charge of a large plantation. From

there he went to Arkansas, where he remained about twelve years, and the following three years were spent in Indian Territory and Texas. In the fall of 1892 he came to Lincoln county and engaged in stockraising up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty years of age. His wife, who was born and reared in Tennessee, died at the age of thirty-seven years. Mr. Duggan was considered a successful man. To him and his wife were born six children, four of whom are living, namely: Walter H., the subject of this review; William, who lives in Idaho; Mrs. Laura Henney, who lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Richard, who is operating a ranch in Lincoln county.

Walter H. Duggan received his education in the schools of Washington county, Arkansas, where he lived until about seventeen years of age, when, in 1892, he accompanied his parents to Lincoln county. Here he completed his education by attending the schools of North Platte one year. He remained with his father on the home farm until 1904, when he obtained a tract of land by kinkaid, proving it up and making all the improvements on it. He is now the owner of 1,280 acres of land, a large part of which is devoted to the raising of Shorthorn cattle, in which he has been very successful. Mr. Duggan also does some general farming and last year had ninety acres planted to corn and forty acres in cane. He is a thoroughly practical man in all his operations and has earned the success which has crowned his efforts.

In 1903 Mr. Duggan was married to Katie Heil, a native of Pennsylvania, whose parents were farmers. Her father is now deceased and her mother is living in Grand Island, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Duggan have been born two children, Richard W. and Ora May, both of whom are at home. Politically Mr. Duggan gives his support to the republican party and has taken an intelligent interest in local public affairs, having rendered effective service as a member of the School Board in district No. 81. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His career since locating here has been such as to command the honor and respect of his fellow citizens, and he is deserving of representation in this work along with other representative citizens of his community.

Gus E. Koch. The rate of progress of any locality is largely dependent upon the readiness of the people to take advantage of the natural resources of the land, or their ability to overcome nature's obstacles. Fertile as Lincoln county is today, there was a period in its history when the outlook for its future as an agricultural center were not so bright, one of the principal ones being the lack of a sufficient water supply. However, the men who settled up this district knew how to overcome this and to develop those resources which have made of this region one of the garden spots of the world. One of the men who is making good as a farmer and who is satisfied with his selection of Lincoln county as his place of operation is Gus E. Koch of township 13.

Gus E. Koch was born in Schenectady county, New York, on June 17, 1873, a son of Jacob and Regina Koch. A sketch of the Koch family is given at length elsewhere in this volume. Growing up on his father's farm in Lincoln county, to which region the family had come, Gus E. Koch developed into a practical farmer,



and when he began to operate for himself in 1902 he knew how to carry on his business profitably. He owns 146 acres of hay land and is operating 155 acres of rented land as a general farmer.

In 1913 Mr. Koch was married in Lincoln county to Mrs. Emma Alkire, born at Arlington, Illinois, a daughter of William and Wilhelmina Kosbau, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1881 and settled at Arlington, Illinois. In later years they came to Lincoln, Nebraska, where the father was engaged in doing general labor for fourteen years, but he is now living at North Platte. The mother died when fifty years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Kosbau had three children, namely: Mrs. Koch, who was the eldest; Mrs. Lena Murphy, who lives at North Platte, Nebraska; and John, who is living at Hershey, Nebraska. Mr. Koch has a step-daughter, Edith, who is living at home. He is not connected with any religious denomination. In politics he prefers to cast his vote independent of party lines. His fraternal connections are those he maintains with the Order of Moose. Hardworking and thrifty, Mr. Koch has forged ahead and is rightly numbered among the worth-while citizens of Lincoln county.

SCOTT REYNOLDS is a native Nebraskan, and since coming to Lincoln county fifteen years ago has become securely established among the prosperous farmers and stockmen. His farm and ranch is located in section 23, range 13, township 30.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Butler county, Nebraska, in 1875, son of Foster M. and Charlotte E. (Reed) Reynolds. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania. His father was a Nebraska pioneer, homesteading in Butler county in 1868, soon after the close of the Civil war. He developed a farm, and lived there until his death. His wife is also deceased. He was a republican and both were members of the Methodist Church, while fraternally he was affiliated with the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Of their family of children one other son is at North Platte, Burt M. Reynolds, a well known architect of that city.

Scott Reynolds was reared on a farm, but in addition to the advantages of the schools of Butler county he attended the Nebraskan Wesleyan University at Lincoln. From college he returned to farming, bought some land in Butler county, and continued raising crops and livestock in that section until he moved to Lincoln county in 1905. For a time he was in the cattle business on the Van Brocklin ranch, and then moved to his present farm, where he makes a judicious combination of good livestock and the staple farm crops. He handles good grades of livestock and annually feeds about 150 cattle and a similar number of hogs for the market.

In 1898 Mr. Reynolds married Margaret S. Cameron, a native of Canada. They have a family of four children: Walter, who is a student in the Nebraska State University and is preparing for the law; Reed, who is taking a business course in the State University; Donald, at home; and Zoe, attending a school at Lincoln. Mr. Reynolds is a republican and ably represented Lincoln county in the State Legislature in the sessions of 1915 and 1917. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen.

**ALBERT HOWE.** The material advancement of the northwest section of the United States is the wonder of the world, and it has been largely secured through the sturdy and intelligent manhood of the pioneers from New York and other eastern states, with their moral and intellectual and physical stamina. The work of the pioneers is nearly complete, and every year sees the passing of those who laid the foundations of an empire and helped build it for later generations, and soon will the last of these sterling men be called to the Silent Land; but their memory will forever remain green among those who live among them and appreciate their efforts.

Albert Howe was born in Warren county, New York, in 1849, and is the son of Luke and Priscilla (Gage) Howe, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. They were married and spent the remainder of their lives in Warren county, New York. They became the parents of ten children, an equal number of sons and daughters, of which number six are now living, namely: Albert, the subject of this sketch; Alphonso, of Schuylerville, New York; Daniel, a farmer in Warren county, New York; Rollin, who operates a beet sugar factory at Loveland, Colorado; Emma and Ada, who remain unmarried and still live at the old home in New York state. The parents of these children were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Luke Howe was first a whig and later a republican in politics. He was a lumberman by vocation and was successful in his business affairs.

Albert Howe received his educational training in the schools of Warren county, New York, and his first employment was on a farm, where he worked until the fall of 1863, when he went to Iowa, where he remained a year. The following year he came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and entered a homestead, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his efforts for sixteen years. He then moved to a tree claim which he had taken up and resided there for about twelve years, or until 1912, when he moved to Wallace, where he has since resided, having sold his farm.

In 1873 Mr. Howe was married to Emma Scofield, a native of Saratoga county, New York, and the daughter of Russell Scofield, who came to Nebraska in the fall of 1884 and entered a homestead adjoining that of Mr. Howe, and where he resided until his death. Mrs. Howe's people consisted of father, stepmother, three brothers, Orison, George, and Dudley; three sisters, Ellen, Elizabeth, and Alma. They all pioneered with the family to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1884-5, except one sister Ellen, who married Dr. G. N. Thompson and lives in New York City. Mr. and Mrs. Howe and Doctor Thompson and wife were married the same day at the home of Russell Scofield at Saratoga, New York. Mrs. Howe taught school several years in New York before coming west. Her mother died when she was ten years old. Mr. and Mrs. Howe have one son, James H., who is a partner with Guy Fear in the Ford Garage at Wallace. They also adopted a daughter, Hazel Orton, a niece of Mrs. Howe, but who died in 1915, at the age of twenty-three years. James Howe was married at the age of twenty to Miss Hulda Martin, of Wallace, Nebraska. To them were born two children, Rena and Opal.

Politically Mr. Howe is independent, reserving the right to vote for the best men regardless of party lines. He has been intelligently interested in the public welfare of the community in which he lives and has held a number of local offices. He has been a witness and

active participant in the wonderful transformation which has taken place in this part of the country and he has been a factor in the development of the county. He and his wife are members of the Congregational Church. In the early days of their settlement here they were compelled to undergo many hardships and privations. They were compelled to drive by wagon to North Platte, forty-five miles away, for their food supplies, and had to haul their drinking water five miles. One recompense was the plentifulness of wild game, for they had all the antelope, deer and prairie chickens they could eat, and saw some wilder and more dreaded game, such as mountain lions. Mr. Howe's long and useful life as one of the world's workers has been crowned with success and with honor, for he so ordered his life that he won and still retains the universal esteem and regard of all who know him.

**BLOSS A. ELIAS.** The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors and fellow citizens. The life of Bloss A. Elias, one of the successful farmers of Lincoln county, has been such as to elicit just praise from those who know him best, having spent all of his mature life here engaged in the pursuits for which nature and training have best suited him and is a creditable representative of one of our respected families.

Bloss A. Elias is a native of the old Keystone State, having been born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 14, 1883, and is the son of Mathias Elias, who is now employed in the shops of the Union Pacific Railroad at North Platte. The subject was brought to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in the year of his birth, so practically his entire life has been spent here. He is indebted to the public schools for his educational training, and then he entered the Union Pacific Railroad shops at North Platte, where he served an apprenticeship at the trade of machinist, in which line of work he became an expert. He then spent some time in California, but eventually returned to Lincoln county and secured eighty acres of land, which became the nucleus of his present fine ranch of 1,000 acres, most of which is grazing land. He also homesteaded a section of land near North Platte, but later turned it back to the Government. He gives some attention to the raising of cattle, but as a rule follows a diversified system of farming, in which he has been eminently successful. His land is located in section 22, township 30, range 15, and is improved in a manner that indicates the owner to be a man of sound judgment and excellent discrimination. In 1911 Mr. Elias engaged in the automobile business, having the Buick agency and garage at Casper, but he sold out and has since confined his attention to his farming interests. He is progressive and methodical in his operations and is numbered among the enterprising and up-to-date farmers of his section of the county.

In 1911 Mr. Elias was married to Louise Hunt, who was born in Wisconsin, the daughter of James J. Wagner, a shipbuilder. The mother died when the daughter was but an infant, and the latter was adopted by her maternal grandmother Hunt, whose family name she bore. To Mr. and Mrs. Elias have been born two children, Louis, aged seven years, and Bernard, five years old.

Politically Mr. Elias gives his support to the democratic ticket, while in religion he and his wife are faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Elias owes his success to no train of fortunate incidents or fortuitous circumstances, but it is the reward of sturdy industry and persistency along a definite line of action. Genial and companionable, he has made a host of friends in this community who esteem him for his success and his splendid personal qualities.

**CARL RASMUSSEN.** Noteworthy among the sturdy and energetic farmers of Lincoln county is Carl Rasmussen, of township 13, North Platte, who thoroughly understands the vocation he is following, and is meeting with excellent success as an agriculturist. A son of John Rasmussen, he was born November 24, 1887, in Livingston county, Illinois.

Born and reared in Denmark, John Rasmussen, who saw but little opportunity for accumulating property in his native land, immigrated to the United States in early manhood. Locating in Livingston county, Illinois, he turned his attention to agriculture, and later invested in land, on which he was successfully engaged in general farming for many years. Coming from there to Nebraska, he bought a farm in Dawson county, where he now resides, being retired, however, from active labor. He married Dorothy Carson, who was born in Denmark, and as a girl came with her parents to this country, married, and spent her last years on the home farm. Three children were born of their union, as follows: A daughter living in Dawson county, Nebraska, Carl, the subject of this brief sketch, and a son who died in early life. The father is independent in politics and a member of the Advent Church, to which his wife also belonged.

Receiving a good school and college education in his Nebraska home, Carl Rasmussen had a practical drilling in the various branches of agriculture while working with his father, and did some farming on his own account while living in Dawson county. He came with his parents to Dawson county, Nebraska, when four years old, remaining there until 1918. Coming to Lincoln county on March 2 of that year, he purchased 280 acres of land on section 22, North Platte, and has since carried on general farming, including stockraising after the most approved modern methods. He is constantly adding to the improvements previously inaugurated, increasing its value and usefulness, his farm being one of the best kept and most productive in the locality.

Mr. Rasmussen married in Dawson county, Nebraska, Elena Smith, a native of that county. Her parents, B. and Dorothy (Lor-ensen) Smith, located in Dawson county, where they bought land and made their home and where the death of the mother occurred. Mr. Smith is still engaged in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen have three children, Virgil, Dorothy and Martha. Independent in his political affiliations, Mr. Rasmussen casts his vote in favor of what he deems the best men and measures, without regard to party prejudices. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church and are rearing their children in the same faith.

**CHARLES E. SNYDER.** A man of unquestioned business ability and tact, Charles E. Snyder is distinguished as the pioneer merchant of Bignell, where he is now living retired from active pursuits, having by good management and wise economy acquired a competency. A son of S. H. Snyder, he was born December 31, 1861, in southern Wisconsin.

Born, bred and educated in New York State, S. H. Snyder was employed in agricultural pursuits in the southern part of Wisconsin for several seasons, later being similarly engaged in Delaware county, Iowa. Returning to his native state, he continued there as a resident until his death, at the age of three score and ten years. His wife, whose name before marriage was Julia Smith, was born in the Empire State, and died in Delaware county, Iowa, when but thirty-five years old. Four children were born of their union, as follows: George, living in Iowa; Charles E., the special subject of this brief review; Lemur, deceased; and Chester G., living in Colorado.

Soon after attaining his majority Charles E. Snyder made his way to Nebraska, and lived in the eastern part of the state two years. In 1885 he homesteaded in Lincoln county, but never proved up on his claim. Subsequently buying a tract of land he carried on general farming for awhile, and was afterward engaged in the livery business at Maxwell, Nebraska, until 1907. Locating in Bignell, Lincoln county, in that year, Mr. Snyder embarked in the mercantile business, erecting the first building used for that business in the place. His trade demanding more commodious quarters, he moved into a building erected by the Lincoln Development Company, and continued as a merchant for ten years. Very successful in his undertakings, he is now living retired from active pursuits, enjoying a well earned leisure. Mr. Snyder has the distinction of having served as postmaster at Bignell since the town was created, and of now occupying the first house built within its limits. He is independent in politics, and a member of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Snyder married Martha Doan, a native of Freeport, Illinois. Her father, Joseph Doan, was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, and during his active career followed the blacksmith's trade. Enlisting as a soldier in the Civil war, he died while in service. His wife, whose maiden name was Elimaline Gregory, was born in Tennessee, and died in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are the parents of five children, namely: Bert, of North Platte; Bessie, wife of Jim Tift, lives in Iowa; Pearl married S. Tower, and resides in Oklahoma; Nellena, wife of Frank Barton, a farmer in Lincoln county; and Mrs. A. M. Frank, of Lincoln county.

NICHOLAS E. OGIER, of the Hendy-Ogier Auto Company in North Platte, has lived in West Virginia, Iowa and Nebraska. He was born September 26, 1877, in West Virginia. He is a son of Nicholas P. and Maria (Leach) Ogier, the father born in Ohio and the mother in Pennsylvania. They were married in West Virginia, and in 1880 they removed to Iowa, coming to Colfax county, Nebraska, two years later. In 1892 they came to Lincoln county and homesteaded, and a year later the mother was burned to death in a prairie fire sweeping the country. The father died in 1912 in Colorado.

There were eight children in the Ogier family, and those living today are: Willis, who has an alfalfa ranch in California; Chalmer, who has a fruit ranch in California; Louise, the wife of William Wydner, of Harrisburg, Oregon; Clayton Burbank, on a California dairy ranch; Clarence, at Wallace, Nebraska, on a farm; and Nicholas E., of North Platte, who commemorates the Ogier family in the Lincoln County History.

The Ogier family have been Baptists and republicans in politics

—religion usually coupled with politics in family history, men often declaring their politics are next to their religion. The father, Nicholas P. Ogier, was a Civil war soldier, Company F, in a West Virginia regiment, and although wounded he was three years in the service. West Virginia soldiers belonged to the Union Army while Virginia was a Confederate state, the division occasioned because of sentiment in the east and west relative to the slavery question.

Nicholas E. Ogier received most of his education after the family came west, and he worked on a farm until he was nineteen, when he came to North Platte, and was for six years a clerk in the Banks grocery store. For two years he was a foreman on the Union Pacific Railway, when he bought the Star Livery Barn in North Platte. After two years in the livery business Mr. Ogier became manager of the Standard Oil Station, remaining there seven years. In 1912 he went into the garage with W. J. Hendy, and the business has grown under their management until they had to seek larger quarters and finally they have their own building, moving into it in July, 1918, and they now have a floor space of 110 by 132 feet, and part of the building having an upper story.

The Hendy-Ogier Auto Company handles the Ford car exclusively, and a Ford hospital—general repair department—is connected with the business. Mr. Ogier is a mechanic himself, devoting his entire time to the business, and twenty men are employed in the plant. The Hendy-Ogier Auto Company has enjoyed a very satisfactory patronage.

In 1896 Mr. Ogier married Raie Garman, who had come from Michigan to Lincoln county. Their daughter, Grace, died in 1916. Raymond is in his second year in the University of Nebraska, and Robert is in North Platte Public School. Both of the boys have found their studies easy and both skipped grades in common school. While the early family church relation was Baptist, Mr. Ogier and family are Presbyterians in North Platte. He sustains membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, and finds some time for social recreation along with business activities.

**HARLEY L. PENNINGTON.** One of the important business establishments at North Platte, with business relations all over this section of the state, is Leypoldt & Pennington Company, dealers in grain, hay and coal. One of the active men of the organization is Harley L. Pennington who has become widely known among the grain growers of western Nebraska and represents his firm as country buyer.

Harley L. Pennington was born at Indianapolis, Indiana, May 30, 1891, but his family came to Nebraska the same year. His parents were James C. and Sena B. (Waters) Pennington, both natives of North Salem, Indiana. His father was born September 24, 1856, and his mother in 1859. The father died June 27, 1919, and the mother on March 30, 1908. They were married in North Salem, Indiana, and in 1891 came west to Stanton, Nebraska. James C. Pennington was a stockman. In 1908 he moved to North Platte and was in business as a dealer in livestock and hay until his death. He was a democrat in politics, affiliated with the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, and was a member of the Christian Church. He and his wife had seven children, five of whom are living: Mrs.

Thomas Cox, wife of a locomotive engineer of the Union Pacific; Mrs. E. K. Eswein, whose husband is a cheese manufacturer at Raymond, Washington; O. C., who is a buyer for the Leypoldt & Pennington Company at Atkinson, Nebraska; O. M., who saw active service overseas as an American soldier and was with the army from June, 1918, until mustered out August 12, 1919; and Harley L.

Harley L. Pennington acquired his early education in Omaha, completing a high school course in 1906. The following four years he worked at the painter's trade and for another two years farmed in Lincoln county. Since then he has given his services to the Leypoldt & Pennington Company, and is vice president of the business and has had an important part in establishing the business on a firm and favorable footing in western Nebraska.

November 30, 1911, Mr. Pennington married Zola M. Goldsmith. Mrs. Pennington was born at Stromsburg, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Virginia Florine, born in December, 1916. The family are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Pennington is affiliated with Elks Lodge No. 985 and the Yeomen, and in politics is an independent.

**CLYDE M. TROTTER.** Both educational and business pursuits have engaged the attention of Clyde M. Trotter of North Platte. While he is now engaged in the sale of automobiles, he has been an educator—teacher and school superintendent in Lincoln county. He was born February 28, 1882, at Avoca, Iowa. His father was a Canadian and his mother an Illinois woman. He is a son of Will J. and Mary (McArthur) Trotter. They came to Iowa as young people and were married there. The father secured his education in the States, both in Illinois and Iowa. He graduated in law in the Iowa State University and was engaged in practice when he died at Avoca, Iowa.

There were five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Trotter, and those living are: L. R. Trotter, in charge of lumber yards at Sarden; Estella, who is postmistress at Keystone; Jessie is the wife of J. F. Davis, a banker in Avoca, Iowa; and Clyde M., who relates the family story. The Trotter family have been Methodists, and the father in his day was a campaign speaker in the populist party. He had filled the chairs in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, and was an active man in community affairs at Avoca, Iowa.

After the death of his father C. M. Trotter was thrown upon his own resources. He made his own way while studying in the Gothenburg High School, and worked his way through the Iowa State University and the State Normal at Kearney, Iowa. He began teaching in the country schools of Lincoln county, and later he taught in Gothenburg and became superintendent of the Brady public schools. In 1905 he was elected superintendent of Lincoln county, and served two terms in this capacity.

It is said that teaching is a stepping-stone to other employment, and Mr. Trotter went from the schoolroom to the banking business in Brady. He helped organize the Brady State Bank and was its cashier, but later he owned the bank and became its president. Later he was state bank examiner for a period of four years. In 1913 Mr. Trotter sold the bank and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, devoting some of his time to looking after a ranch he had acquired near Brady. While engaged in the automobile business, in North Platte he still maintains his home in Brady.

Mr. Trotter branched into the automobile business in North Platte in 1917, and it has grown rapidly. He handles the Maxwell, Oakland, Hupmobile, Page, Hudson, Essex and Franklin cars. He already has two large salesrooms and is preparing another. It requires immense floor space to show a variety of cars. Under his management the business has been very satisfactory.

In 1905 Mr. Trotter married Hermenia Voss. She is a daughter of Herman Voss, who was an early resident of Lincoln county. He was a ranchman. They are Methodists. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Modern Brotherhood of America. He votes with the republicans and while living at Brady he held the office of town clerk. He was always a member of the school board at Brady. Mr. Trotter has been on his own resources and independent of others and though starting without finances has accumulated property.

**ARTHUR O'CONNOR.** Wonderful indeed has been the transformation of Lincoln county since it was first beheld by Arthur O'Connor, one of the pioneers of this county and who is still an influential and highly honored citizen here. Conditions were at that time discouraging in the extreme, but apparently insurmountable obstacles failed to dishearten him, and today he is in comfortable circumstances and able to enjoy that rest from active labor which he so richly earned.

Arthur O'Connor was born in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, on December 23, 1855, and is the son of Thomas O'Connor and his wife, whose maiden name was May Murphy, both of whom were natives of Ireland. Thomas O'Connor accompanied his parents to the United States when but four years of age and was reared and educated in Wisconsin, where the family settled. Subsequently the parents moved to South Dakota, bought land and devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits during the remainder of their lives, the father dying at the age of eighty years and the mother also being deceased. They became the parents of nine children, of which number the following are living: Arthur, the subject of this sketch; Lawrence, who lives on a homestead farm in South Dakota; Julia, who also lives in South Dakota.

Arthur O'Connor was reared and educated in his native county and there followed agricultural pursuits until 1881, when he came to Lincoln county. For three years he was employed in North Platte, and then ran a milk wagon for a time, but became financially embarrassed and turned his attention to farming near Sutherland, in which also he was not successful. He then bought a tract of land northeast of North Platte, but was no more successful in its operation than he had been in his other ventures. In 1903 Mr. O'Connor entered a homestead, which he proved up, and in addition to which he obtained another quarter section from the Government. To the improvement and cultivation of this land he applied himself with the determination that he would not again be defeated, and this time he won out, success having attended him continuously since. He is now the owner of 1,760 acres of splendid land, his home being located in section 20, township 12, range 30, and the improvements on the place are of a substantial and attractive character, so that the whole presents a very pleasing aspect. He carries on general farming and also gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle, shipping about a carload to market annually. His success has



been well earned, for he persisted in the face of almost unsurmountable obstacles, refusing to acknowledge final defeat; and today he is numbered among the substantial and representative farmers of his section of the county. He does not give so much of his personal attention to the details of the work as formerly, his sons having relieved him of much of the burden of the work.

Mr. O'Connor was married to Mary Hayes, a native of Saline county, Nebraska, and the daughter of Bernard and Mary Hayes, prosperous farmers in their locality. To Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor have been born four children, namely: Edward, of Laramie, Wyoming; Mrs. Mamie Powers, of North Platte; John, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; and William, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Politically a democrat, Mr. O'Connor takes an intelligent interest in public affairs, particularly as pertaining to local matters, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and of the Knights of Columbus. Because of his sterling character and his success he enjoys the universal respect and good will of all who know him.

**WALTER J. O'CONNOR.** The family history of Walter J. O'Conner, the North Platte merchant, reverts at once to London, England. He was born there in 1893, but when he was twenty-one years old he came to New York City, and he has been engaged in mercantile business in different places in the United States. His parents are John and Anna (Blissett) O'Conner. "It's a long, long way to Tipperary," but that is where John O'Conner was born, although his wife was born in England. They were married in England and John O'Conner had a dry goods store in London. He is a retired resident of the world's largest city today.

There were six children in the Irish-English O'Conner family, and Walter J. O'Conner of North Platte was the fifth and he acquired a knowledge of the mercantile business in his father's store in London. While he was educated in London, he had two years of study in New York City. He was a buyer in the silk and dress-goods department of a big store in New York before coming west, and he was with Samuel Wolbach for two years as buyer of silks, etc., when he went out to the Pacific coast for a time.

When Mr. O'Connor came to North Platte in 1911 he opened a five and ten cent store. He became associated with Kauffman and Werriert Company, and they incorporated at \$5,000 and one year later increased the capital stock to \$15,000, but in July, 1916, Mr. O'Conner bought out the other stockholders, and now the firm name is W. J. O'Conner, with Mr. O'Conner the owner of the business. He has been secretary and general manager of the incorporated store.

In September, 1917, Mr. O'Conner constructed a new store building, giving him a frontage of 110 feet, and since then he has added a forty-four foot building, and he now has three stores in one—the B. P. O. E. Department Store. In April, 1914, Mr. O'Conner married Alice Wilcox. Two children have been born, but only Helen Florence is spared to them. They are members of the Catholic Church and he is a Knight of Columbus. He belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge in North Platte. Mr. O'Conner devotes his whole attention to his business and he has been successful in it.

**HARLEN LINSTROM.** Among the enterprising and successful farmers of Lincoln county who have the interest of their locality at heart and who have led consistent lives, thereby gaining success along their chosen lines, is Harlen Lindstrom, whose well improved and productive farm is located in section 9, township 14, range 32. He has long been regarded as one of the most progressive agriculturists and public spirited citizens, everything about his place indicating good judgment and excellent system.

Harlen Lindstrom is a native son of the state now honored by his citizenship, his birth having occurred in York county, Nebraska, on January 31, 1880, and he is the son of Oscar and Helma (Bloom) Lindstrom, both of whom were natives of Sweden. These parents were farming folk in their native country, and came to the United States in 1868, locating first in Iowa, where they remained for several years. Subsequently they moved to Deuel county, Nebraska, and still later to York county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying there in 1896 and the mother in 1902. Oscar Linstrom followed farming all his life and was highly respected in the communities in which he lived. To him and his wife were born nine children, seven of whom are living, namely: Harlen, the subject of this review; Fred, of Stromsberg, Nebraska; Alice, who is the wife of Spence Edmundstein, of Sutherland, Lincoln county; Christiana, who makes her home with her brother, the subject; Anna, who lives with her sister in Sutherland; Carl, who lives in Iowa; and Frank.

Harlen Linstrom was about five years of age when the family moved to Deuel county, Nebraska, and in the schools of that locality he secured his education. After completing his education he applied himself to agricultural pursuits for several years, and also worked for a time as a "cow puncher." In 1900 Mr. Linstrom came to Lincoln county and bought a tract of land in section 9, township 14, range 32, to the operation of which he has since devoted himself. He carries on general farming operations, raising diversified crops, and through his persistent industry, good judgment and sound discrimination he has made a pronounced success of his work.

Mr. Linstrom was married to Nora Hollingsworth, and they are the parents of two children, Fay and Ruba. Mr. Linstrom is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors. In matters political he is independent, giving his support to the men he considers best qualified for office regardless of party lines. Quiet and unostentatious in his manner, he has attended strictly to his own affairs, and has earned the respect and esteem which are accorded to him by all who know him.

**CARL WICKSTROM.** Few citizens of the western part of Lincoln country are more widely or favorably known than Carl Wickstrom, the enterprising real estate dealer at Hershey and one of the community's most useful and highly esteemed men. His honorable business career has brought him before the public in such a way as to gain the respect and confidence of his fellow men and give him an enviable reputation throughout this section of the county.

Carl Wickstrom was born in the State of Illinois on January 28, 1879, and is the son of A. and Matilda (Larson) Wickstrom, who were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, namely: Alma, the wife of Alfred T. Anderson; Frank, of Denver, Colorado; Carl, the subject of this sketch; Minnie, the wife of Joseph Kemp of

Denver, Colorado; Harry, also of Denver; Philip, of Portland, Oregon; and Amos, of Denver. The father was a man of more than ordinary ability and was successful in his life work. In 1884 he moved with his family to Phelps county, Nebraska, where they remained until 1905, when he came to Lincoln county and became superintendent of the North Platte Land and Water Company, having charge of their irrigation work. He was also the owner of some excellent land, which he devoted mainly to stockraising. Politically he was a democrat. He died in July, 1913, and is survived by his widow, who lives in Kearney, Nebraska.

Carl Wickstrom was about five years of age when the family moved from Illinois to Phelps county, Nebraska, and there he secured his education. Subsequently he went to Denver, Colorado, and engaged in the wholesale hay and grain business, to which he devoted his attention for five years, or until 1905, when he came to Hershey, Nebraska, where he has since resided. Here he has engaged in the hay and real estate business, in both of which he has met with excellent success. Mr. Wickstrom possesses a very accurate knowledge of land values and has handled an enormous amount of land in this section of the state. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Hershey and is at the present time vice president of that institution, which is one of the solid and influential banks of Lincoln county.

In March, 1903, Mr. Wickstrom was married to Audley Robertson, a native of Nebraska. Fraternaly Mr. Wickstrom is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, while his religious affiliation is with the Presbyterian Church. Politically he is a republican, and, while he does not take an active part in public affairs, he consistently gives his support to every movement that promises to be of benefit to the community. Because of his public spirit, business ability and personal qualities he enjoys a deserved popularity throughout the community honored by his citizenship.

**DANIEL H. DOVENBARGER.** Energy and perseverance have been leading factors in the success of Daniel H. Dovenbarger, since 1895 the occupant of a farm near the postoffice of Ingham, in Lincoln county. He represents a family established in Nebraska in 1878, since which time its members have been worthy citizens, skilled and energetic farmers and leading contributors to the civilizing forces of education and religion. His own success has been gained through his unaided efforts, and in its gaining he has held the unqualified confidence of those among whom his career has been passed.

Mr. Dovenbarger is a West Virginian by nativity, having been born in Jefferson county, that state, in 1865, a son of Daniel and Catherine (Hethelbower) Dovenbarger, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Virginia (now West Virginia). The parents were farming people who came to the West in 1878, attracted by the widely-circulated reports of the opportunities opening up for ambitious people in this region, and the first settlement was made in York county, Nebraska, where Daniel Dovenbarger bought a farm. There he followed agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life and acquired a moderate measure of success. He was a democrat in his political policy, and was affiliated fraternaly with the Masons. Mrs. Dovenbarger belonged to the Dunkards religious sect.

Daniel H. Dovenbarger was educated in the public schools of West Virginia up to his thirteenth year, at which time he accom-

panied his parents to the new home in York county, Nebraska. There he took advantage of the opportunities offered in the early district schools, and in his leisure assisted his father in the cultivation of the prairie farm. He was thus reared to agricultural work, and when he entered upon his independent career it was as a tiller of the soil. He remained in York county until 1895, at which time he came to Lincoln county, and the region of Ingham has continued to be his home ever since. He has made numerous modern improvements on his land, and is accounted an up-to-date and progressive farmer and a skilled and thoroughly informed breeder of cattle. He inherits the strong and sturdy traits of a long line of stalwart and honorable ancestors and pursues a busy and useful life. Mr. Dovenbarger is an independent voter, and his religious faith is that of humanity and the Golden Rule.

Mr. Dovenbarger was married in 1895 to Miss Maria M. Lynd, a native of Wisconsin, whose parents were early settlers of Lincoln county, and to this union there have been born five children: Lillie, living with her father; Daniel C., who is the owner of a homestead; Della, who was attending school at York, Nebraska, at the time of her demise; and two children who died in infancy. After the death of his first wife, who passed away in the faith of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Mr. Dovenbarger married Mrs. Melissa Everetts, who by her first marriage was the mother of three children.

MRS. CAROLINE OLSEN. Wholly devoted to home and domestic duties, doing through all the best years of her life the lowly but sacred work that comes within her sphere, there is not much to record concerning the life of the average woman. And yet what station is so dignified, what relation so loving and endearing, what office so holy, tender and ennobling as those of home-making wifehood and motherhood. In the settlement of the great western states woman bore her full share of hardships, sufferings and other vicissitudes, helping man in the rugged toil of the new farm, cheering him when cast down and discouraged, sharing his dangers, in the end quietly and unostentatiously rejoicing in his success. In a compendium such as this work is intended to be, woman should have no insignificant representation, and it is deemed eminently fitting that specific mention should be made of her whose name heads this brief sketch.

Caroline Olsen was born in Sweden in 1852, and was there reared and educated. She was married in her native land to Ben Olsen, a native of her own land and born in the same year as she. About thirty-five years ago they came to the United States, locating first in New York State, where they remained three years. Then they moved to Pennsylvania, but about a year later came to Fremont, Nebraska, where they remained about a year. He then came to Lincoln county and homesteaded 160 acres of good land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he applied himself energetically and with splendid success. They had very little cash capital when they entered upon the task of establishing a home here, but they were rich in those qualities which are bound to result in success—faith in each other and in their own ability to accomplish the task to which they had set themselves. The first years here were characterized not only by the hardest sort of work, but discouragements also arose, hail storms and droughts either destroying their crops or retarding their growth, but they persisted and labored on year after

year until at length success crowned their efforts and they found themselves in comfortable circumstances. In 1891 Mr. Olsen was removed by death, after which Mrs. Olsen bravely continued the operation of the home farm until 1895, when she moved to the Town of Gothenburg, where she had bought a comfortable home, in which she expects to spend her remaining years. The home farm is well improved in every respect, the buildings being of substantial character and so arranged as to simplify the work as far as possible. General farming operations were carried on and some livestock was raised. Mr. Olsen was a man of rare good judgment in his farm operations and was considered one of the leading farmers of his locality, his removal by death being deeply regretted by a large circle of friends throughout his home community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Olsen were born four children, namely: Minnie of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Peter, of Gothenburg, Nebraska; Arthur and Esme, who are at home with their mother. These children have received good public school educations and are members of the best social circles of the community. Mrs. Olsen is a member of the Swedish Mission Church, to which she gives liberal support. She is a woman of gracious personality and generous impulses and because of her many fine qualities of character she has endeared herself to all who know her. She bore her full share of the toils and privations of the early days of her residence here and deserves, as she receives, the sincere respect and esteem of the entire community.

**SWAN A. LEAF.** One of the successful farmers of Lincoln county who has worked hard for that which he now possesses and knows how to appreciate the true dignity of labor is Swan A. Leaf, who, although born under alien skies and reared to customs other than ours, nevertheless is loyal to our institutions. Lincoln county has been fortunate in securing such a large number of men of his nationality and type, for they have been successful and have done much for this locality. Of the Swedish settlers of this county it can be said that they have become conspicuous in view of the fact that they have been enterprising and progressive, valued citizens in every respect, having while advancing their individual interests not been neglectful of the general good. Of this worthy band the name of Swan A. Leaf, whose fine farm is located in section 14, township 13, range 26, is deserving of specific mention in a volume of the nature of the one at hand.

Swan A. Leaf was born in Sweden on February 24, 1854, and was reared and educated in his native land, where he remained until twenty-eight years old. In 1882, realizing the limitations of the opportunities in his country for men of ambition and energy and hearing much of the successes of his fellow countrymen who had established themselves in America, he decided to follow their example. Upon his arrival he came to Lincoln county, which has been his home ever since. In 1883 he entered a homestead of 160 acres, and his wife also filed on a homestead of like size, so that they thus became the owners of 320 acres of good land, to the cultivation and improvement of which Mr. Leaf has devoted himself during the subsequent years. The improvements which he has made on the place are of a substantial character, the home is comfortable and convenient, and the general appearance of the place indicates him to be a man of good taste and sound judgment. He carries on general farming operations, raising all the crops common to the

section of the country, and also gives some attention to the raising of livestock, in which he has met with a very gratifying degree of success.

Mr. Leaf was married in his native country to Augusta Swanson, the daughter of Swan Pearson, who never left his native Sweden. To Mr. and Mrs. Leaf have been born two children, Thorney, who died at the age of eighteen years, and Allen, who lives at home.

Politically Mr. Leaf is independent, reserving to himself the right to vote for the men and measures which most nearly meet with his approval. He and his family are members of the Swedish Mission Church, of which they are liberal supporters. He has taken a deep interest in the educational affairs of his locality and for a number of years rendered effective and appreciated service as moderator of his district. In addition to his creditable career as a successful agriculturist he has in every respect proved an honorable member of the community, rising in the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, and in every relation of life he has never fallen below the dignity of true manhood, being numbered among the enterprising and influential citizens of his community, where so many useful years of his life have been spent.

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

Andrew Isakson was born in Sweden on October 16, 1855, and was there reared to manhood, securing his education in the public schools. In 1878, when twenty-three years of age, he immigrated to the United States in the hope of finding here better opportunities for advancement than could be found in his own country. He first located in Illinois, but a year later he went to Missouri, where he spent the following seven years. In 1885 Mr. Isakson came to Lincoln county, Nebraska, and homesteaded eighty acres of land, the nucleus of his present fine farm of 800 acres, which lies in section 13, township 14, range 26. At the time he came here this section of the county was almost entirely without settlers, there being no fences or other improvements of any nature. His first home was a sod house, in which he lived during the years when he was struggling to get his farm improved and in cultivation. Endless toil of the hardest sort characterized those early years here, and only by persistent and determined efforts was the battle won. But eventually success smiled on him and through the years since then Mr. Isakson has been numbered among the enterprising and substantial agriculturists of his community. He carries on general farming, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and has also given considerable attention to the raising of livestock, which has proven a valuable adjunct to his other labors. He has been a keen and sagacious man in his business dealings, and has so dealt with others as to win the reputation of a man of honor and fair dealing.

In 1887 Mr. Isakson was united in marriage with Shilock Peterson, and to them have been born four children, namely: Edward, who lives in Lincoln county; Antone, at home; Annie Oman, who lives in Custer county, Nebraska; and Esther, at home. The family are members of the Free Church, to which they give liberal support. Mr. Isakson has been an earnest supporter of education and rendered good service to his community as a member of the school board for three years. In his relations with his fellow men he has been thoroughly upright and conscientious, and because of his splendid qualities of character and his business success he enjoys the confidence and good will of the entire community.

**JOSEPH SHAW.** It is a well attested maxim that the greatness of the state lies not in the machinery of the government, or even in its institutions, but in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens. Among the citizens of Lincoln county who have earned the esteem of those who know them because of their indomitable efforts and their persistence in the face of difficulties, the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph occupies a leading place and is clearly entitled to representation in a volume of the character of the one in hand.

Joseph Shaw is a native of Hancock county, Illinois, where his birth occurred on December 11, 1877. He is the son of Benjamin and Clarinda (Hedrick) Shaw, both of whom were natives of Ireland. On coming to this country they located in Illinois, where the father followed general farming during the remainder of his life. He and his wife are both now deceased. They became the parents of thirteen children, of which number the following are yet living: Benjamin, who is a farmer near Wood River, Nebraska; Gilbert, who lives in Missouri; William, who lives in Illinois; Joseph, the immediate subject of this review; Mrs. Margaret Hastings, of Illinois; Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs, of Missouri; and Mrs. Malissa Emsniger, of Illinois.

Joseph Shaw was reared in his native county and there received his educational training. He made his first trip to Lincoln county, Nebraska, in 1886, when he came here with his uncle, William Hedrick, remaining here about a year. He then returned home, where he remained until sixteen years of age. From that time for several years he was employed in various localities in Texas, Canada, North Dakota and southern Missouri, until 1897, when he again came to Lincoln county and for about seven years was employed on farms and ranches in this county. He then homesteaded his present farm and applied himself to its improvement and cultivation. He has been very successful in the operation of this farm and is now the owner of 320 acres of excellent land, which he devotes to general farming and cattle raising. The improvements on the place are of a substantial character, and by good management and sound judgment Mr. Shaw has forged ahead until today he is numbered among the best farmers in his locality.

In 1908, at North Platte, Mr. Shaw was married to Mary Richard, a native of Kansas and the daughter of G. F. and Mary Richard, who were natives of Iowa. Mr. Richard was a farmer by vocation and had owned and operated farms in Ohio, Iowa and Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have two children, Mary and Patrick. In matters political Mr. Shaw is independent, while his religious membership is with the Roman Catholic Church. He is a man of broad sympa-

thies and generous impulses, and because of these qualities and his genial disposition he has won and retains a host of warm and loyal friends in this community.

**MICHAEL C. HARRINGTON.** While for several years past his home has been in Denver, Major Harrington is still regarded as an active influence in the commercial affairs of North Platte, and his son Paul Harrington is one of the diligent and enterprising younger business men of the community.

Major Harrington began his business career at North Platte in 1884. While the greater part of his life has been devoted to business he enjoys some unusual distinctions as a soldier.

He was born at Addison, New York, March 24, 1863, and was nearly fifty-five years of age when he rejoined the colors to serve his country in the World war. His parents were Cornelius and Mary (McNamara) Harrington, the former a native of Dingle or Tralee, County Kerry, and the latter a native of Scariff, County Clare, Ireland. They were reared in their native country and were married at Addison, Steuben county, New York, where they spent the remainder of their lives and where they now rest. Cornelius Harrington was a man of liberal education and cultivated the study of the Gaelic language and wrote many articles in Gaelic for Donahoe's Magazine at Boston, Massachusetts.

Michael C. Harrington at the age of sixteen left his home in the east and early in 1879 entered the United States Army as a government courier and guide during the Thornburg campaign and at the time of the Meeker massacre in Northwestern Colorado. In recognition of this service he received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He received a technical training in that famous school for three years, but his early ambitions for a military career were abandoned on account of eye trouble. Soon after leaving West Point he came out to Nebraska and located at North Platte March 1, 1884. Since then, with the exception of the time spent with the army in the World war he has been continuously in the general mercantile and banking business. From 1884 to 1886 he was employed as general book-keeper for Cash & Iddings at North Platte. In the meantime he had married a daughter of a North Platte pioneer, Isaac Lamplugh, and in February, 1887, he opened a store at North Platte under the name Lamplugh & Harrington on the site where John Herrod's new store now stands. Mr. Lamplugh retired from the firm in 1888, and it was continued as M. C. Harrington, Farmers Exchange & Country Produce Store, until 1890. In that year Mr. Harrington took in as a partner M. T. Tobin, and the firm was Harrington & Tobin "The Two Mikes" until the death of Mr. Tobin in 1894. In the meantime from 1889 to 1894 Mr. Harrington served as assistant cashier of the First National Bank during the regime of T. J. Foley and E. M. F. Leflang. Upon the death of his partner he resigned and took active charge of the mercantile business on March 1, 1894.

Major Harrington kept his home at North Platte until 1902 when he removed to Denver. He had acquired extensive interests in lands, cattle and city property in North Platte, and still owns some valuable holdings, chiefly the store properties surrounding the First National Bank Building. Since going to Denver Major Harrington has organized and taken an active part in the operation of two cor-



porations: The Harrington-Plumer Mercantile Company and the Anderson-Harrington Coal Company, while in 1910 he organized the Hibernia Bank & Trust Company of Denver, has since served as a director and is now managing vice president.

For a number of years he held the rank of major in the Regular Reserve Corps, and after America entered the war with Germany he was the eighteenth reserve major called into service. He served as major of the Quartermaster Corps from January 5, 1917, until May 2, 1919. He was on duty in France and England during the greater part of 1918, and received his honorable discharge with fifty per cent total and permanent disability incurred as a result of active duty. Part of the time he was attached to the general headquarters staff at London, and later was with the General Army Headquarters at Chermont, France. While there he fell a victim to the influenza, was sent back to England, and put in command of the American Rest Camp at Codford, St. Mary's. After the signing of the Armistice he was sent back to Denver and remained in the Government Hospital recuperating from January 26th until discharged May 2, 1919. The date of his discharge came just forty years after his first service to the government as a courier and scout in 1879.

Major Harrington is proud of the fact that three of his sons were also in government service during the war. Paul was in the Quartermaster's Training School at Washington, James was a marine at San Diego, California, and just at the close of the war John was commissioned an ensign at the Training School at Pelham Bay, New York.

Major Harrington classifies as an independent in politics, though for the greater part of his mature career he has been a democrat in national affairs. In municipal politics he has frequently supported republican candidates. Many years ago while living in Nebraska, he was slated for the nomination for Congress on the populist ticket, but retired in favor of Judge Neville, who was elected. Major Harrington is a charter member and Past Chancellor Commander of Mazeppa Lodge No. 115, Knights of Pythias, has been affiliated with the Knights of Columbus for seventeen years, and is a member of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Denver Chamber of Commerce, the Denver Traffic Club and the Denver Grain Exchange. His home in Denver is at 924 E. 17th Avenue.

At North Platte November 25, 1885, he married Miss Fannie Lamplugh, daughter of Isaac and Mary Lamplugh of North Platte. Her family were pioneers of Lincoln county, Nebraska, and her father and mother are buried there. Isaac Lamplugh was a blacksmith in the Union Pacific shops, but later established a ranch at Lamplugh Lake. His son Harry now occupies this ranch.

Major Harrington lost his first wife on October 16, 1896. On June 9, 1902, he married at North Platte Mrs. Mary M. Tobin, widow of his former business partner and a sister of his first wife.

Major Harrington's children are all by his first marriage: Clarence L., married and living at Denver; C. Paul, of North Platte; James H. and Minerva, unmarried, and residents of Denver; Frances and John, twins, the former the wife of Thomas Williams, a railway contractor living at Durango, Mexico, while John is a resident of Denver. The daughter Minerva is a graduate nurse from the Mayo Brothers Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, and follows her pro-

fession in Denver. Clarence Harrington is president of the Harrington Mercantile Company, established by his father, while James is connected with the Anderson & Harrington Coal Company at Denver.

Paul Harrington, the only member of the family now living at North Platte, was born in that city June 30, 1892, and was liberally educated, graduating from Denver public schools and receiving his A. B. degree from Creighton University at Omaha in 1914. He immediately entered the grain business with his father and now has charge of the office at North Platte. He is a member of the Catholic Church, belongs to Lodge No. 985 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is a leading knight, fourth degree Knights of Columbus.

**WALTER B. MCNEEL.** This biographical memoir has to do with a character of unusual force and eminence, for Walter B. McNeel, whose life chapter has been closed by the fate that awaits all mankind, was for a long period of years one of the prominent citizens of Lincoln county, having come to this county about three decades ago, and he assisted in every way possible in bringing about the transformation of the county from its primeval condition to its latter-day progress and development. While he gave energetic attention to his own business affairs, he also belonged to that class of representative citizens who promote the public welfare while advancing individual success. There were in him sterling traits which commanded uniform confidence and regard, and his memory is today honored by all who knew him and is enshrined in the hearts of his many friends.

Walter B. McNeel was born in Washington county, Virginia, and was the son of Austin D. and Emily (Davenport) McNeel, both of whom were also natives of the Old Dominion State. Austin McNeel followed agricultural pursuits all his life, carrying on general farming operations, and was a successful man in his business affairs. To him and his wife nine children were born, namely: Austin, deceased; David B.; Walter B.; Florence, who lives in Butte, Montana; Allen G., deceased; Georgia, the wife of Jerry McCarthy, of Texas; Augusta L., who lives in Sutherland, Nebraska; R. Clinton, of Butte, Montana, and Gabriel, the wife of Timothy Martin, of Seattle, Washington.

Walter B. McNeel attended the common schools in his native state, completing his scholastic education in Emory and Henry College, at Emory, Virginia. After his graduation from college, he entered the railroad mail service, in which he was engaged for several years, and later held two offices of trust in the State of Virginia. In the fall of 1890 Mr. McNeel moved to the State of Nebraska and homesteaded a tract of land in Lincoln county, on which he settled and to which he devoted his energies for a number of years. In 1894, under the administration of President Cleveland, he was in the government employ as special land agent for the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, in which capacity he rendered good service. He then returned to Lincoln county and thereafter applied himself to his farming and stockraising interests, in which he met with a very satisfactory degree of success, becoming well known as one of the progressive and enterprising farmers of his section of the

county, and at the time of his death, which occurred on March 10, 1913, he enjoyed a marked popularity throughout the county.

A democrat in his political faith, Mr. McNeel for many years took an active part in public affairs, especially as relating to the county in which he lived. In 1904 he was nominated by the democrats for the office of Congressman, but was defeated by a small margin. His religious affiliation was with the Roman Catholic Church and he was an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

Walter B. McNeel was twice married, first, in 1894, to Cora Griffin, of Prince George county, Maryland, and after her death, to Christina Gwynn, of the same locality. To the first union were born two children, Walter B., deceased, and Austin, who now lives in San Diego, California. By the second union there were five children, Cora, Bernard, Alexander, Grace and Emily. Mr. McNeel's chief characteristics seemed to be keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of motive and sound judgment. Successful in business and respected in social life and as a neighbor, he discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of the state, so that he enjoyed to a notable degree the confidence and regard of all who knew him.

**ALFRED BERGMAN.** A resident of Nebraska for thirty years, and since 1903 a farmer and cattleman of Lincoln county, Alfred Bergman is one of the contributions of Sweden to the citizenship of this part of the west. He is a typical representative of the best agricultural element of the county. Intelligent, practical, systematic, diligent, persevering, and provident in his farming operations, he is absolutely just in his dealings with all who have transactions with him, and his career as a farmer has reflected credit upon that vocation.

Mr. Bergman was born in Sweden in 1853, a son of John and Casha Bergman, farming people who passed their long and honorable lives in the old country. Alfred Bergman was educated in his native land, and there grew to manhood and was trained to agricultural pursuits. When he came to the United States in 1887 he settled first at Galesburg, Illinois, and that community continued to be his home for three years, his advent in Nebraska occurring in 1890. At that time he took up his residence in Dawson county, where he farmed for thirteen years, and in 1903 located in Lincoln county, where he applied himself principally to raising stock ever since. His good management and industry have combined to accumulate for him a comfortable competence, and his good citizenship and integrity have been the medium through which he has gained and held the good will and esteem of his neighbors and fellow-citizens.

Mr. Bergman was married June 18, 1878, to Miss Margaret Johnson, who was also born in Sweden, and who was a young woman when she came to the United States. To this union there have been born eight children, namely: Hilda, the wife of John Burns, a locomotive engineer of Utah, who resides at Ogden; Emma, the wife of Mr. Smith, an agriculturist of the State of Washington; Vendla, wife of J. E. M. Jenkins, whose home is in California; Victor, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county, in the vicinity of the home property; Misses Esther and Abbie, who reside with their parents; Elizabeth, of North Platte, Nebraska, a trained nurse; and Freda, deceased.

Mr. Bergman is a republican, but is not actively interested in political affairs. His religious connection is with the Lutheran Church.

CHARLES A. LISTON grew up on the plains of western Nebraska, practically lived in the saddle from the time he was thirteen or fourteen years of age, learned every phase of the ranching and cattle business, was a practical cowboy before he was of age, and is one of the men who from a humble beginning so far as financial circumstances were concerned has achieved a notable success, and is regarded as one of the foremost stockmen of Lincoln county.

Mr. Liston was born in Livingston county, Illinois, December 1, 1871. His father, William Liston, was born in Scotland, and was brought to this country at the age of nine years, the family settling in Illinois in 1856. William Liston followed farming, and in 1884 homesteaded in Hays county, Nebraska. He died at the age of sixty-one. His wife, whose maiden name was Margaret S. Sleeth, is now living at Lincoln, Nebraska. Charles A. was the oldest of five children, four sons and one daughter.

Charles A. Liston acquired a common school and commercial education, and was about thirteen years of age when his father came to Nebraska. He grew up on the prairies, and in 1892, at the age of twenty-one, started for himself. His sole capital at that time consisted of a team of horses, harness and about a hundred dollars. He endured all the trials of the homesteader, faced bravely vicissitudes and discouragements in ranching, and now after nearly thirty years owns a 7,500-acre ranch stocked with 800 head of cattle, all high grade Herefords. He is also one of the leading producers of the Duroc Jersey hogs, having a herd of pure bred. This is easily one of the best ranches in western Nebraska, every part of its equipment being thoroughly modern.

Mr. Liston helped establish a bank in his community in 1915, and is its president and one of its stockholders. He also had a prominent part in establishing and is the president of the Maywood Fair, which now ranks second among similar institutions of that state of Nebraska. Mr. Liston has engaged extensively in the real estate business for a number of years. He has the distinction of driving the first automobile in Lincoln county. He has seen the country of western Nebraska develop from a bare prairie into a broad landscape of alternating farms and ranches, and may well take satisfaction in the part that he has taken in that development.

Mr. Liston is affiliated with the Masons, Elks and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in politics is a republican. In 1892 he married Miss Cora McGooden, and they have one son, Clarence, who now helps his father on the ranch. They farm about 1,000 acres in corn, oats and barley and rent about 1,000 acres for grain rent, receiving one-third of the crop delivered at the ranch.

CHARLES PASS. While a veteran railroad man now on the retired pension list of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Charles Pass, whose home has been at North Platte for thirty-five years, early in his residence began developing a side line in gardening and floriculture, and with the assistance of his son has made that a business of extensive proportions, one of the important industries of North Platte today.

Mr. Pass was born in Northamptonshire, England, March 25, 1844, and came to the United States in 1878. He lived in Canada for a time, and while there married Mary Sexton, a native of Toronto. Soon after his marriage he took his bride to Aurora, Illinois, he was employed for a time in the Milwaukee Railroad shops, and for a year in the Burlington Railroad shops. Removing to Dubuque, Iowa, he spent three years and nine months in charge of the machine railroad shops of the Milwaukee system. In 1885 he came to Nebraska, locating at North Platte. Mr. Pass gave twenty-four years of skillful service in the Union Pacific shops, and it was a well deserved honor when he was placed on the pension roll by the company to which he had given so much fidelity.

The first year he was in North Platte Mr. Pass devoted his leisure hours to the cultivation of what was more than a private garden, raising a surplus of truck for market. He considered it a business of promise, though all his friends and neighbors did what they could to dissuade him from embarking any considerable capital or extra work in the business. In spite of predictions he has gone steadily ahead, and his early efforts might be considered the foundation of the present extensive greenhouses and floral shops at North Platte.

Mr. Pass is independent in politics, and he and his family are members of the Catholic Church. Mrs. Pass, who died October 16, 1917, was a greatly beloved woman in North Platte, active both in home and church. She was the mother of three children, Charles J., Leo Francis, and one who died in infancy. Leo Francis, the younger son, was educated in high school at Denver, took a gold medal for elocution, and then entered the Georgetown University at Washington, District of Columbia, graduating in the Law School in 1916. Since then he has been with the legal department of the War Bureau at Washington, now having charge of a division.

The older son, Charles J. Pass, was born at Dubuque, Iowa, October 14, 1884, was educated in the parochial schools at North Platte, and as a young man began an apprenticeship at the machinist's trade. He worked at this only a short time, and then took up a more congenial work, assisting his father in developing the truck garden and floral business. They have been active partners ever since, and in 1905 entered upon new and broader plans for the development of their industry. At the present time the business covers  $\frac{1}{2}$  block of ground on Pine street and 15,000 square feet are under glass. They specialize in the production of flowers.

July 11, 1918, Charles J. Pass married Hilda Goodin, a native of Lebanon, Kentucky. She was educated in the Conservatory of Music at Louisville, Kentucky, and after graduating taught vocal for two years. She is the mother of one daughter, Mary Elise, born August 6, 1919. Charles J. Pass has taken an active part in the Knights of Columbus and served as state secretary and is now district deputy of the state of Nebraska. He is a democrat in politics.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Charles Pass began growing celery in England in 1852 for his father, and that year sent celery seed to DeKalb, Illinois, with instructions for growing that product. He was the first celery grower at North Platte, in 1886, and that has been quite an extensive business with him since that time.

CLARENCE HARRIS. There is a certain amount of satisfaction to one in knowing that he has succeeded in any line of endeavor, and

especially is this true when his efforts have been directed toward agricultural pursuits. Not only in them does a man make a living, but he acquires a property that increases in value with each year, and at the same time renders a valuable service to the world by producing foodstuffs. Lincoln county has become a very important center of agricultural activity, and one of the men attracted to it who has made a success in farming is Clarence Harris of section 24, township 9.

Clarence Harris was born near Galesburg, Illinois, March 6, 1883, a son of Isaac and Mary Harris, both of whom were born in Indiana. For a time Isaac Harris employed himself in teaching school in Indiana, but later moved to Illinois and engaged in farming, being thus occupied until 1888, when he came to Nebraska and homesteaded in Lincoln county. He proved up his claim and was engaged in farming it when he died, being then but thirty-seven years old. His widow survives and makes her home at Wallace, Nebraska. They became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Nora Creek, now deceased; Clarence, who was second in order of birth; Carl, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Mrs. Mary Farrell, who is living at Wallace, Nebraska.

Clarence Harris was but five years old when his parents came to Lincoln county, but he remembers many incidents of those days and the hardships they like other homesteaders were forced to endure. However, although he passed through these experiences, he was not discouraged, and decided upon devoting himself to farming as his life work. In 1906 he began for himself, and has been so successful that he now owns 560 acres of valuable land, which is under cultivation, and he has put in all of the improvements himself, having things in nice shape. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Catholic Church. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus. A friend of the public schools, he is now serving district No. 30 as treasurer, and has done much to improve the educational standards in his section.

Mr. Harris was married in Lincoln county in 1908 to Mamie Corbitt, born in Nebraska, a daughter of John and Annie Corbitt, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Harris became the parents of the following children: John, Clare, Aileen, Anna Ri and Lois, all of whom are at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harris are well liked in their neighborhood, and are regarded as splendid types of the best class of farming people in this state.

**CYRUS FOX.** The recollections of the pioneers of Lincoln county are not only intensely interesting, but also instructive, for they show how courage, endurance and industry can bring about changes which seem almost impossible, and convert a wilderness, infested with hostile Indians, to one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the West. One of the men who has been associated with this remarkable advance in civilization in Lincoln county is Cyrus Fox, one of the progressive farmers of township 16, whose well cultivated farm of 160 acres is in section 10.

Cyrus Fox was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 1845, a son of William L. and Sarah (Watts) Fox, natives of Pennsylvania. They were married in that state and became the parents of six children, namely: Cyrus, John, Jessie and Christiana, who live in Iowa, and two who are deceased. Desir-

ing to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the government for securing land from the public domain, William L. Fox freighted his household possessions and family overland from Dubuque, Iowa, which he had reached by train, to the Black Hawk county in a wagon, and there he homesteaded. Later he went into the hotel business in that region, and was a well known man at the time of his death, which took place when he was seventy-five years of age.

Cyrus Fox grew up on the homestead and acquired what schooling he could, but his plans were broken in upon by the war between the North and the South, and he enlisted in Company C, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, of which George W. Harrison Cramer was captain, and served as a brave soldier. After the close of the war he returned to his father's homestead in Iowa.

Mr. Fox came to Nebraska and in 1864 assisted in building Fort McPherson, first called Cottonwood, and took part in the punishment of the Indians for the Plum Creek massacre, he being one of the escort guarding the stage. He also drove the stage from Cottonwood to Ogallala, for a period of six weeks and he also took part in the engagement with the Indians at Julesburg, Colorado.

His service in this region gave him some idea of the possibilities of this section and he homesteaded and also took up a tree claim, but now only owns a quarter section, having sold the remainder of his holdings. At that time there were very few settlers and only one house stood between his homestead and North Platte. The first house was a sod one, for timber was so scarce and expensive that the majority of the homesteaders used the material close at home for their first settlers, but long ago the primitive structure was replaced by a substantial one of frame. Another difficulty the pioneers had to overcome was lack of pure drinking water, and for some time after his arrival Mr. Fox had to haul all of it from Arnold. As time went on, however, these obstacles were gradually overcome and today this part of the state offers as many advantages as any other, and the fact that it does is but another proof of the capabilities of the pioneers. Mr. Fox passed through the disastrous prairie fire of 1886, which resulted in the destruction of the farm equipment of nearly every settler in the region, but he replaced what he lost and now has some very valuable improvements which he keeps in fine shape, for he takes pride in his property and is anxious to have everything modern. In politics he is a republican, and he has been on the School Board for some years.

Mr. Fox was married to Katherine Miller, who was born in New York state, and they have three children, namely: Bulah Sensel, Oria Smith and Edward Fox.

**WILLIAM W. BIRGE.** One of the most successful and prominent representatives of the lumber industry of Lincoln county is William W. Birge, an early lumberman of North Platte, who stands in the front ranks among the leaders of his trade, having through industry, persistent effort and careful management accomplished highly gratifying results in his undertakings. A son of George R. Birge, he was born in New York state, where he spent the very early years of his life.

George R. Birge was born, reared and married in New York state, where he learned the trade of an architect and builder. Mi-

grating westward in 1857, he settled with his family in Wisconsin, not far from Chicago. Soon after the great conflagration of 1871, that nearly destroyed Chicago, he superintended much heavy construction work in rebuilding the city, but subsequently returned to Wisconsin, both he and his wife spending their last days in Whitewater, that state. He was a republican in politics from the formation of that party, and a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His wife was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Her maiden name was Alice Palmer, and she was a native of the Empire State.

Acquiring a practical knowledge of books in the public schools of Wisconsin, William W. Birge began life for himself when very young, with no means, excepting his hands, and when in later years he was admitted to membership with one-third interest, in a firm with a paid up capital of \$15,000, his entire cash investment was \$23.05. Having faith in the opportunities to be found in the newer and less settled sections of the country he came to Nebraska in 1879, and for two years was engaged in the lumber business in Franklin, Harlan and Furnas counties. Coming from there to Lincoln county in February, 1881, he embarked in the lumber trade at North Platte, and was successful from the start, for many years having been head of the prosperous firm of Birge & Frees, which at one time owned and operated six yards. Mr. Frees, now a resident of San Diego, California, sold out to Mr. Birge, who managed the business under his own name from 1884 until 1913, when it was incorporated and owned entirely by him. The company, August 1, 1919, consolidated with the George T. Field organization, as the Field Birge Company, capitalized at \$75,000, with but four members in the company, L. B. Dick being president; Richmond D. Birge, secretary and treasurer; W. W. Birge, first vice president; and Mrs. George T. Field, second vice president.

Mr. Birge married, in 1884, Jennie Dillon, a niece of Sidney Dillon, the railroad magnate, and they have two children, namely: Richmond D. and Alice. Richmond D. Birge was graduated from the North Platte High School at the age of sixteen years, and later took a commercial course in Lincoln. He began work immediately in the office of Superintendent Ware of the Union Pacific Railroad Company at North Platte, at twenty-five dollars a month, his salary, however, being soon advanced to forty dollars. He soon became quite an expert telegrapher, but never took a position as such, although he was urged to do so. He enlisted in service in November, 1918, and went to Camp Taylor, Kentucky, where he remained until receiving his discharge. He married Orilla Gilman, and they have one son, Richmond D., Jr., and an infant daughter. Alice, who graduated with high honors from the University of Nebraska in 1911, is the wife of Bert Barber, who is in the oil business at Fort Worth, Texas, and they have two children, Bert, Jr., and Alberta. Mr. Barber was graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1912, and subsequently went to the Argentine Republic to teach the natives how to raise corn, the government paying him \$2,000 a year, and all his expenses, including those incurred while visiting London and Lisbon en route. During the World war he enlisted in the Aviation Corps at Kelley Field, Texas.



Mrs. Birge died in March, 1917. She was a woman of much force of character, and a most competent educator, a principal of schools and for six years a member of the Board of Education of the City of North Platte and for two years of this period was Secretary of the Board. She was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Birge is a republican in politics. Fraternally he is prominent in the Ancient Free and Accepted Order of Masons, and as a Knight Templar has served as Eminent Commander. He has never sought or accepted political office.

In 1894, when the farmers promoting the South Side Irrigation & Land Company were not able to build their head gate on the North Platte River and excavate the canal from it to the South Platte River, a distance of 6¾ miles, Mr. Birge offered to contract to execute both jobs and take canal stock in payment. This was accepted. Delay ensued in course of time over right of way, but the work was finally completed and the canal was operated for several years through nearly its whole course of forty-two miles.

He has always earnestly labored in the interest of the County Fair, certain that it is a great help for good. He was a director for nine years and president of the association for three years. The association, owning no grounds, was for several years compelled to hire such accommodations as were available, but sadly unsuitable. A tract of seventy-four acres of land adjoining the city, with a number of shade trees, was part of an estate of which he was the trustee. But he being also president of the association, his hands were tied. On laying the problem before the late Major Walker he heartily approved the plan of the property being acquired by the city for general purposes, and consented to use his efforts to arouse an interest in the community to obtain the property, which has since become North Platte's City Park, where the County Fair Grounds are located, with numerous buildings for the accommodation of exhibitors of all classes. It also contains the best ½-mile track in the state, and very large and strong grand stands and bleachers for the benefit of the public.

Of all those who were engaged in the lumber business in Nebraska when Mr. Birge began in April, 1878, it is said to be true that not one of them continued in actual personal control and operation of the business for as many years since that time as he has, over forty years, and not a day spent in bed in that period. At one time he had at North Platte the only stock of lumber between Cozad and Cheyenne, 270 miles.

**ALEXANDER BROWN.** While Alexander Brown of North Platte prides himself on his Scotch ancestry, his birth occurred, October 7, 1880, at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The father and mother, William and Catharine (Harkness) Brown, were Scotch immigrants who tarried for a time in Pennsylvania before they finally located in Nebraska.

William Brown was with the Union Pacific Railway for a number of years, dying at the age of sixty-four years in North Platte. His wife attained to seventy-three years. They were parents of four children: Alexander, Mrs. Frank Powers, Mrs. James Hall and Mrs. A. W. Brown.

Alexander Brown married Sophia Christ, who is a native of Pennsylvania. She is a daughter of George and Margaret (Hoffman) Christ, who later removed to McPherson county, Nebraska, where he engaged in general farming until his death. His wife still lives there. The four children born to Alexander and Sophia (Christ) Brown are: Marie, William, Robert and Catharine.

Mr. Brown was only six weeks old when his parents came to Lincoln county. He has been a live stock producer since nineteen years of age, later taking up general farming in addition. He has been successful in the livestock business and owns a herd of 200 Hereford cattle.

In politics Mr. Brown is independent, always voting for the man rather than the party. The family is connected with the Catholic Church in North Platte.

J. FRANK GANSON, one of the leading merchants at Hershey, is an Ohioan by birth and may justly bear the title of "self-made man," having worked his way unaided through the vicissitudes and adversities of life to an admirable and influential position among the business men of Lincoln county. The success attained in his business enterprises has been greatly owing to his steady persistence, stern integrity and excellent judgment, which have also won for him the confidence and esteem of the public.

J. Frank Ganson was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on August 23, 1863, and is the son of Louis A. and Rebecca (Harper) Ganson, both of whom were also natives of the Buckeye state. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the following five are living: J. Frank, the subject of this sketch; Flora, the wife of Fred Slawson, of Sidney, Nebraska; Maggie, the wife of Frank Hall, of Denver, Colorado; Jessie, the wife of Mr. Weim; and Joseph, who lives in Iowa. Louis A. Ganson was reared to the life of a farmer and followed that vocation in his native state until 1886, when he moved to Nebraska, settling in old Cheyenne county, where he entered a homestead and thereafter gave his attention to farming and stockraising up to the time of his death, which occurred in February, 1895. He was a republican in politics, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was affiliated with the Grange.

J. Frank Ganson received his education in the public schools of his native state, where he lived until about twenty-five years of age. He then came to Cheyenne county, Nebraska, and located a homestead near Lodgepole, where he was engaged in farming and stockraising until 1896. In that year he moved to North Platte and, in partnership with W. L. Park, engaged in the business of gardening and fruit-growing. A short time later he entered the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad, with which company he remained until 1902, when he became manger for W. W. Young in the hardware, lumber and coal business. He remained thus employed until 1910, when he and O. H. Arley bought a general store in Hershey. Sometime later Mr. Ganson bought Mr. Arley's interest in the business and has since conducted it alone. His store is one of the largest and most complete establishments of the kind in this part of the county, and Mr. Ganson enjoys a large and representative patronage. Right prices, good goods and courteous treatment of his customers are the elements which have contributed to Mr. Ganson's



*O. H. Cressler*

prosperity, and he is deservedly well liked by all who have had dealings with him.

On June 13, 1888, Mr. Ganson was married to Delia Cisney, a native of Adams county, Nebraska, and to them have been born four children, namely: Floy, deceased; Mabel, deceased; Blanche, who is the wife of Vern E. Brewer, of Hershey; and one who died in infancy. Politically Mr. Ganson is independent, and fraternally is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, while his religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal Church. A man of genial disposition and genuine worth, and public-spirited in his attitude toward all matters affecting the welfare of the people, he enjoys an enviable standing in this locality and is numbered among the enterprising and progressive business men of Hershey.

Dr. O. H. CRESSLER, the North Platte dentist, is known in a professional way outside of the city in which he maintains his dental parlors. He has always been active in the societies allied with the profession, and has had his share in promoting and advancing the science of dentistry in Nebraska and the nation.

Dr. Cressler was born at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1876, just 100 years after the Declaration of American Independence. His parents were Jonah F. and Emma V. (Hartman) Cressler. His father was born at Shippeensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1846, and died in 1917, while the mother, born in 1851, is now a resident of San Francisco. The Cressler family belong to the English Lutheran Church and has always voted with the republican party. Jonah F. Cressler was educated at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for the English Lutheran ministry, and for many years occupied church pulpits in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, in 1890 moving west to Lisbon, Iowa, where he served for nine years in one pulpit, and was also local minister at Teknalia, Nebraska, for three years. From there he went to Rising City, and later to New Cambria, Kansas, where after many years of service he retired from the ministry. He then located at North Platte, but later moved to California and died in San Francisco. Dr. Cressler was his oldest child. Edward P., the second in age, is a dentist in Newton, Kansas; Sara Adella is the wife of Otto Hansen, who has achieved military distinction and is connected with the quartermaster's department of the United States Army, his special duties being determining sites for training camps.

Dr. O. H. Cressler secured his high school education at Lisbon, Iowa, and pursued the academic and college courses at Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, until 1898. In 1900 he entered the Omaha College of Dentistry at the University of Omaha, and upon his graduation in 1903 located at North Platte, opening his dental parlors the 4th of May. His practice has been steadily increasing and he now employs two assistants. While his skill and abilities are appreciated by his large personal following in Lincoln county, he is also well known in dental organizations, being a member of the District, State and National Dental Societies. He also belongs to the Woodbury Study Club of Omaha, a professional club organized in order that its members may bring the best talents of the dental profession to its meetings. Membership is limited to twenty-five practicing dentists, and Doctor Cressler has held at different times nearly all the club offices. He was elected president of the Northwestern Dental Society in 1914, served two terms as vice president

of the Nebraska State Dental Society, and was honored as president of that organization in 1916.

Doctor Cressler has usually invested his surplus funds in land, and his investments have in the main been attended with profit. He owns one of the finest if not the finest home in North Platte, a \$25,000 residence property.

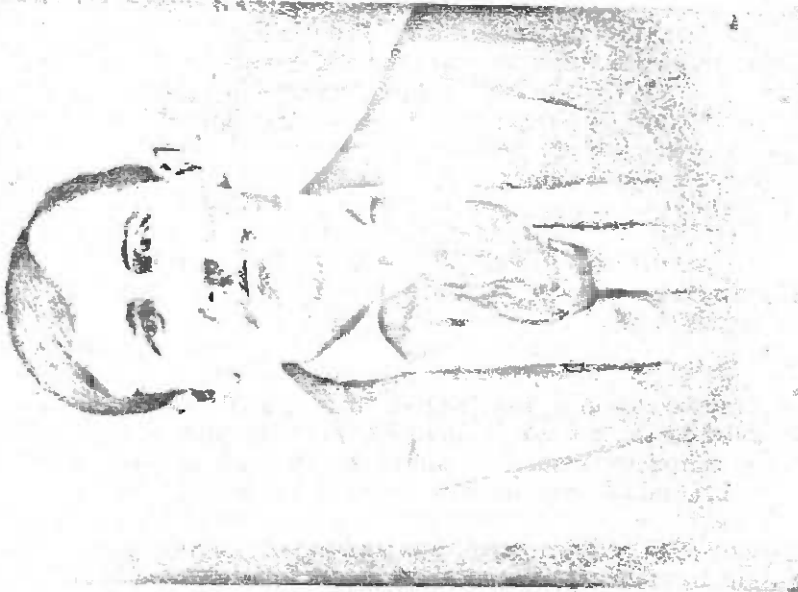
October 26, 1905, he married Pearl H. Will, of Omaha. Their only daughter, Mildred Adella, has given evidence of special talent as a musician. The family worship in the English Lutheran Church, and Doctor Cressler is a York Rite Mason and Shriner, having served as master of Platte Valley Lodge No. 32, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, high priest of Euphrates Chapter No. 15, Royal Arch Masons, and as eminent commander of Palestine Commandery No. 13, Knights Templar. He is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias and is active in local democratic politics. Doctor Cressler would always be mentioned in a Who's Who of North Platte.

**WALTER LAPPING.** It is a fortunate thing for any community when the young men decide to remain on the farm, for this important industry needs their youthful enthusiasm and vigor, and the country the results of their labor. A section that is deserted by the younger generation rapidly shows signs of decay. Farm lands which are left in the hands of renters lose their full value, decreasing in fertility and productiveness, and every line of business shows the enervating effect of such neglect. So important a factor in any rural community has the young man become that organizations are being formed to offer special inducements to keep him on the farm and awaken his interest in agricultural matters. Lincoln county, however, has not been forced to adopt any such expedients. For the natural advantages of this region are such as to afford ample opportunity to the young man to acquire a farm of his own, and experience has taught that few real men will neglect land which belongs to them. One of these enterprising young farmers of township 12 is Walter Lapping, who owns a valuable farm in section 29.

Walter Lapping was born in Boone county, Nebraska, on February 27, 1883, a son of Albert and Ida Lapping, both of whom were born in Illinois. They were farming people who came to Nebraska forty years ago and homesteaded in Boone county. They proved up their land and were successfully engaged in farming it until their retirement, at which time they moved to Saint Edward, Boone county, Nebraska, which continues to be their home. They became the parents of the following children: Mrs. Edna Berney, who is living in Boone county; Mrs. Lottie Edwards, who is also living in Boone county; Walter, who was third in order of birth; Mrs. Clara Sword, who is living in Perkins county, Nebraska; and Mrs. Cora Anderson, who is living in Lincoln county, Nebraska.

Mr. Lapping was married in Lincoln county, in 1913, to Florence Fye, born in Lincoln county, Nebraska, a daughter of C. J. and Marguerite (Eby) Fye, very prominent people of Lincoln county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Lapping have one child, Alvin, who is at home.

Growing up on his father's farm in Boone county, Mr. Lapping was taught the fundamentals of farming and at the same time was given an educational training in the district schools. In 1913 he came to Lincoln county, and for a brief period worked at Paxton, and then began farming. In 1916 he bought 160 acres of land



MIR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN A. DIKEMAN

and rents 500 additional acres, on which he is carrying on general farming and stockraising upon a somewhat extensive scale. He has put in some very valuable improvements on his farm and is planning others for the future, as he is a man who realizes the importance of keeping his equipment up to modern standards. Both he and Mrs. Lapping are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are very fine young people and have many friends all over the county, as well as in Boone county, and are recognized as typical of the best class of agriculturists in this part of the state, and consequently desirable citizens.

**BENJAMIN A. DIKEMAN.** The late Benjamin A. Dikeman was one of the honored men of Lincoln county, who, although now removed from this earthly sphere, yet lives in the influence his upright life and noble deeds still exerts on the life of his community. He was born at Bradford, Pennsylvania, on December 25, 1861, and died on December 27, 1917. His father, E. Victor Dikeman, was born in Pennsylvania, while his mother, Lydia (Moore) Dikeman, was born in New York, and they came west to Dawson county, Nebraska, about 1872, being pioneers of that region, and located in the Wood River Valley. In politics the father was a democrat. The mother was a Presbyterian and reared her children in that faith. Both parents died in Dawson county, having had four children, namely: William A., who is a resident of the State of Washington; Benjamin A., whose name heads this review; Samuel, who is deceased; and Hattie, who died when very small.

Benjamin A. Dikeman was only eleven years old when his parents brought him to Nebraska, and he was reared to manhood in Wood River Valley, and attended its schools. In 1884 he came to Lincoln county and homesteaded and proved up his claim, to which he kept on adding by purchase until at the time of his death he owned 17,000 acres of land. While he did some general farming, the greater part of his time was given to the cattle industry, and he was one of the leading cattle growers in this part of the state.

In 1883 Mr. Dikeman was united in marriage with Phila Godfrey, born in Michigan, but married in Dawson county. She is a daughter of Emmons J. and Syena (Godfrey) Godfrey, who located in Dawson county, Nebraska, in 1880. They had three children, namely: Phila Godfrey, who died in Dawson county; Nettie Godfrey, who died in infancy; and Mrs. Dikeman. Mrs. Dikeman's father had two children by another marriage, they being as follows: Frank Godfrey, who lives at Topeka, Kansas; and Jessie, who is the wife of Mark Barnes, a farmer of Lincoln county.

Mr. and Mrs. Dikeman became the parents of the following children: Emory, who is engaged in farming in Lincoln county; Hattie, who is the wife of Ivan Johnson, a farmer of Lincoln county; Jessie, who is the wife of Frank Melvin, a stockman of McPherson county, Nebraska; Maggie, who married John Hoatson, a farmer in McPherson county; Benjamin P., who is a stock-grower of Arthur county, Nebraska; and Alice, who is at home. Mr. Dikeman always supported the candidates and principles of the democratic party, but never aspired to public office. He was a man of unblemished character, industrious and thrifty, and such a good business man that he made a success of whatever he undertook. When he died Lincoln county lost one of its most dependable citi-

zens, and his family a loving husband and father, and his place is not easily filled.

**IRA L. MILTONBERGER.** Energetic, progressive, and self-reliant, Ira L. Miltonberger, of North Platte, has gained recognition in the business world as a man of ability, and as a dealer in realty is contributing his share toward advancing the material interests of city and county. A son of the late John Z. Miltonberger, he was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1854, and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth.

John Z. Miltonberger was born in West Virginia, but moved when young to Ohio, where he won success as an agriculturist, having cleared and improved a valuable farm, on which he and his good wife spent the larger part of their wedded life. He married Ann Carry, a native of New Jersey, and of the eight children that blessed their union, four are living, as follows: Ira L., of this sketch; Frank, engaged in farming in Ohio; Ella, wife of James Weider, a retired blacksmith of Warren county, Ohio; and another whose marriage name is unknown. The father was a republican in politics, and both he and his wife were members of the United Brethren Church. He served in the Civil war, as a 100-day man.

Brought up in Warren county, Ohio, Ira L. Miltonberger attended first the rural schools of his district, and later continued his studies in the public schools of Springboro. Leaving home before attaining his majority, he began life on his own account at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, being there engaged in mercantile business two years. Coming to Dodge county, Nebraska, in 1887, he farmed there for a year, and in 1888 took up a homestead claim in Lincoln county, and during the three years he lived upon it made improvements worth while.

Retiring from agricultural pursuits, Mr. Miltonberger located in North Platte, where he has since resided, a highly respected and valued citizen. He is profitably engaged in the real estate business, and as a writer of commercial, fire, and liability insurance has a large patronage. He is prominent in the republican ranks, and from 1906 until 1912 served as sheriff of Lincoln county. He has also served as justice of the peace, and since 1913 has been police judge, a position that he is filling with ability and fidelity. Judge Miltonberger belongs to the Presbyterian Church, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Judge Miltonberger married, in 1880, Jennie Buchanan, a daughter of the late O. H. P. Buchanan, and they have two children, namely: Irene, wife of C. A. Lowell, of Chicago, assistant special agent of the Illinois Central Railroad Company; and Butler B. Miltonberger, a fine, well-built fellow, six feet, two inches in height, having a commanding figure, was graduated from the North Platte High School, and during the World's war served as first sergeant in the army for a period of three years and two months. He was located a part of the time on the border, but was later fitted for overseas work, and would have sailed on November 12, 1917, had not the Armistice been signed the previous day. He is now in business with his father.

**CHARLES F. IDDINGS.** Nebraska has been especially honored in the character and career of her active men of industry. In every section have been found men born to leadership in the various voca-



tions, men who have dominated because of their superior intelligence, natural endowment and force of character. It is always profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentives to greater activity and higher excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of one who forged his way to the front ranks of the favored few, and who, by a strong inherent force and superior business ability, directed and controlled by intelligence and judgment of a high order, stood for many years as one of the leading men of his section of the state, and no citizen in western Nebraska achieved more honorable mention or occupied a more conspicuous place in the public eye than Charles F. Iddings, whose earthly career is ended, but whose influence still pervades the lives of men, the good which he did having been too far-reaching to be measured in metes and bounds. Success is methodical and consecutive and though the rise of Mr. Iddings may have seemed rapid, it will be found that his success was attained by the same normal methods and means—determined application of mental and physical resources along a rightly defined line. To offer in a work of this province an adequate resume of the career of Mr. Iddings would be impossible, but, with others of those who have conserved the civic and commercial progress of North Platte, we may well note the more salient points that marked his life and labors. He achieved a position as one of the substantial business men of western Nebraska, gaining his success through legitimate and worthy means, and he stood as an admirable type of the self-made man.

Charles F. Iddings was born in Warren, Ohio, in 1857, where he was reared and where he secured his elementary education in the common schools. His scholastic studies were completed in Mount Union College, at Alliance, Ohio, where he was graduated at the age of twenty-one years. During the following three months he was engaged in newspaper work in Wheeling, West Virginia. At the end of that time he went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he became associated with his brother in the hotel business. Sometime later he became connected with the Union Pacific Railroad Company as assistant agent for its stage lines. Here he gave practical evidence of the possession of unusual business-getting qualities and as a result of his success he was made agent of the stage line at Sidney. In October, 1883, Mr. Iddings came to North Platte and took charge of the railroad eating house and the stock yards, and shortly afterwards he also acquired the lumber yards here. Subsequently the railroad company assumed charge of the eating house and, later, Mr. Iddings added the grain business to his other interests. He was successful to an eminent degree in the various business activities in which he was now interested, but in 1893 he also became heavily interested in the flouring mill business. These various enterprises, each of which was one of large proportions, and covering a wide radius of territory, were successfully managed by Mr. Iddings and the total volume of business was such that he became recognized as one of the most extensive operators in his lines in this section of the state. Besides the interests at North Platte, Mr. Iddings established branches of the business at Sutherland, Maxwell and Hershey, Nebraska, and Julesburg, Colorado, while Sedgwick, Nebraska, was later added by Mrs. Iddings. For about eight years Mr. Iddings was, first, in poor health and later, an invalid, and during these years Mrs. Iddings handled the busi-

ness, with all its multitudinous details, in a manner that reflected great credit on her business ability and courage. The entire group of enterprises were finally disposed of by sale in 1914 and Mr. Iddings' death occurred on January 23d of that year. In July, 1907, the business was incorporated under the title of the C. F. Iddings Company, of which Mrs. Iddings became president. Mr. Iddings' death removed from this community one of its most highly honored and esteemed citizens. A man of great business capacity and of the highest principles of integrity and honor, he made his influence felt along diverse lines, and he was long a leader in the promotion of enterprises which conserved the general welfare of the city and community. His integrity was of the most insistent and unswerving type and no shadow rests upon any portion of his career as an active business man and sterling citizen. Viewing his life in its perspective, none can fail to have an appreciation of his accomplishments at a time when such powers as his were at a premium, and he should ever be remembered as one of the noble, kindly and public-spirited men of affairs who played a conspicuous role in the early drama of civilization which had its setting in the City of North Platte. Fraternally, Mr. Iddings was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he had attained all the degrees of the York Rite, including those of Knight Templar, and the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, while he was also a member of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Politically, he was an earnest supporter of the republican party and took a keen interest in public affairs. He was strongly urged at one time to run for the nomination for governor of the state, but refused to do so. He was a presidential elector in the historic Tilden-Hayes campaign. With all his capacity for business and his keen insight into public affairs, he would have been successful as a politician of the better type, but the demands of his business precluded his giving any serious attention to other matters.

In 1893 Mr. Iddings was married to Effie Cleland, who was born at Natchez, Mississippi, the daughter of T. H. and Sarah Rossanna (Ray) Cleland, who were natives of Kentucky. Her father was a Presbyterian minister and a graduate of Princeton College. Of broad educational attainments, he was an accomplished linguist and was a very successful writer for church papers and magazines. A member of one of the old aristocratic families of the south, he owned considerable property, including slaves, but lost the greater part of his property during the Civil war. Late in life he retired from active duties and his death occurred in Louisiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Iddings have been born four children, namely: Florence, who is the wife of David L. Ryan, who has been in the government air service for two years, being now located at Washington, District of Columbia; Nanine, who spent three years in Bryn Mawr College, at Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, is a student in Columbia College, where she is preparing for kindergarten work; Charles is at home with his mother; Henry is a student in Yale University. Mrs. Iddings and her children are members of the Presbyterian Church. Honored and respected by all, no woman in this locality occupies a more enviable position in the various circles in which she moves. A lady of unusual tact and soundness of judgment, these qualities together with her gracious personality render her popular with all classes and she has won and retained a host of warm and loyal friends throughout the community.