

contract price of \$10,000. As has been stated, the county owns a "poor farm" but no buildings have been constructed, and the poor are not kept there. They are cared for under contracts with different individuals.

In 1870, one year before Webster County was organized, the territory now composing it had a population of 16. In 1872, the year after the organization, 385 males and 309 females, or a total of 694, were within its limits. In 1873 these numbers had increased to 585 males and 503 females, a total of 1,088. The returns of 1874 show an increase of over one hundred per cent, and give a total of 2,250 in the spring before the grasshoppers made their devastating raid. Since then the population of the county, so far as ascertained, has been as follows: 1875, 2,590; 1876, 2,962; 1878, 4,341; 1880, 7,107; 1885, 10,221.

The population of the minor civil divisions of the county in 1885, were: Guide Rock precinct, 1,452; Stillwater precinct, 748; Oak Creek precinct, 588; Garfield precinct, 353; Line precinct 258; Pleasant Hill precinct, 504; Elm Creek precinct, 407; Potsdam precinct, 1,133; Red Cloud precinct including the city, 2,219; Batin precinct, 380; Glenwood precinct, 511; Walnut Creek precinct, 366; Inavale precinct, 559; Harmony precinct, 743.

The population of the minor civil divisions of the county at this writing—April, 1890, as estimated from the votes cast in each at the last election, is as follows: Guide Rock, 1,122; Beaver Creek, 636; Stillwater, 582; Oak Creek, 600; Potsdam including Blue Hill, 1,884; Elm Creek, 660; Pleasant Hill, 462; Garfield, 498; Line, 342; Red Cloud Township, 930; Red Cloud City, 2,448; Batin, 456; Glenwood, 804; Harmony, 720; Catherton, 486; Inavale, 486; Walnut Creek, 438; total, 13,854.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

Robertson Adamson, farmer and stockman, Red Cloud, Neb. A gallant soldier for nearly four years in the Federal army, during the late war, and a man whose life has been an active one, and

one not without the substantial reward of years of toil, Mr. Adamson is now successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising on his fine estate of 160 acres. He was born in Grant County, Ind., February 5, 1841, and is the son of Moses and Rachel (Roberts) Adamson. The father was born about 1807, and died at about the age of forty-five years. The mother was born about 1817, and was the daughter of Joseph and ——— Roberts, probably natives of North Carolina. Robertson Adamson attained his growth in Indiana, received a common school education, and followed agricultural pursuits until the breaking out of the war. He enlisted in December, 1861, and served nearly four years in Company K, Forty-sixth Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry. He was in the Department of the Mississippi, and was one of those who bravely assisted in opening the Mississippi from Cairo to the Gulf. Mr. Adamson was with his company, and took part in the following battles: New Madrid, Riddles, St. Charles, Fort Pemberton, Fort Gibson, Champion's Hill, siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Grande Chautau and Mansfield. He was appointed sergeant April 1, 1865, and served in that capacity until the close of the war. He then returned to Indiana, engaged in farming, and was married, September 3, 1866, to Miss Elizabeth A. McCormick, daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Hiatt) McCormick, by whom he had seven children: William P. (born March 14, 1867), James L. (born October 28, 1868), Eppa J. (born November 1, 1870), Charles R. (born August 21, 1872), Myrtie R. (born December 25, 1874), Adda A. (born March 14, 1877) and Georgia A. (born March 19, 1879). Mrs. Adamson died October 28, 1882. Mr. Adamson came west in the fall of 1873, and in the following spring located where he now resides. He was married the second time, November 18, 1887, to Mrs. Amanda G. Edson, widow of Edward W. Edson, who settled in Webster County in 1871. She was the mother of three children by her former marriage: Edna (born May 10, 1872), Adda (born February 18, 1878) and Edith (born September 27, 1879). Mr. Edson was in the Union army, Company I, Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, First Rifle Regiment, and was in the following

engagements: New Creek (Va.), Hunter's Mill, Drainsville, Harrisburg, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Catlet Station, Bull Run, Chantilla, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and others. Edward Edson was born in Bradford, McKean County, Pa., May 18, 1841, and was the son of Cornelius W. and Diana M. (Corwin) Edson, native of New York. Until the last four years Mr. Adamson has voted and labored with the Republican party, and comes of Republican stock, but, in 1886 he became interested in the question of Prohibition, since which time he has espoused its principles and labored in its interests. He is a liberal patron to both schools and churches, and is one of the representative men of the county. He has been identified with the G. A. R. and A. O. U. W., and is one of the charter members of the Willard Creek Alliance, formed in November, 1889.

Marion Alexander, farmer and stock-raiser, Harmony Township. Prominent among the substantial residents of Webster County is Mr. Alexander, who was born in Janesville, Wis., in 1840, immigrated to Beatrice, Neb., in 1869, and thence to Harmony Township, in 1871. He was reared on a farm, and at the age of ten years, on the death of his father, commenced life as a farmer's boy. He received a common-school education, supplemented by a partial academic course. He was married in Hastings, Neb., in 1877, to Miss Kathrine Herriek, born in Ohio, in 1847, and to them have been born four children, viz.: Cora (twelve years of age), Clarence (eight years of age), Otto (a bright little boy of six years), and Delilah (an interesting little girl two years old). Mrs. Alexander received a high-school education, and is an amiable and intelligent lady. The father of our subject was born in Massachusetts in 1801, and died in 1850, his widow, who was born in 1817, surviving until 1867. Mr. Alexander served his country during the late war, enlisting at Madison, Wis., in Company D, Second Wisconsin Infantry, and was assigned to Iron Brigade, Eastern Command, Gen. G. B. McClellan, commander, and engaged in the first battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Gainesville (at which place he was wounded in the left leg and was sent to

Columbian College Hospital, where he remained for five months), second battle of Bull Run, battle of Wilderness, and others, all told about sixteen engagements, and was mustered out at Madison, Wis., at the close of the war. He had one brother killed in the battle of Stony River, Atlanta, Ga., in 1862. In 1870 he entered a soldier's homestead, in Section 13, Harmony Township, to which he has since added until he is now the owner of 640 acres in the fertile bottoms of Blue River, which he devotes principally to the raising of grain, such as wheat, oats, corn and barley, and live-stock. He takes a great interest in raising blooded stock, making a speciality of fine hogs. When he first settled in Nebraska his nearest market was Beatrice, a distance of 108 miles from his home, now he has a good market (Bladen) only one and one-half miles from his farm. He has been a continuous resident of Webster County since 1871, and has experienced the grasshopper scourges of 1874 and 1876, as well as all the drawbacks usual to early settlement. Mr. Alexander has always been a Republican, his first vote being cast for Buchanan, and has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his county and township. He has served for eight years as assessor. He is an active member of the Alliance, an organization which will greatly help the farming interests if supported by all interested. Mr. Alexander is a man who is highly respected by his many friends and neighbors, and is noted for his thrift and enterprise. He expects to spend the remainder of his life in the beautiful State of Nebraska—the State of his adoption—surrounded by plenty and a bright and interesting family.

David A. Anderson, farmer and stock-raiser of Oak Creek Township, Webster County, residing on Section 6, Township 4, Range 9, may be numbered among the pioneer settlers of Webster County, having been identified with the agricultural interests of the county since 1873, at which time he came to Nebraska and filed a soldier's homestead, on which he now lives. This place he has nicely improved, with a thrifty young bearing orchard, a fine young grove, etc., and aside from farming, which he follows on quite a large scale, he

is extensively engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs. Mr. Anderson has experienced all the varying fortunes of a pioneer, has seen the entire growth and improvement of the county, and is well content to make this his permanent home. Mr. Anderson was born in Westchester County, N. Y., in 1842, the oldest child born to John D. and Jane (Geary) Anderson, the father born in Scotland in 1803, a son of John Anderson, Sr. He emigrated to America in his youth, and settled in New York City, engaged in market gardening, and here, in 1835, he married Miss Jane Geary, daughter of William Geary, and a sister of the New York tea merchant of that name. She was born in Ireland in 1800 and died in 1882, her husband having died in Webster County, Neb., in 1880. They both belonged to the United Presbyterian Church. The father was a Republican in politics, and was a very public spirited man, taking a deep interest in all that concerned the welfare of the county. They were the parents of two children: David A. (the subject of this sketch), and Mary J. (who married Adam James, an early resident of Webster County, and is now deceased). David A. Anderson spent his boyhood in New York City, attending school, subsequently accompanying his parents to Illinois, where they engaged in farming in Perry County, our subject attending school in the winter and assisting his father on the farm in the summer. In 1862, when there was a call for men to defend his country's flag, he enlisted in Company C, Eighty-first Illinois Infantry, for three years, and took part in the battles of Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion's Hill, on May 19 at Vicksburg, and again on the 22d of the same month. He enlisted as a private, and was discharged in August, 1865, as third sergeant. At the close of the war he returned to Illinois and tilled the soil there for two years. In 1867 he was united in the bonds of matrimony to Isabelle Mearns, who was the daughter of Hugh Mearns, by whom he became the father of eight children; seven of these still survive, viz.: William G. (married and farming in Webster County), Mary, John, David, Charles, Anna J., Margaret E. (deceased), and the baby daughter,

Lillie. Mr. Anderson belongs to the G. A. R. post at Lawrence, Neb., also to the Farmers' Alliance, and he and wife are both members of the Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Anderson is a staunch Republican, and takes an active interest in the political as well as educational and religious affairs of the county. He is now filling the office of town clerk, and has served on the school board in District No. 55.

William Arnold is a native of Michigan, born in Cass County, in 1846, the eldest of fourteen children, eleven of whom grew to maturity and are still living—five boys and six girls—born to the union of Oscar and Mariah (Deveney) Arnold. He is descended from the same family as the well-known Benedict Arnold, whose name is much more than local. His father, a native of New York, moved to Michigan in his early youth and there received his education; later he moved to Indiana, and in 1850 moved to Illinois, from whence he immigrated to Nebraska in 1874, locating in the northeastern part of this county, where he died April 2, 1887. In personal appearance he was of a commanding figure—tall and slender. He was an old line Whig, and died universally beloved and respected. His mother, Mariah (Deveney) Arnold, was born in Pennsylvania and was there reared to womanhood. In early life she moved to Ohio, and later to Indiana, where she married Mr. Arnold. She still resides on the old homestead with her youngest daughter. Grandfather Samuel Arnold served in the War of 1812, on the brig "Oneida" (on the lakes) under Commodore Woolsey. As a youth he was very promising, and when he left the brig "Oneida," to go with an uncle in the land forces to Boston Harbor, Com. Woolsey came clear to his father's house after him, as he felt so sure that with proper opportunities Mr. Arnold would become a man of note. While in the land forces a wrestling match was formed between him (then a lad) and a trooper. The trooper, a vicious fellow, scratched the boy's leg with his spur, when the boy, with a sudden and telling effort, struck the trooper and knocked him down. Great-grandfather Edward Arnold was born in Connecticut, receiving a section of land from Lafarge. He mar-

ried a Miss Ellis, by whom he became the father of fifteen children. He died in Indiana. The Deveneyns were Irish. The maternal grandmother's name was Kitherwood. When William Arnold, the subject of this sketch, was but four years old, his parents moved to Illinois, where his boyhood was spent. He received his education at the Northwestern College, Plainfield, Ill., and after completing his education engaged in teaching school, first in Illinois, then in Iowa, and later in Nebraska, whither he had moved in 1875. He married Miss Elmira Dice, a native of Ohio, born in 1847, by whom he has seven children, viz.: Frank, Hattie, Fred, Blanche, Eugene, Orra and Dallas. Hattie and Blanche are successful educators of Webster County. Miss Hattie taught her first school when she was fourteen years of age, and Miss Blanche, who holds a good second-grade certificate, engaged in teaching before she was thirteen years of age. Upon his arrival here in 1875 Mr. Arnold immediately entered 480 acres of excellent land, on which he now resides. He devotes considerable attention to raising cattle, sheep and hogs, owning about 700 head of sheep and 200 head of hogs. He belongs to Lodge 129, A. F. & A. M., of which he is an interested member, and belongs to the Alliance. In his political views he thinks the government should issue paper money, and is in favor of tariff and transportation reform. He is a leading spirit of the Alliance movement, and is a modest, intelligent man.

George Bailey, farmer of Beaver Township, came originally from the "Empire State," where he was born in Jefferson County, April 20, 1819, a son of George Bailey, who was born in Vermont, and there married Miss Olive Cason, also a native of Vermont. He moved to Jefferson County, N. Y., in early manhood, and there engaged successfully in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred in 1838. The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Jefferson County, remaining with his father until his death. After attaining his majority he moved to Wisconsin, settling in Kenosha County, being one of the early pioneers of that State, and here he made a farm on which he lived until 1873. At

that time he came to Nebraska and settled in Webster County, took up 160 acres of wild prairie land, which he has since converted into a good farm. May 22, 1841, Mr. Bailey was united in marriage to Miss Lydia Smith, daughter of Elisha Smith, by whom he became the father of seven children, viz.: Jerome A. (whose sketch appears in this work), Judson H. (also represented in this work), Adelbert (a resident of Mankato, Kas.), Harvey (unmarried and living in Nuckolls County), Frank W. (also of Nuckolls), Herbert S. (unmarried and living at home), and Lonette. Adelbert is register of deeds for Jewell County, Kas., and his sister, Lonette, is his deputy. Mrs. Bailey was born and reared in Jefferson County, N. Y., and both she and Mr. Bailey are members of the Guide Rock Baptist Church.

Jerome A. Bailey, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. There is generally more or less similarity in the sketches of those who have for the most part been engaged in agricultural pursuits from boyhood, but Mr. Bailey's career has been sufficiently diversified to render him well posted with different affairs, people, etc. The State of his nativity is Wisconsin, where he was born, in Kenosha County, September 1, 1844, being a son of George and Lydia (Smith) Bailey, both natives of New York. In the spring of 1844 they removed from New York to Wisconsin, being among the pioneer settlers of Kenosha County. Here they made their home until 1875, and then sold out and came to Nebraska, locating in Webster County, where the father took up a homestead on which he is now living—a hale, hearty old gentleman of seventy-two years; his wife also survives, and enjoys extremely good health for an old lady. Jerome A. Bailey grew to manhood in Wisconsin. In January, 1864, he enlisted in Company H, Thirty-third Wisconsin Infantry, and served until he was honorably discharged in May, 1865. After receiving his discharge he returned to his home in Wisconsin, remaining here a few years, then in the spring of 1871 he moved to Chicago and engaged in the grocery business, being at that place during the great fire of 1871. He resided in Chicago for eight years, and then, in 1878, came to Nebraska and purchased the 160 acres of land on which he now

lives, five miles northeast of Guide Rock. He has 110 acres under cultivation, with a thriving young orchard, a neat one-and-one-half-story dwelling, good barn and out-buildings, besides numerous other improvements. In his political views he sides with the Republican party, and has filled several local offices of honor and trust, having served two terms as assessor and two years as magistrate, and is the present road supervisor. Mr. Bailey was married in Kenosha County, Wis., January 2, 1866, to Miss Cynthia A. Pulver, born in New York, but lately a resident of Wisconsin. Mrs. Bailey was born, reared and educated in Columbia County, N. Y., and previous to her marriage was a teacher in Chicago. This union resulted in the birth of six children, viz.: George S., Ida Jane, Roy A., Irving J., Floyd Earl and Ernest. George, Ida and Roy are living at home. Irving J. died in the fall of 1889, in his seventeenth year; Floyd E. died in the fall of 1889, at about the same time as his brother Irving, aged three years, and Ernest died in Chicago in infancy. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Bailey belongs to the G. A. R., was commander of his post for two years, and is holding an office of trust in the post at the present time.

J. H. Bailey, a native of Wisconsin, was born in Kenosha County in 1847, to the union of George and Lydia (Smith) Bailey. His father was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., and grew to manhood in his native State. After reaching years of discretion he went to Michigan, thence to Wisconsin, and in 1873 came to Guide Rock, this county, where he and his estimable wife are at present residing. His wife was also a native of the "Empire State," born in 1821. She is now sixty-nine years of age, and her husband is seventy-two, but they are both stout for their years. There were eight children—six sons and two daughters—born to their marriage, all of the sons still living. The mother is a member of the Baptist Church. The father was a Democrat until after he voted for Fremont, since which time he has been a Republican. The immediate subject of this sketch was reared and educated in his native State, and upon

reaching early manhood engaged in teaching school, first in Wisconsin, later in Illinois, and then in this county. He came here in 1871 and entered 160 acres of land, and for many years alternated in teaching and farming. He was married in Wisconsin to Miss Alda Lamson, born in New York September 2, 1849, but reared in New York and Wisconsin, where she also was engaged in "teaching the young idea." Immediately after their marriage they came directly to this county, and here, after a happy life of fourteen years, the wife died, leaving six young children, namely: Ola, Alice, Mabel, Willie, Grant and Verne. In 1885 Mr. Bailey was elected county clerk and served in this capacity for four consecutive years. About the same time he opened his abstract, loan and real estate office, which he is still conducting, doing a very profitable business, the firm of which he is a member being known as Bailey & Crone. He still owns his original 160 acres of land, besides considerable town property. In his political views he is a Republican.

G. W. Baker, farmer, Pleasant Hill, Neb. This name is not unfamiliar to those in the vicinity of Pleasant Hill as well as others in the county, for he who bears it is numbered among the highly respected citizens of this community. Born in the Buckeye State in 1838, he is the youngest of six children, four now living, the result of the union of G. W. and Jane (Logan) Baker, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of Pennsylvania. G. W. Baker, Sr., was born in 1798, and was a prominent tiller of the soil. He died in 1840. The mother with her children then moved to Iowa (1854), located in Cedar County, and there remained for three years, after which they moved to Keokuk County of the same State. G. W. Baker, Jr., remained there until 1884, when he came to Nebraska. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, Fortieth Iowa Infantry, and served in various army corps. He participated in the battles of Vicksburg and Little Rock, and was then detached. He was with Gen. Sherman on his memorable march to the sea, but previously had been in the Camden raid. He was discharged at Port Gibson in August, 1865, and returned home. On the 5th

of September, 1865, he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy K. Story, a native also of Ohio, and the fruits of this union are six living children: Minnie V. (born February 6, 1867, and is now the wife of Fred Frase), Emery A. (born May 30, 1870, and died in 1874), Clara J. and Alta M. (twins, born February 17, 1873), Florence M. (born October 25, 1876), Susan E. (born December 11, 1878) and Ida Nancy (born October 30, 1883). Mr. Baker moved to Webster County, Neb., in 1884, as above stated, and settled on his present farm, which he in a very short time improved by erecting good, substantial buildings, setting out orchards and making numerous other improvements to render the home pleasant and attractive. He owns 240 acres well fenced and stocked, and it is not exaggerating in the least to say that he has one of the best farms in the county. He raises nothing but the best grade of stock, and he recently sold ten hogs, nine and a half months old, that averaged a little over 300 pounds. Mr. Baker is a member of Garfield Post No. 89, at Red Cloud, and is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance. Mrs. Baker's parents, Dr. Nehemiah and Clarissa J. (Carl) Story, were natives respectively of Maine and New York, and her grandfather, Nehemiah Story, was also a native of Maine. Mrs. Baker is one of six children, all of whom are still living in Iowa except herself and one sister, Mrs. Lewis. She has a niece who is a prominent physician, and a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago.

William H. Barcus deserves mention as a leading farmer and stock-raiser of Beaver Township, Webster County. He was born in Franklin County, Ind., April 18, 1840, a son of Warner and Mary (Mann) Barcus, the former born in Delaware and the latter in Indiana. When Warner Barcus was a child he lost his parents, and was taken to Indiana, where he has since resided. He is a farmer and mechanic by occupation, and both he and wife are living in Hamilton County, whither they moved in 1844, among the pioneers of that place. Since his residence in this county he has filled many offices of trust and honor. William H. Barcus grew to manhood in Hamilton County, Ind.,

and at the age of twenty-two years, in the fall of 1862, he enlisted for three years in the Eighth Iowa Cavalry, and was honorably discharged in May, 1865. He went into the army as a private, but by his meritorious conduct and strict attention to duty, he was soon promoted to sergeant, and soon afterward to first lieutenant. He was engaged in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, besides battles of lesser importance and many skirmishes. He was taken prisoner on Stoneman's raid, but after six days he made his escape and returned to his regiment at Marietta. He had charge of his company at the battles of Franklin and Nashville, and soon after the latter battle was wounded in the leg by a gunshot and disabled for about six months. This wound sent him to the hospital and kept him there until the close of the war; he was mustered out on crutches. When the war was over he returned to Iowa, soon after returning to Indiana on a visit, and then locating in Warren County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising until 1871, at which time he moved to Missouri and located in Harrison County, where he was engaged in farming and trading and shipping stock for nine years. In 1880 he moved to Nebraska and located on his present property. This is the third farm he has improved. He is the owner of 200 acres of good land two and one half miles due north of Guide Rock, all of which is fenced and well improved, with a good house, barn, etc., etc., and a fine orchard of 700 choice trees, 200 grape vines, besides cherry and plums, and other small fruits. Mr. Barcus is Republican in politics and supports the men and measures of his party. While a resident of Missouri he served four years as deputy sheriff of Harrison County, and filled several other local offices. He was elected justice of the peace, but never qualified. In 1857 he was elected township supervisor, was re-elected in 1858, and again in 1859, serving for three consecutive terms. Mr. Barcus was married in Warren County, Iowa, March 29, 1867, to Miss Elizabeth J. Morris, daughter of William Morris, born and reared in Indiana, and this union has been blessed in the birth of two children: Emma, wife of Benjamin Ross of this county, and

William Arthur, a young man at home. Mr. Barcus and wife are both members of the Quaker Church. In secret societies Mr. Barcus belongs to the A. O. U. W., the G. A. R., and the Farmers' Alliance, being vice-president of his local Alliance.

Matthäus Benker. Among the many substantial farmers Germany has contributed to Webster County, none are more deserving of prominent mention than Matthäus Benker, whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1849, the oldest of four children reared by John and Frederica (Smith) Benker, both of whom were born in Germany. They were married in Germany and there reared their family, consisting of Matthäus, John, George and Margaret. The father, a wagon-maker by trade, served in the German army, and died in his native land on August 2, 1880. Both he and wife were members of the Lutheran Church. The latter came to America in 1883 and is now making her home with her son, the subject of this sketch. Matthäus Benker was reared in Germany, and, like all German boys, received a very good education, and at the age of twenty-one entered the army, in which he served for three years. In 1872 he emigrated to this country, and in 1874 he came to Nebraska and took up 160 acres of land in Webster County, since which he has purchased eighty acres, making him an excellent farm of 240 acres, 150 of which are under the plow. On this he has a fine growing orchard and a nice grove. He and wife, formerly Miss Margaret Purucker, a native of Germany, were the parents of seven children, viz.: Adam, George, Anna, John, Max, Louis and Christian. In his political views Mr. Benker affiliates with the Democratic party. He has now been a resident of Webster County for fifteen years, and has been very successful during this time. He is quite extensively engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs, keeping about fifty head of stock, and is considered to be one of the best farmers in this part of the county. He and wife are members of the Lutheran Church.

Ezra Bishop, a prominent contractor and builder of Blue Hill, Webster County, Neb., was born at Phelps, Ontario County, N. Y., in 1848,

and was the third in a family of six boys reared by Joseph and Charlotte (Puffer) Bishop. His father, a native of New York, was one of the prominent farmers of that State, and was there married to Charlotte Puffer, who was also born in New York. To this union six sons were born, namely: Robert (deceased), Solomon, Ezra, Ira and Ira B. (both deceased) and Joseph. The father died in 1865, but the mother is still living and resides in Indiana. Ezra Bishop attended school and worked on the farm until he had reached years of discretion, when he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked for two or three years in Seneca County, N. Y., and in 1871 went to Illinois, locating at Odell, Livingston County, where he carried on contracting and building for a number of years. Later he engaged in the carriage and wagon-making business, which he carried on up to 1884. In 1880 he came to Webster County and purchased 320 acres of land in Elm Creek Township, and in 1884 moved with his family and settled at Blue Hill, engaging in contracting and building, and for the past six years he has been the most prominent and principal builder in this part of Webster and Adams Counties. He is an able mechanic, and has built most of the best buildings in Blue Hill, as well as the greater part of the best improvements that have gone up within a scope of fifteen or twenty miles around Blue Hill, and has won for himself a reputation for honest, substantial work, which has followed him wherever he has lived, and in the city of Blue Hill, as well as elsewhere, he has many warm friends. Mr. Bishop was married in York State, in 1874, to Miss Libbie Porter, daughter of George W. and Salina (Birdsey) Porter. She was born in New York in 1852, and this union has been blessed in the birth of a daughter, Lottie J., born at Odell, Ill., in 1876. Mr. Bishop is a prominent citizen of Blue Hill, and takes a deep interest in all things pertaining to the welfare of the people. He casts his vote with the Democratic party.

John Blaine, of Cowles, Neb., was born in the year 1825 of Scotch parents, and arrived in the United States in September, 1840, making his home in Erie, Pa., until 1849, when he emigrated

to the State of Illinois, and lived in Bureau County, until March, 1862, at which time he enlisted in the Sixty-fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, otherwise known as the Cameron Highlanders. The regiment was organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago, and went to the front in the spring of 1862, camping near Winchester, Va. Just before the battle of Antietam the regiment was ordered to Harper's Ferry, and shortly after their arrival there, Stonewall Jackson, of the Rebel army, besieged the camp, and the result was that Col. Miles, of the United States army, surrendered over 5,000 men to Gen. Jackson. They were paroled until exchanged, and in the spring of 1863 went to Lexington, Ky., from there up the Big Sandy River in Eastern Kentucky, where they remained until in July of 1863. About this time Gen. Morgan made his raid through Ohio, and Mr. Blaine's regiment was moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Ky., thence to Lexington, Ky., after which they marched across the Cumberland Mountains into East Tennessee. They remained in camp for a short time at Concord, after which they went to Knoxville, where they were besieged by Gen. Longstreet's army, and were engaged in daily skirmishes for about three weeks. A portion of this time they were limited to quarter rations of bran bread, but about December 20, 1863, they marched out after Longstreet, crossed the Holston River and marched to Dandridge, but were again compelled to fall back to Knoxville, as Longstreet had received re-inforcements. Mr. Blaine's command then made several marches through East Tennessee to the old home of Andrew Johnson. In the spring of 1864 the regiment re-enlisted as veterans, and Mr. Blaine joined Gen. Sherman at Resaca, Ga.; they were in the daily skirmishes of the Georgia campaign, until they advanced to Atlanta. After the battle which occurred on July 22 and 24, 1864, they struck the railroad south of Atlanta, and assisted in the battle of Jonesboro, after which they went to Lovejoy Station. The regiment was near Jonesboro when the Rebels blew up their magazines and destroyed their stores in Atlanta, and soon after they went to Gaylesville, Ala., where

Gen. Sherman's army was divided, the Fourth and the Twenty-third Army Corps going after Hood, Mr. Blaine being a member of the latter corps. From Gaylesville they went to Dalton, Ga., thence to Nashville, Tenn., and from there to Pulaski. From Atlanta they went to Altoona to the relief of troops there commanded by Gen. Corse, and then followed Hood up to the Tennessee River, camping at Pulaski, Hood being at Florence, Ala. From Pulaski they went to Columbia, Tenn., there meeting Hood's advance army, which resulted in five days of skirmishing in order to prevent the latter from crossing Duck River. They left the river at eleven o'clock at night, traveled all night, arriving at Franklin, Tenn., on the morning of November 30. In the afternoon they were attacked by Hood, who advanced to within fifty paces of their line of battle before a shot was fired. The Union army then fired twelve rounds, and when the smoke lifted, no enemy appeared in their front. The Rebels made thirteen distinct attacks, keeping it up until eleven o'clock p. m., when the Union army started on the march to Nashville, reaching that place the following day. They remained there camped at Fort Negley until December 14, when they again "measured swords" with Hood, and the battle of Nashville was fought. The latter's army was broken up and eighty pieces of artillery taken, together with most of the small arms. They then followed the remnant of the Rebel army to the Tennessee River, after which Mr. Blaine went with his command to Washington, D. C., thence to Fort Fisher, N. C., then took part in the battle of Wilmington, from which place, until they reached Goldsboro, they were in a number of skirmishes. At the latter place they met Sherman's army coming from Savannah. The army was on the march from Goldsboro to Raleigh when the news reached it that Lee had surrendered, and he was in Raleigh when the news of President Lincoln's assassination came, and to the praise and honor of the Union troops be it said that no citizens were molested or harmed, although there were five army corps of veterans encamped in and around Raleigh. Mr. Blaine took part in the review at Raleigh as an officer on Gen. Casement's staff,

and soon after made application to be relieved, as the war had closed. He was mustered out of service August 10, 1865, and returned home. He was married, in 1848, to Miss Annie M. Barry, of New York, a daughter of John and Ennice (Sweet) Barry, and four of the five children born to them are now living: John B., Charles C. (who is station agent at Mount Clare, Neb.), William B. (in Denton, Texas) and Jennie (a school teacher of Webster County). Mr. Blaine is a member of the G. A. R., the F. & A. M., and he and family are members of the Baptist Church.

J. W. Boomer, assessor of Glenwood Township, was elected to this office in 1889, and has filled it in a capable and efficient manner ever since. He was born in New Jersey in 1850, was reared to the arduous duties of the farm, and secured a fair education in the schools of Winnebago County, Ill. He enlisted in the army, but was too young to serve. His marriage occurred in Ogle County, Ill., in 1870, to Miss Martha Banks, a native of Canada, and the daughter of Samuel and Chloe (Clother) Banks, natives also of Canada. In about 1852 Mr. and Mrs. Banks came to Ogle County, Ill., engaged in farming, and in 1884 came to Nebraska, settling on railroad land in Webster County, where the father improved an extensive farm. Mr. Boomer farmed in Ogle County, Ill., until coming to Nebraska, and since his residence in this county he has made vast improvements in the farm of 160 acres, purchased from W. D. Martin in 1883. Mr. Boomer takes considerable interest in politics, and votes with the Prohibition party. He is also active in school matters. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and he and wife are members of the Union Baptist Church. Their married life has been blessed by the birth of the following children: Sarah E. (now Mrs. Kershner), Samuel, Wilbur, Raymond, Florence and Mabel. Mr. Boomer was the third in a family of eight children born to the union of John and Margaret (Johnson) Boomer, natives of Scotland, where their nuptials were celebrated. In 1844 the parents left their native land and took passage for the United States. They located in New Jersey, and in 1854 moved to Rockford, Ill., settling on the farm of

Thomas Robertson. Later they bought good land near the present town of Davis Junction, and there resided until 1875, when they emigrated to Gage County, Neb., where they make their home in the city of Beatrice.

James Brewer, who lives on the northeast quarter of Section 15, Town 4, Range 12, Webster County, Neb., emigrated here from Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1876, during the grasshopper scourge. He owes his nativity to Ohio, where he was born in Ross County, November 5, 1824, and was reared as a farmer's boy until he had attained his sixteenth year, when he left the farm for a life on the boats plying on the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and the ripe anecdotes and reminiscences of "Uncle Jimmie's" life at this time would alone fill a volume. He first engaged as a musician, playing for balls and dances, the most made being \$60 in one week, on the steamers "Evast," "Hibernia," "Arcadia," "Lancaster," and many others, and he also served as mate on the steamer "Governor Briggs." In Peoria, Ill., in 1846, Miss Jane Dixon, also born in Ross County, Ohio, became his wife, and in 1852 they immigrated from Peoria, Ill., to Poweshiek County, Iowa. Mr. Brewer came to Nebraska in 1876, and purchased a pre-emption claim, the improvements on which consisted of a dug-out and about forty acres broken, and homesteaded the same 160 acres, which gave him a farm of 160 acres of fine land. He has since sold eighty acres of this. Of the ten children born to his union Elisha (born October 14, 1848) is living in Blue Hill, Neb., where he is conducting a successful business; Ira B. (born October 6, 1850) is dead; Sylvester (born May 11, 1852) lives at Litchfield, Neb., where he is engaged as a blacksmith and mechanic; Clara and Mary, twins, were born January 2, 1855; Clara is now deceased, and Mary is now Mrs. Parkes, and resides in Custer County; her husband is a farmer and stock-raiser; Martha (born September 12, 1857) wedded a Mr. McCoy, a farmer and stock-raiser, and resides in Webster County; Emeline (born September 1, 1860) is now Mrs. Decker; her husband is a successful farmer and stock-raiser of Buffalo County, Neb.; Chris-

tina Jane (born November 5, 1862) married J. W. McCoy, a farmer of Webster County; Minnie (born December 1, 1864) is now Mrs. Watson, and resides in Webster County, where her husband is extensively engaged in farming and stock-raising, making a speciality of blooded stock; James Forest (born May 16, 1871) resides on the old homestead. He received an excellent common-school education, but is ambitious for a higher education. He is of a musical turn of mind, and is rather popular among his associates. James Brewer, the subject of this sketch, received his first training in the old day subscription schools in Ohio, which were very meager indeed. After he reached Illinois his desire for a more extended course was appeased by about three months' schooling, and all he knows he has learned by coming in contact with persons who were liberally educated with the practical of life. Mr. Brewer speaks interestingly of the early pioneer days of this State, when the homes of the settlers were surrounded by stockades to guard against the treacherous Indians, who were constantly marauding through the country, and calls to mind all the trials and vicissitudes of the early inhabitant. The Indians were very plentiful at that day in the immediate vicinity of his home, and his experience with them in Iowa was also varied and interesting. While in Iowa Mr. Brewer served very satisfactorily as justice of the peace, and was appointed by the school fund commissioners (in Poweshiek county) to lay off a township in school districts, which work he accomplished so well as to meet the commendation of the entire community. While here he also endured the privations incident to early settlement, on one occasion going fifty miles to mill for a bushel and a half of meal. When he first located in Webster County the most of his trading was done at Hastings, Neb., a distance of twenty-eight miles. Now civilization and improvement have advanced so steadily that railroad facilities have placed his home within three miles of Bladen, a flourishing town of Webster County. Mr. Brewer relates that December 19, 1876, he, in company with John McCoy and Sylvester Brewer, started from Webster County on a hunting tour in the cañons of Loup River, about

sixteen miles from Manitoba, a hunter's ranch. While there a terrific snow storm arose and found them without the necessary conveniences of even camp life. They laid a buffalo robe upon the snow, with a few quilts for covering, and there upon the bleak ground the party was bivouacked. The snow was from twelve to fourteen inches on a level, and the thermometer stood 20° below zero. The cold was so intense that the horses were almost frozen to death, and the company, so "Uncle Jim" relates, passed three of the coldest nights ever experienced. Many pleasing and thrilling tales and anecdotes can Mr. Brewer relate which are highly interesting to all who are partial to pioneer life. He tells of slaying thirty-six white-tailed deer in one winter, while living in Iowa. Mr. Brewer has always been identified with the Democratic party, and has ever stood on sound and conscientious convictions. He is an ardent supporter of the organization so well known in Nebraska as the Farmers' Alliance. This organization is being supported by the best and most prominent citizens and residents of Nebraska. He does not belong to any secret societies now, nor has he ever belonged to any such. Both he and wife advocate the Adventist doctrine, and are recognized as responsible and representative citizens and members of society in their vicinity. Their parents were ardent Christians, and they received an early Christian training in honesty, integrity and sterling worth. They are now living happy and contented on the old homestead, and are enjoying reasonably good health for old people. Mr. Brewer's credit and standing in financial circles is pronounced to be good in every respect. "Uncle Jimmie," now aged sixty-six years, loves to entertain his many friends by playing upon the violin such old, sweet melodies as "The Arkansas Traveler," "Opera Reel," "Van Buren's Cotillion," "Campbell's Coming," and "Kittie's Ramble," which all old settlers will vividly remember.

H. W. Brewer is a grain dealer of Red Cloud, Neb., who has reached his present position by his own energy, enterprise and forethought. He was born in Cazenovia, N. Y., in 1840, his parents being John and Cynthia A. (Hills) Brewer, the former

being also a native of the "Empire State," his birth occurring January 24, 1806. He removed with his family to Tazewell County, Ill., in 1843, and settled near the town of Tremont, but in 1848 removed to Wisconsin, where he made his permanent home, and here reared his family. In this State H. W. Brewer grew to mature years, and obtained a sufficient knowledge of books, for all practical purposes, in the common schools near his home. He commenced to learn the printing business at the age of ten, working at it till the spring of 1861, when he went to Denver, Colo., where he was foreman of the Territorial printing, printing the laws and proceedings of the first Territorial Legislature. In April, 1862, he, with another printer, built a boat at the foot of G Street, and the two made the first trip from Denver to the Missouri River, down the Platte, arriving at St. Joseph, Mo., June 1, working in an office at Kansas City during the summer of 1862, when he returned to Wisconsin. He again started out in life for himself by removing from Wisconsin to Lombardville, Stark County, Ill., in 1871, where he engaged in the grain, lumber and implement business, the firm being known as Brewer, Davies & Co., and at this point made his home until 1882, at which time he came to Red Cloud, Neb., and has since been occupied in operating his present elevator, being also the owner of a like institution at Campbell, Franklin County, Neb. Mr. Brewer is a man very socially inclined, and is a member of the following organizations: A. F. & A. M., in which he has attained to the Royal Arch degree; the A. O. U. W. and the I. O. G. T. Until 1880 he was identified with the Republican party, but has since been numbered with the Prohibition party, and is one of its most ardent workers. In December, 1866, he took for his companion through life Miss Martha L. Pilling, and by her has had a family of three children: Myra B. (Mrs. E. A. Enright, of Albion, Neb.), Henry A. and Charles W. The family are members of the Christian Church, and are estimable people in every respect.

William Britton, one of the early pioneer settlers of Webster County, was born in New Jersey, in 1833, being the second of eight children born to

Thomas and Mary (Neece) Britton, both of whom were born in New Jersey, there passing their life and died, the former in 1880 and the latter in 1883. The father was a farmer by occupation. The subject of this brief biographical sketch was reared to farm life, and educated in the subscription schools of his native State. In 1855 he went to Ohio, and in 1867 was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Cramer, daughter of Mahlon and Rebecca (Warman) Cramer, natives of Ohio, and both of them now deceased. In 1870 Mr. Britton moved to Coles County, Ill., and engaged in tilling the soil, near Mattoon, until 1874, at which time he came to Webster County and homesteaded 160 acres of choice land, on which he erected the first house on the ridge south of Hastings, camping out on the wild prairie until his house was completed. Soon after their arrival they were burned out by a prairie fire, and lost two valuable horses. The family had many hardships to endure during the early days of their residence in the new country, and at one time Mr. Britton was obliged to pawn his watch and a carpet for 300 pounds of flour, with which to keep the wolf from the door. When they came to Webster County, the nearest marketing place was Hastings, to which point they were obliged to haul their produce and grain and make their purchases. Mr. Britton has seen the country develop from a wild, uninhabited district, and he has done much in bringing about this change, and well deserves the honor and esteem in which he is held. He now owns 240 acres of excellent land, all of which is under a high state of cultivation, and improved with good buildings, etc. He is greatly interested in fruit culture, and has planted a good, large apple orchard, besides peaches and an abundance of small fruit. He is largely engaged in stock raising, and raises a good grade of Durham stock. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party, having filled several local offices, and is now serving on the school board. He assisted in organizing the township and school district. Mr. and Mrs. Britton have had three children: Ida (now Mrs. McClure, of Oregon), William and Edward. Mrs. Britton belongs to the United Brethren Church.

William E. Buker, Oak Creek Township, Webster County, is another of the prominent and well-to-do farmers of this section, and like a great many of that class of people in the community owes his nativity to Iowa. He was born in Muscatine County, Iowa, in 1847, the oldest in a family of four children raised by James and Sophia (Reed) Buker. His father, a cooper by trade, was born in Barding, Me., and left home while still a boy, and after roaming around considerably he finally settled in Iowa, among the very first settlers. He was married in that State, in 1845, to Miss Sophia Reed, and five children were the result of this union, viz.: William (our subject), Mary, Amanda, Carrie and Lucy. The father worked at the cooper's trade in Iowa with good success for a number of years, but in 1858 he closed his eyes to the scenes of this world forever. The mother is still living in Iowa. The immediate subject of this sketch spent his school days in Iowa, and at the age of fifteen he started out in life by learning the wagon-making business. He worked at this for nearly one year, and then, in 1863, he enlisted in Company H, Second Iowa Cavalry, and after a service of nine months, during which time he participated in several severe skirmishes, he was discharged in 1865, immediately after which he went to Iowa and followed his trade. He was married there in 1869 to Miss Martha E. George, daughter of Martin George, of Iowa. She was born in Pennsylvania. To this marriage have been given seven children, five of whom are still living and two dead, viz.: George W., Alceus E., Mirtie M., Edna (deceased in Iowa), Frank A., Eva E. and Rose (deceased in Nebraska). Mr. Buker immigrated with his family to Nebraska in April, 1881, and settled in Webster County, where he now lives, and has since met with very good success. He has 160 acres of good tillable land, which is well improved with neat buildings, etc., and a fine young orchard and nice grove, and is extensively engaged in raising horses, cattle and hogs. He was appointed postmaster of Negunda office in 1887, and is still efficiently discharging the duties of that office. In politics he affiliates with the Republican party, and has been honored by his

constituents with the office of justice of the peace, township school director and road overseer, at various times. He is a member of the K. of P. Lodge, and belongs to the Alliance.

John O. Burgess, vice-president of the Blue Hill Bank, was born near the town of Banbury, Northamptonshire, England, July 23, 1854, being a son of Thomas and Martha Burgess, the latter dying when the subject of this sketch was three years of age, and the former when he was about eleven. He received very good educational advantages in his native land at the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, and at the age of seventeen years he accompanied an elder brother to America, the latter's name being William, he being now a resident of Saline County, Neb. For three years after he arrived in this country, John O. made his home with his brother, and for some time his summers were spent in tilling the soil and his winters in teaching school. After a certain period he went to Lincoln, Neb., where he spent four years in the employ of Joseph Wittmann, a wholesale and retail harness dealer, a trade to which Mr. Burgess had given considerable attention and partially learned in Broadway, Worcestershire, England, and during the time spent with Mr. Wittmann, he completed his knowledge of the business, and also performed the duties of shipping clerk. In 1879 he located in Blue Hill, and from that time until April 1, 1890, he conducted a first-class harness shop at that place. On April 1, of the previous year, he engaged in the banking business as a member of the firm of R. A. Simpson & Co., but upon the organization of the Blue Hill Bank in August, 1889, he was elected its vice-president, a position he has since held. Mr. Burgess was married on October 6, 1881, to Miss Jennie Tyler, who was born in England, a daughter of George and Jane (Price) Tyler, with whom she came to America in 1871. She and her husband are members of the Episcopal Church, and the former belongs to the K. of P., and in his political views is a Democrat. He has been justice of the peace for three years, is a highly esteemed citizen, and is a man of unwavering integrity and honesty. In 1889 he and his

wife visited their native land and afterward the Paris Exposition.

George L. Burr is a well-known journalist of this section of the country, and is the present efficient editor and proprietor of the Blue Hill Times. His birth occurred in Mount Pleasant, Henry County, Iowa, July 12, 1859, his father being Edwin M. Burr, an able lawyer, and the present proprietor and editor of the Republican Valley Echo, of Riverton, Neb. The latter was born in Ohio, and in early manhood accompanied his parents, William and Harriet M. (Castle) Burr, to Henry County, Iowa, and his literary education was finished in Howe's High School. He subsequently studied law and was admitted to the bar, soon showing himself to be possessed of much ability and legal acumen, and he very successfully continued to practice his profession in the States of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. In 1866 he was the candidate of the Republican party for Congress, his home then being at Keytesville, Chariton County, Mo. The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Burr, emigrated to Montana and located on the present site of Diamond City, building the first house in that place. He is still living, his present home being in Riverton, Neb. The mother of the subject of this sketch, before her marriage, was Margaret J. Chandler, a daughter of Ebenezer and Lucinda Chandler, who were among the earliest settlers of Henry County, Iowa. When George L. Burr was about six years of age his parents removed from Iowa to Keytesville, Mo., in the public schools of which place he received his earlier education. He was very studious in his youth, and by applying himself diligently to his studies by the time he was twelve years of age he had completed the common branches, and in addition to that had obtained a knowledge of higher arithmetic, algebra, and had begun the study of Latin. At the age of thirteen years he accompanied his parents to Smith Center, Kas., and here, at the age of eighteen, he began his career as a teacher, an occupation he continued to follow for nine terms in Smith and Osborne Counties, Kas. During two terms he was principal of the Smith Center schools, and of the Gaylord schools of the

same county for two years. At spare moments, during his career as an educator, he devoted his attention to the study of law and became sufficiently familiar with this science to commence practicing. He was married on July 12, 1880, to Miss Hattie S. Bonnette, a daughter of Rev. L. M. Bonnette, who was at that time pastor of the Congregational Church at Smith Center. In 1882 Mr. Burr purchased the Smith County Record, a paper he owned and edited very successfully for about two years. He then established the Riverton Enterprise, which he sold to his father, after editing it for three or four years. In December, 1887, he bought the Webster County Winner, published at Blue Hill, Neb., and on March 12, 1888, he also purchased the Blue Hill Times and consolidated the two papers. From that time until October 4, 1889, his paper bore the name of the Times Winner, after which he changed the name to the Blue Hills Times, a name it still bears. Mr. Burr has been connected with several different papers in the State of Nebraska. In December, 1887, he became a one-half owner in the Stratton Gazette, which he sold at an excellent profit five months later. At different times he has owned and edited the Campbell Press, the Curtis Courier and the Lawrence Locomotive. Mr. Burr's papers have all been edited in the interests of the Republican party, of which he is a member, and he is considered an able writer and a successful journalist. He and wife are members of the Presbyterian Church, and their union has been blessed in the birth of three children: Edwin M., Albert L. and Fred. The eldest child died October 16, 1889, of diphtheria, aged seven years five months and one day.

Byron C. Burt, farmer and stock-raiser, Harmony Township, Webster County. In reviewing the lives of prominent citizens of Webster County, the name of Byron C. Burt is justly given an enviable position, for it is difficult to find one of the present day more entitled to honorable mention or who possesses to such an extent the esteem of his acquaintances. He was born in Medina County, Ohio, May 17, 1844. His parents were born in New York in 1806 and 1812, respectively, and had a family of five children, viz.: Franklin, Giles,

Burton, Byron C. and Nancy. Franklin, the eldest, was born in Ohio, in 1830, and is now a successful agriculturist; Giles was born in Ohio in 1834, and is now engaged in tilling the soil in Wisconsin; Burton was born in Ohio, in 1840, and is farming in Cass County; Byron C. is the subject of this sketch, and Nancy, born in 1858, in Ohio, was married to William Wilber, a farmer by occupation. Mr. Burt came to Nebraska in the early days of its history, and took a soldier's homestead of 160 acres and purchased 340 acres—160 in one tract, 160 in another tract located in Section 2, Franklin County, and twenty acres near Campbell, thus making him a fine farm of 500 acres, all raw prairie land, which he immediately set to work to improve, and now has it all under a high state of cultivation, and it is considered to be as valuable land as any to be found in the county. Besides his farming operations, which Mr. Burt carries on extensively, he is largely interested in stock raising, making a specialty of Holstein cattle and also raises an excellent grade of hogs. Mr. Burt enlisted in the late war at the age of seventeen, in Company K, First Ohio Infantry, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, after seventeen months being transferred to the Sixth United States Cavalry, in which he served for the remainder of his term of enlistment, after which he re-enlisted in the Ohio Cavalry for twelve months longer. The principal engagements in which he was interested are: Williamsburg, Va., Slatersville, Va., Mechanicsville, Hanover Court House, Va., Black Church, Va., Malvern Hill, Va., Paul's Church, Va., Sugar Loaf, Md., Charlestown, Va., Hillsboro, Va., Philomont, Va., Uniontown, Va., Upperville, Va., Barbour's Cross Roads, Amosville, Sulphur Springs, Fredericksburg, Stoneman's raid around Richmond, Beverly Ford, Middleburg, Upperville, Fairfield, Pa., Williamsport, Md., Funkstown, Md. (at this place the regiment was destroyed, but seventeen men being left), Boonesboro, Md., Antietam and Brandy Station, Md. Soon after his enlistment, in the early part of 1862, he was appointed corporal, and after a faithful service of three years he was honorably discharged at St. Louis, Mo., in 1865. February 13, 1868, witnessed his marriage

in Rock County, Wis., to Miss Ella M. Crosby, daughter of J. D. and Aurelia Crosby, born in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Burt were the parents of six children, four of whom, Willie, Ina, Lulu and Archie, are living. Mr. Burt is a member and junior vice commander of Post No. 243, G. A. R., Campbell, Neb., which post numbers thirty three members, all in good standing. His parents were strict Methodists, and Mr. Burt received that religious training which has been a distinctive mark in the circle of family interests, and he and family attend worship and Sunday school in the Congregational Church at Campbell. Since his residence in Nebraska, he has been offered the best offices in the township, but has invariably declined them all. He is now serving as school director, and takes special care in the selection of instructors for the schools under his charge. He is giving his children a good common school education, and will have them take advantage of a higher grade of education. Mr. Burt has ever identified himself with the Republican party, and has always been an active and enthusiastic supporter of Republican principles. He expects to make Nebraska his future home, and is happy and contented, surrounded by all the comforts of life and an interesting and happy family.

Leartus Campbell, farmer and stock-raiser, resides on Section 14, Batin Township, Webster County. Among the enterprising and prospering farmers and stock-raisers of Webster County, none are more worthy of mention than Leartus Campbell. He is a Pennsylvanian by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light of this world in Wayne County, that State, March 15, 1844. His father was born in New Jersey in 1806, and is now deceased. The mother was born in 1808 in Pennsylvania. They had a family of eight children—three boys and five girls, the subject of this sketch being the fifth in order of birth, as follows: Nancy Jane died in her twentieth year; Sarah was the wife of Buckley Beditent, a farmer, and died in Nebraska of typhoid fever in her forty-ninth year; Abbie died at the age of fourteen years; Anthony Wayne married Miss Jane Delworth, a native of New York, and is now living on a farm in Wayne

County, Pa.; Leartus Campbell was married in Pennsylvania, in 1866, to Miss Mary Munphy, a native of Leeds, Yorkshire, England, and this union has been blessed in the birth of six children—four girls and two boys, as follows: Emma, Lydia Ann, Mary Jane, Anthony John, William B. and Florence Isabella. Emma was born June 12, 1867, and received a liberal education, principally in the high school at Red Cloud, Neb., and also an excellent training at the Carbondale graded schools, at Carbondale, Pa. After completing her education she engaged in teaching, and had achieved quite a success in that calling, when she gave it up and married John Weatherwax, a farmer residing in Red Cloud Township, and she is now the mother of a bright little girl, May, who is two years of age. Lydia Ann was born June 13, 1869, also received a good education, and chose millinery and dress-making as her avocation. She is now residing on the old homestead with her parents. Mary Jane was born June 15, 1871. She, too, received a good common-school education, and being a very apt scholar made rapid advancement in her scholastic studies. She is now the wife of Frank Rickerson, a farmer of this county. Anthony John was born April 1, 1873, and like the other members of the family received a good common-school education. He, however, has aspirations for a higher education, which his parents will gratify. William was born February 3, 1878, and is now attending school in the home district. Florence Isabella was born December 15, 1884, and is a bright little girl of five years, with a decided talent for music. Mr. Campbell enlisted in Company I, Eighty-fourth Pennsylvania Colored Infantry, and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. Paul Sickles. He afterward served under Gen. W. S. Hancock, who was greatly honored and revered by his soldiers. Mr. Campbell was actively engaged at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Locust Grove, Spottsylvania (a two-days hard fight), Cold Harbor, siege of Petersburg, battle of the Wilderness, Gainesville, Chapman's Farm, and about sixteen other engagements. He was in the nine-months siege at Petersburg, Va., and was in the severest battles of

the war, but came through uninjured, although he had many narrow escapes, at one time having his knapsack shot from his back, and has many times had bullet holes through his blouse. After his discharge near Washington, D. C., June 25, 1865, Mr. Campbell returned to his home, where he remained for some time. In 1868 he moved his family to Carbondale, Pa., where he entered the employ of the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company, and was under the supervision of one master during the whole time of service. He left with gilt-edged recommendations in 1877 and came to Nebraska, homesteading 160 acres of wild land, which he has since made into a most comfortable home, on which he and his family now reside. He commenced farming operations on the lone prairie farm with an ox team and a very meager supply of farm implements, and during these hard times he was greatly encouraged and aided by his estimable wife. Mr. Campbell has identified himself with the Democratic party, and has always supported the sound principles of Democracy. He cast his first vote for Samuel J. Tilden, and has advocated the same Jeffersonian principles as his father before him. He has taken a very active part in township and county affairs, and has served as moderator of his district for six years, and during his incumbency of this office he has been an advocate of good and competent instructors at a reasonable salary. Both he and wife are devoted members of the Roman Catholic Church, and have had all their children confirmed. They attend exercises at Red Cloud. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have established themselves in a good comfortable home where, surrounded by an intelligent family, they expect to pass the remainder of their days.

Case & McNeuy. The law firm of Case & McNeuy has gained an enviable reputation in this section of Nebraska. Indeed, but few firms in the State are better or more widely known, and but few equal it in the scope of its business. O. C. Case, the senior member, was born in Rochester, N. Y., in 1852, and received his literary education in his native State. He came west, and, after attending the Iowa State University, was graduated

in law in 1876. Subsequently he first located in Le Mars, Iowa, and upon practicing at that place until 1879, came thence to Nebraska, and chose a home in Red Cloud, where he was occupied alone in the prosecution of his professional duties until 1881. A partnership was then formed with James McNeny, which still exists, and is recognized as one of strength and ability. This firm has one of the finest law libraries in the State. Mr. Case belongs to the A. F. & A. M. and to the I. O. O. F. He is a Democrat in his political views, and, although this district is strongly Republican, he was elected to the State Senate in 1882, on the Democratic ticket. He is unmarried. His parents, Michael and Mary (Bills) Case, were natives of New England. James McNeny, the junior member of this representative firm, was born in York State in 1854, and graduated from the Toronto College, Canada. He read law under Samuel Hand, in New York, was admitted to the bar in this county in 1881, and at the same time formed a partnership with Mr. Case, with whom he has been practicing ever since. He was admitted to the supreme and federal courts in 1883, served as city attorney of Red Cloud for five years, and in 1888 was presidential elector for his district. He is acknowledged to be a young man of decided worth and influence among his professional colleagues.

George P. Cather is a farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 2-3-12, Cather-ton Township, Webster County, Neb. Among the substantial farmers of Webster County who are worthy of mention in this work, none are more so than Mr. Cather, who has been long and prominently identified with its history. He first opened his eyes to the light of this world in Frederick County, Va., in March, 1847, and was the eldest child born to William and Carolina Cather, *nee* Smith, both of whom were born in Virginia. His father was a farmer by occupation, and lived in his native State all his life, until 1878, when he came to Webster County. He died in Red Cloud in the fall of 1887. The mother is still living, and resides in Red Cloud. His parents were both members of the Baptist Church. The subject of this sketch was reared in his native State, receiving a good com-

mon-school education. Upon attaining his majority he started in life for himself. He first engaged as a teacher, for several terms; later, acted as deputy sheriff in Frederick County for about three years, after which he engaged in different pursuits until coming to this county, in the fall of 1873. Here he took up land under the pre-emption, homestead and timber-claim acts, in all aggregating 480 acres of good land, to which he has since added 480 acres more, making a farm of 960 acres of land, all improved and well stocked. Mr. Cather was the first actual settler in this township, and was influential in bringing people both from his native State and other Eastern States. He has also been identified with the political interests of his county. He is a staunch Republican, and is serving his fourth term as township supervisor. Prior to this he was twice elected assessor. The year 1873 witnessed his marriage to Miss Frank A. Smith, daughter of H. N. and Fannie (Cleverly) Smith, both natives of Vermont. Mrs. Cather was born in Boston, in August, 1846. She was a graduate from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, and before her marriage was a prominent educator, of Virginia. By this union there are five children, viz.: Carrie, Blanche, G. P., Frank W. and Oscar E., the last two being twins. Mrs. Cather and the two eldest children belong to the Baptist Church.

Thomas P. Chambers, an old settler and esteemed and worthy citizen of Potsdam Township, Webster County, Neb., was born in Licking County, Ohio, October 7, 1846, being the son of Joseph and Nancy (Brown) Chambers, the former a native of Licking County, Ohio, born October 8, 1818, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, born December 11, 1818. Our subject was the third in a family of nine children, of whom six were boys, and five of them—four sons and one daughter—are still living. The names of the nine children are as follows: Daniel (deceased), George W. (deceased), Thomas P., James H., Elizabeth (deceased), Simeon B., Mary Ann, Sarah (deceased) and Samuel J. The parents are now living in Elm Creek Township, Webster County. When the subject of this sketch was five years old his parents removed to the southern part of Wisconsin, residing there on

a farm for one year, when they moved to Ogle County, Ill., where our subject spent his boyhood, in winter attending the district school, and in summer laboring upon a farm. When he was seventeen years of age he accompanied his parents to Knox County, Ill., where he spent the remainder of his youth and the first years of his manhood engaged in tilling the soil. In the spring of 1873, together with his father, mother, three brothers and one sister, he came to Nebraska and located on a homestead, that had been filed by his father, in Section 8, Elm Creek Township, Webster County, upon which both the father and mother now reside. The same year the family came to Nebraska our subject and his brother, James H., homesteaded the west half of Section 32, in Potsdam Township, and both of them have since proved up their claims. Thomas P. has lived on his homestead, comprising 160 acres of good land, ever since, and it is now a handsome and well improved farm. In 1880 Mr. Chambers was united in marriage to Mrs. Ann Callahan, the widow of John J. Callahan, formerly of Iowa. Her maiden name was Ann McBeth, and she was born in Manitoba, in July, 1849. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Chambers has resulted in the birth of three children, viz.: Ernest Joseph, Earl Thomas and Elizabeth, of whom the second died in his third year. By her first husband Mrs. Chambers had four children, as follows: Alexander, John, Mary, James, all of whom are living and make their home with Mr. Chambers. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Chambers is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and in politics is a Prohibitionist. He has served two terms as constable, and he has been a member of the school board during almost his entire residence in Nebraska. He is an honest, upright, enterprising man, and he and wife are among the very best citizens of Webster County. He was formerly a Republican.

Hon. G. R. Chaney, of Red Cloud, Neb., the subject of this sketch, was born near Cambridge in the State of Ohio in 1844, and is the son of Finley and Jemima (Reed) Chaney. His father, Finley Chaney, was born near Baltimore, Md., and

was a relative of the famous John Chaney of Ohio, who died a few years ago at the age of ninety-two. Finley Chaney died when the subject of this sketch was only four years old, leaving a widow and three children, of whom G. R. Chaney is the eldest. His widow subsequently married, and when our subject was nine years old, he was thrown entirely upon his own resources. He worked upon a farm in the summer and attended a country district school in the winter, so that his educational advantages were quite limited, and he had but little education when he enlisted in the Federal army at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. He served as a private soldier three years and thirteen days, when he was mustered out of the service. On his return home he attended school for several years, and studied law in the office of Hon. J. R. Bobo, at Decatur, Ind., and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1870. In 1872 he opened an office in Plymouth, Ind., where he practiced with the usual success until 1880, when he moved west. In 1883 he located at Red Cloud, where he has since resided. He is the author of several law books, all of which have been well received by the profession—first, Index-Digest of Kansas Reports, compiled in 1882, and published by E. B. Meyers & Co., of Chicago; a Digest of Nebraska Reports, completed in 1886, and published by Mills Publishing Co., Des Moines, Iowa; Nebraska Citations, which he completed in 1888, but he was unfortunate enough to have the plates for this work, together with 350 volumes of the book, destroyed in the fire which consumed the Gazette-Journal office at Hastings, Neb., in 1889. He is at present engaged in revising his Nebraska Digest. Mr. Chaney has had a good law business since coming to Red Cloud, and is a scrupulous observer of professional etiquette. He is a Mason and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is well and favorably known throughout the State, both as a lawyer and a man.

A. W. Choat, farmer and stock-raiser, Oak Creek Township, Webster County, Neb., resides on the southeast quarter of Section 14, Town 4, Range 9. Prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Webster County is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. Born in Pickaway County,

Ohio, near Columbus, in 1838, he is the fifth of ten children born to Mites P. and Jane (Jordan) Choat. His father was born in Pennsylvania in 1804, but in early youth moved to Ohio, and was there married in 1830 to Miss Jane Jordan, who was also born in Pennsylvania, but moved with her parents to Ohio when she was a child. To their married life were born the following children: Mary A., James, Margaret, Hiram, Alpheus, Minerva, Louis, John, Melville and Francis, all of whom are now living with the exception of John, who died in the late war. His father was a farmer all his life, and as such was very successful. In 1843 he moved to Indiana, thence to Iowa, locating in Deerfield Township, Chickasaw County. Here Mrs. Choat died August 28, 1888, and was followed by her husband one year later. Mr. Choat was prominently identified with the affairs of his community, and in the year 1862-63 served as supervisor of his township. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity, and helped organize the lodge at Bradford. The immediate subject of this sketch spent his school days in Indiana and Iowa. In 1859 he was seized with the gold fever and started overland across the plains to California, driving an ox-team, and arrived there without experiencing any serious delays. Here he remained for ten years, following mining with varying success. In 1869 he returned to Iowa and engaged in cultivating the soil, and in 1871 followed the tide of immigration to Webster County, locating 160 acres of government land, on which he now lives. In 1873 Miss Sarah Stevenson, daughter of Franklin Stevenson, of Clay County, Neb., became his wife, and to them have been given five children, viz.: Ray B. (born December 25, 1874), Melvin (born July 17, 1876), Ross (born July 9, 1878, and died July 23, 1879), Chester (born April 5, 1880) and Julie J. (born January 22, 1883). Mr. Choat came to this county when it was thinly settled, and has seen its entire growth and improvement. He has been very successful since casting his lot in Nebraska, which is mainly due to honest hard work and good business ability. He takes a deep interest in educational and religious matters, as well as in all things tending to the improvement of the country. Mr. Choat

votes the Republican ticket, and takes a prominent part in political affairs. In secret societies he belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Farmers' Alliance. He is at present serving on the school board in District No. 53. In connection with his farm and stock interests, Mr. Choat has a fine young orchard and nice grove, in which he takes great and just pride.

E. K. Conrad, farmer and stock-raiser, Blue Hill, Neb. Mr. Conrad was born in Maryland in 1842 and was the second in a family of nine children, six now living, born to Isaac and Elizabeth (Ethel) Conrad, natives, also, of Maryland. The father was a mechanic and remained in his native State until 1850, when he moved to Peoria County, Ill., and engaged in farming. There the mother died in March, 1863, but the father is still living and makes his home in Nebraska. Their children were named as follows: Oliver (came to Webster County, Neb., in 1881, and now resides at Bladen), Susan (now Mrs. Watson, of Peoria County, Ill.), George (married, and came to Webster County in 1886), William (married and resides in Canton, Ill.), and Elizabeth (now Mrs. McCarthy, of Farmington, Fulton County, Ill.). E. K. Conrad was reared to the arduous duties of the farm, educated in the schools of Pennsylvania and Illinois, and in 1862 enlisted in Peoria County, Ill., in the Eighty-sixth Illinois Infantry, Company D, for three years. He was in the Army of the Cumberland, was in the battles of Perryville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Kenesaw, and was with Sherman on his march to the sea. He was at Atlanta, Bentonville, and was in the Carolina campaign, being honorably discharged at Camp Fry, Chicago, on June 27, 1865, after which he returned to Peoria County, Ill., and engaged in cultivating the soil. He was married in the last-named county in October, 1865, to Miss Sarah M. Green, a native of Peoria County, Ill., and the daughter of Silas and Sarah (Wedman) Green, natives of the Old Dominion. Mr. and Mrs. Green emigrated at an early day to Peoria County, Ill., and there they both passed the remainder of their days, the father's death occurring in 1862 and the mother's on March 1, 1890. E. K. Conrad tilled the soil

in Peoria County for two years, and in 1868 moved to Livingston County, where he continued his former occupation for six years. In 1874 he moved to Washington County, Iowa, and in 1876 to Webster County, Neb., where he put up a dug-out and resided in it for six years. He opened up land and is now the owner of 160 acres, all in a good state of cultivation. He takes considerable interest in politics and votes with the Republican party, is a member of the Alliance and of the G. A. R. He and Mrs. Conrad are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are the parents of these children: Mina (now Mrs. Beal), W. E., Nancy L., William, Frank, Ruby, Lewis and Guy.

Oliver Eugene Conrad, a farmer and stock-raiser residing on Section 27, Glenwood Township, Webster County, was born January 30, 1845, in Washington County, Md., the fourth of a family of eleven children, viz.: Elias (who was a farmer and stock-raiser, and died in McCook, Neb., in 1888), Ezra (a farmer and stock-raiser, lives in Batin Township, Webster County), Susan (now Mrs. Simeon Watson, lives in Peoria County, Ill., where her husband works at his trade—that of a cabinet-maker), Oliver (our subject, next in family chronology), William (is a farmer and stock-raiser of Canton, Ill.), George (is married and resides in Webster County, Neb., where he is very successfully engaged in farming), Emma (died in her ninth year), Mary (married R. Downing, a farmer, and resides in Washington County, Iowa), Elizabeth (was born in Illinois, and now lives at Farmington, Ill., where her husband is a very successful butcher), and Jacob Calvin and James Elsworth (both dead, the former dying in his sixth year, and the latter at the age of four years). The mother was born in Maryland, of Welsh descent, and died in Peoria County, Ill., in 1863. The father was born in Pennsylvania in 1814, and now makes his home with our subject. He is now seventy-five years of age and enjoys very good health. Oliver Conrad obtained a good education in the common schools of Illinois, whither his parents had moved when he was quite young, and this education admirably fitted him for the practical duties

of life. He has been twice married: First, on March 4, 1870, to Miss Sarah A. Babbitt, a native of Illinois, who bore him three children, the eldest of whom, Charles Albert, died in 1888, in his seventeenth year, of consumption (he was born in Livingston County, Ill., and received a liberal education in the common schools of Nebraska and Iowa); Silas Harry (born March 31, 1873) is farming in Potawatamie County, Iowa, and Emma Belle (who was born August 26, 1876, in Mills County, Iowa), is now attending school. Mr. Conrad's second marriage occurred September 7, 1884, Miss Martha Jane Thomas, a native of Indiana, born in Mount Vernon, December 9, 1862, being the interested party, and this marriage has resulted in the birth of two children, namely: Isaac Raymond (a bright little boy of four summers) and Frank Leslie (now in his first year). Mr. Conrad served his country during the late war, enlisting in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteers. He was mustered into service at Peoria, Ill., in 1864, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. In the spring of 1865 he re-enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was transported to Columbus, Ga., being assigned to duty under Gen. Judy. After his first enlistment his regiment was ordered to St. Louis, thence to Franklin Station to intercept Gen. Price. During the first enlistment he was taken ill with intermittent fever and was sent to the hospital at Cairo, where he remained three weeks before ready for duty, and was honorably discharged at Springfield, Ill., in the spring of 1866. In 1882 Mr. Conrad immigrated from Mills County, Iowa, to Nebraska, locating in Glenwood Township, Webster County, where he purchased 160 acres of land, 115 acres of which were under cultivation. Here he has resided ever since, and has watched the steady and rapid growth of the country up to the present time. At the time of his settlement here, Blue Hill, then a village of 300 inhabitants, was the nearest market. Mr. Conrad has always identified himself with the Democratic party, and cast his first vote for Seymour and Blair. During the past two or three years he has taken considerable interest in the

municipal affairs of his township and county, but, although he has been tendered several offices of trust and honor, he has declined in each case. He is a member and an ardent supporter of the Farmers' Alliance, and is firm in his belief that this society will be the strongest promoter of farmers' interests of any society organized by the farmers of Nebraska. He and wife expect to spend the remainder of their lives in this State.

Clark C. Coon, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. Among those who have become intimately associated with the farming and stock raising interests of Webster County, we cannot fail to mention Mr. Clark C. Coon, who was early taught the duties of farm life. He was born in Dryden, Tompkins County, N. Y., on the 10th of April, 1815, and is the son of John and Susannah (Babcock) Coon, natives also of the Empire State. He assisted his father on the farm until in his twenty-eighth year, and then went to Rock County, Wis., where he remained for twenty-four years engaged in agricultural pursuits. From there he went to Montgomery County, Iowa, where he remained four years and then moved to Nebraska, locating on his fine farm of 160 acres in November, 1871, and bringing his family here the following year. His trading point at this time was Beatrice, which was 120 miles distant. He brought his family in a wagon, and the first four months of their residence here were spent in a covered wagon. Buffalo and other game were very plentiful at that time, and Mr. Coon and his family endured the many hardships of early settlers. Mr. Coon was married in 1841 to Miss Sarah C. Gifford, who died in the spring of 1843. June 16, 1846, Mr. Coon married Miss Nancy P. Andrus, daughter of Henry and Nancy (Conant) Andrus, and a native of Ashtabula County, Ohio, born November 22, 1819. The result of this union was the birth of four children: Mariah J., born May 22, 1847 (deceased); Sarah (deceased), born May 2, 1850; John A. and George E. (twins), born March 20, 1853 [see sketch]. Mr. Coon is now the owner of one of the finest farms in the county, and is an honest, upright citizen. He has always voted the Republican ticket until late years, and is now a declared anti-monopolist.

He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and is a member of the Old Settlers' Association, composed of families that came here before 1874. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are much esteemed citizens of the community. They are very comfortably fixed, indeed, and can spend their declining years in peace and plenty.

John A. Coon, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. The name which the subject of this sketch bears, has already been given considerable prominence in this work, not, however, without justice, as all will acknowledge, for the Coon family have been identified with the interests of the county since its organization, and are among its most prominent and enterprising citizens. John A. Coon was born in Rock County, Wis., on March 20, 1853, and is the son of Clark C. and Permelia (Andrus) Coon, whose sketch immediately precedes this. Our subject remained in his native State until 1867, and then moved to Iowa with his parents. In 1872 they emigrated to Nebraska, settling in Webster County, and there they have since made their home. John A. received a good practical education in his native county and followed the precept and example of his father by becoming an agriculturist. He homesteaded 160 acres in 1873, and this he has improved in every way. He has a new two-story house, also good barns, sheds and out-buildings, and is a man to make his mark as an agriculturist, being thorough and progressive in his ideas. He was married, October 8, 1879, to Miss May I. Armstrong, a native of Illinois, born October 8, 1862, and the daughter of Alex. and Mary (Ellis) Armstrong, natives of Indiana. To Mr. and Mrs. Coon have been born two children: Gertie and Georgia Etta. Mr. Coon has an excellent farm, and is a representative citizen, being recognized as one of the leading spirits in matters of interest. He is a Republican in politics, but like his father, favors the anti-monopolist measure, also the Farmers' Alliance movement. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ash Creek, and he is one of the trustees and the steward. Mrs. Coon removed to this county with her father November 10, 1872.

George E. Coon, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. This esteemed and enterprising agriculturist was born March 20, 1853, in Rock County, Wis., and is the son of Clark C. and Pernelia (Andrus) Coon [see sketch of father]. George E. Coon remained in his native State until in his fourteenth year, when he moved with his parents to Iowa, and there remained four years. In 1872 he emigrated to Nebraska, and here he has since made his home (except during the time of residence in Kansas and Colorado), following farming, which occupation he had been taught in early youth. He was given a good common-school education, and this he has improved very materially by reading and observation. In 1874 he took a homestead of 160 acres in Smith County, Kas., and this he still owns. He made final proof on his homestead in 1880, then went to Colorado, engaged in freighting and ranching, and remained until the fall of 1882, when he returned to Nebraska. The farm is in good condition and all under cultivation. In the fall of 1882 Mr. Coon purchased his home place of 160 acres, which he has improved with a good stone house, substantial barns, sheds and granaries. He has also a nice young orchard. He is one of the few who braved the hardships and varied experiences of the early settlers, and has since been a witness of the rapid growth and improvement of the country. Wild animals were plentiful at that time, and Red Cloud was a small station for five or six houses. Mr. Coon is enterprising and energetic and one of the best citizens of the county. He was married on May 18, 1876, to Miss Dora A. Brewer, a native of Illinois, born May 12, 1859, and the daughter of William W. and Mary I. (Armstrong) Brewer, natives also of Illinois. Mr. Coon had the misfortune to lose his kind and faithful helpmate September 16, 1877, and has remained a widower ever since. She was a good woman in the fullest sense of the word, and her husband cherishes and reveres her memory. Mr. Coon has been a life-long Republican, but favors the anti-monopolist movement. In 1884 he was elected township assessor, was re-elected in 1886, and in 1887 was elected supervisor of his township, which position he has held for

three terms, being re-elected in 1889, for a term of two years. He also favors the Farmers' Alliance movement, and is always interested in all enterprises for the good of the county.

Isaac Cowley, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 6, Batin Township, Webster County, is a Manx by birth, being born on the Isle of Man, near the city of Douglas, in December, 1834. He was the fourth of a family of five children—four boys and one girl—and is the only one now living. The oldest, William, died about 1857; John and Thomas did not long survive, and their mother died in 1872. Mr. Cowley's parents were both natives of the Isle of Man. When our subject was twenty-three years of age, he decided to seek his fortunes in the new world. Accordingly in 1857 he left his native land and sailed for America, landing in New York, but coming west as far as Lake County, Ill., where he settled on a farm about forty-five miles from Chicago. After living there three years, he went to Coles County, Ill. Here he remained until 1873, when he came to Nebraska by wagon and homesteaded 160 acres, to which he has since added another 160, making a good farm, all of which is of a superior quality, and well stocked with cattle and hogs. He has a good comfortable house, barns, out-buildings, etc. When he came here there was not a vestige of improvement to be seen, and his nearest market was Hastings, a distance of about thirty-eight miles; now he has excellent markets at Bladen, and Red Cloud, the county seat, fifteen miles distant. Mr. and Mrs. Cowley, *nee* Nancy Jane Carr, born in Shelby County, Ill., in 1848, have one child, a boy, Charles Wesley, who was born in 1876, and resides on the old homestead; and will undoubtedly make farming his pursuit in life. Mr. Cowley has always identified himself with the Republican party, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, though he doesn't take a very active interest in local politics, except to exercise his franchise. He served as postmaster of Catherton, Neb., for eleven years. Mrs. Cowley is a member of the Christian Church. Although Mr. Cowley never had the advantage of a common-school education, he strongly advocates the practical education of to-day.

Alexander H. Crary, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. This representative, substantial citizen of Webster County owes his nativity to Connecticut, where he was born, in New London County, October 29, 1841, one of a family of children, nine of whom grew to maturity, and five of whom—three boys and two girls—are still living, born to the union of Capt. Elisha A. and Eliza (Brewster) Crary, both born, reared and married in Connecticut, the former of English descent. Mrs. Crary's ancestors came over to America in the "Mayflower." Capt. E. A. Crary was a farmer and resided in his native State all his life, being the only one of five sons to remain at home, the others all going west. He was captain of militia in New London County, and filled many local offices of trust and honor. He died about the year 1854, his widow surviving until June of 1867, when she too passed from this earth. Alexander H. Crary grew to maturity in the State of his nativity, receiving a good common-school education, and remained with his parents until he had reached his twenty second year, when in the spring of 1865 he came west to Iowa, locating in Clayton County with his uncle, Judge O. W. Crary, with whom he remained two years. In the spring of 1867 he came to Grundy County, where his brother, Capt. E. A. Crary resided, and remained there until the fall of 1871, at that time coming to Webster County, Neb., bringing with him a team and cattle, and arriving here in October of the same year. He first homesteaded 160 acres, on which he now lives, and immediately commenced improving it. He has since purchased more land at different times, and now owns 1,200 acres in five tracts, all fine tillable land, a good share of which is fenced, and about 500 acres under the plow. His place is located just one mile from Guide Rock, and on it he has erected a good large residence, big barns, sheds, cribs, etc., and with a wind pump, stock scales, and a stream of living water running through his farm, he is afforded unusual facilities for feeding and caring for stock. He is one of the largest land owners in the south part of the county, and his property has all been acquired by good business tact and ability. Since his location here,

Mr. Crary has been extensively engaged in feeding stock for the market each year, feeding on an average of from one to six car loads of cattle, and two of hogs annually. In politics, Mr. Crary is Republican, and has held the office of supervisor for three consecutive years, and has also been a member of the school board, and at the present time is district treasurer. In Marshall County, Iowa, on October 14, 1869, the ceremony which made Mr. Crary and Miss Fannie T. Jewell husband and wife was performed, and this union has been blessed in the birth of six children: John H., Mary E., Lucy E., William A., Robert J. and Edward R. Robert J. died at the age of sixteen months. Mrs. Crary was a daughter of Alexander Jewell, and was born in Pennsylvania, partly reared in Ohio, and grew to maturity and was educated in Iowa.

John Crowell, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. The subject of this sketch was born in Steuben County, N. Y., August 28, 1816, a son of Theodore and Anna (Cummings) Crowell, both natives of the "Empire State." His father was a farmer by occupation, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits in Steuben County until 1859, at that time coming to Michigan, locating in Branch County, where he resumed his farming operations until his death, in 1864. His death was preceded by that of his wife, who died several years previous to his removal to Michigan. Mr. Crowell served as magistrate of Steuben County for a number of years, and was highly respected by all who knew him. John Crowell grew to manhood in his native State. About 1842 he left New York and located in Van Buren County, Mich., which was then a wilderness, inhabited chiefly by Indians, Mr. Crowell being one of the first white settlers in that county. He cleared a good farm, and resided there for about nine years, then sold out and returned to Steuben County, N. Y., remaining there for two years, and then, in 1854, moving to Ogle County, Ill., where he cultivated a farm for about two years. In 1856 he moved to Black Hawk County, Iowa, and farmed there until 1876, when he sold out and came to Nebraska, purchased a claim and homesteaded, and has since cultivated this land. He has 160 acres all

fenced and cross fenced into convenient fields, with a nice grove of native trees and a good bearing orchard. He has a substantial residence, the upper part being frame and the lower part stone, with a basement kitchen, good barns, etc. This is the fifth farm Mr. Crowell has made in as many States; it is located within three miles of Guide Rock, and is a very valuable place. Mr. Crowell votes the Republican ticket, is well posted on the political issues of the day, and takes an active part in the political affairs of his county, but does not aspire to office. Mr. Crowell has been thrice married; first, in Steuben County, N. Y., December 1, 1840, to Miss Alena Hammer, a native of the same State and county, who died November 30, 1851, leaving five children, but one of whom survives, Anna (wife of Dr. J. L. Patton, of this county). Of those dead, two died in early childhood, and the other two when about grown. Mr. Crowell's second marriage took place in Steuben County, N. Y., April 15, 1853, to Rhoda Minor, also born in Steuben County, who died July 31, 1860, after bearing him three children, but two of whom are now living, viz.: Martha (wife of A. Beals, of Superior), Emma J. (wife of Thomas Morgan, of Denver) and Sylvania Ann (deceased, was the wife of E. P. Sinclair, of Waterloo, Iowa). Mr. Crowell went back to Steuben County for his present wife, whom he married there March 16, 1861, and together they returned to their Nebraska home, where they have since been very fortunate, financially as well as otherwise, both having been blessed with good health most of the time. Mrs. Crowell was formerly Catherine Roberts, a daughter of Ichabod Roberts, and was born in Steuben County.

Henry C. Cutter is successfully engaged in buying and selling grain, stock and machinery at Cowles, Neb., and although his birth occurred in Rock County, Wis., in 1852, he has been a resident of the above-mentioned place since December, 1885. He grew to manhood in his native State, and at an early day began the battle of life for himself as a general trader and stock-raiser in the place of his birth, continuing until his removal to the State of Nebraska. Upon his arrival here he purchased the D. B. Busick elevator, and began

immediately to deal in grain and purchase stock, and is now one of the most extensive shippers from Cowles. Since his arrival in this county he has been remarkably successful, and from time to time he has purchased land and has at the present time 1,000 acres of land in Elm Creek Township, all of which is well improved, fenced and stocked with cattle, hogs and horses. His first purchase of cattle in this section of the country consisted of 400 head, some of which were full blooded Short Horns, and a number of his hogs were also thoroughbred. He is one of four surviving members of a family of five children born to Charles and Harriet (Locke) Cutter, natives of New York State, who were early emigrants to Wisconsin, in which State their children are living, with the exception of the subject of this sketch. He is a wide-awake young business man, and gives every promise of becoming one of the wealthy citizens of this section of the State.

Charles E. Davis, a young though prominent member of the Webster County bar, was born at Houston, Texas, April 13, 1861. His early days were spent on a farm, in whose drudgery he could find none of the fanciful calculated to cause him to select this industry as a vocation. Mr. Davis received his collegiate education at Shurtleff College, at Upper Alton, Ill., after which he located at Red Cloud, Neb., and traveled for the Phenix Insurance Company as an assistant adjuster of farm losses. Mr. Davis, while thus engaged, studied law with Mr. Chaney until 1884, when he entered the law department of the Washington University, at St. Louis, from which he was graduated in 1885, and was admitted to practice in the court of appeals at St. Louis. Mr. Davis until lately has been located at Superior, Neb., where he had a lucrative practice; he was for two years city attorney, and attorney for the Missouri Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railways. He has recently located in Red Cloud, and is the junior member of the firm of Chaney & Davis. Mr. Davis is a man of decided literary tastes, a close student and an almost faultless advocate. In 1886 he was married to Miss Ella A. Putnam, of Red Cloud, a lady of education and accomplishment.

M. W. Dickerson was born in McHenry County, Ill., in 1845, being a son of John and Elizabeth (Duffield) Dickerson, both now deceased. Our subject grew to manhood and was educated in the place of his birth, and after reaching years of discretion, learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he afterward worked. He was married in 1864 to Miss Nancy M. Miller, and this union has resulted in the birth of three children, viz.: Sarah E., John and Charles. In 1869 Mr. Dickerson moved from Illinois to Taylor County, Iowa, and there made his home for seven years, at the end of that time going to Phillips County, Kas., where he remained until 1880, when he came to Red Cloud and engaged in business, dealing in flour, feed, butter and eggs, at which he has successfully continued ever since. In his political views Mr. Dickerson affiliates with the Republican party, and always supports the men and measures of that party. Socially he belongs to the I. O. O. F., the K. of P., the A. O. U. W. and the M. W. A.

Amos Dillin, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaver Creek Township, Webster County, Neb. Among the enterprising and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of Webster County, none are more worthy of mention than Amos Dillin. He is the son of Israel and Elizabeth Jane (Fitch) Dillin, the former of whom was born, reared and married in Ohio. Elizabeth Jane (Fitch) Dillin was the daughter of William and Mary Fitch, her father being one of the early settlers of Ohio, and she was born in Virginia and reared and educated in Ohio. The father was a farmer and mechanic by occupation, and in connection with these pursuits, he was also a local minister in the Christian Union Church, preaching occasionally, and was a very zealous church worker. He also took an active interest in politics, and filled many local offices. He served as a member of the school board, and as county clerk for two terms, and held the office of justice of the peace for eighteen years continuously. He died January 22, 1888, his wife having previously died March 7, 1870. Great-grandfather Dillin was born in Scotland, emigrated to the United States and served in the Revolutionary War. Amos Dillin was born in Coshocton County, Ohio,

on August 26, 1841, the eldest of a family of eleven children—six sons and five daughters—all of whom grew to maturity, and ten of whom are still living. He grew to manhood in his native county, remaining at home until he reached his majority, when he married and located on an adjoining farm, and tilled the soil there for a number of years. Next we find him in the mercantile business, selling goods at East Union. Mr. Dillin is a Democrat in politics and served in nearly every local office in his township in Ohio, holding the offices of treasurer, trustee, clerk of school board, and various other offices, besides acting as delegate to numerous county and State conventions. In 1884 he sold out his mercantile interests, and on April 10 of the same year came to Nebraska and purchased and located one mile from Guide Rock, and immediately commenced the improvement of his place. He now has 106 acres of his farm of 160 acres well under cultivation, has neat and substantial buildings, a fine young orchard and grove, etc. Although this township is strongly Republican, Mr. Dillin was elected assessor in the fall of 1889, by a nice majority, which is one proof of his popularity as a citizen. He has also served on his school board. He was married March 9, 1865, in Coshocton County, Miss Susanna Casteel, a native of Coshocton County, and daughter of the late Thomas Casteel and wife, becoming Mrs. Dillin. Her father was a soldier in the War of 1812; her mother is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Dillin are the parents of nine children, viz.: Sarah E. (wife of Martin Konzaek, of Nuekolls County), Israel T. (married), William J. (a young man living at Denver), Howard T., Ettie J., Rachel A., Bertha L., John C. and Amos M. Mr. Dillin is a Master Mason, and belongs to the Alliance.

William O. Dimmick is a well-known implement dealer and loan agent of Blue Hill, Neb., and was born in Jo Daviess County, Ill., August 23, 1852, being a son of Lot L. and Mary A. (Mann) Dimmick, the former a native of Knox County, Ohio, born October 27, 1807, and the latter born in Cayuga County, N. Y., June 20, 1809. They were married in Galena, Ill., April 10, 1831, and had a family of eleven children, of whom six were

sons, the subject of this sketch being the youngest of the family, two sons and three daughters now living. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died September 3, 1863, followed by his wife February 3, 1877, both deaths occurring in Jo Daviess County, Ill. William O. Dimmick was reared to a farm life, and received his schooling during the winter months. During the winter of 1870-71 he attended the Wisconsin State Normal School at Plattville, Wis., but upon leaving this institution he continued to till the soil until his removal from Jo Daviess County, cultivating from 200 to 500 acres of land. He was married in Lafayette County, Wis., October 20, 1874, to Miss Esther Stone, a daughter of Franklin and Martha J. Stone, both of whom were born in Canada. Her birth occurred in Lafayette County, Wis., on September 8, 1854. In October, 1885, Mr. Dimmick removed from Jo Daviess County, Ill., to Nebraska, and first located at Hastings, where for a year and a half he dealt in grain and did a loan business, but in the spring of 1887 he removed to Blue Hill, where he has ever since been engaged in the implement and loan business. He has been quite successful, and is now one of the leading implement dealers and loan agents in this section of the State. He also manages a farm of 160 acres, which he owns in Adams County. Mr. Dimmick is a Republican, and has shown that he is socially inclined by becoming a member of the Masonic fraternity. He belongs to the A. M. Walters Investment Company, and is at all times an active and upright citizen. To himself and wife a family of five children have been born: Frank Leonard (born September 12, 1875, and died September 2, 1876), Oscar Leroy (born June 17, 1877), Lucile E. (born April 8, 1879), Clara (born March 19, 1881), and Hellen (born March 27, 1884, died June 13, 1884).

Edward S. Doyle, farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 21, Harmony Township, Webster County, was born in New York, in 1826, and resided in that State until he had attained his twenty-first year. At the age of twenty-four years he went to California, and engaged in the lumber business at San Francisco, when that city had about 500 inhabitants, continuing there for three years. Returning to New

York, he remained for two years, at the end of that time going to Wisconsin, where he resided until 1870, the time of moving to Nebraska. His parents were both born in New York, and are now deceased. Onr subject was born March 2, 1826, and was the eldest of eight children, the others being Robert (a farmer living in Kingston, N. Y.), Augustus (also engaged in farming, and living in Connecticut), Frank (was a physician, and died in his fortieth year), Peter William (was an official and collector of funds of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and died in his thirty-seventh year), James (died when he was seventeen years of age), Sarah (is now Mrs. Sea, and lives in New York), and Libbie (married Izah Vielee). Edward S. was reared on his father's farm, and receive a good education in the old subscription schools of New York. In 1870 he came to Nebraska, and entered 160 acres under the homestead law, of virgin prairie land. At that time wild buffalo roamed over his land in great droves, and Indians were plentiful, and Mr. Doyle relates in an interesting way how he was surprised one day while engaged in his farm work by hearing a noise and rumble and roar, and upon looking up, his eyes beheld nothing but Indians, horses and buffalo for as far as he could see about him. Mr. Doyle also experienced the terrible Easter storm, which lasted three days, commencing with a rain on the 14th of April, then turning into snow, and developing into one of the most terrific snow storms ever endured. The year 1856 witnessed his marriage in Wisconsin, to Miss Lydia E. Crosby, also a native of New York, and this union has been blessed in the birth of five children—three girls and two boys, viz.: Elizabeth (deceased) was the wife of Cassius Budlong, a farmer by occupation, who now has the postoffice and a store; Miner married Miss Lottie Gibson, and has one little daughter (he was formerly a merchant, but is now engaged in the insurance business); Lillian (deceased) was married to Simeon Hall, by whom she had one child, a little daughter, Mina, now nine years of age, who makes her home with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle; Edward A. resides on the old homestead, and divides his time between attending school and farming; and Lottie, now six years of age. When

a young man Mr. Doyle cast his first vote for Franklin Pierce, and has ever since been identified with the Republican party, being an ardent supporter of the same. He has always taken a decided interest in the municipal affairs of county and township, and has held several positions on the town board. He has been tendered the best offices in the township, but has modestly declined in each case. When Mr. Doyle first came to Harmony Township, his nearest market was Beatrice, a distance of 130 miles, and Hastings, Blue Hill, and in fact all of the flourishing towns of the present were unknown at that time. Prairie chickens were as plenty as tame chickens, and many times Mr. Doyle has raised the window and shot them. There was then only one small building in Juniata, and there was nothing on the prairie to obscure the vision as far as the eye could reach, and Mr. Doyle relates much information of the terrible hardships and privations of the pioneer during the grass-hopper scourges of 1874 and 1876, when all the crops were totally destroyed. Mr. Doyle has been reasonably successful since his career here, and he and wife expect to spend the rest of their days in Nebraska. They would not exchange the lovely climate of this State for any Eastern climate they have lived in heretofore. They have a nice, well-improved farm, and are surrounded by a host of friends who hold them in high esteem. Both Mr. and Mrs. Doyle are members of the Congregational Church at Campbell, Neb. They were actively interested in the Sunday-school in the home district, Mrs. Doyle having excellently filled the position of secretary and treasurer of the same. When in session the school averages from twenty to thirty in constant attendance. Mr. Doyle belonged to the I. O. O. F. while in New York. He is now a member of the Alliance, and thinks it will greatly benefit the farmers if they hold together.

J. J. Ducker is a name well known in business circles throughout Webster County, for it stands as the representative of a man who is noted for his enterprise. He was born in Illinois in 1868, a son of James and Jennett (Allison) Ducker, the former a native of England and the mother of Scotland, both of whom came here while very young. They

were married in Chicago. The father was a merchant, and at an early day settled in Mokena, Ill., where he did a good general merchandise business. In 1874 he opened a dry goods and carpet store, one of the largest in the State of Illinois, at Joliet, and continued both this and the store at Mokena until his death, December 16, 1885, in his sixty-fifth year. After his death the business was continued by his sons, who are still interested in it, the stores being under the immediate control of our subject's brother. On account of ill health J. J. Ducker first came to Nebraska and settled on a ranch in this county, but after his short residence on the prairies his health improved so rapidly that he was soon able to resume business; accordingly, he entered the mercantile business at Red Cloud, buying out his brother, who had opened a store in that place. At first he was in partnership with his sister, but he soon purchased her interest, and has since run it alone. He does a large and paying business, employing from three to four clerks, and keeps a special line of dry goods and cloaks. Mr. Ducker is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is as yet unmarried. He is very fond of hunting, and keeps some of the best blooded dogs in the country, and indulges in the sport quite freely. He is a popular man among his associates, and is a man of good business ability.

John Dunbar, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. Although an Ohioan by birth, Mr. Dunbar knows very little about his native State, as his parents, H. R. and Jemima (Wolf) Dunbar, removed to Illinois in 1834, while he was an infant. His father was a farmer by occupation, and followed this occupation until 1850, when he went to the gold fields of California, taking his son John with him. The former stayed in California two years, accumulating quite a fortune, and on his return home invested his wealth in lands and money-lending until his death, in 1886. John Dunbar remained in California two years longer, and on returning to Illinois invested in a farm, and continued as a farmer until 1865. Our subject, then in the prime of life, enlisted in the Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry, and served "Uncle Sam" loyally and well until he was honorably dis-

charged, in 1866. At the close of the war he returned to Putnam County, Ill., and resumed his former occupation until 1872, at that time coming to Nebraska. Arriving in Webster County in June of the same year, he purchased a tract of 160 acres of ex-Governor Garber, and now owns 240 acres of land located on the Republican River, eighty acres being rich bottom land; 120 acres are under an excellent state of cultivation, on which he has never failed to raise a crop; upon it also is a thrifty-bearing orchard, thirteen years old, all selected fruits, besides considerable small fruit, with a good stone house, built in 1872, of the magnesia lime rock, in dimensions 18x34; he has a basement for a barn of the same material, and other improvements. September 4, 1855. Mr. Dunbar was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Bear, daughter of David Bear, a native of Pennsylvania, but reared and educated in Putnam County, Ill. Nine children have contributed to the happiness of this union, their names being Dora D., Sylvanion C., Matilda J., Laura A., Alice, Jenima, Jesse L., Orange and Mabel. Dora married Emanuel Peters, the first settler of Webster County, and its first sheriff; they now live in California. Sylvanion married Miss Stoner; they reside in Webster County. Matilda married Frank Cooper, a thriving farmer and school teacher, residing in this county. Laura A. married Christopher Columbia, residing in the northwest corner of this State. Alice married Floid Crow, residing in this county, a prosperous farmer. Mima married George Crow, a farmer by occupation. Jesse and Orange, two stout and handsome young men, take charge of the farm and stock, as Mr. Dunbar is a pensioner and not able to work. The youngest, Mabel, is a bright little miss of ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Dunbar is chaplain of the G. A. R., also an honorary member of the W. R. C., Mrs. Dunbar being the chaplain of the latter organization.

Chris. Fassler. The subject of this sketch has been so prominently identified with the interests of Webster County as to render him well and favorably known, while his official career has demonstrated him to be one of the most capable and

efficient of public servants, whose integrity and honesty of purpose are unquestioned. Mr. Fassler was born in Ohio, Fairfield County, in 1848, and is the fifth of nine children born to Christian and Christina (Siebler) Fassler. His parents were born in Germany, and gave their son a German education, as well as a good English schooling. Our subject grew to manhood on his father's farm in Ohio, subsequently marrying, in 1869, at the age of twenty-one, Miss Louisa Casteel, also a native of Ohio. After a brief married life of one year, Mrs. Fassler died. In 1877 Mr. Fassler came West to Illinois, remaining there until the fall of 1879, and then coming to Webster County, Neb. Here he purchased railroad land and settled down to farming, until he was elected county treasurer, since which period he has devoted such time as he could spare from the efficient discharge of his duties to his agricultural interests. He has always taken a deep interest in public affairs, and is very popular in his county. As a proof of his popularity we will mention the fact, that although his county has a Republican majority of several hundred votes, Mr. Fassler was elected to his present office on the Democratic ticket. He had previously served several terms as a member of the board of county supervisors. He was installed in his present position January 9, 1890. He is now the owner of a half section of land in this county. Mr. Fassler served his country in the late war, enlisting before he was fifteen years of age, and continuing in action until the close of the war. He now belongs to the G. A. R.

Philip G. Fassler, farmer and stock-raiser, Bladen, Neb. Mr. Fassler owes his nativity to Fairfield County, Ohio, where his birth occurred in 1855, and is the youngest of five children, the result of the union of Christian and Christina (Siebler) Fassler, natives of Baden, Germany, who came to this country at an early day. The parents settled in Maryland, and later moved to the Buckeye State, where the father died in 1864, and the mother in 1877. Philip G. Fassler received his education in the schools of Ohio, and was early instructed in the duties of farm life. In 1884 his nuptials with Miss Mary Livingston, a native

of Ohio, and the daughter of Chris. Livingston, were celebrated, and the result of this union was one child—Dora. The father of Mrs. Fassler died in Ohio in 1885, but the mother is still living, and makes her home in that State. In 1883 Mr. Fassler came to Webster County, Neb., and purchased a partly improved farm of 160 acres, which he immediately began improving, erecting a good frame house and planting a good orchard. He is also engaged in raising stock, principally hogs. He is a Democrat in politics, and socially is a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He and Mrs. Fassler are members of the Lutheran Church, at Blue Hill, and are highly esteemed citizens.

E. H. Foe, farmer and stockman, Cowles, Neb. Webster County is acknowledged by all to be one of the best agricultural portions of the State, and as such its citizens are men of advanced ideas and considerable prominence. A worthy man among this class is found in the person of Mr. Foe, who owes his nativity to Canada, where his birth occurred in 1825, and was the sixth of ten children born to Samuel and Elizabeth (Owen) Foe, natives of Lincolnshire, England. The parents took passage for Canada on a sailing vessel in 1818, and were three months in making the trip. The father was a farmer, and although educated for a profession, he still continued to till the soil. He made two visits to his native land and died in Canada in 1838. The mother died about 1856. E. H. Foe was reared to farm life, and was also in a tavern for a number of years. He worked for his board and attended the schools of Canada as he could. In 1850 his marriage to Miss Harriet Stevenson was consummated, she having been a native of Ireland, and by this union there were born two children: Samuel W. (who is married and resides in Red Cloud) and Harriet (who resides in Canada). Mrs. Foe was the daughter of Andrew and Susan Stephenson, natives of Ireland, who came to Canada at an early day and there passed the closing scenes of their lives. Mr. Foe lost his excellent wife in Monroe County, Wis., in November, 1865, he having moved to that State in the early part of that year. He was married again in Canada in 1866 to Miss Lois Hurd, a native of Canada, and the

daughter of Ashel and Laura (Chapman) Hurd, natives, also, of Canada. Mr. Hurd was a farmer and blacksmith by occupation and emigrated to Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1847, settling on a farm, where he remained until 1883, when he moved to Cowles, Webster County, Neb. There his death occurred on July 1, 1887. The mother died in December, 1885. After his marriage Mr. Foe moved to Iowa, and in 1873 to Webster County, Neb., where he opened up land, improved it, and is now the owner of 320 acres in a good state of cultivation. He is a Republican in politics and an active supporter of all laudable public enterprises. He and Mrs. Foe are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Cowles. To their union have been born seven children: Laura Eliza, Thornton, Olive, Charles, Fred, Ross and Lynn. Mr. Foe has seen the full growth of the country, and is one of the pioneers of the same. He passed through the grasshopper raids of 1874 and 1875, and experienced many of the hardships incident to the early settlement of a State.

L. H. Fort, clerk of the district court of Webster County, Neb., was born in Cass County, Ill., December 26, 1849, the eldest of four boys living of J. L. and Martha E. (Gunter) Fort. His father was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal persuasion, and when our subject was three years of age moved his family to Missouri, thence one year later to Mills County, Iowa. From Iowa he was transferred to Nebraska City in the spring of 1860, and took a circuit south of that place, and at the end of one year was assigned to Peru. Next he went to Plattsmouth, where he labored for one year, and then gave up his ministerial duties and returned to Nebraska City in 1863. He spent the best part of his life in pioneer missionary work in Nebraska, for which he got no material return, and is now spending the evening of his life in comfort on a farm near Palmyra, Neb. His wife died in Iowa. Our subject commenced work for himself with the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Omaha when he was sixteen years of age, and earned enough money to pay for his education, besides sending his father money. He was educated in the high school at Council Bluffs, Iowa.

He crossed the plains in 1863, but later returned, and was engaged at different occupations until 1880, when he entered the clerk's office in Nemaha County, remaining there for four years and then coming to Red Cloud. He is now serving as clerk of the court of Webster County, and has proved himself an efficient officer. In politics he votes with the Republican party, and in secret societies belongs to the A. O. U. W. and the M. W. A. His wife is a member of the Christian Church. He is fair complexioned, a pleasant and agreeable gentleman, and looks and acts young for his years, and is very popular in this city and county.

Charles W. Fuller is engaged in merchandising at Cowles, and also gives considerable of his attention to the purchase and sale of stock and grain. His birth occurred in Rensselaer County, N. Y., in the year 1845, his parents being Jacob and Matilda (Kipp) Fuller, both of whom were also born in that State, the former in 1815, his death occurring in 1860. In 1853 young Charles was taken from his native State to Jones County, Iowa, and in that State he attained manhood and received a common-school education. He joined the Union army in 1861, becoming a member of Company D, Ninth Iowa Infantry, and served until 1862, when he was transferred to the Second Iowa Cavalry, Company L, known as Gen. Hatch's old regiment, in which he served until the close of the war, taking part in the following named engagements: Pea Ridge, Vicksburg, Corinth, Iuka, Moscow, Germantown, West Point, then returned to Memphis and joined A. J. Smith, taking part in the three-days' fight at Tupelo, Florence, Ala., was the next scene of action, and here it was that Hood's army was met and the sixty-four days' campaign began. The three-days' battle of Duck River was next fought between Hood and Schofield, after which Mr. Fuller's command took part in the engagement of Franklin, where another three-days' engagement was carried on. Later, at Nashville, Hood's army was annihilated. Upon the termination of the war Mr. Fuller returned to Jones County, Iowa, where, in 1868, he was married to Miss Georgia Darling, who was born in Lake County, Ill., in 1846, a

daughter of Charles and Amanda (Tucker) Darling, natives of the "Green Mountain State." Mrs. Fuller is one of three children, and has, herself, borne a family of seven children: Grace (Mrs. Good, of Cowles), Chloe, Lewis, Florence, Helen, Mabel and Fred. Mr. Fuller has always supported the measures of the Republican party, and has held various political positions in the township where he resided. He belongs to the G. A. R. and the I. O. O. F., and he and family attend the Congregational Church.

Fred A. Good, of the firm of Fuller & Good, general merchants of Cowles, Neb., was born at Freeport, Ill., in 1866, a son of William and Olive (Hurd) Good, natives of England and Canada, respectively, the former's birth occurring in 1837, and the latter's in 1834. William Good is now residing in Marion, Iowa. His children are named as follows: Fred A., Arthur, Fannie (now Mrs. Kyle, of Lincoln, Neb.,) and Martin. In 1887 Fred A. Good came to Cowles and engaged in the hardware business, but has since added a stock of dry goods and groceries. He is associated in business with his father-in-law, with whom he does the most extensive business in the place. They also ship the largest amount of stock sent from this point. January 1, 1889, Mr. Good espoused Miss Grace, a daughter of his partner, and their union has resulted in the birth of one child, Georgia. In November, 1889, Mr. Good was elected township treasurer and tax collector on the Independent ticket for a term of two years.

Hon. Silas Garber. Among the names that will live long in Nebraska history, none deserve a more prominent place than that of Silas Garber, ex-Governor of Nebraska, and the subject of this sketch. The name Garber was borne by those great ancestors of Silas who were transplanted to this country from Switzerland before the Revolutionary War. The branch from which our subject is descended settled in Virginia, and Mr. Garber has in his possession patents to lands signed in 1650. The subject of this sketch is a son of Martin and Magdalena (Mobler) Garber, and grew to manhood and received a common-school education in Ohio. He was a Union man, and when the war broke out,

with the characteristic zeal that has always distinguished him as a leader of men, he entered the Federal army and fought heroically for liberty and union. He joined the Third Missouri Infantry, but was afterward promoted to a captaincy in Company D, Twenty-seventh Iowa, in which capacity he served for three years. His dauntless courage and soldierly mien so inspired his soldiers that they never thought of fear while "Capt. Garber," as he is still familiarly called by friends, was at the front. The battles in which he participated are: Capture of Little Rock, September 10, 1863; Fort DeRusey, La., March 17, 1864; Pleasant Hill, La., April 9, 1864; Old Oakes, May 18, 1864; Lake Chicot, June 6, 1864; Tupelo, Miss., July 14, 1864; Old Town Creek, July 15, 1864, and Nashville, Tenn., December 15 and 16, 1864. Gov. Garber is a tall man, of commanding appearance, and is quite fleshy, but in those days was slim and well knit. He would have made a characteristic cavalier or courtier, but was well adapted to the vicissitudes of pioneer life. Seeking a broad field in which to operate, he went to California and there engaged in merchandising, and subsequently in mining. He had intended entering the stock business, and was induced to come to the valley of the Republican River, by the descriptions given of its pasture lands by a Mexican in his employ. He came here in the spring of 1870 and found only two settlers in all Webster County. His idea of entering the stock business was cut short by the tide of immigration which set in early in the seventies, so he became a pioneer general merchant of Red Cloud instead, one small grocery store being built before he entered the business. In business, Silas Garber was strictly honorable and honest, even in trading with the Indians. So great a name had he for fair dealing with the Indians that he would get several hundred beaver hides while his competitors would get, perhaps, two or three in exchange for goods. Mr. Garber was destined without his solicitation to fill high places to which he did not aspire. A gentleman of high standing who was intimately acquainted with Gov. Garber in those early days says: "He could not in those days pass into a crowd without it being remarked

that he was a man of superior qualities." This fact, coupled with his honesty and loyalty to friendship, caused him to be solicited to accept the position of register of public lands of Nebraska. He at first hesitated, but being prevailed upon, he accepted the appointment. So satisfactory was his work in the land office that soon gubernatorial honors were laid at his feet, and that before he had been register of lands one year. In the fall of 1873 he was elected Governor of Nebraska, and was re-elected in the fall of 1875 and served until 1878. His reign as Governor was one of the most prosperous experienced in the history of any State. He saw the State a vacant wild, and but a few years later stepped down from the Governor's chair to behold a populous and thrifty commonwealth. He returned to Red Cloud and entered the stock business, but failing health soon compelled him to abandon it. Upon recovering his health he became the vice-president of the Red Cloud National Bank, and in 1887 he organized the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Red Cloud, of which latter institution he is now the president. Before he served as register of lands, he represented Webster, Nuckolls and Thayer Counties in the State Legislature. Gov. Garber hauled the first lumber ever brought into Webster County with two ox-teams from Grand Island, Neb., and there was named a wagon track between here and the Platte River at that time. When he was Governor, as when he was register of lands, simple honest justice was his motto, and no one ever received a favor by getting him to break the law. Gov. Garber has been twice married, his first wife, to whom he was united in Iowa, passing away during the war, and he was again married while Governor of Nebraska. Gov. Garber has one child, a son by his first wife, named William Seward, secretary of the board of transportation in Lincoln.

Ed. Gilford, cashier of Cowles Bank. It is the aim of this work to give a true history of the county and its representative citizens, and to accomplish this object mention must be made of Mr. Gilford, one of the leading men of the county. He was born in Herkimer County, N. Y., in 1841, and while still an infant was taken by his parents

to Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood on his father's farm, and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. In early youth he learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted in Company I, Forty-fifth Wisconsin Infantry, and served Uncle Sam faithfully and well for ten months. At the close of the war he returned to his home, and soon after was united in matrimonial bonds to Miss Elizabeth Cuppeuall. He came west in 1880, first locating at Amboy, Webster County, but at the end of one and one-half years he came to Cowles and opened up a general merchandise business, which he continued until 1889. He is now engaged in lending money for a company composed of L. C. and A. D. Gillett, J. H. Clark, John Blaine, himself and others. In connection with these interests he is also in partnership with a Mr. Waller, in the grain business. Their elevator, which he helped to build, is the only steam elevator in the place. Mr. Gilford is also the owner of one and one-half sections of land in Dakota. Mr. Gilford's father, a soldier in the War of 1812, was born in Ireland, coming to America at an early day. He married Miss Charity Orr, and by her was the father of seven children, five of whom survive. He was a farmer by occupation, and died in Wisconsin at the advanced age of eighty-six; his wife died in 1867.

J. S. Gilliam, a prominent attorney of Red Cloud, was born in Wisconsin in 1852, grew to manhood in his native State, and graduated at Beloit College in 1872. His father and mother were natives of England; the former, a farmer by occupation, is now dead, but the mother is still living. He read law in Shullsburg, Wis., and was admitted to the bar in 1873. In the spring of 1874 he came west, and on June 4 of the same year opened a law office in Red Cloud. In the spring of 1875 he served as a member of the Constitutional Convention, and in the fall of the same year was elected superintendent of public schools. During his incumbency of this office he was principal of the Red Cloud public school, edited the Chief, and in connection with all this attended to his law practice, which, at that early day was not

inconsiderable. In 1876 he was elected to the State Senate, being one of the youngest men composing that august body, and has since then served as county attorney. Since 1877 he has devoted himself entirely to his profession, and has won to his credit an enviable reputation, and built up a remunerative practice. He does not do a collecting business, but devotes himself exclusively to law. He is the owner of some 1,300 acres of good land. In 1877 his marriage with a daughter of Dr. Tulleys, of this place, was consummated, and to this union have been born two children. Mr. Gilliam is the fortunate owner of a splendid library, containing many choice volumes. He is a Royal Arch Mason, belongs to the A. O. U. W., and votes with the Republican party.

Albert N. Godwin, farmer and stock-raiser, Cowles, Neb. Nowhere in Webster County is there to be found a young man of more energy or determined will or force of character than Mr. Godwin possesses, and no young agriculturist is deserving of greater success in the conduct and management of a farm than he. Born in Mercer County, Pa., in 1854, he is the son of Richard and Tobitha (Fritz) Godwin, natives of England and Pennsylvania respectively. The parents moved to Ohio in 1856, settled in Portage County, and there Albert N. attained his growth, receiving his education in the common schools. He was engaged in the dairy business from the age of seventeen to about twenty-seven years of age, and in 1876 was married to Miss Bell Niece, daughter of Charles and Abbie (Thurston) Niece, natives of the Buckeye State. Mr. and Mrs. Godwin came to Illinois in 1876, located in Will County, and were engaged in the dairy business for three years, after which they moved to Richardson County, Neb. There Mr. Godwin cultivated the soil until 1882, when he moved to Hamilton County, Neb., and after a residence there of two years moved to Webster County, where he has since made his home. He is now actively and assiduously engaged in overseeing his fine farm of 320 acres, all improved and fairly well stocked. He has always been identified with the Democratic party, politically. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, being one of the charter

members of Willow Creek Lodge, and is a man who has the respect and confidence of all. Mrs. Godwin is a member of the Society of Friends. They are the parents of three interesting children: Bessie H. (born June 15, 1877), Flora F. (born December 15, 1879) and Josie J. (born September 6, 1883).

Joseph L. Grandstaff, the subject of this sketch, owes his nativity to Guernsey County, Ohio, where his birth occurred in 1847. His great grandparents were natives of Germany, and came to America in an early day. His great-grandfather was in the Revolutionary War, under Gen. Washington, his death occurring about the year 1828. His grandfather was born in what is now West Virginia, near the present city of Wheeling. He went through the War of 1812, and was in Hull's surrender, his death occurring during the Civil War in the year 1865. In his grandfather's family there were eight children, his father being the youngest. In his father's family he was the third of five children born to Eli and Mary J. (Inley) Grandstaff. The former, a native of Knox County, Ohio, was born in the year 1821, and emigrated to Iowa in 1853, going from there in 1870 to Mercer County, Mo., where he now resides. His mother was born in Washington County, N. J., in 1824, her parents moving to Ohio while she was quite young. He was six years old when his parents moved to Guthrie County, Iowa, residing there till he was past sixteen, when he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry; was mustered into the service at Davenport, Iowa; was assigned to the trans-Mississippi department, and participated in Gen. Steele's famous Camden expedition through Arkansas. He took part in the battles of Little Missouri River, Prairie de Ann and Jenkins' Ferry, and one continual skirmishing during the entire campaign. He was also at the surrender of Mobile and in the battles of Forts Spanish and Blakely. He was discharged at New Orleans in 1865, and returned to Iowa. From there he came to Nebraska, in 1866, settled in Merrick County, and the same summer signed the petition for the then Territory of Nebraska to become a State. He is a Republican in politics, and socially a mem-

ber of A. E. Burnside Post No. 79, G. A. R., Bladen. He came to Nebraska a single man, was married in 1874 to Miss Minta Keith, a native of Wisconsin, and the daughter of Lewis and Albina (Selleck) Keith. Her father was a native of Ohio, and also her grandfather, her grandparents on the father's side coming from Germany, and on the mother's side from Canada. His marriage resulted in the birth of three children: Percie, Roy and Josie. He took the second homestead September 2, 1871, and is now the oldest resident in what is now Glenwood Township. He owns considerable land in Webster and Adams Counties, and is engaged in stock-raising to a considerable extent, all his worldly possessions originating from his energy and industry since coming to Nebraska.

Stephen C. Green, a prominent agriculturist of Webster County, was born in Rhode Island in 1855, the fourth in a family of ten children raised by John and Ellen (Welsh) Green, both born in England, the former in 1825 and the latter in 1827. They were married August 8, 1846, and emigrated from their native land in 1855, locating in Rhode Island, where they remained one year, and then for the next twenty-seven years (two years of the time living in Iroquois County) made their home in Kane County, Ill. They had a family of nine children, viz.: James (born in England), Jane (born and died in England), Henry (also born in England), Stephen (the subject of this sketch), Mary, Joseph, John, Ellen and Emma (all born in Illinois); the tenth child died when an infant. In 1883 they came to Webster County and purchased land, and here the father passed from life on January 31, 1888, the mother having died March 10, 1887. They were both formerly members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but at the time of their death the mother belonged to the United Brethren Church and the father to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The boyhood of our subject was spent in Illinois, and at the age of twenty years he started in life for himself as an agriculturist. He came with his father to Nebraska in 1883, and purchased 160 acres of good land, on which he now lives, engaged extensively in raising cattle, horses and hogs, and by earnest, hard work and good

management he has succeeded in accumulating a comfortable competence. Mr. Green was united in matrimonial bonds in 1884 to Miss Laura Quiggle, daughter of Robert Quiggle, of this county, and they are the parents of two bright little children: Nellie E. and Ernest A. Mr. Green votes with the Republican party, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

D. G. Grice, farmer and stock raiser of Batin Township, located in this county in 1879, coming from Kankakee County, Ill., and immediately after his arrival here purchased 160 acres of railroad land, some thirty or forty acres of which were broken, and moved on to the farm in November of the same year. Mr. Grice was born in Crawford County, Ill., on November 6, 1835, being the oldest of four children born to William R. and Pheriba A. (Willard) Grice, both of whom were natives of North Carolina. The father moved to Illinois with his parents at an early day, and there grew to manhood and passed his life, dying in 1840. His widow survived until July, 1880, when she closed her eyes to the scenes of this world, her death occurring in Crawford County, Ill. Of the four children born to them, but two are now living, namely: D. G. (the subject of this sketch) and Sarah E. (now Mrs. S. E. Stricklett, of Clark County, Ill.). D. G. Grice was reared to farm life, receiving his education in the common schools of Crawford and Will Counties, Ill., to which latter county he had moved in his fifteenth year. He was married in Will County, Ill., in 1857, to Miss B. Matilda Taylor, who was born in Sullivan County, Ind., in 1839, being a daughter of Thomas J. and Sarah M. (White) Taylor, the former of whom was born in Kentucky, and the latter in Tennessee. Her father moved to Sullivan County in 1819, when he was ten years of age, there married, and made his home until 1845, when he moved to Will County (now Kankakee County), and opened up a farm, on which he lived until his death in 1875; his wife died in Sullivan County, Ind., in 1841. After his marriage Mr. Grice settled on a farm and tilled the soil very successfully until the outbreak of the war. October 15, 1861 he enlisted at Chicago, Ill., in Company E, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer

Infantry for three years, was mustered into service at Camp Douglass, and assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He was in the battle at Winchester, and up the Shenandoah River, besides many skirmishes, then started to Richmond, returned, and was in the battle of Port Republic. He received a slight gunshot wound at Winchester. After the battle of Port Republic his company went to reinforce Gen. McClellan, and was in the battle of Malvern Hill, and after this battle (November 19, 1862), on account of disability, Mr. Grice was honorably discharged at Grand Island, N. Y. In 1864 Mr. Grice re-enlisted in Company I, Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry, and was assigned to the Seventeenth Army Corps, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Camp Butler, Chicago, on April 19, 1866. During his latter enlistment, he was at Jackson Cross Roads, on July 6 and 7, 1864; in Sherman's Raid to Meridian, Miss., in March, 1864; at the battle of Fort Blakely, Ala., in April, 1865, and during the intervals was on garrison duty, and on scouting expeditions in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. After the battle of Fort Blakely, Mr. Grice was transferred to the Thirty-seventh Illinois Infantry. He was wounded at this battle, and was confined in the hospital at New Orleans, and also at Mound City, Ill. After receiving his discharge, Mr. Grice returned to his home and engaged in farming in Illinois until 1879, when, in June of that year, he came to Webster County and took up his present farm, and has witnessed all the changes which have been wrought in this country since that time. He takes an active interest in politics, casting his vote with the Republican party, and has served as supervisor of Batin Township, and one term as assessor. In 1887 he moved to Red Cloud, was elected constable, and also served as deputy sheriff of Webster County. He has always taken an active interest in school matters, and served on the school board for five years. Both he and wife are earnest workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which they are members, taking a particular interest in Sunday school work, Mr. Grice having been superintendent of the Sabbath-school for two years. Mrs. Grice is a member of the Women's Relief Corps

of the G. A. R., of Red Cloud, and in 1888 she served as its treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Grice were the parents of five children, but three of whom are now living. Their eldest child, William O. died in 1858, at the age of two weeks; Fred R. died in 1862, aged two years three months and twelve days; Herbert E. is a pharmacist and makes his home in Red Cloud, and Flavius J., Mary and Louisa are all at home. Mr. Grice belongs to Garfield Post No. 80, G. A. R., and is a strong supporter of the Farmers' Alliance.

John F. Grimes is a well-known druggist of Blue Hill, Neb., and has a well-appointed establishment. He was born in the town of Waynesboro, Pa., September 28, 1848, and is a son of John and Mary (Hoke) Grimes, being the youngest of their six children, four of whom are now living. The father, who was a mechanic by trade, died on July 14, 1870, but his widow survives him, and is a resident of Knoxville, Ill., whither they had moved in 1852. Here John F. Grimes spent his boyhood and youth, receiving his early education in the schools of that place. When about twenty years of age, Mr. Grimes became the proprietor of a confectionery establishment in Knoxville, and successfully conducted it for about six years. In 1878 he came to the State of Nebraska, and after spending six months clerking in a drug store in Hastings, he, on November 19, 1878, came to Blue Hill, Neb., and here for a few years he was the manager of a drug and general mercantile establishment. In 1882 he embarked in the former business on his own account, and has conducted an establishment of that kind ever since, having at the present time the largest store of the kind in the place. His wife, who was formerly Miss Myra E. Lynn, was born in Lockport, Ill., being a daughter of George K. and Anna (Alison) Lynn, their union taking place on June 14, 1882. Mr. Grimes and his wife have four children: Edward Lynn, Lloyd Owen, Irma Catherine, and John Herbert. Mr. Grimes is conceded to be a prosperous business man, and as a citizen he is honored and respected by all.

D. L. Groat, farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 32, Town 2, Range 12, Webster County,

Neb., was born in New York, in July, 1840, the fourth of a family of six children born to the union of John and Effie (Blakesley) Groat, both natives of the "Empire State," the former of Dutch descent. His father, a farmer by occupation, spent his youthful days in his native State, and was married at the age of twenty-two years. When the subject of this sketch was about three years of age, his parents moved from New York to McHenry County, Ill., among the first settlers of that State. His father died here in 1854. His widow survived him twenty-seven years, dying in Iowa in 1881. She was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject, D. L. Groat, was reared to maturity in Illinois, receiving a common school education. May 24, 1861, he entered the United States service, enlisting in Company A, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, Capt. L. D. Kelly, commander, in which he remained for three years, taking part in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, siege of Vicksburg, besides many skirmishes. He was honorably discharged at Springfield, Ill., June 14, 1864. After his discharge from the army he returned to his home in Illinois, remaining there three years, and then going to Winneshek County, Iowa. Here he spent another three years, and then removed to Webster County, Neb., entering as a homestead the northeast quarter of Section 32, Town 2, Range 12. He arrived here in the fall of 1871, and in the spring of 1872 he broke land and put out a crop, and has raised a crop each year ever since. Five years ago he sold his homestead and purchased his present farm. He has been very successful since coming to Nebraska, and would not exchange his home here for one in any other State. In his political views, Mr. Groat inclines to the Republican party. He is a member of T. B. Blair Post No. 150, G. A. R., Riverton, Neb. In December, 1864, Mr. Groat was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Weaver, daughter of Peter and Nancy (Dickerson) Weaver, of McHenry County, Ill., and by this union is the father of six children, viz.: Erminie, David A., Edwin, Elbert, Dora and Morris, all of whom reside at home except David A.

James Groves was born in Marion County, Ind., in 1845, the fourth in a family of five children born to Samuel and Ellen Groves, *nee* Hayes, their names being John C., William (deceased in Indiana about 1852), Mary A., James and Robert. His father was born in Pennsylvania, but early in life went to Indiana, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits and was married. In 1867 he immigrated to Illinois, settling on a farm in Vermilion County, where he is still living. His wife died in Indiana when the subject of this sketch was a child. Mr. Groves, Sr., votes the Republican ticket, and has always supported the man and measures of that party. At the time of the war he was a member of the Home Guards, and his three sons, John, James and Robert, were in the service. James, whose name appears above, enlisted in Company K, Seventieth Indiana Infantry, Col. B. Harrison commander, and took part in the battles of Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Averysboro, Look-out Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Savannah, Bentonville (some thirty hard-fought battles in all), and was with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea. He contracted the rheumatism while in the army, from the effects of which he has never entirely recovered. In February, 1865, Mr. Groves was taken prisoner near Goldsboro, S. C., but escaped the same day, and at the close of the war was in the grand parade at Washington, at which city he was mustered out, and received his discharge in Indiana in 1865, after which he returned to his home and engaged in farming. In 1867 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Fred, daughter of Israel Fred, of Indiana, and the same year immigrated to Illinois, locating near Rossville, in Vermilion County, where he followed farming until 1882. Here he had the misfortune to lose his wife, in 1872, who died, leaving three little daughters, Dora, Cora and Laura, motherless. Dora is now Mrs. Sherley, Cora now Mrs. Hudson, and Laura now Mrs. Haas. Mrs. Groves was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an earnest Christian lady. In 1876 Mr. Groves was married to Miss Sarah Dnke, a native of Indiana, and to this union five children were born, as follows: Samuel (deceased), Docia (deceased), Nora

(at home), and two children who died in infancy. In 1882 Mr. Groves came to Webster County, Neb., and purchased the 160 acres on which he now lives, which he has greatly improved with nice buildings, etc., etc., and on which he has set out a nice young grove and orchard, and here he is extensively engaged in raising grain, horses, cattle and hogs. As the result of his hard labor and good management, he has been very successful since coming to this county, and is well satisfied to make this his permanent home. Mr. Groves votes a straight Republican ticket, and takes an active interest in local politics. He was elected supervisor of Stillwater Township in 1885, and is still serving in that capacity, to the entire satisfaction of all the tax-payers of that township. Mr. Groves is a member of the Christian Church, in which he is an elder and a zealous worker. He belongs to the G. A. R and to the Alliance.

George W. Hagan, proprietor of the Republican Valley Fruit Farm and Nursery, Guide Rock, Neb. Mr. Hagan was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, September 10, 1842. His father, Samuel Hagan, was born in Pennsylvania, but early in life went with his parents to Ohio, and there grew to manhood, subsequently marrying Miss Eleanor Jones, a native of Ohio. He was a shoemaker by occupation. In 1856 he moved with his family to Iowa, locating in Wapello County, residing there until 1860, when he moved to Warren County, where he made his home until 1886, when he came to Nebraska, and now resides near his son—the subject of this sketch. George W. Hagan grew to manhood in Iowa, remaining with his father until he was eighteen years of age. He then left his home and enlisted, August 15, 1861, in Company G, Tenth Iowa Infantry, for three years, at the end of which time he veteranized and served until the close of the war, being discharged at Little Rock, in August, 1865. Among the principal engagements in which he participated may be mentioned Bloomfield (in this battle seven men out of his company were lost), New Madrid, siege of Corinth, Iuka, Battle of Corinth, Champion's Hill, siege and surrender of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Goldsboro, Bentonville. Mr. Hagan feels justly proud

of the fact that he was in the grand parade at Washington at the close of the war. After receiving his discharge he returned to Iowa, and the following year engaged in farming in Warren County, continuing this occupation until 1885. In March, 1885, he moved from Warren County to Nebraska, and purchased the place on which he now resides. He immediately commenced putting out trees, and now has thirty-eight acres in nursery and orchard. He has a large variety of apple, plum, apricot, peach, cherry, pear, and grape-vines, and everything needed for the successful fruit raisers of the county, besides a large assortment of evergreens, ornamental trees, shrubbery, etc. Mr. Hagan was married in Warren County, Iowa, November 15, 1867, to Miss Sarah J. Moore, born in Ohio, but reared in Warren County, Iowa, a daughter of Samuel Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Hagan are the parents of nine children—six sons and three daughters, viz.: Ida May (wife of Presley Reeves of this county), William R. (makes his home in Iowa), Luella (a young lady at home) and Charles E., Emmett A., Eli E., Arch Ray, Iva Belle and George Irving, all at home. Mr. Hagan is a member of the G. A. R., being commander of T. O. Howe Post No. 138, and also belongs to the A. O. U. W. In politics he sides with the Republican party.

Henry Haines, residing on Section 12, Town 4, Range 9, Oak Creek Township, is justly numbered among the substantial agriculturists of Webster County. He also has the honor of being one of the pioneers of this county, as he came here in 1874 when the country was but thinly inhabited, and has witnessed its entire growth and development. Upon his arrival he was so well pleased with the locality that he resolved to make it his home, accordingly he homesteaded 160 acres of land, on which he settled his family. To this he has since added eighty acres, and now owns a fine farm of 240 acres of land, well improved, with nice grove and orchard, and devotes his attention to farming and stock-raising, at which he has been very successful, and as the result of his industry and good management has accumulated a fine property. His son, Lincoln, is married and assists

his father on the farm. Mr. Haines was born in Berks County, Pa., in 1820, the only child born to Henry and Mary (Hess) Haines, the former born in Philadelphia, Pa., in the latter part of 17—. He was a carpenter and cabinet-maker, and lived, was married and died in Pennsylvania; his wife died in Northampton County, of the same State. Their son Henry, our subject, received a meager education, being brought up to hard labor on the farm. In 1838 he was married to Elizabeth McGee, who bore him eight children, viz.: Howard, Jane, William, John, Charles, Frank, Robert and Kattie. Mrs. Haines died in 1855, in Illinois, whither the family had emigrated in 1844. In 1856 Mr. Haines was married to Miss Christiana Shirk, daughter of Andrew Shirk, of Illinois. This latter union was blessed with seven children, viz.: Cyrus, Sophia, Lincoln, Addie, Grant, Wheeler and Sarah E. (who died in 1885). Mr. Haines continued to reside in Illinois until 1874, when he came to Nebraska. He is a staunch Republican, taking an active interest in politics. He has served as overseer of roads in Oak Creek Township. Mr. Haines is a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and takes a deep interest in church and school work, as he does in all things tending to the welfare of the community.

L. H. Haines is the oldest son of Henry Haines, of Webster County, and lives in the same township as his father, on Section 22, Town 4, Range 9, where he is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1842, but he spent his school days and grew to manhood in Illinois, in which State he was married, in 1864, to Mrs. Susan Nestelroade, daughter of Andrew Shirk, a widow. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company B, Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, in which he served his country loyally and well until the close of the war, being discharged as corporal at Springfield, Ill., in 1865. Among the battles in which he participated, the principal ones are Farmington, Corinth, Iuka, Jackson, Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Marietta, Big Shanty. During the battle of Vicksburg he was laid up with sickness. At the close of the war Mr. Haines returned to his home in Illinois, and

followed farming in that State until 1869, at that time going to Iowa, and residing there until 1872, when he came to Nebraska and took up the homestead on which he now lives. Mr. Haines came to Nebraska when the chief inhabitants of the plains were numerous herds of buffalo, and he often indulged in the sport of hunting these wild animals. He has done remarkably well since locating in this county, and now has a nice farm with 120 acres of it under cultivation, on which are a nice young grove and orchard, good buildings, etc., and every facility for raising cattle, horses and hogs, in which occupation he is extensively engaged. Mr. Haines is Republican in his political views, and belongs to the G. A. R., and the Farmers' Alliance. Mr. and Mrs. Haines are parents of four children, viz.: Howard (born August 30, 1869), Charles (born August 26, 1872), Lettie (born May 3, 1876) and Austin (born July 3, 1882).

Hon. Isaiah B. Hampton, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Webster County, Neb. The subject of this sketch was born in Livingston County, N. Y., June 13, 1841, a son of Frederick and Amanda (McMurray) Hampton, natives of New York and Pennsylvania, respectively. When Isaiah B. was a child of three years, his parents decided to try their fortunes elsewhere, and accordingly moved to Kalamazoo County, Mich., where the mother died in 1847, leaving four children—two sons and two daughters—all of whom grew to mature years, and three of whom are still living. One daughter died in her sixteenth year; the other daughter, Rosetta, is the wife of Menzo Best, and makes her home in California. The father married again after his first wife's death, and continued to make Kalamazoo County his home until his death, which occurred in December, 1862. During his residence in Michigan he held several important local offices, and was an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Isaiah B. Hampton grew to manhood in Kalamazoo County, Mich., receiving but little schooling until after he reached mature years, when he educated himself. August 5, 1861, he enlisted as private in the First Michigan Cavalry, and was honorably discharged, for disability, as commissary-sergeant, in April, 1864.

He took part in thirty-two engagements, a few of the principal ones being: Second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Gettysburg. He was wounded twice in one day at the second battle of Bull Run, and to-day carries a ball received in the neck at that place. After his discharge he returned to Kalamazoo County, Mich., and carried on his trade, that of a blacksmith and carriage-maker, at Vicksburg, until 1870, in June of that year locating in Webster County, and taking up the homestead on which he now resides in July of the same year, all of which is now broken and well improved. He is the owner of 480 acres of land, 200 of which are under a high state of cultivation. This he has well improved with a neat one-story residence, good barn and granaries, etc., with a good fruit orchard and a fine grove. He has ten acres in walnuts alone. In 1875 he engaged in the merchandise business, at Red Cloud, continuing this business in connection with blacksmithing and carriage-making until 1883, when he returned to his farm. He has always been identified with the Republican party, and has ever been a supporter of the men and measures of that party. He has served as a member of the county board for several years, also as supervisor of his township. He was elected to the Legislature, representing Webster County for a term of two years, in 1879, and is still serving in that capacity. He has served as delegate to county, district and State conventions, and generally takes an active part in the campaigns. In November, 1863, his marriage to Miss Catherine Woodward was consummated. She was born in St. Joe County, Mich., and reared and educated in her native State, and died in December, 1868, leaving her husband one little daughter, Nellie, now the wife of Samuel Jennings. In January, 1871, Mr. Hampton took a second wife, wedding Miss Alice Delbridge, a native of New York, but reared and educated in Michigan, by whom he became the father of four children, viz.: Arthur (died January 3, 1876, age five years), Rena (an attractive young lady), Ernest and Lloyd. Mr. Hampton is a Royal Arch Mason, and has served as master of the Blue Lodge; he also belongs to the G. A. R.

Lucian A. Haskins. Among the representative farmers of this section may be mentioned Lucian A. Haskins, farmer and stock-raiser, residing on the southeast quarter of Section 21, Line Township. He was born October 4, 1850, in Onondaga County, N. Y., a son of William L. and Lois L. (Rogers) Haskins, natives of the "Empire State." When the subject of this sketch was eight years of age his parents moved to Juneau County, Wis., settling on a farm, where he was reared to manhood and received a good education in the common schools. In his early youth he followed the occupation of farming, but at the age of twenty-one years he turned his attention to rail-roading. In 1878 he removed to Sheridan County, Kas., and homesteaded a farm of 160 acres, which he still owns. He moved to this county in 1880, and has followed farming here ever since. He now owns a nice eighty-acre farm, where he makes his home, and devotes his entire time and attention to raising fine hogs, mostly Poland-Chinas, and handles only registered stock. He keeps 146 full blood, mostly old hogs, also a number of fine pigs which he sells for breeding purposes. He has a good trade in this portion of the State, and is recognized as one of the fancy hog breeders of Nebraska. He takes great pride and pleasure in showing his hogs to lovers of good stock. He was married October 26, 1871, to Miss Sophia, daughter of William and Liza (Wattson) Mahard, of Scotland. She was born in Dayton, Ohio, August 22, 1844. To this union have been born three children, viz.: Willie J., Ernest L. and Ella V. Mr. Haskins takes an active part in politics, and in his political views affiliates with the Republican party. He is now serving as school director, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He has met with reasonable success as a farmer since his sojourn here, the result of determination and perseverance, and is recognized as one of the representative farmers in his township. At the commencement of the war, though but eleven years of age, Mr. Haskins played the fife for the enlisting soldiers in his county, and he has served in a similar capacity at every presidential election since that of Lincoln's.

Joseph E. Haught, who stands high in agricultural circles of Webster County, came originally from Bureau County, Ill., where he was born March 14, 1857. His father, David Haught, was born, raised and married in Pennsylvania. Miss Rachel Province, also a native of Pennsylvania, being an interested party to the latter event. At an early day the parents moved from Pennsylvania and located in Bureau County, Ill., being among the first settlers of that county. They resided there a number of years, and in 1865 removed to Atchison County, Mo., where they took up a farm and remained until 1883, at that time coming to Nebraska and locating in Webster County, where they now reside. Joseph E. Haught, then a lad of eight years, accompanied his parents to Missouri, and grew to manhood in Atchison County. After starting in life for himself he tilled the soil in Atchison County for a few years, and in 1882 came to Nebraska, purchased land and made a good farm. In 1888 he purchased the land on which he now lives, and the same year moved upon the place. He now owns 160 acres of good tillable land, 110 of which are under an excellent state of cultivation, on which he has erected a neat dwelling, good barns, sheds, etc., with wind pump, stock scales, and every facility for handling stock. In connection with a partner, Mr. Haught has been engaged in feeding and dealing in stock ever since his residence in this county. He is now feeding over 100 head of steers and about ninety head of hogs, and is considered among the successful stock feeders of Webster County. In Atchison County, Mo., March 5, 1882, his marriage with Miss Julia Porter was celebrated. She was born in Ohio, but was raised and educated in Atchison County. Her father, William Porter, is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Haught are the parents of three interesting children: David, Ralph and Bertha.

George Heaton, farmer and stock-raiser residing on Section 26, Township 1, Range 12. This prosperous farmer and stock raiser certainly deserves the success which has attended him in life, for it is mainly due to honest hard labor and good management that he has accumulated his posses-

sions. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, in May, 1838, and is the next to the youngest of seven sons born to Aaron and Leah (Meadowcroft) Heaton. His father was also a native of England, and was in the British service during the War of 1812. In 1854 he emigrated with his family to America and settled in Somerset County, Pa., where he died one year later; his wife died in 1877. They were both members of the Episcopal Church. The immediate subject of this sketch spent his school days in England, where he learned the tanner's trade. He began life for himself at the age of nineteen years, as a miner in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, following this occupation until 1865, at that time engaging in agricultural pursuits in Will County, Ill., where he remained for six years, and then came to Webster County, Neb. He came here in May, 1871, and took up a homestead of 160 acres, to which he has since added eighty acres, making a fine stock farm of 240 acres on Buffalo Creek. He is engaged in raising stock quite extensively, making a specialty of Clydesdale and Norman horses, Poland China hogs, and a good grade of cattle. In November, 1859, he was joined in matrimonial bonds to Miss Annie Easton, daughter of Nicholas and Jane Easton, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of England. By this union he has these children, viz.: Aaron, James, George, William, Thomas and Eddie. Mr. Heaton votes the Republican ticket, and is a liberal supporter of all public enterprises.

Peter Hill is one of the leading stockmen and farmers of Webster County, Neb., and has resided here since April, 1883. His birth occurred in Sussex, England, in 1854, and two years later he was brought to the United States by his parents, Joseph and Mary (Brown) Hill, who were also natives of England. After the mother's death, which occurred in 1864, the subject of this sketch was without a home until he had acquired sufficient means to make one for himself. His marriage to Miss Nancy J. Vice, took place in 1878, her home being in Marion County, Ill., where Mr. Hill had located with his parents on first coming to America. They have a family of four children:

Harry, Lena, Charles L. and William P. Mr. Hill made his home in the State of Illinois until 1881, when, thinking to better his condition, he moved to Iowa, locating in Adair County, where he purchased a farm, but sold out in April, 1883, and came to Webster County, Neb., where he has since lived, engaged in tilling the soil. Mr. Hill is associated in the stock-raising business with Mr. Latham, and they are doing a very prosperous business. He came to this county with only enough property to run a farm of forty acres, and with but \$90 in money, but by hard work, economy and good management he has accumulated a handsome competency and has a comfortable home. He is a Republican in his political views, and is the present president of the Farmers' Alliance organization at Cowles. He has also served one term as county supervisor, and was justice of the peace in Elm Creek Township for two years, but refused re-election.

W. W. Hogate, farmer and stock-raiser, Blue Hill, Neb. A lifetime devoted with perseverance and energy to the pursuits of agriculture has contributed very materially to the success which has attended the efforts of Mr. Hogate, a man of substantial and established worth. He is a native of New Jersey, his birth occurring in Atlanta County, in 1836, and is the seventh of eight children born to the marriage of Philip and Rebecca (Kates) Hogate, natives of New Jersey. The father was a farmer and also kept hotel for a number of years. He and wife emigrated to Ohio in 1844, and there resided in Columbiana County, until 1851, when they moved to Indiana, and in 1854 to Henry County, Iowa. In 1878 they moved to Webster County, Neb. There the father received his final summons in 1882, but the mother is still living and resides with our subject. W. W. Hogate received his education in the schools of Ohio, Indiana and Iowa, assisted on the farm until grown, and in 1862 he was married to Miss Julia Frame, a native of Richmond, Ind., and the daughter of Joseph and Susan (Coburn) Frame, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Frame emigrated to Iowa at a very early day and there made their home until 1883, when they

came to Stillwater Township, Webster County, Neb., and there the mother resides at the present time. The father died in February, 1888. Mr. Hogate farmed in Iowa until 1878, when he came to Nebraska. He opened up two farms while living in Iowa, and traded for 320 acres of railroad land which he has since been engaged in improving. He has erected good substantial buildings and has an excellent orchard, etc. He also raises a good grade of stock and is a first class farmer. In politics he is with the Prohibition party, and has been a member of the board of supervisors. He has been assessor of his township and is now a member of the school board, being quite active in educational matters. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and is secretary of Prairie Gem Alliance. He is a member of the Masonic fraternality, Blue Hill Lodge No. 129, and is also a member of the I. O. G. T., Prairie Gem Lodge No. 7, one of the largest orders in the rural district of the State. Mrs. Hogate is a member of the Baptist Church. Their union resulted in the birth of eight children: Mary (now Mrs. Cunningham, of Webster County), Esther (now Mrs. Norris, of Blue Hill), William (married and resides near by), Charles, Luella, Samuel, Ray and Ethel. In 1882 Mr. Hogate was appointed postmaster of Cloverton, and held the office at his home until it was discontinued.

J. C. Holcomb. Prominently identified with the prosperous and influential citizens of Red Cloud is Josiah Crawford Holcomb, who is a native of Indiana, his birth occurring in Lima, La Grange County, in the year 1840. His father, Almond Fayette Holcomb, was born in Essex County, N. Y. He was a fine scholar, and taught for several years as principal of an academy. The family originally came from Connecticut. His mother, Elizabeth Crawford, was born in Ashtabula, Trumbull County, Ohio, in the year 1818. She descends from the Crawfords of Ohio, to which Col. Crawford belonged. She moved to Indiana and married Mr. Holcomb in 1838, and became the mother of five children, of whom four grew to maturity. Our subject began his career as a printer, serving an apprenticeship in his native town, and afterward

worked on the Kenosha (Wis.) Democrat. From Kenosha he went to Chicago, and was connected with Charles Scott's book and job office. A few years afterward he engaged with C. W. Sanford, a manufacturer of confectionery at 38 Randolph street, that city, to ship goods for the house, and continued in his employ until he came to Nebraska, where he arrived in September, 1870. Traveling from Nebraska City to Beatrice by stage, he there became acquainted with J. W. Burtis, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; they hired a team and driver and bought a cooking outfit and struck out for the great Republican Valley, and on their way saw a great many herds of antelope and elk. Subsequently they arrived at the stockade, where ex-Gov. Garber's beautiful residence now stands. There were five or six families in this stockade, among them being W. E. Jackson's, James Calvert's, Budd Penney's and T. B. Williams'; Capt. Munsell, George Reed, "Pap" Wilson, George Taylor and Sam Davis were also inmates. The stockade was built in a square; along the walls were the cabins, the square being used to enclose stock. There was trouble anticipated from the Indians, hence these precautions. They found Gov. Garber in front of the stockade, and an acquaintance began by an enquiry on his part for some tobacco, which the weary travelers were able to supply. He explained that the long distance from any trading point caused them often to be short of the much needed "soother." The Governor took them up the valley for several days. Mr. Holcomb finally took up the northwest quarter of Section 9, Town 1, Range 12 west, on Walnut Creek, Mr. Burtis taking land, which has since become valuable, near the city of Red Cloud. After deciding on the land he took a trip with the Governor and others to Beatrice, where the land office was located, and homesteaded on the 14th day of October, 1870. On returning to the valley, Gov. Garber organized a buffalo hunt, and those who participated in this month of enjoyment were Mr. Holcomb, David Heflebower, Capt. Munsell, George Reed, George Taylor, Budd Penney and Sam Davis. Mr. Holcomb had been accustomed to the use of the rifle from boyhood, and was very successful in bagging the noble game

which roamed in countless herds along the Beaver and Prairie Dog Creeks. He killed a fine black-tailed deer the second day out and a turkey, the first game that was killed; this provided for a great feast. The Governor, however, took first prize by killing the most buffalo. Returning from this hunt, Mr. Holcomb and his friend, David Heflebower, bached together on Heflebower's place on Indian Creek, three and one-half miles west of Red Cloud. They hunted and trapped during the winter; had quite a variety of game, including buffalo hump, beaver tail, roasted turkey, etc., as the contents of their larder. The next spring Mr. Holcomb's sister, Mary (now Mrs. Arneson), came on from Chicago and took charge of the culinary department of his cabin, he having in the meantime erected a habitation on his place. The winter of 1871-72 he and Mr. Heflebower went up the Republican on a hunt and came near freezing to death, but their knowledge of prairie navigation saved them. It was a surprise party to their friends and relatives when they returned, as a great many hunters lost their lives in the severe storm which commenced about the 15th of November. Mr. Holcomb made the raising of cattle and horses a speciality, and continued in that industry for several years, and finally sold off his cattle, farming implements, etc., rented his farm and bought the Holland House Livery Stable at Red Cloud, and has stocked it with horses mostly bred and raised by him on his farm. This is considered the best equipped and best conducted livery in the city. Mr. Holcomb has recently taken into partnership Mr. Anthony Arneson, his brother-in-law, and they are horsemen in every sense of the word, and reliable, pleasant men to deal with; their charges are reasonable, and it is their aim to please their patrons.

Himan Holdridge. The subject of this sketch was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., August, 1823, and is the second of nine children born to Dudley and Abigail (Page) Holdridge, the former a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Vermont. His father spent his youth in his native State and New York, receiving a common-school education, and when a young man learned the

carpenter's trade. When he was twenty four years of age he married Miss Abigail Page, and to them were born nine children, viz.: Hosea, Himan, Harry D., Henrietta, Hiram, Harlow, Horace (last heard of in California), Harriet, Harris, only two of whom (subject and Harlow) are now living. In 1834 his father moved from New York to Portage County, Ohio, and for a period of seven years cultivated the soil. At the end of that time he moved to Steuben County, Ind., remaining here until the outbreak of the war, when he joined the United States service, and died in the hospital of sickness contracted in the army. His wife died on the old homestead in Steuben County, Ind., in 1883. She was an active member of the Free-Will Baptist Church. The immediate subject of this sketch lived in New York until he was eleven years of age, and then accompanied his parents to Ohio, living at this place and in Indiana until he was twenty-five years of age, when he went to Sauk County, Wis. He had previously learned the carpenter's trade in Ohio, and after his removal to Wisconsin he worked at his trade in summer, teaching school in winter. In the spring of 1871 he came to Nebraska, and took up his homestead, which he has since well improved. In January, 1872, he received the appointment of postmaster of Scott, and has since held that office. This is said to have been the first postoffice established in this part of Webster County. He was one of the pioneers of this section, and has seen the development of all of Southwestern Nebraska. For a year after his arrival here he was compelled to draw all his provisions from Nebraska City, a distance of 160 miles, with an ox-team. In 1874 he was elected justice of the peace, and has held that office almost continuously for fifteen years. He is active in politics, votes the Republican ticket, and almost always serves as delegate to county conventions. Miss Emily M., daughter of Isaiah and Dolly (Atwood) Gilman, became his wife in 1851, and they became the parents of four children, viz.: Harry H. (a resident of Inavale), Mrs. Viola H. Luce (at home), Harlow J. (living at Denver, Colo.), and Mrs. Carrie M. Storry (living in Cowles, Neb.).

George E. Holland, proprietor of the Holland

House, Red Cloud, Neb., was born in New York, and there grew to manhood. He came to Red Cloud in 1878, and soon after engaged in the hotel business, at which he has achieved remarkable success.

Col. John S. Hoover, an old and highly honored citizen of Blue Hill, Neb., and vice president of the First National Bank of that place, was born in La Porte County, Ind., April 10, 1833, his parents being Samuel and Leann (Stinson) Hoover, who were born in North Carolina and Tennessee in 1810 and 1814, respectively. Frederick Hoover, the paternal grandfather, was also born in North Carolina, and the maternal grandfather, John Stinson, whose father's name was also John, was born in ———. Col. Hoover's parents were married in 1831, and had eleven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eldest. Nine of this family were sons, and eight of the family are now living—six sons and two daughters. The father, who was a lawyer by profession, died in 1869, but is still survived by his widow, who is now a resident of Hastings, Neb. Before John S. Hoover was a year old his parents moved to Newcastle, Henry County, Ind., and here the father served as county clerk for fourteen years, and also as probate judge. Young John was reared to manhood in this place, and while growing up learned the printer's trade, and in 1855, for a period of ten months, he published the Madison County Democrat, of Anderson, Ind. In 1856 he was employed as baggage-master on the Chicago & Air Line Railroad, but in the latter part of that year he gave up his position and removed to Decatur, Ill., where he was in the retail clock business for two years. He then went to Duquoin, Ill., where he followed the same business until the war broke out, and September 8, 1861, he entered the service of the Union army, enlisting in Company K, Thirty-first Illinois Regiment, with which he served until after the battle of Fort Donelson. He was then promoted to first lieutenant of his company, and after serving as such for some six or seven months, he was promoted to a captaincy, and was made aide-camp to Gen. John A. Logan, and served on his staff from that time until the close of the war,

a period of three years and four months. Prior to the capture of Fort Donelson he participated in the engagement of Belmont, and after it was over he was in the siege of Corinth, the battle of Thompson's Hill, Raymond, Jackson, Champion's Hill, Black River Bridge, the siege of Vicksburg, the Atlanta campaign, together with the siege and capture of that city, the battle of Jonesboro, Kennesaw Mountain and Bentonville. He received an honorable discharge at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the fall of 1865, after which he remained in that city about one year. In 1867 he returned to Henry County, Ind., and engaged in merchandising at Middletown, and on the 7th of November of that year was united in marriage to Miss Louisa F. Lynn, a native of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and a daughter of George and Ann (Alison) Hoover, whose native land was England. In 1870 Mr. Hoover removed to Newcastle, and for one year and a half was engaged in the boot and shoe business. He then, in 1872, became the proprietor of the Taylor House, the leading hotel of that place, and conducted it successfully until 1876. In that year he came to Nebraska and first located in Hastings, where for about two years he was engaged in the grain business. In 1878 he came to Blue Hill, becoming one of the earliest settlers of the place. Ever since locating here he has continued in the grain business, and his labors have met with good returns. He is one of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Blue Hill, and he is its present vice-president. In 1886 he laid out an addition to the town, which is known as Hoover's addition, and besides 100 town lots he is the owner of 900 acres of land in Webster County. The first wife of Col. Hoover died on the 23d of April, 1887, leaving three children: William G., Clara E. and Howard L. He married his second and present wife February 18, 1888, she being an elder sister of his first wife, her name being Lizzie A. Lynn. Col. Hoover is a member of the G. A. R. and Loyal Legion, and in his political views is a strong Republican, representing Webster, Franklin and Nuckolls Counties in the State Senate. He is a highly esteemed citizen and is well known.

Albert A. Horn, farmer and stock-raiser. He

whose name heads this brief sketch is one of Webster County's pioneers, and is an active and enterprising agriculturist, alive to all current issues, public-spirited and progressive in all matters tending to benefit the community. His life has been an active one, and by his own industry and intelligent management he has secured a substantial footing among the pioneers of Webster County. A native of the Buckeye State, he was born in Harrison County, March 4, 1838, being the eldest son of John W. and Hannah (Phillips) Horn, the former of Delaware and the latter born in Ohio, a daughter of Richard Phillips. Mr. Horn's father went to Ohio with his parents when he was six years of age, they being among the first settlers of Harrison County, and here he grew to manhood and helped subdue the wilderness. After starting out in life on his own account, he rented land and farmed in Ohio for a number of years. In 1861 he moved to Marion County, Iowa, took up a farm, which he improved and lived on for a number of years. His wife died in 1870, and in 1880 he came to Nebraska and settled in Nuckolls County, residing there until his death in 1885. Albert A. Horn grew to manhood in Ohio, and at the age of twenty-two years moved with his parents to Iowa. Early in 1862 he enlisted in Company K, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry; for three years served his country loyally and well, until he was honorably discharged at the close of the war, at Louisville, Ky., July, 1865; he enlisted as a private and was discharged as a sergeant. Among the principal engagements in which he participated are Shiloh, Corinth (first and second battles), the siege and surrender of Vicksburg, Iuka, siege and surrender of Atlanta. He was taken prisoner July 22, 1864, at Atlanta, Ga., and was in the Andersonville prison two months; was exchanged and rejoined his regiment near Atlanta in time to join Sherman on his memorable march to the sea. During his service he was wounded but once, receiving a slight wound in the face. At the close of the war he returned to Marion County, Iowa, and selected Miss Catharine Molesworth for his companion in life; they were married in Marion County, Iowa, September 25, 1865. Mrs. Horn was born in Henry County, Iowa, Sep-

tember 4, 1845, and came to Marion County with her parents in 1850, she and Mr. Horn have become the parents of five children, viz.: Maggie R., Mary E., Ethel N., Mattie M. and Elbert Harvey. Maggie R. died in Lucas County, Iowa, at the age of thirteen months. Mr. Horn came to Nebraska on September 10, 1872, and took up the homestead on which he now lives, which was then wild and uncultivated prairie, on which roamed numerous antelopes and many wolves. They were here the grasshopper year, and remember well the great Easter storm. In 1879 they moved to Nuckolls County, renting out his farm in this county and purchasing a farm of 160 and a small farm of twenty acres near Superior. After living in Nuckolls County three years, he moved back to his homestead, where he is now living. Afterward he purchased forty acres joining, and now owns 200 acres of fine land, nearly all fenced and cross-fenced, and most of it is under cultivation. Like the majority of substantial farmers of this section, he has good buildings, wind pumps, etc., besides a young grove and a thrifty young bearing orchard of choice fruits, and in addition a quantity of small fruit. Mary E. married Clarence Guy, February 17, 1889, and they make their home in this county. Ethel N. and Mattie M. are young ladies, and are very popular among their associates; they live at home, as does Elbert Harvey, a lad of fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Horn, Mary, Guy and Ethel N. are members of the Friends' Church.

Alfred C. Hosmer, editor of *The Chief*, Red Clond, Neb. In looking through the histories of the business men of the county, we find that the majority of them either lived in early manhood, or else through boyhood, upon a farm. So it will seem that no fault can be found with the influence that early communion with Nature has upon the full years of manhood. Alfred C. Hosmer, the subject of this short sketch, has been found equipped and fully equal to the duties that have devolved upon him. The interests of Webster County have been identical with his since 1883, when he came here to live. Mr. Hosmer was born in Euclid, Ohio, February 4, 1854. He is a son of Luther and Irene (Cummings) Hosmer, the former a native

of Connecticut, and the latter of New York. They were the parents of twelve children, the subject of this sketch being the ninth in order of birth, nine of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Hosmer died in Ohio, April 20, 1867, in her fifty-second year, and Mr. Hosmer in Michigan, March 7, 1890, at the age of seventy-seven. Grandfather Hosmer was born in Connecticut. The Hosmers were of German descent, and the Cummings were Yankees, of Irish descent. The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and at the age of twelve years entered the office of the Lorain County News, at Oberlin, Ohio, and served an apprenticeship in that office, then accepted a foremanship of the Bryan (Ohio) Press for one year. He next went to Clinton, Ill., where he served as foreman on the Clinton Public for eleven years. He then came west to Red Cloud, and purchased the Chief office—a Republican paper established in 1873. He then refitted the office, put in a Prouty power press (this was the first power press run by steam in the county) and added other facilities for doing good work. He employs several hands, and turns out a large amount of job printing. In directing the editorial policy of his paper, Mr. Hosmer has proved himself to be a man of judgment, as a result of which the circulation has been largely increased. The Chief is the oldest paper in the Republican Valley. In secret societies he belongs to the I. O. O. F., the K. of P. and the A. O. U. W. He helped found the K. of P. lodge at this place, and was the first past chancellor, and also the first past master workman of the A. O. U. W. While residing in Clinton, Ill., he was married to Miss Alice S. Morse, born in Kosciusko County, Ind., December 27, 1855, and two children have blessed their union: Harry Morton and Ethel. Mr. Hosmer is strictly temperate in his habits, neither drinks nor smokes, and has served as a member of the Republican State Central Committee of Nebraska. His paper has been in the advance in advocating all questions pertaining to the advancement of public interests in Red Cloud. It aided vigorously in securing water works and electric lights for the city, and in many other enterprises for the public good has been actively influential. Mr. Hosmer

has served as correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Chicago Inter-Ocean, Tribune and many other papers, and has been in the newspaper business for twenty-five years.

W. A. Howard, well known as a prosperous and well-to-do agriculturist of this county, was born in Indiana (Hamilton County) in 1850, being the third in a family of five children raised by John and Mary (Williams) Howard, the former born in Virginia and the latter in Indiana, in which latter State they were married and reared most of their children there. Their children were Joseph, Nancy C., Wesley A., John F. and Anna. The father was a farmer by occupation, and moved from Indiana to Minnesota, settling in Hennepin County, in 1856, when our subject was but six years old, and here he tilled the soil until his death, which occurred in 1862. He was a Republican in his political views, and took a deep interest in the welfare of the community in which he resided, and won the esteem and respect of all who knew him. His wife died in 1857. They both belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The boyhood and early youth of our subject was spent in Minnesota, whither he had moved with his parents in his sixth year, but in 1864 he returned to his native State and farmed in Hancock County for a number of years. In 1875 he went to Illinois, remaining there but a short time, and then came to Webster County, Neb., and took up a homestead of 160 acres of raw prairie land, which he has now well improved, with a nice house and barn and one of the finest groves and orchards in the county, his being one of the best improved farms in the county. Here he is extensively engaged in stock-raising, breeding only the best grade of cattle, horses and hogs, making a speciality of Holstein cattle. Mr. Howard was married in Webster County, in 1878, to Miss Mary C. Finnie, daughter of Thomas F. Finnie, of this county, and six children have been given to them, namely: John A., Thomas, Emory E., Leonard, Frank and Effie E. Mr. Howard casts his vote with the Republican party, and takes considerable interest in local politics, as he does in all things for the good of the country. He has served on

the school board in District No. 35, and like most of the intelligent farmers of Nebraska belongs to the Alliance.

A. P. Howard. One of the enterprising and successful young men of this section is Mr. A. P. Howard, business manager of the R. A. Handy Lumber Yards at Red Cloud. He was born in Medina County, Ohio, in October, 1865, a son of H. A. and Harriett E. (Pierce) Howard, and at the age of eleven years came to Nebraska with his parents. He supplemented an excellent common-school education with an academic course at Franklin Academy, and after a short time spent on a farm, engaged in teaching the young idea, but not liking this occupation, upon finishing his term he gave it up and worked at his trade as a painter, and has done considerable work in Red Cloud. He discontinued painting after a while, and engaged as a cashier and book-keeper in the wholesale and retail packing house of G. W. Lindsey for some months, and then entered the employ of M. B. Edleman & Co., as yardman in their lumber business. Several months later, his merits being recognized, he was promoted to the office as book keeper, serving in that capacity for seven or eight months, when he accepted a position with the firm as manager of their yard. December 24, 1888, the firm sold out to R. A. Handy, for whom Mr. Howard conducted the business until February, 1889. He then accepted a position as auditor and claim agent for the well-known lumber firm of Howell, Jewett & Co., of Atchison, Kas., for whom he was on the road eight months, traveling in Colorado, etc. In September, 1889, he resigned this position and accepted that of manager of the R. A. Handy Lumber Yards at this place, which position he has filled very creditably ever since. Mr. Howard's father, H. A. Howard, was born in England, where he spent his childhood and early youth, at the age of sixteen coming to America, and locating in Summit County, Ohio, and there engaged in tilling the soil. Here he was married in December, 1864, to Miss Harriett E. Pierce, a highly accomplished lady. She was born in Ohio, and received an excellent education in the common schools, and at the college at Oberlin. She com-

menced teaching when she was sixteen years of age, and it was from her that our subject received his chief education. Mr. Howard enlisted in the late war as first lieutenant of the Forty-second Ohio Infantry (Garfield's regiment), and served for three years. He was in the battle of Cumberland Gap, charge at Chickasaw Bluffs (the Forty-second Ohio led the forlorn hope there), he had charge of the men who tried to cut the ditch at Vicksburg to turn the channel of the Mississippi, was also in the battles of Port Hudson, Champion's Hill, Black River Bridge, siege of Vicksburg, Red River expedition, and was at New Orleans under Banks. At the close of the war he returned to Ohio, where he remained until 1876, at that time coming to Red Cloud and taking up a homestead near this place, where he and family have since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Howard are the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. Mrs. Howard is a lady of high intelligence, and is very popular. Mr. Howard, Sr., belongs to the G. A. R. A. P. Howard is K. R. S. of the K. of P., and is first lieutenant of the Sons of Veterans. He is a member of the head lodge of the M. W. A., and belongs to the A. O. U. W. Besides, he is also secretary and treasurer of the Building and Loan Association of Geneva, N. Y. In June, 1890, he was married to Miss Minnie Beck, of Otis, Colo., and has built a handsome house in this place. He has the entire respect and confidence of all his acquaintances, and is in every respect a gentleman.

John W. Hudson, farmer and stockman, Blue Hill, Neb. This enterprising and industrious agriculturist was born in the Blue Grass State, his birth occurring in Scott County in 1845, and it was but natural, perhaps, that he should choose farming as his calling through life, for his father and grandfather before him were tillers of the soil. He received his education in the schools of Vermilion and Logan Counties, Ill., and in 1864 he enlisted from the last-named county in Company D, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, for three months. He was under Gen. Sigel, and was principally on garrison duty. He was honorably discharged at Springfield, Ill., in 1864, and

returned to Logan County, where he engaged in farming. He was married in Lincoln County, of that State, in 1865, to Miss Narcissus Johnson, a native of Kentucky, and the daughter of Turner and Judith Johnson, also of that State. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson moved to Illinois at an early day, and the father's death occurred in Indiana. The mother resides with her son-in-law, our subject. Mr. Hudson came to Nebraska in 1874, purchased a homestead of 160 acres on Section 7, in 1875, and now has all his land in a good state of cultivation. He votes with the Republican party, and has been constable of the township. He is a member of the John A. Logan Post No. 145, at Blue Hill, and he and Mrs. Hudson are members of the Christian Church in their neighborhood. To their marriage were born three children: Charley, Theodore and James. Mr. Hudson has passed through the grasshopper sieges of 1874 and 1875, lost his last horse in the first year, and had but five dollars in money. As might be supposed, everything looked blue to him, but he had the determination to persevere, and is now one of the prosperous farmers of the township. He aids in all landable enterprises, and is deeply interested in educational matters. He assisted in organizing his school district, and is determined to give his children every opportunity for obtaining an education. Mr. Hudson was the eldest of six children born to John and Lorana (Bridle) Hudson, natives of Kentucky. The father tilled the soil in his native State for some time, and at an early day moved to Illinois, and to Nebraska in 1874. He homesteaded 160 acres in 1875, and now resides on this farm, in Webster County. The grandmother of our subject is still living, and makes her home with his father.

George W. Hummel, a prominent farmer and minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, residing on the northwest quarter of Section 18, Line Township, was born June 27, 1849, in Erie County, N. Y., a son of George and Catharine (Snyder) Hummel, both natives of Germany. His parents moved to Louisa County, Iowa, in 1856, where the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood, and received an education in the common schools of

that county. In June, 1872, he immigrated with his brother, Fred, to this county, settling on his present farm of 160 acres. At his odd moments he began studying for the ministry. He had always been an earnest worker in his church, and his only thoughts were to be a minister. September 9, 1883, he was ordained a deacon by Isaac W. Wiley, the bishop at Lincoln, this State. After several years of close study he was ordained an elder, September 25, 1887, in Lincoln, by John F. Hurst, then a bishop of Nebraska. Since he has entered on his ministerial career, he has organized several classes of his denomination, that on Penney Creek being the oldest, he being a charter member; and Hummel's Appointment, the first Sabbath-school in Red Cloud. He has preached at Walnut Creek, Inavale, New Virginia, Cowles, Elm Creek, Batin, Amboy, Pleasant Hill, Ash Creek, Penney Creek, and has now a circuit including Salem, Highland, Pleasant Grove, Red School-house, Mount Hope, Oriole, Kas. He is a preacher of this State, and a prominent and influential citizen. His experiences as a minister have been varied, and he has endured all the ups and downs of a pioneer settler. He was married on December 23, 1867, to Miss Lottie A. White, daughter of James and Sarah M. (Tompkins) White, natives of New Jersey. She was born in Essex County, N. J., January 21, 1850. This union has been blessed with seven children, all living, viz.: Eva, Nettie, Carrie, Ida, Emma, Edgar and Minnie. In his political views Mr. Hummel is a staunch Republican, and takes an active interest in the politics of his county. In 1887 he was elected supervisor, and served for three years, and was also elected chairman of the board of supervisors for two years. In 1889 he was the Republican candidate for the office of county treasurer. He was defeated, but made more friends by his defeat than did his successful opponent. Mr. Hummel belongs to Red Cloud Lodge No. 64, I. O. O. F. He, with his entire family, are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Hummel's Appointment. He is recognized as one of the energetic and enterprising citizens of the county.

Charles Hunter, farmer and stock raiser, Webster County, Neb., residing on Section 28-2-12.

Among the many prominent citizens of Webster County whose names appear in this work, none are more worthy of mention than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, March 12, 1851. His father, John Hunter, was born in Ashtabula County, Ohio, on December 3, 1821. Here he received a common-school education, and at the age of eighteen embarked in life for himself. In 1851 he was married to Miss Lydia P. Molton, daughter of Alonzo and Priscilla Molton, both natives of Maine, and by this union became the father of four children, viz.: Charles (the subject of this sketch), Eugene (residing at Riverton, Neb.), Flora (now Mrs. Van Note, of Hamilton, Mo.) and Sulie (now Mrs. Baker, of Tacoma, Wash. Mr. Hunter removed from Ohio to La Fayette County, Wis., and in 1861 entered the United States service, in Company E, Eleventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Capt. Whittlesey, commander. While on detachment duty in Missouri, he was wounded in his left leg and sent to the hospital. When again ready for service, he was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, to guard prisoners, and was discharged in September, 1864. The same month he re-enlisted, and served all through the Atlanta campaign. He received his discharge at Springfield, Ill., in October, 1865. In 1869 he removed from Wisconsin to Caldwell County, Mo., where he engaged in farming, remaining there until 1889 when he removed to Norton County, Kas., where he is at present residing. His wife died in Riverton, Neb., in March, 1889. Mr. Hunter is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, belongs to the G. A. R., and in his political views sides with the Republican party. Charles Hunter, the immediate subject of this sketch, received a common-school education in Wisconsin, and at the age of eighteen years commenced for himself as a farmer. In June, 1872, he came to Webster County, Neb., and took up a homestead of 160 acres of land, and the following year timber-claimed another 160 acres, making a splendid farm of 320 acres, all of which is now well improved, with a nice comfortable dwelling, barns, out-buildings, fruit and forest trees, etc. By farming in the

summer and teaching school in winters, he was enabled to get a good start in the new State, and has now accumulated a good property, and gained for himself an honored place in the community in which he lives. His farm is well stocked with cattle, horses and hogs, and aside from his farming interests, he deals extensively in grain and stock. During the past year he shipped 100 cars of stock from Inavale, and seventy-five cars from Riverton. He was married in 1872 to Miss Josephine, daughter of John and Anna (Darby) Smith, of Connecticut, and by this union has three children, viz.: Mabel, Ralph and Daisy. Mr. Hunter has been very successful since coming to Nebraska, and is perfectly satisfied to make this his permanent home. He is an active Republican, politically, and was one of the first supervisors in this county. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Mrs. Hunter is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Hugh B. Hunter, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. Among the many prominent and substantial farmers and stock-raisers of Webster County, none are more deserving of conspicuous mention than Mr. Hunter. He is a native of Illinois, born in Lake County, July 12, 1851, the sixth of twelve children born to Joseph and Rebecca (George) Hunter. Joseph was a farmer by occupation, and carried on that calling on the Wisconsin Central Railway, in Illinois, for a number of years, subsequently moving to Wisconsin and settling in Kenosha County, where he has been farming ever since. He is now a hale and hearty old gentleman of seventy, and his wife is a few years younger, and they are cared for by a younger son, who attends to the farm. Of their twelve children, nine grew to maturity, and four live in Nebraska, all but one of the four living in Webster County. Hugh B. Hunter was reared in Illinois and Wisconsin, receiving a liberal high-school education. In the fall of 1879 he came to Nebraska and located in Webster County, where he purchased an improved farm, to which he has since added until he now owns 740 acres of bottom land on the Republican River, all lying in one body. This he has under cultivation, pasture and meadow,

having sixty acres in tame grasses, and a fence surrounding the whole body, and cross-fenced into convenient fields. He has a neat and commodious residence, large barn, sheds, stock-scales, wind pump, and all conveniences for farm life. Twenty-five acres of his land he has devoted to a grove, and has planted it in cottonwood, walnuts, and box elders, and besides his farming property he is the owner of some vacant lots in Guido Rock. On coming here he was possessed of some means, but the bulk of his property, say four-fifths, was made right here on the farm. During his residence here, Mr. Hunter has been extensively engaged in feeding and dealing in cattle and hogs. He feeds and ships on an average of three cars of cattle annually, and turns off from \$1,200 to \$1,600 worth of hogs of his own raising each year. He also devotes considerable attention to raising horses, turning off over \$1,000 worth each year. He has some excellent high grade horses, and is breeding all the time. The spring following his arrival in this county Mr. Hunter paid a visit to the East, and on his return he was accompanied by his bride, whom he had married in Berrien County, Mich., February 8, 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are the proud parents of three interesting little children: Lolo B., Lloyd H. and George E. Mrs. Hunter was formerly Miss Lorana Harris, daughter of David Harris, and she was born, reared, educated and married in Berrien County, Mich. Both she and her husband are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and worship at the Guido Rock Church of that denomination, and are highly respected and esteemed by all in the community. Mr. Hunter is one of the few farmers and stock-men of the county who has no indebtedness whatever, and his good fortune and prosperity are simply the result of good management.

M. C. Jackson, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. Mr. Jackson owes his nativity to Randolph County, N. C., where his birth occurred in 1826, but he emigrated to Indiana with his mother in 1834, and there grew to manhood, receiving a common-school education. His parents, Daniel and Amy (Otwell) Jackson, were both natives of North Carolina. M. C. Jackson remained in Indiana un-

til 1859, when he came to Iowa, and later went to Pike's Peak, where he spent the summer of 1860. In the fall of that year he returned to the east, or rather to Iowa, where he remained until the fall of 1873, and then came to Webster County, Neb., where he has since resided. He settled on his present farm, consisting of 160 acres, and is now numbered among the prominent farmers of the county. He keeps a good grade of stock of all kinds, and displays excellent practical judgment in the management of his estate. He was married to Miss Annie M. Brooks, the daughter of Thomas and Susannah (Kimbrough) Brooks, natives of North Carolina and New Jersey, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Jackson have been born the following children: Melissa J. (born January 19, 1850), Sarah A. (born September 11, 1856), Thomas S. (born November 14, 1857, now deceased), Charles H. (born January 29, 1859), Hannah S. (born February 23, 1862), William S. (born February 27, 1865), Edler L. (born August 15, 1866), Alfred C. (born December 23, 1870), Amy F. (born September 6, 1872), Clara M. (born May 26, 1876, now deceased) and Minnie M. (born February 7, 1878). Mr. Jackson came to Webster County while it was yet in its infancy, and made for himself a good, comfortable home. He has a fine young orchard, also a good grove, and is a man who merits the esteem of all. He was one of the earliest supporters of the Republican party, having voted for John P. Hale in the forties. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also of the Farmers' Alliance. In their religious views the family are Quakers, and the church that they attend, which is a few miles distant, is composed of thirty or forty members. Mr. Jackson's daughter, Melissa, married James C. Wilson, of Iowa, who was one of the first white children born in Muscatine County; Sarah Alice married John Zackery, of Tennessee; Charles married Amy Brubaker, of Ohio; Hannah S. married Wilber Brubaker—all reside in Pleasant Hill Township.

W. E. Jackson. The subject of this sketch has been so closely connected with Red Cloud and its interests from the start that it is impossible to give a true history of the place without a prominent

mention of his name. A brief outline of his life will be read with interest. He was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, March 23, 1827. When he was thirteen years of age his parents removed to Perry County, same State, and there our subject was reared to manhood, assisting his father in his farm labors, and attending the common schools. He remained at home until he was nineteen years of age, when, the Mexican War breaking out, he enlisted, May 29, 1846, in Company H, Third Ohio Infantry, under S. R. Curtis and Zack Taylor, and after serving his country for thirteen months, was mustered out June 22, 1847. He now draws a pension. After receiving his discharge, he returned to his home in Perry County, Ohio, and was employed by Fink & Ditto, merchants, as clerk, remaining with them for three years. January 7, 1851, witnessed his marriage to Miss Julia A. Miner, who was born in Somerset, Ohio, January 5, 1834, and there grew to maturity, receiving a very good education. In the spring of the same year of their marriage they moved to Allamakee County, Iowa, where Mr. Jackson was engaged in dealing in stock and farming until 1870, at which time they came to Nebraska and located in Red Cloud. Mrs. Jackson was the first white woman to make her home in the place, and came to Red Cloud when there wasn't a board in the county, nor a furrow plowed. Mr. Jackson brought a load of pine flooring from Iowa for his own use, which was the first floor in the neighborhood around Red Cloud. When they first came to this place they lived in a stockade sixty-four feet square, with a row of houses on each side with loop holes for defense, and a court in the center. Mr. Jackson's family then comprised himself and wife, a sister of his wife (since married to James Le Due, now living in Northern Oregon) and two daughters. Upon his arrival here, he homesteaded 160 acres of land where part of the town now stands, of which he sold about thirty acres to the railroad company. The Catholic Church is upon his land. He has since purchased considerable property. There have been six children born to his union, namely: Carrie M. (now the wife of G. M. Taylor, of Sheridan County, Kas.), Margaret (wife of J. Berinzen,

of Pawnee County, Neb.), William C. (residing in Red Cloud), and three who died in infancy. Mr. W. E. Jackson is a son of John J. and Sarah (Jjans) Jackson. His father was born in Erie County, Pa., February 7, 1792, and grew to manhood in his native State. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and served on the lakes under Commodore Perry, and was in the battle in which the Commodore sent the famous message: "We have met the enemy and they are ours." He was quartermaster-sergeant. He early emigrated to Ohio, settling in Fairfield County, where he was a pioneer, and resided there until 1840, when he moved to Somerset, Perry County, and engaged in agricultural pursuits at that place until his death, September 26, 1876. The mother of W. E. died in 1830, leaving a family of eight children—four sons and four daughters, the subject of this sketch being next to the youngest. Upon her death she became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith. Her husband afterward married Miss Mary C. Grate, of Columbus, Ohio, a devout Catholic, and he afterward became a convert to that faith. This latter union resulted in the birth of six children, three of whom survive; three children of the first marriage also survive. Mrs. Jackson died in 1870. Grandfather Lyman Jackson was born in England in 1756, and emigrated to the colonies while young, subsequently marrying. He was a soldier and pensioner of the Revolutionary War, and made his home in Erie County, Pa. He died March 20, 1835. His wife was born February 25, 1765, and died December 2, 1841. Mrs. W. E. Jackson was a daughter of James and Belle (McKeever) Miner, the former born in County Cavin, Ireland. He came to America, and was married at Albany, N. Y. In 1850 he started for California, and after mining in that State for five years, died. He was accompanied by his son, who still lives at Yreka, Cal., a prosperous merchant. Mrs. Miner was born in Dublin, Ireland, and died in Iowa in 1864. She was the mother of six children, all of whom grew to maturity. Mrs. Jackson was the eldest daughter. Her father's sister, Mary, married John Sheridan, and by him became the mother of a son—Philip, now the famous Gen. Phil.

Sheridan, thus making Mrs. W. E. Jackson a full cousin of the distinguished general. Mr. W. E. Jackson served in the Federal army during the late war, enlisting in Company B, Twenty-seventh Iowa, January 4, 1864, and was mustered out June 15, 1865. He was engaged in the battles of Ditch Bayou, Ark., on June 6, 1864; Tupelo, Miss., July 14, 1864; Old Town Creek, Miss., July 15, 1864; Nashville, December 15, 1864, and Cumberland Heights, December 16, 1864. While erecting batteries at Nashville, on June 11, 1864, he was quite severely injured. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson are strict Roman Catholics, and are very intelligent people.

William James, a well known pioneer of Webster County, was born in Randolph County, Ill., in 1846, the sixth in a family of eleven children born to the union of Robert and Elizabeth James. His parents were both born in Ireland, and while still very young came to this country, locating at Philadelphia, Pa., where they were afterward married. Soon after their marriage they emigrated to Illinois and settled on a farm in Randolph, being among the earliest settlers in that county, and here they followed agricultural pursuits very successfully for many years, until 1882, when the father's death occurred. The mother is still living, and resides on the old homestead in Illinois with some of her younger children, who have remained single. The father was a staunch Republican, and took an active interest in all things for the good of the community, and both he and wife were members of the Presbyterian Church. The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Illinois, attending school, and was reared to farm labor. In 1872, in company with his brothers, Adam and Alex., he came to Webster County and located 160 acres of land in Section 12, Town 4, Range 10, on which he now lives, being engaged extensively in raising horses, cattle and hogs. Here he "backed" for five years, and then, in 1877, he returned to Illinois, and was united in marriage to Miss Jennie M. Campbell, daughter of Harvey Campbell, of Randolph County, Ill., who accompanied him to his Nebraska home. They are now the parents of two children—Mary E. and William C. Both Mr.

and Mrs. James are earnest members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. James affiliates with the Republican party in his political views, taking quite a deep interest in political matters, as well as in all matters for the good of the community. Since locating here, Mr. James has purchased eighty acres of fine land, which, with his original tract, make him the owner of 240 acres of good land, all of which is highly improved, with a good bearing orchard, and a thriving young grove. He also has a small grove of native trees on his place. Mr. James has been very successful since becoming identified with this State, and is well satisfied to make it his permanent home. He belongs to the Farmers' Alliance. Mr. James resided in Blue Hill in 1882, and again in 1885-86.

Alex. James, another of the prominent and substantial farmers of Webster County, was born in Randolph County, Ill., in 1849, and is the seventh child in a family of eleven children born to the marriage of Robert and Elizabeth (Russell) James, both natives of Ireland. They were married at Philadelphia, Pa., and immediately afterward settled in Randolph County, Ill., where they raised their family, viz.: Eliza, Robert, Anna, Adam, Mary, William, Alex., Hugh, Samuel, Esther and John. They belonged to the Reformed Presbyterian Church. The father voted the Republican ticket, and was a public-spirited man, interested in all things for the good of the community. He was a successful farmer, and died in Illinois in 1883. The mother is still living on the farm in Illinois, some of her children living with her. Alex., William and Adam James all immigrated to Webster County in the spring of 1873, and located homes, but Adam has since moved to Kansas. Alex. James first took up 100 acres of land, and has since added to this until he is now the owner of 240 acres of good land, and has one of the finest places in the county. He was married in Nebraska, in 1877, to Miss Jemima Simpson, daughter of — Simpson, of Oak Creek Township, by whom he is the father of six children, viz.: John, Edward, Alvin, Samuel, Lee R. and Lillie. Mrs. James is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. James came here in the early days when the prairies abounded with

buffalo, antelope and smaller game, and he has often indulged in the sport of hunting these wild animals. When he first located he got his mail at New Grundy, on Oak Creek, but he now gets it at Blue Hill. He has one of the finest orchards in the county, and farms 240 acres of land, and devotes himself to raising grain, cattle, horses and hogs. He is Republican in his political views, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

W. T. Johnson, M. D., who occupies a position of prominence in the medical affairs of Webster County, was ushered into the world on April 21, 1860, in Fulton County, Ill., and there grew to manhood. His literary education was received at Champaign, Ill., and at Valparaiso, Ind. At the age of twenty years he commenced the study of medicine under a preceptor at Champaign, and at the end of three years entered the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, from which, in 1885, he received the degree of M. D. The same year he came to Cowles, and immediately began the practice of his profession, his career having resulted in eminent success, and although still a young man he has already established a reputation and built up a practice of which many an older man might well be proud. He is the owner of a section of fine land. Dr. Johnson was married, in 1888, to Miss Susie Arnold. His parents were T. J. and Sarah (Scott) Johnson. Dr. Johnson belongs to the A. F. & A. M.

Sturgeon Kershner, another of the early settlers of Glenwood Township, Webster County, Neb., and one of the representative farmers of the same, owes his nativity to Linn County, Iowa, where he was born January 22, 1846. His parents, Ferdinand and Elizabeth (Rogers) Kershner, were natives of Germany and Pennsylvania, respectively. The father came to America when seven years of age, and settled in Iowa while it was still a Territory. He was married in Linn County, Iowa, and afterward made that county his home. Sturgeon Kershner assisted his father on the farm, received his education in the schools of Linn County, and was married in that county in 1865 to Miss Elvira Fetz, who was born in the

same county. Their union was blessed by the birth of one child, Grant F., who is married and resides in Glenwood Township. Mrs. Kershner's death occurred in Iowa in 1870. Mr. Kershner emigrated to Nebraska in 1874 and homesteaded 160 acres on Section 26, Glenwood Township, Webster County. In the spring of 1877 he erected a good frame house, the best then in the township, and he has since made many other improvements on his farm quite as prominent. He was married in Webster County, Neb., in January, 1876, to Miss Amanda A. Milner, a native of Van Buren County, Iowa, and the daughter of J. T. and Harriet (Millsbaugh) Milner, the father a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of New York. Her parents were married in Ohio, emigrated to Iowa and settled in Van Buren County in 1853. In 1874 the father came to Nebraska and settled in Webster County. He is still living, but the mother died in Iowa in 1870. After his marriage, Mr. Kershner settled on his present farm, and is now the owner of 320 acres of excellent land. He has opened up all but about forty or fifty acres, and in connection with his farming interest is engaged in raising a good grade of cattle and sheep (Cotswold). He is interested in politics, and his vote is cast with the Prohibition party. He assisted in organizing the school district, and he is quite active in school matters. He is a member of Prairie Gem Alliance No. 1319, and of Prairie Gem Lodge No. 7, I. O. G. T. Mr. and Mrs. Kershner are members of the Union Baptist Church. To their marriage have been born these children: Genie, Pearl, Flora, Gny, Roland (who died in infancy), Hattie and Clarice. Mr. Kershner has always taken a deep interest in the affairs of the county and is one of its best citizens.

Felix A. Killough, of Monnt Clare, Webster County, was born in Buchanan County, Mo., in 1849. The youngest son of eight children, four of whom are still living, born to Thomas D. and Martha (Bloyd) Killough, the former born in South Carolina, March 4, 1803, and the latter in Kentucky. His father was a farmer by occupation and was married in Kentucky, soon after going to Iowa, where he lived for some time. In 1856 the

family moved to Kansas, and there made their home. In 1874 the father came to Webster County, and took up a claim of 160 acres of choice land in Stillwater Township; he died in that county July 29, 1879, at the home of Felix A., his wife having passed from this life in Missouri in 1851. They were both church members. Mr. Killough was a Republican in his political views, and in 1861 was in the Missouri State Guards. Of the eight children, Carvalho O. G., Eridus M. E., Rosala and Felix A. are still living; Meipsis was killed in the army, and Matina, Serena and Rhoda are deceased. Our subject's school days were spent in Doniphan County, Kas. In 1868 he started out in life for himself as a herder on the Western frontier, and followed that occupation for five years. He was united in marriage, in 1875, in Kansas, to Miss Mary A. Richardson, of Brown County, Kas., daughter of Joseph and Mary A. Richardson, from Northumberland County, England. Miss Killough was a native of Stamfordham, that country, and came to America when sixteen years old. On September 1, 1875, Mr. Killough came to Webster County, and took up a homestead of 160 acres of good land (northeast quarter of Section 36, Township 3, Range 9), on which he settled and commenced improving. He now owns 320 acres of land, all well improved, and is very successfully engaged in farming and fruit and stock-raising. Upon locating here they were in poor circumstances, and the new country was not especially attractive. A dug-out, which they were first enabled to build, caved in the next spring, but their new home, a sod house, served as a dwelling until they were able to erect a frame. They are comfortably fixed, and, surrounded by an abundance of fruit—apples, pears, cherries, apricots, etc.—and plenty of wood for fuel, grown themselves on this once prairie farm, are satisfied with their delightful and cheery home. Mr. and Mrs. Killough are the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living, viz.: Thomas, Joseph, Mary (deceased), Anna, Felix, Rose, James and Samuel. They both belong to the Church of Christ and are highly esteemed by their neighbors and friends. Mr. Killough votes with the Republican party, and

has served on the school board. He belongs to the Alliance.

George W. Knight, postmaster and druggist, at Inavale, Neb., was born May 5, 1834, in Canada. David D. Knight, his father, was born in Maryland, where he spent his boyhood days, and received a limited education. While very young he started out in life for himself. He settled in Canada about 1830, and engaged in farming. Here he married Miss Lavinia Sage, a native of Canada, and remained here for fifteen years. He then moved to St. Joseph County, Mich., where he has made his home ever since. He is now eighty-eight years of age, and his excellent wife is seventy-eight. They have lived a long and useful life, and some years since celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. The fruits of their married life are seven children, viz.: George W. (the subject of this sketch), Mrs. Kate S. Loomis (of La Porte County, Ind.), Mrs. Sarah Stage (living at Paynesville, Ohio), Charles H. (who died of fever, in the army, at Port Hudson, La.), Annie E. (an artist, residing in Michigan), Hiram C. (a farmer, in Cass County, Mich.), and Mrs. Minnie Holmes (of Morris, Ill.). George W. Knight was reared in Canada and Michigan, and at the early age of seventeen engaged as a farm hand and clerk. He finally acquired the trade of mechanical engineer, which he followed on the railroads and steamboats until 1861, when he left home and friends and enlisted as a three-months man in the First Minnesota Infantry. At the end of three months he enlisted (in September, 1861) in Company E, Third Minnesota Infantry, and served until the close of the war, first as private, and later in different capacities up to captain. He participated in all the movements of his regiment. At Murfreesboro he was taken prisoner; but was paroled in a few days and sent to St. Louis, and from there up into Minnesota, where he participated in the Indian war of that State, having charge of a company, and took part in the capture of the Indians at Wood Lake. From thence he returned to the South, and was with his regiment at Vicksburg, Little Rock, battle at Fitzhugh's woods, and many others of lesser importance. He was discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn., in Sep-

tember, 1865, and returned to Michigan, where he engaged in tilling the soil for six years. In 1859 he was married to Miss Emiline B. Ives, a resident of Franklin County, N. Y., by whom he is the father of four children, viz.: Mrs. Fanny L. Turkington (of Alma, Neb.), Uly G. (a printer, of Red Cloud, Neb.), Grace L. (who died at the age of seven years) and Maud M. (living at home). In July, 1871, Mr. Knight came to Webster County, Neb., and took as a homestead the southeast quarter of Section 34, Township 2, Range 12, now adjoining the village of Inavale. This place he has improved, and carries on farming operations aside from his other interests. In politics he is an active Republican, and frequently attends as delegate both county, district and State conventions, but has never aspired to office. In secret societies he is a Mason, affiliating with Charity Lodge No. 53, Red Cloud, Neb., also Garfield Post No. 80, G. A. R., Red Cloud, of which he is senior vice-commander. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Inavale, and both take an active interest in all religious work. Mrs. Knight is a member of the Women's Relief Corps, also a charter member of the Garfield Relief Corps, in which she has twice served as president, and is one of the officers of the department of Nebraska Women's Relief Corps. She was a delegate to the National Encampment at San Francisco, Cal., and Milwaukee, Wis. She is also an active worker in the Sunday-school. Mr. Knight located the third post-office in Webster County, and has been postmaster at Inavale continuously for seventeen years. He has been in the drug business for about three years, and is a registered pharmacist of Nebraska.

William P. Kuehn, farmer and stock raiser, Line Township, Neb. In recording the names of prominent men of Webster County, that of William P. Kuehn, an energetic young farmer of Line Township, should be given prominent mention. He was born in Louisa County, Iowa, July 28, 1862, a son of Albert and Henrietta (Stokes) Kuehn, natives of Germany, who came to the United States in 1858, landing in New York, and going directly to New Jersey. Here they remained but a short time and then went to Louisa County, Iowa, where

they resided for a period of twenty years, the father being successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising. They reared there three children: Carl, Franklin and William P., all now living in this county. The subject of this sketch received a good education in the common-schools of his native county. In 1878 he accompanied his parents to this locality. They settled on 740 acres of choice land, and have been engaged in farming and stock-raising ever since with varied success, and are now among the solid farmers and citizens of the community. William P. Kuehn was married April 4, 1889, to Miss Hannah Alma Spry, daughter of Herman Spry, a native of Ohio. She was born in Richland County, Wis., August 22, 1862. Both he and wife are church members, he worshipping at the Lutheran, and she at the Baptist Church, at Red Cloud. Mr. Kuehn is a Democrat in his political views. He has held office for the past seven years, and is now serving as assessor, constable and school director. He favors the anti-monopolist movement. Although young in years, Mr. Kuehn has already become one of the leading men in his township. He is enterprising and energetic, and is always ready to assist in any movement tending to the advancement of the public welfare.

Barney Kuhn, farmer and stock-raiser, Webster County, Neb., lives on Section 22, Town 4, Range 10, Potsdam Township. Originally from Germany, he was born in Prussia in 1830, the third in a family of five children born to Joseph and Justena (Kluth) Kuhn, both of whom were Prussians by birth. Their children were named as follows: Catherine, Frank, Barney (the subject of this sketch), John and Ida. The father died in his native land, but the mother is now living in Webster County, Neb. Barney Kuhn's young days were spent in the old country, where he received a good education, and in 1871 he came to the United States and worked in the pineries of Wisconsin, subsequently going to Chicago, where he worked for some time, then to Memphis, Tenn., and later to Arkansas. After a time he returned to Wisconsin, and in 1874 came to Webster County, Neb., and took up 320 acres of land, which he immedi-

ately set about improving, and now has it all under cultivation, and owns one of the finest farms in the county. He was united in marriage in 1881 to Miss Augusta Jaeger, by whom he has five children: Emil, Frank, Anna, Barney and Bertha. Mr. Kuhn's brother, John, also emigrated to this country, and is now settled in Webster County. The subject of this sketch is cultivating 165 acres of land, has 440 acres in use, and is quite extensively engaged in raising grain and stock, being one of the largest farmers and stockmen in this part of the county. He makes a specialty of Durham cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Kuhn came to this county in the early days of its history, his nearest trading point being Hastings, and has seen the entire growth and development of this section. As a result of his honest hard work and good management, Mr. Kuhn has been very successful since coming here; he likes the country and expects to make it his home. In his political views, Mr. Kuhn affiliates with the Democratic party, and takes a deep interest in local politics, serving as township supervisor in 1886. He belongs to the Farmers' Alliance.

William C. Laird. The Laird brothers have been so closely connected with the growth and prosperity of Webster County that it would be almost impossible to write a history of this locality without mentioning their names. The first of the family to make a settlement was James, who came here in November, 1870, and entered a homestead in Section 2. He was followed, May 1, 1871, by his three brothers: William, Paschal and Robert. William entered a homestead of 160 acres in Oak Creek—the southeast quarter of Section 2, Town 4, Range 9; Paschal settled on a quarter of Section 14, Town 4, Range 9, and Robert homesteaded the land on which he now lives, on Section 2, Town 4, Range 9. The parents of these brothers were Samuel and Elizabeth (Clingan) Laird, and both were born in Pennsylvania. The father was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in the "Keystone State" until 1849, when he moved to Illinois, settling in Stephenson County, continuing his farming operations until his death, which occurred in 1868, just two years after the death of his wife.

They were both members of the Presbyterian Church. To their marriage were born six children, namely: Mary, Thomas, William, Robert, James and Paschal. William Laird was born in Louisburg, Pa., in 1845, and, although a native of the "Keystone State," remembers very little about the land of his birth, as his parents moved from that State to Illinois when he was but four years of age. Here he spent his boyhood and early youth assisting his father on the farm. At the age of fifteen, upon choosing an occupation in life, it was but natural that he should select farming, as he was born and raised on a farm, as was his father before him. Accordingly he entered upon his chosen occupation in Stephenson County, Ill., remaining here until 1871, when, thinking that the far west offered greater attractions for energetic and industrious young men, he decided to try his fortunes on the prairies of Nebraska. In 1871 he came to this county, selected his land, and in the fall of the same year he returned to Stephenson County, Ill., and was married to Miss Margaret Murlaugh, daughter of James Murlaugh, a native of Illinois, born in Stephenson County in 1845. Immediately after his marriage he brought his young bride to the pioneer home, when they began to make a home for themselves, and, although they have met with the usual drawbacks incident to the settlement of a new country—hard storms, etc.—they have overcome all these disadvantages, and are now reaping their reward, having a fine farm as the result of their labor, and being classed among the substantial farmers of Webster County. Mr. Laird is extensively engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Laird have been born six children, all living and at home with their parents, viz.: Bessie (born in 1874), Laura (born in 1876), Lule (born in 1878), Lonis (born in 1880), Claid (born in 1883) and Ray (born in 1885). Mr. Laird has always been a staunch Republican, and has taken an active part in the political affairs of the communities in which he resided. In 1862 he served as judge of election, has served as school director and supervisor, and ever since the organization of the district has held the office of collector. Mr. Laird is a Good Tem-

plar, and belongs to the Farmers' Alliance. Both he and wife are worthy members of the Presbyterian Church.

Robert C. Laird, farmer and stock-raiser, Oak Creek Township, Webster County, Neb. The subject of this sketch is one of the well-known early settlers of Webster County. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1847 [for parentage see sketch of William Laird, immediately preceding], but when he was two years old he was brought by his parents to Stephenson County, Ill., where he grew to manhood, and at the age of twenty-four years accompanied his brother William to Nebraska, and took up the land on which he now lives, which was then wild, unbroken prairie. In 1882 he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen, daughter of William Leach, of the same county and township, by whom he has one child, Bruce, born July 21, 1889. In his political views Mr. Laird affiliates with the Republican party, and takes an active interest in local politics. He is as well acquainted with Clay and Adams Counties as he is with Webster County, and has seen the entire growth and improvement of this part of the State from the start. When he first came to Nebraska there was an abundance of wild game of all kinds roaming the prairies, and the nearest trading point was Beatrice, but like many other pioneers he has surmounted the obstacles peculiar to all new countries, and is now the owner of 160 acres of valuable farming land, with good improvements, a fine grove, etc., and is a thriving, well-to-do citizen. He is engaged to a large extent in raising cattle, horses and hogs. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

James R. Laird is a native of Illinois, born in Stephenson County in 1850, the fifth child born to Samuel and Elizabeth (Clingan) Laird [for parentage see sketch of William Laird]. He was reared to farm labor, receiving a good education in the common schools of his native county, and at the age of eighteen engaged in teaching school. In November, 1870, he acted on Horace Greeley's advice, and came to Nebraska, settling on the north half of Section 2, and immediately commenced the improvement of the place. Mr. Laird was married in 1880 to Miss Mary Murdaugh,

daughter of James Murdaugh, born in Stephenson County, Ill., in 1855, and five children have blessed this union, namely: Jessie R. (born May 16, 1882), Olive L. (born December 20, 1883), Hugh M. (born December 29, 1885), Thomas C. (born in October, 1887) and Wallace R. (born August 29, 1889). As Mr. Laird's farm is located in the corner of Clay, Webster, Adams and Nuckolls Counties, he has watched the development of the four named counties from the start. Like the other early settlers of this section, he experienced many hardships, but in the main has always been very successful. He is now the fortunate owner of 240 acres of choice land, all well improved with good buildings, a fine orchard and a nice young grove. Mr. Laird is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and is now serving as secretary of that order. He takes a deep interest in politics, votes with the Republican party, and has held the offices of town clerk and assessor, and has served on the school board. He is one of the prominent and substantial farmers of Webster County.

Paschal L. Laird is the youngest child born to Samuel and Elizabeth (Clingan) Laird, and first saw the light in Stephenson County, Ill., on April 14, 1854 [for parentage see William Laird's sketch]. There his early days were spent in assisting his father on the farm and attending the common schools, until he had attained his seventeenth year, when he determined to seek his fortunes in the west, and accordingly in May, 1871, he came to Webster County, and soon after his arrival engaged in work on the mill-dam not far away. In 1873 he took up 160 acres of land for himself on Section 14, which he immediately set to work to improve. When Mr. Laird first came to Webster County, game of all kinds was abundant, and he spent considerable time hunting buffalo on the plains. He has his place well improved with a good orchard and a fine young grove, with a neat and comfortable house, good barn, sheds, etc. He devotes considerable attention to stock-raising—horses, cattle and hogs—making a specialty of Holstein cattle and Jersey red hogs. He likes the country, and expects to make it his permanent home. In 1882 Miss Lizzie Leetch, daughter of

William Leetch, of Webster County, became his wife. There have been four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Laird, one of whom died in infancy. Those now living are Ralph H. (born October 30, 1852), Everett (born October 4, 1854) and Clarence D. (born in June, 1857). In his political views Mr. Laird affiliates with the Republican party, and takes a deep interest in the public welfare. He has served on the school board in District No. 5, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

Thomas H. Leigh. A brief outline of Mr. Leigh's life will not be out of place among the biographies of representative men of Webster County. He was born April 24, 1834, in Plymouth, Devonshire, England, a son of Richard and Elizabeth (Shammel) Leigh, also natives of England, and in 1847 accompanied his parents to the United States, landing at New York, and coming direct to Ontonagon County, Mich. Here they resided until 1866, and here our subject grew to manhood, receiving only a limited education. He was engaged in various occupations and had many thrilling experiences and dangerous adventures. He was first engaged in the saw-mill business, later in clearing and farming, and still later entered the employ of "Uncle Sam" as mail-carrier, being the first in that part of the State. In January, 1866, he moved to Kankakee County, Ill., where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, remaining here until 1879, when he determined to go west, and accordingly sold out his interests, and moved to Nebraska, settling in this county. Here he is now the owner of a well-improved farm of 240 acres of good land, on which are a good two-story residence, barns, sheds, etc. November 24, 1852, Miss Charlotte Keagle, daughter of Richard and Ann (Rogers) Keagle, natives also of England, became his wife. She was born September 20, 1833, and by her marriage with Mr. Leigh became the mother of one child—Elizabeth, now the wife of Joseph Bradbury, by whom she is the mother of four children, three of whom are still living, viz.: Bessie, William and Emma L. Mr. Leigh was formerly a Republican, but is now an Anti-Monopolist, and a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

Milton Lester, farmer and stock-raiser, of Webster County, Neb., owes his nativity to Connecticut, where he was born in Suffield, Hartford County, October 22, 1840. His father, Milton Lester, Sr., was born in Suffield, Conn., June 4, 1793. His father was a sea captain, and died in 1804. Milton Lester, Sr., was then but eleven years of age, and thus early in life was cast upon his own resources, hence his education was extremely limited. He learned the chair and saddle-tree-making trade, which occupation he followed very successfully during his life. During the Mexican War he had many contracts for saddles. He acquired a large property, and at the age of fifty-two years retired from active business life. When he was twenty-seven years of age he married Miss Chloe King, who bore him one son (the subject of this sketch), and died May 11, 1847. Mr. Lester remained single for four years, and was then married to Ruth Day. He was an active member of the Baptist Church, and died in 1887, at the ripe age of ninety-four. The immediate subject of this sketch spent his youthful days in Suffield, and received a good education at the Connecticut Literary Institute. In 1862 he enlisted for nine months in Company G, Twenty-second Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Captain George W. Johnson commander, but at the end of seven months, on account of sickness (sciatic rheumatism), he was discharged. During his service he was stationed at Washington. In 1871 he came to Webster County, Neb., and pre-empted the farm on which he now lives, which is the first deeded farm in Webster County. Since then Mr. Lester has spent a good deal of his time in Connecticut, caring for his aged father. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and the first meeting of that order in Webster County was held at his house. He is a Knight Templar, affiliating with Cyrene Commandery, Red Cloud, Neb., and also belongs to Garfield Post No. 80, G. A. R., Red Cloud. He was married in 1873 to Miss Ella Walker, daughter of Alex. and Electa (Matthews) Walker, by whom he has one child—Leon E. Mrs. Lester is junior vice-president of the Women's Relief Corps, Garfield Post 14. Mr. Lester is endowed with native Yankee genius, and has pat-

ented several household inventions and other useful articles.

Richard Nelson Lewis, one of the pioneer settlers of Glenwood Township, Webster County, Neb., owes his nativity to Virginia, where his birth occurred in 1840, and is the second in a family of eleven children born to the union of George and Margaret (Toothman) Lewis, natives of Pennsylvania. The elder Lewis was a successful tiller of the soil, and followed this occupation in the Old Dominion, whither he had moved at an early date, until his death, which occurred in 1878. The mother had received her final summons in 1861. It fell to the lot of R. N. Lewis to grow up with a farm experience, and from the first he has closely and energetically applied himself to the obtaining of a thorough knowledge of agricultural matters, which, it is almost needless to say, he has successfully acquired, as the surroundings of his place plainly indicate. He received his education in the schools of Virginia, and in 1862 he enlisted in Company G, Ninth Connecticut Infantry, at New Orleans, La., for three years. He was in the Department of the Gulf under Gen. B. F. Butler, and was mainly on garrison duty. He was in the battle of Baton Rouge and numerous skirmishes. He was veteranized in May, 1864, and went to Connecticut, where in the same year he was assigned to the Shenandoah Valley. He was in the battle of Winchester, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, etc. He was honorably discharged in August, 1865, at New Haven, Conn., and returned to Virginia, where he engaged in cultivating the soil. He was married in West Virginia in 1866 to Miss Samantha J. Wells, a native of Virginia, and the daughter of Ralph and Nancy (Ankram) Wells, natives also of the Old Dominion. The father was a farmer by occupation, and died about 1858. The mother is still living. Mr. Lewis emigrated to Webster County, Neb., in 1873, and commenced improving his farm. He is now the owner of 400 acres, all in a good state of cultivation, and raises a high grade of Durham cattle. He takes considerable interest in politics, has been a Republican, but his views are with the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance in Glenwood Township,

and he is an honored member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His marriage was blessed by the birth of ten children: Ida M. (now Mrs. Wilson L. Haynes), Okey J., Marshall R., Nancy E., Leota V., Mary J., Mont. C., Richard M., John W. and Chester A. Mr. Lewis was one of the first settlers on the npland of Glenwood Township, Juniata being their market at that time. He has witnessed the complete growth of the country, and was through the grasshopper raids of 1874 and 1875.

William Lewis was born in Staffordshire, England, in January, 1844, the fourth child born to Sannel and Sarah (Chopiu) Lewis, both natives of England. When he was six years of age his parents decided to try their fortunes in the new world, and, accordingly, immigrated to the United States, settling in Du Page County, Ill., where our subject was reared to manhood, and received a good common-school education. In September, 1862, when eighteen years of age, he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Capt. S. T. Daniels, commander, for three years, and served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge at Chicago. He was in the following engagements: Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek and all through the Atlanta campaign. During all this time he received but one slight flesh wound, and was not taken prisoner once. He returned from the war and resumed farming operations in Du Page County, Ill., until the spring of 1879, at which time he came to Webster County. Here he purchased a farm of 240 acres of land, then all raw prairie, which he has since converted into a good farm, with good substantial buildings, and well stocked with horses, hogs and cattle. He is an active Republican, is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and is a member of Burnside Post No. 79, G. A. R., of Bladen, Neb., of which he is commander. In October, 1867, he was united in marriage to Miss Ellen, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Banfill) Smith, pioneer settlers of Du Page County. By this union he has two children: Sarah E. and John. Mrs. Lewis is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Lewis has been very

successful in Nebraska, and is well pleased with the State as a farming country, and expects to make it his permanent home. He contributes, as far as he is able, to the support of schools, churches and all enterprises of public benefit.

S. Lindquist, a well-known farmer and stock-raiser of Webster County, came to this county from Grundy County, Iowa, in 1875, and took up 160 acres of good land, on which he is now residing. Originally from Denmark, he was born in 1839, being the oldest in a family of five children born to the union of B. S. and Caroline (Anderson) Lindquist, the former a native of Sweden and the latter of Denmark, the father being a blacksmith by trade. Their marriage was consummated in Denmark, in which country they made their home, reared their children and died, he in 1874, and his wife in 1855. Our subject received his education in the land of his birth. He was married in Denmark April 12, 1865, to Miss Maren Anderson, also a native of Denmark, and in 1867 the young couple came to the United States, settling in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where Mr. Lindquist worked at his trade, that of a carpenter, which he had learned in the old country. He also took up eighty acres of land in Iowa, which he improved, but in 1875 sold these interests and came to Nebraska, homesteading 160 acres of land, which he has since converted into a fine farm. He has a fine herd of thoroughbred Short-horn cattle, in which he takes great pride. His farm is equal to any in the township, and is improved with good house, barns, out-buildings, etc., and a good orchard. Mr. Lindquist does not sell any grain whatever, but feeds it all and sells a number of fat cattle each year, thereby getting better returns for his farm produce. He is not active in politics, but casts his vote with the Republican party, and is now serving his third term as treasurer of Batin Township. He assisted in organizing the school district, and has served on the school board. He and wife are prominent members of the Lutheran Church, and are greatly esteemed by all in the community. They have two adopted children: William Riner and Emma. Mr. Lindquist came to Webster County in the early days of its history, when Hastings, forty miles distant, was

the nearest market, and experienced the hardships and vicissitudes usual to pioneer life. He passed through the grasshopper scourges and other severe trials, which were enough to discourage the bravest heart, but Mr. Lindquist and his estimable wife bore up under all difficulties with the greatest fortitude and determination, and as a reward for all they have endured, have one of the finest farms in this section, and are numbered among the representative farmers of Webster County.

Alfred McCall, farmer and stock raiser, residing on Section 13, Town 1, Range 12, Walnut Creek Township. The subject of this sketch is a native of the "Keystone State," born in Clarion County, in August, 1848, the eighth child born to the union of Thomas and Lavina (Gibbs) McCall, the former born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Vermont. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Oliver resides in Line Township; Annie is deceased; Joshua lives in Clarion County, Pa.; Elizabeth is now Mrs. Boice and resides in Iowa; R. C. is deceased; Sylvester lives in Line Township; Lucinda is deceased; Alfred is the subject of this sketch; Melinda married a Mr. Sigus and is living at Tacoma, Wash., and Mary married a Mr. Snyder and has since died. The father was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life in Pennsylvania, dying in 1857. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and in his political views sided with the Democratic party. The mother is still living in Pennsylvania and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The subject of this sketch received a common-school education in his native State, and began life for himself as a farm hand when he was fifteen years of age, continuing in this occupation for about three years. At the end of that time he went into the oil regions, remaining there about two years, and then came west to Iowa, but after one or two seasons spent here he returned to Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1877 he came to this county and purchased the farm on which he is now living. To his original purchase he has since added 160 acres of good land, making him the owner of a fine farm of 400 acres, improved and well stocked. He has taken

an active interest in politics in this county, voting with the Democratic party on all occasions, and is at present serving as township supervisor. He has been very successful since coming to this State, but his property has all been acquired by his own exertions and good management. He was married in November, 1870, to Miss Armina Dunlap, daughter of John and Penina (Zilafro) Dunlap, all natives of Pennsylvania. They are the parents of nine children, viz.: Mattie L., Mildred, Joshua L., Floyd C., Cecil, Lula, Malvern, Lee (deceased) and Zenas. Mrs. McCall is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and worships at the In-avale Church.

Dr. G. E. McKeeby was born in Summit County, Ohio, November 4, 1844, and removed with his parents to Oregon, Wis., in 1846. He was educated at the Wisconsin State University, and while a student of that institution, enlisted as a private soldier in the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, and was honorably discharged in July, 1865, at the close of the war, after one year's service. He returned to his studies, and in 1868 was graduated at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, and in the autumn of the same year located at Lodi, Wis., where he was engaged in the practice of medicine for fourteen years. During this time he served two years as State Senator from the Twenty-seventh District of Wisconsin. In 1882 he removed to Red Cloud, where he has since resided.

Judge William A. McKeighan is a successful farmer of Webster County, Neb., but was born in Cumberland County, N. J., in 1842, to Alexander and Elizabeth (Torence) McKeighan, natives of the "Emerald Isle," both of whom emigrated to the United States in early life. In 1848 they moved to Fulton County, Ill., and in this county and State the immediate subject of this sketch received the greater part of his rearing. In his youth he was so fortunate as to receive the advantages of the common schools near his father's home, and as they were well conducted and he intelligent he acquired a fair knowledge of the world of books. While the late insurrection was in progress, he joined the Eleventh Regiment of

Illinois Cavalry, under Col. Robert Ingersoll, and served under his able command until the close of the war, having taken part in all the principal engagements in which the Western Army participated. After the close of the war, in the year 1866, his marriage occurred, his wife being a Miss Lois E. Brown, of Fulton County, Ill., and a descendant of the noted Isaac Huffman, a well-known pillar in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their family now consists of three children: Charles F., Edith L. (who is a successful educator of the county, and was educated in the Red Cloud schools) and Jessie M. After his marriage Mr. McKeighan removed to Livingston County, Ill., and embarked in farming and stock-raising, an occupation which received his attention for some twelve years. While in this county he began his public career, being an advocate of revenue reform, and was one of the leading lights in the Illinois State Farmers' Association, being vice-president of the then Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. He took an active part in the election of Judge Craig to the supreme bench, and was also deeply interested in the election of Judge Nathaniel Pillsbury to the judgeship of that judicial district, and to the election of Judge Frank Blades. He next took part in the canvass in which Judge Davis defeated Gen. Logan in his candidacy for the United States Senate, and during all this time his attention was successfully given to his farm. In the spring of 1880 he determined to seek a home on the fertile prairies of Nebraska, and up to the present date has been engaged in tilling the soil near Red Cloud. In the fall of the year of his arrival here, he was unable to do effective work in the political field, but made one telling speech at Blue Hill and one at Red Cloud, his speech being the first ever made at the last-named place. In the autumn of 1885 he was selected as a suitable person to occupy the position of judge of the county court, and filled this office in a highly creditable manner for a term of two years. During the fall of 1886 he made a two-weeks' campaign, and although he was defeated, he polled the largest vote of any man put up by the Democratic party, running

ahead of his ticket in every county. He has at all times opposed the extortions of railroad corporations and the national banking system, as well as the present protective tariff system, by his voice and vote, and has gained a wide-spread reputation throughout his section of the country as an effective speaker and a powerful advocate of the different causes which he espouses. He is a member of the G. A. R., Garfield Post No. 84, and also belongs to the I. O. O. F., the K. of L., and the Farmers' Alliance. He delivered the Odd Fellows' oration at Red Cloud in 1881, and the memorial address at the time of the death of Gen. John Logan.

M. B. McNitt, dealer in gents' furnishing goods, Red Cloud, Neb. The subject of this sketch was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, in 1842. When he was fourteen years of age, his parents decided to try their fortunes in other pastures, and accordingly moved their family to Michigan, where our subject grew to manhood, receiving a common-school education. He worked on the farm until the breaking out of the Civil War, when the danger of destruction to the Union roused the patriotism of this young scion of liberty, who had never known a harsher sound than the hunter's horn, and who had been reared under laws that left personal liberty as free as the winds that roamed through his native forest. With high honor and true patriotism he resolved to assist in supporting the grand old flag of his country or die under the waves of its ample folds. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Nineteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served until June 25, 1865. The last year of service he was promoted to corporal. He participated in the following battles: At Thompson's Station, Tenn., he was wounded and taken prisoner, but was recaptured by his own men. He was not in active service again until 1864, when he again sought the battlefield, and this time was on the Atlanta campaign. He was again wounded, this time at Resaca, and was so badly injured as to keep him out of active service until after Atlanta was taken. He next went with Sherman on his march to the sea, was in an engagement at Averysboro, N. C., and was in sight of Bentonville

(the last engagement fought by Sherman's army) when they took that place. He was in the grand parade at Washington, and was mustered out at that city, receiving his discharge at Detroit, Mich. The grand object for which he fought having been achieved, he gladly returned to quiet life. He returned to his native county, in Ohio, and farmed there until 1872, when he came west and located in Webster County. He was a pioneer of Red Cloud, and has the honor of having built the first two-story frame building, and having brought the first stock of hardware to the place. He remained in the hardware business until 1875, when he sold out, having previously, in 1874, received the appointment of postmaster, which office he held for twelve consecutive years, until 1886. In the fall of 1885 he was elected county treasurer, and served for four consecutive years. At the expiration of his term of service as county treasurer, he bought an interest in his present business, which has since been run under the firm name of McNitt & Gulusha. Mr. McNitt is a member of the board of trade and master of the Masonic lodge at this place. His father was born in New York, early emigrated to Ohio, and is now residing in Red Cloud. His mother died in 1871. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch, and a daughter. Mr. McNitt has been twice married: First, while living in Ohio, to Miss Albina Wilcox, who died in 1871, leaving one child, Randolph. Mr. McNitt then married Miss Antoinette Munsell, and four children have blessed this latter union, viz.: Thaddens, Percy, Lafayette and Anna Lori.

Peter Marsden, an extensive farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 20, Line Township, is a native of England, born in Derbyshire, England, June 29, 1808, the third of a family of fifteen children, born to Matthew and Mary (Marsden) Marsden, natives of the same country. He was reared to manhood and obtained his schooling in his native place, receiving an academic education. He fitted himself for the occupation of surveyor, and assisted in the survey of the Manchester & Liverpool Railroad. He was married in 1827 to Miss Sarah Gregory, a daughter of Andrew Gregory, natives of England, and in 1833, accompanied by

his wife, he sailed for the United States, landing in New York, where he settled his family. He then went to Pottsville, Pa., engaged in coal mining for three years, then moved to Galena, Ill., where he leased land and engaged in mining and dairying. These interests he conducted for eleven years, then engaged exclusively in mining, which occupation he followed until 1865, and then moved to Iowa and embarked in farming, at the same time holding his interests in Illinois. In 1872 he sold his interests, and moved to near Lincoln, Neb., where he purchased a section of land, and entered extensively into stock-raising, breeding only fancy cattle and hogs. In 1878 he moved to this county and purchased his present farm, comprising one section of land, and has since devoted his attention to raising thoroughbred Short-horn Durham cattle. His herd contains all registered cattle, and is headed by Leila Prairie Flower, and the celebrated Louans Pride, and Mr. Marsden is recognized as one of the leading stockmen of the county. His union with Sarah Gregory resulted in the birth of nine children, namely: Sarah (wife of George Harris), Mary Ann (wife of John Beresford), Priscilla, A. Victoria, Melvina (deceased), Frank and George. Mrs. Marsden died in 1864, and in 1872 Miss Lorena Olson became Mrs. Marsden. This latter union has been blessed by the birth of a son, John. Mr. Marsden has been a Republican for a great many years, and has held different township offices of trust and honor. Both he and wife are highly respected members of the community in which they reside.

A. S. Marsh, mayor of Red Cloud, was born in New York, in 1839, a son of Amos and Betsy (Judson) Marsh, the former born in Vermont and the latter in Connecticut. Grandfather Marsh was a Presbyterian minister all his life. His son Amos was educated with a view to entering the Presbyterian ministry, but after studying for seven years he was obliged to give it up on account of ill health, and turned his attention to mercantile pursuits in Jamesville, N. Y. He was a strong Abolitionist. The Marsh family were of English descent. Both he and wife were church members, he worshipping with the Presbyterians, and

his wife with the Methodists, and both died in New York, the former at the age of sixty-five, and the latter at the age of fifty-six years. The subject of this sketch received an academic education in Vernon, Oneida County, N. Y. When he was sixteen years of age he entered a mercantile establishment as clerk, subsequently engaging in business on his own account, and continued in the mercantile business in New York until 1864, at which time he went to Chicago and remained there until 1867, then returned to New York on a visit, and in July, 1868, came to Beatrice, Neb. Here he opened a mercantile establishment, and continued in business at Beatrice until 1880, at which time he came to Red Cloud and opened up a general merchandise business, which he followed until 1886, when at the beginning of Cleveland's administration he received the appointment as postmaster, and held that office until February 18, 1890. April 1, 1890, he was elected mayor of Red Cloud on the peoples' ticket, and is now satisfactorily discharging the duties of that office. He was united in marriage in Beatrice, Neb., in 1870, to Miss Marietta Follett, born in Ohio, and four children have been given them. Mr. Marsh has been a member of the city school board for four years, and is still serving in that capacity. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the A. O. U. W., and of the board of trade.

Ira O. Martin is well known throughout Webster County, not only on account of being one of the earliest settlers, but because of the prominent part he takes in furthering all worthy enterprises, and for his charity and kindness of heart. He was born in the village of Elizabethtown, Jo Daviess County, Ill., September 16, 1848, being a son of Joseph H. and Mary J. (Seward) Martin, who were native Virginians, married in 1846, and are still living. Ira O. Martin left his native village with his parents when a small boy, and went to Lacon, Ill., and later, or in 1860, they located in Canton, Ill. In 1862 he entered the Union army as a drummer boy in Company D, One Hundred and Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after serving with it for about nine months, he received an honorable discharge. He went soon after to Leav-

enworth, Kas., where, for two years, he held the position of headquarter's clerk, being employed the three subsequent years as Government clerk at Sioux Falls, Dak. In 1869 he returned to Canton, Ill., and shortly afterward he entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad as operator, at Kewanee, Ill. At the expiration of nine months he accepted the position of operator and station agent at Colmar, Ill., of which place he remained an inhabitant two years. He was married at Colmar in October, 1872, to Miss Mattie A. Price, a native of Cambridge, Mo., and a daughter of Wyckliff and Mary (Powell) Price. From Colmar, Mr. Martin went to Godfrey, Ill., as operator and station agent for the Chicago & Alton Railway, and three years later was transferred to Virden, Ill., and there he continued in a like capacity for the same length of time, and for the same road. He came to Nebraska September 24, of that year, and became an employe of the Burlington & Missouri River Railway at Hastings, but on the 20th day of the following month he opened a telegraph office for the above-named road at Blue Hill, and thus became the first operator on the Denver extension of the Burlington & Missouri River Road. He remained here until September 5, 1879, performing the duties of operator and station agent, also agent for the Lincoln Town Site Company, for S. B. Rohrer, of Hagerstown, Md., and was postmaster of the town. At the above-named date he was transferred to Red Cloud, Neb., where, for about three and one half years, he acted as agent, then spent the following year as agent of the Missouri Pacific Railway, at Muscotah, Kas. In November, 1883, he returned to Blue Hill, Neb., and embarked in the real estate business as an associate of R. A. Simpson and F. A. Sweezy, thus continuing until August 23, 1885. During the year of 1884 the firm of which he was a member sold over 20,000 acres of land, and on August 23, 1885, Mr. Martin was enabled to purchase an interest in the Blue Hill Bank, and from that time until March 1, 1889, that institution was entirely owned and conducted by Mr. Martin and R. A. Simpson. Mr. Martin then sold out to his partner and purchased from him his interest in the

Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, at Campbell, Neb., which he still owns, and of which he has since been president. He has, also, during the past year, been associated with Mr. P. A. Wells in the law, insurance and real estate business, and every enterprise with which he is engaged is prospering. He has attained the rank of Knight Templar in the Masonic fraternity, and is also a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a Republican, politically, and at present holds the office of justice of the peace, having been elected in November, 1889, overcoming a strong Democratic majority. His union with Miss Price has resulted in the birth of the following children: Eugene W., Bernard, Mara, Frances A. and Imogene (who are living), and Olive, Ira O. and two sons unnamed (who are deceased).

August Martin is successfully conducting a meat market at Blue Hill, Neb. He was born in Germany January 4, 1849, and in compliance with the law of that country, he attended school until he was fourteen years of age. He then learned the butcher's trade of his father, John Martin, and in 1867 came to the United States, and worked at his trade for three years in Freeport, Ill. The year of 1870 found him in Atchison, Kas., working at his trade for one year. Two months were then spent in Leavenworth, Kas., where he opened an establishment, but not being successful, in the spring of 1872 he went to Topeka, where he made his home until the spring of 1874. Since that time he has resided in Nebraska, and after spending a few months in Kearney, he went to Lowell, where he again opened an establishment of his own. He was married there on May 22, 1874, to Miss Amelia Nitze, a native of the Fatherland, who came to America in 1873. Soon after his marriage Mr. Martin removed from Lowell to Bloomington, Neb., and after conducting a meat market in that place for four years, he was engaged in the hotel business for the three following years. From 1880 until 1884 he resided in Hastings, but in August of the last named year moved to Blue Hill, where he has ever since conducted a first-class meat market, being the leading butcher of the place, and an esteemed and respected citizen. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the A. O. U. W.

and the K. of P., and in his political views, like so many of his countrymen, is a Democrat. He has served as a member of the town board two terms. To Mr. and Mrs. Martin a family of six children have been born: Emma, Ida, Edwin, Anna, Amelia and John Robert, of whom Emma died at the age of four years.

Samuel P. Martin, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. It is a fact unnecessary of denial that a person is better fitted to follow the occupation with which he became familiar in early life, than to engage in an undertaking learned in later years. This truth is borne out in the career of Mr. Martin, who, from a boy, has known all the details of agricultural life. To this acquired knowledge may be added a natural faculty for that calling, for his father, Lewis Martin, was also a farmer. The latter was a native of Kentucky, and the mother, whose maiden name was Phoebe Skelton, was a native of the Old Dominion. Samuel P. Martin was reared to manhood in his native State, where he was given a common-school education, and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-one years of age. He then came to Nebraska, settled in Webster County, and here he has since remained engaged in successfully conducting his farm. He homesteaded 160 acres of land, which he has improved, and on which he has erected a comfortable house, substantial out-buildings, etc. On October 7, 1874, he was married to Miss Elmira Munsell, a native of Dane County, Wis., born July 8, 1856, and the daughter of Capt. L. F. and Lorinda (Yeager) Munsell, natives of New York and Canada, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Martin were born five children: Winnie M., Julia I., Roy F., Gertie L. and Lottie E. Mr. Martin has always affiliated with the Republican party in his political views, and is a member of the Old Settlers' Association. He has held a number of local offices, and is a man esteemed and respected by all. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Christian Church. Mr. Martin was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, and understands what is meant by the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life.

Casper Matzener was born in Switzerland Dec-

ember 25, 1831, and was a son of Matthew and Ann (Brog) Matzener, both of whom were born and died in Switzerland. The father was a farmer by occupation, and gave his son a good education. He was married in Berne, Switzerland, in 1856, to Miss Verena Brock, born in Switzerland, and to gether in 1868 they emigrated to the United States, locating in Greene County, Ill. Mr. Matzener, who is a shoemaker by trade, worked on the bench at Whitehall for a number of years, but in February, 1878, he came to Nebraska and settled where he now lives. He first purchased 160 acres of raw prairie land, which he has since fenced and broke, having ninety acres in a high state of cultivation. The balance of his land is meadow and pasture. His neat one-story residence, good barn, wind pump, bearing orchard and grove, etc., all indicate the hardy and thrifty race from which he comes. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party, and has held several offices of trust and honor. He was elected treasurer of Beaver township in the fall of 1889, and is now serving in that capacity. To his marriage have been born two children, viz.: Mary (married Grant Greger, and both she and her husband make their home with her father helping to carry on the farm) and John (who is married, has an infant daughter, and resides near by). Mr. Matzener was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died December 25, 1888. She was a worthy Christian lady, a loving mother, and a true and faithful wife for thirty-two years. Mr. Matzener is a member of the Lutheran Reformed Church, and belongs to the I. O. O. F., and has served as secretary of his order.

Abraham W. Miller is the proprietor of the Union Mills at Blue Hill, but his birth occurred in Washington County, Md., September 21, 1839, he being a son of Abraham and Susan (Funk) Miller, the former a native of Franklin County, Pa. He was a miller by trade and died in 1886, his wife dying when the subject of this sketch was a small lad. The latter grew to manhood in his native county and learned the miller's trade of his father. December 30, 1862, he wedded Miss Mary Sword, who was also born in Washington County, Md., a daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Reed) Sword,

and by her is the father of eight children: Emma Kate, Sarah, Samuel F., Mary, Ellen, Daniel, Franklin and Floyd, all living with the exception of Daniel, who died at the age of five years. In 1862 Mr. Miller removed from Maryland to Mount Morris, Ogle County, Ill., and in that county and Carroll County, which adjoined it, he resided until 1872, being engaged in milling and farming. At that date he came to the prairies of Nebraska to make a home for himself and family, and first located in Saline County, where he farmed until 1878, at which time he removed to Ellis County, Kas. A year later he went to Denver, Colo., where he pursued the calling of a contractor until 1883, when he returned to Nebraska and located at Blue Hill. Here he built the Union Mills, which he has successfully operated ever since. It is a valuable property, in first-class condition, and in 1887 was provided with a roller process, and its product, which Mr. Miller gives to the public, is of the finest quality. He is a Republican politically, and he and wife are members of the German Baptist Church.

Leander S. Miller lives on Section 21, Harmony Township, Webster County, Neb., and is a native of New York, born February 22, 1840, in Cooperstown. In 1845, when he was five years of age, his parents immigrated to Wisconsin, where he was reared and made his home until 1871, since which time he has been identified with Webster County, Neb. Upon his arrival here he entered a soldier's claim of 160 acres of raw prairie, which he now cultivates. His parents were natives of the "Empire State" also. His father, a carpenter and cooper by trade, was born in 1801, and devoted the latter part of his life to farming. He was married in New York, February 11, 1825, to Miss Melinda Smith, and to them were born ten children—seven boys and three girls—of whom Henry, the eldest, is now the proprietor and owner of a hotel at Eureka Springs, Ark.; Jerry is a farmer, and resides near Mitchell, Dak.; Justina married the Rev. James R. Polk, and resides in Wisconsin; Margaret D. married Volney E. Winegar, a stock-buyer and shipper, and is living at Clinton Junction, Wis.; Eusebia wedded Giles

Burt, a stock buyer and shipper, and also lives at Clinton Junction, Wis., where her husband is doing a very successful business; John died in infancy, as did the child next in order of birth; Charles E. is a farmer and stock-raiser, residing south of Janesville, Wis.; the subject of this sketch is next in chronology; Clark I. is a physician and surgeon, and resides at Whitewater, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were liberally educated in the common schools of Wisconsin, and are ardent supporters of all educational matters. Mr. Miller was married at Janesville, Wis., September 30, 1868, by which union he is the father of nine children, viz.: Lineas (who was born in Wisconsin, and is now a successful school teacher, being engaged in that calling for four years; he is now teaching school in Franklin County, about two miles from Campbell, Ill.), Gertrude Irene (was born in Wisconsin, and was married to Frank Lindy, a farmer by occupation, residing in Harmony Township), Grace B. (was the first white child born in this part of the county; she is now attending school, and is bright in her scholastic attainments), Rose M. (is also attending school, and has chosen the path of the teacher for her future profession; she is well advanced in her studies), Una Estella (died in 1878, when only one month old), Ila C. (a bright young lady of eight years, is attending school), Lee S. (is now six years old) and Frank Evans (was born April 4, 1884, and died when he was four and one-half months old). The youngest, an infant, died in 1887. Mr. Miller served his country during the late war, enlisting in Company B, Thirtieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into service September 11, 1861, when he was twenty-one years of age. His company was stationed at Camp Tredway (named in honor of Q. M. Gen. Tredway), was sent from Janesville, Wis., to Leavenworth, Kas., to quell the disturbances of the "border ruffians," thence to Fort Scott, and was then ordered back to Fort Riley to fit out for crossing the plains to New Mexico. They were in camp about one month, when the order was countermanded and they were ordered back to Cairo, Ill. When Cairo was reached, the order was given to march to Columbus,

Ky., thence through Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Alabama. Mr. Miller served as sergeant of Company B. During the winter of 1862-63 he was on detached mounted service near the "Old Hermitage," President Jackson's old home, and was employed in scouting and picking up rebel deserters, and on November 19, 1864, he was honorably discharged from the Fourth Division, Twentieth Army Corps, at Nashville, Tenn., immediately after which he returned to Janesville, Wis., and engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he has continued to the present time. Mr. Miller has always identified himself with the Republican party, and cast his first vote for the illustrious Abraham Lincoln (second term). He has taken an active part in all municipal affairs in township and county, being one of the four who were sent to Red Cloud to precinct his district off from Red Cloud. He sat on the first grand jury, and was present at the first term of court which was ever held in Webster County. He relates very graphically how he was summoned as grand juror. The Little Blue, a turbulent stream, was filled from bank to bank. A stranger was seen to approach the south side of the stream opposite Mr. Miller's residence and frantically wave his hat. Mrs. Miller went to his aid, and was informed that he was the sheriff of Webster County, and had a summons for Mr. Miller as juror on the grand jury, and it was impossible for him to cross over and deliver the summons. Mrs. Miller very modestly informed him that he could go back without serving the summons, but he protested, so Mrs. Miller told him if he had to serve the summons, to tie it to a stick and throw it across the stream, which he did, and she delivered the summons to her husband. Mr. Miller has served as a member of the town board, and both he and wife have taken an active and intelligent position in the educational interests of their home district. The education of their children has always been uppermost in their minds. Mr. Miller is a member of Lodge No. 129, A. O. U. W., at Campbell, and is adjutant of Post 3, G. A. R., at Campbell. This post has about thirty active members in good standing. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller are recognized by their

many friends as staple and responsible people who helped to make and improve the country. They thrillingly relate the troubles experienced by the treacherous Indians and the scourge of grasshoppers. When they first settled in Harmony Township, Grand Island, Neb., was the principal market, at a distance of sixty miles—not a vestige of Blue Hill, Bladen, Hastings, Campbell, nor any of the flourishing towns now so very enterprising.

J. L. Miller, a prominent business man of Red Cloud, Neb., dealing in harness and saddlery, was born in Fulton County, Ind., in 1840, a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Weybright) Miller, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. They moved to Wabash County, Ind., in 1855, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, and from here he enlisted in Company H, Twentieth Indiana Infantry, and served from 1863 until the close of the war. He served in the First Division of the Third Corps, and after the re-organization was in the First Division of the Second Corps, under Hancock. In 1864, in front of Petersburg, he was severely wounded in the shoulder, and was confined in the hospital from June until October. At the close of the war he returned home, remaining there until 1867, when he moved to Iowa, and from there on to Nebraska in the fall of the same year, and assisted in hauling lumber, with which to begin the city of Lincoln, from Nebraska City. He located in Sterling, Neb., and erected the first house at that place. He was married at Sterling, in 1874, and in April of the same year he came to Red Cloud and engaged in business. Mr. Miller is the oldest merchant in the city (with the exception of W. N. Richardson), having begun his present business in 1876. He carries an excellent line of goods, the most extensive in the city, and enjoys a large trade. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of two boys: Harry and Samuel. Specially Mr. Miller is a member of the A. F. & A. M., including K. T., the A. O. U. W., the M. W. A., the K. of P. and the G. A. R.

Levi Moore. This historical work would not be complete without an extended sketch of Mr. Moore, one of the foremost citizens of Webster County. He was born in Virginia, June 13, 1813,

whither his father, a native of Pennsylvania, moved, when he was twelve years of age, subsequently marrying Nancy Sharp, a Virginian, by whom he had eight children, the subject of this sketch being the only one now living. Grandfather Levi Moore, a Scotch-Irishman, settled in Pennsylvania at an early day, and afterward moved to the wilds of Virginia, where he reared his family and died. Our subject's father, a farmer by occupation, was a scout in the Indian border troubles, and died in Pocahontas County, W. Va. When the subject of this sketch was but a child, both his parents died, and he had to make his own way in the world. By his own efforts he obtained a good common-school education, which has since served him well. He left his native State when he was twenty-two years of age, going to McHenry County, Ill., and farming from 1836 until 1842. Here he was married to Miss Prudence Ackerson, a native of the Empire State, born in 1824, who is still living. One child who was sent to gladden their home died in its second year. In 1851 Mr. Moore and wife moved to Iowa, remaining there until 1873, when they came to Red Cloud, where Mr. Moore purchased 600 acres of land, which he still owns. Since his arrival here, he has been engaged in the banking business; he organized the State Bank of Red Cloud, and was its president for a number of years; he was also one of the chief organizers of the Red Cloud National Bank, and is still the vice-president of the same, owning \$10,000 worth of stock. When Mr. Moore reached McHenry County, Ill., in 1836, that point was then the extreme western border of settlement. He and three companions were together. The settlement to which they first repaired objected to unmarried men taking up land in their midst, as they desired families to locate, consequently our subject and his comrades sought other places for location. Here Mr. Moore formed the acquaintance of the famous chief of the Pottawatomie Indians, and secured the friendship of that noted chief, who offered them a guide to take them to a country where no white man had ever been. They accepted this proffer, and were led to the borders of the Kishwalkey, where they took land under the "squatters' scover-

eignty," being the first white men on the river. Here they settled, the subject of this sketch "backing it" there until he was married, and here he continued to live until his removal to Iowa, thence to Nebraska. Since coming here, Mr. Moore has been one of Red Cloud's most active citizens, no enterprise for the good of the town or country having lacked his assistance. He has in his lifetime seen the whole western country grow from a wilderness to gigantic States containing millions of inhabitants. He is a pleasant gentleman, active and vigorous for his years. Politically he is a Republican.

J. W. Moranville, a prominent physician of Red Cloud, was born in Vermont, in 1844, receiving a common-school education in his native State, and later attending a college in Canada, whither his parents had moved, for one year. After a three-years' residence in Canada, he returned to the United States, and commenced the study of medicine, first in Lawrence, Mass., under a preceptor, R. A. Morse, where he also did his first prescribing. Subsequently he attended homeopathic lectures in Chicago, in 1873. He commenced the practice of his chosen profession first in Salem, Vt., next at Bristol, Greene County, Iowa. In 1879 he came to Nebraska and located at Cowles, this county; next he located at Guide Rock, where he practiced for nine years, when he came to Red Cloud, where he has since built up a very large practice. He left an excellent practice at Guide Rock to come to Red Cloud. He was married in Charleston, Vt., to Miss Eliza Moranville, a second cousin of his, and there have been four children born to them, viz.: Harry, Ernest, Gertie and James. Mr. Moranville is a Mason, and in his political views affiliates with the Republican party. His parents were Jacob and Lucy (Blake) Moranville, the former born in Canada, of French descent, the latter of English extraction. They now reside in Guide Rock. Thirteen children, ten sons and three daughters, were born to their union.

Capt. Lafayette Munsell, farmer and stock raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. This successful and prosperous tiller of the soil and stock-raiser is a native of Montgomery County, N. Y., born on March 25,

1824, and was reared to manhood in his native State, where he secured a good common school education. Commencing at the age of sixteen years, he learned the trade of carpenter and builder with his father, and remained with the latter until his death, which occurred on May 11, 1843, at Port Jackson, N. Y. After the death of his father our subject went to Rochester of the same State, and remained there four months, then went to Canada, and continued until nearly twenty-one years of age. He afterward followed the river and worked on the Mississippi on a steam-boat until April 20, 1847, when he enlisted in the Fifteenth United States Infantry, Company K, serving under Col. George W. Morgan, known as "Cumberland Gap" Morgan. This regiment was landed at Vera Cruz, Old Mexico, on the 4th of May and the principal battles fought were Toloona, Natural Bridge and Pas A. La Hoya, where Capt. Guthrie, who commanded the company, was killed. They then moved on to the City of Mexico and joined Gen. Scott on the 7th of July, at Pueblo. One month from that time they started toward the capitol, and on the 18th of August took San Augustine, Tala Palm, and later Contreas and took Chermuseco; on the 8th of September had the fight of Molino del Rey and on the 13th they charged on Chapultepec, and that frowning citadel was carried by storm. Through the San Cosme and Belen gates the conquering army swept resistlessly, and at night-fall the soldiers of the Union were in the suburbs of Mexico. Returning to the United States, Mr. Munsell received his discharge in Covington, Ky., August 7, 1848. He then went to Madison, Wis., where he followed his trade until 1854, and then purchased a farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1861 he was commissioned on the 15th of June by Alexander Randal, then Governor of the State, to raise Company H, which joined the Eighth Wisconsin, under Col. Murphy. He was in the famous Eagles, that fought under the wings of Old Abe, the great war eagle. The first battle was at Fredericktown, and then followed thirty-five battles, commencing from October 21, 1861, and extending to August 13, 1864. The principal ones during that time were the battles of Island

No. 10, Corinth, Vicksburg, Richmond, Brownsville, Moore Plantation, Bayou Robert and Holly Springs. He was severely injured at the charge of Vicksburg, and was afterward honorably discharged. He returned to his farm, and there remained until 1869. On August 1, 1870, he emigrated to Webster County, Neb., and took a homestead of 160 acres. Here he has since remained and has been very successful. He is dealing largely in cattle and also raises a fine breed of horses. On July 4, 1849, he was married to Miss Lorinda Yager, daughter of Henry W. and Elizabeth (White) Yager, natives of New York and Canada, respectively. Mrs. Munsell was born August 5, 1833. This union resulted in the birth of twelve children, eight of whom are now living: Filinda (deceased wife of Mortimer Judd) Sarah Ann (wife of Mark Warner), Antoinette, (wife of M. B. McNitt), Elvira (wife of Charles Van Dusen), Elmira (wife of S. P. Martin), Ira, Eva, Lotta and Boyd. Mr. Munsell is a Republican in political views, but does not care for political honors. He is a member of Garfield Post No. 80, G. A. R., at Red Cloud, and is one of the leading men of the county, notwithstanding his age. He is one of the nineteen men who organized this county in 1871, and is one of the representative citizens of this young State. He has a very comfortable home, all that can contribute to his happiness during his declining years. His parents, Andrus and Lucinda (Darling) Munsell, were natives of Old Lime Connecticut and New Scotland, N. Y., respectively, the father born on July 9, 1781.

D. J. Myers, editor of the Red Cloud Democrat, is a native of Illinois, born at Yorktown, in 1800, a son of M. A. and Caroline (Gardner) Myers, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, respectively. When young Myers was seventeen years of age, he left his native State and came to Hastings, Neb., remaining there one year, and then returned to Illinois, where he continued until 1880. At that time he again removed to Nebraska, and made his home in Franklin County, for four years, when a location was chosen in Webster County. Mr. Myers was reared on a farm, and followed agricultural pursuits until 1886, at which

time he started a drug store, which he ran until 1887, and then sold out and engaged in other business. In June, 1889, he purchased a one-half interest in the Red Cloud Democrat. He belongs to the M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W. His literary efforts have been attended with good results, and he has demonstrated his entire fitness for a position in the journalistic field by the conduct of the paper with which he is now connected.

William M. Obanion, a prominent and energetic farmer of Oak Creek Township, Webster County, was born in Kentucky, in 1825, the seventh child in a family of ten children born to William and Sarah (Snargrass) Obanion, the former born in Virginia in 1789, a son of Joseph Obanion, and the latter born in Virginia in 1791, a daughter of Isacca Snargrass. They were married in Casey County, Ky., subsequently moving to Cumberland County, where the father became a well-to-do farmer, and here they raised their family of ten children, viz.: Mary, Alfred, Lavica, Jane, Matilda, Walker, William, Preston, Thomas and Isacca. Here the father died in 1837, leaving a widow, who survived until 1876, when she too passed away, dying in Tennessee in that year at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. She was a member of the Christian Church. The immediate subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native State, and in 1849 started out in life for himself, with Mary A. Helton, daughter of Joseph Helton, of Kentucky, as his companion. She was born in Kentucky in 1827. They were given eight children (five of whom have since died), viz.: Mary E. (deceased), Jerome B. (deceased), William Thomas (now in Western Oregon), Joseph W. (deceased), Martha F. (now Mrs. Carnegie), and Millie S. (now Mrs. Bunnell). In 1854 Mr. Obanion emigrated with his family to Indiana, where they made their home for sixteen years, then moved to Missouri, remaining there until 1874, at which time they came to Clay County, and in 1875 came to Webster County, and took up the homestead on which they now live, which is well improved, and here Mr. Obanion is very successfully engaged in raising grain and stock. Mrs. Obanion is a member of the Baptist Church, and is an earnest

Christian lady. Mr. Obanion votes the Democratic ticket, and like many intelligent farmers of Nebraska belongs to the Alliance.

Gerhard Ohmstede, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. A short sketch of Mr. Ohmstede will not be out of place in this volume, and will be read with interest. Originally from Germany, he was born in Oldenburg, June 18, 1856, a son of Gerhard and Anna Ohmstede, both of whom still reside in their native country—Oldenburg, where the father is engaged in agricultural pursuits. Gerhard Ohmstede was reared to maturity in his native country, receiving a good education, and in the fall of 1878, at the age of twenty-two years, he emigrated to the States, locating in this county. He first leased land which he improved and afterward purchased, and now owns 320 acres of fine land, all of which is fenced, cultivating about 160 acres. On this he has erected a comfortable dwelling, good barns and out-buildings, etc. He has a thriving young grove of 2,000 trees, and an orchard of about 250 trees, some of which are bearing. July 29, 1883, in Webster County, Mr. Ohmstede was united in matrimonial bonds with Miss Caroline Knehans, daughter of Henry Knehans, who was born and reared in St. Louis, Mo., and they became the parents of four children, one of whom, Henry, died in his second year. Those living are Gerhard, Minnie, and an infant son named Chris. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ohmstede believe in the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Ohmstede belongs to the Alliance, and to the A. O. U. W.

William Parkes, boot and shoemaker, Red Cloud, Neb., was born in Doncaster, Yorkshire, England, in 1832, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Conway) Parkes, both born in England about 1811. The mother is now living in Indianola, Neb. The parents came to America in 1855, our subject preceding them two years. William Parkes is one of five children, all of whom are living, viz.: William, John, Edward, Samuel, and Charlotte (now Mrs. C. S. Quick, of Indianola, Neb. He was married in 1855 to Miss Sarah Smith, of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England, and a daughter was born to them in Lehi, Utah. Upon coming to this

country Mr. Parkes first located in Salt Lake City until 1859, when he and his wife and daughter, father and mother, brothers and sister, moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and there engaged in boot and shoemaking. Here they buried their daughter, and now have an adopted boy. He came to Red Cloud in the winter of 1870, took a claim (160 acres) two and one-half miles southwest of Red Cloud, which he still owns. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and belongs to Charity Lodge No. 53, A. F. & A. M., Chapter No. 19, R. A. M., Commandery 19, K. T., and Webster Encampment No. 25.

F. E. Payne, farmer and stock-raiser, Cather-ton Township, was born in Frederick County, Va., in September, 1850, and is the oldest child born to R. T. and Sarah (Scribner) Payne. They were the parents of six children, viz.: F. E. (the subject of this sketch), Mrs. Mary Cooper (of this township), Mrs. Ida Brown (of Winchester, Va.), Mrs. Pinkney Hale and Mrs. Carrie Harvey (of Inavale Township), and Robert Bruce (residing with his brother, our subject). The father was a cooper by trade, and lived in his native State till 1884, when he came to Nebraska, locating in this township where he is now living. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The subject of this sketch received a common-school education in his native State, and at the age of twenty-two years began life for himself as a farmer, following that occupation with success in his native State until 1877, when he came to this State. Here he entered a homestead and timber claim, comprising 320 acres in Section 34-3-12 on Farmers' Creek, all of which he has under an excellent state of cultivation, well improved with good buildings, fruit and forest trees, etc. He is active in politics and votes with the Prohibition party, and for a time has held the office of justice of the peace in this township. He was married in July, 1881, to Mrs. Vernie (Cather) Clutter, widow of Webster Clutter, and daughter of William and Caroline (Smith) Cather, of Virginia; she died in December, 1885, leaving him one child, Wilella. Mr. Payne is a member of the Baptist Church.

Colvin D. Peck (deceased) was a native of Ver-

mont, born in Maidstone June 30, 1835. In early life he engaged in agricultural pursuits, subsequently working in the quarries of feldspar and mica. After his marriage he worked in a chair factory as a cabinet-maker, then farmed in different localities until 1874, when he came to Nebraska and located on the old homestead now occupied by his wife and sons. Mr. Peck was educated in the common schools of the East, and always took a decided interest in the upbuilding of schools. He served as school director in his home district for four years, and during this time took great care in selecting teachers, choosing only high-grade and competent instructors. During the late war Mr. Peck went to the defense of his country's flag, enlisting in the Third New Hampshire Volunteers, and was sent to Hilton Head, S. C., but was honorably discharged on account of disability, after an absence from home of only one month. He cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan, but was non-partisan, and bravely and boldly upheld the honest man. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was a type of morality in his home life, and in all his walks in life was an honorable man, respected and esteemed for his sterling integrity and genuine worth.

Mrs. Juliette Peck, widow of Colvin D. Peck, resides on Section 2, Batin Township, Webster County. She was born in New Hampshire April 13, 1836, being the third child born to the union of Joseph and Percy Gleeson, the former born in Acworth, N. H., in 1804, and the latter born in Dedham, Mass., in 1806. They were the parents of five children, viz.: Persons Elizabeth (deceased), Lucinda B. (is unmarried and resides on the old homestead in New Hampshire), Needham (was a farmer, but is now deceased), Juliette (our subject), Parthenia Ann (married Julius Crosset, a farmer and carpenter, and resides on the old homestead). Mrs. Peck grew to maturity in her native State, receiving her education in the public schools, and also attending the academy at Acworth for three terms. May 16, 1860, she was united in marriage to Colvin D. Peck, a native of Vermont, born in Maidstone June 30, 1835, and shortly after her marriage moved to Templeton, Mass., where

they remained for some time, subsequently moving to Acworth, N. H. To this marriage were born four children—three boys and one girl—as follows: Estella E. (born September 24, 1861, married Wilbur B. Nutting, a farmer, and makes her home at Genoa Bluffs, Iowa), William (was born June 10, 1864, and is now residing with his mother on the homestead in Batin Township. William received a common-school education, which has admirably fitted him for the practical duties of farm life, to which he has so wisely devoted himself. He is now serving as justice of the peace of his township, which demonstrates clearly the confidence his friends repose in him for one so young), Oscar (born August 28, 1866, resides at Gandy, Logan County, Neb. He has chosen printing as his occupation in life, and is editor of the Logan County Pioneer). In 1874 Mrs. Peck and her husband immigrated to Nebraska, arriving in Batin Township April 10, 1874. At that time there were very few inhabitants, and antelope, deer, wolves and other wild game abounded. Mr. Peck filed a homestead of 160 acres, built a cabin, and here he and family made their home. They experienced all the hardships and vicissitudes of pioneer life, passed through the grasshopper scourges, prairie fires, and other severe trials, which were enough to discourage any heart, but Mrs. Peck bore up under her numerous trials and difficulties with great fortitude and determination. In 1880 Mr. Peck was stricken with the typhoid and intermittent fever, and died the same year. She and husband were earnest supporters and members of the Adventist Church, having joined the society in Ashburnham, Mass. Besides the original homestead, Mrs. Peck owns 160 acres of railroad land lying just south of her homestead, most of which is under cultivation. She resides among her children, comfortably situated and surrounded by her many friends, who hold her in high esteem, and it is her expectation to pass the remainder of her life in Nebraska. She is an intelligent and educated lady, and is well informed in business matters as well as in the current issues of the day.

William Pettit was born in Ohio, in Athens County, September 22, 1840. His father, Daniel

Pettit, a son of Thomas Pettit, a teacher by occupation, and one of the first educators in Morgan County, Ohio, was born in Pennsylvania in 1811, but at the age of twelve years left his native State with his parents, going to Zanesville, Ohio, in 1823, where they were among the first settlers. Daniel Pettit grew to manhood in Morgan County, and after reaching years of discretion chose farming as his occupation through life. He was married in Athens County, Ohio, to Miss Caroline Shaw, daughter of Dr. John L. Shaw, a pioneer of Marietta, Ohio. After his marriage, Mr. Pettit entered land in Athens County, where he farmed until 1855, at that time moving to Lawrence County, and there resuming farming operations until 1885, when he came to Nebraska, and has since made his home with our subject. He was called upon to mourn the death of his wife in October, 1842, and afterward took a second wife. William Pettit grew to manhood in Athens and Lawrence Counties. In September, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Fifth West Virginia Infantry, and served until August, 1862, when he was discharged for disability. He enlisted as private, but was soon promoted to corporal, and did a good deal of scouting and guard duty. The year following his discharge he spent in teaming and farming, following this business until 1868, when he came to Omaha, remaining there until the fall of 1870, when he came to Webster County and homesteaded the land on which he now lives, on the Republican River. He afterward purchased 160 acres more, making him a fine farm of 320 acres, nearly all of which is fenced. Of this land 200 acres are farm land and under cultivation, while the balance is meadow and pasture land. Mr. Pettit has a good two-story residence, good barns, cribs, sheds, wind-pump, stock scales, etc., and a fine young orchard of over 100 trees, all select fruits. When Mr. Pettit commenced here, he knew absolutely nothing about farming, but has succeeded well as an agriculturist, all of his possessions having been made here on the farm. He raises good graded stock, and has some pure Berkshire hogs. In Sarpy County, Neb., February 27, 1871, Miss Lucy M. Pusey, a native of Hartford County, Md., but reared and educated in Nebraska,

a daughter of Eliphaz Pusey, became his wife, and their family now consists of Orpha (a young lady), Ida, Amy and Martha, and Frankie Martin (thirteen months old, a child of Mrs. Pettit's sister). Mr. Pettit is a Master Mason, and belongs to the G. A. R.

Alex. Phillips is another of the substantial farmers of this section. He is a native of Delaware, born October 24, 1838, a son of Charles and Leo (Taylor) Phillips, the latter a native of Delaware. Charles Phillips came to the States when a lad of eight years, with his parents, and grew up in Delaware, there married and for a number of years after his marriage made that State his home. He was a cotton manufacturer in Delaware up to 1857, when he moved his family to Iowa, locating on a farm in Delaware County, and tilled the soil at that place until 1887, at that time moving his family to Dakota, where he now lives. His first wife died in Delaware in 1839, and he afterward married again. Alexander Phillips was nineteen years of age when his parents moved to Iowa, and he accompanied them to that State, remaining at home until the outbreak of the war. He had the advantages of a good common-school education in Delaware, supplemented by a course of six months at St. Mary's College. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, serving until discharged in January, 1862. August 15, 1862, he re-enlisted in Company K, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry, as corporal, and served as such until his final discharge, July 24, 1865. During his last enlistment he participated in the battle of Hartsville, Mo., was at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg, and in the Mobile campaign. At Vicksburg he received a slight scalp wound, and was struck by a shell and permanently disabled, while at Spanish Fort, Ala., he was struck over the eye with a piece of shell and received other injuries. At the close of the war he returned to his home and engaged in farming until 1873, at which time he came to Nebraska and located in Webster County in June of that year. He took up the homestead on which he resides, which he has now all fenced, cultivating about seventy-five acres, the rest being pasture and

meadow land. His good substantial residence, large barn, cribs, sheds, etc., etc., all show him to be the thrifty and industrious man he is. He has a young bearing orchard of 200 choice trees, besides a quantity of small fruits. He is a Republican in his political views, and has ever supported the men and measures of his party, and has held several offices of local public trust, such as road supervisor, a member of the school board, etc. On December 25, 1866, Mr. Phillips and Miss Mary McCartney became husband and wife. She was born, reared and educated in Delaware, and was a daughter of Nicholas McCartney. They were the parents of five children, but four of whom, James H. (a young man), Emma E., Mary A. and Charles A., are now living. Catherine died February 21, 1882, in her sixth year. Both Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are advocates of the Church of England. Mr. Phillips belongs to the G. A. R., and has served as commander of his post, as well as in other official capacities.

Clare L. Pope, a leading and representative citizen of Blue Hill, Neb., is cashier of the State Bank of that place, and has identified himself with the progress and development of the county since 1879. He was born in Waupaca County, Wis., January 28, 1859, being a son of Albert and Margaret (Olmstead) Pope, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Kentucky. They were among the first settlers of Wisconsin, and in his native county the subject of this sketch was reared to manhood. He was taught the details of farm labor by his father, but at the early age of sixteen years he began teaching school in the home district, and at nineteen years of age entered the State Normal School, at Oshkosh, Wis., which institution he attended one year. In 1879 he came to Nebraska, and first located at Red Cloud, and during the remainder of that and the subsequent two winters he followed the calling of a teacher. The summer of 1880, also a part of the summer of 1881, he was engaged in the implement business at Blue Hill, and from June of the latter year until June, 1885, he held a position in the Blue Hill Bank, first as clerk and finally as cashier. In 1885 he became a member of the banking firm of Dodds, Thompson

& Co., acting as cashier, but in the fall of that year the bank was incorporated under the name of the State Bank, with Mr. Pope as cashier, a position he has held ever since. He is a man who has been identified with every worthy enterprise, and one whose intelligence and industry admirably fit him for the position he is now filling. He was married May 25, 1887, to Miss Mande M. Williams, a native of Holt County, Mo., born December 29, 1865, a daughter of William H. Williams, and to their union two children have been born: Roslyn and Roy. Mr. Pope is a Democrat in his political views and socially is a member of the A. O. U. W.

Jacob B. Potter, of the firm of Columbia, Potter & Hyler, proprietors of the Guide Rock Mills, was born in Tioga County, N. Y., June 28, 1833, a son of Cornelius and Hannah (Barber) Potter, both natives of the "Empire State." His father was a millwright, and followed that occupation in New York all his life, dying in that State in 1877; his widow survived him several years, and her death occurred in Nebraska. Jacob B. Potter grew to manhood in his native State, and after reaching the proper age, he learned the millwright's trade of his father, and followed that business in New York for several years. He came west in 1872, and located in Webster County in 1873, the following year taking up his homestead. In 1875 he built the Red Cloud Mill. He was one of the original owners of this mill and ground the first grain in Webster County. He afterward disposed of his interest therein, and returned to his farm, subsequently (in 1888) purchasing a one-third interest in the Guide Rock Mill. This is a first-class roller-process (Mr. Potter having put in the roller process last year) water-mill, being run by the Republican River, and has a capacity of sixty-five barrels per day. While Mr. Potter works at his trade, his sons run the farm. Mr. Potter was formerly a Republican, but latterly votes with the Prohibition party. He is also a local Methodist Episcopal minister, and has preached for thirty years. He was married in Tioga County, N. Y., in October, 1854, to Cynthia J. Thornton, a native of Pennsylvania, but reared and educated in New York, a daughter of Thomas and Lydia Thornton,

and their wedded life has been blessed in the birth of four children (three of whom are still living) as follows: John J. (married, and a resident of this county), George I. and James (young men living at home) and Elmer E. (who died in 1878, in his seventeenth year).

James D. Post, ex-sheriff of Webster County, was born in Baltimore, Md., in 1836, a son of J. W. Post, then a drafts-man and describer of that city, but who removed to Illinois, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits when the subject of this sketch was still a child, and here James D. was reared to manhood, and received a good common-school education. He remained at home until he had attained his twenty-first year, when he caught the gold fever and immigrated to California and prospected for gold with moderate success until 1865, at which time he returned on a short visit to his friends in Illinois. He soon returned to Denver City, Colo., and prospected for gold for about three years, and made considerable money. While at this place he paid at the rate of \$3 per meal for board. Flour was sold for \$150 per sack. After spending three years in search of Dame Fortune, he went to Adair County, Mo., and resided there for four years, and while here was married to Miss Sarah A. Stanley, a native of Iowa. Seven children have been born to this marriage, one of whom, Jane, a bright little girl, died when she was three years old. Those living are William, Robert, James, Martha M., John and Hulda. In 1873 Mr. Post came to Red Cloud and entered a homestead four miles northwest of this place, and at the same time opened a livery stable, which he ran for eight years. He built a habitable house, and opened the first livery stable in Red Cloud. He has since sold his homestead and interests in Red Cloud, and purchased his present property, consisting of 200 acres of land; he also owns 160 acres of land in Nuckolls County. In 1887 he opened up a livery stable in Cowles, and now carries on a good livery business in connection with his farming interests. He makes a specialty of raising mules, and sells some few each year. Since his connection with Webster County, Mr. Post has served one term as sheriff, and made a very efficient officer. His father, J.

W. Post, was born in Orange County, N. Y., and for fourteen years held a position as draftsman and describer in the patent office at Washington. Later he moved to Baltimore, and finally to Illinois. His ancestors were Low Dutch. He was married in York County, Pa., to Miss Hulda Jones, a native of that county and State, and by her became the father of five children, the subject of this sketch the eldest, all of whom grew to maturity. Three sons served in the Federal army during the late war—two were killed, and the other has been disabled ever since.

William Cubberly Richardson, one of the substantial farmers of this section, residing on Section 2, Harmony Township, owes his nativity to Ohio, where he was born in Hamilton County, January 11, 1821, receiving his education in the subscription schools of his native State and Indiana, to which latter State he immigrated when he was seventeen years of age, locating in Bartholomew County. He was very popular with his constituents while here, and was solicited many times to accept prominent positions, but each time modestly declined. He served one term as township trustee, and filled this position so satisfactorily that he was urged to accept the office a second time, but declined. He was united in matrimonial bonds in Bartholomew County to Miss Mary Ann Lee, a native of the "Hoosier State," and to their wedded life were born these children: Zurelda, Garah, James, Jane, Clara, Thomas H., Charles E., William and Alice. The eldest, Zurelda, was married to J. Norton, and lives in Indiana; Garah is an attorney at law, is married and resides in Springfield, Mo.; James is married and lives in Indiana, where he works at his trade, that of a carpenter; Jane married M. Snyder, a farmer and engineer, and resides in Blue Hill; Clara is now the wife of E. Mouser, a successful agriculturist; Thomas H. was born February 26, 1861; Charles E. was born December 1, 1862; William died when he was three years of age, and Alice died in her fifth year. Mr. Richardson owned 240 acres of land in the Wabash Bottom, which was oftentimes flooded by the frequent overflows of that river, and in 1878 traded this land for 326 acres of land in Harmony

Township, which he has since greatly improved, and on which he has about 150 good bearing fruit trees. Mr. Richardson has always been a Democrat, and has been active in the interests of his party, casting his first vote for "Old Rough-and-Ready"—Zachary Taylor. He recalls the terrible panic of 1837, when the people's minds were displaced by the tremendous failures. During his early life Mr. Richardson labored at his trade, that of carpenter and joiner, but later in life engaged in agricultural pursuits, which he is following at present. He was an ardent member of the Farmers' Grange, and is now a member of the Alliance. He has been twice married; his first wife died February 13, 1869, and on August 17, 1874, he was wedded to Mrs. Maria Perry. He formerly belonged to the United Brethren Church, but he and his wife both now belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is now spending his remaining days in peace and happiness, and is enjoying the best of health.

W. N. Richardson. The name that heads this sketch is that of one of the most extensive stockmen in the West. It is certain that no other man, or even firm in Nebraska approximates him in the magnitude of his business and it is a question whether he is equaled by any other one man, similarly occupied, in the United States. Mr. Richardson is a native of New York, born in 1840, a son of N. B. and Hester A. (Mix) Richardson, both natives of the "Empire State," the former of Scotch descent. The father is engaged in the banking business at Warren Ill. The mother died in 1887. They were the parents of thirteen children. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Illinois, receiving a limited education, and at the age of seventeen years commenced business on his own account as a stockman, at which he continued very successfully in Illinois until 1866. While there he was married. In 1866 he went west, traveling over the plains, and became acquainted with the location of the chief cattle dealers and their herds. He came to Webster County, Neb., in 1871, and located a portion of the land on which the town of Red Cloud now stands. He formed a partnership with Gov. Garber, and together they opened a mercan-

tile business at Red Cloud, which business they conducted jointly until Gov. Garber was called to public duties in the State. The partnership lasted for some years after Silas Garber was called away. Mr. Richardson finally sold his mercantile interests and gave his whole attention to the stock business, with silent interests in other branches. He came to Red Cloud with no means, but understanding thoroughly the stock business, and with sufficient business tact to adapt himself to any vocation, he has pushed himself forward until he individually has but a vague idea of the number of dollars he spends annually in the cattle business. He is now feeding 800 head of cattle, besides having many out on shares, and buying and selling by the herd in the west. He has operated in nearly all the Western States and Territories. He is well known among the Western herders and cattle raisers. He always any amount of cattle on his word. He always keeps his word, and takes the cattle for which he bargains regardless of consequences. Mr. Richardson is a man who is trusted with perfect confidence by all who know him, and is one of Red Cloud's pioneers, and his extensive business is duly appreciated by Red Cloud and surrounding country. Mr. Richardson has been twice married. His first wife died December 10, 1884, leaving two children: Winifred and Lloyd. His second wife was a Miss Bessie Tagge, and by her he is the father of two bright and interesting little girls: Norma and Margaret. In secret societies Mr. Richardson belongs to the Blue Lodge A. F. & A. M., and is a K. of P.

Alexander Riley. In the development, growth and improvement of Webster County, the Riley brothers have taken a prominent part, and are worthy a place in this volume. Their father, Isaac Riley, was born in Ross County, Ohio, in 1818, a son of Alexander Riley, and grew to manhood, married, and raised his family in his native State. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife, before marriage, was a Miss Catherine Ortman, also born in Ohio, in 1819. To their union have been born nine children, viz.: Alexander, John, Alcetas, Ann M., Martha J., Austin, Sarah C., Nancy and Charles W. In 1850 Mr. Riley immigrated to Johnson

County, Iowa, taking his family with him, and here he has followed agricultural pursuits very successfully ever since. His wife died in Johnson County, Iowa, in 1862. In politics the senior Riley sides with the Democratic party. Alexander Riley, the eldest child born to Isaac and Catherine Riley, first saw the light in Ross County, Ohio, January 11, 1842. When he was eight years of age his father moved to Johnson County, Iowa, and here our subject was reared to manhood, and received a common-school education. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and the following year took part in the battles of Fort Gibson, Champion's Hill and the siege of Vicksburg. He was on the Red River expedition with Banks, and in the battle of Yellow Bayou. He was taken prisoner at Winchester, Va., September 19, 1864, and confined in Libby Prison and Belle Isle. He was paroled and exchanged December 18, 1864. August 12, 1865, he was sent to Davenport, Iowa, and there received his discharge, after serving faithfully and well for over three years. He was mustered in as second corporal, and discharged as fifth sergeant. He returned to Iowa, and settled in Iowa County, where his father was then living, and engaged in cultivating the soil. He was there married, on December 4, 1866, to Martha A. Flint, the daughter of Silas Flint. Mr. and Mrs. Riley have had born to them three children—two boys and one girl—namely: Frank M. (born July 13, 1873), Elvira R. (born June 4, 1875) and Mark A. (born September 4, 1878). After a happy wedded life of twenty-three years, Mrs. Riley passed to her final home, on May 27, 1879. She was born in New Hampshire, and at an early age became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and at her death was a firm believer in the doctrines of that church. In January, 1881, Mr. Riley was again married, this time wedding Miss Mary E. Dunham, daughter of Jonathan Dunham. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Riley affiliates with the Republican party, and takes an active interest in local politics. In 1872 he was elected supervisor, and has since served several times as treasurer of the school board. In 1871 he immi-

grated to Nebraska, locating in Webster County, and May 19, 1871, homesteaded the first 160 acres of land entered in the county; to him also belongs the honor of building the first frame house ever erected in this part of the county. Mr. Riley came to Nebraska with the expectation of making it his permanent home, and to this end has placed the land under good cultivation, erected neat buildings, has planted a grove and an orchard, and has made many improvements. He cultivates 160 acres of land, and is engaged extensively in the raising of cattle, horses and hogs. Mr. Riley is among the honored and honorable pioneers of Webster County.

John O. Riley, a prosperous farmer, and an extensive stock-raiser living on Section 14, Township 4, Range 9, Webster County, was born in Ross County, Ohio, on April 14, 1843, the second of nine children born to Isaac, and Catherine (Ortman) Riley. [For parentage see sketch of Alexander Riley immediately preceding.] He was a lad of seven when his parents decided to try their fortunes in the west, and removed to Johnson County, Iowa. There John grew to manhood, passing his youth in agricultural pursuits and in attending the common schools. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry. He took an active part at Port Gibson, Champion's Hill, siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Miss., and on the Red River expedition. After serving his country loyally and well for three years, he was discharged in July, 1865, and immediately after his discharge returned to Iowa, resuming farming operations there until 1871, when, in May of that year, he came to Nebraska and entered the farm on which he now lives. He homesteaded 160 acres of land, on which he immediately commenced improvements, and to-day has one of the finest places in the county, with a beautiful grove and a fine orchard. When Mr. Riley first located on the place, game of all kinds, deer and buffalo were plentiful, and his nearest trading post was Grand Island. In 1872 he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine R. Morton, daughter of Juster and Polly (Lewis) Morton, born in Iowa, on September 18, 1853. Her parents were born in Ohio and Indiana, respectively, and

both died in Iowa. Eight children have blessed their union; six are still living, and two dead, namely: Edith A. (born September 9, 1873), Isaac J. (born August 15, 1875), Jay M. (born January 11, 1878), Guy J. (born December 19, 1880), Charles C. (born August 21, 1882, died in 1885), Pearl O. (born January 14, 1885, died in 1885), Archie (born November 30, 1886) and Cecil A. (born April 17, 1889). In politics Mr. Riley is a Democrat. He belongs to the Farmers' Alliance and the G. A. R., affiliating with C. A. Arthur Post No. 242, Lawrence, Nuckolls County, Neb. He has been on the school board in District No. 5, and takes an active interest in school and church matters, as well as in all things for the good of the community.

Alcetas Riley owes his nativity to Ross County, Ohio, where he was born in 1844, the third child born to the union of Isaac and Catherine (Ortman) Riley. [For parentage see sketch of Alexander Riley.] At the age of six years he went with his parents to Johnson County, Iowa, and remained with his parents on the farm until he had reached his seventeenth year, when he left home to learn the blacksmith's trade. This occupation he followed in Iowa for eight years. In 1871, in company with his two brothers, Alexander and John, he came to Webster County, homesteaded the land on which he now lives, and "backed it" for the next six years. Becoming tired of single blessedness he persuaded Miss Mary H. Laird to share his lot, and on March 22, 1877, they were married. Their wedded life has not been blessed with any children, but seven years ago they adopted two children, Ida M. and Charles A., now sixteen years and twelve years of age, respectively, who lend gladness to their home. Mrs. Riley was born in Pennsylvania in 1838, the daughter of Samuel Laird. Mr. Riley owns his original farm of 160 acres of land, which is now well improved, with a nice grove and orchard, and good buildings, and is extensively engaged in raising stock. He has seen the entire growth and development of the county from the start, for he came here when the country was wild and but thinly inhabited; he did his trading at Beatrice and other distant points.

He has been very successful since his location (chiefly the result of his own hard labor and good management), and is well satisfied to make his permanent home in Nebraska. In his political views Mr. Riley affiliates with the Republican party, and takes a deep interest in local politics. He belongs to the Farmers' Alliance and the I. O. O. F.

Austin Riley was born in Johnson County, Iowa, March 26, 1853, the seventh child born to Isaac and Catherine Riley, previously referred to in the sketch of Alexander Riley. He was reared on the farm, attending the common schools of his county, and finished his education at the Blairstown Seminary, under the management of the German Reformed Church. At the age of seven-teen he started in life on his own account by engaging in agricultural pursuits in his native State. In the spring of 1874 he immigrated to Webster County, whither his brothers, Alexander, John and Aleetas, had immigrated in 1871, and home-stated 160 acres of land in Section 20, Oak Creek Township. The same year he entered the place on which he now lives, and subsequently purchased eighty acres of railroad land. In 1876 he married Miss Emily M., daughter of J. D. Morton, of Iowa County, Iowa. She was born February 2, 1857. Their union has been blessed in the birth of nine children, viz.: Nettie V. (born November 28, 1878, died August 18, 1879), an infant son (born October 14, 1879, died October 15, 1879), Jessie H. (born January 10, 1881), Preston C. (born August 13, 1882), Florence G. (born May 19, 1884), Oliver E. (born June 23, 1885), Lewis O. (born May 8, 1887), Edith A. (born September 10, 1888) and Isaac (born February 8, 1890). The improvements on Mr. Riley's place are much above the average. He has a fine young orchard, a comfortable house, commodious barns, granaries, etc. He is extensively engaged in farming, but devotes considerable attention to stock-raising—horses, cattle, mules and hogs. Mr. Riley votes the Democratic ticket, and is interested in all matters pertaining to the good of the community. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and is now serving as president of the same.

Charles D. Robinson is a young man who possesses those attributes which are essential to a successful career through life—honesty, intelligence and perseverance—and is now the efficient cashier of the Blue Hill Bank. He was born in Prophets-town, Whiteside County, Ill., May 8, 1858, and is a son of Edward B. and Nellie J. (Thomas) Robinson, who were born in Vermont and Connecticut in December, 1833, and August, 1837, respectively. Their marriage occurred in 1855, and of seven children born to them Charles D. is the second, and four sons and a daughter are now living. The parents are residents of Hastings, Neb. The paternal grandparents are Benjamin and Mary (Dodge) Robinson, the latter of whom was born in England, and the maternal grandfather, Albert Thomas, was born near Hartford, Conn. When Charles D. Robinson was between five and six years of age, his parents removed to Wyanet, Bureau County, Ill., where his boyhood and early youth were spent. He attended the common schools until he reached his seventeenth year, and in the spring of 1876 he entered Rutledge's Boys Grammar School, of Philadelphia, Pa., which he attended two years. Upon returning to Illinois, he, for one year, acted as assistant postmaster at Sheffield, but resigned this position, and in February, 1879, went to Leadville, Colo., where he secured the position of mailing clerk in the Leadville postoffice, which he held five years. His arrival in Blue Hill, Neb., occurred in March, 1884, and he almost immediately formed a partnership with his brother, Thomas A., in the grocery business, the firm being known as Robinson Bros., and continued until the spring of 1886. In August, 1888, Mr. Robinson became book-keeper in the banking firm of Simpson & Martin, and upon the organization of the Blue Hill Bank, August 1, 1889, he was made its cashier, and has held the position ever since. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., is a Republican in politics, and is one of the enterprising and wide-awake young business men of this section. He was married February 28, 1889, to Miss Edith Wilson, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Moses Wilson, of Hastings. Their union has resulted in the birth of one child, Bruce.

Claas Rose. Of the many substantial citizens of Webster County of foreign birth, none are more worthy of prominent mention than Claas Rose, who was born in Germany in 1843, and now lives on Section 29-4-9, Oak Creek Township. His father, Chris Rose, was born in Germany, there grew to manhood, subsequently marrying Miss Elska Christians, also born in Germany, by whom he had a family of four children, the subject of this sketch being the youngest, viz.: Lena, Matt, John and Claas. Both parents lived and died in their native land. The subject of this sketch, like all German boys, received a good education, and at the age of twenty years, in 1864, resolved to seek his fortune in the United States, and accordingly came to this country and located on a farm in Grundy County, Iowa. The year following (1865) he married Miss Jennie Show, daughter of John Show, and they are now the parents of nine children—six boys and three girls—viz.: Christian, John, Elso, Lammert, Lena, Harm, Jennie, Trina and Claas. Mr. Rose owned and farmed 120 acres of land in Grundy County for fifteen years, but in 1880 he sold his farm and interests and came to Webster County. Here he purchased 800 acres of good land, on which he has set out a fine young orchard and grove, and here he is engaged in farming on a large scale, while a creek running through his farm affords excellent facilities for raising stock, in which he is also extensively occupied. Mr. Rose is one of the largest farmers in the county and owns a splendid property, which has been accumulated by his own hard work and good management. He intends to establish a grain business at Rosemont (a small town on his farm) this year. He is now serving as treasurer of the school district, and like so many intelligent farmers of Nebraska, belongs to the Alliance. Mr. and Mrs. Rose are both members of the Presbyterian Church, he being one of the elders.

D. F. Rudd, the present competent foreman of the car repair shops of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, at Red Cloud, Neb., is a native of the "Hawkeye State," born in Keokuk in 1848, a son of Johnson and Jane (Dickson) Rudd, who were born in the "Green Mountain State" and

England, respectively. D. F. Rudd is one of three children, and in youth learned the occupation of farming from his uncle, Fayette Rudd, which occupation continued to receive his attention until he was twenty-one years of age. He then came to Thayer County, Neb., took a claim which he proved up, then engaging in the livery business, but in 1880 changed this occupation for that of railroading, and has served in the capacity of foreman of the car works at Red Cloud since 1883. In October, 1864, he enlisted in the Fourth Iowa Battery, and served until the month of July, 1865, being under Gen. Cameron in Louisiana. He has always espoused the principles and men of the Republican party, and is financier of the A. O. U. W., of Red Cloud, a position he has held since its organization. He was appointed councilman of the First Ward, and served until 1889, when he was elected to the same position by the people, serving during the year 1889. His marriage to Miss Sarah J. Griffith was celebrated in the month of January, 1870, she being born in Calhoun County, Ill., a daughter of Jonathan and Margaret Griffith. Her union with Mr. Rudd resulted in the birth of eight children: Arvilla, Carl H., Maud B., Jennie M., John C., William F., David F., Jr., and George L.

William R. Ryker, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaver Township, Webster County, Neb. In compiling a correct history of Webster County, together with a brief sketch of its most progressive and prominent citizens, the name of Mr. Ryker should not be omitted, for he is one of the energetic and substantial farmers of this section, as well as one of the early pioneers. He is a native of the "Hoosier State," and was born in Jefferson County, July 6, 1842. His paternal grandfather was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to Indiana in the early days of its history, when Indians were still numerous, and cleared himself a farm out of the timber. Here his son, Peter V. Ryker, the father of our subject, was born, and here grew to manhood, subsequently marrying Miss Mary Ann Robins, also a native of Jefferson County, Ind., and afterward engaged very successfully in agricultural pursuits. He is now retired from active life, and makes his

home in Madison. His wife died in July, 1871, and he has since married again. William Ryker grew to manhood in his native State, remaining with his father until he had attained his eighteenth year, when, in July, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company A. Sixth Indiana Infantry, which was the first regiment from Indiana to enter the service. Among the more important battles in which he was interested may be mentioned Shiloh, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, siege of Corinth, besides many skirmishes. At Chickamauga he was wounded in the elbow by being struck by a shell, and was disabled and in the hospital for about two months. After being discharged, in September, 1864, he returned to his home in Indiana and remained with his father on the farm until 1869, when he came to Nebraska and settled in Nemaha County for about two years. In 1871 he came to Webster County, and in March of the same year took up his homestead, on which he now lives, consisting of 160 acres of good tillable land, all of which he has since fenced, and most of it under cultivation, and which is well improved with good buildings, a small orchard, etc. Here he bached for three years, when, December 27, 1874, Miss Addie J. Sabin became his wife, and they are now the parents of five children: Katie M., Guy M., Jay M., Hugh L. and Mabel G. Mrs. Ryker was born in Kenosha County, Wis., a daughter of John Sabin, who settled here about 1872. She and husband are both members of the Guide Rock Baptist Church. Mr. Ryker always votes with the Republican party, and has served one term as township supervisor and nine years as a member of the school board.

H. C. Scott, implement dealer, Red Cloud, Neb. The subject of this sketch first opened his eyes to this world in Vermilion County, Ill., February 25, 1841, and was the youngest of nine children born to William and Hannah (McEldowney) Scott, the former a farmer who emigrated from Scotland to America at an early day. He finally located in Vermilion County, Ill., where the subject of this sketch was born, and soon after that event took place the father died. During his last illness he would take medicine from none but his wife, nor

would he allow anyone else to wait upon him. At his death she was so worn out with watching and grief that she survived him only about three weeks, when she also died, leaving nine children, most of them very young, to the tender mercies of the world. The eldest daughter, who was married, continued to live on the old homestead, but the younger children all returned to Ohio to their Grandfather Scott, with whom they had been but a short time when he also died, and the orphans were scattered among different relatives. Our subject found a home with his aunt until he was fourteen years of age, and then went to Illinois and worked on a farm, first as a laborer (hiring out by the month), and later engaged in farming for himself. His sister, who had remained in Illinois on the homestead, has since died, as has also her husband, leaving the farm to the orphan children, and neither our subject nor his brothers or sisters have ever laid claim to any portion of it, but have left the children in undisturbed possession. In the fall of 1861 he commenced recruiting troops for the Federal service in Virginia, and was tendered the commission of captain. He transferred his commission as captain to a friend and procured a lieutenantcy for another, and these two made up the number of men he desired to raise for the Union. He was offered a captaincy in still another company, but this he refused, preferring to serve as private in the company he had raised. His faithful and strict attention to duty were soon noticed by his superiors, and he was deservedly promoted to the commissary department, later into the pioneer corps as sergeant, and finally received the commission of second lieutenant, and continued to serve as such until the close of the war. He served in Company G, under the command of Gen. Butler, and later under the command of Gen. John Gibbons, and took active part in many important battles. After the battle of Lynchburg, Mr. Scott and comrades lived on birch bark, beech bark and mountain tea for nine days and nine nights. He saw his comrades die of starvation, and laugh that death was calling them from such a life; one man with whom he had long been acquainted gave up and called for death to take him. Some flour was

found by one soldier, and the captain forced him to divide with the starving man, which he did very unwillingly. They could not at first get the man to eat any of the flour and water, and indeed were obliged to force his mouth open and make him take it. He recovered, and lived to be wounded in a subsequent battle, and is alive to-day. Mr. Scott also participated in the battles of Cedar Creek, Winchester, Gettysburg, Chicheominy, Chapman's Farm, Bermuda Hundred, Hatchie's Run, Petersburg, Appomattox Court House. At this latter battle he saw Lee's white flag go up, the first evidence to him of Union victory. He was tired and worn out, and lay down and took a sound sleep, and was awakened by the voices of the Confederate soldiers coming among them. He returned to Ohio at the close of the war, and engaged in tilling the soil for three years, then went to Illinois, and spent a year and a half in farming in that State, and in 1870 came to Red Cloud, when the town site was first laid out, and there was hardly a soul here. He took up a homestead four and one-half miles northwest of this place, and tilled the soil until 1885, when he gave up farming to accept the office of sheriff, to which he had been elected. He served four years in this capacity, with honor to himself and satisfaction to all the law-abiding citizens of the county. Mr. Scott is a splendid specimen of physical manhood and an individual of unusual strength. In his early years, when active and thin, he weighed some 200 pounds, but now weighs much more. After his term of office as sheriff was ended he opened his present business, and has since continued it, enjoying an extended and remunerative patronage. He still owns his farm, comprising some 240 acres of land. By his marriage to Miss Melissa McCaskey, a native of Ohio, born in Steubenville in 1860, he is the father of five children: George, Sarah, Lena, Edith and May. In his political views Mr. Scott is a staunch Republican. He belongs to the G. A. R., the I. O. O. F., and other societies.

F. P. Shields, editor and proprietor of The Webster County Alliance, was born in Illinois. He embarked in the newspaper business about 1880, and has been connected with some of the

leading Iowa journals, among which may be mentioned the Des Moines Leader and Ottumwa Press, Chariton Patriot and Lucas Recorder. Three years ago he put in the Leader plant at Blue Hill, a paper which is now in active operation. His latest journalistic effort was that of establishing The Alliance, at Red Cloud, Neb. This is a paper of vast importance to the farmer and laboring class generally. Mr. Shields bears the reputation among his brother publishers of being a successful newspaper man, and his editorial ability is recognized wherever he is known.

Edmond W. Shirley, farmer and stock raiser, Stillwater Township, Webster County, is living on the northwest quarter of Section 16, Town 3, Range 9. Although born in the "Blue Grass State," Mr. Shirley knows very little about his native State, as his parents, Miletus and Irene (Johnson) Shirley, moved from Kentucky when he was but two years of age, and located in Boone County, Ind., where they engaged in tilling the soil, subsequently moving to Vermilion County, and in 1882 came to Webster County, Neb., where the father died in 1887. The mother is still living, and makes her home with one of her sons in Nuckolls County, Neb. Edmond W. Shirley was born in Scott County, Ky., in 1837, and was the oldest of nine children, their names being Edmond W. (the subject of this sketch), Melissa, Bede W., William B., Doc. P., Jemima J., Thomas M., Daniel and Ruhaney (deceased). Edmond W. Shirley started out on his own account by engaging in farming in 1858, and the same year was united in marriage to Miss Dolly Helton, daughter of Joseph and Millie (Smith) Helton, born in Kentucky in 1843, and immediately after settled on a farm in Vermilion County, Ill., remaining there until 1880, at that time coming to Webster County, Neb., and settling on the place where he now lives. He purchased school land and has since paid for it all. Mr. and Mrs. Shirley are the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living, viz.: Luella (married to Joseph Howe, and living in Webster County), Willis M. (died in 1863 in his third year), William B. (resides in this county, and is engaged in farming), Ida J. (is now Mrs. Teel, and

resides in Frontier County, Neb.), Joseph F. (resides with his father), and Rena M., Miletus T., Thomas C. and Minnie D. (all at home). Mr. Shirley and wife belong to the Christian Church. The former takes considerable interest in local politics, always votes with the Republican party, and has lately served on the school board. He belongs to the Alliance.

A. M. Simerson, farmer and stock-raiser, Blue Hill, Neb. Mr. Simerson owes his nativity to the Empire State, where his birth occurred in 1850, and he is now following a calling that has for ages received undivided efforts from many worthy individuals, and one that always furnishes sustenance to the ready worker. He was the youngest of four children born to Thomas T. and Mary Ann (Livingston) Simerson, natives also of New York State. In 1850 the father moved to Kilbourn City, Wis., engaged in agricultural pursuits, and made that city his home the remainder of his days. The mother died there in 1851, and the father ten years later. A. M. Simerson passed his early life in assisting his father on the farm, and became perfectly familiar with the details of farm life. He received his education in the schools of Jefferson and Walworth Counties, Wis., and began farming for himself in Rock County, of that State. In August, 1870, he was married to Miss Lucy J. Reynolds, a native of Polk County, Wis., and the daughter of Lewis and Maria (Snyder) Reynolds, natives of New York, who settled in Rock County, Wis., in about 1839. There they both passed the remainder of their days. A. M. Simerson farmed in Wisconsin until 1874, when he emigrated to Nebraska and opened up 160 acres of land in Silver Lake Township, Adams County, and in 1878 purchased 160 acres of land in Webster County. In 1883 he sold his homestead, and in 1882 moved to his present farm. He is now the owner of 240 acres of land, all in a good state of cultivation, and raises a good grade of stock, principally hogs. He takes an active interest in politics, votes with the Republican party, and is one of the representative men of the county. Mr. Simerson was a member of the school board in Adams County, and assisted in organizing the

school district. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and a man much respected and esteemed in the county. To his marriage were born two children: Lean Elsworth and Myrtie.

John Simpson, farmer and stock-raiser, Oak Creek Township, Webster County. Foreign countries have bequeathed to America some of her best and most brilliant citizens, and the Emerald Isle has not been behind in the quality of her contributions to the strong and vigorous growth of this country. To her Webster County is indebted for one of its prominent and successful agriculturists—John Simpson, who was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1825, the third in a family of eight children, raised by William and Catherine (McMonigal) Simpson. William Simpson was born in Ireland, a son of John Simpson, and was there reared to maturity; after reaching years of discretion he learned the wheelwright's trade, at which he afterward worked in connection with carpentry and building. He married Catherine McMonigal in 1821, and by her became the father of eight children, viz.: Margaret, Catherine, John (our subject), William, Jacob, Mary A., Rebecca and Isabelle. He died at St. Johns, N. B., in 1853. The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood in Ireland, where he attended the common school, starting out for himself at the age of twenty-six, in 1851. The same year he was united in matrimonial bonds with Miss Elizabeth Jenkins, who was born in the same county as our subject, and the following year he and wife emigrated to America. He first located in Philadelphia, where he clerked for a number of years, first in a foundry and later in a general store. He remained here for four years, and then in 1855 he decided to seek his fortune in the west, and accordingly located in Stephenson County, Ill., where he farmed with varying success until 1873. At that time the tide of immigration to Nebraska had just set in; Mr. Simpson and family were caught in its current, which carried them away from his home in Illinois, and landed them in Webster County. Upon arriving here, he took up a "claim" of 160 acres, to which he has since added, until he is now the owner of 200 acres of excellent land, all of which is well im-

proved, with good buildings, a thriving orchard and grove, fences, etc. He is one of the pioneers of this section, having come to the county when it was entirely new, and he has not been behind in helping along its growth and improvement, which he has witnessed from the start. He has held a number of local offices of trust and honor, among them being that of road overseer, to which office he was elected in 1875, and held for six consecutive years. He was elected township assessor in 1887, and is now serving in that capacity, as well as that of township treasurer and collector, and for the last two years has been serving on the school board. He votes the Republican ticket, and takes a deep interest in politics, as well as in schools and churches, and all things for the improvement of the county. He and wife are both members of the Presbyterian Church, and are highly esteemed and respected in the community, where they have lived an upright and consistent life for sixteen years. They have reared seven children to honest manhood and womanhood, and have lost two who died in infancy, viz.: William (who was born in 1852, is married and farms in Webster County), Rebecca J. (born in 1854, died in infancy), John (born in 1855), Theresa (born in 1857, is now Mrs. Holbrook of this county), Jemima (born in 1858, is now Mrs. James of this county), Alfred (was born in 1860), Edmund (born in 1862, is unmarried and at home with his parents), Charlotte (born in 1863, is now Mrs. Stevens), and the youngest child, Herbert (born in 1866, died in infancy).

Robert A. Simpson, a pioneer citizen of Blue Hill, Neb., and president of the Blue Hill Bank, is a native of Geneva, N. Y., and like most native New Yorkers has been industrious, enterprising and intelligent. His birth occurred on January 17, 1854, and he is a son of James P. and Amanda J. (Probasso) Simpson, the former of whom was born in Geneva, N. Y., April 19, 1829, a son of Robert and Julia Simpson, who were born, reared and married in Scotland, and emigrated to America in 1827. During their passage across the ocean, the vessel in which they sailed was shipwrecked at Anticosti Island, and the remainder of the distance had to be made in another vessel.

Mrs. Amanda J. (Probasso) Simpson was born in New York, July 16, 1831, being a daughter of Joseph Probasso, a Frenchman by descent. The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in his native city of Geneva, and received an excellent education in the public schools, graduating from the high school at the age of eighteen years. During his last year as a student he also acted as a tutor in the school he was attending, and immediately after graduation he accompanied his parents to Clinton County, Iowa, where, during the following six years he taught school in the winter and farmed in summer. In August, 1879, he determined to see what the State of Nebraska had in store for him, and during the following winter he taught school at the village of Dyer's Mill in Adams County. He came to Blue Hill in February, 1880, and is now a substantial and influential citizen of this place. Here he first engaged in the real estate business, but in December, 1881, he formed a partnership in the banking business with Frank A. Sweezy, and the firm of Simpson & Sweezy started a private bank. In September, 1885, Mr. Sweezy was succeeded by I. O. Martin, the firm becoming Simpson & Martin, and continued until April 1, 1889, when Mr. Martin was succeeded by John O. Burgess. The bank was organized as a State bank with a capital of \$50,000 on August 1, 1889, at which time Mr. Simpson was made president, a position he still holds. He was married September 27, 1881, to Miss Mary E. Miller, a native of Scott County, Iowa, born July 16, 1856, and a daughter of William C. and Mary J. (Speer) Miller, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are the parents of an only son, Howard M., born September 13, 1882, and are members of the Presbyterian Church. The former is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the A. O. U. W., and in his political views is a devoted member of the Republican party. He has been a successful financier, and is the owner of 720 acres of good land in Webster and Adams Counties, besides valuable property in Blue Hill. He is one of the foremost men in securing the success of worthy enterprises, and his opinions on all matters of importance are sound and intelligent.

Albert C. Smith. The subject of this sketch is one of the early pioneers of Harmony Township, and resides on Section 14, where he is engaged in farming and stock-raising on quite an extensive scale. Born in Niagara County, N. Y., on April 24, 1836, he was reared to farm life and received an excellent education, which has admirably fitted him for the practical issues of life. When he was six years of age his father moved his family to Rock County, Wis., and there engaged in farming and stock raising, and there the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. He was the third in a family of four—three boys and one girl—as follows: Jeannette (born in May, 1832, married Mr. George Plater, who enlisted in the "100-days' call," in the late war, took ill while in service, and died in the hospital at Memphis, Tenn., leaving a widow and four children, who now reside at Bradford, Wis.), Barrett H. (born in April, 1834, was married in New York, in 1864, to Miss Haitie Rose, a native of the "Empire State," by whom he became the father of three children, one boy and two girls. He has been a printer all his life, but has lately devoted his attention to farming, and is very successfully engaged in that occupation in La Prairie, Wis.), William A. (was born in July, 1841, received his education in the common schools of Wisconsin, and is now residing with his brother, Albert C., on their homestead in Harmony Township. Both are unmarried). In 1874 Albert C. Smith came to this county and purchased of George Douglass 160 acres, thirty acres of which were broken, and upon which was a cabin. He immediately took possession of the place, and has since brought it to its high state of cultivation. At that time the nearest market for grain was Beatrice, 120 miles distant. Now the rapid civilization and advancement of this wonderful State affords such railroad facilities that at present good markets and flourishing towns and villages are brought in close proximity. Mr. Smith's farm lies within two and one-half miles of Bladen, a flourishing little town of 300 inhabitants, with a thriving, enterprising populace of business men affording a good market for grain and live stock. Mr. Smith was a resident of Harmony Township when Hastings was but a

hamlet, and at Red Cloud there were only two stores, while Bladen was unknown. He has often seen the portions of tribes of the Omahas, Pawnees and Otoes passing his home. Mr. Smith is an active and interested member of the Farmers' Alliance, being also a member of the executive committee in his vicinity. The Alliance Association is an organization which is being built up strenuously by the representative and prominent farmers of the State of Nebraska, and promises to be a formidable enemy to all corporations, monopolies and cliques, which tend to pull the farmer down. The farmer feeds all, and if the mass of husbandmen hold together, they are bound to accomplish that which they have endeavored to perform. Mr. Smith has been an ardent supporter of all municipal affairs in his township and county. He has served as justice of the peace, and now holds the position of moderator of the school district, and staunchly upholds the upbuilding of the glorious free-school system of the banner State of Nebraska. He expresses himself as positively in favor of excellent and well qualified instructors, and highly in favor of elevating the status of local education. Although not a member of any religious denomination Mr. Smith has been brought up under careful and Christian teachings, by parents who were strict adherents to the Congregational Church, and he holds a high regard for all religious institutions. He is a gentleman who strives to keep himself well posted upon the practical and political issues which are uppermost in the minds of the public, and is a close reader and observer of all important changes which take place in his State and county. Mr. Smith expects to pass his life in the State of his adoption—Nebraska; he is well fixed in life, and holds the confidence and high appreciation of all his friends and neighbors. He attends strictly to his home affairs, and lives happily and contented with his brother, William, on the homestead in Harmony Township, where he is ever ready to receive his friends with a cordiality which is characteristic of the gentleman.

Dr. William H. Snook, although young in years, has already acquired an enviable reputation

as a medical practitioner, and has built up a large and paying practice among the best class of citizens of the county. His native birthplace was Jefferson County, Iowa, where he was born on February 12, 1863, to Henry and Amy Snook, both of whom were Pennsylvanians, the former being the son of Peter Snook, the latter's father having emigrated from Germany, his native land, to this county in early times. Henry Snook was married about 1840, and of a family of eight children born to himself and wife, of whom the subject of this sketch was the youngest, three sons and two daughters are now living. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in January, 1875, his wife passing from life in December, 1882. Dr. William H. Snook labored upon a farm in his native county in his youth, and after obtaining such education as could be had in the common schools, he, in the fall of 1881, entered Parson's College, of Fairfield, Iowa, graduating from the same at the end of three years. In the fall of 1884 he took up the occupation of teaching as a temporary pursuit and, altogether, taught six terms, five in Jefferson County, Iowa, and one in Seward County, Neb. While thus engaged, he began the study of medicine, and in the fall of 1886 entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, and graduated February 28, 1888, after attending two terms. He at once began the practice of his profession in Elmwood, Neb., making his home there until the fall of 1889, since which time he has resided in Blue Hill, where he is very well and favorably known. His marriage to Miss Netta Anstine took place on October 23, 1886, she being a native of Fond du Lac, Wis., born in 1865, a daughter of John and Ruth Anstine, the former, a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. Mrs. Snook is also a graduate of Parson's College, of Fairfield, Iowa, and for a number of years was a successful school teacher in the State of Nebraska.

Daniel Snyder is another of the enterprising and successful farmers of this section, and as such a brief outline of his life will be read with interest. He was born in Louisa County, Iowa, November 13, 1849, a son of Philip and Rebecca

(Thomas) Snyder, the former born in Germany, and the latter in Pennsylvania. The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in his native State, and in 1880 he moved to this county and purchased 160 acres of land, on which he has since erected a good house, barns, sheds, etc. He has been very successful since coming to this place, and as the result of his energy, industry and good management, has his farm well stocked and improved, and has one of the finest places in this township. January 9, 1882, Miss Mary Witter, a native of Switzerland, became his wife. Both he and wife are members of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Snyder is actively interested in politics, and votes the Republican ticket. He is now serving as constable and treasurer of Line Township, in which capacity he is giving perfect satisfaction, and is one of the prominent farmers of this section.

Norman Springer, farmer and stock-raiser, Bladen, Neb. Mr. Springer, one of the foremost and most successful agriculturists of the county, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1833, and was the fourth of ten children born to Benjamin and Rebecca (Mott) Springer, the father a native of New York, and the mother of Vermont. The parents were married in New York, moved from there to Ohio, and in 1838 to Illinois, where they resided until 1844, and then moved to Grant County, Wis. The mother died in Wisconsin in 1886. Norman Springer was reared to farm life, and educated in the subscription schools of Wisconsin, being obliged to walk a distance of five miles to get his education. At the age of twenty years he came west, and spent the winters in the pineries, and the summers freighting from Nebraska City to Fort Laramie, Fort Kearney and to all the principal trading posts on the frontier. He made two trips with Kit Carson across the plains to Fort Hall. His wagon train was burned by the Mormons at Green River in 1857. He remained on the plains from 1852 to 1869, freighting, and thus became familiar with the western country. He spent a few years in California and Nevada, engaged in mining, and was wounded by the Indians at Thirty-two-mile Creek, by an arrow in the shoulder. In 1869 he returned to the States, and for some time

was engaged in farming in Wisconsin. He was married in 1872 in Grant County, Wis., to Mrs. Martha Simons, *nee* Williams, a native of Grant County, Wis., and the daughter of Freeman and Elizabeth (Haywood) Williams, the father a native of Kentucky, and the mother of Missouri. Mr. Williams, when a boy, or in 1828, went to what is now Grant County, Wis. He was in the Black Hawk War, and served as a scout during the entire service. For three months he was an aid-de camp for Gen. Dodge on the Bad Axe, and now resides in Grant County, Wis. Mrs. Williams died about 1865. After his marriage, Mr. Springer moved to Webster County, Neb., settling on his present farm, consisting of 160 acres, all well improved and well cultivated. He has a good bearing orchard of apple and cherry trees, and has all kinds of small fruit. He raises considerable stock and is a prominent farmer. He is active in politics, votes the Republican ticket, and is a member of the Farmers' Alliance. He and wife are members of the Baptist Church at Bladen, and he is one of the trustees of the same. The fruits of his marriage are as follows: Albert, Charles, Norman, Bliss, and Ada (who died in 1874 at the age of one year). By her former marriage Mrs. Springer has one daughter, Jennie, now Mrs. Serl, of Adams County, Neb. Mr. Springer has seen many changes since his residence in this county, and has ever been active in assisting in all landable enterprises.

Henry A. Stevens, farmer and stock-raiser, Oak Creek Township, is living on Section 9, Town 4, Range 9. Agricultural pursuits have been Mr. Stevens' principal occupation in life, and the energetic and wide-awake manner in which he has taken advantage of all methods and ideas tending to the enhanced value of his property, has had a great deal to do with his obtaining the competence which he now enjoys. He first saw the light in Fulton County, Ill., in 1840, and was reared to manhood in McDonough County, same State. His father, a farmer by occupation, was born in Connecticut, and early in life immigrated to Ohio, and later to Illinois, where he married and raised his family. He wedded Miss Matilda Edson, a native of New York, born in 1818, and their wedded life

was blessed by the birth of nine children, the subject of this sketch the oldest, viz.: Henry A., Gilbert A., Milton, Julia, William F., James, Edward, Marian and Eliza. The father died in Illinois in 1868, leaving a widow, who still survives and makes her home at Bushnell, Ill. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics Mr. Stevens voted with the Republican party. The immediate subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native State, his youthful days being spent in attending school in winter and assisting his father on the farm in summer. He was united in marriage to Miss Pernelia Molano, of Illinois, in 1862, who died after a brief wedded life of four years, leaving him two little children: Flora E. and Floyd (deceased). In 1876 Mr. Stevens was joined in matrimonial bonds to Miss Mattie Smith, who bore him two children: Charles (died young) and Nellie E. Mrs. Stevens died April 6, 1884. Mr. Stevens remained single until December 24, 1885, when he wedded Miss Charlotte Simpson, daughter of John Simpson, of Oak Creek Township, Webster County, and they are now the parents of an infant daughter, Pearl (born in 1889). Mr. Stevens came to this county in 1883, purchased land and stock, and in 1884 located permanently upon this land and commenced its improvement. He now owns 880 acres of good land, with about 500 acres under a high state of cultivation, and is extensively engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs. He and wife are earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he being one of the stewards of Oak Creek Church, and both take an active interest in educational and religious matters. Mr. Stevens votes the Republican ticket, and takes a leading part in local politics. He is now filling the office of justice of the peace, and is serving on the school board. He is a Master Mason, affiliating with the T. J. Picenn Lodge No. 307, and also belongs to the Alliance. His parents were among the pioneers of Illinois.

John Stout, farmer and stock-raiser, resides on Section 10, Harmony Township, Webster County, Neb. The subject of this sketch is one of those enterprising young men who came to Webster County in the early days of its history, while

it was still wild and uncultivated prairie, and who by their energy and perseverance have converted the broad and unbroken plains into fields of waving grain, and established for themselves and families good comfortable homes. He came here from Fayette County, Ohio, where he was born in 1851, and purchased 160 acres of land on which he has erected neat buildings, and has since engaged in agricultural pursuits, devoting considerable attention, however, to stock-raising, making a speciality of raising hogs. He was born on a farm, and was brought up as an agriculturist and stock-raiser, receiving a good common-school education, supplemented by a course at the academy at Merom, Ind., and with the exception of one year, when he was engaged in the agricultural implement business in Campbell, Neb., has been a farmer all his life. He is enterprising, and believes in lightening farm labor as much as possible, and to that end has his farm stocked with every kind of machinery for making easy the labors of an agriculturist. Mr. Stout was married in Fayette County, Ohio, to Miss Laura Mowser, and this union has been blessed with four children, all girls, viz.: Minta B. (thirteen years of age), Bertha I. (eight years of age), Florence A. (six years old) and Fay, an infant three months old. His father was born in Ohio in 1817, and died in 1873, leaving a widow who still survives. She was born in Warrington, Pa., in 1824. The paternal grandparents were massacred by the Indians near the Ohio River, in Kentucky. Mr. Stout has been a resident of Harmony Township since 1880, and ever since that time has entered heartily into the work of building up the interests of his township and county. Mrs. Stout received a liberal education in the common schools, and has taken a decided interest in the upbuilding of schools in her home district, as has also her husband. Mr. Stout is not a member of any secret organizations, but is in sympathy with certain orders; he is now serving as vice president of his home Alliance. He has always identified himself with the Republican party. He is now residing at his comfortable home, surrounded by his wife and bright children, and will probably spend his remaining days here.

Matthew Stratton, farmer and stock-raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. Originally from England, Mr. Stratton was born in Huntingdonshire, on January 3, 1823, being a son of John and Sarah Stratton, *nee* Wooley, both of whom were born in England. When he was thirteen years of age his parents decided to try their fortunes in America, and accordingly, in 1835, they left Liverpool, England, for the new world, and January 3, 1836, landed at Evansville, Ind., where they were among the first settlers. Immediately after their arrival the father took up land and began a system of clearing and improving, and our subject remained at home until in his twenty-second year. His father's health failed him, and when he saw that he was going down, he divided his farm between his three sons, leaving Matthew Stratton the home place, where he remained (his mother living with him) until April 6, 1848. On that date he was married to Miss Lucinda Rebecka McClure, formerly from Ohio, but a resident at that time of Vanderburg County, Ind. They resided on the same farm until the year 1852, then selling the lands, and in March, 1853, went to Marshall County, Ill., and entered a piece of land. They also rented land and raised grain, during the years 1843 and 1844, while making preparations to build and break up land and get it ready for cultivation. In this time they had three children born to them—two sons and a daughter. In the year 1854 Mr. Stratton had the sad misfortune to be deprived of the companionship of his wife and infant son by death. His mother was still living with him. In the spring of 1855 his brother, James, went on his farm, and the family all stayed together for a time, but in 1855 our subject thought it better to make a change, and on July 3, 1855, married Miss Julia A. Martin, the daughter of Lewis R. and Phebe S. Martin. August 18, following, they settled on their own land, raised stock and improved a home and built a nice residence and a small barn, surrounded by a good hedge, and all under cultivation. When Mr. Stratton's two children were nearly grown, there not having been any children of his second union, they took two little orphan children, a son and a daughter, whom they raised to man and woman.

hood, and they are now settled near by and both have families. The son has one little child, Clarence; the daughter has two sons and a daughter. Mr. Stratton's own children were married in Illinois, and when he sold his possessions in that State, to come to Webster County, Neb., his son, John S., came with and settled near him; he has a fine farm. The mother remained in Illinois, with the brother, James. Soon after having left (that being March 13, 1871), she was taken sick and on April 9, 1871, she fell asleep in death. She was upward of eighty years old at the time of her death and belonged to the old Regular Baptist Church, of which she was a member for some thirty or forty years. Mr. Stratton crossed the Republican River, April 15, 1871, and went into camp until he could look around and see where to locate. Having settled on Sections 22 and 15, he took three-fortys from Section 22 and one from Section 15, and has continued to reside thereon ever since. May 2, 1871, he commenced to improve and had some very good corn that season and a vegetable garden, notwithstanding grasshoppers and drouth. Since then he has purchased 200 acres of fine land by the side of his homestead, making an excellent farm of 360 acres, all of which is fenced. This lies along the south side of the Republican River and south of Guide Rock Creek. There is plenty of timber, and water all the year round for stock. His daughter, Ada Jane Stratton, was married to a man by the name of Orango H. Bear, September 18, 1869. Her husband came later to this county, and now has a good farm. Last September he had the sad misfortune to lose his wife and oldest son by death, and is left with little children. The names of the two that Mr. and Mrs. Stratton raised (both of whom have been very dutiful children) are Thomas Franklin Taylor and Vicie L. Stratton Taylor. His present wife was born in Washington County, Ind., and her parents going to Morgan County, Ind., she was raised and educated there. Her parents moved to Illinois, where she was married to Mr. Stratton. She was formerly a member of the Disciples Church, and although not now a member, she is an earnest believer in the doctrine advanced by that denomination.

John Street, farmer and stock-raiser, Red Cloud, Neb. Located in the midst of one of the finest agricultural centers of Webster County, the farm that Mr. Street owns and occupies is conceded to be among the best in this vicinity, and this is saying not a little, for on every hand are to be seen superior places, whose ownership indicates thrift and prosperity. Mr. Street was born in Ross County, Ohio, on February 12, 1839, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Coe) Street, natives of Maryland and Virginia, respectively. John Street moved with his parents to Macon County, Ill., in 1851, and there attained his growth and received his education. On September 19, 1867, he was married to Miss Lydia L. Hoffman, a native of Jones County, Iowa, born February 10, 1852, and the daughter of Henry and Martha (Anderson) Hoffman. Previous to his marriage, and at the breaking out of the war, Mr. Street enlisted in Company A. Twenty-first Illinois, under Gen. Grant, and served until the close of the war, four years and six months in all. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Franklin, Nashville, siege of Atlanta and siege of Corinth. His first battle was that of Fredericktown, Mo. In 1865 he was promoted to the rank of corporal. At the close of the war he returned home and as above stated, was married in 1867. To this union seven children were born: Madie E. (wife of William Reeves), Mattie E., Florence A., Alma J., Cora M., Willie H. and Fred E. In 1873 Mr. Street moved to Webster County, Neb., homesteaded 160 acres of land, and is now one of the prominent farmers of the community. He is a Republican in politics, holding the office of supervisor and assessor for several terms. He was the first supervisor of Garfield township, and was elected in 1885. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of this township. He is a member of the Old Settlers' Organization, and is one of the representative men of the county, and one of its most successful farmers.

Henry Stumpfenhorst, who is numbered among our representative farmers of foreign birth, originally came from Germany, where he was born in 1851, the third of five children born to John and

Catherine (Manning) Stumpfenborst, both natives of Germany, where the former worked at his trade, that of a shoemaker, married and reared his family, consisting of five children: Charles, Edward, Henry, Theodore and Caroline. The mother died in the old country in 1868, and in 1876 the father came to this country, settling in Pittsburgh, Pa., subsequently moving to Webster County, Neb., where he died in 1888. He served in the German army. Both he and wife were members of the Lutheran Church. The subject of this sketch attended school in his native land, and at the age of nineteen (in 1870) emigrated to this country, settling in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he engaged in blacksmithing, remaining in Pennsylvania until 1878, when he came to Webster County, Neb., and took up 180 acres, where he now lives. This land he has greatly improved by setting out a nice grove and orchard, erecting good buildings, etc., and now he has one of the nicest farms in the county. He has been very successful as a farmer, and has the satisfaction of knowing that all his property has been made by his own endeavor and hard work. In 1879 Mr. Stumpfenborst was united in matrimonial bonds with Miss Elizabeth Webber, a native of Germany, born in 1852, who came over to this country in 1874. She is the daughter of Henry Webber. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stumpfenborst are members of the Lutheran Church, and take a deep interest in all educational and religious matters. Mr. Stumpfenborst always casts his vote with the Democratic party. He served as road supervisor in 1889 to everybody's satisfaction. Socially he is a member of the I. O. O. F., and belongs to the Alliance.

Judge Frank A. Sweezy is well known to the readers of this volume, and owes his nativity to Riverhead, Suffolk County, N. Y., where he was born May 13, 1856. His parents, Isaac and Sarah (Perkins) Sweezy, were also born in that county, the former in 1817 and the latter in 1821. They were married about 1840, and eventually became the parents of six sons, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth. Four are now living. Mr. Sweezy was a worthy agriculturist by occupation, and passed from life in the year 1876, still survived by his widow, who resides in her native county.

Frank A. Sweezy attended school sufficiently during his boyhood days to acquire a good literary and business education, and although the early part of his career was spent on a farm, he devoted his leisure moments to the study of law, and at the end of three years was admitted to the bar at Sutton, Clay County, Neb., whither he had come from New York State in 1879. He practiced his profession for two years in Edgar, Clay County, Neb., but in October, 1881, he located in Blue Hill, which place has since continued to be his home. He was elected judge of Webster County in the fall of 1887, but resigned his position for business reasons before the expiration of his term. He then assisted in the organization of the A. M. Walters Investment Company of Blue Hill, in which he is a principal stockholder, and of which he has since been manager. He has kept up the practice of law during this time, and is recognized as one of the ablest practitioners at the Webster County bar. Judge Sweezy is a consistent member of the Congregational Church, the A. O. U. W., the M. W. A., and in politics is a Republican. In 1884 he was an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention. He was married June 26, 1878, to Miss Attie B. Edwards, a native of Riverhead, Suffolk County, N. Y., a daughter of George and Susan (Cook) Edwards. Their marriage has resulted in the birth of four children; the first was a son that died unnamed, and the others are Maron E., George A. and Frank E.

Lorenzo D. Thomas, farmer and stock-raiser, Cowles, Neb. Mr. Thomas is a typical Nebraska farmer, substantial, enterprising and progressive, and such a man as wields no small influence in the community where he makes his home. He came originally from Belmont County, Ohio, where he was born in 1846, and was the fifth of nine children born to Abram and Phebe (Lynder) Thomas, natives of Pennsylvania. The father has always followed agricultural pursuits, and in 1866 he immigrated to Cass County, Neb., where he resided for some time. He is now residing in Mills County, Iowa. The mother died in Nebraska in 1867. The paternal grandfather, was a soldier in the War of 1812. Lorenzo D. Thomas was educated in the

schools of Ohio, and early in life became familiar with the duties on the farm. He volunteered during the late war, but was not received into service. In 1871 he came to Webster County, Neb., from Cass County of that State, whither he had moved with his parents in 1866, entered land, and bached for two years, and erected the first log cabin in Elm Creek Township. In Webster County, in 1873, he married Miss Mary A. Chambers, a native of Knox County, Ill., and the daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Brown) Chambers, natives of the Buckeye State. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers moved to Illinois, and from there to Webster County, Neb., in 1873, where they both now reside, well advanced in years. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were born five children: Elmer, Ida, Homer, Nicholas and Simeon Blaine. Mr. Thomas was one of three who first settled in the township, and he has seen the complete growth of the country. He is a staunch Republican in his political views. He is also deeply interested in educational matters.

Reese B. Thompson, farmer and stock-raiser, Cowles, Neb. The subject of this sketch was born in Smyth County, Va., January 18, 1857, and is the son of R. B. and Susan C. (Morgan) Thompson, both natives of Virginia. He lived in his native State until he was fifteen years of age, then, in 1872, accompanied his mother to Dodge County, Neb., where they spent one year, and in February, 1873, they located on this land. Mrs. Thompson homesteading 160 acres, on which she resided until her death, which occurred in 1876. R. B. Thompson, Jr., has had full charge of the place since locating here, and to the original tract of 160 acres, has added 240 acres, making him a splendid farm of 400 acres, 320 of which lie in one body, and nearly all of which is fenced. He makes a business of buying and feeding steers. He is now devoting considerable attention to the breeding and raising of good horses, making a specialty of high-grade Clyde and Norman stock. He is the youngest of a family of six children—four sons and two daughters—all of whom grew to mature years, and four of whom are residents of Webster County. In his political views Mr. Thompson affiliates with the Democratic party, and has served

as supervisor, and in other local offices. In March, 1879, in Webster County, Mr. Thompson was united in matrimonial bonds with Miss Fannie Davis, a native of Illinois, who died in December, 1884, leaving one child, John V. Mr. Thompson married his present wife in July, 1887. Her maiden name was Miss Ida Bennett, and she was a daughter of C. C. Bennett, born in Iowa, but reared and educated in Nebraska. This later marriage has resulted in the birth of one child, Bernice May. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Thompson has been in partnership with his brother, John V., in the stock business since 1876. His brother is the owner of some 400 acres of land in Webster County, of which our subject has control, and has been farming it for a number of years. Since Mrs. Thompson's death, a beautiful cemetery is located where she rests, and is called Maple Grove Cemetery.

W. E. Thorne, farmer and stock-raiser, Bladen, Neb. Mr. Thorne is the owner of a fine farm of 1,440 acres, acquired under the homestead and pre-emption laws in part, and partly by purchase, and is a thrifty, industrious farmer, and as such is bound to push his way to the front. He was born in Jackson County, Mich., in 1851, and was the younger of two children born to W. B. and Deborah (Bowerman) Thorne, natives of New York and Massachusetts, respectively. They were married in the State of New York, and at an early day emigrated to Barry County, Mich., thence to Jackson County, of that State, and in 1872 to Webster County, Neb. The following year the father homesteaded 160 acres of land in Silver Lake Township, Adams County, Neb., and there resided for many years. He was quite a prominent man, and held many positions of trust, one being the office of county treasurer, to which he was elected in 1874, and which he held three consecutive terms. In 1882 he moved to Webster County, Neb., and there resided until his death, which occurred in November, 1888, at the age of seventy two years. In politics he was a Republican. He always took a great interest in the G. A. R. post, and was a man who had the confidence and respect of all acquainted with him. The mother is still living. W. E. Thorne

was reared to farm life, received his education in the schools of Jackson County, Mich., and in 1871 emigrated west, and selected land in Webster County, Neb. Since 1872 he has made his home here. In 1876 Mr. Thorne's marriage to Miss Alice M. Maxwell was consummated, she having been a native of the Buckeye State, and the daughter of David D. and Susan (Ott) Maxwell. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell were natives of Pennsylvania, and after living in Ohio, Illinois and Iowa for many years, they finally settled in what is now Logan Township, Adams County, Neb., and there the father died December 9, 1887. In 1862 Mr. Maxwell enlisted from Fulton County, Ill., in Company H, One Hundred and Third Illinois Infantry, for three years, and was in the Western army. He was in the battle of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Kenesaw, Lookout Mountain, siege of Vicksburg, and was with Gen. Sherman on his march to the sea. He was at the grand review at Washington City, and was honorably discharged in 1865. Mr. Thorne kept bachelor's hall for about four years after coming to Nebraska, erected a log cabin, and improved his farm in every respect. He is now the owner of 1,440 acres of land, 800 acres in Webster County and 640 acres in Adams County, all joining and in a good state of cultivation. He raises considerable stock, and makes a specialty of Polled-Angus cattle and Norman and Morgan horses. He is a Republican in his political views, and is now the county surveyor, serving his second term. He was first elected to that position in 1873, serving three terms, and again in 1887, serving two terms. He has also been township treasurer. He assisted in organizing the school districts in his township, and aided in forming Glenwood precinct. Socially he is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and of Juniata Lodge No. 42, Masonic fraternity. He was one of the first registrars in the county. He experienced the grasshopper raids of 1874 and 1875, and has made the principal part of his property since coming to this State. His marriage resulted in the birth of two children: Rose Mary and William LeGrand.

Prof. John R. Thornton, who, for the past five years has been principal of the Blue Hill High

School, was born in Macon, Ga., September 13, 1845, being a son of Pierce and Mary Thornton, both natives of New York. About 1847 the family moved to Washington County, Wis., and in this county the subject of this sketch attained manhood, his early youth being spent in following the plow. In 1860 he went with his parents to St. Louis, Mo., where, during the remainder of his youth, he was employed as a clerk. When seventeen years of age he entered the Wisconsin State University, which he attended four years, completing the junior year. In the meantime he had taken up the calling of a teacher, his first term being taught at the early age of thirteen years, and after leaving the university he resumed that calling and has followed it ever since with the best results. His professional labors have been performed in the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska. He came to the latter State in 1884 and located at Blue Hill, where he has been principal of the high school up to the present date. Under his able management the school has made great progress, and it is now one of the best of the kind in this section of the State. Besides his regular work as principal, he has been an instructor in the Normal Institute for several years at Hastings and Red Cloud. He is a fine disciplinarian and instructor, and he and his family are highly respected by all who know them. He is a member of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association, and socially is a member of the K. of P. lodge. He was married on the 5th of May, 1872, to Miss Mary Gary, a native of Milwaukee, Wis. Their marriage has resulted in the birth of six children: Margaret, Mamie, Joseph, Lillian and Richard.

A. J. Tomlinson, importer and breeder of fine horses at Red Cloud, Neb., was born in Niagara County, N. Y., in 1850, being a son of John and Delight (Acker) Tomlinson, natives, respectively, of England and New York. The latter was a descendant of a member of the first German colony that settled in the United States during Puritan days. She, with her husband, moved to Dubuque, Iowa, in 1852, where they remained until the fall of 1854, at which time Clinton, Iowa, became

their home. The mother died in New York in 1870, but the father survives, being a resident of Red Cloud. A. J. Tomlinson was engaged in railroading pursuits until he came to Nebraska, in April, 1871, and upon his arrival in this State he settled in Webster County, where he has given his time and attention to agricultural pursuits. He was one of the first voters of the county, and at one time held the office of road commissioner for the entire county, and in company with the first county surveyor, Don McCollum, he assisted in laying out all the principal roads therein, which work consisted in throwing up mounds to a height of from two to two and one-half feet. Until 1886 he was interested in agriculture, but at that date he began to handle imported horses, and has given this his undivided attention up to the present, being connected with the well-known Moingona Importing Company, its headquarters being at Boone, Iowa. He has at present eleven head of registered horses at Red Cloud. Before closing this sketch of one of the county's best known citizens, mention should be made of the war record of John Tomlinson, his father. He enlisted in the service of the United States in 1861, becoming a member of Company M, First Iowa Cavalry, acting as regiment teamster for about eighteen months, after which he was discharged on account of disability, and returned home, where he remained eight or nine weeks. He then enlisted under Gen. Meigs at St. Louis, and was assigned wagon master and placed with Q. M. Gen. Lyman, who had charge of river and land transportation for the Lower Mississippi, remaining with Gen. Lyman over a year. He was, through disabilities received, discharged, after which he returned to his kindred and home. Very shortly after the last call the draft came, and Gen. N. B. Baker, then adjutant-general of Iowa, placed him on the draft list through a personal spite, and being unable, as was customary with many, to hire a substitute, he had to go to the front again. He was assigned to Company K, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry. Upon his arrival at the regiment he was there detailed as wagon master, and ran the supply train of forty teams for the Fourth Division (Gen. Crocker's), which was in the Seventeenth

Corps (Gen. O. O. Howard's), taking part in the Meridian raid and in the engagements in which Sherman participated on his march to the sea. After the grand review at Washington, D. C., he returned to his home, almost a physical wreck, and has continued very much broken in health up to the present. He has never received compensation for his services otherwise than his salary while in the army.

Daniel Trine, farmer and stock raiser, Webster County, Neb., was born in Lehigh County, Pa., September 28, 1837. His father, Peter Trine, was also born in Pennsylvania, in 1815; after he grew to manhood he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in that State, and there was married to Miss Catherine Dunkel, born in 1805, by whom he became the father of six children, the subject of this sketch being the fourth in order of birth; their names are David, Catherine, Elizabeth, Flora, Daniel, Nathan and Eliza. The father is still living in Pennsylvania at the ripe old age of seventy-five years, but lost his wife in 1889. Daniel Trine spent his school-days and grew to manhood in his native State. During the late war he went to defend the flag, enlisting, in 1862, in Company G, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and took part in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Coal Harbor and Gettysburg. At the latter battle he was wounded in the right leg, below the knee, by a gunshot, and was laid up for three months, recovering and going back into the service in time to participate in the battle of the Wilderness; he also took part in the battles of Ream Station, Richmond, Petersburg, besides numerous skirmishes. Upon receiving his discharge, in 1865, he went back to Pennsylvania, and followed farming and blacksmithing in Mercer County for two years. He was united in marriage in 1868 to Miss Elizabeth Bash, eldest daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Jones) Bash. Her parents are both living in Pennsylvania, where they are engaged in farming. Mrs. Trine was born September 18, 1842, the oldest of ten children, whose names are: John, Martha, Marion, Experience, Esther, Mariah, Theodotia, Jacob, George. After their marriage Mr. and

Mrs. Trine went to Taylor County, Ky., where they stayed three years, then went to Livingston County, Ill., and made their home near the town of Forrest for eleven years, and in 1884 came to Webster County, Neb., and purchased 160 acres of land, on which they now live, Mr. Trine devoting his attention to farming and stock raising, at which he has been very successful. He has a fine young bearing orchard on his place, besides a good dwelling, barn, sheds, etc. To Mr. and Mrs. Trine have been born seven children, viz.: George (born February 13, 1869), Jane (born August 8, 1872), Edward (born February 8, 1874, and died in infancy), Williard (born January 9, 1876), Joseph (born October 13, 1879), Ella (born March 4, 1883) and Gertrude (born May 4, 1886). Mr. and Mrs. Trine are both members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Trine belongs to the Farmers' Alliance, and takes a deep interest in all the affairs of the community, at present holding the office of supervisor of roads.

D. F. Trunkey, judge of Webster County court, was born in Mahoning County, Ohio, in 1848. His mother died when he was a child, and his father married a second time, some time after which our subject left his home, at the age of fourteen, and went to Philadelphia, taking with him 40 cents in money and a scanty outfit of clothes; and whether or not the sea had previously possessed any special fascination for him, in order to earn a livelihood he took employment on a ship and made a trip to Germany. The life of a sailor seems, however, not to have pleased him, as he spent the money he had earned going out in paying his passage home. He returned to Ohio, but soon put out again, to Boston this time, where he engaged with a ship and went to New Brunswick for lumber, thence to Liverpool, England, thence to Wales, and for several years the high seas was his home. During this time he visited ports in all parts of the world. Just before he was twenty-one he gave up the life of a sailor, quitting the sea on the coast of California, San Francisco. From there he went on the White Pine mining expedition to Nevada, from there to Salt Lake City and the various mining camps in Utah, and thence returned to his home in Ohio. We next find him in the employ of a rail-

road company in Missouri, with Trenton for his headquarters. He rose rapidly in this employ, and is still a member of an organization of railroad conductors. In 1883 he came to Nebraska and purchased land close to Red Cloud, of which he still owns 320 acres, which he farms. As is evident from this sketch, Judge Trunkey has had no school advantages, but he has acquired a high intelligence by assiduous application at moments which others with greater opportunities have spent in idleness. In 1884 he commenced the study of law, entering the law office of James Gilham, of Red Cloud, was admitted to the bar in 1886, and in 1889 was elected county judge, which position he now fills with honor to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. Judge Trunkey has experienced life in all its phases, from a penniless boy facing a strange world with no place to rest his head or obtain sustenance, to honorable citizenship with ample evidence of the esteem and confidence of his fellow-men, a happy family of children, and a home furnished with all the luxuries necessary to satisfy their desires and educate their tastes. He belongs to the A. O. U. W., M. W. A., I. O. O. F. and Order of Railway Conductors.

James A. Tulleys, vice-president of the Nebraska and Kansas Farm Loan Company, is a native of Ohio, born in Ross County, July 6, 1841, a son of Isaac and Catherine (Gray) Tulleys. His father was born in Virginia, of English descent, and was a contractor and builder by occupation. He was an exceptionally strong and healthy man, and died at the age of sixty-three years, of the only disease James ever knew him to be affected with. He was, politically, an old line Whig, but after the war was a Republican. He was radical in his opinions. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was an extreme Abolitionist. The mother was of Irish extraction, and lived to the advanced age of seventy six years. Both she and husband died in Ohio. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native State, and received a good high-school education, the course embracing the higher mathematics and the languages. At the age of sixteen years he taught his first school, and alternated in teaching and attending

school until the breaking out of the late war, when he joined the Twenty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving three years and one month. He was in the bloody fight at Atlanta on July 22, in which Gen. McPherson was killed; Island No. 10, and Corinth, Miss., Cross Roads, Tenn., and was in many other battles. He had the commission of captain offered him twice, but refused each time. After the war he remained at Memphis one year in the employ of the Government as clerk, in what was then known as the freedman's department. He then went to Illinois, but soon returned to his native State, and taught school for several years until 1871, when he came West. He remained in Iowa until 1872 and then came to Nebraska. The closest railroad point to Red Cloud then was Harvard, Clay County, Neb., and he traveled from Harvard to Red Cloud in a wagon. His first experience here was as a teacher in a pioneer school, held in a log cabin in this community; but his superior education soon procured for him a better position, and he was accordingly elected county clerk of Webster County in 1873, and served in that capacity for eight consecutive years, having previously served one year as deputy. During this time he had not failed to take advantage of every opportunity to prepare himself for the legal profession, but studied assiduously and was admitted to the bar soon after his term as clerk had expired. He practiced law until 1884, when the Nebraska and Kansas Farm Loan Company was organized, and he took charge of the same. He was secretary of the organization for some time, but is now its vice-president, and the entire business is practically under his management. Mr. Tulleys has made marked progress as a business man, yet he is better known in the State from the prominent part which he has taken in social organizations, and especially is he influential as a Mason. He was the first Master of the A. F. & A. M. in Red Cloud under dispensation, and the first under charter, the first high priest of the Chapter, and he is the first and only commander of the Knights Templar Commandery. He was elected grand master of the State, and served during 1880 and 1881. In 1883 he was elected grand high priest of the Grand

Chapter of the State. He is now an officer of the Grand Commandery of the State; is a Knight Templar in the York rites, and is a thirty-third degree A. & A. S. R. Mason. Mr. Tulleys has been twice married. He was married in Ohio to Miss Sophia J. Tulleys (same name as himself, but no relation), who died in 1880, after bearing him four children: Sarah Elmout, William Wesley, John Wayland and Sophie, the first three still living. In 1884 he was united in matrimonial bonds to Mrs. Anna Stover, and there have been two children by this last union: Annie and Cora.

James S. Turner, farmer and stock-raiser, Blue Hill, Neb. The parents of Mr. Turner, John and Mary Ann (VeNess) Turner, were natives of Woolwich, England, and the father was a ship-builder, working in the government ship docks. He left his native country and took passage for the United States, settling in Rock Island County, Ill., in 1856, entered forty acres of good land and bought eighty acres more. The mother died about 1866, and the father in 1876, on the homestead in Illinois. James S. Turner was born in the city of London, England, in 1829, and was the second of thirteen children born to his parents. He was reared and educated in his native city, and at the age of twenty years took passage for America and landed in New York, where he worked for some time. From there he went to Albany, took up farming, and from there to Rock Island County, Ill., where he engaged in farming until his removal to Nebraska. After reaching this State he purchased 165 acres of land, and has since made many improvements on the same. He was married in Moline, Ill., in 1869, to Miss Sarah F. Branch, a native of Massachusetts, and the daughter of Nicholas and Frances A. (Stone) Branch, natives of Connecticut. Mr. Branch was married in Connecticut, and there followed merchandising and book-keeping until 1856, when he removed to Moline, and was there engaged in book-keeping for a number of years. After this he was salesman of machinery, and in 1871 moved to Minneapolis, Minn., where his death occurred in December, 1882. The mother is still living and makes her home in Minneapolis, Minn. Mr. Turner has been

constable of his township, and in his political principles he affiliates with the Republican party. He is interested in educational matters, and has been a member of the school board. He is a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and he and Mrs. Turner are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Blue Hill. To their union have been born the following children: Nicholas John, James Centennial, Frances, Arietta, Edwin Branch and Alfred Samuel.

Diedrick Vollers, Guide Rock, Neb. If the old country had not contributed largely to the population of the new, Nebraska would not have reached its present high state of development. Germany has furnished her full quota of excellent men, and among them Diedrick Vollers, a citizen of Webster County, honored and respected by all his acquaintances. Mr. Vollers was born in Oldenburg, Germany, November 16, 1828, a son of Albert and Gesiene Vollers, both natives of Oldenburg, the father being engaged in cultivating the soil in his native country until his death. The subject of this biographical mention was reared to manhood in Neuenhufdorf, the place of his birth, and like all German youths, received a good education, after which he served for about six and one-half years in the German army. In 1857 he left the "Fatherland" and came to the United States, locating in Woodford County, and farmed for five years, returning to Germany on a visit in 1862. He remained in Oldenburg for some time, and then returned to Woodford County and resumed his farming operations at that place for ten years, when he sold out his interests in Illinois and removed to Webster County, Neb. Here he homesteaded 160 acres of good land, and has since purchased more, until now he is the fortunate owner of 800 acres of excellent land, nearly all in one body, and all fenced but 160 acres. Two hundred and seventy acres of this land are under a high state of cultivation, while the balance is meadow and pasture lands. He has a good frame residence, with good barns, cribs, stock sheds, etc. Here he is extensively engaged in stock-raising, and feeds his own cattle, of which he ships one car annually. Although he brought some money with

him to Webster County, Mr. Vollers has accumulated his possessions since his residence in this section, and is now considered one of the substantial men of the locality. On his return from Oldenburg the last time, Mr. Vollers was accompanied by his bride, to whom he was married in November, 1862. Her maiden name was Miss Catherine Wragge, and she was born, reared and educated in Oldenburg. Mr. and Mrs. Vollers are the parents of four children—two sons and two daughters—namely: Albert (a young man at home), George, Gesiene, and Mattie (a clever little miss of four summers). Both Mr. and Mrs. Vollers are consistent members of the Lutheran Church.

Adam Walker, farmer and stock-raiser, Webster County, Neb. Webster County is indebted to Germany for one of its substantial citizens, Adam Walker, who is residing on Section 27-4-10. Mr. Walker was born in Germany in 1841, the youngest in a family of seven children raised by Jacob Barnhard and Anna Barbara (Bower) Walker, both natives of the old country. The former was born in 1804, and married in 1829, his wife's birth occurring in 1802. She died in Fairfield County, Ohio, January 5, 1872, and her husband in Webster County, Neb., March 25, 1882. Of the seven children raised by this couple all are dead except Frederick, Rose and Adam (the subject of this sketch). Although he was born in the "Fatherland," Mr. Walker knows but little about his native country, as his parents emigrated to this country when he was a child of four years. Upon settling in Fairfield County, Ohio, in 1845, they engaged in farming. Adam Walker attended school in Ohio, and started out for himself in 1868, the same year marrying Miss Elizabeth Faubel, daughter of Christopher Faubel, a native of Germany, brought to this country by her parents in 1849, when she was an infant. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Ohio until 1880, at which time he came to Webster County, Neb., and, on March 4, settled on a farm of 160 acres, which he purchased from the railroad company. He immediately set to work improving this farm, and now has one of the nicest farms in the county, on which is a nice orchard and grove. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are the par-

ents of eight children, viz.: Henry (born in Ohio in 1869), Jacob (born in Ohio in 1871), Anna (born in Ohio in 1873), Mary (born in Ohio in 1875), Emma (born in Ohio in 1877), Rose (born in Ohio in 1879), Georgie (born in Nebraska in 1881) and Drusie (born in Nebraska in 1885). Mr. Walker has been very successful since locating in this county, which is chiefly owing to honest hard work and good management, and is engaged quite extensively in raising cattle, horses and hogs, in connection with agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are both members of the Lutheran Church, the former being one of the trustees of the Blue Hill Church of that denomination. Mr. Walker belongs to the Alliance, and in his political views sides with the Democratic party, taking an active interest in local politics, and has served as school treasurer ever since his connection with this district. Last year he served as assessor of Potsdam Township. Mr. Walker has seen some of the hard times of the State, but likes the country and intends to make it his home.

John C. Waller has been a grain dealer of Cowles, Webster County, Neb., since 1886, but from the month of December, 1870, up to that date he was engaged in tilling the soil. His birth occurred in England in 1844, his parents being Henry and Mary (Green) Waller, also born in that country, and in the land of her nativity the mother died in 1856. On April 14, 1869, John C. Waller left England to come to the "land of the free and the home of the brave," but first landed in Quebec, coming to the United States about May 1 of that year. He first took up his abode in McHenry County, Ill., where he resided two years, then, as above stated, came to Webster County, Neb., where he took up a claim on which the town of Cowles is now located, and improved it. However, he disposed of it in the fall of 1886 and embarked in his present business, which is proving quite satisfactory, financially. He is one of those men who came to Nebraska poor in purse, but by perseverance and energy he has gained the confidence of those with whom he associates and does business. He has at all times been identified with the Republican party, and has aided, by his support and encouragement,

all things tending toward the advancement of churches and schools. In the fall of 1872 he left home on a buffalo hunt, going to Red Willow County, but was caught out in the terrible storm of that year, was snow bound, and came near losing his life and that of his horses. When he first came to the county the prairies were covered with immense droves of buffalo, deer, antelope, elk and other wild animals, but their places are now occupied by as large herds of domestic animals, and the land, instead of being vast stretches of prairie, comprises well-tilled farms. Mr. Waller was married, in 1878, to Miss Lavinia Buster, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Young) Buster, of Franklin County, Neb., and their union has resulted in the birth of two children: James E. and Mabel.

W. H. Walter, a substantial farmer and stock-raiser, residing on Section 20-2-12, Inavale Township, first saw the light in Fayette County, Ind., January 30, 1841. His father, a native of Virginia, was reared to maturity in his native State, and at the age of eighteen years moved to Indiana, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits, subsequently marrying, at the age of twenty-two years, Miss Mary Web, also of Virginia, and seven children came to brighten their home, viz.: Mary, W. H., Sarah, Alice, Catherine, Charles and Daniel. Of these, Mary is the wife of Peter Ostheimer, and resides in Hardin County, Iowa; W. H. is the subject of this sketch; Sarah is now Mrs. John Parish, and a resident of Wayne County, Ind.; Alice is deceased; Catherine is wedded to a Mr. Berges, and resides in Hardin County, Iowa; Charles resides in Chicago, Ill., and Daniel is deceased. The family continued to reside in Fayette County, Ind., where the father was successfully engaged in tilling the soil, until 1871; then moved to Hardin County, Iowa, where they have made their home ever since. W. H. Walter spent his youthful days in his native State, remaining at home until he was seventeen years of age, when, the war coming on, he enlisted (in July, 1861) in a company of the Third Indiana Light Artillery, Capt. Tryborger commander, and after serving four years and one month, he was honorably discharged at Indianapolis, Ind., August 20, 1865. Among the

principal engagements in which he was interested are Vicksburg, the Red River expedition, Nashville and the Mobile expedition. At the close of the war he returned to Indiana, and engaged in farming until 1872, at which time he came to Webster County, Neb. (then comparatively in its infancy), and homesteaded 160 acres of good land. At that time game of all kinds was very plentiful, the price of hides and skins high, and as Mr. Walter was very fond of the sport, for the first year or so he devoted his attention chiefly to these pursuits, making his entire living in this way. To his original 160 acres of land Mr. Walter has since added 120 acres, thus making him the owner of one of the finest farms in the county, comprising 280 acres of fine land, all improved, and well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs. In January, 1869, he was married to Miss Mary Osteimer, daughter of George and Mary Osteimer, both natives of Germany. Her father was a soldier in the late war, and was killed at the battle of Richmond, in 1861. Seven children have blessed their wedded life, viz.: Lewis, Anna, Alice, William, Ida, Edward and Charles. Mr. Walter is a Republican, and takes an active interest in politics.

Almerin M. Walters is a prominent attorney of Blue Hill, Neb., and as he has always applied himself closely to what he had in hand, he has been very successful. He was born in Bureau County, Ill., August 28, 1855, being a son of Shepherd and Adaline (Green) Walters, the former a native of Belmont County, Ohio, born June 8, 1819, and the latter a native of New York City, born in April, 1824. They were married in 1838, and became the parents of eight children, of whom Almerin M. was the seventh, five of the family being now alive. The mother of these children died in May, 1869, and the father afterward espoused Mrs. Mary Harrington, with whom he now resides in Oak Creek Township, Webster County, Neb. The paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was David Walters, who was born in Fayette County, Pa., and the maternal grandparents were William and Nancy Green, both born in New York City. Almerin M. Walters spent his early youth on a farm in his native county, and at the age of fifteen

years entered a high school at Princeton, Ill., which he attended three years, graduating at the age of eighteen years. The two following years he was employed as teacher of mathematics in this school, but at the end of that time he gave up the position to go to Montgomery County, Iowa, where, during the winter of 1874, he was principal of the public schools of Villisca. In the meantime he had entered upon the study of law, and after his school had closed, in the spring of 1875, he commenced the practice of his profession at that place. His admission to the bar did not occur, however, until August, 1876. In the spring of the following year he located in Red Oak, the county seat of Montgomery County, but after remaining here engaged in the practice of his profession for some two years, he returned to Villisca, remaining until July, 1885. Since that time he has resided in Blue Hill, Neb., where he has been an active and successful legal practitioner ever since. Mr. Walters is a Republican, and has always taken an active interest in politics, and does all he can to promote the welfare of his party. His influence is felt upon the platform, for he is an able speaker, and in 1883 he was the candidate of his party for the Iowa State Legislature, but on account of the heavy Prohibition vote in that year he was defeated by seven votes. In 1884 he was elected mayor of Villisca, serving one term, and was also a member of the school board of that place. He is now both clerk and attorney of Blue Hill, and is president of the A. M. Walters Investment Company, of Blue Hill, which was organized in 1889. He was married, December 14, 1879, to Miss Lena Elliott, a native of Warren County, Ill., and a daughter of Jesse E. Elliott, a native of North Carolina, and an early settler of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Walters have four children: Letha, Carroll, Hazel and Helen. Socially, Mr. Walters is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the A. O. U. W.

Sebastian Walz, farmer and stockman, Blue Hill, Neb. Mr. Walz is a German-American and a farmer, and that is enough to carry the assurance that he is one of the substantial men of Elm Creek township, where he resides. Thrift is the leading characteristic of the German people, and ordina-

rily they become well-to-do. Mr. Walz was born in Baden, Germany, in 1843, and was the second of five children, the result of the union of Anton and Agatha (Walz) Walz, natives also of Baden, Germany. The father was an officer in the public highways, and remained in his native country until his death, which occurred in 1871; the mother died in 1854. Their children were John (married and came to Webster County, Neb., in 1884), Sebastian, Henry (married and resides in Sioux County, Iowa), Anton (resides in Cedar County, Iowa), and Fred (resides in the same county). Sebastian Walz was educated in the schools of Germany, and in 1867 left Baden and crossed the ocean to the United States, settling in New York, where he worked in a brick yard for some time. In 1870 he went to Stephenson County, Ill., engaged in farming, and was married in Carroll County of that State the following year to Miss Mary Berger, a native of Canada, who bore him the following children: John, Anna, Adolph, Carrie, Rosa, Ludwig and Bertha. In 1876 Mr. Walz moved to Carroll County, Iowa, purchased land, and there remained until 1880, when he moved to Plymouth County, Iowa. In 1881 he moved to Saline County, Neb., purchased an improved farm, and there resided until coming to Webster County in March, 1885. He purchased 160 acres of railroad land, began making many improvements, and has most of it under cultivation. He takes considerable interest in politics, and his vote is cast with the Democratic party. He assisted in organizing the school district, and is a member of the school board. He is also a member of the Farmers' Alliance, and he and Mrs. Walz are members of the Catholic Church at Blue Hill.

Joseph W. Warren has been identified with the history of Webster County since 1874. Born in the "Hoosier State," he first saw the light in Greene County in 1841. He was the fourth of twelve children born to Reuben and Naomi (Austin) Warren, the former born in Delaware in 1811 and the latter in 1812. In early life his father engaged in the livery business, (also dealing extensively in horses) and successfully continued in this interest all his life. He died in 1875, his

wife still survives and lives in Montana. J. W. Warren was taken while yet a child by his parents to Muscatine, Iowa, where he was reared to manhood and received his education, in the meantime assisting his father in his business. At the breaking out of the late war he enlisted in Company H, Eleventh Iowa Infantry, and served throughout the war, participating in all the battles from Chattanooga to Atlanta. He took part in the battle of Shiloh, and was in the fight in which McPherson was killed, July 22, 1864. He was honorably discharged October 9, 1865, and immediately after his discharge returned to his home. Here he remained for one year and then went to Washington, Iowa, and engaged in the livery business, which he continued for nine years, and at the end of that time sold this business and came to Nebraska, settling in Webster County, which he has since made his home. Upon his arrival in this county he homesteaded 160 acres of choice land, and resided on it for five years. In 1878 he was elected sheriff, and as the best proof of his efficiency and popularity as an officer, it may be mentioned that he was re-elected for three consecutive terms. It was while serving in this capacity that a prisoner in his charge was taken from jail by a mob of lynchers and hanged until he was nearly dead. Mr. Warren forced his way through the mob and cut him down, but not before he was so nearly dead that it took the doctors twelve hours to resuscitate him. During this time great excitement prevailed. Mr. Warren was married in Medina County, Ohio, to Miss Julia S. Pierce, born in that county, and six children have come to brighten their home, viz.: Jessie, Walter G., Ruth, Emeline, Joseph W. and Carl. In secret societies Mr. Warren belongs to the A. F. & A. M., the G. A. R., and the A. O. U. W.

William A. Watkins was born in the State of Illinois on July 25, 1854, but for the past seven years he has been a representative citizen of Blue Hill, Neb. His father, Dr. John Watkins, was one of the early physicians of Southern Illinois, practicing his profession there for about thirty years, and near the city of Springfield he reared his family. On January 30, 1879, William A. was married to

Miss Emily J. Rape, the daughter of John Rape, one of the first settlers of Sangamon County, but her death occurred on the 31st day of the following December. In 1883 Mr. Watkins decided to make his home in Nebraska, and his first location was made at Blue Hill, of which place he has since been a resident and an influential man of business. He formed a partnership with two of his brothers, and they became the proprietors and publishers of the Blue Hill Times, which paper they founded, and were also engaged in the real estate, loan and live-stock business. This firm was dissolved in November, 1886, after which the subject of this sketch became associated in the real-estate and live-stock business with A. M. Walters, and they are now the proprietors of a well-stocked livery barn in Blue Hill and a fine stock-farm three and a half miles east of the place, which contains 360 acres, upon which graze the numerous horses and cattle that they purchase. In addition to these enterprises Mr. Watkins has, for the past fifteen years, followed the pursuit of an auctioneer, and in this capacity he has built up an acquaintance and reputation extending over several counties. He has dealt in live-stock from early boyhood, and the knowledge thus gained, together with his natural ability as an auctioneer, have made him particularly well fitted for this calling, and his reputation as a successful auctioneer is thoroughly established, there being in all probability not one in the State who is more widely or favorably known. He and his partner own a quarter interest in the Blue Hill Creamery, an enterprise which has proved a great benefit to the town and community, and which pays its stockholders a reasonable profit. On December 9, 1886, Mr. Watkins was married to Miss Adelaide M. Oswin, who was born in Wisconsin, but who was reared at Dixon, Ill. She is a very estimable lady and is a member of the Christian Church.

Silas S. Wells. Among the vanguard of early settlers in Webster County, few have borne a more conspicuous, useful or honorable part than Silas S. Wells, who first came to the county on June 26, 1871. He was born in Piscataquis County, Me., in 1834, the eldest of four children born to Robert

and Louisa (Stickney) Wells, both natives of Massachusetts. The father was a farmer by occupation, and made his home in Minnesota until his death, which occurred in July, 1884; his wife died March 2, 1840. The grandfather served in the Revolutionary War. Silas S. was reared as a farmer, and educated in the common schools of Maine. In the fall of 1855 he went to Hennepin County, Minn., and engaged in lumbering in the pineries of that State. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted in the Thirtieth Wisconsin Infantry, in Company A, for three years, and was mustered into service at Madison, and assigned to the Western department, doing provost duty during the war. He was honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., in September, 1865, and immediately after returned to Minnesota and resumed his farming operations, until June 26, 1871, when he came to Nebraska, homesteading 160 acres of good land on Little Blue River. Immediately after his arrival he settled on this land, his family being the first in Harmony Township, and soon had it under a high state of cultivation. He has seen the complete growth of this and Adams Counties, and experienced the grasshopper scourges of 1874 and 1876, as well as all the hardships incident to frontier life. Besides his homestead, Mr. Wells is the owner of 160 acres of land in Kearney County, all well improved. His marriage occurred November 10, 1865, in Pierce County, to Miss Sylvania A., daughter of John Hawley, a native of Ohio, who moved to Wisconsin in the spring of 1855, and there made his home. Soon after his marriage he moved to Minnesota, settling in Dakota County and engaged in farming, and from there came to Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Wells are the parents of seven children, viz.: Mary, Alice, Lorenzo, Olive, Nettie, Charley, Henry. Mary is now Mrs. Hall, of Bladen; Alice was the first white child born in Adams County, her birth occurring June 26, 1871; she is now Mrs. Lorenzo Canfield, of Norman, Kearney County, Neb.; Olive, Nettie and Charley are at home, and Henry died November 22, 1887, in his twentieth year. Mr. Wells served as post-master of Wells, an office in Webster County, for fourteen years. He has always been identified

with the interests of the county, and has served as justice of the peace, and is now serving his third term as township supervisor. He belongs to A. E. Burnside Post No. 79, G. A. R., Bladen, Neb., of which he is commander, and he is a member of the Farmers' Alliance.

George D. Wenke. Webster County is indebted to Germany for one of its substantial farmers—George D. Wenke, residing in Section 32, Guide Rock Township. He was born in Oldenburg, November 16, 1849, a son of John F. and Kate (Munderloh) Wenke, both natives of Oldenburg, and when he was three years of age his parents decided to seek their fortunes in the new world and emigrated to the States in 1852, settling in Peoria County, Ill., where the father engaged in farming. They were among the pioneers of that section, and made their home at that place until the father's death in 1875; his widow still survives. George D. Wenke grew to manhood in Peoria County, Ill., remaining at home with his father until he had reached years of discretion, when he left his home, and for the next two years spent his time in Kansas and Missouri engaged at different occupations. At the end of that time he returned to his home in Illinois, and on February 9, 1882, led Miss Mary Bentel, daughter of Adam Bentel, a native of Germany, to the altar and they became husband and wife. Mrs. Wenke was born in Philadelphia, Pa., and reared in Illinois. For one year after his marriage Mr. Wenke tilled the soil in Peoria County, when, thinking the far west offered greater attractions to the enterprising young man, in the spring of 1883 he came to Webster County, Neb., and purchased the land on which he is now living, which was then wild, uncultivated prairie land. He has a fine hedge fence surrounding his 160 acres, a thriving young orchard, a good one-and-a-half-story residence, stables, sheds, etc., and cultivates about eighty acres. Their married life has been brightened by the birth of three children: Rena, George Otto and John F. Mrs. Wenke is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Wenke has served as a member of the school board.

Joseph Wenzinger, farmer and stock raiser of

Oak Creek Township, Webster County, Neb., living on the north half of Section 34, Township 4, Range 9, was born in Baden, Germany, in 1844, the second of a family of five children born to Matthias and Catherine (Fugal) Wenzinger, both natives of Germany, where the father followed farming as his occupation. When the subject of this sketch was three years of age, his parents decided to try their fortunes in the new world, and accordingly, in 1847, they emigrated with their family to America, locating in York State, where, in Wyoming County, they engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1865, at that time moving to Henry County, Ohio, and settling on a sixty-acre farm, on which they still reside, their nearest trading point being New Bavaria. Here they have been very successful. The father is Democratic in his political views, and takes considerable interest in local political matters. His wife, who died in 1882, was a member of the Catholic Church, to which church he also belongs. Their family of five children were John, Joseph, Theodore, Frederick and Francis. The immediate subject of this sketch spent his youthful days in New York, where he received a good common-school education. In 1868 he started out in life for himself as a farmer, and a workman in a saw-mill, and in 1875 immigrated to Nebraska and took up a homestead and timber claim in Oak Creek Township, Webster County, on which he is now living. He has since purchased 240 acres of good tillable land, making him a fine farm of 560 acres, which is one of the best improved places in the county. Anna Johan, daughter of Peter Johan, of Nuckolls County, was born in Prussia in 1856, and in 1876 she was married to Mr. Wenzinger, and they are now the parents of five children, viz.: John M., Francis, Elizabeth, William and Mary. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wenzinger are members of the Catholic Church, and Mr. Wenzinger takes considerable interest in educational and religious matters. He votes the Democratic ticket. Mr. Wenzinger has been identified with Webster County since its early history, and has experienced all the hardships incident to the early settlement of a country, his nearest trading point at the time of settlement be-

ing Fairfield; but he has endured all these disadvantages, and is now reaping his reward. He is engaged in stock-raising on quite a large scale, keeping about 300 head of stock constantly on hand.

William J. Whitten is one of the influential residents of Blue Hill, Neb., and although born and reared in County Armagh, Ireland, he has the interests of his adopted country at heart, and is a faithful subject of "Uncle Sam." His birth occurred on June 16, 1854, his parents being John and Jane Whitten. He was so fortunate as to receive a very good early education, but in 1879 concluded that America offered a better field for a young man of enterprise and energy, and accordingly came thither. His first two years were spent at Edgar, Neb., in the lumber and grain business, but he then came to Blue Hill, where he has since resided. He immediately became manager of the S. J. Whitten lumber yard, and has filled this position in a very satisfactory manner ever since. Socially he belongs to Blue Hill Lodge of the A. F. & A. M., the A. O. U. W., and in his political views is a Republican. He has served a number of terms as a member of the village board, and as a business man is enterprising and industrious. Hattie V. Canfield, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Albert B. and Susan Canfield, became his wife September 2, 1882, and to them two children have been born, a son that died in infancy (unnamed) and William Harold, who was born on February 10, 1888.

Henry Wichmann was born in Oldenburg, Germany, November 11, 1849, a son of Gerhard and Gesiene Wichmann, both natives of Oldenburg, where they still reside, the former an agriculturist by occupation. At the age of twenty-one, our subject entered the German army, in which he served for one year, and in 1872 left his home and native land to seek his fortune in the new world. He first located in Woodford County, Ill., residing there about nine months, and then, in 1873, came to Nebraska, locating in Webster County, where he engaged in sheep-raising, in which he has continued uninterruptedly to the present time. He commenced with ordinary stock, but began breeding

for fine sheep, and now has a splendid flock, keeping an average of 1,000 head of Merino sheep. In 1875 Mr. Wichmann took 320 acres of land under the homestead and timber culture acts. He has since purchased 480 acres of land, and now owns a fine farm of 800 acres, nearly all surrounded by a nice hedge fence, on which he has erected a good, large residence, good barns, cow and sheep-sheds, cribs, granaries, etc., and with a good wind pump, scales, etc., he is well fixed for handling and taking care of stock. He has a thriving young grove of about ten acres, with a good bearing orchard of select fruits, besides a quantity of small fruits and a vineyard of 200 grapevines. In 1881 Mr. Wichmann paid a visit to Peoria, Ill., and on September 20 of that year was wedded to Miss Meta Wenke, born in Peoria County, a daughter of John Wenke, a native of Germany, who accompanied him on his return to his Nebraska home. This union has been blessed in the birth of three children: Katie, Bertha and Bernhard (a lad of three years). Mr. Wichmann is now serving as district treasurer, and has been a member of the school board. In his religious views he is a Lutheran.

Truman G. Wilder, farmer and stock-raiser, Cowles, Neb. One of the best known and most highly respected residents of Webster County, Neb., Mr. Wilder is a man whose life has been an active one, not without the substantial rewards of success. He owes his nativity to Jefferson County, N. Y., where his birth occurred on August 30, 1839, and is the son of Jonathan and Axa (Mosier) Wilder, natives of Vermont and New York, respectively. Jonathan Wilder was born about 1807, and was one of three children born to the marriage of Aholiab and Effie (Kendall) Wilder, descendants of old Revolutionary stock and early settlers of our country. The mother of our subject was one of eight children, Albert, Ira, Alpheus, Lyman, Julia, Sarah, Mary and Axa, born to Susan Mosier, of German-Irish descent. During the late war Mr. Truman G. Wilder enlisted in the Union army, and served from September, 1861, to September, 1864, in Company C, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, in the Army of the Potomac. Among

other battles in which he participated were Rappahannock, Williamsburg, Coal Harbor, Gaines Mills, second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Culpeper, Brandy Station and many others. He was twice wounded, once by a sabre cut in the right shoulder at Martinsburg, and again by a shell wound in the right foot, near Brandy Station. He was also in the seven-days siege of Richmond, Gettysburg, was in the battle at the fort near Washington, and was in numerous skirmishes. He left New York when sixteen years of age, and moved with his parents to Illinois, locating in Whiteside County, where, after the war in 1865, he married Miss Orrel L. Conyne, who was born in Whiteside County, and who was the daughter of J. D. and Orrel M. (Warner) Conyne. Mr. Wilder moved to Iowa in 1869, resided there for ten years and then went to Republic County, Kas., where he made his home for four years. In 1883 he came to Webster County, Neb., settled on his present farm in Section 14, Pleasant Hill Township, and there he still resides. He has 160 acres of excellent land, well stocked, and is one of the substantial and prosperous farmers. His six children are named as follows: Frank L., John A., Minnie M. W., Mary F., Gaylord T. and Bessie A. Mr. Wilder has always voted the Republican ticket and comes of old Republican stock. Since his residence in Nebraska he has held various political positions, and at present is chairman of the board of supervisors.

William H. Wilkinson has been identified with the material interests of Webster County, Neb., since 1875, at which time he came to this place and settled on the 160 acres of land on which he now lives, engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs. He has seen the entire growth and development of the country, and expects to spend the rest of his days here, and to this end has made good improvements on his place, set out a thriving young orchard and grove, erected good substantial buildings, etc. He was born in Marion County, Ind., in 1847, the sixth of a family of ten children, born to the union of James and Rachel (Murphy) Wilkinson. His father was born in

England, but early in life emigrated to this country and settled in Mississippi. He was married in Indiana, and shortly after settled in Lancaster, Wis., and there made his home and raised his children. Although a carpenter by trade, Mr. Wilkinson followed agricultural pursuits all his life, and died in Wisconsin in 1887, his wife having previously died in 1883, in the same State, she being a member of the Baptist Church. Their ten children were John T., James M. (died in infancy), James M., Daniel S., Elizabeth, William H., Rachel, David, Phoebe and Emma. William H. spent his boyhood in Grant County, Wis., assisting his father on the farm and attending school, until at the age of seventeen, in January, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, and carried dispatches, acted as orderly and served as scout until the close of the war. He took part in the battles of Black River and Jackson, Miss. At Red Bow, Miss., he was disabled in the left leg by a horse, from the effects of which he still suffers. He was honorably discharged at Austin, Texas, in 1865, immediately after which he returned to Wisconsin and learned the harness-maker's trade, and in 1871 wedded Miss Ellen Moses, born in Grant County in 1849, a daughter of John Moses, by whom he became the father of nine children (seven of whom are still living), viz.: Laura (deceased), James, William (deceased), Emma, Harvey, Alice, John, Frederick and Addie. Mr. Wilkinson belongs to the G. A. R., at Blue Hill, and the Farmers' Alliance. He takes an active interest in local politics, and always votes for whom he considers the best man, irrespective of party.

A. G. Willis, local foreman of the roundhouse of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad at Red Clond, Neb., was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1841, and is a son of Josiah and Julia A. (Goodrich) Willis, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of New York. Until he attained his thirteenth year A. G. Willis resided in his native State, but was then taken to Jackson County, Iowa, near Maquoketa, which place was his home until 1861. In the summer of this year he enlisted in Company M, Second Iowa Cavalry, and was on

active duty until July 11, 1863, after which he helped raise the Sixty-first United States Colored Infantry Regiment, with which he served as second lieutenant until December 31, 1865. He was in the fights at Farmington, Corinth, Iuka, second Corinth, Tupelo, Oldtown Creek, Harrisburg, Grierson's raid as far as Palo Alto, Miss., and the taking of Mobile, Ala. He was then made provost-marshal of a part of Bienville, Claiborne and Jackson Parishes, La., and at the close of the war made his home in Memphis, Tenn., for seven years. In August, 1866, Mrs. Nettie Kraft, who died in June, 1868, became his wife, and in the city of Memphis he was married, in November, 1870, to Miss Maggie Cashin, a native of Ireland, who was brought to America when an infant by her parents. Her death took place in 1884, and for his third wife Mr. Willis took Miss Lizzie J. Leake, a daughter of Judge Leake, of Buffalo County, Neb. Mr. Willis removed from Tennessee to Iowa in 1873, but remained there only a few months, when he went to Brookfield, Mo., and became an engineer on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad, having had much experience in that calling. After some time he went back to Iowa, and took up his abode at Creston, and became an engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Road, with which he has been connected for the past twelve years. He located permanently in Red Cloud April 11, 1888, as roundhouse foreman, and has proved a very competent man for this position. In appearance, Mr. Willis is of average height, weighs about 300 pounds, and is fair complexioned. He is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and at all times takes an active part in all religious services. He is a staunch Republican. Socially he belongs to the A. F. & A. M. and the Pilgrim Knights of the Palm and Shell. He is a man who has traveled over the greater part of his native land, and besides being in thirty States and three Territories, he has traveled in Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

Charles G. Wilson has been engaged in farming and dairying in Webster County since 1882. He was born in Camden, Jay County, Ind., August 25, 1842, being the second of twelve children, ten

now living, born to John T. and Hannah D. (Jones) Wilson, natives, respectively, of Columbiana County, Ohio, and Bedford County, Pa. The former died in 1864 and the latter in 1885. Charles G. Wilson was reared to manhood in his native village, and at the age of eighteen years entered the Union army as a member of Company A, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served four years and four months, or throughout the remainder of the war. He was at Port Gibson, Champion's Hill, siege and battle of Vicksburg, and Mobile, besides many others of less note. He was in the Fourth Division, Thirtieth Army Corps, the former commanded by Gen. A. P. Hovey and the latter by Gen. John A. McClernand. Mr. Wilson was married on March 9, 1864, to Miss Emma H. Harper, a native of Montgomery County, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Jennings) Harper, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New Jersey. In 1866 Mr. Wilson emigrated from Jay County, Ind., to Marshall County, Iowa, where he farmed six years, coming in 1872 to Nebraska and taking up a claim of 160 acres in Adams County. This he proved up and occupied two years, after which he pre-empted another 160 acres in the same county, living on it eight years. In 1882 he removed to a timber claim of 160 acres which he had taken in Webster County, and this farm he has occupied ever since. The town of Blue Hill has been built just west of this place, and its near proximity has made Mr. Wilson's farm very valuable. He is a member of the G. A. R., the A. O. U. W., and in his political views is a Prohibitionist, serving one term as commissioner in Adams County. He has filled the office of supervisor since coming to Webster County, being chairman of the board. In connection with farming and stock-dealing he has, for the past two years, owned and conducted a first-class dairy. He has proved a valuable resident of the county since locating here, and he and his wife are respected and esteemed by all who know them. They are members of the Christian Church, and are the parents of the following children: Zuella, Arthur, Mand, Grace, Walter and Charles.

Thomas J. Ward, city clerk of Red Cloud, was

reared at his birthplace, Wythe County, Va., and at the age of fourteen (in 1864) he entered Emery and Henry College (Virginia), but his course was cut short by the war, and he entered the Confederate service at the age of less than fifteen years, under his old professor of mathematics as orderly, in Company E, Twenty-first Virginia, entering upon active service. In 1864 he was at Cedar Creek (where Sheridan made his raid), Five Forks and Petersburg, Hatchie's Run, back to Richmond, thence to Lee's surrender at Appomattox, April 9, 1865. At Liberty Mills he was wounded, his horse being shot from under him. He came to Nebraska in 1865, and was at Fontanelle and Fremont until 1872, clerking in a mercantile establishment. He took a homestead on Wilton Creek, near Gov. Pond, which he still owns. In 1878 he went to Cowles and built the first frame building and engaged in business, being the first one to embark in business at that place. He remained in Cowles ten years and then came to Red Cloud and published the *Helmet*, a Democratic paper, which he ran successfully for one year. He then founded the *Red Cloud Democrat*, which he held for six months, and then sold to D. J. Myers, the present owner. He then entered the real estate business and established a collecting agency, and has been in that business ever since. He owns his own residence, consisting of a house and two lots, and is one of Red Cloud's substantial and enterprising citizens. In 1878 he called the first Democratic convention ever held in the county, by letter. The party was organized and the first Democratic vote in the county cast. He has been candidate for office on the Democratic ticket several times, but on account of the odds of the Republican party, was defeated on each occasion. Mr. Ward belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the M. W. A. In September, 1872, he was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia Hickock, in Dodge County, Neb. She was born in Wisconsin, and had five brothers in the Northern army. Mr. and Mrs. Ward have been blessed in the birth of five children, viz.: Dora, Artemus, William, Viola and Frankie C. Mr. Ward was the second of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, born to N. W. and Nancy A. (McDonald) Ward. His father

was a physician, and was born, reared, married and lived in Virginia until his death, which occurred in 1861, in his fortieth year. His widow is now residing in Cowles. His paternal grandfather, Ephriam Ward, was born in 1798, and died in 1869; his father was born in Ireland. His maternal grandfather, Solomon McDonald, was also a Virginian by birth.

Elisha E. Woodward, farmer and stock raiser, Guide Rock, Neb. In reviewing the lives of prominent residents of Webster County, mention must be made of Elisha E. Woodward, who came to this county in its early history and has contributed in no small degree to its upbuilding and settlement. He was born in St. Joseph County, Mich., July 20, 1840, a son of Joseph and Catherine (Swingle) Woodward, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married, and soon after that event took place, emigrated to Michigan, locating in St. Joseph County, about the year 1830. They were among the earliest settlers at this place, and here the wife and mother's death occurred in 1843, followed by her husband in 1872. Elisha E. Woodward grew to manhood in his native State, and August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Company K, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, and served his country faithfully and well, until June 25, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Among the battles in which he participated are the following: Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Averysboro and Bentonville, N. C. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, and was in the siege of Atlanta. At Thompson's Station his brigade was taken prisoner (in 1863), and held at Libby Prison for about a month, then paroled and returned to their homes. As soon as exchanged, our subject returned to his regiment and duty. At the close of the war he returned to his home in St. Joseph County, and engaged in farming until 1870, when he came to Webster County, and entered a homestead of 160 acres on Republican River (mostly bottom land), all of which he has fenced with a nice hedge, and on which he has erected a neat and commodious residence one and one-half stories high, good barns and out-buildings. He has a flourishing young orchard, mostly devoted to

cherries. In St. Joseph County, Mich., on September 5, 1866, Miss Nancy J. Embley, daughter of William Embley, became Mrs. Woodward, and seven children have been given them to brighten their home, viz.: Sherman, Stanley, Myrtie, Irvin, Maggie, Ethel and Clarence. Mrs. Woodward was born in New York, but grew to womanhood and was educated in St. Joseph County, Mich. Mr. Woodward belongs to the Farmers' Alliance and the G. A. R.

William J. Wright, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Webster County, residing on Section 25, Town 4, Range 9, Oak Creek Township, was born in Randolph County, Ind., in 1841. His father, James Wright, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, being a son of Jonathan Wright, and grew to manhood in his native State, selecting farming as his vocation, and later was united in matrimony to Miss Abigail Starbuck, also a native of Ohio, and the daughter of Gair Starbuck, who bore him ten children, the subject of this sketch being the eighth in order of birth, as follows: Asenath, Jehu, Asa, Susanna, Margaret, John G., Sarah A., Mary, William and Thomas J. Soon after his marriage Mr. Wright moved to Randolph County, Ind., where he tilled the soil very successfully until his death, which occurred in Randolph County in 1849. After his death his widow and family moved to Lowell County, Ill., in 1854, and later moved to Logan County, same State, where, in 1864, the mother passed away. Both parents were members of the Friends' Church. The father was a Whig, and a strong Abolitionist. William J. Wright was reared to manhood on his father's farm, and his early life was passed, like that of all farmers' boys, in attending school and assisting his father in the labors incident to an agricultural life. In early manhood he started out for himself by tilling the soil in Illinois. In 1865 his marriage to Miss Frances M. Hudson, daughter of John O. Hudson, was consummated. She was born in Kentucky in 1847. Mr. Wright followed farming in Illinois with moderate success until 1878, and then came to Webster County and located his present place. He purchased 240 acres of excellent land, which he has improved, and is now very successfully

engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has a thriving young orchard and a fine grove, and is today considered among the substantial and well-to-do farmers of Webster County, and he has the pleasure of knowing that his property has all been made by his own honest hard labor and good management. He came to this section when the country was entirely new, and has witnessed its entire growth and development. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are the parents of nine children: Henry, Cora (now Mrs. William Finney, of this county), George, Lenie, Ollie, Levi, Alpheus, Frank and Fern. Mrs. Wright belongs to the Christian Church, and is an estimable lady. Mr. Wright has always been identified with the Republican party, and takes considerable interest in local politics. He belongs to the Alliance.

George O. Yeiser, dealer in real estate, Red Cloud, Neb., was born in Garrard County, Ky., in 1825, being a son of George and Margaret (Jameson) Yeiser, the former of whom was also a native of the Blue Grass State. The father, a tanner by occupation, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and died in 1873, in his seventy-ninth year. Grandfather-Yeiser was born in Lancaster County, Pa., and in early life moved to Baltimore, Md., subsequently settling in Danville, Ky., where his death occurred. Grandfather Jameson was born in Caroline County, Va., and died in 1812. He was a captain in the Revolutionary War, and was a nephew of the Jameson that captured the famous Andre. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Kentucky, receiving a liberal education, and was graduated in the class of 1848, at Centre College, with the degree of A. B. Subsequently, having read law, he was admitted to the bar, and entered upon the practice of his profession in Southern Kentucky, in 1867 moving to Franklin County, Ky., where, by the result of an accident, he lost his arm. From the fall of 1860, until December, 1862, he practiced law in Mexico, Mo., and during this time was curator of the State University. In December, 1862, Mr. Yeiser returned to Southern Kentucky and resumed his law practice until 1867; during the year 1864-65, while collector of revenue, with headquarters at Paducah, over \$1,-

000,000 passed through his hands. In 1875 he was ordained minister of the Baptist Church, and the same year came to Nebraska and took charge of the Baptist Church at Ashland. In December, 1876, assuming charge of the church at this place, he continued so occupied until 1883, then being obliged, on account of failing health to abandon his labors. He still preaches every other Sunday at Guide Rock. Since settling in Webster County, Mr. Yeiser has married over 200 couples. During the summer of 1883 he opened a real estate office with his son, Ryland D., as a partner, and they have since conducted a large and profitable business. Mr. Yeiser served as county judge of Webster County during 1884-85. He was married in

Fayette County, Ky., in 1859, to a Miss Dillard, who died in 1884, leaving five children, viz.: Pamela D., Ryland, John O., William and James. Two of his children are dead, one passing away in infancy and the other at about seven years of age. His son, John O., is a successful lawyer of Omaha. R. Dillard Bedford, a nephew of Mrs. Yeiser, has made his home with his uncle ever since he was five years old, and is now reading law with Attorney Gilham at Red Cloud. Mrs. Yeiser was a daughter of Rev. R. T. Dillard, D. D. Mr. Yeiser is a Mason and belongs to the A. O. U. W. He is a director and stockholder of the Farmers' & Merchants' Banking Company, and takes much interest in the progress of the locality.

