

removed in a single day all those secesh ornaments. When the O. & M. Railway was first surveyed, a direct line ran near Fairview, seven miles south of Olney. The O. & M. Railroad company, as a condition to come to Olney, required a subsidy from the county of \$50,000. As editor of the only paper in Olney and the most active politician and best known attorney, Mr. Wilson at once began an active canvass of the county, and with the aid of John Wolf, William Shelby and some others, had the \$50,000 voted, and though never called for, it was the prime agent in bringing that road to Olney and making it what it is. In 1867 Mr. Wilson suggested the incorporation of Olney as a city, drew up the charter and ordinances, and by the aid of Dr. Bowyer, had it passed by the Legislature, and after an active canvass against most bitter opposition, had it adopted by the people, and was elected the first Mayor and at once commenced a system of city improvements. In 1873 Mr. Wilson was again elected Mayor, and by his casting vote gave Olney its fine brick pavements, lighted the city and made it what it is—the best paved city in Illinois. Mr. Wilson's last forty years of his life has been largely devoted to public interests and public good, and he is now, at the age of seventy-two, City Attorney, actively engaged in the city interests of his beloved Olney, of which he claims to be the first citizen; having been appointed Clerk before the county-seat was located, and when located on Lilly & Barney's donation, there being no one living on it. Mr. Wilson is as active as most men at fifty, with mind and memory wholly unimpaired; perfectly familiar with the world's history and geography. He has not an enemy, and every man, woman and child in Olney ever greets with a smile and kind word, "Uncle John." Mr. Wilson was for nine years stock agent and attorney for the O. & M. Railway. After the G. & M. Railway had been chartered for ten years and almost defunct, Mr. Wilson, in 1867, suggested the voting of a subsidy. His wife is a cousin of the celebrated sculptor, Hiram Powers, and a sister of Frank Powers, one of Olney's most energetic citizens, and is herself a most exemplary Christian worker. Mr. Wilson has five children living—John F., Phil, Alice (married to William Ferriman), Ida and Ada, twins, at home with their parents.

**ROBERT B. WITCHER**, attorney and master in chancery, was born in Upshur County, Texas, April 15, 1855, and is one of three living children born to Benjamin W. and Sarah (Bledsoe) Witcher, natives of Georgia. Benjamin W. married in his native State where he was brought up, and some three years after removed to Texas and engaged in cotton planting until he died, September 3, 1863. He was a Mason. His wife died January 31, 1860, a member of the Baptist Church. Robert B. was well educated in the common schools and Drury College at Springfield, Mo., graduating there in 1876. At that time prizes were offered for oratory, and he drew the first prize. After graduation, Mr. Witcher went to Saint Joseph, Mo., where he was employed on the Saint Joseph *Gazette*, the oldest paper in the State. In April, 1877, he came to Olney, and

entered the office of James P. Robinson as a law student, and in 1879 was admitted to practice by the Supreme Bench, in the courts of Illinois. He has since been practicing here with good success. In January, 1882, Mr. Witcher was appointed Master in Chancery for Richland County, and was reappointed in 1883, and is still filling that office. He belongs to Marmion Lodge, No. 52, K. of P., and is a Democrat.

JOHN WOLF was born in Cumberland County, Penn., January 31, 1817, and is the third of ten children born to John and Mary (Hawk) Wolf, both natives of the same county and of German descent. John, senior, was educated and married in his native State when, in 1831, he removed to Richland (now Ashland) County, Ohio. He bought a farm and resided there until his death in April, 1833. Mr. Wolf and wife were both members of the Lutheran Church. She lived upon the old place until 1850, when she went to live with her children. She died in February, 1866, living at the time with her daughter in Rome, in this county. John Wolf, Jr., received a common school education, and after his father's death, worked upon the old place until 1839, when he came to Illinois and entered 400 acres of land in the northern part of Sugar Ridge Prairie, in what is now Madison Township in Richland County. He erected a rude log cabin and improved a farm, then, in 1843, built a two-story frame dwelling; the first in the neighborhood. In 1845 and 1846 while employed at farm work, he studied mathematics and surveying. Mr. Wolf was appointed County Assessor and in 1845 took the census of this county. He has also been Deputy Surveyor, and was elected in 1846 County Surveyor, being re-elected in 1848. In 1849 Mr. Wolf, in company with eleven others made the overland journey to California, experiencing great hardships in the undertaking. They arrived in Sacramento August 8, 1849. Mr. Wolf returned to this county in July, 1850, after having some success in work at the mines. In 1851 he was again elected County Surveyor, and in 1853 removed to Olney where he has lived ever since. In 1855 he was elected Sheriff of the county, and in 1857 was made to transcribe records of lands relating to Richland County, from records of Clay and Lawrence counties. In 1859 was made Circuit Clerk to fill a vacancy, was elected in 1860 to that office for four years, in 1857 was elected Secretary of the Grayville & Mattoon Railroad, now the P., D. & E. Railway, and held this office for more than twenty years. From 1865 until 1871 Mr. Wolf followed mercantile pursuits; since that he has not been actively engaged in business. He is a Director of the First National Bank, which he helped to organize in 1866, and in which he is a stockholder. Mr. Wolf has been twice married. In 1837 he wedded Margaret Snively, of Ashland County. To this union were born three children, all now living. Mrs. Wolf died on May 15, 1878, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Wolf was next married on May 10, 1880, to Mary E. Butz, of Monroe County, Penn., and who is a devout Lutheran. Mr. Wolf has since early

youth been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is a Democrat, and after passing a very eventful and active life, is now respected and appreciated by the people, as a prominent citizen and pioneer of this county should be.

HENRY J. B. WRIGHT, M. D., was born in Rush County, Ind., March 18, 1851, and is the youngest of the five children born to Ephraim and Polly (Buckley) Wright, natives, respectively, of Pennsylvania and New York. The father of Ephraim was for about twenty-one years Judge of the Common Pleas Court of Fayette County, Ohio, and from early years until his death, in June, 1866, Ephraim was an itinerant minister of the Gospel. Henry J. B. Wright was reared on the home farm until twenty-one years old, when he began the study of medicine with Dr. S. J. Voris, of Edinburgh, Ind. He took his first course of lectures at the Ohio Medical College, and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery in 1875. From 1876 until the fall of 1880, he practiced at Odin, Ill., and then attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from which he graduated the next spring and came to Olney, where he has since been in successful practice, in partnership with Dr. Johnson. Both he and his partner hold appointments as examining surgeons of the Pension Department. In October, 1875, Dr. Wright married Kate E. Phillips, a native of Switzerland County, Ind., and to this union has been born one daughter, Hannah L. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics he is a Republican.

W. M. WYATT, grocer, was born February 13, 1857, in Edwards County, Ill.; he is the son of Ballard S. and Avalina (Compton) Wyatt, the former a native of Ritchie County, W. Va., the latter a native of Wabash County, Ill. In 1855 his father emigrated to Edwards County and there engaged in farming pursuits till his death, which occurred in 1879 at the age of fifty-seven. He enlisted, in 1861, in Company G, Ninety-Eighth Illinois Infantry, served three years, and was mustered out as Commissary-Sergeant. He also held the office of Constable several years in Edwards County. The subject of this sketch was reared on his father's farm; at the age of twenty he had earned sufficient to buy a farm of eighty acres; this he improved and occupied for six years; he then sold this farm and in the fall of 1883 removed to Olney, and in company with Mr. Reinhardt opened a general grocery store. This partnership continued four months, when Mr. Wyatt bought the entire business. He carries a well selected stock worth about \$1,200, and is doing a constantly increasing business. He was married May 29, 1879, to Allie R. Jenner, of Richland County. She died January 14, 1880, aged nineteen years. His second marriage, March 11, 1881, was to Sarah S. Chapman, of Richland County. One bright son gladdens their home.

**NOBLE TOWNSHIP.**

PETER BILLINGS, a leading farmer of this township, is a native of Tennessee, was born in 1825, and is the son of William and Mary (Davis) Billings; the former a native of Tennessee, the latter of Wales; they were engaged in farming. Grandfather Billings was a Captain in the army of the Revolution, and once, in a severe personal encounter, had his horse shot under him. Swords were used, and Captain Billings, having broken that of his antagonist, knocked the second one from his hand. Peter Billings was married, November 24, 1842, to Miss Mary, daughter of Timothy Murry, and a native of Lawrence County, Ind.; this union was productive of five children—Timothy, John W. (deceased) Catherine (deceased), Louis E. and James M. Mr. Billings has served his township as Justice of the Peace. He located here in April, 1852, and entered 182½ acres of Government land, on which he lived about six years; he afterward entered an additional forty acres, and about 1857, purchased another forty acres, to which he moved in October, 1858, and on which he has since lived. To these he has added by times, and now owns 479 acres, well cultivated, and improved, which contains perhaps the finest residence in the county, together with 105 acres of orchard. He is also a considerable dealer in produce, as well as all varieties of stock, and is an esteemed citizen.

W. B. BOLDING, postmaster at Noble since November, 1880, is a native of Hardin County, Ky., born in 1819, and is the sixth of the eight children of William and Elizabeth (Alphin) Bolding; the former a native of Virginia, the latter of South Carolina. William Bolding was a Methodist minister, and died in Coles County, Ill., in 1840; Mrs. Bolding died in this county, about 1858. Our subject remained in Kentucky until he was thirteen years old, at which time his parents came to this State, and settled in this county; he received but very little education. In 1840, in Coles County, Ill., he married Miss Nancy, daughter of Daniel Drake, a pioneer farmer of said county. Some time after his marriage, Mr. Bolding engaged in merchandising in Iowa. He was a school teacher from 1838 to 1847. He remained in Iowa twenty-six years, when he removed to Crawford County, Ill., and engaged in the management of a grist-mill for two years, then, in 1875, located in Olney, where he embarked in the hotel business, then farmed for a time, and finally located in Noble, and gave his attention to merchandising. Mr. Bolding has given much attention to politics; he served three terms as Justice of the Peace in Iowa, and as Supervisor of Crawford County one year; he was also in the Government service in Iowa, as Postmaster, from 1853 to 1857, and as deputy Marshal, in 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Bolding are members

of the Universalist Church, and the parents of eleven children—Elizabeth J., William R., John L., Parmelia, James M. (deceased), Charles W. (deceased), Daniel D., Alice M., Erastus M., Clara E. and S. Dora.

W. O. BOYLE, saloon keeper, is a native of Brown County, Ohio, was born in the year 1853, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Hix) Boyle. William Boyle was an attorney-at-law, at Georgetown, Ohio, came to Illinois in 1861, and engaged in merchandising at Noble, and also managed a large farm, which he owned, in connection with his practice. Mr. Boyle read law with Gen. Hamer, and was a soldier of the Mexican war. W. O. Boyle, our subject, came to Noble with his parents when he was eight years old, and here he has since resided. November 18, 1882, he married Miss Annie Milton, a native of the State of Indiana, by which union was vouchsafed to them one child, which is named Harry E. Mr. Boyle is a generally respected citizen.

JAMES N. CHAILLE is a native of Kentucky, was born in 1827, and is a son of John and Jane Chaille. John Chaille was a native of Maryland, and a shoemaker by occupation, who emigrated to Kentucky with his family, and there resided until about 1831, when they removed to Indiana, and there ended their lives. James N. is the youngest of the seven children comprising his father's family, was reared on the home farm, and received some education from the common schools. In January, 1849, he married Miss Sarah, daughter of Thomas Stribling, of Jefferson County, Ind., who died in 1880, leaving four children—Uriah, Jessie, John and Jennie. His second wife was Miss Jennie Stott, by which marriage he is the father of one child, Bertha E. The first land owned by our subject was 340 acres in Tennessee, which he occupied in 1852, and for three years thereafter. His next purchase was forty, and then 120 acres, in Indiana; later he purchased 156 acres in Bartholomew County, Ind., on which he lived twelve years; this he likewise sold, and finally purchased his present farm, in 1880, comprising 320 acres of prairie land, which is under a good condition of cultivation and improvement, making a desirable property and comfortable home.

DR. J. A. CLUTTER, physician and surgeon, was born in Bourbon County, Ky., March 1, 1847. When he was seven years old his parents emigrated to Greencastle, Ind., where he received the major part of his education. In 1863, said parents removed to Indianapolis, where he attended school six months before he entered the store of J. E. Marott, 233 East Washington Street, as salesman. In this engagement he was active and successful, and after one year and a half the proprietor offered him an interest in his business, his salary being \$75 per month. Our subject, however, demanded something more permanent, and read medicine with his brother, Dr. W. H. Clutter, Surgeon of the Sixty-Fourth United States Volunteer Infantry. Subsequently he attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago, in 1866-67, and completed his

professional course at the Missouri Medical College, Saint Louis. Dr. Clutter, on June 20, 1869, married Christena, eldest daughter of Dr. H. M. Sanderson, and a native of this township, to which union were vouchsafed three daughters—Flora M., Mollie H. and Jessie. Dr. Clutter has served several terms as member of the Town Council and as Health Officer; he was also a member of the Board of Supervisors of this county, and is a member of Noble Lodge, No. 482, I. O. O. F.

MICHAEL C. DONOVAN, farmer, is a native of Ireland, was born in 1842, and is a son of Patrick and Mary C. Donovan, both natives of Ireland, where the former died, aged sixty-five years. The latter came to America, about 1863, and died in Crawfordsville, Ind., aged nearly eighty-seven years. Michael C. Donovan came to America when fifteen years old, and served an apprenticeship to the carpenters' trade, at Crawfordsville, which he followed about fifteen years, and thereafter purchased forty acres of unimproved land in Montgomery County. This he cultivated, and in the spring of 1883 sold the same and purchased 140 acres of his present farm, which is situated about one and one-fourth miles from Noble, and which is a most desirable property. This possession is wholly due to the energy and thrift of our subject. In 1875 he married Miss Susan, daughter of William Bressie, of Washington County, Ind. Mr. Donovan is a generally respected citizen, and a prosperous farmer.

D. C. EDMONDSON, of the firm of Edmondson & Co., groceries, provisions, notions, etc., is a native of Vincennes, Ind., was born March 26, 1853, and is a son of Joseph and Miriam (Mitchell) Edmondson, natives respectively of Virginia and Tennessee. Our subject's early education was such as could be secured in the common schools. At the place of his nativity he learned the machinist trade, and followed the same until 1882. March 15, 1876, at Olney, he married Miss Tillie, daughter of Dr. Sanderson, and a native of Hillsboro, Ohio. This union has been favored with one child, Bertie. Mrs. Edmondson is a member of the Christian Church. The firm of Edmondson & Co., has been established since January 1, 1883. Their promise of patronage is as large as their stock of goods, and as a consequence of their urbanity and energy are destined to success and prosperity.

R. N. McCAULEY, attorney-at-law, was born in this county, October 19, 1843, and is the seventh of the ten children of Daniel and Mary A. (Jeffreys) McCauley, the former a native Kentucky, the latter of Maryland. Daniel McCauley followed the profession of school teacher until he was twenty-seven years of age, after which he devoted his time to farming in this county, where he located in 1836, and where he now resides at the advanced age of eighty-one, his wife being seventy-one years of age. The boyhood of our subject was divided between farm work and schooling; he was a great lover of learning, and was notably proficient in mathematics, the most so of any one in the county. He afterward read law with Mr.

Longnecker, prior to entering the law school at Ann Arbor, Mich., from which he graduated in the spring of 1880, since which time he has lived at Noble, and practiced in this, Clay and other counties, with much satisfaction and profit, being the only licensed attorney in the township. In 1870, he married Hattie E., daughter of Ira Mendenhall, of Peru, Ind., to which union were born four children—Myrtle B., Mattie C., Edward and William. Mr. McCauley was a candidate for judgeship in 1882, also Commander of Noble Post, G. A. R. Mrs. McCauley is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

J. L. McMURTRY, merchant at Noble, is a native of Warwick County, Ind., was born January, 1848, and is the third of the five children of J. U. and Elizabeth C. (Angel) McMurtry, the former a native of Kentucky, the latter of Ohio. The father of our subject was a pioneer farmer of this county, where he located about the year 1851, rich in the experiences of trials and privations so common to those early comers. Both parents now reside in Noble—the father aged seventy, the mother, fifty-seven. J. L. McMurtry was reared on the paternal farm, on which he labored in the summer and went to the common schools in the winter, and by which he acquired a good education for the times. In 1880, at Noble, he married Mrs. Stewart, a native of Ohio, a union which has been cemented by the birth of two children, named Lettie and Clyde. Mr. McMurtry was Collector for two years, and has served several terms on the Town Board. He commenced the general merchandise business in April, 1883, and carries a stock of about \$6,000. He is an active tradesman and an esteemed citizen.

J. D. NICHOLS, of the firm of J. D. Nichols & Co., grocers, was born at Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y., in 1828, and is the second of the family of John S. and Maria (Smith) Nichols. John S. Nichols was a pioneer farmer of northern New York, and is yet in apparently active life at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife at the age of seventy-eight, both residing in this county. J. D. Nichols received an academical education, and afterward taught the higher branches for four terms. In 1858 he married Miss Esther A. Curtis, a native of New York. After an engagement of two years in Saint Louis, at telegraphy, he removed to Clinton County, Ill., where he purchased fifty-two acres and remained thereon for two years; this he afterward sold and purchased 320 acres, near Noble, where he resided from 1862 to 1881, when he rented said farm and moved to the town. Mr. Nichols is a successful business man; he commenced his present business in 1881, and took a partner in December, 1882; they have a large stock and promise to do well. Mr. Nichols has served one year as Township Supervisor, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. Mrs. and Mrs. Nichols have had five children—William (deceased), Mary (deceased), Frank (deceased), John and Nellie (deceased).

J. F. PALMER, M. D., was born in Neville, Clermont Co., Ohio, February 9, 1829, and is the sixth of the eleven children of Jacob and Polly (Stark) Palmer, natives of New York. Jacob Pal-

mer was a physician and came to Ohio in 1817, removed to Richland County, Ill., in 1866, and died in 1876, aged eighty-two years, and Mrs. Palmer, August 6, 1883, aged eighty-five. Our subject received such advantages of instruction as the schools of that day afforded, and began reading medicine in 1852, under Dr. Weaver, of high repute in Brown County, Ohio, for two years, after which he attended lectures in Cincinnati, Ohio, and graduated there in 1868, having practiced some years previously. He first practiced in Ohio, then came to Noble, Richland Co., Ill., August, 1856, where he has since remained, and is the oldest physician and surgeon in this region, being now associated with his son, Dr. E. L. Palmer, who attended three terms at McKendrie College, and graduated from the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, in 1877, a native of Ohio, born July 13, 1855, and, in 1881, in Saint Louis, married Miss Mary E. Flanders. Dr. J. F. Palmer, married Miss M. C. Danbury, a native of Ohio, October 23, 1853, a union to which were born four children—E. L., Charles E., Lillie M. and Franklin E. (deceased). Our subject has been Trustee of the township for the past twenty-three years, and for the first twelve years after the incorporation of the town.

CHARLES E. PALMER, counselor-at-law, is a native of this township, was born October 14, 1859, and is a son of J. F. and M. C. Palmer. His early education was obtained at the common schools, which he attended until the year 1879, which gave him the advantage of a good education. In the autumn of 1881, he made a visit to California, and remained there until the spring of 1882, where he was engaged in various employments, a portion of the time being in a drug store. After his return from California he was elected Township Assessor on the Republican ticket, having to overcome a Democratic majority of forty, which bespeaks his popularity. On his twenty-first birth day he was made a Mason, and is at present secretary of his Lodge, No. 362; he is also a member of the I. O. O. F. In May, 1883, he married Miss Mollie Philhower, a daughter of J. B. Philhower, by which union he became the father of one child, Beulah M.

J. ROBERTS, merchant, of the firm of J. Roberts & Son, dealers in hardware, staple and fancy groceries, provisions, etc., was born in Ohio in 1829, and is the third of the ten children of John and Sarah (Sargent) Roberts, the former a native of Wales, the latter of Virginia. John Roberts was in early life a sailor, later a farmer; he died in Ohio at the age of eighty-three, his wife being yet alive, aged seventy-nine. Our subject resided at home until he was twenty-five years of age. In 1855, he married Miss Zimrode, daughter of Nehemiah Bicknell, and a native of Ohio. After marriage, Mr. Roberts purchased 170 acres in West Virginia, on which he remained nine years; this he then sold and removed to Noble Township, purchased 320 acres and remained two years; he afterward removed to Ohio, where his wife died in 1870, leaving three children—Arthur B., Z. Ella and Albert. He next married Miss Fannie V., daughter of N. R. Nye, and a native of Ohio. This union gave issue to four



children—Alma, Frank H., Willie G. and Charlie N. After this marriage Mr. Roberts returned to Richland County, and lived on his previously occupied farm until he began his present business, which he managed in connection with farming, having a good farm of 320 acres. Mr. Roberts was township Supervisor in 1872, and has been school trustee for five years. He is a Knight Templar Mason, and he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

J. SLATE, of the firm of Slate & Fay, general merchants, is a native of Massachusetts, and a son of Henry and Sylvia (Hale) Slate, also natives of Massachusetts. Henry Slate was a farmer, and lived on the homestead which had been in the family 125 years. Grandfather Slate was a Revolutionary soldier. Henry Slate is yet living on the family farm, aged seventy-one years, where his wife died in 1849. Our subject had a regular course of study and graduated at Powers' Institute, in his native State, in 1862, after which he became a teacher in the East, and later taught six months in Warren County, and six months in Richland County, Ill. In 1871, in Cincinnati, he married Miss Clara L., daughter of L. Fay, a Baptist minister, and a native of Athol, Mass.; this union was graced by three children—Fay, Ernest and Bertha. Mr. Slate commenced his business in 1878; the firm carries a stock of \$10,000, the trade ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year. Mr. Slate has served as Supervisor, Collector, Postmaster and Trustee. He is a member of the Town Council, of the I. O. O. F., and he and wife belong to the Baptist Church.

W. G. TOLIVER, farmer, is a native of Lawrence County, Ind., was born December 25, 1837, and is a son of William and Delana (Burton) Toliver. William Toliver was a farmer, who emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana, in his early life, and where he resided until his death. W. G. Toliver received a good education in youth, and was reared to his father's business of farming; he also taught school for a time, and in 1858, came to this State, where he began teaching, and found a wife among his pupils—Miss Eliza A. Scott, whom he married in 1859; she was a daughter of Robert and Margaret Scott, who located in this county in 1840, and a portion of whose land was given to Mrs. Toliver by her father. After marriage, Mr. Toliver gave his attention to farming and continued so to do until his death, January 15, 1874, having increased his farm and established for his family a comfortable independence, the farm now embracing 460 acres. Mr. Toliver left five children—William R. John A., Margaret D., Clara and Charles H. February 11, 1876, Mrs. Toliver was married to Mr. F. C. Madding, who died August 15, 1880, to which union succeeded one child, who is named Louanna. Mrs. Madding is a member of the Christian Church.

## CLAREMONT TOWNSHIP.

N. B. ALLEN, M. D., was born November 8, 1852, in Owensboro, Ky., and is the son of N. B. Allen, Sr., also a native of Owensboro, and, since 1862, in the employ of the United States Government as gauger, in his native town. The subject of this sketch came to Olney in 1873, and commenced the study of medicine with Dr. E. Boyer; in 1874-75 he attended his first course of lectures at the Medical College of Ohio; March, 1877, he came to Claremont, where he has since been actively engaged at his profession; in the spring of 1878 he graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Keokuk, Iowa. He was married, September 1, 1874, to Cecelia, daughter of the Rev. W. E. Ravenscraft, of Olney; two sons bless this union. The Doctor's mother was a niece of Gen. Joseph H. Daviess, who was a prominent lawyer of Owensboro, Ky. He was killed at the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1814.

EARLY BEADLE was born February 22, 1848, in Lawrence County, Ill., and was the son of Amos Beadle, who came to Lawrence County when a boy. He first followed stage-driving, continued this for several years, and later took up farming, which he continued till his death, which occurred May 27, 1880, aged fifty-four years. His father, William, when young joined the Methodist Church, and engaged in preaching. This profession he followed through life. The subject of this sketch enlisted in 1864 in Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in the battles of Tupela, Tenn., Nashville, Tenn., siege of Mobile, and others. At the close of the war he returned here, and has since been engaged in farming. He owns one hundred acres of land, which he inherited from his father's estate. Mr. Beadle was married, in 1870, to Maria E. Fenis, of Indiana.

WILLIAM E. COLVIN, farmer, was born October 8, 1848, in Highland County, Ohio, and was the son of Peter Colvin, also a native of Ohio, and in 1854 the family came to Richland County and bought Thomas Gardner's farm, which is the oldest settled of any farm in that locality. On this place William E. was reared, and at the age of twenty-two he married Lydia J. Jackson. She was born in 1857, in Clinton County, Ohio. Four sons bless this union. Soon after marriage, Mr. Colvin bought a farm of forty acres in Section 18. He afterwards traded farms, and in 1881 removed to his present farm, consisting of eighty acres, and improved with a very comfortable house, good barn and other improvements. In 1879 he was elected Commissioner of Highways, and still holds this office.

ELIJAH CONNER, general merchant, was born November 12, 1824, in Spencer County, Ind., and when quite small lost his

father. In 1831 the family emigrated to Illinois and located in what was then Lawrence County. There he was reared. Since then, he has lived within four miles of this locality, and is one of the oldest settlers of the county. In 1844 he was married to Jane Utterback, a native of Kentucky. They have four children, one son and three daughters. In 1856 he was elected Constable, and attended the first and second courts held in Richland County. Soon after, he moved to Claremont, and opened a general store. This he continued till 1862, when he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, and was promoted to Second Lieutenant. This commission he held till the close of the war. He then returned to Claremont, and has since been engaged at merchandising. Mr. Conner holds the office of Justice of the Peace, having been elected in April, 1867.

A. W. FRITCHEY, druggist, was born June 4, 1839, in Dauphin County, Penn. At about the age of seven he lost his father. He was then taken and reared by his uncle, Benjamin Brightbill. At the age of sixteen he commenced to learn the carpenters' trade. This he followed there till the age of twenty-one. In 1859 he came to Richland County, and continued this business until he enlisted, in April, 1861, in Company D, Eighth Illinois Infantry. He served three months, then enlisted in Company A, Twenty-Sixth Missouri Infantry, and was promoted to First Lieutenant, in 1862. He served in this capacity till the end of the war, and was honorably discharged at Saint Louis, June 15, 1865. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Mission Ridge, November 26, 1863, and confined in Libby Prison till May 7, 1864, then taken to Danville Prison, and there confined till June, 1864. He was then shipped to Macon, Ga., from there he made his escape, and unfortunately was recaptured at Lexington, N. C., by the bloodhounds, and returned to Macon, Ga. He was then sent to Charleston, S. C., and there placed under the fire of our guns. After remaining there about four months he was shipped to Columbus, S. C., where he again escaped. After being out about six weeks he was again recaptured, at Fayetteville, N. C., and shipped back to Libby Prison, where he was held till April, 1865, when he was released and honorably discharged. He then returned to Richland County, continued the carpenters' trade till May, 1881, when he opened a drug store at Claremont. This business he still continues. He was married, in 1867, to Mary J. Taylor, of Ohio. Two children bless this union, one son and one daughter.

ISAAC FRITSCHLE was born, April 8, 1844, in Richland County, Ill., and was the son of Jacob Fritschle, an early settler of Olney Township. Isaac was reared on his father's farm, and in 1869 he married Susanna Mason. She was born in Richland County, and died in 1877, aged twenty-six years. She left two children, one son and one daughter. Mr. Fritschle's second marriage took place in the spring of 1878, to Mrs. Hagerman, a native of Richland County. They have two sons. She has one son by

her former marriage. The couple own 200 acres of land, which is well improved.

G. W. FULK was born March 5, 1833, in Washington County, Ind., and was the son of Jacob Fulk, who was born in North Carolina. When he was about the age of eighteen years, Jacob moved to Indiana, where he followed farming, and in 1838 the family came to Clay County, Ill. George, in 1849, returned to Indiana, and there was married to Catharine Boss, who was born in Indiana. She died in 1861, aged twenty-six years. This union was blessed with three children, two daughters and one son. Mr. Fulk's second marriage took place in 1862, to Sarah Harmon, who was born in Richland County. They have nine children, five sons and four daughters. In 1857 Mr. Fulk returned to Illinois, and settled in Claremont Township. When in Indiana he learned the trade of blacksmith and wagon-maker, and this trade he has since followed. Mr. Fulk owns thirty acres of land where he resides. He enlisted, in 1862, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, and served till June of 1864. He participated in the battle at Saint Joseph's Lake, also the siege of Vicksburg and others.

JOEL GARDNER, farmer, was born December 18, 1825, in (then) Lawrence County, Ill., and now lives within a quarter of a mile from the spot on which he was born. Joel is the son of Thomas and Frances (Calhoun) Gardner. His father was born in Georgia, and his mother in South Carolina. Thomas moved to Indiana, where he engaged in farming, and in about 1822 emigrated to Illinois, and entered ninety-three acres of land known as the Peter Colvin farm, and there he died, January 9, 1864, in his seventy-second year. His wife died October 10, 1855, aged sixty years. She was the daughter of Hugh Calhoun, from whom Calhoun Prairie derived its name. The subject of this sketch was born and reared on this farm, and when he reached the age of twenty-one, his father gave him sixty acres, where he has since lived. He at first built a log cabin 16x18 feet, and there five of his children were born. In 1858 he built his present residence, which cost about \$1,000. He has two barns, one built in 1857 and one in 1874, at a cost of about \$700. His fruit house, 12x24 feet, cost about \$300, and he has an orchard of about three acres, inclosed with a very substantial wire and hedge fence. Mr. Gardner has added other lands since coming here, and now owns 200 acres, and his is one of the best improved farms in this locality. In August, of 1862, he entered the service as First Lieutenant of Company H, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, served about one year, then resigned on account of ill health. Mr. Gardner has been Justice of the Peace about sixteen years, and has been several terms Supervisor. He was elected one of the three County Commissioners this election, which was to fill a vacancy on the County Board. When his father first came to this county, their nearest post-office was Lawrenceville, a distance of twenty miles. Our subject was

married in 1846, to Rachel E. Heap, who was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, January 10, 1827. She died January 24, 1873. This union was blessed with nine children, three sons and six daughters. His second marriage was to Mrs. Sarah E. Edwards, November 26, 1874. She was born in La Rue County, Kentucky, June 23, 1838. They have one son. She has five children by her former marriage, four sons and one daughter.

**THEODORE GHARST** was born January 19, 1840, in Lancaster County, Penn. His father carried on the shoemaking trade there, and with him Theodore learned that business. In 1863 he came to Claremont, opened a shop, and has since carried on his trade. He bought a farm of fifty acres in the spring of 1882; this land joins the village of Claremont, and this he cultivates, as well as carrying on his other business. He enlisted in 1861 in Company B, Sixteenth Ohio Infantry, and served three months. He was married in the fall of 1861 to Adaline Greenwood, of Pennsylvania. Eight children have blessed this union, five sons and three daughters. Mr. Gharst is now school director and Commissioner of Highways.

**HENRY HARMON, JR.**, was born November 23, 1853, in Greene County, Ind., and was the son of Henry Harmon, who was born March 11, 1812, in Byron County, Ky., and in 1836 came to Richland County, Ill., and settled about three miles south of Olney, on Congress land. He there lived several years, but finally returned to Indiana, where the subject of this sketch was born. In 1855 Henry came with his parents to Richland County, where he has since lived. He owns sixty acres land upon which he lives in Section 15, and has just completed a very comfortable house, which he occupies. He was married in 1875 to Mary Graff, who was born in Richland County. They have four children, two sons and two daughters.

**SAMUEL R. JONES** (deceased) was a native of Orange County, N. C., born in 1823. He was reared a farmer, and he died at his home in Claremont April 8, 1876. January 8, 1848, he enlisted in the Mexican war; after serving about seven months he returned to Orange County, continued farming and also ran a distillery there several years. In the fall of 1858 he came to Richland County and located in Claremont; he first worked for the railroad company, attending the tank; also farmed. He enlisted in September, 1862, in Company E, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, and served to the end of the war. On account of wounds received at different battles he was transferred to the Invalid Corps at Springfield, Ill., in 1864, where he remained till 1865, when he was honorably discharged. In 1866 he returned to Claremont, bought a farm of twenty acres about one mile west of the village, and there lived several years. He then removed to the poor-farm, having been appointed Superintendent, held this position four years, and during his stay bought the hotel now known as the Jones House. December 25, 1874 he removed to this house, where he remained till his death. He was married, August 15, 1849, to Elizabeth G. Jones, who was born in Orange County, N. C. Five children blessed this union, four sons and one daughter.

CHRISTIAN E. MILLER was born October 16, 1853, in Claremont Township. He is the son of Christian Miller, who was born in witzerland and came to Richland County in 1845, where he finally died. The subject of this sketch was brought up by his step-father. Mr. Miller owns 100 acres land upon which he lives, and mostly improved. He was married in 1875 to Sophia Hostettler, who was born in Ohio, and died in March, 1878, aged twenty-eight years. They had one daughter. Mr. Miller's second marriage occurred in March, 1879, to Rachel E. Gardner. She was born in Claremont Township. Two sons bless this union.

ISAAH J. MOWRER, farmer, was born March 3d, 1832, in Ashland County, Ohio, and was the son of Henry Mowrer, who was a native of Maryland, and carried on the stone mason trade in his younger days. He afterwards engaged in farming. In 1836 he came West with a view of finding a desirable location to settle with his family. He then entered three quarter-sections, which land he afterwards deeded to his sons, George W., and the subject of this sketch, Isaiiah J., who, in 1854, came to this farm and has since resided here. He now owns 420 acres which is improved with a comfortable stone house. The stone used in its construction was taken from a quarry on the farm, and the foundation of his barn and other out buildings are also built of stone. Mr. Mower has about eight acres of orchard and about 200 acres in improvement. He was married in 1853 to Julia Ann Cliffe, who was born in Ashland County, Ohio. They have had nine children, eight of whom are now living, six sons and two daughters. Our subject's farm is situated two and three quarter miles east of the village of Claremont, and the residence is in Section 12.

B. M. NEASE, teacher, was born October 27, 1852, in Meigs County, Ohio, the son of Gideon and Eliza J. (Jewett) Nease. They were also natives of Ohio. At the age of 10 years he lost his parents; he then lived with his uncle about two years, and later with his grandfather till the age of eighteen years. In the spring of 1863 they removed to La Salle County, Illinois; he lived there in all about eight years, after which he returned to Ohio, remaining there about two years. In 1873 he came to Richland County. After teaching about three years, he was engaged in the drug business about two years. The past three years he has been engaged in teaching. Since the fall of 1883 he has had charge of the school in the village of Claremont. He was married in the spring of 1878 to Miss Essie Ravenscroft, of New Albany, Indiana. They have had two children, one living—Stephen G. Louisa May died September 7, 1883, in her second year. Both parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

JOHN PEER was born January 20, 1834, in Richland County, Ohio, and at the age of five years came with his parents to Richland County, Illinois. They settled in the locality where the subject of this sketch now resides. His father died September 7, 1859, aged forty-six years and three months. On the breaking out of the

war John Peer enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, and served about eighteen months. He then returned to the farm which he owns, consisting of 120 acres, and where he has since resided. Mr. Peer has held the office of Constable seven years, and school director fourteen years. He was married in 1860 to Elizabeth Stockwell, who was born January 28, 1836, in Jasper County, Illinois. They have four children, one son and three daughters, having lost Winfield S., in infancy. Mr. Peer's mother died July 12, 1879, aged sixty-eight years and three months.

JOHN F. PERRY was born December 24, 1831, in Wayne County, Ohio, and in 1838 came with his parents to Richland County, Ill. His father, John Perry, died December, 1839, aged forty-six years. John F. enlisted in 1861 in Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, and was promoted to Second Lieutenant, and mustered out in January of 1866. He was wounded at the battle of Iuka, Miss. Mr. Perry after being mustered out returned to this farm which he owns, consisting of 150 acres, mostly improved. He was married in 1854 to Charity Stockwell. She was born in Kentucky. Mr. Perry's mother died in 1882, aged seventy-seven years.

DAVID L. M. RICHARDSON was born May 7, 1836, in Perry County, Penn., and was the son of Joseph Richardson who was born in England. Joseph emigrated to America in 1810, settled in Pennsylvania, engaged in farming, and died in the spring of 1882, in his eighty-third year. David L. M. moved to Highland County, Ohio, in 1853, and there engaged at farming. On June 21, 1857, he came to Richland County, and settled in Claremont Township. Here he owns one hundred acres of land where he now resides. Mr. Richardson enlisted April 17, 1861, and was mustered into the service at Springfield, Ill., April 21, in Company D, Eighth Illinois Infantry. Ex-Governor Oglesby was Colonel of this regiment. Mr. Richardson is with one exception the only resident soldier who enlisted from this county at the breaking out of the war on the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 men for three months. He, after serving this enlistment, at once re-enlisted in the call for 300,000 men for three years' service. His second enlistment was at Cairo, Ill. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Tenn., Fort Donelson, Shiloh,—and there received a wound in his right thigh by a limb falling from a tree,—of Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Miss., Champion Hill, charge at Vicksburg, and there received a severe wound in the right shoulder. He was then transferred to a company in the veteran reserve corps by special orders, and was mustered out as Corporal at the close of his service. He was married in 1867 to Susanna C. Miller. She was born in Switzerland, and at the age of five years came with her parents to America. They have four children, two sons and two daughters. He is a member of the G. A. R. and A. O. U. W., and a member of the Christian Church.

ELI C. ROBERTS was born September 19, 1817, in Sullivan County, N. Y., was reared in Ontario County, and was the son of

Hezekiah and Hannah (Clason) Roberts. Hezekiah in his younger days worked at the cabinet-making business, and also served in the war of 1812, but on account of ill health contracted in the service, he went to the Hot Springs to regain his strength and there died. The subject of this sketch removed to Noble County, Ind., in 1845, and there engaged in farming. In 1872, in company with his son Charles, he came to Richland County, Ill., there bought his farm of 157 acres, and then returned to Indiana. In the following year he returned, bringing his family. Here they have since resided. His farm has been improved with a comfortable house built in 1879, at a cost of \$1,200, and a barn built in 1877, costing about \$800. He has also planted about four acres of orchard. He was married in 1847 to Abigail Allen. He was born January 16, 1828, in Vermont, and died in 1859. They had five children—four living, all sons. His second marriage took place in the fall of 1861, to Elizabeth Miller. She was born in Ohio, and died in 1867, aged thirty years, and his third marriage was in 1868, to Sarah Miller. She was born July 23, 1845, in Ohio. They had four children—three living, two sons and one daughter.

IRA O. SNAVELY was born July 6, 1857, in Crawford County, Ohio, and in 1867 came with his parents to Richland County, Ill.; they settled on this farm, where the father died in September, 1881, in his fifty-third year. This farm consists of 120 acres, mostly improved, also a very comfortable dwelling, a barn and other out-buildings. Ira O. was married in 1879 to Ida M. Harmon. She was born in Bonpas Township, Richland County. This union is blessed with one son, Roger.

D. S. SHOEMAKER was born November 25, 1839, in Perry County, Pennsylvania, and was the son of John Shoemaker, who was born in Germany and reared in Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming. The subject of this sketch, when a boy, learned the tanners' trade, worked at this business for about three years. In December, 1859, he came to Richland County, where he owns 120 acres land. Mr. Shoemaker enlisted in 1862 in Company B, Ninety-Eighth Illinois (Mounted) Infantry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in the battles of Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Farmington, Atlanta, Selma, and others. Mr. Shoemaker was married June 10, 1860, to Amanda E. Richardson. She was born in Perry County, Penn. They have had four children, two sons and two daughters. He is a member of the Urica Christian Church.

E. J. STEWARD, of the firm of Beaird & Steward, general merchants, was born June 5, 1845, in Richland County, and is the son of Thomas L. Steward, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. E. J. enlisted in February, 1864, in Company F, Forty-Eighth Illinois Infantry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in the siege of Atlanta, was with Sherman during his march to the sea, and was in many severe engagements. At the close of the war, he returned to Olney Township, where he remained about two years; in 1867 he went to Clinton County, Mo.; June,



1868, he extended his travels to Cheyenne City, W. T., also to Colorado; he returned to Olney Township in 1869; in March, 1870, he, with his father and brother, opened a general store in Claremont, under the firm name of T. L. Steward & Sons; the following year his brother retired from the business; in September, 1871, he sold out his interest in the business, and engaged in farming; this he continued till the spring of 1882, when he returned to Claremont; November, 1882, the partnership of Beaird & Steward was formed, which still continues. Mr. Steward has been Township Supervisor one term; member of the County Board one term; Township Assessor one year; in 1880, he was appointed United States Census Enumerator; he was three years Commissioner of Highways, and he is at present Treasurer of Town 3, Range 14. He was married in October, 1871, to Emma Greenwood, of Richland County, Ohio; they have one daughter living, and lost William L. in September, 1883, in his seventh year.



**DECKER TOWNSHIP.**

DAVID H. ANDERSON, farmer and stock-dealer, a native of Decker Township, Richland Co., Ill., was born on August 16, 1854, is the son of Isaac and Jemima (Brown) Anderson, and is of German extraction, and natives of Kentucky and Tennessee respectively. They came to Richland County almost half a century ago, and settled in Decker Township, which was then one vast wilderness. Mr. Anderson has long been one of the prominent men of the Township and still resides there. Our subject attended the early schools of Decker Township during the winter, worked on the farm in the summer, and remained at home and assisted his father on the farm until his majority, when he began life for himself. In October, of the centennial year, he was united in marriage to Ella, a daughter of Abner Combs, and a native of Clermont County, Ohio. To this household has been born three children—Claude A., Roscoe K., and Myrtle. Immediately after the marriage, Mr. Anderson moved to his present place of residence two and one-half miles south of Noble. He is a Democrat, and his first Presidential vote was cast for Hancock. He has been Clerk and Supervisor of Decker Township, and in 1880 he was made a Mason, and is now Master of the Noble Lodge, No. 362. He is a leading citizen of the county and a thorough gentleman.

ABSALOM BROWN, pioneer of Richland County, was born in Franklin County, Tenn., August 27, 1822, and is the son of John and Phoebe (McCoy) Brown, is the third of seven children, and is of German-Scotch lineage. The parents of Mr. Brown were natives of North Carolina, and in early childhood were taken to Tennessee, and were there married and lived until 1828, when they emigrated to Edwards County, Ill., and remained two years and then came to Richland County, Ill., and settled in Decker Township, and here our subject has ever since lived and has been a resident of the township for more than half a century. When he came to the county, deer were quite numerous, the wolves and bears troublesome, and the sight of Indians a common occurrence. Mr. Brown is one of five men who killed an old bear and assisted in catching four cubs in the northeastern part of Decker Township in 1833. The paternal grandfather and the father of Mr. Brown were both soldiers in the war of 1812. Mr. Brown was married, December 23, 1849, to Lucinda Smith, a native of Kentucky. To this union have been born seven children. Our subject has been a life-long Democrat, and has served as Justice of the Peace, of Decker Township, for a number of terms. In 1866, he lost by fire his residence, a good two-story frame. Mr. Brown has long been one of the enterprising men of his neighborhood and is one of the frontiersmen of the county.

OSBERN HENRY, farmer and stock dealer, is a native of Craw-

ford County, Ill., born February 10, 1843, son of R. A. and Sarah A. (Lackey) Henry, is the third in a family of eleven children, and is of German-Irish extraction. The father of Mr. Henry was born in Tennessee, and in early manhood came to Crawford County, Ill. He was one of the pioneers of that county. He died in Arkansas in 1868. Osbern Henry worked at home until twenty-two years of age. His marriage took place December 28, 1865, to Miss Elvira Goff, daughter of Mason and Elizabeth Goff. To this marriage were born five children, viz.: Laura E., Ivra M., Emery E., Mason G. and Hester A. Mrs. Henry died October 3, 1874, and four years later he was married to Miss Nannie F. Carson, a distant relative of the famous Kit Carson. To this union were born three children, viz.: Fred. H., Tillie B. and Nannie C. Mrs. Henry died October 11, 1883. In 1866, Mr. Henry came to Decker Township, Richland County, and settled where he now resides and owns 279 acres of well-improved land. In 1883, he erected one of the best barns in Decker Township. Mr. Henry is a Democrat, though in all local matters he always supports the best man. He was made a Mason in 1864, and is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

N. L. McCAULEY, farmer, was born in Jefferson County, Ky., October 26, 1833, is the son of Daniel and Mary Ann (Jeffrey) McCauley, is the second in a family of nine children, and is of Scotch-Irish extraction. Mr. McCauley is one of the early settlers of Richland County, having come to the county from Kentucky in 1835, in company with his parents, and settled in what is now Decker Township. The father of Mr. McCauley was born in Jefferson County, Ky.; his paternal grandfather, in Virginia, and his great-grandfather in Ireland. The marriage of N. L. McCauley, occurred December 24, 1857, to Miss Mary J. Rusk, daughter of Thomas Rusk. Mrs. McCauley is a native of Clay County, Ill., the Rusk family coming originally from Virginia. Mr. McCauley cast his first Presidential vote for Millard Fillmore; at that time there were only three Whigs in Decker Township. He is now a Republican, and in 1859, was elected Assessor of Decker Township; he also served as Justice of the Peace for four years, and is now Commissioner of Highways. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Ninety-Eighth Illinois Infantry, and was honorably discharged in February, 1863, on account of disability. Mr. McCauley now owns 153 acres of well-improved land, three miles southwest of Noble. In addition to the farm, Mr. McCauley has been engaged in running a saw mill for a number of years. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., Noble Lodge, No. 182, and is a man of public spirit and enterprise.

NATHANIEL MILLER, farmer, was born in Gibson County, Ind., March 27, 1847, is the son of Nathaniel and Lucinda (Montgomery) Miller, is the youngest of seven children and is of Dutch-Irish extraction. The father of Mr. Miller was born in Kentucky, and his mother in Indiana. In the spring of 1852, the subject of this mention, in company with his parents, came to Richland County, Ill., and made settlement in Decker Township. His father died in

November, 1868, and here Mr. Miller has since resided. His marriage took place January 13, 1867, to Sarah C. Williams, a native of Richland County, Ill. To this union have been born seven children, viz.: Sarah L., Jacob N., John M. (deceased), Jane, Margaret E., George W. and Charley T. After the death of his father, Mr. Miller came into possession of the old Miller Homestead, four miles southeast of Noble. This land was entered, in 1839, by John Clark, and the first log cabin is still standing. Our subject is a true Democrat. His maternal grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was at the battle of Tippecanoe. Mr. Miller has been Township Collector, Clerk and Commissioner of Highways in Decker Township. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a leading citizen and an influential man.

R. H. RUNYON, farmer, was born in Highland County, Ohio, February 26, 1840, is the fifth of thirteen children and is of Irish-German descent. His parents were born in Rockingham County, Va., and in 1834, emigrated to Ohio and there remained nineteen years, or until 1853, when they removed to Richland County, Ill., and settled in Decker Township, and here the father died in 1855, and the mother in 1883. When R. H., was seventeen years of age he began the battle of life for himself, and two years later found him teaching his first school. He taught in the Gray District, and was paid \$27.50 per month, for a term of three months. For thirteen years he continued in this profession, teaching during the winter. His marriage occurred July 14, 1867, to Sarah A. Jonican, a native of Highland County, Ohio. They have had three children, viz.: Jason S., Alice and Albert R. In 1856, Mr. Runyon came into possession of that portion of the real estate inherited from his father that he now owns. It was not improved until 1860. Mr. Runyon is a Democrat and cast his first Presidential vote for McClellan. In 1861, he was elected Township Assessor of Decker Township, and held this position for six consecutive years, and was then elected Supervisor and held this office one year, when he was again elected Assessor and remained in office for thirteen years. In 1880, he was appointed to take the census of Decker Township. Mr. Runyon is one of the pioneers of the township, and has long been one of its principal men.

JOHN SONNER, farmer and fruit grower, was born in Highland County, Ohio, May 6, 1826, is the son of Jacob and Christina (Ambros) Sonner, is the third in a family of six children, and is of German descent. The parents of Mr. Sonner, were born in Virginia. They emigrated to Highland County, Ohio, in childhood, and were among the pioneers of that county. His grandfather Sonner was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and drew a pension until his death. The parents of Mr. Sonner died in Highland County, Ohio, at a ripe old age. The subject of our notice remained at home and worked for his father until he was twenty-six years of age. He was married, March 30, 1851, to Miss Amelia Caley, daughter of Frederick and Mary Caley, natives of Virginia. To this marriage have

been born eight children, viz.: Allen M., William F., Sarah I., Levi, Emma R., John C., Ada S. and Cora E. In 1855, Mr. Sonner came to Decker Township and settled four miles southeast of Noble, and here has since lived. He first bought 101 acres, but now owns 290 acres of well-improved land. Mr. Sonner has made a specialty of growing fruit for many years. His apple orchard contains forty-nine acres, and is one of the finest in Richland County. He has made his own way through life, and by hard labor, energy, and economy he has been successful. He is a thorough Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Sonner are members of the United Brethren Church, and their ancestors were among the founders of that church. He is a prominent farmer and an influential citizen, and is one of the early settlers of Decker Township.

M. L. TAYLOR, farmer and stock dealer, was born in Richland County, February 16, 1848, is the son of William and Amelia (Williams) Taylor, is eldest of six children, and is of Scotch-German extraction. William Taylor was a native of Kentucky, and his wife of Ohio. The Taylor family has long been known in Richland County. Their ancestors came to the county almost half a century ago. M. L. Taylor is a distant relative of President Taylor. Mr. Taylor began working for himself when twenty-four years of age. He went to Iroquois County and there clerked in a clothing store for a short time, then went to Fairfield County, Ill. In 1870 he returned to Richland County, and here has since resided. In November, 1870, he was married to Sarah L., daughter of John and Hulda Given, and a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. They have had five children, viz: Dora E. (deceased), Ida A., William O., Lillie E. (deceased) and Hulda A. Mr. Taylor is a true Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., and owns a good farm of 120 acres in the northern part of Decker Township. He has a good practical business education, and is one of the most prominent men in Decker Township, being one of its pioneers.



**MADISON TOWNSHIP.**

**JOHN BROWN** was born July 10, 1819, in Hamilton County, Ohio. When eight years old, his parents moved to Kentucky, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Madison Township, Richland County, and settled on the farm where he now lives. He owns 160 acres of land, well improved, with good buildings and five acres of orchard. Mr. Brown was married, in 1840, to Elizabeth Serren, also of Hamilton County, Ohio. Two children have been born to them.

**DR. S. S. CANBY** was born June 27, 1848, in Logan County, Ohio. At the age of fourteen years he moved with his parents to Kansas, where he attended school until the spring of 1863, when he came to Olney, Ill., and commenced the study of medicine, with Drs. French & Lemen, continuing one year. In 1869 he began practicing his profession in Louisiana, going to Clay County, Ill., the following year, and continuing to practice medicine. In 1876 he went to Saint Louis, and attended the Missouri Medical College, graduating from that institution in 1878. He is the father of three bright children.

**O. P. HEISTAND** was born in Fredericks County, Md., February 12, 1815, and at the age of twenty-five years removed to Richland County, Ohio, where he carried on a blacksmiths' shop until 1839, when he moved to Fairview, Richland Co., Ill., still pursuing his former occupation until 1868. For the last eighteen years Mr. Heistand has been Justice of the Peace. He has been steward of the Methodist Episcopal Church the past thirty years. Mr. Heistand has four children living, viz.: Emily L. wife of Rev. D. C. English, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Albion, Hester A. (wife of Rev. O. H. Clark, presiding elder of the Olney District), Mrs. George C. Moore and Norman A. (a carpenter in Fairview). Another son, Bently N., enlisted, in 1864, in the Eleventh Missouri Infantry, was wounded December 16, 1864, and died from amputation of his limb, in January, 1865.

**JOHN P. HIGGINS** was born in Wabash County, Ill., March 30, 1825, and at the age of thirteen years engaged in flat-boating on the Ohio and Mississippi, extending their trips from Bonpas, Ill., to New Orleans, and continuing this pursuit nine years. Mr. Higgins and his father were successful hunters, he having killed in one year as many as sixty deer, and his father 120, besides large numbers of turkeys and small game. In 1859, the subject of this sketch went to California, with an ox-team, remaining about two years. While there he killed a grizzly bear. Mr. Higgins was married, in 1849, to Mary K. Key, also of Wabash County, Ill. He first bought forty acres of land, adding to it as his means would allow, until he now owns 357 acres, with comfort-

able buildings, ten acres of orchard, and seventy head of cattle and three teams. Mr. Higgins is largely engaged in the live stock business, and is one of the most enterprising men in the county, and one of its oldest settlers.

TITUS HILL was born in Richland County, Ohio, April 20, 1824, and came with his parents to Lawrence (now Richland) County, October 1, 1840. Boy as he was, he signed the first petition dividing Richland from Lawrence County. His father settled in Calhoun Prairie, and bought 165 acres of land, and engaged in farming. He worked with his father till the age of forty-one, their interests always being identical. He then married Catharine M. Wilson, a native of Indiana, who died May 30, 1868, aged twenty-five years. They had one daughter, Mary C. His second marriage took place November 14, 1876, to Flora M. Bolinger, of Fairview. They had four children—two living—David S. and John L. After his marriage his father bought him a farm of eighty-five acres, where he lived till his wife's death, when he sold this farm and came to Fairview and lived with his father till his death. They were always happy in each other's company. Mr. Hill's great-grandfather served in the Revolutionary war, and was buried alive by the British on Long Island. He was taken a prisoner and placed on board the ship Jersey, and fed with bread mixed with lime, and he being about dead, they buried him alive. The Tories in the neighborhood made their brags that they "buried one damned Yankee alive," and so handed the story down from one generation to another.

J. S. HOWE is a native of Fleming County, Ky. His father, having served in the Mexican war and being entitled to a land grant, entered 160 acres where they now reside, coming to Madison Township in 1865. Mr. Howe has held the office of Assessor one term. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity. He is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and President of the Richland County Sunday-school Association.

I. N. MARTIN was born in Kenton County, Ky., and came to Madison Township, October 24, 1853, where he has since resided, with the exception of three years he served in the late war. He enlisted in 1862, as Sergeant of Company H, Ninety-Eighth Illinois Mounted Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He participated in the battles of Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost and other lesser engagements, and was mustered out in July, 1865. Mr. Martin's marriage occurred July 2, 1868, to Virginia R. Powell, of Covington, Ky. They have seven children—six sons and one daughter.

WILLIAM PARKER is a native of Madison Township, Richland Co., Ill. His grandfather was one of the earliest settlers, having come to that locality from Kentucky in 1823, and entered a large tract of land including the site where Parkersburg is now situated. William's father laid out the town, and was one of its prominent men, holding the office of Sheriff three terms. He was

also a member of the Constitutional Convention. Mr. Parker, the subject of this sketch, in 1868, with Mr. Althouse, built the grist and saw mills, which they operated five years, then sold to other parties, and engaged in merchandising three years, carrying on a farm also. He now deals extensively in stock and grain and owns two large farms of 400 acres under cultivation.

AMOS B. SNIVELY was born in Richland County, Ohio. When he was three years old his parents came to Richland County, Ill., and in 1843 his father entered eighty acres, where the homestead now is. In 1838, he had visited the same region and located 160 acres. At the time of his death he owned 450 acres, 240 of which were under cultivation. His death occurred June 22, 1883, at the age of eighty-one years. Amos, the subject of this sketch, enlisted in 1862 in Company B, Ninety-Eighth Illinois Mounted Infantry, and served to the close of the war. In 1868 he was married to Sarah E. Parker, of Madison Township. Three children, two sons and a daughter, have been born to them.

DR. J. P. SOLISS was born in De Witt, Clinton Co., Iowa, December 10, 1848, and lived there with his parents until he was fifteen years of age, when he went to Johnson County, Nebraska, afterward attending the State Normal School at Peru three years. He then studied medicine with Dr. M. C. Roe, of Beatrice, three years. He then entered the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, from which institution he graduated in 1874, after two years' study. He at once settled in Calhoun, Richland Co., Ill., where he is successfully practicing his profession.

JACOB SOTZEN was born April 15, 1823, in Switzerland. His childhood was spent there upon a farm, and in the spring of 1844 he came to America, locating in Richland County, Ohio, remaining there a few months, when in the fall of 1845 he removed to Richland County, Ill., and entered eighty acres of land. He now owns 230 acres, 130 of which is well improved. His house cost \$1,200, and barn and other out-buildings \$550. In the spring of 1849 Mr. Sotzen was married to Susan Ellsworth, of Indiana. Six children, five sons and a daughter, have been born to them.

S. M. THOMSON was born November 5, 1824, in Posey County, Indiana, and came to Madison Township, Richland Co., Illinois, in February, 1845, where his father had entered 800 acres of land and deeded 200 to him, which he has since owned and improved, and it is now one of the finest farms in the township. Mr. Thomson has 150 acres under cultivation, three in orchard, and raises horses and cattle extensively. He also owns and operates a sugar mill, which has a capacity of 2,000 gallons a year. For twenty years he has been director of the Agricultural Association; has been vice president, and is now president. Mr. Thomson was married August 22, 1844, to Mary E. Knight of Mount Vernon, Ind. Ten children have been born to this marriage, seven of whom are living. One son, Jonathan F., served six months in the late Civil war. Mr. Thomson has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church



forty-five years; also an active worker in Sunday-school. He has also been Supervisor of the township and is a friend of education and has done much to improve the common school.

JAMES B. THOMSON was born August 28, 1826, in Posey County, Ind., and there lived until thirty-two years of age, when he came to Richland County, Ill., and settled on land his father had entered in 1836. He now owns 560 acres, part of which is improved, with a good house, barn and other out-buildings, and twelve acres of orchard. Mr. Thomson has been school director several years. Ten children have been born to him, six of whom are living, viz.: Anna, Mary, Horace, Grant, Lincoln and Eva.



**BONPAS TOWNSHIP.**

**WILLIAM B. BOLEY** was born in Bedford County, Va., July 16, 1811. He was reared on a farm where he was born. His father, Elijah Boley, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died on his return home. When about nineteen years of age our subject moved to Greenup County, Ky., and followed farming there about four years and then commenced to work at the tanners' trade, which he followed about seven years. He then worked on the farm four years, and also engaged in teaming. In 1856 he came to Fairview, Richland County, remaining only a few months, then settled on Calhoun Prairie, remaining there about fourteen years; thence to the farm which he now owns and occupies, consisting of 210 acres, 120 acres of which are improved. In 1837 he was married to Nancy A. Huckworth, who was born in Bedford County, Va. Six children have been born to them. Their son, Thomas E., is now teaching school and residing here. Their son Elias, at the age of twenty-one, enlisted in the Thirteenth Illinois Cavalry in 1868, and died at Camp Douglas, Chicago, on February 22, 1862, from measles contracted in the service and in the line of duty. At the time of his death the loss was deeply felt, as at the time he was the parents' only support.

**A. J. BRITTON** was born in Hampshire County, Va., on January 29, 1829, and removed with his parents to Ohio, in 1832, when a great portion of the southern part of the State was wild and unsettled. He assisted in the clearing of two farms in Ohio. When twenty years of age he joined the Christian Church, and assisted in carrying forward the good work in the erection of meeting houses. On January 20, 1853, he was married to Anor M. Barrow, of Hillsboro, Ohio. She was born on February 4, 1831. Six children have been born to them, viz.—Charles A., Amelia J. (now Mrs. H. A. Colvin), Benjamin F., Ollie M., Lydia A., Alexander H. In 1864, Mr. Britton removed to Richland County, Ill., and engaged in farming. He was instrumental in building the church at Fairview, and still continues to be an active worker in the church. He was engaged in Olney, Richland County, a considerable time in the mercantile trade, but depreciation of values and the panic of 1873 caused him to fail in the sum of \$16,000. He has since paid this indebtedness, principal and interest. Mr. Britton is emphatically a working man, and, as a Christian gentleman and worthy citizen, is highly esteemed by the community at large.

**W. B. BUNN** was born in Wayne County, Ohio, June 3, 1838, and was one of ten children of Rev. Benjamin and Margaret (Hyatt) Bunn, who were natives of Virginia, but emigrated in 1804, soon after their marriage, to Ohio, where they lived until

the fall of 1838, when they moved to Illinois, settling in Richland County. During the war of 1812, a fort was erected on Rev. Bunn's farm to protect them from the Indians. The first steam flouring mills in Richland County were built by Rev. B. Bunn, who owns 600 acres of land in this locality. In 1859 he deeded one hundred acres to his son, the subject of this sketch, who erected a cabin upon it. In 1860, W. B. married Sarah J. Smith. One daughter has been born to them. He now owns 200 acres of land, 180 acres improved, with fine dwelling, commodious barns, and other out buildings. Mr. Bunn has been Supervisor of the township two terms, and is now school treasurer. Mr. Bunn has great skill as a hunter, having killed as many as a hundred deer in one year, proving a source of considerable revenue.

JOHN BYERS, farmer, was born in Rush County, Ind., on January 8, 1827. He worked on his father's farm and was engaged largely in teaming, during his minority. At the age of seven years he moved with his parents to Hamilton County, Ohio, where they remained until the spring of 1845, when they removed to Knox County, Ind., twelve miles from Vincennes, where his father bought a farm of 130 acres, on which he worked until he had attained his majority. His father gave him nothing but good advice when he commenced life for himself, and, following his parent's counsel, his life efforts have resulted in pleasant surroundings and a comfortable and happy home. He first leased a small quantity of land and engaged in farming and flat-boating. In the autumn of 1852 he came to Richland County and entered 137 acres of land, then a wilderness, but now a farm which will compare favorably with any in the township, as to buildings and improvements. A fine house, which he built during the war, on January 25, 1880, was entirely destroyed by fire. The house cost \$1,800; insurance \$900. His present residence cost \$1,600; his barn, 40x58, cost \$700; machine-house and other buildings cost \$150. His farm is stocked with seven head of horses, twenty-five head of cattle, thirty sheep, etc. Mr. Byers has held the office of Justice of the Peace for twelve years; was on the County Board of Supervisors from 1863 to 1866. During the war he was appointed one of three commissioners to raise the bounty war fund, and go to Springfield and pay the soldiers who were mustered into the service. On September 28, 1854, he was married to Rebecca Boyd, of Knox County, Ind. Six children have been born to them, viz.: Mary M. (now Mrs. Curry) Harriet E. (now Mrs. Clodfelter) John B., Clara A., Mattie L. and Luther P. Mr. Byers is a man who keeps himself well informed in the affairs of the day; and as to honesty and integrity, no man in the county has a better standing. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOSEPH EAGLESON was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, on August 14, 1833, and was raised there on a farm. In 1854 he went to California, and returned to Ohio in 1859, coming in the

autumn of that year to Bonpas Township, Richland Co., Ill., where he purchased ninety-four acres of land and built a house, 24x56. This house he has since remodeled, and it is now one of the most attractive residences in this section of the country. Its cost was about \$1,500. His barn was built in 1865, and cost about \$800. He now owns 174 acres of land, about 125 acres of which are under cultivation. He was married on June 26, 1860, to Martha A. Spencer, who was born on November 27, 1840, in Guernsey County, Ohio. They have nine children, three sons and six daughters.

LORENZ FRIEDLY was born April 23, 1828, in Switzerland, and is the son of Lorenz Friedly, who came to Richland County, Ohio, in 1844, remaining there about eight years, and in 1852 came to Richland County, Ill., and settled about nine miles north of Olney. They lived there six years, when his father died, in 1859, aged seventy-three years, and his mother in 1873, aged eighty-three years. In 1858 he came to this farm, consisting then of seventy acres, but he now owns 107 acres, about seventy acres of which is improved. Mr. Friedly enlisted in August, 1861, in Company D, Eighth Illinois Infantry, and served three years and seventeen days. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Tenn., Shiloh, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Miss., Champion Hill, charge at Vicksburg and others, and was mustered out as Corporal. He was married on January 30, 1858, to Margaret Abbuhl, who was born in Switzerland, July 28, 1839. They had two children, one living, Gilbert L. J. They lost Margaret J. in 1872, in her eighth year. They are members of the Reformed Church.

MICHAEL FORNEY was born in Somerset County, Penn., on January 14, 1811. When five years of age he moved with his father to Brother's Valley Township, where the latter owned about 200 acres of land, and he assisted his father on this farm until he attained his majority, when he took up the coopers' trade, which he followed about twelve years, working at the trade during the winter, and on the farm the summer seasons. He purchased a farm of 283 acres, and in the autumn of 1835 he moved to this farm. In 1857 he traded this land for the farm he now occupies; coming to Richland County in 1858, he built his house, which cost about \$1,000; in 1859 he built his barn, 84x40, which also cost about \$1,000; in 1861 he built a cider-press, and during that year made over 3,000 bushels of apples into cider. On February 16, 1834, he was married to Rachel Horner, who was born May 2, 1817, and who died March 4, 1871. Mr. Forney is a German Baptist preacher, having commenced this work in September, 1857, and has since been actively engaged in it. The first communion service was held in his barn, in 1859, there being twenty-seven communicants. Their membership here now is about sixty. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Forney. Eight of these are living, viz.: Mary (now Mrs. Smoker, living in Pennsylvania); Samuel M. (now in Nebraska); Edward (living in Ogle County, Ill.); Sallie (now Mrs. Sroveley, living in Nebraska); John M. (managing the old farm); Susanna (now

Mrs. Rothrick, living in Nebraska); Catharine A. (now Mrs. Frimmon, of McLean County, Ill.) and Amanda, also of McLean County, Ill.

HENRY H. HARMAN was born in Daviess County, Ind., on April 21, 1833. When about nine years of age he went with his parents to Missouri, remaining there two years; then, in 1844, they came to Richland County, and settled in Olney Township. He assisted his father at farming till the age of twenty-four, when he married and settled on his present farm, consisting of 160 acres. His first purchase was forty acres, adding to this as his means would allow. He had nothing when he commenced here, but he now has a comfortable house, built in 1880, which cost him about \$1,100, and a barn, 40x56, built in 1873, which cost about \$700. He first made his start by working in a mill four miles west of Olney, owned by Sylvester Utterback. After his day's work was finished, on Saturdays, he walked home, a distance of fourteen miles. During this time his wife was ill, which illness cost him, for medical attendance, over \$200. Mr. Harman is a thriving, industrious farmer, and very much respected by the community.

J. D. HUNDLEY (deceased) was born in Virginia, on June 24, 1827, and died on March 25, 1881. When a child his parents removed to Highland County, Ohio, where he received his early training. In the spring of 1858 he came to Richland County, Ill., and purchased a farm of one hundred acres, in Olney Township, where he lived five years. In 1863 he sold this farm, came to Fairview, and engaged extensively in the mercantile trade, continuing in this business seven years. It was principally his efforts which induced the P., D. & E. R. R. Co. to come to Fairview. He held the office of postmaster there for several years. In 1870 he bought the Reed farm, consisting of 300 acres, 200 acres of which are in a high state of cultivation. On April 16, 1858, he was married to Amy Harris, of Highland County, Ohio. She was born November 9, 1833. Five children have been born to them, viz.: Jesse, Charles H., Martha J., Mary and Melissa.

J. S. KIMMEL was born September 30, 1827, in Crawford County, Ohio, and when J. S. was about one year old, his father died. He then was taken by his grandfather who reared him. There he remained till the age of fourteen, when he worked by the month about two years, and was then apprenticed to the carpenters' trade, which he followed about twelve years. At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Kimmel was married to Rebecca Chilcate, who was born January 24, 1830, in Crawford County, Ohio. Nine children bless this union—Jane (now Mrs. Jackson), Eliza A. (now Mrs. Simons), Mary (now Mrs. Kissinger), William F., Henry C., Charles, James, George, and Alice. Mr. K. continued the carpenter trade in his native State one year, then removed to Allen County, Ind., and there carried on farming about eighteen months. In 1853 he moved to Iroquois County, Ill., and farmed there three years, then moving to De Kalb County, Ind., where he remained one summer, and returned

to Allen County, Ind., farmed there two years, then moved to Willis County, Ind., where he ran a grist mill about two years, then moved to Huntington County, and bought a mill site and carried on that business there about three years. In 1866, Mr. Kimmel came to Richland County, first bought 160 acres and now owns 365 acres of land, about 230 of which are improved. His house, which is one of the best in the Township, was built in 1877, and cost about \$2,000. He also built a large and commodious barn in 1872, which cost about \$1,000. When raising the frame of this barn, a timber slipped from the mortise causing the frame to fall, injuring two men who were assisting at the raising. One of these men, Peter McNair, is a near neighbor, now in his eighty-fourth year, and still enjoys excellent health.

CAPTAIN E. R. LINDSEY is a native of Clermont County, Ohio, born in November, 1830. He was raised there on a farm. From the time he was sixteen to the time he was nineteen years of age, he worked at the blacksmiths' trade. In 1853 he went to California, but returned to Ohio in 1857, and engaged in farming until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in Company M, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, and served about one year in that regiment. He was wounded near Grand Junction while on picket duty. After his return from the hospital, he was promoted Captain and transferred to Company G, Seventh Ohio. This company was recruited by Sapt. Ferguson, who resigned on account of physical disability. Capt. Lindsey returned to Ohio in 1864, and engaged in teaming and handling coal. In 1869 he came to Richland County, Ill., and purchased fifty-three acres of land, where he now lives. In the spring of 1875 he went to Cincinnati, and was engaged with the Cincinnati Transfer Company, but returned to his farm in the spring of 1883. He held the office of Supervisor from 1871 to 1873; was also Township Treasurer two years.

J. R. LINDSAY is a native of Bonpas Township, Richland Co., Ill. After attending the district schools in his locality, he went to Olney and attended the Normal School there. He now holds four certificates for teaching school, and is at present teaching in District No. 1, Bonpas Township, being now on his second year. His father, Milton C. Lindsay, served in the late war and died, in 1873, from disease contracted in the army. His mother, Mrs. Benninger, is now a resident of Fairview, this county.

JOHN W. MATTOON, M. D. (deceased), was a native of Vermont, born in 1801. His parents removed to Franklin County, Ohio, in 1806. His father being a physician, he studied medicine with him, and graduated from the Worthington Medical College, Ohio, on April 4, 1834. He then practiced in different places in Ohio, also in Crawford County, Ill., where he also examined applicants for teachers' certificates. In 1857 he came to the farm which the family now occupies. He first bought eighty acres, but they now own 158 acres, 120 of which are under cultivation. He died on October 3, 1879. In 1833 he was married to Charlotte Penney, who

was born on October 5, 1807, in Worthington, Ohio. Nine children were born to them, seven of whom are living; Eugene and Charles Edwin now manage the old farm. Eugene has been Township Collector and School Director.

HENRY D. RIDGELY was born on May 8, 1813, in Virginia. When a child he came to Wabash County, Ill., with his parents, and was raised there on a farm, assisting his father till the age of twenty-one. He then took up the coopers' trade, which he followed for several years, after which he purchased 240 acres of land, selling it afterwards, and in 1838 coming to this section. On his arrival here he bought 160 acres of land, and during the war he owned over 1,600 acres. He has probably handled more land than any other man in the county. In 1839 he was married to Irena Harrison, who was born in Wabash County, in 1822. Ten children, eight of whom are living, have been born to them—two sons and six daughters—as follows, to wit: Robert (now a merchant at Parkersburg, this county); John (an assistant on the farm); Sarah E., Mary (now Mrs. James Parker); Ellen (now Mrs. Talley); Hannah (now Mrs. Michaels); Nancy Ann (now Mrs. Smith); Elsie J. (now Mrs. Staninger). Mr. and Mrs. Ridgely are members of the Christian Church.

T. J. ROUSH was born in Richland County, Ohio, on August 29, 1841, and when a child came with his parents to Richland County, Ill. Here he received his training, and assisted his father on the farm. At the breaking out of the late war, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-First Illinois Infantry, and served about three years. He participated in the battles of Corinth, Stone River, Perryville, and others. At the battle of Stone River he was wounded by a minie ball in the thigh. Since his return from the army he has been engaged in farming. He owns 180 acres of land, fifty acres of which are improved. In March, 1865, he married Elizabeth E. Key, of Fairview. Five children have been born to them, viz.: George, Mattie, Luella, Ada and Chester.

GILBERT R. SLOVER was born on January 13, 1815, in Gibson County, Ind. When he was about eight years of age his parents removed to Warrick County, Ind., where they lived six years. In 1829 they came to Coles County, Ill., lived there one year then removed to Wayne County, where they lived three years, thence to Wabash County, where his father died, in the autumn of 1833, aged fifty-six years. His father served in the war of 1812, holding a Captain's commission. During his later years he taught school, being unfit for active business in consequence of long-continued illness. After his father's death, Gilbert worked to support the family, and in 1839 came to his present locality, settling on this land, but having no means. He soon earned sufficient money to enter forty acres, and he added to it, from time to time, until he had accumulated 200 acres, 120 of which he has given to his children. He retains the homestead with eighty acres, sixty-five of which are under cultivation. For many years after they came here they lived on game and corn meal. The meal he received as compensation for

labor performed at the mill. On January 2, 1837, he was married to Sophia Brown, who was born in Wabash County, Ill., August 28, 1816. They have had six children born to them, four of whom are living. Mr. Slover and wife are both members of the Christian Church, he having been an elder in the church several years.

MRS. EUPHEMIA TOMBAUGH is the daughter of Reason Ruark (deceased), who was the first settler on Bonpas Creek. Coming here in 1824, he entered and bought considerable land, and engaged in farming, though his time was principally occupied in hunting, having killed as high as 160 deer in a year. His early associates in hunting are long since dead. In 1861 he sold his farm, and with Mrs. Ruark removed to the Tombaugh farm, where she died, in 1863, aged sixty-seven years. He resided here with his daughter about ten years. He then re-married, and returned to his old farm, being compelled to take it back on mortgage. He died there in 1874. Lewis Tombaugh, husband of Mrs. Euphemia Tombaugh, died on January 31, 1881. Mrs. Tombaugh has three children by former marriages, viz.: George Butler, a Methodist minister, now residing in Florida; Elizabeth J. (now Mrs. Berry); H. A. Kimmel, a graduate of the Carbondale Normal School, in 1879, and now teaching school in Fairview. George Butler served three years in the late war. Mrs. Tombaugh's house was built in 1878, and cost \$2,000. It is one of the finest structures in this locality. Her farm consists of 200 acres of well improved land.

WILLIAM WALDEN was born in Jefferson Rounty, N. Y., on January 25, 1820. At the age of ten years he went with his parents to Chautauqua County, N. Y., and assisted his father on the farm. In 1843 they moved to the town of Homer, Licking Co., Ohio, and in 1853 to Richland County, Ill., where he has since resided, engaged in teaching school, he having taught ten years in Ohio, previous to coming to Illinois. He continued teaching here until 1880, since which year he has been engaged in farming. Before he engaged in teaching, he attended different sessions of the Normal School. In 1845 he was married to Virginia O. Hurd, who was born in Orange County, Va., in 1825. Eight children have been born to them, viz.: Cephas L., Oliver L. (now in Kansas), Clarissa E. (now Mrs. Miller), Norton E., Lawrence E., a resident of Kansas; Myron T., Cordelia E., and John O. Mr. Walden is largely engaged in the manufacture of sorghum sugar and syrup. He has made as high as 3,000 gallons of syrup per year.

L. D. WHITAKER was born in Posey County, Ind., on April 8, 1829. He was there raised and educated, and taught school there five terms. On July 15, 1855, he was married to Martha J. Thomson, also of Posey County. After his marriage he came to Richland County, Ill., and purchased 160 acres of land, where he now resides. He came here with nothing, but he has now a very comfortable home, with about 110 acres of his land well improved. He has probably the finest private library of any in this part of the county. Mrs. Whitaker has borne her husband three children, viz.:



Eda (now Mrs. Jackson); Mae (now teaching school), and Page, attending school. Mr. Whitaker has taught four terms in the school where his daughter is now teaching. He was the first Township Collector, afterward Assessor and Collector, and for several years Township Trustee. He and his wife are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**GERMAN TOWNSHIP.**

**ABRAM COTTERELL** was born July 31, 1834, in Hart County, Ky., and when an infant his parents took him to now Richland County, and settled in German Township, where he was raised. He enlisted in July, 1861, in Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry and served his enlistment of three years. He participated in all the battles in Mississippi, Tennessee, Red River—in all numbering sixteen. Our subject was married in 1864 to Sophia Beckwith, of Crawford County. She died June 16, 1872, aged forty-one. They had four children—Asa, Aden, Etta and Ella. Mr. Cotterell was next married to Mrs. C. Bryan in the fall of 1872. She was born in 1833, in Canada. They have one son, Omer L., and Mrs. Cotterell has one daughter by her former marriage. On Mr. Cotterell's return from the army he lived on his father-in-law's farm two years, but he now owns a farm of 320 acres, which is improved with the best house in the township. The house cost about \$2,000. Mr. Cotterell was Township Collector in 1860.

**WILLIAM DISHON** was born December 15, 1825, in Perry County, Ohio. In 1860 he came to Richland County and settled in German Township. He enlisted in 1861 in Company A, Sixty-third Illinois Infantry and served three years and four months, participating in the battles of Mission Ridge, siege of Vicksburg, and with Sherman on his "March to the Sea," and others. Mr. Dishon owns one hundred acres land where he now resides. He was married July 6, 1864 to Mrs. Thomas Cotterell. She was born in Hardin County, Ky. They have four children, three daughters and one son. Mr. Dishon has six children by a former marriage, two sons and four daughters, and Mrs. Dishon has two children by a former marriage, one son and one daughter.

**GEORGE HANES** was born on March 12, 1836, in Portage County, Ohio, and was the son of Anthony Hanes, who was born in Pennsylvania and died in Ohio. The subject of this sketch was raised by his uncle Daniel Hanes. They emigrated to Illinois in 1842, since which time he has resided in this locality. In 1854 he bought thirty acres of land and added by purchase other land as fast as his means would allow. Mr. Hanes now owns 100 acres which is improved with a comfortable brick house, built in 1877 and which cost about \$1,500. His barn was built in 1873 and cost \$600. He also has an orchard of about three acres, and other improvements. Our subject was married, January 1, 1857, to Sarah A. Garber. She was born in Pennsylvania. This union has been blessed with two daughters, (twins). Mr. Hanes has been Township Clerk six years and Collector four years, Supervisor four years and School Director sixteen years in succession.

**HENRY LATHROP** was born May 17, 1817, in Franklin

County, Vt., and was the son of Russell and Cynthia (Powell) Lathrop, natives of the same county, June 4, 1837. Henry emigrated to Decatur County, Ind., and after a residence there of two years, he bought a pony, saddle and bridle, for which he paid \$55, giving his note for \$30 in part payment. Having then \$30 in cash he proceeded to Illinois and located in Lawrence County, and not far from where he now resides. He then secured a position as teacher of a subscription school, and after following this five months he had saved \$100, when he returned to Indiana, and after assisting his father to take care of his crop, they rigged up a covered wagon and drove to Lawrence County. His father entered eighty acres and soon after returned to Indiana. Henry bought eighteen rods, on which he built a carding mill. This he ran two years, and traded it for 120 acres, which is part of his present farm. On March 4, 1841, his father returned from Indiana, and built a house on the land he had entered, and there lived several years. Henry's next purchase was eighty-seven acres near Claremont, on which he intended erecting a carding mill, but failed to make the necessary arrangements. He continued purchasing from time to time, as his means would allow, and has owned at one time as high as 1,100 acres, and has paid the highest tax of any one in the township. He has given his five sons each a good improved farm of 160 acres, and to his three married daughters each \$1,100 in cash, besides he now owns 240 acres with the homestead. His house was built in 1867, and cost about \$2,000, and his barn cost about \$800. He has been five years Township Supervisor. Mr. Lathrop was married September 1, 1844, to Rachel Laws. She was born in Lawrence County, Ill., November 8, 1824. They had ten children, nine of whom are living—Samantha (wife of David M. Roney); Ann (wife of James K. Roney); Elvira (wife of John H. Fee); Albert, Charles, George, Henry, Jr., Gilbert and Martha. Mrs. Lathrop is the daughter of Wm. Laws, Sr., who was born in North Carolina, and emigrated to Lawrence County, Ill., in 1820.

JACOB LEWIS, JR., was born June 7, 1830, in Lawrence County, Ill., and is the son of Jacob L. Lewis, Sr., who was born in North Carolina on January 27, 1802, and was reared in Kentucky. At an early day he emigrated to Illinois and settled in Lawrence County, where he has since lived and where the subject of this sketch was born and brought up. In 1862 he was commissioned Lieutenant of Company C, Sixty-Third Illinois Infantry, but on account of physical disability resigned in 1864, when he returned to his farm in Lawrence County. In 1865 he sold that farm and removed to Richmond County, where he had bought and improved a farm of 160 acres on the prairie. This he afterwards sold and, in 1874, moved to his present farm of 200 acres, 160 acres of which is improved. Mr. Lewis was married, November 8, 1855, to Angeline Kyger. She was born in Lawrence County, Ill., and died in October, 1857, aged twenty-one, leaving one daughter, Mary A., now wife of B. A. Mountz. His second marriage took place

May 20, 1858, to Appia Laws. She was born May 10, 1837, in Lawrence County, Ill. Three children have blessed this union, two of whom are living, both sons.

**WILLIAM F. MUSGROVE.** The gentleman whose name heads this sketch is one of the oldest settlers in Richland County, coming here with his parents in 1820. He was born July 13, 1816, in Jefferson County, Ky., and when he was about two years old his parents brought him to Lawrence County, Ind., and two years later removed to Lawrence County, Ill., and settled on what is known as the Stringtown Prairie. Here William was reared, and when a boy, drove team from Louisville, Ky., and Evansville, Ind., for John C. Riley, of Lawrenceville, Ill., working for him in this way for about five years. He afterwards teamed for Steward about two years, and since that time he has been engaged in farming. In about 1838 he entered forty acres of land, adding from time to time by purchasing as he was able to do so, until he now owns 300 acres, 160 acres of which he has under improvement. Flies in the early time were so numerous, that on riding a horse across the prairie, he would drop instantly and roll; the rider would hurriedly dismount, and as the horse would rise, he would as quickly remount and proceed a short distance, when the horse would again fall, continuing in this way to the end of the journey. Wheat was hauled to Evansville at  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents a bushel, and pork sold at \$1.50 per 100 pounds. A good cow could be bought at that time for \$6.00. Mr. Musgrove has been Township Commissioner and School Treasurer. He also packed the mails from Mount Carmel to Lawrenceville, Stringtown, St. Marie, Newton, and to Greenup in Cumberland County. He was about two years engaged in this work. He was married in 1839 to Martha Bullard, of Illinois; Mrs. M. died in July, 1854, aged thirty-eight years. Six children blessed this union, five sons and one daughter. He was next married January 22, 1855, to Mrs. Sophia Burnell, daughter of Benjamin Sumner, in honor of whom the town of Sumner was named. She was born July 21, 1826. They have four children, two sons and two daughters. His son, John B., served in the late war.

**S. A. POWELL** was born on July 11, 1819, in Richford, Vt., and was the son of Horace Powell, also a native of Vermont. He followed the trade of carpenter, and also that of farming, and in 1840 the family removed to Hamden County, Mass. After a residence there of about ten years, they removed to Schoharie County, N. Y., and in 1854, the subject of this sketch came to Richland County, and settled on this farm. His first purchase was eighty acres, where he now lives, and he at once commenced improving this land, and as his means would allow, bought other lands in addition. He now owns 240 acres, largely improved. He was married April 13, 1849, to Susan Parsons. She was born April 16, 1825, in Sharon, N. Y. This union has been blessed with four children—Dewitt P., Clarissa M. and Charles J. Henry died in 1867, in his sixteenth year. Mr. Powell has been Overseer of the Poor two years. His son Dewitt P. has been, for the past two years, Postmaster at Amity.

L. D. RONEY was born September 17, 1840, in Coshocton County, Ohio, and in 1856, the family emigrated to Illinois and settled in Richland County. His father died December 31, 1880, aged sixty-seven years. L. D. enlisted, in July, 1861, in Company E, Eleventh Missouri Infantry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in the battle of Island No. 10, siege of Corinth, battle of Iuka, second battle of Corinth, siege of Vicksburg, Spanish Fork and others. On his re-enlistment in December, 1864, he was commissioned Lieutenant, and later was promoted to Captain, which commission he held till mustered out at the close of the war. He then returned to German Township, where he has since followed farming; he now occupies the farm formerly owned by his father, and which consists of 152 acres. He married in September, 1871, E. Hart. She was born in West Virginia. Two sons bless this union.

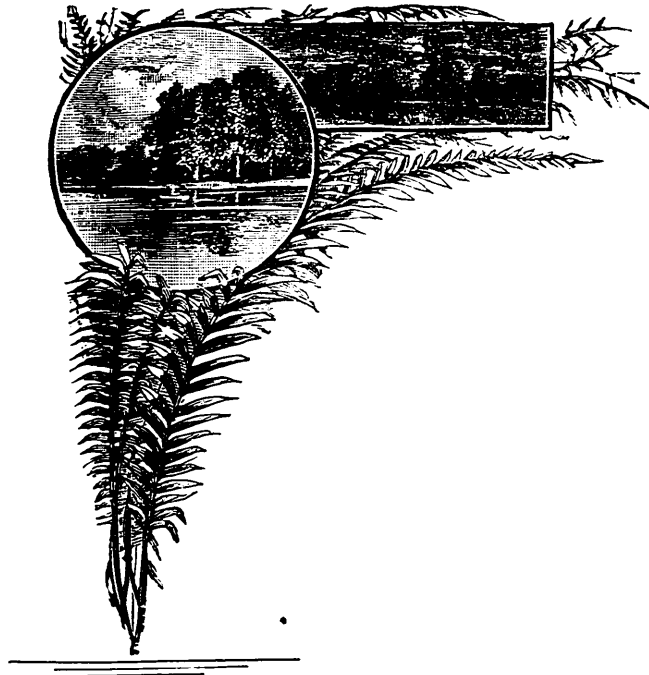
JAMES K. RONEY was born July 4, 1844, in Coshocton County, Ohio, and is the son of John Roney, who was born in Harrison County, Ohio. The family came to German Township, Richland County, in 1856, and James K. assisted on his father's farm till the breaking out of the war. He enlisted, in 1861, in Company A, Sixty-Third Illinois Infantry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in the battles of Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Florence, S. C., with Sherman on his "March to the Sea," and others. He then returned home and has since been engaged in farming. Mr. Roney was married in 1867, to Ann Lathrop. She was born in German Township. They have two sons and two daughters.

D. S. STIFF was born December 22, 1822, in Sussex County, N. J., and at about the age of thirteen came with his parents to Perry County, Ohio, where his father died in 1848, aged sixty-two. In 1851, the subject of this sketch, came to Richland County. He lived on a rented farm two years, and in 1853, he bought forty acres of land, adding other lands by purchase as his means would allow. He now owns a farm of ninety acres, which is improved. He has a very comfortable house built in 1883, and which cost about \$800, and his barn built in 1876, cost about \$500. He has also an orchard of about two acres, and otherwise pleasant surroundings. Mr. Stiff has held the office of Constable about seven years, and School Director about twelve years. He was married January 28, 1844, to Sarah Stoltz. She was born in Fairfield County, Ohio. They have seven children, three sons and four daughters. Lewis M. and William W. served in the late war.

SAMUEL STOLTZ was born April 10, 1835, in Richland County, and was the son of Samuel Stoltz, who was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Lawrence County, in 1846, and removed to the Stringtown Road in 1826, where he died in 1852, aged sixty-three. Samuel, Jr. was brought up on his father's farm, and enlisted in 1862, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirtieth Illinois Infantry. He served to the end of the war, and participated in the battle of Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Black River and siege of Vicksburg; there they fought forty-seven days and nights, and Mr. Stoltz was

*in Tabash Co. in*

taken captive April 8, 1864, at the Sabine Cross Roads, and held a prisoner of war at Tyler, Texas, till the close of the struggle; he then returned and here engaged in farming ever since. In 1854, he bought forty acres of land, which he went in debt for, but he now owns 311 acres, which is improved; he built a house and barn, which cost about \$1,300, and other improvements. Mr. Stoltz married, in 1854, Susan Gillaspie. She was born in Indiana. They have five children, four sons and one daughter.



## PRESTON TOWNSHIP.

ELIZABETH COMBS is the widow of Abner R. Combs. He was born April 2, 1810, in Clermont County, Ohio, and learned the boot and shoe trade. This he followed winters, carrying on the brick-making business during summers, which he continued to do till his marriage, which occurred August 8, 1841, to Elizabeth Smyzer, of Clermont County, Ohio. She was born August 12, 1817. They had ten children, four of whom are living, four of these children died in infancy. John W. died April 15, 1867, in his twenty-second year; Malissa A. died February 23, 1879, aged thirty-one years, and their surviving children are Mary J., Alex. Jackson, Percival P. and Elma. Mr. Combs still continued this business till 1865, when he came to Preston Township, bought two farms of about 400 acres, and made extensive improvements, consisting in part of a very comfortable two-story house, which cost \$2,000; a barn, costing \$1,000, and a granary, costing \$400, making this one of the finest farms in this locality. He died October 26, 1882, in his seventy-third year, and respected by all.

FREDERICK GRUNEISEN was born in Switzerland, May 10, 1844. His father, Jacob Gruneisen, was born in Switzerland, February 14, 1804, and in 1848 emigrated to America and settled in Richland County, Ill., and began farming on a rented farm, but soon saved enough to buy 100 acres, and at his death owned a fine farm of 200 acres, where our subject now lives. His death occurred September 15, 1880. The mother of our subject died in Switzerland, in 1846. Mr. Gruneisen has been twice married; on June 18, 1864, to Louisa Faitz, a native of Switzerland. She was born in 1848, and died March 12, 1869. They had one child, Louisa. He was next married, in 1871, to Susanna Burgner, who was born September 28, 1854. Five children have been born to them—Mattie, Jacob, Matilda, Caroline and Rosinia. Mr. and Mrs. Gruneisen are members of the Reformed Church, and Mr. Gruneisen is a Democrat.

W. W. KERMICLE, Dundas, Postmaster and merchant, was born in Harding County, Ky., March 7, 1828, and is the son of Samuel and Mary J. (Trainer) Kermicle, the father a native of Kentucky, and the mother of Virginia. Mr. Kermicle, our subject, was raised on a farm in Kentucky until a man grown, receiving a limited common school education. In 1849, he married Sarah McDowell, a native of Hart County, Ky., and in 1853, they moved to Richland County, and settled on a farm near the town of Dundas. He improved the land, and in 1877, removed to Dundas, where he embarked in the mercantile business, with a Mr. Sumner. This firm continued standing till 1880, when it became Kermicle & McWilliams. Mrs. Kermicle died in 1875, the mother of seven children, of whom only two are living—Peter and Maggie. Mr. Kermicle's present wife, Mary A. Crow, is a native of Bullitt County, Ky. He is a Republican.

GEORGE W. LEAF was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1829, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Turner) Leaf. George W. was reared on a farm, receiving a common school education. He began life for himself at twenty-one years of age; his vocation being that of a farmer. In 1854, Mr. Leaf removed to Richland County, and settled on land he had bought in that year. He now owns one of the finest farms in Preston Township, consisting of 450 acres, with good buildings and the land well improved, and under a high state of cultivation. January 18, 1852, he married Nancy, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Smith) Moore. She was born in Clermont County, Ohio, January 24, 1832. Seven children have been born to them, four daughters and three sons, viz.: Albina (McWilliams), Sarah E. (Phillips), Eva L. (Tippit), Jennie (Roland), James H., Isaac and Henry. Mr. Leaf's daughters have all married well-to-do and highly respected gentlemen of Richland County; and for himself, he is respected by all who know him, and is one of the substantial farmers of the county.

THOMAS LEAF, farmer, was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, October 25, 1834, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Turner) Leaf. The father was born in 1800, and married when he was twenty-one, his wife being seventeen years of age, and a native of Clermont County, Ohio. She died June 3, 1850, and her husband about the year 1871. Mr. Leaf, our subject, came to Richland County in 1855, where he began life for himself as a farmer, and by industry and economy has accumulated a fine farm of 405 acres. On September 9, 1858, he married Mary E., daughter of Peter and Abigail (Farris) Colvin. She was born in Highland County, Ohio, April 5, 1839, and died March 10, 1869. To them were born five children: Henry, Peter, William, John (deceased), and Albert. Our subject married again September 30, 1869, choosing Nancy A., daughter of William and Eliza (Bates) Shepherd. She was born in Clarke County, Ohio, on April 1, 1840. To them were born five children—Charles, Robert, Laura, Clements and Hugh. Mr. Leaf is a most substantial farmer, a good citizen and liberal in politics.

WILLIAM McWILLIAMS was born in Guernsey County, Ohio, December 30, 1819, and is the eldest in a family of eight children born to George and Jane (Hawkins) McWilliams, the father a native of Saint Clair County, Ohio. In 1839 the family moved to Richland County, Ill., where they entered land and began to build a home. Mr. McWilliams died in the forty-fourth year of his age, and his wife in the sixty-fourth year of her age. They were both members of the Methodist Church. Our subject at the age of twenty-two years began farming for himself on forty acres of land given him by his father. By hard labor and with the help of an industrious wife he has accumulated a farm of 305 acres. He was married, in 1841, to Matilda H., daughter of Richard and Sarah (Lawrence) Phillips, who are old and respected citizens of the county. Mrs. Phillips was born May 7, 1823, and came to this county with her parents in 1826. To this couple have



been born nine children—Richard, who served in the late rebellion, George, Catherine (Mrs. Fleming), Hugh, Mary (Mrs. Zirkel, deceased), William, Martha (Mrs. Kyle), Lu (Mrs. Mathews) and Matilda. Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams have been industrious people. Her mother being an invalid, Mrs. McW. performed most of the household duties. She also did the spinning when so small that she was obliged to stand upon a block of wood in order to do so. Mr. McWilliams split rails for \$3 a thousand, and also had to take his wheat to market a distance of eighty-five miles, where he sold it at 50 cents per bushel in trade. They are both members of the Methodist Church, and highly respected. He is a Republican.

T. G. PHILLIPS was born in White County, Tenn., November 24, 1815, and is the son of Richard and Sarah (Lawrence) Phillips, the father a native of Virginia, and the mother of Tennessee. In 1826 they moved to Richland County, Ill., and settled on what is known as "Calhoun Prairie." Their children were—Thomas, James, Nancy (deceased), John (deceased), Matilda, William, Austin, David (deceased), Polly, Lucetta (deceased). Our subject at the age of twenty-one years began life for himself, working on land entered from the Government. After years of hardships and toil he has accumulated a fine farm consisting of 172 acres. On December 9, 1840, he married Margaret, daughter of George and Jane (Hawkins) McWilliams. She was a native of Guernsey County, Ohio, and was born on August 22, 1823. She was a devoted wife and mother, and a member of the Methodist Church until her death, which took place December 8, 1876. To them were born—Martin L., Lavina, Thomas T., James, Ettie J. and John R. Mr. Phillips joined the Methodist Church at the age of twenty years, and is still a member. He is a highly esteemed man and Republican.

A. R. PHILLIPS was born in Richland County, Ill., on February 22, 1827, and is the son of Richard and Sarah (Lawrence) Phillips. Mr. Phillips is a farmer by occupation. At the age of twenty-three he began farming for himself on eighty acres of land, for which he paid \$500, and by industry and economy he has bought a farm near the old homestead, consisting of 228 acres, which is under a fine state of cultivation. January 3, 1850, he married Mary C., a daughter of Thomas L. and Annie (Cheek) West, who were among the first settlers of the county, having come here in 1826. Mr. West served in the war of 1812, and was shot by the Indians in the battle of Tippecanoe. The wound came near proving fatal, and by it he lost part of his tongue and his upper teeth, also receiving a wound in the shoulder. During the war he served under Gen. Harrison. The latter part of Mr. West's life was passed as a Methodist exhorter, and he died December 5, 1849. Mrs. Phillips was born in Gibson County, Ind., May 4, 1823. To Mr. Phillips and wife have been born the following children—McKendree (deceased), Sarah E. (deceased), Albert M., Elizabeth A. (deceased), Ida J., Edwin

A., Allison T. and Ina C. The parents are both members of the Methodist Church, Mr. Phillips having joined the church at the age of sixteen; they are highly esteemed in the community in which they live.

ADAM SHERER was born in Germany, on May 22, 1832, and is the son of John A. and Louisa (Ketring) Sherer, who emigrated to Ohio in 1836, and settled in Stark County, where they lived four years, and in 1840 came to Richland County, and bought seventy acres of unimproved land, and by hard work and economy they owned at the father's death, in 1870, 500 acres of well improved land. Adam began life for himself in 1854, and he has a fine farm of 400 acres, with good buildings and farm well improved. He has been twice married. In 1854 he married Annie Von Allman, who was born in Switzerland, in 1833, and died in 1863. Two children were born to them, Elizabeth and John F. In 1864 Mr. Sherer married Elizabeth Deitrick, who was born in Switzerland, in 1843. Five children have been born to them—Annie, Henry, Thomas, John A. and Robert. Mr. Sherer and family are members of the Reformed Church, and Mr. Sherer is a Democrat.



## DENVER TOWNSHIP.

SILAS CLOUD, farmer and school teacher, was born in Clinton County, Ohio, on January 7, 1833, is the son of Henry and Anna (Laymon) Cloud, is next to the youngest of seven children, and is of English-German lineage. Silas' parents were born in the Buckeye State, and lived and died in Clinton County, in that State. Henry Cloud died when our subject was about two years of age, and his wife was left in meagre circumstances, with her large family; but Silas remained at home and helped support the family until he had attained his majority. His education was very limited in youth. After he had reached his twenty-first year he attended school about three years, two of which he spent at the South-Western Ohio State Normal School, and after finishing here, he began teaching. Mr. Cloud's first school was taught near Fayetteville, Ohio. In all he has spent twenty-eight years in school-teaching. His marriage took place in 1861, to Mary E. Montgomery, a native of Ohio. To this union there have been born six children—Ida, J. L., William H., Albert, Thomas W. and Wylie L. Of these children four are deceased. In 1864 Mr. Cloud came to Richland County, Ill., and settled in Denver Township, and in 1875 he came to the place where he now resides. He is a radical Republican, cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. Mr. and Mrs. Cloud are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He advocates all public interests, and has been one of the most successful school teachers of his time.

REV. HENRY COEN was born in Franklin County, Ind., April 22, 1835, is the son of Thomas and Katherine (Lawrence) Coen, is the second of the five children, and comes of Irish-German extraction. His father was born in Ohio, and his mother was born on the wide Atlantic. Thomas Coen now resides in Missouri, and his wife died in Indiana, in 1842. Our subject remained at home and assisted his father on the farm until his twenty-fourth year, when he married, March 24, 1859, Lettie Jones. To this union was given one child. Mrs. Coen died in August, 1860. Rev. Mr. Coen was next time united in marriage to Ruth C. V. Osburn. To them have been born six children. The life of Rev. Coen in Indiana was that of a farmer and cooper, and in the fall of 1870 he emigrated to the northeast part of Denver Township, Richland Co., Ill., and settled on the open prairie, about one-half mile north of the site of his present residence. He erected a log cabin in which the family lived until the fall of 1873, when they moved to their present residence. Mr. Coen now owns 400 acres of good land, and is one of the leading farmers in the township. He is a Republican, cast his first Presidential vote for Fremont, and is at present Commissioner of Roads for Denver Township. Our subject is a minister in the

Methodist Church, and received his license to preach in that body in the fall of 1872, being ordained the next year, and given Pleasant View Circuit. He has preached at the following places: Oak Forest, Pleasant View, Blair and Wakefield. He is a self-made man, possesses a vast fund of knowledge, and has much influence over the flock of which he is pastor. While he has retired from the itineracy, he does a good deal of preaching, and spends much of his time in assisting other ministers.

W. H. DAVIS, M. D., is a native of Mitchell, Lawrence Co., Ind., was born November 3, 1850, and is son of Rev. A. and Frances (Tolliver) Davis, of English-German lineage. His parents were also natives of Lawrence County, Ind. They emigrated to Denver Township, Richland Co., Ill., in the spring of 1851, and settled southwest of Wakefield, and in 1876 they removed to southwest Missouri, where they now reside. The earliest education of Dr. Davis was acquired at the common district schools of Denver Township, and in the winter of 1870-71, he taught school. In September following, he entered Shurtleff College, at Alton, Ill., and attended that institution two years, and the fall of 1873, he began reading medicine in the office of Dr. J. L. Fuson, in the old town of Wakefield. In the spring of 1876 Dr. Davis went to Wright County, Mo., and began practicing his profession, and in 1878-79 attended lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, and on February 25, 1879, graduated from that institution. Immediately after his graduation he came to Wakefield and began the regular practice. As a physician he has been very successful. He was married, January 26, 1881, to S. E. Clark, a native of Wayne County, Ill. Dr. Davis has one of the best residences in the village of Wakefield, and is a man of much enterprise. He is a Republican and a prominent young man.

JOHN N. DELZELL, farmer and school teacher, was born in Blount County, Tenn., December 29, 1818, is the son of Robert and Dorcas (Davis) Delzell, and of Irish descent. The parents of Mr. Delzell were Southerners, and about 1850 emigrated to Richland County, Ill., settled, lived and died in this township. Robert was a soldier in the war of 1812, was a prominent man in the country, and was universally known and respected for his honesty. When our subject was about fifteen years of age, he entered the Theological Seminary at Maryville, Tenn., and in 1836 taught his first school. In 1839 he removed from Blount County to McMinn County, and there taught school in winter and farmed in the summer for a number of years. Mr. Delzell's marriage took place on August 31, 1841, to Nancy Jane Lawrey, a native of Tennessee. To this union has been bequeathed eleven children. In 1861 Mr. Delzell and family came to Richland County, Ill., and settled in Denver Township, where they still reside. Mr. Delzell spent six months of each year for thirty years in teaching school, and was one of the most successful in the profession. He was formerly a Whig, but is now a Democrat, but generally supports the best men. He

is a Mason, and has been a member of the Presbyterian Church more than fifty years. Mrs. Delzell is also a member of that church.

A. B. FARQUHAR, farmer, was born in Fayette County, Penn., January 5, 1841, is the son of William and Sarah (Moss) Farquhar, is the youngest of six children, and of Scotch descent. Our subject's parents were also born in the old Penn Commonwealth. His father died in that State in 1856. At sixteen years of age A. B. determined to become the architect of his own fortune, left his native State and came to Knox County, Ill., where he remained about one year, then returned to Pennsylvania and began the study of dentistry under the instruction of Dr. James Cope, at Fayette City. Here Mr. Farquhar practiced his profession until 1862, when he went to California and there for two years continued the practice, and then returned again to the State of his birth. He enlisted in Company H, First Battalion, Eighteenth United States Infantry, and was discharged in March, 1867, at Fort Phillip Kearney, Dakota Territory. In February, 1870, he came to Denver Township, Richland County, and settled where he now resides. His married life dates from January, 1870, when he was united by the marriage vows to Maria Eckard. To them have been born four children, viz.: an infant that died unnamed, Frankie, Eunice and Dessie B. Mr. Farquhar is one of the leading Republicans of Denver Township, and one of its representative men. Since 1874 he has been school treasurer of the township, and is a member of the I. O. O. F., Olney Lodge, No. 180. No man in Denver Township possesses a greater degree of enterprise than Mr. Farquhar, nor has the place a more worthy citizen.

SETH W. GARD, pioneer of Denver Township, was born in Wabash County, Ill., August 6, 1829, is the son of Justus and Anna (Oman) Gard, eldest of fourteen children and is of Irish-German extraction. His father was born in Ohio, and his mother in the Empire State. The maternal grandparents of Mr. Gard were born in Germany, and came to America previous to the Revolution. Justus Gard came with his parents to the territory that now composes the State of Illinois, when seven years of age. They were among the first settlers of Illinois, having settled there in 1814. The father, died in Wabash County in 1870, and the mother in 1854. In June, 1852, the subject came to Richland County, Ill., and entered 160 acres of land, upon a part of which his present residence now stands. He came to Denver Township with only 85 cents in money, and now owns 380 acres of good land, 220 acres of which are improved. He is one of the best farmers and stock growers in the county. Mr. Gard's marriage took place February 6, 1853, to Sarah J. Ulm, of Clay County. To this household were born seven children. Mrs. Gard died April 1, 1870. Our subject was re-married the same year, choosing Eliza J. (Helpman) Conklin. Mr. Gard was formerly a Whig, but now is a Republican, and cast his first Presidential vote for Scott. He has been a Mason since 1859. Mr.

and Mrs. Gard are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Gard served as Assessor of Denver Township for the years 1860 and 1861, and in 1872 was elected Justice of the Peace, and four years later was re-elected. He is one of the leading farmers of the township, and the last ten years has marketed about \$500 worth of pork.

ORLANDO W. GRAY, pioneer farmer of Richland County, was born near the town of Weston, Vt., August 27, 1833, is the son of Abel and Betsey (Pettingill) Gray, is next to the youngest of twelve children, and is of English descent. The parents were natives of New Hampshire. When Orlando W. was three years of age he emigrated with his parents from Vermont to Richland County, Ill., and after a journey of eight weeks, settled one mile east of the present site of Olney. Our subject's grandfather was born in England, and came to America about a century and a half ago. When Orlando W. was eighteen years of age, he was compelled to begin the world for himself. He first worked at constructing a line of telegraph extending from Louisville to Saint Louis, and in 1854 came to where he now lives, first entering forty, then eighty acres, then forty again, and now owns 480 acres of good land, 320 acres of which are improved. His first house was a frame, and was one of the first of the kind in that section. Mr. Gray was married January 18, 1855, to Emaline Ulm, a native of Wabash County, Ill. To this union have been born twelve children. He is a thorough Republican and a member of the Masonic Fraternity since 1869. Mr. and Mrs. Gray are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Our subject has long been one of the leading farmers of Richland County, and is one of its first settlers and prominent men. He is in all particulars a self-made man and his wife is also one of the pioneer women of the State. Mr. Gray was appointed postmaster of Boot Post-office in 1857.

RICHARD HALL, farmer, was born in Jefferson County, Ind., August 4, 1827, is the son of John and Elizabeth (House) Hall, is the twelfth of thirteen children, and of Irish-German extraction. The father of Mr. Hall was one of the pioneers of Jefferson County, Ind., and entered land where the town of Madison now stands. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and a Republican; he and ten sons having at one time voted the Whig ticket, at the same precinct. He died on the morning of Lee's surrender at the close of the late war. Richard faced the cares of life alone at twenty-one years of age, and was married February 24, 1850, to Elizabeth Hankins, who has borne him ten children. They came to Illinois in 1853, settled in Jasper County, and there remained till seven years ago, then removed to Denver Township, Richland County, and reside there now, near Wakefield. Mr. Hall is a Republican, and in 1860, was elected Justice of the Peace, and held that office twelve years. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Hall's grandfather was a soldier in the Continental army, a comrade of Daniel Boone, and lived to be one hundred and eight years of age. For many

years our subject was one of the most extensive land traders in southern Illinois.

J. A. McKNIGHT, general merchant and produce dealer, was born in Orange County, Ind., on August 7, 1829, is the son of Joseph L. and Elizabeth (McColloch) McKnight, and is of German-Irish descent. His father was a native of the Empire State, and his mother of Maryland. In 1862, J. A. McKnight came to Illinois, settled in Clay County, and there engaged in the milling business, in which he is still engaged; the work being carried on by two of his sons. In 1880, our subject came to Wakefield and engaged in general merchandising, and keeps on hand a complete line of dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, etc. He has been successful in business. Mr. McKnight married on November 8, 1851, Susan Lewis, a native of Kentucky. To this union has been born nine children. He is a Democrat and deposited his first Presidential vote for Franklin Pierce. Our subject received a fair common school education, and by practice has acquired a good business knowledge. He had two brothers in the late war, one of whom died at Nashville, Tenn. Mr. McKnight is a prominent and successful citizen of Denver Township, and a man of extended enterprise and energy.

R. C. LOUGH, pioneer and farmer, is a native of West Virginia, was born November 21, 1820, is the son of Rev. Peter and Prudence (Gibson) Lough, and is the eldest of fifteen children, seven sons and eight daughters; parents of German-Irish lineage, and natives of West Virginia. In 1839, they, with fourteen children, emigrated to Edwards County, Ill., and there remained five years, when they removed to Clay County, and there the father died in 1860, and the mother in Richland County, in September, 1883. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Lough, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and his father was a prominent man and one of the pioneers of Clay County, Ill. The marriage of Mr. Lough, our subject, occurred on September 28, 1841, to Mary Ann Courtrecht, a native of Wabash County, Ill. To this union were born four children, viz.: Benjamin P., Samantha C. (deceased), Martha L. (deceased) and Norman A. Benjamin P. died near Vicksburg, Miss., during the late war. He was a member of Company A, Fifth Illinois Cavalry, enlisted at Olney in 1863, and died in 1864, a brave and true soldier. Mrs. Lough died in June, 1869, and Mr. Lough was married again in the following November. He chose Jennie Bradshaw, a native of Wayne County, Ill. In 1845, they settled where they now reside, and have been here for thirty-nine years. He built the first house about fifteen rods from the site of his present residence, a cabin sixteen feet square, constructed of poles, after the fashion of the early pioneer dwellings. At the time of the marriage of Mr. Lough, he only possessed an ax and a gun, and borrowed money to get his marriage license. He now owns 364 acres of good land, 264 acres of which are improved. His residence is one of the best in Denver Township. It was erected in 1861, and cost \$2,000. Mr. L. is a thorough Republican, and cast his first Presidential vote for Henry Clay. He has been Township Asses-

sor, and served as Justice of the Peace four years. He has been a member of the Masonic Fraternity since 1855, and of the Methodist Episcopal Church for forty-eight years. Mrs. Lough is also a member of that church. Our subject is one of the enterprising men of Richland County and is a thorough Christian gentleman. He is now the oldest living settler in Denver Township.

HAYS B. MILLER, farmer and stock dealer, was born at Rising Sun, Ohio Co., Ind., July 1, 1850, is the son of John C. and Mary (Turner) Miller, is the youngest of three children, and is of German-Irish lineage. The parents of Hays B. were natives of the old "Penn State," but in early life emigrated to Ohio County, Ind., and there his father now resides, and there his mother died in 1851. John Miller is one of the prominent men of that county, and has been County Treasurer for a number of years. In the fall of 1868 our subject left his native home, went to Bureau County, Ill., and there remained eighteen months. He then returned to his native county, in Indiana, and remained one year, next coming to Denver Township, this county. The first year he farmed with S. C. Wilson, then rented a farm for three years, and in 1877 moved to that place where he now lives. Mr. Miller was married in the centennial year, to Alice O., a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Gray, and a native of Keokuk, Iowa. To this marriage has been born three children, viz.: Albert M. (deceased), an infant (deceased, unnamed) and Mary E. Mr. Miller is a radical Republican, cast his first Presidential vote for Hayes, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Miller is a member of the Baptist Church. He is one of the successful young men of Denver Township, a prominent citizen and a thorough gentleman. He has a good common-school education. For a number of years Mr. Miller has been engaged in raising fine stock, his cattle having several times taken first premiums at the Richland County Fair.

JOHN MONTGOMERY, farmer, was born in Gloucester County, N. J., November 19, 1829, is the son of William and Mary A. (Extel) Montgomery, is the eldest living of ten children, and is of English-Irish descent. The father was born in the old "Penn State," and his mother in New Jersey. When the subject was nine years of age, he emigrated with his parents to Clinton County, Ohio, and there his father died in 1869; and when he was twenty-two years of age he began the struggle of life alone. He married on December 25, 1858, Belinda Simmons, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and was born May 14, 1838. To this union has been born eleven children. In March, 1863, Mr. Montgomery came to Richland County, Ill., settled in Denver Township, and in 1866 settled where he now resides. He is a stanch Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which body he has belonged since 1848. In 1876 he was elected Assessor of Denver Township, has served in that office three terms, and two terms as Township Collector.

GEORGE R. OSBURN, farmer, was born in Franklin County,



Ind., September 26, 1828, is the son of James T. and Ruth (Nelson) Osburn, is the fifth of eleven children, and is of English-Welsh descent. The parents came to the territory that now composes Indiana as early as 1801, being among the first settlers of Indiana. The father died in Franklin County, in 1858, and the mother two years previously. The paternal grandfather of our subject was one of the first men in Kentucky, and was accidentally drowned in the Ohio River near the mouth of Big Sandy, about 1796. George R. remained at home and superintended his father's farm until 1867, when he came to Denver Township, Richland County, in this State, and settled where he now lives, and where he now owns 300 acres of good land, which he redeemed from the wild prairie. Mr. Osburn's marriage occurred in 1866, to Martha F. Sutfin, a native of Franklin County, Ind. They had nine children, all deceased, save one. Mr. Osburn enlisted on January 1, 1862, in Company B, Fifty-Second Indiana Infantry, and was discharged on September 10, 1865, at Montgomery, Ala. He participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Nashville, Mobile and others. He now votes as he shot, in the Republican field. Mr. and Mrs. Osburn are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

MORTIMER PHILLIPS, pioneer of Denver Township, was born in West Virginia, July 30, 1830, is the son of William and Mehetable (Gould) Phillips, is the fourth of twelve children, and is of Scotch extraction. His parents were born in Massachusetts, but when young, emigrated with their parents to West Virginia, where the paternal grandfather of Mortimer Phillips died at about one hundred years of age. His father died there in 1860, and mother about ten years later. Our subject remained at home until his twenty-first year, and worked for his father, having the privilege of attending school a few days during each winter. Mortimer was married in 1853 to Lydia (Lough) Douthit. They had seven children. Mrs. Phillips died in 1875, and our subject was married in the same year to Ellen Clark. They have six children. In 1852 Mr. Phillips came to Richland County, and settled where he now lives, entering at the time eighty acres of land. Mr. Phillips enlisted on November 1, 1861, in Company H, Twenty-Sixth Illinois Infantry, took part in many battles, and was discharged on July 20, 1865. He and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he has been identified for thirty years. He is a Republican, and has been Clerk of this township for eight years.