

was an historic character in his day, having played an important part in the famous underground railway when Illinois was admitted as a free state in 1818. He came to this state because he was opposed to slavery. His wife's maiden name was Kell, and she was also a native of South Carolina. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living at this writing, the father of the subject being the only one of the boys living.

Samuel G. Telford and wife were the parents of nine children, named in the order of their birth as follows: J. D., subject of this sketch; Joseph, of Alma township, Marion county; Margaret J., deceased; Eva, who is married and living in Ashville, North Carolina; Alice, the wife of William Wyatt, of Durant, Oklahoma; Kate, wife of Doctor Richardson, of Union City, Oklahoma; George B., who is living in Kansas; Arthur, a farmer of Marion county; Belle, who became Mrs. Arnold, is deceased.

J. D. Telford, our subject, lived with his father until he was twenty-three years old, assisting with the work on the old homestead and attending the country schools during the winter months. Having applied himself well to his text-books he became fairly well educated, and later has added to this by home reading and coming in contact with the world. The happy and harmonious domestic life of the subject dates from January 19, 1872, when he was united in marriage to Sarah A. Wyatt, the estimable daughter of John and Margaret Wyatt, a highly respected family of Marion county,

natives of Tennessee, who came to Marion county in 1860.

The following children have been born to the subject and wife, all of whom are well established in life and give promise of successful futures: Dr. A. T., who lives at Olney, Illinois; E. D., is an attorney at Salem, this county; Ula, is a stenographer in the Life Savings Station at Chicago; Omer F. is a farmer in Marion county; Oran is a member of the family circle at their home in Salem, as is also J. D., Jr. The Telford residence is modern and always cheerful.

The subject is engaged in farming and real estate, largely interested in fruit growing, at which he is highly competent, having long taken an abiding interest in horticulture. He has two large orchards containing six thousand and five hundred apple trees of excellent variety and quality. He devotes much of his time to the care of his orchards, which are among the most valuable in this part of the state, and useless to add that the financial returns from the sale of his fruit are usually quite satisfactory. Politically Mr. Telford is a staunch Republican and having been actuated by a laudable desire for political preferment, his friends elected him to the important office of Sheriff of Marion county, the duties of which he faithfully performed to the satisfaction of all concerned for a period of four years, having been elected in 1882 and serving until 1886. He is well grounded in his political convictions, and always lends his aid in supporting his party's principles, en-

deavoring to place the best men possible in local offices. He is a well informed man, not only on political matters and current events, but he is well read on scientific, literary and diverse subjects which make his conversation interesting as well as instructive, and he is generally regarded as one of the substantial men of Marion county.

BENJAMIN F. RODGERS, M. D.

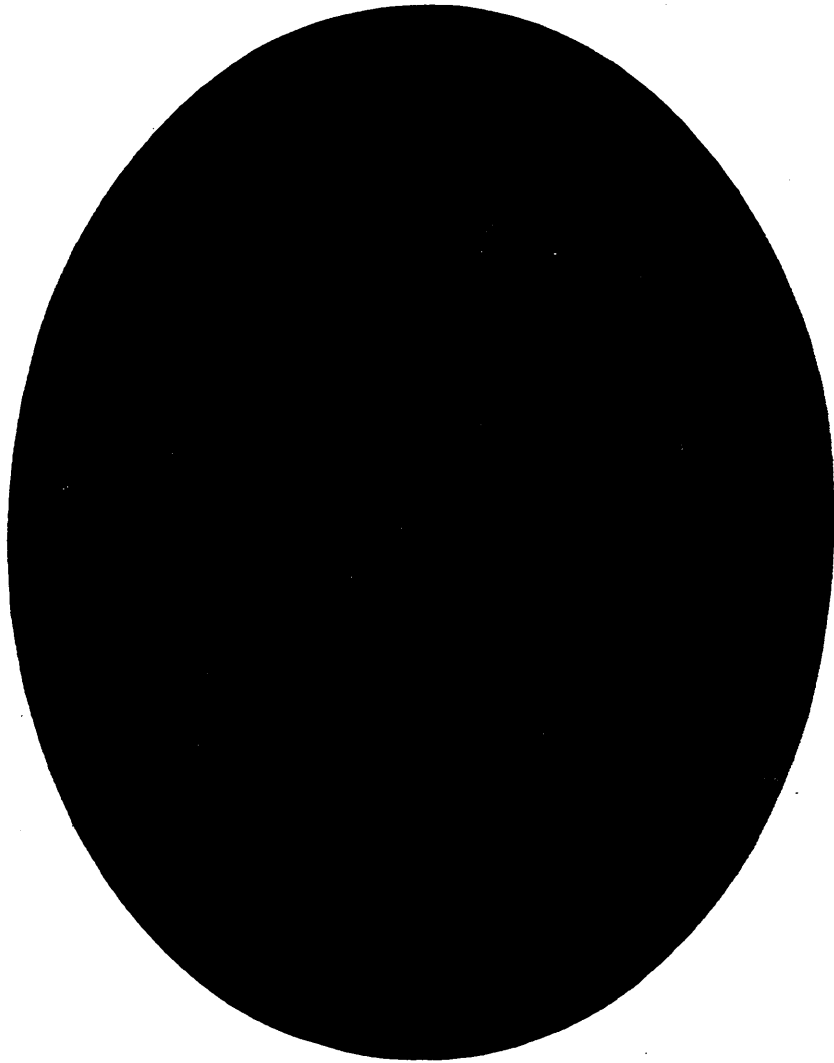
In giving the life record of the subject of this sketch the publishers of this work believe that it will be an incentive to the young who may peruse it to lead nobler lives, have higher ambitions and accomplish more for their fellow men, for his life has always been led along a plane of high endeavor, always consistent with the truth in its higher forms and ever in keeping with honorable principles. He is the scion of pioneer ancestors of the most sterling qualities who did much in their day for the communities in which they lived, and Doctor Rodgers is a worthy descendant of his forbears, thus for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that he was one of the patriotic sons of the North, who, when the tocsin of war sounded, left his hearthstone and business to do what he could in saving the country from treason, the biographer is glad to give him just representation in this work.

Dr. Benjamin F. Rodgers was born in York, Pennsylvania, in 1829, the son of

Joseph D. and Mary (Hamilton) Rodgers. Grandfather Rodgers, who came to America in 1776, settling in Maryland, was a weaver by profession and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He lived to be ninety-four years old, and the grandmother of the subject lived to her ninety-sixth year. They were the parents of a large family.

The father of the subject, who was born in Maryland, moved to Pennsylvania when a boy, later to Ohio, where he spent the balance of his days on a farm. There were eleven children in this family, six of whom lived to maturity. The subject's parents were Presbyterians and the father and mother both died at the age of sixty-four years.

The subject of this sketch was nine years old when he moved to Ohio, where he received a fairly good education by attending the subscription schools of his community. He clerked in a store in Ohio for two years, then learned to be a shoemaker; but neither of these lines seemed to suit his tastes, believing that he was capable of rendering a better service to humanity, consequently he began the study of medicine, in which he made rapid progress and he soon entered a medical college. After completing the prescribed course with honor, he began practice in Ohio, and later located at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, having soon gained a firm foothold. But believing that better opportunities awaited him at Belleville, Illinois, he removed thereto in 1849, and afterwards removed to Jacksonville, and at that place the doctor enlisted in September, 1861, in the Union, enlisted in September, 1861, in



B. F. RODGERS, M. D.

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the Second Illinois Light Artillery, and so efficient were his services that he was commissioned captain of Company K. His record in the army is a most creditable one. He was at the battle of Fort Donelson, at Jackson, Mississippi, and was in the siege of Vicksburg. Engraved on a monument erected at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in honor of Company K, Second Illinois Light Artillery, are the words :

“Battery K, Second Light Artillery,
 Capt. Benjamin Rodgers,
 “Fourth Division Sixteenth Corps.
 “Entered Campaign About May 20,
 1863. Served with the Division Dur-
 ing siege.”

He takes great pride in his military life and relates his battery was nearer the enemy's works than any other battery of the siege, which occupied forty-two days. He was Chief of Artillery on the staff of General Lauman, Gen. Crocker Gresham, Logan, and was Chief of Staff of General Ranson at Natchez.

He was also in the southwestern campaign and the battles subsequent to that. He was mustered out at Memphis, Tennessee, December 31, 1864. After the close of the war Doctor Rodgers located in Patoka, where he has practiced his profession ever since.

Doctor Rodgers was united in marriage on November 3, 1848, with Mary K. Chiell, daughter of Casper Chiell. He has four children living, also fourteen grandchildren,

and seven great-grandchildren. Mrs. Rodgers was called from her earthly labors at the age of seventy-two years.

In politics our subject is a loyal Republican, and he has ever taken a great interest in public affairs, having made his influence felt for the good of his community in many ways and served in a most able manner as postmaster and also Mayor of Patoka; in fact, he might be called the father of this town. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and has been commander of the local post. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the lodge at Jacksonville, Illinois. No man in this part of Marion county is better or more favorably known than he, known for his professional skill, his public spirit, his integrity and kind heartedness.

ADAM H. BACHMANN.

The United States can boast of no better or more law-abiding class of citizens than the great number of German people who have found homes within her borders. Though holding dear and sacred the beloved mother country, they are none the less devoted to the fair country of their adoption. Among this class is the subject of this sketch, who for a number of years has been one of the foremost citizens of Marion county, Illinois, where he has labored not only for his own advancement, but also for the good of the community, his efforts hav-

ing been amply repaid with abundant financial success and the esteem of his fellow men.

Adam H. Bachmann, the well known and popular president of the Salem National Bank, was born in Saxony, Germany, November 28, 1845, the son of George Bachmann, a man of sterling qualities, who was also a native of Germany, and who died there in 1860. The mother of the subject was known in her maidenhood as Mocklin Sputh, also of the Fatherland, who was called to her rest in 1866. Of the six children born to the elder Bachmann, there are living the following in 1908: Mrs. Lizzie Sputh and Ernest Bachmann, both of Germany, and the subject of this sketch. These children received every care and attention possible by their parents who were people of industry and uprightness.

Adam H. Bachmann left Germany in March, 1866, landing in America the following April, having barely attained his majority. He had received eight years of schooling in his native land, receiving a fairly good education for he was an ambitious lad and diligently applied himself to his school-books and this careful foundation has since been greatly strengthened and built up through his contact with the world and his habits of home reading, so that Mr. Bachmann's conversation is at once learned, interesting and instructive. Our subject located at Lebanon, Illinois, shortly after coming to the New World, where he worked as a cabinet maker. In the spring of 1868, he came to Salem, this state, and

engaged in the furniture business with which he has since been identified, and which was a successful venture from the first and by reason of the subject's careful attention to duty, his natural ability as a far-sighted and cautious business man, coupled with his kind and courteous treatment of customers, his trade has gradually grown all these years, his place of business being generally known as one of the safest, most reliable as well as up-to-date furniture establishments in this locality. After building the business up to its present high state of efficiency, Mr. Bachmann turned it over to his two sons, Frank and Charley, both very able and progressive young men, who are conducting a modern and well stocked store, being numbered among the leading young business men of the county, to whom the future holds unbounded success and honor, since they are not only young men of sound business principles, but also of the finest personal traits.

Mr. Bachmann was united in marriage November 15, 1868, to Mary Alkire, the representative of a highly respected and influential family of Lebanon, Illinois, who was born in Pennsylvania. Eleven children have been born to the subject and wife, seven of whom are living at the time of this writing, 1908, named in order of their birth, as follows: Mrs. Lizzie Kolb, of Lebanon, Illinois; Frank, of Salem, this county; Mrs. Amy Stonecipher, also of Salem; Maud, living at home; Charley, Adam H., Jr., and Paulina, all live with their parents in Salem.

Mr. Bachmann deserves much credit for

the well defined success he has attained since casting his lot among Americans, partly because he has been the architect of his own fortunes, beginning his business career absolutely empty-handed, and with no one to encourage or assist in any way, and partly because he has made his competency by honest, straight-forward business methods that no one can question. When he first landed on our shores he had a capital of only three cents and today he is the wealthiest man in Marion county. He had the insight, the rare sagacity and perceptive instinct to grasp situations as they arose and the splendid business acumen to turn seeming obstacles into ultimate success. Such men are born leaders in the financial world and they are not any too frequently met with.

Mr. Bachmann is president of the Salem National Bank, president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at St. Peter, Illinois; besides being an extensive land owner, having nine large farms in Marion county. They are all very valuable, well drained, securely fenced, the soil being highly productive and the buildings on each modern and convenient. Besides these he has much other real estate. Also owns about as much property in East St. Louis as he has here. Mr. Bachmann has large property interests at Mattoon and Oakland, this state. His large real estate holdings and financial loans occupy the major part of his time and attention, however, he finds time to assist in forwarding any movement for the betterment of his community. In fact, he is a pioneer in the development and progress of Marion

county. He came to Salem, when there was only one brick house here, but he had the sagacity to note the possibilities in the place and soon decided to cast his lot here with the result that he has benefited not only himself, but also the entire community, more, perhaps, than any other man has done or is likely to do in the years to come. In other words, the wonderful things that the future held seemed to be within Mr. Bachmann's horoscope, and he began on the ground floor, developing with the country, which is wonderfully rich in resources and possibilities. While Mr. Bachmann has been too busy to devote much time to political matters, never having entertained an ambition for political preferment, he has ever assisted in any way he could the development of the community whether political, educational, moral or civic, and he did much in making the city a clean and desirable place in which to live, principally while ably serving it as Alderman. In his fraternal relations our subject is a Mason.

The Bachmann residence, which is one of the finest, most modern, substantial and beautiful in Salem, is elegantly furnished and a place where the many friends and admirers of this popular family delight to gather, being presided over with rare grace and dignity by the subject's wife who is a charming hostess, congenial and talented.

Mr. Bachmann is a pleasant man to meet, jovial, and at all times agreeable, never pompous or phlegmatic. His is a well rounded character, in which the different interests of life are given their due proportion

of attention. One line of thought or work to the exclusion of all others produces an abnormal development and makes the individual narrow in his views of life. Mr. Bachmann has never followed such a course for while giving his chief attention to his business, as do the majority of men, he finds time and opportunity to take an interest in matters pertaining to the progress and growth of his county, state and nation, and to mingle with his friends, enlarging the circle of his acquaintance and broadening his mind through the interchange of thought with others.

E. LOUIS BLEDSOE.

The names of those men who have distinguished themselves through the possession of those qualities which daily contribute to the success of private life and to the public stability and who have enjoyed the respect and confidence of those about them, should not be permitted to perish. Such a one is the subject of this review, one of the leading lumber dealers in Marion county.

E. L. Bledsoe, president of the Bledsoe Lumber Company, of Salem, was born in Bradford, Indiana, in 1858. His father was William J. Bledsoe, a native of Tennessee, who came to Indiana when a young man. He was a United Brethren minister. William J. Bledsoe was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, having been a member of the Thirty-seventh Iowa Volun-

teer Infantry. He died in a hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, from illness contracted while in line of duty. Two sons, William J., Jr., and James W., were also in the army, having enlisted in Company H, Twenty-fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. They fought side by side in twenty-seven battles. Both re-enlisted after their time was up and served until the close of the war. James W. was wounded twice. Both were with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. They are both living. The father died May 5, 1867.

The mother of the subject was Martha Ridgeway, a native of Chillicothe, Ohio, who married the subject's father in Franksville, Indiana. She was a woman of many fine traits and was called to her rest in 1883 while living at Rock Island, Illinois. The following children were born to this union: James W., of Rock Island; William J. Jr., also of Rock Island; George B. died at Rock Island in 1906; J. P., of Davenport, Iowa; E. L., our subject; Frank A., of Rock Island; Mark S., of St. Louis; Mattie J., who is a physician located at Chickasha, Oklahoma. Our subject was taken to Iowa by his parents when about three years old. The family located at Washington, but most of the subject's boyhood was spent in Marshall. He received only a common school education, his course of study being interrupted by reason of the fact that his father frequently moved from town to town in carrying on his ministerial work, but he is a well educated man, nevertheless, having gained it first handed from the world.

Mr. Bledsoe has been twice married, first in 1876 to Minnie Dizotell, of Eldon, Iowa, the ceremony having been performed in that city. She was born in Canada. Her father was of French lineage and her mother was Irish. After bearing the subject one child, she was called to her rest in 1901 at St. Louis, Missouri. The child born to this union is Truman C. Bledsoe, manager of the Bledsoe-McCreery Lumber Company, of St. Louis. He married Stella Farrell, of that city, and they are the parents of two children, Barbara Louis, and Truman C., Jr. The subject was married in 1903, his second wife being Lillie Mattox, of Terre Haute, Indiana. One son has blessed this union, Maurice William, who was born on September 2, 1904.

The following history of Mr. Bledsoe's railroad career, which forms the lengthiest and one of the most important chapters in his life history, is based on a sketch which the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway system issued in book form, containing a history of the road's representative employes, which article shows the high regard this company had for Mr. Bledsoe.

When only a lad of fifteen our subject began working as a water boy for Howell's corps of engineers in 1870. A survey was then being made from Washington, Iowa, to Princeton, Missouri, the line being an extension of the Chicago and Southwestern Railway, which was later absorbed by the "Rock Island System." The lad was familiarly known as "Squire," which soubriquet has clung to him through life. He worked

his way to more important positions in this corps, having remained with them until the survey was completed and the corps was disbanded at Princeton. Our subject then returned to Eldon, Iowa, to which point his mother had moved during his absence. In the fall of 1872 he determined to become a brakeman, to which idea his mother strongly protested, arguing that such a life was too hazardous for her son to undertake, but the son began his career as head brakeman on a very cold night the following winter, his duties being partly to watch for dangers ahead and to watch the lights on the ca-boose. The rear cars had broken loose on this particular occasion and were running down grade as if about to crash into the section of the train ahead. There were no air brakes on freight trains at that time, and the old square draw bar was dangerous and hard to handle. It was up grade and down grade from Eldon to Washington, but the boy stuck faithfully at his post and all came out well, and from that night of somewhat exciting initiation to the last one on which he pulled the brakes, he proved loyal to his trust, having laid off only about ten days during his entire service. Mr. Bledsoe was a model young man and soon all who formed his acquaintance learned to admire him, and up to this writing, 1908, not a drop of intoxicating liquor has ever touched his lips or a profane word ever passed them, and up to the time of the death of his first wife he had never used tobacco, but since that time he has been accustomed to smoke, having been greatly shocked at

her demise from which he has never fully regained his former vivacity. His word has always been as good as his note and he has been all his life an exemplary character, which is the result of careful teachings by a Christian mother. He has always been a modest and retiring man, unassuming and never in the least pompous or found seeking notoriety, according to the friends who know him best. He has always been cool and calculating and this fact has doubtless saved him accidents while in the railway service, however, death stared him in the face twice during his service on the road; once when he was assisting the fireman in taking coal at Perlee, Iowa, he was caught between the cob and the apron of the schute, but the engineer, Frank Hudler, prevented the accident. At Washington, Iowa, while making a coupling he was pressed into a very close place by the giving way of a draw bar, but the rear car received the impact and rebounded away preventing an accident. In due time Mr. Bledsoe was promoted for his faithful service and wore the badge of conductor. When he resigned it was after nine years of freight runs on the first Iowa division of the southwestern branch of the Rock Island System, his resignation taking place in 1881, which was tendered for the purpose of retiring permanently from railroad life, but he was induced to accept a position on the St. Louis division of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, with which he remained for three years, and then resigned to accept a position as sleeping car conductor for the Pullman Palace Car Com-

pany. He remained with that company for four years, during the latter part of which he was inspector of all the company's cars entering St. Louis. He had the distinction of placing in the union station at St. Louis the first Pullman vestibuled train, it being under his personal inspection. He subsequently resigned this position to accept an offer from the Huttig Sash & Door Company, of St. Louis, and in 1900 he was traveling representative of this firm in southern Illinois. He remained with this firm for eighteen years, during which time he rendered them services of the most efficient type and was the cause of their business rapidly increasing. And during his long services with the above mentioned companies he was held in the highest esteem by his employers who placed in him implicit confidence and had unqualified faith in his ability and integrity.

Mr. Bledsoe came to Salem, this county, in 1904 and organized lumber companies here and at Sparta, Illinois, known as the Bledsoe Company, retail yards, wholesale; the Bledsoe-McCreery Lumber Company, being interested in all of them, and by reason of his knowledge of this line of business and his reputation for square dealing, coupled with his courteous manners, he has built up a very extensive business throughout this locality which is constantly growing. In his fraternal relations our subject is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He also belongs to a lumber dealers' association, the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoo, and both Mr. and Mrs. Bledsoe are members of the

Christian church, and they are among the popular and highly respected residents of Salem.

SILAS CLOUD.

Among the venerable and highly respected citizens of Denver township, Richland county, Illinois, who deserve special mention in a work of this character, is Silas Cloud, for his life has been one of consecutive and honest endeavor, resulting in good both to himself and family and those of his community, which he has seen develop through all its stages.

Silas Cloud was born in Clinton county, Ohio, January 7, 1833, the son of Henry and Anna (Laymon) Cloud, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of North Carolina. They were married in Ohio, settling on a farm in Clinton county soon afterward, where they remained until the death of the subject's father, which occurred in 1835, when Silas was two years old. Henry Cloud was not fifty years old when he died. He is buried in the old Masonic cemetery at Lynchburg, Ohio. His widow remained on the farm in Clinton county until about 1850. The subject was then seventeen years of age. Mrs. Henry Cloud was remarried, her second husband being Christian M. Foster, who was also a native of North Carolina. They both remained in Clinton county the remainder of their lives, the subject's mother dying first in 1880, when nearly seventy years of age. She is

buried in the same cemetery with her first husband. Her second husband survived her about three years. No children were born to them. The subject's father and mother were the parents of seven children, all boys but one, all of whom grew to maturity, Silas being the sixth child in order of birth.

Silas Cloud's early education was obtained in the common schools of Clinton county, Ohio, having first attended a select school and later a free school in the days when pupils sat on rude benches, which were usually too high for the feet to touch the floor. He did not get much education until after he became of age, then he fitted himself for a teacher which profession he followed with much success for a period of twenty-eight years. The subject remained at home with his mother until his marriage on October 26, 1860, to Mary E. Montgomery in Clinton county, Ohio, in which place she was born, November 11, 1839, the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Ex-tel) Montgomery, both natives of New Jersey, the father of Irish descent. Mrs. Cloud's parents were married in New Jersey and moved to Ohio, buying a farm in Clinton county, upon which they lived the remainder of their lives. Mr. Montgomery dying in 1867, at the age of seventy years, and Mrs. Montgomery survived until 1884, dying at the age of eighty-one years. Both are buried in the Masonic cemetery at Lynchburg, Ohio. They were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity, two having died in infancy, the

subject's wife was the eighth child in order of birth. Mrs. Cloud attended the common schools in Ohio. When she and the subject were married they rented a farm in Clinton county, Ohio, where they lived a few years, the subject farming during the summer months and teaching school in the winter. In September, 1863, they moved to Illinois, settling in Richland county, where they bought a sixty acre farm of unimproved land in Denver township, forty acres being on the prairie and twenty acres in timber. He at once erected a log house and other similar buildings, making rapid and extensive improvements and later buying an adjoining farm of forty acres. They finally owned a substantial frame dwelling. Mr. Cloud taught school during the winter months in Richland county. In 1873 they sold their principal farm and moved to the eighty acres upon which they have since resided. It is now well improved and nearly all under cultivation. Mr. Cloud at one time owned one hundred acres of good land in Denver township, but he has since sold twenty acres of timber land, now owning eighty acres of improved land. He has never lived out of Denver township since coming to Richland county in 1863. Although both Mr. and Mrs. Cloud have seen many years of hardship and privation during their lives, their old age is comfortable and happy. They have always worked hard and have been successful. Mr. Cloud's record as a farmer is worthy of praise, but that of school teacher is especially worthy of commendation, for it covers a long

stretch of time, twenty-eight years in Ohio and Illinois, and twenty-six years without missing a year. After he had taught two years he attended college in Lebanon, Ohio, for two years. He intended teaching for thirty years, but thought it advisable to give it up on account of trouble with his eyes. He won a wide reputation as an able educator and his services were in great demand.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cloud six children have been born, three of whom grew to maturity, only two of them now living. They are: Ida, deceased; John L., living; William Henry, deceased; Thomas W., deceased; Albert, deceased; Wylie L., living. John is single and is living at home with his parents. Wylie, who is also single, is engaged in the laundry business in Chicago where he has lived for eight years.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Cloud belongs to the Lynchburg lodge, No. 151, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Lynchburg, Ohio, where he joined in 1855, in which order he has passed through all the chairs in the subordinate lodge. He has also been a member of various other secret orders, such as the Illinois Grange, and the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association. In politics he is a Republican, and once ran for the office of County Treasurer on the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association ticket in his county. He has been treasurer of the Commission of Highways for sixteen years in Denver township, which position he has very faithfully filled. He now holds the office of School Trustee, and he has been president of the School Board for nearly

thirty years. Mr. and Mrs. Cloud are members of the Methodist church at Marion chapel in Denver township. Mr. Cloud has been active in church work and in the duties of the same for many years, having been a member of the church for thirty years. He has been steward and recording steward for twenty-five years, having never missed but one meeting during that time. He has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the past fifteen years. He is now one of the trustees of Marion chapel, also trustee of the parsonage of the circuit. Mr. Cloud has now reached the age of seventy-six years, and he has always been blessed with good health, now being hale and hearty for one of his age. His good life companion is now sixty-nine years old and she has not enjoyed her usual splendid health for the past few years. They are a fine old couple and admired by all Denver township and surrounding country for their lives of wholesome influence and their kindness of heart, and for the great good they have accomplished in material, educational and religious work.

JOHN W. LARIMER.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption of this biographical review is now recognized as one of the leading organizers, promoters and all around business men and representative citizens of Marion county, Illinois, where he was born in what is now

Stevenson township, May 14, 1852. John W. Larimer's father was Smith Larimer, a native of Ohio who came to Marion county, this state, about 1846. He devoted his life very largely to agricultural pursuits. He was elected Treasurer and Assessor of Marion county, serving twelve years with great satisfaction to his constituents. He moved to Salem in 1858. He was a loyal Democrat and was elected to office on this ticket. The offices of Treasurer and Assessor were conducted as one at that time. Smith Larimer died in Salem in 1887, at the age of seventy-six years, after a useful and very active life. Robert Larimer, grandfather of the subject, was a native of Ireland who emigrated to America when a boy, devoting his life to the farm. He lived to be an old man.

The mother of the subject was known in maidenhood as Sarah Brown, a native of Ohio, who traced her lineage to Scotland. She was a woman of fine traits of character and she passed to her rest in 1861, when the subject of this sketch was nine years old. Mr. and Mrs. Smith Larimer were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living, namely: Andrew Jackson, who was first lieutenant of Company H, One Hundred and Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was mustered largely in Marion county, and this brave young officer met his death in the great battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864; Wilson S. was a member of the same company, having gone through the war, dying in the spring of 1888; Mrs. Sarah M. Hite, of St. Louis;

Mrs. Nancy J. Moore, of Salem, Illinois; W. F., of Denver, Colorado; John W., our subject; Ann E. Irvin, also living in Denver; and Mrs. Kagy, wife of L. M. Kagy, president of the Salem State Bank.

John W. Larimer, our subject, was born on the farm, and when six years old moved with his parents to Salem where he attended school and when fourteen years old went into the court house with J. O. Chance, who was engaged in the abstract business and who afterward became Clerk of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Our subject began learning the abstract business at this early age, and in 1870 he was appointed Deputy County Clerk for one year under J. O. Chance, who was then Clerk. Shortly afterward Mr. Chance and Mr. Larimer formed a partnership in the abstract and real estate business, which partnership continued for about four years, when Mr. Chance was elected Clerk of the Supreme Court, then Mr. Larimer continued the business himself up to the present time, becoming known as one of the ablest, most accurate and reliable abstracters in this part of the state and his office is always a busy place.

Our subject was married May 6, 1871, to Rosa Andrews, daughter of Seth S. Andrews, now deceased, formerly a representative citizen of Salem. Three bright and interesting children have been born to the subject and wife as follows: Dwight W., who is associated with his father in the abstract business; Sarah Louise and Kathryn.

Mr. Larimer has ever taken an active part

in politics and as a result of his innate ability and his loyalty to his party's principles he has been chosen to positions of public trust by his fellow voters, having been elected Town Clerk in 1877. He has also been City Clerk, and he represented the old third ward as Alderman, also was honored by one term as Mayor. He served as a member of the Board of Education for four years, and in 1896 he was a member of the State Board of Equalization, serving four years. This was an elective office and Mr. Larimer carried Marion county by over one thousand votes, which speaks for his popularity in his home county. He received ten more votes than William J. Bryan. He was Secretary and a member of the Board of Directors of the Salem Building and Loan Association, having organized this association of which he has been secretary for twenty-five years in 1908, or ever since its organization. Our subject is also president of the Business Men's Association, and president of the Marion County Agricultural Board. Thus we see that our subject has the confidence and good will of the public who have entrusted him with these various positions of honor and trust, and that he has conscientiously and ably discharged his duties at all times goes without saying, in fact, no man in the county is more popular than Mr. Larimer, who is regarded as one of the county's most valuable men and one of its foremost citizens.

His business interests have been varied; he is one of the stockholders in the Salem State Bank. He is a prominent Mason, hav-

ing been through all the offices in both the lodge and the chapter, being a Thirty-second degree member. He is also a member of the Knights Templar. Both Mr. and Mrs. Larimer are members of the Presbyterian church. They reside at Walnut and Church streets in a beautiful modern home which they own.

EDWARD RICHARDSON.

Individual enterprise which is so justly the boast of the American people is strikingly exhibited in the career of the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch. While transmitting to posterity the record of such a life, it is with the hope of instilling into the minds of those who come after the important lesson that honor and station are sure rewards of individual exertion. That the career of such a person besides being treasured in the hearts of relatives and friends, should have its public record also, is peculiarly proper because a knowledge of men whose substantial fame rests upon their attainments and character must exert a wholesome influence upon the rising generation. The life of Mr. Richardson has indeed been a busy and successful one and the record is eminently worthy of perusal by the student who would learn the intrinsicness of individuality and its influence in moulding public opinion and giving character and stability to a community.

Edward Richardson, the well known editor of the Olney Democrat, of which he is owner, also publisher of the Olney Review,

both now popular, and one of the influential men of Richland county, Illinois, was born in Lawrence county, this state, October 7, 1867, the son of Thomas H. and Eliza J. Richardson, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of North Carolina, both representatives of old families of sterling character.

The early education of our subject was obtained in the public schools of Olney, where he carefully applied himself, evincing an early liking for literary studies and deciding when a mere boy to devote his life to newspaper work in some form.

The business career proper of Mr. Richardson began October 22, 1891, when he commenced the publication of the Olney Democrat with C. L. V. Tinker, who sold his interest to become city editor of the Vincennes Sun. Since that time, twelve years ago, Mr. Richardson has owned and edited the Democrat alone, building up the paper until it now has a wide circulation and its mechanical appearance shows that he has a modern plant, the office being one of the best equipped in this section of the state. The Olney Review was established by our subject early in 1908 and it has been a successful venture, supplying a long felt want in the field it seeks to serve. These papers have been especially noted for their strong support of all moral questions and they have enjoyed the support of the best citizens. Aside from the political phase of these papers they are designed to vibrate with the public pulse and in addition to the news of the day, their columns teem with much of the best current literature and they are clean, dignified family

papers as well as popular and influential political organs and their steady growth in public favor bespeak for them futures of still greater promise and usefulness under the able management of Mr. Richardson, who is not only an editorial moulder of public opinion, but he also makes his influence felt in directing the affairs of the county, being an enterprising, public-spirited citizen with the affairs of his county at heart.

Our subject was united in marriage with Hulda Strathmann, on February 9, 1898. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Strathmann, who became Mrs. Richardson, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, January 17, 1877. Her father is now deceased and her mother is now Mrs. Emma L. Busefink. The subject and wife are the parents of three children, namely: Paul, nine years old in 1909; Martha and Mary, twins, who are five years old.

Mr. Richardson is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in his political relations he supports the Democratic party. He is a forceful factor in directing thought along those lines which make for the enlightenment of the public and the highest good of his fellow men.

JOHN H. VAWTER.

Improvement and progress may well be said to form the keynote of the character of our subject, and he has not only been interested in the work of advancement in indi-

vidual affairs but his influence is felt in up-building the community, where he has always resided. Mr. Vawter has been a very industrious man all his life, striving to keep abreast of the times in every respect, and as a result every mile post of the years he has passed has found him farther advanced, more prosperous, more sedate and with a larger number of friends than the preceding.

John H. Vawter was born in Salem, Illinois, in 1860. His father was Reuben T. Vawter, a native of Tennessee who came to Marion county about 1850, when he was yet a young man, settling in Salem, where he established a tailor shop, having always been a tailor by trade and a first class workman in this line. He lived here and met with worthy success until his death which occurred in 1862. The mother of the subject was known in her maidenhood as Eleanor M. Kimball, a native of Tennessee, who was a woman of many beautiful traits, who was called to her rest in 1903. Besides the subject of this sketch Mr. and Mrs. Reuben T. Vawter were the parents of another child, A. K. Vawter, now living in Oklahoma, where he is known as a man of good character and much business ability. The subject's mother's second marriage occurred about 1867, to William Metcalf. John H. Vawter made a splendid record while attending the common schools in Salem. After reaching maturity he went into the coal and teaming business, later entered the produce business, prospering at each of these, but he decided that the hardware business was more to his liking

and consequently he entered this field in his home town in the spring of 1901. His success was assured from the first, and his business has rapidly grown, making it necessary for him to gradually increase his stock, which he has done until at present he has one of the most complete and carefully selected hardware stocks in Marion county. He has been in his present location ever since he entered the business and he numbers his customers from all parts of the county, and owing to his courteous treatment and the excellent quality of goods he handles, together with the fact that they are always sold at reasonable figures, his reputation has been firmly established and gained for him not only hundreds of loyal customers, but at the same time hosts of friends.

Mr. Vawter was married in 1883, to Maggie T. Garner, the refined daughter of Albert C. Garner, a well known and highly respected family of Salem, and to this union four interesting children have been born, as follows: Lillian G., whose date of birth occurred in 1886; Hattie N., who was born in 1889; Marietta's birth occurred in 1891; and Irene first saw the light of day in 1901.

Mr. Vawter has always taken a conspicuous part in public affairs and as a result of his humanitarian impulses his fellow citizens have honored him by electing him Mayor of the City of Salem, which responsible office he at present (1908) holds, the duties of which he ably performs to the entire satisfaction of this vicinity, and during his administration he has done much for the betterment and material progress of

the city, with the result that Salem is one of the cleanest, most inviting and well governed cities in this part of the state. He also served faithfully for four years as Alderman.

Mr. Vawter is a staunch Democrat and well fortified in his political beliefs, being at all times ready to lend his support to the party's good, and his counsel is often sought and always heeded in local conventions and elections, for the public knows that Mr. Vawter always stands for the best man possible in local offices, and whoever he places the stamp of approval on is sure to be acceptable to the public at large. In his fraternal relations, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen. Salem is glad to number him as one of her leading merchants and among its representative citizens. The record of his business career might be summed up in the terse expression that he is "above want and below envy."

L. B. KEITH.

It is not every man who succeeds in giving his name to a town, but this distinction fell to Peter Keith, who emigrated from Pennsylvania during the first half of the last century and found his way to Noble county, Ohio. He there entered a section of land from the government and by hard work eventually whipped it into the condition of a fairly productive farm. Gradual

increase of population in the neighborhood led to the demand for a town, which was eventually established on Peter Keith's land and named in his honor. He continued to reside there until his death in 1865. He left a son, P. C. Keith, who was born on the Noble county homestead, became a merchant later in life and still resides in the town which bears his family name. He married Susan Coffey, whose parents emigrated from Scotland to America in 1826 and settled near Caldwell, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in 1872, and his wife in 1876. Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Keith had ten children, whose births are thus recorded: Clara Frances, deceased; L. W., deceased; L. B. subject of this sketch; Mary Eliza Groves, of Caldwell, Ohio; Charles, of Keith, Ohio; Asa, of Waterford, Ohio; Edward, of Greeley, Iowa; O. W., a merchant at Waterford, Ohio; W. O., of Detroit, Michigan; Raymond C., of Phoenix, Arizona.

L. B. Keith, who is number three in the above list, was born in Noble county, Ohio, October 12, 1862. He attended school at Keith, and in 1888 he removed to Illinois, locating at Reinard in the county of Wayne. He engaged at once in the mercantile business, which he prosecuted diligently until his removal to Flora in 1900. At this point he resumed in the same line and so continued for two years. Being appointed City Marshal, he devoted two years of his time to the duties of this office and then accepted the position of lieutenant of police in the service of the Baltimore & Ohio

Railroad. This he held for one year and in 1904 engaged in the seed and implement business under the firm name of Borders & Keith. In politics he is a red hot Democrat and always at the front when a campaign is in progress. His fraternal relations are with the Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Red Men, Modern Woodmen and Maccabees.

In 1892 Mr. Keith married Miss Julia A. Neff, a native of Reinard, and they have three children; Harry, born in 1893, Marie born in 1896, and Eddie Fay, born in 1898. Mrs. Keith departed this life January 9, 1907, and was mourned as a good wife and mother.

JOSEPH A PRATHER.

This venerable citizen of Raccoon township, Marion county, has been a very active man in the development of this part of the Union, having spent his long life in this and her sister state on the east. He has seen the wonderful growth of the country from its wild prairies, dense forests, inhabited by red men and wild beasts to one of the richest and best countries in the world.

Joseph A. Prather was born in Clark county, Indiana, January 31, 1824, the son of Sihon and Elizabeth (Williams) Prather, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia. The subject's father grew up in the Tar Heel state and moved to Clark county, Indiana, where he lived on a farm and where he and his wife both died. He was a Democrat and held the office of

Justice of the Peace several years. He was a member of the Methodist church, well known and influential. They were the parents of the following children: Louisa, deceased; Samantha, deceased; Thomas, deceased; John, deceased; Joseph A., our subject; William, deceased; Margaret lives in Clark county, Indiana. Several children died young.

Joseph A. Prather, our subject, had few opportunities to become educated, however he attended subscription schools for a time and lived at home until he was twenty-one years of age, when he went to Floyd county, Indiana, and in 1844 married Sarah Ann Patrick, a native of Clark county, that state, where she was born December 3, 1827, the daughter of William and Nancy (Harris) Patrick, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia. They lived and died in Clark county, Indiana, on a farm. There were twelve children in their family as follows: Jeremiah, Rebecca, John, Elizabeth, Mary, William, Solomon, James, Nancy, Lewis, Sarah Ann, and Eliza. They are all deceased except the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Prather became the parents of nine children, three deceased, namely: Nancy, who married Roland Warren, lives in Centralia, Illinois, and is the mother of eight children: Margaret, who is now deceased, having died January 24, 1908, married Lewis Patton, having become the mother of ten children, one of whom is deceased; John, who married Belle Oldfield, is a farmer and teamster at Centralia, and has for children; Eliza J., who married Thomas

Shaw, of Centralia township, is the mother of eight children; Emmons R., a farmer in Raccoon township, first married Mollie Gas-ton and later Lillie Blair, of Raccoon township, having had four children by his first wife and two by the second; Etha is the wife of Charles Bundy, of Raccoon township, a full sketch of whom appears in this work; Orville, who is living on part of the old home place in Raccoon township, married, first Laura May, and his second wife was Annie Howard, had three children by each wife; William died at the age of seven years; George died when two years old.

The subject has fifty-three grandchildren and thirty-four great-grandchildren. After his marriage our subject lived in Floyd county, Indiana, having come to Marion county, Illinois, in 1854, where he purchased two hundred and twenty acres of land in sections 29 and 32. He made all the improvements on the place, there having been but very little when he took charge, but being a good manager and a hard worker he soon developed a most excellent farm and established a comfortable home. He carries on general farming, raising all kinds of grain, fruit and stock and making a success of all that he undertakes. He is a Democrat in politics and has held some of the offices in Raccoon township, always taking much interest in the affairs of his township. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Walnut Hill. He has always been a hard working man and is still very well preserved for a man of his years, having a good business mind and able

to manage the many details of his fine farm with profit from year to year. He is a very well read man, keeping well posted on all current topics. As a result of his life of industry, honesty and kindness he has scores of warm friends and if a single enemy he does not know it. Everybody in this part of Marion county knows "Uncle Joe" Prather, as he is familiarly called and everybody respects him very highly.

J. W. SKIPWORTH.

This venerable and highly honored citizen of Centralia is eminently entitled to conspicuous mention in this history, owing to the fact that he might properly be called a pioneer of this section, having seen and participated in the development of the same from the early days and the life he has led is one of commendation and worthy of emulation by younger generations, for it has been led along lines of usefulness and integrity.

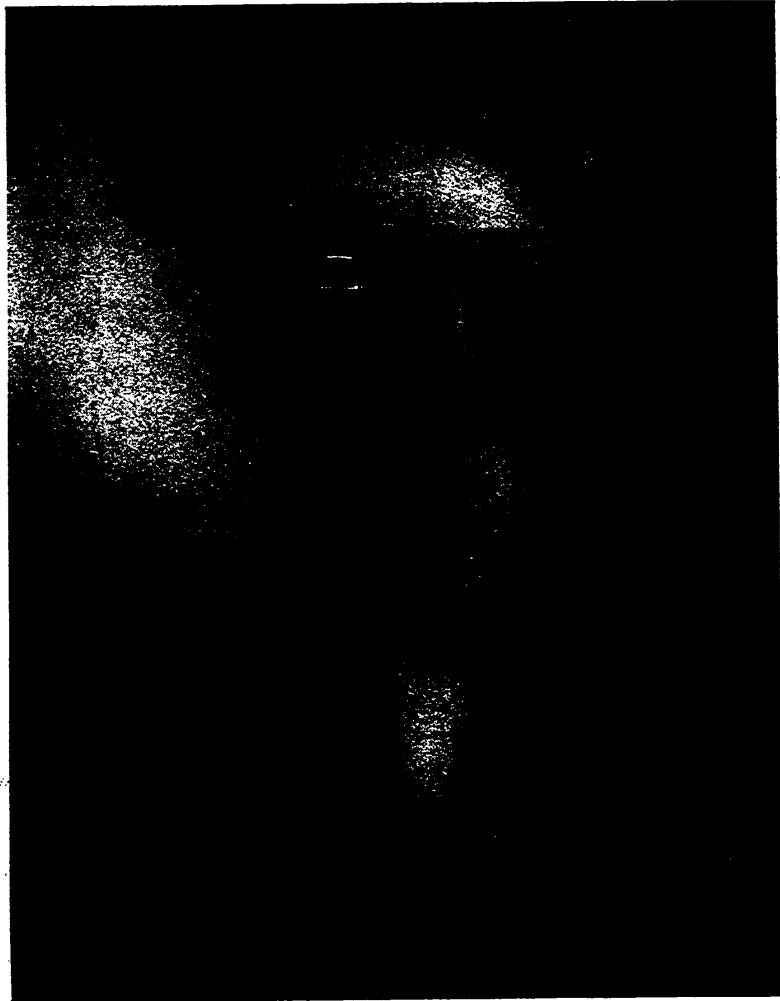
J. W. Skipworth was born in Maury county, Tennessee, September 25, 1823, therefore he is at this writing in his eighty-sixth year, hale and hearty as a boy, active and in possession of all his faculties as if he were many years younger. His parents, Hosea and Cassander (Ward) Skipworth, were both natives of North Carolina, the former having been born in 1776. The paternal grandfather of the subject, Nathan Skipworth, was in the American army at the time of the Revolutionary war for a pe-

riod of six years. Our subject was present at his death. Eight children were born to the parents of the subject, four boys and an equal number of girls. J. W., the youngest of the number, is the only one living in 1908.

Captain Ward, the father of our subject's mother, owned and operated a merchant sailing vessel on the Atlantic ocean from Wilmington, Delaware, to Liverpool, England. This was before the days of the Revolution.

Hosea Skipworth, the subject's father left Tennessee and came to Illinois because he was opposed to slavery and the seceding of the Southern states from the Union.

Our subject was five years old when his parents moved to Lebanon, Illinois, settling on a farm. Hosea Skipworth died at Lebanon in 1832, his widow having survived until 1846, having died two miles south of Centralia, Marion county. Our subject's education was obtained at Centralia. He lived in that vicinity until he was sixty years old, when he moved to Centralia in 1873. He followed farming, trading and stock shipping. Our subject saw Centralia grow from a wilderness which abounded in wolves, deer, wild cats and some bear, when there were no houses except cabins in the woods, from one-half to three miles apart. The country round about was open prairie. Most of the residents of this community lived on wild meats during the winter, such as deer, prairie chicken, quail, wild turkey and squirrels. Often as many as one thousand prairie chickens were seen in one flock. Deer was more plentiful than cattle is now.



J. W. SKIPWORTH.

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The wolves killed the sheep and pigs. The bridges were all built by the neighbors, being constructed of heavy logs.

The subject recalls the campaign of James K. Polk for President, when the wagons throughout the country were decorated with polk-berry stain and those taking part in the parades and rallies used polk-stalks for canes. The market post for all trade was sixty-five miles away, St. Louis. The hogs were fattened for the most part on wild nuts or mast. It was then the custom for several neighbors to place their hogs in one drove and drive them to St. Louis for market. Mr. Skipworth says that the amusements in those days consisted principally in shooting-matches, dances or "hoedowns," also horse races. The first choice of a beef was its hide, tallow and horns; meat was the second choice. July 4th always called for a big barbecue of beeves, mutton or pork, cooked in large trenches. The Declaration of Independence was always read, the drum and fife were very popular and the orator of the day was in evidence. During election times the candidates furnished kegs of whisky, which was poured into buckets, by which sat a tin cup, and each one helped himself. The bucket always bore the name of the candidate. Where the railroad yard is now located in Centralia our subject says, he once saw a thousand wild geese and as many ducks in the water. The swampy place was filled with cinders and made solid.

It was 1835 when our subject came to Marion county, through which no railroad

was built until 1854. Coal mines were then unknown and government land and "squatter sovereignty" were the conditions prevailing here. Not one man in twenty owned his land. It was the cheaper not to own land, for then there were no taxes to pay. The first land sold for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, then two dollars and fifty cents per acre. When the Vandalia Railroad came through in 1852 the farmers bid in all their land; then came the speculators. This land now sells for one hundred dollars per acre.

Mr. Skipworth was married to Martha Crabtree, daughter of William and Mary Crabtree, who lived in Jefferson county, later moved to Southwest Missouri. They were the parents of four children, the subject's wife being next to the youngest in order of birth. The date of the subject's wedding was January 3, 1841. The subject's wife had three brothers in the Mexican war. Four children were born to our subject and his first wife, namely: Julian, deceased; John H., deceased; Ellen, living; Virenda, deceased. The first wife of the subject passed away April 4, 1854, and on May 29, 1855, Mr. Skipworth was married to Nellie Hoskins. Eight children have been born to this union, namely: Louisa, who married Phillip Straus, living in Chicago; Charles, who died in 1875; Rhoda married Edward Root, living in Chicago, and they are the parents of one son, Charles. The other five children of the subject and his last wife have all passed away.

Mr. Skipworth ably served his commu-

nity as School Director for a period of fifteen years. He first voted for John Crane, of Nashville, then the county seat, Mr. Crane making the race for the Legislature from Washington county. Our subject was then eighteen years old. He cast his first vote for President for James K. Polk in 1844, and voted for Abraham Lincoln twice, but since then has voted the Democratic ticket. Religiously he was reared a Protestant Methodist, but is not a member of that church, and he was at one time an Odd Fellow, of the Centralia lodge. Our subject has been prosperous during his long and active life, and he now owns three valuable lots in Centralia, on which he makes his home, surrounded by poultry and pigs, and he enjoys the peaceful retirement of his twilight of life, happy in the thought that his life has been well spent and his old age is free from regret or trouble. He is known as a man of scrupulous honesty, careful and judicious in all his dealings with his fellow men, and he enjoys wide acquaintance throughout the county, where he numbers his friends by the hundreds.

DAVID BAYLER.

The emigrant ancestor of the family of this name was an Englishman, who came over early in the eighteenth century and established a home in Pennsylvania. He left a son, Hardy, who inherited the homestead and lived and died in his native state. John Bayler, son of the last mentioned,

was born at Pittsburg, February 28, 1800, but in early manhood removed to Lehigh county, and thence to Columbia county, Pennsylvania. His next step took him to the West and finding a home at Noblesville, Indiana, he spent two years at that place, going from there to Clay county, Illinois, in October, 1839. He settled in the south end of Stanford township and in the course of years became a large land owner, at one time being possessed of two thousand acres. He was among the first settlers of the county, and became one of the wealthiest and most influential of its citizens. His death occurred at Clay City, October 13, 1880. In early life he married Susan Saugh, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in 1837, in Hamilton county, Indiana. Of their five children David was the oldest and is the only one now living. His father remarried, taking for his second wife, Nancy Ellis, of Guilford county, North Carolina.

David Bayler was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, January 5, 1824. He accompanied his father to Illinois and has lived in Clay county ever since. When he arrived in 1839, there was little else to sustain the population in provisions except wild game. The nearest mill was at Lawrenceville, a distance of forty miles. The county seat was at old Maysville and Mr. Bayler's father helped to move the old log jail to Louisville. The only means of public conveyance was by stage. The family has a record for patriotism, extending back for more than a century. Two of Mr. Bayler's ancestors, uncles of his father, were killed in

the battle of Bradywine, during the Revolutionary war. Two of his brothers enlisted in Company A, Ninety-eighth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Jeremiah, one of these soldiers, was killed at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, by a mule falling on him, and John, the other one, was discharged for disability. Mr. Bayler himself tried to enlist, but was refused on account of deafness. After a strenuous and busy existence, he located at Flora, September 11, 1907, to enjoy a well deserved retirement during the evening of his life and occupies a modern dwelling. He still owns the farm which he has had since coming to the county, and he has always kept it well stocked and in a high state of improvement. Though always an ardent Republican, he has never sought office and with the exception of a term or two as School Director, has held no official positions. He has ever been a liberal giver to churches and other charitable organizations. At one time he donated ground and material to build a church on his farm, besides considerable money. He delights in fine cattle and stock of all kinds and has raised a great deal of the best during his career as a farmer. He is a man of genial disposition, an unusually fine conversationalist and fond of meeting his friends, who are sure of entertainment from the rich recollections stored up through a long and busy life.

May 6, 1846, Mr. Bayler married Nancy Long, a native of Delphi, Ohio, who died August 1, 1870, after becoming the mother of eleven children, of whom the following

five are living: W. W., of Clinton, Kentucky; Hannah Gill, of Clay City township; Rosetta Lindsay, of Standford township; Margaret Eden, of Kinderhook, Illinois; David D., of Braman, Oklahoma. February 12, 1871, Mr. Bayler married Susannah Ogg, a native of Robinson county, Tennessee, by whom he had eight children, all living but one. They are: Minnie Cokley, of Standford township; Alice Standford, and Edmund Bayler, also of Standford, township;; Charles Bayler, of Fort Collins, Colorado; Andrew J., Clara and Emma, living with their father in Flora.

CHARLES E. BUNDY.

Among the men of influence in Marion county, who have the interest of their locality at heart and who have led consistent lives, thereby gaining definite success along their chosen lines, is the subject of this sketch, being regarded as one of the leading farmers of Raccoon township, where he has a valuable and highly productive landed estate, which he manages with that care and discretion that stamps him as a twentieth century agriculturist of the highest order.

Charles E. Bundy was born in Marion county, Illinois, on his father's old homestead in the above named township, February 3, 1862, the son of George Bundy, who was born December 25, 1837, and who married Elizabeth Hiltibidal. He was born in Raccoon township and his wife in Centralia

township, the former on August 9, 1838, the son of John, known as Jack, Bundy. The subject's father grew up and married in Raccoon township and lived there all his life. He was one of the prominent farmers and stockmen. He was a Republican, was Justice of the Peace and served in many minor township offices. He and his wife were members of the Christian church. He died July 1, 1904, and she died January 30, 1900. He was not only popular but highly esteemed. The subject of this sketch was their only child.

George Bundy was one of the patriotic citizens of the Prairie state who responded to the call for volunteers to save the nation's integrity during the sixties, having enlisted in the Union army, August 12, 1862, and served faithfully in Company H, Eightieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he was mustered out June 19, 1865. He was a flag bearer. He met with an accident while on duty in the service. While carrying the flag, he caught his foot on a grape vine, fell and was very badly injured. After the war our subject returned to Raccoon township and being a hard worker he secured two hundred and thirty-nine acres in this township. He had only a common school education in the home schools. He has always lived on a part of the old homestead.

Our subject, Charles E. Bundy, was united in marriage October 29, 1885, to Effie Jane Prather, who was born in Raccoon township, the daughter of Joseph Prather, a native of Indiana. He was one of the old and

favorably known residents of Raccoon township. Eleven children have been born to our subject and wife as follows: Sarah Gladys, Earl, Iva May, George Ashton, Carroll Ashton, Thomas Oren, John Guy; Lola Elizabeth; Ula Violet; Paul Sherman, and Charles Deward.

Our subject has always been a man of industry and has made many valuable and lasting improvements on his place. He remodeled his fine home in 1908, making it a very attractive, substantial and comfortable one. He has a most excellent and valuable orchard of forty acres. He carries on general farming and stock raising with that rare foresight that insures success.

While Mr. Bundy is a loyal Republican, and anxious to see his county develop along all lines, he has never aspired for public office. He is a member of the Farmers' Union. He is known to be a man of thoroughly honest principles, public-spirited and agreeable to all his neighbors and many friends.

M. W. MICHAELS.

Mr. Michaels, of this review, is one of those strong, sturdy characters who has contributed largely to the material welfare of the community and township in which he resides, being a modern agriculturist and a business man of more than ordinary sagacity and foresight, and as a citizen public-spirited and progressive in all that the terms imply. For a number of years he has been

an important factor in promoting the progress of Marion county.

M. W. Michaels was born near Sumner, Lawrence county, Illinois, May 19, 1861, the son of Samuel Michaels, a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1815, and came to Illinois when a young boy, before Chicago was known. He was a sturdy pioneer and braved the dangers, inconveniences and obstacles of the early days, securing a wild piece of land which he transformed into a valuable and highly productive farm, devoting his entire life to agricultural pursuits. He came to Marion county in 1880 and was called from his earthly labors in Romine township, Illinois, in 1897. The mother of the subject was also a woman of the strongest mould and possessed the sterling qualities of the typical pioneer woman. Samuel Michaels was three times married and had a family of twenty children, eighteen of whom are living in 1908, a somewhat remarkable record. His first wife was a Eakas, who became the mother of six children, all now living, as follows: Mary A., wife of W. J. Jones, of Iuka, Illinois; Anna, the wife of Joseph Cleve, of Pomona, Kansas; Adline, the wife of Isaac Williams, of Browns, Illinois; Mrs. Lafe Jones, of Calhoun, Illinois; Mrs. Martha Jones, of Sumner, Illinois; William B. lives at Kremlin, Oklahoma. The second wife of Samuel Michaels was Mary A. Collins, daughter of William Collins, who was murdered near Lawrenceville, Illinois, in the seventies. The following children were born to this union: M. W., the subject of this sketch; Samuel, of Gettysburg, Washington; L. G., of

Franklin, Alaska; C. J., of Iuka, Illinois; R. B., of Centralia, Illinois; W. N., of Iuka, Illinois; Rose, widow of John Meadows, living in St. Louis, Missouri; Charlie, who is living in one of the Western states. The mother of these children passed to the other shore December 13, 1879. The third wife of the subject's father was Caroline Turner, a native of Illinois, who became the mother of the following children: Cora, wife of Charles Bryan, of Iuka, Illinois; Elizabeth, who was the wife of Charles Williams, is now deceased; Alvin, Ida and Minnie all live in Romine township; Albert died in infancy. L. J. Michaels, brother of the subject, has been in Alaska since about 1897, and has made a great success at placer mining, refusing fifty thousand dollars for his claims.

The subject of this sketch lived with his father, assisting with the farm work and attending the neighboring schools in the winter, until he became a young man, when he went west, where he spent several years in the railroad business, gaining a fund of valuable experience and information. He finally returned home and married, November 6, 1883, Maggie Taylor, daughter of P. A. Taylor. Both he and his wife were natives of Kentucky. Mr. Michaels went west again in 1887 with his family and worked from Colorado to New Mexico, but was in California most of the time. He returned to Illinois in 1897, and began farming in Romine township. He made a signal success of farming, having improved a good tract of land and skillfully managed the same until he soon had not only a comfort-

able living, but quite a competency laid by. Mr. Michaels is a stockholder in the First National Bank at Salem, however, he devotes his attention to farming interests principally and is known as one of the best and most painstaking agriculturists in the township and his farm shows unmistakably that a man of thrift and industry manages it.

Mr. Michaels is a member of the Masonic fraternity, also the Woodmen, and both he and his wife are members of the Christian church. The subject and wife are the parents of two children, namely: Clarence, who was born July 18, 1885. He is a bright young man who gives promise of a brilliant and successful future. The second child, Everett, died in infancy.

Mr. Michaels has always taken considerable interest in political matters and of recent years has been influential in local elections, being well grounded and well read in his political opinions and on political subjects. Having a laudable ambition for official preferment, and being a popular man in his party, his Republican friends selected him for Sheriff, having been elected to this important office in 1906, by a big majority in a county nominally Democratic, which shows that he is regarded as a strong man in his community. He also served as a member of the County Board for two terms, representing his township. He has shown himself eminently capable in all the offices or positions of public or private trust that have been proffered, giving entire satisfaction to all his constituents and, in fact, everyone concerned.

JOSEPH S. PEAK.

The state of Maryland contributed her proportion of emigrants to form the army of pioneers who crossed the Alleghanies in the earlier part of the nineteenth century to grapple with the western wilderness. Among the number was Joseph Peak, whose birth occurred about the time of the Revolutionary war, and who, after marrying Lucy Leach, started on the perilous trip to the "Dark and Bloody Ground," south of the Ohio river. He does not seem to have been pleased with the opportunities offered by Kentucky, as we find him soon crossing over to the more congenial soil of the Buckeye state. He settled in Butler county, then as now, one of the best sections of Ohio and made his living by farming until his death in 1835. He had eight children and among them William B. Peak, whose birth occurred on the Butler county homestead, September 25, 1812. He also followed the occupation of farming, but concluding late in life that the Illinois prairies offered better inducements, he removed to that state in August, 1864, and settled in Flora, where he engaged in business until his death, January 7, 1896. Aside from agricultural pursuits, he became a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church and did much religious work during the active period of his life. He married Cynthia Flanner, a native of Butler county, Ohio, who made him a faithful companion until her death in 1874. This worthy couple had eleven children, all but one of whom lived to maturity and eight are still living. Of

these, Mrs. Angeline Chidester is a resident of Flora, Mrs. Mary Floyd is a resident of Dublin, Indiana. Rev. T. De Witt Peak is a citizen of Litchfield, Illinois. Mrs. Caroline Major makes her home in Flora. Rev. R. F. Peak holds forth at Oakland, California. Mrs. S. C. Manker is the sixth in order of birth. Mrs. C. E. Beckett resides at Centralia, Illinois. Joseph S. Peak, the second in order of birth of the surviving children, was born in Butler county, Ohio, March 16, 1837. He accompanied his parents to Clay county during the latter part of the Civil war, after obtaining a fair common school education, partly in his native county and partly in Shelby county, Indiana, where the family sojourned for a while. For many years after reaching Illinois, he combined farming and school teaching as a means of livelihood. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Thirty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, with which he served nine months, being discharged on account of sickness. He farmed and taught school in Indiana before he came to Illinois, where he spent his time on a farm until the winter of 1893, when he removed to Flora, Illinois. In 1884 he was elected Surveyor of Clay county on the Republican ticket, in which office he served acceptably for four years. In 1888 he obtained the nomination for the same office, but was defeated, at the polls. He tried again in 1894, and was triumphantly elected, but after serving his term, abandoned politics for the real estate and general notary business. In 1896 he was elected Justice of the Peace and has continued to

exercise the duties of that office by repeated re-elections. He had served in this capacity also while a resident of the country, previous to his removal to Flora. Mr. Peak is a hale and vigorous man for his age and possessed of a cheerful disposition, fortified by many of the sterling virtues. He has resided in or near Flora for forty-five years and is known to every one in the county. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and for five years was secretary of the International Sunday School Association. He is commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic. On October 7, 1857, Mr. Peak married Susan E. Lick, who was born and reared near the town of Hope in Bartholomew county, Indiana. Their marriage relations have continued harmonious for over fifty-one years. Of their seven children, those living are Mrs. Addie Lewis, of Omaha, Nebraska; Charles A. Peak, of the same city; Mrs. Mary Chapman, also of Omaha; W. B. Peak, Omaha; E. E. Peak, of Detroit, Michigan; Miss Stella Peak, of Flora.

FRANK LOOMIS.

Among those men of Marion county, who by the mere force of their personality, have forged their way to the front ranks of that class of citizens who may justly be termed progressive, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, who has a fine farm in Tonti township, which he has taken a great interest in and which he has improved

in a most systematic way until it is the equal of any in the vicinity where it is so admirably located.

Frank Loomis was born in this township, March 20, 1865, the son of S. E. and Margaret (McMurray) Loomis, a highly respected family and for several generations well known in Marion county. S. E. Loomis was a native of Ohio, where he was born October 12, 1841, and came with his parents to Marion county, Illinois, in 1846, and after a life of hard work in practically a new country, he passed to his rest in 1885. Almon Loomis, the grandfather of our subject, also came to this county from Ohio, settling on the farm where Frank Loomis now lives. He was one of the pioneers in this part of the county and reclaimed the farm in question from the wilderness. He is remembered as a hard worker and a good man in every respect. He passed to his rest in this township July 26, 1893.

S. E. Loomis was married in Marion county, his wife having come to this country from Scotland, where she was born. Four children were born to this marriage. Three sons are now living, namely: Frank, our subject; Byron C., and Louis L. Frank Loomis was reared upon his father's farm in Tonti township and worked during the summer months on the farm, attending the district schools during the winter months until he had a fairly good common school education. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years old, and at the age of twenty-three was united in marriage with Ida M. Martin, the affable and congenial

daughter of Caleb and Martha J. (McHeney) Martin. Her father was born in North Carolina, and he moved to Tennessee, later coming to Marion county, Illinois. The mother of Mrs. Loomis was born in Tonti township, this county. Ida M. was the sixth child in order of birth in this family. She was educated in the district schools, where she applied herself in such a manner as to become well educated. Two children were born to the subject and wife, namely: Glen M., born September 12, 1890, and Omer F., who was born April 23, 1895. They are both bright boys, and will, no doubt, make their mark in the world. Mr. Loomis is the owner of a farm consisting of one hundred and twenty acres on which he carries on general farming which yields him a comfortable living from year to year and at the same time permits him to lay up a competency for old age and to give his children every necessary advantage in launching them successfully in the battle of life. His fields are well tilled, the crops of heavy grain being rotated with clover so as to retain the strength of the soil. He has a comfortable and substantial residence which is well furnished and nicely kept. Many and convenient out buildings also stand on the place, and much good stock of various kinds is to be found in his fields and barns.

In politics Mr. Loomis is a staunch Republican, but he does not take a very active part in party affairs, being contented to spend his time on his farm. Fraternally he is a member of the Ben Hur lodge, Odin,

No. 226. Mrs. Loomis is also a member of this organization. He is regarded as one of the substantial and best citizens of Tonti township.

ROY H. McKNIGHT, M. D.

The grandfather of this popular physician was James A. McKnight, a native of Indiana, who became an early settler of Illinois. He located at Ingraham, in the county of Clay, and prosecuted his trade as a miller, a business of much importance in a pioneer community. His death occurred in 1895, when he was quite advanced in years. He had been accompanied to Illinois by his son, Frank, who was born in Indiana, learned his father's trade of milling, and continued in this calling during the working period of his life, which ended at Ingraham, in 1894, at the comparatively early age of forty-seven years. Frank McKnight was married in early manhood to Lou Shriener, a native of Ohio, who is still residing in Chicago. The children of this union, three in number, were: Roy H., Rolla, now at Minnie, Arkansas, and Hazel, a resident of Chicago.

Roy H. McKnight was born March 14, 1881, at Ingraham, Clay county, Illinois. After the usual elementary course in the district schools at home, he was graduated in 1899 from the Jefferson high school in Chicago. In 1900, he matriculated in the medical department of the Illinois University and spent three years in diligent prosecution of his

studies. After leaving this institution, three additional years were spent at the Dearborn Medical College in Chicago, from which he was graduated in the class of 1906. After practicing a year in Chicago, Dr. McKnight opened an office in Clay City in the fall of 1907 and since then has continued in business at that place. He had a lucrative practice in the hospital at Englewood, but was forced to give this up and seek the country on account of ill health. The doctor's early career was at once a test of his ambitious determination and a guarantee of his success in life, as he early learned the valuable lesson of self-denial and saving. When his father died, he was thrown on his own resources at the tender age of thirteen. He bought a pair of overalls and a cap, took a freight train to Chicago and found employment at four dollars per week. All but fifty cents of this went for board, but on this scant surplus he saved money. When by hard work and faithful service he was promoted to a stipend of four dollars and fifty cents a week, he was correspondingly happy. His first work was for the Thompson (bicycle) Manufacturing Company and his next job was with the Western Electric Company. His hard labor extended through seven years, at the end of which time he found himself in possession of the, to him, munificent remuneration of twenty-five dollars per week. In the seven years he saved four thousand dollars, every cent of which was spent in procuring his education as a physician. It is hardly necessary to add that the doctor is a progressive young man, of boundless ambition

and possessing especial aptitude and ability. Dr. McKnight is a member of the American, Clay County and Cook (Chicago) County Medical societies. He is a Mason and holds membership in Union Park Lodge, No. 610, of that order in Chicago.

In 1903, Dr. McKnight was married to Bertha May Hill, of Wheeling, West Virginia, and they have one child, Mildred, born July 1, 1904. The parents are members of the Christian church at Clay City.

GEORGE J. HEAVER.

The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but in spite of this, by perseverance, industry and a wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life, and is well and favorably known throughout Tonti and surrounding townships, Marion county, as a result of the industrious life he has lived there for over a half century.

George J. Heaver was born in Crawford county, Ohio, December 8, 1838, the son of George Jacob and Christena (Fritz) Heaver, both natives of Wertenburg, Germany. They married in the Fatherland where two children were born to them. Deciding that greater opportunities were to be found in the United States they landed at Sandusky, Ohio, July 3, 1838, and before becoming hardly established in the new

country the father died December 1, 1838. His widow re-married in 1841, her second husband being Levi Kline, of Crawford county, Ohio, and in 1849 they emigrated to Marion county, Illinois, locating west of Salem, where they lived until 1854, when Mr. Kline died, and his widow was again married, her third husband being George Kline; both are now deceased.

The first marriage of Christena Fritz resulted in the birth of four children, two boys and two girls, all deceased but the subject of this sketch. George J. Heaver remained at home under the parental roof-tree until he reached maturity. His educational advantages were very limited but he early acquired enough schooling to read and write, but being by nature an intelligent man, he has succeeded admirably well without technical training. Our subject was one of those loyal sons of the North, who, when the fierce fires of rebellion were raging in the Southland, felt it his duty to forsake home ties and offer his services in behalf of the stars and stripes, consequently he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, on August 12, 1862, under Capt. Amos Clark, of Salem, Illinois, and was in camp at that place. He was called to Camp Marshall where he remained until October 31, 1862, when his company was sent to Columbus, Kentucky, and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, later taking part in the battle at Resaca, Georgia, and the strenuous Atlanta campaign, also in Sherman's famous march to the sea. Our subject also came back with

Sherman's army through the Carolinas to Washington City. He was mustered out here after rendering conspicuous and valuable service, and returned to Springfield, Illinois, on June 6, 1865. He was wounded on May 13, 1864, which resulted in his being absent from duty for some time. He rejoined his regiment at Rome, Georgia, after he had recovered. After his career in the army our subject returned to Salem, this state, and engaged in farming.

Mr. Heaver was united in marriage in 1866 to Maggie Williams, of Salem, who was born in Ohio, February 13, 1838. She was a woman of many fine characteristics, and after a harmonious wedded life of twenty-six years she was called to her rest in the fall of 1902. Four children were born to our subject and wife as follows: George W. was born February 19, 1870; Louie C. was born September 29, 1874; William W. was born October 1, 1869, died aged seven years; Charles W. was born in 1879.

Mr. Heaver was in Texas for a period of eight years where he made a financial success of his labors, but he returned to this county in 1885. He is now the owner of sixty-five acres of land in Tonti township which he farmed with the greatest results attending his efforts, for he understands well all the details of managing a farm successfully. His fields are well fenced and cleanly kept. Most of the corn the place produces is fed on the farm to various kinds of stock. He has a nice and comfortable dwelling and plenty of good out buildings. His son,

George W., and daughter, Louie C., live with him.

In his social relations our subject is a member of the Salem Post, No. 202, Grand Army of the Republic, in which he takes a great interest, as might be expected. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, a regular attendant at the local gatherings of this denomination in which he has long taken a delight. In his political affiliations he is a loyal Democrat, and faithfully served the public as Commissioner of Highways and Road Supervisor. He is regarded by every one who knows him as a man of sound business principles, honest and kind.

JOSEPH K. McLAUGHLIN.

Our subject is the present Supervisor of Raccoon township where no man is better known or is held in higher respect than he, for his life has been led along honorable lines and he has always had the interest of his county at heart.

Joseph K. McLaughlin was born in Walnut Hill, Marion county, September 26, 1850, the son of James and Ann E. (Lyons) McLaughlin, both natives of Ireland, where they married. They came to the United States in 1845 and settled in Randolph county, Illinois, later came to Marion county and in 1848 settled near Walnut Hill, about 1855 locating in Raccoon township. They were members of the Reformed Presbyterian church. The subject's father was a Repub-

lican. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Ann Eliza, Elizabeth, Nancy, Thomas J., Joseph K., our subject; Annie E., Jane, James A. and Annette E. The subject's father devoted his life to farming. He died February 7, 1878, at the age of sixty-two years, and his wife died February 14, 1908.

The early education of the subject of this sketch was obtained in the home schools. In 1882 he bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Raccoon township. He carries on general farming and stock raising in a most successful manner, being a man of sound judgment and a hard worker. His farm is highly improved and very productive. He raises much good stock and his dwelling and other buildings are substantial and comfortable.

Mr. McLaughlin was united in marriage in 1870 with Tirzah E. Morton, who was born in Raccoon township, the daughter of James and Mary Morton, a well known family in their neighborhood. Nine children have been born to the subject and wife: Charles, who married Dorothea Huff, has three children, Merlyn, Paul, Dorothea; James C. married Mora Bennett and they have two children, Bennett and Collin C.; Harry married Kate White; Stella married Willis R. Burgess and they have two children, Buford and Nellie; Hugh Archie married Lulu Kell; Joseph is a law student at Champaign, Illinois; John is a member of the family circle and is a teacher; Walter is also teaching and living at home; Elma lives with her parents. These children are bright and have received good educations.

Mrs. McLaughlin is a member of the Presbyterian church and a faithful attendant upon the same. Mr. McLaughlin is a Democrat and is serving his second term as Supervisor, giving his constituents entire satisfaction in this capacity.

DAVID HERSHBERGER.

The subject of this sketch was reared to the sturdy discipline of the homestead farm and during all the succeeding years of his life he has not wavered in his allegiance to the great basic art of agriculture. To the public schools he is indebted for the early educational privileges that were afforded him, and he duly availed himself of the same, while he has effectually broadened his knowledge through active association with men and affairs in practical business life. He has become the owner of a fine stock farm and devotes his attention to diversified agriculture with the discrimination, energy and constant watchfulness which inevitably make for definite success and prosperity. He has spent practically all of his life in Marion county.

David Hershberger, living two miles west of Salem, Illinois, was born October 20, 1865, in Crawford county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Catherine (Snaveley) Hershberger, the former being a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where he was born February 14, 1824, and the latter of Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, both having been reared in the Keystone state. They moved to Crawford county, Ohio, where

they farmed for several years and then in 1866 moved to Marion county, Illinois, settling in Salem township where Henry bought a large tract of land, becoming the owner of about two thousand acres in Marion county. He improved this land and it became very valuable. He died August 29, 1898. He is remembered as a thrifty farmer and a highly respected citizen. Both he and his wife were members of the German Baptist church, or Dunkards. Jacob Hershberger, grandfather of the subject, was also a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the great-grandfather of the subject, Henry Hershberger, was also a native of that place. Henry, the father of the subject, and Catharine Snavely were married February 10, 1848. They were very active in the church and Henry was a preacher for many years, having done a great amount of good in his work. He was a Republican in politics. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, named in order of birth, as follows: Jacob, a prominent farmer in Marion county; Samuel, deceased; Mary, widow of John Schanafelt; Elizabeth is the wife of W. J. Martin, a prominent farmer in Marion county; Anna is the wife of S. A. Schanafelt; Sarah is the wife of C. W. Courson, who lives in Marion county; John lives in Salem township on a farm; Henry lives in Centralia, Illinois; David, our subject, is the youngest child. The mother of the subject passed to her rest April 14, 1906.

The subject remained at home on his father's farm until he married. He was one

year old when he came to Marion county, he was married December 31, 1888, to Lida Dickens, the daughter of Elijah and Elizabeth (Tate) Dickens, both natives of Tennessee, but pioneer settlers of Marion county, Illinois, both now deceased. The subject's wife was born in this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Hershberger six children have been born as follows: Leland, deceased; Walter E., Lottie M., Loren D., Henry R., and Wayne D.

The subject and family are members of the German Baptist church in Salem township, and the subject is a deacon in the church. He is a loyal Republican, having served his township as Highway Commissioner in a most acceptable manner. He lives on the old home farm, this together with his own farm constitutes two hundred and eighty acres. He is regarded as one of the leading farmers of Marion county, and always keeps excellent stock. He has a beautiful home which is elegantly furnished, and everything about the place is kept in first class order.

MRS. JUDITH SINGER.

Words of praise or periods of encomium could not clearly convey the personal characteristics of the noble woman of whom the biographer now essays to write in this connection, for only those who have had the good fortune to know her personally can see the true beauty of her character and in-

dividual traits, which have been the resultant, very largely, of a long life of devotion to duty, a life filled with good deeds to others and led along worthy planes. Mrs. Singer lives in Tonti township, Marion county, where she successfully manages a fine landed estate, exercising rare sagacity of foresight and business acumen, which always result in definite success, and as a result of her commendable characteristics she enjoys the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances in this community.

Mrs. Judith Singer was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1838, the daughter of Peter and Lyda (Mildenberger) Beisel. The Beisel family came to America from Germany in an early day and settled in Pennsylvania, where they developed farms and made comfortable homes. The parents of our subject always lived on a farm, and when her father died, Grandfather Beisel moved to Illinois, and the mother of the subject was married and came to Illinois in 1867, settling in Marion county. She was a good woman and her home life was calculated to foster right principles in her children. The father of the subject was a man of many sterling traits of character, always bearing a good name.

Judith Beisel was given every advantage possible by her parents, and while her early educational training was not extensive, she applied herself in a diligent manner and has since been an avid reader of the best general literature with the result that she is an entertaining and instructive talker, especially when she elucidates on the pioneer days

and the aftermath of commercial development of this section of the country.

Our subject was married to Oscar Singer January 2, 1858, the ceremony having been performed in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Singer was born in Germany on June 18, 1834. He was educated in the Fatherland, and came to the United States with his parents when eighteen years old, where he learned to be a mechanic of no mean ability. He worked at his trade in Centralia, Marion county, Illinois, being regarded as one of the best men in the institution where he was employed. He later moved to St. Louis, where he went into business on his own account, and in which city he was living when he was called from his earthly labors on November 20, 1882. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Salem, Illinois. He was a good business man, honest and industrious and made friends wherever he went. He was a public spirited man, being a loyal Republican in politics.

Mrs. Singer purchased an eighty acre farm in Tonti township, Marion county, in 1883, and moved thereto soon afterward, having resided there ever since. It is a splendid place, well managed and highly improved in every respect, producing excellent crops from year to year and yielding a comfortable income for the family. Mrs. Singer's home is one of the most attractive in the community. Good stock of various kinds and a fine variety of poultry are to be seen about the place.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs.

Singer. Two boys and three girls are living at this writing, namely: Ida is the wife of Will W. Langridge, who lives in Terre Haute, Indiana; Lillie is the wife of Lewis Parks, who lives on a farm; Ollie travels for an Indianapolis firm; Oscar married Maude Kline and lives on a farm; Rose L. is a bookkeeper at Salem, Illinois. All these children had careful training and all received a good common school education.

JOHN H. GRAY.

He to whom this sketch is dedicated is a member of one of the oldest and most honored pioneer families of Marion county, Illinois, and he has personally lived up to the full tension of the primitive days when was here initiated the march of civilization, so that there is particular interest attached to his career, while he stands today as one of the representative citizens of Tonti township, for his life has been one of hard work which has resulted in the development of a good farm which he owns and which yields him a comfortable living.

John H. Gray was born in this county January 14, 1839, and believing that he could succeed as well here as anywhere decided to stay in his native community where he would have the added advantage of home associations. He is the son of James and Mariah E. (Nichols) Gray. Both the Gray and Nichols families were born in Tennessee, being of that hardy pioneer stock that

invades new and unbroken countries and clears the wilderness, developing farms from the virgin land. It was for such purpose that they came to Illinois. The parents of the subject came to Marion county in their youth and were married here, having first settled in this locality during the Black Hawk war. James D. Gray, our subject's father, moved to Tonti township in 1851. He was a man of many sterling qualities, a good neighbor and citizen, and, as already intimated, was industrious and a hard worker. He was also a minister of the Methodist church for many years. His family consisted of nine children, three boys and one girl living at this writing, 1908, all fairly well situated in reference to this world's affairs.

John H. Gray, our subject, received a limited schooling in his native community. However, he applied himself well and did the best he could under the circumstances. He remained at home, working on his father's place until he reached maturity. He was united in marriage in 1860 to Susan Balance, a member of a well known family. After a brief married life she passed to her rest in 1864. This union resulted in the birth of one child, which died in infancy. In 1866 the subject was again married, his second wife being Rebecca A. Boring, who is still living, having proven to be a most faithful and worthy helpmeet and a woman of gentle disposition. She was born in 1848 and attended the district schools in her maidenhood.

Four children have been born to the sub-

ject and wife, three girls and one boy, whose names follow: Susan E., Mattie E., Etta and William A. They have received what schooling that is available in their community and are all interesting children with every prospect for future success.

Mr. Gray in his political affiliations is a loyal Democrat and has taken considerable interest in local political affairs, his support always being on the right side of all questions affecting the public good. He has ably served as Highway Commissioner, giving entire satisfaction in this work, and he is known to all as a man of industry, honesty and integrity, thereby winning and retaining a large circle of friends.

ALLEN COPE.

For nearly half a century the subject of this review was a well known resident of Marion county. He was a man of many talents, having been a successful lawyer for several years prior to 1861, at which time he located upon a farm in Tonti township and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He also became an enthusiastic student of horticulture and for many years was recognized as one of the leading authorities upon this subject in Southern Illinois, as well as a practical demonstrator of the same. He was one of the first citizens of Marion county to engage in the fruit business upon an extensive and systematic scale, developing one of the largest and most successful

fruit industries in the pioneer history of horticultural pursuits in the county.

Allen Cope was born near New Waterford, Columbiana county, Ohio, August 4, 1827, where he resided until 1845. For nine years he resided at Salem, Ohio, where he was engaged in a mercantile business. In 1854 he came to Fairfield, Illinois, where he studied and practiced law with Judge Charles Beecher.

Owing to ill health he retired from the law in 1860 and the following year located upon a farm in Tonti township, Marion county, where he developed one of the finest fruit farms in the county. It was here that he passed to his reward, October 24, 1907, at the age of eighty years.

Mr. Cope's career as a horticulturist began with his removal to Marion county. He planted forty acres of apples in the springs of 1861 and 1863, a very large area indeed for that period. It is worthy of note, too, in this connection that he was one of the first to plant largely of the Ben Davis variety. This venture proved successful and as this orchard began to fail he planted again from time to time, and indeed his labors ceased only with the coming of his long rest. Mr. Cope was an active member of the State Horticultural Society and of its subordinate society, the Southern Illinois Horticultural Society.

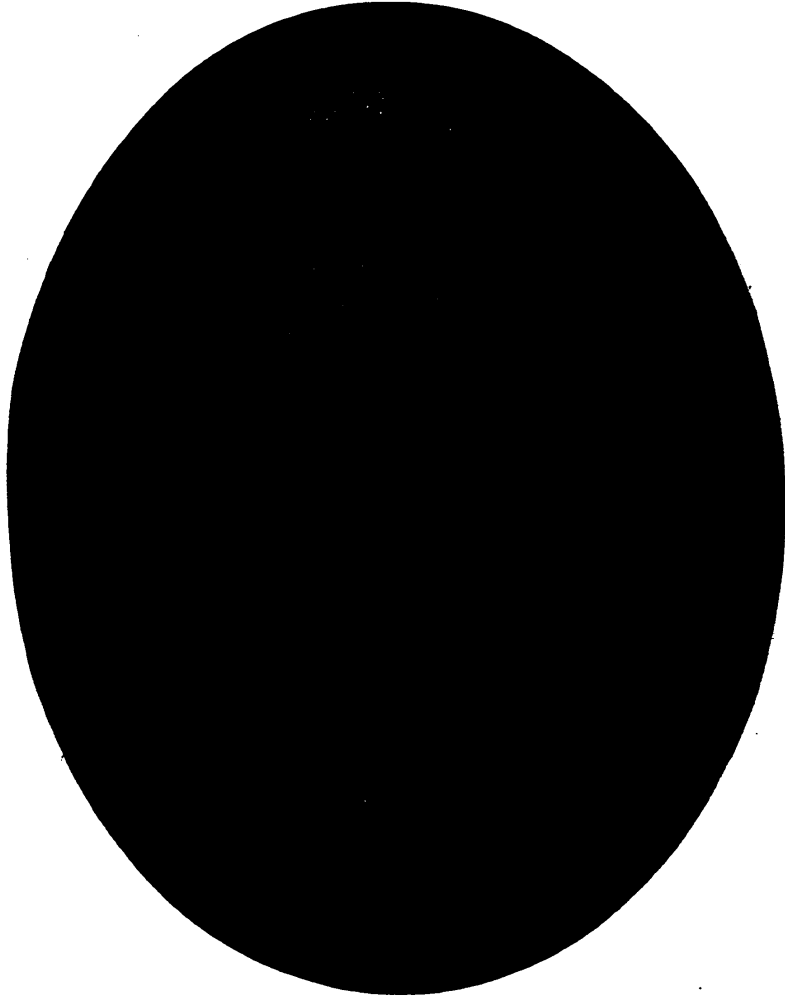
He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was born and reared a Quaker.

Originally a Whig in politics and a strong abolitionist, it was but natural that he should

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ALLEN COPE.



SARAH A. COPE.

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become a Republican upon the birth of that party, and for many years he was an ardent supporter of its principles and an active worker in the ranks. In late years, however, he espoused the cause of Democracy, believing that the latter party adhered more closely to the principles of Lincoln Republicanism. Having been a lawyer of more than ordinary ability and always a student and an observer, Mr. Cope wielded no small amount of influence in his community and his opinions upon the leading questions of the day were always treated with great respect. He was a man of many sterling qualities, successful in business and influential in his community, and was also known as a public spirited man of the most scrupulously honest type.

Mr. Cope was united in marriage at Salem April 16, 1856, with Miss Sarah A. Ray, who was born near London, Madison county, Ohio, June 30, 1834, Mrs. Cope being a daughter of Jesse and Helen (Warner) Ray. The Ray family was of English descent, the grandparents on the Ray side being natives of Virginia, who later settled in Madison county, Ohio. The Warners were of Scotch-Irish descent, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Cope having been born in Dublin.

Jesse Ray, the father of Mrs. Cope, was one of the well known and highly honored pioneers of Marion county, having secured land from the government near Salem and locating thereon in 1839. He entered seven hundred acres of land in Tonti township, the present Cope home being a portion of the

original grant. Mr. Ray developed and improved a good farm and became one of the largest and most successful farmers and stock growers in the county. He moved from the farm to Salem in order to give his children an education, where he operated a hotel and also engaged in merchandising, in the meantime carrying on farming operations. He finally returned to the farm, where he died August 27, 1859. Mr. Ray was one of those patriotic sons who participated in the Mexican war, having enlisted in 1847. He was with his regiment until the close of hostilities and experienced many hardships and privations in the long and tedious march across the desert to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and back again, every mile of which was covered on foot. He was a man of much sterling worth and influence in his community and accomplished much for the improvement and development of his section of the county.

Mrs. Cope was five years old when she came with her parents to Marion county. She attended the country schools and later went to Salem with the family, where she received a liberal education, having applied herself in a most assiduous manner to her studies. After her marriage with Mr. Cope, as above indicated, she resided in Fairfield, this state, for a few years, where her husband was engaged in the successful practice of his profession. Since locating on the farm in Tonti township in 1861, Mrs. Cope has continued to make this place her home, where her children have also been reared. Their names are as follows: Laura Isbell and

Lenora are both deceased; Walter Lincoln and William Abraham were twins, the latter dying in infancy.

Walter L. Cope, the only surviving child, was born May 27, 1864. He received a common school education and also attended the University of Illinois at Champaign for three years. June 6, 1888, he was married to Miss Anna Vaughan, of Odin township, Marion county, and seven children have been born to them, as follows: Allen, Bessie, Lorin, Leila, Howard and Margaret, all of whom are living. One child, Raymond, died in infancy. Walter Cope is a member of the Masonic Order at Salem and his wife affiliates with the Order of the Eastern Star at that place.

The Cope home is one of the finest country houses in Marion county, being commodious, comfortable and having modern improvements and conveniences. The house is heated with hot air. A system of water works has been installed, together with baths, etc. The furnishings are up-to-date and tastefully arranged, and this beautiful home is presided over with rare grace and dignity by the Mesdames Cope, who often show their unstinted hospitality in entertaining their numerous friends.

HENRY C. BOTHWELL.

This family name was familiar among the early settlers of three states and its members figured both in Ohio and Illinois

during the pioneer period. James Bothwell, the founder, was a Pennsylvanian, who migrated into Ohio at an early day, settled on a farm purchased from the government, reared a family and ended his earthly career about 1863. His son, James K. Bothwell, was born in Vinton county, Ohio, near McArthur, during the first quarter of the nineteenth century and removed to Illinois in 1840, settling at old Maysville, then the county seat of Clay. He was a cabinet maker by trade, but afterward engaged in the mercantile business. In 1863, he removed his store to Clay City and continued in business until 1887, when he retired to his farm of seventy acres, within the corporate limits of the town. At this homestead he passed peacefully away, May 24, 1899, in the eighty-first year of his age. He married Mary A. Brissenden, who was born near Albion, in Edwards county, Illinois, her parents being of English stock. She died July 16, 1898, at the age of seventy-seven years. This pioneer couple had seven children, of whom four are living, the complete list being as follows: Henry C., subject of this sketch; J. Homer, an attorney at Sedalia, Missouri; Florence; Camilla, deceased, and William, who died when ten years old; James K., in the loan and insurance business at Seattle, Washington, and Frank, deceased.

Henry C. Bothwell, the oldest child, was born in old Maysville, April 11, 1847. He was reared in Clay City, where he attended the local schools. During the years 1863-64, he was a student at McKendree College

in Lebanon, Illinois, afterwards attended Nelson's Commercial College at Cincinnati, Ohio, and then accepted a clerkship in his father's store. Holding this position and later as a partner, he spent the years from 1865 to 1886 in this line of business. In the year last mentioned he became a candidate on the Republican ticket for Treasurer of the county, and was elected. In 1894 he was re-elected to the same office, and served during the four following years. After retiring he devoted some time to the abstract business, continuing in this line until 1899, when he was made Chief Clerk of the Joliet Penitentiary, which position he held two and a half years. Returning to Clay City he formed a partnership under the firm name of Bothwell & Gill, and this business engaged his attention until 1907, when he received the appointment of postmaster at Clay City. This was no new experience, as he had previously served as postmaster for sixteen consecutive years, while in the mercantile business. Besides this, he had served as Tax Collector of Clay City township a number of times and was county collector for eight years. He was always popular and successful both in his business pursuits and official holdings, being regarded as one of the prominent and influential men of the county. His fraternal relations are extensive and conspicuous, especially in the Masonic Order. He is a member of Blue Lodge No. 488, at Clay City, Chapter at Flora, Commandery at Olney and the Shrine at Medina Temple

in Chicago. He is also an Odd Fellow and a Woodman.

In 1869 Mr. Bothwell married Mary C. Myers, who was born near Wilmington, Ohio. They lost four children in infancy, but have three living, to-wit: Lucy, E. L., who is practicing law at St. Joseph, Missouri, and Ada, a teacher in the Hillsboro (Illinois) high school.

JAMES R. RICHARDSON.

One of the sterling citizens of Marion county is he whose name initiates this paragraph, being engaged in farming in Tonti township. As a result of his industry, integrity and genuine worth he is held in high esteem by the people of this vicinity, mainly as a result of his principal life work—the noble profession of teaching.

James R. Richardson, the son of John and Sarah A. (Chandler) Richardson, was born in Williamson county, Illinois, at Bolton, December 19, 1841. The Richardson family are of Irish descent. John Richardson was born in Licking county, Ohio, and he was eight years old when his parents died. He was reared by a family named Decker, a farmer at Groveport, Ohio. He received his educational training in the public schools in the Buckeye state, which was somewhat limited, owing to the primitive condition of the public schools of that early day. He was a man of no extraordinary ability but he was a hard worker and succeeded in

making a comfortable living. He came to Illinois about 1838, settling near Peoria, where he remained a few years. He moved to St. Clair county, Illinois, and thence to Williamson county and later he came to Marion county in 1853, buying a farm in Tonti township, where he lived until his death in March, 1856.

The Chandler family came from Pennsylvania. The father of Sarah A., our subject's mother, came to Ohio and engaged in farming, but not on an extensive scale. The mother of the subject was educated in the public schools of Franklin county. She was a woman of many estimable qualities. Eleven children were born to this couple, ten girls and one boy. Sarah A. was married to John Richardson about 1838, and she passed to her rest in 1870. Mr. Richardson was a large land owner in Marion county, this state, and he was regarded as a man of many sterling qualities.

James R. Richardson, our subject, was the second child in a family of eight children. He remained under the parental roof tree until he was seventeen years old. He received his education in the district schools and later at Salem. He was an ambitious lad from the start and outstripped most of his contemporaries. After finishing the public school course, he was not satisfied with the amount of text-book training he had received and consequently entered the State Normal School at Bloomington, Illinois, where he made a splendid record for scholarship, and where he graduated in the class of 1871, with high honors.

After leaving school Mr. Richardson at once began to teach, first in the county schools, having soon become principal, and he was principal in several places. Becoming known as an able instructor, his services were in great demand. He was principal of the schools at Woodson, Franklin, Stanford, Morton and Marseilles, all in Illinois, and he also taught a year in Kansas. He gave the greatest possible satisfaction as an instructor, being well grounded in the texts then included in the public school curriculums, and he was very popular with his pupils, owing to his friendliness and kindness. His teaching extended over a period of twenty-six years during which time his reputation extended not only to adjoining counties but he attracted the attention of the ablest educators of the state, receiving much laudable comment on his work in the school room.

Mr. Richardson could not restrain the wave of patriotism that pervaded his whole being when, in the dark days of the sixties, our national integrity was threatened, and, believing that it was his duty to sever home ties, leave the school room and offer his services in defense of the flag, he accordingly enlisted in Company G, Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was in the regiment assigned to Grant's army during the first part of the war. He was in the great battle of Stone River and the still bloodier conflict of Chickamauga, and many other smaller engagements. He was taken prisoner at Chickamauga, and was in prison at Richmond and Danville for six months.

He effected his escape, but was recaptured, and later exchanged. After performing gallant service for a period of three years, he returned home and entered the University of Illinois in 1864, where he completed his education.

Our subject's domestic life dates from December 25, 1876, when he was united in marriage with Sarah Martin Williams, a highly educated woman, a native of Cass county, Illinois, where she was born March 10, 1856. She lived in Morgan county, this state until seventeen years old, when she entered the State University at Bloomington, and was a student there for several years, where she made a brilliant record for scholarship. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Richardson. Mrs. Richardson is a faithful member of the Christian church in Salem. Our subject is a Prohibitionist in his political affiliations.

JOHN I. McCAWLEY.

Few men on the threshold of the anniversary of the eightieth year of their age possess the remarkable energy and activity of the subject of this sketch, John I. McCawley, who is and has been for years, the leading spirit in every big enterprise that has been launched in Clay county, Illinois. He is not only the wealthiest man in that county, but has the distinction of being the oldest native born citizen thereof. He is

the son of parents who penetrated the unbroken wilderness of Illinois, when hidden dangers menaced their every step. In those early days the great forests of that state were filled with hostile Indians and ferocious beasts. The subject experienced all of the hardships and privations that fell to the lot of the youth of those days, but he had inherited many of the rugged qualities of his courageous ancestors, and the great wealth that he possesses today is the reward of perseverance and industry.

Mr. McCawley was born on the Little Wabash river, about two miles and a half from Clay City, Illinois, August 20, 1829, and has spent his entire life in Clay county. He is a son of John McCawley, a native of Kentucky, who came to Illinois in 1810. Soon after this pioneer had located in Clay county the Black Hawk war broke out, and he was warned by friendly Indians to leave the country, and realizing that to remain meant sure death he heeded the admonition. He started back to Kentucky with an escort of Indians who accompanied him as far as Vincennes, Indiana. In 1816, when peace had been restored he returned to Clay county, and remained there until his death, in 1854. He was one of the first settlers in this section of Illinois, having been born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, December 24, 1782. The grandfather of the subject was James McCawley, a native of Scotland, who afterwards moved to the north of Ireland, where he married, and came to America, settling in Jefferson county.

The mother of the subject was Martha Lacey, who was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, February 4, 1791. She died October 14, 1844. Her parents were of Irish extraction.

Mr. McCawley remained upon his father's farm until he was twenty years of age, and then traveled about the country, spending three or four years in St. Louis, where he traded in stock. He finally engaged in the grocery business at Maysville, then the county seat of Clay county. He was thus engaged for fifteen years, having added dry goods to his stock, after starting. When the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern, then the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, was finished, in 1856, he moved to Clay City, where he re-embarked in the mercantile business, and until 1898, he had one of the largest establishments in the city. It was at the close of that year that he retired from active business affairs, although his local interests are large and varied, and he gives them personal attention.

On May 17, 1856, the subject was married to Maria L. Moore, who was born in Johnson county, Tennessee, February 9, 1840. Seven children were the fruits of this union: Arthur H., born May 14, 1857, resides in Clay City; Sarah L., wife of John T. Baird, of Olney, Illinois, born December 7, 1858; Martha Maria, wife of Dr. T. L. Leeds, of Michigan City, Indiana; Mina Julia, wife of Oscar W. Gill, of Chicago, born June 25, 1865; John G., born March 5, 1871, lives in St. Louis, in the

commission business; Mary Eliza, wife of Richard S. Rowland, lawyer of Olney, Illinois, born September 9, 1873; Lewis W., born February 24, 1871, died August 17, 1905.

Mr. McCawley is a director in the Olney Bank, of Olney, Illinois. He has much money invested in real estate, and owns several large and substantial business blocks in Clay City. At one time he was the owner of three thousand acres of land, but he has disposed of the greater portion of this as it required too much of the time that he desired to devote to his other interests. His wealth is the result of his own thrift and enterprise. He was compelled to enter the battle of life at a very early age, receiving a limited education. The subject's father was blind for twenty years previous to his death, and dutiful son that he was, Mr. McCawley gave him the most tender attention. The subject belongs to both the Masons and Odd Fellows' lodges, and in politics is a Democrat. He was the candidate of his party for State Senator ten years ago, but the district being strongly Republican, was defeated with the rest of the ticket. Mr. McCawley was the first Baltimore & Ohio ticket agent at Clay City.

The subject is a man of commanding presence, intellectual features, with a kindly and genial disposition, and is held in high esteem by the people of Clay City, regardless of class or condition. Few men have done as much toward the material progress of this community.