

reaps excellent harvests from year to year, making a comfortable living, and laying up an ample competency for his old age. He keeps his fields in an excellent condition, carefully rotating his crops and thereby retaining the original richness of the soil. He has a good and comfortable dwelling which is nicely furnished, and also a good barn, and considerable farming machinery, and good stock. All this he has made himself by his own energy and wise economy.

In politics our subject is a loyal Republican and takes a great interest in political affairs. In his religious belief he seems to favor the Methodist denomination, however, his parents were always Lutherans in the Fatherland. The faith of the subject's wife's people was that of the Catholic belief, however, they later turned Protestant, and are now Methodists. Our subject has always been known as a man of honesty and integrity and he has many friends in his community as a result of his well regulated life.

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#### STEPHEN SNUFFIN.

Mr. Snuffin is well known and respected in German township, where for many a day he has lived and prospered. He was born on November 22, 1846, in Union county, Ohio, being the son of Levi and Cathryne (Clark) Snuffin. His father was born and reared in Ohio and his mother was a native of Kentucky. Their marriage took place in Ohio, where they lived on a farm until 1860, when

they came to Illinois and bought thirty-seven acres of land in German township, for which they paid about ten dollars an acre. It was prairie land, unimproved, but well fenced. Levi Snuffin built a plank house upon the land and other buildings, and put the land into a state of cultivation. Here he remained and died at the age of sixty-two, being buried in Stolz cemetery in German township. Mother Snuffin survived for several years, dying June 20, 1906, aged eighty-five years; she is also buried in Stoltz cemetery. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom grew to maturity, the subject being the third in order of birth.

Stephen Snuffin remained with his parents until his marriage. When the Civil war broke out he was but seventeen years old, and, filled with the martial fervor of the time, he stealthily left home one morning at three o'clock, with the intention of enlisting at Olney, but his father put a bar to his military career by reaching Olney in time to compel him to return home. Stephen's marriage took place on April 14, 1867, when he married Margaret Stoltz. She was born November 23, 1847, in Richland county, Illinois, being the daughter of Henry and Savilla (Peoples) Stoltz. Her father was a native of Illinois, having been also born in Richland county. Her mother belonged to a Kentucky family, coming to Illinois with her parents when she was about three years old. Her mother and father, on their marriage, settled on a farm in German township, where they remained several years. They then sold their land and bought nineteen acres in another lo-

cation in German township, which, at the time of their deaths, contained over one hundred acres. Mrs. Stoltz died in August, 1872, aged fifty years. Henry Stoltz died in March, 1900, aged seventy-five. Both were buried in Stoltz cemetery, German township. They were the parents of ten children, Mrs. Snuffin being second in order of birth. An elder brother served in the Civil war in the Fifth Illinois Cavalry, having died at Vicksburg from small-pox while in service.

Stephen Snuffin and his wife at the time of their marriage, settled on a farm in Richland county, and although they have moved several times since then, they have never left the county. During their married life six children have been born to them, two of whom are now dead. In the regular order the children were named: Henry C. (deceased); Ella S., Alvord, Edgar (deceased); Edwin. Samuel married Della Jeffries, now deceased. His wife is buried in Kirksville, Illinois, and he has no living children. Ella married Warren Musgrove. They reside on a farm near Electra, Texas, and have four children; two boys and two girls: Lawrence, Lex, Maurice and Ethel. Alvord and Edwin Snuffin are unmarried.

The subject of our sketch received but a limited education in his young days. He attended the free common schools in German township, but owing to the necessary work to be done on the farm his attendance was anything but regular. He, however, mastered reading, writing and spelling. Mrs. Stephen Snuffin in her young days had educational difficulties very similar to that of her

husband and therefore did not receive an extended education.

In politics Stephen Snuffin is an uncompromising Republican and has taken quite an active part in politics in German township. He served as a county road supervisor for several terms. He never aspired to hold any political offices and has contented himself as a worker in the cause.

In the religious world, while he and his family are not members of any particular church, they have always attended the Methodist services and have liberally contributed to the support of the same church.

The home life of Mr. and Mrs. Snuffin is very peaceable and happy, the children they have reared being a constant and unfailing source of satisfaction to them.

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#### GEORGE W. CAMPBELL.

One of Xenia's most prosperous merchants is Mr. Campbell, who needs no introduction to the people of his township and county. During the years of his residence, from the close of the Civil war when he, with nothing more than half a dollar in his pocket, arrived in the township to the present time, his progress has been marked and rapid. A veteran of that war, his life uncovers one of those unhappy family tragedies which that crisis in our history brought about, especially in the states of Virginia and Maryland, when the spectacle of father and son taking different sides in the quarrel was seen.

George W. Campbell fought and bled for the Union, and his career in a business sphere since that time has been another successful struggle.

He was born in Virginia on August 18, 1843, the son of George Campbell and Amanda Wilcox, his mother, a native of Pennsylvania. His grandparents on his father's side were of Scotch-Irish descent and came to this country from Scotland. His father migrated to Virginia where he married and followed the occupation of a farmer. When the war broke out the elder George espoused the Southern cause, becoming a member of the Eighth Confederate Cavalry, and, having gone through the conflict died at Rock Island, Illinois, some years after. His wife died in 1878.

George W. Campbell, at the outbreak of the war, was a member of the First Virginia, later the Ninth Virginia Volunteers, who supported the Northern banner, and this placed father and son in different camps. On account of his fighting against the Confederacy he was harshly dealt with by his parents who forbid him to return to the paternal home. His father was a prosperous farmer and upon his death the management of his estate falling to his wife, she disinherited her son George W.

Our subject saw four years' service in the Civil War, engaging in thirty battles, being twice wounded and twice taken prisoner. He was wounded at the battle of Sumnerville, being shot in the thigh, and again at Sugar Creek, a ball entering his foot. In this last engagement the Union forces suffered

defeat in the morning, completely turning the tables in the afternoon when they completely routed the enemy.

George W. Campbell came to Xenia almost absolutely penniless, after doing a man's part to preserve the consolidation of his country, in the winter of 1867. He obtained work as a painter and afterwards learned carpentry and the cabinet-making trade. About thirty-six years ago he started in the undertaking and furniture business. Ever since he has engaged in that line his success has been marked. He met with trials and setbacks during the early period of his business life but they were of a temporary nature and never obstructed his steady prosperity.

He married on September 6, 1874, Addie Morris, a lady whose parents came from Ohio, bringing her with them when she was but three years old. Mrs. George W. Campbell bore her husband one son, William, who has been a constant source of comfort to his parents during their life. He is a licensed embalmer and is associated with his father in business. Some years ago he married Ada Corson, of Xenia. They have two children.

Mr. Campbell is a Democrat in politics and a sturdy adherent of the Democratic ticket. He has never been ambitious to hold public office, but he has served for a time as Mayor and Alderman. George W. Campbell and his wife are members of the Baptist church and zealous in church affairs. He is, himself, a prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity in Xenia and a leading member of the local branch of the Grand Army of the Republic.

George W. Campbell, in addition to his large mercantile business, is a large real estate owner in Xenia, and the owner of residential as well as business property. His store is a spacious one, being eighty feet by thirty-five feet, the business being conducted on two floors.

The subject of our sketch is deservedly popular with the people of every creed and class in the community, and the well merited success he has won during the course of an eventful life is but his just deserts.

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#### WILLIAM THOMAS WILKINSON.

In the subject of this review we have a representative of one of the most honored pioneer families in Marion county and one who is recognized as one of the most progressive farmers of his locality, owning and operating in a most successful manner at this time three farms of great value. He is regarded by all who know him as being a most capable and energetic man, broad minded and sound in his business principles.

William Thomas Wilkinson was born in Meacham township, this county, January 21, 1859, the son of H. C. Wilkinson, who was born in Kentucky in 1825, and who passed to his rest at the early age of forty-six years, but not until he had stamped his individuality upon the community where he lived. He was the father of seven children, three sons and four daughters, three of whom are now living, the subject being the

third in order of birth. Our subject's mother's name in her maidenhood was Harriet A. Nichols. She married H. C. Wilkinson in Marion county, Illinois.

Our subject spent his early life on the home farm and attended the district schools where he applied himself in an able manner and gained a fairly good education.

Mr. Wilkinson has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and he has been eminently successful in his chosen work, having by sheer force of individuality, business acumen and persistency won his way from an humble beginning to a place of prominence and comparative affluence in his county, owning three farms, consisting collectively of three hundred and sixty-eight acres. One hundred and forty acres is in Meacham township, one hundred and forty acres in Alma township and sixty-eight acres in Kinmundy township. All these farms are under a high grade of cultivation and yield the owner a comfortable competency from year to year. They all show that the owner is a man of the best modern methods of agriculture. On each of these is located a good house and out buildings. Mr. Wilkinson has various kinds of good stock on the farms.

Mr. Wilkinson married Prudence Kenedy on August 17, 1882, in Marion county, Illinois. She is a native of Washington county and the daughter of James P. and Elizabeth (McBride) Kenedy, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Randolph county, Illinois. The wife of the subject was one of a family of eleven children,

she being the eighth in order of birth. Her parents were United Presbyterians but she worships with her husband, as do all the family, in the Methodist church, of which Mr. Wilkinson is a steward.

The following children have been born to the subject and wife: Bert E. is a telegraph operator in Wyoming in the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad; Claude E., Jennie P., Charles H., Irene. Bert E. married Alice Hiddleson, living in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and they have one child. Claude E. married Stella Danison. Jennie P. married John R. Telford, who lives in Kinmundy township. Claude is a teacher in the county schools, and he farms one of his father's places. He has a good wife and a nice home. He was educated in the Kinmundy high school.

Our subject is a loyal Democrat, and he has faithfully and conscientiously served his community as Township Collector and as Road Commissioner for three terms. He has always taken a deep interest in public affairs and his support can always be counted on in all movements looking to the general good of the locality where he lives. Considering the hardships and obstacles of his early life he deserves a great deal of credit for what he has accomplished, for his father died when he was fourteen years old and he and John H., his brother, had to help their mother raise the rest of the children. This developed a strong independent and sturdy manhood and a frugal and thrifty mentality which is very largely responsible for his subsequent success in life.

Prosperity seems to have attended every worthy effort he has made, with the result that before the evening of life advances upon him he finds himself and family very comfortably situated, and the future, whatever it may have in store for him and his, inspires no shadow of fear in his breast.

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### JOHN A. PEIRCE.

Who is there who is not proud of his family tree, be it of ever so short a growth? A great many find a fascinating pleasure in looking back over the vista of the years with their memories of Plymouth Rock and Revolutionary struggles to trace their line of ancestry through the labyrinths of history. The family memory of the subject of the present sketch runs back to the sixteenth century when its originators emigrated from England, and some members of his family hold an heirloom in the form of a Bible printed in 1608, the pages of which have been thumbed by succeeding generations of the Peirce family down to the present time. John A. Peirce, the member of the family whom we wish to refer to at present, however, is not content to allow the memory of the past to overshadow the future. As a practical and industrious skilled mechanic he has upheld the family tradition of progress and push, and the activity of his life has won him a front place in the industrial world. His business today is the best equipped on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line of any of its kind between St. Louis and Vincennes.

John A. Peirce was born in the vicinity of Xenia, on March 12, 1843, his father being John Peirce, a native of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who came west in 1835, and locating first at Rock Island, Illinois, thence coming to Clay county in 1837. His father followed the occupation of farmer and printer, being a farmer most of the time. When the present Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was built, his father owned forty acres of land on the site of the present railroad station and which is part of the original town of Xenia. John Peirce, Senior, was the first station-agent of the Baltimore & Ohio, filling the position for two years, becoming the agent in June, 1855, the Baltimore & Ohio people running their first train through on the 4th of July following. The subject of the present sketch has in his possession a freight order sheet—one of the first written—issued in his father's handwriting. Upon leaving the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio, the elder John Peirce went into the woolen mill industry, which business was disposed of in 1863. The grandfather of the subject of our sketch was Thomas Peirce, who is thought to have been a native of New Hampshire, the family having come as we have already stated, from England, their ancestors emigrating to America in 1697.

The mother of John A. Peirce was born Jane Catherine Davenport. Her people were natives of Virginia. She died in October, 1855, having given birth to three children, of which the subject of this sketch is the only survivor.

The education received by John A. Peirce was of the common school variety. It took

place in the old common schools in Xenia. At eighteen years of age he enlisted in Company G, Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers (infantry) for service in the Civil war, his term of service running over four years and eight months. During that period he passed through the hardest part of the conflict, participating in the battles of Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863; historic Frederickstown, October 21, 1861; Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862; Stone River, December 30-31, 1862; Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864; Nashville, Tennessee, December 15-16, 1864. He emerged from the Civil war uninjured, and on January 25, 1866, he obtained his discharge. He then came back to Xenia and went to work as an engineer in the woolen mills. Later on he applied himself to the painting trade and also as a tinner. In 1878 he interested himself in machine shop work and in 1880 established himself in his present location in the machine industry. His plant at the present time is equipped with all the most up-to-date machines and appliances and contains lathes, shapers, etc., of the most improved type. Mr. Peirce is a skilled and experienced machinist and superintends as far as possible the output of his factory.

His marriage took place January 12, 1868, to Fidella Westmoreland, who is a native of Illinois. Mrs. Peirce bore her husband five children: Helenora (deceased); Mary Elizabeth, (deceased); Nellie, Mrs. Amanda Jane Bradley, of Xenia, Illinois; Mrs. Mary Stout, of Taylorville, Illinois. Mrs. Peirce is still active in life and conducts a millinery store in Xenia, on her own behalf.

John A. Peirce is a member of the Metho-

dist Episcopal belief, being a trustee of the local church. Mrs. Peirce is also of the same religion as her husband. In fraternal life, John A. Pierce belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Xenia. He was a charter member of the John A. Logan Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, but has now retired from active participation in same. In politics he is a Republican. He contents himself in voting his party's ticket at election times, and does not dabble in local political affairs. He is progressive and intelligent citizen and a man whose record in private as well as in every-day life is peculiarly free from taint of all that is undesirable. He is known to be a charitable and friendly neighbor and a man whose success in life is looked upon with pleasure by his large circle of friends and by his townspeople in general.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON DOSER.

Although his journey along the pathway of life has been beset by many obstacles, and he has undergone many privations, George Washington Doser, in the sunset of his career, is living quietly at his home in Preston township, Richland county, Illinois, amid most pleasant and congenial surroundings. The subject of this sketch is the true type of what is termed the self-made man, who through his industry and perseverance accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to enable him to enjoy a life of ease in his declining years. In the locality in which he

has lived for almost a half century, this venerable man is held in high esteem for his sterling worth and rugged honesty.

Mr. Doser was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 2, 1825. He was the son of Michael and Regna (Zirkle) Doser. Of his father the subject has very little knowledge, owing to the separation of his parents during his early boyhood. His mother was born in Virginia in 1808, and her parents were natives of the same state. While a young girl, her parents removed to Ohio, and she remained with them until her marriage to the father of the subject. As a result of this alliance two children were born, of which the subject was the eldest, the younger brother dying in infancy. Shortly thereafter, owing to an incompatibility of temper, the couple decided that they were not well-mated, and the marital bonds were dissolved. When Mr. Doser was in his sixth year his mother again entered wedlock, espousing Jonathan Zirkle, and eight children were the fruit of this union. The subject remained with his mother and step-father until he was fifteen, when he took up his residence with his grandfather. He was twenty-three years old, November 23, 1847, when he married Eliza Welgamuth, in Clark county, Ohio. He and his bride took up their abode on a rented farm, where they remained until 1864, when they moved to Richland county, Illinois, settling upon eighty acres of land, in Preston township, for which they paid fifteen dollars per acre. Of this land, sixty acres was prairie, and had never been tilled, while the remaining twenty acres were bottom timber

land. The only improvement on this farm was a frame house, and the subject of this sketch was compelled to remodel this structure, and build stables, fences, etc. Mr. Doser finally sold this farm, and for the next nine years rented farms. At the end of that period he had accumulated a competence, and as the result of a decision to give up the pursuit of agriculture he purchased property in the town of Dundas, where he and his wife now live.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Doser, three boys and three girls, namely: Socrates, John, Albert, Mary, Harriet and Anes. All of them reached the years of maturity but Socrates, Mary and Anes have passed to the beyond.

In the boyhood days of Mr. Doser the educational facilities were limited, and decidedly crude as compared with the splendid system in vogue today. He attended about two months of what was known as subscription school before he had attained his fifteenth year, using only an elementary spelling book in pursuing his studies. Later he became a pupil in the free school for the short space of three months in three years, making a total of nine months. Here he used an elementary speller and reader, and absorbed a smattering of arithmetic. Blackboards were unknown in those days. The desks were wide boards placed across wooden pins, fastened in holes bored in the walls. The seats consisted of benches, home-made with four wooden pins for legs.

Although Mr. Doser has never taken an active part in politics, he has always affiliated

with the Democratic party, having cast his first vote for President Van Buren. He has served four years as road overseer, but in the year 1908 was the first time that he received any remuneration for his services.

Both the subject and his wife in the early years of their life in Ohio united with the Lutheran church, and they have been active members of this denomination ever since, very seldom missing a service.

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#### WILEY ROSE.

One of the fascinating features of the farming industry is the opportunity it affords for individual effort and experiment. One can not only till the soil in raising the usual routine of crops, but he can also specialize along certain lines and thus broaden his own knowledge by experiment and in this way contribute to the knowledge and advancement in such special fields. We make mention in this connection of the name of the subject of this brief review, Wiley Rose, a life-long resident of this county. Mr. Rose has not only farmed but has devoted special attention to the raising of poultry and has given this subject considerable thought and study. As a result he has become thoroughly familiar with the business and is good authority on the various phases of the industry. Mr. Rose was born on the 12th day of September, 1857, being the son of James and Peggy Ann (Burkette) Rose, who were the parents



of four children, our subject being the third. Mr. Rose was brought up on a farm, an environment which is now and always has been a most wholesome one for growing youth. He received his education in the neighboring district schools, and as he grew to manhood he made up his mind to make farming his chief occupation.

On September 7, 1879, he was joined in marriage to Serelda Wooten, who was born in Ohio in October, 1861, being one of a family of nine children. This union has been blessed with a family of six children. Nora M. was born on January 7, 1881, and has become the wife of William Wantland and is the mother of one boy; Gertrude A. was born on the 26th of June, 1884, and was married to Frank Schaffer, being the mother of two sons; Pearl M. was born on the 26th of March, 1886, and was joined in marriage to Miss Laura Smith; Fannie B. was born on the 8th of October, 1888, and has become the wife of Albert Smith; Elmer L. and Mormon E. are still at home, the former being born on June 23, 1892, and the latter on June 12, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and are held in high esteem by the members of the congregation. They stand well in the community, being most accommodating in their dealings and ready at all times to lend a helping hand to whoever opportunity affords. Mr. Rose has been a lifelong Democrat, but is most pronounced in his stand for a fair and honest discharge of all official duties. He maintains that service in

public office is not only a privilege but a sacred obligation, and should not be looked upon in any other light, except the one calling for the highest integrity and conscientiousness.

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### JOSEPH E. TULLY.

The portly form of Joseph E. Tully is but a natural indication in one respect of his largeness. He is large in mind as well as body and his business interests are appreciated not alone in Xenia and Clay county, but also through all that section of the state of Illinois. His standing in the community is of the highest and as one of Xenia's leading citizens and as president of the Orchard City Bank, he has established for himself the reputation of a man of business talents of the highest order. He is a citizen in whom the most implicit confidence may be placed without fear of betrayal and one in whose composition the elements of honesty is not lacking.

Joseph E. Tully was born in Marion county, Illinois, on the 31st of December, 1849; his father was also a native of Marion county, and a farmer, who moved to Clay county about the year 1855, where he lived until his death which happened about 1903. His grandfather was Mark Tully, who was well known in the life of Marion county at one time. The family originally came from Virginia, and Grandfather Tully was at one time a farmer, and later a hotel-keeper in Salem.

Joseph E. Tully's father served with distinction in the Civil war, being a soldier in the Forty-eighth Illinois Infantry. His mother's own name was Sarah Ellston, who belonged to a family of English extraction. She was herself reared in Marion county, her death occurring about 1902. To his parents six children were born, five of whom are now living, viz: Joseph E., the subject of our sketch; Mrs. Ida Kribs; Miss Aggie Tully; Mrs. Rose Maxey, and Mrs. Lou Gaugher.

The Tully family came when the subject of our sketch was but six years old to Clay county, where they settled. Joseph received an education in the local common schools and showed aptitude and ability whenever he cared to study. When not quite fourteen years old, about the time of the Civil war, his youthful patriotism asserted itself and he joined the One Hundred and Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteers and later affiliated with the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, his term of military service extending over a period of sixteen months. At the conclusion of the war he went into the grocery business in Xenia and later branched out extensively in the mercantile line. He has now been in business in Xenia for forty years and he is looked upon as one of the most important and influential figures in its business life as well as a substantial and prosperous citizen.

In 1870, on the 10th of October, his marriage with Fanny Paine, who was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, took place. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Tully's married life

proved a very happy one, and three children have been born to them. The sons, James M. Tully and W. P. Tully, are now grown to manhood and are of great assistance to their father, both being associated with him in his constantly growing business. Their only daughter is now Mrs. Lois Holstlaw, of Iuka, Illinois.

In politics Joseph E. Tully is a consistent and loyal Republican. He has never aspired much to make a name in local political affairs, contenting himself to attend to the business interests which he has been so successful in guiding. However, he was honored with the postmastership of Xenia for the twelve years immediately following the Civil war and while that position was entrusted to him he fulfilled the duties of office to the entire satisfaction of the people of the community, whose willing servant while a public officeholder he ever proved himself to be.

His keen business insight and intuition in the industrial world was not allowed to go without recognition, and he has been installed as president of the Orchard City Bank, which is a stable and conservative institution and the business of which is carried out in harmony with the best methods of the banking world of today. Joseph Tully has given time and attention to the affairs of the institution and his advice and counsel have been responsible for tiding it over obstacles in the past. He is also the owner of an up-to-date dairy, equipped with all the modern dairy appliances, which is a pleasure to inspect. He has also found time in his busy

life to superintend extensive farming interests and his success along agricultural lines has admirably compared with his success in other endeavors.

Joseph Tully and his wife are of much importance in the social life of Clay county where their genial and winning qualities have made them much sought after. He is a member of the Baptist church and they have not been behind in helping onward the good work of religious progress in the township.

He is active in fraternal and club life where his genial appearance is generally heralded by the good humor and cheerfulness which he seems to have a trick of imparting to all who come in contact with him. He is a popular and prominent member of the Masonic Fraternity and is one of the most widely known Grand Army of the Republic men in the vicinity.

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#### PETER KERMICLE.

When he gazes over his broad acres of well cultivated land the subject of this sketch is justified in feeling that he has achieved the acme of his ambition, when in his early life he became imbued with a determination to some day take front rank among the agriculturists of the Middle West. That Peter Kermicle is a popular man and stands high in the estimation of the people of Preston township, Richland county, Illinois, is attested by the fact that he has been elected to public

office on many occasions, and is at the present time Justice of the Peace for that township, having discharged the duties thereof for the past fifteen years.

Mr. Kermicle was born May 28, 1830, in Hardin county, Kentucky, which afterwards became La Rue county, being the second of nine children of Samuel and Mary (Trainor) Kermicle. The former was born in Maryland, the latter in Virginia, January 30, 1800. The father of Mr. Kermicle moved to Kentucky when the son was quite young and settled on a farm in La Rue county, where he died in 1855. It was not long after the death of the father before the family moved to Richland county, and it was a very long and tedious trip, part of the trip being made by wagon and water. Upon their arrival at their destination they took up their residence with two older brothers, who had preceded them to Richland county. The mother of Peter Kermicle died in 1874.

Of the nine children born to the parents of the subject, seven grew to the years of maturity. In 1850 Mr. Kermicle removed to Coles county, Illinois, where he worked for two years for a cousin in the capacity of farm hand, sharing crops one year, and receiving ten dollars per month for the other twelve months. In 1852, on a soldier's land warrant, he entered eighty acres of land in Richland county, and later entered eighty additional acres, paying therefore the sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. On December 6, 1852, he was wedded to Elizabeth Veech, who was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, September 10, 1827, and came to

Coles county, Illinois, with an elder sister in 1852, removing from there to Richland county two years later. She was the daughter of John and Mary (Kinkade) Veech, both being natives of Kentucky. The wife of the subject was the youngest of nine children. Her mother died in Kentucky in 1848, and the husband survived her but five years. Three children of this family died in Kentucky and six in Illinois. The wife of Peter Kermicle died on the home place in Preston township, January 1, 1897, aged sixty-nine years. She was a member of the Baptist church. As the result of this union four children were born, namely: John William, Mary Jane, Samuel Warren and Lucy Ann, all of whom are living, and are fairly prosperous.

The subject contracted a second marriage November 17, 1898, when he wedded Mrs. Nancy Lanter (*nee* Ping), who was born in Jasper county, Illinois, March 4, 1854, her parents both dying while she was still a child. The father of the second wife of the subject was born in Kentucky in 1830, and the mother in Decatur county, Indiana, in 1835. The father of Mrs. Kermicle went to Jasper county, Illinois, with his parents in 1840, where they entered a large tract of land, but the Indians were so numerous and troublesome that the family returned to Kentucky, remaining there but a short time when they returned to Illinois, and settling upon the land that they had originally taken up in 1840. The Indians having been driven out of that section of the state, they now built a hewed log-house, and other buildings

needed out of hewed logs. The mother and grandfather continued to live on this place until the fall of 1867, when the latter died, the mother passing away five years later.

Silas Ping married Amanda Todd in 1852, and they settled on what was known as Ping Prairie, ten miles east of Newton, the same being a part of the old homestead settled by his parents in 1840, forty acres having been given him by his father. He finally sold this farm, and moved to Crawford county, settling in that locality that is now known as "Dark Bend," buying eighty acres of land. He remained here two years, and rented a farm north of Willow Hill, where his wife died February 21, 1865. Subsequently he married again, his bride being a widow, Mrs. Sarah Jane Gibbons (*nee* Mock), the ceremony being performed in Coles county, in November, 1866. His death occurred four weeks later.

The mother of the subject's second wife was born in Decatur county, Indiana, and was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Callahan) Todd, who were both natives of Kentucky, her mother dying when she was about ten years of age, the father remarrying shortly after to Ruth Ridlen, a native of Indiana. She accompanied her parents to Willow Hill, where she married Silas Ping. She was the third of ten children, seven girls and three boys, all of whom lived to maturity. Her father died in 1872 in Jasper county at the age of seventy-two years.

The second wife of the subject is the second of seven children, five girls and two boys. Her first husband, William Lanter,

died in 1898, one boy being born to them, and he is still living, Nathan Samuel being his name. He is married, with a family at Bone Gap, Edwards county, Illinois.

Mr. Kermicle is a Democrat, and takes quite an interest in township and county politics. He has been Road Supervisor, Road Commissioner, Township Assessor, and Township Collector two terms each. Both himself and wife are members of the Baptist church. The subject is considered one of the most prosperous men in the township, and there are none in the community to begrudge him his success. He is a self-made man in every sense of the term. Mr. Kermicle had a farm of two hundred acres, which he has divided among the children.

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#### GEORGE W. STRATTON.

It affords great pleasure and satisfaction to anyone to be able to refer to his ancestors as worthy representatives of noble character or specific achievement. Perhaps one of the most interesting and universally admired characteristics of many of our forefathers was their bravery and self-sacrifice when our Republic was in danger and the great willingness on their part to stake their all in its defense. This is especially true when we find that our line of forefathers includes members of the Revolutionary troops. Viewed through the perspective of the years that have gone by, we are almost amazed at their heroic spirit. A

descendant of one of these heroes is George W. Stratton, of Alma township, this county,

Mr. Stratton was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, on the last day of the year 1832. As intimated above his grandfather was an officer in the Continental army under Washington, and did valiant service in the cause of liberty and union. His father was William Stratton and his mother Mary Farley. They were devout members of the Christian church. George received his education in the common schools of the neighborhood and early began work on his own responsibility. He was the second of five children and came to Marion county in 1875. He has devoted the most of his time to farming and stock raising and has succeeded in carrying out his ideas and methods to a most successful issue.

On February 16, 1854, he was united in marriage to Catherine M. Alperman, and this union has resulted in the birth of the following children: Mary J., wife of Robert Wright, of Oklahoma, and the mother of one child. She was again married after his decease; Elias B., deceased, married Anna Eaton, to whom were born three children; Alice E., wife of Aaron Hutchinson; Philip R. married Marie Marshall, and they are the parents of five children, two of whom are deceased; William Edwin married Dorothy Kagy, and has a family of two children; Emma, deceased. Mrs. Stratton was one of a family of six children, she being the second in order of birth.

The Stratton farm of eighty acres is one

of the best kept and productive homesteads in the neighborhood and stands as a testimonial to what hard work and steady, intelligent application can accomplish.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratton are members of the Christian church and are willing and efficient workers. No one receives from them anything but kind and considerate treatment and the social atmosphere of the home is one appreciated by their many friends and neighbors. Politically Mr. Stratton is a believer in Democracy, and adheres to the party's principles, though never an aspirant to public preferment.

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#### GEORGE WASHINGTON STANDIFORD.

The subject of this sketch is a veteran of the War of the Rebellion, and as a souvenir of one of the many battles in which he engaged with distinction carries in his knee a leaden missile from a Confederate gun. He displayed great valor in those strenuous days of carnage. In Preston township, Richland county, Illinois, where he has lived for many years is well and favorably known.

Mr. Standiford was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, September 5, 1846, the son of Archibald B. and Eliza Jane (Courtright) Standiford, who were also natives of that state, as were their parents before them. The grandfather of the subject served for seven years in the Revolutionary war under George Washington, and when the strife came to an

end returned to Kentucky to engage in agricultural pursuits. The father of the subject was born in 1804. He was also a soldier, having served three months in the Black Hawk war. Shortly after his return to his home in Hardin county, Kentucky, he was wedded to Eliza Jane Courtright, and in the year of 1850 they started overland to Illinois, enduring many hardships before they arrived at their objective point, Jasper county. Here Mr. Standiford purchased eighty acres of land, of which seventy acres were of timber, while the remainder had been cleared. Their dwelling was a rude log house, and there was also on the land a sort of makeshift of a stable. The clearing of the timber land was a herculean task, but Mr. Standiford finally succeeded in getting forty acres thereof under cultivation. The subject was then four years old, and the family remained on the place until the death of the father, September 16, 1866, aged sixty-two years. The mother survived him by several years, she dying in Indian Territory, August 20, 1903, at the ripe old age of ninety-five. When the subject became old enough to do hard work, he hired out to neighboring farmers, but finally decided to return to Kentucky. He remained in that state two years. His employer owned a store in Nashville, Tennessee, and he worked at that place for about a year, at the end of which time he was called back to Jasper county, his father having met with an accident. He then worked on the farm until December, 1862, when he enlisted in the Forty-sixth Illinois Regiment, Com-

pany F, Col. John J. Jones, commanding. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 21, 1866. After drawing his pay at New Orleans he returned home to Jasper county. The subject received a gunshot wound in the knee at Fort Blakely, Alabama. He participated in many battles, among them being at Yazoo City, Vicksburg, Meridian Hill, Champion's Hill, Jackson, seige of Richmond, Spanish Fort, and Fort Blakely. During these battles his regiment was under command of General Sherman. In January, 1865, he was transferred under A. J. Smith, Fourteenth Corps, when he engaged in the battle of Mobile, and then moved to Dolphin Island to guard the gunboats, after which he went to Baton Rouge, where he remained until he was mustered out.

After the death of the father of Mr. Standiford, in 1866, the wife and mother sold the farm, and lived with her children until her death. The subject is the third of seven children, all of whom grew to the years of maturity, and married, two of them now being dead. After the war, Mr. Standiford learned the milling business, and after five years returned to Kentucky, where he married Laura Ann Smith, March 14, 1871. He continued in the milling business, operating large water mills for the parents of his wife. At the end of five years they removed to Arkansas, where he purchased a farm, upon which they remained for nine years, when they went to Macoupin county, Illinois, where Mr. Standiford took a position in a flour mill. His wife died February 26, 1881,

aged forty-five years. Three children had been born to the couple, two girls and one boy, the latter dying in infancy. After the demise of his wife the subject engaged in the business of selling fruit trees in Southern Illinois and Missouri, which he continued for fifteen years. He finally settled in Noble, Richland county, and after a residence there of three years moved to Dundas, Preston township, where he married Mrs. Lottie McCarty (nee Evans), April 11, 1900, his bride being the widow of Robert S. McCarty, and daughter of Miller and Elizabeth (Hough) Evans. She was born in Ross county, Ohio, July 17, 1850, her father dying when she was eight years old. She had lived on the farm with her mother until her marriage to Robert S. McCarty, October 11, 1868, and as a result of this union there were four children.

Although he had but three months' schooling in Jasper county, in a log house where rough planks served for desks, and this in the days when if a pupil could write a fairly legible hand, he was considered eligible for the position of teacher, he accumulated much knowledge in after life, spending all of his leisure time while in the army learning to read and write.

Mr. Standiford is a Republican and cast his first vote for Lincoln. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post 449, Chesterfield, Illinois. He and his wife are both active members of the Methodist church in Dundas, both of them having been allied with this denomination for more than four decades. They are in comfortable circum-

stances, owning a pretty home, and four lots in the town of Dundas. The subject draws a small pension.

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### THE BAR OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

JAMES C. ALLEN.

At the request of the President and Executive Committee of the State Bar Association of Illinois, I have attempted to prepare a paper in response to that request.

In 1844, while residing in another and adjoining state, I had occasion to visit some of the courts in what at that time was called the Wabash Circuit, and while attending some of their courts, formed definite impressions from what I heard and saw of its members while on these occasional visits. These impressions were much strengthened after I became a citizen of the state and a member of the Wabash Bar, from association with its members, in the courts and in social life.

My first visit to an Illinois court was at Palestine, in Crawford county. I found the venerable justice, William Wilson, one of the Supreme Judges of Illinois, presiding over the Circuit Court, and found at the bar E. S. Janey and Augustus C. French, representing the local bar. Wickliff Kitchell, the first local member of the bar, had a short time before that removed to the western part of the state. O. B. Ficklin, then of Mt.

Carmel; Justin Harlan and Timothy R. Young, of the Clark county bar; Usher F. Linder, of Coles county, and Aaron Shaw, of Lawrence County, were in attendance on the court. These men were at that time regarded as good lawyers and some of them as very able advocates.

Of Judge Wilson, the presiding judge, I can only say that he impressed me as a man of sound judgment; well versed in law as it was written in the books; courteous to the members of the bar; possessing the fine social qualities; always urbane and pleasant in his bearing toward others. He drove to the buggy in which he traveled the circuit a white mule, to which he was somewhat attached, of the good qualities of which he often talked to his companions while passing from one court to another. Justin Harlan says that, while riding with him from Paris to Danville, the Judge, in speaking of the good qualities of his white mule, said one of its qualities was never to leave the beaten track over which it had once traveled, and no matter what inducement or obstruction might lie in the way, it never required any guidance. While thus discoursing on the subject, the mule, not feeling the power of the line and tempted by the green grass that grew on the roadside, left the beaten track and wandered some distance from the road, gathering as it went mouthful of luxuriant grass. When the Judge's attention was called to the fact he attributed its dereliction in this regard to want of proper food the night before, arguing that a man, however honest, when hungry would sometimes steal



a meal. The Judge, while thoroughly equipped as a judicial officer, was somewhat deficient in his orthography, and many stories were told by the clerks and bar as to his deficiency in this line in making entries in his docket.

Justin Harlan, a native of Ohio, a sound lawyer, deeply versed in its elementary principles, while not an orator in the general acceptance of the term, possessed fine conversational powers, and before court or jury was a formidable opponent. His sound judgment and personal qualities made him popular in the profession. After the constitution of 1848 was adopted he was elected to the circuit bench and filled that position for two full terms with great acceptance to the bar and the people of the Circuit, and only left the bench when age and increasing infirmities rendered it, in his opinion, proper to retire.

Timothy R. Young, a native of New Hampshire, a citizen of Clark county, was a well educated lawyer and a man of much promise in his profession, but early in life he was elected to Congress from his district, and having great taste for the life of a farmer, at the end of his first term in Congress he left politics and the bar and became an "honest farmer". He lived till a good old age, more than four score years, and died respected and honored by all who knew him.

E. S. Janey, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, came to Crawford county and settled at Palestine shortly after the state was admitted into the Union. He was a gentleman of lib-

eral education; well versed in the elementary principles of the law; was twice elected to the General Assembly of the state from Crawford county. After several years of successful practice he quit the profession and turned his attention to farming.

Augustus C. French, born in New Hampshire, came to Paris, Edgar county, and was shortly afterwards appointed Register of the land office at Palestine, and made that his home until later in life, when he removed to Lebanon that he might have the benefit of the college at that place for the education of his children. Mr. French was more of a politician than lawyer, and after a second term as Governor of the state he abandoned the practice of law, although he possessed qualities that well fitted him for the bar.

Aaron Shaw, a native of the state of New York, came to Lawrenceville, Lawrence county, Illinois, shortly after the organization of the county. He was a fair lawyer in point of ability; was appointed and elected by the General Assembly, State's Attorney for the circuit, an office in which he exhibited great skill in the conduct of criminal cases. He possessed a sharp and incisive voice, and became a "terror to evil-doers" while he held that office. He was twice elected to the House of Representatives of the state from his county; one term on the circuit bench, and one term to the Congress of the United States from his district. While State's Attorney he accomplished from a jury a verdict of "guilty" without a single witness upon the stand, a fact which is without parallel in modern

criminal jurisprudence. Upon a call of the people's witnesses, no one appeared; he then called a jury and read the indictment, and stated that twenty-three grand jurors had sworn on their oaths that the prisoner was guilty and asked what was the use of introducing further testimony. Defendant's counsel had nothing to say; the jury retired and returned a verdict of guilty, very much to the astonishment of the court and bar. It is useless to say that the verdict was promptly set aside by the court. Mr. Shaw had a good share of civil practice on the circuit. He was a good financier; accumulated a nice property to leave to his family when he died. He was cordial with his friends, but rather unforgiving toward his enemies.

Orlando B. Ficklin, a native of Kentucky, came to Wabash county and settled at Mt. Carmel, where he remained for several years. Afterwards he located at Charleston, Coles county, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was, when I first met him, in the prime of life and manhood; a profound lawyer in the full tide of professional success on the Wabash circuit. He was a man of infinite humor and enjoyed the society of the judges and his associates at the bar as well as that of his very general acquaintance outside his profession. His knowledge of the law and his knowledge of human nature made him a successful lawyer. He was not only a good lawyer but a politician of considerable note in the state. While quite young he was elected to the Legislature from Wabash county. He was three times elected to Congress from his dis-

trict, and might have remained there longer, but his taste and inclination led him back to the bar. He was plain in speech, logical in argument, and at times, when aroused, he exhibited great power over minds of courts and juries. He had a host of friends, including all who knew him, except such as professional jealousy might alienate. In the later years of his life he consented to go to the Legislature from Coles county, and though age was telling on him, his last great speech in that body in seconding the nomination of Gen. John C. Black for the office of United States Senator will be long remembered by those who had the pleasure of hearing it. He lived his four score years and died full of honors, to the regret of all who had known him in his active and useful life.

Usher F. Linder was a native of Kentucky, and a near relative of the celebrated John J. Hardin. He came to Charleston, Illinois, in the thirties, and practiced law in the Wabash circuit and courts of the state until a few years before he died, when he removed to Chicago. He was a lawyer of fine ability and obtained a first class reputation as such in Southern Illinois. He possessed two characteristics seldom found in the same individual. He was both a wit and a humorist. When addressing the court on some controverted question of law he was clear, logical and forcible. He was imaginative, and when inclined, was wonderful in tropes and figures; was an adept in posing and facial expression, could be ridiculous or sublime, as moved by the spirit within. He pos-

sessed a musical voice and could play upon the passions and emotions of a jury or an audience at his pleasure. As an orator, I think he excelled any member of the bar in Eastern Illinois in his time. He was all this when his surroundings were agreeable, but he had some failings that often destroyed the effect of his speeches. O. B. Ficklin, who knew him as well, perhaps, as any other man, once said of him: "That if it were not for his personal vanity and want of moral courage he would have been the greatest man in Illinois". An attack upon either his personal habits or arguments would render him for the time being helpless and incapable of parrying the blows. He was a Whig in politics while that party was in existence, then for a time became a Free Lance, but eventually allied himself with the Democratic party. He was twice elected to the General Assembly of Illinois and was an active member in that body. He died at his home in Chicago after more than half a century of active professional life.

In the summer of 1845 I had occasion to visit Mt. Carmel while the Circuit Court was in session. I found a young man who had located in Mt. Carmel, a graduate of a Maryland college, Charles H. Constable, a rising young lawyer, who afterwards became an important factor at the bar of Southern Illinois. He was a young gentleman of pleasing manners with a highly cultivated mind and fine social qualities, of sober and industrious habits, as I judged from the preparation of his cases in that court. He afterwards acquired a good reputation on

the circuit as a safe counselor and an able advocate. Modest and unassuming in his demeanor, he became popular with his brother lawyers. In 1849 he left Mt. Carmel and took up his residence at Marshall, Clark county. He attended all of the courts of his circuit, as was the custom of that time with members of the bar, and in 1859 was elected to the Circuit bench, where he presided until his death. His character for honesty and integrity was unimpeachable, and, possessing a judicial mind, he was a very popular judge, but he was stricken down in the midst of his usefulness before age came to impair his powers.

While at the Wabash court I met and made the acquaintance of Battice Webb, of Carmi, a Virginian by birth, a man then in the prime of life and enjoying in his circuit a lucrative practice. His father had been a noted lawyer of Southern Illinois. I was impressed with the idea that the son had a brilliant future before him, judging from his gentlemanly bearing and his evidently profound knowledge of the law, but he lived but a short time thereafter, and died lamented by all who were fortunate enough to have made his acquaintance.

In the fall of 1845 I had occasion to visit Greenup, then the county seat of Cumberland county. Circuit Court was in session in a little school-house in the south part of the village, Judge Wilson still presiding. I met Alfred Kitchell, a son of Wickliff Kitchell, a former Attorney General of the state. Alfred Kitchell was a graduate of the law school at Bloomington, Indiana. He lo-

cated at Olney shortly after the village (now city) was adopted as the county seat. He had succeeded Judge Aaron Shaw as State's Attorney on the circuit. He made a vigorous prosecutor. His belief in the necessity of enforcing the law and his observance of the ethics of the profession rendered him popular with the courts and the people. He was elected for a term to the Circuit bench, but refused a re-election, preferring to return to the bar, having extensive property interests in and around Olney. He did much for the improvement of the county seat. Much to the regret of the people of Olney and vicinity, he sold his possessions in that place and located at Knoxville, Illinois, where he resided until his death in 1869, much respected and honored.

At this same term of court I met a lawyer from Springfield, who had been called to defend a man indicted for "an assault to kill." When I entered the court-room the evidence had just been concluded and the State's Attorney was opening the argument for the prosecution. After its conclusion a gentleman of angular build arose to address the jury on behalf of the defendant. He had an earnest look in his face, but I was not impressed with his opening remarks. Later he seemed to gather up his mental forces and I listened with interest to his plain, common sense argument. He was not eloquent, but evidently knew how to touch the chords that move the hearts of the average juror, and when he concluded I felt that he was no common man. Upon inquiring I learned that it was Abraham Lincoln,

whose fame afterwards reached the boundaries of the civilized world, and who fell a martyr to his love of country and of human rights.

I have thus given a brief sketch of the prominent members of the bar of the Wabash Circuit in 1844-5 from first impressions, as well as a more extensive acquaintance after I became a member of this bar in 1847. After this I made the acquaintance of a number of prominent members of the bar throughout Southern Illinois, of whom I cannot give notice in this article on account of its length.

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#### GEORGE C. WILSON.

The day of the pioneer in this country is gone, and we are in the midst of a settled stability and permanency. Nevertheless, as we look about us, we find a few representatives of the early days, who become at once the center of interest because they carry in their minds recollections of our hardy forefathers. In this connection we make reference to one of the sturdy farmers of this county, George C. Wilson. This gentleman was born in Pike county, Ohio, on November 9, 1840, being the son of Samuel and Eliza (Foster) Wilson, the former having been born on April 15, 1804, and the latter on the 17th of May, 1806. The other children of the family were John, born August 10, 1828; Richard, born August 18, 1831; Harriet, born February 12, 1833; Rachel, born May 5, 1836; Sa-

rah, born July 18, 1838; George, our subject; Tilton and Thornton, twins, born May 27, 1843; Margaret, born September 20, 1846.

In 1842 the family removed to Illinois, where George was married October 20, 1864, to Mary J. Leckrone, the daughter of Mathias and Julia (Johnson) Leckrone, the former having been born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1815, and the latter in Licking county, Ohio, January 24, 1821. The following list gives the children of the Leckrone family: William, born November 10, 1838; Mary J., December, 1840; John, May 1, 1843; Harvey, August 29, 1847, born in Illinois; Sarah, January 25, 1852; George, July 30, 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have become the parents of the following children: Theodore Edgar, a teacher, and who is now an acting Justice of the Peace, was married to a Miss Appleman; Samuel M., married to Myrtle Maxfield; Harry E. married Louise See, and is now practicing medicine at Centralia, Illinois; Frank O. married Carrie Coombs and is now filling the pulpit of the Methodist church at Bunker Hill; two children, Harvey and Emma, are deceased.

Mr. Wilson has followed farming all his life and has been not only successful but progressive as well. He has taken good care of himself in every way, never having used tobacco or liquors in any form. Looking back over the vista of his years he often speaks of the little log cabin of his early days and the pioneer experiences of the times. A precious as well as interesting family relic in this home is a chair made in

1846 by his father, who was a tanner. The bottom is made of calf-skin, sewed with whang; and the leather is as good as new today. Mrs. Wilson takes pleasure also in bringing out a china plate given to her by her mother upon her marriage to Mr. Wilson. Those were the days of the loom and the spinning wheel, and the old wheel now set aside as a family treasure was kept busy for many a year by the skillful hands of Mrs. Wilson herself. She spun all the clothing for the men, and has today a quilt of three colors, red, white and blue, spun by her own hands. There was no need in those days for schools of manual training, as each household was a school in itself, and one not excelled by the later day institutions. No roads nor bridges were in existence at that time, and experiences with all kinds of wild game were quite common. Wild forests and untilled land occupied the places where the neighboring towns now stand, and Mr. Wilson speaks of the time when he had to go to Salem to vote. Doctor Wilson, brother of our subject, at one time hauled his oats to St. Louis and sold them for fifteen cents per bushel.

Mr. Wilson adheres to the tenets of the Republican party, and together with his wife, affiliates with the Methodist church.

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#### GEORGE MADDEN.

Mr. Madden is one of the veterans left to us who, in the stormy and turbulent days of the Civil war, participated in Sherman's

famous march to the sea; and this was but an event in the military portion of his career. At the close of the Civil war, on obtaining a creditable discharge, he settled down and began his career as a farmer, in which sphere he has attained prosperity and no little recognition in public life.

George Madden, of Richland county, Preston township, was born July 25, 1842, on a farm near Ashland, Ohio. He was the son of John Thomas and Mary (Poff) Madden, Pennsylvanians, who came with their parents to Ohio when quite young. John Thomas Madden was the eldest child of his parents' family. He remained with his parents on their Ohio farm until his marriage to Mary, the daughter of George and Mrs. Poff, his marriage occurring sometime about 1834. He then moved to several small places near Ashland, where he worked at his trade of shoemaker. In the fall of 1844 he came to Illinois in search of land. Here he settled upon eighty acres, or rather took them as a squatter's claim and started in to improve the spot. However, another party rode into Palestine and registered the land as his holding, which John T. Madden had failed to do. He thereby lost the farm and the improvements made thereon. In the course of the three or four following years he bought eighty acres on Sugar Prairie in Richland county (Madison township). Here he remained and his family came to join him the following spring. The journey, as were all the journeys of the period, was made overland, and the usual trials and hardships attendant upon long land journeys encoun-

tered. The land on Sugar Prairie was in its primitive condition. John T. Madden started in to erect a log house and log stable and enclosed the place with fences. At this period the elder brother of the subject of our sketch hauled all the rail for fencing with a yoke of cattle. John T. Madden meanwhile worked at his trade of shoemaking, having his shop on the farm, leaving his sons to do the farm-work. John T. Madden remained here until the death of his wife, which event occurred in the fall of 1876, at the age of sixty-five years. She is buried in Richland cemetery. In time the farm was well improved, and good buildings erected.

George Madden remained at home with his brothers, helping his father until his twentieth year, when the Civil war broke out. The military enthusiasm of the period seized him and in the fall of 1861 he enlisted in the Sixty-third Illinois Regiment, Company L, under the command of Captain John Craig. He was first sent to Jackson, Tennessee, where he remained but a short time, hurriedly breaking camp to march on Vicksburg, but the rebels had cut off supplies, and the Union army retreated, returning to Memphis, Tennessee. In Memphis he remained with ultory fighting and marching were indulged the troops till spring, when once more desin. He served all through the seige of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, and other engagements, with much bravery. He not only followed the valiant Sherman to the sea but marched with him back to Washington, where they got a memorable reception. He also attended the grand review of the sol-

dirs at Washington in 1865, and was mustered out of the service at Louisville, Kentucky, going from there to Springfield, Illinois, where he received an honorable discharge about a month later, on the 21st day of July, 1865, having served three years and eight months of valiant military service. He had the good fortune never to have been wounded in all that eventful time.

At this time George Madden returned to the family farmstead where he remained up to the time of his marriage. Later in life his father sold the family farm and lived a retired life and dying in March, 1884, at the age of seventy-five. George Madden's mother's death had occurred previously. As stated before, she was the daughter of George and Mrs. Poff, natives of Pennsylvania. They both died in Richland county, Illinois, where they had lived (Madison township). George Poff reached the age of eighty, and his wife died about the same age. They are laid to rest at Parkersburg cemetery, Richland county, Illinois.

George Madden was the fourth of a family of seven boys and one girl, all of whom grew to maturity with the exception of one boy, aged fifteen years. He married on June 14, 1866, Mary Jane Coons, in Richland county. She was a native of Kentucky, where she was born December 19, 1846. Her parents originally belonged to that state. Her mother died in Kentucky at the age of forty-four when she was but twelve years of age. Her father then came to Illinois, but afterwards returned to Kentucky, where he died in 1902, at the age of eighty-four years, hav-

ing been born February 14, 1818. Her mother (deceased) was born December 20, 1814.

At the time of his marriage George Madden settled on a farm of one hundred and one acres, all timber, east of Parkersburg. He paid twelve dollars an acre for this land. Here he built a house and cleared about fifteen acres when he sold the place and rented farms for several years and following the occupation of threshing for several seasons. In 1885 he bought fifty-six acres in Preston township where he settled and where his wife died on December 4, 1899, at the age of fifty-three years. Mrs. Madden bore her husband one child, Annie Lou, who is now the wife of William L. Murry, and resides upon the home place with her father and husband.

George Madden attended the subscription schools as a boy and later the common schools. Owing to the heavy work done on the farm for his father he did not have a very great opportunity to advance very far in his studies. He was, however, attending school at the period he volunteered for service in the Civil war. In the religious realm he has always been a practical worker. In his younger days he attended the Methodist church, but now, and for many years, he has been a member of the New Light branch of the Christian church. A marked characteristic of his family and himself has been their activity in church affairs. He was ordained a deacon of his communion eighteen years ago, a position he still holds.

In politics he has taken somewhat of an

active part at various times in his township and county. He held the office of Township Trustee in Madison township, Richland county, for three terms. On his being elected to office for another period of three years, he served but two, as he removed out of the township. He is a Republican and a firm believer in the efficacy of his party. He has also been a member of the Knights of Pythias of the Olney lodge.

Mr. Madden holds an honored place in the prosperous community in which he resides.

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#### HARRISON UMFLEET.

Among the native born residents of Richland county who have reached a well-merited success we must certainly include the name of Harrison Umfleet. He is now approaching his eightieth year and has been prosperous in his agricultural calling. Few men are better known in this township and county than he. Honesty and fair dealing have been his watchwords, and these twin virtues have been personified in his active life.

Harrison Umfleet was born on October 26, 1829, in Richland county, or as it was then known, Lawrence county. His family lived in the vicinity of Claremont. He was the son of Seth and Rebecca Umfleet, his mother's maiden name being Cummings, a daughter of Daniel and ——— (Durman) Cummings. His father was born in North Carolina and his mother in Kentucky, her birth occurring in 1810. His father came with his

parents from North Carolina to Kentucky in the year 1815, in which state they settled on a farm. Here he remained with his parents until he married Rebecca Cummings, February 4, 1827. They then went to farming for themselves, and in 1828, moved to Lawrence county, Illinois, making the long journey on horseback and ferrying the Ohio and Wabash rivers. He did not sell his farm on leaving Kentucky, possibly for the reason that he regarded his journey as a tentative one. Seth Umfleet first entered forty acres near Sumner on government license, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre for it. It was all prairie land at the time. He, however, quickly set to work and erected a log house and stable and a rail fence on the settlement. At the time he was possessor of only one horse and it was much of a drawback to him. In order to draw the rails he hitched his horse to a sled and loaded three rails on at a time, carrying another on his shoulder, during the building of the fence. At the same time he was busy in another occupation. He taught country school in Claremont township at the same time. When Harrison Umfleet was but an infant his parents returned to Kentucky on a visit to his grandparents, making the journey once more on horseback. It was then a bad time for such a journey, being late in the fall of 1829. They returned to Illinois again in the early winter of 1830, where they farmed in Claremont township. Soon afterwards they sold the place and moved into Lawrence county, buying forty acres on state road. Here they remained five or six years when they moved



to South Sumner, which was their home until 1865, whereupon they again moved, this time to Olney, Illinois. Here the family remained until the death of Mrs. Seth Umfleet, in the fall of 1871, at the age of sixty-one years. Seth Umfleet married again, secondly a widow Truskett, and Harrison Umfleet lived near his father until his death in February, 1892, at the age of eighty-seven years.

Harrison's mother was the daughter of Daniel and Mrs. Kilburn, both natives of Kentucky, where they died on a farm near Crab Orchard. Her mother died when she was but ten years of age and her father survived for many years, eventually dying in Kentucky at a period after she had married.

The subject of our sketch remained at home with his parents, helping and assisting them in their daily round of work, until his marriage to Martha Elston, on April 3, 1853. His wife was the daughter of Martha and Lucy Elston, her mother's name being Cropper. They were natives of Kentucky, who had moved from there to Ohio, where Martha was born on June 10, 1837. At an early age she removed with her parents to Richland county, Illinois, where her father died at the age of seventy-nine, after he had survived her mother who died at the age of fifty-seven years on February 1, 1858; her father's death occurring in the fall of 1879. Mrs. Umfleet remained with her parents up to the time of her marriage in 1853. She was the seventh in order of birth of ten children who all grew to maturity. One of her brothers participated in the Civil war.

Harrison Umfleet was the second in order

of birth of a family of four children, all of whom grew to maturity. His oldest brother, James Fountain, served in the Mexican war under the gallant General Taylor (well known as "Old Rough-and-Ready"), for about three or four years and was never wounded in any encounter.

When Harrison Umfleet married in 1853 he moved onto a forty-acre farm in Lawrence county, inherited from his father, and lived on it until 1864, when he sold the place and bought two hundred acres in Preston township, Richland county, for which he paid six dollars an acre. This is the spot on which he and his wife now live. He has prospered in his farming business and has greatly improved the farmstead. The land is mostly all under cultivation, an improved type of buildings have been erected, and fencing and other improvements have been carried out upon the property. He and his wife are now living on the place, having retired from active work. He has divided up some of his land among his children, but yet has one hundred acres in his possession. This is being taken care of by one of his sons, who, with his youngest sister, lives upon the place with their parents.

Harrison Umfleet obtained his early education during his attendance at the subscription schools in Lawrence county. Owing to the conditions prevalent in those days he was not able to attain very much in the educational way, although his younger brother Benjamin went very far in that line. He taught school for years in Richland and Lawrence county, and served through the

greater part of the Civil war. On enlisting a second time he was assigned to a post in the Christian Commission.

To Harrison Umfleet and his wife six children have been born, namely: Olive, Lucy, William, Seth, Matthew and Rebecca. All married with the exception of Rebecca, who is the youngest. He and his wife have led a married life of singular happiness, and their sons and daughters have always been a source of much gratification to them.

Harrison Umfleet has played an active part in county and township politics. In the old regime his father and elder brother belonged to the Whig party. He is himself a Republican and a loyal supporter of his party. John C. Fremont was the first Presidential candidate he recorded his vote for. He has been for several terms a School Trustee and as a School Director and he has been also road overseer for many terms.

Practical religious work has been one of the characteristics of Harrison Umfleet and his family, being staunch believers in the Bible and church work. Though he himself favors the Baptist communion, his wife and children are members of the Christian church and work actively for its expansion.

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#### FREDERICK SEILER.

This land of ours owes a debt of gratitude to the stalwart and hardy European races whose sons came in large numbers in the early "twenties" and "thirties" when there

was a crying need of fearless men to assist in the work of winning the western states from their primitive wildness. The people of Switzerland who came at that time formed a goodly contingent and numbered in their ranks the present subject of our sketch and his parents.

Frederick Seiler, son of Olrich and Anna Seiler, was born on the 15th of December, 1830, in Switzerland. In 1852, his parents, his brother John, and himself, bidding adieu to the Fatherland, sailed for the United States. Upon landing they settled in Illinois, and the subject of this biography lost no time in getting down to the work of making a living. For some time he worked as a farm hand on different farms, covering corn with a hoe for twenty-five cents a day and board. He also helped his brother for some time, assisting him in his trade as carpenter. For this work he received fifty cents per day and his board. He again returned to farm work. He next became an employe of the old Ohio & Mississippi Railroad (now the Baltimore & Ohio) where his rate of wages was one dollar and twenty-five cents per day and board. Here his industry and frugal habits permitted him to save some three hundred dollars, which enabled him to make his first start in life on his own account. In August, 1856, he married Mrs. Barbara Biber (*nee* Friedley), in Preston township. She was the daughter of Lawrence and Barbara Friedley, her mother's maiden name being Stingley. Like her husband, Mrs. Frederick Seiler was born May 30, 1830, in Switzerland, coming from there to the United States with her par-

ents when but thirteen years of age. The family settled near Mansfield, Ohio, upon a farm, where they remained for twelve years. In 1848, she (Barbara Friedley) married Caleb Biber, remaining in Ohio till May, 1852, when, together with her husband and her parents she came to Richland county, Illinois, the journey being made overland in wagons. In Richland county, they settled on a farm of one hundred acres, obtaining same from government at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. Caleb Biber died in 1854, having had two children born to him, namely: Mary and Lawrence. Mrs. Seiler's parents died on the farm, her father in 1861 and her mother in 1864.

On his marriage Frederick Seiler settled in 1856 upon his wife's farm of two hundred acres, where they lived for about ten years, when Frederick Seiler much improved the property, building a house, etc., on forty acres adjoining which he now lives, which he had previously bought. The family then moved into the new home where they lived until 1902, when they moved to Dundas, where they lived until the death of Mrs. Frederick Seiler in 1904, at the age of seventy-four. She closed a happy married life and is buried in Preston township in the Lutheran church cemetery.

In this short period up to 1904, Frederick Seiler had acquired altogether two hundred acres of very choice land, one hundred and sixty acres of this being mostly timber, sixty-five was cleared and cultivated. In the early days wild deer and other game existed in large quantities in the township; har-

assing wolves and wildcats infested the timber.

Eight children were born to Frederick Seiler and his wife, seven of whom grew to maturity and one died in infancy. Their names are: Frederick H., lives on a farm in Oklahoma; John F. lives on the home farm in Preston township; Lucy D. is in Pennsylvania and is the wife of a Presbyterian minister; Christian R. lives in Evansville, Indiana, where he has been for twenty years; Louise E. lives at Newton, Illinois. Henry E. and Charles are both deceased.

Frederick Seiler, on the death of his first wife, remarried, July 26, 1906, his second wife being Mrs. Sadie Austin (*nee* Crane), the widow of James Austin. She was born in 1843, at Bridgeport, Lawrence county, Illinois, and was the daughter of Ishmael and Mrs. Crane. They were Easterners, the father being born in New York and the mother in New Jersey. Frederick Seiler's second wife had one daughter, Laura (Austin) Hollingsworth, by her first husband; Mrs. Hollingsworth lives in Ohio. The second Mrs. Seiler died in Sumner, Illinois, February 11, 1907, and was buried in the county cemetery southeast of Bridgeport, where her parents were also buried.

The subject of our sketch received a good education in the canton in which he lived in Switzerland, and it may surprise many to learn that at that early time the laws of the country compelled all children up to the age of sixteen to attend school for the period of eleven months in each year. He is well versed in the German language and his early

training has been of much advantage to him. As he was not tall enough in his youth in Switzerland to drill as a soldier, according to the constitution of the country he should have paid the sum of one dollar and serve a conscriptive term in the home guards. He was able to evade this law through coming to the United States.

In politics Frederick Seiler has been a consistent Democrat. At one period of his life, however, he voted the Prohibition ticket during the McKinley administration. In his younger days he was very active in the township and county political affairs. For a period of twenty years he was a School Trustee of the township. He was also formerly active in fraternal and social affairs, being at one time a member of the Grange lodge in Dundas, Preston township. He is a member of the Lutheran Evangelical church. He has himself taken a very active part in church work during the twenty-four years he has been connected with it. He was for twenty years or over an elder in the church. His wife during her long life belonged to the German Reformed communion.

Frederick Seiler is now in his seventy-ninth year and is enjoying the fruits of a very successful though arduous life. Starting life and making it a success in a new country, the language and customs of which were foreign to him, was not an easy task. He has been through the mill, he suffered many hardships and many privations at the beginning of his career, he has been for many years a prosperous farmer. He has reared a large and intelligent family, and

now in his retirement the memory of those early years of struggle makes his leisure years all the more appreciable.

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### RICHARD WILSON.

Among the many industries carried on in our country there is none that calls for more intelligent judgment than that of farming. One of the most successful men in the business in Marion county is Richard Wilson, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, on the 18th day of January, 1831. His father, Samuel Wilson, a native of Pike county, Ohio, was born in 1804, while his mother, Eliza (Foster) Wilson, also a native of Ohio, was born in 1806. Samuel Wilson was the father of nine children, of whom our subject, Richard, was the second in order of birth. This family removed to Marion county, Illinois, in 1842, where Mr. Wilson departed this life on December 20, 1847. He was survived by his wife until 1900.

Richard received his early education in the district school of the neighborhood, and upon reaching manhood chose farming as his occupation in life. In 1856 he was married to Rebecca A. Fulton, who was born in Marion county, Illinois, in 1837. Ten children graced this union, five boys and five girls. Letitia A. married James Roberts, and was the mother of six children. Seth C. married Irma Chapman, of Michigan, and is the father of one child.

Samuel A. is the husband of Florence Barnum, a cousin of P. T. Barnum of world-wide circus fame. He is the father of four children. Sarah E. married Pack Parcell, and is the mother of eight children. William T. married Ella Wagner, their union being blessed with four children. Maggie is the wife of Charles Spencer, to whom have been born four children: Carrie became the wife of Mason Weerns; Charles R. is deceased; John D. married Nellie Custer, who is related to the brave General Custer, being a cousin of the same, and they are the parents of one child. Mary P. was joined in marriage to Elmer E. Spencer, and they have a family of three children, one died in 1907.

The task of raising such a large family was not a light one, but Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have demonstrated their ability to meet the requirements most successfully. The home life has been of the most congenial and wholesome sort, and the recollections of the family hearth stone are cherished as one of the most precious heritages by all of the children. The religious atmosphere of the family was never found wanting, the affiliations being with the Methodist church.

Mr. Wilson was for three years school trustee, and discharged the duties of his office in an economic and intelligent way. He owns and manages his farm of one hundred and twenty acres and has given some attention to the raising of good horses. In both of these projects he has met with singular success.

Mr. Wilson has been a life-long Repub-

lican, his father and grandfather before him having been adherents to the tenets of the Whig party. Mr. Wilson still takes an active interest in the political and civic affairs of the neighborhood, but does not consider himself bound to support any party to the sacrifice of principle, a fact for which he is to be most heartily commended.

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#### JOHN TAYLOR KERMICLE.

Although his opportunities to procure the thorough education for which he so ardently yearned were limited the subject of this sketch has been exceptionally successful in the battle of life, and he is today known as one of the most substantial citizens of Preston township, Richland county, Illinois. The entire career of John Taylor Kermicle has been characterized by industry, and a determination to overcome all obstacles in his efforts to make his way in the world.

Mr. Kermicle is a product of the fair state of Kentucky, having been born in La Rue county, December 17, 1846. His parents were Samuel and Mary (Trainor) Kermicle. His father was born in Maryland, and his mother at Rock Bridge county, Virginia, January 30, 1800. Samuel Kermicle, father of the subject, moved to Kentucky with his parents when quite a small boy, and they settled on a small farm, where he died in November, 1855. Shortly after the death of his father, the sub-

ject and his mother moved to Richland county. They made the trip by wagon to Louisville, from there they crossed on the ferry to New Albany, Indiana, thence by rail by way of Greencastle to Vincennes, where they changed cars to the Ohio & Mississippi Railway, which is now the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern. This road carried them to Olney, Illinois. Two older brothers of the subject had prior to that located in Richland county, and the newly arrived travelers made their home with them. Mr. Kermicle's mother died November, 1874, having attained the age of seventy-four years and ten months.

When eighteen years old, Mr. Kermicle, who was then living with a brother in Preston township, made arrangements with a neighbor to work land on shares, the agreement being that he should be furnished with all the necessary agricultural implements and receive one-third of the crop as his share, for his labor. This agreement lasted for two years, and during this period the subject plowed most of the ground upon which now stands the town of West Liberty. During the three years following the termination of this agreement, he worked on shares with an older brother.

On September 28, 1869, Mr. Kermicle was married to Sarah C. Zerkel. Immediately after his marriage he rented a farm, known now as the Fred Schilt place, containing one hundred and sixty acres. He remained there three years when he purchased sixty acres in Preston township, disposing of the same, however, within twelve

months. His next venture was the purchase of the land upon which he now lives, which consists of two hundred and ninety-six acres, of which eighty acres was the original amount first purchased, and for which the price paid was ten dollars per acre, and which now averages a value of fifty dollars per acre.

The subject is the youngest of nine children, only five growing to maturity. His wife was born October 12, 1847, in Clark county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Noah and Martha (Foltz) Zerkel, both of whom were natives of Virginia, but left there when mere children. They were married in Clark county in 1845, and remained there eighteen years, when they removed to Richland county, Illinois, making the trip in a wagon and encountering many difficulties on account of the bad condition of the roads. They purchased one hundred and eighty acres east of Dundas, Preston township, paying twenty-two dollars per acre for a well improved farm. They remained here for eight years, at the end of which time they purchased a farm in Clay county, where the husband remained until his death, which occurred July 14, 1889, when he was in the sixty-ninth year of his age. The mother survived him many years, she dying October 24, 1908, at the age of eighty-one.

To Mr. Kermicle and his wife nine children have been born, one having died in its infancy. They are, Perry, Aden, Rosella, Warren, Della, Levina, Edgar and Olive, all married except Edgar.

The subject of this sketch attended one

term of three months of subscription school in Kentucky, and was a pupil in the free school at Dundas for a short time. Mr. Kermicle believes in the principles of the Democratic party, and has always been an active worker in that political organization. He has held the office of Township Clerk, Assessor, Supervisor and has been Highway Commissioner for fifteen years. He has held office in the township altogether about twenty-two years.

The subject is a member of the Baptist church, and is very faithful in his attendance upon services.

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MRS. MARY A. SEYMOUR.

The subject of our sketch is one of those brave women who gave so much help to their husbands and brothers during the early days of the settling of our counties, and in the dread days of the Civil war when gloom and danger seemed for awhile to settle upon our land. She is still able to bear her seventy-five years comfortably and enjoy the little spell of peaceful retirement which is but a fitting accompaniment to her life of activity and good work.

Mrs. Mary A. (Tade) Seymour was born in Withe county, Virginia, on May 24, 1833, and was the daughter of James and Catherine (Hines) Tade. Her father was a native of Kentucky, and her mother, born November 28, 1812, was a Virginian. Her father, who had come to Virginia,

married there in 1832, and her parents returned to Kentucky when she was but five months old. In Kentucky her father bought a farm in Montgomery county, where they lived until about 1841. Her father's death occurred in 1839, being killed while on a steamboat near New Orleans. Two years later her mother married Joseph Tade, a brother of our subject's father, the marriage taking place in March, 1841. The family then migrated overland in wagons to Illinois, the trip requiring five weeks. In Illinois they located in Richland county (then known as Lawrence county); Richland county not yet being laid off. Here our subject's mother and stepfather purchased a farm of three hundred acres, partly under fence, paying three hundred dollars for same. On the land there was a small log house in which they continued to reside for many years. There was also a log stable originally on the property. The land was at once improved and cultivated, and after a residence upon it of forty years they left Claremont township, in which the farm was situated, and bought forty acres of land in German township with the proceeds of the sale of their former farm. Here they remained for several years, when they removed to Liberty, Jasper county, Illinois, where our subject's step-father died in December, 1880, at the age of ninety-two. He is buried in Stoltz cemetery, German township. Her mother survived for several years, finally dying at our subject's home in German township on December 29, 1906, at the ripe age of ninety-four

years, one month and one day. She is also buried in Stoltz cemetery. Our subject's parents had four children, of whom she was the eldest. Her mother by her second marriage raised six children. There are only four members of both families now living.

Mary A. (Tade) Seymour remained at home with her mother and stepfather until her eighteenth year when she married James T. Seymour, the ceremony taking place on October 22, 1852, in Richland county. He was born October 1, 1826, in Lincoln county, Ohio, and was the son of Isaac and Sarah (Sproll) Seymour. Isaac Seymour was a native Ohioan, his father coming from England and his mother from Ireland. James T. Seymour came to Illinois in the spring of 1852, from his native Ohio. He was followed by his parents, who came to the state in the following fall. They lived in Richland county for one year, then buying a farm in Lawrence county, where they remained until their deaths. His mother died first, at the age of sixty-three; his father surviving her about three years, his death occurring at the age of sixty-six. They are both buried in Wagner cemetery, Lawrence county. Eight children were born to them, one of whom died in childhood. James T. Seymour was the eldest member of his parents' family.

On their marriage Mary A. (Tade) Seymour and her husband in 1852, settled on the farm on which she now resides, and which contains forty acres, in German township. They paid the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre

for the land, which was all raw and unimproved. It comprised tall prairie-grass and hazel thickets and was the last forty acres remaining unentered in Richland county. They immediately set about clearing and improving the place and built a small log house in which they lived for four years. They then built a small frame house which burned down a few years later. Afterwards they erected the house in which Mary A. Seymour now lives; it was built about the year 1872.

When the Civil war broke out her husband enlisted in July, 1861. The Illinois regiments being of the required strength at the time, he was placed in Company E, of the Eleventh Missouri Regiment, under command of Capt. John Blue. He served the three-year term of enlistment returning home in 1864, having been mustered out of service in St. Louis, Missouri. During his term of service he was never wounded nor taken prisoner. At one period he was confined to the hospital at Jefferson barracks on account of sickness. On his becoming convalescent he was ordered to attend to the other sick patients which he did until he was able once more to rejoin his regiment. He served in the Western Division under General Sherman though he was not with him at the time of the march to the sea as he was not in service. During the campaign he served in the Red River expedition, the siege of Vicksburg, battle of Missionary Ridge, and many others of the hard fought and principal battles of the war, and also endured many long and hard



marches. Though he was never wounded he became badly broken in health on account of the hardships of the years of 1860-1865.

While her husband was in the army, the subject of our sketch remained on the farm with her children. Trying to run the farm, performing all the work entailed thereby, and caring for herself and her small children, she suffered much hardship. On his return home he resumed work with his wife and family on the farm. His death took place on March 12, 1907, at the age of about eighty years. He is interred in Wagner cemetery in Lawrence county, Illinois.

Mrs. Mary A. (Tade) Seymour is the mother of the following children: Mortimer S., Isaac C. and John W. are living. Sarah Catherine and Joseph, both deceased, are buried in Wagner cemetery. Mortimer, married and is living in Crawford county, on a farm. Isaac is married and resides at West York, Crawford county. John is also married and lives on a farm near his mother in German township.

Mrs. Seymour obtained a good education, considering the educational facilities of the time of her youth, in the subscription schools in Richland county, Illinois, having attended school at intervals from her ninth until her sixteenth year. The common free schools did not come into existence until she was eighteen years old. Notwithstanding this she was enabled to obtain much information in the subscription schools.

James T. Seymour was a member of the

Whig party up to the time of the Civil war; from that time onward he was a Republican. He was School Director for several years, but never held any other public office as he never cared for public recognition. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the John Liddle Post, No. 745, at Chancy, Illinois. He and his wife and the members of their family all belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church in German township. Mrs. Seymour has been a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church for several years, and was for three years superintendent of the Sunday school. Her husband was a good, religious man and a steward of the church for several years.

Mrs. Mary A. Seymour is now living a happy life of retirement on the farm which the labors of herself and her devoted husband made one of the best improved in German township.

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#### JEROME N. EMBSER.

One of the most up-to-date and intelligently managed farms in the county is that belonging to the subject of this review, Jerome N. Embser, who was born on May 23, 1869, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. His father, Francis Embser, was born on April 22, 1833, in Prussia, Germany. His experiences would form an interesting story if taken up in detail. Before coming to America all the family except Francis

and one brother fell victims to the dreaded plague that swept over Europe at that time. Having survived this, the next problem that faced the boys was the service in the regular army. On account of its position and the hostility of the surrounding nations, Germany is compelled to maintain an extensive military system. This involves a great expense and causes a steady drain on the resources of the people. Not only that, but it makes it necessary for the government to require military service from all of its male population. Hence all able bodied men must enter the national service, most of them for a term of at least three years. No one is exempted except for physical incapacity. As the time approached for Francis to enroll in the regular army he began to dread the prospects and tried to bethink himself of some plan by which he might avoid this protracted confinement to the life of the soldier. Fortunately for him, he had an uncle who was captain of a vessel that plied between Germany and America. It was to him that Francis made known his desires, the result being that plans were made to smuggle the boy through. This was carefully arranged and successfully carried out, and after six weeks of sailing on the Atlantic, he arrived at New York.

Before leaving the Fatherland he had served his apprenticeship as a shoemaker, and upon coming to America he continued his work in that capacity. After going to Pennsylvania, he took up farming in connection with his trade, and continued thus

to combine his work even after he came to Marion county, Illinois. He soon became well known as a man of superior intelligence and an excellent workman, and ere long the neighbors made it a point to bring their repairing to Mr. Embser, at his shop on the farm, and to spend the evenings in such discussions and diversions as would spontaneously spring up in their midst. Every one for miles came to know and love "Old Frank Embser". He was not a believer in orthodox religion, and ended his days in this county, in 1905.

Jerome Embser's mother, Elizabeth (Driesbaugh) Embser, was born in Pennsylvania and is still living. Her father, John D. Driesbaugh, was a prominent citizen in western Pennsylvania, was the owner of several flour mills, located on streams in order to utilize the running water for power purposes. Her mother's name was Katie Shoop.

Mr. Embser joined in marriage Jessie N. Spiese, daughter of Wilfred and Alice (Heaton) Spiese, to whom have been born five children, namely: Alice E., Francis W., John T., Anton J., and Leon.

Mr. Embser's education was limited to that of the common schools of the neighborhood, but he learned early in life to be self-reliant and industrious, and as he advanced in years he applied these traits to his daily life, with the result that he has a most excellent country homestead, a magnificent farm, and an intelligent family. He has the full confidence of neighbors and friends, having been asked to serve his

community as Township Treasurer, Highway Commissioner and School Trustee. In all of these duties he has shown himself an able manager and a man of unimpeachable integrity.

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### HISTORY OF ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH.

As far as known, Reverend Seacrist was the first Lutheran minister who preached the gospel to the scattered Lutherans in Richland county, Illinois. He was succeeded by Rev. Daniel Scherer, who labored faithfully among the people, preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments. His field, however, being so large he called his son, Jacob, from Gettysburg to his assistance, who preached at Olney and various other places in the county.

Services in this neighborhood were first held in David Phillip's barn. In 1842 St. James congregation was organized, and in 1844 a hewn log church was erected in the northeast corner of Olney township, about one and one-fourth miles from the present house of worship. This log church is still in a fair state of preservation.

Rev. Gottlieb Lauener became minister in 1852, and Rev. Conrad Kuhl in 1856. Rev. William Hunderdose and Rev. G. Berwick supplied the congregation. In 1858 Reverend Abele became pastor and labored a few years for them, until 1859,

In 1860 Rev. D. D. Schwartz and in 1861 Rev. Killiam Barth preacher for

them. In 1862 Reverend Schnur took charge and continued as pastor until 1867, when a serious difficulty having arisen in the congregation in regard to the propriety of holding protracted meetings and some other things he, with thirty-five members, withdrew from the congregation and formed another church more in accord to their views. They built a church only a mile from the St. James. They continued to hold services for several years. But from some cause or other the congregation has become extinct and the church edifice has been sold and is in Claremont used as a warehouse by a grain dealer.

It was during the time that Reverend Schnur was pastor that the St. James church and the one near Olney united by general agreement and consent, determined to build a new house of worship, as the log church was too small. After some delay on account of a disagreement about the site, a new frame structure was erected on the present site in 1863. This was made possible through the zeal of the members who donated timber and labor. The timbers were hewn poles and the plastering laths were split out by hand. The finishing lumber was brought from Mt. Carmel, Illinois, a distance of thirty miles. It was also during Reverend Schnur's pastorate that the congregation secured an acre of ground near the church and erected a two-story house for a parsonage. After Reverend Schnur resigned, Reverend Harkey was called as pastor in 1867, and continued to serve them until his death in 1875. It was

while he was pastor that the congregation made application to the Indiana Synod, now Chicago Synod, and were received as members of that body in 1874. Reverend Harkey was also received. He with the congregation had formerly belonged to the Lutheran Synod of Illinois. While Reverend Harkey was pastor, Trinity church, near Lancaster, and St. James, formed one pastorate. But after his death, the Lancaster church withdrew and joined the central synod of Illinois. The congregation was vacant now until March, 1876, when Reverend Laner became pastor and served until December 29, 1878, when he resigned and they were without pastoral care until Reverend Hursh, Versailles, Ohio, was called and became pastor in 1880. He continued to serve them until 1894, when he became disabled on account of old age and disease. During his service the congregation continued to prosper spiritually. The preaching was held in both German and English language, but the German was discontinued at the end of his pastorate. In 1882, on account of crop failure, the congregation was excused from the payment of their apportionment, and were also granted one hundred dollars this year as a supplement to their pastor's salary. This was petitioned for by the congregation. Reverend Hursh continued to live in the parsonage until his death in 1897. In 1896, Rev. J. M. G. Sappenfield began to supply the St. James church in connection with Union, Gila, Illinois. He continued as supply until he was called and became regular pastor in

1901, being installed that same year by the president of the synod Rev. M. L. Wagner.

The congregation at its annual meeting on New Year's day, 1904, decided to erect a new church. A building committee was chosen, consisting of G. Hanes, W. Hanes, J. P. Xanders, Frederick Scherer and Caleb Buss. The pastor was made chairman of the committee. A soliciting committee, consisting of the trustees, J. Mosser, Levi Phillips and Charles Stangel, were chosen to secure the necessary funds and H. Burgener and Edward Buss, a committee to get donations. The plan was drawn up by the pastor for a building, the audience-room thirty by fifty and Sunday school room sixteen by thirty feet, the windows to be Gothic, and ceiling to be arched in the audience room; a pulpit recess in the north end, the main entrance to be in the tower. But before the building was begun the pastor was taken away by death and also G. Hanes, one of the building committee. The congregation now set about to secure another pastor. A call was extended to Rev. J. V. Sappenfield, residing at Corydon, Indiana, a son of their late lamented pastor, in March, 1904. He accepted the call and entered upon the work in May, 1904.

The congregation now determined to begin the erection of the church. Specifications were made according to the plans of the former pastor, and the contract for the erection of the building was let to John Beck, a member of the church. On September 12, 1904, the old church was torn down and the erection of the new church began on

the same site. The corner stone was laid by the president of synod, Rev. H. Peters, of Decatur, Illinois, assisted by Rev. J. Knauer and the pastor, on October 23, 1904. On Christmas morning, 1904, the first services were held and it has been used ever since. The church was finished in May, 1905, and dedicated October 22, 1905. The furniture consists of lecturn, pulpit, pews, organ and chairs for Sunday school.

The pastor, Rev. J. V. Sappenfield, resigned and left the field in December, 1906, leaving the congregation vacant until March, 1908, when Rev. John Knauer was called, who is now in charge of the field, and also serves Gila and Wheeler, Illinois.

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REV. JOHN KNAUER.

Enjoying marked prestige among the clergy of Southern Illinois, the subject of this sketch stands out a clear and distinct figure among the useful men of Richland county, characterized by breadth of wisdom and strong individuality. Rev. Knauer's achievements but represent the utilization of innate talent, in directing effort along lines in which mature judgment, rare discrimination and resourcefulness that hesitates at no opposition, has caused him to succeed in the accomplishment of much good in his line of work. Having always led a life along such planes of sobriety, industry and integrity he has become one of the most influential men in his community

whose interests he has at heart and whose moral, educational and material development he ever seeks to promulgate, thereby winning and retaining the undivided esteem of all who know him.

Rev. John Knauer, pastor of St. James Lutheran church in Claremont township, Richland county, Illinois, was born April 25, 1873, in Wuerttemberg, Germany, the son of Gottlieb and Jacobin (Stipe) Knauer; the father died in Germany October 21, 1874, and is buried in Hohenhaslach place, in the district Yaihingen, having died when forty-eight years old.

In the year 1887, the subject of this sketch, then fourteen years old, with his mother and three sisters emigrated to the United States and settled on a farm in Washington county, Pennsylvania, where our subject remained with his mother, working on the farm until the fall of 1895, when he went to Carthage, Missouri, where he took a high school course under tutorship of an older brother, who had previously come to the United States, having been accompanied by two other brothers and one sister. In the fall of 1896 John Knauer entered the Washington-Jefferson College at Washington, Pennsylvania, taking a four years' course, and in the fall of 1901 he entered the Theological Seminary in Chicago. He made a splendid record in school and he entered upon his pastorate at Gila charge, Jasper county, Illinois, after his graduation in the last named school in the spring of 1904, having begun his pastorate work on May 1, 1904, and on June 30th following he was

married in Wheeling, West Virginia, to Hope Kenamond, who was born near Washington, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1878. She is the daughter of Frederick and Elzena (Shipe) Kenamond, both natives of Pennsylvania, in which state they were married, but later moved to West Virginia, when Mrs. Knauer was nine years of age. Her parents remained in that state about four years when the family returned to Pennsylvania, settling this time near Claysville, where they bought a farm upon which they lived for three years when they again removed to West Virginia, where Mr. and Mrs. Kenamond still reside on a farm. They are the parents of five children, all of whom are still living, the wife of our subject being the oldest in order of birth.

John Knauer is a member of a family of eight children, he and a twin sister being the youngest. They are all living at this writing. The mother of these children is still living on the old homestead in Washington county, Pennsylvania, near Burgettstown, having reached the age of seventy-four years.

Rev. and Mrs. Knauer reside in the parsonage of the Lutheran church in Claremont township, Richland county, where the subject performs the duties of pastor, also preaches at Gila and Wheeler, in Jasper county, Illinois.

No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Knauer.

Our subject is making a great success of his work in this place and he and his estimable wife are held in high favor by the

congregation and all who know them. He and his wife are highly educated and they are both diligent workers in the cause of the lowly Nazarene, and they are apparently justly fitted for so responsible work, for they are broad-minded and ever have the good of their congregation at heart.

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#### THOMAS M. HARGRAVE.

The subject of this review is one of the sturdy spirits who has contributed largely to the material welfare of the township in which he resides, being a farmer and stock raiser, and as a citizen, public-spirited and progressive in all the terms imply. For a number of years he has been actively identified with the agricultural interests of the county. He represents that class of earnest, foreign born citizens, who have done so much for the development of the United States, while at the same time they have benefited themselves in a very material manner.

Thomas M. Hargrave was born in England October 20, 1851, and was ten years old when he came to America with his father and only brother, George, who now lives in Fayette county, Illinois, is married and the father of five children.

Our subject received his early education in the common schools of this country, but leaving school when sixteen years of age he did not have the opportunity to take a high course, but is, notwithstanding this fact, a

well educated man, having always been a close observer and an extensive reader, keeping well posted on current events at all times.

Mr. Hargrave has won his way to a position of prominence and comparative affluence in his community by reason of his own individual efforts. Starting life with but little means, he has succeeded admirably well and is today the owner of a fine farm consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, all under an excellent system of fencing and a high state of cultivation, for he understands well the proper rotation of crops so as to preserve the natural quality of the soil and the many other methods known to up-to-date farmers. His farm is located in Kinmundy township, and it ranks well with the other excellent farms of this community. He has a number of good horses and herds of other stock, besides much good poultry, in fact he carries on a general farming and stock raising industry with that discretion and industry which always insures ultimate success. Mr. Hargrave has a comfortable, well furnished and substantial residence, which is neatly kept, and it is surrounded by a sufficient number of convenient out buildings.

When twenty-five years old Mr. Hargrave was united in marriage with Anna McHatton, the representative of an excellent family, and she passed to her rest when forty-four years old. Our subject has four children, all boys, namely: John, Emmett, Harry and Roy. The first two named are both married. Emmett lives in Alma town-

ship on a good farm, and is the father of one son. John, who is employed on the Illinois Central Railroad, lives in Clinton, Illinois. Mrs. Hargrave was one of a family of three children. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Our subject has always taken a great interest in the affairs of his children, and has spared no pains in assisting them in life's struggle.

Mr. Hargrave is a man of commanding personal appearance, easy in disposition, courteous in manner, and possessing a large social nature and is regarded by all his neighbors as a most excellent citizen. He believes in good government and honorable citizenship. He was raised by Methodist parents and consequently is a believer in the fundamental principles of Christianity. In his political relations he is a stanch Republican.

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CHARLES EDWARD PALMER.

Having been born and reared in Noble township, Richland county, Illinois, and since reaching manhood's estate identified with some of the most important business interests of that community, it is not strange that Charles Edward Palmer should be widely and favorably known within the confines of the territory in question. His career has been marked with success at almost every turn, and he certainly is an example worthy of emulation by the young

men of today, who would embark upon the sea of commercialism. Perseverance coupled with energy and brains has placed him in an enviable position in the business world.

Charles Edward Palmer was born in Noble township, October 14, 1859. His father was James F. Palmer, born in Brown county, Ohio, in 1829, while the mother was Maria C. Danbury, also a native of the Buckeye state, having been born there in 1833. Their deaths were not far apart, the husband passing away in 1893, and the wife and mother two years later. The father of the subject was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, and in 1856, rode horseback from Ohio to his future home in Noble township. His wife followed a year afterwards on the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad, which had just been completed. The grandfather of the subject was a soldier in the War of 1812; his paternal grandmother was a niece of the Revolutionary General Stark, while his uncle, Jacob A. Palmer, did valiant service throughout the Civil war.

Mr. Palmer was educated in the public schools, and when quite young began to read law. Later he entered the insurance business, and also took part in politics, finally being elected Supervisor of Noble township. While discharging the duties of this office he was instrumental in having the county board appoint an expert accountant to check up the accounts of the county officers. He eventually became an expert ac-

countant himself, and investigated the books of other counties, serving in that capacity for eight years. In 1899 he conceived and organized the mercantile firm of Palmer & Company, and this concern has forged to the front with remarkable rapidity, carrying an immense stock of dry goods, furniture, stoves, hardware and agricultural implements. In connection with this concern the firm operates a concrete block factory, and an evaporator. Mr. Palmer is the president and general manager of the establishment, and is also vice-president of the bank of Noble. He was wedded in 1882 to Mollie U. Philhower, and this alliance resulted in the birth of two children, one of whom died when quite young. The other, Beulah May Palmer, became the wife of a prominent contractor of Olney, Illinois.

Mr. Palmer is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, Red Man, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has for years been more or less prominent in politics, being an adherent of the Independent party. When the Spanish-American war broke out he raised a company, and was made captain thereof. They reported to Colonel Pittenger, at Centralia, and the company, although placed on the list, was never called out.

The wife of the subject was the child of Ira B. and Adeline (Smith) Philhower, of Clermont county, Ohio, who removed to Illinois in 1854, and purchased a farm in Noble township. Mr. Philhower was for eight years station agent at Iuka, Illinois.