

this occasion. Here the parental farm consisted of forty acres which continued to increase until it comprised one hundred and twenty-eight acres. The land they settled was mostly unimproved. At first the buildings thereon consisted of a small log house and stable, and only eight acres had been cleared for cultivation. Clearing the land, making important improvements and building a substantial homestead were the occupations of the following years, a period in which the youthful Perry underwent a strenuous apprenticeship.

The subject of our sketch is the third member of a family of four children. The other members living are Ellen and Henry Clinton. Another brother, named Harrison, died a few years ago. On February 5, 1900, his father died at the age of seventy-two. The family burial lot at Antioch contains the remains of his father and brother. His mother is still alive, being in her seventy-fourth year and enjoying good health.

Perry had two uncles who saw active service in the Civil war, each one sacrificing his life for the Union cause. Their fate was very sad. One languished as a prisoner of war in Salisbury prison, where he was allowed to starve to death; the other was killed in battle. Both served in Ohio regiments, and in General Grant's division.

We have already touched upon his mother's antecedents. She was born in 1834, and like her husband, came to Ohio from Virginia with her parents in early life. Her mother died in 1885 and her father in 1890. She was the fourth eldest of a family of

nine children—three boys and six girls. Her eldest brother also is a Civil war veteran.

Perry remained with his parents on the farm up to the time of his marriage to Amanda E. Chaplain on September 9, 1882, when he moved onto the farm he now occupies. The property had then a very primitive appearance. It boasted a log cabin and the land around was almost totally uncleared. The soil was marshy and in the springtime it closely resembled a frog-pond. Then it was that Perry Sayre performed by far the most strenuous work of his life. He cleared, drained and ditched the land. In time he was repaid for his efforts. It became as good a farm as any in the vicinity. An instance of his industriousness at this period may not be amiss. In wintertime when farm work was at a standstill he cut and made railroad ties and fence posts, etc., selling the posts at three cents and the ties at twenty-eight cents a piece. In the course of time he built a substantial frame structure wherein he still lives. Each year has seen improvements, which go to make his the home of a prosperous farmer.

His family life has been happy. Two of his children have grown to maturity, the only other dying in early life. His two sons, Clarence and Roy, live in St. Louis, where they are skilled workmen, and a constant source of comfort and satisfaction to their parents on the farm in Illinois.

Mrs. Perry Sayre was the daughter of Perry and Ellen Chaplin, Ohio folk, who came to Illinois in the year 1851. Her mother died some years ago, but her father still

survives at the age of seventy-five. She is the fifth in order of succession of a family of ten children, six of whom grew to maturity. In the regular order her living sisters and brothers are: Otis O., Milton F., Nanna B., Ellen and Curtis.

Outside of agricultural pursuits, Mr. Sayre is a good business man. As a boy he attended the Claremont common schools, attending whenever possible until his twentieth year, and receiving all the education that the institution could give him.

Rutherford B. Hayes was the first President for whom he voted. Though not aggressive in politics he takes a passing interest in the game, and when election time comes he is always found solidly Republican. In the spring elections of 1908—pressure being brought to bear upon him to come forward as a candidate. He did so and came within a vote of being elected Township Supervisor of Claremont. Strange to say he was himself responsible for his opponent's victory. He chivalrously recorded his vote for him, thereby placing him in office by the slender margin of one. Perry Sayre and his wife have been ever active in Methodist church affairs.

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### LEWIS COMBS.

Eighty years have dissolved in the mists of time since the venerable subject of this sketch first saw the light of day and they have been years of failures and triumphs,

victories and defeats, sorrows and joys, but withal, satisfactory as most lives of honest endeavor as his has been.

Lewis Combs was born in Dubois county, Indiana, November 20, 1828, the son of John Combs, of Tennessee. His mother's name was Delila Vancouver, a native of Scott county, Indiana. John Combs went with his parents when a boy to Dubois county, Indiana, where they were pioneers. They secured wild land which they cleared, made a comfortable home and on which they died. John Combs lived to about 1842. He came by wagon, bringing seven head of horses to Walnut Prairie, Clark county, Illinois, and later to Marion county, settling in Meacham township on Scritchfield Prairie, where he stayed two years and went back to Indiana, remaining there one year when he returned to Marion county, Illinois, where he remained for six years. Then he went to Missouri where he remained for two years, moving then to Arkansas, where he died. His wife died in Indiana. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Lewis, our subject; Starling; Wesley, Smith, Minerva Lytle; the last four named are all deceased.

Lewis Combs, our subject, had no chance to go to school and learn to read and write. He remained with his father until twenty years old when he began working out at various places. He first bought forty acres of land in Omega township, Marion county, Illinois, in 1864. He sold this the following year and located where he now lives in section 35, Meacham township, then known as

Miletus township. He served as postmaster for a period of fourteen years. He was married three times, first to Martha Schritchfield, a native of Indiana. His second wife was Isabelle Simonds, a native of Kentucky, and his third wife was Caroline Melton, a widow of Christopher Melton and a daughter of Charles and Rebecca Lockhart. The latter was a native of Orange county, Indiana. The subject's wife was born in Clay county, Illinois, in 1841. Her parents located in Oskaloosa, Illinois, and in 1860 went to Arkansas. Her husband in 1862 enlisted and was taken sick at Helena, Arkansas, and died at St. Louis in a hospital in October, 1862. The family came to Clay county, Illinois, and the mother died in March, 1895. Three children were born to them, namely: Martha, who died in April, 1862; Caroline, the wife of our subject; May, who died April 10, 1863. Our subject has six children by his first wife, namely: Frances, widow of Thomas Garner, and she lives near Salem, Illinois; Louisa married Austin Hanks, of Omega township; Logan is a farmer in Meacham township; Julia is the wife of Lorenzo Phillips, of Omega township; Austin is a farmer in Clay county, Illinois; Samuel, the sixth child, is deceased. The subject had four children by his second wife, namely: Nellie, the wife of Frank Dravance, of Effingham county, Illinois; Ella is the wife of Henry Smith, living near Salem, Illinois; Lee is a farmer in Omega township; Edgar died when young. Two children have been born to the sub-

ject and his third wife, namely: Mae, who is the wife of Jesse Payon, a teacher of Marion county; Bessie is the wife of Loyd Hanks, of Meacham township. Mrs. Combs had eight children by her first husband, six of whom are still living, namely: Louisa, who married Allen Smith, of Clay county, Illinois; Belle is deceased; Emma married Edward Threewit, of Meacham township; Lockhart, of Sharpsburg, Illinois; Martha is the wife of Walter King, of Meacham township; Franklin is living in McCoupin county, Illinois, and he is engaged as engineer in the coal mines; James is deceased; Ellen is also deceased.

The subject of this sketch purchased eighty acres of land where he now lives and first started to make a home. He kept adding to this by thrift and economy until he now has a farm of two hundred and sixteen acres in Meacham and Omega townships and where he carries on a general farming in such a manner as to stamp him as one of the leading farmers of the township. He has always been a stock dealer and is regarded as one of the best judges of stock in the county. His farm has always been kept to a high standard of excellence and the soil has been so skillfully manipulated by the proper rotation of crops until it is as rich today as when he first took possession of it.

Mr. Combs has always been a loyal Democrat but he has never aspired to office, being content to devote his time to his work of the farm. Both he and his wife are faithful members of the Christian church.

## WILLIAM HENRY WILSON.

The ancestors of the Illinois family of this name were early pioneers of Ohio, settled in Licking county. In 1851 the grandparents of our subject removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, and entered four hundred and eighty acres of government land in Anoka county. The grandmother, whose failing health had caused the removal to the northwest, died there in 1852, but her husband long survived her, his death occurring in West Virginia in 1883, when he was more than eighty years old. He left a son, William O. B. Wilson, who remained with his parents on the Ohio farm until 1850, when he married Mary Margaret Seymour, when they settled on a rented farm and worked it until 1853. Deciding then that they could improve their fortunes by going farther west, they emigrated to Illinois in wagons and encountered the usual hardships of traveling overland. Purchasing eighty acres of land in German township, Richland county, some years were spent in its improvement. Later, forty acres additional of timber was bought, and from this the rails were cut and split for building fences and necessary dwelling and out houses. In 1861, Mr. Wilson enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Regiment Missouri Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Captain Levinson, of Olney, Illinois. After serving a year an attack of erysipelas compelled him to return home on a furlough. After returning to the army at the end of sixty days there was a relapse, necessitating his removal to the hospital at Cape Girard-

eau, Missouri, where he died and was buried February, 1862. His wife died June 24, 1861, shortly before his enlistment in the Union army. They had four children, of whom only two grew to maturity.

William H. Wilson, one of the survivors of the family, was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 18, 1853, and was consequently about nine years old when he became an orphan at the death of his father. He went to live with his mother's parents, who had come to Illinois in 1852, and settled on a rented farm in Richland county. In 1859 they purchased eighty acres of land in Lawrence county and it was here that their orphaned grandchild joined them. The grandmother died at the age of sixty-eight years and her husband survived until 1872, when he passed away at the age of seventy years. This venerable couple were buried in Wagoner cemetery by the side of their daughter. At the death of his grandfather, Mr. Wilson was nineteen years old and removed to Allen county, Kansas, but after a few months went back to Illinois. In 1874 he again took up his abode in Kansas, but eventually returned to his old home, residing a while in Lawrence county, but eventually taking up his permanent residence in Richland. He has prospered in his undertakings as the result of hard work and good management. He owns eighty acres of well improved land as good as the best in Claremont township besides thirty-five acres in Minnesota, inherited from his grandfather.

March 18th, Mr. Wilson was married to Phoebe Miller, who was born in Carroll

county, Ohio, January 18, 1856. Her parents were Jacob and Phoebe (Lewis) Miller, natives of Ohio, who came to Illinois in 1864, and settled in Richland county, where the latter died December 6, 1891, and her husband November 27, 1894, aged seventy-six years. They had nine children, all of whom are still living, Mrs. Wilson being the sixth in order of birth. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have five children: Charles, Clifford, Clyde, Cloy and Cora. The first two mentioned are married and both are prosperous farmers in Claremont township. The other three children, one son and two daughters, still remain with their parents. Mr. Wilson is a member of Amity Lodge, Court of Honor, in German township. Though not a member he attends services at the Methodist church and is interested in all good works undertaken by the denomination. In politics he is a Republican and takes an active interest in all local campaigns. His first Presidential vote was cast for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, when he was twenty-three years old. Mr. Wilson has a comfortable home and an excellent farm which he has made by dint of much toil and trials that come to farmers.

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#### HENRY WILLIAM SEE, SR.

Our subject is the representative of an honored pioneer family of Marion county, so that a consideration of his genealogical and personal history becomes doubly inter-

esting and doubly apropos in connection with the prescribed province of this publication. Mr. See is one of the prominent farmers of Kinmundy township, having a finely improved landed estate of two hundred and forty-four acres and he is carrying forward his operations with that energy, foresight and careful discrimination which ever betoken the appreciative and model yeoman.

Henry William See, Sr., is a native of Marion county, where he has been satisfied to spend his entire life, having been born April 30, 1849, in Kinmundy township, the son of Michael See, who married Elizabeth Allman May 1, 1848, and to this union the subject of this sketch was born, the mother dying when the son was seven months old.

Our subject received his early education in the district schools of his native county where he applied himself in a careful manner to his studies. He spent his boyhood on his father's farm assisting with the work about the place until he reached maturity when he was married to Mary Alice Blackburn June 29, 1869, in Hillsboro, Montgomery county, Illinois, the ceremony which made them one having been performed by a Justice of the Peace. The family from which Mrs. See came were, many of them, known as eminent lawyers, doctors and preachers. On her mother's side of the house many of the family were Baptist ministers. Mary Alice was born March 16, 1849, in Medora, Macoupin county, Illinois. Her father was George P. Blackburn, who was born in Huntsville, Alabama, May 24,

1826, and who was married February 14, 1848, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Emily E. Farrow, who was born in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, December 9, 1830. Seven children were born to them, five girls and two boys, all of whom lived to be grown and all married, the subject's wife being the oldest of the number.

Our subject and wife are the parents of eight children, named in order of their birth as follows: Harry M., deceased; Ollie E., who married James Lasater; they live in Redlands, California, and are the parents of six children, an equal number of boys and girls. Ernest B., the subject's third child, is deceased; Sabyon G. is also deceased; Mabel I. married J. R. Kelly, a Baptist minister of Highland, Illinois, and they are the parents of four sons; Emma A. married Dellis Malone and is the mother of one son. She lives in Taibin, New Mexico; Michael J. and Richard E. are both deceased. These children have received good educations and are fairly well situated in life. The subject has eleven grandchildren, all living but one girl.

Mr. See has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, of which he has made an eminent success, now owning a fine farm. No small part of his income from year to year is the result of the successful handling of stock, he being an extensive breeder of Polled-Angus cattle, and good horses. His farm is also well stocked with many fine varieties of chickens, among the principal breeds being the Black Langshan, which has often taken prizes at fairs and poultry

shows. Mr. See is regarded as one of the best farmers in Kinmundy township as the general thrifty appearance of his place would indicate. He is always at work and never neglects anything about his place that needs his attention.

Mr. See is a Democrat in his political relations and takes considerable interest in political affairs, always casting his ballot for the man whom he believes to be the best fitted morally and intellectually for the office sought. He and his family are Missionary Baptists as was also his ancestors, among whom was one minister. The Sees are regarded as people of the highest integrity and are known as substantial citizens wherever they reside. Our subject's well improved property is a monument to his thrift and well directed efforts. He is a man of earnest purpose and upright life.

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#### JAMES AUSTIN RICHEY.

Mr. Richey is the owner of one of "the banner" farms of his county, and there are very few indeed among his friends and neighbors who envy him the success which his honest efforts and steady onward plodding has brought him.

James Austin Richey, of German township, Richland county, Illinois, was born August 10, 1848, in Meigs county, Ohio, near Pomeroy, the county seat. He was the son of Thomas L. and Elizabeth (Frank) Richey. His father, who was born May 5, 1810, was a native of Pennsylvania;

his mother, who was born March 2, 1808, was a native of Germany. Grandfather Richey was a native of Ireland. Thomas L. Richey came from Pennsylvania to Meigs county, Ohio, with his parents and remained with them on the family farm until they died, his father dying first, and his mother survived for several years. Thomas L. Richey then worked for a man who was engaged in running produce boats down the Ohio river. He later worked on steamboats running from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to New Orleans, continuing in this employment for several years. In Meigs county, Ohio, about the year 1834, he married Elizabeth Frank. At this time he bought forty acres of land which he improved and sold, and with the proceeds of the sale he bought an eighty acre farm nearby, on which he remained until he sold out in 1855, and started with his wife and four children for Illinois. They took the riverboat at Racine, Ohio, down the Ohio river, landing in Evansville, Indiana, in the fall of 1855. Thomas L. Richey then made a prospecting trip to Illinois, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres in German township, Richland county, then returned to Evansville and brought his family to their new home, arriving in November, 1855. About thirty acres of the land was already cleared and a combination log and frame house stood in the clearing. This land had first been entered by Joseph Basden, his deed from the government being written on a piece of sheepskin. It was from Mr. Basden that the father of our subject bought the farm.

At the time of the family migration to Illinois James Austin Richey was but seven years old. As soon as he was large enough to work his services were enlisted in the hard work of the clearing and farming processes. In those far off pioneer days great herds of deer roamed the woods and prairies and flocks of wild turkey and much wild game of all kinds were abundant. He worked hard and faithfully assisted his parents until their deaths, his father dying in the fall of 1874, at the age of sixty-five. His mother died in January, 1877, aged sixty-six years. Both are buried in Lone Tree cemetery in Prairieton, Lawrence county. They were the parents of six children, only four of whom grew to maturity, James Austin being the youngest in order of birth. John Andrew and Sarah Matilda are deceased. Mary died some years ago; the two other children dying in infancy. James Austin Richey, the only living member of his family, was married to Mary W. Richey on the 14th of October, 1879. Mary Richey was born in Meigs county, Ohio, on the 19th of February, 1857. She was the daughter of Hugh David and Cyrena (Nease) Richey, both natives of Ohio. Her grandparents on both sides are now dead and are buried in Meigs county, Ohio. Her parents were married in April, 1856, and lived in Syracuse, Ohio, until they came to Illinois in the same year, where they remained but a few months. Her father had bought a farm in Richland county and his son, David, had come to live upon it. After a few months the family returned to Ohio,

where Mary W. Richey was born. They remained in Ohio till 1864, when they again returned to Illinois and settled in Richland county, where they remained on a farm in Claremont township until 1881, when a change was made to Flora, Illinois. Here Mrs. Richey's father died on January 30, 1904, at the age of seventy-one years, and was buried in the cemetery at Flora. His widow still survives him and lives in Flora, reaching the age of seventy-two years on September 30, 1908. Mrs. Richey's parents had four children born to them. Her brothers Arthur and William E., are still living and a sister, Ida, died when eighteen months old.

James Austin Richey and his wife at the time of their marriage settled on the farm in which they still live. Previous to his marriage he built the present substantial house at the cost of one thousand dollars. Other good improvements on the farm were also made. Upon the death of a sister, James Austin Richey, together with the members of his family, moved to Arkansas, where the family lived for about two years and a half in Green county. After the death of his elder brother in Illinois, the subject of our sketch and the members of his family returned to Richland county in the year 1905. During his farming career in German township he has been successful and is now the possessor of a farm which embraces two hundred and forty acres.

Three boys and two girls constitute the family of Mr. and Mrs. Richey; all are now grown up, the youngest being fourteen years old. In the regular order their names are: Thomas E., who is married to Clara B. Al-

sey, and they live on a farm in German township; Clem D. is the husband of Mamie Young; they reside on a farm in German township. Bessie Blanche, Cerena Maude and William Earl, all three reside at home with their parents and are single.

The subject of our sketch attended several winter terms of the free common school in Amity school district. When sixteen years of age he had to devote himself entirely to farm life and thus his education was not of a very complete nature. He obtained a good general training, however, becoming proficient in reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling.

James Austin Richey's father and elder brother, John, served through the Civil war, his father having enlisted December 1, 1861, and his brother in 1862. Father Richey joined the Sixty-third Illinois Regiment, Company A, under Captain Glaze (afterwards promoted to colonel, Captain McClure taking charge of the company). Thomas L. Richey was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and went to the sea on the march with Sherman. On the 13th of July, 1864, he was mustered out of service, obtaining surgeon's certificate of total disability, his term of service having covered two years and eight months. John Richey served but a little over a year, being discharged in St. Louis in the spring of 1863, from the hospital there on account of his broken health. He was attacked with the measles at Memphis, Tennessee, brought about by the hardships entailed and lack of shelter.

James Austin Richey has served as School



Director in the home district for twelve years, while his wife served in the capacity of post mistress at Amity post-office in German township, for over three years. He also served as Road Supervisor for two terms in German township. He has a good record as a resident of German township, having lived for fifty-two consecutive years in the same school district. He was in the township when the first school-house was built in the year 1855.

In the arena of party politics, James Austin Richey is a strong Republican, having always voted a straight national and state ticket. His first vote went to Lincoln to help him into office for a second term. He has never taken a very active part in local politics as he has always strenuously objected to be foisted into public office.

Mr. and Mrs. Richey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in German township, where they have always held membership with the exception of the two years spent in Arkansas, when membership was transferred to the church there. The Richeys have always been active in church work and church duties.

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### JOHN SMITH.

The subject of this sketch early in life realized the fact that success never smiles upon the idler or dreamer and he has accordingly followed such an aphorism, devoting his life to ardent toil along lines that

cannot but insure success. The prosperity which he enjoys has been the result of energy rightly applied and has been won by commendable qualities.

John Smith, one of the progressive farmers of Tonti township, Marion county, Illinois, was born in this locality October 7, 1838, the son of Britton and Mahala (Foster) Smith. Great-grandfather Smith was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, having taken part in many of the famous battles and strenuous campaigns of the same. This old family finally settled in North Carolina, where Britton Smith was born in 1811, on November 7. He came to Tennessee and then to Marion county, Illinois, in 1829, among the pioneers and overcome the obstacles always to be encountered in such a country, however, he remained here only about a year when he returned to Tennessee, but soon returned to Illinois bringing his father, having been enthusiastic of the prospects in the new country, believing that the future was filled with great possibilities. The entire family made the trip from Tennessee as soon as they could arrange to do so and they set to work at once making a home here, where their labors were richly rewarded by mother nature, who seldom fails in just compensation for labor expended in her domain.

Our subject's father was united in marriage in 1836 to Mahala Foster and settled in section 28, in Tonti township. His wife was the daughter of the well known Hon. Hardy Foster, who was an early settler in this county, having come here from

Georgia, becoming popular and a leader in political affairs, having represented this district in the legislature. Foster township was named in honor of this pioneer. Britton Smith at one time owned two hundred acres of land in this county, being one of the best known farmers in this locality and he also took much interest in local politics, having served as Deputy Sheriff of Marion county for about seventeen years, during which time he rendered much valuable service to the public. He was a Democrat in his political faith. From time to time he held several township offices.

John Smith, our subject, was born here and worked upon the farm, having a poor chance to receive an education. However, he applied himself as best he could and has since broadened his intellectual horizon by general reading and travel.

When twenty-one years old Mr. Smith went to Texas, where he remained a short time. In 1862 he was united in marriage with Flotiller Nichols, who passed away fourteen months after her marriage, and on October 2, 1868, Mr. Smith married Elizabeth Smith, who was reared in this part of Illinois, and who was called to her rest in November, 1877. Two children were born to the subject, one of whom, Charles B., is living in this county. His date of birth occurred in 1873. Our subject was again married, his third wife being Lenora E. Coe, who is also now deceased. He was married a fourth time to Martha C. (Meadon) Lawson, who has also been called to

her rest. Four children were born to Mr. Smith by his third wife, three of whom are living. Our subject has devoted his life principally to farming with the result that he has achieved definite success in this field of endeavor, for he has great ability in agricultural lines and is a hard worker. He at present owns eighty-one acres of land in this township, which have been developed into an excellent farm, being very productive and yields excellent crops from year to year. He has an excellent residence, well furnished and all the necessary equipments for carrying on successful farming in a general way. Although Mr. Smith has now retired from the farm, he still oversees its management.

Our subject is a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, being one of the Stewards of the local church, and is at this writing (1908) superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Patoka, Lodge No. 860. In politics he is a Democrat and takes a lively interest in local political affairs, having served as Township Assessor, also as Township Clerk, and Township Treasurer, which office he still holds, having had charge of the same since 1885. This would indicate that he has given entire satisfaction in the dispensation of all his public duties, and is held in strictest confidence by his constituents else he would not have been entrusted with so many important public offices, nor retained so long.

## JOHN BECK.

The history of Mr. Beck has for many years been entwined with that of German township, Richland county, in which he lives, where he has always been regarded as a valuable and influential citizen and one who possesses all the higher qualities of the successful farmer.

John Beck was born in Stark county, Ohio, on the 30th of July, 1841, and was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Phillips) Beck. Both were natives of Pennsylvania, the former having been born on the 28th of January, 1797, and Elizabeth Phillips in April, 1806. Jacob remained at home with his parents on the farm in the Keystone state until his twenty-eight year, when his marriage took place in 1825. For about four years he and his wife remained in Pennsylvania and then removed to Stark county, Ohio, where Jacob bought about forty acres of land, on which they lived for some time, until the discovery was made that the title was worthless and they were forced to give up the place. This, needless to say, was a great loss to them. They then lived in different parts of Stark county for sometime afterwards, but did not purchase any land and, finally, in the early fall of 1842 they set out overland in wagons for Illinois. The trip covered four weeks and in October they landed in Richland county, Illinois. Jacob Beck found himself there with a wife and one boy, John, aged one and a half years, one dollar and twenty-five cents in money, an old blind mare and a one-horse

wagon, in which they had journeyed from Ohio. (For further information on John Beck's parents, see biography of Daniel Beck, of Claremont township, in another part of this volume.)

John Beck made his home with his parents until his mother's death in April, 1872. Our subject for some time afterwards lived with his father. During this time he had acquired a half interest with his brother Henry in forty acres of timber land in German township. Some time later he sold this half interest to William Miller for three hundred and fifty dollars, with which he acquired a saw-mill. He later sold the mill to J. J. Goss. On the 8th of October, 1874, he married Elizabeth Sager, who was born on the 17th of March, 1855, in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Reuben and Elizabeth (Snider) Sager, also natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Beck's mother died when she was but four years old and she went to live with an elder sister. When about nine years old she came with her father from Pennsylvania to Richland county, Illinois, in the fall of 1864. She and her father remained with a brother, Peter Sager, senior, until his marriage to Leah Crumb, the widow of Isaac Crumb. Our subject's wife then remained with a cousin, Daniel Sager, for about three years and then worked for neighbors. She continued in occupations of this kind until her marriage. Her father afterwards died and is buried in Goss cemetery in German township; his age at the time of his decease was fifty-six. Mrs. Beck was a member of a family of eleven children, nine

of whom grew up and six are now living. Upon his marriage, John Beck and his wife rented a farm in Crawford county in the year 1875, and on account of unfavorable circumstances removed that same fall to Richland county. It was at this time that he traded for the saw-mill referred to before. He then moved into Decker township and later bought twenty acres in Preston township which he afterwards sold and returned once more to German township. In January of 1882 he moved to his present farm which then consisted of forty acres. Since that time he has built the house and barn now standing and otherwise changed the face of the land and brought it to its present admirable state of cultivation.

John Beck was the sixth of ten children born to his parents, seven of whom grew to maturity. His father died in April of 1881, aged eighty-four years, and was buried in Goss cemetery. John was not able to obtain an extended education in his young days. However, he attended the subscription school and went for several terms to the free school in Richland county, learning to read, write and spell, also obtaining a knowledge of arithmetic. To John Beck and wife six children were born; three girls and two boys grew up; one child died in infancy. In regular order they were: Dorothy Viola is the wife of George W. Gerber, a carpenter of Claremont township; Sidney Paul married Maggie Byrd and resides on a farm in Shelby county; Bertha May is the wife of E. W. Craig, a farmer of German township; Clara Agatha and Frederick Stephen are both sin-

gle and live with their parents on the farm. All are fairly prosperous.

In politics the subject of this sketch is a Democrat and has for the greater part of his life taken an interest in local politics. He has been for six years Commissioner of Highways in German township, and School Director for the long period of twenty-one years. Active as he has been in the public life of his community, he has never aspired for a political office of any kind. He and his wife and family are all members of the the St. James Lutheran church in Claremont township. He is himself one of the original founders and builders of that church. He has served as church treasurer for about twenty years, as a deacon for several terms, and as a teacher of the Sunday school class for the past thirty-five years, and is now an elder. It is needless to say he has ever been active in all things pertaining to his church. In the township in which he has lived the best part of his life he is favorably looked upon as an upright and honest man and as an industrious farmer whose success is well deserved.

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#### REV. WILLIAM JACKSON SIMER.

This sterling and honored citizen of Omega township, Marion county, is the owner of one of the best farms in this community and is a local minister of the Gospel of much popularity, having for many years performed a grand service among the people

whom he has elected to serve, burying the friends who pass over the mystic river, marrying the young, beginning life's more serious walks, and in many ways assisting in ameliorating the condition of the public at large and his character has from his youth up been unblemished by shadow of wrong, so that the community regards him as one of its most valuable citizens.

William Jackson Simer is a native of Marion county, having been born here September 9, 1849, and is therefore fifty-nine years old at this writing (1908). His father's name was Jason R. Simer, a Tennessean, who came to Illinois when fifteen years of age and worked by the month until he was married at the age of twenty-five years to Amelia Gaston, who was born near the Marion County Home and who was called to her rest in 1866, at the age of forty years. Jason R. Simer married a second time to Ruth Carpenter in the year 1870. Seven children were born to him by his first wife, our subject being one of the number; and three children were born of the second union.

Our subject worked out among the neighbors until he was seventeen years of age, having attended the local schools in Jefferson county, later the Huff school, in the meantime during the winter months, and received a good foundation for an education by diligently applying himself to his studies, and he has now become a well read man by constant home study and personal observation. When twenty-five years old he began to make public addresses on local political issues and so well did he speak that

when his name was announced to appear on a program he was always insured a large and interested audience, and his powers as an orator and his ability as a political worker were soon recognized by party leaders and he was invited to speak in other communities.

Our subject has always been more or less interested in farming pursuits and he early in life gave marked evidence of being a man of affairs, and he began to work for himself when seventeen years old. He now owns a fine farm of two hundred and three acres, forty acres being in timber, the rest being under a high state of cultivation.

Rev. Mr. Simer has always been an active church worker and Sunday school worker, especially so since 1880, and he is now filling the pulpit each Lord's day at Lovel Grove, Smith's Grove, Bethel in Clay county, and at Brubaker, giving a fourth of his time to each charge, all of which he has built up and greatly strengthened.

Our subject has been twice married, his first wife's name being Sarah E. Easley, to whom seven children were born, four of whom are living, the family being composed of six sons and one daughter. His second wife was Mary Alice Farson, to whom two children were born, both living. Their names are Clay and Frank. The names of his children by his first wife follow: The first child died in early infancy; Leroy, who married Goldin Allen, and who had three children, two living, a son and a daughter; Hershel, who married Jennie Tate and who has four children, two sons and two daughters; Charley, who married

Ama Hultz; Hugh, who married Minnie Jennings, and who has one son; Margareta and Rollie.

Mr. Simer takes a great interest in public affairs and is serving his third term as Supervisor of Omega township in a manner that reflects much credit upon his ability and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He is greatly interested in the cause of education, and he has taught six successful terms of school in his own neighborhood, gaining considerable praise as an able instructor and his services were in great demand. He is a very versatile man on almost any topic and he is ever ready for any good work. He has a large, well arranged and carefully selected library, consisting of the best books of modern and early days on a wide range of themes among which much of his time is spent. He has always been a close student of the Bible, having an ardent desire to know and comprehend the same, being anxious to know and do the will of the Heavenly Father, and to follow His teachings at all times. In matters affecting the general welfare Rev. Simer has been most active and influential.

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#### JACOB EYER.

The well known farmer, Jacob Eyer, of German township, Richland county, Illinois, is the son of one of this county's earliest settlers. He was born on May 10, 1829, near Rhinebier, Germany, on a farm. At the

age of six years he was brought by his parents to the United States, crossing the broad Atlantic in a sail-boat which served to carry both passengers and freight. His father brought a large amount of property with him including a wagon made in Germany. The voyage lasted six weeks and encountered the usual experience of the travelers in early days. They landed in New York harbor in the spring of 1837, and came to Ohio, where, in Stark county, the Eyers settled upon forty acres. Father Eyer built a log house, but sold the place two years after, the family then starting in wagons overland for Illinois, several other families accompanying them. They forded the Wabash river at Palestine, and the Eyer family settled in what is now German township, Richland county. Previously Jacob Eyer's father had entered Illinois and entered the one hundred and twenty acres of timber land they settled on. In those early days Richland county went by its old title of Lawrence county. For the land the elder Eyer had paid the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and also one hundred dollars to a man named King, who held a squatter's claim on the place. This sale was negotiated before the family migration to Illinois took place. The family settled in German township in the fall of 1839, two years before Richland county was laid out, the members of the family moving into the log cabin vacated by King and started to improve the land. A large log house was built, the timber was cleared, and the place was put into a good state of cultivation. Our subject's father died in

1850, having passed the age of fifty years, his mother surviving for many years, died in 1891, aged ninety-one. Both are buried in the old Lutheran church cemetery in Olney township. The elder Eyer reared eight children, of whom Jacob was the third in order of birth.

Jacob Eyer remained with his parents until his twenty-first year, when he hired out during the summer and in winter time made his home on the farm with his mother. On the 3d of April, 1855, he married Catherine Eyer, who was born in the same part of Germany as the subject, on the 26th of September, 1831, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Eyer, both of whom lived and died in Germany. Catherine Eyer came to this country at the age of twenty-three and landed at New Orleans. She ascended the Mississippi river to Evansville, Indiana, going thence to Richland county, Illinois. About one year afterwards she married the subject of our sketch. She was the younger of two children born to her parents. After their marriage Jacob Eyer and his wife remained at the family home with the former's mother for six months. About this time he built a log house upon forty acres he had previously entered, paying the price of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. They settled on the place and for seven years worked hard; then they became able to buy more land in the township and built the large frame house they now live in. Since that period much land has been acquired and Jacob Eyer now is the owner of two hundred and forty acres of fine farm

land, all of which is in German township, well improved, all but ten acres of the farm being under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Eyer are the parents of nine children, of whom three died in childhood; the living members of their family are; John is single and remains at home with his parents. Phillip, who is also single, has interested himself in drilling wells and resides in the state of Washington. Joseph married Vatie Scherer, and resides in Dwight, Illinois, engaged in the hardware business. He has four children. Lizzie is the wife of John Metzger, a salesman for a Chicago wholesale drug house. They are the parents of two children and reside in Hewe, Illinois. Christian, Rena, George, Frederick and Daniel are deceased.

Jacob Eyer attended about three terms of subscription school. In his school days teachers were hired for terms of three months and were paid at the rate of eight dollars per month. He learned to read and write English, and also spell. The schools were of the usual primitive character of such institutions in the Middle West in those days. His education was limited as there was necessary work to be done on the family farmstead. He had two younger brothers, John and Phillip, who served through the Civil war. Both joined the Sixtieth Illinois Regiment under the command of Captain Coconaur. John came home from the conflict on sick furlough and died soon after. Phillip died in St. Louis, Missouri, and is buried there.

In politics Jacob Eyer is a Democrat. for-

merly taking quite an active interest in township and county affairs. He has served as school director for many years, and has been a Road Overseer. He helped the cause of education by generously giving the district the land, and by helping to build the brick school-house which now stands on his farm in German township. He worked for two years helping to survey and build the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, now the Baltimore & Ohio, which was finished in 1855. It went at that time as far west as St. Louis. Our subject and his wife and family are all members of the St. James Lutheran church in Claremont township. He was for many years an elder of the church. He is also known as one of the first organizers and a builder of the old log church erected in Olney township. He and his wife and family are very active in church circles.

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#### SAMUEL G. COPPLE.

Mr. Copple is one of the leading business men in Omega township, Marion county, having successfully managed a store and carried on other lines of business in a manner that shows him to be a man of unusual business ability, but having the honored ancestry behind him of which he can boast, we do not wonder that he is a man of rare force of character, for in the genealogical history in both the paternal and maternal lines, there is much data signally germane to a compilation of this sort.

Samuel G. Copple was born in Washington county, Indiana, April 24, 1849, the son of Abraham and Rozan (Hanger) Copple, the former having been born in Indiana April 2, 1827, and was the father of nine children, seven girls and two boys, three of whom lived to maturity, the subject of this sketch being the oldest in order of birth. Abraham Copple left Indiana in 1875, and came to Marion county, Illinois, where he farmed on a parcel of land which he purchased, and also rented additional land. He was called from his earthly labors in Omega, this county, February 17, 1892. He married Rosannah Hauger September 21, 1847, and they first moved to Sullivan county, Indiana, then to Marion county, Illinois, where Abraham lived for over thirteen years. His three surviving children are: Samuel G., our subject; Alice M., and Mahala M., who is now deceased.

The early education of the subject of this sketch was gained in the district schools of his native county, which were taught from two to three months each year during the winter, in log school-houses, the windows of which were made of greased paper for panes. He was compelled to walk four miles to school. During the remainder of the year he worked on his father's farm. When he had reached maturity he married Mary C. Sill, the daughter of Commodore and Sarah (Beard) Sill, of Jackson county, Illinois, and she, too, received her education in the district schools of the country which she attended three months out of the year. Sarah Beard was born in Tennessee, No-



vember 6, 1820, and died at the home of her daughter, Mary C., at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Commodore Sill was born in 1822 and lived to be past fifty. They were the parents of nine children, five boys and four girls, of whom four are now living, namely: Marguerite J. Sellers, whose home is in Sandoval, Marion county; Aenith A. Walker, of Jackson county, this state; Ransom M. Sill, living at Blue Mound, Marion county; Mary C. Copple, living at Omega, this county; Alice Sill lives in Blue Mound, also; Mahala Solomon died and was buried in Texas. The father of the subject's wife was born in Pennsylvania, from which state he moved to Indiana, then to Illinois, where he bought a farm in Marion county.

Our subject and wife have only one child, a son, named Charles E., who is married to Etta Kline; they have one son.

Mr. Copple is the owner of sixty acres of good land, which is highly improved and lies in and near Omega. It is a valuable and most desirable farm. He has been in the general merchandise business for over twenty years at Omega, and he has built up an excellent trade on general lines, handling a fine quality of goods and giving his numerous customers the best goods possible for the money, so that he seldom loses a customer, all of whom he treats with uniform courtesy. His store is a credit to the community and would be conspicuous in a much larger place. He also manages in a most successful manner the hotel at Omega, which has become known to the traveling public as a comfortable place for transients,

where generous treatment is always accorded the friend or stranger alike. Our subject also conducts an up-to-date feed barn, and manages a telephone line, and he is regarded by everyone as an enterprising and accommodating gentleman. Although these various lines of business occupy most of his time, he does not neglect his duty to his county or state, but his support can always be depended on in the promotion of good government and honesty in politics. Religiously his parents were members of the Christian church and he has followed in their footsteps. Mrs. Copple is a member of the same, as was her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Copple set a worthy example in all religious and mortal matters before their children and the community where they live.

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#### CATHERINE BOATMAN.

The part women played in assisting the early settlers can not be underestimated. By nature not as robust physically as their male companions, hardships and privations leaned more heavily upon them, but the women of that day who came with their husbands and families into the loneliness of what was then the wilderness were equal to the occasion. They helped to dispel the gloom, the sense of hopelessness which occasionally fell upon the settlers in their relentless labor.

A woman of such caliber was the subject of our present sketch, the hardships and adventures of whose early career would prove material for a volume.

Catherine Boatman (*nee* Hanes,) of German township, Richland county, Illinois, was born September 9, 1827, in York county, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Daniel and Susanna (Phillips) Hanes. Her grandmother Phillips being the daughter of Eva Elizabeth Reame and John Phillips, died at the age of eighty-seven years. They were all natives of Pennsylvania. Catherine Boatman's mother was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and her father in Philadelphia. Her father remained in Philadelphia until seventeen years of age with his parents; he then went out on a farm and also taught school until his marriage to Susanna Phillips, which was solemnized on August 13, 1822, in Little Rock church, York county, Pennsylvania. They farmed in that state until 1830, when they decided to move to Stark county, Ohio. Catherine, the subject of our sketch, being then three years old. Some time after they again moved to Portage county, Ohio, remaining there three years, when they returned to Stark county, which was their abiding place for nine years. Then they decided to migrate to Illinois. Together with Uncle Peter Sager, his wife and three children; grandfather John Phillips and his wife; Jacob Beck, his wife and family; and their own children, three families in all, consisting of twenty-two people, they started on October 18, 1842, on an eventful overland journey fraught with much danger and hardship. They arrived in Richland county, Illinois, on November 18, 1842, a month later, after encountering a snow-storm and many of the customary hardships. As an instance of endurance on the part of the subject of this

sketch, it is recorded that she walked almost the entire way from Ohio with the exception of about fifty miles. Of the twenty-two participants of that journey, but four survive. They are Mrs. Sallie Goss, Mrs. Cassie Goss, Miss Susan Beck and John Beck.

When Catherine Boatman first landed in Richland county, her family first lived with Uncle Dave Phillips for a time, after which they moved to what was known as the Tegue farm, where they lived one year, at the end of which her father entered forty acres in section 21, German township, paying one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. The farm at the time of his purchase was all timber. He first made a small clearing on which he built a hewn log cabin which still stands, and into which he moved his family. During their first winter there the necessary cooking operations were performed in the stump of a huge tree, which stood close by the door of the cabin.

Daniel Hanes continued to clear his land and to sow and plant wheat and corn as fast as he could get the soil in condition. In the course of time he built a frame addition to the log house, in which abode they lived until their death. Catherine's mother died April 21, 1864, aged sixty-five. Her father survived about four years, dying August 9, 1868, at age of seventy. Both are buried in Goss graveyard, where grandfather Phillips is also laid. Daniel Hane's parents both died in Portage county, Ohio. He had three children: John, who died at the age of eighty-two; Cassie, who died at the age of seventy-nine, and Catherine, who was the youngest. He also took charge of and raised his broth-

er's son, George Hanes by name, who is now dead.

Catherine remained on the farm with her parents until her marriage to John Boatman, on November 11, 1847, in Richland county. Her husband was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, July 12, 1817, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Goss) Boatman, natives of Pennsylvania. His grandfather Boatman was a native of France and died at the advanced age of one hundred and three years, his grandfather Goss also died at the ripe old age of ninety-six. John Boatman's parents were married in Columbiana county, Ohio, having both come there with their parents from Pennsylvania. He came to Richland county from Akron, Ohio, with his brother George, the pair walking every step of the way with a package of clothes on their backs and a gun on each one's shoulder. After encountering adventures and privations on the way they arrived in Richland county in April, 1847. George Boatman bought land on which he settled and on which he died in 1884. John bought forty acres from Jacob May in German township, for which he paid him one hundred and twenty-five dollars. It was timbered land and he set to work and cleared, cultivated, and built a house upon it. He later annexed some forty acres of adjoining land and at the time of his death owned a well cultivated property of eighty acres in area. He died September 13, 1896, aged seventy-nine years, two months and one day. His parents, subsequent to his arrival in Illinois, moved to the state where they remained a year, thence moving to Mich-

igan where they died. Catherine Boatman and her husband had thirteen children born to them, one of whom died in infancy. There were seven boys and six girls. In regular order they were: Mary, wife of Stephen D. Best, is a widow and lives at home with her mother; Elizabeth is the wife of Jacob Scherer, of Preston township; David married Delithe English and lives in South Bend, Indiana; Lydia, the wife of Louis Schulte, lives in Claremont township; Susie is the wife of Joseph Wilson, of Preston township; Simon, who is single, lives on the homestead; Isaac lives in German township and is married to Emma Fritz; Maggie is the wife of James Henby, of Preston township; William P. married Mellie Peet, and they live in South Bend, Indiana; Stephen married Rella Krieg and lives at South Whitley, Indiana; John lives at home. He married Julia Wachtel, deceased; Milton is married to Lucy Sager and lives at home; they have one child, Elsie Catherine Boatman. Catherine Boatman died February 1, 1909, aged eighty-one years, four months and twenty-two days. Mrs. Boatman was buried February 3, 1909, and the funeral sermon was preached by her nephew, Rev. Isaiah Boatman, of Eaton Rapids, Michigan. She reared twelve children, all of whom are still living. She had thirty-three grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren; the eldest grandchild, David I. Scherer, being thirty-seven years old and the youngest, Elsie Catherine Boatman, was born July 21, 1908.

Catherine Boatman went to the subscrip-

tion schools in Ohio in her young days, where she did not go very high. She learned to read, write and spell, that being the extent of her education. She could not find time to be a regular attendant. She and her family were among the earliest settlers in Richland county. She could well lay claim to being its "grand old woman." In her early days the country possessed its quota of wild and ferocious animals, and the picturesque figure of the Indian had not faded from the vicinity.

Always a strictly religious woman, she was a member of the Lutheran church since she was sixteen years of age, having been one of the first to enter the St. James Lutheran church in Claremont township. Her communion class which numbered twenty-two communed in the old log church many, many years ago. Her companions of the class are now all dead with the exception of two: Michael Eyer and Chris. B. Balmer.

For years Catherine Boatman's home life was happy; quiet and peaceful—a fitting close to a useful life. Her name is a household word in Richland county, with whose history it has been closely entwined from the earliest years.

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#### H. S. McBRIDE.

In enlisting men of enterprise and integrity in furthering its general business activities, is mainly due the precedence and prosperity enjoyed by Marion county, and the firm of which the gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph is a member,

is recognized as one of the representative druggists of the county, being engaged in business in Centralia and enjoying an extensive wholesale and retail trade.

H. S. McBride was born in Decatur, Illinois, September 5, 1869, the son of Dr. Alexander and Mary E. (Jones) McBride, the father of the subject having been born in Ross county, Ohio, June 21, 1821. His wife was born in Urbana, Ohio, April 18, 1835, and they were married in the Buckeye state and came to Illinois in 1866, locating in Decatur. They became the parents of three children, two of whom are living, H. S., our subject, and Frank A., who was born in 1875 in Decatur.

The subject of this sketch began his education at Decatur, where he attended school for two years. He was then sent to Carthage, Missouri, remaining in school there until 1887, where he made an excellent record, and after completing his education, he returned to Decatur and worked as a drug clerk for one year in the employ of A. J. Stoner. He then went to St. Louis and worked for the P. G. Alexander Drug Company for two years and while there took a course in pharmacy in the St. Louis School of Pharmacy. From there he went to Webb City, Missouri, to work for the McClelland Drug Company in whose employ he remained for about two years, when he moved to Mattoon, Illinois, remaining there until 1898, clerking for the Killner Drug Company. He gave entire satisfaction in all these positions owing to the fact that he had

an intimate knowledge of drugs and was courteous to customers.

Our subject was one of the patriotic citizens of the great Sucker state, who felt it his duty to assist the cause of humanity when Cuba was being oppressed by the tyranny of Spain, and when the Spanish-American war broke out he enlisted in Company A, Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Capt. Joseph P. Barricklom and remained in service until the close of the war, having been mustered out of service at Augusta, Georgia. He served at Springfield, Illinois, as first sergeant and was promoted to second lieutenant at Camp Cuba Libre, Jacksonville, Florida, September, 1898.

In 1900 Mr. McBride moved to Centralia and clerked for Will J. Blythe for two years, then for L. H. Reed for four years. He then opened the Red Cross Pharmacy at 204 East Broadway, an incorporated institution under the state laws of Illinois, the company consisting of C. D. Tufts, president; C. E. McMahan, vice-president; H. S. McBride, secretary and manager; F. Pullen, treasurer. The room occupied is twenty-four by one hundred feet. It is large, airy and commodious. A general wholesale and retail drug business is carried on among physicians and surgeons, covering a radius of forty miles. The house carries a large, complete and carefully selected stock, and the fixtures and equipment are modern, well arranged and up-to-date in every particular, and a very liberal trade is enjoyed.

H. S. McBride was united in marriage with Ida A. Mattock on September 8, 1895.

She was reared at Mattoon, Illinois, and is the daughter of W. D. and Temperance (Hackett) Mattock. Four interesting children constituted the Mattock family, three girls and one boy, Ida A, being the oldest.

Mr. McBride is recognized as a first class pharmacist by all who have had occasion to investigate his work. He is registered in Illinois, Missouri and Florida, and he stands at the front of Centralia's business men. Fraternaly he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 493, of Centralia. In politics he is a Democrat and follows the teachings of his parents in religious matters, affiliating with the Episcopal church.

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#### SAMUEL H. GRAHAM.

One of the substantial citizens of Marion county is the gentleman to a review of whose life work we now call the attention of the reader. Mr. Graham is a man who, while advancing his own interests does not lose sight of the fact that it is his duty to lend his influence in furthering the interests of his community.

Samuel H. Graham was born in Marion county, Indiana, in 1855, the son of John and Sarah Elizabeth (Oldham) Graham. Grandfather Graham was born in Pennsylvania. He came to Butler county, Ohio, and then to Rush county, Indiana, where he died, after a busy and useful life as a farmer. He had a large family. Grand-

father Oldham was an early settler in Marion county, Indiana, where he had a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He also raised a large family, some of his sons becoming soldiers in various Indiana regiments. The father of the subject was born in Butler county, Ohio, and moved to Rush county, Indiana, when ten years of age, having been reared to manhood in that county. He then went to Fayette county, rented a farm and later moved to Marion county, Indiana, where he bought eighty acres on which he lived for three years, and it was while living there that our subject was born. He then sold this farm and moved to Franklin county, Indiana, where he lived for twenty years and then came to Clay county, Illinois, where he bought a farm on which he spent the balance of his life, dying April 1, 1888, at the age of sixty-four years, his wife having preceded him to the narrow house on August 9, 1881, while on a visit in Indiana. She was fifty-two years old. Fourteen children were born to this family, six boys and eight girls, eleven of them reaching maturity. The subject's father affiliated with the Baptist church and his mother was a Methodist. John Graham was a Democrat, and was School Director, and always supported the schools.

Samuel H. Graham, our subject, attended the public schools in Indiana, remaining in the common schools until he was twenty years old, attending high school at Harts-ville, and later the University at Valparaiso. He applied himself diligently and became

a well educated man and commenced teaching on June 7, 1876, which he continued for twenty-five years and in all these years he never taught in more than eight different districts. However, his services were much sought after, his reputation as an able instructor having been widely known. After his career as a teacher, Mr. Graham for a short time engaged in agricultural business in Fayette county, Indiana, but moved to Clay county, Illinois, when yet a single man and resided with his father up to the time of his death in 1888, then moved to Marion county, Illinois, in 1890. He had been living in Clay county, this state, since 1881, and then came onto the farm which he had previously bought and where he has since resided, his present highly improved farm consisting of ninety-nine acres. He was administrator on his father's estate in Clay county. Our subject carries on farming of a general nature and handles some good stock.

Our subject was united in marriage on May 11, 1890, with Eunice K. Wilkinson, a native of Iowa, and the daughter of Stephen and Lois (Maak) Wilkinson, natives of Ohio, who moved to Iowa, and then back to Ohio, later to Indiana and then to Van Wert, Ohio. Mrs. Wilkinson died in Hamilton county, Ohio, and Mr. Wilkinson at Van Wert. There were fifteen children in this family, seven of them living to maturity.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Graham as follows: Elsie Floy, born in 1891, and died the following July; Wal-

ter T., who was born in 1892, is living at home with his parents; Earl, who was born in 1894, is also a member of the family circle; Harold was born in 1897; Roy Sylvester was born in 1901.

Mr. Graham in his farternal relations is a member of the Woodmen and the Royal Neighbors. He has been Auditor, serving with much credit to himself and to the satisfaction of all concerned. In politics he is a Democrat and has been County Chairman of the Board since April, 1908; also has been Supervisor of his township and has been Town Clerk for eight or nine years; also Town Collector, School Director for fifteen years. He still holds the positions of the Chairman of the Board and School Director and Supervisor. He was a Justice of the Peace for four years, and a delegate to the state, judicial and county conventions. He is also a member of the Board of Review of the county. In religion our subject subscribes to the Baptist faith, while his wife affiliates with the Methodists.

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### JOSEPH KOCHER.

Mr. Kocher, of German township, Richland county, is an industrious farmer who owes his birth and kindred to the romantic county in Europe through which the river Rhine flows. He is German by birth and descent. By adoption he is an American citizen, sturdy and industrious, whose life of forty-three years in Richland county has won

him the respect and friendship of his neighbors. He was born on the 17th of April, 1836, near Strasburg, Germany, and was the son of Martin and Catherine (Orrick) Kocher. Martin Kocher worked in Germany as a blacksmith and married Catherine Orrick sometime about the year 1831. They, with their family, left their native Germany on the 2d of November, 1852, and sailed for the United States, landing at New Orleans on the 3d of March, 1853, after a voyage across the ocean of seventy-five days' duration, during which they encountered all the privations which ocean traveling at that time engendered. From New Orleans they took a steamer up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati. From there they went through Akron and settled in Summit county, Ohio, where our subject's father and brothers worked in the coal mines.

On May 31, 1859, in Stark county, Ohio, Joseph Kocher married Elizabeth Weiler, the daughter of Matthew and Teresa (Getz) Weiler. Mrs. Kocher was born in the county in which she was married on the 28th of July, 1840. Her parents, natives of Germany, died when she was but fourteen years old. They were buried in Canton, Ohio. Our subject's wife lived with an elder sister until her marriage.

Joseph Kocher had bought twenty acres previous to his marriage and afterwards bought eleven acres more upon which was a log house and into which he and his wife moved and lived for six years. During this time he farmed this place in Ohio and also worked in the coal mines. In March, 1865,

they moved to Illinois, coming by railroad. This was just three weeks before the fatal tragedy which ended the life of Abraham Lincoln. Our subject having sold his place in Ohio, he purchased eighty acres of timber land in German township, Richland county, and paid seventeen dollars an acre for the same. A rude, small log shanty stood upon the land which he changed without outside help into the substantial structure in which he and his wife now live. He built barns and cleared and cultivated the land. In after years he added to the property, and today he owns one hundred and twenty acres in one of the best districts of German township, all of which, with the exception of about fifteen acres, is under cultivation. Five or six years after Joseph Kocher's arrival in Illinois his father and mother also moved to Richland county, and bought ninety acres of good land in the same township, and upon which they afterwards died. His mother died in 1883, having passed her eighty-third year; his father died in May, 1892, aged eighty-two years and ten months. Both were buried in old St. Joseph's cemetery in German township, situated on Ginder farm. Our subject was the second child born to his parents, who had six children in all, one of whom died in Germany.

Joseph Kocher and his wife experienced many hardships and privations in their early days in Richland county. Game and wild animals were very much in evidence, particularly wolves and bears. In early times the prairie-grass grew to the height of ten

or fifteen feet. To get started in Richland county he worked hard on the farm and at times during the first winter worked in the coal mines at Washington, Indiana. He and his wife are the parents of eleven children. One died at two years of age and two more have died. In regular order the children were named: Andy, who married Catherine Hahn, is deceased; William married Anna Rennie; Mary is the wife of Leo Hahn, and Catherine of Joseph Hahn; Simon married Helen Kramer, of Indiana, (deceased) is now married to Friedrika Shuttie. Rosa Elizabeth is single and makes her home with her parents. Martin married Mary Doll and lives in the vicinity of Vincennes; Frances is deceased; Aloyese married Anna Shuttlebauer, and Leo, who married Ida Rennie.

In politics our subject is a Democrat of the Douglas pattern. He served six years as a school director and was elected for another term, but would not serve. He has never sought office as he preferred to devote the greater part of his time to his agricultural interests. In his young days Joseph Kocher attended school in Germany until his fourteenth year and was well equipped for life's battle. Later he attended English school, but his education in the English language was mostly gained through his own efforts. He and his wife, as well as their family, are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church in German township and have always been active in church work and duties. He held one term as trustee of the church.

Joseph Kocher's land has the reputation of containing oil springs of value, and this



feature is sure to greatly enhance the value of the property and bring forth great returns in the future.

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#### WILLAM H. GRAY.

An enumeration of the enterprising men of Marion county, Illinois, who have won recognition and success for themselves and at the same time have conferred honor upon the community would be incomplete were there failure to make mention of the popular gentleman whose name initiates this review. He holds worthy prestige in business circles, and has always been distinctively a man of affairs and wields a wide influence among those with whom his lot has been cast, having won definite success and shown what a man with lofty principles, honesty of purpose and determination can win while yet young in years. In both banking and agricultural circles Mr. Gray stands in the front rank of the men who honor these callings in this county and because of his industry, integrity and courtesy he is a man to whom the future holds much of promise and reward.

William Harvey Gray was born in Marion county, Illinois, in 1876, the son of James Robert and Nancy Illinois Gray (nee Boothe). James Harvey Gray, grandfather of our subject, was born in Maury county, Tennessee, and was brought to this county by his parents when four years of age. His father, James Gray, was the son

of William Gray, the great-great-grandfather of our subject. William Gray was born in North Carolina and moved to Maury county, Tennessee. He married a young lady by the name of McNabb in the year of 1776. Five sons were born to them, James, Joseph, William, John and Samuel. William Gray was a soldier in the American Revolution and was also in the Indian wars of Kentucky and Tennessee. He was a farmer by occupation. He had one brother by the name of James Gray. William Gray died when about the age of eighty-three.

James Gray, great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Maury county, Tennessee, June 20, 1789. He married Martha Denton in the year 1808 and moved to Marion county, Illinois, in 1828, and settled the old homestead on section 10, being one of the first settlers of the county. They had four sons, Joseph, William Harrison, James Harvey and Isaac Denton. James Gray was called into the United States' service by the Governor's proclamation dated April 19, 1832. He enlisted as second lieutenant of Spy Battalion, First Brigade of the Illinois Mounted Volunteers. He had one horse shot from under him and was on furlough August 11, 1832, and honorably discharged August 16th, having served under Capt. William N. Dobbins. He also served in the Creek and Indian war and the Black Hawk war. He was a powerful man physically, having measured six feet two inches and weighing two hundred ten pounds. He was the first Justice of the Peace in Kinmundy township, which office

he held until his death. He also sowed the first timothy seed in this township in 1843. He and his brother Joseph furnished to the settlers the first sawed lumber, which they sawed with a whipsaw. He also taught school in a cabin in the neighborhood. The early preachers of the Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterian denominations held meeting in his home. He died suddenly by an accident on October 3, 1835, leaving a widow and family of eight children.

His widow, Martha Gray, entered eighty acres of land February 13, 1837, where they started their improvements. It was the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, Kinmundy township. The following fall she entered forty acres more in the same section. She was born in April, 1786, and departed this life May 27, 1844.

James Harvey Gray, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Maury county, Tennessee, April 25, 1825, and as stated above came to this county when four years old. He began life's struggle at the age of ten by first making a crop for his mother. Full of ambition, grit and energy he was successful from the start, though so young. At the age of eighteen, it may be said, he commenced life for himself, purchasing a yoke of cattle and a horse on credit. He remained, however, on the old place putting in crops until ready to invest in a piece of land, which he did at the age of twenty-six by making a purchase of one hundred and sixty acres, partly paying therefor with money borrowed. From that time his career was onward. He rapidly accumulated

property by his just and upright dealings, adding acre to acre until he could look over twelve hundred acres of land, all of which was in one body, and call it his own. He also had other valuable property. He was a man of powerful mental ability and men would go to him for advice and he was always glad to aid his fellowman. Mr. Gray at the age of nineteen years and seven months was married November 28, 1844, to Susanna Jane Hanna, who was born October 18, 1824, and departed this life December 24, 1862. To this union five children were born. A second marriage was contracted with Margaret Lucinda Hanna in 1863. This lady, to whom three children were born, died in 1871. In the year of 1872 Mr. Gray united in marriage with Mrs. Elizabeth Boothe, widow of Col. James W. Boothe, who commanded the Fortieth Illinois Infantry during the Civil war. Before this he was first lieutenant in the Mexican war and was at the battle of Vera Cruz and Cerro Gordo. Mr. Gray did not enjoy the advantages of an education, being too early deprived of a father and compelled, being the eldest son at home, to care for the family. He was a natural mathematician and could calculate mentally the amount of anything almost instantly. He was six feet tall, stood erect and was well formed. His temperament was bilious, nervous and sanguine. He was fitted for the execution and power to endure both mental and physical labor. Mr. Gray was one of the original stockholders of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Kinmundy, which

was organized in January, 1870, soon afterwards became president, which position he held during his life. It was known as a co-partnership or private bank. The stock was held by himself, his widow and T. W. Haymond, cashier, at the time of his death. Mr. Haymond died shortly after Mr. Gray. The bank was closed by Mrs. Gray, the only surviving stockholder, through the subject of our sketch. Mr. Gray was a man that enjoyed his home life and visitors were sure of receiving a warm welcome at his fire-side. He belonged to Kinmundy Lodge No. 398, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, also a member of Rosedale Lodge No. 354, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In his religious views he was a Cumberland Presbyterian. In politics, he was a Democrat of the old Jeffersonian school. He lived on the old homestead seventy-two years, outliving all of his children. He died at the age of seventy-six years and six months on October 25, 1901.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gray, widow of James H. Gray and grandmother of our subject, was born May 13, 1827, in Indiana, later came to Illinois in February, 1858, locating in Kinmundy. Daniel Clark, the father of Mrs. Gray and a blacksmith by trade, lived to be over seventy years old. Her mother lived to be about ninety-six years of age. Mrs. Gray was first married to James W. Boothe May 1, 1851. To this union five children were born. Mr. Boothe was born October 9, 1820, and died February 17, 1863. Mrs. Gray married James H. Gray in 1872. At this writing Mrs. Gray is hale

and hearty and her mind is clear, quick and active. Since 1901 she has made two trips to the Pacific coast and is now past the eighty-first mile-stone in her journey through life. As time passes swiftly she pieces quilts and makes fancy pillows so as not to have any idle moments in her life. In her religious views she is a Cumberland Presbyterian and is a member of that church.

James Robert Gray, father of our subject, was born July 2, 1854, on the old homestead. He married Nancy Illinois Boothe August 19, 1875. Two sons were born to them, William Harvey, our subject, and James Lemon, who died when about six months old. James R. Gray departed this life September 8, 1880, after a useful and active career filled with good deeds.

William Harvey Gray was born April 12, 1876, as indicated in a preceding paragraph. He attended the district school near the old homestead, later attending the public school in Kinmundy, and from there to St. Louis, where he completed a thorough course in banking and general business in the Bryant and Stratton Business College. After graduating from this institution he went to Raymond, Illinois, and engaged in the general mercantile business for two years, when he sold out on account of his grandfather's death and the death of Mr. Haymond, returning to Kinmundy to settle up the business of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, of which, at that time as stated before, Mrs. Elizabeth Gray was the sole surviving partner. He settled up the

affairs of that institution, paying the depositors in full in less than sixty days from the time the bank was closed on December 4, 1901. He then was a main factor in organizing The Haymond State Bank, becoming cashier of the same and holding that position until its consolidation with the First National Bank on August 15, 1906. During this time he assisted in the settling up of his grandfather's large estate. After the consolidation of the banks our subject resigned, taking the active management of his real estate properties which were extensive. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres of the old homestead property which has never left the control of the Gray family from the time the grandfather bought it. In all he owns one thousand acres of improved land, mostly prairie. He rents this out, reserving the control of the method of cultivation so that the soil may be kept in good productive condition. The fences are mostly of wire, the fields drain naturally and general farming is successfully carried on. Mr. Gray is one of the directors of the Kinmundy Building and Loan Association, having been first elected in 1902, being elected treasurer in 1907 and president in 1908. He was married on March 20, 1900, to Mrs. Winifred Grady (nee Shultz), of Olney, Illinois. She is the representative of a well known and influential family of that place. Mrs. Grady's father, Charles Shultz, came to America from Germany when fourteen years of age, settling first in New York City, later coming to Olney, Illinois, where he now lives engaged in general merchandise business. Mr. Shultz was married in Olney to Sarah Elizabeth Gaddy and ten children were born to this union, Mrs. Gray, our subject's wife, being the seventh in order of birth. The commodious and well furnished home of Mr. and Mrs. Gray has been blessed with the presence of three bright and interesting children, Elizabeth, Anna Winifred and James Harvey. One singular, interesting and enjoyable feature in the life of our subject is that for fifteen years there were four generations living under one roof, and for the past eight years, and at the present time, there are four generations living. Our subject is the only one left to perpetuate the name of his grandfather, James H. Gray. He is a member of Kinmundy Lodge No. 398, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Salem Chapter No. 64, Royal Arch Masons; Cyrene Commandery No. 23, Knights Templar, Centralia, Illinois; Oriental Consistory, S. P. R. S., and Medina Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of Mystic Shrine, Chicago, Illinois. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, being a trustee in the same and was treasurer of the building committee when the new structure was erected in 1905. In politics he is a Republican, and while he has never aspired to positions of public trust at the hands of his fellow voters, in matters pertaining to the welfare of his township, county and state he is greatly interested and his efforts in behalf of the general progress has been far-reaching and beneficial. Mr. Gray's name is associated

with progress in the county of his birth and among those in whose midst he has always lived he is held in the highest esteem by reason of an upright life and of fidelity to principles which in every land and clime command respect.

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REMINISCENT SKETCH OF RICHLAND COUNTY.

BY BRYANT HIGGINS.

THE ORGANIZATION OF COMPANY D, EIGHTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

These were the first soldiers to leave Richland county, for the Civil war: Company D, was organized by Bryant Higgins and John Lynch. Fort Sumpter was stormed Friday, April 12, 1861. Higgins and Lynch sat up until midnight April 14, 1861, to get a copy of a little paper printed in St. Louis in the evening, to see if the President had issued his proclamation for troops. On getting the paper we went up Walnut street to a printing office managed by a deaf and dumb man, named Spurgeon. After knocking on the door and getting no response, we went around to the back of the office, pushed up a window and crawled in and struck a light, but finding the printer absent (it being Sunday night, April 14, 1861), we began trying to get into form, matter for handbills, with big wooden type. About that time the printer came in about 1 o'clock on

Monday morning, April 15th. We showed him the paper, and it did not take him long to get the matter in form and ready for the press. Higgins worked the roller to ink the type and Lynch made a pot of paste. Lynch then wrote an enlistment paper and signed it. He was the first commissioned officer to enlist in this company; then I signed it, being the first private soldier to enlist in the company, of which act I am exceedingly proud. We went to the courthouse and rang the bell, woke up Reuben Kinney, sexton of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he rang the church bell. We posted our bills and by that time the whole town was up and men, regardless of political affiliations, signed the paper. By this time it was after daylight, and Lynch and myself started to the old Olney House for breakfast. We met Arch Spring, who signed the paper, being the sixty-third on the list in less than two hours. When we reached the hotel, William Harrah, of Vincennes, Indiana, who had just come in, said: "Boys, if you want to get your company in, one of you must go to Springfield at once, because when I came through Lawrenceville I saw old Dan Grass (an old Mexican soldier) drilling a company with a lantern." In those days a train left here for St. Louis at 7 o'clock in the morning. Lynch took the train for Springfield and I kept on taking enlistments. When Lynch reached St. Louis and changed cars for Springfield, a well dressed man with a silk hat and other clothes to correspond, took a seat beside him and the following conversation took place:

"Where are you going, young man?"

"Going to Springfield."

"What for?"

"To tender the governor the services of a company to help put down this rebellion."

"That is about what I thought; now young man, go home and attend to your own business."

Lynch being a very positive man, answered:

"Who the hell are you, anyway?"

"Look out, there, young man; do you see that big warehouse across the river?"

"Yes."

"See that name, 'D. A. January?'"

"Yes."

"See those two steamboats tied there?"

"Yes."

"Well, young man, that is my warehouse and those are my boats; now go home and mind your own business."

"Now, look here, I will tell you something," replied Lynch. "We will bring some cannon down here and just shoot hell out of you, your warehouse and your boats."

By this time the train reached Alton and the man of the warehouse and boats left the train. Lynch went on to Springfield, reported to the governor, who was much pleased with the patriotism of Richland county, Company D being the first to tender its services as a company except an organized company of militia in the city of Springfield. Lynch came back at once. In the meantime I had one hundred and twenty-three names on the roll. Then it became necessary to devise ways and means to get

that many men to Springfield. There was a meeting called at once at the court-house, to provide means of transportation. In less than half an hour the money was raised. It took nearly one thousand dollars to pay the fare of one hundred and twenty-three men that far in those days.

#### THE LEAVE TAKING.

We marched from Elliott's hall to the depot, lined up for the people to bid us good-bye. The whole county I think was there at 7 o'clock in the morning. Rev. John Crozier presented every man with a copy of the New Testament. Our best girls of course were there. I remember Jake Mush-rush, who was like myself at that time, about as long as a bean pole and about as big around. His girl was rather short. When she came to him she took hold of his hand in both of hers and said, "Good-bye Jake, good-bye, Jake, good-bye." Jake was looking over the top of her head; finally he dropped her hand and kissed her good-bye. Poor Jake was fighting a harder battle than he ever fought afterwards. The stores in Olney did not open that day. The people sat and stood around on the streets all day, so I was told, and did not leave town until about night. You may think strange I received no office. Lynch and I had our plans laid higher up, and as Lynch has passed away and they were only known to us, it is not meet to divulge or tell them now; they miscarried.

We went to Springfield and were there sworn into the service, given a musket, and

forty rounds of ammunition were loaded on a long train of freight cars and started for Cairo, Illinois. When we arrived there were no tents nor accommodations of any kind. We went into camp at the junction of the two levees. By this time there came a battery of artillery from Chicago and Benjamin M. Prentiss took command of all the troops there. The camp now began to look like war, sure enough. Orders were issued to the troops to let no more boats go down the river. I think I am safe in saying this was the first blockade of the war. Shortly after the order by General Prentiss, there came a boat down, the artillery men fired a blank charge. The boat kept on as though nothing unusual was at hand; they then fired a shot, skipping across the water in front. Still the boat kept on; then they fired two guns for damage. About a wagon-load of the upper part of the boat flew off and she began to whistle, came to the landing, and we took possession of her, I being one of the privates and William Bower was another; and the strange part of it was that this was one of the boats shown to Lynch about ten days before. She was loaded with munitions of war: twelve hundred stands of arms, hundreds of kegs of powder, tons of pig-lead and hundreds of thousands of percussion caps.

FIRST ACT OF CONFISCATION.

I have no doubt but this was the first act of confiscation of the war. When we were unloading the boat I remember hearing this

conversation between Colonel Oglesby and General Prentiss:

Oglesby said: "General, is there any law for this?" Prentiss: "Damn the law; take the goods; they are contraband, then look for the law." At that time we were not as familiar with the word "contraband" as we were afterward.

We were then sent into Johnson county, Illinois, to guard a railroad bridge on the Illinois Central, across Big Muddy river. We then returned to Cairo and after doing camp duty we were duly discharged from the three months' service, I going into the infantry again and Lynch into the cavalry. Lynch, after serving one month as captain of the company, resigned and served the other two months in the ranks as a private. In the cavalry, after passing the different grades in promotion, he reached the office of colonel of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry. Lynch has passed into the other life. He was a very positive man, very strict military disciplinarian. He commanded, and no mistake, while on duty. At the battle of Nashville he commanded five regiments of cavalry. He was ordered by General Thomas (Old Pap) to take and hold a certain point. He took it, but that brought him in range of a Confederate fort, which opened on him at once. He ordered his men to dismount, draw sabres, and ordered the buglers to sound the charge. Away went the five regiments (less the horse holders) on foot; took the fort, turned the guns on the retreating enemy and turned the entire Confederate wing, changed the entire alignment of the two armies. Shortly after

the Confederate rout was complete. After the battle was over Thomas sent for him and they had this conversation:

"General Thomas, my name is Lynch—you sent for me."

"Thomas replied: "Are you Colonel Lynch, of the Sixth Cavalry?"

"Yes, sir."

"Where is your uniform, Colonel?"

"I never owned one."

"Are you the man that took that rebel fort with cavalymen on foot?"

"Yes, sir."

"What did you order a charge of cavalry on foot for?"

"That damned rebel fort was shelling hell out of my men, and I did not propose to stand there and take it and not fight back."

"Don't you know that nowhere on record is mention made of cavalry charging on foot?"

"Well, you can now put it on record."

And so ended the conversation. Of that one hundred and twenty-three men, Andrew J. Robinson was the first man killed. He met his fate at Fort Donelson. Some were killed at Pittsburgh Landing; some in front of Corinth; some at Corinth on October 4th and 5th, 1862; some at Raymond and Dalton; some at Champion Hill, at Big Beach, at Vicksburg, in front of Atlanta and on the March to the Sea. There is left of the one hundred and twenty-three only about fourteen.

During the war the writer was at home a short time on business. Olney was then the headquarters for drafting men of this dis-

trict. There were some very dissatisfied men here and in adjoining counties, and other counties not adjoining. They organized a raid to destroy the enrolling papers for the draft. The command of that expedition was given to a man by the name of Isaac Gibson, who now (November 10, 1908) lives in St. Louis county, Missouri, or did a few months ago. The citizens were informed of the raid, and hastily arming themselves, put themselves under my command. The first thing to do was to preserve the enrollment papers. Myself and some others put the papers into wheat sacks and into a buggy and were driven by Jacob May out of the county. Mr. May long ago passed away. At that time there was a high picket fence around the old wooden court-house. We made the court-house our headquarters. William T. Shelby brought out the old flag I carried away from Olney in 1861 over the first company that left. I took it and climbed up into the cupola, knocked out a slat in the blind and let the flag float. I put pickets out on the roads leading to town, and gave them military instruction how to proceed.

#### GIBSON AND HIS GANG.

In a few nights here came Gibson and his bushwhackers. At a given signal, firing of the anvil, all the pickets were to come in quick. Gibson and his gang surrounded the court-house, but when he sized up the crowd I had inside that picket fence, he found I had about two to his one, and he was like the officer who led his men up the hill and



then led them down again. He withdrew his forces. We heard no more of him. We guarded the enrolling office until the government sent five companies of cavalry here, and this ended the war in Olney as far as I was concerned. I went back to where there was trouble for sure. In the process of time, I, like others, was mustered out of the service of my country. I saw many hardships and much hard fighting, but if I was of the proper age, and the same circumstances presented themselves, I would enlist again, knowing as I know just what it is to be a soldier.

The writer has a letter from the War Department in which, among other things, this language is used: "You were certainly a good soldier for the records show you were fifteen months in active hard field service before you took a dose of medicine; you was never in a hospital nor absent from duty."

In closing this military sketch, I wish to say, not boastfully, but in all sincerity, I tried under all conditions and all circumstances to serve my country honestly and faithfully to the best of my ability. Now I am living here in the place of my early manhood, in the enjoyment of the fruits of our labor. My wife and I have reached a reasonable, and I hope, an honorable old age. Let us say to all our friends and neighbors: We wish you well, and may the good Lord smooth the rough places in your life's uneven journey.

#### OLNEY IN ITS INFANCY.

Richland county was part of Clay and Lawrence counties. At the organization of

the county, there was no town here, what is now Main and Walnut streets and Whittle avenue, was a cross-road, called Lilley's crossing. The land was owned by Thomas Lilley and Hiram G. Barney, who proposed to give ten acres of land each, to be laid out in lots and sold at public sale, the money thus raised to be used to build a court-house and jail. The lots were laid out and platted by A. T. David, a surveyor, the 20th day of September, 1841.

Commencing on the north side of Main street, opposite Coen's Hotel, was the first lot west, and occupied by a saloon, owned and kept by Louis Sawyer, the first Sheriff of the county. The next was the residence of G. F. Powers, the next was a building occupied by the American Fur Company, where they dressed the pelts, put them into bundles and shipped them direct to Leipsic, Germany. The next was the residence of Joseph Harmon, the next was John Von Gunten's Bakery, the first regular bakery in Olney. Old man Ross, an old Revolutionary soldier, baked gingerbread before Olney was laid out. Mr. Von Gunten made "spruce" beer out of persimmons and some other truck unknown to the writer. The next was the residence of William Alkire, the next was a little building in which Dr. Ridgeway afterward had a "drug store" and his office, next came the hotel, kept by Thomas Lilley, next was a one-story building, planked up and down, in which K. D. Horrall learned the tinner's trade, next was the drug store and office of Dr. Haynie, next was the store of Henry Spring. Redman's store is now on that site. Where Schultz's store is lived

Jonas Notestine, a tanner by trade, where Elliott's Hall and Hyatt's Opera House now stand lived John H. Gunn; where the Metropole is now lived Dr. Craig; where Landenberger's buildings are now, "Uncle" Jimmy Briscoe conducted a small saloon and the post-office in the same building, next was the store of Newell and Darling; next was the store of A. L. and R. Byers, next was their warehouse, over the front of which was painted:

*Iron, Nails, Stoves, Plows, Flour, Salt, Bacon, Castings and Whisky.*

Castings here mentioned were skillets and lids, pots and other cast-iron utensils for cooking by the old fire-place. The next was their pork-house, about thirty feet wide by one hundred and eighty feet long, the next was the residence of John Garret, then a two-story building occupied below by P. Shaw as a book store and watchmaker's shop, the first in Olney. In the upper story was the "Olney Dollar Weekly Gazette" office, which was owned, edited and printed by J. J. Bunting, Milo Powers and James Nabb. The next was Tom Nettletor's store. Where the Sanitarium now stands lived Frank Heap, and the old Union Hotel was located on a part of the ground. Next was the residence of Thomas Ratcliff and his good wife. Where Dan Geatheart now lives lived William Newell; next was a long (about one hundred feet) low building, in which lived many families. It was called "Hugel Row," after the owner; next was the resi-

dence of William Kidd, and that is as far east as the town was platted at that time and from Walnut street east only one tier of lots deep. On the south side of Main street, opposite Mr. Kidd, lived "Uncle" Jimmy Briscoe, in a big-two-story house (going west), next was the residence of Michael Stauffer, also his tailor shop, the first tailor in Olney. Next was Mrs. Heifner, the first milliner in Olney.

WHEN BLEACHED BONNETS WERE WORN.

In those days the ladies wore white Leghorn bonnets, which had to be "bleached" every spring and rebuilt. The bleaching process was performed by burning sulphur and sending the fumes through the straw by a process unknown to the writer, but if you were in the immediate vicinity of the "kilm" when it was opened you would think there was a fresh crack in the roof of hell. The next was the residence of Mr. Bendel, a very highly educated man; next was the building in which the writer and many others went to school to Mr. Bendel. The next was a large building where Frank Heap made furniture by hand. Then came Uri's blacksmith shop, where Tom Ratcliff learned his trade. Ashiel Powers painted a sign, for Mr. Uri, of himself, nearly as large as life and perfect in every particular as to Mr. Uri. He was represented as working on a plow on the anvil, and on the opposite side, on his hind legs, stood a big bear with the sledge drawn, and around his neck was an iron collar fastened with

a padlock, a chain fastened to the collar, the end of the chain fastened to the collar, the end of the chain fastened to a tree just behind the bear. Now this picture, to the ordinary reader who was born later on, may not have much meaning, but to us old men it means something.

Mr. Powers was born and reared in Vermont. He was a humane man. In those days a boy was "indentured"—that is, bound out to a tradesman for a certain number of years, the boss having the right to follow and bring back the "indentured," and in many cases the poor boy was treated very, very badly. The indentured to a trade was called a "cub." Now you can see what Mr. Powers represented in his picture of the bear, the collar, the chain and the tree to which he was firmly fastened. Mr. Uri's treatment of Mr. Ratcliff was good, which was rather an exception. The next was the residence of S. H. Gunn, whose widow is living there now; the next was Gunn's store. On Saturday, Mr. Gunn took a tub, put in about three gallons of whisky and two gallons of molasses and stired it up. He called the mixture "black strap." This was free for his customers.

The next was a small house in which the telegraph office was kept. The line was from Baltimore to Washington, to Pittsburg to Cincinnati to Louisville, to Vincennes, then along the old state road to St. Louis, Missouri. Reuben Gardner, now living in this county, helped to build this line. I think beyond doubt, he is the only man now liv-

ing who helped to put it up. He is now over ninety years of age.

The next (where Cooksey is now was a harness shop, owned by John Allen. Where McShane and Meunch is now, was the residence of John M. Wilson, the founder of the Olney Republican in 1848. The next was the residence of Ashiel Powers, then Henry Springs's residence. Where Foskett & Gafner are now was the blacksmith shop of J. H. and Henry Johns; then a small room about twelve by sixteen in which K. D. Horrall began business in 1856; then the harness shop of Henry Barney, then a big low, one-story building in which Louis Hugel kept a clothing store, the first exclusive store of this kind in the county, back of which was a building originally built for a stable, but was remodeled by Hugel, and into which the "Olney Dollar Weekly Gazette" was moved, and there sold to William M. Beck, and by him moved into another building, and the name changed to "The Olney Times," and in 1859 Mr. Beck put at the head of his columns, "For President in 1860, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois," the first paper to publicly announce Mr. Lincoln's name for the Presidency. He was elected November 8, 1860. Mr. Beck passed into the other life December 17, 1860. The next was the harness shop of W. P. Laird; then a little short street, called "Lilley" street, running from Main to Market, one block; A. Darling lived at the Market street end, then a building sidewise to the street

in which G. F. Powers and Nelson Copley made furniture by hand. Where the head of Whittle avenue is now, stood the saloon of Andrew J. Saulsbury. Where the first National bank is, was the store of William Alkire; then the old wooden courthouse, then the office of Horace Hayward, and that was as far west as the town was platted. South of Hayward's office lived Judge Alfred Kitchell, then Levi Notestine. Where the jail and stables belonging thereto are now, was the tanyard of Jonas and Levi Notestine, across the vats of which the wife of the writer jumped in her girlhood days. Where the four courts are now, lived Robert B. Mamey, the first Judge of the Probate Court of this county, and where the writer found his wife, now almost forty-seven years ago, south of the building and loan office lived M. B. Snyder, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, whose son, Samuel, was the first boy baby born in Olney.

North on Walnut, from Main at York street on the west side, lived George Lutz, whose daughter, Sarah, was the first girl baby born in Olney. Next Jonas Spanglor, next Jacob Hofman, Clerk of the County Court. On the east side was a big two-story house in which lived many families. North on Mulberry street from Main, lived Henry Spanglor; north of Butler street was the old log school-house in which the writer's wife and many others got their first rudimentary knowledge of the English language. This house was used as a court-house until the first one was built. It was also used as a Methodist Episcopal church, until 1855,

when the first Methodist Episcopal church was built here. Of all the people living in Olney at that time, there are only about ten persons living November, 1908.

Then came the building of the old Ohio & Mississippi (now the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad, and Olney took on new life; then the old Peoria, Decatur & Eastern, now the Illinois Central; then the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton (old Danville & Olney). Olney has grown from a small village to a city of about six thousand five hundred people.

#### EARLY LAWYERS.

I remember some of the early lawyers of Olney, among whom was Lindes Usher Ficklin, of Charleston. Charles H. Constable, of Mt. Carmel; Judge Wilson, the first judge of this circuit, and Judge F. D. Preston, who was born in old Fort Barney, in Wabash county. Also I was personally known to Silas Bryan, of Salem, Marion county. He was the father of William J. Bryan. There is a good joke told on Silas. He was a very devout man, given to much prayer. He was elected to the State Senate from that district. I think he was a Presbyterian. Mortimer O'Kean was elected to the State Senate from this district. He was a Catholic. Salem, Mr. Bryan's home town, was the mecca for divorces, it being on the stage line, and about the center of the state, east and west, and for the purpose of getting a divorce a residence of three months was all that was necessary, and the

geographical location of Salem was fine for all persons concerned, and that part of the law practice made much bread and butter for the lawyers of Salem. O’Kean being a Catholic, he was eternally opposed to divorces, and about the first thing he did was to introduce a bill requiring twelve months’ residence. That was striking deep and hard at the flour barrel of the lawyers of Salem. When the bill came up in the Senate for passage, Silas made a long speech against it. As soon as he was through, O’Kean arose in his seat, to reply. He was a quick-witted Irishman. He said: “Misther Prisdint, I have been for a long time thrying to find out what church Brother Bryan belongs to; now I know; he is a Mormon,” and sat down. Never before was there such a tumult in the Senate chamber, whooping, yelling and stamping so much so that the House members came in to see what the fun was and on finding out, joined in the hurrah. As soon as the president of the Senate could get quiet enough to be heard, he put the bill on its passage and there was but one vote against it, and from that day to this, one year has been the limit.

HIGGINS’ PIPE DREAM.

From the Olney Times of April 9, 1908.

“In the fall of ’66 or ’67 Bryant Higgins asked Wilson and Hutchinson for desk room in this office during the winter which request was granted. He was then always very busy, figuring and plotting. One day, when no one was in he asked if we

wanted to know what he had been doing, and, expressing our curiosity, he read us what we thought to be the wildest, weirdest and most improbable scheme ever proposed or ever dreamed of by a sane man. He proposed that the Russian government should build a railroad commencing at Orenberg on the Ural river, which is the dividing line between Europe and Asia, thence east to Harbin, thence build a branch south to Pekin, China. From Harbin, east to Vladivostock, on the Pacific Ocean, a distance of six thousand miles. This road has been built exactly as mapped and planned by Higgins, except they ran the southern branch to Port Arthur, which at that time was unknown, and they ferry Lake Baikal, while Higgins mapped his road around the north shore.

“To meet this road he planned a road to start at Duluth, west to Seattle, north from Seattle to Cape Prince of Wales, north of the sixty-seventh degree, near the mouth of the Yukon river, along the trail now traveled to reach the Klondike; then across Behring Strait, either by ferry or bridging into Asia. He said this bridging should be done with concrete cassions for piers from island to island, like that now being done on the Florida coast.

“He had a chapter on isothermal lines by the trend of which the Japan current he claimed Alaska was destined to become thickly populated; that strawberries grew and ripened on the Yukon bottoms and that river did freeze until one hundred and fifty miles from the mouth. You who are old

enough to remember if you look back forty years, can see how wild I deemed this when it was first read to me. After a few days, I said: 'Bryant, what are you going to do with your scheme?' He did not know.

"At that time S. S. Marshall was the representative of our district in Congress. I proposed we should send it to him to see what he could do with it. Marshall submitted it to the Russian minister at Washington and that part pertaining to Russia, I was informed was translated and sent to the government of Russia, and I have no doubt was the origin of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Afterwards Marshall gave the papers to a member of Congress from New York. Shortly after Higgins received a long letter from Charles Villard, whom he had never heard of, and they had quite a correspondence. I read that Charles Villard demanded of his friends ten million dollars in ten days; no questions to be asked. He got the money and out of that grew the Northern Pacific, the Oregon Short Line, and later the roads running up into Alaska through British Columbia, and now building to Behring Strait. I had not thought of this matter for years until lately I met Higgins and asked him to allow me to record the article over again, when he informed me he had sent the only copy he had ever made with all his maps and figures to Marshall.

#### ENTIRE SCHEME MAY BECOME A FACT.

"This scheme of Higgins' contemplated the building of miles of railroad starting at Duluth, crossing Behring Straits, and con-

necting on the Asiatic shore with the Russian end, and thus giving an all rail route from any point in the United States to any point in Europe. Since then eleven thousand miles have been built and in a few years more Higgins' dream will be a reality by the completion of his entire proposition, even possibly of the bridging of Behring Strait.

"The best of prophets of the future is the prophet of the past. So far he has never been known as the originator of the idea, and it was a mere accident that brought it to my mind.

"E. S. WILSON."

"Since the above was put in print, one thousand five hundred miles more of railroad in Siberia, running northeast from Vladivostock, has been opened up for traffic."

#### MAY-DAY PICNIC FORTY YEARS AGO.

Fifty years ago the following persons held a May-day picnic on Fox river, at Watertown. (Watertown has long since faded out):

K. D. Horrall and Sarah Baird; Devius Baird and Rose McWilliams, Clark Richard and Lizzie Nesbit, Arch Spring and Mary Spring, J. H. Roberts and Manda Gunn, Frank Powers and Sue Hofman, S. P. Connor and Ella Hofman, T. W. Scott and Lib Hofman, Charles Hollister and Lib Corrothers, Dan Edmiston and Hetty Whitney, Bryant Higgins and S. E. Marney.

Of the above, Mr. Baird married Rose McWilliams, who is now deceased; Mr.

Rickard married Miss Nesbit, both deceased; Mr. Roberts married Miss Gunn, the latter deceased.

Arch Spring and Miss Spring are living. Mr. Powers, now deceased, married Miss Hofman. He is dead. Mr. Connor married Ella Hofman. She is dead. Lib Hofman is dead. Charles Hollister was killed at Corinth, October 5, 1862. K. D. Horrall married Miss Baird. Dan Edmiston married Miss Whitney. Both are dead. The writer married Miss Marney, and of the couples here mentioned, eight married and of the eight, the writer and his wife, K. D. Horrall and his wife, are all that are now living, who were afterward married.

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#### CHARLES DEAN.

Americans are not hampered by the shackles of class distinction and it is every one's privilege to build the structure of his life as he sees fit. This gives us what is often termed the self-made man, a good example of which is found in the subject of our sketch, Charles Dean, of Alma township, Marion county. Mr. Dean is a descendant of that sturdy type of pioneers that pushed westward along the highway marked out by Daniel Boone in the early days of our country's history. His father, Samuel Dean, was a native of Maryland, and his mother, Cerena (Bishop) Dean, was born in Tennessee. When he was quite young his mother died, leaving the father surviving with several children. Thrown largely upon

his own resources thus early in life, the boy developed that spirit of self-reliance and energy that forms such a marked characteristic of the self-made American.

In 1875 Mr. Dean was married to Sarah E. Rush, who was born in Marion county, Illinois, November 14, 1851. She was the daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Hatfield) Rush, the latter still living at the age of seventy-three years, in 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean have become the parents of three children, two of whom, Dollie and Daisy, died when quite young; the third, Noah, is now a practicing physician at Alma. As a boy he showed a keen interest in his studies and manifested considerable aptitude for the study of natural phenomena.

As he approached manhood he decided to make medicine his profession, and his success in this field demonstrated his fitness for his chosen calling. He resolved to pursue his medical studies at some school of unimpeachable reputation, and finally entered the Iowa State Medical College, Keokuk, Iowa. Here he applied himself so vigorously that he soon attracted the interest of the instructors and won the admiration of his classmates. His previous experience of four years as a teacher in the Marion county public schools, gave him a broad foundation for his later efforts and he finished his work with a standing of third in the graduating class. Since establishing himself in practice he has joined in marriage to Miss Ester Delassus, of Patoka, a lady of most excellent culture and accomplishments.

As a result of his years of hard and steady work, Charles Dean has brought his farm of eighty acres to a high degree of productiveness and has gained a wide reputation as a stockdealer, rivaling in this respect the excellent reputation of his father before him. Although a Democrat in politics, Mr. Dean has never given any attention to questionable political methods, standing at all times for a square deal for everybody concerned. He and his wife are members of the Methodist denomination and are held in high esteem by both neighbors and friends.

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#### WILLIAM H. LESEMAN.

From many parts of the world people have come to enjoy the advantages of the great state of Illinois, and few have regretted their coming. Although the percentage of Prussians, compared with the number of inhabitants of that country and the number of immigrants from her sister nations who have settled in the land of the free, is not large, those found in this state are most progressive and they are always regarded as loyal and law-abiding citizens. The subject of this sketch is no exception to the general rule.

William H. Leseman was born in Price Ninon, near Backonen, Prussia, October 10, 1834, and when ten years of age was brought to America by his parents in 1843. His first settling in Washington county, this

state, but not finding conditions exactly to their tastes there, finally came on to Marion county, where they located in August of 1884, and where they soon became assimilated with the new conditions and civilization, developing a good farm from the unimproved soil which they secured.

Our subject is the son of Henry and Christina Leseman, whose family consisted of three sons and an equal number of daughters, William, our subject, having been the second in order of birth. He is the only one of the family now living.

After receiving what education he could in the common schools of this county and working on his father's farm until he had reached manhood, our subject married Catherine Dewyer June 18, 1862, and soon thereafter began to work for himself on the farm. James and Catherine Dewyer were the parents of our subject's wife. There were eight children in this family, an equal number of boys and girls, Catherine, the wife of the subject, being the youngest and the only one of the children now living.

The following children have been born to our subject and wife, there being eight, seven of whom are still living; Eddie, deceased; Katie, Henry, James, Albert, William, Alice and Walter.

Mr. Leseman is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of very fertile land, located in Alma township, all under a high state of cultivation. He carries on a general farming with that discretion and energy that always insure success and as a result of his able management of the place he