

THE  
**ROCK RIVER VALLEY**

Its History, Traditions, Legends and Charms

Covering Jefferson, Dodge, Dane, and Rock Counties, Wisconsin,  
and Winnebago, Stephenson, Boone, Ogle, Lee, White-  
side, Henry and Rock Island Counties, Illinois



IN THREE ROYAL OCTAVO VOLUMES  
ILLUSTRATED

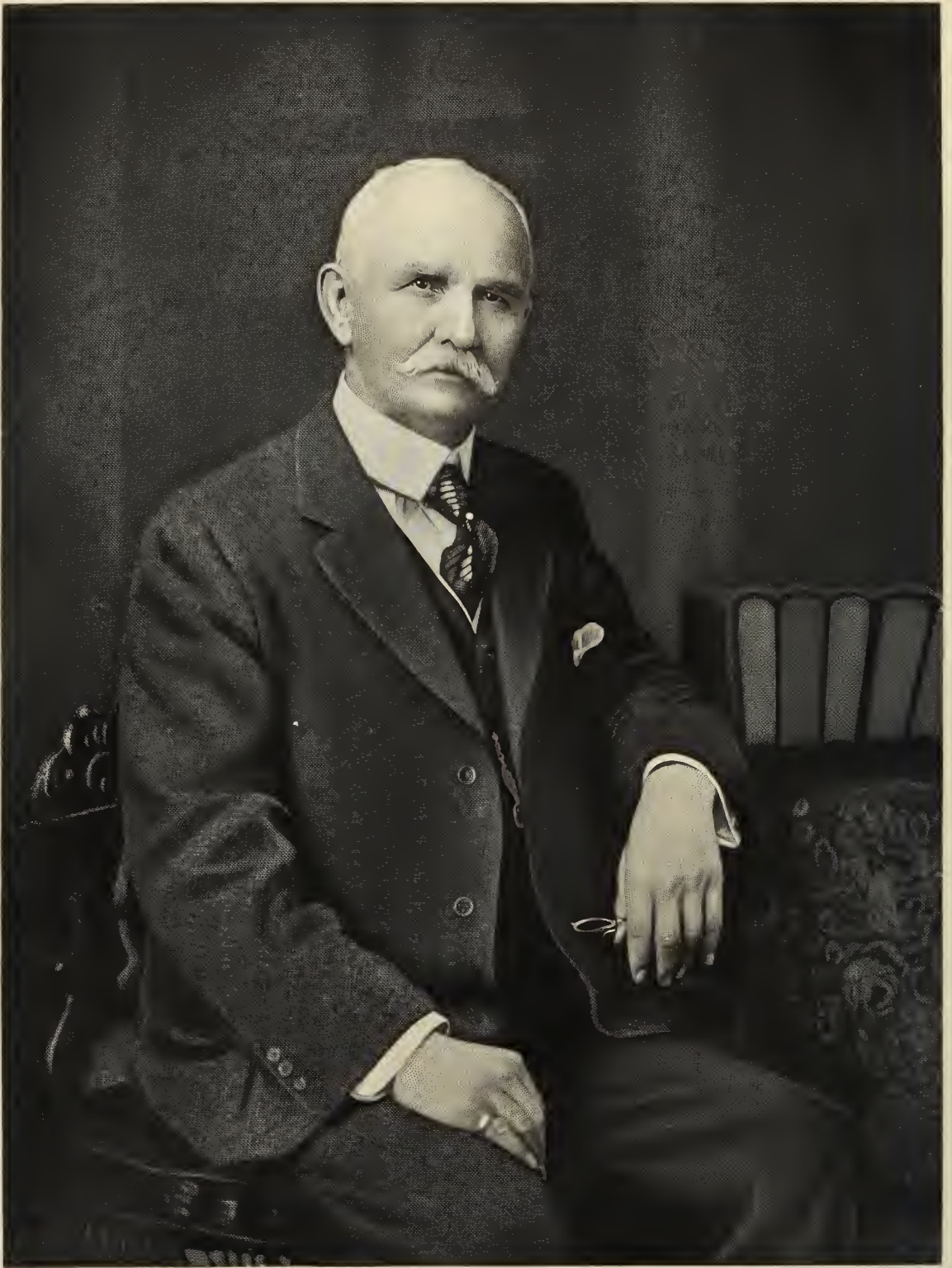


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*R. B. [Signature]*

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## PORTER B. YATES.

The late Porter B. Yates, founder of the world's greatest wood-working machinery manufacturing industry, was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1854. His father, Joseph Yates, brought his small family to Wisconsin less than three months after the birth of the son Porter. The parents, with Porter Yates and his older sister Ella, reached Chicago by canal and lake boats and then drove overland to Berlin, Wisconsin.

Porter B. Yates pursued his education in the public schools of Berlin but missed many days owing to the fact that his services were required as clerk in his father's hardware store. Later he played a star game as shortstop of the Berlin baseball team, which at that time enjoyed almost statewide fame. After putting aside his textbooks he clerked in his father's store until 1884, when he took over the control of a small sander concern at Berlin. At the time the company made only one model of machine, with a factory force of but thirteen employees and a single salesman. Through the early years of his business life at the head of this company, Mr. Yates encountered many difficulties of such magnitude as would have discouraged a less determined soul. From his successful guidance of the young industry through every difficulty he acquired the profound grasp of details which became a great asset to him in his enlarged career as a manufacturer.

A group of leading Beloit citizens made overtures to Mr. Yates with the view of inducing him to remove his factory to Beloit. It was in 1887, when the citizens of Beloit had raised a sum of money for the purchase of a factory site, that Mr. Yates began the transfer of his plant to this place. Here the factory has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world. Mr. Yates and his engineers devised scores of different types of machines that are used in practically every lumber and wood-working mill in the country and abroad. Today the machines made in the Beloit plant range from the great saw that converts the huge log into planks to the delicate device that finishes the finest and rarest woods that go into the most beautiful products of the cabinetmaker's art.

Besides being practically the sole owner of the Beloit and Canadian plants bearing his name, Mr. Yates had large investments in other industries and institutions, including the ownership of stock in the Continental and Commercial Bank of Chicago valued at several hundred thousand dollars. To his profound grasp of the details of every phase of the business Mr. Yates added an unusual judgment of men which enabled him to develop able lieutenants in his own insti-

tution. So accurate became his estimates of manufacturing costs that they often astonished the most expert cost men. Mr. Yates' financial acumen amounted almost to "second sense."

Of sturdy pioneer stock, schooled in the rigorous routine of stern business affairs, Mr. Yates reflected the characteristics which dominated his business activity. An individualist in business, in private life he had few intimates. He usually sought his relaxation in the quiet of his own home. The men associated with him in the business knew him not only as a considerate employer but as a friend who delighted in doing kindly acts unobtrusively and then forgetting them and desiring others to forget them. Innumerable are the instances when he helped his workmen and their families in sickness and in financial distress. Mr. Yates demanded ability of those associated with him in business and he was unerring in his quick recognition thereof. Some of his terse phrases enlarge our understanding of the man: "Mind your own business—don't worry about the other fellow"; "Nine times out of ten it is the other fellow who is right"; "Never take any advantage of the other fellow." Mr. Yates had a remarkable gift for character reading. It is said that he never employed a man for a responsible position without first making a careful study of his facial characteristics and the contour of his head.

A lover of fine horses, he kept in the days before the automobile a stable of splendid driving and riding horses. He was always very fond of the country and derived much recreation from the enjoyment of its rural scenes. Fond of travel, he made many trips abroad as well as traveling extensively in the United States.

It is told that when a small boy Mr. Yates was taken to visit his uncle Porter. The latter took him to the top of one of the skyscrapers of that day and pointed out to him the city spread out in panorama below him. "There's the world. It is yours. Go to it," the uncle said to the boy. Many years afterwards Mr. Yates confided to intimates that his uncle's dramatic act fired his imagination and that he never forgot it. Certainly he made a world conquest of the business within the confines of his particular industry.

Mr. Yates' surviving heir is his only child, Florence Argall Yates, his wife having died in 1908 in giving birth to her daughter. Long a sufferer from diabetes, Mr. Yates passed away in Chicago, April 27, 1923. He is buried in the Oakwood cemetery in Beloit, Wisconsin, the city of his great business triumphs.

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#### HON. ALLEN P. LOVEJOY.

In the largest and best sense of the term, the late Allen P. Lovejoy was distinctively one of the notable men of his day and generation in the Rock River valley and as such his life record is entitled to a place in the annals of his locality. Descended from a long line of sterling and patriotic ancestors, he exhibited in his own makeup qualities of the highest order and during a long period of years stood in his community as the embodiment of all that was best in American citizenship. His accomplishments but represented the fit utilization

of the innate talents which were his and the directing of his efforts along those lines where mature judgment and rare discrimination led the way. Mr. Lovejoy was a member of one of the prominent families of the eastern part of this continent, his paternal forebears having been actively identified with many of the important events from colonial days onward, and the name will always be enrolled among the makers of American history. They have ever been torchbearers of progress in whatever field of effort they exerted themselves and their influence has been potent in the settling of the great political and moral questions of their days.

The branch of the Lovejoy family from which Allen P. was descended was founded on American shores by John Lovejoy, who came from England to this country about 1630, joining the Massachusetts colony, of which he was one of the earliest freeholders. One of his descendants, Hezekiah Lovejoy, removed to New Hampshire and established a home, and there the grandfather and the father of the subject were born. The grandfather, John Lovejoy, was born in Amherst, New Hampshire, followed the life of a farmer, and lived to be eighty years of age. He was the father of nine children, each of whom lived to a ripe old age. His wife, Martha, who was the daughter of William Odell, died in 1850, at the age of ninety-five years. Among the children born to this worthy couple was Nathan Lovejoy, father of Allen P., who was born in New Hampshire but in young manhood removed to Maine, where he too devoted his attention to agriculture. There he met and married Miss Temperance Wing, the daughter of Allen Wing. Mr. Wing was a native of Sandwich, Massachusetts, whence he moved to Maine in 1781, and died there at the age of eighty-three years. He was descended from English ancestors, who came to this country about 1636, settling on the present site of the city of Lynn, Massachusetts. Allen Wing was a man of considerable wealth and became a large landholder, owning several farms and two sawmills. He "was a man of public spirit, a liberal friend of the church, and built a church which he donated to the town." It is recorded that Nathan Lovejoy and his wife were directly opposed in religious belief, he being a restorationist and she a universalist, but that apparently was not permitted to interfere with their marital happiness. She died in 1863, at the age of seventy-six years, and he in 1867, at the age of eighty-one years. Mr. Lovejoy was a farmer during all his active years and became a man of considerable prominence in his community, though not a seeker after public office or honors. He held a number of local offices, the duties of which he discharged faithfully and with ability and discrimination.

Allen P. Lovejoy was born in the town of Wayne, Kennebec county, Maine, on the 20th of March, 1825, and was reared on the paternal farmstead, where he laid the foundation for that splendid health which accompanied him through life. He attended the district schools and then took a course in the historic old Wesleyan Seminary at Kent's Hill, where he made a splendid record as a student, being especially proficient in mathematics. During the following eight years he engaged in teaching country schools, in which he proved himself unusually competent and successful. He learned the trade of a carpenter, but the demand for that sort of work being limited in his home neighborhood, he decided to seek a wider field of opportunity. Accordingly, in 1850, at the age

of twenty-five years, he started westward, and when he reached Janesville, Wisconsin, decided to stop. He found work at his trade here and through his indomitable industry, good judgment and thrift soon found himself in a position to launch out on his own account, and he started in business as a contractor and builder. In this he was successful and in 1859 established a lumber yard, the first at Janesville. This too proved the soundness of his judgment and he established other yards at Oregon, Brooklyn and other points, all of which were successfully operated. The success of these enterprises pointed the way to a still larger field of operations and in 1868, in company with Daniel W. Bradley, Mr. Lovejoy bought several thousand acres of pine lands in Michigan, followed in 1871 by another purchase of several thousand acres and later by an addition of many thousand acres. For the proper handling of this timber he also became interested in a number of sawmills, the product of which he handled through a string of lumber yards which he had established. Altogether his timber and lumber interests grew to tremendous size and importance and he was numbered among the big lumbermen of this section of the country for many years. He also became interested in other enterprises, all of which were successful, among which was the Janesville Machine Company, of which he was president for a quarter of a century. He was a heavy stockholder in the Janesville Cotton Mill Company and had extensive and valuable holdings of real property in Janesville and elsewhere in this state, being one of the heaviest taxpayers in Rock county.

Mr. Lovejoy's earlier years were characterized by the hardest sort of work, but it was conscientiously performed, and here perhaps lay the keynote to his success of later years. There was no pretense in his makeup. Whatever was worth doing at all was worth doing well, and this characterized his entire career. He owed his rise to no train of fortunate incidents or fortuitous circumstances. It was simply the reward of the application of mental qualifications of a high order to the affairs of business, the combining of keen perceptions with a mental activity that enabled him to grasp the opportunities that presented themselves. This he did with success and, what is more important, with honor. His integrity was unassailable, his honor unimpeachable and he stood high in the esteem of all who knew him. Although modest and unassuming and always easily approached, he had a strong and vigorous personality and in the best sense of the term was a leader of men and well fitted to manage important enterprises. No compendium such as the province of this work defines in its essential limitations will serve to offer fit memorial to the life and accomplishments of this good man, for long one of the most influential business men in his section of the country—a man remarkable in the breadth of his wisdom, in his indomitable perseverance, his strong individuality, his native sagacity and his fidelity of purpose. A man of rugged strength of character, of finest moral fiber, and one who realized a magnificent measure of useful accomplishment, his name is deeply engraved on the pages of the history of the state so long honored by his citizenship.

Mr. Lovejoy was a man of splendid physique, of impressive personality and most agreeable manner and had a host of warm and loyal friends. He was broad in his human sympathies, and was generous in his support of all worthy

benevolent and charitable objects. Politically, he was a staunch supporter of the republican party, of which he was an active and influential member. "He was repeatedly elected to offices of high trust and responsibility, but in no position of either public or private life had he ever been tried and found wanting." In 1869 he was elected a member of the lower house of the state legislature and was elected a member of the state senate in 1887 and 1889. In 1881 he was elected mayor of Janesville, his administration being marked by ability, faithfulness to the interests of the city and a progressive spirit in regard to public improvements. Fraternally, he was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he had attained the degree of a Knight Templar, and of the Knights of Pythias, while in his younger years in Maine he had been active in the work of the Sons of Temperance.

On May 29, 1889, Mr. Lovejoy was married to Miss Julia I. Stow, the daughter of Henry and Susan (Folliett) Stow. To their union were born four children, namely: Allen P., who was married to Miss Isabel Carr Thomas, of Dayton, Ohio, and they have three children—Allen P., John Thomas and Robert Carr; Henry S., who was married to Mary Fraser Beaton, and they have four children—Henry Stow, Lindsay Alexander, David Beaton and Allen Fraser; Julia S., who became the wife of Fernando Cuniberti, now of Washington, D. C., and they have three children—Vittorio, Mario and Julia; and Webster Ellis, who died in infancy. Mrs. Lovejoy is a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Janesville, and takes a deep interest in its activities. She is a lady of charming grace of manner and personal qualities that have endeared her to a large circle of loyal friends, who esteem her for her genuine worth.

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#### JAMES CHARLES McGRATH.

When James Charles McGrath breathed his last, on August 17, 1924, there passed out of the business life of Rockford one of its finest characters, a man who through more than four decades of eventful years had rendered faithful and unremitting service in his special field of newspaper work and who had gained probably as large a circle of genuine friends as any man who ever lived in this community. Mr. McGrath was born in Freeport, Illinois, August 8, 1856, and was the son of Patrick and Rose (Shields) McGrath, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, who had come to this country, locating at Freeport, where he had been an earnest and unremitting worker until his retirement. His wife was also a native of Ireland.

The subject attended the public schools of Freeport, graduating from the high school, and when almost seventeen years of age, on June 26, 1873, he entered the office of the Freeport Bulletin to learn the trade of a printer. This he did, and learned it well. He gave evidence from the beginning that he had a natural aptitude for the printing and publishing business and he formed a love for it which never faded through all the subsequent years of his life. He was ambitious and energetic and during his earlier years he published several small papers and music sheets. His career was characterized by a thorough,



all-round knowledge of the business, for he had worked in every department of a newspaper plant, from "devil" to editor. In 1882 Mr. McGrath came to Rockford and took a position on the Gazette, which in 1891 was consolidated with the Register, and he spent the remainder of his life in the service of this paper. His activities were mainly in the advertising and circulation departments, in both of which he was efficient, and to his efforts as much as any other single agency has been due the maintenance of the splendid circulation of the Register-Gazette. On June 26, 1923, he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance into the newspaper field, in which he was heartily joined by his old friends, who appreciated his years of conscientious service and his genuine worth as a man. In an editorial appreciation of Mr. McGrath, published soon after his death, the writer uttered this beautiful thought: "The Master Craftsman has written 'thirty' on 'Jim' McGrath's well spent life. Looking back upon it, as 'Jim' steps quietly out of the ranks, his associates find it so rich in things wholesome and true that they will have happy and helpful memories of him."

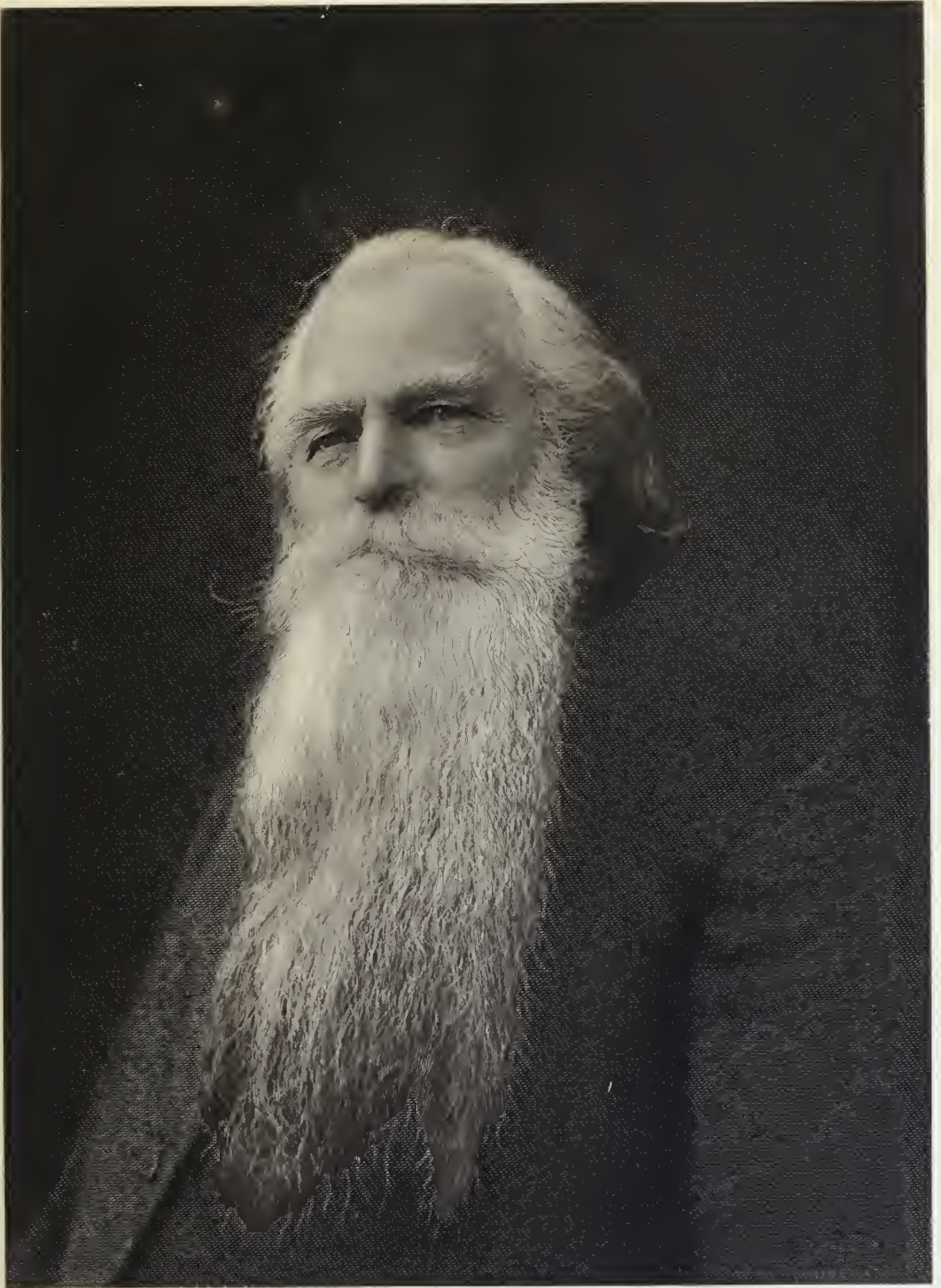
On November 12, 1884, Mr. McGrath was married to Miss Mary Bertrand, the ceremony being solemnized in St. James church, Rockford. To their union were born four children: Charles, of Erie, Pennsylvania, where he is the owner of a garage, was married to Miss Bertha Swanson; Florence, who was graduated from Rosary College, River Forest, in June, 1924, was a teacher in the Rosary high school and is now teaching in the public schools of Rockford; Frances, who remains at home; and Cyril, who is ticket agent at the Milwaukee terminal of the North Shore lines. In 1887 Mr. and Mrs. McGrath took up their residence at No. 1043 Harlem boulevard, being the first family to move to that vicinity. Later they moved to the present home at No. 1028 North Main street. Mrs. McGrath, who was born and reared in Rockford, Illinois, is the daughter of Napoleon and Mary (Muldoon) Bertrand, the former of whom was a shoemaker by vocation and a most highly respected man in this community.

Mr. McGrath was a man of singularly sweet and genuine nature. It seems an ungracious thing to say of one who labored so intelligently and faithfully in his chosen field of journalism, but it is the simple truth that he belongs with those lovable souls who are themselves finer and truer than their work. Some of his ambitions may have been unrealized; he lived simply and humbly; yet he was rich in the possession of a noble character which endeared him to all who knew him, so that his passing caused universal emotions of genuine sorrow and a sense of keen personal loss.

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#### WILLIAM WORTH BURSON.

The name of the late William Worth Burson, who in his generation was recognized as one of the most influential personal factors in the industrial life of the city of Rockford, is written high in the memorial annals of that community. Not only that, but it is inseparably connected with the history of industrial development in this country, some of his inventions, particularly along the lines of the knitting industry and the development of the automatic



W. W. Burson.



binder reaping machine, having practically revolutionized operations along those lines. Following the death of Mr. Burson in the spring of 1913 it was written of him that "understanding, feeling and perseverance are the attributes of genius. Mr. Burson possessed these and to these added other virtues. While his name will ever be associated with the inventions his genius produced, it will also be tenderly connected with his blameless life, his unsullied reputation and the many deeds of charity that endeared him to all." It also was written: "A remarkable man, both as to his personality and the notable achievements of his inventive genius, Mr. Burson has left on the records of the commercial world a long list of inventive triumphs relating to machinery and the knitting industry, more particularly to the latter. To his family and his friends he bequeathed a fragrant memory of constant charity and wide generosity, of intellectual ruggedness and a love for all the simple and beautiful things of life." It also was written of him that he "had a mind that was as inquiring and forward-looking as it was tireless. It was tenacious and of a remarkable power of concentration. His children might romp about the room while he wrote difficult papers or made drawings for the patent office but he was not at all disturbed, declaring that no outside noise found its way into those depths where lay the secret of his power." His motto through life was: "Integrity, Industry and Perseverance," and on his tomb in Forest View Abbey in Rockford those words are inscribed.

William Worth Burson was a native of the state of Pennsylvania, born in Venango county, September 22, 1832, a son of Samuel and Mary (Henry) Burson, both of whom were born in Sussex county, New Jersey. The site of his birthplace in Pennsylvania is now marked by Oil City. In 1839 Samuel Burson moved with his family from that place and came to Illinois, settling in McDonough county, where he bought a farm. Conditions there not proving satisfactory, he presently closed out his holdings and moved into the adjacent county of Fulton, where he became the owner of seven quarter sections of land, two of which still remain in the possession of the family. Samuel Burson died there in 1856, then being about fifty-three years of age. It is a matter of historical record that the first winter (1839) spent by the Bursons in Illinois was the coldest winter ever experienced in this state and still is known as "the winter of the great snow." William W. Burson then was seven years of age and he ever retained distinct recollections of the intense discomfort experienced by this pioneer family in their little log cabin, the imperfect chinking of which and the illy covered roof exposed them to the piercing winds and the sifting snow. He also ever kept in memory the little log schoolhouse in which he got his initial schooling, just such a building and just such a primitive equipment of supplies for school purposes as have become definite pictures in the minds of all who have given any thought to pioneer conditions in this midwestern country and which are familiar to all who have read at all intelligently along those lines.

Reared on that pioneer farm in Fulton county, William Worth Burson took his part in the labors of its development and by self study and thoughtful home preparation drilled his mind for further culture. In 1851, when Lombard College was opened in Galesburg he was able to enter that institution and

to carry on his studies there until he had finished the course, thus having been a member of the first class graduated from that now venerable institution of learning. Not only that, but as his name, in alphabetical order, headed the list of those who were thus graduated from that historic class he held the honor of having received the first diploma issued by Lombard, a distinction of which he never ceased to be proud. Another member of this class was the young woman who afterward became his wife and both for some time after leaving college were engaged in teaching school in their home county (Fulton).

From the days of his childhood Mr. Burson's imagination was being exercised along constructive lines and by the time he had reached manhood's estate he had thought out certain vital improvements on agricultural implements that eventually were destined to have a revolutionizing influence in that field. In 1856 he secured patents on certain devices designed to improve the operations of rakes, mowers, and reaping machines and in 1859 he secured his revolutionizing basic patent on the twine-binder reaping machine and in 1865 secured further patents covering his first machine brought to a state of successful operation as a twine binder. In the late '50s and the early '60s he followed the harvest from the Red river of Texas to the Red river of the North for five harvests, testing in the fields his ideas and by practical usage proving their worth. On June 26, 1860, he obtained his first patent. This was for a twine binder to be used upon any reaper and to be operated by an attendant. He later adopted wire, as twine was not available, his wire binder being patented February 26, 1861. This binder made more stir and came nearer to practical success than any other of the various binders belonging to the first era. In 1862 twenty-five of them were built at Muscatine, Iowa, for attachment to the John H. Manny reaper, and it made a great sensation at the reaper trial at Dixon, Illinois, that year. The Chicago Tribune of that time said: "The great feature of the day which never failed to draw a crowd was the grain-binder of W. W. Burson. He had an ovation that must have been gratifying to him." These patents later were sold to various companies engaged in the manufacture of harvesting machines and in time were developed into the present perfect wire-binder machines. It was when he got his automatic binder device out of his way that Mr. Burson turned his attention to the solution of certain problems he had been studying with reference to the development of an automatic knitting machine. In passing it is proper to say that Mr. Burson was a man of very precise methods and that during the many years in which he was engaged in development work he kept careful personal notes relating to the progress of his discoveries. The notes relating to the development of the knitting machine now not only are extremely interesting but are of large historical importance. The first of these notations, bearing date of September 26, 1866, says: "I have a defined plan of a knitting machine for knitting men's socks. The plan of making the stitch is entirely my own, as my partner, Mr. Nelson, is away on a three-months trip." In explanation of this reference to Mr. Nelson, it is to be borne in mind that about that time Mr. Burson had formed an association with John Nelson in the manufacturing line, the two, under the firm name of Burson & Nelson,

having a machine shop and a plant for the manufacture of doors, sashes and window blinds in Rockford, and it was while thus engaged that Mr. Burson worked out his revolutionizing plans for the construction of a knitting machine. His next note along this line is dated November 29, 1866, and is as follows: "I spent evening knitting on a sock and got down to the heel." November 30, 1866—"Finished same, being first sock ever knitted in this manner." "The papers prepared by myself and sent to the patent office December 4, 1866." February 7, 1867—"I spent entire day on knitting machine, knitting first pair of socks." There then apparently was some delay in the inventor's progress, for the succeeding entry along this line bears a date almost six years later—May 1, 1873—when the inventor noted that "the knitting machine worked perfectly." And then on October 10, 1873, there is the following triumphant notation: "Knit sock in  $3\frac{3}{4}$  minutes."

In the meantime patents on these devices were being secured by Burson & Nelson, the basic principles of the knitting machine thus being covered in patents bearing dates 1868, 1870, 1874 and 1875. It was in 1873 that the parallel row machine was developed, this being the real beginning of Rockford's great knitting industry. Rockford seamless socks were pioneers in seamless hosiery and superseded the old line of goods that had been holding the market. Mr. Burson continued as a member of the firm of Burson & Nelson until 1878, when he withdrew from that connection and independently continued his experimental work. He later developed a number of important improvements to the harvesting machine and these patents he disposed of as they arose, to the manufacturers of agricultural implements. In 1891 he brought out a perfected knitting machine and in the next year (1892) established a knitting mill in Rockford and there he spent the remainder of his life. He never ceased his research and experimental work and achieved the remarkable record of having secured more than fifty United States and foreign patents, these largely having been connected with his development of the harvesting machine and the knitting mills. He died at his home in Rockford, on April 10, 1913, then being in the eighty-first year of his age, and his widow still survives him, now making her home in California. They were the parents of three children: A daughter, Florence Adele, who became the wife of Seth C. Trufant and is now deceased; and two sons, Wilson Worth Burson, who represents the Burson interest in the present Burson-Ziock-Brown Knitting Company of Rockford and who also is an inventor of important knitting machinery, as is set out elsewhere in this work; and Ernest Emerson Burson, who for many years has made his home in California, proprietor of a large ranch in the vicinity of Orange in that state, and who is widely known in musical circles.

It has been said of the late William Worth Burson that he led an exemplary life and that "in the attainments of character he was no less great than in the sweep of his inventive power." His life was most temperate. He never shaved after leaving college and wore a long, flowing beard. This temperance of living is reflected in the fact that until his last brief illness he never had found it necessary to ask for the ministrations of a physician. He was a charter member of Lake View Lodge, F. & A. M., at Chicago, and was ever

interested in Masonry. When the republican party was organized he became an ardent adherent of the principles of that party and ever thereafter adhered to it. He was elected to represent his district in the first republican convention held in the state of Illinois, at Bloomington, in 1856, and his first vote for president was cast for John C. Fremont. At his passing he left a good memory and that memory ever will be cherished in the community in which so many years of his useful life were spent and toward the development of which he was so great a contributor. His inventions have given employment to thousands and he thus was a benefactor of his race.

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#### CHARLES THEODORE OLANDER.

In the untimely death of Charles T. Olander, of Rockford, Illinois, there was removed a man who by force of his own indomitable industry and personal merit had made his way from a modest beginning to a large measure of success, and his memory will long be revered here, where he was well and favorably known. Mr. Olander was born on the 25th of December, 1865, in Ostergotland, Sweden. He was educated in the schools of his native land and remained there until he was nineteen years of age, when he emigrated to the United States, coming to Peoria, Illinois, where lived a brother who had preceded him to this country some years before. He obtained a position as a railroad fireman, which he held for a number of years, and then came to Rockford and became interested in the development of this city. He had wisely saved and invested his money and eventually became the owner of valuable real estate here, including the Columbia building, on Seventh street, and other good pieces of property on the east side. In 1912 Mr. Olander bought a comfortable and attractive home on Harlem boulevard. On July 25, 1916, while driving with his family on the North Main street road, in front of the county farm, on the way to Lake Delavan, where they expected to spend their vacation, his automobile went into a ditch and he was instantly killed. His death came as a distinct shock to the entire community, for he enjoyed a wide and favorable acquaintance, and was looked upon as a distinct loss to his city, of which he was a public-spirited citizen. The beginning of his career had been characterized by hard work and conscientious endeavor and his rise was due solely to his own unaided efforts. He was universally recognized as a splendid citizen, of fine character, sturdy integrity and unswerving honesty. He was a good husband and father, faithful and loving; a good citizen, constant and reliable, and one in whom all who knew him instinctively trusted.

Politically, Mr. Olander gave his support to the republican party and took a keen interest in the general trend of public affairs, especially such as related to the development and prosperity of his own community. He was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, in which he had attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. The family has long been identified with the Christian Union church, to which Mr. Olander was a generous giver, as he was to all worthy benevolent and charitable causes.

In 1895 Mr. Olander was married to Miss Selma Johnson, the daughter of Fred and Alma Johnson, of Chicago, Illinois, and they became the parents of three daughters, namely: Edna; Edith, who is the wife of John Henriksen, of Rockford, and they have one child, Charles Kendall; Elva, who is the wife of Forrest Lyddon, of Rockford, and they have a daughter, Barbara Jean. Both of the sons-in-law saw service in the World war. It is a matter of record that the subject's father was a soldier in the Swedish army during the Thirty Years war and received a medal for distinguished service.

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#### HARRY A. GABEL.

Harry A. Gabel, mayor of the city of Belvidere, distributor in that city and throughout the trade area centering there of the Hudson and Essex automobiles, well established in business in that place, is a native of Illinois and his interests ever have centered in this state. He was born at Newark, Kendall county, March 22, 1869, a son of Peter and Almira Wunder Gabel, both members of pioneer families of that county.

Reared on the home place in Newark, Harry A. Gabel finished his education in the high school in Sandwich, in the neighboring county of De Kalb, and in the plant of the Sandwich Manufacturing Company of that place learned the machinist's trade. For six years Mr. Gabel was connected with the operations of that concern and then started out as a journeyman toolmaker, working in various cities until presently he settled in Sterling, where he was for several years employed in the plant of the Charter Gas Engine Company.

In 1890 Mr. Gabel became a resident of Belvidere but not long afterward moved to Sycamore, in the neighboring county of De Kalb, and there engaged in the bakery and confectionery business. In 1900 he closed out his holdings there and returned to Belvidere, where he set himself up in business in the same line and also in connection with his bakery and confectionery establishment started a restaurant. For nearly fifteen years Mr. Gabel continued in this business and then, in 1911, he engaged in the automobile business, becoming local agent in Belvidere for the sale of the Hudson car. Two years later, in 1913, he took the Hudson account to Rockford and was distributor of that popular machine in that territory until 1919, when he returned to Belvidere and has since been in business there, handling both the Hudson and the Essex cars and proprietor of a well equipped and admirably appointed garage, salesroom and service station at No. 216 First street, which place he built upon his return to Belvidere in 1919 and where he is very well established, one of the best known men in the automobile trade in this section of the state. Mr. Gabel has ever taken an active and earnest interest in civic affairs and on April 21, 1925, was elected mayor of Belvidere for the term of two years, in which executive office he now is serving. He is the exalted cyclops of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On May 2, 1896, while living in Sycamore, Mr. Gabel was united in marriage to Miss Lulu Estelle Jones, daughter of P. K. Jones of that place. Mr. and



Mrs. Gabel have three children: A son, Cuthbert C., born July 6, 1899; and two daughters—Helen Louise, born February 24, 1897; and Ann Jennette, born January 3, 1918. Miss Helen L. Gabel became the wife of O. W. Archer, editor of the San Antonio (Texas) Express, and is living in that city. Cuthbert C. Gabel is now living in Meriden, Connecticut, where he is assistant sales promotion manager for the International Silver Company of that city.

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#### FRED GEORGE SHOUDY.

One of the most conspicuous figures in the recent history of Rockford, Illinois, was the late Fred George Shoudy, whose death, on April 11, 1918, was considered a distinct loss to the entire community. He had for many years been actively identified with the business and commercial interests of this city and was regarded as one of its representative citizens. Strong mental powers, invincible courage and a determined purpose that hesitated at no opposition so entered into his composition as to render him a dominant factor in the business world and a leader of men in large enterprises. He was essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment, keen discernment and farseeing in what he undertook, and his business was so conducted as to return to him a fine measure of success.

Fred George Shoudy was born on the 13th of September, 1861, at Rochelle, Illinois, the son of George Augustus and Sophia (James) Shoudy, and a member of an old and well known family of that city. When he was eight years old the family came to Rockford, and he received his education in the public schools of this city, being a graduate of the high school. His father engaged in the grocery business here and in his boyhood and young manhood he assisted in the business, gaining thereby an intimate knowledge of the trade. Upon his father's death, Mr. Shoudy engaged in business for himself, organizing the Rockford Wholesale Grocery Company, which in the course of time became one of the largest and most successful business enterprises of this city. The first home of the company was in the Scott building, on Water street, but after the incorporation of the company on February 19, 1897, the business was removed to the building which stood on the present site of the Riverside Furniture Company and which was destroyed by fire in 1910, after which the business was established at its present location on North Water street. Mr. Shoudy served as president and manager of the company from the time of its organization until November, 1916, when he disposed of his interest and, because of ill health, retired from active participation in business affairs. During the period of his activity, he took a deep interest in the general improvement and development of the city and was an important factor in its prosperity. He rebuilt the building now known as the East Side inn, remodeled the buildings along the river front of North Water street, built the present home of the Riverside Furniture Company and made many other property improvements in various parts of the city. He was deeply interested in the welfare of Rockford College, of which he was treasurer for a number of years and at the time of his death was

a trustee. During the period of his treasurership he was keenly interested in the construction of John Barnes Hall at the college and in various ways showed an interest that was more than a passing whim. He was a man of strong views and positive opinions and had the courage to stand by his principles. Fraternally, he was a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Rockford Country Club and the Rockford Gun Club. Politically, he was a lifelong supporter of the republican party and took a commendable interest in public affairs, particularly such as related in any way to the interests of his home city or community.

On June 10, 1891, in Chicago, Mr. Shoudy was married to Miss Louise Chamberlain, the daughter of William E. and Annette (Taylor) Chamberlain, and they became the parents of the following children: Annette, who is now the wife of H. A. Schulz, of Rockford, and they have three children—Louise, Annette and Seraine; Doris; David C., who is engaged in the wholesale grocery business; Daniel E., who is engaged in the insurance business in this city; and Mary Louise. Personally, Mr. Shoudy was a man of pleasing address and quiet appearance, frank and kindly in manner and extremely popular among his associates. Measured by the true standard of excellence, he was an honorable, upright, courteous gentleman, true to himself and to others, and his influence was always potent for good.

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#### LAWRENCE JAMES DE SWARTE, M. D.

Dr. Lawrence James De Swarte, a specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, is practicing in Beloit, Wisconsin, and broad experience, supplemented by intensive study, has brought him success and prominence in his profession. He was born May 15, 1872, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a son of Peter and Jannike De Swarte, and acquired his early education in the public schools of that city. For a year he attended Beloit College and in 1895 the University of Chicago awarded him the B. A. degree. He next entered the Medical School of Northwestern University and was graduated with the class of 1898. He served as an interne at the Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary in Chicago and in 1899 began practicing in Milwaukee. In 1905 he spent nine months in study in Vienna, Austria, and in 1911 returned to that city, devoting a year to post-graduate work under noted physicians. Dr. De Swarte remained in Milwaukee until 1918, when he opened an office in Beloit, and has since been a resident of this city. From the time he entered upon his professional career he has concentrated his attention upon diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, on which he is a recognized authority, and his expert skill has brought to him an extensive practice.

On April 23, 1915, Dr. De Swarte was united in marriage to Miss Marie Bussard of Milwaukee. He is a member of the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He also belongs to the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit and along fraternal lines is connected with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. Actuated by high

ideals of service Dr. De Swarte is constantly striving to perfect himself in his profession and his pronounced success indicates that he has chosen the vocation for which nature intended him.

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#### CLAREMONT S. JACKMAN.

The settlement, then the village, then the city of Janesville are each so closely associated with the name of Jackman, that the story of the city or the story of the family must be the story of both. But that cannot be entirely confined to the immediate environments of Janesville. The story is wider. It includes southern Wisconsin for Timothy Jackman, back in the late '40s and all through the '50s spread his activities as a merchant, manufacturer and banker over a wide field of endeavor and the people of a half dozen counties came here to do business with the Jackman store and bank. Timothy Jackman, a hardy New Englander, schooled in business in that best of all universities of life—that of work—and an ancestral urge that accomplished whatever was undertaken, came to Wisconsin and to Janesville when the tide of western immigration to the states west of Chicago was reaching to flood. Business in the new century was in its infancy. Development of towns and villages was on every side. The Rock river valley called to the very best blood of the east. Its fertility was heralded through all the rugged New England states and eastern New York. Old then and staid and settled, they sent the best of their youth to the west to build new fortunes and rear a sound and patriotic citizenship on new lands.

Here then in 1842 came Timothy Jackman with hope and vision of a new and great community. He came to Janesville when it was a straggling settlement. When he passed away it was a city of solidity, a great trading and banking center and beginning to reach out and seek industrial plants to keep pace with the changes in our organized civilization. He came from eastern New York, where his family had migrated from New Hampshire. Before that Stillman Jackman, his grandfather, a soldier of the Revolution, had migrated to New Hampshire from Massachusetts.

When Timothy Jackman arrived in Janesville it was a village of five hundred inhabitants. It had few houses and a store or two with an indifferent stock of goods—the simple things needed by the settlers who in most cases were lacking in money and trade was by barter. At first Timothy Jackman kept a hotel. Then he started a store with his brother-in-law as a partner. That store became noted up and down the Rock river valley and from Lake Michigan to the lead region on the west. He operated a mill, was interested in many other activities, and when the city was incorporated he was a member of the first city council. He was a careful organizer, a good executive, a keen merchant, a farmer who farmed with knowledge of soils and markets—successful where others failed. The store of Jackman & Smith, established in 1845, was as near a modern department emporium as it was possible to operate at that time. It could furnish the settler anything he might want. He could



*B. S. Johnson*





*C. S. Jackman*



get his entire outfit there for home or barn or for tilling the fields. Money could be borrowed and exchanged. Without operating a bank the Jackman & Smith store was as near a bank as some in those days bearing the sign over the door. Wheat was a cash commodity in those days. It meant capital assets to the producer. The golden grain poured into Janesville and was resold and reshipped to ports on the lakes. There was but one crop failure in ten years. Rock county grew rich and needed a bank. So it was that Timothy Jackman started one for aid to the farmers and business men in the village that had grown now to be a city.

In order to know Claremont S. Jackman, it is well to know this background of his life. It was here in Janesville, when it was teeming with ambition and growing fast, that on November 20, 1846, the Jackman son was born. He grew up as did the boys of his time. He learned to work and lived in an atmosphere of business of trade and barter, of buying and selling, of development of farms and building of new communities. He attended the public schools of the village, and for a new settlement they were of the best. Leave that to the New Englander and the Scotch who had come here to make a new land equal if not better than the one left behind. Claremont learned to write well; was accurate and careful; and that stood him in good stead later when he was to be summoned by generals of the Union army to remain at headquarters and see that records and orders were properly and legibly transcribed.

The boy of fifteen was thrilled when war came in 1861. He saw the army camps, the squads of men drilling and then to march away to the music of bands and cheering of thousands gathered to say farewell. Nearly a century before his great-grandfather had marched to aid Washington in making a new nation. But he was too young so the enlisting officers said. Harlow's battery was being organized. Some of his older friends were in its ranks. Later in the fall of 1862 he followed after, arriving at Corinth, Mississippi, and joined the battery. For three years he was in the fighting and tumult of war. He was too young to stand the rigors of artillery service and was sent to headquarters, where he remained until Appomattox. At one time he was detailed to General John A. Logan's headquarters for service. His battery fought from Chattanooga to Atlanta and from Atlanta to the sea. He made the march through Georgia and again up to Goldsboro, where General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered.

Back in Janesville after the troops were mustered out Claremont S. Jackman became manager of a mill. Then he went to Montana and tried mining. It was a hectic time and filled with adventure but little return. Again in Janesville in 1867 he became a messenger in the Rock County National Bank established by his father and others to succeed the state bank that had preceded it. He grew with the bank. For a long time he was cashier and then president for thirty years. He retired from that position in 1919 and became chairman of the board. His son, Frank H. Jackman, was elected to succeed him and remains (1926) as president.

Timothy Jackman married Marcia M. Smith, whose father, Jesse Smith, came from Massachusetts to Rock county and was identified with the county affairs for many years. Claremont S. Jackman was married March 10, 1869, to



Miss Clarice Hanchett, a daughter of John M. and Juliet (Titus) Hanchett. Mrs. Jackman survives her husband. To this union there was born one son, Frank H., now president of the Rock County banks. Frank H. Jackman was married to Miss Etta B. Hanchett and there are three children: Claremont, of the Rock County banks; Frances and Ann.

In his associations in Janesville Claremont S. Jackman was always interested in politics as a citizen. He gave much of his time to local government affairs and served two terms as alderman from the third ward. He was interested in public utilities and in public service of a high character. There was no ostentation about him. He gave much and said nothing about it. He was not easily stampeded and in times of stress and financial storm was the calm general directing the battle undeterred by petty trifles. He lived in the highest character and worth which had been implanted by many generations of ancestors who lived simply and whose thoughts and aims were high. He was seventy-eight years of age when he was called away from earthly cares, March 25, 1925. His native city paid to his memory that respect which those splendid qualities displayed through a life, never for any time inactive, demanded. Over the trail of nearly seventy-nine years, there was nothing to mark his passage other than high regard from neighbors and fellow citizens and the very embodiment of genuine truth and faith.

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#### JOSEPH LENT BOSTWICK.

Feeble and inadequate must be any written appreciation of the life of a good man, one whose record, unmarred by any inconsistencies, was characterized by a sympathetic kindness for all humanity and whose every action seemed inspired by the desire to make the world a little brighter and more pleasant for those about him. In the death of Joseph Lent Bostwick, Janesville suffered a grievous loss and the following tribute to his memory is incorporated in the permanent annals of his community. Mr. Bostwick was born in Janesville in 1864, the son of Joseph Morton and Harriet (Allen) Bostwick, the former of whom was for many years known as one of Janesville's most successful and influential citizens, having been the founder of the old and substantial dry goods business which for years has been conducted under the name of J. M. Bostwick & Sons. The subject was given the advantage of a good public school education, having graduated from the Janesville high school, and on the completion of his studies he entered his father's business, with which he was continuously identified up to the time of his death, which occurred on April 24, 1915. He early gave evidence of the sound business judgment and sagacity which characterized all his active career and he gained the confidence and esteem of his business contemporaries, a position which he retained during all the years of his connection with the affairs of life.

In addition to the dry goods business, with which his business career was most closely linked, Mr. Bostwick was also vice president of the Rock County Telephone Company and a director of the Old Line Life Insurance Company,

in the councils of which organizations he was an important figure. He was one of the first directors of the Twenty-five Thousand Club and a director of the Janesville Commercial Club and of the Young Men's Christian Association, contributing in every way within his power to the advancement of the particular interests of each of these organizations. He also was keenly interested in one of Janesville's crack military organizations. His religious membership was in the Protestant Episcopal church, of which he was a liberal supporter, while his fraternal affiliation was with Janesville Lodge No. 354, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In the commercial world Mr. Bostwick was successful to a high degree and in his business affairs he followed the same lofty ideals that ruled his private life. Public-spirited and progressive, he gave his support to every movement for the betterment of the public welfare and enjoyed to a remarkable degree the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He was universally recognized as a splendid citizen—a man of lofty character, sturdy integrity and forceful individuality. He was simplicity and genuineness itself and he maintained a tolerant appraisal of human nature that was as rare as it was beneficent. Neither envy nor hatred, suspicion nor jealousy, fear nor superstition, narrowness nor intolerance ever found lodgment in his mind or heart. He had that abiding faith in humanity and that innate modesty which are prime attributes of true nobility. As an evidence of the exalted place which he held in the hearts of those who best knew him, the following excerpts from expressions of appreciation of his life and character are quoted here:

“His cooperative spirit was legion. He gave freely of his time and money, and his optimism was an encouragement to those associated with him. He was thoughtful and considerate of those connected with his institution, as he was also of his friends, and his cheerful disposition and clean, wholesome life will be an example which will live long in the memory of his friends.”—Retail Division of the Commercial Club.

“By nature he was so modest and unpretentious that only since he has gone do we fully realize the large place that he filled in our civic and social life. He was always among the foremost in all matters pertaining to the public welfare. His social life was marked by a kindly thoughtfulness and consideration for others and his home life was blessed with an abiding love for his wife and children.”—Lodge No. 354, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

“Mr. Bostwick was a devout, consistent and intelligent churchman. Simple in his tastes and manner of living, he was one of the most generous of men. \* \* \* As a friend he was deeply appreciated by those who were privileged to come in touch with him. As a business man he was scrupulously upright and just. His charities were the expression of the personal sympathy which he felt with those in distress, and few knew how many and how beautiful they were. In whatever capacity his personality was called into action he modestly and unassumingly did his part.”—Church Paper.

“We are keenly sensible of the great loss to us of his wise councils and his loving ministrations to us as individuals, as a body and to the community at large.”—Young Men's Christian Association.

“His life, quiet, peace loving and unostentatious, has in memory made a

record for integrity and charity which will always be an influence on all associated with him in the affairs of life—business and social. The world is better for his having lived in it. Than this no higher tribute can be paid by mortal man.”—Directors, Rock County Telephone Company.

“No movement for the betterment of the community, either civic or commercial but that received his enthusiastic support. No philanthropy or charity but that felt his generosity, and in his quiet, unassuming way he accomplished much for good that never became public.”—Directors, Commercial Club.

“He was more than a successful merchant. \* \* \* He was a leader when public welfare was being considered and no argument was necessary to influence his judgment. \* \* \* He was a philanthropist as well. \* \* \* He was always doing something to help somebody and many a glad surprise found its way to some heart and home because of his modest relief. \* \* \* The lessons of his life, which blessed the city with so many helpful influences, will long linger as a blessed memory. They should inspire us as citizens to better service for humanity.”—Editorial in Janesville Gazette.

On April 27, 1893, Mr. Bostwick was married to Miss Leila Thornton, of Eufaula, Alabama, and they became the parents of three daughters: Mrs. Faith (Bostwick) Dearborn, born August 9, 1896; Ruth Allen Bostwick, born October 25, 1902, and died May 14, 1905; and Leila Thornton Bostwick, born February 14, 1908.

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#### ALLEN CHANCELLOR EAKIN, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the noble work of ministering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity pursues a calling which in dignity, importance and beneficial results is second to no other. Of this class of professional men was the late Allen Chancellor Eakin, who for years stood in the forefront of Rockford's physicians and surgeons, and whose death occurred at St. Anthony Hospital, Rockford, February 27, 1924. Dr. Eakin was born on a farm near Elgin, Illinois, on the 12th of July, 1867, and secured his elementary education in the country schools of his home neighborhood, while his early years were spent in assisting his father, William Eakin, on the farm. From the common schools, he went to Elgin Academy and then to Beloit College, from which he was graduated in 1891. Having determined to devote his life to the healing art, he then matriculated in the medical department of Northwestern University, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1894. He entered upon the practice of his profession at Shirland, in the northern part of Winnebago county, was successful from the start and remained there thirteen years, when, desiring a larger field of usefulness, he moved to Rockford, and up to the time of his last illness he was numbered among the skilled and successful physicians and surgeons of this city. During these years he enjoyed a large practice, ministering to all classes of people, from the best homes of the community to the humblest cottage, where oftentimes he knew there was no chance for remuneration. Yet in the latter cases he

was just as painstaking and interested as he would have been in the homes of the wealthy patients.

Dr. Eakin was no ordinary man. If one may place his name in apposition with that of the great apostle, Luke, he too may be called in all truth, Allen, the well beloved. His whole life was one of unselfish devotion, unlimited sacrifice and unflinching courage. He was simplicity and genuineness itself and so there were easily revealed the governing motives of his actions, the strength and reality of his nature, the aspirations of his genius. It fell to his lot to bring alleviation of suffering and restoration of health to countless afflicted ones in the community. This was his professional contribution and naturally constituted the larger part of his labors, but it did not by any means measure the whole sum of his activities. As a valiant champion of civic and social progress he is entitled to the respect of the community. He had a heart of gold, a sympathy that was boundless and a love of humanity that was deep-rooted in a broad and tolerant appraisal of human nature that was rare indeed. His cheerful presence, his kindly humor, his utter freedom from every form of affectation endeared him personally in an unusually intimate relation to one of the largest circles of devoted and loyal patients and friends ever possessed by a physician in this city. Too just to have prejudice, too wise to pass judgment, neither caste nor creed, high place nor low station were ever factors in his computation of life's values. Charity with him was not perfunctory, for he gave for the joy of giving, and he had that abiding faith in humanity and that deep humility and modesty which are the prime attributes of true nobility.

Dr. Eakin was long a leading spirit in the conduct of St. Anthony's Hospital, of the medical staff of which he was an active and prominent member. He was a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, of the Masonic order in several of its branches, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In 1896 he was married, at Shirland, to Miss Belle Oliver, and to them were born two sons: Allen C., Jr., who is engaged in the automobile accessory business; and Donald B. Politically, Dr. Eakin gave his support to the republican party and he took a good citizen's interest in public affairs, particularly in those measures which were calculated to affect the welfare and prosperity of his own community. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, but usually attended the Court Street Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### MICHAEL HAYES.

The conditions under which construction work and industrial and commercial enterprises of magnitude are prosecuted in this age of phenomenal advancement in all lines of human activity demand men who are forceful and of strong potentiality, courage and judgment. Such a man was the late Michael Hayes, who during his active years was probably one of the best known general contractors in the United States. He was intensely practical and seemed to have an intuitive knowledge of how best to do a thing, whether it had ever been at-

tempted before or not. No job was too difficult for him to undertake and his accomplishments excited the admiration of all who knew of them and of some of the difficulties under which the work was done. Other interests of magnitude aside from contracting also engaged his attention, in all of which he was a potent factor, for his business judgment and discrimination were held in high esteem by all who were associated with him. Because of his accomplishments, his splendid character and his public spirit, he is eminently entitled to specific mention in the annals of his locality.

Michael Hayes was born on the 29th of August, 1852, at Hudson, New York, and at the age of two years was brought by his parents to Wisconsin. They located on a farm near Oregon, Dane county, where he grew to young manhood, receiving a good public school education. When twenty-two years of age he came to Rock county and bought a farm on the Madison road, five miles northwest of Janesville, which he later gave to his wife, who still owns it. In 1879 he moved into Janesville, which was his home during the remainder of his life. In 1886 Mr. Hayes entered into his first construction contract, it being the building of a section of the Evansville cutoff on the Northwestern railroad, which was then being built, and the success that attended this, his first venture in the contracting business, led him to seek other work in that line. He associated with him his brother, Dennis W. Hayes, and together they continued in the contracting business until 1911, when the Hayes Brothers Company was retired and the business taken over by M. Hayes & Sons. The first important contract which Hayes Brothers undertook was a railroad construction contract in the Black Hills of the Dakotas, which was followed by a number of smaller jobs, all of which were handled successfully and with gratifying profit. They then took one of the most important jobs of its kind in the country, the construction of the Chicago end of the Chicago drainage canal. The work was begun in 1893 and it required ten years of steady work with a large force of men to complete the contract. This section, two miles long, presented a number of extremely difficult engineering problems, including the Lake Michigan connections and the disposal of the vast quantities of earth from the excavations. Much of this earth was used in the building up of some of Chicago's parks, notably Grant park, on the lake front. In 1902 Hayes Brothers secured the contract for building the interurban railroad between Janesville and Rockford, which was the only large contract which the company took in the vicinity of Janesville. From 1903 to 1906 they were engaged in the building of the power house, dam and locks at Lockport, Illinois, on the completion of which they began work on the great Bellefourche irrigation project in South Dakota. This work, which was done under contract with the federal government, was the greatest irrigation engineering achievement of the present day, including as it did the construction of the largest earth dam in the world. The reserve supply of water thus created will supply water to thousands of acres of land which heretofore have been unproductive. This great contract was completed in 1911. Since that year M. Hayes & Sons have also performed some notable contracts, including the dam, locks and power house at Kankakee, Illinois, much construction work for the Wabash railroad between Danville and Fairmount, Illinois, and the building of a double track line between Palos Park and Orland, Illinois.

They also built eleven miles of levee on the Illinois river, besides numerous paving jobs in the vicinity of Chicago.

In the operations of the three companies, Hayes Brothers, the Hayes Brothers Company and M. Hayes & Sons, Mr. Hayes not only served as president, but had undertaken and performed the major part of the active management of the business and to him was largely due the successful handling of the many difficult problems with which they were confronted from time to time. During those active years Mr. Hayes was a very busy man, but he was never so busy in his contracting work but that he had time to devote to matters of importance to his home city, in the welfare of which he was deeply interested along both material and civic lines. He was quick to grasp the details of the various municipal problems that came up from time to time and his counsel and advice were invaluable. He was quick to support new enterprises trying to get a start in Janesville and invested in a number of them, thus contributing in an effective way to the industrial growth of the community. Among these local enterprises in which he became thus interested were the Janesville Cement Post Factory, the John C. Nichols Harness Company and the Law-Watson Shoe Company; and it was commonly understood that Mr. Hayes should be one of the first men to be solicited for support of any worthy enterprise or movement for the welfare of the city. In the civic affairs of the community he was also a potent factor, for he had a large influence and he invariably used that influence in the support of good men for public office, thus in another way contributing definitely to the public welfare. He was one of the most active and effective workers in the campaign for the new Palmer Memorial Mercy Hospital, and for a number of years gave appreciated service as a member of the library board. He was a faithful member and a trustee of St. Patrick's Catholic church, and was a charter member of Carroll Council No. 596, Knights of Columbus, and a member of Janesville Lodge No. 354, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

In 1900 Hayes Brothers bought the old Lappin block, on the corner of Main and Milwaukee streets, which they remodeled into the first modern office building in Janesville, and several years before that had purchased the old Armory block, on West Milwaukee and Franklin streets. Mr. Hayes also owned a number of fine farms in Rock county.

On January 15, 1879, Mr. Hayes was married to Miss Elizabeth Quinn, and to them were born the following children: Genevieve, who is now the wife of Timothy Murphy, of Little Falls, New York, and they have two children, Edward and Katherine; Nellie, the wife of Glenn Snyder and the mother of two children, Virginia and Helen; Joanna, the wife of Frank E. Sutherland; Michael T., who was married first to Miss Louise Rodatz, and to them were born two children, Marie Louise and Carol Jane, twins. After his first wife's death he married Miss Elsie Schubert and they have a son, Thomas; Joseph D. and Louis J. Michael Hayes died on February 28, 1915, and his death was universally looked upon as a distinct and irreparable loss to the community. His life was one of untiring activity and was crowned with a degree of success attained by comparatively few men of this vicinity in his day and generation. He was of the highest type of progressive citizen and none more than he deserved a fitting recognition among those whose enterprise and ability achieved

results that awakened the wonder and admiration of those who knew them. He made his opportunity and achieved every step of his career, often in the face of obstacles that would have overwhelmed souls of less sterling mettle. He did not permit the accumulation of a fortune to affect in any way his actions toward those less fortunate than he and always had a cheerful word and a helping hand for those in need. He was exceedingly liberal in his donations to all worthy benevolent and charitable organizations, but gave without ostentation, simply for the joy of giving. He was quiet in demeanor, a thinker and a man of deeds rather than words. He was essentially a man of the people because he had large faith in humanity and was optimistic in his views. His is the story of a life whose success was measured by its usefulness—a life that made for good in all its relations with the world.

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#### ALEXANDER DUNCAN FORBES.

Though it now is nearly a quarter of a century since the death in Rockford of Alexander Duncan Forbes, manufacturer, banker and philanthropist, the memory of that good man still is kept green, for in his generation he had been a very vital force in the upbuilding of that community. Upon so many of the substantial interests of Rockford and of the Rock River valley in general had he left the impress of his vigorous personality, his farsighted initiative had been responsible for so many actions taken thereabout in behalf of the promotion of the common interest, that his name became an inseparable part of the annals of the community, the continuing influence of his works thus in the present generation providing a more conspicuous memorial to his name than could any mere marble shaft or granite obelisk. For nearly fifty years Alexander D. Forbes had been a definite force for good hereabout. The son of a pioneer manufacturer, he grew up amid the influences that gave direction to Rockford's development as a manufacturing center of large importance, and then in good time, as the generation he so ably represented took hold of things here, he carried on the industry that had been established by his father and which now, in the third and fourth generations is being so successfully maintained by his sons and grandsons.

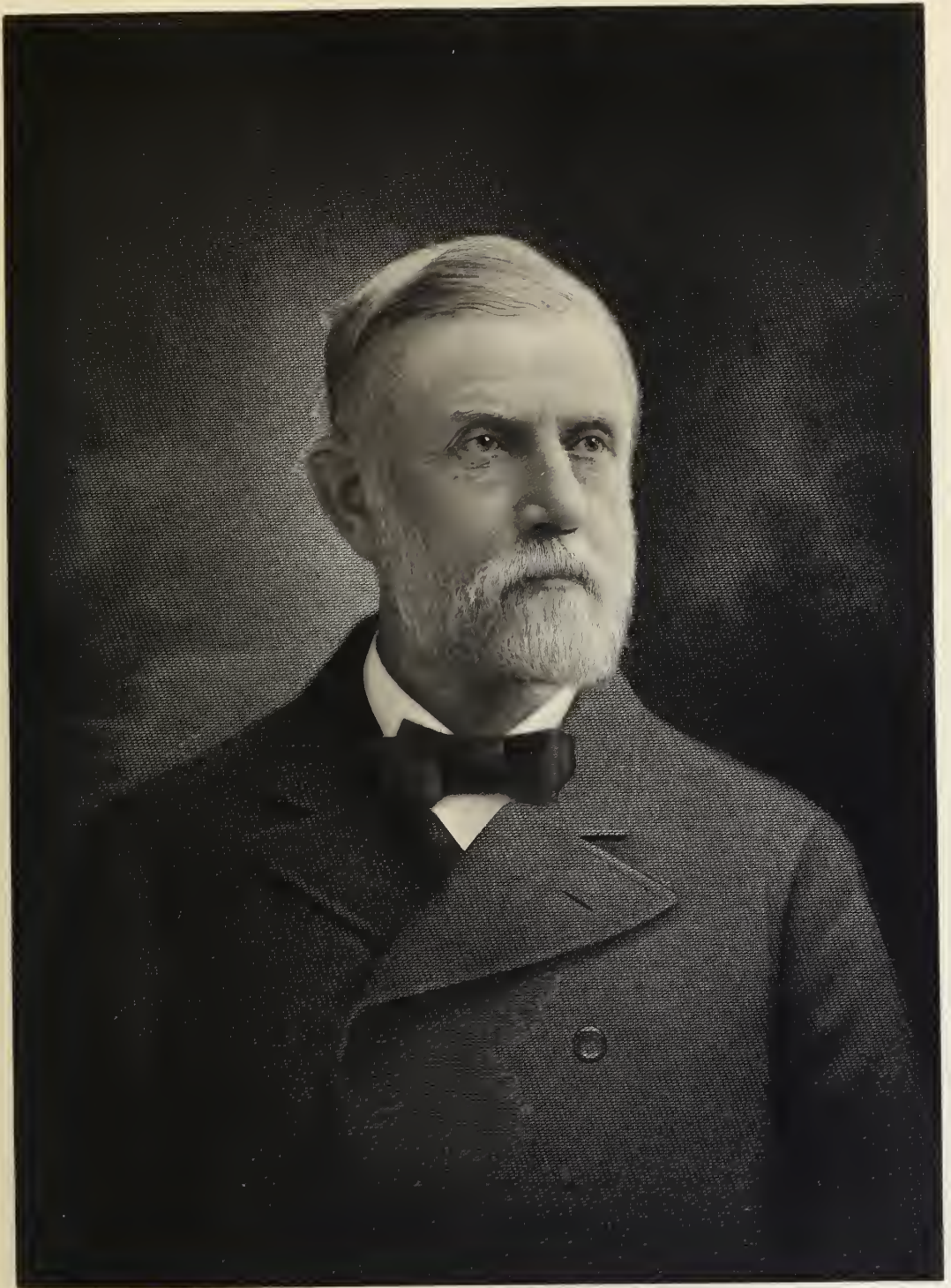
Alexander Duncan Forbes was a native of Scotland, born in Deanston, Perthshire, December 13, 1831, and was but ten years of age when in 1842 he came to this country with his parents, Duncan and Jessie (Russell) Forbes, the family settling in the Mohawk valley in New York for ten years and then in 1852 coming on out into Illinois and in that year establishing their home in Rockford. Duncan Forbes was an iron founder and upon taking up his residence in Rockford settled down there to business in that line and began in a small way to do such iron casting as the local trade situation called for, with a small but well equipped foundry on what then was known as the Waterpower. The year 1852 was the year in which Alexander D. Forbes attained his majority and he became associated with his father in these foundry operations in Rockford, a work in which he had been well trained during the time of his resi-



*J. C. Jones*







*A. D. Jones*



dence in the east, the two doing business under the firm name of Forbes & Son. Two years later, in 1854, it was found that conditions would warrant this firm in extending their foundry to include the manufacture of stoves and the Forbes stoves became a very popular product of the local manufacturing field. In 1862 new equipment was added and the foundry began the manufacture of malleable iron castings, thus becoming the first malleable iron works outside the city of Cincinnati west of Pittsburgh. And this was the beginning of the present great Rockford Malleable Iron Works, one of the premier industries in Rockford and one of the leading plants of its kind in the middle west.

Following the death of Duncan Forbes in 1871 Alexander D. Forbes's younger brother, George R. Forbes, became associated with him in the business and W. O. Wormwood also at that time became associated with the concern, which then became known as the Rockford Malleable Iron Works. This partnership was terminated in 1878 and Alexander D. Forbes thereafter carried on the business alone until 1890, when he incorporated the business, with himself as president and with his eldest son, Harry F. Forbes, as secretary and treasurer, and in 1896 the next son, Walter A. Forbes, was admitted to the corporation and was made vice president. Following the death of the senior Forbes in 1902 Harry F. Forbes became the president, and the third son, George O. Forbes, was taken in and made secretary and treasurer. When Harry F. Forbes died in the fall of 1910 another reorganization became necessary and Walter A. Forbes then became president and George O. Forbes the secretary and treasurer, which is the present organization of the great concern which meanwhile has been developed in every way in keeping with the constantly increasing demands made upon its products. The original site of this concern's plant on the Waterpower was retained until 1907, when the present site on Peoples avenue was secured and a modern establishment there created.

Alexander D. Forbes's interests were not confined to the great manufacturing plant that he built up. As his affairs prospered he extended these interests until they came to include other forms of manufacturing as well as banking. He was one of the organizers of the Peoples Savings Bank of Rockford and upon the death of Mr. Lyman in 1888 succeeded to the presidency of that institution and was thus connected with this bank until his death. He also had considerable banking interests in the city of Chicago and was a stockholder in the Winnebago National Bank of Rockford. Among his local manufacturing interests was his position as vice president of the Rockford Silver Plate Company, but his chief interests were those represented in the malleable iron works and in the Peoples Savings Bank, his time being about equally spent between these two. Mr. Forbes died at his home in Rockford on March 30, 1902, and his passing was a matter of universal local regret, for he was held in very high esteem in the community. As one of the local newspapers said in commenting upon the character of the man and of his services to the community: "Those who but met Mr. Forbes during business hours saw only the man of few words and admired his kind, conservative methods, yet all associated with him in the daily routine, from the core boy at the foundry to the most trusted employe, felt his kindly personal interest

and oftentimes were made the recipients of timely aid unknown to any other. To those who were admitted to his private office and received the benefit of his wise judgment or discussed with him some burning question, his broad kindly nature made a strong appeal. Though of an extremely social nature, in general society he was seldom seen. They only knew the true man who saw him in his home. Here he threw aside all business cares and was the center of a large and ideal family circle. All who were privileged into that home felt the charm of his rarely genial hospitality."

Mr. Forbes was a devout Presbyterian, for many years one of the most active members of the First church and was a generous supporter of the good works of that congregation. He was a member of the board of trustees of Rockford College and had in many ways contributed to the promotion of that institution's best interests. Liberal, though ever just, in his philanthropic activities, Mr. Forbes had done much toward the promotion of all worthy causes within the sphere of his influence, and but a few weeks before his death had added to his numerous gifts to the Rockford City Hospital a further gift of fifteen thousand dollars. Just one year to the day before the death of Mr. Forbes he had been bereft by death of his younger daughter, Miss Jessie Elizabeth Forbes, and he had established a ward in this hospital as a perpetual memorial to her. Mr. Forbes was survived by his widow and by the sons, Harry F., Walter A. and George O., who have been mentioned above and concerning whom further mention is made in this work; and one daughter, Mrs. Wait Talcott; as well as by his brother, George R. Forbes, also of Rockford. It was on December 12, 1855, in Rockford, that Alexander D. Forbes was married to Miss Elizabeth Ostrum, who had become a resident of that city in the early '40s. She was born in Schoharie county in the Mohawk valley country of New York, a daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Warner) Ostrum.

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#### WILLIAM R. FRANKLIN, M. D.

Though it now is almost ten years since the tragic death of the lamented Dr. William R. Franklin of Rockford, the good memory that eminent physician left at his passing still is cherished in the community in which he was born and which knew him so well, and it is but proper and fitting that in this definite history of the Rock River valley in which Dr. Franklin's useful life was spent, there should be carried some modest tribute to that memory. His death from accidental drowning in the midst of a midsummer merrymaking at Lake Michiganme, Muskegon county, Michigan, on the afternoon of Saturday, August 19, 1916, was a distinct shock to his legions of warm friends throughout the Rock River valley, where he was widely known. As the Register-Gazette editorially pointed out at the time, these friends "will find it difficult to realize that he is not again to be seen in the various walks of life in which he was popular and active in this community. Life for him was suddenly snuffed out on the first day of his vacation with his family, at a time when life was sweetest

to him and when he had reached a position where he could get the most enjoyment and happiness out of it."

This newspaper further observed that "no man in Rockford stood in higher esteem in professional, business and social circles than Dr. W. R. Franklin. He had lived here for many years and had carved a niche for himself in the hearts of a large number of people in this community. Possessed of a sunny disposition, he was genial, courteous and warm-hearted, a good fellow, every inch of him. Whether in the sick or operating room or on the links of the golf course, of which sport he was particularly fond, he was cheery and optimistic and went in for the best that was in him.

"Dr. Franklin was in the very prime of life. He left Rockford with a light heart, little thinking that it was his final leave taking of the city he loved so well and to the development of which he had contributed his best efforts for more than a quarter of a century. He will be greatly missed and sincerely mourned in this community." Along the same line the Star observed that "the news of the Doctor's death came as a great shock to his many friends in the city and to his colleagues in the medical profession, by whom he was held in the highest esteem." It also was observed that Dr. Franklin "had the appearance of a much younger man, though fifty-seven years of age. He liked athletics and was splendidly youthful. He was wont to say that he did not intend to grow old, and he took a likeable and boyish interest in his games with younger men." Dr. Walter B. Helm, one of his professional colleagues, observed concerning him: "He was a consistent, earnest physician, successful in his work and especially so in obstetrics. He was a most companionable man and Rockford is going to miss him from many walks of life." Dr. S. R. Catlin said regarding Dr. Franklin that "he was one of the best known of the local practitioners, even as he was one of the most successful, and was possessed of a delightful personality."

Dr. Franklin was one of the most enthusiastic golfers of the Rockford Country Club, in the affairs of which he had long taken an ardent interest. He also had affiliation with the Elks Club and with other fraternal organizations, and was for many years a member of the First Congregational church, long a member of its board of trustees and in other ways active and helpful in church activities. The Doctor was a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and was widely known in professional circles. He was a member of the homeopathic staff of the Rockford City Hospital and was local surgeon for the City Traction Company.

William R. Franklin was born in the old Franklin home place at the corner of Kishwaukee and Eighth streets, Rockford, November 14, 1859, a son of Stephen and Anne (Gillis) Franklin. He attended the Rockford city schools and the normal department of the State University and then entered the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which he was graduated (M. D.) in 1883, then being in his twenty-fourth year. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Franklin located in Rochelle, Ogle county, and there met and was married to Miss Mary Gertrude Gould, daughter of the late Dr. William Wallace Gould, dean of Ogle county physicians, concerning whom further mention is made

elsewhere in this work. In 1889 Dr. Franklin closed his office in Rochelle and returned to Rockford, where the remainder of his life was spent in practice and where his widow is still living, in residence at No. 225 Logan street. Mrs. Franklin has three sons: Ralph, William R. and Donald Chase Franklin, all of whom are married. Ralph Franklin married Ruth Householder and has two children: a son, William R.; and a daughter, Mary Virginia. William R. Franklin (II), married Kathleen O'Hair; and Donald C. Franklin married Naide Stone of Yakima, Washington.

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#### LON REECE BYRAM.

Lon Reece Byram of the firm of Byram & Atkins of Belvidere, undertakers and dealers in furniture; president of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce; president of the board of education of that city; and one of the best known men in its general commercial and social life, is a native of Illinois, and most of his life has been spent in this state, a resident of Belvidere for the past ten years. He was born in Abingdon, Knox county, May 29, 1884, a son of Robert and Nancy (Nance) Byram, the former of whom was a substantial farmer in that neighborhood.

After completing two years of postgraduate high school work in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Lon R. Byram became attracted to railroad work and in 1904, when twenty years of age, became employed in the operations of the Union Pacific Railway Company in Omaha, Nebraska, going to work there as an electrician in the signal department of the railroad. He worked his way on up into a responsible position in that department and in 1908 transferred his services to the Rock Island Railway Company and was made superintendent of signal construction on that company's lines in the city of Chicago, occupying that position until 1912, in which year he went with the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Railway Company as assistant signal engineer, continuing until 1916, when he established his home in Belvidere.

Upon his arrival in Belvidere Mr. Byram engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in association with his brother-in-law, Alden Dimond, and began doing business in the old established stand he now occupies at No. 410 South State street, a building that has been occupied as a furniture store since 1850. This business was carried on under the firm name of Dimond & Byram until 1918, when Mr. Byram bought his partner's interest and continued independently until 1920, when Floyd Emery Atkins became his partner and the two have since been carrying on under the firm name of Byram & Atkins and are well established furniture dealers and funeral directors. Mr. Byram is recognized as among the enterprising and energetic business men of his home town and is the present (1925) president of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce. He is a republican, has ever taken an interested part in general civic affairs and is now serving as president of the local board of education. He also is the president of the local branch of the Young Men's Christian

Association and is a Mason of many years' standing, affiliated with all the Masonic bodies.

In 1908, in Poplar Grove, Boone county, Illinois, Lon R. Byram was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Blanch Dimond, daughter of Stephen Dimond of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Byram have three sons: Kenneth Robert, born in 1909; Robert Reece, born in 1915; and Lon Reece, Jr., born in 1919. The Byrams have a pleasant home in Belvidere and Mr. and Mrs. Byram take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

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#### WILLIAM WALLACE GOULD, M. D.

In the memorial annals of the Rock River valley there are few names held in higher respect than that of the late Dr. William Wallace Gould, for fifty years a medical practitioner in Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, who at the time of his death in the spring of 1910 had long held the honorary position of dean of his profession in that county, one of the oldest physicians in point of continuous practice in the state. One of the city newspapers said in commenting upon his death: "His record of service in one city is probably equalled by no other physician in the state, as he practiced continually for half a century in Rochelle. During that time he became widely known because of his fine qualities as a physician and his devoted interest in homeopathy. He was proud of his long affiliation with the American Institute of Homeopathy and rarely missed a meeting until his health became such that he could not attend. He was also a member of the Illinois Homeopathic Medical Association, the Northwestern Homeopathic Medical Society and the American Association of Orificial Surgery." It also was noted in a contemporary print that "Wherever he went the Doctor won friends and had the happy faculty of being able to retain them, his personal popularity having made him a great favorite in all circles." Another observation along this line had it that "Dr. Gould was possessed of much natural ability but was withal a close student and believed thoroughly in the maxim that 'there is no excellence without labor.'"

William Wallace Gould was born in Hamburg, Erie county, New York, July 16, 1826, and died at his home in Rochelle, April 24, 1910, then being in his eighty-fourth year. His father, Emmons S. Gould, a native of Connecticut and a sergeant in the War of 1812, died a few months before the birth of this son and the mother, Maria (Greene) Gould, died at his birth. The doubly orphaned infant was reared by an aunt who lived in the city of Buffalo and in the schools of that city Dr. Gould had his initial schooling. When he was about eighteen years of age his aunt moved to a farm and for eight years thereafter he was engaged in farm labor. Meanwhile he became seriously interested in the study of medicine and after preparatory studies under the preceptorship of Dr. Goble in Worthington, Ohio, he entered the Berkshire Medical College at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and upon completing his studies there engaged in practice in Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada. For three years Dr. Gould continued in practice in Ingersoll. In 1860 he came into the



valley of the Rock river and settled in the village of Lane, which later came to be known as Rochelle, and here spent the remainder of his life in practice.

On February 22, 1854, in Ingersoll, Ontario, Dr. Gould was united in marriage to Miss Mary Elizabeth Chase, who was born in Windsor, Vermont, and who also was orphaned when an infant, after which she was cared for as an adopted daughter by her father's uncle, the distinguished Salmon Portland Chase, United States senator from Ohio, governor of Ohio, secretary of the treasury during the Lincoln administration and chief justice of the supreme court of the United States from 1864 until his death in 1873. The Chases of this line in America are of an old Colonial family that had its beginning on this side of the water in Newbury in the Massachusetts Bay colony as early as 1640, a family that has been honorably represented in various walks of life and which includes the Rev. Philander Chase, first Protestant Episcopal bishop of the state of Ohio. Mrs. Gould survived her husband for twelve years, her death occurring in 1922, she then being eighty-six years of age, and she is survived by three daughters: Josephine E., wife of H. D. Judson of Seattle, Washington, who has three children—Howard Monroe, Bessie Gould and William Wallace; Mary Gertrude, widow of the late Dr. William R. Franklin of Rockford, Illinois, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work; and Anna, wife of W. P. Graham of Rockford, who has a daughter, Elizabeth.

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#### ROY WITHINGTON CARTER.

The passing of any human life, however humble and unknown, is sure to cause anguish in some heart, but when the fell destroyer knocks at the door of one who in his particular sphere has been of definite service to his fellow beings, scattering sunshine and gladness wherever he went and pouring out the music of his soul as his contribution to the sum of human enjoyment, it not only means bereavement to kindred and friends but is a distinct public loss as well. In the truest sense of the term, the late Roy W. Carter was a public benefactor, for he gave freely of the powers and talents which were his and he gave for the joy of giving. Because of his splendid attainments and his fine character he is eminently deserving of specific mention in the permanent annals of his community.

Roy W. Carter was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 24th of March, 1882, the son of Harry Guy and Nettie (Withington) Carter, and his death occurred on the 16th of December, 1918, at the early age of thirty-six years. He received his educational training in the Wisconsin State School for the Blind, from which he was graduated. From childhood he gave evidence of exceptional musical talent and in school he specialized in piano and voice. He was possessed of a rich and melodious baritone voice, which under cultivation was developed to rare beauty and power. He also gave particular attention to the piano, in the playing of which he became an artist, and both voice and fingers received additional training at the Chicago Conservatory of

Music. On his return to Janesville, he, in association with his brother-in-law, Rush A. Berg, organized an orchestra, called the Carter & Berg orchestra. They played for colleges, commencements, receptions, clubs and similar social functions and were tremendously successful, their orchestra acquiring a high reputation throughout this section of the state. Mr. Carter was also regularly employed in theater orchestral work. He had a wonderful memory for music and could usually play a piece correctly after listening to it once. He was a member of the Musicians Union and also a member of the Lakota Club, among the members of which organization there existed an affectionate regard for him that spoke in silent evidence of the deep hold he had on the hearts of those who came into contact with him; and this was true in practically every circle in which he moved. His soul was full of music and it was a pleasure to him to play for the enjoyment of his friends. On December 28, 1915, Mr. Carter was married to Miss Alta Selma Berg, who was so sick at the time of his comparatively brief illness preceding his death that she was not informed of her bereavement until well on the road to recovery.

The following sentiments are quoted from the splendid appreciation expressed in resolutions unanimously adopted by the Lakota Club: “\* \* \* Through his exceptional talent and ambition, he reached the utmost in the art of music. Always cordial and open hearted, he spontaneously attracted people and his ever-genial disposition excited the love of all his associates. \* \* \* We do not mean to indulge in undue praise of our departed friend, but his exceptionally noble life cannot be over-estimated. \* \* \* The club has lost one of its most brilliant and most worthy members, as well as a kind and sympathetic friend.” These sentiments were generally echoed throughout the community, for all who had known Roy Carter felt that they had each suffered a personal loss, and many were the expressions of genuine sorrow and regret at his passing.

Mrs. Carter's brother, Rush Alfred Berg, was born in Janesville on September 6, 1896, the son of Peter Alfred and Hannah Marie (Wettleson) Berg. After completing his public school education he studied the violin, of which he became a very accomplished player. He became a familiar and popular figure in musical circles, appearing on many of the best programs rendered in this city and vicinity. He was regularly employed in the Apollo theater orchestra, as well as in the Lakota Club orchestra, and the orchestra which he and Roy Carter organized became one of the best known and most popular musical organizations of the kind in this section of the state.

Mr. Berg was a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, belonging to the Second Separate Company of Janesville. On the entry of the United States into the World war, he at once enlisted and was first sent to Camp Douglas, Wisconsin, for training, going from there to Waco, Texas, and then to Camp Merritt, New Jersey. He was assigned as a bugler to Company M, One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Infantry Regiment, Thirty-second Division, and was later promoted to corporal. On February 18, 1918, he sailed for France on the Covington, landed at Brest and saw active service in France until the spring of 1919, when he returned to the homeland on the George Washington and received an honorable discharge at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, May 19,

1919. On his return home he was in very poor health. He went to the Effingham College of Photography, where he remained from September, 1919, to February, 1920, when he became very ill and was brought home. Soon afterward he went to California in the hope of regaining his health, securing a position as photographer in a studio at Long Beach, where he remained about a year. He was successful in the regaining of his health and returned to Janesville in December, 1922. He has now passed the civil service examination for the position of oil inspector.

On June 29, 1921, Mr. Berg was married to Miss Viola May Pratt, and they are the parents of one child, Rush Roy, born on July 22, 1922. Mr. Berg is a member of the Lakota Club, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the American Legion and the Musicians Union. His religious connection is with the Congregational church.

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#### JOHN DEWITT REXFORD.

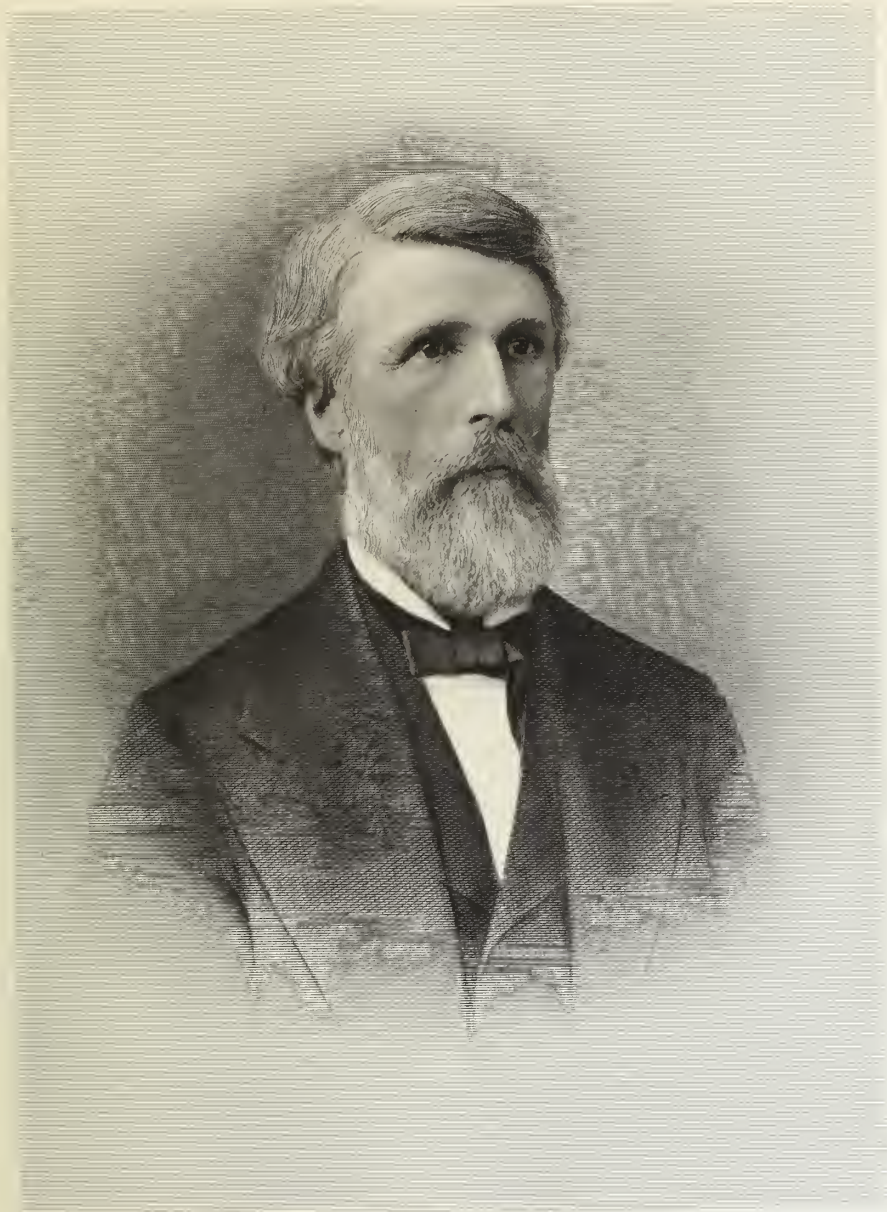
The spirit of a pure, noble and earnest life burned in the mortal tenement of the late John DeWitt Rexford, who attained distinction in connection with the financial, civic and religious development of Janesville, Wisconsin. His life was one of fullness and completeness, one of vigor and inflexible integrity. He accomplished great things for the general good of his fellow citizens and he was not denied a due individual reward in the matter of temporal affluence. A man of rugged strength of character, of finest moral fiber and one who realized a magnificent measure of useful accomplishment, his name should be deeply graven on the pages of the history of the community so long honored by his citizenship. Mr. Rexford came of a long line of American ancestors, being a descendant in the fifth generation of Arthur Rexford, of whom it is recorded that he was married in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1702, and died there in 1728.

John DeWitt Rexford was born at Sherburne, New York, on the 5th of July, 1820, the son of Benjamin Rexford. After completing the public school course and an academic course he entered Hamilton College but at the end of two years was compelled to leave his studies because of ill health. He then read law in the office of his brother, B. F. Rexford, in Norwich, New York, and on July 18, 1845, he was admitted to practice in the supreme court of New York at Utica and to the court of chancery at Saratoga on the following day. He then entered into a law partnership with his brother and Warren Newton at Norwich and practiced there until 1852, when he retired from the firm. In May of the following year Mr. Rexford came to Janesville, Wisconsin, and practiced his profession here for several years, or until September 1, 1856, when he accepted the position of cashier of the Central Bank of Wisconsin, which he had helped to establish the previous year. To the exacting demands of that position he devoted himself for six years, when owing to protracted illness he resigned. In January, 1865, Mr. Rexford was elected president of the First National Bank of Janesville, successor to the Central



*J. D. Reed*





*J. D. Rexford*



Bank of Wisconsin, and held that office continuously until January, 1891, a period of twenty-six years, when he declined a reelection. He was a large stockholder in the Janesville Machine Company, of which he was president from its organization in 1881 until December, 1894. In the latter year Hamilton College conferred upon him the A. M. degree. In many ways he was a potent factor in the growth, development and prosperity of the community during his active years and his influence was always exerted in support of all measures for the betterment of the public welfare.

Politically Mr. Rexford was a staunch supporter of the republican party but never a seeker after public office, though deeply interested in all public affairs. He was one of the most important and influential figures in the founding and early history of the First Presbyterian church in 1855, serving as one of its elders from that time until 1879, when he declined reelection. His death occurred at Janesville on March 13, 1895.

On May 20, 1846, Mr. Rexford was married to Miss Cynthia Maria Babcock, of Sherburne, New York, and they became the parents of four children, namely: John Grandin, who was born in New York city November 6, 1850, and who is represented in a personal sketch on another page of this work; Benjamin Babcock, who was born in Janesville November 21, 1854, and died January 3, 1923; Seneca Butts, who was born August 29, 1857, and died September 8, 1880; and Mary, who was born June 16, 1860, and died in 1910. Mr. Rexford was universally recognized as a splendid citizen of lofty character, sturdy integrity and unswerving honesty. Measured by all the standards of human excellence, he was a well rounded man. Only those permitted to be admitted to his intimacy could have full appreciation of the combined elements of strength and gentleness, of courage and kindness, of duty and generosity, that made him beloved and respected by all.

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#### PAUL B. RIIS.

Not long ago one of the Rockford newspapers in commenting upon the admirable service rendered in that city by Paul B. Riis, superintendent of the Rockford park district, declared that "The park history of America for the past fifteen years will not be faithfully written without a large place being given to what Paul B. Riis has done to make parks possible in the middle-sized cities of the United States." And this is true, for the work of Mr. Riis has gone far beyond the limits of the Rockford park district. As a director of the American Institute of Park Executives and as president of the Superior National Forest Recreation Association, a director of the Illinois Audubon Society, and in other ways actively identified with the promotion of the scenic and horticultural interests of the country, Mr. Riis has rendered a service the value of which has brought him national recognition and he has long been regarded as one of the real leaders in his line in America. He has been able to obtain results, and that is what counts. When the Rockford Park District was created and the Rockford Park board organized in 1909 Mr. Riis was



appointed superintendent of the new park system and his trained abilities since then have been directed toward the furtherance of the plans which are being worked out in the creation here of a magnificent park system, a movement in which the whole people of the beautiful Rock river valley take pride.

Mr. Riis entered upon his extraordinary service in Rockford on October 1, 1909, and since then he has seen the local park system grow from the original eighty acres of Simmissippi park, which had been purchased prior to his arrival, to a total park area of right around six hundred acres. There were no public golf courses then. There now are two, Ingersoll Memorial and Simmissippi. No park then had any development beyond what nature had provided. Out of chaos has come order and an exceptional park system. It has been observed that Mr. Riis has the absolute devotion of his associates and the park employes, a true test of the real executive. It has been further observed that in behalf of the township he gets a dollar value for every dollar spent and that in his daily service as park administrator he is efficient and tireless. It is thus that he gets results.

Though of European birth, Paul B. Riis has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood and is thus as much American as any, for he has made a close study of the history and traditions of his adopted land and of the principles underlying its government, to all of which he unreservedly subscribes. He was born in the city of Basel, in the canton of that name in the republic of Switzerland, October 4, 1876, and is thus in the very prime of his vigorous manhood. According to tradition he has his notable physical sturdiness from his great-grandfather, who is said to have been a very giant of a man and a shipowner and mariner and agriculturist of consequence. Through his grandfather, a clergyman and for many years a missionary on the Gold coast of Africa and Ashante, he has another fine inheritance, his studious traits and power of close application and concentration perhaps coming from that quarter. His father was a substantial silk manufacturer whose trained tastes for horticulture found outlet in the practice of scientific horticulture as a cherished avocation. The elder Riis also was a notable collector of rare plants, butterflies and the like and it was thus that the son Paul just naturally grew up to horticultural pursuits.

When Paul Riis was twelve years of age he won the first prize in his community in a widely directed contest in the way of growing school gardens, this prize proclaiming him winner not only in design but in planting and cultivation of his school garden. Thus from childhood he has been devoted to the profession for which he now is so eminently qualified. He took first work in scientific horticulture in Berne and supplemented this by three years of study in a horticultural institute in Germany and then in 1894, then being eighteen years of age, he came to the United States, his objective being the city of Cincinnati. For some time after his arrival in Cincinnati, Mr. Riis was employed in horticultural work there and then went to Chicago, where he became employed on landscaping projects for private grounds and for public parks, gaining there some very valuable experience, for that was about the time Chicago was beginning to awake to the real meaning of a proper park system, the lessons of the World's Fair period having taken hold.

While thus engaged in Chicago, Mr. Riis's work attracted attention and he presently became associated with the operations of Nathan Barrett, a nationally known landscape artist of New Rochelle, New York, and after a sometimes service in that connection he was given charge of the landscaping of the great Norman B. Ream estate in the vicinity of Boston, where he remained for three years, at the end of which time he was given charge of the Ricckord estate in Lake Delavan, Wisconsin, and at this latter place he was engaged in landscaping until 1909, when his expert services were secured by the city of Rockford and he since has been serving as superintendent of the Rockford park district, as set out above, and has been getting results. During all this period of his preparatory work Mr. Riis was a constant student, working alongside of acknowledged specialists in his line and the result has been that he acquired a thorough knowledge of every branch of horticulture and arboriculture, under glass or out-of-doors, and has become recognized as a specialist and an authority on park projects.

On May 24, 1904, Mr. Riis was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Magnuson, daughter of Carl Magnuson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Riis have a very pleasant home in Rockford. They are members of various social organizations in the city and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general cultural activities of their home town.

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#### CARL J. MUELLER.

Carl J. Mueller, editor of the Jefferson Banner and one of the best known newspaper men in the Rock River valley, is a native of Michigan but is a member of one of the pioneer families of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and most of his life has been spent here, engaged in newspaper work since the days of his boyhood. He was born at Negaunee, Michigan, November 19, 1884, and is a son of Charles J. H. and Catherine (Roessler) Mueller, both of whom were born in Jefferson county, the latter a daughter of Christopher Roessler, a native of Germany, who was one of the pioneers of southern Wisconsin. Charles J. H. Mueller, who was well known in his generation in and about Jefferson as a painter, was a son of Martin Mueller, who was one of the early settlers in that neighborhood. Married in Jefferson county, Charles J. H. Mueller and his wife spent eight years thereafter in Michigan and it was thus that Carl J. Mueller is listed as a native of that state. His parents subsequently returned to their native place, he then being but a child, and he was thus reared at Jefferson and attended the schools of that city.

Upon leaving school Carl J. Mueller was employed as a printer's apprentice in the office of the Jefferson Banner and became thoroughly qualified in all branches of the printer's art as applied to the local field, becoming at the same time conversant with other departments of the newspaper business. Upon completing his apprenticeship he was for a time employed on newspapers in Milwaukee and Oconomowoc and then, in 1910, returned to Jefferson and has since been connected with the affairs of the Banner and is an officer of the

Banner Printing Company, which in addition to publishing the newspaper of that name is also largely engaged in the general job printing business, with a well equipped and thoroughly up-to-date plant. Since in August, 1916, Mr. Mueller has been serving the community and his paper as editor of the Banner and is widely known in newspaper circles throughout the state and in the general commercial circles of the fine trade area in which his newspaper circulates, serving, as one writer not long ago put it, "with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned."

The Jefferson Banner is a continuation of one of the oldest newspaper enterprises in southern Wisconsin, it being the lineal successor to the Jeffersonian, the first issue of which was printed at Jefferson, county seat of Jefferson county, May 5, 1855, under the editorial direction and proprietorship of W. M. Watt, who presently disposed of the paper to J. W. Blake. The latter in June, 1860, changed the name of the paper to the Jefferson County Republican and this name was carried until in 1866 when the present name of the Jefferson Banner was taken and has since been maintained. Following the Blake ownership came O. F. Roessler, who carried on for some time and then sold out to J. O. Perkins, who was succeeded in turn by Harry H. Hemming, I. B. Kirkland and B. R. Buri. Mr. Roessler then again came into possession and was succeeded by A. A. Roessler and the latter by the present editor, Mr. Mueller, who, as noted above, has been editor of the paper since in the summer of 1916. It was in the spring of 1896 that the Banner Printing Company was organized, O. F. Roessler, then editor of the Banner, being elected president, and the company has been continued with much success. In 1915 the company occupied its present commodious building and installed a modern printing plant.

Mr. Mueller is a democrat and has ever taken an interested and influential part in the civic affairs of his home community, helpful in advancing all worthy movements designed to promote the general welfare of that section of the state. On October 15, 1907, he married Miss Margaret Haberman of Jefferson, daughter of Louis Haberman, and they have one child, Marion.

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#### EDWARD AMERPOHL.

The record of the subject of this sketch is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts worked his way from a modest beginning to his present position of independence and influence in the business world. His life has been one of unceasing industry and the systematic and honorable methods which he has followed have won him the unbounded confidence of his fellow citizens. Edward Amerpohl is a native of the state of Wisconsin, having been born at Monroe on the 25th of May, 1871, and is the son of Christopher and Elizabeth Amerpohl. His parents were both born and reared in Germany, where they were married, and in the early 'forties they immigrated to the United States, settling first in Sauk City, Wisconsin. Eventually they moved to Madi-

son and finally settled in Brodhead, this state, where the father died in 1891, at the age of seventy-one years.

Edward Amerpohl secured his education in the public schools of Brodhead and then learned the trade of a carriage painter, at which he worked for a number of years, eventually becoming superintendent of the painting department of the Wisconsin Carriage Company, in Janesville. In 1900 Mr. Amerpohl started out in the cultivation and sale of flowers, under the name of the Janesville Floral Company. He began in a small way but by close attention to his work and sound business methods he has attracted an increasing trade through the years until today he has the largest establishment of the kind in this city. He is an enthusiast in his interest in plant life and has done a good deal of original work along this line. He is the originator of the *Nephrolepis Amopolilii* fern, a beautiful plant which has attracted much favorable attention. Mr. Amerpohl does both a retail and wholesale business and is now numbered among the most progressive and enterprising business men of Janesville. He is a republican in his political views but has never entertained any ambition for the holding of public office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Janesville Rotary Club.

On October 31, 1893, Mr. Amerpohl was married to Miss Aida Colby, the daughter of David Colby, of Tyron, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Edward Harold, who was born April 9, 1897. He was educated in the public and high schools of Janesville, completing his studies in the Northwestern Academy. In August, 1918, he enlisted as a private in the Medical Corps of the United States army and served in various camps in this country until receiving his discharge on December 1, 1919. He then entered his father's business, which he learned in every detail, and he now has an interest in the business. On September 9, 1920, he was married to Miss Louise Marianna Nolde, the daughter of Jacob Nolde, of Reading, Pennsylvania, and they have one child, Nolde D., born July 12, 1921. Mr. Amerpohl is a republican in his political predilections, while fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In the public affairs of the community, the Amerpohls, father and son, have taken a proper interest and have consistently given their support to all measures for the betterment of the public welfare. They are good citizens in the best sense of the term and stand high in the esteem and respect of their community.

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#### FRANK F. WORMWOOD.

For nearly forty years Frank F. Wormwood, president of the Peoples Bank & Trust Company of Rockford and one of the leading men of affairs of that city, has been identified with the banking interests of the Rock River valley and thus has acquired a variety of experience along that line and a fund of knowledge relating to the general industrial and commercial conditions of this section, that give to his association with the business interests of the com-

munity a degree of value that naturally places him among the leaders in the ranks of that fine group of astute, conservative and seasoned bankers who have rendered such extraordinary service in the stabilizing of business in this field and in the promotion of the community's substantial interests. He has been a witness to and a participant in the development of that institution's affairs since its "day of small things" and his friends and associates in the banking business ungrudgingly accord to him much of the credit for that development, an accomplishment that has brought about the general recognition of this bank as one of the strong, dependable financial institutions of this section of the middle west country.

The Peoples Bank & Trust Company of Rockford has had a continuous existence of more than half a century, though not all of this time operating under its present name. It was organized in 1869 as the Peoples Savings Bank and began doing business in a room at the corner of South Wyman and West State streets, now (1925) occupied as a cigar store. It was about that time that Rockford was beginning definitely to "look up" as an industrial and commercial center of large importance and the promoters of this bank in the main were manufacturers who had begun to realize the need of such a financial institution in Rockford as their plans in that behalf contemplated. With this sound, conservative backing it is no wonder that the bank prospered from the beginning and with the fine tradition it thus has behind it that it has grown to be an institution with resources of three million five hundred thousand dollars and with deposits aggregating two million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Not only does this institution carry on a general banking business, offering a complete banking service to the people in the territory thus served, but it acts in all fiduciary capacities and thus in its general trust relation to that public renders a double service. Though the old Peoples Savings Bank was incorporated in 1869 under a special act of the legislature, it would appear from local records that its organization and facilities were not definitely established and ready for business for some little time afterward, it appearing from these records that the doors of the bank were opened on July 31, 1873, in the corner building above referred to. There it carried on its business for almost twenty years, or until 1892, when it moved into the Brown building, where it now is located, and where in the years since then it has enlarged its quarters until it occupies more than four times the space required for its operations at that time.

The first president of the old Peoples Savings Bank was N. E. Lyman, a practical banker. Alexander D. Forbes, the first vice president, was a substantial manufacturer, and D. H. Ferguson was the first cashier. The directorate of this institution at the time of its incorporation was, in addition to the above officers of the bank: Levi Rhodes, George Troxell, Israel Sovereign, Isaac Utter, Peter Sames, Henry W. Price, J. S. Ticknor and Judge William Brown, a roster representative of some of the soundest industrial and professional interests in the town. As a savings bank this institution was a success from the beginning and it soon extended its operations to cover a general banking service and then in 1901 it was reorganized as the Peoples Bank & Trust Company and since then, in addition to its general banking operations,

has been carrying on in its fiduciary capacity. Alexander D. Forbes succeeded N. E. Lyman as president of the old bank and gave the institution his personal attention until his death in the spring of 1902. Mr. Forbes was a Scotsman, born in Perthshire, who had become a resident of Rockford in 1854 and a leader in the local manufacturing field. It has been written of him that he "was a happy combination of a successful manufacturer and a man of finance" and that during the panic days in Rockford his "faith in the future of Rockford plants kept many of them going and that thus many of the large accounts that have grown with the bank may be attributed to his foresight and trust in men he believed in." Alexander Forbes was succeeded in the presidency of the bank by his son, Harry F. Forbes, who was continued as president until his death in 1911 and was then succeeded by Frank F. Wormwood, the present executive head of the institution, who had at that time for some years been acting as cashier. John Hepburn succeeded D. H. Ferguson, the first cashier of the bank, and he in turn was succeeded by George Trufant, W. H. McCutcheon, Mr. Wormwood and the present cashier, Lloyd E. Scott, who started his service in the bank as a messenger. Andrew Gilruth, the first trust officer of the bank, is secretary of the company and A. R. Crumb is the present trust officer. The vice presidents are E. W. Brown, L. E. Scott and Thomas Dunn, Jr.; and the assistant cashiers are W. S. Miller and D. Bennett, Jr. The directorate of this bank and trust company includes the names of some of the leading manufacturers and merchants of the city.

Frank F. Wormwood, president of the Peoples Bank & Trust Company, is a native of Rockford and has been a resident of that city practically all his life. He was born January 24, 1862, a son of William O. and Janet (Forbes) Wormwood, the latter of whom was a sister of Alexander D. Forbes, the banker and manufacturer above referred to. The late W. O. Wormwood, who in his generation was one of the leading manufacturers of Rockford, was associated with Alexander D. Forbes in the Rockford Malleable Iron Works. He died in 1909.

Reared in Rockford, Frank F. Wormwood completed his schooling in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and then became engaged in banking in the west. In 1889 he returned to Rockford and entered the old Peoples Savings Bank, with which institution, as set out above, he ever since has been connected and in the service of which he has gradually been advanced to his present executive position. It has been written of Mr. Wormwood that "having devoted practically all his mature years to finance he is one of the best qualified men in the country to handle the affairs of others and his policies as the executive head of the bank with which he is associated are of a nature to command respect and to inspire unlimited confidence." And this estimate of his services is confirmed by the good opinions of his friends and associates and by all who are at all familiar with operations in the local financial field.

In 1890, in Morgan Park, a suburb of Chicago, Frank F. Wormwood was united in marriage to Miss Alice Ferguson, daughter of William G. and Leah (Hill) Ferguson of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood have two children: a son, Frank F. Wormwood, Jr.; and a daughter, Miss Janet Wormwood. The Wormwoods are members of the Episcopal church. They have a very

pleasant home in Rockford and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general, social and cultural activities of the community. Mr. Wormwood is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### DAVID DICKEY SABIN.

No history of the development of the commercial interests of the city of Belvidere and of that fine trade area centering in that city would be complete without some special reference to the part the late David Dickey Sabin took in that development. For many years the name of Sabin was a household word in a mercantile sense throughout that section of the Rock River valley, nor has it been forgotten. Though it now is more than fifteen years since the passing of the veteran merchant, David D. Sabin, the good memory left by that sturdy and dependable citizen is still cherished in the community and it is but proper that in this definite history of the region he did so much to develop there should be set out some slight tribute to that memory. As was written concerning him following his passing in 1909: "Reliable and progressive in business, loyal and determined in citizenship, faithful in public office, holding friendship inviolable and regarding the relations of home and family as most sacred — the salient elements in the life record of David D. Sabin were such as placed his name high on the roll of Illinois' most valued and honored citizens. There was nothing spectacular in his career, but his worth was recognized by all and his example is one that cannot easily be forgotten."

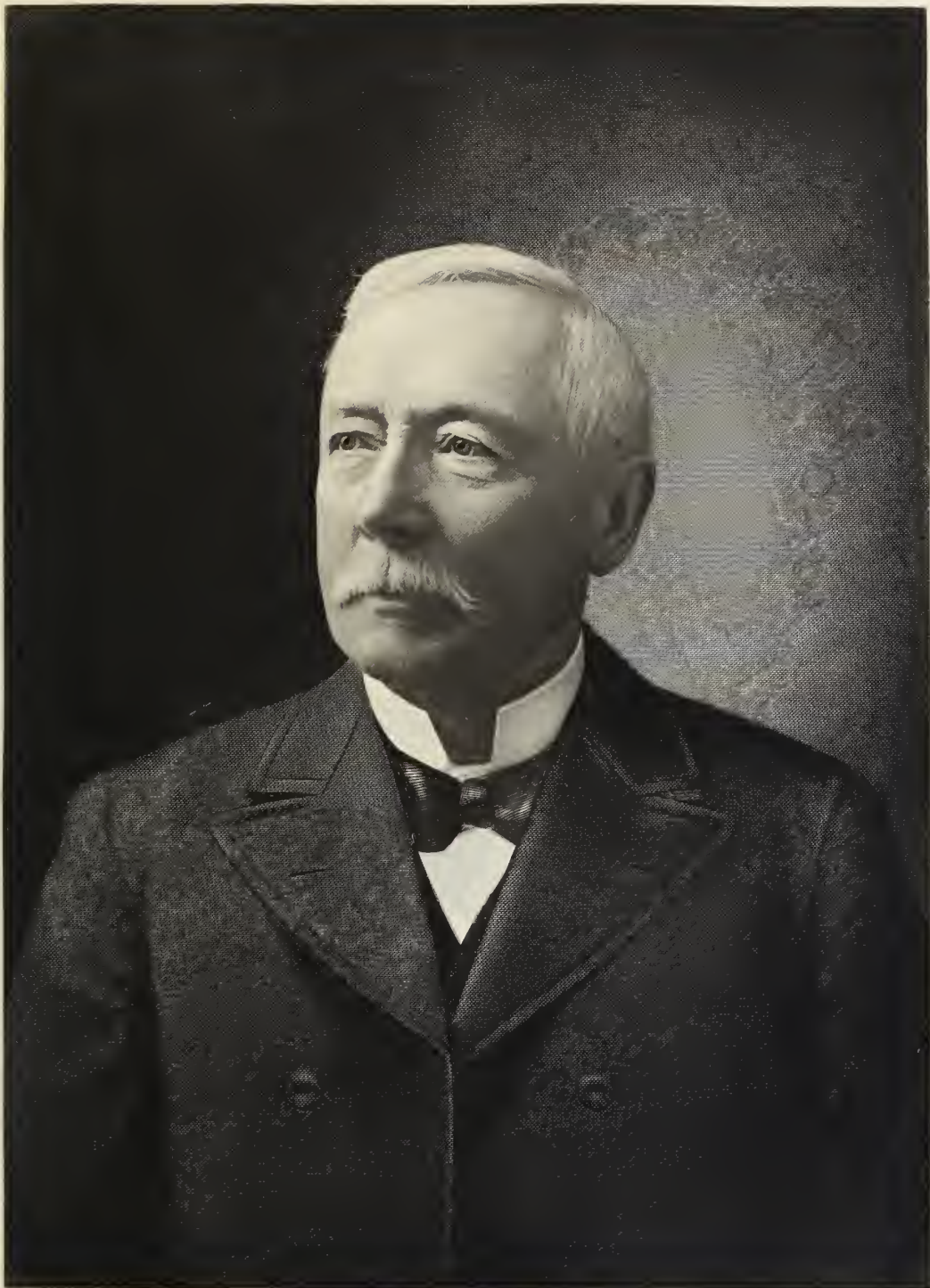
In this same connection one of the local newspapers observed concerning the passing of Mr. Sabin that "he was always prominent as a business man and member of the community through the many years of his residence in Belvidere. He was by nature a leader, invariably optimistic and striving for the betterment of things. His genial personality made him many friends, the circle continually widening and the ties becoming more and more strengthened. He was among the foremost to support any project to advance the best interests of the city and county and contributed largely in various ways to forward and maintain them. His uprightness, his conspicuous ability in the positions he was called to fill and his high ideals formed a character that exerted a powerful influence for good. He was another of those passing on who can ill be spared from the activities of business, church and social life in any community." The directors of the Second National Bank of Belvidere, of which board Mr. Sabin was a member, passed a series of resolutions in which they bore testimony to the high character of one who "entertained close business and social relations with the members of this community for a period of more than forty years" and voiced "their recognition of the careful and conscientious service performed by their late associate in wisely and prudently discharging the duties devolving upon him." It was further written of Mr. Sabin that "as a business man he was resourceful, sagacious and enterprising, but his activities did not stop with his accomplishments in the business world although they were most creditable. He stood for all that was highest and best



David D. Babson







*David D Sabin*



in citizenship in its broadest sense, seeking to promote civic virtue and civic pride, endeavoring to awaken in others a recognition of man's responsibilities to his fellowmen and seeking also to instill those Christian principles and teachings which find their exemplification in the lives of those whom the world most highly honors. He stood as a man among men and all who knew him felt a sense of personal bereavement when he was called from this life. In all of his business dealings he never deviated from a course which he believed to be right and just between his fellowmen and himself, but held to the highest standards of commercial ethics and ever endeavored to follow the Golden Rule. Prosperity attended him because his methods had their root in energy, sound judgment and irreproachable business integrity. He extended his activities to the field of banking and for many years was president of the Second National Bank of Belvidere, of which he remained a director until his demise."

David D. Sabin was a native of the old Empire state but his heart was in the development of this midwestern country, of which he had been a resident since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the village of Spencer in Tioga county, New York, December 31, 1830, and was there reared, receiving his schooling and acquiring an acquaintance with the essential details of the mercantile business. As a young man he decided to cast his fortune with that of the then rapidly developing middle west country and came out here to the Rock River valley, locating at Janesville, where he became connected with the dry goods trade. From that place he presently moved to the village of New Oregon, now the city of Cresco, seat of Howard county, Iowa, where he became engaged in the mercantile business and also took a prominent part in local civic affairs, not long after his settlement there being elected to represent that district in the general assembly of the state of Iowa. In 1865, following the close of the Civil war, Mr. Sabin closed out his interests in Iowa and returned to the Rock River valley and at Belvidere, in association with his cousin, P. R. Sabin, became engaged in the dry goods business, the Sabin store at that place being opened for business in February, 1866. In the next year, 1867, P. R. Sabin retired from the firm, selling his interest to H. B. Sykes, who remained a member of the firm until in 1886. In the meantime Mr. Sabin's sons, Sidney A. and Eugene F. Sabin, were "growing up" in the business and in 1894, upon the retirement of the elder Sabin, these sons became the sole proprietors of the business which they thereafter carried on under the name of Sabin Brothers until the death of the elder brother in September, 1909. The surviving brother, Eugene Francis Sabin, who was born in 1858, is now living in Los Angeles, California, where he has long been engaged in the insurance business.

Upon his retirement from the dry goods store David D. Sabin gave his attention to his banking and other interests in and about Belvidere and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring December 13, 1909, he then lacking but a few days of being seventy-nine years of age. Mr. Sabin was well known as an exemplary member of the Masonic fraternity and was one of the charter members of Kishwaukee Chapter No. 90, Royal Arch Masons, at Belvidere. He believed in the teachings and tenets of this ancient craft concerning the brotherhood of man and ever followed its principles of mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness, but, as has been written of him, "he adhered, however,

to principles still higher than the moral teachings of Masonry and found the motive springs of his conduct in his Christian faith. He was a most active and helpful factor in church and Sunday school work and for more than forty-five years was a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and one of its elders for two decades. He was also at one time Sunday school superintendent and for many years was president of the Boone County Sunday School Association. He felt that one of the most essential features in the higher civilization was the training of the young, and hence his unflagging zeal and interest in Sunday school work." Mr. Sabin's interest in social and civic affairs prompted him to give his intelligent attention to these matters at all times and he had rendered useful public service, for some time deputy United States marshal for the northern district of Illinois and for years a member of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois. It has been written in this connection that "with him a public office was a public trust and it is a well known fact that no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree."

David D. Sabin was twice married. On March 26, 1856, he was united in marriage to Miss Frances Maria Avery, daughter of Sidney and Mary (Dickey) Avery of Columbus in Chenango county, New York, and who died at her home in Belvidere in October, 1894. To that union were born five children: Three sons, Eugene Francis and Sidney Avery Sabin, mentioned above; and Luther Gleason Sabin, the last named of whom died in childhood — and two daughters, Helen Louise, who married J. C. Anderson and is now living in Auburn, New York; and Mary Asenath, who married Fred K. Houston and is living in Los Angeles. Eugene F. Sabin has four sons: David D., Henry P., Eugene F. and Raymond, the two elder of whom rendered service in the navy during the World war. The late Sidney A. Sabin is survived by three children: Two sons, Henry P. and Gerould, also veterans of the World war, the former serving with a major commission and said to have been the youngest major in the army; and a daughter, Miss Margaret Frances Sabin. On April 1, 1907, David D. Sabin married Miss Harriet Foote, who survives him and who since the death of her husband has continued to make her home at Belvidere, where she is very pleasantly situated, residing at 509 East Lincoln avenue, and is one of the city's prominent social factors. Mrs. Sabin is a daughter of the late Hon. John J. Foote, in his generation one of the most conspicuous and influential figures in the civic, industrial and commercial life of the Rock River valley and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work.

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#### ROBERT AARON REEDY, M. D.

Dr. Robert Aaron Reedy, a general medical practitioner of Rockford and a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital in that city, is a native of the old Buckeye state, born in the city of Miamisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, August 3, 1879, a son of Andrew and Mary Reedy, the former of whom was a substantial farmer and landowner in the immediate vicinity of that city.

Reared on the home farm, Robert Aaron Reedy attended the local public

and high schools and was early attracted to the thought of becoming a lawyer. He took some preliminary reading along this line and then entered the Law School of Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Indiana, with a view to completing his law studies. While there, however, his mental attitude toward the law as a profession underwent a pronounced change and he gave up that study in favor of the study of medicine. Under careful preceptorship he was prepared for medical school and then entered the College of Medicine and Surgery at Chicago, and in 1909, when in his thirtieth year, he was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Reedy became attracted to institutional practice and it was not long thereafter until he received an appointment as physician to one of the great national military homes. For four years, or until 1913, Dr. Reedy was thus engaged in institutional practice, this service having been rendered in several of the national military homes, and then (in 1913) he established himself as a resident physician in Rockford and has since been quite successfully practicing in that city, with present offices at No. 306, the Reliance building, No. 424 Seventh street.

Dr. Reedy is a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital and has an established practice both in general medicine and in surgery. He is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and has ever kept abreast of the progress being made in the amazing research work being carried on in his profession. The Doctor is a Mason of high degree and has attained to all the bodies of that ancient order available to the inquirer. He also is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is affiliated with the Harlem Hills Country Club. In his political views he ever has espoused the cause of the republican party.

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#### EDITH VALENCIA BARTLETT, M. D.

If, as someone has aptly said, "He serves God best who serves humanity most", then the skillful physician, by the exercise of native talents and acquired ability, is not only performing a service for humanity but is following in the footsteps of the Divine Healer Himself. Among the broadminded sympathetic and successful medical practitioners of Rock county, Wisconsin, the subject of this brief review occupies a conspicuous place. Edith Valencia Bartlett was born March 23, 1873, in Beloit, Wisconsin, the daughter of Herriek Zimri and Nancy Gillerist (Dewell) Bartlett, who were early settlers in that locality. She secured her elementary education in the public and high schools of Beloit and then entered Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Indiana, from which she was graduated in 1896. Having come from a family of doctors she had a natural predilection for the profession of healing and matriculated in the Hahnemann Medical College, in Chicago, graduating in 1899 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. She immediately entered upon active practice in Troy Center, Walworth county, Wisconsin, remaining there until 1905, when she came to Janesville and has remained here continuously since. She

has long since proven herself an able and capable physician, has met with eminent success in the practice and stands deservedly high in the confidence and esteem of the entire community. She is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

As already suggested, Dr. Bartlett inherited her love for the practice of medicine, her mother having been a doctor, and she has two sisters who are also actively engaged in medical practice, one being located in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The other sister is Mary Elizabeth Bartlett, who was born July 3, 1875, in Beloit. She too completed her preliminary education in the public and high schools of Beloit and Valparaiso University, being graduated from the latter institution in 1895. She then matriculated in Hahnemann Medical College and she and her sister Edith graduated on the latter's birthday, March 23, 1899. She went to Eagle, Wisconsin, where she practiced until 1901, from which date until 1903 she was in Honey Creek, this state. She then located in Beloit, where she has since remained and where she has built up a large and successful practice among the representative people of the community. The sisters are both of the type that creates a favorable impression on all whom they meet, being genial and pleasant in their social relations, while professionally they enjoy a high standing among their colleagues as well as a marked popularity in their respective communities.

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#### GLENN GARDNER PATTERSON.

Glenn Gardner Patterson, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the great lumber and coal firm of the J. H. Patterson Company and in charge of that concern's administrative offices in Rockford, a veteran of the World war and one of the best known young men in business in the city of Rockford, is a native of Illinois and has lived in this state all his life, save for the period spent away completing his college work and while serving in the navy during the time of this country's participation in the World war. Glenn Gardner Patterson was born in the pleasant little city of Marengo, McHenry county, Illinois, September 5, 1894, a son of Joseph Heylsum and Viola Crissey Patterson, who are still living there.

Joseph Heylsum Patterson, founder of the great lumber and coal chain establishments of the J. H. Patterson Company and for many years one of the most influential personal factors in the general commercial and industrial activities of northern Illinois, is now practically retired from active participation in the affairs of the big concern which he built up, and which had its start in the lumber and coal yard he established in Marengo in 1886, nearly forty years ago. As his affairs there prospered he branched out, established other selling agencies and thus continued to extend his operations until now the J. H. Patterson Company has establishments in no fewer than nine different places—Rockford, Freeport, Rochelle, Roscoe, Harlem, Union, Huntley, Wauconda and Lake Zurich. The headquarters plant was maintained in Ma-

rengo until 1920, when Mr. Patterson established his Rockford branch and the administration office of the concern since has been maintained in that city, Glenn G. Patterson now being in general charge, with offices in the Phoenix building at No. 305 Mulberry street. J. H. Patterson continues in executive control as president of the company, R. H. Perkins is the vice president and Glenn G. Patterson is the secretary and treasurer.

Reared in Marengo, Glenn Gardner Patterson completed the course in the high school there and then entered Leland Stanford University in California. He was graduated from that institution in 1916, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and upon his return to Marengo entered his father's office and began to take an active part in the operation of the growing affairs of the J. H. Patterson Company. In the next year, when this country declared war on Germany, he enlisted in the service of the navy and was assigned to duty in the service of the submarine chasers, with which department of naval operations he continued connected until after the close of the war, being commissioned ensign on October 1, 1918, a month and more before the signing of the armistice. On the following December 21st Mr. Patterson received his discharge, the war then being over, and returned to Marengo, resuming his former place in his father's office and gradually thereafter coming into general administrative charge as his father completed his arrangements for a retirement from the more arduous labors of that administration. In 1923 Mr. Patterson was assigned to the administrative office of the J. H. Patterson Company in Rockford, as secretary and treasurer of that company, and has since been serving there as general manager.

On May 19, 1919, Glenn G. Patterson was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Billings, daughter of David L. Billings of New York city. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have one child, a daughter, Mary Isabelle, born August 15, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community. They are republicans and also are properly interested in local civic affairs. Mr. Patterson is a Mason and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### HANS M. RASMUSSEN.

Hans M. Rasmussen belongs to that desirable class of citizens whom the Scandinavian countries have furnished to the United States and through the wise utilization of his opportunities has won success in business affairs, occupying an influential place in commercial circles of Beloit, Wisconsin. He was born December 29, 1881, in Copenhagen, Denmark, and his parents, Nels and Anna Rasmussen, were lifelong residents of that country. In 1903, when a young man of twenty-two years, he responded to the lure of the new world and came direct to Beloit, making the journey alone. He obtained work with the Dupke Decorating Company and remained with them for four years, mastering every phase of the trade, which he subsequently followed for three years in various parts of the west. Upon his return to Beloit he reentered



the employ of the Dupke company, with which he continued until 1912, when he started out for himself as a painting contractor. He remained alone until 1918, when he formed a partnership with A. G. Sauers, also experienced in that line of work, and they purchased the business of Estes & Son, organizing the Sauers-Rasmussen Decorating Company. The men at its head are expert artisans and have executed many contracts for painting and decorating. They also carry a large stock of high-grade paint, oil, varnish and wall paper and have an extensive trade in these commodities. The firm has a well deserved reputation for probity and reliability and its members are enterprising, capable, farsighted business men.

Mr. Rasmussen exercises his right of franchise in support of the candidates of the republican party and belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Lions Club. He is loyal to the country of his adoption, being in thorough sympathy with American institutions and ideals, and his career forcibly illustrates the ever valuable lesson that true success comes only through tireless industry, guided and inspired by singleness of purpose.

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#### TOM KEARNS.

Among the numerous automobile accessory establishments in the city of Rockford few are better known or more adequately stocked than that of Tom Kearns at No. 213 South Church street. Mr. Kearns started that business going in 1919 and by close attention to the needs of his public and a high regard for the value of service in connection with such an establishment, he has built up a trade which marks him as one of the successful accessory merchants of the city. He is a native of the state of Ohio, born in the city of Toledo, June 24, 1884, and was but a child when his parents, A. J. and Margaret Kearns, moved with their family from that city to Chicago. A. J. Kearns and his wife spent their last days in the latter city, both dying a few years after taking up their residence there. They were members of the Roman Catholic church and their son Tom was reared in that faith.

Tom Kearns attended the parish schools. As a lad he began working as a clerk in a grocery store and thus early became familiar with commercial forms as related to the retail trade. He later became connected with the operations of a commission house doing business on South Water street in Chicago and was thus engaged until 1917, when he moved to Rockford and in that city became employed as a clerk in a clothing store.

In 1919 Mr. Kearns went into business on his own account in Rockford, opening there a store for the sale of general automobile accessories, and he since has been quite successful in that line, having a well stocked establishment at No. 213 South Church street, a very convenient location for the carrying on of such a business. He is well known in the automobile trade and his constantly increasing business is the best possible commentary on the satisfaction he is able to guarantee the trade. Mr. Kearns is a republican and takes a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs. Though not what might

be called an active politician, he has been approached by his friends with a view to introducing him as a candidate for public office but his business engagements have been such that he has not found it expedient to permit his ambitions to find an outlet in that direction. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church and is one of the active members of the council of the Knights of Columbus in Rockford.

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#### HAL BOLLMAN.

Hal Bollman of the firm of Bollman & Bryhn, dealers in oil, gasoline and kindred supplies in Belvidere, and one of the best known men in the oil trade in this section of the Rock River valley, engaged in that line in Belvidere for more than twenty-five years, formerly and for years there the local agent for the Standard Oil Company, is a native of Illinois and the greater part of his life has been spent in this state, though he was reared in Iowa, where he had his schooling. He was born in the city of Rock Island, May 14, 1873, a son of Isaac H. and Susan (Early) Bollman, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that section of the river country. The late Isaac H. Bollman was born in Pennsylvania and was but a lad when he accompanied his parents to Illinois, the family settling in Rock Island county. He grew up to the river and became a steamboat engineer, widely known in the river trade and a personal friend of Mark Twain. When the waterworks were established in Clinton, Iowa, he left the river and became employed as engineer in that plant, a service he continued to render for years. His last days were spent in Rockford, where he died in 1919.

Reared in Clinton, Hal Bollman grew up to the river and his first gainful employment was as a cabin boy on a Mississippi river steamboat, his ambition being to go on up in river service and become a marine engineer, as was his father. In time, however, he became diverted from that plan and instead found himself apprenticed to the plumber's trade in Clinton. He became a competent plumber and worked at that trade for about eight years, at the end of which time he entered the service of the Standard Oil Company and was stationed in Rockford. In 1900 Mr. Bollman was made the local agent for this great distributing agency in Belvidere and established his home in the latter city, continuing there as agent for the Standard Oil Company until 1913, when he engaged in business on his own account, in association with R. J. Bryhn of Rockford opening a filling station and general oil and gasoline distributing plant in Belvidere, where he since has been thus engaged, doing business under the firm name of Bollman & Bryhn and in charge of the plant in Belvidere, Mr. Bryhn having his interests in Rockford. This filling and distributing station is well equipped and under the capable management of Mr. Bollman, whose many years of experience in handling oil and kindred products has made him an expert along that line, has become well established, one of the best known places of its kind in the fine trade area centering in Belvidere. Mr. Bollman is an active member of the Belvidere Chamber

of Commerce and has ever given his earnest attention to movements having to do with the promotion of the best interests of his home town. He is a Mason and a member of the Royal Arcanum and he and his wife are republicans.

In September, 1894, in Elgin, Illinois, Mr. Bollman was united in marriage to Miss Josephine A. Bennett, daughter of James R. Bennett of New York city. Mr. and Mrs. Bollman have six children: Romona, Aline, Arthur, Maud, Raymond and Ruth. Miss Romona Bollman became the wife of R. Day of Rockford and they have a son, Robert, born in 1924. Miss Aline Bollman is the wife of Lieutenant H. H. Harris of the United States army and they have a daughter, Virginia, born in 1923.

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#### P. A. PETERSON.

When P. A. Peterson of Rockford was elected president of the Illinois Manufacturers Association at the annual meeting of that body in December, 1904, he was referred to as one of the best known and most successful furniture and piano manufacturers in the United States and it was written of him that "his rise from the humble occupation of farm hand to a position of eminence, won by his own faithfulness, industry and ability to conquer, is one of the most interesting records in the annals of the business world and a matter of special pride on the part of his fellow townsmen, whose confidence he so fully enjoys."

The place Mr. Peterson holds in the esteem and affection of the people of his home town and of the Rock River valley generally is charmingly revealed in an admirable little story carried in "Service," house organ of the Rockford Printing Company, in No. 6 of that organ for the year 1921, the editor there pointing out that "anyone in Rockford who refers to 'P. A.' needs to explain no further as to whom he means. Although there are hundreds in this city whose initials may be the same, there is no confusing any of them with P. A. Peterson—the veteran manufacturer. For sixty years or more, since Mr. Peterson came to Rockford as a boy from his father's farm near Cherry Valley, he has been a growing force in the community. His chief interests of course have been in the furniture manufacturing line, but anything that meant for the general good of the community always had his hearty moral and financial support. Although of purely Swedish antecedents, his intense loyalty to his adopted country placed him at the head of all patriotic moves in the city.

"Mr. Peterson's business qualities, added to a very generous and pleasing disposition, are what have endeared him to everyone who knows him. It is said of him that invariably when he has come to his desk and found a number of men awaiting interviews, he has given his first attention to the one most apparently a laborer, and his happy faculty of at once making the man feel at ease greatly facilitated the interview. It is said of Mr. Peterson that he knows every employe in his plant by his first name, and in most instances is conversant with the personal life of each of them. His universal and practical



P. A. Carson





*P. A. Peterson*



understanding and cooperation with his employes has been testified to many times.

“Mr. Peterson’s interest in Rockford has not been confined to the manufacturing business. Some years ago he purchased the property on East State street at what is called the triangle at the head of Kishwaukee street. On this property he erected the most beautiful mercantile building in Rockford. This venture illustrates Mr. Peterson’s faith in his home city. At the time this property was improved it took an unusual amount of courage and a wide vision to make the investment, as the location was so far away from the then recognized retail center. Many were the prophets who could see nothing but commercial disaster for one so bold as to go contrary to all apparent business trends. The ultimate success of this venture, however, has justified Mr. Peterson’s excellent judgment.

“The furniture manufacturing industry of Rockford owes its great growth primarily to Mr. Peterson’s firm faith in it. The Union Furniture Company, of which he has always been the head, was one of the very first plants of that nature organized here. Soon other wood-working plants started, many of them with the financial help of Mr. Peterson, who was always quick to encourage financially those in whom he had confidence. An apt instance of the innate modesty of the man is illustrated in the Rockford city directory, where two lines only are used to give his name and title as president of the Union Furniture Company. The facts of the matter are that he is president of at least fifteen of the largest manufacturing concerns in Rockford, in addition to being on the board of directors of numerous other companies. Mr. Peterson’s greatest pride, however, is the company he organized over forty-eight years ago and to which he always has given his close personal attention, the Union Furniture Company. Rockford owes enormously to the Swedish people of the city for her industrial advancement and analysis shows that the great inspiration for this center of a wonderfully proficient people is the farmer boy who came here years ago from Cherry Valley with ideals and ambitions.”

P. A. Peterson has been a resident of this country and of Winnebago county for a period of nearly seventy-five years and he thus has been a witness to and a participant in the development that has been brought about throughout this section during that time, for many years one of the real leaders in the movements and activities underlying that development. The Rockford of 1852 that Mr. Peterson recalls when as a lad he arrived here with his parents in that year presented a far different scene from that now presented and there is perhaps no one now living in the valley who is more competent than is he to draw comparisons. He was born in the town of Ving, Sweden, September 8, 1848, and was in his fourth year when in 1852 his parents, Peter and Inga Maria Peterson, came to the United States with their family and settled in Rockford, among the first Swedish settlers in Winnebago county. Peter Peterson was a tailor and for four years after taking up his residence in Rockford followed that trade there. He then, in 1856, moved with his family to Cherry Valley.

P. A. Peterson was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents



to Cherry Valley and he attended the schools of that village. As a lad he began working in the broom-corn fields and as an aid to his father in the labors of developing and improving the home farm in the neighborhood of Cherry Valley, and was thus engaged until 1875, when he again became a resident of Rockford, then being twenty-seven years of age. In the next year (1876) Mr. Peterson became one of the organizers of the Rockford Union Furniture Company and was elected its secretary, this position carrying with it a large share of the administrative responsibility, he thus becoming one of the real builders of the great plant which is now and for many years has been one of the important industrial factors in the city of Rockford. The first plant of this company was erected on what then was known as the Water-power, and operations were carried on there until 1889, when the factory was destroyed by fire. The company then bought a tract of land one mile south-east of what then was regarded as the city limits and rebuilt, the new plant thus not only having ample room for the expansion which its founders confidently expected but finding itself in a more convenient locality. During the years since then these expectations have been realized and the plant has gradually expanded and "modernized," as growing demand for its products required until it long has been recognized as one of the leading furniture manufacturing establishments in the country. Mr. Peterson's connection with the Union Furniture Company has been continuous since the day of its organization and he has long been its president.

The Union Furniture Company of Rockford is now the center of a considerable group of important allied industries of which Mr. Peterson is recognized as "the militant force." It is recalled that Mr. Peterson's sagacity and business acumen were clearly revealed during the panic days of the early and middle '90s, when the furniture industry hereabout was hard hit and many concerns were forced to the wall. Mr. Peterson suffered severely from the general depression but was able to hold his concern up and again "fought his way to the top." Since then his advancement in the industrial world has been steady and the growth of his business has been enormous, his interests now extending in many directions. Besides his dominant interest in the Union Furniture Company he also is the president of the Haddorff Piano Company and has administrative connection with numerous other concerns of a commercial and industrial character in Rockford, including the Skandia Furniture Company, the Standard Furniture Company, the Rockford Glass Bending Works, the Rockford Book Case Company, the National Lock Company, the Mechanics Machine Company, the Rockford Drop Forge Company, the Rockford Milling Machine Company, the Free Sewing Machine Company and the Stonefield-Evans Shoe Company.

It is a matter of course that Mr. Peterson takes great pride in reviewing the rapid development of Rockford as a commercial and industrial center and it is not too much to say that much of this development may be traced to his indefatigable zeal in that behalf during the past half century. As a public-spirited, far-sighted, industrious man of affairs he has been diligent in securing to Rockford whatever advantage it lay in his power to promote and it is thus very properly, as noted above, that he may be referred to as one

of the real community builders in this section of Illinois. Mr. Peterson has been a republican since the days of his boyhood. He has taken a deep interest in good citizenship and his benefactions have been generous. When the hazardous-machinery commission was created for the purpose of drawing a factory-inspection bill that would be satisfactory alike to operatives and owners, he was appointed by Governor Deneen a member of that commission and the bill which he thus helped to draw was passed by the legislature. He also was a member of the employers liability commission which had in hand the preparation of a measure upon which the present employers liability law in Illinois is based. He has served as president of the Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association and, as noted above, has also served as president of the Illinois Manufacturers Association. In 1906 he was president of the Swedish-American Republican League of the state of Illinois.

On April 8, 1903, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Ida May Anderson of Marinette, Wisconsin, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home in Rockford—a home radiant with genial hospitality.

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#### HARRY N. AHLGREN.

Harry N. Ahlgren, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Rockford Wood Turning Company, Incorporated, of Rockford and one of the well known figures in the industrial life of that city, for years actively identified with the great woodworking industries that are carried on there, has been a resident of that city since the days of his childhood and thus is thoroughly familiar with local conditions. He was born in the city of Chicago, March 14, 1888, a son of Olaf P. and Gunhilde M. Ahlgren, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Sweden. Olaf P. Ahlgren died in Chicago in 1893, and his widow moved in that same year with her children to Rockford, where she established her home.

It is thus that though born in Chicago, Harry N. Ahlgren was reared in Rockford, having been but five years of age when in 1893 he was bereaved of a father's care and with his mother became a resident of the latter city. He was particularly apt at his studies and upon completing his high school work at the age of fourteen, in the year 1902, he returned to Chicago and was for two terms thereafter a student in the Lewis Institute in that city, making a special study of mechanical drawing and mechanical engineering. Upon his return to Rockford in 1904, then being sixteen years of age, he became employed as a mechanical draftsman in the office of the W. F. & John Barnes Company and was thus employed until 1909, the year in which he attained his majority, when he transferred his services to the plant of Emerson-Brantingham Company and was made production manager of one of the departments of that manufacturing concern. He was thus connected until 1914, when he transferred his services to P. A. Peterson and was installed in the plant of the Rockford Cabinet Company as assistant superintendent of that plant. When in 1916 Mr. Peterson sold his interests to O. E. Lundstrom and

a reorganization of the personnel of the Rockford Cabinet Company was effected, Mr. Ahlgren was made assistant secretary of the company and was associated with the affairs of that concern in this capacity for two years, or until 1918, when he bought an interest in the Republic Furniture Company and was elected secretary of that company with managerial powers. In 1922 Mr. Ahlgren sold his interest in that concern and bought out the plant and the affairs of the Rockford Wood Turning Company, a manufacturing concern that had been organized in 1919 by Gust Larson. On January 1, 1922, in pursuance of the general program of expansion which he had found it necessary to carry out in connection with the growing demand for the products of his factory, Mr. Ahlgren incorporated this business, taking for himself the official positions of secretary and treasurer of the corporation and continuing as general manager of the concern. His brother, William B. Ahlgren, who is associated with him in the direction of the operations of the company, is plant superintendent and the combination is an effective one. Albert P. Johnson is president of the company and Arnold V. Lindquist is the vice president. The name of this company is indicative of the character of its output and the high quality of the products of this plant has commanded for them a wide market. The company has a well equipped plant at No. 2110 Eleventh street.

On September 20, 1917, in Rockford, Harry N. Ahlgren was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Anderson, daughter of Edward Anderson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Ahlgren have two children: a son, Harold Ahlgren, born March 31, 1919; and a daughter, Jeannette, born June 25, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Ahlgren are republicans. Mr. Ahlgren is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, his blue lodge connection with the Masonic order being with Rockford Lodge No. 102, and his Scottish Rite connection being with the consistory in Freeport. His Shrine affiliation is through Tebala Temple in Rockford. He also is a member of the Rockford lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### EGBERT A. WORDEN, D. D. S.

The profession of dentistry has a worthy exponent in Rock county, Wisconsin, in the person of Dr. Egbert A. Worden, of Janesville, who because of his skill and long years of practice here is well known throughout this locality and ranks high among his professional brethren in this section of the state. Dr. Worden is a native of the state now honored by his citizenship, having been born at Omro, Winnebago county, on the 8th of January, 1876, and is the son of Archie and Julia (Ripley) Worden. He received his elementary education in the public and high schools of his native town and then entered the dental department of Marquette University, in Milwaukee, where he was graduated in 1903 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. He at once located in De Pere, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in the active practice of his profession from 1903 to 1917, when he went to New York city and practiced there until 1919. He then came to Janesville and has been established in practice here

ever since. Dr. Worden is a constant student of his profession, keeping abreast of the times in the latest advances in his science, and he holds distinctive prestige in his profession. He is a member of the Rock County Dental Society, the Wisconsin State Dental Society and the American Dental Society. Fraternally Dr. Worden is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, being affiliated with all its branches, and he takes an active interest in the work of that time-honored order.

Dr. Worden has been married twice, first, on June 30, 1905, to Miss Bessie Rawson, a daughter of H. R. Rawson, of Westfield, Wisconsin. She died in March, 1908, and on June 30, 1909, he was married to Miss Millie Wambold, the daughter of S. K. Wambold, of Appleton, Wisconsin. To the latter union has been born a son, John Robert, born August 16, 1911. Because of his large professional success, together with his cordial disposition and genuine worth, Dr. Worden has gained a high place in the esteem and respect of the people of his community. Eminently public-spirited, he has given his support to every measure for the betterment of the community and is numbered among Rock county's representative citizens.

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#### DAVID EMANUEL LUNDIN.

David Emanuel Lundin, a well established florist of Belvidere and one of the most thoroughly experienced men in his line in this section of the Rock River valley, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the seaport city of Gothenburg, in the province of Goteburg and Bohus in the kingdom of Sweden, February 23, 1886, a son of John P. and Augusta Lundin, both also natives of that province. He was reared in his native place, where he had his schooling and where he became familiar with the details of floriculture, as a boy working about greenhouses until he was eighteen years of age when, in 1904, he came to the United States and by prior arrangement proceeded on out into Illinois and located in Rockford, where he became employed in the floral establishment of H. W. Buckbee.

Mr. Lundin remained in Rockford for about a year, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the great florist establishment of Bassett & Washburn, wholesale florists, in Chicago and moved to the city, in that establishment, with its million square feet of greenhouses, acquiring valuable further experience in his line. While there he learned something of the possibilities of truck gardening in the city market area and presently left the greenhouses and became engaged as a truck gardener in the Hinsdale neighborhood. In 1908 he returned to the Bassett & Washburn establishment, was soon made assistant superintendent of that great florist plant and there remained until 1921, in which year he formed a partnership with Timothy Enright and engaged in the florist business on his own account in Fostoria, Ohio, he and his partner doing business there under the firm name of Enright & Lundin. In 1922 Mr. Lundin sold his interest in that establishment and moved to Belvidere, where he estab-

lished himself in the same line and has since been quite successful in business in that city. He has nine greenhouses, sixty thousand square feet under glass, and in addition to supplying the local market carries on a quite extensive wholesale business, the products of his greenhouses being in wide demand. Mr. Lundin is a member of the Florists Club of Chicago and on account of his many years of experience in his line and the admitted value of his methods as a trained and scientific florist, is widely known in his profession.

On October 2, 1909, in Hinsdale, Illinois, David E. Lundin was united in marriage to Miss Hilma Olivia Anderson, daughter of A. G. Anderson of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Lundin have one child: A son, Wesley Lundin, born December 1, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Lundin are republicans and take a proper interest in local civic affairs as well as in the general affairs of the community in which they elected to make their home, and in which they are quite pleasantly situated, having their home alongside their greenhouses on Fairview street.

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#### GEORGE EVANS HANSON.

George Evans Hanson, one of the leading merchants in the jewelry trade in the Rock River valley and proprietor of a handsomely appointed and admirably equipped jewelry store in Rockford, doing business under the firm name of George E. Hanson, Incorporated, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, familiar with the details of the jewelry trade and watchmaking since the days of boyhood. He was born in Rockford, July 29, 1887, a son of Nels John and Clara S. Hanson, the latter of whom is still living. The late Nels John Hanson, who died in August, 1908, was for years one of the well known citizens of Rockford and further and fitting mention of him is made elsewhere in this work.

Reared in Rockford, George Evans Hanson attended the schools of that city and in 1899, when twelve years of age, began working in school vacations in the plant of the Rockford Watch Company. Upon leaving high school he was definitely employed in that company's factory and became a thoroughly competent watchmaker. In 1910 he engaged in business on his own account, opening a small jewelry shop at No. 409 Seventh street. This business grew and developed and in time outgrew its original quarters, Mr. Hanson then finding new accommodations in a larger and better adapted room at No. 401 Seventh street, where he since has been located and where, as noted above, he has one of the best jewelry stores in the Rock River valley.

Mr. Hanson carried on his business alone in the little shop at No. 409 Seventh street until 1913, when he formed a partnership with his brother, Julius Nathaniel Hanson, also an experienced watchmaker and jeweler, and the brothers thus carried on the business until October, 1922, when George E. Hanson bought his brother's interest in the establishment and has since been carrying on the business alone, or as a close corporation, in July, 1923, having incorporated the business as George E. Hanson, Incorporated, he being presi-

dent and treasurer of the company, his wife being the vice president and Everett F. Nichols the secretary. Upon leaving the store in the fall of 1922 Mr. Hanson's brother, J. N. Hanson, organized the Hanson Clock Company of Rockford, manufacturers of hall clocks, and has since been engaged in that business, secretary and treasurer of that company. George E. Hanson has been successful in his business and has other substantial interests in the city, among these being a place on the directorate of the Commercial National Bank of Rockford.

On May 29, 1914, in Rockford, George E. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Grace I. Harding, daughter of Theodore Harding of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have one child: A son, George Evans Hanson, Jr., born February 27, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are republicans and are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club. Mr. Hanson is connected with all the Masonic bodies up to the Scottish Rite and the Shrine and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He also is a member of the locally popular singing society Svea Soner.

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#### UPTON L. SWINGLEY.

Upton L. Swingley, founder and head of the important general commission firm of Swingley Brothers in Rockford, associated in business there and in Beloit and Freeport with his brother, Howard H. Swingley, and for years recognized as one of the leaders in the commission business in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, is a native of Illinois and has lived in that state all his life, a resident of Rockford for nearly twenty years, having moved from Chicago to that city in 1908. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the pleasant village of Creston, Ogle county, Illinois, January 12, 1874, a son of Upton and Sophia (Woodward) Swingley, both members of pioneer families in that section of Illinois. The senior Upton Swingley was a substantial farmer and landowner in the Creston neighborhood.

Reared on the home farm in the neighborhood of Creston, Upton L. Swingley acquired his early education in the schools of that village and supplemented this by attendance at the Rockford high school and at a business college in Chicago. He early became interested in electrical work and research and upon leaving school became connected with the operations of the Chicago Armature Company at Chicago, dealers in general electrical accessories and proprietors of an electrical repair shop. Mr. Swingley presently bought an interest in this concern and in 1897 became the sole proprietor. In the next year (1898) he married and established his home in Chicago. He continued in the electrical repair line until 1903, when he disposed of that business and became associated with the firm of W. C. Phillips & Company of Chicago, wholesale dealers in coal, and was engaged as a traveling salesman in the interest of that company for five years, or until 1908, when he bought an interest in the wholesale produce business of Burd Brothers in Rockford, and moved to that city, where he ever since has made his home.

Mr. Swingley found himself right at home in the produce and commission business and presently bought the interests of the Burd Brothers, the concern with which he had become connected in Rockford, and began to carry on the business on his own account, operating as the Rock River Commission Company, with headquarters and salesroom at No. 330 Cedar street. That was in 1909. From the beginning of this enterprise Mr. Swingley has scored a success. The new spirit he injected into the business presently became apparent in results and from the one-horse wagon delivery service with which he began he gradually expanded until his concern became recognized as one of the leaders in that line in this section of the country. In 1915 Mr. Swingley's brother, Howard H. Swingley, became associated with him in the business and in 1917 the name of the operating firm was changed from the old established Rock River Commission Company to Swingley Brothers. In 1924 it became apparent that larger quarters were necessary in Rockford and Swingley Brothers erected at No. 406 South Court street an up-to-date two-story and basement structure, carrying twenty thousand square feet of floor space and have since been carrying on their business in these new quarters, where they are admirably equipped. With the continued growth of the business branch houses were established in Freeport and Beloit, each an independent unit of the business, carrying its own stock and operating with its own sales force and fleet of trucks, and the territory served by Swingley Brothers from their three places of business—Rockford, Freeport and Beloit—now extends from Elgin to the Mississippi river in northern Illinois and covers as well the southern tier of Wisconsin counties. In addition to their general commission business in farm produce and specialty jobbers in butter, eggs, cheese and the like, Swingley Brothers also are distributors for certain standard lines of pastries, confections and tobacco goods and also supply anything needed at a soda fountain stand. This firm also is gradually extending its line as the demand for this exceptional Swingley service grows throughout the territory thus covered.

On June 15, 1898, while living in Chicago, Upton L. Swingley was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Wilson, daughter of George Wilson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Swingley have one child: A daughter, Elizabeth Ann Swingley, born March 8, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Swingley are republicans. Mr. Swingley is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and of the Kiwanis Club of that city, is a member of all the Masonic bodies and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### HENRY HOWARD LANE.

Although it now is fifteen years and more since the passing, at his home in Jefferson, Wisconsin, of Henry Howard Lane, in his generation one of the best known business men in that city, the good memory he left in the community is still cherished and it is but fitting that there should here be carried some slight tribute to that memory.

Mr. Lane was born in the city of New York, December 31, 1860. He came



*W. W. Lane*







*W. W. Lane*



west with his parents, Daniel D. and Martha (Barstow) Lane, the family locating in Chicago. The great fire of 1871 completely wiped out their business and their home, and soon afterward they came to Wisconsin, locating in Janesville. In 1881 the family moved to Jefferson, Mr. Lane and his father having become affiliated with the Copeland & Ryder Company, manufacturers of shoes, the younger Mr. Lane representing the company as a traveling salesman. During the years 1885 to 1887 he traveled out of Beloit in the interests of the Foster Shoe Company, but after his marriage in 1888 he established his permanent home in Jefferson.

In 1892 Mr. Lane became a member of the directorate of the Copeland & Ryder Company and in 1904 was elected vice president of that corporation, a position he occupied until his death. In the fall of 1905 he experienced a stroke of paralysis which incapacitated him for further active service, and his genial presence was greatly missed in the territory in which he had been working for so many years and in which he was so deservedly popular. The remainder of this good man's life was spent quietly in Jefferson, where he died on February 9, 1910. Mr. Lane was for years an active and enthusiastic Mason. He was a member of the local congregation of the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) and it was said of him at his death that he "was an earnest Christian, a public-spirited citizen, always interested in whatever would be of use to the community, and an exceptionally cordial man in acts of kindness to all whom he chanced to meet, so that his death is a distinct loss to this community."

It was on September 19, 1888, that Mr. Lane was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Copeland, daughter of Charles and Hannah Elizabeth (Blodgett) Copeland of Jefferson, and to that union two daughters were born: Florence Elizabeth, who died in infancy; and Marjorie, who is now Mrs. Irving Hibbard of Jefferson. Mrs. Lane has one grandchild, Paul Lane Hibbard, born November 21, 1915.

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#### FRANK H. JACKMAN.

The office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments but rather to leave upon the records the verdict establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his fellow citizens. The subject of this sketch, who has spent his entire life in Janesville, has long held an enviable place in the esteem and respect of all who know him and is universally accorded a front place among the representative business men and public-spirited citizens of Janesville. He is the scion of one of the old and influential pioneer families of this section of the state, a family that has been conspicuous through three generations for its part in the business activities and the financial affairs of this community. Frank H. Jackman was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 8th of January, 1870, and is the son of Claremont S. and Clarice Hanchett, the latter the daughter of John H. and Juliet (Titus) Hanchett. In the paternal line, Mr. Jackman traces his ancestry back to England and thence to the colony of Massachusetts, where members of

the family settled in an early day. Here they took an active part in the happenings of their time, some serving as members of the local militia, while others in later years fought in the War of the Revolution under General Washington. The subject's great-grandfather, Stillman Jackman, moved from Massachusetts to New Hampshire, where his death occurred. It is probable that he also lived for a time in New York state, for in that state his son, Timothy Jackman, was born and reared. The latter became a farmer and followed that vocation there until 1842, when he came to Wisconsin, settling in Janesville, where he became one of the most important and influential factors in the growth and development of the new community. He ran a hotel, operated a mill and established a store, all of which, under his careful management, were successful. As he prospered financially he entered more and more into the business affairs of the town and eventually was one of the organizers of the Rock County Bank, which has continued to the present time and is now known as the Rock County National Bank. Of this institution he served as president from its organization until his death, in 1868. On the incorporation of Janesville as a city he was a member of the first city council and his influence was potent in the early activities of the new municipality. He erected the Jackman building, of five stories, which has for years been a landmark in this community, and in countless other ways showed his faith in the city and his progressive spirit. His wife was the daughter of Jesse Smith, who came from Massachusetts to Union, Rock county, in 1848, and there farmed and operated a store during the remainder of his active life, his death occurring at the age of ninety years.

The subject's father, Claremont S. Jackman, was born in Janesville on November 20, 1846, and attended the public schools. In 1864 he joined the Twelfth Wisconsin Light Artillery, with which he served throughout the Civil war and which became one of the noted military units of the northern army, its record of service including the battles of Mission Ridge and Allatoona, the siege and capture of Savannah and Sherman's great march from Atlanta to the sea. Late in the war Mr. Jackman was transferred to the army headquarters, where he acted as a clerk. On his return to Janesville he gave his attention to milling for about a year and then went to Montana, where for about eighteen months he was engaged in mining. On July 1, 1867, he returned to Janesville and entered the Rock County National Bank as messenger. From this humble position he worked himself up to that of president, which he held until 1917, when he declined further election and was succeeded by his son, the subject of this sketch. Thereafter he served as president of the board until the death of his brother, Clarence, when he was elected vice president. On March 10, 1869, he was married to Miss Clarice Hanchett and Frank H. Jackman is the only child of this union. Politically Mr. Jackman was a republican and served two terms as alderman from the third ward, and fraternally he was a member of the Knights of Pythias. He possessed great strength of character, remarkable business acumen and foresight and maintained strong convictions as to public policies. A man of tireless energy, indomitable courage and optimistic spirit, he was long a dominant figure in business affairs of consequence and in many and countless ways was accorded evidences of popular confidence and esteem.

Frank H. Jackman received his elementary education in the public schools of Janesville and after his graduation from high school entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1891 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then entered the Rock County National Bank, of which his father was then president, and starting in as messenger rose step by step until in 1917 he succeeded his father as president of the institution. Mr. Jackman is universally recognized as a splendid citizen and his career has been such as to earn the highest measure of respect from the entire community. He has acted well his part in life, and while primarily interested in his own affairs he has not been unmindful of the interests of the community about him, giving his active support to every measure or movement for the betterment of the general welfare. In all his relations with his fellowmen he is kindly, affable and tactful and possesses to a marked degree those sterling traits of character which always commend a man to the respect of his fellowmen. Mr. Jackman is also president of the Rock County Savings & Trust Company, which is conducted in connection with the Rock County National Bank.

On April 22, 1896, Mr. Jackman was married to Miss Etta Hanchett, the daughter of Gerardo M. Hanchett, of Janesville, and they are the parents of three children: Francis S., Claremont S. and Ann. Mr. Jackman is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Rotary Club, the Janesville Country Club and the Union League Club of Chicago.

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#### ALBERT WHITFORD, M. A.

In the largest and best sense of the term the late Albert Whitford was distinctively one of the notable men of his day and generation, and as such his life record is entitled to a conspicuous place in the annals of the community so long honored by his residence. As a citizen he was public-spirited and loyal to an unwonted degree; as a friend and neighbor he combined the qualities of head and heart that won confidence and commanded respect; as an educator he brought honor and dignity to the position which he filled with such distinguished success, and as a servant of his church in high places of honor he had no superiors.

Albert Whitford, who for almost fifty-two years had served as active and emeritus professor of mathematics and astronomy in Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin, was born on the 28th of May, 1832, in Plainfield township, near the village of Leonardsville, New York, and was the son of Samuel and Sophia Clarke Whitford. The paternal ancestral line ran back to England, whence Nicholas Whitford, who was born in 1640 and died in 1697, came to America in young manhood and settled in the colony of Rhode Island. From him the line descends through David Whitford, Joshua Whitford, David Whitford, to Samuel. The last named was the father of four sons: William Clarke, Hamilton Joseph, Albert and Herbert David. William Clarke Whitford was for many years president of Milton College, served as superintendent of public instruction of the state of Wisconsin, and was familiarly known as "Elder" Whitford.

Albert Whitford received his elementary education in the district school near his home and in an academy at Brookfield, about eight miles distant. He was a student for a time in De Ruyter Institute, at De Ruyter, New York, and in Alfred Academy, at Alfred Center, New York, from which he was graduated in 1853. During these years he had taught several terms of country school and in 1854 he came to Wisconsin to accept the position of instructor in Latin in Milton Academy, where he remained for two years. He then entered Union College, at Schenectady, New York, where because of advanced private study and his alert mentality he was able to graduate in the classical course with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1857, and during the following six years he continued to teach Latin in Milton Academy. In 1861 Union College conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts. He was elected superintendent of public schools of Rock county, holding the position for two years, and then accepted a call to become the principal of De Ruyter Institute, where he remained until 1867, when Milton Academy became Milton College and he was invited to accept a professorship there. The following year, however, he accepted an invitation to become professor of mathematics at Alfred University, Alfred Center, New York, where he remained until 1872. In the latter year he made his final move, returning to Milton College as professor of mathematics and astronomy, which position he filled actively until 1910, when he retired from the active work and was honored with the title of professor emeritus. During the remaining years of his life he lived quietly and peacefully at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. E. Crandall, in Milton, until his death, which occurred March 18, 1924, in the ninety-second year of his age. For two years, 1878-80, while his brother, who was then president of the college, was filling the position of state superintendent of public instruction, the subject was acting president of Milton College.

In 1848 Professor Whitford made a profession of religion and joined the Seventh-day Baptist church, of which he was during all the remaining years of his life a faithful and loyal member, being for over fifty years of that time affiliated with the church at Milton. Here he served in almost every official capacity, as clerk, treasurer, trustee, Sabbath school superintendent, Sabbath school teacher, on various important committees and as a delegate to many of the general meetings of the church and its organizations. From 1877 to 1912 he was the regular moderator of the business meetings of the church, and thirty-eight years prior to his death he was unanimously chosen a deacon. In 1883-84 Professor Whitford was signally honored by being elected president of the Seventh-day Baptist General Conference. He was diligent and faithful in the performance of all his church obligations and gave loving and loyal support to every enterprise for the moral betterment of the community.

Professor Whitford was united in marriage in 1857 to Chloe E. Curtis. There were five children, one daughter and four sons: Anna Sophia, now Mrs. C. Eugene Crandall, a member of the faculty of Milton College; Albert Curtis, who died in 1902; William Henry, who is in business in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Alfred Edward, now president of Milton College; and Arthur Hamilton, who died in infancy. Mrs. Whitford was for many years the very popular teacher of German and English in Milton College until her death on November 4, 1888. Pro-

fessor Whitford was married a second time, in 1892, to Emily L. Burdick, who passed away November 29, 1919.

In closing this brief resumé of the life of Albert Whitford, the following words of appreciation are quoted from the pen of Stephen Bolles, editor of the Janesville Gazette, of Janesville: "He was a seeker after the truth which comes to some men from knowledge in orderly arrangement and is hidden from others who may have arranged the store of information sought and obtained, in orderly and logical sequences. The life of Albert Whitford is indissolubly associated with the oldest of our Wisconsin colleges, our neighbor, and in which we here in Janesville, and for that matter all southern Wisconsin, have taken a deep and abiding interest for many years. Restricted somewhat by its denominational relationships, yet the college has turned into the rough roads of the world a great many men and women who have been possessed of high character and sterling worth, founded on the fine principles inculcated by teachers of the type of Albert Whitford. \* \* \*"

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#### ALFRED WESSMAN.

Alfred Wessman, head of the Cherry Valley Creamery Company and of the Oak Brand Ice Cream Company of Rockford and for years one of the best known and most successful dairymen in that section of the fertile Rock River valley, has been in the creamery business in Winnebago county for nearly a quarter of a century and has established a fine business—a business in which three of his sons now are associated with him. Mr. Wessman is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, July 19, 1866, and came to the United States in 1882, locating in Orion, Henry county, Illinois, where he became employed at farm labor.

For about eight years Mr. Wessman remained in Henry county and then, in 1890, came over into Winnebago county and became employed as a hand in the local furniture factories of Rockford. This form of industrial occupation did not long appeal to him, however, and he presently became a clerk in the store of the Palmer Hardware Company. About that time he was married and after his marriage he established his home in Rockford, where he ever since has resided. After a service of two years with the Palmer Hardware Company, Mr. Wessman transferred his services to the Grand Union Tea Company and was for six years thereafter a salesman for that concern. He then, in 1902, decided to get into business on his own account and with that end in view set up in the creamery business in a modest way in Cherry Valley. From the start this business proved to be successful and in 1918 Mr. Wessman enlarged his capacity and set up his present creamery plant in Rockford, where the business ever since has been carried on, operated under the name of the Cherry Valley Creamery Company, with a well established and well equipped plant at No. 1123 Fourth avenue, and he is doing very well, the products of this plant being widely distributed hereabout. In 1922 this concern began the manufacture of



ice-cream on a wholesale scale and a wide market has been created for the products of this department of the business, which is carried on under the name of the Oak Brand Ice Cream Company, doing a large business. Three of Mr. Wessman's sons—Edgar, Bernth and Ralph Wessman—are associated with their father in business and the facilities of the plant are gradually being expanded to meet the growing trade.

On December 27, 1893, Alfred Wessman was united in marriage to Miss Hilma Palmquist, daughter of P. J. Palmquist, who was a native of the kingdom of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Wessman have five sons, namely: Edgar, Lloyd, Bernth, Ralph, and Wallace. The Wessmans are members of Zion Lutheran church, with the congregation of which Mr. Wessman has been connected for the past thirty years and more, and in their political affiliations are republicans.

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### JOSEPH M. BOSTWICK.

A name known to everyone who has the slightest acquaintance with the commercial history of Janesville, Wisconsin, is that of the late Joseph M. Bostwick, whose death occurred on the 24th of January, 1909. During his active life he filled a foremost place in the commercial and financial life of the city, and as an energetic, farsighted man whose judgment and discretion were seldom at fault and whose influence made for the substantial upbuilding of the locality honored by his citizenship he earned a reputation second to none of his contemporaries. Joseph M. Bostwick was born in Bethany, Genesee county, New York, on the 3d of February, 1834. Two years later his father, Joseph Bostwick, moved with his family to Stafford, in the same county, where they lived until eleven years later, in 1847, when they came to Janesville, Wisconsin, to make their future home.

In his early boyhood Joseph M. Bostwick attended the common schools of his neighborhood, but at the age of fourteen years he began to work, his first employment being as a clerk in the general mercantile establishment of Bailey & Dimock. In 1849 Mr. Bailey withdrew from the firm and H. O. Clark became identified with the business, the name being changed to Dimock & Clark and still later to H. O. Clark & Company. In 1854 the business failed and Mr. Bostwick entered the employ of J. W. Wheelock, whose business he, in partnership with William Knowles, bought at a later date but sold again within six months. Mr. Bostwick was next associated with O. K. Bennett and under the firm name of Bennett & Bostwick, the H. O. Clark & Company business was purchased and carried on. Four and a half years later this firm was dissolved and the stock of goods divided between the partners. Soon thereafter Mr. Bostwick formed with M. C. Smith the firm of Smith & Bostwick, dealers in dry goods, carpets and clothing, and the business was carried on until 1881, a period of twenty-one years, when the stock was divided and Mr. Bostwick, taking his share, returned to his former stand on South Main street and opened a large store for the sale of dry goods, carpets, cloaks and ready-to-wear. In 1882 the sons, Robert M. and Joseph L. Bostwick, became associated with their father

and the firm name was changed to J. M. Bostwick & Sons, which name has not been changed since. For a number of years the business has steadily grown and the store has enjoyed the reputation of being the most important and successful mercantile house in its line in southern Wisconsin.

Mr. Bostwick was twice married, first, on November 30, 1855, to Miss Harriet M. Allen, of Genesee county, New York, and to them were born nine children, namely: Frank M., Robert M., Joseph L., Mrs. Marion Carle, Racine, Harriet, Harry, Henry Clark and Edward. Mrs. Harriet Bostwick died April 24, 1880, and on April 4, 1883, Mr. Bostwick was married to Miss Emma Coryell. To the second union three children were born, namely: Juliet, Marguerite and Sidney. Mr. Bostwick was a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is remembered as a man who possessed a broad, inquiring mind, keenly alive to all the issues and problems of the day. Always modest and unassuming and easily approached, he had a strong and vigorous personality and was well fitted to head important enterprises. He was a splendid type of the self-made man and his energy, perseverance and close application enabled him to accomplish much. Few men were more sought for counsel than he and the correctness of his opinions in practical matters was almost proverbial. His good judgment extended to men as well as to measures, for he had a keen insight into human nature, whether of men singly or in masses. Of simple life and democratic tastes, he appreciated the dignity of labor and no man who entered his store was so humble but that he received a kindly word from the proprietor. He was a public-spirited man, who spared neither himself nor his means in the support of worthy measures for the betterment of the public welfare. His is the story of a life that made the world better for his having lived in it, for his actions sprang from a heart filled with love and good feeling for humanity and he was a blessing to all who came within the range of his influence.

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#### JOHN FRANKLIN SNYDER, M. D.

Dr. John Franklin Snyder, one of the veteran physicians of northern Illinois, now living practically retired from the more active duties of his profession in Rockford, is a native of the old Empire state but has been a resident of Illinois since the days of his boyhood and his interests thus have been centered here for many years. He was born in the village of Middleburg, Schoharie county, in the beautiful valley of the Mohawk, in the state of New York, May 26, 1860, a son of Nelson and Marietta (Hall) Snyder, both of whom were members of old families in that valley. Nelson Snyder, who was a farmer, moved with his family from New York to Illinois after the close of the Civil war and settled in Marion township, Ogle county, where he bought a tract of land and established his home and where he continued farming until his retirement and removal to Rockford, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1920.

Reared on the home farm in Ogle county, John Franklin Snyder completed the high school course in Oregon, county seat of that county, and early turned

his attention to the study of medicine. After some preparatory work under the preceptorship of one of the local physicians he entered the Medical School of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and after a year of study there entered Rush Medical College at Chicago and in 1882, when twenty-two years of age, he was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Snyder opened an office for practice in Monroe Center, in his home county, and after his marriage some years later established his home in that pleasant village. For nearly forty years Dr. Snyder continued in practice in Monroe Center, during this long period of professional service becoming one of the best known physicians in this section of northern Illinois. In 1922 he closed out his interests at that place and moved to Rockford, where he since has made his home and where he maintains an office in the Stewart building. Though keeping open office, the Doctor is practically retired from the general routine of professional service, declining new connections and giving his attention only to those of his long established patients who rely upon his advice and services. The Doctor is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society and of the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and continues to keep in close touch with advances being made in the profession of which for more than forty years he has been an able exponent.

Dr. Snyder has been twice married. On September 4, 1889, in Monroe Center, he was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Sweet, daughter of Reilly Sweet of that place, and who died on May 1, 1899. By that union Dr. Snyder has a son: Professor Clarendon Snyder, an educator of more than local reputation, who is now the principal of the high school in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. On September 21, 1904, Dr. Snyder was married to Miss Vernie Sheaf, daughter of David Sheaf of Holcomb, also in Ogle county. Dr. and Mrs. Snyder are members of the Second Congregational church of Rockford and are republicans. The Doctor has taken an earnest part in the activities of the congregation with which he is affiliated in Rockford and has rendered a real service in that behalf by securing the services of noted speakers from time to time to address the men's Bible class of the congregation. He formerly and for years took an active interest in civic affairs and was regarded as one of the leaders of the republican party in Ogle county, but of late years he has been content to leave organization work to those who yet have their spurs to win. He is a Mason of many years standing and has ever taken an interested and helpful part in Masonic activities.

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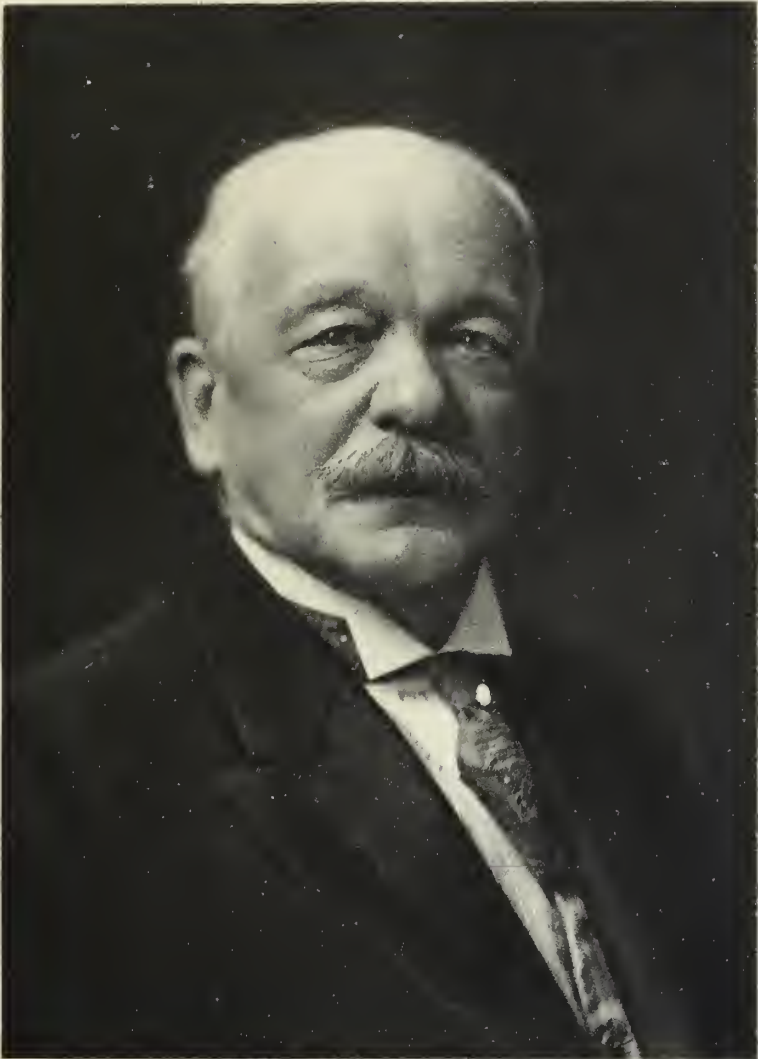
#### WILLIAM HENRY FITCH, M.D.

The passing of any human life gives rise to a pang of anguish in some heart, but when the "fell destroyer" knocks at the door of the useful and great and removes from earthly scenes the man of honor and influence and the benefactor of his kind, it not only means bereavement to kindred and friends but is a public calamity as well. In the largest and best sense of the term, the late Dr. William Henry Fitch, of Rockford, was distinctively one of the notable men of his day and generation, and as such his life record is entitled to a conspicuous



*W. B. ...*





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place in the annals of his community. In his chosen field of endeavor Dr. Fitch achieved success such as few attain and his eminent standing among the leading medical men of Illinois was duly recognized and appreciated not only in Rockford, the city long honored by his residence, but also throughout the northern part of the state.

William Henry Fitch was born in Cherry Valley, Winnebago county, Illinois, on the 18th of June, 1843, and was the son of John and Lucy (Sawtelle) Fitch. He was the scion of a line of sturdy ancestors, his paternal great-grandfather, Captain Zachariah Fitch, of Groton, Massachusetts, having served in the French and Indian wars and as a captain of minute men in the war of the Revolution. After completing his elementary studies in the schools of Winnebago county, Dr. Fitch entered Beloit College in 1861. Three years later he laid aside his textbooks and enlisted in a Wisconsin regiment. After the war he resumed his studies in Beloit, where he was graduated in 1866. He then took postgraduate work at the University of Michigan and then matriculated at the old Chicago Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1868, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He secured the second highest honors of his class, first honors being taken by Nicholas Senn, who became one of the world's most noted surgeons. Dr. Fitch supplemented his college work with two years of study in Europe, being a pupil of Vienna's foremost surgeons, while serving an internship at the Vienna general hospital, followed by research work in Budapest, Hungary. In 1872 Dr. Fitch came to Rockford and engaged in the practice of his profession, which he continued up to the time of his retirement, about three years prior to his death, the only interruption being a six months' absence in Europe, spent in further study.

Dr. Fitch's name will be held in lasting honor as one of the ablest physicians who ever gave loyal service in behalf of suffering humanity, for his life was characterized not only by the most adroit professional ability but also by the most profound human sympathy. Native goodness was an outstanding factor in his life and character. He had goodness of heart, by which he was deeply religious. He had goodness of mind, by which he attained an unchanging attitude of kindness, generosity and good will toward his fellowmen. He had goodness of hand, by which he healed unnumbered sick and suffering bodies. His patients had unbounded confidence in him because of his sincerity, his honesty and his integrity as a physician, together with his nobility of character and his thoroughgoing uprightness as a man. Hundreds of homes which he entered feel that in a great measure a wall of protection has fallen from around them.

Professionally Dr. Fitch had few equals as a diagnostician, one of the most important phases of a doctor's practice, for the entire course of treatment must be predicated on the diagnosis. In this he was rarely mistaken. As a surgeon he was unequalled in this section of the country and performed many marvelous operations. He was a member of the staff of Rockford Hospital and deeply interested in its welfare.

Dr. Fitch belonged to the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, the Sons of the Revolution, the Grand Army of the Republic and



the University Club. He was a trustee of Rockford College and of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Politically he gave his support to the republican party, but his professional duties precluded his taking a very active part in political affairs. He was a member of the Second Congregational church.

Dr. Fitch was keenly interested in everything pertaining to God's great out-of-doors and anything beautiful in nature aroused in him a quick interest and response. He was the friend of the dumb animals and nothing aroused his indignation as quickly as to see a horse or other animal abused. For many years he was president of the Winnebago County Humane Society. Art in all its forms appealed to his love of the esthetic, and his sympathies extended to all classes of life. He was a genius for making friends and those who knew him best loved him most. His life was clean, his heart was full, his mind was broad and comprehensive and his conceptions were lofty. His pastor said of him that his religion was bigger than any church, denomination or creed. His religion was the religion of service, for he felt that was the best way in which he could honor his Creator.

On March 16, 1887, Dr. Fitch was married to Miss Katherine Kountz, the daughter of William J. Kountz, a steamship owner and banker of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and to them were born two children: William K., a mechanical engineer, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Katherine, the wife of Major Charles S. Hamilton, United States army, of Washington, D. C. The children of Major and Mrs. Hamilton are Catherine Ann, Mary Fitch and William Fitch. Dr. Fitch died suddenly on April 17, 1922.

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#### ALLEN ARTHUR LYON.

Allen Arthur Lyon of the florist firm of Lyon & Anderson in Belvidere and a manufacturer of rustic ware for garden and landscape decorative effects, was born in Morseville, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, June 7, 1882, a son of John W. and Charlotte Lyon, members of pioneer families in that section of the state. Mr. Lyon's grandfather was a settler in Jo Daviess county as early as 1830 and the family thus has been represented in Illinois for almost one hundred years.

The late John W. Lyon, founder of the florist establishment in Belvidere that still bears the name, one time mayor of that city, also for some time a member of the board of aldermen, one of the best known men in the city in his generation, became a resident of Belvidere in 1886 and there established himself as a florist, a line he followed the remainder of his life, from 1912 until his death carrying on in partnership with V. H. Anderson under the firm name of Lyon & Anderson, which firm name has been maintained since his death, the Lyon interest now being represented by his son, Allen A. Lyon. John W. Lyon died on July 28, 1916, then being about fifty-six years of age. His long residence in Belvidere and his public service there, both as a member of the board of aldermen and as mayor of the city, had given him a wide acquaintance throughout that section of the Rock River valley and, as one of the local news-

papers said at the time of his death, he "was well liked and highly respected in a wide circle." Mr. Lyon was for many years active and prominent in local politics, was a leading member of the Royal Arcanum, a member of the local Automobile Club and was also affiliated with other organizations. His death occurred in the General Hospital in Freeport, to which institution he had been taken some weeks before, suffering from a physical breakdown which developed a heart weakness that resulted in death. The funeral was held in the Presbyterian church of Belvidere on the Sunday following, and was largely attended.

Allen Arthur Lyon was but four years of age when in 1886 his parents established their home in Belvidere and it was there that he grew up and had his schooling. He early became interested in the building trades and became a competent craftsman. Upon finishing his trade in Belvidere he started out as a journeyman carpenter and in that capacity traveled widely over the country, working for big contracting firms in the chief cities, and after awhile engaged in business on his own account as a building contractor in Canada. When in 1915 Mr. Lyon's father's health became such as to require his retirement he closed out his interests in Canada and returned to Belvidere to take care of his father's interests, and upon his father's death the next year he assumed those interests and has since been a member of the firm of Lyon & Anderson, florists. This firm also manufactures and distributes rustic vases, porch boxes, bird baths, sun-dials and the like for garden and landscape decorative effects, Mr. Lyon giving his particular attention to this latter line, which is put out under the trade name of the A. L. T. Rustic Company, one of Belvidere's interesting industrial concerns. Mr. Lyon is a Mason and is also a member of the Royal Arcanum.

On April 2, 1903, Mr. Lyon was united in marriage to Miss Elsie May Brown, daughter of John and Carrie Brown of Belvidere. Mr. and Mrs. Lyon have four children: Two sons, John Tuyrell and Arthur Clark Lyon; and two daughters, Violet and Bernice, all of whom are living save the first named, John Tuyrell Lyon, born in January, 1905, who died in September, 1923. The Lyon & Anderson florist establishment is located at the end of West Locust street and is well equipped, one of the oldest plants of its kind in this section of the state.

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#### GUSTAF H. EKSTROM.

Gustaf H. Ekstrom, superintendent of the plant of the Rockford Tool Company and one of the best known practical machinists in that city, the inventor of a machine which has revolutionized certain processes in the furniture manufacturing industry, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his boyhood. He was born in Gothenberg, in the kingdom of Sweden, December 3, 1881, a son of Carl Gustave and Hulda Marie Ekstrom, also natives of that country, who came to the United States with their family in 1893 and located in Rockford, where Charles Ekstrom

became connected with local manufacturing operations, in the furniture trade, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with further reference to the Ekstroms in Rockford.

Gustaf H. Ekstrom was but eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1893, and his schooling was completed in the schools of Rockford. He early became interested in mechanical processes and in the great plant of the W. F. & John Barnes Company in Rockford was well trained as a practical machinist. Upon finishing his trade Mr. Ekstrom was for a time employed as a machinist in Milwaukee, working there in the plant of the Milwaukee Engine Company, originators of the steam engine as a motive power for automobiles. He then returned to Rockford and became employed in the plant of Spengler Brothers, engaged there in the manufacture of special machinery for cash registers and change-making machines, and was for awhile also employed in the plant of the Barber-Coleman Company, in these several employments acquiring a variety of experience that made him a skilled and competent machinist in more lines than one. It was in 1907 that Mr. Ekstrom became a machinist in the plant of the Rockford Tool Company, a connection which has continued. Not long after taking up this employment he became instrumental in developing a machine for rubbing furniture, a revolutionizing device in the way of labor-saving machinery, and the company began the manufacture of this machine, sending him out on the road as a salesman and demonstrator, and in this capacity he did much toward securing for this now popular machine its present firm establishment in the furniture manufacturing industry generally throughout the country. By successive and well earned promotions Mr. Ekstrom was advanced in the service of the Rockford Tool Company until 1916, when he was made superintendent of the plant and has since been serving in that responsible capacity, doing much to extend the operations of this well established and growing concern.

On May 7, 1902, in Rockford, Mr. Ekstrom was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Lindquist, daughter of Charles A. Lindquist of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Ekstrom have three children: Francis, born November 9, 1903; Florence, born March 1, 1905; and Howard, born September 3, 1910. The Ekstroms are republicans and take a proper interest in local civic affairs. Mr. Ekstrom is one of the active and influential members of the Rockford Engineering Society and he and his wife are members of the locally popular Svea Soner Singing Society and of the Harlem Hills Country Club.

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#### JAMES TURESON.

James Tureson, head of the firm of James Tureson & Son, proprietors of a well established bakery in the city of Rockford, and who is one of its best known citizens, having made his home here since the days of his boyhood, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since he was twelve years of age, a period of fifty-five years, and is thus thoroughly familiar with conditions in Rockford, the development of which he has watched

since the time it began to expand and take on a new phase of life that has made it one of the notable industrial and commercial centers of the middle west. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, September 21, 1858, a son of Lars and Bertha Tureson, both natives of that country, whose last days were spent in Rockford. Lars Tureson came to the United States in the year 1868 and presently became located as a gardener in Rockford, where he found conditions so much to his liking that two years later he sent for his wife and their five children to join him in the new home he had prepared for them here. The family arrived in 1870 and the home was established in Rockford, where Lars Tureson continued as a gardener until his death in 1903, at that time having been a resident of Rockford for thirty-five years.

James Tureson was twelve years of age when in 1870 he came with his mother and the other members of the family to Rockford to rejoin his father there. He attended the local schools, readily acquired the use of the English language, and as a young man began working on farms in the near vicinity of Rockford. He was married in 1885 and five years later—in 1890—engaged in the mercantile business in association with his brother-in-law, P. A. Anderson, the two buying a cigar and confectionery store at the corner of Seventh street and Fourth avenue, the site now occupied by the Swedish-American Bank. Two years later—in 1892—Mr. Tureson bought a bakery that was located on Fourteenth avenue and thus became established in the bakery business, a line which ever since has engaged his attention and in which he has been quite successful. In 1895 he disposed of his interest in his cigar and confectionery store and thereafter gave his undivided attention to the development of his growing bakery business. In that same year he erected at No. 1411 Seventh street the bakery building in which he now is carrying on his business and has ever since been located there, one of the real business pioneers of that section of the city. When Mr. Tureson entered upon his ambitious venture his bakery was one of the first buildings erected in the vicinity of Fourteenth avenue and Seventh street, which at that time was accounted a part of the prairie but which now is a well populated and flourishing section of the city. His foresight was rewarded and as the population expanded in that direction his bakery prospered and he was compelled to make additions to keep up with the growing trade until in time he came to have one of the best established bakeries in the city and is accounted one of the leaders in that line hereabout. In 1898 Mr. Tureson admitted his son, Edward Tureson, to a partnership in this concern, which is now operated under the firm name of James Tureson & Son and is doing well. The Turesons are republicans and James Tureson is a member of Rockford Lodge No. 102, F. & A. M., and of Freeport consistory A. & A. S. R.

On October 7, 1885, in Rockford, James Tureson was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Nelson, daughter of Haakon Nelson of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Tureson have five children: Four daughters—Esther, Jennie, Minnie and Lucille; and the son, Edward Tureson, now associated with his father in the bakery business and manager of the plant. Edward Tureson married Miss Ethel Lunden and has three children—Edward, Jr., Eileen and Elican. All of James Tureson's daughters are married except Minnie. Esther Tureson became the wife of George Freak, now living in Detroit, Michigan, and has two children,

Jimmie and Bill; Jennie Tureson is the wife of J. Roach and is now living in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Lucille Tureson became the wife of Thomas Tolmie and is still living in Rockford. Mr. Tolmie, a veteran of the World war, is a well established contractor in Rockford, a member of the highway construction firm of Tolmie Brothers, and further mention of him is made elsewhere in this work. He and his wife have two children—a daughter, Eleanor, and a son, Thomas Kennedy Tolmie.

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### JOHN GRANDIN REXFORD.

One of the most conspicuous figures in the recent history of Rock county, Wisconsin, is that of John Grandin Rexford, who is too well known to the readers of this work to need any formal introduction here, a man who for many years was closely identified with the commercial and financial interests of Janesville and recognized as one of the leading citizens of his section of the state. Strong mental powers, invincible courage and sound business judgment so entered into his composition that throughout his active management of the important institution of which he was the head for many years he was considered one of the most influential figures in local financial circles. Now, in the golden twilight of life, though he is still identified with the directing board of this institution, he is enabled to enjoy the rest to which his years of intensive activity richly entitle him, and he lives secure in the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Rexford was born in New York city on the 6th of November, 1850, the son of John DeWitt and Cynthia Maria (Babeock) Rexford, of whom more detailed reference is made in a separate sketch elsewhere in this work. When he was but three years old, his father moved to Janesville and in the public and high schools of this city he secured his education. On May 1, 1868, at the age of eighteen years, he entered the First National Bank of Janesville as a messenger, and he has been identified with that institution continuously from that time to the present. He evinced an aptitude for the banking business, was conscientiously faithful in the performance of his duties and was promoted through successive positions until he became assistant cashier of the bank in 1881, cashier in 1891 and president in 1906. He continued at the head of the institution until January 1, 1920, when he retired from active business and resigned the presidency, though he still retains his membership on the board of directors. Under his management the First National Bank enjoyed an exceptional period of prosperity and fully sustained the fine reputation which it had gained under the presidency of his father and his successors, being numbered among the strong and influential financial institutions of the Rock River valley. Mr. Rexford was also a director and the treasurer of the Janesville Machine Company for many years.

On June 20, 1901, Mr. Rexford was married to Miss Belle A. Rolston, the daughter of Samuel Rolston, of Janesville. Politically Mr. Rexford has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party and has always been vitally inter-

ested in the trend of public affairs, though he has never sought public office of any nature. He is a faithful member and generous supporter of the First Presbyterian church of Janesville, in the original organization of which his father was the most active figure. Mr. Rexford's life and the history of this locality for a long period of years have been pretty much one and the same thing, for he has lived to see and take a prominent part in the growth of the community. His has been a long life of honor and trust and during all the years of his life here he has enjoyed to the fullest measure the confidence and esteem of the people of his community.

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CARL H. BARTLING, M. D.

Dr. Carl H. Bartling, a veteran of the World war with a major's commission and an overseas record, one of the better known of the younger physicians of the city of Rockford and prominently identified with the general social affairs of that city, is a native of Illinois and his interests ever have centered here. He was born in the city of Chicago, May 27, 1890, son of Charles F. and Wilhelmina (Weineck) Bartling of that city, and was there reared. Upon completing the course in the high school he took two years of preparatory work in the University of Chicago and then entered the Medical School of Northwestern University, from which institution he was graduated in 1913, with the degree of M. D.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Bartling was appointed an interne in the Cook County Hospital at Chicago and after eighteen months of intensive practical experience in professional work in that institution, engaged in medical practice in Chicago and was thus engaged when in the spring of 1917 this country took a hand in the World war. The Doctor straightway enlisted his services in behalf of the Medical Corps of the army, and on August 15, 1917, was commissioned first lieutenant of the Army Medical Corps. He was assigned to service with the Base Hospital at Camp Grant (Rockford) and presently was transferred from that station and assigned to overseas service with Base Hospital No. 58, and with that unit was stationed at Rimaucourt, France, where he was in service during the thick of the fighting. Following the signing of the armistice in November, 1918, the Doctor was assigned to service with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine, an officer of Evacuation Hospital No. 12 at Treves (Germany), and was there in service until the spring of 1919, when his command was ordered home, and on April 19, 1919, he received his honorable discharge with the rank of captain.

During the period of his service at Camp Grant, Dr. Bartling was much taken with the situation in Rockford and upon the completion of his military service he closed out his interests in Chicago and established himself in practice in Rockford, where he ever since has been located, with present offices at No. 505 Forest City Bank building, and has done very well. He has ever retained his interest in the army and in August, 1924, was commissioned a major in the medical branch of the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States

army. The Doctor is a valued member of the staff of the Rockford Hospital and is affiliated with the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is a member of the Winnebago County Anti-Tuberculosis Association, active in the fine work being done by that organization, and since 1920 has been an attending specialist in behalf of the fight against tuberculosis being carried on by the United States veterans bureau.

On March 23, 1918, Dr. Bartling was united in marriage to Miss Katharine Stewart, daughter of William N. Stewart of York, New York, and they have two daughters: Mary Stewart, born April 30, 1920; and Margaret Ann, born April 6, 1924. Dr. and Mrs. Bartling have a pleasant home in Rockford and take an interested and helpful part in the city's general social and cultural activities. The Doctor is a member of the Rockford University Club and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Masonic order and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His residence is at No. 1801 Cumberland street.

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#### CHALMERS INGERSOLL.

Chalmers Ingersoll, a self-made man and one of the pioneer journalists and manufacturers of Beloit, Wisconsin, was a natural leader of thought and action and for many years a dominant personality in his community. His influence was strongly felt in political circles throughout the state and he was known to his many friends as "Cham" Ingersoll. His manhood bore the impress of sincerity and candor and his moral force entered into the very fibre of the city's life. He enjoyed to the fullest extent the confidence and high regard of his fellow citizens, and his death, which occurred January 1, 1908, at his residence, No. 627 Church street, was a distinct loss to the community.

Chalmers Ingersoll was born October 29, 1838, in Westfield, Chautauqua county, New York, a son of Thomas and Sarah Ingersoll, natives, respectively, of Massachusetts and New York. Both of his grandfathers were of English descent, and his maternal grandmother was of Welsh descent. His paternal grandsire was a sea captain who was drowned while in middle life. Chalmers Ingersoll lost his father during his childhood and when a boy of twelve years he left Westfield, going to Greenfield, Massachusetts, to reside with an uncle, Charles J. J. Ingersoll, a newspaper publisher. Here was determined his future career, for while he attended school he was at the same time learning the printer's trade in his uncle's office. He mastered the trade during vacations and spare hours and worked for a year at the case in Springfield, Massachusetts.

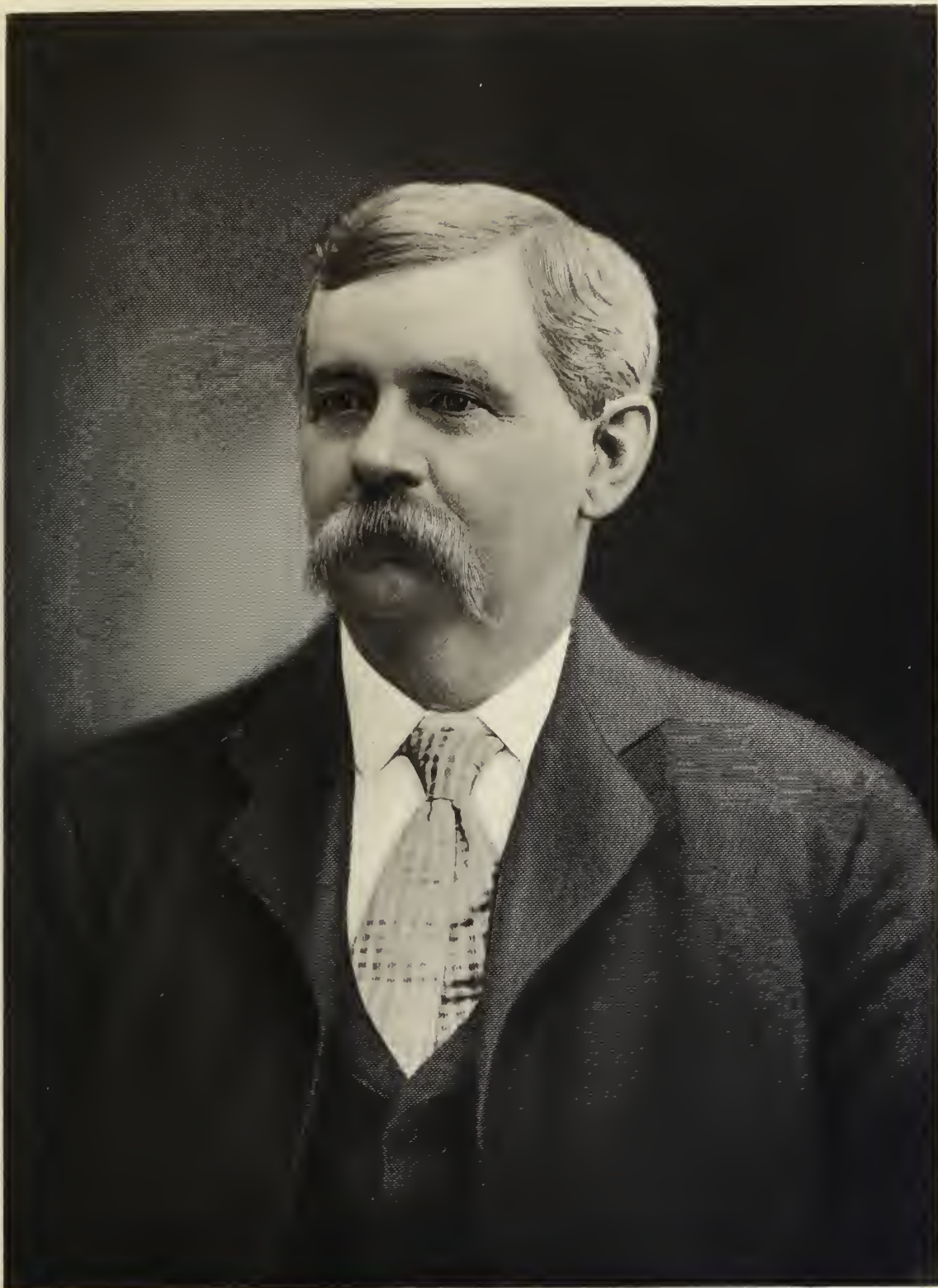
In 1856 Mr. Ingersoll came west, locating in Freeport, Illinois, and for two years held a position under his brother-in-law, C. K. Judson. He next entered the employ of the Chicago Tribune, with which he remained until the outbreak of the Civil war in 1861, and was among the first young men to enlist in the Union army. He served for three years with Company G, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and reenlisted in the winter of 1863-64. He remained in the service for nearly four years, participating in some of the most notable engagements of



Chas. J. Russell







Chas. Ingersoll



the war, and was a gallant soldier. He was at Gaines Mills throughout the Potomac campaign and also fought at Fredericksburg, Antietam and Gettysburg, as well as in many lesser battles. He always maintained his interest in military affairs and after settling in Beloit became captain of Company E of the Wisconsin National Guard. He commanded that company at the time of the Milwaukee riots, when the citizen soldiery was called to the Cream city. He was affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic and served as commander of the local post. The high regard in which he was held by the members of that body was shown on Memorial day of 1907, when the veterans marched to his home and paid him a tribute of respect which deeply touched him.

The year following the close of the war witnessed Mr. Ingersoll's advent into Beloit. He arrived early in 1866 and in February of that year began publishing the Weekly Free Press. In 1867 he bought the good will of the Beloit Journal, which had been established in 1848, and consolidated the two sheets under the name of the Free Press. He continued the publication of this paper until 1872, when he sold the business to Colonel Frank, and then engaged in manufacturing for a time, being the first to put upon the market the paper plates sold extensively by grocers. In 1877 he once more left the paper to engage in manufacturing, returning to his partnership with H. F. Hobart in 1881, and the next year purchased the interest of the latter, thus becoming sole owner of the Free Press, which Mr. Hobart had made into a daily in 1878. Mr. Ingersoll conducted the paper alone until 1904, when M. C. Hanna of Milwaukee was admitted to a partnership. This association was continued until June, 1907, when Mr. Ingersoll sold his entire interest in the Free Press Publishing Company and retired from business.

Mr. Ingersoll identified himself with politics from the very first of his newspaper work. Political battles were his life. He loved a fight and the fiercer the conflict the more he was in his element. He came to have a reputation for foresight and sagacity that made his counsel sought and his advice and aid desired by those with political aspirations. He rarely sought office for himself but seemed to prefer to rule the political chessboard as a player than as one of the men upon it. He was, however, made sergeant-at-arms of the state senate in 1878 and 1879. He was a member of many state conventions of the republican party and was a delegate to the national convention that nominated General Grant for the presidency. In the congressional district his will was for many years almost the law of the convention. He was postmaster three times, having been first appointed by President Arthur in 1883. He was displaced with the change of administration in 1885 but returned to the office again in 1897, when President McKinley succeeded President Cleveland, and he completed his last term in March, 1907. He had been a member of the common council and was one of the leading spirits in every project for the advancement of his community.

Mr. Ingersoll was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte B. Rinewalt on September 12, 1865, and they became the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are George Baine Ingersoll, whose biography is published elsewhere in this work; and Mrs. Charles H. Morse, of Chicago. At the time of his death Mr. Ingersoll was also survived by his widow; two broth-

ers, Colonel Orton Ingersoll of Arkansas City, Kansas, and J. W. Ingersoll of Eustis, Florida; and three sisters, Mrs. Charles K. Judson of El Paso, Texas, Mrs. G. W. Tandy of Freeport, Illinois, and Mrs. C. C. Bigelow of Rockton, Illinois.

Mr. Ingersoll stood high in Masonry, serving for several years as eminent commander of Beloit Commandery, No. 6, K. T., and was a member of Wisconsin Consistory, A. A. O. N. M. S. He was also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias. The following is an excerpt from a tribute paid him by the late D. B. Worthington, editor of the Beloit Daily News:

“A very remarkable man has come to his end. I admired him and had an affection for him, and those who esteem a valiant opponent can easily understand the sincerity of my statement \* \* \* I would not be doing Mr. Ingersoll justice, nor would I meet his approval, if this article were effusive. He was a man with the weaknesses of men. He was passionate to the swearing point and opposition aroused his anger. And when he was aroused it was a time for scattering. He possessed a commanding figure, a dominant presence, and his voice was thunderous. He scared people, until they came to know him, and many there are who did not quite get over the fright of a first meeting. He was both selfish and generous. His employees liked him and he was faithful to them. Mr. Ingersoll possessed the first fundamental of a successful politician—he was loyal to his friends even when they went wrong. Now that his end has come there are men here and elsewhere who will cherish his memory until they themselves pass away.

“It is doubtful if any community in the country was so completely under the power of one man as was Beloit during the twenty-odd years that Mr. Ingersoll ruled. His, more than any other influence, made Beloit the banner republican city of Wisconsin. He injected partisan politics into everything. ‘Vote the ticket straight and maintain the organization’ was his shibboleth. He preached this in and out of season and as he wrote ably and made the slate himself, matters political generally went to his liking. For many years no man could aspire to any office, from the mayoralty to the keeper of the town pump, without paying homage to ‘Cham’. And if anyone dared to thwart his will the community would await the issue of the Free Press to see ‘what Ingersoll has to say’. And Ingersoll said what he had to say very clearly. Communities chafe under political domination which has its selfish sides and which permits only the few to enjoy honor and privilege. And while it can be said that absolutely no taint of graft clings to the long sway of Mr. Ingersoll, the opposition element finally became so strong that power no longer rested in the hands of the ‘old man’, as his friends came to refer to him. History, in this respect, was repeated.

“Mr. Ingersoll belonged to the old school of editors and politicians. In features he bore a strong likeness to Henry Watterson. Mr. Ingersoll was a partisan, a stand-patter, a stalwart of the stalwarts, and the influence of the man was indicated in the La Follette-Peck campaign. Forty-eight hours before election he decided against the candidacy of La Follette—whom he had always hated—and when he passed the word along the stalwart vote went to

Peck. The new order of things in Wisconsin and Beloit was very distasteful to the man who had seen things political go his way for half a life-time. He was growing old and feeble and so he retired . . . He had incurred political hatreds when he ruled with an iron hand and had turned his enemies on the editorial spit. When he stepped down, however, from political and editorial power the victims of his onslaughts discovered how little they disliked him and how much of greatness Mr. Ingersoll possessed. His death is mourned not only by republicans, of whom Mr. Ingersoll was a famous type, but by democrats, who never received quarter from him in the political struggles of five and twenty years.

“Mr. Ingersoll as a competitor in the newspaper business, fought fair—and fearlessly. It was a joy to do battle with him. He bowled me over more than once and I caused him some trouble of a kind he expected and courted. I liked him and never told him so. I have a suspicion and hope that Mr. Ingersoll—big, bluff fighter that he was—had a reciprocal feeling. I reverently take off my hat to a man whose place will never be quite filled.”

In commenting upon the death of Mr. Ingersoll the Daily News in its issue of January 2, 1908, said in part: “For forty years the deceased had been a prominent figure in the community. He commanded the admiration of his fellow citizens and by his intimates was held in deep affection. Like all strong characters his views met with approval and opposition from various sources, but his views were always clear-cut and expressed with a forcefulness that carried conviction of sincerity. In his dealings he was frank almost to the point of bluntness—a fact that probably often caused him to be misunderstood. At the same time he was a skillful politician who read human nature cleverly and played the game for all it was worth. He had a commanding figure and a dignified bearing that made him conspicuous in any gathering. He was always at his ease and maintained his poise under any circumstances. He made no claim to being an orator, but when he spoke he was always heard with attention.

“He could hurt and be hurt. He was philosophical in defeat and joyous when he won. He never complained and in his heart he recognized that his political enemies had the same rights as himself, although he rarely acknowledged this openly. He possessed a strong personality, so strong, indeed, that he dominated many men and influenced their opinions. He wielded, therefore, great power for a quarter of a century. He was an able editorial writer and was widely quoted. Mr. Ingersoll was loyal to his friends—right or wrong. The passing of such a man deeply affects the entire community and he is mourned by many.”

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#### JOHN DAVID MEEHAN.

The record of no business man of Beloit has stood in larger measure as a synonym for honor and integrity than that of John David Meehan, who also enjoyed the distinction of being the dean of retail grocers of the city, receiving his title from the fact that more than thirty-five Beloit business men, many of them grocers, obtained their start while clerking in his store. For thirty-

two years he was a leader of the trade and his death on the 25th of October, 1921, removed from the community one of its best known and most highly respected citizens.

John David Meehan was born November 18, 1864, in Albany, Wisconsin, and during his boyhood moved to Footville, this state. At the early age of thirteen he began to provide for his own livelihood, acting as clerk in a grocery store in Footville, and when he reached the age of nineteen he was appointed postmaster. He filled the office for one term and at that time was the youngest postmaster in the country. On leaving the service of the government he moved to Beloit and for twenty-eight years conducted business at the present location, No. 218 East Grand avenue. He carried a fine grade of goods and in his dealings with patrons was always prompt, courteous and obliging. He was known to the trade throughout the middle west and carefully studied every phase of the grocery business, manifesting keen sagacity in the conduct of his affairs, while his honesty was above question. Owing to illness he was forced to retire from business about a year and a half before his demise, which occurred when he was fifty-seven years of age. He is survived by a widow, Mrs. Nellie Meehan, and two sons, John Russell and Paul Maurice, who are managing the store. Mr. Meehan was a faithful communicant of St. Jude's Catholic church and was also identified with the Knights of Columbus.

John Russell Meehan, the elder son, was born July 6, 1896, and attended the grammar and high schools of this city. He was graduated from Beloit College in 1919 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts and in 1920 was a law student at the University of Wisconsin. He belongs to the Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternities and his brother is also a member of the latter society. Both are natives of Beloit and since 1920 have been associated in the conduct of their father's store, closely adhering to the policy which he adopted. They are able young business men, of enterprising methods and mature judgment, and under their progressive management the future of the concern is assured. John R. Meehan was married May 17, 1921, to Miss Gladys Marie Schmidt, a daughter of Edmund Schmidt of Beloit, and they have one child, Elizabeth Janet, born March 17, 1922.

Paul Maurice Meehan was born October 13, 1899, and after the completion of his high school course spent one year as a student at Beloit College. He was married June 6, 1921, to Miss Irene Newton, a daughter of Clarence Newton of Beloit. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meehan have two children: Pauline, who was born February 23, 1923; and Natalie, born February 25, 1925.

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#### VINCENT WILLIAM KOCH, M. D.

No other profession has equaled, during the last half century, the progress and development that have been made by that of medicine. The man of original thought and action, whose textbook forms but the basis for future work, has ever moved forward, and those who follow reap lasting benefit from his work. The subject of this sketch has in addition to the general practice of

medicine specialized in a field but little touched upon by the average practitioner and is achieving results that would have been hardly dreamed of a few years ago. He has not been bound by the limitations of his college training, but has courageously gone ahead with methods and technique in advance of the regular practice in that line and with the most gratifying results, so that he has won and retains to a marked degree the admiration of his professional colleagues. Vincent William Koch was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 27th of July, 1889, the son of Philip and Anna Koch. His father was a native of Germany who came to Janesville and here became a prominent and successful business man. The subject attended the public and high schools of Janesville and then entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1913 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He then matriculated in Rush Medical College, Chicago, where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1916. During the following year he was interne as assistant surgeon in the United States Steel Company's mills at Gary, Indiana, followed by a year's internship in St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago. In 1917 Dr. Koch enlisted for service in the World war and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps. He was first stationed in New York city and then, successively, at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, and at Camp Jackson, South Carolina, after which he was sent overseas and served one year with the British army. He was discharged on September 16, 1919, with the rank of captain.

While in England Dr. Koch took the fellowship of medicine at the University of London and also studied with Sir William Osler at Oxford University. While in New York he took postgraduate work at the New York Post-Graduate Hospital, specializing in orthopaedics and internal medicine. In 1919 Dr. Koch returned to Janesville and joined the Mum-Farnsworth clinic, with which he is still associated. He has had a very successful practice since locating here and is acquiring a widespread reputation for his successful work. He is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, as well as the Chicago Orthopaedic Society. He also belongs to the Sigma Nu and the Phi Rho Sigma societies and to the Lakota Club and the Janesville Country Club. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a man of most gracious personality and strong character, who labors with zeal and devotion in the work to which he has devoted his life. Because of his professional ability, his genuine worth and his genial manner he enjoys the esteem and respect of the entire community.

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#### EUGENE THOMAS LEONARD, M. D.

Dr. Eugene Thomas Leonard, a well known physician and surgeon of the city of Rockford, and a member of the staff of the Rockford Hospital has been engaged in practice in that city since the spring of 1917. He is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and is affiliated with the University Club



of Rockford and with the Elks Club of that city and is also a member of the college fraternity (medical) Alpha Kappa Kappa. He is a native of Wisconsin, born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the village of Hollandale, Iowa county, June 8, 1889, a son of Henry and Cecelia (Callahan) Leonard, substantial residents of that place.

Reared on the home farm in the neighborhood of Hollandale, Eugene Thomas Leonard attended the schools of that place, supplemented this by high school work in Milwaukee and then entered Marquette University in Milwaukee and in 1910, the year in which he attained his majority, was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In the meantime he had been giving his thought to preparatory studies in medicine and upon leaving Marquette he entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison and after two years of further preparatory work there entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, and in 1915 was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Leonard was appointed an interne in the Children's Memorial Hospital at Chicago and was there for ten months, at the end of which time he secured appointment to the Vancouver General Hospital at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in which institution he remained for seven months, receiving there further intensive practical experience in his profession. Thus admirably qualified for general practice Dr. Leonard established himself in practice in Rockford in May, 1917, and has ever since resided in that city, with present offices in the Trust building.

On August 1, 1917, about three months after he had become established in practice in Rockford, Dr. Leonard was united in marriage to Miss Rhoda Myra Stentiford, who was born in the city of London, England. They have three children: Eugene Thomas, Jr., born October 4, 1919; Patricia, born October 8, 1921; and William, born July 8, 1923.

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#### CHARLES ATWOOD.

Among the pioneer families of Janesville, Wisconsin, none takes priority over the Atwood family, and during the almost nine decades since the first member of the family came to this valley it has always held a high place in the esteem of the people of the community, for the Atwoods, father and son, were numbered among the coterie of public-spirited and enterprising men who ever had the interests of the community at heart and were potent factors in its development and prosperity. The first of the family to locate here was Volney Atwood, who was born in Cambridge, Vermont, February 28, 1812, and who came to Janesville in 1837. He took up three hundred and twenty acres of land in Janesville township, where he became a successful farmer and prominent citizen. In later years he conducted the American Hotel, which then stood on the present site of the Masonic temple. For many years he was one of the influential figures in the public affairs of the community and up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1906, he enjoyed the highest measure of respect throughout this locality. He was married to

Miss Catherine Holmes, the daughter of William Holmes, who soon after the close of the Blackhawk war came here with John Inman, they being the first prospectors to explore this section of the Rock River valley. They returned here in the fall and made permanent settlement, "Judge" Holmes building a cabin home at the corner of Jackson and Holmes streets, and it was in this humble dwelling that his daughter became the wife of Volney Atwood on June 30, 1847. William Holmes was a native of Ohio, where he had served as judge of the local court, because of which fact he was always referred to as "Judge" Holmes.

To Volney and Catherine Atwood was born a son, Charles, on the 6th of March, 1852, and he remained a resident of Janesville to the time of his death, which occurred February 18, 1923, in the seventy-first year of his age. He attended the Janesville Academy in his boyhood days and eventually engaged in the coal, wood and ice business, to which he devoted his energies for some years, meeting with success. Later he became superintendent of the Janesville street railway, during the period when the cars were all drawn by horses. In 1887 he became identified with the City Ice Company, with which he remained connected up to the time of his death.

On July 23, 1873, he was married to Miss Alta Doty, the daughter of E. Philo and Abigail M. Doty, and of the children born to this union seven survive, namely: Volney, Harry, Edward, Miss Abbie, Mrs. Don Holloway, Leo and Starr. There are also twelve grandchildren. Mrs. Alta Atwood died February 8, 1923, but ten days prior to the death of her life companion. Mr. Atwood was a product of the pioneer epoch and was one of those sterling citizens whose labors for his own advancement also contributed to the advancement and prosperity of his community. He was a man of many fine qualities of head and heart and among his contemporaries it would be hard to find a record more replete with duty faithfully and uncomplainingly performed in all the walks of life, while his career in the humble sphere of private citizenship was such as commended him to the favorable consideration of all who knew him. His lifelong residence here, his upright life and mature judgment and the many services he rendered made his name a synonym for character and worth and his death was considered a distinct loss to the entire community which had been honored by his citizenship.

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#### CARL E. LINDQUIST.

Carl E. Lindquist, a well established young merchant and jeweler of the city of Rockford, an active and influential member of the enterprising Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association of that city and recognized as one of the progressive business men of the Rock River valley, is a native of Rockford and has ever made his home in that city. He was born April 4, 1887, a son of Oscar and Lottie Lindquist, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who came to this country in 1880 and established their home in Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, Carl E. Lindquist completed the course in the high

school there and then entered upon his mercantile career, beginning as a clerk in a local grocery store. In 1908, the year in which he attained his majority, Mr. Lindquist formed a partnership with Arnouff Johnson and engaged in the grocery business on his own account, the two opening a grocery store at No. 701 Seventh street and doing business as the People's Grocery Company. Five years later, in 1913, Mr. Lindquist sold his interest in this concern and became a traveling salesman in the dental supply line and was thus engaged until 1917, when he abandoned the road and opened at No. 1024 Fourteenth avenue, a jewelry store, and has since then been quite successfully carrying on in business at that advantageous point. Not long after entering the jewelry business Mr. Lindquist took a course in optometry in the Northern Illinois College of Optometry at Chicago, was graduated from that institution in 1919 and has since come to be regarded as one of the leading optometrists in the city, carrying a full line of optical goods in addition to his ample stock of jewelry, silverware, watches, clocks and the like. Mr. Lindquist not only is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce but he is one of the leaders of that energetic body of business men operating in the promotion of the best interests of that section of the city, under the name of the Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association, and he never neglects an opportunity to boost in that direction. He is a republican and has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs.

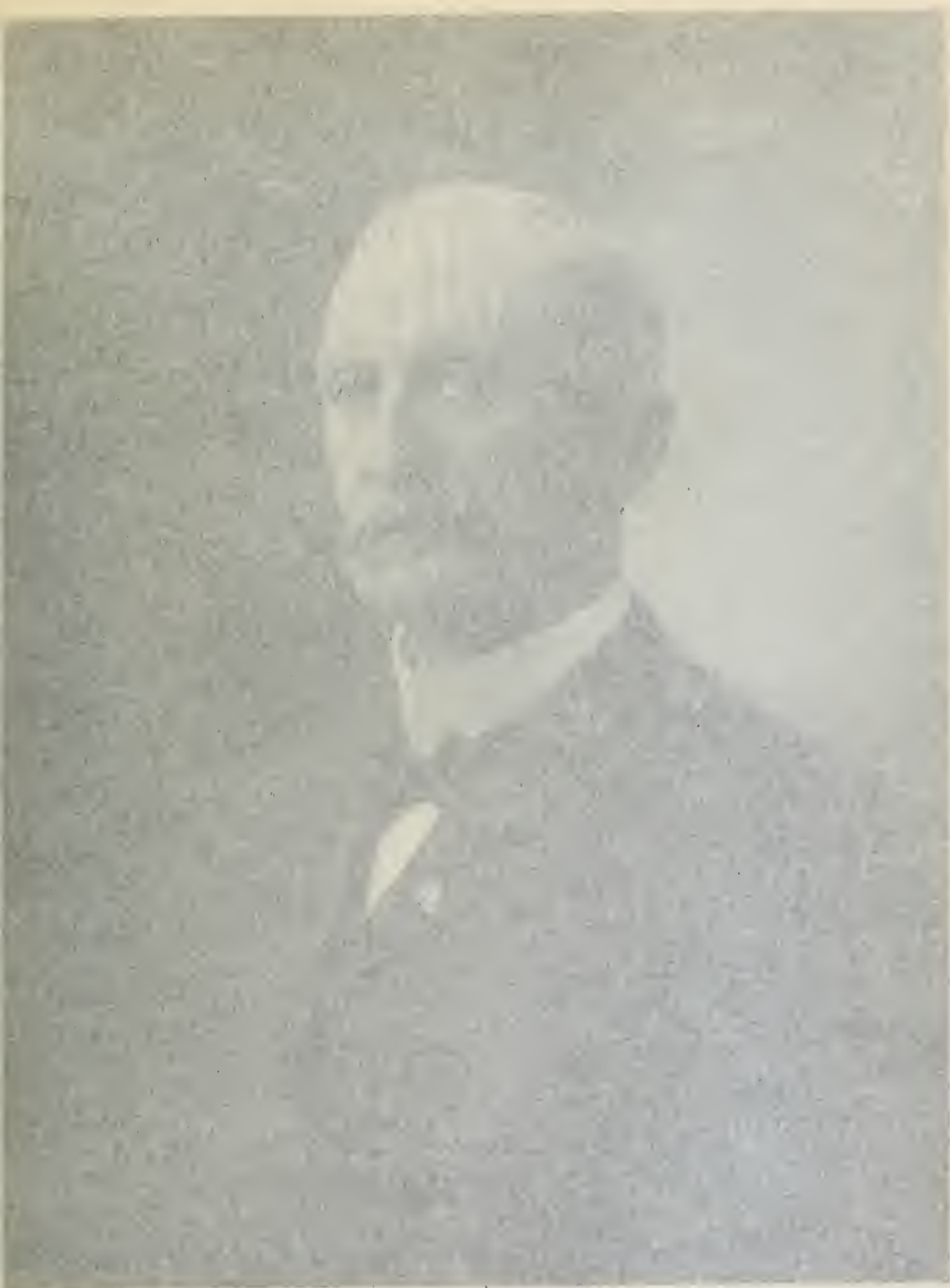
On April 4, 1910, while he was in the grocery business on Seventh street, Carl E. Lindquist was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Peterson, daughter of John Peterson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Lindquist have three children: Dwight, born December 26, 1914; Ruth, born January 31, 1916; and Franklin, born July 17, 1919.

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#### THOMAS CHICK.

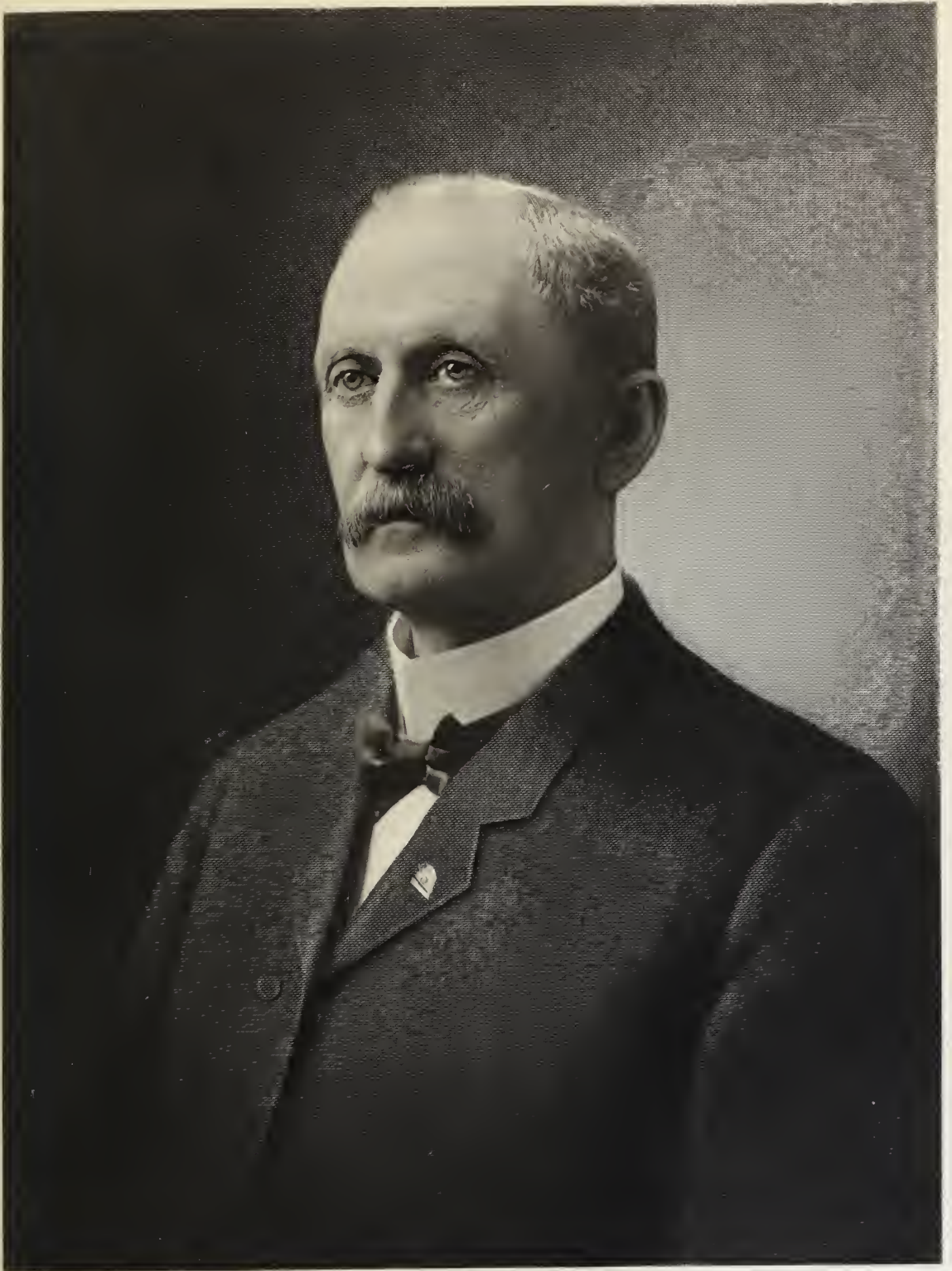
“May you rest in peace, you've earned it,  
 Knight of the kindly word,  
 Prince of deeds in mercy wrought,  
 Of which none from you heard.  
 No need to recount the failings,  
 That proved you were a man,  
 For the balance was in your favor,  
 In the ledger of your span.

“You were true to those who loved you;  
 To the call of those in need  
 You were always quick responding  
 Without care for race or creed;  
 And you made the world seem brighter  
 To so many in dismay  
 Because with open heart and hand  
 You passed along this way.



*J. H. Oliver*





*Thos. Cluett*



“So we leave you calmly sleeping,  
Weeping tears of mute farewell,  
Though we know you are the victor,  
And that with you all is well;  
For you squarely played the game of life,  
Would stoop to no mean trick,  
You were one of nature’s noblemen,  
By every test, Tom Chick.”

—F. C. L.

The comment has often been truthfully made that deserved appreciation of good and useful men is too frequently withheld until death awakens society to a sense of its loss. This was less true of Thomas Chick than of most worthy citizens of his community, for there was never a period in his life when his fine and lovable qualities were not recognized and appreciated. None ever failed to credit him with high moral purpose, true nobility of character and the loftiest of business and social ideals, and his standing in the community was such that a history of the representative men of this locality would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of him.

Thomas Chick was born in Devonshire, England, on the 16th of November, 1847, and his death occurred on July 8, 1918, in the seventy-first year of his age. When he was seven years of age, the family came to America, locating in London, Ontario, Canada, in the public schools of which city he secured his education. After he completed his studies, following the example of his ancestors for several generations, he learned the milling business. Shortly afterward he came to Rockford and for a time was employed in the old Bartlett mills. He then went to Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, where for several years he was employed in a flour mill, following which he turned his attention to railroading, entering the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad and serving as an engineer for fifteen years. Railroading in those days did not have the benefit of the many mechanical contrivances which have so improved the service in later years, but he performed his duties in a manner that won the approval and commendation of his superiors and the respect and admiration of his associates. That he was a man of more than ordinary force of character was evidenced by the strong hold he always retained on the hearts and affections of the men with whom he worked in those days, and in later years he enjoyed nothing better than his frequent meetings with these men at his hotel, which long was a rendezvous for them.

Following his retirement from the railroad, Mr. Chick came to Rockford, and, in partnership with his brother, John G. Chick, operated the two mills which were later torn down to make room for the present electric light plant. Selling his milling interests to his brother a few years later, in 1888 he and his wife engaged in the hotel business, starting in a modest way on South Main street, and so homelike an atmosphere was soon created about their place that patronage was attracted and continued to increase through the years, until the Chick hotel became one of the most agreeable and pleasant places in the city at which to stop, as testified by the hundreds of discriminating people



who found here just what they craved in the way of hotel life. It was more like a home than a hotel, because of the spirit of hospitality and helpfulness always abounding there.

Mr. Chick was an appreciative and active member of the Masonic order, in which he had taken all the degrees of the York Rite up to and including those of Crusader Commandery of Knights Templar and Freeport Consistory of the Scottish Rite; he also belonged to Tebala Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Rockford Country Club and the Pioneer Society.

On February 16, 1873, Mr. Chick was married to Miss Lena Kennedy, who was born in Vermont but in childhood was taken by her family to Harvard, Illinois, where she was reared and educated. She was in the finest sense of the word a true helpmate to her husband, giving him her advice, encouragement and active assistance in all his business efforts. They established a summer home at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and became active members of a pioneer colony at that popular resort. Mr. Chick took especial pleasure in his trips to this lake and delighted in the opportunity to entertain his friends there. Compared with the blazon of fame which some regard as the real stamp of greatness, there is a lowlier and simpler, and yet true, standard whereby to judge a man and fix his place in the regard of his fellowmen. During his life in this community its people had the opportunity to learn what manner of man Mr. Chick was. The record of testimony is ample that he was a good citizen in the fullest sense of the term, ever doing worthily and well his life work, and he leaves to his wife the rich memory of an unstained name and to the city he loved so well the record and example of an honorable and well spent life.

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#### CHARLES E. WRIGHT, M. D.

Dr. Charles E. Wright, a veteran physician in Rockford and long recognized as among the leading physicians of the Rock River valley, is a native of the Dominion of Canada but a citizen of the United States and a resident of Illinois by choice. He won his medical degree in the University of Illinois and a quarter of a century ago began the practice of his profession in this state, his interests thus now centering here as definitely as though he were indeed "native and to the manner born." He was born in the village of Villanova, in the province of Ontario, February 6, 1869, a son of Thomas M. and Agnes B. (Ennis) Wright, the former of whom was a substantial landowner and farmer there.

Reared on the home farm, Charles E. Wright grew up familiar with the details of farm operation and was for some time during the years of his young manhood actively engaged in that vocation. He completed his early education in the high school of the neighboring town of Simcoe and after awhile began to give his attention to the study of medicine. Under capable preceptorship he was prepared for college and then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of Illinois, and in 1901 was graduated from that

institution. In the meantime Dr. Wright had married and upon receiving his diploma he established his home in the village of Scales Mound, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and engaged in the practice of his profession at that place for seven years, or until 1908, when he returned to Canada, passing the examination prescribed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia and located in Vancouver with the expectation of becoming established in practice in that city. However, it shortly was found that the state of Mrs. Wright's health was being affected by the climatic vagaries of that region and in the next year (1909) the Doctor returned with his family to Illinois and established himself in practice in Rockford, where he ever since has been, with present offices in the Stewart building, his practice including both medicine and surgery. The Doctor is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and takes an active interest in the deliberations of these learned bodies.

On January 3, 1895, while still making his home in Ontario, Dr. Wright was united in marriage to Miss Kitty Harrison, also of Canadian birth, daughter of Elmer Harrison of Selkirk, in the province of Ontario. The Harrisons of this particular line have been noted for the considerable number of that name represented conspicuously in the medical profession, and Mrs. Wright's uncle, Dr. Thomas Harrison, was for some time the president of the Dominion Medical Association. Dr. and Mrs. Wright have three daughters: Mona A., Josephine K. and Amelia T. The Wrights have a very pleasant home in Rockford and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the city. Dr. Wright is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all the bodies of that ancient order available to the inquirer, including the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and the Temple of the Mystic Shrine, and is likewise a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Dr. and Mrs. Wright are members of the Rockford Country Club and he has affiliation with the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and with the Kiwanis Club of that city.

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#### HON. GEORGE GRIMM.

The Hon. George Grimm, for twenty years judge of the circuit court in and for that fine judicial district comprised in the counties of Green, Rock and Jefferson in Wisconsin, following ten years of service as county judge of Jefferson county, with residence at Jefferson in the last named county, a former member of the legislature of the state of Wisconsin and for many years a dignified and influential factor in the general social and professional affairs of the beautiful Rock River valley, was born on a farm a mile east of Jefferson. During his many years on the bench Judge Grimm has acquired a distinctive reputation among the state judiciary for the notable successes he has achieved in adjusting cases in litigation "out of court"; that is, without trial, and his conciliatory methods have done much to minimize litigation in his circuit. Some years ago in an address before the board of circuit judges

of Wisconsin Judge Grimm presented an outline of his attitude upon the question of judicial conciliation that was so thorough and comprehensive in its character as to attract much attention in the legal profession, and the views there set out, widely published and quoted, undeniably have had a large influence in recent court procedure throughout the country.

Long experience on the bench has given the Judge a keen understanding of human nature, with its too common propensity to "go to law" over questions in dispute that ought to be settled without costly and oftentimes acrimonious litigation, with its consequent train of personal bitterness and hatred. Understanding all this, he has for years been advocating a higher standard of judicial service and on his own bench has attained results of a highly gratifying nature. As one writer along these lines has pointed out, in a review of Judge Grimm's well known attitude toward unnecessary litigation, "it is the humanitarian point that appeals to him more than any other—the possibility of preventing long continued hatred and dissension where amity should exist, and thus he is working toward higher ideals, that the court may no longer be simply a battleground of contending factions." Judge Grimm is a profound student of present day political, sociological and economic problems, is possessed of an historical perspective of wide range and has done much toward the promotion of a better way of thought along certain of the perplexing lines now engaging the most serious thought of mankind. Among his contributions to the literature of this movement is a volume, "Pluck," which has been widely read and most favorably received in thoughtful and well informed circles throughout the country. The Judge is now nearing the traditional three-score-years-and-ten stage of life, and the soundness of his conclusions finds basis in a ripeness of judgment that has long made him a well beloved leader in the state's judiciary.

Judge Grimm was born September 11, 1859, and is a son of Adam and Anna Margaret (Thoma) Grimm, Bavarians, who ten years before his birth, following the unsuccessful political revolution attempted in southern Germany and in the Palatinate, had come to this country seeking a measure of political and social freedom denied them in their home country, and in the spring of 1849 were married in New York. They straightway came to Wisconsin and established their home in Jefferson county, where Adam Grimm presently began to specialize in bee culture and developed a business along that line which brought him recognition as perhaps the leading apiarist in this country. It now is acknowledged that Adam Grimm's methods in carrying on his great apiary in the vicinity of Jefferson established that business on an entirely new and profitable basis in this country and his writings along the lines with which he was so thoroughly familiar gave to bee culture in America a standing it might else have been many years in acquiring. Not only was Adam Grimm successful along this line but he acquired success along other lines, banking, realty and the like, and at the time of his passing, April 10, 1876, was possessed of a fine estate. His widow survived him for seventeen years, her death occurring November 6, 1893. They were devoted members of the Lutheran church and their children were reared in the faith of that communion. There were five children, Judge Grimm having had four sisters,

namely: Anna B., who also is living at Jefferson, the widow of Charles F. Bullwinkel; Margaret (deceased), who was the wife of Carl Kuestermann, also now deceased; Katherine (deceased), who was the wife of Herman Giesler; and Elizabeth, the wife of George J. Kispert, cashier of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Jefferson.

Reared at Jefferson, Judge Grimm's local school work was supplemented by a term in Northwestern College at Watertown and he then entered the law school of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1879, when in his twentieth year. Subsequently for several years his spare time was employed in the law offices of Markhams & Smith at Milwaukee and Colonel George W. Bird at Jefferson. For some time after his graduation his time was devoted chiefly to the interests of the considerable estate left by his father, but after 1884 he devoted his time to law practice almost exclusively. An ardent republican, even as had been his father, he from the beginning of his activities as a lawyer and publicist gave a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and in 1886 was elected to represent his district in the lower house of the Wisconsin general assembly. Upon the completion of that term of office he formed a partnership in the practice of law with R. B. Kirkland (subsequently county judge of Jefferson county), an association that was maintained for four years. In 1896 he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the bench of the Jefferson county court and by election was continued in that judicial position until his election in 1906 to the bench of the circuit court for the twelfth judicial circuit of the state of Wisconsin, winning this distinction in competition with three other strong candidates for the office. By successive reelections Judge Grimm has been retained on the bench of the circuit court and is thus now reckoned as one of the real veteran judges of the state. That his work on the bench is highly appreciated by the public was strikingly evidenced at a recent election when, against two opponents, he was elected for a fourth term by an overwhelming majority, receiving seventy-six per cent of the total vote. Judge Grimm is a Knight Templar, Royal Arch and Scottish Rite (thirty-second degree) Mason and a Noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and he and his family are members of the church of Christ, Scientist.

On May 20, 1886, the year in which he was elected to the legislature, Judge Grimm was united in marriage to Miss Mariette Bullock of the village of Johnson Creek in Jefferson county, daughter of the Hon. John D. Bullock, a native of Ephratah, New York, who in 1851 became a resident of Jefferson county. Mr. Bullock served several terms in the Wisconsin state legislature, was the first republican sheriff ever elected in Jefferson county and thereafter served for twenty years as United States revenue agent. He was one of the strong personal factors in the general life of the community in which he had elected to make his home when he came out here from the east. Judge and Mrs. Grimm have five children: Four daughters, Meta M., Laura C., Hilda M. and Lorraine; and a son, Roseoe Grimm, the latter of whom, born January 4, 1906, is now a student in the University of Wisconsin. Meta M. Grimm,

born May 19, 1887, married J. C. Lacy, sales manager, Pyrex division, Corning Glass Works. Laura C. Grimm, born March 22, 1889, married E. B. Parsons, a civil engineer with offices at Jefferson. Hilda M. Grimm, born June 2, 1890, married Elmer J. Schafer, a casualty insurance broker of Chicago, and has one child, a daughter. Lorraine, born June 1, 1893, married Howard M. Watts, a Milwaukee merchant, and has three children: Helen, George and Laura.

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### CARL JOHANZON.

Carl Johanson, one of the best known of the veteran merchants on Seventh street in the city of Rockford, proprietor of a jewelry store there and for years recognized as one of the experts in the line of fine repair work in the Rock River valley, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood and of Rockford for almost fifteen years, he thus having a wide and popular acquaintance in that city. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, November 6, 1863, and was there carefully trained in the art and mystery of watchmaking, becoming a thoroughly well qualified craftsman in that line. He married when twenty-five years of age and four years later, in 1893, came to the United States with his family and established his home in the city of Chicago.

That was World's Fair year in Chicago and the newcomers found much to interest them in the teeming city. As an expert craftsman in the jewelry and watchsmith line Mr. Johanson had no difficulty in making an industrial connection in the city in which he had elected to make his home and he became employed in that same year in the establishment of Otto Young & Company in Chicago, a concern with which he was connected for five years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the establishment of Benjamin Allen & Company in that same city. For six years Mr. Johanson continued this latter connection and then he became employed in the establishment of Spaulding & Company as an expert watchmaker, for by this time he had come to be recognized as one of the ablest craftsmen in that line in the city. After six years of further service in that connection Mr. Johanson determined to get into business on his own account and in pursuance of that laudable ambition wisely sought a location in Rockford. In 1913 he opened a jewelry store in that city and has ever since been engaged there as a merchant. Mr. Johanson has a carefully stocked and well equipped place at No. 324 Seventh street and in addition to his mercantile operations makes a specialty of fine repair work in that line in which he has for so many years been an expert. His son-in-law, Ralph Ericson, is associated with him in the management of the mercantile end of the enterprise and the concern is doing well. Mr. Johanson is a republican, a member of the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Vikings and the Good Templars.

On June 23, 1889, while still living in his native land, Carl Johanson was united in marriage to Miss Maria Charlotta Peterson, also a native of the

kingdom of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Johanson have a daughter: Sigrid Maria Christina, who on September 15, 1914, was united in marriage to Ralph Ericson who, as mentioned above, is now associated with Mr. Johanson in the management of the jewelry store. Mr. and Mrs. Ericson have two children: a son, Ralph Gustav Ericson, born June 20, 1916; and a daughter, Maria Hilma, born May 22, 1919.

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FRED A. REED.

Fred A. Reed, well known merchant of Belvidere; president of the Boone county Rural Telephone Company; former member of the board of aldermen in that city; one of the veteran business men of Boone county and widely known throughout the region covered by his operations, is a native of Boone county and his interests always have centered here. He was born on a farm in the town of Spring, just outside Belvidere, January 8, 1855, a son of George and Eliza Ann (Wait) Reed, well known and substantial residents of that community in their generation, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with a narrative relating to the late George Reed, a Massachusetts man who had settled there in 1849 and who had done well his part in community development, for three terms back in the '90s a member of the legislature from this district and in other ways an active and influential figure in civic and social affairs in Boone county. George Reed died in the summer of 1906, then being past eighty-two years of age, and at his passing he left a good memory.

Reared on the home farm in the Belvidere neighborhood, Fred A. Reed finished his schooling in the Belvidere high school and then became associated with his father in the operation of the farm. After his father's death he continued to make his home on the farm for two or three years, or until 1909, when he moved to Belvidere, where he was in the live stock business. Two years later he became engaged in his present mercantile line, music and musical instruments, and has a well stocked and admirably appointed place of business at No. 110 Logan avenue, one of the best known men in his line of business in this section of the Rock River valley. Mr. Reed has other interests of a substantial character, is a member of the boards of directors of the Peoples Bank of Belvidere and of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, and is president of the Boone County Rural Telephone Company. He is a republican, has long taken an interested and helpful part in local civic affairs, rendered service for some time as alderman from the fifth ward of the city of Belvidere, and during the time of his residence in the town of Spring rendered service there for some time as assessor and as a member of the local school board. He is a member of the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Bel-Mar Country Club.

On February 22, 1876, Mr. Reed was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Wiggers, daughter of Henry Wiggers of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Reed are thus now (1925) preparing soon to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their mar-

riage—their golden wedding—an occasion looked forward to with interest by their many friends. To Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been born five children—two daughters, Myrtle Maude and Pearl Eliza; and three sons, Albert Eugene, Earl Victor and Thomas Glenn Reed. All the children are living except the elder daughter, Myrtle Maude Reed, born in 1877, who died in 1881, and the eldest son, Albert Eugene Reed, born in 1879, who died in 1905.

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AZEL CLARENCE HOUGH  
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN.

Azel Clarence Hough, President and General Manager of the Hough Shade Corporation of Janesville, Wisconsin, originated the Wood Slat Porch Shade business of the United States in the year 1900.

He worked for more than a year inventing and making looms and coloring machines necessary to manufacture Porch Shades in a commercial way.

Upon the completion of this machinery he began making "VUDOR" Porch Shades at South Butler, New York, his home town, under the name of the Hough Porch Shade Company. At the close of the year 1901 it was evident that the business must be moved to a city where facilities for its growth could be more readily provided and the business was accordingly incorporated as the Hough Shade Corporation for \$200,000 and removed to Worcester, Massachusetts.

After a year of operation at Worcester it was decided that the business should be operated from a central point in the middle west, and it was thought best to build a new brick plant at Janesville, Wisconsin, and in the fall of 1902 the business was removed to the new plant at Janesville.

In 1913 a subsidiary corporation, the "Raymond Poreh Shade Company" was organized to manufacture a new design of Porch Shade invented by Mr. Hough, and called the "COOLMOR" Porch Shade. In 1921 Mr. Hough invented the "RA-TOX" Industrial (window) Shade, and the RA-TOX Industrial Shade Division of the business was organized. In 1924 a sales office for this division was opened at 160 North La Salle Street, Chicago.

The Hough Shade Corporation now has a capital and surplus in excess of \$500,000 and its business extends all over the United States and to many foreign countries.

Azel Clarence Hough was born at South Butler, New York, January 15, 1859, the eldest of the five children born to John Edgerton and Huldah Roe Hough. His education was begun in his home town and completed at Cornell University, where he was a member of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity.

After leaving the University he was in his father's store until 1892, when he began the invention of a series of "Security" Cash Registers and began to make the same through the Hough Cash Recorder Company. In two years the business was removed to Springfield, Massachusetts, and incorporated. In 1896 Mr. Hough sold his interest in this company and returned to South Butler, his home town.



AZEL CLARENCE HOUGH  
From the oil painting from life by Bayard H. Tyler





Mr. Hough descended directly from Edward Hough of Westchester, England, whose son, William Hough, came to America in 1642, settled in New London, Connecticut, and founded the Hough family in America. Mr. Hough's father, John Edgerton Hough 1st, was a merchant and manufacturer and during his long life held many public offices, finishing his political career as a member of the New York Legislature from Wayne County in 1892-93, where he represented 50,000 people.

John Edgerton Hough's middle name "Edgerton" came from Lebbeus Edgerton, his grandmother's brother, Lieutenant Governor of Vermont, 1831-35.

Azel C. Hough's grandfather, Azel Hough 2d, was a prominent merchant manufacturer and mill owner who accumulated a large competency in the Mohawk Valley, New York, in the early part of the 19th century, and who, like his oldest son, held many political offices and (also like his son) concluded his public life as a member of the New York Legislature in 1833-34, representing the counties of Montgomery and Hamilton.

Azel Clarence Hough was married in 1915 to Miss Dorothy May Whitehead, only daughter of State Senator John M. Whitehead, and the Houghs have two children, John Edgerton Hough 2d (now 1925) nine years old, and Albert Roe Hough, five years old.

In reading over the long history of the Hough family in America—283 years—one wonders if little John Hough 1st, in walking about the streets of his native town of New London, Connecticut, in the ninth year of his age in the spring of 1664, could imagine that his name would be borne by another little John Hough, also nine years of age, his direct descendant and namesake, more than 260 years in the future, and that that other little boy's family name would appear week after week in advertisements in the daily papers cried on the streets of New London?

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#### GUNNARD ARTHUR ANDERSON.

Gunnard Arthur Anderson, a well known and progressive young furniture manufacturer of Rockford, secretary and general manager of the Rockford Republic Furniture Company and a veteran of the World war with an officer's commission, is a native of Rockford and has lived in that city all his life, connected with the furniture manufacturing industry since the days of his boyhood and thus thoroughly familiar with all details of that exacting and highly competitive line of industry. He was born June 11, 1893, a son of Emil and Anna Anderson, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Sweden but who have been residents of this country since the days of their youth.

Reared in Rockford, Gunnard Arthur Anderson attended the schools of that city, supplementing the work done in the high school by a course in the local business college and in 1914, the year in which he attained his majority, he became bookkeeper in the office of the Cooperative Furniture Company in Rockford, a position he was occupying when this country took a hand in the World war in 1917. In the next year (1918) Mr. Anderson entered the service

of the army, being assigned to the ordnance department, and was stationed at Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, where in 1919 (the war then being over) he received his discharge with the rank of second lieutenant.

Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Anderson returned to Rockford and became associated with the operations of the Rockford Republic Furniture Company. Not long afterward he was elected to the position of secretary of the Rockford Upholstering Company, with managerial responsibility, and he took charge of that company's operations in Rockford, a relation he continued to sustain until May 1, 1921, when under a reorganization of the Rockford Republic Furniture Company he was elected secretary of that company and then returned to the factory in which he formerly had been employed. Not only is Mr. Anderson secretary of this company but he is the general manager of its operations and as he has had long familiarity with the details of the furniture manufacturing business, his executive ability has done much to extend those operations and to widen the market for the popular products of the well equipped plant at Thirteenth avenue and Twenty-second street.

On September 24, 1919, in Rockford, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Bargren, daughter of Edward Bargren of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have one child: A son, Gunnard Arthur Anderson, Jr., born September 6, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are republicans and take a proper interest in the promotion of the better interests of the city in which they live and where they are very pleasantly situated.

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#### THEODORE PETERSON.

In the building trades in Rockford there are few names better known than that of Theodore Peterson, a well established lathing contractor who has been in that business for more than thirty years and who has the reputation of having had a hand in the erection of more buildings than any other one person in that city, it being stated that the lath work on at least two-thirds of the buildings erected in Rockford during the period of his activities in that line has been done under his direction, a commentary on the character of his work and the scope of his operations which speaks for itself. He has specialized on big contracts and the lathing of many of the large buildings erected in Rockford during the past quarter of a century has been done under his skilled direction, among the latest of such contracts being those carried out in connection with the erection of the new church edifice of the Emanuel Lutheran congregation and the new Herman Hallstrom school building.

Theodore Peterson is a native of the kingdom of Sweden but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his boyhood. He was born September 3, 1876, a son of Nels and Stina Maria Peterson, and was reared and schooled in his native land, remaining there until he was in his fifteenth year, when he came to the United States and proceeded on out to Rockford to join his elder brother, Gust W. Peterson, who had come here some

years prior and was engaged in farming in the immediate vicinity of Rockford. Theodore Peterson arrived here on March 7, 1891, and almost immediately after his arrival got a job with a building contractor and began to work on the lathing of a house then under course of construction. He liked this kind of work and continued along that line, applying himself so diligently that it was not long until he became recognized among his fellow craftsmen as a skilled lather.

In 1894, then being eighteen years of age, Mr. Peterson decided that he was competent to start out in the lathing line on his own account and he formed a partnership with Charles F. Cederstrom, under the firm name of Peterson & Cederstrom, and got in the market as a contractor in the lathing business. The new contractors at once began to get work and as the character of their operations impressed itself upon the building trades and the building public in Rockford these operations expanded until they came to be recognized as the leaders in their line and, as noted above, a large part of the lathing done in Rockford came to be recognized as their work. The mutually agreeable connection between Mr. Peterson and Mr. Cederstrom continued for more than a quarter of a century, or until 1920, when Mr. Peterson bought his partner's interest in the firm and has since been carrying on his operations alone, with continued success.

On December 27, 1902, Theodore Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Youngquist, daughter of Olaf Youngquist of Melrose Park, a suburb of the city of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have five children: Bertel, born January 16, 1904; Bernice, born October 1, 1905; Beatrice, born February 10, 1907, who died on January 23, 1914; Doris, born June 15, 1910; and Mae, born November 18, 1914. Mr. Peterson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Modern Woodmen of the World and is also affiliated with the Lyron Society. In his political views he reserves the right to independence of expression at the polls, his desire being to vote for the man best fitted for the office sought, regardless of partisan affiliation.

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#### EARL JAMES CASKEY.

Earl James Caskey, one of the younger members of Beloit's legal fraternity, is a firm believer in the value of hard work and has already gained an enviable reputation in a most exacting profession. He was born August 6, 1891, in Woodstock, McHenry county, Illinois, a son of Maurice S. and Mary A. Caskey, who moved to Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1910.

Earl James Caskey attended the common schools of his native town and in 1910 completed a course in the Beloit high school. He next enrolled as a student in Beloit College, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1914, and in 1917 was graduated from the Law School of the University of Wisconsin. He was admitted to the bar in the same year and was connected with the law firm of Jeffries, Mouat, Ostreich, Avery & Wood until March 2, 1918, when he entered the service of his country, being assigned to duty in the

ordnance department of the United States army. He was trained in Chicago and went from that city to Camp Hancock, Georgia. He was next sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and was honorably discharged February 7, 1919, at which time he was holding the rank of sergeant. He then located in Beloit and from June, 1919, until November, 1922, was a member of the firm of Woolsey, Arnold & Caskey, his partners being Theodore Dwight Woolsey and Willard H. Arnold, prominent attorneys of the city. Mr. Caskey has since practiced alone, displaying keen analytical powers in the solution of intricate legal problems, and enjoys a lucrative and rapidly growing clientele. He is most thorough and painstaking in the preparation of his cases and in argument is clear, logical and convincing.

Mr. Caskey was married April 2, 1924, to Miss Florence Taft, a daughter of Sullivan Taft of Whitewater, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Caskey have one child: Mary Margaret, born January 30, 1925. Mr. Caskey is a republican in his political views, but the honors and emoluments of public office have no attractions for him, although he is never remiss in matters of citizenship, championing every measure which has for its object the growth and betterment of his community. He is an Elk and his professional affiliations are with the Rock County, Wisconsin State and American Bar Associations. Mr. Caskey is a constant and untiring student of the law and possesses those traits of character which inspire respect and confidence.

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#### AXEL LAWRENCE ANDERSON.

The Anderson Brothers Manufacturing Company of Rockford was established in 1916, when the three Anderson brothers, Swan F., Hugo E. and Axel L. Anderson, organized their company and equipped a plant as a general machine shop, with special facilities for the manufacture of all sorts of tools and special machinery. The brothers have a well equipped and well appointed plant at Kishwaukee street and Eighteenth avenue and have a flourishing business, the quality of their products having brought about a most gratifying development of the concern they established less than ten years ago. Swan F. Anderson is the president of the company, Hugo E. Anderson is the treasurer, Mr. G. A. Larson is secretary, and Axel L. Anderson is the vice president, an effective combination that has been getting results in the local manufacturing field, the products of this establishment entering the market in a gradually growing trade area throughout this section of the country.

Axel Lawrence Anderson, vice president of this company, has been a resident of Rockford since the days of his infancy, having been but a babe in arms when his parents, John and Anna (Larson) Anderson, came to this country with their family from Sweden in 1887 and established their home in Rockford. Axel Anderson was born July 8, 1886, and was reared in Rockford, attending the public schools of that city. As a lad he followed the same line as that taken by his elder brothers and started out to become a machinist. He served his apprenticeship in the plant of the Rockford Watch Company and was with that

concern for thirteen years, during this period becoming a thoroughly qualified machinist and an expert in the finer details of that exacting trade. He then was for some time employed in the plant of the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company and in some of the other manufacturing plants about town and was thus engaged until 1916 when, in association with his brothers, he became instrumental in the organization and incorporation of the Anderson Brothers Manufacturing Company and was elected vice president of that concern, this position carrying a large share of administrative responsibility, and has since been giving his best efforts to the development of that company's operations in Rockford, long having been recognized as one of the leaders in the local industrial field.

On May 15, 1919, in Rockford, Axel L. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Florence Shearer, daughter of Adelbert Shearer of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children: A son, Donald, born September 15, 1920; and a daughter, Marian, born May 29, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are republicans and are members of the locally popular Svea Soner Singing Society of Rockford. Mr. Anderson is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### WILLIAM F. McCUE.

In the death of William F. McCue, on June 10, 1925, there was removed another of those prominent business men of Janesville who made their way in life by the force of their own merit and industry from small beginnings to great successes, and his memory will long be revered and his influence for good felt in this community, for he belonged to that class of worthy and noble citizens who leave behind them much that is deathless. Mr. McCue was born July 14, 1876, in Rockton, Illinois, where he was reared and educated. He was the son of Michael and Anna (Hines) McCue. For many years he was identified with the drug business, and he came to Janesville about twenty-eight years prior to his death. On January 1, 1901, in association with F. Edward Buss, he bought the Empire drug store, in Janesville, which had the distinction of being the second oldest drug store in the state of Wisconsin and had been owned by H. Kirk White & Company. The name was changed to that of the McCue & Buss Drug Store, under which name the business was conducted until 1920, when the McCue & Buss Drug Company was incorporated, with the following officers: William F. McCue, president; Edward Buss, vice president and treasurer, and M. J. Kennedy, secretary. From the time they took hold of the business, nearly a quarter of a century ago, the sales began to increase and due to the careful management and sound business policy of the new owners the store soon earned an enviable reputation as a trustworthy and reliable place to deal.

Mr. McCue was a man of fine personal qualities and during all the years of his residence in this community he enjoyed a wide acquaintance, among whom were many loyal friends. He was public-spirited, supporting every measure for the betterment of the public welfare along all lines, and his fine citizenship

was fully appreciated by his fellow citizens, among whom he was held in the highest regard. He was a loyal member of St. Mary's Catholic church and had for many years been a member of the Unique Club, an organization formed many years ago by a number of young business men who remained united in this organization through all the subsequent years. Mr. McCue is survived by two sisters, Mrs. William Osborn, who lives in Rockton, Illinois, and Mrs. Louise Skelly, who resided with him in this city. Though plain and unassuming, Mr. McCue was a fine type of the self-made man. Charitable and benevolent in disposition, those in need seldom sought his aid in vain and he gave liberally to all worthy benevolent movements. His death removed from Rock county one of her substantial and highly esteemed citizens and the many beautiful tributes to his high standing in the world of affairs and as a man and citizen attested to the abiding place he had in the hearts and affections of his many friends.

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#### FRED M. COONS.

Forceful and resourceful, Fred M. Coons was a member of that notable company of enterprising business men whose constructive labors have made Beloit one of the industrial centers of Wisconsin and the middle west. He was widely known as a manufacturer of paper and his life was at all times guided by the spirit of progress. He possessed the sincere affection of all with whom he was associated and his death, which occurred on November 3, 1924, when he was sixty-nine years of age, was deeply regretted.

Mr. Coons was born April 16, 1855, in Rockton, Illinois, and was there reared and educated. In his youth he became associated with the Rockton paper mill and through hard work and fidelity to duty worked his way steadily upward. In 1897 he assumed the management of the industry, which remained under his control and ownership until July, 1908. He then sold his interests in the Rockton factory and took over the management of the mill of the Beloit Box Board Company, situated at the west end of the dam. Under his expert administration the business prospered and the industry eventually became one of the largest of the kind in the country. He remained at its head until 1922, when he disposed of his stock in the company and retired from active business life. In addition to his paper mill properties he had other large interests, including valuable real estate holdings, and was the owner of the Hotel Hilton block in this city. He was a business man of exceptional ability and enjoyed a remarkable success, which was achieved solely by his own exertions.

Mr. Coons was married February 16, 1887, to Miss Mary Etta Bordner, a daughter of George and Lavina (Roush) Bordner, of Freeport, Illinois. He is survived by his widow and one sister, Miss Ella Coons, of Rockton. The funeral services were conducted at the family residence, No. 817 Bushnell street, by the Rev. W. W. Willard, pastor of the First Congregational church, and the remains were interred in Oakwood cemetery at Freeport, Illinois.

Before the advent of the automobile Mr. Coons owned and drove some of the finest horses in the middle west, and even the decline of the horse in recent



Fred M. Brown



—He still retained to the end of his life a strong interest in the study of the natural sciences. He was a most assiduous collector of the fauna of Colorado and was particularly expert in the collection of the coleopter fauna. He was particularly fortunate in the acquisition of some interesting new and somewhat novel forms of the coleopter fauna of the Colorado mountains. His life was interrupted by two attacks, one of which occurred in the fall of 1912, and the other in the spring of 1922. He was, however, a most assiduous collector of the fauna of Colorado and was particularly expert in the collection of the coleopter fauna. He was particularly fortunate in the acquisition of some interesting new and somewhat novel forms of the coleopter fauna of the Colorado mountains.

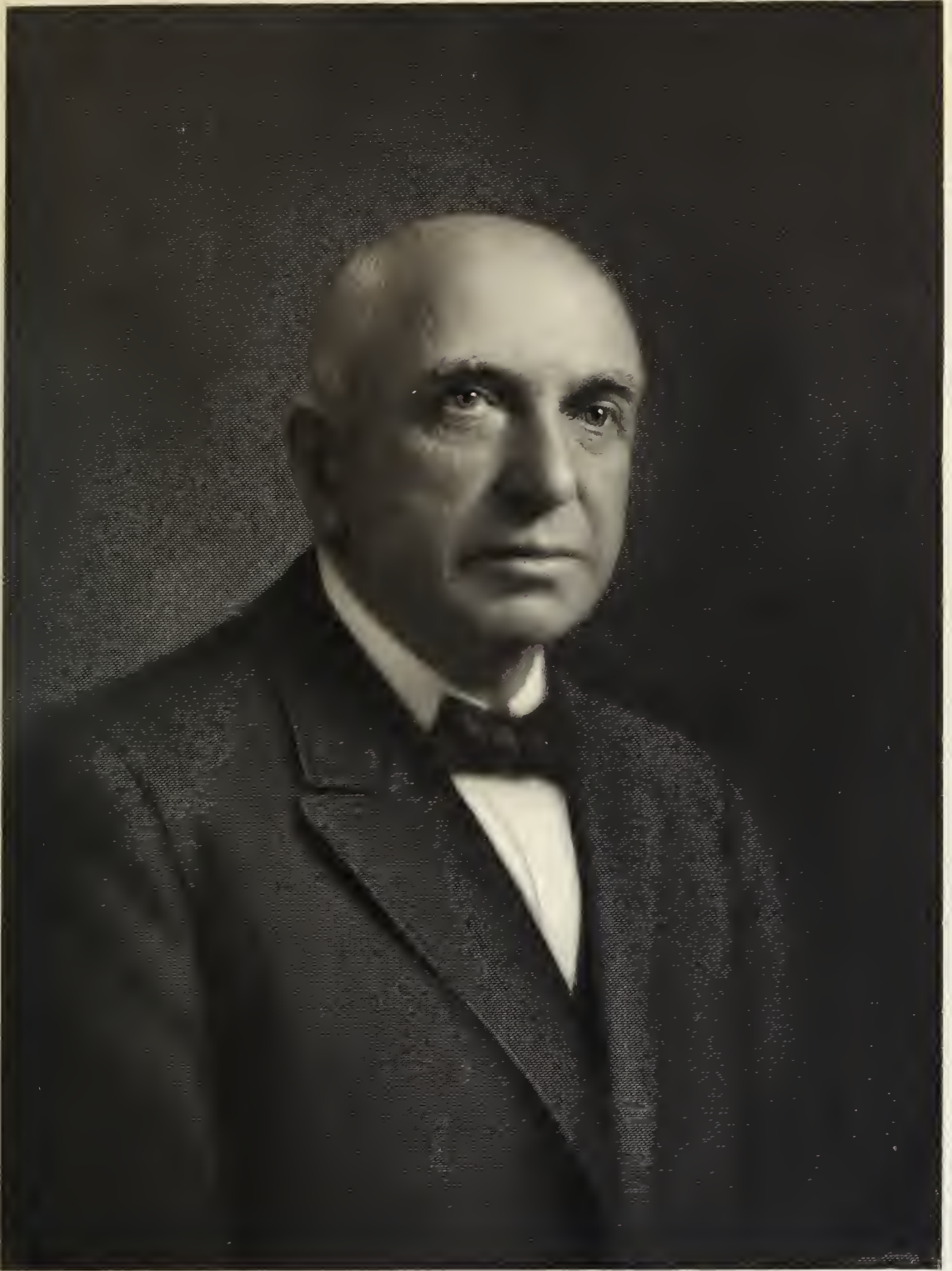
#### APPROXIMATE RECORD

—Received his education at the University of Illinois, where he completed his degree of Bachelor of Science in 1884. He was employed by the United States Geological Survey, where he was engaged in the study of the geology of the Colorado mountains. He was particularly expert in the collection of the coleopter fauna of the Colorado mountains. He was particularly fortunate in the acquisition of some interesting new and somewhat novel forms of the coleopter fauna of the Colorado mountains.

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*Fred M Coors*



years failed to quench his interest in blooded stock. He was a member of the Beloit lodge of Elks and also belonged to the local Rotary and Country Clubs. Although he never held public office, Mr. Coons was always interested in civic enterprises and lent the weight of his support to every project for the benefit of his community. He had a commanding personality and an infectious laugh that betokened a constant fund of good humor. Honorable, sympathetic, genial and courteous, he made friends wherever he went and the years served to strengthen his hold upon their esteem, for his character unfolded as the petals of the rose, disclosing new beauties each day.

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#### CLARK MASON WAIT.

Clark Mason Wait, head of the C. M. Wait Company, dairy products, in Belvidere and one of the real veterans in the creamery business in Illinois, proprietor of the largest dairy establishment in Belvidere and widely known in the industry throughout this region, is a native of Illinois and his interests always have centered here, being active in the creamery line in Belvidere for more than thirty-five years. He was born in the township of Genoa, in the neighboring county of DeKalb, May 17, 1854, a son of Mason C. and Harriet (Merchant) Wait, New Yorkers, who came into Illinois in 1850 and after a sometime residence in DeKalb county established their home on a farm four miles out of Belvidere in Boone county and here spent the remainder of their lives, substantial and helpful residents of that community.

Reared on the home farm to which his parents had moved when he was but a boy, Clark M. Wait attended the Belvidere schools and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the improvement and development of the home farm, continuing as a farmer until 1890, when he moved to Belvidere and there became associated with the operations of the Obediah Sands Creamery, which later was taken over by the Elgin Creamery Company and which no longer is represented in Belvidere. This was an establishment of considerable magnitude for its day and in it Mr. Wait became thoroughly familiar with all the details of the dairy industry as applied to the fine trade area centering in Belvidere. In 1905 he went into business on his own account, setting up in Belvidere a small creamery and starting in to develop a business which long has been recognized as the leader in its line in that city. Mr. Wait has an extensive plant, well equipped with modern machinery and all the best approved devices for the operation of a modern creamery plant, and has done well, his products being in wide demand throughout this section. In addition to the butter and ice cream manufactured at this creamery Mr. Wait also puts out a line of soft drinks which have created a popular demand. His ice plant is more than ample for the needs of his creamery and he also does a considerable business as an ice distributor in the territory covered by his operations, besides doing a large business in retail milk. He has other interests of a substantial character, including a place on the directorate of the Second National Bank of Belvidere. Mr. Wait is an active member of the Belvidere Chamber of

Commerce and has for years been recognized as an able personal factor in the general development of the interests of his home town. He also is a member of the locally influential Rotary Club and is affiliated with the Bel-Mar Country Club. In his political views he ever has been aligned with the republican party but has not been a seeker after public office, his business interests occupying his personal attention.

Clark M. Wait was united in marriage to Miss Melvina Stone, daughter of Mathur Stone of Milwaukee. Mrs. Wait died at her home in Belvidere, on February 29, 1916. Mr. Wait has a daughter: Dawn, wife of Evan E. Young of Washington, D. C. Mr. Young, who by profession is a lawyer, with home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has for years been connected with the American diplomatic service and is now the chief of the eastern division of the foreign service of the Diplomatic Corps, with headquarters in the state department at Washington, D. C. He was born in Kenton, Ohio, in 1878, and following his graduation from the Law School of the University of Wisconsin in 1903 engaged in the practice of law in Sioux Falls. Two years later he was appointed American consul at Harput, Turkey; three years later was transferred to the consulate at Salonika and in 1909 was made chief of the division of Near Eastern affairs of the department of state. In 1911 he was appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Ecuador and in the next year was made foreign trade adviser of the department of state, in which year he also represented the United States in the fifth international congress of chambers of commerce. In 1913 he was appointed consul general at Halifax and later was transferred to Rigo Rusko, his present position as chief of the eastern division of the diplomatic service, one of the world's best informed men in relation to the delicate and sometimes critical situations arising in that division of foreign affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Young have a daughter: Helen, a grandchild in whom Mr. Wait takes much pride and delight.

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#### FRANCIS EDWARD BUSS.

Owing to his extensive connection with the commercial and civic affairs of Janesville, Wisconsin, for a quarter of a century, the name of F. Edward Buss needs no formal introduction to the readers of this work. In a straightforward, conservative manner he has through the years of his residence here sought to perform the duties of a progressive, public-spirited citizen while advancing his own interests, and his support has always been depended upon in the furtherance of any laudable movement having for its object the welfare of the general public. Francis Edward Buss was born on the 28th of March, 1877, at Belmont, Wisconsin. He is the son of George and Mary Buss, who moved to Mineral Point, Iowa county, Wisconsin, when the subject was a boy, and in the schools of the latter place he received his educational training. After graduating from the high school he went to work in Vivian's pharmacy in Mineral Point, where he thoroughly learned the drug business.

In 1899 Mr. Buss came to Janesville and entered the employ of the People's

Drug Company, and in February, 1902, he took the required examination before the Wisconsin state board of pharmacy and became a registered pharmacist. On January 1, 1901, Mr. Buss formed a partnership with William F. McCue and they bought the Empire drug store, which had been owned by H. Kirk White & Company and others since 1845, it being the second oldest drug store in the state of Wisconsin. They changed its name to the McCue & Buss Drug Store, which continued until 1920, when the business was incorporated under the name of the McCue & Buss Drug Company, with officers as follows: William F. McCue, president; F. Edward Buss, vice president and treasurer, and M. J. Kennedy, secretary. The business has been very successful under the ownership of the subject and his partner and they have enjoyed a steady and constant increase in the volume of business, a prosperity which has been richly earned, for they have always elung to the policy that every customer leaving their store should be a satisfied customer and therefore a friend. They carry a large and well selected stock of the usual accessories found in a modern and up-to-date drug store, while their stock of drugs is as pure and high grade as can be secured. In addition to the drug business Mr. Buss is also a stockholder and director of the Janesville Building and Loan Association.

On November 25, 1903, Mr. Buss was married to Miss Cecelia Horn, the daughter of John and Mary Horn, of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Francis, born March 8, 1905; Dorothy, born April 2, 1909; and Loretta, born March 21, 1911. Politically Mr. Buss is independent, reserving the right to vote according to the dictates of his judgment. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, while his religious membership is with St. Mary's Catholic church, of which he is treasurer. Mr. Buss is the architect of his own fortune and he has been true to the highest ideals and principles in business, civic and social life, occupying an enviable position in the respect and esteem of the entire community.

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#### ALBERT M. JOHNSON.

Albert M. Johnson, superintendent and mechanical engineer of the great plant of the Barnes Drill Company in Rockford and for years one of the influential personal factors in the industrial life of that busy manufacturing center, is a native of Winnebago county, a member of one of the real pioneer families of that county, and has been a resident of the county practically all his life, the exception being a period spent as a mechanical engineer in Chicago and Cincinnati during the days of his young manhood, following the close of his college days. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the historic hamlet of Kishwaukee, Winnebago county, April 9, 1880, a son of Frank C. and Carrie E. (Adams) Johnson, both members of pioneer families here. Frank C. Johnson, a substantial farmer who for years had something more than a local reputation for the excellent quality of the cider and vinegar he manufactured in his big cider mill on his farm in Kishwaukee, and also at Stillman Valley, was a son of the pioneer William Johnson, who in 1830, at the time of the

beginning of settlement in this section of the Rock River valley, had driven through with his family by ox team from Oberlin, Ohio, and had established his home on a virgin tract of land he had taken in the valley of the Rock about midway between Rockford and Byron. Frank C. Johnson died at his home in Kishwaukee in 1910.

Reared on the home farm, Albert M. Johnson supplemented the education acquired in the Kishwaukee school by attendance at the high school in Rockford and in good time entered the University of Illinois, from which institution he was graduated in 1903, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Thus qualified for the profession to which he had devoted his life and his talents Mr. Johnson became an engineer and draftsman in the office of the Western Electric Company in Chicago and some time later transferred his services to the offices of the Illinois Steel Company in that city. He also for some time was engaged in the operations of the Lunkenheimer Company of Cincinnati (Ohio) and then, in 1907, at the time of the organization of the Barnes Drill Company of Rockford, he allied himself with that organization as technician and was made general mechanical engineer and superintendent of the plant, a position he since has occupied and in the exercise of the duties of which he has done much to help forward the extension of that company's interests and the general development of the great plant that has been built up in Rockford by this company. Mr. Johnson also is a member of the directorate of this company and has for years been recognized as a strong force in local industrial circles. Elsewhere in this work further and fitting mention is made of the organization and development of the Barnes Drill Company, one of the enterprises fostered by the late Benjamin Franklin Barnes of excellent and lamented memory in the Rockford community, and the attention of the reader is respectfully directed to that interesting narrative in this connection.

On October 29, 1907, the year in which he returned to Rockford for permanent residence, Albert M. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Anne Johnson, daughter of S. D. Johnson of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have two sons: Harold Adams Johnson, born January 8, 1913; and Richard Johnson, born October 16, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are republicans and have ever given their thoughtful and helpful attention to the general civic and social affairs of the city in which they have their home. Mr. Johnson is one of the active members of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and of the Rockford Engineering Society and is affiliated with the college fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

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#### VOLNEY ATWOOD.

Wonderful indeed has been the transformation of the Rock River valley and particularly that section embraced within Rock county, Wisconsin, since it was first beheld by Volney Atwood, one of its earliest pioneers and for many years one of its most influential and highly honored citizens. Pioneer,

early farmer, a public-spirited, brave, kindly, generous man, it is eminently fitting that a resumé of his career should be preserved in the permanent historical record of the county he loved so well and the community he served so faithfully. Volney Atwood was born in Cambridge, Vermont, on the 28th of February, 1812, and his father having died when the subject was less than a year old, he was reared in the home of his grandparents. He attended the public schools of his neighborhood and when eighteen years of age turned his energies to the vocation of farming, which pursuit he followed until May, 1837, when he made a prospecting trip, in company with others, to the Rock River valley. Janesville township presented to him the most attractions and here he entered three hundred and twenty acres of land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted himself with indefatigable energy until 1843, when he sold it and moving into Janesville bought the old American House, which occupied the present site of the Masonic temple, and this famous old hotel he managed for a number of years. In 1845 he was elected sheriff of Rock county, discharging his duties so satisfactorily that he was then chosen register of deeds. He also served as a member of the county board of supervisors and as a member of the Janesville common council. In 1847 Mr. Atwood formed a partnership with W. A. Lawrence, under the firm name of Lawrence & Atwood, which for a time was also known as Lawrence, Strong & Atwood, and it became one of the strong and influential commercial houses of this city. Mr. Atwood remained identified with this concern until the late 'eighties, when he retired from active business life. For many years he was president of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, to which he devoted much of his time.

On June 30, 1847, Mr. Atwood was married to Miss Catherine Holmes, the daughter of "Judge" William Holmes, who had come from Ohio to the vicinity of Janesville soon after the close of the Blackhawk war. After prospecting the land in this locality he went back to Ohio, but in the fall of that same year he returned to Janesville and made settlement, building his cabin home at what is now the corner of Franklin and Dodge streets. To Mr. and Mrs. Atwood were born six children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being Charles, whose death occurred February 18, 1923; and Mrs. Mary L. Whiton and Mrs. S. A. Cooper, both of Janesville. Volney Atwood's death occurred December 30, 1906, in the ninety-fifth year of his age.

Mr. Atwood was for many years one of the most prominent members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Wisconsin, of which at the time of his death he was the oldest member in the state. He was long a member of Wisconsin Lodge No. 14, and it is a matter of record that to his efforts alone was due the fact that the charter of this lodge was not forfeited during the troublous days of the Civil war. Joining the order in February, 1847, he became an enthusiastic and untiring worker in its interests and when during the war the membership of the lodge was so depleted that it was impossible to get a quorum for the meetings, he paid out of his own pocket the dues of the lodge to the grand lodge and thus saved the charter. He served as treasurer of the lodge for twenty years and having passed through all the chairs of his lodge he was made grand treasurer of the grand lodge, holding



that position two terms. His loyal efforts on behalf of his lodge were fully appreciated by his fellow members, by whom, during the later years of his life, he was tendered a banquet on each recurring birthday. The death of such a man, even in the rounded fullness of a long life, when his work had ceased to be more than an example, was felt to be a great public loss, and the entire community mourned his death. He left to his family the rich memory of an unstained name and to the community he loved so well and served so long and faithfully the record and example of an honorable and well spent life.

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#### ORIN AND LOYD VEITCH.

The Veitch brothers, Orin and Loyd, expert rug men and proprietors of a well equipped plant in Rockford for the manufacture of rugs, with special reference to fluff rugs, and who also carry on an extensive business in the rug cleaning way, operating their plant at Nos. 1026-28 School street, under the firm name of Farmer Brothers, Incorporated, successors to the old established concern of Farmer Brothers, have been carrying on this business for about five years and have done well. Orin Veitch was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, September 30, 1888, and Loyd Veitch was born in Narrow Prairie, that same state, October 12, 1894, sons of William and Phoebe Veitch, of Scotch descent, who settled in Sauk county about 1885.

Orin and Loyd Veitch received their early education in the schools of Narrow Prairie and of Glenville, Wisconsin, and both early became employed in the rug industry in Baraboo, becoming in time experts in that line of industry, practical men and experienced in all details of the business. In 1918 Orin Veitch became connected with the operations of the rug plant of Farmer Brothers in Rockford, a concern that had been established in 1907, and two years later, in 1920, was joined there by his younger brother, Loyd Veitch. In the following year the Veitch brothers bought the Farmer Brothers' factory and have since been operating it, doing business as Farmer Brothers, Incorporated. Under their management this establishment has been developed into one of considerable proportions and is a growing factor in the industrial life of the city. In addition to the extensive business carried on in the rug cleaning way the brothers also are engaged in the manufacture of fluff rugs, giving their close personal attention to the development of the business.

In the manufacturing department, fluff rugs are made from ingrain, Brussels, Axminster and Wiltons in any desired size. Rug material is put through several processes, using modern machinery, in preparing it for weaving. The weaving is done by hand, insuring a satisfactory, uniform product. Several hundred yards of rugs are put through various processes in the finishing department each week. There is a twofold advantage in having fluff rugs made from worn-out floor coverings; viz.: Utilizing material which has become too shabby to be used in the original condition; and getting rich, reversible coverings that wear for a lifetime and add to the beauty of home furnishings. Owing to honest dealings and a personal interest in each order, the business has grown so

rapidly that the Veitch brothers were compelled to erect a modern three-floor brick building, thoroughly equipped to handle the rug business to the best interest of their many satisfied customers. The new building at Nos. 1026-1028 School street, was opened for business August 1, 1924.

On September 26, 1914, Loyd Veitch was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Reagles, daughter of Samuel Reagles of Richmond, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Veitch have four children, namely: Veo, born April 6, 1916; Jane, born March 16, 1917; Nellie, born September 26, 1923; and James, born November 24, 1924.

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#### HON. CHARLES L. FIFIELD.

The Rock River valley has been specially honored in the character and careers of her public and professional men, for in every county are to be found individuals born to leadership in the various professions, who have dominated by superior attainments and natural endowment and are conceded a place in the front ranks of their respective vocations. A lawyer of eminent ability, a jurist of the highest type and a man of proven integrity and honor, the Hon. Charles L. Fifield, of Janesville, for fifteen years judge of the municipal court of Rock county, for twelve years judge of the county court and for many years one of the most successful members of the local bar, enjoys a well merited prestige in the city in which he has spent his entire life. Judge Fifield was born in Janesville on the 10th of October, 1865, and is the son of Thomas B. and Eliza (Waterman) Fifield. His parents were both natives of Vermont and were descended from a long line of American ancestors, the first members of their respective families having come to this country from England and Wales and settled in New England prior to the year 1630.

The subject attended the public and high schools of Janesville and then, having determined to devote his life to the legal profession, he entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1888 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He also read law in the offices of Judge J. W. Sale and of Messrs. Smith and Pierce, in Janesville. He then became the junior member of the firm of Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield and practiced his profession there from 1888 to 1898, when on the recommendation of the entire bar association he was appointed by the governor to fill the vacancy on the municipal bench for Rock county caused by the death of Judge Phelps. On the expiration of his term in 1899 Judge Fifield was without opposition elected to the same office for the full term of six years and was reelected in 1905 and 1911. In 1913 he was elected judge of the county court for the term beginning in January, 1914, but as Judge Sale, the incumbent of the office, died in August, 1913, Judge Fifield was appointed to that office for the unexpired term and accordingly resigned the municipal judgeship. He was reelected to the county bench in 1919 and again in 1925, being the present occupant of the position. His record on the bench has been marked by an ever present desire to be just, his honesty of purpose never having been questioned in the slightest degree, and

his entire period of service has been distinguished by a determination to measure his decisions by the exact standard of law and justice. During all of the period of his identification with the legal profession here, as lawyer and jurist, he has been a leading exemplar of the highest civic virtues as well as of the noblest ethics and traditions of his profession. No judge of the Rock county court has surpassed him in acuteness of intellect, in clarity of thought, or in lucidity of expression. His knowledge of the law is accurate and profound, while his power of logical analysis has been subject of unstinted praise on the part of the members of the bar. There is in him a weight of character, a native sagacity and a fidelity of purpose that has commanded the respect of all.

Judge Fifield is a member of the Rock County Bar Association and the Wisconsin State Bar Association and has long been actively identified with the State Historical Society. He is a public-spirited man in the best sense of the term, giving earnest support to every movement for the betterment of the community welfare. As a member of the public library board he was largely instrumental in securing from Andrew Carnegie a donation of thirty thousand dollars for a new library building, and he was also a member of the building committee that had in charge its erection. The Judge is a close reader and student of the classics, as well as of the best current literature, and possesses a large and well selected private library. He has given particular attention to the first editions of American authors and is the possessor of a fine collection of these works. Politically Judge Fifield is a republican and takes a keen interest in public affairs. Socially he is a member of the Sinissippi Golf Club, the Janesville Country Club and the Twilight Club, of each of which he was one of the organizers.

On August 28, 1889, Judge Fifield was married to Miss Anna S. Doty, who was born and reared in Janesville, the daughter of the late E. Philo Doty. To them have been born four children, namely: Eloise, born in 1890, who is the wife of Edgar A. Kohler, of Janesville; Alta, born in 1895; Frances, born in 1897; and Esther, born in 1903. Personally Judge Fifield possesses to a marked degree those qualities which attract men and beget friendships and he enjoys a large personal following throughout the community where he lives.

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#### CLARENCE SINCLAIR BATHER.

It is generally agreed in well informed circles that the Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association is singularly fortunate in having had for the past decade and more the secretarial services of Clarence Sinclair Bather, a widely recognized expert in railway freight and traffic regulations, a trained lawyer, thoroughly versed in commercial and industrial law, practical freight man of long training both in domestic and export trade; indeed, so highly skilled along these lines that during the time of this country's participation in the World war he was chosen by the military director general of railways to act as shippers' representative on the Chicago district committee having charge of rates and regulations in that important group of states including Illinois.



CLARENCE S. BATHER



Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. Mr. Bather became connected with the operations of the Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association in the spring of 1912, when he was employed to take secretarial charge of the office of that association and since has been retained in that highly important position, in this capacity having rendered in many ways a very real and definite service to the whole industrial and commercial community. The Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association was organized by a compact and representative group of local manufacturers and shippers in 1903, for the purpose of securing a more effective promotion of the mutual interests of those thus industrially engaged and for the further and better protection of all the legitimate interests thus represented, and during the twenty years and more of its existence it has done a great work in stabilizing some of the operations upon which Rockford's fame as a commercial and manufacturing center is based. This association now has a membership of right around one hundred and fifty and is recognized all over the country as one of the most compact and effective bodies of its kind.

Clarence Sinclair Bather, secretary and general administrative head of this association, was born in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, June 4, 1882, and was reared in that city, attending the local public schools. When thirteen years of age, in 1895, he became an office boy in the freight house of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company in St. Louis and it was there that he laid the foundations for his later career as an expert in freight traffic, for he literally learned the business from the ground up, becoming familiar with all details of that important factor in the nation's commercial and industrial fabric. For fifteen years Mr. Bather continued connected with the operations of the great freight house in St. Louis and by successive and well earned promotions rose in that service to the responsible position of assistant to the freight traffic manager. In the meantime he was not neglecting his studies and by a rigorous and self-sacrificing course of intensive personal application completed his high school work in the night school of the St. Louis Young Men's Christian Association and then entered the night classes of the Benton College of Law in that city, taking five years of work there and thus becoming thoroughly grounded in the principles of law and practice, particularly as applied to commercial and industrial operations. He then took a postgraduate course in another night school in St. Louis, and on May 10, 1910, was admitted to the bar in that city. Just four years later, on May 10, 1914, he was admitted to practice before the bar of the United States supreme court.

Mr. Bather remained with the freight department of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Company at St. Louis until he had completed his law studies and then, in 1910, his services were secured by the Wichita Falls & Northwestern Railway Company to act as the agent of that company's cotton export operations, with headquarters at Wichita Falls. His service in this behalf attracted the attention of other lines and presently he was employed by the Texas City Terminal Company and the Texas City Transportation Company as general freight agent of those concerns' export and import business through the port of Texas City and he was thus engaged, with headquarters in Texas City, until May 1, 1912, when his services were secured by the Rock-

ford Manufacturers and Shippers Association to take general secretarial charge of that body's operations and he since has been a resident of Rockford, where in the following year he was married and established his home. As secretary of this association Mr. Bather is charged with a measure of administrative responsibility that makes him a most effective factor in the operations of this important trade body and he long has been recognized as one of the most efficient executives along that line in the country. As noted above, this recognition was made signally apparent when during the days of war stress in this country he was appointed by the director general of railroads as the general representative of the shippers on the committee having charge of rates and regulations in the great Chicago district, a position he occupied from July 1, 1918, to March 1, 1920, when normal conditions were restored. On account of the enormous amount of war material shipped out of Rockford during that period much of Mr. Bather's time was spent in Rockford, and his secretarial relations with the local manufacturers and shippers association were not interrupted.

On June 26, 1913, in Rockford, Clarence S. Bather was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Pepper, daughter of W. A. and Mary (McCort) Pepper of that city. The Peppers are one of the real pioneer families of Winnebago county, having had representation here since the coming of William Pepper, a Virginian, in the middle '30s of the past century. William Pepper established his home in Cherry Valley township but later became a resident of the southeastern section of the village of Rockford, a considerable land owner and substantial farmer, and his family is well represented hereabout in the present generation. Mr. and Mrs. Bather have one child: A son, Joseph William Bather, born September 14, 1914. They have a pleasant home in Rockford and take an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the community. Mr. Bather is an influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and of the local Rotary Club. He has attained to all the degrees in Freemasonry available to the inquirer, including the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. He also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, is a member of the Chicago Traffic Club and of the Hamilton Club of Chicago, and is likewise a member of the council of the National Upholstered Furniture Manufacturers Association and of the National Bedding Manufacturers Association. He and his wife are republicans and take such interest in local civic affairs as is incumbent upon all good citizens, helpful in encouraging all measures having to do with the general advance of the community in which they live.

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#### GEORGE REED.

In the memorial annals of Boone county (Illinois) there are few names more prominently regarded than is that of the late George Reed, in his generation one of the substantial farmers of that county, a representative from his district in the lower house of the general assembly of the state of Illinois and in numerous ways a man of influence and standing in the community in which

he for many years had his home. Mr. Reed, who died at his home in the town of Spring, just outside of the limits of the city of Belvidere, in the summer of 1906, was a native of the old Bay state but had been a resident of Illinois since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the city of Westfield, Hampden county, Massachusetts, May 26, 1824, and was twenty-three years of age when in 1847 he came to Illinois seeking a place of residence here in the beautiful and fertile valley of the Rock river. He located at a place near the Wisconsin line in Winnebago county but not long afterward was attracted to what seemed a better opportunity in the Belvidere neighborhood and in 1849 he bought a farm in that neighborhood and there established his home and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 3, 1906, he then being past eighty-two years of age. In 1849 George Reed was married to Eliza Ann Wait of Spring township, who died in 1907. They had four children—a daughter, Fannie Ellen, now living in Belvidere; and three sons: Frank Reed, who died October 21, 1921, at his home in Belvidere; Fred A. Reed, a well known merchant of Belvidere, dealer in musical instruments; and Albert Reed, who died when five years old.

Not only was George Reed diligent in his own business but he ever found time to give a good citizen's attention to public affairs and his intelligent interest in these affairs prompted his neighbors to call him on more occasions than one to fill local offices of trust and responsibility. In 1890, as the nominee of the republicans in his legislative district, he was elected state representative from this district (the eighth) and by successive reelections served for three terms in that representative capacity, thus having been a member of the house of representatives in the thirty-seventh, the thirty-eighth and the thirty-ninth sessions of the general assembly, during this extended term of service rendering his duty to the state in a highly acceptable manner. Though it now is twenty years since the passing of this good man, his memory still is cherished in the community in which as a young man he elected to make his home and will long be kept green there.

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#### ALVIN J. ANDERSON.

Alvin J. Anderson, superintendent of the plant of the Rockford Steel Furniture Company and a well known and influential personal factor in the industrial life of that city, is a mechanical engineer and technician of wide experience and established reputation and though not long a resident of Rockford has come to be recognized as one of the leaders in his line there. He was born in West De Pere, Brown county, Wisconsin, October 1, 1887, a son of Fred and Mary Anderson, the former of whom was a merchant in that city. Reared in West De Pere, he attended the schools of that city and early became apprenticed to the trade of boiler-maker. Finding after a while that this trade would not suit his tastes he took up sheet metal work in Chicago and for seven years was connected with the operations of the Pullman Company, meanwhile by close study qualifying himself as a mechanical engineer and a skilled draftsman.



Mr. Anderson's first executive position was as a foreman in the plant of Borg & Beck in Chicago, in charge of that concern's assembling department. During the time of this country's participation in the World war (1917-18) he had charge and supervision of the heat treating department of the works of the Standard Forging Company of Indiana Harbor, Indiana, a war work of large importance. In 1922 Mr. Anderson became the superintendent of the plant of the Rockford Steel Equipment Company and has since been thus connected with the operations of that concern, the name of which in 1923 was changed to the Rockford Steel Furniture Company, which has an extensive plant at No. 2501 Ninth street. Mr. Anderson is admirably qualified by experience and technical training for the exacting duties of this important administrative position and since entering upon these duties has done much to extend the operations of the company and increase its productive capacity.

On September 14, 1912, in Chicago, Alvin J. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Florence Hendrickson, daughter of Nels Hendrickson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have one child: A son, Darwin Anderson, born March 24, 1916.

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#### ANDREW MICHAEL GUENTHER.

In the general dyeing and cleaning industry throughout the middle western country there are few names better known than that of Andrew Michael Guenther, an active and influential member of the National Association of Dyers and Cleaners and the proprietor of the leading establishment of its kind in the city of Rockford. Mr. Guenther, who is a trained and experienced mechanical engineer, became attracted to the possibilities of the dyeing and cleaning industry about fifteen years ago, and leaving a profession in which he had attained considerable prominence he established himself in business in that line in Rockford, where he has become quite successful and where he has built up an establishment which in point of equipment and operation is excelled by none within the great trade area it serves, his plant at No. 326 South Court street being considered in the trade to be about the last word in modern facilities for carrying on the intricate operations essential to the proper conduct of such a business.

Andrew M. Guenther was born on a farm sixteen miles southwest of Chicago in Cook county, Illinois, August 12, 1869, a son of Theodore and Catherine (Rech) Guenther, the former of whom at that time was a substantial farmer and landowner at that point. Theodore Guenther became one of the leading citizens of Blue Island when city development began working down that way, took a prominent part in local politics, served for some time as mayor of Blue Island and also rendered service as a member of the board of county supervisors (commissioners). He died in Blue Island in 1893. He and his wife were the parents of seven children: William, Anna, Emma, Kate, Andrew, Theodore and George.

Reared in Blue Island, Andrew Michael Guenther attended the schools of that suburb and then entered the manual training high school in Chicago and in 1888 was graduated from that school, his degree of proficiency being graded

so high that in that same year he was employed as instructor of mechanical arts in the State Agricultural and Mechanical College at College Station, Texas, an institution that later became a part of the University of Texas. Mr. Guenther was thus engaged as a college instructor until 1893, when he entered the Engineering School of Cornell University at Ithaca, New York, and in 1897 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Mechanical Engineer. In that same year he returned to Chicago and became connected in an engineering capacity with the operations of the Luxfer Prism Company of that city and in 1899 was sent by that concern to represent it in a professional capacity as engineer in Europe, with headquarters in Berlin, Breslau and Cologne.

This European connection was maintained until 1906, when Mr. Guenther returned to this country and became connected with the operations of the Goldschmidt Thermit Company, manufacturers of a famous welding compound, and for four years thereafter, or until 1910, was traveling in the interests of that concern and demonstrating the qualities of its product. He then spent two years associated with the operations of the great pump works of the Bowser company at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and while living in that city became interested in the possibilities latent in the proper development of the dyeing and cleaning industry. Seeking a point of settlement in which to test a business venture which seemed to him to possess desirable possibilities, in 1912 Mr. Guenther established himself in the dyeing and cleaning way in Rockford, opening out in a small way at No. 426 South Main street and doing business as the Rockford Cleaning Works, a trade name that still is maintained. The success of this venture was assured from the start, for the proprietor brought to the operation of his plant a degree of engineering skill not often available in such an industry and his growing success prompted him in 1917 to build his present large and admirably equipped and thoroughly up-to-date plant at No. 326 South Court street, where he since has been engaged in business.

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#### THOMAS MOORE.

Thomas Moore was born September 16, 1837, in Taunton, Massachusetts, and when a small child came with his parents to Boone county, Illinois, where he resided until his death, which occurred January 15, 1900. When the Civil war broke out he was one of the first to answer this country's call. He enlisted in the Ninety-fifth Regiment, Company B, Illinois Volunteers, and served until the end of the war. It was in his regiment (the Ninety-fifth) that the little Irish girl, Jennie Hedges, enlisted from Boone county and served until the close of the war under the name of Albert D. J. Cashire, when she was honorably discharged, her identity not becoming known until nearly fifty years afterward. Mr. Moore was in the battle of Vicksburg, where he was wounded. He was also in the Red River expedition and in the battles of Guntown, Fort De Russey, Couterville, Yellow Bayou, Nashville, Spanish Fort, Kenesaw Mountain, Lovejoy Station and Jonesboro.

On November 15, 1867, Mr. Moore was married to Matilda Covey. To this

union was born one child, Ella Mae Moore, now Mrs. Oliver E. Ray. Mrs. Moore was born in New York state, April 1, 1847, and came with her parents to Boone county when quite young. She passed away at her home in Poplar Grove, Illinois, in 1890.

Mrs. Ray takes an active part in the social activities of Poplar Grove and in the Rebekah lodge, of which she is a past noble grand and is captain of the degree team. Mr. and Mrs. Ray took a prominent part in the war activities of the late World war. They assisted in putting over a Patriotic day on June 11, 1918, when the largest crowd ever assembled in Poplar Grove was present, including a military band from Camp Grant, consisting of thirty-nine men. The proceeds of the day, amounting to one thousand four hundred and eighty-seven dollars and eighty-seven cents, went to the Boone county war chest. They are proud of the little city in which they live.

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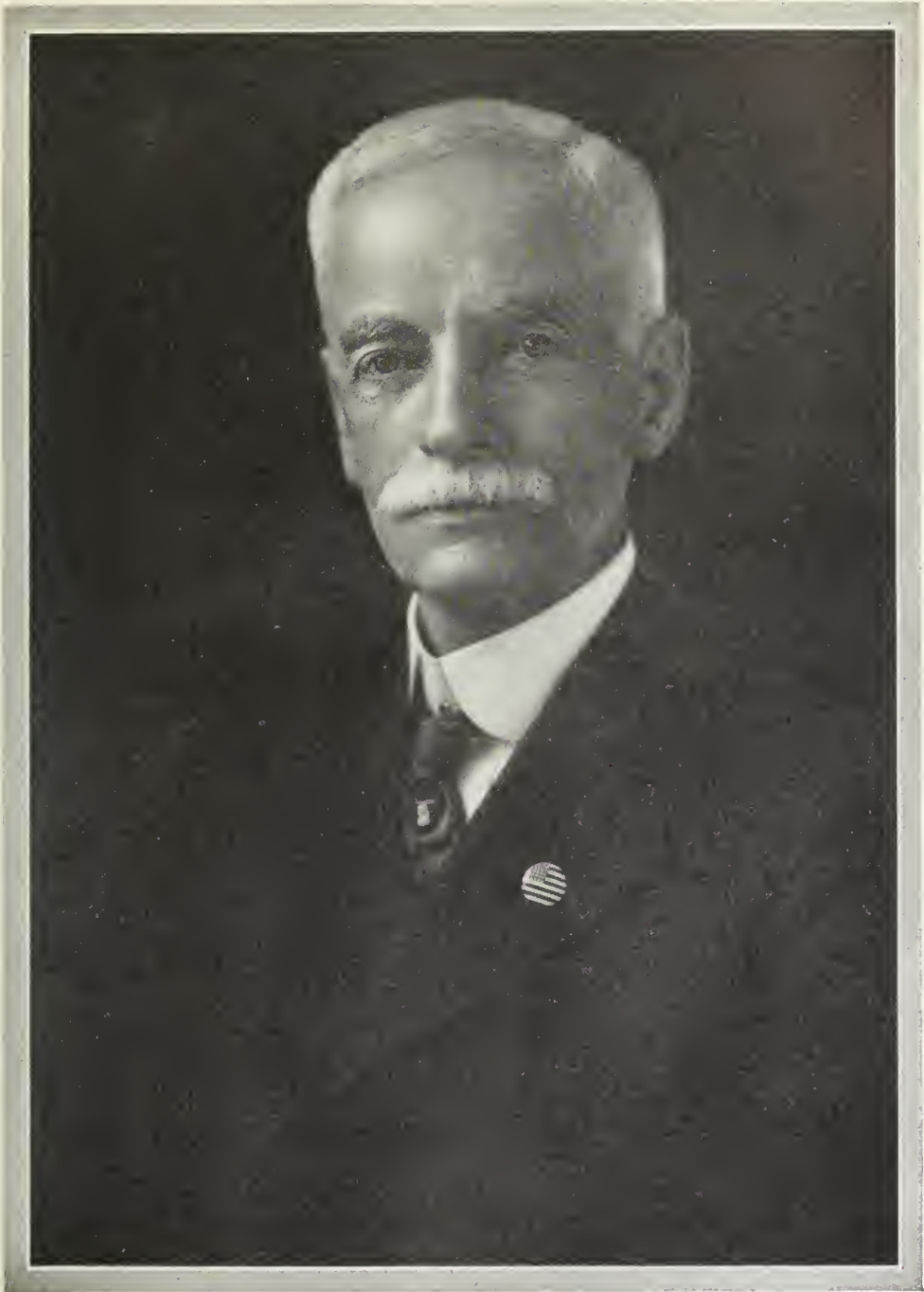
#### FRANKLIN F. LEWIS.

The true gauge of individual success is to be measured by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of the men who have succeeded in their special line of work in Janesville and at the same time have contributed to the development and commercial prosperity of their community, would be incomplete without specific mention of Franklin F. Lewis, president of the Lewis Knitting Company of Janesville, Wisconsin.

Mr. Lewis was born September 28, 1850, in what was then known as Fort Winnebago—now Lewiston, Columbia county, Wisconsin. His direct ancestry in this country goes back to Abel Franklin, a sea captain who made his home in Groton, Connecticut, where he married Anna Burrows, daughter of Amos Burrows. To them were born three children: Abel Franklin, who was engaged in eastwise trade between the colonies and the West Indies, was drowned at sea, and his widow married David Lewis, also a sea captain and trader covering the same territory. Their wedding day was December 15, 1785, and to them were born three children, the youngest of whom, Abel Franklin Lewis, was the grandfather of our subject.

Abel Franklin Lewis, also a sea captain, and Esther Gates were married in Groton, 1816, and to them were born five children: a daughter, who died in infancy; Abby Ann, born in 1819; Edward F., born in 1821; and Elisha B. and Ira B., twins, born in 1823. As their sons grew the parents decided they did not wish them to become imbued with the spirit of the seaman's life and when Edward was nine years old they moved to Courtland county, New York, where at the age of sixteen Edward was apprenticed to a shoemaker for the usual term of three years. The proprietor was a man of limited means according to present day standards, and he boarded his apprentice boys in his own home.

Edward Lewis would sometimes tell of the experiences in this home life. The table fare, not being the best, the boys would sometimes talk it over by themselves; their work room was on the first floor of the shop immediately in



FRANKLIN F. LEWIS



the rear of the office. One day they were discussing the peculiarities of their master, more particularly the quality of food served to them, which they thought included too much "sour bread and bitter butter." It seems they had not been sufficiently guarded in their tones; for suddenly, hasty steps were heard on the office floor; the door burst violently open and the flushed face of the master appeared. "You boys quit your idling," he shouted, "and get down to your work, or I'll give you something stronger than 'sour bread and bitter butter!'" It seems the master stood to the boys in the right of parent, having the power of correction, even to the extent of reasonable physical punishment. Another incident he used to relate was something as follows: A wandering workman came into the shop one day and asked for a job. When questioned as to his ability as a workman, he replied: "I guess I can make shoes all right." The master being in need of help showed him into the journeymen work room on the floor above and gave him instruction for a pair of shoes. There was no overhead plastering in the boys' room and floor cracks were in evidence. A little later a long waxed sewing thread with blunt end dangled down into the boys' room and a voice called out: "Some of you fellers put a hog's hair on the end of that thread for me." Of course a shout of derision came from the young apprentices and the thread was quickly drawn. The next day the journeyman brought down to the office the pair of shoes which he had made and remarked that he "guessed he had better quit." When the master inspected the shoes he found they were both "rights," and of such exquisite workmanship that not a workman in the shop could match them with "lefts." Needless to say, the "Fellar" was asked to make the pair of "lefts" to match the "rights," and was also given regular employment.

When Edward Lewis had served two years of such apprenticeship, his father, who the year previous had made a trip to Wisconsin with the thought of removing his sons entirely away from the atmosphere of the sailor's life, returned to his family and announced that they were to move to Wisconsin and dwell in the "Land of Plenty." Not wishing to leave Edward behind, he procured his release from the last year of his apprenticeship by the payment of one hundred dollars to the master shoemaker. Taking his family with him, he returned to Wisconsin in the spring of 1839 and settled in Rock county, in what is now known as the town of Turtle, on Turtle creek. Here he developed his water power and built a sawmill on the southerly side of the stream. The home was built directly across from the mill near the end of the bridge located at this point. A year or two later the mill was converted into a flouring mill. Edward has often told of the hours he tended the grinding of this mill, when it seemed impossible to keep awake.

Here Edward Lewis was working when Deacon Stephen Barrett with his wife and nine daughters came from Ashtabula County, Ohio, and settled in Clinton, the adjoining town on the west. As this section was sparsely settled the young people soon became acquainted. For Edward this acquaintance ripened into an engagement of marriage with Betsy L. Barrett, the second eldest daughter. The wedding ceremony was performed April 19, 1841, by Elder Henry Topping of the Baptist church, of which both the young people were members. After the wedding feast the bridegroom took his bride to the

home of his parents, in Turtle, where it had been arranged that they were to live and that he should continue to work in the mill. He would sometimes tell of his first trip to Janesville with a load of flour; he drove up to the front of a building having a hotel sign before it and seeing a man in the doorway, called "Tell me the way to Janesville." The party replied "This is Janesville." He would relate this in all apparent seriousness; but as he loved practical jokes, there was a suspicion that this question was asked in that spirit.

During the first eight years of the married life of the young people they lived in the home of his father, and here were born their first three children: Judson Adoniram, August 25, 1843; Charles Leroy, September 11, 1846, who lived only three months; and Stephen Barrett, born July 12, 1848. In the fall of 1848, when the California "gold fever" was at its height, the imagination of the people of the middle west was so stimulated that parties were formed here and there to make the trip across the plains on the approach of the coming spring. Among these venturesome enthusiasts was the "Lewis party" as it was later called. Abel Franklin Lewis and his son Elisha joined the party and upon its organization, being the oldest man in the company and a former sea captain, the former was elected its captain. It will be naturally understood that the subject was a matter of common discussion about the family table and that Edward also became interested in the project as he proposed to his wife that he too join with the others in the "Quest for the Golden Fleece." "Husband," she replied, "you may go if you think best, but if you do go you must take me and the children with you. We cannot be left alone in this strange land." Edward replied to the effect that they would keep together and would establish a home of their own on the government lands then being opened to settlement in the interior of Wisconsin.

The following spring, he put their few household goods into a covered wagon and climbing in after them with his wife and their two little boys, Judson, aged six, and Stephen, aged ten months, with a yoke of oxen at the front for motive power and a cow which Mrs. Lewis' parents had given them, tied at the rear to furnish milk by the wayside, they set forth to find that new home which was to be "their very own." In due time they arrived at Fort Winnebago, as the country adjacent to the fort was then called. Here Mr. Lewis learned that desirable government lands could be had within reasonable distance northwesterly and he decided to look in that direction. The next afternoon in making a ford across the Big slough, as it was called, about five miles from the "portage," his wagon became stalled in the middle of the stream. Unhitching his cattle he took them to the shore he had just left and turned them loose to feed. He built a fire under a large tree nearby, and carried the mother and children to the shore where he had decided that, by force of circumstances, they must remain over night. A flock of blackbirds near by attracted his attention and, taking his gun, he soon had enough of them to give the whole family a "black-bird stew" for their supper. That evening another party joined them in the camp; the two yoke of oxen were hitched to the stranded wagon and it was drawn back to the camp. The next morning, June 8, 1849, the party continued on the way.

The following afternoon found them on the bank of a little stream, known

as Beaver creek; so called because of a beaver dam which the little animals had built across the stream and which they were still using. This was crossed without difficulty. On its further banks they came upon signs indicating that it was a favorite camping place, and there they built their camp fire under a wide spreading tree. As they were preparing their evening meal two teamsters who were returning from the pineries farther north, stopped near them and asked if they might not join them. Cordial consent was given. The next morning they insisted upon paying for the service they had received and advised their hosts to remain where they were and open a wayside hotel for the accommodation of the passing travel. They called attention to the fact that supplies for the lumbermen and the mills were transported overland and suggested that this was one of the favorite camping places on the line. The suggestion was adopted: the covered wagon box was placed on the ground under the tree and the family dwelt six weeks therein while the contemplated home and hotel was being built. In nearby woods sufficient material was cut and prepared for the purpose and a "building bee" was announced, invitations being extended to the settlers within a radius of five or six miles, and at the appointed time the "raising" was begun. Before noon the logs were all in place. Lumber and shingles having been provided, the roof and floors were soon laid and the family moved into their new home—"their very own." Upon the organization of the township, effected November 18, 1852, the name "Lewiston" was given it in commemoration of its postmaster, Edward F. Lewis, who was the third settler in the town, and in whose house the meetings preliminary to the organization were held.

In this home Edward Barrett Lewis was born December 28, 1852. In the fall of 1856 Edward F. Lewis was elected sheriff of Columbia county, and on the 1st of January he entered upon its duties, moving with his family into the residence portion of the jail building. Here was born William Lincoln Lewis, August 13, 1857. At the close of his term of office as sheriff Edward F. Lewis entered into mercantile trade in Portage but after two years he closed out the business and went back to his homestead in Lewiston. During the Civil war he served as deputy provost marshal. Of those trying days he used to relate many incidents that were full of human interest.

In 1875 he bought hand knitting machines suitable for making fashioned, seamless hosiery, and after two years in the sale of such product he made for himself underwear of the double-ribbed, elastic stitch which so pleased him that he obtained orders from many of his friends for such garments. He found a ready market for the product of his machines, and in 1881 Franklin F. Lewis and his brother, Stephen B. Lewis, formed a partnership with their father by investing with him, and they bought more machines, the father continuing the increasing business until 1883, when the brothers arranged to devote their whole time with their father. It was soon arranged that the manufactured stock and the office work would be moved to Portage City, where it was continued until the death of the father in 1885, when the manufacturing portion was also moved to that city.

Increase in the business was such that it was deemed necessary to locate nearer a central market and, arrangements being satisfactorily made, the busi-



ness was moved in 1887 to Janesville, Wisconsin. In 1889 it was incorporated and the name changed from Lewis Brothers to the Lewis Knitting Company. Stephen B. Lewis remained actively identified with the company's affairs until failing health made it advisable for him to retire in 1911, his death occurring two years later in California.

On November 29, 1877, Franklin F. Lewis was married to Miss Victorine Rockwell, a daughter of Anson and Hannah (Thorpe) Rockwell of Whitewater, Wisconsin. To them were born three children, namely: Mabel Barrett; Edward, who died in infancy, and Frances Eleanor, who died at seventeen years. Mabel Barrett and John L. Wilcox were married January 1, 1901. Mr. Wilcox was then on the office force of Carson, Pirie, Scott & Company, of Chicago, but on their return from their wedding trip, he entered at once the office of the Lewis Knitting Company, where he has held the position of secretary and general manager since 1909. Mrs. Victorine Lewis died in 1916, and in 1921 Mr. Lewis married Ellen McCully Higgins, widow of Rev. J. H. Higgins of Charleston, Maine. Mrs. Higgins had formerly been married to Lawrence McCully, who was born in New York city; was associate justice of the supreme court of Hawaii; and died in 1892.

Politically Mr. Lewis has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party and has always been greatly interested in the leading issues of the day. He has been a strong supporter of all measures for the advancement of his own community and has been influential in civic affairs. For many years he has been an active member of the Congregational church and has taken a keen interest in the welfare of the Young Men's Christian Association, in the interests of which he has been in active service for a number of years. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has attained all the degrees of the York Rite, including that of Knight Templar.

Mr. Lewis possesses the elements that make one successful in the highest degree, being a man of energy, perseverance and close application to whatever work he has in hand. In all the relations of life—business, church, society and family—he has displayed that consistent, gentlemanly spirit, that innate refinement and sterling integrity that has won for him the good will and sincere esteem of the entire community.

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#### CARL A. PALMGREN.

Carl A. Palmgren, vice president of the Damascus Steel Products Company of Rockford and production manager of that thriving concern, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood, the most of which time has been spent in the city of Rockford, where he has a wide acquaintance in industrial circles and has long been recognized as one of the progressive and enterprising factors in the development of the city's industrial interests. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, February 1, 1890, and is a son of Erland and Hulda Palmgren, both also natives of that country.

Reared in his native place, Carl A. Palmgren received his schooling there

and was early trained in the art and mystery of toolmaking and the general details of the machinist's trade, becoming there a well qualified craftsman. Upon finishing his trade he came to the United States and located in Rockford. That was in 1909, he then being nineteen years of age. Upon his arrival in Rockford he readily found employment in the plant of the Mechanics Machine Company and was there employed until 1917, in which year his services were secured by the Enderes interests at Albert Lea, Minnesota, and he moved to that city to become the superintendent of the plant of the Enderes Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of tools.

It was while thus engaged that Mr. Palmgren formed the acquaintance of Charles F. Maitland, Dr. C. V. Nyman and H. M. Hanson, also experienced steel men, and conceived the idea of effecting a combination for the establishment of another steel manufacturing concern. The manner in which he was able to impress upon his friends the desirability of Rockford as a site for their operations gained their consent to sever their relations with the interests with which they were connected in Albert Lea and to establish a new plant in Rockford. It was thus that the Damascus Steel Products Company came into being and the well equipped plant of this company was erected in 1921 at No. 1800 Fourteenth avenue in the city of Rockford. Upon the organization of the company Mr. Palmgren was elected vice president and was made production manager. Mr. Maitland was elected president, Dr. C. V. Nyman was elected secretary and Mr. Hanson was elected treasurer—a very effective combination that has built up an organization that has become a valuable asset in the industrial life of the city, for its products have created a wide market and are in constantly increasing demand in the trade. The special products of this well established concern are steel tools and cutlery and the trade name "Damascus" is a fitting indication of the quality of these products.

On May 5, 1912, in Rockford, Carl A. Palmgren was united in marriage to Miss Elin Eklund, who also was born in the kingdom of Sweden and who has been a resident of this country since the days of her girlhood. They have one child: A son, Carl Reiner Palmgren, born April 11, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Palmgren are republicans and Mr. Palmgren is a member of Rockford Lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### FLOYD E. ATKINS.

Floyd E. Atkins, coroner of Boone county (Illinois) and a member of the firm of Byram & Atkins, undertakers and dealers in furniture in Belvidere, one of the best known funeral directors in this section of the state, was born in Belvidere, and his interests ever have centered here. He was born May 17, 1890, a son of J. D. and Eva S. (Vincent) Atkins, who are now living in Rockford, in the neighboring county of Winnebago, where they have resided since 1907. J. D. Atkins, who is a native of England, is employed in Rockford as a machinist.

Reared in Belvidere, Floyd E. Atkins attended the grammar and high school

there and then took a course in mechanical drawing, with a view to becoming a professional draftsman, but he presently was diverted from that course and instead took up the profession of funeral director, entering the Worsham College of Embalming in Chicago, and in 1912 was graduated from that institution and became registered as a licensed embalmer under the laws of the state of Illinois and the practices of the National Association of Funeral Directors. Thus qualified for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted himself, Mr. Atkins returned to Belvidere and there was employed in the undertaking establishment of Witbeck & Ranger, with which concern he remained until 1919, when he became associated with James Cannon in the undertaking business, a partnership carrying on under the name of Atkins & Cannon. In the following January (1920) this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Cannon going to Rockford, and Mr. Atkins then bought an interest in the undertaking and furniture establishment of L. R. Byram and has since been carrying on as a partner of Mr. Byram, the two doing business under the firm name of Byram & Atkins, with a well equipped and admirably appointed place of business at No. 410 South State street, a store room that has been devoted to the furniture business for seventy-five years.

On June 2, 1917, in Rockford, Illinois, Floyd E. Atkins was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Hanchett, daughter of Mrs. A. J. Ormsby of Belvidere. Mr. and Mrs. Atkins have a daughter, Audrey Elaine, born June 27, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Atkins are republicans and take a proper part in the general community affairs. For seven years Mr. Atkins served as deputy coroner in and for Boone county and following the death of the late Dr. W. J. Hawkey, coroner, he was appointed to succeed to that office to fill the unexpired term. In the succeeding election in November, 1924, he was elected to the office and is now serving on his elective four-year term. Mr. Atkins is a member of the locally influential Belvidere Rotary Club, a member of all the Masonic bodies, is also an Odd Fellow and is likewise affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of the World.

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#### REV. CHARLES MICHAEL OLSON.

Rock county has long been distinguished for the high rank of her clergy and in the development of this community the moral and religious sentiment has fully kept pace with all other lines of progress. This is still true and among the men of sterling character, upright life and acknowledged ability who today are leading in the effort for higher standards of living and who stand as bulwarks against the assaults of the baser moral elements, stands the able and popular pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church at Janesville, the Rev. Charles M. Olson. Father Olson was born on the 25th of May, 1877, in Cambridge, Dane county, Wisconsin, the son of Eric and Mary (Guttenberg) Olson, the latter of whom was born and reared in Jefferson, Jefferson county, Wisconsin. The father was born in Sogndal, Sogne Fiord, Norway, and came to the United States in 1851, settling in Cambridge, where he followed his trade, that of a harness maker. The subject received his elementary education in the public and high school



REV. CHARLES M. OLSON



at Cambridge and after coming to Janesville, in 1891, also attended one year at the high school here. He then entered St. Francis Seminary, at Milwaukee, where for ten years he studied for the priesthood, being ordained on June 22, 1902. His first assignment was as assistant priest of the Holy Rosary parish in Milwaukee, where he served until 1906. From 1906 to 1912 he was pastor of St. James church at Neshkoro, Marquette county, Wisconsin, and this was followed by the pastorate of St. John's church at Clyman, Dodge county, where he remained until 1916. During the following year he was pastor of St. John's church at Montello, Marquette county, and on March 4, 1917, came to Janesville as pastor of St. Mary's church, a relation which he still sustains.

It is a source of great satisfaction and pleasure to Father Olson that he is thus enabled now to minister to his home parish, where he is well known and with whose families he naturally feels closely bound by the ties of old friendship. The rector of so important a parish as that of St. Mary's holds an important position in the community, for it is one of the large congregations here and he is therefore the leader of an important element of the population of the city. St. Mary's church is one of the most beautiful religious edifices in this part of the state and one in which the congregation takes a justifiable pride. During his pastorate the old parish debt of twenty-two years' standing has been paid. A new, modern rectory of the same brick and stone material as the church was erected in 1917 at a cost of twenty thousand dollars; also a new double garage of brick and stone. Five new rooms were added to the school and five additional teachers secured to accommodate the ever increasing enrollment, which now numbers three hundred and forty-two. A junior high school was established in 1922 and additional property has been bought which may be used later for a new school. St. Mary's parish numbers two thousand, two hundred and twenty-six souls and on Sundays an average of one thousand, seven hundred and thirty-six people attend mass in the morning.

Father Olson is an able preacher and has always been a staunch and unwavering supporter of every movement for the betterment of the community along all moral and civic lines. He has maintained a deep interest in local charitable and benevolent organizations and through the years of his pastorate here he has enjoyed to the fullest degree the confidence and sincere respect of all who know him. Father Olson is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Janesville Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Janesville Country Club.

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#### GEORGE OSTRUM FORBES.

For nearly seventy-five years the industry now being carried on in Rockford under the name of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works, of which George Ostrum Forbes is the secretary and treasurer, has been a definite and fixed feature of the industrial life of that city. As is set out elsewhere in this work, this great plant had its beginning in Rockford in 1852, when Duncan Forbes and his son, Alexander D. Forbes, set up an iron foundry in that city. In 1862 this concern

began the manufacture of malleable iron castings and in its plant on the old waterpower developed considerable business in that line. Following the death of Dunean Forbes in 1871, Alexander D. Forbes became the directing head of the concern and so continued until his death in 1902, when his elder son, the late lamented Harry F. Forbes, became the president of the corporation. Following the latter's death in the fall of 1911 the second son, Walter A. Forbes, became the president and has since been serving in that executive capacity. George O. Forbes has been the secretary-treasurer of the corporation since the reorganization following his father's death in 1902, and has thus for years been recognized as one of the influential personal factors in the general commercial and industrial life of the city.

George Ostrum Forbes is a native of Rockford and has been a resident of that city all his life, actively identified with the great industrial concern of which his grandfather was the founder, since the days of his youth. He was born August 30, 1874, the youngest of the three sons of Alexander D. and Elizabeth (Ostrum) Forbes, the latter of whom was born in Schoharie county, in the beautiful valley of the Mohawk, in the state of New York, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Warner) Ostrum, both members of old families in that valley. Concerning Alexander D. Forbes, who in his generation was for many years a very real leader in the industrial life of Rockford, further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work and to that narrative relating to his life and services here the attention of the reader is respectfully directed in this connection,

Reared in Rockford, George O. Forbes had two years of high school work there and then had a year at Lake Forest Academy, where he was prepared for entrance to Princeton University. He was graduated from this latter institution with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1897 and upon his return home became definitely identified with the operations of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works, making himself thoroughly familiar with all the details of that concern's then rapidly growing business. When the reorganization was effected following his father's death in 1902 he was made the secretary and treasurer of the company and has since then been thus serving, this position carrying with it a large measure of administrative responsibility. As is set out elsewhere, the plant of the Malleable Iron Works in 1907 was moved from its old site on the waterpower to its present site on Peoples avenue and Mr. Forbes was thus one of the directing heads in the extensive operations attendant upon that move and the subsequent gratifying development of the corporation's business. In addition to his connection with this great Forbes concern Mr. Forbes has other interests of a substantial character in and about the city and is the vice president of the old established W. F. & John Barnes Company, manufacturers of iron and woodworking machinery, further reference to which concern is made elsewhere in this work; is the vice president of the Liberty Foundries Company, and a member of the directorate of the Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford; and a member of the board of directors and the treasurer of the Lipman Refrigerating Company of Beloit. He is a member of the board of trustees of Rockford College and is also a trustee of the Rockford Cemetery Association.

On April 12, 1899, in Rockford, George O. Forbes was united in marriage to

Miss Elizabeth Barnes, daughter of John and Mary J. (Parmalee) Barnes of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes have two children: A son, John Alexander Forbes, born February 9, 1900; and a daughter, Miss Constance Forbes, born April 27, 1904. John Alexander Forbes completed his preparatory school work at Hill School, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and then entered Princeton University, from which he was graduated in 1922, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. In that same year he followed in his father's footsteps in the industrial line, entering the employ of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works and is now production manager of that extensive concern. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes are members of the Rockford Country Club and are republicans. Mr. Forbes is a member of the lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of Rockford and is a member of the Union League Club of Chicago. Mrs. Forbes's father, the late John Barnes, head of the great manufacturing concern whose products have carried the name Barnes into all the civilized lands of the world, was for years one of the vital factors in the industrial life of Rockford and in his generation was a strong force for good hereabout, as is told elsewhere in this work.

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#### HENRY TRAXLER.

Although a resident of Janesville, Wisconsin, for but a short time, the subject of this sketch has impressed the force of his individuality on the community in such a manner as to gain an enviable standing. His marked business ability, his accurate technical knowledge of many subjects of vital importance to the public welfare, and his fine personality have combined to give him marked prestige throughout the community. Henry Traxler is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in the city of Milwaukee on the 25th of April, 1889, the son of Max and Emma Traxler. He pursued his elementary studies in the public and high schools of his native city and then entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1910 with the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Civil Engineer.

Soon after completing his education Mr. Traxler went to Los Angeles, California, where he obtained a position as civil engineer for the Los Angeles county highway commission, and one year later he became the designer for the Union Oil Company, of Los Angeles. A year later he engaged in private practice as a civil and consulting engineer and in 1912 formed a partnership with M. J. Hall, under the firm name of the M. J. Hall Company, at Centerville, Iowa. Their work was as civil and consulting engineers with special attention to waterworks construction, water purification, sewers, sewage disposal, pavements and valuations. This partnership continued until 1918, when Mr. Traxler became city manager of Clarinda, Iowa, which position he held until 1923, when he was chosen city manager of Janesville. This city had adopted the city manager plan of government in 1922 and in 1923 had chosen its first council under the new plan, this council electing the first manager. Mr. Traxler has proven his eminent fitness for the position he is so ably filling and his record thus far has been unqualifiedly commended by the people of this city.



Politically Mr. Traxler is independent, supporting the men and measures according to the dictates of his judgment, regardless of party lines. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Loyal Order of Moose, while socially he is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Janesville Country Club. He is a member of the Western Society of Engineers, the Wisconsin Society of Engineers, the National Society of Engineers, the National Municipal League and the City Managers Association.

On July 11, 1916, Mr. Traxler was married to Miss Edith Podlasky, the daughter of Joseph Podlasky, of Milwaukee, and they have one child, Sidney, born May 16, 1922. Personally Mr. Traxler is a quiet and unassuming man but possesses a strong and vigorous personality. His success is but the reward of the application of mental qualifications of a high order to the affairs of business and the keenness of perception that has enabled him quickly to grasp the intricacies of the problems that confront him. Because of his success, his genuine worth and his friendly disposition he has won a host of warm friends since coming to Janesville.

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#### LEWIS H. HANSON.

Lewis H. Hanson, vice president of the Union Dairy Company and secretary and treasurer of the Highland Dairy Company of Rockford, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record and well established in the dairy business in Rockford, is a native of that city and has lived there all his life. Mr. Hanson was born March 13, 1897, and is a son of Andrew and Eliza Hanson of Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, Lewis H. Hanson attended the public schools of that city, going on through the high school and became a capable stenographer, competent for secretarial work. In 1915, then being eighteen years of age, Mr. Hanson became connected with the operations of the Union Dairy Company, the largest concern of its kind in Rockford, with a view to becoming thoroughly familiar with the dairy business, and was thus employed in the office of that company when in 1917 this country took a hand in the World war and called upon its young men to get ready for army service. In June of the following year (1918) Mr. Hanson got into service and was assigned to duty as court reporter in the department of the judge advocate general and was presently attached in that capacity to the headquarters company of the Service of Supply of the American Expeditionary Forces, on station at Tours, France, and was for seven months on duty at that station, receiving his final discharge from the army in April, 1919.

Upon the completion of his army service Mr. Hanson returned to Rockford and resumed his connection with the Union Dairy Company, in which he presently acquired an interest and of which company now he is the vice president. In 1922 he acquired an interest in the Highland Dairy Company, which was incorporated in 1921, and was elected secretary and treasurer of that company,

in succession to C. C. Nelson, who at that time retired from active participation in the operations of that company though still retaining a proprietary interest. Since then Mr. Hanson has been giving his chief attention to the administration of the affairs of the Highland Dairy Company, which has a well equipped plant at No. 1418 Fourteenth avenue and which has developed a fine business, its products being in constantly increasing demand. George R. Nelson, brother of C. C. Nelson mentioned above, is the president of this company, and G. M. Bergquist is the vice president, Mr. Hanson serving as both secretary and treasurer, a dual position which carries with it a good share of administrative responsibility.

On July 24, 1919, not long after his return from military service overseas, Lewis H. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Agnes V. Bergstrom of Rockford and they have two children: A son, Lewis R. Hanson, born June 1, 1920; and a daughter, Caroline, born May 31, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are republicans and Mr. Hanson is a member of the post of the American Legion and is also affiliated with the lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in Rockford. His ten years of active experience in the dairy business have given him a thorough familiarity with the details of that exacting business and he has done much to develop the interests of the companies with which he is connected, his up-to-date methods and progressive spirit having been productive of results.

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#### ROBERT A. EDGAR.

Robert A. Edgar, an able representative of Beloit's legal fraternity, is serving as city attorney and for eight years has been the incumbent of this office, discharging his duties in a manner that has won for him the highest commendation. He was born September 27, 1873, in the province of Ontario, Canada, a son of Thomas A. and Ann S. Edgar, the former a teacher by profession.

After completing a course in the high school in Port Perry, Ontario, Robert A. Edgar became a student at the College of Education in Toronto and next entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1903. He was admitted to the bar in the same year and practiced alone in Wausau, Wisconsin, from 1903 until 1908. He then went to Rochester, New York, and for four years was editor of *Lawyers Reports Annotated*. In 1912 he came to Beloit, Wisconsin, and formed a partnership with H. W. Adams, with whom he was associated until 1917 as a member of the firm of Adams & Edgar. He has since practiced under his own name and is most skillful in handling the cases intrusted to his care, enjoying a liberal clientele. Recognition of his worth and ability led to his selection for the position of city attorney in April, 1917, and his long retention therein is proof of the quality of his service. He possesses an analytical, well trained mind and is well versed in the minutiae of the law, especially in matters relating to municipal rights. Before entering the legal profession he had won success in the educational field,

serving from January 1, 1899, until December 31, 1902, as superintendent of schools for Forest county, Wisconsin, and accomplishing much important work in that connection.

Mr. Edgar was married August 9, 1913, to Miss Myrtle Smith, a daughter of A. P. Smith of De Pere, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar have two children: Robert R., who was born August 30, 1915; and Jean Charlotte, born January 8, 1918. Mr. Edgar is identified with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias and gives his political support to the republican party. He is a member of the Rock County, Wisconsin State and American Bar Associations and his professional colleagues unite in bearing testimony as to his high character and breadth of mind.

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### GEORGE RUTLEDGE BARKER.

Change is constant and general, generations rise and pass away, and it is the duty of posterity as well as a present gratification to place upon the permanent records of a county's history a true record of the lives of those who have preceded us on the stage of action and left to their descendants the memory of their struggles and achievements. The years of the honored subject of this memoir are a part of the indissoluble chain which links the annals of the past to those of latter-day progress and prosperity, and the history of the Rock River valley would not be complete without due reference to the long, useful and honorable life Mr. Barker lived and the success he achieved not only in material affairs but also in gaining the confidence and respect of all who knew him.

George Rutledge Barker, whose death occurred on June 17, 1914, was a native of Jamestown, New York, where he was born on the 25th of October, 1839, and he was therefore in his seventy-fifth year at the time of his death. He was the son of Job and Phoebe Barker, the former a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the latter of Vermont. The subject's ancestral line runs back to sturdy old English stock, the family being traced back to the time of Queen Anne. Job Barker moved from Massachusetts to New York state, locating near Jamestown, where he remained until the spring of 1839, when he came to Wisconsin in search of a location for a new home. He was pleased with the Rock River valley and determined to establish his future home here. He returned to New York and in the following spring sent his eldest son, several nephews and a trusted friend overland with a covered wagon drawn by horses. There being no means of purchase other than by actual cash, he was obliged to send gold and silver enough to pay for the grant of government land which would be taken up. For reasons of safety the wagon was constructed with a false bottom and the money, carefully wrapped so as not to jingle, was secreted there. The arrival of the Barker wagon marked the first appearance of a team of horses in southern Wisconsin. Twelve hundred acres of government land were taken up and it is related that the money paid to seal the transaction filled a peck measure. This grant was obtained in



GEORGE R. BARKER



Milwaukee and the original document is still in the possession of Mrs. George R. Barker. A log cabin was erected on the site of the fine stone house which was later constructed at what was ever afterward known as Barker's Corners. About the time Job Barker had cleared off a part of the timber and had planted the prairie portion of his land, he fell a victim to an epidemic of malaria which broke out in the new settlement and the property was divided among his children. To him and his wife were born eight children, of which number the only survivor is Mrs. J. W. Coolidge, now ninety years of age, and living in Medford, Massachusetts, her husband being related to President Coolidge.

On this old homestead farm George R. Barker was reared and spent his life and to the cultivation of its broad acres devoted his energies. His early education was received in the district schools of his home neighborhood and he then attended Milton College. He was a man of marked mental ability and during all the years of his life was a close and thoughtful reader, keeping in close touch with the issues of the day, and he was well and accurately informed on a wide range of subjects. He was a practical and progressive farmer, in which vocation he met with a very gratifying measure of success. In 1902 he relinquished the cares of business life and thereafter lived quietly in his comfortable home, enjoying that rest and leisure to which his years of earnest labor had so richly entitled him.

From the attaining of his majority Mr. Barker always took a keen and commendable interest in the public affairs of his community and from time to time held positions of trust and responsibility, each of which he discharged with ability and wisdom. He had served as president of the farm board, president of the school board, trustee of the Rock county asylum and poorhouse and as a member of the county board and had also served as president of the Farmers Mutual Life Insurance Company and as master of the Janesville Grange. During the last twelve years of his life he lived in Janesville and here he was greatly appreciated because of his splendid career and fine personal character. He was a friend to everyone and everyone who knew him was his friend. Politically he was a lifelong supporter of the republican party, while fraternally he was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He was a regular attendant of the services of the Congregational church, and although he never formally united with that society he was greatly interested in its welfare and gave liberally to the support of its various activities.

On February 21, 1867, in Janesville, Mr. Barker was married to Miss Margaret Cargill, who was born in Port Jefferson, Long Island, New York, February 10, 1843, the daughter of William W. and Edna Cargill, the former of whom was born on the Orkney islands, Scotland, in 1812. To Mr. and Mrs. Barker were born the following children: Edna P., deceased, who was the wife of William B. Conrad; Julius Morville, who married Miss Pauline Davis and now lives in Washington, D. C.; Ella Claire, who is the wife of Arthur Aller, of Janesville; Mary Rogers, who is unmarried; George Cargill, who was married to Alma Golling and lives in Moose Jaw, Canada; and Margaret Mount, who is the wife of Roy E. Wisner, of Janesville.

Mr. Barker is remembered as a man of great energy and rare judgment,

which he carried into all affairs in which he was interested. Although his life was a busy one, his everyday affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he never shrank from his duties as a citizen and his obligations to the community. He possessed marked force of character and was usually in the lead when any movement was on foot for the betterment of his county or immediate locality. Through the long years of his residence here he was ever true to the trusts reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature, and his reputation in a business way was unassailable. His life was an inspiration to all who knew him and his memory remains to his loved ones and friends as a blessed benediction of a noble and upright character.

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JOHN W. GROSS, JR.

In no profession is there a career more open to talent than is that of law and in no field of endeavor is there demanded a more careful preparation, a more thorough appreciation of the absolute ethics of life or of the underlying principles which form the basis of all human rights and privileges. Possessing all the requisite qualities of the able lawyer, John W. Gross, Jr., of Janesville, stands today among the successful and highly esteemed practitioners of Rock county, Wisconsin. Mr. Gross was born on the 4th of March, 1888, near La Farge, Vernon county, Wisconsin, and is the son of John W. and Susan (Farmer) Gross. His father was a farmer by vocation and his family was among the earliest settlers of Vernon county.

The subject secured his elementary education in the country schools in his home neighborhood, graduating from the La Farge high school. He then entered Beloit College, from which he was graduated in 1912 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During the following three years he engaged in teaching school at Fort Atkinson and then entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, where he was graduated in 1919 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He subsequently came to Janesville and entered the law office of Whitehead and Matheson, where he read law for six months, as required by law, and was formally admitted to the bar in 1920. Thereafter he continued in Whitehead and Matheson's office until 1922, when he opened an office of his own and has remained in practice actively since. Though numbered among the comparatively recent additions to the professional ranks of this community, Mr. Gross has attracted considerable attention because of his success in the handling of cases, in which he has given ample evidence of his thorough preparation and his natural qualifications for the profession. In 1925 he was appointed by Hon. George Grimm as divorcee counsel for Rock county.

In May, 1918, Mr. Gross enlisted in the United States navy and was made a petty officer. He rendered active service until the close of the World war and was discharged in January, 1919. While in Beloit College he made a special study of forensic work and took an active part in the oratorical work of that college. In 1912, in an oratorical contest participated in by all the colleges of the state, he was the winner, his oration, which was of his own

production, being entitled "Peace and the Common Man." He is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He also belongs to the law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta, and the national honorary forensic fraternity, Delta Sigma Rho. Politically he gives his support to the republican party. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and of Richard Ellis Post No. 205, American Legion, of which he is a past commander. The splendid success which is crowning his efforts is the legitimate result of his own indefatigable efforts, while at the same time his personal character has won for him the undivided respect of all with whom he has come in contact.

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#### ARTHUR W. SWIFT, M. D.

Dr. Arthur W. Swift, former mayor of the city of Belvidere and in other ways actively identified with its civic affairs; a practicing physician there for the past forty years and thus long recognized as one of the leaders of his profession in that section of the Rock River valley, is a native of the old Empire state but has been a resident of Illinois and of Belvidere since the days of his childhood and is thus as thoroughly familiar with conditions hereabout as though indeed "native and to the manner born." He was born in the village of Nunda, Livingston county, New York, July 16, 1860, a son of Prosper and Mary A. (Cleveland) Swift, both also natives of New York state and members of old families there and the latter of whom spent her last days in Belvidere, of which place she became a resident some sixty years ago.

Prosper Swift, a gallant soldier of the Union army during the time of the Civil war, who laid down his life on the altar of human liberty during that struggle between the states, was born in Livingston county, New York, and was early trained as a carpenter. After his marriage he established his home in Nunda and was working there at his trade when the Civil war broke out. Despite the fact that he had given ample hostages to fortune and might well have claimed exemption from military service, for by this time two children had come to grace the union of himself and wife, this patriotic young artisan presently enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and on August 5, 1862, in Portage, New York, he was mustered into service as a sergeant in Company I of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, which later was mounted and transferred to General Sheridan's command as the First New York Cavalry Dragoons. On April 1, 1864, he was advanced to the grade of first sergeant and not long afterward was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and was gallantly thus serving the Union when on October 19, 1864, he met his death in the memorable battle of Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah valley in Virginia, an engagement which by the timely arrival of General Sheridan from his station "twenty miles away" swept aside the gains made by the rebel general Early and turned what had the initial appearance of a rout of the Federal forces into a decisive victory for the latter, an incident of war that has been made familiar to every school child through



that stirring narrative poem, "Sheridan's Ride," written by Thomas Buchanan Read within a few days thereafter to commemorate an action that deeply thrilled the people of the north and even excited the admiration of the people of the south. Lieutenant Swift was but thirty-seven years of age when he thus met a brave soldier's fate and his memory has ever been kept green in the community which knew him well and loved him. He was survived by his widow and one son, the elder son meanwhile having died when nine years of age.

In 1866 the Widow Swift and her son Arthur, the latter then six years of age, left their home in New York and came out into Illinois to rejoin kinsfolk who had settled in Belvidere and it was thus that Arthur W. Swift came to be reared in Belvidere.

Arthur W. Swift attended the schools of Belvidere and early became interested in the study of medicine. Under the able preceptorship of Dr. Frank S. Whitman he was prepared for college and in due time entered the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which institution he was graduated in 1885. Upon receiving his diploma and after proper service as an interne in the hospitals of Chicago, Dr. Swift returned to Belvidere and became associated in practice with his old preceptor, Dr. Whitman, a mutually agreeable arrangement that was continued until 1896, when Dr. Whitman retired from general practice preparatory to entering upon his duties as superintendent of the state hospital for the insane. Dr. Swift then admitted to partnership in his practice Dr. R. B. Andrews and this association was maintained until 1905, when Dr. Andrews withdrew from the firm and was succeeded by the elder Dr. Whitman's nephew, Dr. F. S. Whitman (II). This latter connection was maintained until Dr. Swift's withdrawal from the firm in 1919, since which time Dr. Swift has been carrying on his practice independently, with present offices at No. 103 Logan avenue.

Despite the arduous and exacting duties of his profession, Dr. Swift has ever found time to give a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has rendered from time to time useful public service in various capacities, this including one term as mayor of the city. He also has rendered service on the local school board, on the city board of health and for seven years as a member of the common council of the city. He is a member of the Boone County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and of the American Institute of Homeopathy. He is a Royal Arch and Knights Templar Mason, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, being also a member of the board of trustees of the local congregation of that communion. As an active member of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce the Doctor gives his earnest attention to the general promotive and development movements inaugurated in his home town and has for years been recognized as one of the leaders of the community of which he has been a member since the days of his boyhood.

Dr. Swift has been twice married. In October, 1885, he was united in marriage to Miss Jessie E. Curtis, who was born in Boone county in 1861, daughter of Charles and Mary (Mounsey) Curtis, substantial pioneer residents of that county. To Dr. and Mrs. Swift two children were born: A son, Harold Arthur Swift, who completed his schooling in Northwestern University and was employed in the advertising department of the great mercantile house of

Sears, Roebuck & Company at Chicago until his death; and a daughter, Miss Helen Louise Swift, who was graduated from the University of Illinois and is now (1925) a teacher in the schools of the village of Neponset, Bureau county, Illinois. Mrs. Jessie E. Swift died in April, 1915. On September 5, 1917, Dr. Swift was married to Mrs. Flora B. Haaek, also a member of one of the old families of Boone county, and to this union one child has been born, a son: Franklyn Bruce Swift. Mrs. Swift is a daughter of Franklyn Webber, who was one of the substantial citizens of Flora township in Boone county, but has passed away.

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### JOHN E. OWEN.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a community than that which deals with the work of those who by their own earnest endeavors and indomitable energy have placed themselves where they well deserved the title of "prominent and progressive," and in this brief sketch will be found the record of two men, father and son, who have by their enterprise and ability established, developed and are still operating one of the most successful and prosperous plants in their line in the country. John E. Owen, founder and head of the Jefferson Woolen Yarn Mills, at Jefferson, Wisconsin, was born on the 27th of February, 1848, at Oriskany, New York, and is the son of David and Elizabeth Owen. Both parents were natives of Wales, who came to the United States and settled in the Mohawk valley of New York in 1846, and there the father engaged in the woolen business.

John E. Owen attended the country schools of his home neighborhood during his early years, but at the age of ten years he went to work in a woolen mill. During the ensuing forty years or more he was connected with some of the largest mills in the Mohawk valley, becoming thoroughly familiar with every detail of the business and gaining a reputation as an expert in his line. Then, in 1900, Mr. Owen went to South Bend, Indiana, and became connected with the South Bend Woolen Mills, where he remained until 1910, when he came to Jefferson, Wisconsin, and bought the Jefferson Woolen Mills, his son, Charles W., being associated with him, and the business was then reorganized as the Jefferson Woolen Yarn Mills, John E. Owen & Son. During the more than fifteen years that they have operated this business they have made tremendous forward strides until today their mill stands in a class by itself in the middle west, being the only one of its kind west of the Mohawk valley. They make a specialty of merino yarns for the sweater trade, in which they do a tremendous volume of business, and also manufacture cotton and wool lining, which is used in the manufacture of mittens and in the sleeves of sheepskin coats. Of recent years they have also engaged in the knitting business, and they have offices in Montreal, New York city and Gloversville, New York. Their mill in Jefferson is thoroughly modern and complete in its equipment and is considered one of the leading industries in this locality, John E. Owen & Son enjoying a high reputation as business men of ability, enterprise and fine judgment. John E. Owen is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to all branches of that

time-honored order. On September 15, 1872, he was married to Miss Mary Jane Bowne, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Bowne, of Clayville, New York, and to them were born two children, Charles W. and Mabel E., who was born June 22, 1879.

Charles W. Owen was born in Baldwinsville, New York, November 23, 1873, and secured his educational training in the public schools of his native city. While still young he went to work in the Miller knitting mill in Baldwinsville, where he learned the business, and to the intimate knowledge which father and son obtained of every detail of the woolen business they attribute their splendid success in later years. On leaving Baldwinsville Charles W. Owen entered the mill supply and machinery business, being connected for a number of years with Charles Millar & Son Company of Utica, New York. Later he joined the Garlock Packing Company, of Palmyra, New York, for whom he traveled for several years. In 1910 he came to Jefferson, Wisconsin, and associated himself with his father in the woolen yarn business, in which they are still successfully engaged.

In 1905 Charles W. Owen was married to Miss Nellie M. Chidester, the daughter of William and Ellen E. Chidester, of Watertown, New York. She was born in that city in 1874, a direct descendant of Colonel Nathaniel Woodruff, who gained considerable distinction in the Revolutionary war, and she passed away at her home in Jefferson on September 14, 1925. Mr. Owen is a member of the Milwaukee Athletic Club, the Hamilton Club of Chicago and the Meadow Springs Golf Club of Jefferson. He is a man of prepossessing personality, easily makes friends and is numbered among the progressive and substantial citizens of his community. He is eminently public-spirited, giving his unreserved support to every measure for the betterment of the community along material, civic or moral lines, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

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#### ERNEST C. FIEDLER.

Ernest C. Fiedler has achieved notable success in the legal profession, with which he has been identified for a period of thirty-two years, and his ability has placed him with the foremost attorneys of Beloit and southern Wisconsin. He was born December 12, 1867, at Elk Grove, Lafayette county, this state. His parents, Bernard and Catherine Fiedler, who emigrated from Germany to the United States, were numbered among the early settlers in Lafayette county and the father was one of its pioneer farmers, accomplishing the arduous task of clearing his land and bringing it under cultivation.

Ernest C. Fiedler supplemented his public school training by attendance at the State Normal School at Platteville, Wisconsin, and for a year was a student at Pionona College in Milwaukee. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1893 with the degree of LL. B. In the same year he began his professional career at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, where he maintained offices until 1922, and during a portion of that period also practiced at Platteville. He was senior member of the firm of Fiedler, Fiedler, Jackson & Boardman,



ERNEST C. FIEDLER



of which his brother, Joseph J. Fiedler, was one of the partners, and their practice was extensive and lucrative. In 1922 Ernest C. Fiedler came to Beloit and organized the firm of Fiedler, Garrigan & Amlic, which has also been accorded a large clientele of a most important nature. Mr. Fiedler has personally argued sixty-four cases before the supreme court of Wisconsin and has won the victory in many a notable forensic combat. He possesses the gift of oratory and throughout his professional career has remained a diligent student of those elementary principles which constitute the basis of all legal science.

Mr. Fiedler was married June 8, 1894, to Miss Pearl Cummings, a daughter of John and Mary Cummings, of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Donald J., the only child of this union, was born March 24, 1896, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He resides in Platteville and has charge of his father's business interests in that locality.

Before his removal to Beloit, Ernest C. Fiedler was one of the state leaders of the democratic party and was sent as a delegate to the national convention in Baltimore, at which time Woodrow Wilson was nominated. His political views have since undergone a change and he now leans toward the republican party. He is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and belongs to the Beloit Country and Kiwanis Clubs. Mr. Fiedler is a member of the Rock County, Wisconsin State and American Bar Associations and a man of superior professional attainments. His views life from a broad standpoint and his strength of character, forceful personality and fine qualities have drawn to him a large circle of steadfast friends.

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#### ROBERT A. STORMONT.

Robert A. Stormont, president of the Modern Wet Wash Laundry Company of Rockford and a well known factor in local business circles, was born in the city of La Crosse, Wisconsin, November 5, 1882, a son of James and Jane Stormont, the former of whom, a native of Scotland, was long a well known general contractor in La Crosse.

Reared in La Crosse, Robert A. Stormont attended the local schools and as a young man became employed in a lumberyard in that city, there becoming familiar with the essential details of the lumber business. He later went to Canada and in the great timber country of the Dominion became connected with the lumber industry, acquired interests in sawmills and was for years actively engaged in the lumber industry, making his headquarters in Winnipeg, capital of the province of Manitoba. Mr. Stormont was twenty years of age when he went to Canada in 1912 and he was married three years later and established his home in Winnipeg, where he remained until 1923, when he became established in business in Rockford, in association with Ralph H. Brown, a practical laundryman, opening there in that year a modern laundry plant under the firm style of the Modern Wet Wash Laundry Company, with a well equipped and up-to-date establishment at No. 200 Prairie street. Mr. Stormont is the president of this company and Mr. Brown is the secretary and treasurer. The

latter was proprietor during the period 1919-23 of the Cascade Wet Wash Laundry in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and is widely experienced in modern laundry operation. The establishment built up in Rockford by the Modern Wet Wash Laundry Company is admirably equipped for the needs of the local trade and has developed a fine business there.

On November 27, 1915, Robert A. Stormont was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Viola Fritz of Unity, Marathon county, Wisconsin, and they have two sons, both born in Winnipeg: Robert, born November 15, 1919; and James Stormont, born November 5, 1920. Mr. Stormont is a member of the Masonic order and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### OSCAR N. NELSON.

In all that constitutes true manhood and good citizenship Oscar N. Nelson, manager of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce, is a notable example, and none stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community. His career has been characterized by duty faithfully performed and because of this fact and his generous and kindly nature he has won a strong hold on the hearts of the people of his community. Mr. Nelson was born in Dane county, just across the line from Edgerton, Rock county, Wisconsin, on the 14th of January, 1887, and is the son of M. C. and Julia Nelson. His father was for many years a prominent tobacco packer, although when he first settled in Dane county he followed the vocation of farming, and he now makes his home in Edgerton.

Oscar N. Nelson attended the public schools in Edgerton and the high schools in that place and Beloit. On completing his education he entered the Gardner Machine Works in Beloit, where he learned the trade of a machinist. In 1910 he entered the employ of the Beloit Daily News, being assigned to the editorial department, where he remained until 1913, when Judge Charles L. Fifield appointed him registrar in probate for Rock county. He held this position, the duties of which he discharged in a very efficient and satisfactory manner, until 1922, when he was chosen manager of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce, and is still filling that position. It is one that requires considerable ability and wise discrimination and Mr. Nelson has shown himself to be thoroughly qualified for the exacting demands of the office.

Mr. Nelson has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party and has taken an active part in its various campaigns, having served in 1921 as secretary of the Rock County Republican League. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a past president and now a member of the board of directors of the Janesville Kiwanis Club and divisional governor of the Wisconsin Upper Michigan district, and is vice president of the Wisconsin Commercial Secretaries Association.

On February 11, 1912, Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Mayme Kelly, the daughter of John and Emma Kelly, of Orfordville, and they are the parents of

two children: Dale Edward, born February 5, 1913; and Donald Stuart, born October 24, 1914. Mr. Nelson is eminently public-spirited and ever stands ready to support with his influence and means all measures for the material and moral welfare of the community. Among those who know him he bears the reputation of a man who exercises sound judgment, has pronounced views on the questions of the day and keeps himself well informed on all matters pertaining to the public weal or woe, exercising the duties of citizenship in a conscientious and effective manner.

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#### JOHN ELMER ALLABEN, M. D.

For more than thirty years Dr. John Elmer Allaben was engaged in the practice of medicine in Rockford, Illinois, rendering to its citizens that service which only the skilled physician is capable of giving, and an honorable, upright life of great usefulness was terminated on the 9th of February, 1921, when he was called to his final rest. He was born November 16, 1858, in Dixon, Illinois, and was the youngest of a family of eleven children. His father died when he was five years old and he grew to manhood on a farm near Polo, Illinois, residing in the home of a Mr. Coffman. In 1883 he was graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and chose Rockford, Illinois, as the scene of his professional labors. In 1887 he removed to Argyle, Illinois, spending six years at that place, and in 1893 returned to Rockford, where he made his home until his demise, which occurred when he was sixty-two years of age. He was a man of high professional attainments and enjoyed a large practice. He was kindhearted, generous and sympathetic and his patients regarded him as a friend as well as a physician. He was an active member of the state, district and national medical societies and a constant student of his profession, to which he devoted the best energies of his life. Dr. Allaben was specially interested in surgery, being a pioneer in this field in this locality. He contributed much to the various medical journals on this subject, as a result of his careful research, practical experience, and extensive reading. Dr. Allaben was also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

In 1887 Dr. Allaben was married to Miss Harriet Strickland of St. Johns, Michigan, who survives him. They became the parents of four sons, three of whom are now living: Gerald R., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; and Everett and Roland.

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#### GERALD R. ALLABEN, M. D.

Dr. Gerald R. Allaben, who saw active service in the World war, is now engaged in the practice of medicine in Rockford, Illinois, successfully following in the professional footsteps of his father. The son was born July 9, 1889, in Argyle, Winnebago county, Illinois, and is one of the three surviving chil-



dren in the family of John Elmer and Harriet (Strickland) Allaben, the latter a native of St. Johns, Michigan. For many years the father was numbered among the leading physicians of Rockford and a complete account of his life is published elsewhere in this volume.

On the completion of his course in the Rockford high school Gerald R. Allaben matriculated in Beloit College, which he attended for two years, and in 1911 received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin. He was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1913 and for eighteen months was an interne at the Cook County Hospital, where he gained much valuable experience. He returned to Rockford and from 1915 until 1917 was associated in practice with his father, to whom he is indebted for his start in the profession. In May, 1917, he responded to the call to the colors, enlisting in the Medical Corps of the United States army, and on June 8, 1917, won the commission of first lieutenant. He was stationed for a time at Camp Grant, Illinois, and afterward spent five months overseas. He received his honorable discharge in February, 1919, at which time he was holding the rank of captain, and is now a major in the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States army. Following his service in the army Dr. Allaben practiced medicine in Buhl, Minnesota, as a contract surgeon in the iron mining district. In December, 1921, he returned to Rockford, where he has since followed his profession. He is well versed in the scientific principles of his profession and a large practice is indicative of the confidence reposed in his ability.

Dr. Allaben was married June 15, 1911, to Miss Frances Marie Lord, a daughter of Dr. F. H. Lord of Plano, Illinois. Gerald R., Jr., the only child of this union, was born January 10, 1915. Dr. Allaben is connected with the lodge, chapter, consistory and Shrine in Masonry and is also an Elk. He is a member of the Winnebago County and Illinois State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He also belongs to the University Club and the American Legion.

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#### PAUL ROBERT BERG.

Paul Robert Berg of the Illinois Automatic Awning Company of Rockford and one of the well known and well established manufacturers of that important industrial center, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his childhood. He was born in Germany, on July 4, 1885, a son of Albert and Bertha Berg, who in 1891 came to the United States with their family and settled in Chicago, where Albert Berg became connected with the lumber industry. In 1900 the Bergs moved to Belvidere and Paul R. Berg has ever since been a resident of the Rock River valley.

Paul Robert Berg was but six years of age when in 1891 he came with his parents to this country and was fifteen years of age when the family moved from Chicago to Belvidere. He thus acquired his initial education in the Chicago schools and following his arrival in Belvidere finished in the schools of this latter city. He then entered the plant of the National Sewing Machine

Company in Belvidere and in that factory became a competent machinist. For fourteen years Mr. Berg continued his connection with the operations of the National Sewing Machine Company and then moved to Rockford, where he became a skilled operative in the plant of the Automatic Awning Company. For four years he continued this connection and then, in December, 1923, in association with John Preston Parker, he bought the plant, which he and his partner have since been operating, doing business as the Illinois Automatic Awning Company, and are doing very well, with a well equipped and profitable plant at Nos. 322-24 Green street, where they have built up a fine business.

On August 26, 1915, in Belvidere, Paul R. Berg was united in marriage to Miss Alma Braun, daughter of Charles Braun of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Berg have a son: Paul, born May 31, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Berg take an interested part in the general civic affairs of the city in which they have elected to make their home.

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#### ROY CHESTER TOWNSEND.

Another of the sturdy native sons of Rock county, Wisconsin, who is succeeding through his indefatigable industry, sound business methods and his technical ability, is Roy S. Townsend, head of the Townsend Tractor Company, of Janesville. He was born at Magnolia, Rock county, on the 9th of October, 1884, and is the son of Arb F. and Ella Belle (Letts) Townsend, of Magnolia. He received his education in the public and high schools of his native town and his boyhood years were spent in farm work. In 1905, about the time he had attained his majority, Mr. Townsend went to work for Fairbanks, Morse & Company, in Beloit, and there he learned the machinist's trade. Through home study and correspondence courses he secured a sound, practical technical education and worked himself up through the drafting and engineering departments of that firm until he became a full-fledged mechanical engineer, and when he left the employ of the company in 1914 he was in charge of the engineering division of the tractor department. On leaving Fairbanks, Morse & Company, Mr. Townsend organized the Townsend Tractor Company and opened a small shop in Beloit, where he began the manufacture of farm tractors along improved lines originated by himself. The business was successful and in two years Mr. Townsend moved the plant to Janesville, where he had built a factory. Here the growth of the business was marked by a more rapid advance, necessitating successive increases in the size and capacity of the factory, until today it is one of the busy, successful and steadily growing manufacturing concerns of Janesville. The subject's brother, Lester A. Townsend, is the general foreman of the plant.

Politically Mr. Townsend is aligned with the republican party but has never taken a very active part in political affairs, though keeping well informed on the leading issues of the day. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Janesville Chamber of Commerce. He is essentially public-spirited, giving his support to every

movement or measure advanced for the betterment of the public welfare. He is a hard working, steady and reliable citizen, such a man as helps to make up the aggregate of the best element of community life. On June 26, 1912, Mr. Townsend was married to Miss Edna Yunker, the daughter of Henry Yunker, of Beloit, and they are the parents of two children: Roy Chester, Jr., born April 12, 1914; and Edith, born July 4, 1916.

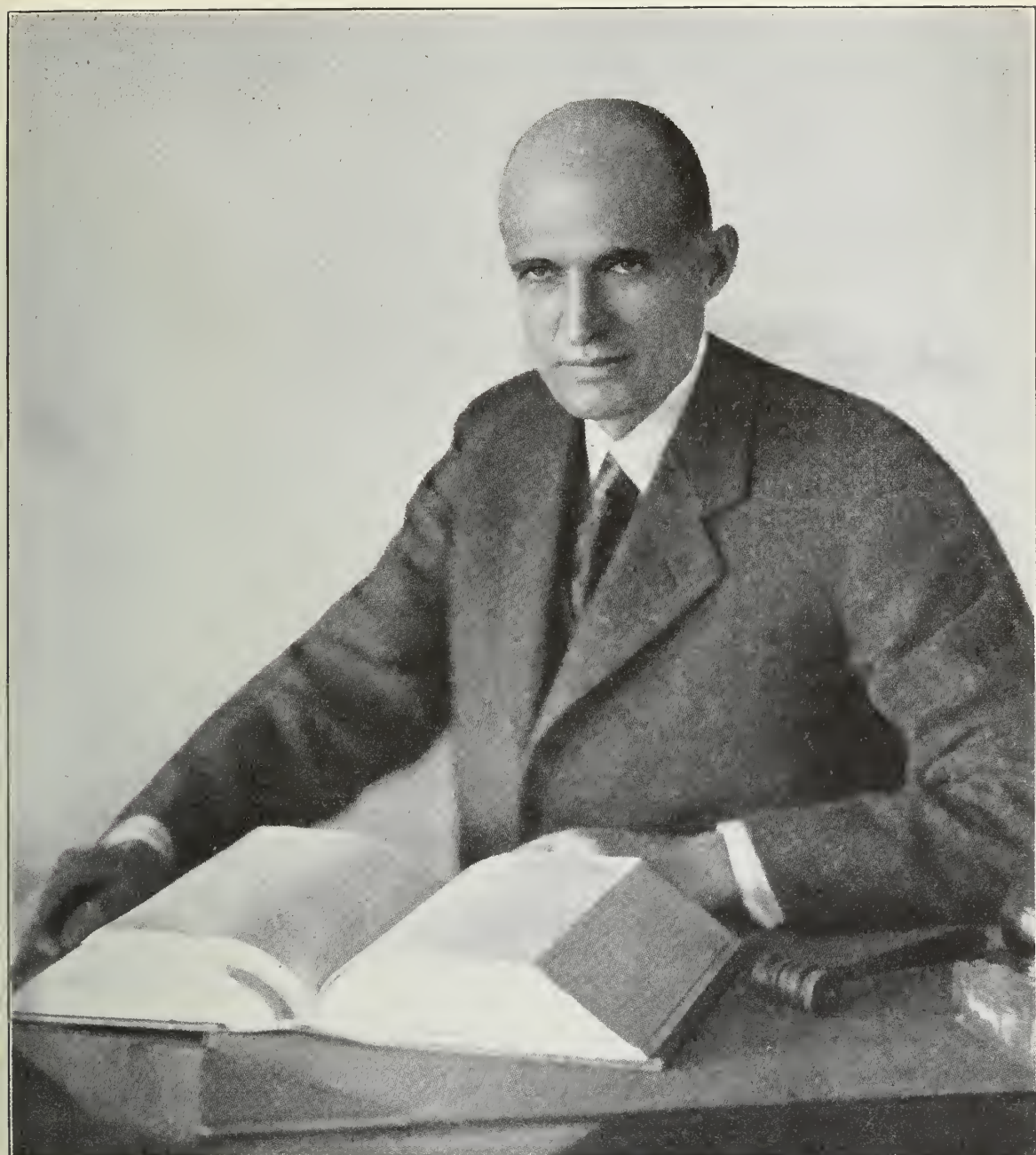
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#### HON. HARRY L. MAXFIELD.

One of the most favorably known citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, and a man whose record as judge of the municipal court has gained for him an enviable prestige throughout the community, is Hon. Harry L. Maxfield, a native son of Rock county, having been born near Janesville on the 12th of July, 1871, the son of Abraham D. and Sophia L. (Alexander) Maxfield. His father came to Rock county from Herkimer, New York, in 1855 and his mother, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, came to this county in 1865. The father was a farmer by vocation and followed that calling here for many years, finally retiring and moving into Janesville, where he lived until his death, which occurred April 4, 1904. He was survived a number of years by his widow, whose death occurred April 13, 1920.

Harry L. Maxfield attended the country schools of his neighborhood and also received instruction under a private tutor, which was supplemented by some special work at the University of Wisconsin. About 1897 Mr. Maxfield decided to devote himself to the practice of law and began his legal education by studying at home, the books for this purpose being loaned to him by John Winans, one of Janesville's most prominent lawyers. For about a year and a half he pursued his studies in this way, going to Mr. Winans each week for a "quiz." In 1898 he entered Mr. Winans' office and in December of the following year was admitted to the bar. He continued with Mr. Winans until 1901, and then for two years was in the office of Smith & Picree, also prominent attorneys of this city, where he gained much valuable experience. In 1903 Mr. Maxfield formed a partnership with Mr. Winans, under the firm name of Winans & Maxfield, which continued until the death of Mr. Winans, in January, 1907. Mr. Maxfield then practiced alone until 1913, when Governor Frank McGovern appointed him municipal judge, in which position he has served continuously since. From 1906 to 1912 Mr. Maxfield had served ably and satisfactorily as city attorney of Janesville. As judge of the municipal court he has evinced an exceptional capacity for the quick handling of cases that come before him, and his decisions have been commended universally as being eminently fair, though he is insistent that the spirit of the law shall be respected and observed. As a practicing lawyer Mr. Maxfield had previously gained a reputation that was bringing him a large and constantly increasing list of clients and no member of the Rock county bar enjoys to a greater degree the respect of his professional colleagues than he.

Mr. Maxfield is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin



HON. HARRY L. MAXFIELD



sin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Fraternally he belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Sons of the American Revolution. He is also a member of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce and the Young Men's Christian Association. Mr. Maxfield is justifiably proud of his American lineage, tracing his line of descent from a member of the band who came over in the Mayflower, and representatives of the family later fought in the war of the Revolution. Personally he is a man of pleasant and affable manner, candid and outspoken in his expressions and firm in his convictions on the great issues of the day. Because of his ability, his splendid record and fine personality, he enjoys to a marked degree the confidence and respect of the entire community.

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#### FRANK E. CLARK.

Among the highly esteemed and substantial citizens of Rock county is Frank E. Clark, whose comfortable and attractive home is beautifully located just at the edge of Janesville, Wisconsin. While engaged in business in Chicago, he keeps in close touch with all matters affecting the welfare of the community in which he lives and he has many warm and loyal friends throughout this locality. Mr. Clark is a native of the city of Chicago, where he was born on the 11th of June, 1856, the son of James N. and Mary Jane Clark, who long were residents of that city. Mr. Clark received his elementary education in the public schools of Chicago and then attended Milton College, at Milton, Rock county, for three years, the president of that institution having been an old friend of the family. On completing his education Mr. Clark entered the real estate business in his native city and has been identified with it continuously since. He has been eminently successful and is considered a man of sound business ability and keen discrimination. In 1910 Mr. Clark bought a farm just inside the city limits of Janesville and this has since been the family home, although the farm land is rented out.

On June 2, 1887, Mr. Clark was married to Miss Emma E. Baldwin, of Janesville, the daughter of A. Webster and Marcia (Hammond) Baldwin. A. Webster Baldwin was born December 3, 1828, in Otselic, Chenango county, New York, the only child of Lewis Gassett and Nancy (Colt) Baldwin, and he was directly descended from English ancestors who settled in New England prior to the war of the Revolution. His mother was a member of the famous Colt family, manufacturers of revolvers for nearly a century. A. Webster Baldwin came to Wisconsin with his parents, who settled in Milton, Rock county, in 1844, among the very earliest settlers in that locality. After attending the common schools he entered Milton College, from which he was graduated, and he then entered the office of Judge Noggle, of Janesville, under whom he studied law until 1855, when he was admitted to the bar. He was engaged in the practice of law in Janesville and Milton until 1868, when he was elected clerk of the circuit court, and that office he held continuously until his death, which

occurred May 28, 1885. He was married on October 15, 1856, to Miss Marcia Hammond, who was born at Ludlow, Vermont, December 24, 1834, the daughter of Holmes Hammond, formerly a prominent farmer in Ludlow, Vermont, and later an honored resident of Rock county, Wisconsin. He came to this state in 1843 and located at Clinton, where he spent his remaining years. To A. Webster and Marcia Baldwin were born two children: Carrie May, who now lives in Oak Park, Illinois; and Emma E. (Mrs. Clark). Mr. and Mrs. Clark have a son, Maurice J., who was born September 9, 1890, and is at home. Mrs. Clark is a lady of charming grace of character, who through all the years of her residence here has been an active participant in the club and other social interests. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is the regent of the Janesville chapter of that time-honored organization.

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#### GUSTAF ADOLF EDSTROM.

Gustaf Adolf Edstrom, a well known and well established building contractor in Rockford, where he has been established in business for something like twenty years, was born in the city of Hartford, Connecticut, January 27, 1874, a son of Carl and Sophia Edstrom, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who had come to the United States in 1872 and had settled in Hartford. In 1880 they returned with their family to Sweden, but in 1889 came back to America and again settled in Hartford, where Carl Edstrom carried on in his vocation as a tailor.

Gustaf Adolf Edstrom was six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Sweden and was fifteen years of age when he returned to this country with them in 1889. His boyhood schooling thus was in the old country. His first industrial employment following his return to Hartford was in the manufacturing plant of the Pope Manufacturing Company, in the nickel plating department. He later took up the carpenter's trade, at which he worked in Hartford until 1903, when he came to Illinois and located in Rockford. For three years after his arrival in Rockford, Mr. Edstrom was employed as a carpenter on local works and then, in 1907, he engaged in business as a contractor on his own account and has become one of the best known building contractors in the city. Among the recent examples of Mr. Edstrom's skill as a builder may be mentioned a one hundred thousand dollar home for H. Bittorf in Sterling, Illinois; the new Children's Home in Rockford, a notable addition to Winnebago county's institutional establishment; a seventy-five thousand dollar gymnasium in Rockford; a new school building in Freeport; and the new building of the Monroe Center State Bank in Monroe Center, Ogle county; besides hundreds of houses in and about Rockford, including some of the handsome new residences there.

Mr. Edstrom has been twice married. In April, 1898, he was united in marriage to Miss Alma Josefson, who was born in Sweden and who died on June 17, 1913. By that union Mr. Edstrom has three children: A son, Francis, born December 9, 1899; and two daughters—Edith, born March 8, 1903; and

Myrtle, born May 15, 1905. On November 1, 1917, Mr. Edstrom was married to Miss Alfreda Johnson, who also was born in Sweden, daughter of Alfred Johnson. To this second union one child has been born: A son, Carl Alfred Edstrom, born October 25, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Edstrom are members of the Swedish Mission church and are republicans. They reside at No. 1212 Parmele street.

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#### ANDREW GUSTAF OGREN.

Andrew Gustaf Ogren, better known to his friends as A. Gust Ogren, a well known and well established merchant of Rockford, doing business there under the name of the A. G. Ogren Music Company, Inc., with an amply stocked and admirably appointed place of business at Nos. 415-17 Seventh street, dealer in all kinds of musical instruments and supplies, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his childhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, June 9, 1877, a son of Andrew J. and Anna Charlotte Ogren, both also natives of that country, who in 1880 came to the United States with their family and proceeding on out into the Rock River valley established their home in Rockford, Gust Ogren being then but three years of age.

Reared in Rockford, Gust Ogren attended the schools of that city and in 1893, then being sixteen years of age, began his industrial activities as an operative in the plant of the old Anderson Piano Company in Rockford, where he became thoroughly familiar with the essential details of piano manufacturing. For several years he remained with this factory, an establishment no longer carrying on in Rockford, and then went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he was for some time employed in a big piano factory. When the Haddorf Piano Company was established in Rockford he returned to this city and took employment in this plant, where he became thoroughly grounded in the details of piano manufacturing and distribution, with particular reference to the business as carried on in the great trade area centering in Rockford, and for seven years he remained with the Haddorf company. In 1909 Mr. Ogren abandoned the industrial side of the piano business and took up the mercantile side, establishing himself as a dealer in pianos and general musical merchandise in a small way at No. 412 Seventh street. For ten years he remained there, gradually extending and enlarging the business until it became necessary to secure larger quarters and then, in 1920, he established himself in his present location across the street from his old store, where he carries on his business as president of A. G. Ogren Music Company, Inc., proprietor of the largest musical merchandise store in Rockford and widely known in the trade throughout this section of the country.

On April 24, 1901, in Rockford, Mr. Ogren was united in marriage to Miss Jennie E. Johnson, daughter of Albin Johnson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Ogren have a daughter: Corinne, born April 10, 1904, who became the wife of C. R. Olson of Rockford and they have a daughter, Janet, born February 25, 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Ogren are active and helpful members of the Mission Tabernacle church. Mrs. Ogren has long given her earnest attention to church



work and to the general social and welfare movements of her home town, particularly interested in the promotion of the work of the schools, and is a member of the city board of education, a service to which she was called in 1923 and in which she has been retained by a constituency which recognizes the value of her enthusiastic and effective labors in that behalf.

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FRED A. REYNOLDS, D. V. S.

Dr. Fred A. Reynolds, a well known and well established young veterinary surgeon of Belvidere, has been located in that place since the summer of 1922, when he took over the practice of Dr. Harry D. Chamberlain who in that year engaged in state service, and during this time Dr. Reynolds has become recognized as one of the leading young veterinarians in this section of the Rock River valley. He is a native of the state of Wisconsin, born on a farm in Kenosha county, October 24, 1895, a son of John and Jennie (Collison) Reynolds, who are still living there, where John Reynolds is a well established farmer and landowner.

Reared on the farm, Fred A. Reynolds attended the grammar and high schools in Richmond, McHenry county, Illinois, and then entered the Chicago Veterinary College, from which he was graduated in 1920. Upon receiving his diploma and his license to practice his profession in his native state, Dr. Reynolds became associated in practice with Dr. Warren H. Rich in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and with that practitioner and others was engaged in his professional service there until July, 1922, when he took over the long established practice of Dr. Harry D. Chamberlain, who had been in practice in Belvidere for more than twenty years.

On February 10, 1923, in Lake Geneva, Dr. Reynolds was united in marriage to Miss Rosalie Huml, daughter of Anton Huml of that place. Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds have a pleasant home in Belvidere. They are republicans and the doctor is a member of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce and since taking up his residence in Belvidere has given his earnest and intelligent attention to the general affairs of the community in which he has elected to make his home, helpful in promoting measures and movements designed to advance the common welfare.

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ROBERT B. ANDREWS, M. D.

Dr. Robert B. Andrews, a veteran of the World war with an officer's commission, former coroner of Boone county, president of the local park board, for thirty years a practicing physician in Belvidere and in numerous ways actively identified with the general interests of that city, was born in Belvidere and has lived there all his life, a period of more than fifty years, and has thus been a witness to the amazing development that has been brought about there and throughout this section of the Rock River valley since the days of his childhood.

He was born November 23, 1872, the fourth in order of birth of the six children of Henry T. and Lydia A. (Evans) Andrews, both of whom were born in central New York, members of old families in that section of the Empire state.

Henry G. Andrews, who was a son of John Andrews, a native of the state of Connecticut and a member of one of the New England colonial families, was born in 1825 and was reared in central New York, where he was living when the gold fever broke out in this country, following the announcement of the discovery in 1848 of gold in the streams of California. In 1851 he joined the rush in that direction, going out by way of the Isthmus, and remained in California for two years, or until 1853, when he returned east and not long afterward came into Illinois and bought a farm one mile north of the city of Belvidere, where he established his home and became a successful farmer. Henry G. Andrews was an intensely loyal Union man and watched with interest the growth of the feeling which eventually precipitated the War between the States, being prepared at any moment to take up arms for the defense of the integrity of the Union should that dread step be found inevitable. By an unhappy chance, the day on which the rebels precipitated this action by firing on Fort Sumter he fell and broke a leg. As soon as he felt it at all possible to do so he tried to enlist his services in the army but was promptly rejected on account of his recent injury. He later tried again to get into military service but again was rejected and was therefore restricted to noncombatant service during the continuance of the war, a service rendered with as much earnestness on his part as though he were backing it up with a musket. This stout old Yankee pioneer of Boone county lived to be past eighty-four years of age, his death occurring in 1909. His wife had long predeceased him, her death having occurred when she was fifty-seven years of age.

Reared on the home farm in the immediate vicinity of the city of Belvidere, Robert B. Andrews completed the high school there and then took a course in the normal school. He early began to give his attention to the study of medicine and under the able preceptorship of Dr. Frank S. Whitman of Belvidere was prepared for college. This preparation was so thorough that at the end of three years of attendance at the Chicago Homeopathic College in Chicago he was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D. in March, 1896. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Andrews returned to Belvidere and there became associated in practice with Dr. A. W. Swift, a mutually agreeable arrangement that was maintained for ten years, at the end of which time he withdrew from that firm and has since been practicing independently, with present offices at No. 524 South State street.

When this country took a hand in the World war in the spring of 1917 Dr. Andrews was appointed to a place on the medical staff of the selective service board for this district, with headquarters in Rockford, and continued thus to serve in behalf of the army until June, 1918, when he enlisted his services in the Medical Corps of the army and on the following September 21st was commissioned an officer in that corps and assigned to service at Camp Custer (Michigan), where he was in service until after the signing of the armistice in the following November. He then was assigned to duty on the demobilization board of the army and in that capacity aided in the demobilization of no fewer than

forty-eight thousand of the rank and file of the great National army. On March 18, 1919, he was honorably discharged from service, with the rank of captain. Upon his return to Belvidere he resumed his medical practice and is now thus actively engaged.

Though a busy and successful physician, Dr. Andrews has ever found time to give a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has rendered public service in several capacities. For two terms he served as coroner of Boone county, for ten years he was secretary of the city school board and also has served as president of the city park board. He is an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce and gives proper attention to such promotive measures as seem to him to be favorable to the best interests of the city.

On April 22, 1896, in Belvidere, Dr. Andrews was united in marriage to Miss Nellie S. Allen, daughter of Walter F. Allen of that city. Mr. Allen is a native of the state of Maine. Dr. and Mrs. Andrews have a pleasant home in Belvidere and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the city. The Doctor is a Royal Arch and thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Saladin Temple at Grand Rapids. He is an active and influential member of Boone Post of the American Legion in Belvidere and is affiliated with the Boone County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association, the Tri-State Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

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#### OSCAR J. SUNDSTRAND.

Oscar J. Sundstrand, director of developments and of research work in the affairs of the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company of Rockford and one of the best known industrial engineers in the middle west, was born in the city of Rockford, November 21, 1889, a son of Lars G. and Anna Katherine Sundstrand, who located there upon their arrival in this country from their native Sweden in 1882. Lars G. Sundstrand had been employed as a carpenter in the city of Stockholm and upon taking up his residence in Rockford became a building contractor and was for years thereafter thus successfully engaged. He is now living retired in that city.

Reared in Rockford, Oscar J. Sundstrand attended the local schools and afterward joined his elder brother, David Sundstrand, who meanwhile had become the proprietor of a small machine shop in the city of Minneapolis, and was employed in his brother's shop in that city. In 1909, then being in his twentieth year, he returned to Rockford and in association with his brother-in-law, Edwin Cedarleaf, bought a small machine shop which then was being operated there by the Dahlin brothers. Not long afterward they were joined in this enterprise by David Sundstrand and in this shop was worked out the practical details for the manufacture of the Sundstrand computing machines, the initial details of which had been perfected by the Sundstrand brothers in the machine shop at Minneapolis. And it was thus that the now great manufacturing plant of the Rockford Milling Machine Company had its beginning,



OSCAR J. SUNDSTRAND



this being the parent company, the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company operating as a subsidiary. For some time after the organization of this company Oscar J. Sundstrand acted as its secretary and treasurer, but during the past ten years and more he has devoted his attention to research and development work with a view continually to the improvement of the computing machines and during that time many patents have been issued to the company based upon the results of this painstaking research. He has a capable staff of assistants in this department and all are working together with the common aim to the improvement of the various machines which have made the name Sundstrand known in commercial circles the world over.

The first working model of the Sundstrand adding machine was completed in 1911. Two years later, in 1913, David Sundstrand secured his patents on his device and production then was rapidly pushed and the facilities of the milling machine company expanded to take care of the market that was created for the machine immediately following its introduction to the business world. As this demand grew the plant grew accordingly, until it gradually assumed its present extensive proportions, long having been recognized as one of the leading manufacturing enterprises of its kind in the country, the department of the concern devoted to the manufacture of the computing machines now employing, in its various relations, no fewer than one thousand persons. The brothers have worked along in the manufacture and distribution of these machines in the most effective and harmonious business combination possible and have developed a great industry. There are now more than fifty models of the Sundstrand computing machine being manufactured and a wide range of choice is thus afforded the business world in which the popular machine has been so warmly welcomed.

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#### HAROLD McMURDO HELM, M. D.

Dr. Harold McMurdo Helm, one of the younger physicians of Beloit, measures up in full to the requirements of the profession and worthily bears a name that has long stood for the highest ideals in medical circles of the city. He was born in Beloit on the 18th of May, 1888, and is a son of Dr. Arthur C. and Mary (McMurdo) Helm, and a member of one of the old and highly respected families of the city. His father is recognized as Beloit's foremost physician and a detailed account of his life is published elsewhere in this volume.

In the acquirement of an education Dr. Harold M. Helm attended the local schools and Beloit Academy, afterward matriculating in Beloit College, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1909. He won the Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1912 and was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1914. He served as an interne at the Cook County Hospital for eighteen months and in 1916 became associated with his father. In 1917 the son responded to his country's call and in December of that year was commissioned a first lieutenant in the United States Medical Corps. He entered upon active duty in January, 1918, and was stationed at

Fort Riley, Kansas, and at Fort McDowell, San Francisco, California. He was honorably discharged in January, 1919, with the rank of first lieutenant and has since practiced continuously in Beloit in association with his father, from whom he has received valuable advice and counsel. He is one of the eight physicians who comprise the clinic of Beloit Hospital, founded by Dr. Arthur C. Helm in 1916, and brings to his professional duties a keen interest in his work, pronounced ability and the most modern ideas along medical and surgical lines.

On July 12, 1916, Dr. Helm was married to Miss Ethelyn Bennett, a daughter of G. A. Bennett, a prominent resident of Saratoga Spa, New York. Dr. Helm is a republican in his political views and along fraternal lines is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a popular member of the Beloit Country Club and his professional connections are with the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit, the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. His interest centers in the vocation which he has chosen as his life work and by deep and close study of the cases intrusted to his care he is constantly enlarging his field of usefulness.

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#### IVAR J. LARSON.

Ivar J. Larson, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, a well established young dry goods merchant in Rockford, a member of the Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association of that city and well known in local commercial circles, was born in Rockford, December 10, 1893, a son of Alfred and Emma Larson, both of whom were born in Sweden.

Reared in Rockford, Ivar J. Larson attended the schools of that city and early became a clerk in the Hills dry goods store, where he remained for nine years and where he became thoroughly familiar with the details of merchandising as applied to this trade area. When this country went to war in the spring of 1917 Mr. Larson enlisted his services in behalf of the army (June 24) and was assigned to duty as a private of company M of the Three Hundred and Fifty-fourth Infantry Regiment, with which command, after a period of intensive training at Camp Grant, he was sent overseas and with that command took part in some exceedingly strenuous service, including the historic campaign in the Argonne Forest, during which memorable action he was severely wounded, this wound resulting in a permanent disability.

Upon the completion of his army service and following his discharge, which came on January 28, 1919, Mr. Larson returned to Rockford and here engaged in the dry goods business on his own account, with a store at No. 1209 Fourteenth avenue. He did well there and the business grew to a point necessitating larger quarters, so that in October, 1924, he moved into his present store room at Nos. 1133-35 Fourteenth avenue, where he has an ample stock and an up-to-date equipment. Mr. Larson is a member of the Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association and has come to be recognized as one of the most alert and progressive of the promoters of trade in that excellent commercial district.

On September 14, 1920, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude M. Davey, daughter of D. D. Davey of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have one child: A son, William John Larson, born March 31, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are republicans. Mr. Larson is a member of the local camp of the Disabled War Veterans Association and of the post of the American Legion in Rockford, of which latter patriotic body he is a member of the executive board. He also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and is a member of the Order of Vikings.

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### JOSEPH J. WEBER.

Among the leading business men and enterprising citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, stands Joseph J. Weber, general manager of the Janesville Clothing Company. He has been a resident of this city for over twenty-five years and during this period has steadily risen in the esteem and confidence of the people, being considered today one of the community's most progressive and successful citizens. Mr. Weber is a native of the city of Chicago, where his birth occurred on the 11th of October, 1887, and is the son of Joseph, Jr., and Caroline (Schmitt) Weber, who were for many years residents of that city. In 1895 the family moved to Beloit, Wisconsin, where the father was engaged in the retail clothing and furnishing goods business under the name of the Weber Clothing Company, which was later changed to the Weber Mills Company. In 1900 he moved to Janesville, having become the active managerial and financial head of the Janesville Clothing Company, one of the busy and prosperous concerns of this thriving city. The father is now retired from active business and is living in Buhl, Idaho.

The subject of this sketch attended the public and high schools of Chicago and after his removal to Rock county attended the Beloit College Academy and the Beloit Business College. On the completion of his studies he entered his father's factory, where he diligently applied himself to the learning of the clothing business in every detail. He became his father's assistant manager and on the latter's retirement from active participation in the business in 1921, the subject became secretary-treasurer of the company and general manager of the business. He is a man of shrewd discrimination and sound business judgment and under his wise direction the business is steadily and constantly increasing in volume. Mr. Weber is president of the Bower City Realty Company, of this city, and is actively and closely identified with the various movements for the advancement of the city's interests along all legitimate lines.

Politically Mr. Weber is aligned with the republican party and is interested, as every good citizen should be, in the leading issues of the day, especially such as relate to the welfare of his own community. He is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club, as well as of the Twilight Club, the Elks Club and the Knights of Columbus. On April 23, 1912, Mr. Weber was married to Miss Mayme E. Hannigan, the daughter of Thomas Hannigan, of Chicago, and they are the parents of one child, Bernadette, born



February 25, 1916. Those who know Mr. Weber best will readily acquiesce in the statement that many elements of a solid and practical nature are combined in his makeup, which during a series of years have brought him into prominent notice throughout this locality, his life and achievements earning for him a high place in the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

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#### FRANK A. OAKLEY.

Frank A. Oakley, state's attorney for the county of Boone and the state of Illinois and a lawyer of fifteen years standing in Belvidere, where he makes his home; one of the best known members of the bar in this section of the Rock River valley, is a native of Illinois and a member of one of the real pioneer families of this section of the state. He was born on a farm in Marengo township, McHenry county, August 13, 1880, a son of Frank and Mary (Howe) Oakley, both of whom were born in that same township, the latter a daughter of Charles B. Howe, who was born in Ohio, a son of Henry and Mary Howe, who were among the real pioneers of McHenry county, having established their home there about a mile from the Boone county line in Marengo township about the time of the beginning of settlement thereabout. Henry Howe died in 1843. His wife had predeceased him about two years, her death having occurred in 1841.

Frank Oakley, father of Frank A. Oakley, was born in 1856, a son of George and Jane (Maxwell) Oakley, the latter of whom is still living in McHenry county, now (1925) ninety-three years of age. This pioneer couple came from New York state and were among the early settlers in Marengo township, first establishing their home about six miles from the Boone county line. Frank Oakley died in 1885, then being but twenty-nine years of age, leaving his widow with three small children to look after. She returned to her old home place, the Howe farm, with her children and there made her home with her father and brother, O. A. Howe. It was thus that F. A. Oakley, who was but five years of age at the time of his father's death, was reared under his mother's care in the home of his maternal grandfather.

Frank A. Oakley grew up on his grandfather's farm and attended the district school of that neighborhood, finishing in the high school at Marengo. He supplemented this by two years of study in Beloit College and then became employed in the plant of the Woodstock Typewriter Company at Woodstock, a connection which he continued for four years. Meanwhile, he was giving his attention to the study of law and at the end of that time entered the law office of the Hon. W. C. DeWolf in Belvidere and under the preceptorship of that veteran lawyer was prepared for admission to the bar. Mr. Oakley was admitted to the bar on April 6, 1910, and became associated in practice in Belvidere with his former preceptor, Mr. DeWolf, and was thus connected until 1915, when he began to practice independently and has since been thus engaged, with present offices at No. 510 South State street. In 1912 Mr. Oakley was elected to serve as city attorney of Belvidere, and in 1914 was reelected to that

position. In 1916 as the nominee of the republican party he was elected state's attorney for the county of Boone and the state of Illinois and in 1920 and again in 1924 was reelected to this important office and is thus now serving his third four-year term in that capacity, a public prosecutor of force and ability. Mr. Oakley is a member of the Boone County Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association and takes a proper interest in the deliberations and activities of these professional bodies.

In January, 1914, Mr. Oakley was united in marriage to Miss Frances Baylander of Indiana and they have five children: William, Virgal, Marguerite, Luella and Betty Jean. Mr. and Mrs. Oakley are members of the Presbyterian church and both are affiliated with the local organizations of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Daughters of Rebekah. Mr. Oakley is a member of the local camp of the Sons of Veterans and is a Royal Arch and Knights Templar (York Rite) Mason. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a past chancellor commander of the Belvidere Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He likewise has membership in the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose in Belvidere, and is president of Kishwaukee Chapter No. 5, I. W. L. of A. and the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce.

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#### OTTO WILLIAM GUSTAFSON.

Otto William Gustafson, one of Rockford's veteran merchants, engaged in the grocery business in that city for the past twenty years, has been a resident of that city since the days of his boyhood and is widely known there. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, May 26, 1878, and was eleven years of age when in 1889, in company with his five brothers, he came to this country to rejoin his parents, Gust and Anna Gustafson, who had settled in Rockford in 1887 and had there established a home for their children.

It was thus that Otto W. Gustafson grew to manhood in Rockford. As a young man he was employed in the manufacturing plant of the W. F. & John Barnes Company and there became thoroughly grounded in the machinist's trade, a trade he continued to follow in Rockford until 1906, when he opened a grocery store on Seventh street and engaged in the mercantile business. His affairs prospered there and in time he found it necessary to move to larger quarters. In 1914 he moved to his present location at No. 1207 Fifth avenue, and is there very well established, proprietor of one of the most popular neighborhood grocery stores in town. For years past Mr. Gustafson has given the children of that neighborhood an annual outing, entertaining them for several days during the summer at his cottage on the Kishwaukee just north of Garrett's Glen. His invitation to the children of the neighborhood in the summer of 1925 was responded to by no fewer than seventy-five youngsters who had a merry time at the hospitable Gustafson cottage. Mr. Gustafson is a republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

On January 8, 1903, in Rockford, Mr. Gustafson was united in marriage

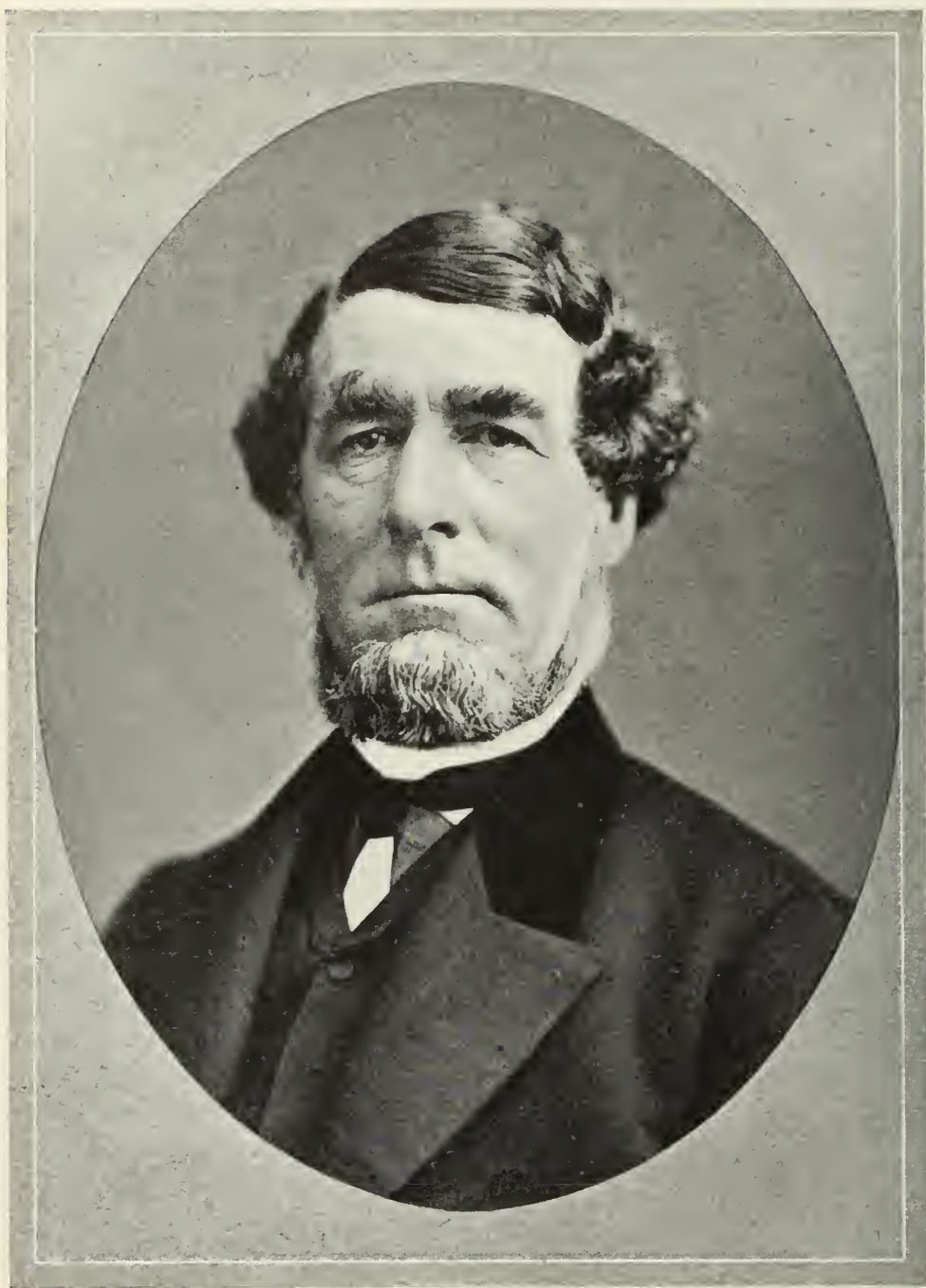
to Miss Anna Johnson, daughter of P. A. Johnson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have the following children, namely: Rupert, Howard W., Vivian, Sarah, Eva, Otto William, Jr.; Ray and Betty Jean.

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#### THE TALLMAN FAMILY.

Among the families whose members have been conspicuously active in the development of our country, the Tallman family is entitled to specific mention, and no record of the history of the Rock river valley would be complete without reference to the very important role this family has played in its affairs. William Morrison Tallman, the most prominent of the early members of this family, was born in Lee, Oneida county, New York, on the 13th of June, 1808, a son of David and Eunice Tallman, both of whom were natives of Woodbury, Litchfield county, Connecticut. In 1806 the family had moved from Litchfield county to Oneida county, New York, where they resided until 1816, when they established their home in Brooklyn, New York. After attending the public schools until the age of about fourteen years, William Morrison Tallman, in 1821, began the study of law with Hon. F. A. Talmadge, in New York, whose office was on the present site of the Astor House, on Vesey street. After pursuing his studies one year, he determined upon a more complete preliminary preparation and to this end entered an academy at Norwalk, Connecticut, where he remained four years. In September, 1826, at the age of eighteen, he entered Yale College, where he took the full collegiate course, graduating in 1830, following which he entered the law school connected with that college, completing the full course of legal studies in two years. In the fall of 1832, Mr. Tallman was admitted to the bar in New Haven, Connecticut, and at once returned to the city of New York and there again took up the study of law in the office of Hon. James Talmadge and W. H. Bulkley, this being advisable because of the peculiar legal procedure then practiced in the courts of that state. He was admitted to the bar of New York state at Albany in October, 1833, and immediately thereafter returned to his native county and entered upon the active practice of his profession at Rome, New York. He continued in practice there until 1849, when he removed, with his family, to Janesville, Rock county, Wisconsin, where he resumed practice, which he continued until 1854, a total period of twenty-one years, when, because of the magnitude of his private business interests and their demands on his time and attention, he entirely relinquished the profession of law. He had come to Janesville in the pioneer period and, with the foresight and sagacity which has been characteristic of the family, he early began to buy up large tracts of land, which rapidly increased in value. His land holdings became enormous and at one time he owned two-thirds of the acreage in Green county, Wisconsin. In the buying and selling of this land, he was associated with his brother George Clinton Tallman, of Utica, New York. Their landed interests were not confined to any particular section of the country for they bought wherever their judgment indicated a probability of rising values. The magnitude of their





WILLIAM MORRISON TALLMAN



WILLIAM HENRY TALLMAN



operations may be inferred from the fact that one of their purchases was one hundred ten thousand acres of land in Illinois and another was of one million seven hundred thousand acres of land in Texas. From his earliest years, Mr. Tallman had been keenly interested in the great questions of the day and took a decided stand on the important issues then before the nation. He was an ardent abolitionist and at one time was stoned in Philadelphia, while addressing a meeting, because of his fearless utterances in support of his convictions. He was an influential and well known figure in political circles and entertained Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas at his home in Janesville, his magnificent residence being one of the noted "stations" on the "underground railroad" famed for its success in bringing southern slaves to freedom in the north. His death occurred May 13, 1878. In 1831, at New Haven, Connecticut, Mr. Tallman was married to Miss Emeline Dexter, the second daughter of Norman and Ruth Dexter, of Hartford county, and to this union were born three children, namely: William Henry was born in New Haven, Connecticut, February 15, 1832. Edgar Dexter was born in Rome, New York, July 25, 1836, and was married in December, 1861, to Frances Cornelia Norton of Janesville, Wisconsin, to which union two sons were born, Stanley Dexter Tallman and Charles Edgar Tallman. Edgar Dexter Tallman died in Janesville, Wisconsin, August 18, 1896. The third child of William Morrison Tallman was Cornelia Augusta, who was born in Rome, New York, and became the wife of John P. Beach, of Chicago, where she died in 1866 without issue.

William Henry Tallman became a manufacturing chemist, operating in Janesville, Wisconsin, for many years, the largest plant of its kind in the United States, and was the only American manufacturer taking a prize for perfume in competition with the French at the Paris Exposition in 1876. During the Civil war he placed his manufacturing plant at the disposal of the United States government and in addition made and fully equipped a large number of surgeon's chests which he presented to it. During the last ten years of his active business life he was a member of the firm of Lanman & Kemp, of New York city, manufacturers of drugs and perfumes and the largest importers of essential oils in this country. Early in his career he became one of the founders of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was its first treasurer. In 1896 Mr. Tallman, because of ill health, gave up his connection with Lanman & Kemp, and came to Janesville, Wisconsin, again to live, residing here until his death, which occurred October 29, 1902. He was married in Whitehall, New York, September 11, 1861, to Miss Maggie Meyers Travis, a daughter of Washington Abraham Travis, of Revolutionary war fame, and Harriet Olivia Doe. This union was blessed with two children, William Travis Tallman and George Kemp Tallman. William Travis Tallman was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, September 18, 1864, and lives in Janesville. On January 25, 1887, he was married to Miss Nettie Calista Bump, a daughter of Hiram and Laura C. (Fellows) Bump, of Alexandria, New York, and they have one child, William Bump Tallman, born February 11, 1888.

George Kemp Tallman was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, November 29, 1874. He received his elementary education in the public schools of Janesville



and then entered the University of Wisconsin, taking one year in the engineering department and later graduating in 1897, with the degree of Bachelor of Letters. He then took up the study of law in the law department of the university and was graduated in 1900, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Mr. Tallman was very active in university and social affairs and was a member of the Phi Delta Theta, Phi Delta Phi and Theta Nu Epsilon fraternities. In 1900 he was admitted to the Wisconsin bar and to practice in the federal courts and during the ensuing year was in the law office of George G. Sutherland, in Janesville, but at the end of that period, he relinquished the practice of law, which he has never resumed. In his young manhood he had become interested in land and timber, and, following the example of his grandfather, whom he is said to greatly resemble in his business methods, he began buying up timber and cut-over timber lands in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Canada and other parts of the country. Besides being at the present time a holder of extensive tracts of timber and farm land, he is also financially interested in a number of irrigation and water power projects in different parts of the country. He is thoroughly practical in his operations and, in order to be able to judge for himself in his deals, he learned the timber business from the ground up and has often gone into wild and unexplored sections of the country as a timber cruiser, inspecting land which he contemplated buying. Prominent and prosperous in business, he has a well established reputation for high character and sterling integrity. Tenacious of his own rights, he has always respected the rights of others. He is universally regarded as one of Janesville's most useful and progressive men of affairs, possessing to a marked degree those attributes which have gained for him the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM C. DALAND, M. A., D. D.

The spirit of a pure, noble and earnest life burned in the mortal tenement of the late William C. Daland, president of Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin, who passed on to the higher life on the 21st of June, 1921. His life was one of fullness and completeness, one of vigor and inflexible integrity. A man of rugged strength of character, of finest moral fiber, and one who realized a magnificent measure of useful accomplishment, his name is deeply engraved on the annals of the institution with which the most fruitful years of his life were identified, the record of those years being one of tireless and unselfish devotion.

William C. Daland was born on the 25th of October, 1860, in New York city, and came of sterling old French Huguenot stock on the paternal side, English and Scottish blood predominating on the maternal side. Early in life he accompanied the family on their removal to Elizabeth, New Jersey, where he was educated in a private school. He early manifested a decided talent for music, in which he was wisely encouraged and given thorough instruction, so that at fourteen years of age he became organist for the Second Presbyterian church of his home city, a position which he held for six years. A year later he entered the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, from which he was graduated

with honors in 1879, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. For five years he engaged in teaching music, and in 1881 he became the organist of the First Baptist church, of Brooklyn, a position which he filled until 1886. In his fourteenth year he had united with the First Baptist church, of Elizabeth, and in 1883 he was led to the decision to devote his life to the gospel ministry. In order to prepare himself for the work he entered Union Theological Seminary, in New York, from which he was graduated in 1886. In May, 1885, he joined the First Seventh-day Baptist church in New York and supplied the pulpit of that church from that time until his graduation from the seminary. A year later, after a special study of the Semitic languages, Alfred University conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Milton College in 1896 and the same degree from Alfred University in 1903. He was ordained to the ministry in 1886 and served three congregations of his church as follows: Leonardsville, New York, 1886-91 and 1900-02; Westerly, Rhode Island, 1891-96, and London, England, 1896-1900. His ability and sound judgment were recognized and during his stay in London he was sent to Germany in the interest of Jewish missions, remaining there three months. In the winter of 1899-1900 he was sent to the west coast of Africa to investigate conditions among the Ashanti negroes there, who had written to the United States, appealing for a missionary.

In 1902 Dr. Daland was called to the presidency of Milton College, following the death of President William C. Whitford, and during the nearly two decades of his incumbency of the office he devoted himself indefatigably to the up-building of that institution. "President Daland reorganized the curriculum, built up the English department, introduced the study of Anglo-Saxon and took personal charge of the linguistic courses in English. His charming personality as president and teacher, his wise leadership in guiding the affairs of the college and his remarkable scholarship gave Milton prestige among the colleges of Wisconsin."

Dr. Daland's passion and talent for music remained one of his characteristics throughout his life, and his skill as an organist gave him the opportunity to afford enjoyment to many people. It was largely due to his personal efforts and encouragement that the Milton College Symphony Orchestra was organized and developed into the really splendid organization which it became. Dr. Daland served for twelve years as secretary of the Association of Presidents and Deans of Wisconsin Colleges and was one of those who formed the Wisconsin Colleges Associated, through whose efforts nearly a million dollars was raised for the maintenance of the colleges.

In 1884 Dr. Daland was married to Miss Agnes B. Norton of Elizabeth, New Jersey, and their union was blessed in the birth of four children, namely: John, who is professor of Latin in Milton College; Clifton, who is in business in Battle Creek, Michigan; Stephanie, who is the wife of Professor F. G. Hall, of Milton College; and Alexander, who has just completed his course in Milton College. Personally Dr. Daland was a man of no ordinary makeup. As a man he was gifted, highly trained, of incorruptible integrity; as a counselor and adviser he was clear-visioned and wise; as a friend, loyal and true; as a Christian, humble, devout and consistent. His church was better because he loved

it and worked in it. As a minister or an educator one would seek in vain for a higher standard than exemplified in his own personality, and those who knew him and loved him feel that he has taken his place among those "Sceptered sovereigns, that continue to rule our spirits from their urns."

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#### WILLIAM SEWARD JEFFRIS.

One of the best known family names in Rock county, Wisconsin, is that of Jeffris, and a name familiar to everyone who has the slightest acquaintance with the commercial and financial history of Janesville is that of the late William Seward Jeffris, whose death occurred at his home in that city on July 25, 1920. During his active career he filled a large place in the business life of this city, and as an energetic, farsighted man, whose judgment and discretion were seldom at fault and whose influence made for the substantial upbuilding of the locality honored by his citizenship, he earned a reputation second to none of his contemporaries. William Seward Jeffris was a native son of the city in which he spent practically his entire life. He was born on the 14th of March, 1857, the son of David and Grace Alice (Mouat) Jeffris. He received his elementary education in the public and high schools of Janesville and then entered Beloit College, from which he was graduated in 1879. During the ensuing year he taught in the Portage high school and then spent a year in travel. Subsequently, after a short experience as a bookkeeper, he entered the Merchants & Mechanics Savings Bank, the name of which was later changed to the Merchants & Savings Bank. He spent three years with that institution and then went to Ree Heights, South Dakota, where he engaged in business for a short time. In 1883 he returned to Janesville, having been chosen cashier of the Merchants bank, and remained closely identified with that institution until his death, having served ably and with distinction as its president during the last twenty-five years of his life. While prudently conservative in his banking policy, he at the same time exercised sound discrimination and was eminently progressive when occasion and circumstances called for bold and determined action. In 1884 he and his brother built the block on the north side of Milwaukee street, which was occupied by the bank until 1919, when the building was replaced by the stately and dignified white stone structure which now stands there as a monument to his good judgment, discriminating taste and progressive ideas.

In the public life of Janesville Mr. Jeffris was long a prominent and influential figure, though in his activities he was unassuming and quiet. Nevertheless, he was a potent factor in practically every important movement inaugurated for the advancement of the city. He held many positions of honor and trust, discharging every duty worthily and well, for he did well whatever he undertook. Few men were more sought for counsel than he and the correctness of his opinions in practical matters was almost proverbial. His good judgment extended to men as well as to measures, for he had a keen insight into human nature, whether of men singly or in masses. He possessed a broad,

inquiring mind and was keenly alive to all the problems and issues of the day. Always modest and unassuming and easily approached, he yet had a strong and vigorous personality and in the best sense of the term was a leader of men and well fitted to direct important enterprises. The cause of humanity never had a truer friend than he, and in all the relations of life—family, church and society—he displayed that consistent, gentlemanly spirit, that innate refinement and unswerving integrity that endeared him to all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. Mr. Jeffris had traveled extensively and was a close and studious reader of the classics, as well as of the best current literature, which supplemented by lifelong habits of close observation of men and events made him a man of more than ordinary culture and attainment, and he was a most interesting conversationalist and a charming companion.

On October 17, 1888, Mr. Jeffris was married to Miss Janet E. Baldwin, daughter of the Rev. C. C. Baldwin, of Oberlin, she having been a graduate of Oberlin College, of the class of 1886. To this union were born three children: Kenneth B. and Margaret H., both now living in Janesville; and Mrs. Chester H. Williamson, of Milwaukee. Mr. Jeffris was an earnest member of the Janesville Congregational church, of which he was a liberal supporter, and was deeply interested in its various activities.

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#### JOHN A. SALL.

John A. Sall, president of the Sall Brothers Company of Rockford and widely and favorably known in local industrial circles, one of the best known pattern-makers in that section of the Rock River valley, is a native of the Sunflower state but a resident of Illinois and of Rockford by choice, having had his home here for nearly twenty years. He was born on a farm in Decatur county, northwestern Kansas, June 24, 1889, a son of John A. and Augusta Sall, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who in 1907 returned to that country with their family and are still living there.

Reared on the home farm in Kansas, John A. Sall attended the schools of that neighborhood and was eighteen years of age when in 1907 he went to Sweden with his parents. Two years later in 1909, he returned to this country and located in Rockford, where he since has made his home, and where three years later he was married. Upon locating in Rockford, Mr. Sall became employed as a cabinet maker in the plant of the Excel Manufacturing Company and in the next year began working as a pattern-maker, a vocation he since has followed. He was for some time employed in the plants of the Forest City Furniture Company and the Rockford Frame & Fixture Company, two concerns now no longer in business, and then engaged in business on his own behalf, opening a small shop for pattern-making on Revell avenue. When in 1919 his younger brother, C. Alfred Sall, returned from army service he also became interested in the operations of this pattern works and the brothers working together did so well that they presently found it necessary to secure larger quarters for their establishment and it was then that they erected their present

commodious plant at No. 2320 Kishwaukee avenue. In 1923 a reorganization was effected and the concern was incorporated as the Sall Brothers Company, with John A. Sall as president, A. R. Floberg as vice president and C. A. Sall as secretary and treasurer. This firm has a large and well equipped pattern works and is doing an extensive business in that line and in the operation of a brass and aluminum foundry.

On November 11, 1911, John A. Sall was united in marriage to Miss Esther Brood, daughter of William Brood of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Sall have one child, a son: Wesley John Sall, born May 5, 1916. The Salls have a pleasant home in Rockford and give their interested attention to the general affairs of their home town. Mr. Sall is a member of the Masonic fraternity and has long taken an interest in the principles and practices of that ancient order. In his political views he maintains a right to independence of action.

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#### DAVID JEFFRIS.

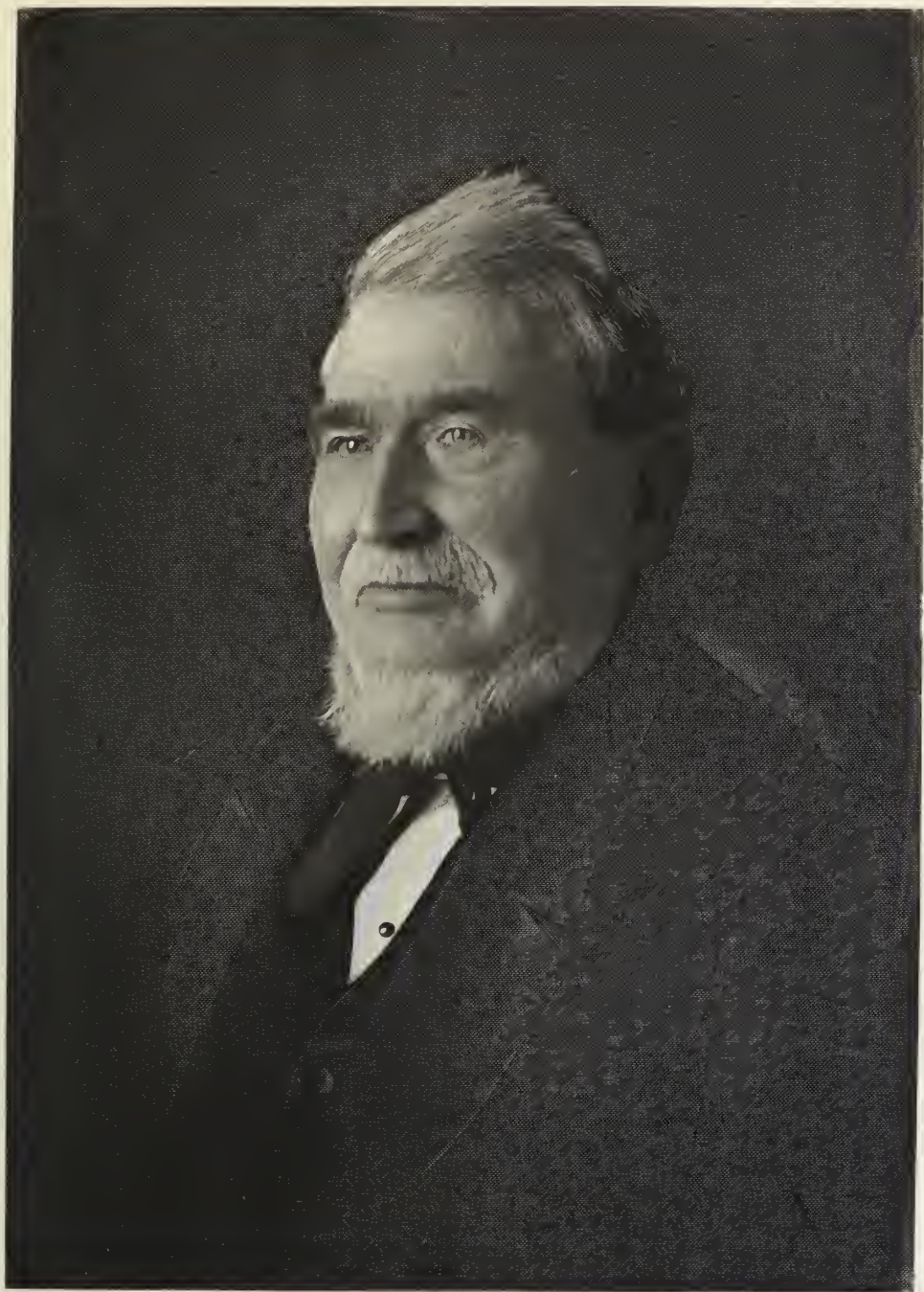
The history of Rock county, Wisconsin, reveals the handiwork of many a great and noble soul who wrought heroically and unselfishly. Her smiling fields and splendid homes, her high grade institutions, her happy, prospering people speak volumes of someone's steadfastness of purpose, of someone's strength of arm, courage of heart, activity of brain. However, beneath the blighting touch of time, too often a life of glorious achievement is soon forgotten. "Lest we forget," then, this tribute to the late David Jeffris is placed in the permanent historical record of the county he honored by his citizenship. He was a native of the state of Kentucky, having been born in Grayson county on the 6th of August, 1821, and his death occurred on the 9th of March, 1907, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was the grandson of Thomas Jeffris, a native of Virginia, who was a soldier of the War of the Revolution, serving in Washington's army for five years, and who was a direct descendant of the Jeffris family, of English and Scotch-Irish ancestry, that came to America from England in the eighteenth century.

When he was nine years of age David Jeffris accompanied his parents on their removal to Coles county, Illinois, and spent his boyhood days at Charleston, securing his education in the district schools of that period. He aided his father in the work of the home farm and also in those early years learned his first lessons in the lumber business, which afterward became his life work. In 1846 Mr. Jeffris, then twenty-five years old, accompanied Colonel Anderson, a cattle drover, to Janesville, Wisconsin, arriving here on June 8, and he was so impressed with the future possibilities of this section of the country that he resolved to make this his home. For a number of years he continued to be identified with the cattle business as a dealer but in 1851 he bought two hundred and forty acres of land near Janesville and thereafter for about sixteen years closely devoted his energies to the cultivation of his land, in which he met with considerable success. In 1867 he left the farm and moved into Janesville, where he engaged in the lumber business.



*Denver, 1915*





*David Jeffries.*

FEBRUARY 23, 1907





In connection therewith he also began contracting and in that line he probably erected more buildings than any other contractor in his day, it being estimated that he built over four hundred and nineteen structures, including churches, hotels, stores, business blocks and residences. In those days he was a tremendously busy man and was contributing in other ways to the development of the city and community. He was one of the founders of the Janesville Machine Company and of the Merchants & Mechanics Bank, which became one of the strongest financial institutions of the city. In 1896 he retired from active participation in business, beyond the management of his various interests. Politically Mr. Jeffris was a republican and for many years was an active figure in the political councils of his party in Rock county. He was an active member of the Congregational church, of which he was for many years a trustee and to which he gave generously of his time and means.

On November 14, 1850, Mr. Jeffris was married to Miss Grace Aliee Mouat, whose death occurred August 28, 1900. Their union was blessed with the birth of nine children, namely: Thomas M., Margaret, Helen Jane, William S., Malcolm G., David K., Fred J., Susan Aliee and one who died in infancy. As the day with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity and accomplishment, its evening of completed and successful efforts, ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this good and honored man. His career was a long, busy and useful one, fraught with much good to himself, his family and to humanity, and his memory will long be revered by those who came into contact with him. He never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature but preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influences of human life, being to the end a kindly, genial friend and gentleman, loved and respected by the entire community.

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#### THOMAS MOUAT JEFFRIS.

In the death, on April 4, 1900, of Thomas Mouat Jeffris, the city of Janesville lost one of its most highly esteemed citizens, a man who through all the years of his residence here enjoyed to a marked degree the absolute confidence and regard of the entire community, for as a business man, citizen and friend he has rendered invaluable services to the community which he loved so well and which, in turn, had a full appreciation of his high character and sterling personal worth. Mr. Jeffris was born in the town of Janesville on the 29th of September, 1853, the son of David and Grace Aliee (Mouat) Jeffris, both of whom were representatives of old and prominent families of this section of the state. He received his education in the public and high schools of Janesville, and in 1872, when but nineteen years of age, he engaged in the grocery business here. In 1881 he disposed of this business and went to Huron, South Dakota, being one of the pioneer settlers in that locality, and in partnership with his cousin, David Jeffris, he engaged in the lumber business, and also ran a grocery store. He was a good business man, of sound judgment and

right principles, and his efforts in Huron were rewarded with a gratifying measure of prosperity. He and his cousin remained associated in business until 1897, after which time Mr. Jeffris conducted his business alone. In the growth and development of Huron and of South Dakota Mr. Jeffris was an active and prominent figure, exerting a beneficent influence in commercial, educational and religious affairs, and he enjoyed to a notable degree the confidence and esteem of the community. He was a charter member of the Congregational church of Huron and zealous in his efforts in its behalf.

On June 3, 1889, in Huron, South Dakota, Mr. Jeffris was married to Miss Harriet A. Hall, and they became the parents of three children: Ruth B., Bruce M. and Robert M. A man of unusual mental ability, of the highest sense of honor, of keen appreciation of the service which he should render to his fellowmen, of rare Christian character, he brought to the discharge of every duty a determination to give his very best efforts. His lofty ideals were not marred by inconsistency of conduct; his motives were unquestionable, his utterances sincere. Those who knew him best loved him most, and all admired him for the gentleness and purity of his life, for his unflinching courtesy and consideration for others, for the strength and elevation of his character and for the uprightness and nobility of his conduct.

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#### JOHN HERMAN HALLSTROM.

Though of European birth and rearing, John Herman Hallstrom, mayor of the city of Rockford, has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his young manhood, a period of almost twenty years, and is thus thoroughly familiar with conditions here. A close and intelligent student of civic, economic and social problems, he has long taken an earnest interest in local political affairs and in 1921, as the nominee of the independent Labor Legion party, was elected mayor of the important industrial city of Rockford. The admirable record he made in the discharge of his duties as executive head of the municipality during that first term in the mayor's office recommended him to the further suffrages of the people and in 1923 he was reelected. In 1925 Mayor Hallstrom was again honored by reelection and is thus now serving his third consecutive term as mayor of one of the busiest and most progressive cities of the Rock River valley. Mayor Hallstrom began his administrative duties with the firm determination to shape and direct his official policies along the lines of "the greatest good to the greatest number," and working thus he has succeeded in effecting some important local administrative reforms and in putting into operation some quite effective measures looking to the advancement of the better interests of the city, not the least of these measures having been the adoption and administration of the local zoning ordinance, the value and serviceability of which has been admitted by all.

John Herman Hallstrom was born in the kingdom of Sweden, November 18, 1888, and was there reared. His education carried on through the common schools of his native place and he was early taught the value of industry.

In January, 1908, then being in his twentieth year, Mr. Hallstrom came to the United States and proceeding on out into Illinois located in Rockford, where he was employed as a laborer in the building trades. He gave his special attention to the bricklayers' trade and became a skilled bricklayer, a trade which he followed until the time of his election to the office of mayor in 1921. The mayor is a member of the Rockford local of the Bricklayers Union and has for years been recognized as among the leaders in the trade unionist activities of this district. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also affiliated with the compatriotic order, the Vasa.

On August 22, 1922, Mayor Hallstrom was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Hammerstrand, who also was born in the kingdom of Sweden, and they have two children: A daughter, Ruth Irene, born April 22, 1923; and a son, Roy Herman Hallstrom, born May 10, 1924.

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#### AMEL E. FREBURG.

Amel E. Freburg, head of the Peoples Pharmacy Company, Incorporated, of Rockford; vice president and general manager of the Phenolic Products Corporation Co.; president and secretary of the Rockford Druggist Association; past president of the Seventh Street Business Men's Association; vice chairman of the Winnebago county republican central committee; a successful merchant and widely known in commercial and civic circles throughout that section of the Rock River valley of which he has long been a resident; a merchant in Rockford for more than twenty years, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Illinois since the days of his boyhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, August 14, 1877, a son of P. A. and Albertina (Setterberg) Freburg, who in 1890 came to the United States with their family and proceeding on out into Illinois established their home in Woodhull, Henry county, where both spent their last days.

Amel E. Freburg was but thirteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1890 and settled in Woodhull. There he finished his public schooling and became grounded in the language of his adopted country. He early became interested in the profession of pharmacy and after a period of preparation in a drug store in Woodhull entered the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois and in 1897, when in his twentieth year, was graduated from that institution and registered as a licensed pharmacist under the laws of the state of Illinois. After a period of practical service as a pharmacist Mr. Freburg took a post-graduate course in the Highland Park College of Pharmacy in 1901, working nights in Chicago drug stores while carrying on this course, and became a highly skilled pharmacist and chemist. For some time he continued in the employment of others and then, in 1903, the year following his marriage, located in Rockford and there opened a drug store of his own, starting in at No. 409 Seventh street, to which store he gave the name of the Peoples Pharmacy.

Mr. Freburg was successful from the start in this business and in due time

and to accommodate his expanding business he erected his own building at No. 402 Seventh street, where he has since been located and where he has one of the best stocked and most thoroughly equipped drug stores in the city. In 1922 he incorporated this business as the Peoples Pharmacy, Incorporated, with himself as president, his wife as vice president and Harold F. Shannon as secretary and treasurer, but in May, 1925, he bought the Shannon interest and is again in sole control, still, however, having the able cooperation of Mrs. Freburg, who has long been an active factor in the management of the business. For years Mr. Freburg has been one of the most active and able boosters of the Seventh street trade area and has rendered effective service as president of the association of business men organized to promote the interests of that busy district. He has other interests of a substantial character besides his drug store. Reference is made elsewhere in this work to the Phenolic Products Corporation, of which he is the vice president and C. E. Leffel the president. In 1912-13 Mr. Freburg served as a member of the board of directors of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and, as noted above, has also rendered service as vice chairman of the county republican committee, one of the leaders of that party in Winnebago county for years. He also is director of the Swedish American Hospital Association and in other ways takes a good citizen's part in community service.

On September 16, 1902, in Sycamore, Ill., Mr. Freburg was united in marriage to Miss Mattie L. Elmer, daughter of Therom H. Elmer of Sycamore, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Freburg, have one child: a daughter, Miss Bernice Freburg, born August 12, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Freburg are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in local social activities. Mr. Freburg is a member of the singing societies Svea Soner and Lyran and of the compatriotic orders, the Vikings, the Vasa and the Swithiod, is a member of all the Masonic bodies, belonging to Freeport Consistory and Tebala Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Rockford; and is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. The Freburgs reside at No. 411 Paris avenue and are very pleasantly situated there.

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#### G. L. FANKHAUSER, N. D.

Dr. G. L. Fankhauser, doctor and professor of natural therapeutics and founder and general manager of the Belvidere Sanitarium, a widely known institution of healing, "where nature cures," and a widely acknowledged leader in his profession, is building up in Belvidere an institution which has attracted a good deal of attention in medical professional circles. As Dr. Fankhauser says, the Belvidere Sanitarium through its admirable equipment and its efficient staff offers to people "the opportunity for renewed health and abundant joy in living, through the nature-cure way." It further is pointed out in this connection that at this sanitarium the effort is made not only to relieve the symptoms of disease but by scientific methods of diagnosis to ascer-

tain the underlying causes and by removing them through natural means to assure recovery; and not only that, but to teach the patient so to live that his newly recovered health may be retained. It is pointed out that this sanitarium is equipped to treat all acute and chronic diseases and that in the system thus utilized no "fads" are followed but that all known and proven systems of the science of healing are brought to bear. Included in these various forms of healing are physiological medicine of the regular school, osteopathy, chiropractic, electrotherapy, mechanotherapy, organotherapy, hydrotherapy, oxygenotherapy, neuropathy, Swedish massage, physical culture and dietetics. Headed by Dr. Fankhauser, founder and manager of this sanitarium, the staff of the institution consists of Benjamin Breakston, M. D., chief of staff; O. C. Bader, D. O., D. C., Ph. C., physical director; Dr. Dwight Ryan, O. D., psychoanalyst; W. M. Freeman, M. D., medical attendant; and A. A. Lowenthal, M. D., T. A. Wilson, M. D., and M. C. Cottle, M. D. Among the various approved mechanical adjuncts to the system there adopted the institution calls attention to the use of the Ellis electronic machine, the Fischer electric cabinet, the Morse wave, actinic rays and baths. When Dr. Fankhauser founded this institution he was fortunate in securing the practically new, elegant and commodious residence that had not long before been completed by the late J. C. Foote. The sanitarium thus is ample for the purposes for which it is used and offers accommodations for both house and transient patients. It is splendidly situated, surrounded by spacious and beautifully parked grounds, and under competent direction has been developed into one of the most widely patronized institutions of the sort in the middle western country. Dr. Fankhauser, founder and manager, is a member of the American Naturopathic Association and is the vice president of the International Society of Iridologists, widely known in his profession throughout the country.

G. L. Fankhauser was born on a farm in Cedar county, east central Iowa, in 1883, the seventh in order of birth of the eight children of William and Addaline (Cooper) Fankhauser, the latter of whom was born in Springfield, Illinois. William Fankhauser was born in Monroe county, eastern Ohio, in 1837, and was the son of a Swiss gardener who had settled there and had become a substantial farmer and landowner in that section. William Fankhauser was reared on this farm and became a practical and experienced farmer. During the time of the Civil war he served in the transport service, carrying military supplies on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and afterward took up the trade of carpentry. In 1867 he went to Iowa and after working for some time at this trade bought a farm in Cedar county, that state, and there established his home. He developed a good farm and became one of the substantial and influential citizens of the community, rendering public service in various local offices and in other ways doing his share in community development. He died in 1904, being then sixty-seven years of age.

Reared on the home farm in Cedar county, Iowa, G. L. Fankhauser attended the local schools and proved an apt student. When he was but a lad he was profoundly impressed by the death of his little sister and there came then into his youthful consciousness a desire some time to be helpful in the noble task of relieving human ills and suffering. Prompted by this ambition he

proved a "star" in his classes in the study of physiology and kindred subjects, always leading in those classes, and in due time took up seriously the study of medicine, pursuing this study in the neighboring town of Cedar Bluff under the preceptorships of Dr. W. G. Yeoman and Dr. Van Meter. For four years he thus pursued his medical studies under local direction and then entered the medical department of the University of Iowa. After a course of three years of study in that institution he took up institutional work and acquired much valuable practical experience as an attendant in various of the Iowa state institutions, following this by a two-year course in the Iowa Sanitarium at Des Moines and then he entered the Lindhauer College of Natural Therapeutics at Chicago, in which institution he carried on his studies for four years and was awarded the degree of N. D. In November, 1923, Dr. Fankhauser became a resident of Belvidere and there established the sanitarium of which he is the general manager and which has been referred to above and in the operation of that institution he has done well.

In November, 1908, in Sutliff, Dr. Fankhauser was united in marriage to Miss Pearl Wickham, who also was born in Iowa, and they have four children: Donald Eugene, Ozora La Vaune, Oma Dorene and Jeane Adaline. Dr. and Mrs. Fankhauser are members of the Daughters of Rebekah and the Doctor is a past Noble Grand of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a member of the Grand Lodge of that popular fraternal organization.

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#### THE PARKER PEN COMPANY.

One of the outstanding business enterprises of Janesville, Wisconsin, is that of the Parker Pen Company, the name of which is known wherever fountain pens are used, its sales reaching to every point of the civilized globe. It has not been so very many years since fountain pens were somewhat of a novelty, being used only by a certain class of business men or others who early recognized their value. Today all classes from the banking counter to the student's desk find the fountain pen indispensable. One of the pioneer companies in the manufacture and perfection of this now popular article was the Parker Pen Company, which today practically leads the field in every respect. The business was established about thirty-four years ago in Janesville, with a cash capital of five hundred dollars. Today the company has an authorized capitalization of three and a quarter million dollars. The volume of business has grown from sales of two hundred and sixty-five thousand and ninety-two dollars in 1915 to estimated sales of five million two hundred thousand in 1925. The company manufactures and sells in all parts of the world a complete line of "Parker Duofold" fountain pens and mechanical pencils, the sales being made through some thirty-six thousand retailers and jobbers in the United States and foreign countries. In this country the company maintains branch offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, while to handle the rapidly growing foreign business they have, through a subsidiary company, a branch factory in Toronto, Canada, and, through an affiliated company, a large branch sales







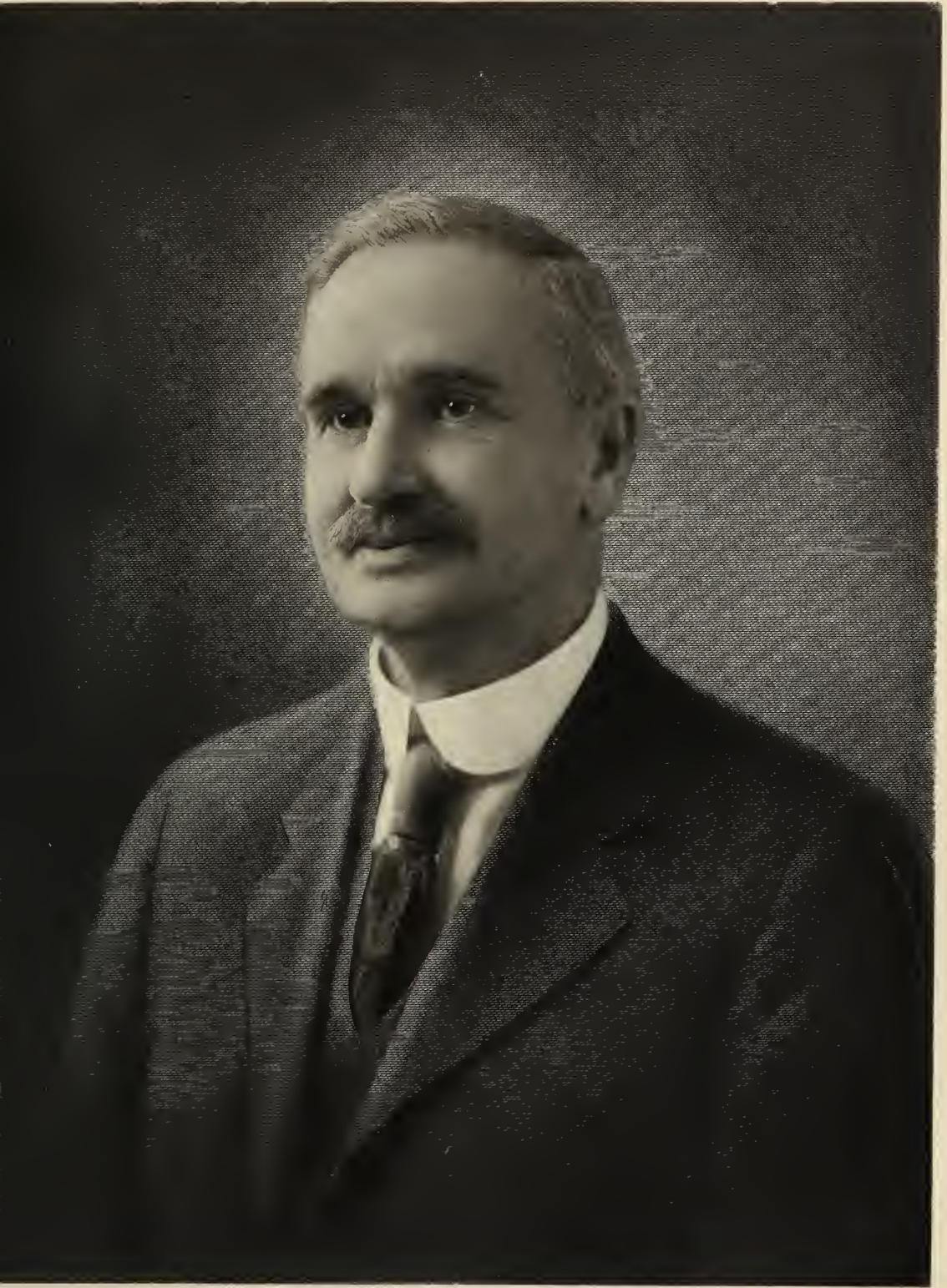
Geo S Parker



*F. J. Adams*



by  
H. S. Parker



*W. J. Palmer*



office in London. In addition they have important distributing agencies in Denmark, Egypt, Italy, India, Ceylon, Burma, Straits Settlements, Java, Australia, China, Samoa, Japan, Hawaii, Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Panama, Mexico, Chile, Argentine and Brazil. The utmost care is taken in every detail of manufacture, even down to the very tips of the gold pen points, and is backed by designs that are mechanically correct. Because of its design, this is the only self-filler fountain pen in the world that is absolutely leak-proof. In 1920, in experimenting, the company discovered that a certain combination of colors was pleasing to the public eye in a degree hitherto unsuspected, and out of this came the Parker Duofold pen with the black and red colors, the greatest seller in the pen industry, and later its companion, the Parker Duofold oversize pencil, which is rapidly catching up with the Duofold pen as a popular seller.

In 1920 the Parker Company erected a new factory and office building, constructed of steel and reinforced concrete, and fireproof throughout. It contains sixty thousand square feet of floor space, is of four stories, with two basements, capable of being raised to six stories, and is protected for growth laterally by large additional ground space which the company owns. The officers and directors of the Parker Pen Company are as follows: George S. Parker, president and general manager; William F. Palmer, secretary and treasurer; Russell C. Parker, vice president and manager of production; Horace L. Blackman, manager of sales; Bernard M. Palmer, assistant secretary and manager of credits; and Kenneth S. Parker, assistant treasurer and manager of advertising.

George S. Parker, who with William F. Palmer founded the Parker Pen Company, was born on the 1st of November, 1863, in Shullsbury, Wisconsin, and is a son of Norman S. and Roxy Ann Parker, the former of whom was a native of Vermont and the latter of Virginia. The family established their home in Shullsbury in 1848, being among the early settlers of that locality. George S. Parker received his elementary education in the public schools of his native town and then attended the Upper Iowa University, at Fayette, Iowa, for three years. He then came to Janesville, where he learned telegraphy in the school of Richard Valentine, and on completing the course entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad as an operator. Later he taught telegraphy for two and a half years in the Valentine school, and in 1891 he and Mr. Palmer organized the pen company to which he has devoted himself continuously since.

Politically Mr. Parker gives his support to the republican party, while fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to all branches of that time-honored order, and is also a member of the Janesville Rotary Club. He is a director and vice president of the Merchants & Savings Bank of Janesville. Mr. Parker is universally regarded as one of Janesville's most useful and public-spirited men, of which city he has been an active and influential citizen for many years. Quiet and unostentatious, nevertheless he is a man of strong and forceful individuality, high personal character and keen business instincts, and is numbered among the community's representative men of affairs.

On November 24, 1892, Mr. Parker was married to Miss Martha Clemens,

a daughter of Robert J. and Rose Clemens, of Perry, New York, and they are the parents of three children: Russell C., Kenneth S. and Virginia R.

William F. Palmer is also a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Racine on the 29th of January, 1855, and is a son of Seymour and Eliza (Parkinson) Palmer, of that city. In his childhood the family removed to Algoma, Wisconsin (then called Wolf River), and there he attended the public and high schools. He learned telegraphy and entered the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company, eventually becoming manager of the Western Union office at Algoma. He also served as postmaster at that place, remaining there until 1882, when he engaged in the insurance business, becoming superintendent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, with headquarters at Neenah, Wisconsin, from which point he traveled all over the state. In 1892 he came to Janesville to live and has remained here continuously since. In 1891 Mr. Palmer became associated with George S. Parker in the organization of the Parker Pen Company, of which he is secretary and treasurer. Mr. Palmer is a republican in his political alignment and takes a public-spirited attitude toward all movements or measures calculated to advance the welfare of his community and is a liberal supporter of its benevolent and charitable organizations. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a genial and friendly man in his social relations and to a marked degree holds the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

In December, 1878, Mr. Palmer was married to Miss Helen Morey, a daughter of Rev. Reuben Morey, a minister of the Baptist church, and they are the parents of two children, namely: Bernard Morey, who is assistant secretary and manager of credits of the Parker Pen Company; and Florence, who is the wife of Horace L. Blackman, sales manager of the company.

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#### GUST L. BECKMAN.

Gust L. Beckman of the firm of Beckman & Gustafson, painters and decorators in Rockford, was born in the near-by village of Cherry Valley, October 18, 1881, a son of John and Hannah Beckman, who had come to this country from Sweden in 1880 and after a sometime residence in Cherry Valley had moved with their family into Rockford, where John Beckman became established at his trade as a tailor.

Reared in Rockford, Gust L. Beckman attended the schools of that city and as a boy became employed in the local glass factory. He later took up the trade of painter and paper-hanger, a line which he since has followed, and in 1915 formed a partnership in that line with Berger Gustafson, also a practical painter, and has since been carrying on the business under the firm name of Beckman & Gustafson, with offices and headquarters at No. 1407 Seventh avenue. This firm is affiliated with the Associated Building Contractors of Rockford and does a general contracting business in painting, paper-hanging and interior decorating.

On June 24, 1902, in Rockford, Gust L. Beckman was united in marriage to Miss Hilma Brolander, daughter of Charles Brolander of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Beckman have two children, sons both: Louis Beckman, born December 26, 1905; and Russell Beckman, born December 12, 1907.

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#### WILSON WORTH BURSON.

Wilson Worth Burson, vice president of the Burson-Ziock-Brown Knitting Company of Rockford, a widely known inventor of knitting mill machinery and for many years one of the influential personal factors in the development of the industrial interests of that city, was born in Rockford May 24, 1864, a son of William W. and Emily S. (Wilson) Burson, the latter of whom is still living, now making her home in California. The late William W. Burson, inventor and manufacturer and in his generation one of the leaders in the industrial life of the city of Rockford, original organizer of the great knitting mill industry that has been developed there, died at his home in that city in the spring of 1913 and elsewhere in this work there is carried a quite comprehensive narrative of his useful life and of his great services to the community, the attention of the reader being respectfully directed to that narrative in this connection.

Reared in Rockford, Wilson Worth Burson attended the schools of that city and in 1878, then being fourteen years of age, he went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he spent five years and during which time he served an apprenticeship to the watchsmith's trade, thus becoming a skilled craftsman along the lines of delicate mechanical application. Upon reaching his majority he went to California and at Escondido in San Diego county engaged in the general hardware and agricultural implement business. For four years he was thus occupied and then closed out his mercantile holdings and became a mechanical engineer, with particular attention to designing and erecting engineering, and was thus engaged in California during the greater part of the '80s. In 1898 Mr. Burson returned to Rockford and became associated with his father in the development of the latter's growing knitting machine industry, the elder Burson's patents along that line having by that time been brought to a point of perfection warranting the establishment in Rockford of a general knitting mill and a machine shop for the manufacture of the machines used in that industry. During the years of close association with his father that followed, Wilson W. Burson applied his mechanical skill and inventive genius to the further perfecting of some of the machines used in the Burson process, one of these being the ingenious machine which now is the basic unit of the operations of the great plant of the Burson-Ziock-Brown Knitting Company of Rockford, which was organized in 1907. Mr. Burson, the vice president of this company, was one of the original stockholders and promoters of this company and has been actively identified with its operations ever since it was established. Not only does this company carry on extensive knitting operations but it maintains, as a subsidiary organization, an amply equipped machine shop for the manufacture of the machines used in its mills. More than fifteen hundred of these ingenious and



intricate machines which were designed by Mr. Burson are now in use in the company's mills, keeping up with the constantly increasing demand for the products of those mills—for the B-Z-B products are commanding a wide market.

It was in the year 1890 that Wilson W. Burson was united in marriage to Miss Hetty Hoyt, who also was born in Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Burson have one child: A daughter, Mrs. Florence E. Hazard. As was his father, Mr. Burson is a republican and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, promoting in many ways the general advancement of the interests of the community. He is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, his blue lodge connection being with Ellis Lodge No. 633, F. & A. M., at Rockford; his Scottish Rite affiliation being with the consistory at Freeport and his affiliation with the Mystic Shrine is through his connection with Tebala Temple at Rockford. He is an active and influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is also a member of the Rockford Music Association, ever interested in the promotion of the social and cultural activities of the city.

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#### GEORGE BAINE INGERSOLL.

George Baine Ingersoll, a member of one of the old and honored families of Beloit, is assistant manager of Fairbanks, Morse & Company and a native son whose record is a credit to the city. He was born September 28, 1867, and his parents were Chalmers and Charlotte (Rinewalt) Ingersoll, the former of whom was one of the pioneer journalists and distinguished citizens of Beloit. The father left the impress of his individuality in notable measure upon the history of the city, and a detailed account of his life appears elsewhere in this work.

George Baine Ingersoll completed his high school course in 1885 and his academic education was acquired in Beloit College, which in 1889 awarded him the B. A. degree. He was appointed assistant postmaster of Beloit, serving for two years under his father, and then entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he received the degree of LL. B in 1893. After his graduation he began the practice of law in Beloit, forming a partnership with J. G. Wickham, and for a year and a half was a member of the firm of Wickham & Ingersoll. He then became associated with his father in the newspaper business and for about six years was connected with the publication of the Beloit Free Press. On April 29, 1901, he entered the employ of Fairbanks, Morse & Company, starting as a clerk, and his progress has been continuous. Practical experience has made him thoroughly familiar with the work of every department of this extensive business, and merit has won for him the position of assistant general manager. Since 1920 he has been the incumbent of this responsible office, displaying marked executive ability in the discharge of his duties, and has given to the corporation twenty-four years of faithful, efficient and conscientious service.

Mr. Ingersoll was married June 3, 1896, to Miss Theresa Jenkins, a daughter

of S. F. Jenkins of East Braintree, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Ingersoll have four children: Sara, who was born April 27, 1897, and is the wife of Orin I. Newton of St. Paul, Minnesota; Charlotte Agnes, who was born January 17, 1900; Thomas Chalmers, born August 7, 1901; and Mary Theresa, born December 24, 1905.

Mr. Ingersoll has a predilection for politics and in 1916 was a delegate to the National Republican convention, which was held in Chicago. He takes a keen interest in public affairs, in which he was formerly quite active, having served as city clerk for six years and as alderman of the second ward for a period of eleven years. He is one of the directors of the Wisconsin Manufacturers Association and during the World war was chairman of Draft Board No. 2 for Rock county. He belongs to the Beloit Country Club, the University Club of Chicago, and along fraternal lines is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Ingersoll has inherited the strong character and admirable qualities of his distinguished father, and is highly regarded in business and social circles of the city in which his life has been passed.

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#### GILBERT WOODRUFF.

At the time of the passing (in the fall of 1903) of the lamented Gilbert Woodruff, former mayor of the city of Rockford, founder and for many years president of the Rockford National Bank, a community builder whose services in behalf of the city in which he had elected to make his home had placed that community under many obligations of memory, one of the local newspapers in a very well considered appreciation of the deceased's life and services commented on the fact that "Business considerations aside Mr. Woodruff was a good citizen and a very useful one to Rockford." Continuing, this newspaper said that "All the achievements of his life meant a betterment of the city." It also was set out that Mr. Woodruff "was a man whose honor and integrity were above question and he carried into all his affairs a spirit of fairness and justice." It further was declared that "All churches and all organizations devoted to charity found a friend in Mr. Woodruff. He was not an ostentatious giver but the tide of human sympathy beat high in his heart and there are many persons who can tell of generous deeds quietly performed. \* \* \* All Rockford honored Gilbert Woodruff. He was a man of sturdy type. He did not bend to every change of time but remained the same strong personality, a man who bettered the community in which he lived and helped it to realize its greatest possibilities."

In this same connection another newspaper commented upon the fact that though the death of this veteran community builder was not wholly unexpected "still the announcement came as a shock to his multitude of friends who find it hard to realize that he is gone, expressions of grief and sympathy being heard on every hand. He has been actively identified with so many industries and institutions in Rockford and has had so much to do with the upbuilding of the city that his loss will be keenly felt." Among the many published expressions of appreciation voiced in that connection were those of close friends and asso-

ciates who knew best the fine qualities of this pioneer promoter and it may not be considered inappropriate in this connection, after a lapse of nearly a quarter of a century and for the information of the present generation, to quote a few of these: "His capacity and ability were an inspiration to those who knew him and his word of honor was sacred," said one of these old friends. "In his death this community has suffered a great loss," said a veteran banker who summed up Mr. Woodruff's activities in the industrial and financial field. "He was a born city builder and his passing will be universally deplored," said another well informed citizen who concluded his appreciation with the terse and expressive statement—"He did things." Another commented upon the fact that "He was the organizer or chief sponsor of some of our most successful business enterprises and perhaps there is no one to whom our city is more indebted for its substantial and constant growth." "No man has done more for the city," declared another. "His life has been a part of it and the debt we owe him is great." The mayor of the city observed: "His demise marks the passing of one who has done much for Rockford—more than the average citizen appreciates or understands, for his influence was a factor in many enterprises that had the upbuilding of the city in view and he thus leaves a myriad of monuments all over the city as evidences of his enterprise and public spirit." One of the aldermen referred to the deceased as "the embodiment of energy, enterprise and public spirit." And there were many similar expressions, all attesting the high quality of the service Mr. Woodruff had rendered in the community and the deep regard in which he was held by the people. It thus will be seen that at the passing of Gilbert Woodruff he left a good memory. It is but proper, therefore, that in this definite history of the region he did so much to develop there should be carried some brief review of his life and services.

Gilbert Woodruff was a native of the old Empire state, born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, November 20, 1817, a son of Frederick Woodruff and wife, both of whom were members of old families of that section there at the termination of the Great Lakes. Frederick Woodruff was a farmer and the son Gilbert thus grew up on a farm, familiar with the details of farm labor. He was a good student and early became a school teacher, thus occupying his winters for several years, at the end of which time he went into the grocery business in a small way in Watertown. This business expanded into a general store and from the profits of this enterprise Mr. Woodruff made some quite profitable investments in real estate in and about Watertown, there laying the foundations for his ultimate success as a promoter of realty projects. In 1838 he came to Illinois and was clerk in his brother's store at Joliet. During this time he had acquired a piece of realty in Dubuque, Iowa, a somewhat dubious form of security he had been compelled to take on a bad loan, and in 1857 he moved with his family to Dubuque to give his personal attention to that investment. Though anticipating a loss, his business acumen enabled him to close out that deal with considerable profit. While there Mr. Woodruff had become attracted to the possibilities then apparent in the development of Rockford as an industrial and commercial center and upon closing out his interests in Dubuque in 1858 he moved with his family to Rockford and there established his home. And it was thus that Gilbert Woodruff became a

resident of Rockford just at a time when the service of such an active and astute community builder was much needed.

Upon establishing his home in Rockford, Mr. Woodruff straightway began to give his attention to local realty, chiefly farm lands, and within two or three years had acquired large holdings in this form of realty in Winnebago and Ogle counties. It then became apparent to him that the real development of this region rested in its industrial possibilities and that Rockford's future could be assured by a proper and systematic enlargement of these possibilities. Closing out his farm landholdings as rapidly as the market would warrant, he made his investments in realty in and adjacent to the city of Rockford and to this move, as one of the city papers said at the time of his death: "Rockford owes a very large part of its present prosperity." Mr. Woodruff has been referred to as "the original city builder," and it is a matter of common knowledge hereabout that his example in laying out and marketing city additions went far toward the stimulation of a similar interest in the minds of others who were then in a position to help push the town and that a spirit of emulation thus was created that put the development of the struggling little town on an entirely new and quite substantial basis. A new spirit was injected into local operations and Rockford presently "woke up."

What formerly was known as Woodruff's Addition, the southeastern section of the now greater city of Rockford, is regarded as perhaps the most notable monument to the memory of this pioneer community builder. Mr. Woodruff realized that the growing town needed space in which to find its natural expansion and he created such an outlet by laying off a large plot of ground including all the district of which the Seventh street business section eventually became the center and in every way he aided in the development of that section of the city. He encouraged and aided the location of factories and thus did much to develop the city's industrial interests. Indeed, it has been written in that connection that "The proud position which Rockford holds as a manufacturing center can be attributed to Mr. Woodruff more than to any other man." In the general commercial affairs of the city Mr. Woodruff was an equally active and efficient factor. He was the prime factor in the organization of the Rockford National Bank in 1871 and was the president of that institution from the time of its founding to the time of his death, and at his death he was succeeded by his son, William F. Woodruff, now chairman of the board of directors of that sound old financial institution. When the Forest City Insurance Company was organized in 1873 Mr. Woodruff was elected its president and was retained in that executive position until a year or two before his death. In 1875 he materially aided in the organization of the Forest City Furniture Company and was president of that prosperous manufacturing concern until his death. To him was freely given the credit for the rehabilitation of the affairs of the city railways company at a critical period during the middle '90s and for the eventual establishment of the present efficient system of local transportation. In civic affairs Mr. Woodruff also ever took a good citizen's part and was twice elected mayor of the city, in that capacity rendering a very real and substantial service during the middle '70s, when the hand of a steady executive was needed at the helm of the Rockford municipality. He was one of the local leaders in the councils of the repub-

lican party and often was importuned to stand for other office, but his service as mayor was all that he ever would accept and that was accepted at a time when he felt that he really was needed "on the job." For years, Mr. Woodruff rendered service as a member of the board of trustees of Rockford College and did much to promote the interests of that educational institution. He was a member and trustee of the First Congregational church and, as pointed out above, ever was one of the leaders in local good works, promoting in such ways as his hand found to do the best interests of the community. During the later years of his life Mr. Woodruff had gradually withdrawn from the active direction of his large business affairs, giving over the management of these interests to his son, William F. Woodruff, but he retained his mental faculties unimpaired and continued his interest in general affairs until the end, which came at his home in Rockford on October 2, 1903, he then lacking less than a month of being eighty-six years of age.

Gilbert Woodruff was twice married. In 1842, while living in Watertown, New York, he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Fay, who died in Rockford in 1877. In 1879 he was married to Mrs. Augusta Todd, who survived him. Mr. Woodruff was the father of seven children, four of whom—two daughters, Mrs. Sarah W. Parmele and Mrs. Duncan H. Ferguson; and two sons, Volney D. and William F. Woodruff of Rockford, survived him.

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#### OSCAR J. LANDQUIST.

Oscar J. Landquist, secretary and treasurer of the L. T. L. Tool Company of Rockford, manufacturers of dies and tools and one of the well established smaller manufacturing concerns of that city, is a native of Sweden but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his boyhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden August 31, 1882, and was thus about eight years of age when in the spring of 1890 his parents, Joseph William and Matilda Landquist, came to this country with their family and settled in Rockford. Joseph William Landquist was a carpenter in his native land and after his arrival in Rockford for some time followed that trade there as a journeyman carpenter. He then became a building contractor and has since quite successfully followed that line in Rockford.

Oscar J. Landquist attended the public schools of Rockford and early became employed in mechanical labors with a view to becoming an expert machinist. After completing his apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman machinist in various machine shops about town and was thus employed until 1917, when he became one of the organizers of the L. T. L. Tool Company, which was incorporated in that year and became established as manufacturers of dies and tools. The company has a well equipped plant at No. 1320 Woodruff avenue and is one of the going concerns of the city, the quality of its products having created for these products a wide and growing market. As is set out elsewhere in this work, Nels J. Billstrom is the president of this company, Fritz Larson is the vice president, Oscar J. Landquist is the secretary and treasurer, and K.



OSCAR J. LANDQUIST



Thulander is the superintendent. Special machinery and hardware of sorts constitute the general products of this establishment and is doing well in its operations, an important unit in the great industrial development that has been brought about in Rockford in recent years. Mr. Landquist's position as secretary and treasurer of this company carries with it a good deal of administrative responsibility and he is recognized as a helpful factor in the general industrial life of the city.

In September, 1909, in Rockford, Mr. Landquist was united in marriage to Miss Adella Larson, daughter of Samuel Larson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Landquist have two children: A son, Fletcher Oscar, born in May, 1908, and a daughter, Irene Adella, born in January, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Landquist are republicans and are members of the locally popular Lyon Singing Society. Mr. Landquist is an active member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Chamber of Commerce.

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#### CHARLES F. THOLIN.

Charles F. Tholin, vice president of the Mechanics Furniture Company of Rockford, designer in that company's great plant and also designer for the Skandia Furniture Company, one of the best known and most competent men connected with the great furniture industry in Rockford, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his boyhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, November 9, 1867, a son of Anders and Johanna Tholin, both of whom also were born in that country and who spent all their lives there.

Reared in his homeland, Charles F. Tholin had his schooling there and when sixteen years of age came to the United States, by prior arrangement coming on to Rockford, in which city he arrived on November 16, 1883. Upon his arrival here he became employed as a painter and for eight years was occupied as a painter and decorator. Meanwhile, he had been giving his attention to the details of the furniture industry, with particular reference to the designing of furniture, and by careful study along that line became a competent furniture designer. In 1890 Mr. Tholin was employed as the designer in the factory of the Mechanics Furniture Company and has ever since been thus connected with the operations of that extensive and growing concern, of which he is vice president, and a member of the board of directors. Since 1921 he also has occupied the position of designer in the plant of the Skandia Furniture Company in Rockford, his ability thus to occupy this important position in two of the country's best known furniture factories bespeaking his eminent fitness for the exacting vocation he thus long has followed.

On August 13, 1895, in Rockford, Charles F. Tholin was united in marriage to Miss Josephine M. Peterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Peterson, the former a well known tailor in Rockford in his day. Mr. and Mrs. Tholin have a pleasant home in Rockford. Mr. Tholin is a democrat and takes an earnest interest in local political affairs. He is a member of the singing society, Svea



Soner, and is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. and Mrs. Tholin have five children: Charles X., born August 8, 1896; Mildred Josephine, born February 21, 1898; Aubrey Z., born January 21, 1900; Alton B., born April 16, 1904; and Orah B., born September 13, 1907. Charles X. Tholin was married to Miss Theresa Larson of Rockford; and Miss Mildred J. Tholin became the wife of Roland Hamilton of Rockford and they have one child, a daughter, Marjorie J., born October 24, 1920.

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#### GILMORE THOMAS LONGBOTHAM.

The life of the scholarly or professional man seldom exhibits any of those striking incidents that seize upon public feeling and attract attention to him; but when such a man has so impressed his individuality upon his fellowmen as to gain their confidence and through that confidence rise to important public trust, he becomes a conspicuous figure in the body politic of the community. The subject of this sketch has forged to the front in a responsible and exacting calling and earned an honorable reputation as the head of one of the most important branches of public service. Gilmore Thomas Longbotham, county superintendent of schools of Rock county, was born on the 24th of July, 1897, at Platteville, Grant county, Wisconsin, and is the son of Thomas and Alvira (Gilmore) Longbotham. The father was a farmer by vocation, following that calling for many years, but he is now retired and is living in Platteville.

The subject of this sketch secured his elementary education in the public and high schools at Platteville and then attended the Platteville Normal School, completing his educational training in the University of Wisconsin. In 1917 he began teaching school and was chosen principal of the high school at Timewell, Illinois, where he served until 1918, when he enlisted for service in the World war, being assigned to the coast artillery station at Camp Nichols, New Orleans, where he remained until receiving his discharge in December of that same year. He then became principal of the schools at Boaz, Wisconsin, remaining there until June, 1919, when he returned to Timewell and resumed his former position as principal of the high school. In 1920 Mr. Longbotham became principal of the high school at South Wayne, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1922, when he was chosen principal of schools at Footville, Rock county, Wisconsin, and was the incumbent of that position when chosen county superintendent of schools in 1923. He has been eminently successful in the various positions which he has filled, as evidenced by his successive promotions, and his administration of the duties of his present position has been of a nature that has won for him the universal approbation of all who have been familiar with his work. A well educated, symmetrically developed man, he has kept abreast of the times in advanced educational methods and has gained marked prestige in educational circles for the masterly manner in which he has directed the educational affairs of the county.

Politically Mr. Longbotham maintains an independent attitude, reserving the right to vote according to the dictates of his own judgment. He is a mem-

ber of the Free and Accepted Masons and the American Legion. Personally Mr. Longbotham is deservedly popular, for he possesses to a marked degree the qualities that commend a man to the favorable opinion of his fellowmen, being a man of good judgment, wise discrimination, sound common sense and a genial disposition.

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#### LEWIS I. STEWART.

Success in life comes to the deserving. It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that a man gets out of life what he puts into it, plus a reasonable interest on the investment. The man who starts out in the world unaided and by sheer force of will, controlled by correct principles, forges ahead and at length reaches a position of responsibility and honor among his fellow citizens achieves a success such as entitles him to the respect and esteem of all right-thinking people. To this class of successful men belongs Lewis I. Stewart, the present able and efficient factory manager for the Chevrolet Motor Company at Janesville.

Mr. Stewart was born on the 2d of November, 1886, at Millgrove, Indiana, and is the son of William Grant and Rosetta (Personette) Stewart. He attended the public and high schools at Millgrove and then took a course in the Muncie Business College. He was ambitious to prepare himself for an active career and studied engineering and accounting at home. From 1902 to 1908 he was stenographer and accountant for a large coal, lumber, storage and trucking concern in Muncie, then deciding to engage in the automobile business he resigned a good position and went into the shops of the Interstate Automobile Company, at Muncie. Here he worked for twenty-five cents an hour, but he was learning the mechanical end of the business and that was what he wanted first of all. In 1909 he entered the employ of the Warner Manufacturing Company, of Toledo, Ohio, as auditor, from which position he was advanced to purchasing agent and advertising manager. In 1912 he became general manager of the Muncie Gear Works, a subsidiary of the Warner company, but later returned to Toledo and became factory and sales manager, with headquarters in that city. In May, 1915, Mr. Stewart was sent by the Warner corporation to New York city to sell transmissions to Mr. W. C. Durant, of the General Motors Corporation, the result of the interview being that he sold the entire Warner corporation to Mr. Durant. Thereafter for seven months he served as Mr. Durant's private secretary and special representative and from that time to the present he has been identified with the Chevrolet Motor Company, which is a part of the General Motors Corporation, his assignments being as follows: From 1916 to 1921 he was assistant production manager of all Chevrolet plants, with headquarters in New York city. From 1921 to October, 1922, he was supervisor of production and bonus secretary for the Chevrolet division in Detroit, when he again went into the shops at Flint and gained a practical first-hand knowledge of the details of the Chevrolet cars. In February, 1923, he was appointed factory manager of the Chevrolet plant in Janesville and is still holding that responsible position in a manner that has won him the commendation of his superior officers. Thus Mr. Stew-

art has, by his indomitable energy, persevering methods and faithful performance of the duties of every position which he has held, gained not only the confidence of his superiors but also the consciousness of having done the best that he could under all circumstances.

On December 11, 1909, Mr. Stewart was married to Miss Jane Henry, the daughter of George Henry, of Portland, Indiana, and to them have been born four children, namely: Marjorie Elizabeth, born September 30, 1910; Richard Henry, born November 11, 1912; William George, born September 2, 1923; and Margaret Ann, born June 4, 1925. Politically Mr. Stewart has been a lifelong adherent of the republican party, while he sustains fraternal relations with the Free and Accepted Masons, holding membership in all its branches, and with the Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the directorates of the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Young Men's Christian Association and the Janesville Country Club. His successful career has not been a path of roses, for in his early years he worked hard for everything he got and conquered conditions that would have discouraged one of less sterling mettle. He has acted well his part in life and has earned the sincere respect and esteem of all with whom he has been associated. Genial and unassuming in disposition, he easily makes friends and has gained a host of admirers since locating in Janesville.

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#### SWAN LINDSKOLD.

Swan Lindsfold, for fifteen years a member of the bar of Winnebago county, one of the best known lawyers in Rockford, and who also is actively engaged in that city in the general realty business, is of European birth. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, January 24, 1878, and was seventeen years of age when in 1895 he came to the United States and became employed in the rolling mills in Moline, Illinois, where he worked for one year, but finding this kind of work unhealthy, sought employment on the farm, meanwhile applying himself sedulously to such studies as would further equip him for citizenship in an English speaking country. His ambition to push on spurred him to his best efforts and in 1900 he found himself in a position to enter the college in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained for four years, taking the academic course, and then, in 1904, returned to Europe for a visit to the old home. For seven months Mr. Lindsfold remained in Europe, four months of this time being spent in special study in Germany, and then (in 1905) he returned to Michigan and reentered the college at Kalamazoo. In 1906 he entered the Law School of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and in 1909 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Laws.

Following the completion of his law course Mr. Lindsfold was admitted to the bar and in that same year (1909) opened an office in Rockford for the practice of law, a profession in which he ever since has been engaged, with present offices in the Swedish-American Bank Building. In addition to his law practice Mr. Lindsfold also is in the real estate and loan business and has established a wide connection in that line. He has other interests besides, these

including a considerable ownership in the operations of the Service Sand & Gravel Company, Incorporated, of Rockford, of which company he is the secretary and treasurer. He is a republican and has ever since acquiring his citizenship in this country taken an earnest interest in general civic affairs.

On June 28, 1906, the year in which he entered the Law School of the University of Michigan, Swan Lindskold was united in marriage to Miss Frances Martus, daughter of Joseph Martus, one of the well known citizens of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Lindskold have three children: Graydon M., born October 16, 1907; Neuman E., born July 24, 1911; and Mary Lorraine, born November 14, 1913.

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### HARRY M. PERKINS.

Harry M. Perkins, ex-mayor of the city of Belvidere and proprietor in that city of a flourishing general transfer and storage business, one of the best known men in that section of the Rock River valley, is a native of Belvidere and has lived there all his life. He was born August 27, 1884, and is thus now in the very prime of his vigorous and useful manhood. He is a member of one of the old families of this section of Illinois, and the last in order of birth of the children of Myron D. and Frank (Boutwell) Perkins, the latter of whom was a daughter of Horace Boutwell, one of the pioneer residents of Belvidere and in his generation a man of substance and influence there.

Myron D. Perkins, formerly and for many years in the hotel business in Belvidere and now living retired there, is a son of William Perkins, the pioneer innkeeper of Belvidere, who established there many years ago the American House, which was the leading hostelry in Boone county back in the stage-coach days. This house kept pace with the general growth of the town and after the passing of its founder was carried on by the latter's son and daughter, Myron D. Perkins and Mrs. Hattie King, and was thus retained in the family until sold in 1924.

Reared in Belvidere, Harry M. Perkins attended the public schools of that city, going on through the second year in high school, and then became connected with the operations of the Bennett creamery. Three years later he became a clerk in a mercantile establishment and was thus occupied until July 5, 1905, twenty years ago, when he established his present business in the transfer and storage line. In the next year he was married and established his home in Belvidere and in good time came to be accounted among the substantial citizens of the place, an influential factor both in the business and civic life. When Mr. Perkins started in his transfer business he had nothing in the way of special equipment but a one-horse dray. As his business increased he added to this equipment until he had a twelve-horse plant. In 1912 he put in his first auto truck. Presently he started a transfer line and storage service, which since has grown, as the demand for this convenient form of transportation has increased, until now (1925) he is operating five auto trucks and is keeping up with the general development of the city and its transportation needs. Mr. Perkins has a well equipped establishment at Nos. 221-223 North State street, a

two-story building with a frontage of forty-five feet and a depth of one hundred and twenty feet, and is surrounded by a very capable staff, all eager to extend the service of this popular and growing concern.

Not only has Mr. Perkins been diligent in his own business but he has been attentive to local public service and has long been regarded as one of the leaders in civic affairs in the city. For two years he rendered service as a member of the local board of aldermen and in 1920, as the nominee of the republican party, was elected mayor of the city. His services in this important administrative capacity proved so acceptable to the people that in 1922 he was re-elected, and he enjoys the respect and the confidence of the whole community. Successful in his own business, Mr. Perkins brought to the public service the same personal qualities that insured that success and his friends declare that his administration will go down in local history as one of the most successful in the civic annals of Belvidere.

In 1906, in Belvidere, Harry M. Perkins was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude D. Siebert, who has been a competent helpmate to him in every way. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have three children: Alden, Gail Stewart and Myron D. Perkins.

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#### WILLIAM KING.

Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the great struggle of life alone and unaided, gradually overcomes unfavorable environment, removes one by one the obstacles from the pathway of success and by his own force and vitality forges his way to the front and finally wins a position of esteem and influence among his fellowmen. Such is the record, briefly stated, of William King, who, able to relinquish the exacting duties of business life, is now living in his beautiful home in Watertown, Wisconsin, enjoying that leisure to which his years of earnest toil so richly entitle him.

Mr. King was born in Germany on the 5th of June, 1857, and was educated in the schools of his native land. In 1875 he emigrated to the United States, coming direct to Watertown. In his native land he had learned the carpenter's trade and for about a year after his arrival here he was employed at that occupation. He then went to Howard county, Iowa, where for the next two years he worked on a farm. He next went to Wadena, Minnesota, and eventually to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He had been carefully husbanding his resources and sometime after his arrival in Grand Rapids he organized the King Lumber Company. Beginning his business on a comparatively modest scale, by the exercise of sound business judgment and keen foresight he prospered and established other yards at various points in Minnesota, all of which proved to be profitable ventures, so that in 1909 Mr. King retired from the management of the business, turning it over to his sons, though he is still the president of the company. Since his retirement he has lived in Watertown, though he finds it convenient to make frequent trips to Grand Rapids, where the general offices of the King Lumber Company are located.

On December 25, 1878, Mr. King was married to Miss Mathilda Miller, of



W. King

water which necessitates artificial treatment at forty-five feet and a depth of one hundred and seventy feet, and is augmented by a very capable staff, all eager to extend the service in most profitable and growing concern.

So well has Mr. Perkins been diligant in his own business that he has been successful in many public matters and has long been regarded as one of the leaders in civic affairs of the city. For two years he rendered service as a member of the board of trustees of the city and in 1920 as the nominee of the republican party, represented the city of the city. His success in this important administrative capacity proved so agreeable to the people that in 1921 he was re-elected, and he spent two years and the confidence of the whole community. Successful in his own business, the services brought to the public service the same personal qualities and qualities that success and his friends assure that his administration will be one of the most successful of the city in the city's history.

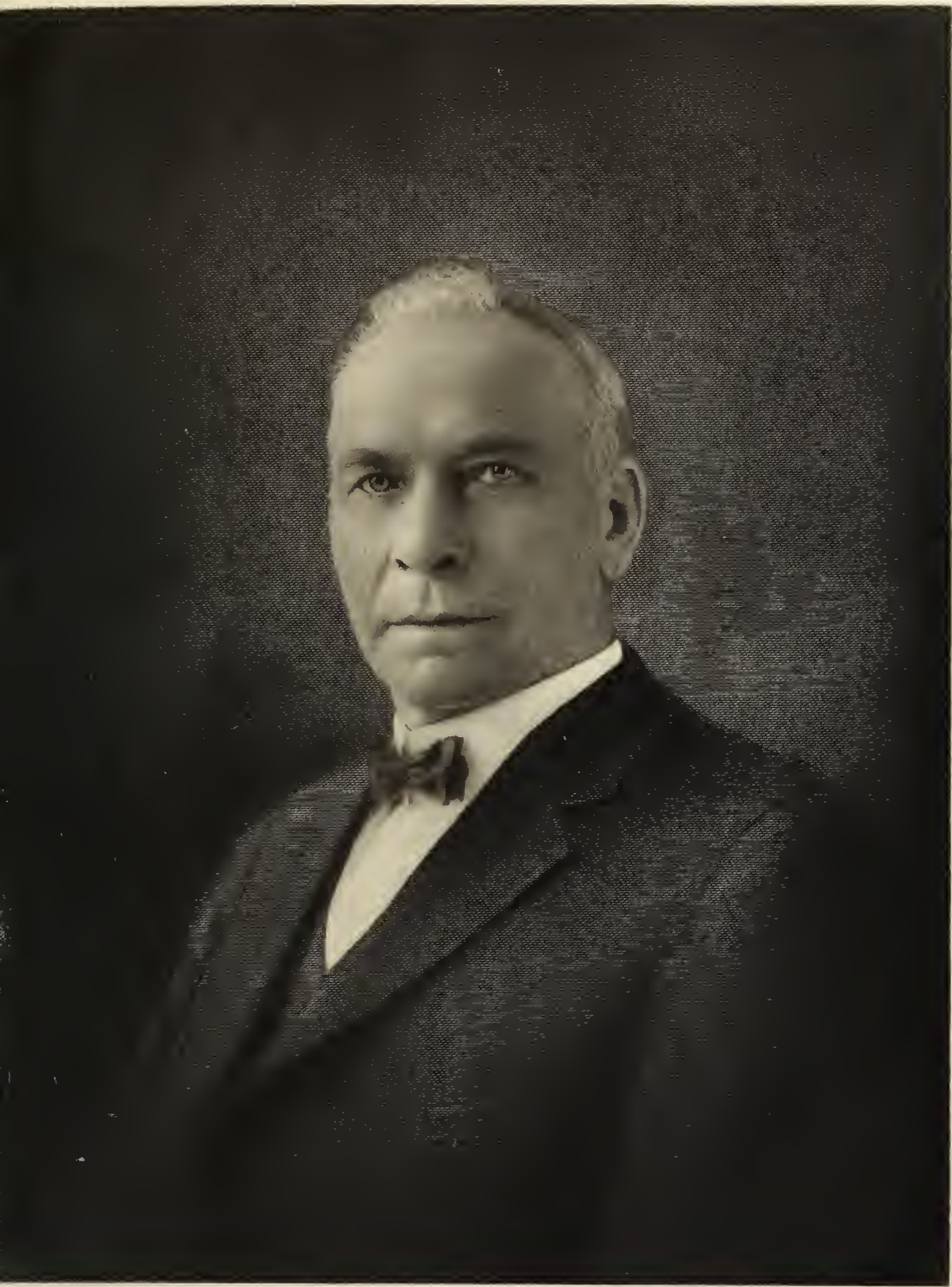
In 1906, by business, Harry M. Perkins was united in matrimony to Mrs. Gertrude D. Perkins, who was born a prominent citizen of the city of Rock River. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have three children: Miss Carl S. Perkins and William D. Perkins.

#### WILLIAM KING

Positive honor belongs to that individual who, in gaining the great struggle of life, man and nature, gradually overcomes unfavorable environment, removes himself from the pathway of success and by his own force and ability forces his way to the front and finally wins a position of power and influence among his followers. Such is the record, briefly stated, of William King, who, after he has discharged the exacting duties of business life, is now engaged in his homestead home at Waterloo, Wisconsin, enjoying that privilege to which his record of success and his right, entitle him.

Mr. King was born in Germany on the 30th of June 1857, and was educated in the schools of his native land. In 1875 he emigrated to the United States, coming first to Wauwatosa. In his native land he had learned the carpenter's trade and for about a year after his arrival here he was employed at that occupation. He then went to Howard county, Iowa, where for the next two years he worked on a farm. He then went to Woodbury, Minnesota, and eventually to Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He had been carefully hoarding his resources and sometime after his arrival in Grand Rapids he organized the King Lumber Company. Beginning his business on a comparatively modest scale, by the exercise of sound business judgment and keen thought he progressed and established himself at various points in Minnesota, all of which proved to be profitable ventures so that in 1902 Mr. King retired from the management of the business, although it went on for some time, though he is still the president of the company. Since his retirement he has lived at Wauwatosa, though he finds it convenient to make frequent trips to Grand Rapids, where the general offices of the King Lumber Company are located.

On November 27, 1878, Mr. King was married to Miss Mathilda Miller, of



W. King





Charles City, Iowa, who died March 18, 1888, leaving three children, Frank, Ida and Dorothy. For his second wife, Mr. King chose Miss Philipina Miller, a sister of his first wife, and to them have been born the following children: William, Otto, Charles, Lillian, Mabel, Ruth, Lucile and Paul L.

Politically Mr. King is nominally a republican and usually votes that ticket at national elections, but at local elections he votes according to the dictates of his own judgment as to the fitness of the candidates for the offices they seek. He is an active member of the German Lutheran church. A man of rugged strength of character, of finest moral fiber, his life has been one of fullness and completeness, one of vigor and inflexible integrity. He is universally recognized as a splendid citizen, constant and reliable; a good husband and father, faithful to the highest ideals; a man in the fullest sense of the word, and one who stands deservedly high in the confidence and esteem of the entire community. He gives liberal support to all worthy benevolent and charitable objects and is a staunch advocate of all measures calculated to better the public welfare in any way.

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#### ASTHOR EPHRAIM JACOBSON.

Among the men who are contributing their earnest and faithful efforts to the success of one of Janesville's principal industries is Asthor Ephraim Jacobson, who holds the responsible position of resident comptroller of the Chevrolet Motor Company. Mr. Jacobson is a native of Muskegon, Michigan, where he was born on the 22d of January, 1892, and is the son of Charles E. and Hilma Jacobson. He received his elementary education in the public and high schools of Muskegon and was then a student in the University of Michigan for two years. After laying aside his textbooks his first employment was as bookkeeper for the Amazon Knitting Company, of Muskegon, with whom he remained from 1911 to 1918. He was ambitious to perfect himself in his chosen vocation and during this period he gave intensive study to higher accountancy, in which he became an expert. In 1918, during the World war, Mr. Jacobson enlisted in the United States navy with the rank of a yeoman. He was stationed at Buffalo, New York, and detailed to do accounting work for the navy in the office of the United States cost inspector for the ninth, tenth and eleventh districts. In April, 1919, he was discharged as chief petty officer and in the following month went to work as an accountant for the Chevrolet Motor Company, in Flint, Michigan. His first position was that of utility accountant, from which he was promoted to assistant factory accountant and later to factory accountant, which position he held until October, 1922, when he was transferred to the Chevrolet Motor Company's plant at Janesville, with the title of resident comptroller. This is a responsible and exacting position but Mr. Jacobson's prior experience admirably fitted him for it, and he stands high in the esteem of the officers of the company.

Politically Mr. Jacobson has always been aligned with the republican party and he gives earnest support to all measures that promise to be for the betterment of the public welfare. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Ac-

cepted Masons and the Knights of Pythias. Socially he is a member of the Janesville Country Club and the Kiwanis Club. On October 25, 1919, Mr. Jacobson was married to Miss Eva Margaret Laura, the daughter of Frederick Laura, of Muskegon, Michigan. Since coming to Janesville, Mr. Jacobson has formed a wide acquaintance, being a man of genial personality and forceful individuality, and he has gained an enviable reputation as a man of public spirit, sound business ability and genuine worth.

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#### LEVIN FAUST.

As an instance of what may be accomplished by the exercise of an indomitable spirit accompanied by the consciousness that the idea being worked out is a good one, the following little life story of Levin Faust, treasurer of the Mechanics Machine Company of Rockford and the original promoter of that now million-dollar enterprise, is recommended to the growing generation of readers and students in the Rock River valley. Mr. Faust was a trained mechanic when thirty-five years and more ago he staked his all on the establishment of a machine shop in Rockford. Associated with him in that ambitious enterprise were Frank W. Lindgren, Carl J. Forsberg and Gustave A. Dalin, also practical machinists and young men of ambition to rise out of the employed class. The four of them were able to raise one thousand dollars which they applied as a ten per cent payment on the capital stock of ten thousand dollars they had fixed as the basis of their operations as the Mechanics Machine Company. With this initial assessment they put up a little factory building and bought an abandoned engine and boiler that had been salvaged from the debris of a screen door factory that had not long before been destroyed by fire, and which they reassembled and repaired so that it gave them their required motive power. Their other machinery and supplies were obtained on a credit that soon was exhausted, these expenditures having mounted to five times the amount of the original paid-in capital. Mr. Forsberg had a family to support and he presently withdrew from the company, despairing of any material returns from the overinvolved concern, and took employment elsewhere. In the meantime Mr. Dalin had invented a friction-driven drill press but the company was unable to interest the trade in the manufactured article. In 1897 he sold his interest in the struggling concern, which had been "hanging on" at job and repair work, and found what promised to be a more remunerative form of employment outside the factory. With that interest went his right to his invention, which was retained by the company, which now had sifted down to Messrs. Faust and Lindgren. Not long afterward a machinery man from Chicago paid a visit to the little factory in Rockford and was attracted to the possibilities inherent in the drill press. He succeeded in interesting the concern with which he was connected in the press and an order was placed for enough friction drills to pay for a fine milling machine and to set the struggling little machine shop going right. The long lane leading to prosperity had turned.

The original shop of the Mechanics Machine Company proved too small for the rapidly increasing demands thus made upon its facilities and Messrs. Faust and Lindgren bought the plant of an abandoned cotton mill along the Waterpower and began to turn out friction-driven drill presses on a profitably productive commercial basis, a wide market having meanwhile been created for the new machine. In 1906 P. A. Peterson bought into the company and was elected president, a position which he still maintains, and the capital stock was raised to fifty thousand dollars. It was at Mr. Peterson's suggestion that the plans for the erection of a new and up-to-date machine shop at Ninth street and Nineteenth avenue were put under way and in due time the company found itself for the first time properly housed and with an equipment adequate to its operations. With the confident expectation that there would be further demands upon its capacity the company wisely built with a view to expansion and thus has since been able by adding further units to keep pace at that site with the amazing production it now is putting out.

In 1912 when, discerning the possibilities lying in the then rapidly developing automobile industry, the Mechanics Machine Company began the manufacture of a patented truck transmission on an experimental basis. This experiment turned out a very costly one but the company, which meanwhile had sold its drill business, had to see it through and after taking serious losses for a period of two or three years began to see its way clear, its product meanwhile having been improved to a point that commanded attention and when it thus had created a market found the going good. With these new prospects the capital stock of the company was raised to half a million dollars and additional equipment was added, a bustling, up-to-date plant being required to work overtime to fill the demand for the transmission. With new buildings and new machinery as continued demands require, the business has gone on increasing until its annual volume has reached three million dollars and the capital increased to one million dollars. Automobile transmissions and universal joints constitute the larger part of the product of the Mechanics Machine Company and the present industrial force required at the great plant runs above eight hundred persons. Mr. Faust and Mr. Lindgren are still associated with this enterprise and have long been congratulated upon the spirit that prompted them to stick to the business when it seemed almost a certain failure, for they are enjoying the rewards of those long "lean years" when all but hope seemed gone at times. As noted above, Mr. Peterson became president of the company when it was reorganized after he had bought stock in it in 1912 and still occupies that executive position. Mr. Faust, who was the company's original secretary, has been treasurer since the reorganization in 1916, when E. S. Ekstrom was made secretary and in the following year was made general manager. He had "grown up" in the place and was thoroughly familiar with the details of operation. In 1906, when the company was reorganized, Mr. Lindgren became the vice president and still occupies that position. The rise and development of the business of the Mechanics Machine Company must be looked upon, as suggested in the introduction to this review, as a fine exemplification of what unshaken faith in a good idea will accomplish if that faith has behind it a spirit strong enough to face and overcome initial discouragements.

Levin Faust, original promoter of the above company and its present treasurer, one of the best known figures in the industrial life of the Rock River valley, was born in the kingdom of Sweden, February 16, 1863, and was given an excellent training as a mechanic in his native land. In 1887, then being twenty-four years of age, he came to the United States and found employment in Rockford as a machinist, a trade in which he was thoroughly proficient. He here became familiar with local trade and industrial conditions and three years later, in 1890, decided to get into a machine shop of his own. It was then that, as narrated above, in association with his good friends, Lindgren, Forsberg and Dalin, he organized the Mechanics Machine Company and started on an industrial career that after years of discouragements bravely faced and stoutly overcome, led on to success and fortune. In addition to his large interest in the great Mechanics Machine Company, Mr. Faust has other interests in the local industrial field, including his place on the directorate of the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company. He also is the president of the Rockford Drilling Machine Company, president of the Solem Machine Company, president of the Estwing Manufacturing Company, president of the Eleo Tool & Screw Corporation, vice president of the Rockford Tool Company, secretary of the Rockford Drop Forge Company and secretary of the Rockford Steel Furniture Company. In his political views he ever has been a supporter of the republican party and has long been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in Winnebago county. In 1909 he was one of the organizers of the Rockford park commission, of which he still is a member, and for thirteen years (1911-24) was president of that commission, during that long period of administrative service doing much for the proper promotion of the fine public park system that has been developed under the operations of this commission. Mr. Faust is a Mason of many years' standing and is also affiliated with the Rockford Lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and with the local singing society, Svea Söner.

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#### JENNIE HEDGES.

Record of her extraordinary service in the Civil war as a private soldier in an Illinois regiment for more than three years.—By John B. Inman.

In the early forties, in the Emerald Isle, there was heard the happy prattle of a newly born girl, who in due time bore the name of Jennie Hedges; and one by one as the years rolled on, this little Irish lass heard much of that wonderful land across the sea and constantly longed to go there. While still in her teens, she one day dressed as a boy and made her way to the nearby harbor where she succeeded in becoming a stowaway on board a ship about to sail for the United States. At last her dreams were to come true—she was sure of it. The privation and suffering of the then tedious journey under such conditions need not be set forth here; suffice it to say, she arrived safely in the "promised land" and by dint of constant economy was able to accumulate a small sum with which she was determined to go "West," as the now central west was

called. She got as far as Belvidere, Illinois, where she settled down to labor as a farm hand and was so successful that her services were in constant demand.

Why she should at this time have continued to conceal her sex is beyond comprehension, but she did, and when President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand more volunteers, this girl in boy's clothing enlisted at Belvidere, Illinois, as a private in Company G of the Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war, assuming the name of Albert D. J. Cashire. She enlisted August 6, 1862, and was honorably discharged August 17, 1865, after three years and twelve days of service.

The Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry was organized and mustered in at Camp Fuller, Rockford, Illinois, by Colonel Lawrence S. Church, September 4, 1862, and was composed of three companies from Boone and seven from McHenry counties. At Vicksburg this regiment lost thirty-two killed, including two captains; and one hundred seventy-eight wounded, including one major, one captain and three lieutenants. At Guntown they were sorely pressed, command of the regiment changing three times, following the mortally wounding of the colonel, the killing of one captain and the wounding of another, the final command devolving upon a third captain who led them successfully through the conflict. The regiment traveled nine thousand nine hundred and sixty miles and throughout all this splendid service Jennie Hedges had the honor to participate as a private, and the records show that she did her full duty at all times. Miss Hedges was never absent from duty and of course never in a hospital and took part with her regiment in the following engagements; Vicksburg, Nashville, Spanish Fort, Kenesaw Mountain, Lovejoy Station, Jonesboro, Fort De Russey, Old River and Guntown.

After honorable discharge from the army Miss Hedges returned to farm labor and for a long time was employed by former State Senator Lish as gardener and caretaker of his extensive interests near Pontiac, and by other well known citizens of that vicinity. But the time came as come it must; she was injured in an automobile accident and taken to a hospital. After this she lived in comparative retirement, finally going to the Soldiers and Sailors Home in Quincy, Illinois, where great respect was paid her commensurate with her service in the Volunteer Army of the Republic; but life in the Soldiers Home became somewhat of a burden, her overwrought mind began to waver and she was transferred to the Watertown State Hospital at East Moline, Illinois, where she received the attention of an honored guest rather than an inmate, and on October 10, 1915, she went out into the "everlasting sunshine," wrapped in Old Glory, a consummation for which she had often expressed a wish. Interment was at Saunemin, Illinois.

All evidence points to the purity of her life, to her fine courage in battle, to constant obedience of the orders of her superiors (the first law of a soldier), and so she died as she had lived, a heroine and a patriot. Her comrades of the war say she was of a retiring disposition (naturally), rolling herself in her blanket, apart from others occupying tent or barrack, and never complaining of guard or other severe duty such as falls to the lot of every private.

All honor to this little Irish lass, whose exemplification of patriotic womanhood, while exhibited in an unusual manner, helped to preserve the Union and

to make possible all we have and are as a country. Jennie Hedges was great, as is every one great who went forth in defense of this country's flag. [Foot-note: William Andrews of Rockford, first sergeant, Company E, of the Ninety-fifth, says: "I did not know the soldier personally in the service but was told the entire history by an officer of her company (G), and am satisfied your statements are entirely correct."]

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#### WILLIAM FREDERICK WOODRUFF.

Identified with the banking and general financial, industrial and commercial affairs of the city of Rockford for a half century, William Frederick Woodruff, formerly and for years president of the Rockford National Bank and now chairman of the board of directors of that sound old financial institution, is one of the real veterans of the banking business in this section of the middle west and is thus thoroughly well informed on the general conditions of the community in whose development he has for many years been an influential and effective factor. Mr. Woodruff began his banking career as a boy of eighteen when he entered the Rockford National Bank as a messenger and thus has watched and nurtured the development of that bank from the days when Rockford was struggling into position to become a great industrial and commercial center to the present time, when the city's name is known the world over as a center of production with the celebrated "Made in Rockford" products entering the markets of all civilized lands. During this time the bank has kept pace with this development and now has resources in excess of eleven millions of dollars, with a capital and surplus of around a million and a half, with deposits aggregating right around nine million. As is set out elsewhere in this work, the Rockford National Bank was founded in 1871 by Mr. Woodruff's father, the lamented Gilbert Woodruff of excellent memory in this community, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere and who was president of the bank until his death in the fall of 1903. The bank has a paid-up capital of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars and has for years been regarded as one of the soundest financial institutions in the middle west.

Though not a native of Rockford, William Frederick Woodruff has been a resident of that city since the days of his infancy and thus has been a witness to and a participant in its development during the whole of its period of modern progress. He was born in the city of Dubuque, Iowa, March 21, 1858, and was but a babe in arms when in that same year his parents, Gilbert and Nancy (Fay) Woodruff, native New Yorkers, moved with their family from Dubuque to Rockford and established their home in the latter city, where they spent the remainder of their lives and in the later development of which city Gilbert Woodruff became a prime factor, as is set out at informative length elsewhere in this work together with an interesting review of the life and services of that fine old pioneer community builder.

Reared in Rockford, William Frederick Woodruff attended the schools of that city and when eighteen years of age, in 1876, entered his father's bank

(the Rockford National) as a messenger and started in to familiarize himself with the details of the banking business as applied to the great trade area centering in Rockford. By successive promotions Mr. Woodruff was advanced in the Rockford National Bank until his service had covered all details of administration and he thus was admirably equipped to enter upon the general executive detail when he was elected president of the bank following his father's death in October, 1903. Mr. Woodruff continued as president of the bank until 1921, when he asked to be relieved and he then was elected to the honorary position of chairman of the board of directors of the bank, which highly responsible position he now occupies, his continuous service with the bank now (1925) having covered a period of almost half a century. In addition to his banking interests in Rockford Mr. Woodruff has other interests of a substantial character, both financial and industrial, and is accounted one of the leading financiers of this section. He is chairman of the board of directors of the Broadway National Bank of Chicago, president of the Broadway Building Corporation of Chicago, president of the Clark-Devon Building Corporation of Chicago, president of the Sheridan Building Corporation of Chicago, president of the Walton-Oak Building Corporation of Chicago and president of the Willwood Burial Association of Rockford and from him the latter association derived its name. He also has interests in various other enterprises of a local character. Mr. Woodruff was actively engaged with his father in the building up of the business section of Seventh Street, they being pioneers in that section and at one time owned twenty-three store buildings. It was almost entirely through Mr. Woodruff's maneuvering that the Rockford Trust building was erected and that the Rockford National Bank and Rockford Trust Company now have their beautiful banking office.

On December 25, 1878, in Rockford, Mr. Woodruff was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Cutton, daughter of William B. and Elizabeth Cutton and granddaughter of Robert H. Cutton of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff are members of the Rockford Country Club and have ever taken a helpful part in the general social activities and good works of the community. Mr. Woodruff has for years been a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### LUCIUS ALONZO MARKHAM.

The name which appears above needs no introduction to the people of Rock county, Wisconsin, for during the dozen years which have elapsed since he first came to this country he has been so engaged in public activities that he has gained as wide an acquaintance throughout the county as many men gain in decades of residence in one locality. Mr. Markham was born on the 12th of April, 1889, in Portis, Kansas, and is the son of Lucius C. and Maggie Belle (Benjamin) Markham. His father was born and reared in Illinois, but at an early day he homesteaded land in Kansas, where he became a successful farmer.

The subject attended the country schools of his home community and the



high school at Douglass. He then entered Fairmont College, at Wichita, Kansas, and was graduated in 1911 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. From 1911 to 1913 he served as general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at Pierre, South Dakota, and in the latter year came to Janesville as the first county secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, which position he held until the fall of 1916, when he entered the University of Wisconsin for one year of postgraduate work. In 1917 Mr. Markham was chosen county agent for Rock county, which office he held until June 15, 1918, when he again returned to the Young Men's Christian Association and was one of the five men selected by the national organization to go to Russia, where he did work for that association along agricultural lines for one year. In the latter part of August, 1919, Mr. Markham returned to Janesville and on September 1 went to work for the General Motors Corporation, becoming personnel director of their plant, the Samson Tractor Company, in Janesville. When this company was taken over by the Chevrolet Motor Company, on January 1, 1923, he continued in the same position for the latter organization. He is also vice president and general manager of the Janesville branch of the Modern Housing Corporation, a subsidiary of the General Motors Corporation. In all the positions which he has filled Mr. Markham has shown an ability to grasp a situation readily and has so handled the many intricate and perplexing problems which have confronted him that he has won a high reputation as a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment. These attributes, combined with a genial manner and an attractive personality, have gained for him the unbounded confidence and esteem of all who know him.

On the 18th of September, 1917, Mr. Markham was married to Miss Ruth Davis, the daughter of Jerome E. Davis, of St. Louis, Missouri. They are the parents of two children, namely: David Reese, born July 15, 1920; and Lucius LeRoy, born February 12, 1923. Mr. Markham is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the Janesville Rotary Club. During the years of his residence in this community he has been continually active in affairs relating to the welfare of the public. He is treasurer of the Rock County Young Men's Christian Association; chairman of the Rock county boys and girls agricultural club work committee; and a member of the library board and of the county board. He served as vice president of the Chamber of Commerce from June 1, 1923, until January 1, 1924, when he became president, serving until June 1, 1925. Politically he is a staunch republican and during the years 1922 and 1923 he served as chairman of the Rock county republican committee.

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#### MICHAEL H. GALLAGHER.

In the death of Michael H. Gallagher, which occurred on the 6th of February, 1915, there passed away one of the most beloved and appreciated men who have ever honored Rockford with their citizenship—loved because of the kindly relations which always existed between him and all with whom he came in contact, and appreciated because of his sterling integrity, marked ability and devo-



MICHAEL H. GALLAGHER



tion to duty. Closely identified for forty years with one of the most important municipal departments, his administration of the public positions he filled was marked by a fidelity to the trust reposed in him that won the spontaneous approval of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Gallagher was born in Newburg, New York, on the 11th of May, 1848, and he was therefore in the sixty-seventh year of his age at the time of his death. When nine years of age he accompanied his parents on their removal to Janesville, Wisconsin, and he secured his educational training in the public schools of that city. When he was thirteen years of age his father died and he was compelled to go to work. He was variously employed for a time and then learned the trade of a cornice maker and plumber in Chicago. In the latter capacity he came to Rockford in 1874, during the construction of the water works here, and thus began a relation with the city affairs which was not terminated until forty years later, when he resigned. The story of Mr. Gallagher's devotion to duty during the early years of the existence of the city water system is a record of toilsome duty faithfully performed, often under most trying conditions, in the biting cold of winter or the torrid heat of summer, and with an equipment very primitive as compared with that of later years. As foreman, he felt the responsibility of maintaining the service at the highest possible standard of efficiency and, the finances of the city being low and the revenue of the department not yet up to a self-sustaining basis, he exerted every effort and exercised his utmost ingenuity to keep his department going at a minimum of expense and a maximum of efficiency. There were those who recognized and appreciated his heroic services at a time when such services were needed, but in later years, when the city was in a position to reward him in a measure for his sacrifices and hardships of earlier years, they failed to do so and the promotion which he had so well merited was given to another. Shortly after this, Mr. Gallagher resigned, after four decades of faithful service, and engaged in the grocery business with his sons at No. 730 Rockton avenue. It is undoubtedly the fact that at the time of his death no other man in Rockford had as accurate knowledge of the water mains and hydrants of the city as he possessed, and the value to the city of Rockford of the personal service he had rendered during his years of public service is immeasurable.

Politically, Mr. Gallagher was a lifelong supporter of the democratic party and had always taken a deep interest in local public affairs. In his connection with the city administration he had always contributed in every way possible to its success, even exceeding what might have been expected of him. He installed the first fire alarm boxes in this city and put in the first seven telephones in Rockford, these being put in for seven city officials, one of them in a private home. Prior to coming to this city, Mr. Gallagher had worked for the Western Union Telegraph Company, superintending the work of a construction gang which strung the first cable between Chicago and Omaha. Fraternally, he was long an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to Winnebago Lodge No. 31, Rockford Encampment No. 44, Canton Eureka No. 6 and Anchor Rebekah Lodge No. 34.

In November, 1872, Mr. Gallagher was married to Miss Katherine Barron, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and they became the parents of seven children, namely:

Harry A., manager and stockholder of the Independence Water Works Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. May Smith; Frank, an expert water power machinist; Arthur, who is engaged in the grocery business in Rockford; Katherine, who is the wife of Charles Ward, of Pecatonica; Fred B., a sanitary engineer in Kansas City; and Mrs. Ruth Daley. Mr. Gallagher was a man of singularly sweet and genuine nature. Although unassuming and easily approached, he had a sturdy and vigorous personality, and year by year he grew in the esteem of the people of the community, receiving the highest marks of their respect and confidence. In his death there passed a good and useful man. But those who knew him best mourn him not as the efficient public official, worthy as his work was, but as the good citizen, the loving father, the faithful husband and the loyal and true friend.

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#### ERIC SIGFRID EKSTROM.

Eric Sigfrid Ekstrom, secretary and general manager of the Mechanics Machine Company, one of the leading manufacturing concerns in the Rock River valley, and interested also in other industrial enterprises in that city, one of the best known figures in the general industrial life of this region, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his childhood. He was born in the city of Goteberg (Gothenberg), an important seaport and capital of the province of Goteberg and Bohus east of the Skager-Rak in the kingdom of Sweden, July 13, 1888, and was five years of age when in 1893 he came to this country with his parents, Carl Gustav and Huldah Maria Ekstrom, the family coming on out into the Rock River valley and settling in Rockford.

It was thus that Eric Sigfrid Ekstrom grew to manhood in Rockford, attending the schools of that city and early becoming familiar with the general conditions of the community. From the day he first felt sure of his English letters and thus felt himself getting along in the new land, his ambition prompted him to exert his efforts to the best of his ability not only in his school work but in whatever thing his hand found to do, and he thus not only early laid the groundwork of a pretty comprehensive education but became proficient in industrial crafts. During his course in the public schools he also carried on a course in stenography and bookkeeping in a night school, taking these studies three nights in the week and devoting the other three nights to classes he had organized for the purpose of teaching newly arrived Swedish people the rudiments of the English speech, the fees received from these lessons enabling him to pay his own tuition in night school, so that he thus literally worked his way through that school and became a proficient stenographer and a skilled bookkeeper. During his school vacations Mr. Ekstrom as a boy worked in the glass factory and came to be a good glass craftsman, but he was not particularly attracted to that form of employment and after finishing his course in the business department of the night school found more congenial employment as bookkeeper in the office of

the Rockford Transfer Company, where he remained until he was twenty-three years of age.

In 1912 Mr. Ekstrom, whose capacity for business undertakings had by this time become recognized in the city, was sent to Arkansas by a combination of local furniture manufacturers in the capacity of bookkeeper and office man. He returned to Rockford the next year and in that same year (1913) became a bookkeeper in the office of the Mechanics Machine Company at Ninth street and Nineteenth avenue, which by that time had become recognized as one of the leading industrial concerns in the city, its products in automobile transmissions and universal joints having begun to command a wide market. By careful and thoughtful attention to the interests of that employment Mr. Ekstrom was gradually advanced in positions of trust and responsibility until 1916, when upon the reorganization of this now million-dollar concern, he was made its secretary and general manager, which position he still occupies and in the discharge of the duties of which he has done much to advance the interests of the company and to promote its business. In other industrial activities Mr. Ekstrom also has considerable interests, these including his position as president of the Rockford Steel Furniture Company, president of the Mechanics Tool Company, vice president of the Rockford Drop Forge Company, vice president of the Osborne Oil Company and a member of the directorates of the Rockford Tool Company, the Rockford Metal Specialties Company and the Pierson Company, it thus being apparent that he has come to be one of the influential figures in the local industrial field.

On June 21, 1914, Mr. Ekstrom was united in marriage to Miss Grace Mathilda Larson, daughter of John Larson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Ekstrom have two children: A daughter, Betty Jane, born March 5, 1919; and a son, Eric Thomas, born March 29, 1925. Mr. Ekstrom is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all degrees available to the inquirer in that ancient order, including the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine, and is a member of the popular local singing society Svea Soner. Elsewhere in this work there is set out at some length a story of the establishment and development of the great Mechanics Machine Company, a concern which now employs around eight hundred persons and whose annual output reaches a volume of around three million dollars, much of which recent development properly may be attributed to Mr. Ekstrom's indefatigable efforts in behalf of the company's interests, and to that narrative the attention of the reader is respectfully directed in this connection.

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#### RAYMOND S. FROST.

Raymond S. Frost, one of the best known members of the bar of the Winnebago county court and for years a practicing attorney in Rockford; former public administrator and in other ways prominently identified with the social and civic life of that community, is a native of Rockford, where he has resided all his life. He was born December 22, 1885, a son of Arthur H. and Ida (Southgate) Frost, both now deceased, who in their generation were among the

best known and most influential residents of that city. The late Judge Arthur H. Frost, who at the time of his passing in the summer of 1917 had for fifteen years been serving as judge of the seventeenth judicial circuit of the state of Illinois, was a man of large influence in the community and at his passing left a good memory, as is set out in a comprehensive narrative relating to his life and services presented elsewhere in this work, to which the attention of the reader is respectfully directed in this connection.

Reared in Rockford, Raymond S. Frost attended the schools of that city and under his father's able preceptorship early began the study of law. Upon leaving the high school he entered the University of Wisconsin and in the spring of 1907, at the age of twenty-one years, was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, his studies having been pursued along lines of preparation for the law. In further preparation along this line upon returning from college, his father then being judge of the court, he entered the law office of Judge R. K. Welsh in Rockford and was there prepared for admission to the bar. In the following year (1908) Mr. Frost was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Rockford, where he ever since has been thus engaged, with present offices in the Forest City National Bank building. During the period 1917-22 Mr. Frost rendered service as public administrator for the county of Winnebago. He is a republican, long regarded as one of the leaders of that party in Rockford, and is the present committeeman of that party in the sixth precinct of the Fourth ward of the city of Rockford. He is a member of the Winnebago County Bar Association and of the Illinois State Bar Association and has a wide acquaintance in his profession throughout the valley.

On October 18, 1911, Mr. Frost was united in marriage to Miss Florence Graham, daughter of John P. Graham of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Frost have one child, a daughter, Elizabeth, born March 26, 1917. The Frosts have a pleasant home in Rockford and Mr. and Mrs. Frost have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the city. Mr. Frost is a member of the University Club of Rockford, is a Mason and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### CLARENCE H. WOODS.

Clarence H. Woods, senior member of the firm carrying on in the mercantile way as the Belvidere Implement Company in Belvidere, president of the school board of that city and in other and influential ways actively and prominently identified with the general commercial and social life of the city, one of the strong personal factors in business there, is a native of Illinois and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Belvidere since the days of his boyhood. He was born in the pleasant village of Kirkland, De Kalb county, Illinois, August 26, 1876, a son of J. Harvey and Marilla (Shannon) Woods, the latter of whom was born in the state of New York and more than thirty years ago became a resident of Belvidere.

The late J. Harvey Woods, formerly and for years one of the men of affairs of Belvidere, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1848, a son of William Woods, who in the early '50s of the past century came with his family to Illinois and became one of the pioneer farmers and landowners of De Kalb county, in which his last years were spent, his death occurring there when he was seventy years of age. J. Harvey Woods, as will be observed by a comparison of above dates, was but a child when he came to Illinois with his parents in the early '50s and he grew up on the home farm in De Kalb county. After his marriage he made his home in Kirkland until 1891, when he moved with his family to Belvidere and in that city became successfully engaged in the livery business. He also took an interested and helpful part in the city's general civic affairs, rendering service both as a member of the board of aldermen and as a member of the local school board and at the time of his death in 1913 left a good memory there. To him and his wife were born two children, the immediate subject of this biographical review having a sister, Miss Bertha Woods, who also continues to make her home in Belvidere.

Clarence H. Woods was but fifteen years of age when in 1891 his parents moved with their family from Kirkland to Belvidere and he attended the schools of the latter city. He was graduated from the high school and not long afterward became employed as a clerk in the Belvidere post office. By gradual promotion Mr. Woods was advanced into the post office service until he was made money order clerk, having previously served as assistant cashier. After seventeen years of service in the post office, during which time he naturally became one of the best known men in Boone county, Mr. Woods resigned that position in 1919 to go in with the State Bank of Kirkland, and returned to his old home town. At the end of a year of service with that bank, however, he returned to Belvidere and entered upon his present mercantile connection, at that time buying an interest in the old established implement firm of List & Sons. Not long afterward his brother-in-law, George W. Hicks, bought the List interest in this concern and became a partner in the business, which has been carried on under the name of the Belvidere Implement Company, owned and operated by Messrs. Woods and Hicks, one of the best established concerns of its kind in this section of the Rock River valley. These kinsmen have a centrally located warehouse and salesroom on Buchanan street, with a frontage of one hundred feet, the main building being three stories in height, and carry a full line of farm machinery and general agricultural implements, as well as auto trucks. They are the local representatives in Boone county of the International Harvester Company and have developed a fine business. They have a fully equipped blacksmith shop and assembling room and also carry a full line of repair parts and general accessories for the machinery and implements they handle.

In 1905, Clarence H. Woods was united in marriage to Miss Mamie Hicks, daughter of Richard P. Hicks, a substantial farmer and a member of one of the pioneer families of Boone county. Mr. and Mrs. Woods have three children: a daughter, Miss Marjorie, who was graduated from the Belvidere high school and from the Rockford Business College; and two sons—Clarence H., Jr., who now (1925) is a student in the high school; and Donald Richard, who also is in school. Dr. Woods has a pleasant home in Belvidere and the family



have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of their home town. Mrs. Woods is a member of the Woman's Club and during the time of this country's participation in the World war took an active part in local war work. Mr. Woods for the past eight years has been a member of the local school board (District 57) and is now its president, during this long incumbency having done much to advance the general interests of the schools and to increase local educational facilities. He is a Royal Arch Mason and has long taken a warm interest in local Masonic affairs.

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#### WILLIAM SPENCER CALDWELL, M. D.

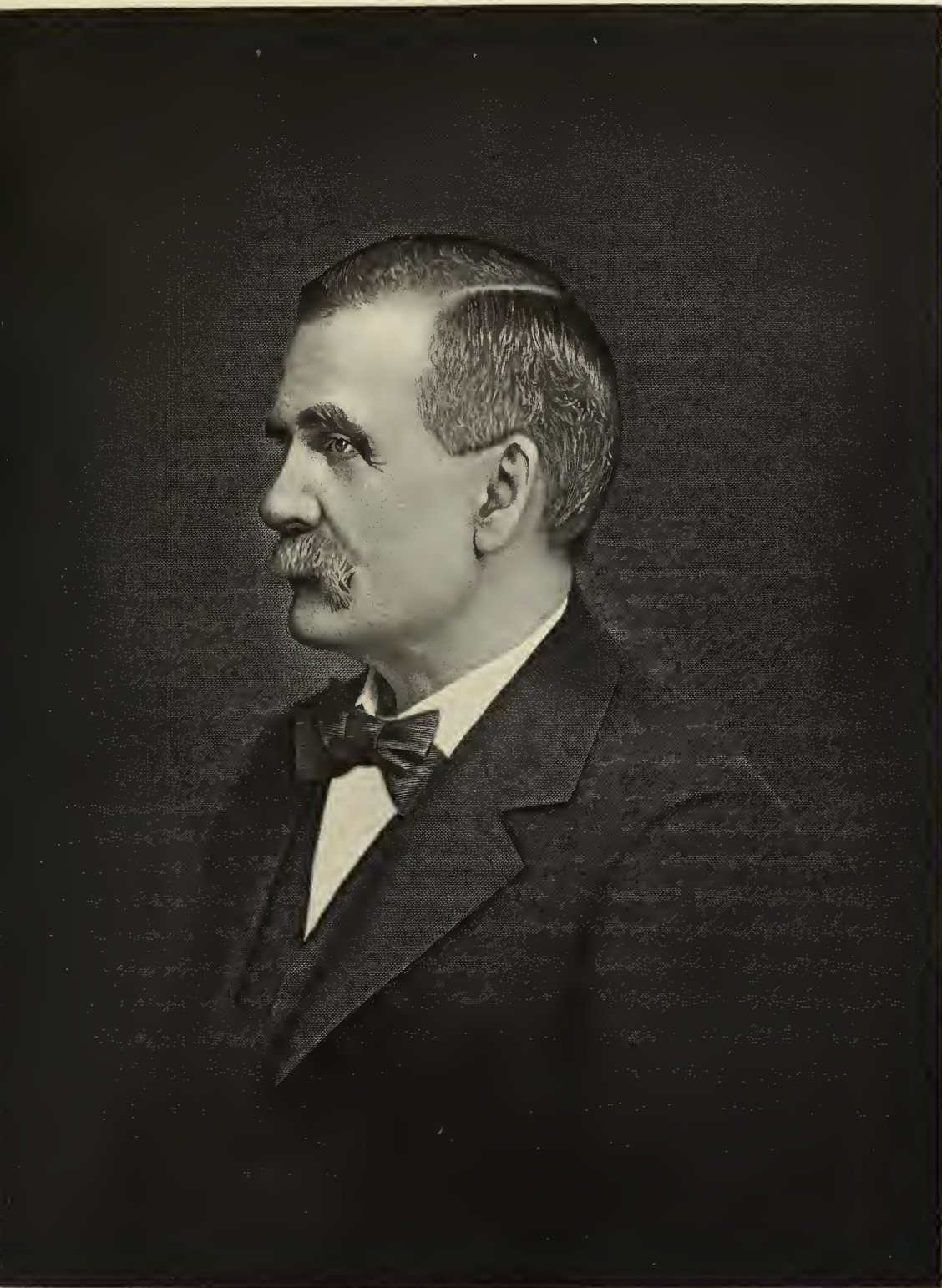
In the memorial annals of that section of the beautiful valley of the Rock river embraced within the confines of Stephenson county, Illinois, and of the fine trade area centering at Freeport there are few names held in better remembrance than is that of Dr. William Spencer Caldwell, eminent physician and surgeon and world-wide traveler, who died at his home in Freeport on June 7, 1901. Though it now is a quarter of a century since the passing of Dr. Caldwell his name and the services he rendered in behalf of the community in which he long had his home are not forgotten and it therefore is regarded as but proper and fitting that in this definite history of the region in which he found so much to delight him in his days of activity here there should be set out some slight tribute to the good memory he left here.

Dr. Caldwell was born in historic old Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, August 8, 1832, and was a son of Dr. Abner and Susan (Foss) Caldwell, also natives of that county and members of old colonial families there. The father was born in the spring of 1792 and was a son of David Caldwell, one of the substantial citizens of the Charlotte neighborhood, and a brother of Martha Caldwell, who married Patrick Calhoun and became the mother of John Caldwell Calhoun, eminent American statesman and vice president of the United States (1825-31). The Caldwells of this line in America are of the old Irish Presbyterian stock which sought refuge on this side of the Atlantic following the Restoration and the name has been prominently represented in succeeding generations in various parts of the country, Caidwells appearing conspicuously on the roster of eminent contributors to the social and civic development of the country. When he was forty years of age Dr. Abner Caldwell left North Carolina and went with his family to Georgia, not long afterward leaving there and going to Little Rock, Arkansas, where he was engaged in the practice of medicine when in the late '30s, during the Van Buren administration, he was appointed Indian agent in the Indian Territory. Upon the completion of that service he came to Illinois, locating at Mount Vernon, but not long afterward went to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained for ten years, at the end of which time, broken in health, he returned to the old home in Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, and there died in 1856, when sixty-four years of age. His widow survived him for more than forty years, her death occurring in March, 1899, she then being eighty-six years of age. It has been



Wm. F. Goodhall, M.D.





*Wm. S. Caldwell, M.D.*



written of Dr. Abner Caldwell that "like the rest of the Caldwells, he was a whig of the old line and a man of high moral standing and of pronounced views, and his personality and principles naturally made a deep impression upon the mind of his son William, who was the eldest of four children."

By reason of his father's various changes of residence, beginning when William S. Caldwell was but a child, the latter had a somewhat varied experience in youth, familiar with pioneering in all its phases and with the wilds of the Indian country, but under the tutelage of his scholarly father and his gentle mother his education was not neglected and when the family moved to Michigan he entered that state's university for further preparatory studies in medicine, a profession to which, under his father's able preceptorship, he early had devoted himself. Upon completing the course there he entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati and in 1856, the year in which his father died, was graduated from that institution. After practicing for a time in Michigan he took a postgraduate course in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and was there graduated in 1863. Intent upon perfection in his profession he later entered the Chicago Medical College, where he was graduated in 1866, and then he went to Europe for a postgraduate course in the great hospitals there, thus obtaining his first taste of foreign travel, in which he indulged so extensively in later years. Upon his return he took a further course in Bellevue Hospital, New York; was graduated there in 1871, and in 1873 received also a diploma from the University of New York.

Upon leaving his initial post of practice at Vicksburg, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, Dr. Caldwell returned to Illinois, where for a time his parents had made their home, and practiced in the village of Elizabeth, Jo Daviess county, later moving to Warren, where he remained a short time or until in 1877, when he took another trip abroad and was for two years occupied in further medical research and in clinical observation in the hospitals of London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna. Upon his return in 1879 he opened an office at Freeport and there became definitely established in practice, spending the remainder of his life in that city, one of the best known and most highly honored physicians and surgeons in that section of the valley, his death occurring in the summer of 1901, when he was nearly sixty-nine years of age. It was written of Dr. Caldwell following his death that "his practice here extended throughout Stephenson and adjoining counties and he realized not only a substantial fortune but a very high standing in his profession. His wide research and earnest devotion to his chosen work gave him exceptional competence in the mastery of disease, yet his skill was but one of the factors which bound and endeared him to his patients. He was frank, approachable, sympathetic and sincere."

Dr. Caldwell is survived by his wife and daughter, Stella Marie. The latter is the wife of Stanley M. Vance, one of Freeport's leading lawyers and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Caldwell was Miss Margaret Marquette, born in Bavaria, Germany, near Wurzburg, her parents being Karl and Lona (Wahler) Marquette. Mrs. Caldwell came to Freeport in 1869 and was married in Wisconsin. She and her husband delighted in travel and together visited nearly every country on the

globe. The Doctor was a most entertaining raconteur and his friends found much to delight them in his vivid tales of travel.

In addition to the interests centering in his extensive medical practice, Dr. Caldwell had other interests of a substantial character, including a place on the directorate of the State Bank of Freeport, of which institution he was one of the organizers. He was a Knight Templar Mason, who also attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and was a member of the British Gynecological Society, the French Society of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Mississippi Valley Medical Society and the Illinois State Medical Association and was also affiliated with the National Association of Railway Surgeons. Dr. William S. Caldwell was one of the best known men in his profession in the middle west in his generation.

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#### ARTHUR HENRY FROST.

At the time of the passing of the lamented Arthur Henry Frost, then judge of the seventeenth judicial circuit of the state of Illinois, at his home in Rockford in the summer of 1917, he was regarded as the dean of the local bar, his service at that bar having covered a period of almost forty years. For seventeen years prior to his death Judge Frost had occupied the bench of the circuit court. During an earlier period of his practice in Rockford he had rendered equally efficient public service as state's attorney for Winnebago. Prior to that for some years he had served as local police magistrate, these several periods of public service aggregating a term that is believed to be without parallel in the history of Winnebago county. It thus readily may be realized that there perhaps was not a person in Winnebago county who had a wider acquaintance than had Judge Frost, nor none who at his passing left a better memory, for in all those years of devotion to the public service he ever had entertained a high regard for the general good, a disposition that marked all his relations in life. It therefore is but fitting that in this definite history of the region in which he so long and so usefully had labored there should be carried some brief tribute to the good memory Judge Frost left at his passing.

Arthur Henry Frost was born in the town of St. Johnsbury, the county seat of the county of Caledonia, Vermont, May 12, 1855, and was six years of age when in 1861 he accompanied his parents, Jeremiah and Marcia (Kilborne) Frost, from the old Green Mountain state into the state of Illinois and into the beautiful Rock River country, the family settling in Rockford, where he had his schooling and where all his subsequent life was spent. Even as a schoolboy his inclinations turned him to the study of law and when the convenient season arrived he entered the law office of that sturdy old barrister, the late Major N. C. Warner, and under that able preceptorship was prepared for admission to the bar.

In was in 1870 that Judge Frost was admitted to the bar of the Winnebago county court. He straightway opened an office for the practice of the profession in which he devoted his life and his talents and was engaged in practice

in Rockford when in 1881 that city became incorporated under the law relating to cities, abandoning its old special charter and adopting the city form of government. In the organization of this government he was elected city judge and by reelection served in that capacity, as judge of the police court, until 1887. Upon his retirement from the bench Judge Frost entered into a partnership arrangement with the late Robert G. McAvoy for the practice of law and as senior member of the law firm of Frost & McAvoy, resumed practice in Rockford, with offices in the Forest City National Bank building. In 1892 Judge Frost was elected to serve as state's attorney in and for the county of Winnebago and by reelection was retained in this important office until his appointment in February, 1902, to fill the unexpired term of Judge John C. Garver on the bench of the seventeenth judicial circuit. By election in 1903 Judge Frost was retained on that bench and by successive reelections was still thus serving as judge of that circuit when death withdrew him from further service on earth—June 18, 1917—he then being past sixty-two years of age.

Judge Frost had been twice married. On May 17, 1883, he was united in marriage to Miss Ida Southgate, who died January 15, 1909, leaving four children: A daughter, Mrs. Bertha Schmedeman of Madison; and three sons, Raymond S. Frost, a well known attorney of Rockford; Arthur H. Frost, Jr., of Ashland; and Walter K. Frost of Rockford. On October 24, 1911, Judge Frost was married to Mrs. Laura Beal, who survives him. Judge Frost was a member of many years' standing of the Masonic order, was also affiliated with the Rockford lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and was a member of the Rockford Country Club and of the Hamilton Club of Chicago.

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#### EDGAR E. BARTLETT.

It properly may be said that the coming into the Rock River valley almost thirty-five years ago of Edgar E. Bartlett, veteran publisher of the Rockford Register-Gazette and president of the company that controls that valuable newspaper property, marked a new epoch in the local newspaper field. Mr. Bartlett, even then an experienced newspaper man, had faith in the future of Rockford and time has vindicated his judgment. Under his forceful direction the two old papers, the Register and the Gazette, were merged into one compact property, the afternoon service of the Associated Press was secured, linotype machines and other up-to-date equipment installed, and other features of a metropolitan daily newspaper were introduced. In the three decades and more during which Mr. Bartlett has been the directing head of this outstanding newspaper, the Register-Gazette has gained a prestige second to none in northern Illinois and the circulation of that newspaper today is more than five times the combined circulation of the Register and the Gazette at the time of their consolidation. As a trained and observant local commentator recently pointed out in this connection, the elements that have contributed to Mr. Bartlett's success in all his enterprises are easily stated. They are: Good judgment, personal integrity, a systematic order in the disposition of his affairs and,



with all, an affability of manner that invites not only the confidence but the good will of all.

Edgar E. Bartlett, a charter member of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, one of the organizers and the first president of the Illinois Daily Newspaper Association, and for years one of the best known newspaper men in the middle west, is a native of the state of Michigan, a member of one of the pioneer families of that state, but has been a resident of Illinois and of Rockford since 1891. He was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 30, 1856, and was reared in that city. He began his newspaper career as an advertising solicitor in the office of the Kalamazoo Telegraph in February, 1879, and two years later became the business manager of that newspaper. In 1888, when Edward Nelson Dingley purchased the Telegraph, Mr. Bartlett bought the Kalamazoo Herald but before he assumed control the latter paper was merged with the Telegraph and Mr. Bartlett remained with the consolidated property until he moved from the state.

It was in January, 1891, in company with W. L. Eaton and Eugene McSweeney, also Kalamazoo men and trained in newspaper work, that Mr. Bartlett arrived in Rockford and entered there upon his long continuing career in the local newspaper field. He and his associates bought the two evening newspapers, the Register and the Gazette, and consolidated them under the name of the Register-Gazette, a sensible measure that immediately secured results in economy of production and concentration of effort that proved of large service to the community. Under this direction the affairs of the Register-Gazette were carried on until 1899, when Mr. Bartlett purchased the McSweeney interest in the company. In 1901 he bought the Eaton interest and as directing head of the enterprise continued in charge both as head of the counting room and of the editorial department. Two years later, in 1903, the capital stock of the Register-Gazette Company was increased from thirty-six thousand dollars to sixty thousand dollars and F. E. Sterling, who for eleven years had been connected with the editorial department of the newspaper, became a stockholder and was made managing editor. In the meantime, in 1898, Mr. Bartlett had purchased as a side issue, the Gazette in his old home town of Kalamazoo, and placed F. F. Rowe, then advertising manager of the Register-Gazette, in charge. Two years later this newspaper was consolidated with the Kalamazoo News and passed into the hands of Messrs. Rowe, McSweeney and Kettle, all of whom had had connection with the Rockford Register-Gazette.

As president and treasurer of the Register-Gazette Company, Mr. Bartlett continues active in the direction of the affairs of that flourishing newspaper, his son Elliott S. Bartlett serving as business manager. As a promoter of the general interests of the newspaper fraternity throughout the middle west few men have been more influential than he. When the movement looking to the organization of the Illinois Daily Newspaper Publishers Association was inaugurated he was one of the most active leaders in that fine cooperative movement and was elected first president of the organization. He also is a charter member of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, has served as an officer of the Inland Daily Press and has for years been a member of the Associated Press, the world's greatest purveyor of news. For nearly fifty years

he has continuously been in the newspaper business and there are few men in that line in the middle west who have a wider acquaintance than he, or in whose judgments in matters relating to the "fourth estate" those thus connected place a higher reliance.

On October 12, 1882, in Rockford, Illinois, Edgar E. Bartlett was united in marriage to Miss Hattie Leach, daughter of Shepherd Leach, one of the Winnebago county pioneers of 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett have two children: The son, Elliott S. Bartlett, born in Kalamazoo, September 5, 1883, who has been referred to above as the present business manager of the Rockford Register-Gazette, with the destinies of which newspaper he has been connected since the days of his boyhood; and a daughter, Mrs. Irene Bartlett King, born July 3, 1895, whose schooling was completed in Rockford College. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett are members of the Second Congregational church of Rockford and have ever taken an interested and helpful part not only in local church work but in the general social and cultural activities of their home city. Mr. Bartlett is a member of the board of trustees of the Rockford City Hospital and not only through the columns of his newspaper but by personal effort along other lines he has done much during the many years of his residence in Rockford to promote the best interests of that city and the community at large. He is an active and influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and of the Rotary Club, and is also affiliated with the local organizations of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Royal Arcanum and the Modern Woodmen, and is a member of the Art Guild.

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#### WILLIS S. BROWN.

Willis S. Brown, secretary of the Belvidere Screw & Machine Company of Belvidere and well and widely known in industrial circles throughout the Rock River valley, was born in Belvidere and his interests ever have centered here. He was born February 21, 1890, a son of Willis S. and Lillian (Pettie) Brown, both of whom were born in Geneva, Ashtabula county, Ohio, the former a son of William Brown, a well established building contractor at that place. The late Willis S. Brown (I), was for some time in the days of his young manhood employed in his father's building operations in Ohio and then, in 1888, came to Illinois and became connected with the operations of the old June Sewing Machine Company. For twenty years Mr. Brown was connected with the sewing machine industry in Belvidere. When the National Sewing Machine Company succeeded the old June company he remained with the new organization and was for some years employed as plant superintendent. Upon his withdrawal from that line of industrial activity he engaged in the manufacture in Belvidere of screw machine products. In 1910 he organized the Belvidere Screw Machine Company, built an adequate factory building on the north side, alongside the Northwestern Railroad, and built up a fine business, an enterprise that engrossed his attention the remainder of his life, he having continued active in business until his death on October 7, 1923, since which time

the business has been continued under the administrative direction of his sons, Ralph Brown and Willis S. Brown (II), both of whom have been familiar with the details of this business since their school days.

At the time of the elder Brown's death in the fall of 1923, the junior Willis S. Brown was assistant secretary of the Belvidere Screw & Machine Company. Upon the reorganization following his father's death he was elected secretary and has since been serving the affairs of this company in that capacity, having done much in that time to expand the company's interests. This machine company has a well built and adequately equipped plant and a wide demand has been created for its products. About one hundred persons are employed in the operations of the factory.

In 1916, in Belvidere, Willis S. Brown (II), was united in marriage to Miss Wilma Jackson, and they have one child: a son, Willis S. Brown (III). Mrs. Brown is a daughter of Noyer L. Jackson of Belvidere, a representative in the legislature from this legislative district, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. Brown is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. He attended the Belvidere high school, and supplemented this by a course in the Illinois State University. He and his wife take a proper interest in the general social and cultural activities of their home town, helpful in the labors of promoting such movements as have to do with the advancement of the common welfare.

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#### PAUL GUSTAF SWANSON.

Paul Gustaf Swanson, treasurer and sales manager of the Elco Tool & Screw Corporation of Rockford, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record and one of the best known of the younger men who are giving such extraordinary vitality to the industrial life of the city of Rockford, is a native of that city and has lived there all his life, for the past ten years actively connected with local industrial affairs. He was born October 19, 1895, a son of Gustav C. and Ida Berg Swanson, who for many years were residents of Rockford, the former of whom was a well known merchant in that city. The mother passed away in May, 1917.

Reared in Rockford, Paul Gustaf Swanson attended the public schools of that city and as a lad was employed during school vacations as a delivery boy in a meat market, his schooling later being supplemented by attendance at night school and at the local business college. When he was nineteen years of age he decided to engage in business on his own account and opened at Rockford a small grocery store. That was in 1914. Two years later, in 1916, he closed out that business and became a clerk in the plant of the National Lock Company, being thus engaged when in the spring of 1917 this country took a hand in the World war and called on its young men to prepare to go to war. In February, 1918, Mr. Swanson entered the army as a private in the Engineers' Transportation Corps and in due time with that command was sent overseas. For eighteen months he rendered overseas service, being stationed variously in France, Eng-



PAUL G. SWANSON



land, Russia and Italy, and during that time had some very interesting experiences.

In September, 1919, Mr. Swanson received his discharge from further military service and returning to Rockford resumed his former place with the National Lock Company. In the meantime his younger brother, Harry O. Swanson, had been serving as secretary of the Elco Tool Corporation in Rockford. In 1922 the brothers worked out a plan for the creation of a manufacturing plant in Rockford for the manufacture of screws, and were actively engaged in finishing the details of their prospective organization when a consolidation plan was suggested by the Elco Tool Corporation, and the Elco Tool & Screw Corporation was organized, the new enterprise thus becoming an important integral part of the older concern. The Elco Tool & Screw Corporation was organized in December, 1922, and the Swanson brothers have since been in administrative charge of its affairs, Paul G. Swanson being the treasurer of the corporation and general sales manager, and Harry O. Swanson being the secretary of the corporation, as is set out elsewhere in this work. Levin Faust, one of Rockford's veteran manufacturers, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, is the president of the corporation and C. G. Englund is the vice president. The corporation has a well equipped plant at No. 1800 Fourteenth avenue and a wide and growing market has been created for its products.

On January 17, 1925, in Rockford, Paul G. Swanson was united in marriage to Miss Ina May Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Anderson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson are republicans and are members of the locally popular Svea Soner Singing Society. Mr. Swanson is an active member of Walter R. Craig Post No. 60, of the American Legion in Rockford, and is a member of Tegner Lodge No. 799, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of that city.

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#### THE KEENE-BELVIDERE CANNING COMPANY.

The products of the Keene-Belvidere Canning Company of Belvidere have done much in recent years to add to the name and the fame of that flourishing country town as an industrial and commercial center and under the present management plans constantly are being pushed forward with a view to the wider distribution of these products. The growth that during the past twenty years has marked the plant of this canning company is the best indication of the excellence of the company's products, showing a constantly increasing demand for them. This now extensive plant is the outgrowth of a small cannery that prior to 1905 had been operated by C. Holden, who in that year sold out to P. A. Marsh, who erected a three-story brick building, seventy by one hundred feet in ground dimension, and proceeded to expand the business. In 1911 the business went through a receivership and in July of that year was reorganized as the Keene-Belvidere Canning Company, with F. O. Keene as president, Roy Farrell as vice president, L. R. Junking as treasurer, E. D. Auman as secretary and H. K. Funderburg, a native of Yellow Springs,

Ohio, and a practical man of wide experience in the cannery business, as general manager. Following the death of Mr. Keene in 1914 Mr. Funderburg was elected president of the company and has since continued in executive control.

The Keene-Belvidere Canning Company confines its products to peas and corn and has built up a fine business, finding a ready outlet for these products in the markets of Chicago, Indianapolis and St. Louis. The plant has been gradually extended to meet growing demand and each year some new building is found to be necessary. Mechanically the plant is equipped with the latest and most effective machinery and all details of the business, from the field to the market, are carried out in accordance with the best accepted methods of modern practice along those lines. Included in the building equipment of this plant are the main building, canning and storage, a brick structure of two and three stories in height and covering a ground area of seventy-five by three hundred feet; the husking shed, a structure fifty by one hundred and sixty feet in ground dimension; a barn thirty-six by one hundred and seventy-two feet; and six silos, each twenty feet in diameter by forty feet in height. There has just recently been added to this equipment a patent corn-crib built of cement slabs bound with iron, a structure that is rat and bird proof and has a capacity of eight thousand bushels. A new office building and a garage are among the other recent additions to this growing plant.

In 1912 the Keene-Belvidere Canning Company began raising a part of its own products, starting with three hundred acres. To this area of farm land additions have been made from year to year until now (1925) the company is farming no less than five thousand acres and is feeding nearly one thousand head of stock. The system of farming carried on under this direction is such that the crops mature at different stages of the season, so that the supply never at one time exceeds the needs of the day, averting congestion and loss. About one hundred car loads of limestone and phosphates are annually used in the continued enrichment of this farm. The company keeps and has used in connection with its farm operations no fewer than seventy teams of horses besides six tractors. The annual production of the plant now is about four million cans, and a fine market has been created, Belvidere quality having long ago proved itself to discriminating buyers. Among the favorite brands marketed by this company are the well known "K-B," the "High Klas," the "Belva-Dere" and the "Peter Rabbit," all recognized as among the finest in the land. During the season about two hundred persons are employed in the operation of this plant.

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#### GEORGE WATERMAN FIFIELD, M. D.

The name of Dr. George W. Fifield, of Janesville, Wisconsin, has long been a household word to the people of Rock county, where he has for the last thirty years occupied a leading place in the ranks of the medical profession. He is one of the worthy scions of an old, honored and influential family of this section of the state and has himself played an important role in the development of

this locality. Dr. Fifield is a native of the city now honored by his residence, having been born in Janesville on the 12th of March, 1872, the son of Thomas Burns and Eliza E. (Waterman) Fifield. The Fifield family is one of the oldest in this locality, four brothers, Thomas, Leavitt, Elbridge and David, having come to Wisconsin from New Hampshire in 1837, at which time settlement was scarce in this section of the state. The paternal line is traced back to William Fifield, who came to this country from London, England, in 1634. The four brothers above mentioned first settled in Rock and Jefferson counties, where they engaged in farming and in getting out timber. In 1845 Elbridge Fifield opened the first lumber yard in Janesville, and that concern has been continued uninterruptedly to the present time, there now being a Fifield Lumber Company in Janesville. Thomas B. Fifield died on July 7, 1883, and his death was considered a distinct loss to the entire community.

George W. Fifield secured his elementary education in the public schools of Janesville and after graduating from the high school entered Beloit Academy. Having decided to devote himself to the practice of medicine, he then matriculated in the medical school of Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1896 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He had been admitted to practice in Illinois by examination in 1894 and during the two following years acted as assistant to the chief surgeon of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, but upon receiving his degree and diploma in 1896 he at once located in Janesville and entered upon active practice. A physician of rare attainments, broad general culture and perfected special skill, it has fallen to his lot to bring alleviation of suffering and restoration of health to countless afflicted ones in his community. This has been his professional contribution and naturally has constituted the larger part of his labors but it has not by any means measured the whole sum of his activities, for as an advocate and champion of civic progress he has earned the respect of the entire community. Those who are most intimate with him are loudest in their praise of his superior ability, clean character and genial disposition. He has kept in close touch with the people of his community and from a sincere and deep-felt interest in their welfare has labored for every measure that would be of benefit to the public. Because of these elements and his genuine personal worth he has long occupied an exalted place in popular esteem.

Dr. Fifield is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He has long been a member of the staff of Mercy Hospital and president of the staff in 1924-25. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and he is also a member of the Janesville Country Club. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the republican party. He was made health officer of Janesville several years ago. When the United States declared war on Germany, Dr. Fifield gave up his large practice and tendered his services for the defense of his country. He was commissioned captain in January, 1918, and was stationed at Fort Riley and also at Camp Pike, where he had charge of recruits in training for overseas. He was honorably discharged after the signing of the armistice.



On August 28, 1905, Dr. Fifield was married to Miss Elizabeth Weidensall, the daughter of Jacob and Virginia Weidensall, of Omaha, Nebraska, and they have one child, Thomas Burns Fifield, born October 8, 1915. Dr. Fifield is a brother of the Hon. Charles L. Fifield, county judge and a member of the advisory board of this work.

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#### JACOB E. KINZER.

Throughout his business career Jacob E. Kinzer has closely applied himself to the work in hand and has steadily advanced, each forward step bringing him a broader outlook and wider opportunities. He has reached the goal of success and is now numbered among the substantial business men and leading undertakers of Beloit, Wisconsin. He was born October 2, 1875, in Union, Hardin county, Iowa, a son of the Rev. Addison D. and Katharine B. Kinzer. The former, a Congregational minister for over fifty years, died in Bellingham, Washington, April 25, 1925.

Jacob E. Kinzer attended the public schools of Des Moines, Iowa, and for two years was a student at Ames College in that state. He first worked as a clerk in a general store at Perry, Iowa, and in 1896 came to Wisconsin, obtaining a similar position in Whitewater, where he spent two years. In 1898 he went to Clinton, Iowa, and for two years had charge of a department store in that city. He returned to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1900, and entered the undertaking business in partnership with his father-in-law, H. F. Thiele. For ten years the subject of this sketch was a member of the firm of Thiele & Kinzer and in 1910 disposed of his interest in the business, having decided to locate on the Pacific coast. He first went to Seattle, Washington, going from that city to Port Townsend, and for six years was manager of the Olympic Hardware Company, a large mercantile house which also deals in ship chandlery and logging supplies. In 1916 he returned to Whitewater and was alone in the undertaking business until 1918, when he came to Beloit. In 1919 he formed a partnership with Rolf Rosman and has since been a member of the Rosman-Kinzer Company, which conducts the largest undertaking business in the city. Their establishment is situated at No. 510 East Grand avenue and is thoroughly modern in every respect. Its facilities are adequate, its service adapted to every need and its personnel capable and experienced.

Mr. Kinzer was married on September 3, 1902, to Miss Anna A. Thiele, a daughter of H. F. Thiele, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of four children: Katherine L., born September 28, 1903; Edwin Joseph, whose birth occurred on September 9, 1907; Philip R., who was born July 20, 1909; and Ralph E., born October 10, 1911. The youngest son is a native of Kent, Washington, and the other children were born in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

Mr. Kinzer is a republican but has never been active in politics although his fellow citizens have frequently urged him to become a candidate for public office. He is a member of the Episcopal church and a faithful follower of its

teachings. He is president of the local Kiwanis Club and his fraternal affiliations are with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Kinzer has won success by industry, ability and integrity and these qualities unite to make him an upright man and a useful citizen, worthy of the respect and confidence of his fellowmen.

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#### ARTHUR M. FISHER.

Among the well known members of the legal profession in Rock county, Wisconsin, is the man whose name forms the caption to this sketch. Possessing the requisites of an able lawyer, he stands in the front rank of his profession and as a representative citizen in his community. He is a direct descendant of John Fisher who came to America from England about the year 1695 and located in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. He is the eldest son of Abel L. Fisher, who was born in Center township on December 6, 1850, to Seth and Mary Ann Fisher, who were pioneer settlers in Rock county. Abel L. Fisher was engaged successively in farming and stock raising, as a tobacco merchant and in the furniture and undertaking business. His wife, Mary (Cleland) Fisher, was a daughter of James Cleland of Center, Wisconsin.

Arthur M. Fisher was born in Center township in Rock county on the 29th of October, 1874. He attended the public schools of his home neighborhood, which he supplemented by attendance at Beloit Academy and Beloit College. In 1895 he entered the law office of William Ruger, under whom he pursued the study of law until June, 1897, when he was admitted to the bar. Until January, 1898, he practiced alone, but in that month he formed a partnership with Barnabas B. Eldredge under the firm name of Eldredge & Fisher. This relation was maintained until the death of Mr. Eldredge in March, 1902, and in April of that year Mr. Fisher formed a partnership with Otto A. Oestreich under the firm name of Fisher & Oestreich. Since February, 1904, Mr. Fisher has been alone in practice. During the years since his admission to the bar he has practiced before the circuit courts of the state, the Wisconsin supreme court and the United States district and circuit courts for the district of Wisconsin. Years of conscientious work have brought with them not only increase of practice and reputation, but also that growth in legal knowledge and that wide and accurate judgment, the possession of which constitutes marked excellence in the profession. He has built up a large and lucrative practice and is clearly entitled to recognition as a leader of his profession in this community.

On August 26, 1903, Mr. Fisher was married to Miss Mary Hadden, a native of Janesville and the daughter of William and Sarah E. Hadden of that city. To their union have been born two children: Cleland P., born February 25, 1905; and Ruth E., born May 4, 1907, both of whom are now in attendance at Beloit College. Politically Mr. Fisher is aligned with the republican party and his religious affiliation is with the Congregational church. He is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar

Association and the American Bar Association. Personally Mr. Fisher is a genial and companionable man who delights in the company of his friends, and because of his fine personal qualities, his ability and success and his friendly manner, he has a host of warm and loyal friends throughout this section of the country.

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#### REV. CHARLES F. McBRIDE.

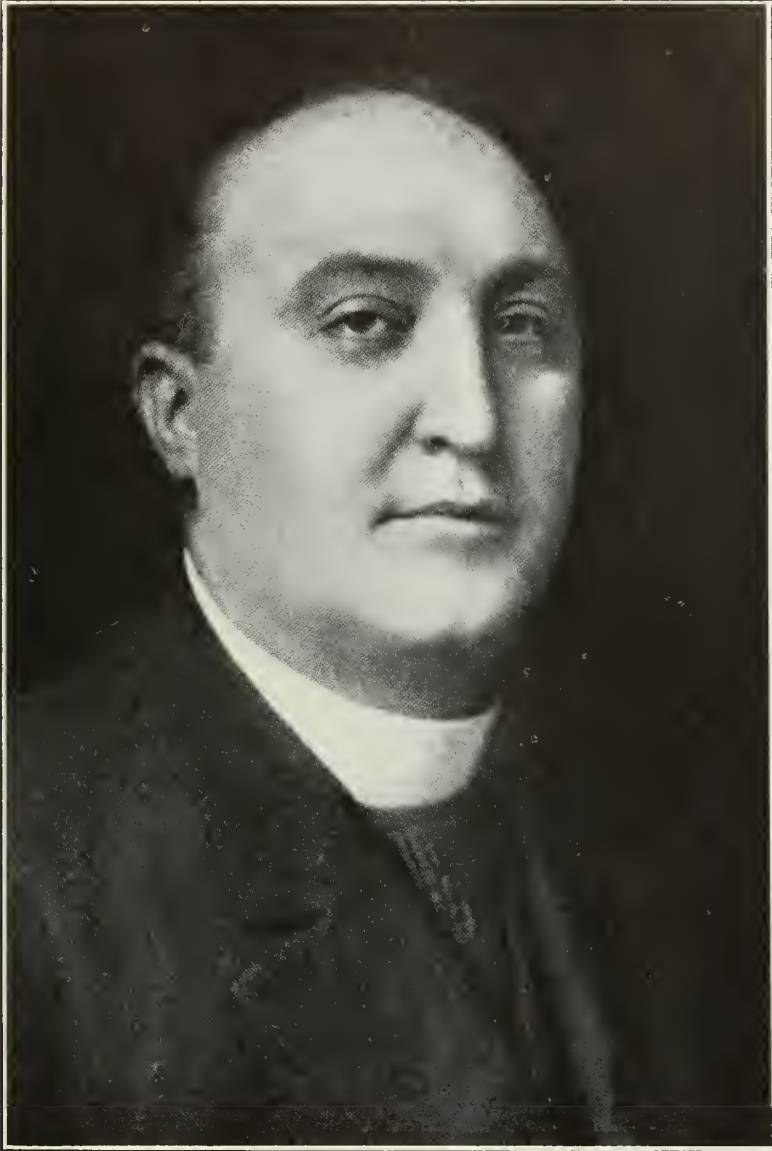
Rev. Charles F. McBride is pastor of St. Thomas' church at Beloit, Wisconsin, and one of the strong individual forces in the spreading of the Catholic faith. He was born August 1, 1871, in East Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin, his parents, William and Susan McBride, having emigrated from Ireland to the United States. They first located in Pennsylvania and in 1856 came to Wisconsin, casting their lot with the pioneer farmers of Rock county.

Father McBride attended the district school near his father's home and the high school at Janesville. When fourteen years of age he entered St. Francis Seminary of Wisconsin, in which he was a student for nine years, and in 1894 was ordained to the priesthood. For two years he was assistant at St. Jerome's church in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and from 1896 until 1911 was its pastor. He next had charge of St. John's cathedral at Milwaukee, where he was stationed for nine years, and in 1920 was called to St. Mary's church at Portage, Wisconsin, serving that parish until June, 1923. He has since been pastor of St. Thomas' Catholic church at Beloit, for which he labors with consecrated zeal and devotion and much intellectual vigor, and under his able guidance its influence is constantly broadening. Rev. McBride is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin. He is deeply interested in civic affairs and is frequently called upon to address public gatherings. He is an eloquent speaker and during the period of his residence in Beloit has gained many friends, who speak of him in terms of high regard.

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#### EDWARD WILLIAM BROWN.

Twenty years ago it was written of Edward William Brown, who about that time had closed a period of six years of very useful public service as mayor of the city of Rockford, that "His efforts have been so practical, his discernment so keen and his labors so effective that it would be difficult to find one who has contributed in larger or more effective measure toward the upbuilding and improvement of this place. His patriotic citizenship and his interest in community affairs has taken tangible form in his zealous labors for the improvements instituted through aldermanic measures and through the reforms and progressive movements which he has fathered during his six years of service as mayor." Not only in his civic capacity has Mr. Brown proved his worth to his community but in the general industrial and commercial field



REV. CHARLES F. McBRIDE



his services have been equally valuable. It might properly be said that his services in the latter connection have indeed been of inestimable value to the community. Ever since the Illinois Central Railroad Company began its operations in Rockford he has been the general agent of that company at that place and in that connection has rendered a service to the city in the way of its material development that never can be rightly footed up, for this service has touched so many angles—all phases of industrial and commercial development—that it would be impossible to cast the sum of it all. Briefly, it is not too much to say that no fewer than forty manufacturing industries have been induced to locate in Rockford largely through the exercise of Mr. Brown's influence. Who can estimate the far-reaching benefits of such a service?

It was while Mr. Brown was mayor of the city that Rockford's modern water works system was put into operation. Modern street improvements were inaugurated during that same period of service. The park plan was worked out and other movements inaugurated which started Rockford out along the proper lines of modern progress and pointed the way to the amazing development that has marked the city in all ways during the past two or three decades. As president of the township park board he is able actively to continue his services in behalf of the public and as a director of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce his influence continually is directed toward the advancement of the city's interests along material lines. As vice president of the Peoples Bank & Trust Company of Rockford he also is one of the commanding figures in local financial circles, and as the holder of large industrial and realty interests has a very substantial part in the general affairs of the community of which he always has been a part, for he was born in Rockford and has ever made that city his home, thus having been a witness to and a participant in all the better activities of that city during the whole period of what might properly be regarded as its modern development, and in this development it is undisputed that he has been one of the most potent personal factors. Along this line it perhaps will not be considered improper to quote again from the estimate of his services above referred to as having been written twenty years ago, wherein it was pointed out that "the consensus of public opinion regarding his political and business life is most favorable. He has ever discharged his duties with marked ability and fairness, for he is a most loyal, public-spirited citizen. As a business man he has been conspicuous among his associates not only for his success but for his fairness, probity and honorable methods. In everything he has been manifestly practical, and this has been manifest not only in his business undertakings but in his private and social life." And it properly may be said that the perspective of time has not altered this view. He was born in Rockford, August 8, 1857, a son of William and Caroline H. (Miller) Brown, who were married in that city in 1850 and the latter of whom was a daughter of Horace Miller, one of the leaders in the pioneer activities of Rockford. The late Judge William Brown, who in his generation was one of the most influential figures in the general social and civic life of this region, came into the Rock River valley as a young lawyer from Oneida county, New York, in the fall of 1845 and located in the village of Rockford, where he ever after made his home and to the development of which community he

exerted the best of his commanding talents. In 1870 he was elected judge of the circuit court and by successive reelections was retained in that position the remainder of his life. His death occurred at his home in Rockford, on January 15, 1891, and at his passing he left a good memory as is pointed out elsewhere in this work, where there is presented a comprehensive and interesting review of the life and distinguished services of this good man and sterling community builder. Judge Brown's widow survived him until 1918. They were the parents of three children, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch having a brother, Frank R. Brown, and a sister, Mrs. May Buckbee.

Reared in Rockford, the place of his birth, Edward William Brown attended the schools of that city and supplemented this by attendance at Mount Morris College, Illinois. He early devoted himself to the study of medicine and upon completing his preparatory studies at Mount Morris he entered the Chicago Medical College and was in attendance there for one year, at the end of which time he was informed that the state of his eyes would render it imperative that he withdraw from the close application entailed by such study. That was in 1880, he then being in his twenty-third year. Facing this disappointment with the best spirit he could muster, Mr. Brown returned to Rockford and became engaged in that same year in the drug business, a line which he followed for three years, or until 1883, shortly after his marriage, when he sold his mercantile interests and took over the local agency for the Standard Oil Company's products in Rockford, erecting in that year the first receiving oil tanks put up in the place. For three or four years Mr. Brown carried on this oil business, developing it into a real local industry, and then sold that interest in order that he might devote his whole time to the promotion of the movement then on foot to secure an entrance at Rockford for the Illinois Central Railroad, his father, William Brown, having been engaged by that company in 1884 to secure rights-of-way and such other local concessions as were required along that line. Mr. Brown proved a valuable aid to his father and to the general legal department of the railroad company in this behalf and when the road presently was definitely established in and through the city he was made the general agent for the railway company for the Rockford territory and has ever since been retained in that highly responsible local administrative position, now one of the real veterans of the great Illinois Central service, for this personal service of his, dating from November 9, 1886, has now (1925) covered a period of almost forty years.

In 1885 Mr. Brown was elected the nominee of the republican party to represent his ward (the second) in the common council of the city of Rockford and by successive reelections was retained in that responsible local office for seven years, or until 1892, and during which time was able to do much toward the promotion of several important measures that came up for attention in the way of pushing Rockford's municipal interests forward. In 1895 he was elected mayor of the city and in that administrative capacity exercised an influence for good in municipal affairs, the benefit of which is still felt in all phases of local government there. The value of this service was recognized by the people of Rockford and Mr. Brown was kept in the office for three terms, and then declined, on account of the continued interruption to his per-

sonal business affairs, to accept a fourth nomination. During his administration the present park system was put under way. That was about the time Rockford was taking a new and stronger "hitch" in its progress toward a more substantial industrial and commercial development and Mayor Brown's services in that direction proved invaluable, a service that has not been forgotten. He ever has continued his interest in civic affairs, his counsel and advice along these lines still being sought, and since 1918 he has been a member of the city park board, president of that body since 1921. As a member of the board of directors of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, in the activities of which body Mr. Brown has been an influential participant ever since its organization, he also finds opportunities to carry on his further service in behalf of the community of which he ever has been so distinct a part. Mr. Brown is the vice president and a member of the board of the Peoples Bank & Trust Company of Rockford and has considerable realty and industrial holdings in and about the city. He is the vice president of the big B.-Z.-B. Knitting Company of Rockford and also has holdings in several others of the knitting mills there. He is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

On December 21, 1882, Edward W. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie A. White, daughter of Joshua White, a large landowner in the Stillman Valley neighborhood, in the neighboring county of Ogle. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have three daughters: Edna Lucille, Lucie May and Carolyn—and nine grandchildren. Edna Lucille Brown became the wife of H. L. Green of Rockford and has four children, Edward L., Elizabeth May, Mavis and Harry L.; Lucie May Brown is the wife of W. Wallace Smith of Rockford and has three children, Richard, Barbara and Mary Carolina; Carolyn Brown became the wife of Donald H. Choate, now living in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and has two children, Ann Hutchinson and Martha. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have a very pleasant home at No. 312 South Third street and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the community's general social and cultural activities, interested in all movements having to do with the promotion of the common welfare.

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#### SAMUEL S. GOSSARD.

Of the countless familiar trade names the Rock River valley's industrial operations have contributed to the commercial and industrial literature of America and the world, there is probably none more familiar than that of "Gossard," particularly among the women, for the Gossard corset is known wherever intimate articles of feminine apparel are sold and worn. It is interesting therefore to note in this definite history of this flourishing valley that Samuel S. Gossard, the inventor of the front-lace corset which has made the name of Gossard a household word throughout the country, is a resident of Belvidere and has for many years been one of the real live personal factors in the development of the industrial and commercial interests of that progressive and prosperous seat of Boone county. Mr. Gossard has other substantial



interests besides his large holdings in the great manufacturing enterprise of the H. W. Gossard Company and is credited with being one of the far-sighted and prudent capitalists of this section of the midwest country, a genuine leader and promoter whose services have been invaluable in the city in which he for many years has made his home.

Samuel S. Gossard was born on a farm in Clinton county, Indiana, July 30, 1865, a son of William Gossard and Cynthia Armstrong, natives of Ohio, the former a son of Jacob Gossard, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and who had become a pioneer farmer in Washington county, Ohio. William Gossard grew up to farming in his native place in Ohio and after his marriage established his home on a farm tract which included an attractive grove on the edge of what was known as Indian Prairie in Clinton county, Indiana. He developed a good farm there and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of several hundred acres of valuable land. On that place his wife died at the age of forty-five years. He survived her for several years, his death occurring in 1889, he then being fifty-eight years of age. This pioneer couple had ten children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the fourth in order of birth, and six of them are still living.

Henry W. Gossard, the youngest son of these ten children of William and Cynthia (Armstrong) Gossard, early engaged in the ladies' dress furnishings line in Chicago, a business which eventually was developed into the present great H. W. Gossard Company, manufacturers of corsets, with headquarters in Chicago and no fewer than seven factories in the United States and Canada, its particular products entering into all the discriminating markets of the world. Of late years H. W. Gossard, founder and head of this great concern, has practically withdrawn from active participation in the operations of the company, though still retaining his interest.

Reared on the home farm in Indiana, Samuel S. Gossard attended the local schools of that neighborhood and early engaged in railroad work, leaving the farm and in 1888 becoming employed in the operating department of the Rock Island Railroad Company. In time he became a locomotive engineer, in which capacity he was serving that road when in 1893 the enginemen were called out in the great railway strike of that year. He abandoned railway service at that time and entered the employ of the advertising department of the Omaha World-Herald, with the editorial staff of which newspaper William Jennings Bryan was at that time connected. A year later Mr. Gossard transferred his services to the advertising department of the St. Joseph, Missouri, Daily News and a year later went over to the like department of the St. Joseph Herald-Gazette. Three months later his services were secured by the St. Joseph Daily Stock Journal as manager of its advertising department and he continued thus connected for two years, at the end of which time he entered the mercantile establishment of his younger brother, H. W. Gossard, in Chicago and thus became definitely connected with the great organization that presently was built up by that concern, in the manufacture and distribution of corsets.

At the time Mr. Gossard became connected with this mercantile enterprise,

the concern being engaged in the distribution to the trade of general furnishings in the way of women's apparel, the front-lace corsets handled by the firm were being bought in Paris, where they were being manufactured under patents held and protected in France and covering the trade as well in this country. Mr. Gossard had not been long connected with this department until he devised a simplification and modification of the French method of manufacture, without infringing on the basic principle thus involved, and worked out a plan for the manufacture of front-lace corsets which was adopted by the firm and put into mechanical operation. The introduction of the Gossard front-lace corset into the American trade created what is recalled in commercial circles as a practical revolution in the corset trade in this country, the new design proving an instant success. The demand for the corsets thus manufactured under the Gossard patent grew so rapidly that it presently became necessary to establish branch factories to supplement the work being done in the concern's Chicago factory and the first of these branches was set up in Belvidere, with Samuel S. Gossard, the inventor and patentee of the front-lace corset, in charge. And that is how Mr. Gossard in 1904 came to be a resident of Belvidere. The factory, the first of the seven branches now operated by the Gossard company, has been developed during the years of its operation in Belvidere into one of the important industries of that city, an up-to-date and well equipped plant, employing now no fewer than one hundred operatives. Mr. Gossard continued serving this concern as general manager of the manufacturing interests of the Gossard company, in charge of the purchasing department and in direction of the operations of all the factories, until April, 1923, when he retired from active service, though still retaining his financial interest in the company.

For a man who has been as busy as Mr. Gossard has been, retirement is about the most irksome job that can be undertaken, and he presently found it so. Thus when the leading stockholders of the Ferro Manufacturing Company of Belvidere, a concern that had been engaged there for some time in the manufacture of automobile parts without making much progress, came to him with a proposition for him to assume the general management of that concern's manufacturing operations with a view to getting production and distribution on a profitable basis, he looked into the matter and determined that by turning the greater part of the facilities of the plant over to the manufacture of radio machines and parts, a phenomenal market for which about that time had sprung up, the plant possessed possibilities. He took over the direction of the Ferro company's affairs and turned what was giving promise of being an unfortunate failure into an outstanding success, the radio receiving sets and appliances now turned out by this company having found an instant and profitable market.

On June 3, 1893, the summer in which he left railroad work for newspaper work and thus entered upon a line of action which led on to sound financial and industrial success, Samuel S. Gossard was united in marriage, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, to Miss Elizabeth Miller, who was born in Germany and who had come to this country with her parents when but a child, the family settling in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Gossard have a very pleasant home in Belvidere

and during the twenty years and more of their residence in that city have been useful personal factors in the general social life of the city, helpful in all ways in promoting the best interests of the community. They have no children but in their hospitable home have reared several children of others and have enjoyed the gratification of seeing all these turn out well. Mr. Gossard is an active and influential member of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce and has for years been one of the potent personal factors in the general development of the city's commercial and industrial interests. He is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a noble of the Mystic Shrine and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### JOHN ALVAN TEFFT.

John Alvan Tefft, president of the Gossard Radio and Wire Company of Belvidere, head of the Coralyn Flower Company of that city, an active member of the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce and in other ways a well known and influential factor in the industrial and commercial life of the city, is a native son of Illinois and all his life has been spent in this state, a resident of Belvidere since 1909. He was born in Warren, Jo Daviess county, January 5, 1873, a son of Schuyler C. and Mary (Billings) Tefft, the former of whom was at that time and for years thereafter engaged in business as a building contractor in Warren. Upon his retirement from active business Schuyler C. Tefft made his home in Maywood, a suburb of Chicago, and there his last days were spent, his death occurring in 1909.

Reared in Warren, John A. Tefft attended the grammar and high school there and then became employed as a printer in the office of the Sentinel-Leader in Warren, with which paper he remained for something more than four years, at the end of which time he went to Chicago and there was connected with the operations of the Bethesda Mineral Spring Company of Waukesha, with offices in Chicago. For fourteen years Mr. Tefft continued his connection with this concern, in the office or "on the road", during which time he made his home in Chicago, and then, in 1909, he transferred his services to the National Sewing Machine Company and became a resident of Belvidere. For ten years he was connected with this concern. In 1919 he established the Coralyn Flower Company and engaged in the manufacture of artificial flowers in Belvidere, a business which has grown to admirable proportions. Mrs. Tefft, who is an artist of ability and widely recognized in her special department of art work, bears the name of Coralyn and it was in her honor that Mr. Tefft gave this attractive name to the company which he organized to promote the manufacture and distribution of the graceful products of the establishment which has grown up under the direction of the Teffts. Mrs. Tefft is the designer of these products and under her artistic direction a fine demand has been created for the artificial flowers which are adding daily more and more to the fame of Belvidere as a manufacturing and distributing center. Mr. Tefft also is the president of the Gossard Radio & Wire Company of Belvidere, manufacturers of radio and



JOHN A. TEFFT



automobile specialties, and is widely known in local commercial circles. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Rotary Club and takes a helpful part in all movements having to do with the advancement of the material interests of the town and of the community at large.

On September 25, 1901, John A. Tefft was united in marriage to Miss Coralyn Amanda Wickwire, daughter of William Wickwire of Winslow, Stephenson county. Mr. and Mrs. Tefft have two children: A daughter, Theora Teresa, born July 16, 1903; and a son, Guy Colfax Tefft, born August 19, 1905. Miss Theora Tefft became the wife of Edwin A. Loop of Belvidere and has two children, a daughter, Mary Catherine, born April 26, 1923; and a son, John Wickwire, born July 19, 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Tefft are republicans, and Mr. Tefft is a Mason and a member of the Union Club of Belvidere and of the Hamilton Club of Chicago.

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#### WILLIAM BROWN.

An older chronicle has it that "no citizen of Winnebago county was ever more respected and no man ever more fully enjoyed the confidence of the people or more richly deserved the esteem in which he was held than did Judge William Brown. In his lifetime the people of his state, recognizing his merit, rejoiced in his advancement and in the honors to which he attained, and since his death they have cherished his memory. Honorable in business, loyal in citizenship, charitable in thought, kindly in action, true to every trust confided to his care, his life was of the highest type of American manhood. He was for many years in active practice at the Winnebago county bar, and comparatively few men endear themselves to so great an extent to their professional associates and to those with whom they come in contact in the discharge of public duties." It now is almost thirty-five years since the passing of Judge Brown but the above estimate and appreciation of the high regard in which during his life he was held in the community in which he had so long and so usefully labored, still holds true. He did, indeed, leave a good memory in that community and that memory still is kept green.

Along this same line a local newspaper appreciation of Judge Brown's life and services published following his passing in 1891, had it that "Though his death was not unexpected it will cast a dark pall over the community, for a good and an upright and a just man, an exemplary husband and father, a public-spirited and liberal citizen, a conscientious and consistent Christian, and an able jurist, has passed from our midst. He has gone in the fullness of a well-spent life, ripened in experience and his declining days mellowed by the presence of loved ones whose greatest pleasure was their devotion to the aged sire, and whose grief is scarcely less poignant because of the knowledge that in the course of nature his departure from among them was inevitable. \* \* \* Quietly as a dissolving view the scenes of this life had faded, and he passed from earth through the impenetrable mists of futurity to the eternal joyousness of the life beyond."

This same newspaper, in further appreciation, noted that "the sorrow for the death of Judge Brown will not be confined to the city where he has lived so long or to Winnebago county, for he is as widely as he is favorably known. He was universally admired and revered for his sterling integrity, adherence to principle and high conception of honor. Throughout his long career and the succession of honors bestowed upon him, he has been unswerving in his devotion to the duties devolving upon him, ever mindful of the rights of others and thoroughly unselfish. In every capacity in which he served his fellow-men he brought a strong character, a clear brain and a fine sense of justice. For nearly forty years he occupied some position of trust and responsibility, that fact of itself being ample evidence that he possessed the full confidence of his fellow citizens. \* \* \* It was in his home life that Judge Brown's inner nature was best displayed. A more devoted husband or a fonder father never lived. He loved his family, especially his little grandchildren, 'with a love that passeth understanding.' Although a man of great firmness and tenacity, he was the personification of affection and kindness and no matter how alluring the promises of public life his thoughts turned to the home life as the vine to the sunlight, and there his happiest hours were spent."

Concerning Judge Brown's devotion to his family and his intense interest in their welfare, it may be serviceable to the present generation and to generations yet to come, as a word of admonition from a man who knew well how to weigh words, to carry here a portion of a letter written by Judge Brown from Galena to his children in Rockford, on June 8, 1873, following his election to the bench of the first judicial circuit of the state of Illinois just prior to that date, that term of service to run for a period of six years. In this fine, heart-searching letter to his children Judge Brown told the youngsters this: "If we live to the close of my term in office Eddie will be twenty-two, Frankie nineteen, and little May fourteen years of age. The boys will be young men and May will be almost a young lady. As to you, boys, there is no more important period in your lives than the next six years. Your characters ought then to be formed for good or for evil. It will be developed by that time whether you will make noble, useful men in the world or whether you will be worthless loafers, respected by none and despised by all. It will be a terrible affliction to your ma and pa to raise up a worthless boy. What will be of more value to you than anything else is a fixedness of purpose, a determination and a will to do right—let others do as they may. You want a fixed principle so that you cannot under any circumstances be influenced to do wrong. When you go out (as you soon will have to go) from home and home influences, you want your habits so firmly established that you will not drink, that you will not use tobacco, that you will not use profane or vulgar language, and that you will not associate with the wicked or the vile. \* \* \* Another thing that I want to particularly impress upon you is this: Always be kind, respectful and obedient to your dear mother. I never knew a boy to make a good man who was unkind to his mother. Your mother will mostly have charge of you for the next six years. If you will under all circumstances obey her, and kindly do her bidding, I will have no fears of your future; but if on the other hand you disobey her and treat her unkindly you will become

worthless, cruel and wicked. In the Bible, children are commanded to obey their parents, for this is right." What a ringing warning in those gentle words of paternal caution! What a stirring admonition to youth! Out of the heart of the judge the father spoke and after a lapse of more than half a century his words of anxious solicitude for the well-being of his own sons may well be carried on as an equally valuable message to the youth of this generation.

The older chronicle above referred to observed that "As a jurist Judge Brown bore the highest reputation. For twenty years he sat on the circuit bench and rarely did he have a decision reversed in the higher courts. He was deeply learned in legal lore and was so eminently fair that all litigants and attorneys were glad to have him try their cases. Strong temperance man that he was, the saloonists themselves were glad to have him on the bench at their trials. His reputation as a jurist was not local but extended far and wide, and it would be well inscribed on his tomb: 'He was a righteous judge.' He was deeply interested in his duties on the bench and sought only to raise the standard of American jurisprudence, make decisions that would stand the test of time and leave an honorable reputation—all of which he accomplished. He knew no way to administer the law but on the great principles of the science, and with painstaking conscientiousness worked out the problems presented by each suit tried before him. His reward was the consciousness of duty well performed and the universal honor and respect of the legal profession."

Along this same line it was noted that "As a citizen Judge Brown was a noble type. He fully appreciated the responsibilities of American citizenship and earnestly sought to meet them. Never a politician, and far removed in nature and vocation from affinity with the noisy strife of partisanship, he fairly faced every issue of the day, decided which course was the better for his country and the people in his estimation and then by voice and vote forwarded the cause which his clear head had caused him to espouse. He was an earnest republican, a republican from deeply rooted principle, and no minor mistake that his party could make, no abuse of the party by individuals, could swerve him from his principles. Right was right with him and his attention could not be distracted by minor issues. He did loyal work for the party in a quiet way and his time, his energy and his purse were always at its command. He was a strong temperance man and worked with a will for the cause. The old residents will recall with how firm a hand he enforced the liquor laws during his term as mayor. Careful as he was as judge not to allow his personal opinion to interfere with his interpretation of the law, as an executive officer he was as firm as adamant and enforced the temperance laws with a hand of iron. Once convinced of his duty nothing could swerve him. The liquor men girdled his fruit trees and otherwise injured his grounds, out of anger at his firmness, but he never wavered. They threatened him but he knew not fear and went about his business as openly as ever and entirely unattended. Nearly all his life long occupying public positions, no man ever charged that he did not in every case do his duty and no man ever suggested a word against his absolute honesty. He was a good citizen. If all were



such as he, government would be a simple matter and the community would be an Elysium indeed."

Though of European birth Judge Brown had been a resident of this country since he was eight years of age and his Americanism thus was as staunch as any, for he was reared in this country and was ever in love with the basic principles of its government. He was born in Cumberland county, in north-western England, June 16, 1819, and was eight years of age when in 1827 he accompanied his parents to the United States, the family settling on a farm in Oneida county, in the valley of the Mohawk in New York state. There he had his schooling, completed by a limited course in college, took up the study of law and in course was admitted to the bar. He remained in his home county of Oneida until he was past twenty-five years of age, when in the fall of 1845 he came to Illinois and located in Rockford, which ever after was his home. At that time Rockford was a town of fewer than one thousand souls but the promises for development seemed even then favorable and the young lawyer settled down with a determination not only to cast in his lot with the people of the ambitious little city but to do well his part in the promotion of that development in which all confidently believed. Rockford then was a "river town," for the railroad did not get in until seven or eight years later.

In this connection it may be said that when the movement that eventually brought to Rockford a railway connection presently was put under way Judge Brown, able and enterprising young lawyer and by that time accounted one of the real "figures" in the town, was one of the most active and influential promoters of that movement. The favor with which his new neighbors regarded him was revealed two years after his arrival there when, in 1847, he was elected justice of the peace in and for that bailiwick, a magisterial position he occupied for six years. He also was elected a member of the board of village trustees and thus found at once a double outlet for the exercise of his energies in the way of public service. In 1850 he was married and definitely established his home in Rockford. In 1852 he was elected state's attorney for what then was known as the fourteenth judicial circuit, a position he occupied for four years and during which period he not only acquired a wide acquaintance in his profession throughout northern Illinois but established a reputation as a prosecutor and as a lawyer of keen ability that definitely fixed him in the esteem of all the members of that profession hereabout. In 1857, the village government meanwhile having been abandoned and a city charter adopted, he was elected mayor of Rockford and during his term of office in this administrative capacity did much toward getting the young city started out right along civic lines. In 1864 he was elected to represent his district in the lower house of the Illinois legislature and about that time also received the appointment as master in chancery for that judicial district, a position he occupied for six years. It was in 1870 that Judge Brown was elected to the bench of the circuit court, a position of honor in which the people of Winnebago county by successive reelections retained him for something more than twenty years, or until his death on January 15, 1891.

Judge Brown's widow, Caroline H. Miller Brown, who was a daughter of

Horace Miller, one of the leaders among the pioneer men of affairs of Rockford, survived him until 1918. The Judge also was survived by two sons: Edward W. Brown and Frank R. Brown of Rockford; and by a daughter, the "little May" referred to in the touching letter above quoted, who became the wife of W. H. Buckbee of Rockford. Judge Brown was for many years one of the leading members of the congregation of the Centennial Methodist Episcopal church in Rockford and had filled various lay offices in the church, his talents for service finding there as agreeable an outlet as in the wider field of civic affairs. As one appreciation published years ago in this connection had it: "There was no Christian movement but appealed to his heart and interest and he always was to be found in the front rank of workers for the cause of Christ and the right. He possessed in an eminent degree the Christian virtues of forgiveness and benevolence and did what he could to lighten the loads of others." And his memory still is cherished there.

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#### EMIL LOFGREN, M. D.

Dr. Emil Lofgren, a veteran of the Spanish-American war and for almost twenty-five years a practicing physician in Rockford, former health commissioner of that city, local United States pension examiner, a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital and one of the best known and most successful physicians in the Rock River valley, is a native of Illinois and has been a resident of this state all his life, his home having been in Rockford since the days of his infancy. He was born in the city of Chicago, February 27, 1874, a son of Otto and Louise Lofgren, who moved from Chicago with their family to Rockford in that same year and in the latter city established their home.

Reared in Rockford, Emil Lofgren attended the schools of that city and early began to devote himself to the study of medicine, a line of research in which he became interested as a boy. He supplemented his local schooling by a course in Augustana College at Rock Island, following this by a course of two years of study in the University of Iowa, and then entered the Medical School of Northwestern University at Evanston, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1901.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Lofgren returned to his home in Rockford, established himself in general medical practice in that city and has ever since been thus engaged, a period of nearly a quarter of a century, with present offices in the Swedish-American Bank building, and has done very well, long having been recognized as one of the leading physicians in the valley. During his college days Dr. Lofgren rendered military service in connection with the operations of the army at the time of this country's brief war with Spain in 1898, this service having been rendered as a private in the Hospital Corps of the Sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and he is an active member of the local camp of the Spanish-American War Veterans Association and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For a period of four years (1902-6) Dr. Lofgren rendered effective public service as health commissioner in and for

the city of Rockford and in other ways has taken his part as a good citizen in the general civic affairs of the city. He has for years been serving as local medical examiner in behalf of the United States pension department. He is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and is widely known in the profession. As a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford he has done much to promote the general interests of that institution.

Dr. Lofgren has been twice married. On June 5, 1904, he was united in marriage to Miss Alma Christina Bengtson, who was born in the kingdom of Sweden and who died on February 19, 1921, leaving one child: a daughter, Violet Margaret, born December 16, 1920. On November 5, 1924, Dr. Lofgren was married to Miss Pearl Sekjer of Rockford. Dr. and Mrs. Lofgren are members of Zion Lutheran church of Rockford and the Doctor has been a member of the popular singing society Svea Soner since 1901, the year in which he engaged in practice in Rockford.

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#### CHARLES L. LIND.

Charles L. Lind, a veteran patternmaker of Rockford and proprietor of a well established plant for the carrying on of his business there, has been connected with industrial operations in Rockford for the past forty years and is widely known throughout the city. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, January 28, 1865, and was reared in that country, remaining there until he had attained his majority when, in 1886, he came to the United States and by prior arrangement proceeded on out into Illinois and located in Rockford, taking employment in one of the furniture factories there, and he ever since has made that city his home.

Mr. Lind became an expert cabinetmaker and his services were for years in demand in such establishments as that of the Union Furniture Company and the Rockford Mantel Company, the latter of which now is doing business as the Rockford Cabinet Company. During the time he thus was employed he also became an adept at patternmaking and in 1911, in association with Charles Peterson, he engaged in business along this latter line on his own account, the partners carrying on their business under the name of the Standard Pattern Works. In 1920 Mr. Lind sold his interest in that concern to his partner and then became foreman of the pattern room of the Rockford Milling Machine Company, a service which he continued until 1923, when he resigned that position and again engaged in business on his own account, opening a shop at No. 2531 Eleventh street, and has since been doing very well at that point, carrying on his business as the Charles L. Lind Pattern Works and setting a standard in the quality of his products that has ensured a steadily growing demand for the patterns there turned out.

On June 7, 1915, in Chicago, Charles L. Lind was united in marriage to Miss Anna Olive Lindahl, daughter of Charles Lindahl of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Lind have two children: A daughter, Jean Linea, born in January, 1921;



CHARLES L. LIND



and a son, Carl Edward Lind, born in August, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Lind are members of the First Lutheran church of Rockford and take a proper part in church work and in the general good works of the city.

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WILLIAM J. ANDERSON, M. D.

Dr. William J. Anderson, a widely recognized Roentgenologist and physiotherapist and formerly and for years a surgeon of recognized skill but now retired from the practice of that branch of therapeutics and giving his whole attention to the application of X-ray and physiotherapy treatments, with offices in Rockford, has an established reputation in his line and it is but proper that in this definite history of the region in which his practice now is carried on there should be some brief mention of his life and of his services to mankind. He was born in the city of Chicago, June 17, 1876, and was reared in that city. From the days of his boyhood he had been greatly attracted to the healing arts and after a preliminary course in the University of Chicago entered Rush Medical College and in 1903 was graduated from that institution, having there given special attention to surgery.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Anderson was appointed an interne in the Cook County Hospital and after eighteen months of intensive practical experience there, with particular reference to the practice of surgery, he became established in practice as a surgeon in Chicago and there, it is not too much to say, scored a pronounced success. His skill as a surgeon and the notable results he thus was securing attracted to Dr. Anderson the attention of the authorities of the Cook County Hospital and in 1911 he was made the assistant superintendent of that institution, in charge of the surgical department of the hospital and performing only major operations, a service of notable value in which he continued for four years, at the end of which time he resigned in order that his attention no longer might be distracted from his continually growing private practice in surgery. In Loyola University School of Medicine he was associate professor of kidney and bladder surgery. In 1917, in order that he might extend the service he thus was rendering in humanity's behalf through his surgical skill, Dr. Anderson bought the controlling interest in the old established Westerlin Hospital in Iron Mountain, Michigan, and there established a surgical clinic which attracted large attention and in which he had to have four assistant surgeons. It is not too much to say that during the time Dr. Anderson was carrying on this clinic in Iron Mountain he not only did much for that town but that he there performed some remarkable surgical operations, the difficult and delicate character of which further established his reputation as one of the leading surgeons in the middle western country.

Unhappily, the constant strain of this close application to the trying and exacting duties of his profession presently produced in Dr. Anderson a nervous and physical break down that necessitated his permanent retirement from the field of surgery and upon the advice of his professional associates he closed

out his valuable interests in Iron Mountain and entered upon a period of rest and recuperation. It was then that knowing that his physical state barred his further activities in the field of surgery, Dr. Anderson turned to the newer field of Roentgenology and physiotherapy, to which meanwhile he had been giving much attention in a merely academic way, and as such incidental aids were required in the practice of his profession as a surgeon, and in 1923, with a complete equipment for the practice of Roentgenology and physiotherapy, including both the X-ray and the violet ray paraphernalia, he established himself in practice in Rockford and has since been thus engaged, with admirably equipped offices in the Swedish-American Bank building. Though it ever will be a source of the deepest regret to Dr. Anderson that his physical breakdown necessitated his permanent retirement from the field of surgery, in which he had attained an enviable distinction, he is naturally gratified to find that in his new field of practice he may be of no less service to humanity and he is wholly reconciled to the thought of abandoning surgery forever and hereafter devoting his time and his talents to the newer field of healing. In this latter field the Doctor has come to be recognized as one of the leaders throughout this section of the country and in his application of the use of the mysterious rays of light in the cause of therapeutics is an acknowledged expert. Dr. Anderson is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, as well as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and in the councils and deliberations of these learned bodies has long taken an earnest interest.

Up to 1917 Dr. Anderson was actively interested in Young Men's Christian Association work in Chicago, particularly on the health building and physical fitness, delivering semi-annual talks on the venereal and sexual problem. On June 23, 1917, he was appointed by the president of the United States as a member of the Exemption Board No. 66 in Chicago. Upon the approval of ex-Governor Lowden his resignation was accepted and he left to assume his duties at the Westerlin Hospital at Iron Mountain, Michigan. After organizing his hospital staff he entered the United States Medical Department as captain, serving until March, 1919, when he was honorably discharged.

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#### J. ALLEN MERRILL.

It is a compliment to a man to have served one employer over a long period of years with entire satisfaction, for it evidences the possession of certain attributes of character which would insure success in almost any field of endeavor. Faithfulness in the performance of duty and conscientious attention to details in an exacting and responsible position have gained for the subject of this sketch not only the approval of his superiors, but also the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens. J. Allen Merrill is a native son of the county in which he now lives, having been born in Rockton, Winnebago county, Illinois, on the 6th of November, 1857. His parents, Frederick William and Harriet Spencer (Holister) Merrill, were natives of the state of New Hampshire, whence

they came to Rockton in 1844, being among the first settlers of this locality. The father engaged in the general mercantile business here, in which he met with splendid success, and eventually built the New England house, a hotel which he operated and which for many years was a landmark in this community. He was a man of fine character and marked ability and enjoyed to a high degree the respect of the entire community. His death occurred in 1896.

J. Allen Merrill secured his education in the public schools of Rockton, being a graduate of the high school. Soon after the completion of his studies he entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad as a telegraph operator, in which capacity he was employed until 1896, when he was appointed the ticket agent for Rockton, and he has served in that position continuously since. He has handled the affairs of the company here in an able and efficient manner and has always been popular with the traveling public because of his affable manner and accommodating service.

On May 31, 1883, Mr. Merrill was married to Miss Minnie Talcott Comstock, a native of Rockton and the daughter of Ansel and Mary Comstock, who also were early settlers in this community. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill are the parents of the following children: Fred T., born January 2, 1885; Robert H., born July 1, 1887; Hazel M., born November 7, 1889; and Charles C., born in 1892 and died in 1894. Politically, Mr. Merrill has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party and has always taken an active interest in local public affairs. He has served as village clerk, as village trustee and as a member of the school board for the past seventeen years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of sound principles and strong convictions on the questions of the day and has ever stood for those things which tend to advance the welfare of the community. Because of these attributes and his fine personality, he stands deservedly high in the esteem of all who know him.

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#### GEORGE LUCIUS COLLIE.

George Lucius Collie, widely known as a geologist and educator, has been a member of the faculty of Beloit College for more than thirty years and is now acting as curator of the Logan Museum and professor of anthropology. He was born August 11, 1857, in Delavan, Wisconsin, a son of Joseph and Ann Elizabeth (Foote) Collie, the former of whom was a Congregational minister. Professor Collie attended the public schools of Delavan and next entered Beloit College, which awarded him the B. S. degree in 1881. He was afterward a student at Harvard University, from which he received the A. M. degree in 1891, and in 1893 that institution honored him with the degree of Ph. D. From 1885 until 1890 he was connected with the Delavan high school, first acting as assistant principal, and later was made principal. In 1892 he became professor of geology at Beloit College, filling that chair until 1893, and has since had charge of the Logan Museum of archaeology. Since 1899 he has been dean



of men and was acting president of the college during 1902-3, also serving in that capacity from 1905 until 1908. He has been professor of anthropology since 1923 and his name has brought additional prestige to the college, which is one of the oldest and best known educational institutions in the state. Dr. Collie is a writer on geological and educational topics and an acknowledged authority on both subjects. He has devoted much time to the study of geology and during 1910-11 made a tour of the world in the interests of that science, covering a distance of forty thousand miles.

On the 27th of March, 1895, Dr. Collie was married to Miss Katherine Ary, of Xenia, Ohio, and they have become the parents of two children: Tannisse, who was born January 29, 1906; and Kenneth, born February 19, 1908. During 1918-19 Dr. Collie was in the overseas service of the Young Men's Christian Association and was with the American Expeditionary Force in France and England. He is a member of the American Association of Museums, the Anthropological Society of America, and has been honored with a fellowship in the Geological Society of America. He belongs to the Beta Theta Pi and Phi Beta Kappa fraternities and to the Beloit Rotary Club, of which he was president in 1924. Dr. Collie is a man of advanced scientific attainments and one of Beloit's distinguished and highly respected citizens.

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#### RAY WANTZ.

In local industrial and commercial circles in the city of Rockford there are few names better known than that of Ray Wantz, secretary-treasurer of the Rockford Paper Box Board Company and connected in an executive capacity with other enterprises engaged in the box board line, president of the Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association, a director of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and for years one of the active and influential promoters of the interests of the city in which he lives. Mr. Wantz is a "Hoosier" by birth, a "Buckeye" by rearing, but a citizen of Illinois by choice and inclination, a resident of Rockford for twenty years and more. He was born in the city of Goshen, county seat of the county of Elkhart, in Indiana, June 12, 1875, a son of Jacob and Reina Wantz who shortly after that date left Indiana and established their home in the city of Franklin in Warren county, Ohio.

Ray Wantz was but a child when he went with his parents to Franklin and he grew up in that city and attended the schools there. Upon leaving school he was employed in the plant of the big paper mills at Franklin and there became a skilled paper-maker, with particular reference to the operations and processes involved in the manufacture of box board. He was married at the age of twenty and established his home in Franklin, where he remained, continuing his work in the paper mills until 1905, when his services were engaged in an expert capacity to work out a somewhat difficult problem of operation and administration which then was confronting the Paper Box Board Company in Rockford, the affairs of that concern at that time having got into such a shape as to require the most careful attention in order to avert a complete failure of the enterprise.

Under Mr. Wantz' experienced direction the plant was "put on its feet," so to speak, administrative difficulties were ironed out and the business was brought up to a profitable standard, new and modern methods introduced and a general rehabilitation of the affairs of the company brought about. Following Mr. Wantz' successful reconstruction of this plant and of the affairs of the company, he was prevailed upon to continue his services in connection with the operation of the plant and in 1918 was elected its secretary and treasurer, a position he since has occupied and which carries with it a large measure of administrative responsibility. Frank Haywood is the president of this company and John A. Heinrich is the vice president. The products of the well established and well equipped plant of the Rockford Paper Box Board Company find a ready market and the volume of this product is increasing every year.

Mr. Wantz has long taken an interested and helpful part in the general commercial and industrial activities of the city and as a member of the directorate of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce has rendered excellent service in that behalf. His service as president of the Rockford Manufacturers and Shippers Association also has been of value, even as have been his services as a member of the board of trustees of the associated charities fund of the city of Rockford. He is president of the Quick Service Box Company of Chicago and of the Rockford Fiber Container Company and has besides other interests of a substantial character. Mr. Wantz is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all the bodies in that ancient order, is also a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is one of the active members of the locally influential Rockford Rotary Club.

Ray Wantz has been twice married. On June 2, 1895, while living in Ohio, he was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Schrock of Sidney, that state, who died on January 26, 1913. By that union Mr. Wantz has a son: Raymond Earl Wantz, who was born on June 25, 1897. During the World war he was with the Coast Guard, and was one of the first Rockford boys to go to France. He was in the battles of Saint Mihiel, Belleau Wood and the Argonne. On September 1, 1915, Mr. Wantz was married to Miss Ida Carlson of Rockford, and to this union two children have been born: A daughter, Kathleen Raye Wantz, born June 16, 1917; and a son, John Franklin Ray Wantz, born April 23, 1920.

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#### JOHN W. HEID.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, who have won honor and public recognition for themselves and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of the man whose name appears at the head of this sketch, for during the last thirty-five years he has been numbered among the representative business men of his community, where he has wielded a large and beneficent influence. John W. Heid was born on the 19th of June, 1862, in the town of Sumner, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and is the son of George and Christine (Kurtz) Heid. His parents were both born and

reared in Germany, whence they came to the United States in 1846, settling in New York state. In 1850 they came to Jefferson county and here the father engaged in farming, in which he was successful, gaining the respect of the entire community in which he lived.

John W. Heid secured a good practical education in the public schools of this county and after leaving school entered the employ of C. F. Bullwinkel, in whose hardware store he thoroughly learned that business. He was then appointed under sheriff and turnkey, which position he held for two years, and at the end of his official term he went to work for George Koenig in the grain business in Jefferson, remaining with him for ten years. In 1891 Mr. Heid engaged in the hardware business on his own account, beginning in a small way, but by close attention to the details of his business, the exercise of sound business judgment and indefatigable industry he prospered from the beginning and the business has steadily and constantly grown through the years until today it is one of the leading commercial houses of Jefferson, being now known as the Heid Hardware & Implement Company, of which he is president. He is also president of the Jefferson County Bank, one of the strong and influential financial institutions of Jefferson county; president of the Vaughn Manufacturing Company, of Jefferson, and a director in the Wisconsin Manufacturing Company, also of this city. Mr. Heid is eminently public-spirited, giving his unreserved support to every movement or enterprise having for its object the betterment of the city along any legitimate line, and he has rendered effective service as president of the park board of this city. Politically he gives his support to the democratic party, while his religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church, of which he is a generous supporter.

In December, 1899, Mr. Heid was married to Miss Lisette Aumann, the daughter of Ludwig Aumann, of Farmington, Jefferson county, whose family was among the earliest settlers of Jefferson county. Mr. Heid has been distinctively the architect of his own fortune, and his success has been largely due to the fact that he has been true to the highest ideals and principles in his business, civic and social life. He possesses a genial and optimistic disposition, has a host of warm and loyal personal friends and is held in the highest esteem throughout the locality where he lives. He has long been a potent factor in the business prosperity of the community and the success which has crowned his efforts has been well merited.

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#### FATHER JOSEPH E. HANZ.

Father Joseph E. Hanz, a man of scholarly attainments, is pastor of St. Jude's Catholic church in Beloit, Wisconsin, of which he has had charge for seventeen years, and enjoys in an enviable degree the respect and affection of his parishioners. He was born March 31, 1880, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a son of Charles and Catherine Hanz, and his early education was acquired in the parochial schools of St. Joseph's and St. Michael's churches of that city. He afterward attended Marquette Academy and next entered Marquette Uni-



REV. JOSEPH E. HANZ



versity, from which he won the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1899. In 1901 he was awarded the Master's degree by that university, which in 1919 honored him with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He received his theological training in St. Francis Seminary of Wisconsin and was ordained in 1903. He was appointed assistant to Father Ward, pastor of St. Thomas' church at Beloit, and acted in that capacity for five years. Since 1908 he has had charge of St. Jude's church of this city and his efforts have been resultant both in spiritual and in temporal advancement. He has been the counselor and friend of his parishioners, ever ready to assist them in dealing with the problems and complexities of life, and is a zealous and untiring worker in behalf of the Roman Catholic church.

Father Hanz is an influential member of the Knights of Columbus and for eight years was state chaplain of the order. He likewise served as chaplain of the governor's staff of the Wisconsin State Guard in 1917, 1918 and 1919. He belongs to the local Rotary Club and is serving on the executive committee of the United Charities and the Red Cross organization of Beloit. He takes a deep interest in municipal affairs and is a member of the commission on the city plan. He is a broad-gauged man whose undoubted sincerity, marked public spirit and pronounced ability have gained him the esteem of his fellow citizens irrespective of their religious affiliations, and his personal friends are drawn from all walks of life.

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#### BURT M. ALLEN.

"From newsboy to head of one of the large business institutions of the city" is the introductory paragraph for the life's history of many of the leading men in the country today and no more appropriate introductory paragraph could be written about Burt M. Allen, head of the Allen Ice Cream Company of Rockford and pioneer in the ice-cream manufacturing industry in that city, whose name and whose products are known throughout this entire local trade area in the beautiful valley of Rock river and beyond, for the Allen confections have attained a wonderful popularity and are widely distributed hereabout.

Burt M. Allen is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, no one in the city better known than he and none knowing the city better. He was born September 30, 1875, a son of Charles C. and Catherine Allen, and was reared in Rockford, attending the public schools of that city. His first contact with the commercial world of his home town was in the humble capacity of a newsboy, carrier of morning newspapers, and in this particular school of experience and hard knocks he took his first degree as a business man. When he was seventeen years of age he entered the employ of W. C. Pratt, who then was carrying on a confectionery and ice-cream store at No. 417 East State street, and he continued in that employ for four years, or until he had attained his majority, learning there most of what then there was to know about the manufacture and marketing of ice-cream and kindred products, a knowledge that presently was to stand him well in stead. Upon leaving the Pratt store Mr. Allen took employ-

ment in the grocery store of E. W. Andrews, on East State street, and while thus employed formed an association with "Billy" Burns, the two buying a "sway-backed nag" and an old delivery wagon and starting out as purveyors of fruits and vegetables to the householders of Rockford, also taking orders for ice-cream, which Mr. Allen manufactured between times and delivered. This outdoor establishment was carried on for about three years, at the end of which time the young men had laid by a sufficient fund to enable them to open a confectionery store at the corner of East State street and South Second street, where they worked up a good business and where that partnership was maintained for about two years.

It was then that Mr. Allen determined to put to test a growing conviction that the manufacture and distribution of ice-cream was a real business and not merely an auxiliary to the confectionery business, a delicacy to tickle the palates of casual customers. With this purpose in view he sold his interest in the confectionery stand to his partner and opened out as a specialist in the manufacture of ice-cream, establishing a little plant on South Water street. Working as delivery boy (still keeping in service the old swaybacked nag), can-washer, ice-packer and general factotum, answering telephone calls "like a regular manufacturer," he began operations. He soon found that there was coming to be created in and about Rockford a real demand for the products of his little plant and he gradually had to increase his facilities for manufacture. His familiar advertising slogan: "It's a Food, Not a Fad," gave everyone in Rockford an opportunity to know that he was in the ice-cream business. Pleased customers proved an even more effective means of spreading his "publicity" and it presently became apparent that a new and prosperous industry was being added to the many industries that have helped to establish the fame and the name of Rockford.

After sixteen years of operation at his old plant Mr. Allen moved into a building of his own at No. 327-29 South Winnebago street, where he has established the most complete and up-to-date ice-cream manufacturing plant in northern Illinois. From the original old swayback nag delivery service the concern's delivery and service fleet (motorized) has grown in numbers to no fewer than sixteen of the widely familiar "Here-Goes-Another-Allen-Truck" carriers, these covering not only the local Rockford market but the smaller communities within that trade area, reaching out and serving the needs of the ice-cream loving public within a radius of fifty miles hereabout. At first Mr. Allen's product was confined to the old familiar and always popular bulk ice-cream, but with the growing demand for special service he began to manufacture and distribute brick ice-cream and now has hundreds of special molds, designed to meet the needs of any social function. The Allen Ice Cream Company also is engaged in the manufacture of special ice-cream cabinets and refrigerated bodies for truck service and has created a profitable demand along that line of its products. The company also acts as jobbers for the placing of refrigerated fountains in confectionery establishments and drug stores within this trade area and in that line has become widely known in the trade. Mr. Allen not only has been diligent in his own business but he has ever found time to give a good citizen's attention to the general business affairs of the city and as a member of the board of

directors of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce has been able to render further service to the community.

On June 26, 1901, in Rockford, Mr. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Carrie May Corwin, daughter of Samuel A. Corwin of that city, and they have a very pleasant home at No. 1334 East State street. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have two daughters: Catherine and Edith. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are republicans and take a proper interest in local civic affairs. Mr. Allen is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all bodies available to the inquirer in that ancient order, including the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine, and he is the vice president of the local Shrine Dinner Club. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and a director of the locally influential Rotary Club.

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#### FRANK C. BINNEWIES, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the noble work of administering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity pursues a calling which in dignity, importance and beneficial results is second to no other. Of this class of professional men is the man whose name appears above and who is numbered among the prominent and successful physicians of Janesville, Wisconsin. He stands with no superior in his section of the state and during the years of his residence here has not only gained wide notice in his line of work but has also established a sound reputation for uprightness of character and fine public spirit. Frank C. Binnewies was born at Harvard, McHenry county, Illinois, on the 31st of May, 1868. In his childhood the family moved to Walworth, Wisconsin, in the public and high schools of which city he received his elementary education. Having decided to devote his life to the practice of medicine, he matriculated in the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1900 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He then entered upon the active practice of his profession at Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1910, engaged in general practice. During that period he went to Chicago and attended lectures in the Hahnemann Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1905.

In the fall of 1909 Dr. Binnewies went to New York city and took postgraduate work at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, specializing in the study of the diseases and treatment of the eye, ear, nose and throat. In 1910 he came to Janesville and began practice as a specialist in this particular line, in which he has continued to the present time. He has been eminently successful and has gained marked prestige among his professional colleagues because of his ability, success and high character. He is also a member of the staff of Mercy Hospital. He is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. Politically he gives his support to the republican party, though he has never been an aspirant for public office of any nature. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has taken all the degrees of the Scottish Rite,



being at the present time the eminent commander of Janesville Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar.

On May 18, 1904, Dr. Binnewies was married to Miss Laura Josephine Bullis, the daughter of James Bullis, of Milton, Wisconsin. They have one child, Evelyn, born April 6, 1909. Personally the Doctor is a man of fine presence, genial and companionable, and enjoys a large and representative acquaintance throughout the community, among whom are many warm and loyal friends.

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#### HARRY RALPH WORMLEY, M. D.

Dr. Harry Ralph Wormley, a well known and successful physician of Rockford, his practice being there specialized along the lines of the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, was born in Shabbona, De Kalb county, Illinois, September 25, 1879, a son of Henry and Miranda Wormley. Reared in Shabbona, Dr. Wormley had his initial schooling there, supplementing this by a course in the Aurora high school and in the preparatory school at Beloit, Wisconsin, and then entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and in 1904 was graduated from that institution with the degree of A. B. From the days of his boyhood he had been giving thought to the study of medicine and thus equipped by preparatory study he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago and in 1906 was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Wormley was appointed an interne in Passavant Hospital at Milwaukee and was there about eighteen months, gaining in that institution some very valuable practical experience in his profession. In 1907 he engaged in practice in Lee, Illinois, and was there in general practice until 1913, when he closed out his affairs at that place and went to Europe, with a view to taking postgraduate work in the great hospitals of Vienna, with particular reference to clinical observation and practice in the treatment of ailments of the eye, ear, nose and throat. For two years Dr. Wormley was thus engaged in special study and practice and then in 1914 he returned to this country and practiced along the lines of this specialty in Hartford, Connecticut, where he remained two years. In 1916 he returned to Illinois and entered practice in Rockford, and in 1923 became associated with Dr. J. E. Thiell, and they have offices at Nos. 408-410, the Brown building, where he is continuing to make a specialty of the treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, in the practice of which specialty he has been very successful.

In 1923 Dr. Wormley took another trip to Vienna for the purpose of further research in his profession, with reference to late developments along the lines of his special practice in surgery, a science that was so greatly advanced by reason of the intensive practice necessitated by the casualties of the World war, and since then he has made numerous important additions to the comprehensive equipment of his surgical laboratory. Dr. Wormley is a member of the American Medical Association of Vienna (Europe) and of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and is attached to the staff of the Rockford City Hos-

pital. He is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of that city and is affiliated with the fraternal orders of the Masons and the Elks.

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#### HON. WILLIAM L. PIERCE.

The Hon. William L. Pierce, former mayor of the city of Belvidere; former representative from his district in the general assembly of the state of Illinois; former assistant attorney-general of the state and for more than thirty years a practicing lawyer in Belvidere; one of the best known figures in the general civic and social life of that section of the Rock River valley, is a member of one of the pioneer families of Boone county and has been a resident of that county all his life, engaged in the practice of law in Belvidere since 1892. He was born on a farm in Spring township, Boone county, June 3, 1868, a son of W. H. and Mary J. (Renne) Pierce, both of whom were born in the city of Catskill (old Kaaterskill) on the Hudson, Greene county, New York, and both members of old families in that region. W. H. Pierce as a young man became interested in the possibilities of farm development out here in the Rock River valley, out of which at that time good reports were proceeding back east, and in 1853 he came to Illinois and acquired a tract of land in Spring township, Boone county. In the following year (1854) he was joined here by his father, Sylvester Pierce, and his brother, Amos S. Pierce, and in association the three became substantial farmers and landowners in this county, all spending the remainder of their lives here. W. H. Pierce, who in his generation was one of the best known men in the county, lived to be eighty-two years of age, his death occurring in 1908. Of the eight children born to him and his wife William L. Pierce was the seventh in order of birth.

Reared on the home farm in Spring township, William L. Pierce attended the neighborhood district school and the high school in Marengo, in the neighboring county of McHenry. He early began to give his serious attention to the study of law and under careful local preceptorship was prepared for law school, presently entering the Law School of Northwestern University at Evanston and on June 16, 1892, was graduated from that institution. Thus admirably equipped for the practice of the profession to which he has devoted his life and his talents, Mr. Pierce engaged in practice in Belvidere and has for many years been recognized as one of the leaders of the bar in northern Illinois and widely known in professional circles throughout the state. Three years after his establishment in practice in Belvidere, Mr. Pierce was married to Miss Laura M. Duth, the ceremony taking place on October 30, 1895, and he established his home there, where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. Mrs. Pierce also is a member of one of the old families of the Rock River valley. She was born in Freeport, a daughter of Eli J. Duth, a substantial citizen of that place and a son of one of the pioneer settlers of Stephenson county.

For years Mr. Pierce has given his earnest and thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and has been one of the able and influential factors in local govern-

ment, an acknowledged leader in the ranks of the republican party in the state of Illinois and a sage counsellor whose voice is listened to with respect in the councils of that party. For four terms (1903-7 and 1909-11) Mr. Pierce rendered effective local service as mayor of the city of Belvidere and during the period 1918-20 served as assistant attorney-general of the state of Illinois for this judicial district. In 1920 he was elected to represent the eighth legislative district in the general assembly of the state and in 1922 was re-elected to that important representative office, thus serving two terms in the legislature, where his influence was felt in more quarters than one. Despite the urgent requests of his many friends Mr. Pierce declined to stand for re-election to the legislature in 1924, the demands of his profession being such that he could not in justice to its duties take the time just then for an extension of public service. During his service in the legislature Mr. Pierce was a member of a number of the more important committees of the house, and in 1923 was a member of that highly important committee that was appointed to investigate the matter of the alleged misuse of the state's funds. He was a member of the committee and conducted the legislative investigation of the Herrin riots. He was also a member of the special legislative committee which investigated the building material men and contractors and building labor agents of Chicago, and assisted in obtaining evidence that convicted nine of these agents, and succeeded in bringing about very favorable conditions in building lines in Chicago and its environs. Mr. Pierce has a practice which carries into the courts of all the counties in northern Illinois and he is a frequent pleader before the bar of the state supreme court. He is an active member of the Boone County Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association and has affiliation with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Arcanum and the Loyal Order of Moose.

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#### SAM G. EASTMAN.

Sam G. Eastman, president of the Belvidere Screw & Machine Company of Belvidere; president of the Hercules Porcelain Company of that city; a mechanical engineer of long training and wide experience; and an influential personal factor in the industrial life of this section of the Rock River valley, is a native of this valley and though his industrial activities long took him into other parts of the country he ever has felt that his interests have centered here, so that after years of absence from the valley he found it very easy to settle down in Belvidere, where he now is making his home and where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. He was born in Rockford, in the neighboring county of Winnebago, July 20, 1877, a son of Hiram D. and Lucy (Buell) Eastman, the former of whom was for years in charge of the collection department of the Emerson-Brantingham Company, implement manufacturers in Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, Sam G. Eastman had his schooling there and early became interested in the mechanical trades, finishing his apprenticeship as a practical machinist in the plant of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company in



SAM G. EASTMAN



Rockford, and then was connected with the operations of the Pratt & Whitney Company, machine manufacturers of New York city and Hartford, Connecticut, remaining for twenty-three years with this concern, his initial experiences in that connection covering the manufacturing field in the east as traveling representative and later as manager of the company's branch offices, first in San Francisco and then in Chicago. On September 1, 1924, upon the reorganization of the Belvidere Screw & Machine Company, Mr. Eastman was elected president of that rapidly expanding concern and has since been giving his expert services in executive direction of this company's affairs. He also is the president of the Hercules Porcelain Company of Belvidere and has come to occupy an important position in local industrial circles. Mr. Eastman is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is widely known in his profession throughout the country.

On February 22, 1901, in Tupla, Sam G. Eastman was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Trump, daughter of I. B. Trump of Polo, in the neighboring county of Ogle. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman have three children, daughters all: Lillian Helen, born December 28, 1904; Ruth E., born December 15, 1906; and Jane, born November 13, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman are members of the Bel-Mar Country Club and are in other ways interested and helpful participants in the social activities of the community. In their political views they hold to the tenets of the republican party. Mr. Eastman is a Mason of many years standing and is a member of all the Masonic bodies open to the inquirer, up to and including the Thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is likewise a Noble of the Mystic Shrine.

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#### EDWIN HOLTON KEELER.

For nearly forty years Edwin Holton Keeler, secretary and treasurer of the Rockford Lumber & Fuel Company, vice president of the Forest City National Bank, and in other ways prominently identified with the general commercial and industrial activities of that city, has been recognized as one of the forceful and influential personal factors in the development that has been brought about not only in that city but throughout the Rock River valley during that period. He is a native of this beautiful valley and has lived here all his life, a resident of Rockford during the period here referred to. He was born in the neighboring city of Janesville, up over the line in Wisconsin, August 13, 1863, the son and only surviving child of Chauncey C. and Katharine (Spaulding) Keeler, both now deceased. The late Chauncey C. Keeler, founder of the Keeler Lumber & Fuel Company of Beloit, one of the organizers of the Beloit Savings Bank and for many years one of the real leaders in the commercial life of that city, died at his home in Beloit, on January 7, 1921, and further and fitting mention is made of him in this work, for he long was one of the leaders in the business life of the Rock River valley.

Reared in Beloit, Edwin H. Keeler completed the work of the high school there and early became connected with the operations of his father's big lumber

plant in that city, there becoming thoroughly familiar with all details of the successful management of such a plant with relation to this trade area. He married when twenty-two years of age and continued to make his home in Beloit for two or three years thereafter, or until 1888, when in association with Seely Perry, Thomas D. Reber and Thomas G. Lawler he became one of the organizers of the Rockford Lumber & Fuel Company and has since made his home in Rockford. Mr. Keeler was elected secretary and treasurer of this company upon its organization and he ever since has occupied that administrative position, the business of the company meanwhile having been developed until now it is rated as one of the great lumber companies of this section of the middle west. Mr. Keeler has besides this interest, to which he devotes his major attention, other interests of a substantial character in and about Rockford, these including a place on the directorate of the Forest City National Bank, of which financial institution he is the vice president, and he has been quite successful in his various enterprises. He is a republican, is a member of the locally influential Rotary Club of Rockford, a Mason of high degree, having attained to all the bodies in that ancient order open to the inquirer, and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

On December 3, 1885, Mr. Keeler was united in marriage to Miss Clara Reitler, daughter of Moses and Emma Reitler of Independence, Iowa. Mrs. Keeler died on July 22, 1920, and is survived by her husband and three children—two daughters, Katherine and Clara; and a son, Edwin R. Keeler, the latter of whom, born June 27, 1889, is now a resident of the city of Chicago; Katherine Keeler, born February 11, 1888, is the wife of Dr. Arthur Pearman of Rockford; Clara Keeler, born September 12, 1901, is the wife of Emory G. Hall, also of Rockford.

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#### MALCOLM O. MOUAT.

Among the leading and most successful members of the legal fraternity in Rock county, Wisconsin, stands Malcolm O. Mouat, member of the well known law firm of Jeffris, Mouat, Oestreich, Avery & Wood, of Janesville. For thirty years Mr. Mouat has been practicing his profession and at no time during that period has there been any question as to his preeminent ability as a lawyer, he having been connected as counsel with much of the important litigation in the courts of this section of the state during practically that entire period. Mr. Mouat is a native son of the county still honored by his citizenship, having been born on his father's farm in the town of Harmony, Rock county, on the 1st of June, 1872. He is the son of James and Mary (Story) Mouat, the latter of whom was a native of Jamestown, New York. His father was born in Scotland in 1829 and came to the United States in 1845, settling in Wisconsin, in which state he spent the remainder of his life.

Malcolm O. Mouat spent his boyhood years on his father's farm and received his elementary education in the district schools. He attended the Janesville high school for one year and in 1888 entered Beloit Academy, after which he

attended Beloit College, from which he was graduated in 1894 with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He then took up the study of law in the offices of Fethers, Jeffris & Fifield, of Janesville, and in April, 1896, was admitted to the bar. He subsequently became a member of the firm with which he had been studying, which then became Fethers, Jeffris, Fifield & Mouat. When Judge Fifield retired from the firm it became Fethers, Jeffris & Mouat, and in 1908, on the retirement of Mr. Fethers and the admission of Messrs. Smith and Avery, it became Jeffris, Mouat, Smith & Avery, and finally Jeffris, Mouat, Oestreich, Avery & Wood. In Mr. Mouat are found united many of the rare qualities which go to make up the successful lawyer. He possesses perhaps a few of those meteoric qualities which sometimes rivet the gaze and blind the vision for the moment, but rather has those solid and more substantial qualities which shine with a constant luster. A man of high mental ability, a strong sense of honor and a keen appreciation of the service to be rendered his fellowmen, he early brought to the discharge of his professional duties a determination to give his best efforts, an attitude that has been appreciated and recognized generally through all the years of his practice, and few members of his profession have enjoyed as great a measure of the public confidence and respect as he has. Mr. Mouat is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Politically he has always given his support to the republican party and has taken an active interest in public affairs. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Phi Kappa Psi college fraternity of Beloit College, the Janesville Rotary Club and the Janesville Country Club. He is a member of the board of directors of the Merchants & Savings Bank.

On April 20, 1898, Mr. Mouat was married to Miss Eloise Palmer, the daughter of Dr. Henry Palmer, one of the early and most prominent physicians of Janesville. To Mr. and Mrs. Mouat have been born two children, namely: Elizabeth, born February 20, 1901; and Malcolm Palmer, born October 20, 1902. Personally Mr. Mouat possesses to a marked degree those sterling traits of character which command uniform confidence and regard, yet he is a plain, unassuming gentleman, straightforward and candid in all his personal relations, and throughout the community he enjoys the highest marks of appreciation and esteem.

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#### CHAUNCEY C. KEELER.

In the memorial annals of the Rock River valley there are few names held in better remembrance than is that of the late Chauncey C. Keeler, founder of the Keeler Lumber & Fuel Company of Beloit, one of the organizers of the Beloit Savings Bank and at the time of his death the last of that institution's original board of directors. For many years Mr. Keeler had been one of the leaders in the development of the general interests of the city to which he had made his way as a young man from the east and at the time of his passing had long been recognized as the dean of the business men of that city. For more than sixty-



five years he had been a resident of Beloit and thus had been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that during that period raised Beloit from its village state to a city of more than twenty thousand souls and a commercial, industrial and social center of large importance. His first service in the community in which he had elected to make his home was rendered as a school teacher and he ever after took a helpful part in the development of the social and cultural life of that community. He then became identified with the commercial life of the place and from that time to the close of his long and useful life was one of the real leaders in the material development of the city and of that section of the Rock River valley in general.

As lumberman and banker Mr. Keeler's activities in a commercial relation touched upon all phases of this material development and the soundness of his judgments and prudence of his counsels were reflected in many a fine forward-looking movement projected in and about Beloit. When along in the middle '80s there began to appear the first real signs of a definite awakening and the stirring of new impulses along all lines of industrial and commercial activities here in the valley, Mr. Keeler was one of the prime movers in the organization of the first business men's association established in that town and in this behalf rendered a service to the community the far-reaching effects of which are apparent in this generation, for his counsels in matters of community building were based on tried experience and sound conclusions. He was there in the days before the Civil war and during that period of national stress was a tower of strength in the community. As one of the schooled and cultured men of that somewhat backward community he was a member of the historic reception committee that was appointed to welcome Abraham Lincoln to Beloit on the occasion of that great man's visit there on October 1, 1859, following the close of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and was host to the future president at a banquet in the evening. When the republican party was organized in 1856 he espoused the principles of that new party and was ever thereafter one of the leaders of the party in Rock county, though never an aspirant for office. Mr. Keeler lived to the ripe old age of eighty-five years and at his passing left a good memory. It therefore is but fitting that in this definite history of the region whose interests he did so much to promote there should be set out some brief and respectful tribute to that memory.

Chauncey C. Keeler was a native of the old Green Mountain state and was a member of one of the sterling old New England colonial families. He was born in the village of Highgate, Franklin county, March 23, 1836, and his youth was spent in the neighboring village of Bakersfield in that same county, his schooling being completed in the academy in the latter place. Mr. Keeler was well reared amid a very favorable environment and was a close and intelligent student. He early became qualified as a teacher, and in 1855, then being nineteen years of age, answered the call then being heard in the east for teachers to come out into the newer and developing midwestern country, and he came into the Rock River valley and stopped in Beloit, which even then, on account of the establishment of the college there not long before, gave promise of being an educational center of importance in this section of the country.

During the first winter of his residence in Beloit, Mr. Keeler was engaged

as the teacher of the school in the Noble district just west of the town and upon the completion of that service, in the spring of 1856, became a bookkeeper for the pioneer mercantile firm of Fisher & Winchester, dealers in general hardware and kindred supplies. He did not return to teaching service and his life thereafter was devoted to business activities, for which he developed not only a strong liking but a mastery of detail that in time made him one of the real leaders in the commercial life of that region.

On April 19, 1860, Mr. Keeler was married to Katharine M. Spaulding and established his home in Beloit. He continued his connection with mercantile activities until 1868, when he branched out into business for himself as the head of the Keeler Lumber & Fuel Company, which he organized in that year and with the affairs of which concern he was dominantly connected the rest of his life. In 1881 he became one of the organizers of the Beloit Savings Bank, an institution whose resources now aggregate around four millions of dollars, was elected a member of the directorate of that bank at that time and was ever afterward retained on the board, the last of the original members thereof at the time of his death. It was in 1886 that he became one of the organizers of the historic Business Men's Association of Beloit, the first such get-together movement organized in that city, and was from the beginning of this movement one of the leading promoters of it, in this capacity doing much to aid in the movement to secure for Beloit new business enterprises, factories and the like and thus really starting the town out along the lines of modern development. He and his wife were members of the First Congregational church of Beloit and were ever regarded as among the leaders in good works there and in the general social and cultural activities of the city. He was a Knight Templar (York Rite) Mason and had attained to both the capitular and cryptic degrees in that ancient order, for many years one of the leaders in Masonic circles in Beloit. He also was affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in that city. Mr. Keeler died on January 7, 1921. He is survived by a son: Edwin H. Keeler, secretary of the Rockford Lumber Company of Rockford, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

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#### ELBERT H. NEESE.

Like the majority of business men who have achieved noteworthy success, Elbert H. Neese entered the commercial world in a humble capacity, owing his advancement to hard work and devotion to the interests in his charge, and he has now reached a field of broad influence and usefulness, serving as vice president and treasurer of the Beloit Iron Works, one of Wisconsin's important industries. He was born August 14, 1886, in Monroe county, West Virginia, a son of the Rev. Gordon R. and Elizabeth Neese, the latter also a native of that state. The father was a Virginian and a minister of the Methodist church. He filled pastorates in various parts of the country and his religious instruction proved a tangible force for good in the various communities in which he made his home.

Mr. Neese attended the public schools of Maryland and during his boyhood worked on a farm, developing habits of industry and frugality which have constituted the basis of his success in later life. When the family moved to Wilmington, Delaware, he took a course in a commercial college of that city and in 1902, when sixteen years of age, entered the employ of the Pusey & Jones Company of Wilmington, large manufacturers of steamboats, paper and powder mill machinery. Mr. Neese started as office boy and soon proved his worth to his employers, working his way up through the various departments. He remained with that firm for fourteen years, rising to the position of vice president, and also acted as assistant treasurer and sales manager. He severed his relations with the concern in 1916, and at that time he was also vice president and sales manager of the Sugar Apparatus Manufacturing Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He made his way to the middle west in 1916, becoming vice president of the Beloit Iron Works, and since 1919 has also been treasurer of the company. He is a business man of broad experience, mature judgment and keen sagacity and his labors have been a valuable asset to the corporation which he represents.

Mr. Neese was married June 16, 1914, to Miss Laura Janvrin Aldrich, a daughter of Alonzo Aldrich, president of the Beloit Iron Works, and the children of this union are three in number, namely: Elizabeth Jane, born June 15, 1916; Alonzo Aldrich, whose birth occurred February 11, 1921; and Elbert H., Jr., born in November, 1923. Mr. Neese gives his political support to the republican party and is identified with the Masonic fraternity. He is a member of the Beloit Country and Rotary Clubs, the Union League Club of Chicago and the Engineers Club of New York city. He enjoys the social amenities of life and is esteemed for those qualities which have made possible his success.

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#### ALFRED J. CHRISTENSON.

In nearly every community have lived individuals who by innate ability and sheer force of character have attained success and have won for themselves conspicuous places in public esteem. Such a man was the late Alfred J. Christenson, whose death, which occurred on the 25th of August, 1921, was considered a distinct loss to the community with which he had been identified in an active way for nearly two decades. The record of his career is the story of a life that made the world better and brighter for his having lived, for his actions sprang from a heart filled with love for humanity, and he was a blessing to all who came within the range of his influence. His splendid success was but the reward of the application of mental qualifications of a high order to the affairs of business, together with a rigid adherence to the best traditions and highest ethics of commercial life. Mr. Christenson was a native of Sweden, where his birth occurred on the 16th of June, 1876, and he was very young when brought to the United States by his parents, who settled in Portland, Connecticut. In 1879 the family moved to Jamestown, New York, and there the subject received his education in the public schools. Subsequently he went



ALFRED J. CHRISTENSON



to Chicago, where he lived until 1908, when he came to Rockford, Illinois, and soon afterward bought a half interest in the S. A. Johnson Clothing Company, at No. 427 East State street. During the following years this firm greatly prospered and became one of the leading mercantile houses of the East State street district. On January 24, 1921, Mr. Johnson died and Mr. Christenson took over his partner's interest in the business, having barely completed the details of the necessary reorganization of the company, when he himself was stricken with what proved to be his last illness.

In Chicago, on May 5, 1909, Mr. Christenson was married to Miss Olga Walberg and to their union were born four children: Helen, Hazel, Gladys and June, the last named being born on her father's last birthday anniversary. Mr. Christenson was an active member and generous supporter of the Emanuel Lutheran church, of Rockford, being a member of the board of trustees and of the building committee. Fraternally, he was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Royal Arcanum, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Svea Soner, the Harlem Hills Golf Club, the Rockford Athletic Club, the Motor Club, the Winnebago Outing Club, of which he was president, the Lions Club, the East State Street Business Men's Association and the Rockford Baseball Fans Association. He was one of the most active members of the Winnebago Outing Club, took part in many of its activities and just prior to his last illness had pitched an unusually fine game of baseball for the club. He had served for a number of years as secretary treasurer of the East State Street Business Men's Association and then rendered particularly effective and appreciated service as its president. No man was more actively interested in the welfare of the association and the things it stood for and no member of the organization worked harder or did more appreciated service for the promotion of the welfare of his district than he. He was a good business man, possessed unusually clear judgment and discrimination, and was financially interested in a number of local manufacturing concerns. He was a plain, unassuming man, straightforward in all his dealings, and stood high in the estimation of all who knew him. Though of unpretentious demeanor, he possessed to a marked degree the silent but powerful force that attracted men. The cause of humanity never had a truer friend than he and in all the relations of life he displayed a spirit that earned for him a deserved popularity, and he left a strong impress of his individuality on the community which had been honored by his citizenship.

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#### HARRY STEWART HAGGART.

The history of a community, a county or a state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tributes of admiration and respect to those whose works and actions constitute the record of the community's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent and influential business men of

Janesville, Wisconsin, none takes precedence over Harry Stewart Haggart, the able and efficient president of the First National Bank. Mr. Haggart is a native of the community in which he lives, having been born in Janesville on the 15th of March, 1876. He is the son of James Stewart and Mary (Leahy) Haggart, the former of whom was for many years a prominent railroad man and contractor in this city.

Harry S. Haggart received his educational training in the public schools of Janesville, being a graduate of the high school. In 1895 he entered the First National Bank as a messenger, and in that humble position gave such evidence of ability for faithful and conscientious service that he was soon promoted. From the beginning of his connection with banking he had been a close and constant student of banking and finance, so that when promotions came to him he was prepared, and he was soon recognized as one of the bank's most efficient and capable officers. It naturally followed, then, that in the course of events he should be chosen as the head of the institution, which position he has held since January 1, 1920. Mr. Haggart is not only well grounded in financial and commercial knowledge but also possesses to a notable degree those equally important elements of sound judgment and wise discrimination, without which no man can safely direct the affairs of an important institution. The First National Bank has long enjoyed an enviable growth and prosperity, ranking as one of the leading financial institutions of this part of the state, and Mr. Haggart is fully maintaining the excellent record made throughout the bank's history by his predecessors in the presidency.

On November 12, 1907, Mr. Haggart was married to Miss Gertrude Casey, the daughter of John Casey, of Janesville, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Eugenia, born April 27, 1909; Mary, born February 7, 1915; and Elizabeth, born October 20, 1917. Politically Mr. Haggart gives his support to the republican party, though he has never been an aspirant for any public office. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Columbus and the Modern Woodmen of America. Personally Mr. Haggart is a man of public spirit, giving his support to every movement or measure for the advancement of the city's interests along material, civic or moral lines, and has been an influential factor in the development of the city's commercial and industrial interests. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellowmen, he has gained the good will and commendation of both his business associates and the general public, being an unassuming, conservative gentleman whom to know is to respect and admire.

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#### WINTHROP INGERSOLL.

Winthrop Ingersoll, an eminent mechanical engineer of the city of Rockford, president of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company of that city and for more than thirty years one of the leaders in the general industrial activities of the great manufacturing center in which he became established in 1891, was born in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, May 28, 1865, a son of J. E. and Mary (Fuller)

Ingersoll, the former of whom, a prominent lawyer of that city, died in Cleveland on August 11, 1899.

Reared in Cleveland, Winthrop Ingersoll supplemented the education he acquired in the schools of that city by attendance at the Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He had given his particular attention to the study of mechanical engineering and upon leaving the university bought an interest in the manufacturing enterprise then being carried on in Cleveland by W. R. Eynon & Company, manufacturers of milling machinery. Upon the death of Mr. Eynon not long afterward Mr. Ingersoll bought the controlling interest in this company and in 1889 incorporated the enterprise under the name of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company and continued operations at Cleveland until in 1891, when an advantageous proposition came to him to move his plant to Rockford, which at that time was beginning to be recognized as one of the coming industrial centers of the country.

It was thus that the great Ingersoll industry was established in Rockford in 1891. Under Mr. Ingersoll's direction an initial plant was erected there and as the demand for the Ingersoll products grew this plant was extended through the years until it now is and long has been recognized as one of the leading manufacturing plants of its kind in the middle west. The operations of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company are devoted to the manufacture of heavy-duty milling machines and the plant now gives employment to more than six hundred persons. The company, of which Mr. Ingersoll is the president, is a million-dollar corporation and may be said to occupy a unique position in the machine tool industry, giving its exclusive attention to the art of high production milling in all classes of work. Its product is sold all over the world to the leading industries building automobiles, locomotives, ships and general machinery, and to various governments for their arsenals and navy yards. A large variety of machines are made which thoroughly cover the requirements of modern production, and special study is given every individual problem connected therewith. The company is in a position to furnish complete equipment of machines, cutters and fixtures as a unit for obtaining the most economical production. The buildings occupied by this plant cover one hundred and twenty-five thousand square feet and their equipment is ample for the manufacture of milling machines ranging from three tons to two hundred tons in weight. The company maintains offices in New York and in Detroit for the distribution of its products in the domestic trade and for the extensive export trade it has built up offices are maintained in London, Paris and Tokio.

On October 12, 1887, during the period of his residence in Cleveland, Winthrop Ingersoll was united in marriage to Miss Harriet Cashey, a daughter of John Cashey of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Ingersoll had four children, two of whom are living: A daughter, Mildred, born in Cleveland November 18, 1888; and a son, Harold, born January 4, 1892. Miss Mildred Ingersoll became the wife of R. M. Gaylord, who is now the vice president of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company, and thus continues to make her home in Rockford, which city has been her home since the days of her childhood. Harold Ingersoll was born in Rockford and ever since he finished his schooling has been connected with the operations of his father's great industrial enterprise in Rockford, and is



now the assistant secretary of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company. Clayton Cashey Ingersoll was killed in France during the World war. He was first lieutenant in the Twenty-seventh Aero Squadron; and Helen Ingersoll Crebs passed on December 22, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Ingersoll are members of the Rockford Country Club and of the Lake Geneva Country Club and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the community's general social and cultural activities, helpful in all local good works. They are republicans and also take an interested part in local civic affairs, thoughtfully attentive to all measures having to do with the promotion of the common welfare. During the time of this country's participation in the World war Mr. Ingersoll rendered valuable local service as federal fuel administrator for and in behalf of Winnebago county. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is affiliated with the college fraternity Delta Kappa Epsilon.

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A. J. MARKLEY, M. D.

Dr. A. J. Markley, one of the veteran physicians of the Rock River valley; district superintendent of the state board of health; for thirty-five years a medical practitioner in Belvidere; for twenty years and more the treasurer of the Illinois State Medical Association; and one of the best known physicians in the state of Illinois, is a native of the old Buckeye state but is a citizen of Illinois and of the beautiful valley of the Rock river by choice and inclination. He was born in the village of Archbold, Fulton county, in the northwest corner of the state of Ohio, May 3, 1858, a son of Andrew Lewis and Juliette (Lingle) Markley, the latter of whom was born in the Sandusky country in that state, a daughter of John Lingle, a Pennsylvanian of Swiss stock, who had emigrated into the Sandusky country, where he married a Miss Miller, daughter of one of the pioneers of that section of the state, and established his home, becoming a substantial citizen of that region.

Andrew Lewis Markley was born in Lewistown, Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, a son of George Markley, and was but a lad when his parents moved with their family into northwestern Ohio and settled on a tract of timberland in Fulton county, which place they cleared and converted into a good farm. The Markleys of this line in America are an old Pennsylvania colonial family, now numerousy represented throughout the country and keep up a close family association, marked by annual reunions held in Ohio. Joseph Markley of Canton, Ohio, has published a genealogy of this family. Jacob Markley of Bushnell, Ohio, has long been the active spirit in the promotion of the annual reunions. Andrew L. Markley grew up on that pioneer farm in Fulton county, Ohio, and in turn became a practical farmer, after his marriage establishing his home on a farm in the Archbold neighborhood in that county, where he created a good piece of property. He and his wife were the parents of fourteen children, nine daughters and five sons, of which interesting group Dr. Markley is the seventh in order of birth. Philip Markley, the eldest of these sons, volunteered as a sol-

dier of the Union during the time of the Civil war and met a soldier's fate in the campaign about Cumberland Gap (Tennessee) in 1865.

Reared on the home farm in Ohio, A. J. Markley attended the schools of his home place and early became interested in the study of medicine. After a course of preparatory reading under competent local preceptorship he entered Bennett Medical College in Chicago, now the School of Medicine of Loyola University, and in 1881 was graduated (M. D.) from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Markley came into the Rock River country and became established in Poplar Grove, Boone county, associating there in practice with his brother-in-law, Dr. George C. Tallerday, who also was in the drug business, a commercial establishment he had set up at that place in 1880. In the summer of 1882 Dr. Markley made a change of location, going to Garden Prairie in that same county, where on August 19th of that year he became established in practice, continuing there for eight years. In 1890, in association with Dr. R. W. McInnes, he bought the practice of Dr. Scott in Belvidere and moved to the county town, where he ever since has made his home, one of the veteran physicians of this section of Illinois. For twelve years this partnership was maintained and then the doctors began practicing independently, continuing to maintain offices in Belvidere together.

Dr. Markley is a member of the Boone County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and since 1905 has been serving as treasurer of the state association, one of the most widely known men in his profession in the state. In 1921 Dr. Markley was appointed district health superintendent of the Illinois state board of health for the district comprised within the eleven counties making up northern Illinois and by successive reappointments has been retained in that exacting position, his duties in that connection requiring him to keep constantly and closely in touch with conditions affecting the public health within this, one of the most important districts in the state. For twenty years Dr. Markley also rendered service as a member of the school board of the city of Belvidere, much of that time as president of the board, and for several terms he served as coroner of Boone county. Successful in practice, Dr. Markley has acquired considerable interests of a substantial character in and about Belvidere and was for some years the vice president of the Second National Bank of Belvidere. He is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and is also a Noble of the Mystic Shrine.

In June, 1887, in Belvidere, Dr. Markley was united in marriage to Miss Belle B. Bill of that city, who died at her home there in December, 1919. Mrs. Markley had been for years one of the foremost figures in local welfare and women's club work in Boone county, helpful in promoting all measures having to do with the advancement of the common good, and at her passing left a good memory. Dr. Markley has a daughter: Hazel S., born in Garden Prairie, July 2, 1890, who supplemented the education she acquired in the Belvidere high school by courses in Northwestern University and in the University of Illinois and then went to Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands, where she was engaged in teaching school until 1918, when she returned home and in that same year was married to Captain Ralph D. Shaunessey and is now living in Evanston, Illinois. Captain Shaunessey, a veteran of the World war, was graduated from North-

western University and is now practicing law in Chicago. He and his wife have three children—a son, Ralph D. Shaunessey, Jr., and two daughters, Suszan and Betsey Burke.

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#### GUST E. BLOMQUIST.

Among the numerous well established and admirably equipped commercial establishments in the city of Rockford, to which the people of that progressive and flourishing city point with special pride, is the great furniture store of Gust E. Blomquist on Fourteenth avenue, which Rockford pridefully claims is the largest retail furniture establishment in the northern part of Illinois, outside of the city of Chicago. When it is considered that this establishment has been built up to its present admirable proportions in less than fifteen years, this pride of possession on the part of the people may be regarded as wholly justified and quite pardonable. Mr. Blomquist, founder and proprietor of this store, was well grounded in the furniture trade before he engaged in business on his own account, having had basic experience both as a manufacturer and as a salesman in that line, and he also was thoroughly familiar with the needs in his line of the wide and valuable trade area of which Rockford is the center. His success, therefore, was assured from the beginning and this continued success has been a matter of much gratification to his many friends throughout this section of the Rock River valley.

Gust E. Blomquist is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his childhood. He was born in the western section of the Baltic province of Westergotland in the kingdom of Sweden, December 27, 1883, and was but three years of age when in 1887 his parents, John and Sophia Blomquist, came to this country with their family and settled on a farm in Rockford township in the near vicinity of the city of Rockford. Not long afterward they left the farm and moved into town, where John Blomquist was for some time working in the factories there. He then bought a farm in Wood county in central Wisconsin and was there engaged in farming for ten years or more, or until his retirement.

Reared in Rockford, Gust E. Blomquist attended the schools of that city and early became employed as a woodworker in the plant of the Rockford Cabinet Company, going to work at a wage of seventy-five cents a day. He remained with that manufacturing concern for eight years, learning the manufacturing side of the furniture business from one end to the other and there laying the foundation for his future success in that line. He then became interested in the sales end of the business and was for six years a clerk in the local store of the Rockford Furniture & Undertaking Company. He later extended his experience as a salesman in the Hess department store and then went to Marinette, Wisconsin, where for one year he was engaged as manager of the furniture department of the Lauerman store. By this time he was equipped for starting in business on his own account and on March 25, 1912, he opened a furniture store at No. 1209 Fourteenth avenue in the city of Rockford. The



GUST E. BLOMQUIST



immediate success which attended this commercial enterprise soon convinced him that he would need larger quarters for the extension of his business and about eighteen months after starting in business he opened his present establishment at Nos. 1221-1227 Fourteenth avenue, where he since has been carrying on his business and where, as noted above, he has developed the largest retail furniture store in the state of Illinois outside the city of Chicago. Mr. Blomquist not only has been a successful merchant but he has other interests of a substantial character, including a place on the directorate of the Security National Bank of Rockford, of which institution he is the vice president. He is an active and influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is one of the real boosters in the ranks of the energetic Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association.

On October 10, 1910, in Rockford, Gust E. Blomquist was united in marriage to Miss Esther M. Anderson, daughter of L. John and Annie J. Anderson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Blomquist have had three children: A son, Wilbur, who died at the age of two months; and two daughters, Janet, born October 10, 1916; and Marjorie, born September 21, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Blomquist are members of the Swedish Free church of Rockford and are republicans.

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#### JOHN R. ANDERSON.

John R. Anderson, secretary and treasurer of the National Mirror Works of Rockford and a veteran of the industrial field there, connected with the operations attendant upon the manufacture of furniture and allied lines there since the days of his boyhood and thus one of the well known industrialists along that line in this section of the country, is a native of Rockford and has lived in that city all his life, thus being thoroughly familiar with local trade conditions. He was born June 17, 1879, a son of Alfred and Ella Anderson, the latter of whom is still living in Rockford, in which city she was born in 1854. The late Alfred Anderson, who died at his home in Rockford on August 23, 1924, and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, was one of the pioneers in the furniture industry in Rockford and in his generation was a man of large influence in that industry.

Reared in Rockford, John R. Anderson attended the schools of that city and when fourteen years of age began his career as a furniture man as an employe in the plant of the Union Furniture Company in that city, an important manufacturing plant with which his late father was prominently connected. In that plant Mr. Anderson became thoroughly familiar with the details of furniture production, continuing his connection with the operative side of the business until he was twenty-one years of age, when, in 1900, he became attached to the office staff as bookkeeper, there acquiring a familiarity with the business details of the concern. In the meantime, in 1902, he had taken a financial interest in the National Mirror Works, which was reorganized that year, and was familiarizing himself with the details of that business, the operations of which were previously carried on in Chicago. After a some time connection with the

office staff of the Union Furniture Company Mr. Anderson transferred his services to the Kurtz Action Company (now the Thayer Action Company), which he had helped to organize, and was made secretary and treasurer of that concern, a position he occupied until 1910. He became the secretary and treasurer of the National Mirror Works in 1902 and has since given his chief attention to the duties of that position.

As noted above, the National Mirror Works was established on November 21, 1898, its early operations being carried on in Chicago. The plant of this concern in Chicago was destroyed by fire in 1901 and the company then transferred its operations to Rockford, erecting there a substantial and ample plant at No. 1313 Eighteenth avenue, and in 1920 moved to 1925 Kishwaukee street, where it since has been established. The products of this concern have for years been recognized as standards in their line and a wide market has been created for the mirrors, etc., there manufactured, these products going into all the principal furniture factories and marts in the country. Though giving his chief attention to the operations of the National Mirror Works, Mr. Anderson is financially interested in other factories, taking the place of his late father, who also was for years one of the real leaders in the local furniture industry, as is told elsewhere.

On May 29, 1906, in Rockford, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Huldah Swenson, daughter of Gustav W. and Ida C. Swenson of that city, also well known residents of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children: A daughter, Miss Janet Roberta Anderson, born July 2, 1911; and a son, John Edward Anderson, born April 6, 1914. The Andersons are members of Emanuel Lutheran church of Rockford and have ever taken a proper part in the general good works of the community. They are republicans and also have taken an interested part in the promotion of the general civic interests of the community. Mr. Anderson is one of the active members of the Kiwanis Club of Rockford and in his dealings with the community has ever sought to live up to that club's inspiring motto: "We Build," justly being looked upon as one of the real community builders hereabout.

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#### ALEXANDER EVERET MATHESON.

Faithful to facts in the analyzation of the character of a citizen of the type of the subject of this sketch, who for many years has been one of the prominent and influential residents of Rock county, Wisconsin, is all that is required to make a biographical review interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community honored by his residence, because it is the character of the men of standing and affairs that gives character and stability to the body politic. Alexander Everet Matheson, for many years a leading member of the Rock County bar and now the able and efficient postmaster at Janesville, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Eagle on the 11th of July, 1868. He is a son of John and Mary (Bentley) Matheson and is the scion of sterling Scottish ancestry, his paternal grandparents having immigrated to the United States

from the highlands of Scotland. On the maternal side, Mr. Matheson is descended from New England stock. He obtained his elementary education in the public schools and then entered Beloit College, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy in 1890, and in 1893 he received the degree of Master of Arts. In 1892 he entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, where he was graduated in 1894 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Immediately afterward he was admitted to practice at the Wisconsin bar, and on July 1 of that same year he became junior member of the law firm of Fethers, Jeffris, Fifield & Matheson, at Janesville. Eleven months later he withdrew from the firm and, with Messrs. Whitehead and Smith, formed the firm of Whitehead, Matheson & Smith. In 1896 Mr. Smith withdrew, after which the firm title was Whitehead & Matheson. Early in his professional career Mr. Matheson attracted attention by his success in the practice, and during the subsequent years he gained additional prestige as one of the ablest and most successful members of the Rock County bar. He was connected with many important cases in the local courts and also practiced in courts outside of Rock county. On the death of John M. Whitehead, August 31, 1924, Mr. Matheson was alone in the practice. On November 3, 1924, he took possession of the office of postmaster of Janesville, to which he had been appointed.

Politically Mr. Matheson has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party, and he has always taken a good citizen's interest in public affairs, especially as relating to the welfare of his own community. From April, 1903, to April, 1905, he served as a member of the Janesville city council. In 1921 and 1923 he represented his assembly district in the state legislature. He has been a trustee of Beloit College since 1915, and a source of particular pleasure to Mr. Matheson was the conferring on him of a membership in the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity by his alma mater, Beloit College. Mr. Matheson has long been an active and enthusiastic member of the Masonic fraternity, in which he has attained all the degrees in both the York and Scottish rites, the thirty-third, or last degree having been conferred on him at Boston in 1909. He has been particularly interested in the Wisconsin Masonic Home, of which he is president and with the affairs of which he has long been closely identified. This splendid institution, which is located at Dousman, Wisconsin, represents an investment of nine hundred thousand dollars, and it was opened December 1, 1923. The land on which it stands was donated by Willard A. Van Brunt, formerly of Horicon, Dodge county, Wisconsin, who also gave a two-hundred-thousand-dollar endowment fund to the home. Another Masonic service in which Mr. Matheson is deeply interested is that of the Educational Loan Fund of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar. The Knights Templar of the United States taxed themselves one dollar per member per year, which money goes into a fund for the aid of needy and worthy students. Mr. Matheson is the secretary of the Wisconsin Grand Commandery committee which has this matter in charge, and he is taking an active interest in carrying out the provisions of the plan. He is an active member of the Congregational church in Janesville and was for many years a member of its board of trustees.

On September 26, 1894, Mr. Matheson was married to Miss Georgia L. Hubbard, who was born and reared in and near Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and their



union has been blessed with the birth of two children: Marion Barbara, born August 23, 1896; and John Hubbard, born May 2, 1908. Mr. Matheson's long residence in Janesville, his upright life, sound judgment and professional ability, have made his name a synonym for character and worth. He is imbued with the deepest and most helpful public spirit, is well fortified in his opinions as to matters of public policy and has always given of his best to the furthering of good government. His success in life has been the legitimate result of consecutive and indefatigable effort, directed and controlled by good judgment and wise discrimination, and he well merits the high place which he occupies in popular esteem and confidence.

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#### ALFRED EDWARD WHITFORD, M. A.

In one of the most exacting of all callings Alfred Edward Whitford has attained marked distinction, being recognized as one of the most successful educators in southern Wisconsin, where the prestige which he had previously enjoyed as a successful instructor has been still further enhanced by his fine record since becoming the head of Milton College. This is one of the old and very efficient colleges of the middle west, on whose roll of alumni are some of the most distinguished names in business, professional and public life in this section of the Union. It has been fortunate through the years in the selection of its presidents, who have uniformly been men of consecration to the work which they had to do, and which they have discharged with a degree of efficiency that has been reflected in the steadily increasing reputation which the college has enjoyed.

Alfred Edward Whitford was born on the 4th of September, 1875, in Milton, Wisconsin, the son of Albert and Chloe E. (Curtis) Whitford, to whom special reference is made elsewhere in this work. He attended the public schools of Milton and Milton College Academy, after which he entered Milton College, from which he was graduated in 1896 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During the ensuing year he taught at Waupun, Wisconsin, where he was assistant to the principal of the North Ward high school. In 1897 he was chosen principal of the Milton public schools, which position he held until 1899. During the following two years he was a student in the University of Chicago, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1900. In 1901 he returned to Milton College as professor of physics and assistant to his father as professor of mathematics, in which capacities he served until his father's retirement in 1911, when he became professor of mathematics and physics. He then obtained a leave of absence and attended the University of Wisconsin, where he obtained the degree of Master of Arts. On his return to Milton he resumed the chair of mathematics and physics, which he held until 1921, when, on the death of William C. Daland, president of the college, who died on June 21 of that year, he was made acting president. In 1923 he was chosen president and has filled that office since. During the period of his professorship he had also filled the position of registrar from 1902 to 1921.

Mr. Whitford possesses all the essential qualifications of an educator. He had grown to manhood surrounded by influences which gave his mind a bent toward pedagogy and his career has demonstrated his innate fitness for the work to which he has devoted his life. A well educated, symmetrically developed man, he has given to the work to which he has been called all the energy and enthusiasm of one whose whole heart is devoted to the great mission of developing the minds, souls and bodies of the young. He possesses the happy faculty of communicating his own enthusiasm to the student body, whose confidence he holds to a remarkable degree, and no more popular president has presided over the destinies of Milton College than he.

On August 15, 1900, Mr. Whitford was married to Miss Mary Whitford, a distant relative of his and the daughter of Rev. O. U. Whitford, of Westerly, Rhode Island. To them have been born two children: Albert Edward, born October 22, 1905; and Dorothy Euphemia, born March 17, 1907. Politically Mr. Whitford is nominally a republican but maintains an independent attitude, voting according to the dictates of his judgment as to men and measures. His religious affiliation is with the Seventh-day Baptist church, of which he is a deacon. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Mathematical Association of America.

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#### CHARLES C. SPENGLER.

Charles C. Spengler, vice president of the Spengler-Loomis Manufacturing Company of Chicago and Rockford and general manager of that well established concern's manufacturing operations in Rockford, one of the leading figures in the industrial life of that busy city, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was born September 4, 1859, in the ancient and picturesque city of Schaffhausen, the capital of the canton of that name on the Rhine, in the republic of Switzerland and site of the world renowned falls of Schaffhausen. He may be regarded as one of the veterans in the local industrial field, for he has been actively engaged in industrial pursuits for more than fifty years, a mechanical engineer of wide experience and an inventor of numerous specialty devices and appliances that have created a wide market, the Spengler specialties of one sort and another being known all over the country and in the general export trade.

Charles C. Spengler acquired his education in his native place, early giving his attention to technical training with particular reference to the mechanical arts, and by the time he had attained his majority he was a well qualified mechanical engineer, trained with that orderly precision so distinctively characteristic of the Swiss artisans. He remained in his home land until he was twenty-five years of age, by which time he had acquired a variety of experience in his craft which he felt qualified him to seek new and wider fields for his activities. With that view in mind he came to the United States in 1884 and after a period of practical employment in the mechanical trades in the

east, meanwhile acquiring a working knowledge of the language of his adopted country, he became employed in railway shop service in Wheeling, West Virginia, and later in the glass industry in that city, where he was living when in 1885 he came to Rockford, where he opened a small general machine and repair shop with his brother, George H. Spengler, in 1893. This business under their careful direction grew and in 1908 their operations had expanded, particularly in connection with the manufacture of an ingenious pencil sharpener which they had invented and patented, to such a point that they enlarged their plant and incorporated their business as Spengler Brothers, Incorporated. In connection with this pencil sharpener the brothers bought the manufacturing rights in certain similar devices and did a thriving business in the manufacture of pencil sharpeners. Charles C. Spengler continued thus engaged in the manufacturing line in Rockford until 1913, when he bought his brother's interest in the enterprise and in that same year established himself in Chicago, organizing the Spengler-Loomis Manufacturing Company of Rockford, for the purpose of manufacturing certain novelty specialties which he controlled. The company continues to maintain executive offices in Chicago, making that city the center of its distribution, these specialties entering into a wide market. E. C. Loomis of Chicago is the president and treasurer of the Spengler-Loomis Manufacturing Company, Charles C. Spengler is the vice president and general manager, and E. C. Collins is the secretary.

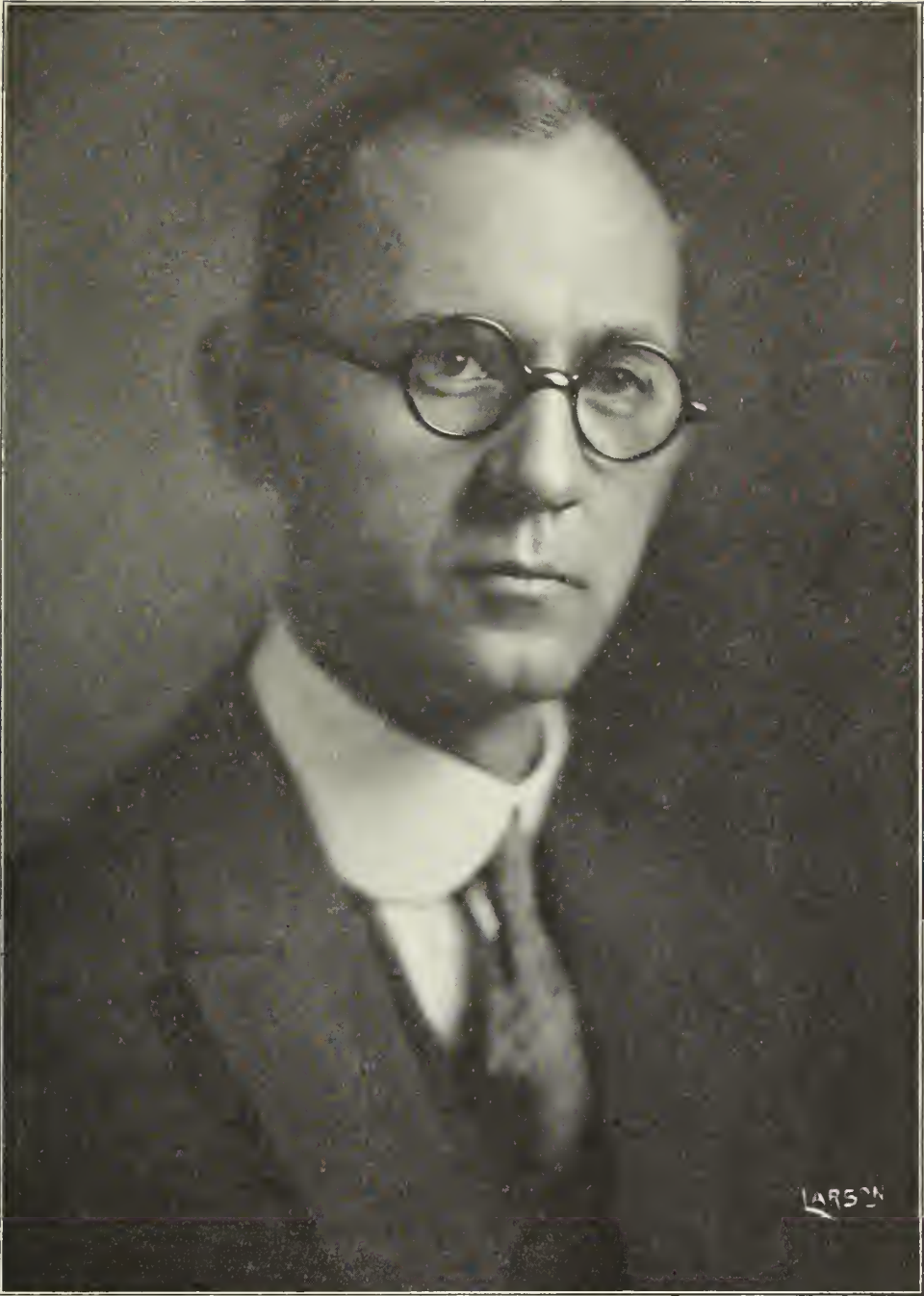
Mr. and Mrs. Spengler have one child, a daughter, Mathilda, born in the city of Chicago, July 21, 1893, who is the wife of Dr. Paul Nixon, dean of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. Dr. and Mrs. Nixon have a daughter: Catherine, born February 22, 1920, a grandchild in whom Mr. and Mrs. Spengler take much pride and delight.

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#### ALBERT F. OTTOW, M. D.

Dr. Albert F. Ottow, physician and surgeon, is a member of the medical fraternity of Beloit, Wisconsin, and possesses those qualities through which success comes as a natural sequence. He was born January 1, 1893, in Watertown, Wisconsin, and is a son of Albert and Ernestina Ottow, the former an agriculturist and a well known resident of that locality. Dr. Ottow attended the public schools of his native town and prepared for his profession at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, from which he was graduated in 1916 with the M. D. degree. He spent one year as an interne at the Deaconess Hospital in Buffalo, New York, and for two years was assistant surgeon at Harper Hospital of Detroit, Michigan, thus gaining valuable experience.

During the World war Dr. Ottow enlisted in the medical corps of the United States army and won the commission of first lieutenant on the 5th of May, 1918. He was stationed for a month at Newport News, Virginia, and was then assigned to duty as surgeon on the United States Transport Freedom, serving in that capacity until December 30, 1918, when he received his honorable discharge. He then came to Beloit, where he has since engaged in general practice, and



DR. ALBERT F. OTTOW



much of his work is now in the field of surgery. He is a member of the staff of the Beloit General Hospital and has already acquired a well deserved reputation for professional skill. He has many patients and his practice is growing rapidly.

Dr. Ottow was married June 24, 1919, to Miss Clara Derner, a daughter of Charles Derner, of Buffalo, New York, and they have one child, Marion Ellen, born March 5, 1921. The Doctor is identified with the Masonic order and in politics is a republican but has never sought office as a reward for party fealty. He is a member of the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. Dr. Ottow has accomplished much for one of his years and through wide reading and close study of the cases intrusted to his care is constantly adding to his store of scientific knowledge and promoting his ability.

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### ALFRED ANDERSON.

In the memorial annals of the city of Rockford there are few names, particularly those of persons who for many years had been connected with the industrial interests of that city, that are held in better remembrance than is that of the late Alfred Anderson, one of the pioneers in the local furniture manufacturing industry, a charter member of Salem Lutheran church and for many years one of the influential personal factors in the general industrial life of that community. It therefore is but fitting and proper that in this definite history of the region in which he had so long lived and to the development of which he had given his thoughtful attention for so many years, there should be set out some brief review of his life and of his services to that community.

Alfred Anderson was of European birth but had been a resident of this country and of the city of Rockford since the days of his young manhood, a period of more than half a century, and thus very properly may be said to have grown up with the increasing industrial activities of that city. He was born in Wester Gotland, Sweden, April 19, 1849, and died at his home in Rockford, Illinois, August 23, 1924, thus having been in his seventy-sixth year at the time of his death. He was reared in his native place and grew up there well trained in the woodworking industries, becoming a skilled cabinetmaker. He remained there until after he had attained his majority and then, in the year 1871, came to the United States. In 1878 he was married and established his home in Rockford and ever after was a resident of that city, where he reared a family and where he became a personal factor in the development of the furniture industry.

Mr. Anderson not only was one of the organizers of the Union Furniture Company, with the affairs of which flourishing concern he for many years was actively identified, but he had interests in other concerns of a similar character and was long looked upon as one of the substantial and dependable citizens of Rockford, these various interests having been actively represented by him until his retirement from general business on account of failing health. He was a good citizen and had done well his part in helping to build up the community of which he had become a part. As one of the local newspapers said following

the announcement of his death in the summer of 1924: "A man of quiet demeanor, unpretentious, kindly and genial, Mr. Anderson's death will be deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends who held him in highest esteem. He was a charter member of Salem Lutheran church, where he attended services regularly." Funeral services were held under the direction of the Lutheran clergy at the Anderson home, No. 1617 South Fifth street, and interment was made in the Scandinavian cemetery. In passing, it is not inappropriate to refer to the significant circumstance of the request of the family following the death of Mr. Anderson that friends attending the funeral omit the formal tender of flowers on that occasion. Modest in his personal requirements in life, unostentatious in his demeanor and in his general walk and conversation, it was known that Mr. Anderson would have deprecated the making of any ornate display in connection with the necessary rites attending his final disposal, and that he thus would have been the very last to have sought such a display.

As noted above, it was in 1878, some years following his arrival in this country, that Alfred Anderson was married to Ella Peterson of Rockford. Mrs. Anderson survives her husband and is still making her home in Rockford. She has two sons and seven grandchildren. These sons—John R. Anderson and Perly A. Anderson—are both actively identified with the industrial and commercial interests of their home town and further mention of them is made elsewhere in this work. John R. Anderson is the secretary of the National Mirror Works and Perly A. Anderson is the secretary of the Stonefield-Evans Shoe Company. Mrs. Anderson was born in Rockford, September 8, 1854, a daughter of Peter and Inga Marie (Brissman) Peterson, natives of Wester Gotland, in the kingdom of Sweden, who came to this country in 1852, landing at the port of Boston on the Fourth of July. They often afterward recalled that the sight of the flags flying throughout the city and the great display of fireworks were to them but a part of the daily normal display of spirits on the part of the people of the new country and were unaware until the circumstances were explained to them that this was the American manner of celebrating Independence Day. Peter Peterson became one of the substantial citizens of Rockford. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom four are living, Mrs. Anderson having a sister, Mrs. Emma Thompson; and two brothers, P. A. Peterson, a manufacturer of Rockford, and Claus G. Peterson. Mrs. Anderson has spent all her life in Rockford and she has many interesting stories to tell of earlier days hereabout.

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#### CLARENCE EDWARD LEFFEL.

Among the flourishing manufacturing enterprises that go to make the city of Rockford the important industrial center it has come to be within recent years the Phenolic Products Corporation of that city, of which Clarence Edward Leffel is the president and general administrative director, occupies an interesting position by reason of the wide variety and ingenious character of its products. The other officers of this flourishing local industrial concern are: A. E. Freburg, vice president and treasurer; and H. A. Stiles, secretary. The

Phenolic Products Corporation has an admirably equipped plant at No. 2205 Kishwaukee avenue in Rockford, the remodeled plant of the old Boring Tractor Corporation, and is engaged in the manufacture of bakelite, redmanol and condensite products (all phenolic products) and has created a wide market for its output, this being an almost infinite variety of articles created from these amazingly plastic synthetic substances.

In advance it is perhaps proper to explain that phenol—the base of these remarkable phenolic products—is a colorless or pinkish crystalline substance produced by the destructive distillation of organic bodies such as wood, coal and the like, and is also obtained from the heavy oil from coal tar. Bakelite, one of these phenolic products, is perhaps unique in the wide variety of uses made possible by its many unusual properties. In its finished form it is a heat-resisting, high dielectric material, impervious to oils, moisture or any of the common solvents—light in weight, mechanically strong and chemically inert. It lends itself readily to machining operations and in its raw state can be molded with a high degree of accuracy and finish in an almost infinite variety of shapes, in recent years having taken the place of metals in countless devices familiar to the public. Redmanol, a kindred product, is a synthetic resin made of phenol and anhydrous hexamethylenetetramine, is not affected by the ordinary solvent agents, has great mechanical strength, singular beauty of finish, unaffected by variations of temperature and is, in short, as claimed for it, “the perfect molding compound.” Condensite, another of these phenolic products, is a substance of similar qualities and has made plastic molding a machine process of general application, the properties above referred to, mechanical strength, resistance to variations of temperature, ease and rapidity of molding, high finish and the like, having given a new breadth and scope to the art of plastic molding, emphasizing the claim that the hydraulic press, by means of which these interesting products are manufactured, is taking its place side by side with the automatic screw machine as an economic producer. And it is as licensed molders of these interesting products of the chemist’s art that the Phenolic Products Corporation of Rockford is operating, turning out in its plant there a variety of products that enter into a wide market, and has come during the comparatively recent period of its existence to be recognized as one of the important industries of the city. Among these products is one of Mr. Leffel’s own invention, a phenolic toilet seat, for which a rapidly growing market has been created. Bathroom fixtures, beads and pipes are some of the other better known specialties of this concern.

Clarence E. Leffel, president of the Phenolic Products Corporation and a representative personal factor in the industrial and commercial development of the city of Rockford, was born in Donnellsville, Lake county, along the lake in northeastern Ohio, March 23, 1880, a son of Hugh Blair and Lydia F. Leffel, and he attended the public school and the high school. As a lad he became strongly attracted to chemical and electrical research work and upon leaving school gave his particular attention to the study of the electro-deposition of metals, with particular reference to the electroplating industry, and became an expert artisan along that line. In 1906 he erected the Spirella Plating Company’s plant in Niagara, New York, and was in charge of that



plant until 1914, when he organized the Niagara Insulbake Specialty Company, and was at the head of that concern until 1918, when he sold his interest, bought a farm in the Niagara country and retired, making his home in the city of Buffalo. A life of inaction, however, did not long appeal to him and in 1922, after an investigation of the manufacturing field in Rockford, organized the Phenolic Products Corporation, bought the old manufacturing plant of the Boring Tractor Corporation in Rockford, had it remodeled and newly equipped with machinery suitable to the purposes of his industry and entered upon the manufacture of phenolic products. As president of this corporation Mr. Leffel gives his active attention to its affairs and has developed an industry that has come to be recognized as an important factor in the industrial life of the community.

On November 20, 1912, in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Leffel was united in marriage to Miss Jennie F. Bieber, daughter of Fred and Elizabeth Bieber of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Leffel have a pleasant home in Rockford and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the city. Mr. Leffel is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the fraternal order of the Knights of Pythias. He served as grand chancellor commander of the grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias in the state of Pennsylvania, and is widely known in Pythian circles throughout the country.

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#### WALTER ALEXANDER FORBES.

Elsewhere in this work there is set out at considerable and quite informative length the story of the founding in Rockford of the iron foundry which during the course of the nearly seventy-five years since that time has been developed into the great plant of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works, one of the leading industries of its sort in the middle west and of which Walter Alexander Forbes is the president, having succeeded his elder brother, the late Harry F. Forbes, to that position of administrative responsibility, the latter having succeeded their father, Alexander Duncan Forbes, who had succeeded his father, Duncan Forbes, as the head of the concern. Another son of Alexander D. Forbes, George O. Forbes, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere, is the secretary and treasurer of this corporation, and his son, John A. Forbes, is production manager. Duncan P. Forbes, son of the late Harry F. Forbes, is the works manager, these two latter thus representing in the fourth generation interests that have accumulated here in the family since the coming of the pioneer Duncan Forbes and his family to Rockford in the year 1852. Walter Alexander Forbes was born in Rockford, January 25, 1870, the second of the three sons of Alexander D. and Elizabeth (Ostrom) Forbes, the latter of whom was born in Schoharie county, New York, daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Warner) Ostrom. Alexander D. Forbes, who died in Rockford in 1902, was born in Scotland in 1831 and was but a lad when in 1842 he came to this country with his parents, Duncan and Jessie (Russell) Forbes, who after a residence of about ten years in the east came into Illinois

and located in Rockford, where Duncan Forbes and his son Alexander set up an iron foundry and thus established the business which in the generations since has grown to great proportions, long one of the principal factors in the industrial life of the city.

Reared in Rockford, Walter Alexander Forbes has been familiar with the details of the foundry since the days of his boyhood. He completed his schooling by three years of work in the University of Michigan and then became associated with the operations of his father's malleable iron works in Rockford, painstakingly learning the details of all departments of that concern. In 1896 he became the vice president and in the reorganization following the death of his father in 1902 was retained in that position, his elder brother, Harry F. Forbes, becoming president and his younger brother, George O. Forbes, the secretary and treasurer in succession to the latter. When the lamented Harry F. Forbes died in 1911, Walter A. Forbes became president of the corporation and has since been serving in that capacity in executive direction of the company's affairs.

On September 6, 1894, in Rockford, Walter A. Forbes was united in marriage to Miss Marie Thompson Perry, daughter of Seely and Marie (Thompson) Perry of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes have two sons: Alexander Duncan Forbes, born in 1905, who is now taking part in the operations of the malleable iron works founded by his great-grandfather and of which his father now is the head, showing a quite natural disposition to carry on in his generation the work in which his family so long has been interested; and Seely Perry Forbes, born in 1908, who is now (1925) a student in Yale College. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes are members of the First Presbyterian church of Rockford, of the Rockford Country Club, and are republicans. Mr. Forbes is a member of the locally influential Rotary Club of Rockford, is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of that city and is a member of the Union League Club of Chicago and of the Zeta Psi Club of New York city.

Mrs. Forbes also is a member of one of the substantial pioneer families of the Rock River country, her father, the late Seely Perry, former mayor of Rockford and in his generation one of the most influential citizens of Rockford, having come here in 1849. Mr. Perry was long one of the leaders of the democratic party in Winnebago county. In 1858 he was elected mayor of Rockford and in that executive capacity did a good work in opening a way for the further development of the city's civic interests at a somewhat critical period. He also had rendered public service as a member of the board of aldermen, was for years a member of the city board of education and was also a member of the board of directors of the public library, in these several useful capacities rendering a very real service in the general behalf. He was a Knights Templar (York Rite) Mason, had served his local lodge as worshipful master, and was one of the leading supporters of the Congregational church.

Mr. Perry was twice married. His first wife (Elizabeth Benedict), to whom he was married in 1846, died in 1874. To that union two children were born: a son, Lewis Seely, who died years ago; and a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who

became the wife of Philip N. Moore of St. Louis. In 1876 Mr. Perry was married to Miss Marie Thompson, who survived him and who is the mother of Mrs. Forbes. Mrs. Marie Thompson Perry was born in the vicinity of the city of London, in the province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada, a daughter of James and Sarah (Schnurr) Thompson, the latter of whom also was of Canadian birth. James Thompson was born in New Salem, Massachusetts, and in his young manhood engaged in manufacturing enterprises in Canada, where he was married. In 1842 he came down into Illinois and in Roscoe, in the upper part of Winnebago county, set up a woolen mill and established quite a business there in that line, continuing thus until his death in 1853. Mrs. Perry was the first president of the Rockford City Aid Society, organized in 1876; the first president of the Federation of Clubs; the organizer of the Winnebago Farm School; and in other ways for years a leader in local feminist activities.

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#### HORACE L. WAISNER.

Horace L. Waisner, chief metallurgist in the great plant of the Mechanics Machine Company of Rockford and long recognized as an authority on the treatment of metals by the heat process, a veteran of the Spanish-American war and an industrial executive of many years of experience, is a Hoosier by birth, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, but he has been a resident of Rockford for the past ten or twelve years and thus has a wide acquaintance throughout this section of the Rock River valley. He was born in the city of Kokomo, Indiana, April 9, 1879, a son of William and Louisa (Gray) Waisner, both of whom also were born in Kokomo, members of old families in that city.

Reared in Kokomo, Horace L. Waisner attended the local schools and early became interested in industrial operations. It was during the days of his boyhood that the great industrial development of that section of Indiana began to get under way, following the opening of the eastern Indiana natural gas fields, and his first real "job" was in a plate glass works that had been established in the near-by town of Alexandria following the opening of the gas field, he there having his initial experience in heat treating as related to industrial operations. His youthful mind was opened to the tremendous possibilities latent in the underlying principles of heat treating and he presently began to apply himself seriously to the general study of metallurgy and heat treating. While he was thus occupied the Spanish-American war broke out—in April, 1898. He responded at once to the call for volunteers and in that same month enlisted his services in behalf of the army, going out as a member of Company G of the One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was stationed at Camp Alger, Pennsylvania. Before this regiment was called into the field for active service this brief war came to an end and in May, 1899, after a little more than a year of military service, Mr. Waisner received his honorable discharge, the command to which he was attached being then mustered out of service.



HORACE L. WAISNER



Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Waisner resumed his vocational activities, with particular reference to that phase of manufacturing having relation to the metallurgical department, and in 1903 was made head of the heat treating and forging departments of the plant of the Apperson brothers, manufacturers of the famous old Jack Rabbit automobile, in his home town of Kokomo, and he remained with that concern until 1909, in which year he transferred his services to the operations of the American Automobile Company at Indianapolis, going on there in the same capacity. He remained with this latter concern until 1914, when he became connected with the operations of the Mechanics Machine Company of Rockford as chief metallurgist and has since been thus connected, an important personal factor in local industrial operations. As is set out elsewhere in this work, the Mechanics Machine Company of Rockford, manufacturers of automobile parts, is one of the leading industrial enterprises of the Rock River valley and Mr. Waisner's expert services in behalf of that company's operations have been helpful in the general development of those operations. In 1916 Mr. Waisner headed a company organized in Rockford for the manufacture of heat treating appliances and a carbureting compound and was elected president of the company which was organized as the Waisner Manufacturing Company, with E. S. Ekstrom, general manager of the Mechanics Machine Company, as treasurer; Reuben Emerson as secretary; and Carl Swenson as vice president. A plant was erected for this company's operations on Twentieth avenue and these operations were carried on under the company name until 1923, when the concern was merged with the Mechanics Machine Company. Mr. Waisner is widely known in engineering circles and is a member of the Rockford Engineering Society, of the American Society of Automotive Engineers and of the American Heat Treating Society.

On October 9, 1899, Mr. Waisner was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Cox, daughter of John Cox of Crothersville, Indiana, and they have two children: A son, Willard Horace Waisner, born August 5, 1901; and a daughter, Miss Madgeleine Waisner, born May 1, 1903. The Waisners have a pleasant home in Rockford and take an interested part in the city's general social activities. They are republicans and Mr. Waisner is a member of the Masonic order and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### ARTHUR PETER ALLER.

Actively identified for a number of years with one of Janesville's prosperous industrial concerns, prior to which time he had for a long period been an efficient and capable public servant, the subject of this sketch is eminently deserving of specific mention along with others of the representative citizens of Rock county. Arthur Peter Aller is a native of Rock county, having been born at Evansville on the 27th of November, 1864, and is the son of Peter and Nancy Maria (Smith) Aller. His father was a man of prominence and influence, who long filled the position of superintendent of the county poor farm and later of the county asylum, holding the latter position until his

voluntary retirement, after which he lived in Janesville up to the time of his death, which occurred March 14, 1901.

Arthur P. Aller secured his educational training in the public and high schools at Evansville, completing his studies in the Evansville Seminary. He then went to work for the county at the poor farm, of which his father was at that time superintendent, and later, when his father became superintendent of the new county asylum he was employed there until his father's retirement, when he was appointed superintendent. In 1900 he resigned in order to accept the position of steward of the Northern Hospital for the Insane, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1909, when he resigned. In that year he bought an interest in the Wisconsin Carriage Company, at Janesville, of which he became vice president. At that time the company manufactured buggies, later went into the manufacture of wheel toys, and in 1918, when the name of the company was changed to the Janesville Products Company, they took up the manufacture of children's vehicles and spark plugs. Mr. Aller still continues in the office of vice president and is devoting his sole attention to the interests of the company. He is a man of energetic methods, sound business judgment and wise discrimination, who is held in high esteem by his business associates and is respected by all who know him.

On February 24, 1897, Mr. Aller was married to Miss Ella Barker, the daughter of George R. Barker, of Janesville, and a representative of one of Rock county's old and prominent families. Three children have blessed their union, namely: Margaret, born February 4, 1903; Gordon, born January 20, 1905; and Edna Betty, born November 30, 1906. Politically Mr. Aller is a staunch supporter of the republican party and has always taken a commendable interest in everything relating to the welfare of the community along material, civic or moral lines. A man of quiet and unassuming manner, he possesses a strength of character that has commended him to the favorable opinion of all with whom he comes in contact, and he stands among the representative business men of his community.

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#### ALONZO ALDRICH.

Alonzo Aldrich is president and one of the founders of the Beloit Iron Works and a conspicuous member of that select company of sagacious, far-sighted and enterprising business men who have made the city what it is today. He was born March 15, 1858, in Logansport, Indiana, a son of William H. and Sarah E. Aldrich, the former of whom passed away at Pasadena, California, in 1923. William H. Aldrich at one time operated a woolen mill in Logansport, where he also established a jobbing house, and success attended his ventures. He moved to Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1870 and after his retirement from business made his home in Pasadena, California, until his demise.

Alonzo Aldrich was a boy of twelve when the family came to Beloit and after his graduation from the local high school spent one year as a student in the engineering department of the University of Illinois at Champaign.

On his return to Beloit he became a draftsman for the old Merrill & Houston Iron Works, with which he remained for three years, and next accepted a similar position with the Eclipse Wind Engine Company, which was later taken over by Fairbanks, Morse & Company. He was with that corporation for a year and in the meantime the business of the Merrill & Houston Iron Works was discontinued owing to the failure of the firm. In 1881, in association with Fred Messer, R. G. Burdge, Noble J. Ross and W. H. Grinnell, Mr. Aldrich established the Beloit Iron Works, of which he was made secretary. Mr. Burdge became vice president, Mr. Ross acted as treasurer and Mr. Messer assumed the duties of president. He remained at the head of the business until his death in 1885, when Mr. Aldrich was chosen as his successor. For forty years he has successfully guided the destiny of the business, carefully planning each phase of its development, and his labors have culminated in the upbuilding of one of the largest industries in the United States for the manufacture of paper mill machinery. Mr. Aldrich is ably assisted by his son-in-law, Elbert H. Neese, who is serving as vice president and treasurer of the corporation.

In December, 1886, Mr. Aldrich was married to Miss Jennie D. Janvrin, a daughter of George Janvrin, of Beloit, and they became the parents of one child, Laura Janvrin Aldrich. She is the wife of Elbert H. Neese, of Beloit, and they have three children: Elizabeth Jane, Alonzo Aldrich, and Elbert H., Jr. Mr. Aldrich casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party but is not active in politics. He is a member of the Beloit Country Club and the Chicago Athletic Club, while his fraternal connections are with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Aldrich has sown wisely and well and in the fullness of time has reaped the rich harvest of his labors. He has earned a place among the industrial leaders of the Rock River valley and the strength that he manifests in business affairs has its root in an upright, honorable manhood that commands for him the unqualified esteem and confidence of those with whom he is associated in the relations of daily life.

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#### THOMAS E. SWORDS.

Among the numerous commercial and industrial establishments that have gone far toward gaining for Rockford the distinction that city has earned as a manufacturing and commercial center, the plant of the Swords Brothers Company, general plumbing, heating, mill and electric supplies, founded in 1902 by Thomas E. Swords, present president of the company and in other ways actively identified with the industrial and mercantile interests of the city, must be accounted as one of the leaders, for in its line it has come to be recognized as one of the chief supply houses in the middle west. The fact that Mr. Swords started with his brother in business with nothing but a kit of tools as tangible assets and in twenty years and more has built up a concern rated at right around one million dollars is interesting. It is proper



to say, however, that this kit of tools was backed by a stout heart, willing hands, excellent experience and a firm determination to get on. Dennis F. Swords is present secretary of the company; Thomas E. Swords is the president and treasurer; and I. L. Dougherty is the vice president, an effective combination that is doing real business. This company has an admirable plant at Nos. 621-629 Seventh street and besides being general contractors in plumbing and heating does an extensive and constantly growing business in mill and electrical supplies. Another interesting phase of this concern's development is the fact that this development was brought about without the aid of a cent of outside capital, its growth being slowly but surely based on dependable service and the confidence the consuming public had in its ability to carry out its obligations along the lines of that service.

Thomas E. Swords, president of the company which he founded and with whose interests he thus has been actively identified for nearly a quarter of a century, is a native of Illinois and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Rockford since the days of his early childhood. Mr. Swords was born in the city of Freeport in the neighboring county of Stephenson, December 19, 1881, a son of Dennis and Elizabeth (Ryan) Swords, both natives of Ireland, the former born in 1834 and the latter in 1859, who were married in this country. Dennis Swords came to the United States as a young man and was for some time employed in New York city. He then came west and after his marriage made his home in Freeport, where he remained until 1883, in which year he moved with his family to Rockford, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. For some time after his arrival in Rockford, Dennis Swords was engaged there as a sugar refiner and then he became employed in the city service and was made engineer of the city waterworks plant, a position he occupied until his death in 1897, then being sixty-three years of age. His widow's death occurred in 1892, she then being forty-three years of age.

Thomas E. Swords was little more than a babe in arms when his parents moved from Freeport to Rockford in 1883 and his first conscious recollections thus are centered about the city of which he ever since has been a resident. He was sixteen years of age when his father died and he thus early was thrown pretty largely upon his own resources in the way of making a livelihood. He finished the course in the local grade school and then was employed in the plant of the W. F. & J. Barnes Company, where he became a competent general machinist, remaining there until he had attained his majority, in which year (1902) he went into business with his brother, setting up on Seventh street a small plumbing shop with an equipment of tools just about ample for local neighborhood custom work. It was not long until the people in that vicinity found that they were on the job every minute while his services as a plumber were engaged and the good news quickly spread, with the result that the brothers soon found themselves in possession of a real and amply assured business. Mr. Swords was associated in his operations with his brother, Dennis F. Swords, and in the more than twenty years since then the expansion of the business of the Swords Brothers Company has brought that concern to a position in the industrial and mercantile world which

is definitely assured. The company was incorporated in 1910. In addition to his large interests in this company Thomas E. Swords also is president of the Swords Electric Company, a subsidiary concern; president of the Lipman Refrigeration Company of South Beloit; secretary and treasurer of the Cotta Transmission Company of Rockford; and is the vice president of the Rockford Furniture Company.

On April 17, 1913, Thomas E. Swords was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Frances O'Connor, a daughter of Charles J. and Elizabeth (Pendergrass) O'Connor of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Swords have three children: Betty, born in 1915; Thomas, born in 1918; and Terrence, born in 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Swords are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club and Mr. Swords is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### JACOB K. JENSEN.

Upon the roll of representative citizens and prominent and influential business men of Rock county, Wisconsin, appears the name of Jacob K. Jensen, president of the Janesville Sand & Gravel Company. He has contributed largely to the material welfare of the community in which he resides, representing that class of earnest, foreign born citizens who have done so much for the development of the United States, while at the same time they have benefited themselves in a very material manner. Mr. Jensen was born on the 21st of September, 1879, in Aarhus, Denmark, the son of N. P. and Anna Jensen. In 1892 the family immigrated to the United States, settling in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where the subject attended the public and high schools. He completed his studies in Dana College, at Blair, Nebraska, which he attended for three years.

In 1904 Mr. Jensen came to Janesville as manager of the Janesville Granite Brick and Stone Company, which position he held until 1907, when he organized the Janesville Sand & Gravel Company, of which he became the secretary-treasurer and general manager. This enterprise has met with phenomenal success from the beginning and has enjoyed a steady growth in business. Since 1910 Mr. Jensen has been president of the company and is devoting his entire time and attention to its interests. A man of clear, cool judgment, sound business principles and sterling integrity, he has shown himself eminently qualified to direct important enterprises and today enjoys a splendid reputation among the enterprising business men of Janesville.

Politically Mr. Jensen has always supported the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs. He represented the third ward of the city of Janesville on the board of aldermen from 1921 to 1923, and from April, 1923, to October, 1924, he was president of the common council. He is an active member of St. Peter's Lutheran church of Janesville and is treasurer of the English Lutheran Synod of the Northwest, having for a number of years been a strong and influential leader in his denomination. He is a gen-

erous supporter of all worthy benevolent and charitable objects and lends his voice and influence in advocacy of every measure or movement for the betterment of the community in all ways. He is president of the Janesville Citizens Loan and Investment Company.

Mr. Jensen has been twice married, first, on August 16, 1904, to Miss Anna Elizabeth Nygaard, the daughter of Christian Nygaard, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and to them were born three children: Dorrance, Ellis and Lois. Mrs. Anna Jensen died on November 8, 1921, and on January 6, 1923, Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Emma Gilbertson, the daughter of Edward Gilbertson, of Stoughton, Wisconsin. Mr. Jensen has been successful in business and respected in social life and as a neighbor he has discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of a community where the essential qualities of manhood have ever been duly recognized and prized at their true value.

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#### ROBERT W. McINNES, M. D.

Dr. Robert W. McInnes, former mayor of the city of Belvidere and in other ways actively and influentially identified with the general civic and social interests of that city and the community at large; a practicing physician and surgeon in Belvidere for more than forty years and thus one of the best known members of his profession in this section of the Rock River valley, is a native of this valley and has lived here all his life. He was born in the city of Rockford, October 26, 1857, the second in order of birth of the three children of William and Ann (Ewan) McInnes, both natives of Scotland, the former born in Crieff, Perthshire, and the latter in Perth, the seat of that shire, and who in their youth had become residents of the Dominion of Canada, where for some years thereafter they made their home. William McInnes was a millwright and not long after the manufacture of the Manny reapers was begun in Rockford in the early '50s of the past century he became employed by that manufacturing concern and established his home there where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring when he was seventy-seven years of age. His widow survived him for some years and was eighty-two years of age at the time of her death.

Reared in Rockford, the place of his birth, Robert W. McInnes completed the work in the high school there and early took up the study of medicine, presently entering the office of Dr. D. S. Clark, one of the ablest physicians of that generation in Rockford, and under that capable preceptorship was prepared for entrance to college. In due time he matriculated in the Medical School of Northwestern University and in 1884 was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. McInnes engaged in practice in Belvidere as assistant to Dr. Charles Scott, one of the veteran physicians of that city, and after his marriage two years later there established his home, where he ever since has resided. This association with Dr. Scott was continued until the elder physician's death six years later, after which Dr. McInnes took over the



DR. ROBERT W. McINNES



well established practice of Dr. Scott and at the same time became a partner in practice with Dr. A. J. Markly, a mutually agreeable arrangement, which was maintained for twenty years, since which time Dr. McInnes has been practicing independently, with present offices at No. 511 South State street, one of the best established physicians and surgeons in this section of the state.

In 1886 Dr. McInnes was united in marriage to Miss Emma E. Plane, the ceremony being performed at the home of the bride in Independence, Iowa. Miss Plane had kinsfolk in Belvidere and it was while on a visit to these relatives that she and Dr. McInnes became acquainted, the romance thus awakened presently culminating in their happy marriage. Dr. and Mrs. McInnes are members of the Presbyterian church and have ever been regarded as among the leaders in local good works and in the general social and cultural activities of the community of which they so long have been residents. The Doctor is a Royal Arch and Knights Templar Mason, belongs to the consistory at Freeport, and is a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. He is affiliated with the Boone County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and has come to be regarded as one of the real veterans of those learned bodies, in the activities of which he has for many years taken a helpful interest. To the general civic affairs of the community the Doctor also has ever given a good citizen's attention and for three terms rendered effective public service as mayor of Belvidere. It was during his initial incumbency in that executive office that he initiated the movement that brought about the installation of an adequate sewer system for the city and also brought about the organization and equipment of a modern paid fire department, doing away with the old and somewhat uncertain methods of the pioneer volunteer fire department. These extraordinary expenditures incurred a burden on the city's finances that some thought at the time was a rather onerous one but Dr. McInnes stayed on the job until he saw the work through and his administration is pointed out as one of the most successful and efficient in the history of the municipality. Dr. and Mrs. McInnes have a son: Robert J. McInnes, who was graduated from Beloit College and now holds a responsible position in the offices of the Metalglas Company in Marengo. The manufacturing plant of this company is located in Belvidere. Robert J. McInnes was married to Miss Luella Goodridge, daughter of Frank Goodridge of the National Sewing Machine Company of Belvidere.

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#### BROR AXEL WILSON.

In the furniture manufacturing industry in Rockford, one of the real mainstays of the industrial life of that growing manufacturing center, few names are more often mentioned as among the really vital personal factors in that industry than that of Bror Axel Wilson, secretary and treasurer of the Rockford Furniture Company, interested in and actively identified with several other going concerns in that city and for years recognized as one of its real live wires. Ten years ago it was written of Mr. Wilson that "The sound

principles which actuated Mr. Wilson at the beginning of his career he still maintains, and recognizes that quality is worth more than quantity and that honest policies and upright dealing are better than outward show and inward unsoundness. Under his able management the affairs in his charge are in prime condition and his company ranks among the foremost ones in its line in the city." What then was true of Mr. Wilson's methods and operations is equally true today and the principles he was applying to the extension of the operations of the great manufacturing concern of which he is the practical administrative head, are now backed by ten years of additional experience in their effective application, with the result that Mr. Wilson is recognized in the furniture trade generally throughout the country as one of the really big men in that great industry.

Bror Axel Wilson is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his boyhood and is thus as thoroughly familiar with local conditions as any. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, August 19, 1883, and in his homeland had his initial schooling and was early apprenticed to the cabinetmakers trade, finishing this apprenticeship about the time he was nineteen years of age, a thoroughly competent young workman. He then, in 1902, came to the United States and by prior arrangement, made his way directly to Rockford, where he became employed as a cabinetmaker in the plant of the Skandia Furniture Company, a connection he continued for eight years, or until 1910, meantime becoming thoroughly familiar with local conditions and with the details of the rapidly advancing interests of the furniture manufacturing industry in Rockford, which about that time was making progress along all lines in the way of modern development.

In 1910 Mr. Wilson entered upon a new phase of his successful industrial career. Leaving the operative department of the furniture factory, he entered a local business college and after a thorough course in commercial forms became employed as a clerk for the Rockford Transfer Company and presently was made office manager for that concern, a connection which he maintained until 1912, when he acquired an interest in the Rockford Furniture Company and was made secretary and treasurer of that flourishing industrial concern, a position he since has occupied and in which general administrative capacity he has done much toward the expansion of the company's business. As is set out elsewhere in this work the Rockford Furniture Company is one of the leading manufacturing concerns of the Rock River valley and its widely distributed products have done much to add to the name and the fame of Rockford as an industrial center. Mr. Wilson's long connection with the furniture manufacturing business and his trained knowledge of all phases of that business give a value to his service in behalf of the affairs of the company with which he thus is associated that is generally recognized in the furniture trade throughout the country and, as noted above, he long has been regarded as one of the leaders in that line. He has besides his interest in this company other interests of a substantial character and is the president of the Winnebago Manufacturing Company, turning out another line of furniture products in Rockford; vice president of the Litton Veneer Company of

Rockford; and president of the Ozark Hardwood Lumber Company of Springfield, Missouri.

On June 28, 1912, in Rockford, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Selma Christina Larson, who was born in that city, daughter of Gust Larson and wife. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have two children: a daughter, June Elizabeth, born June 20, 1914; and a son, Robert Milton Wilson, born March 13, 1916. The Wilsons have a pleasant home in Rockford and have ever taken a proper interest in the general communal affairs of the city. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the locally popular Harlem Hills Country Club and Mr. Wilson is an active member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### WILLISTON E. RECKHOW.

Williston E. Reckhow, one of the acknowledged leaders among the younger members of the bar of the Winnebago county court, a veteran of the World war, collector of internal revenue for the Rockford district and a practicing lawyer in Rockford, one of the best known young men in that city, was born in Rockford and has lived there all his life. He was born March 26, 1896, a son of Louis M. and Florence J. (Chapman) Reckhow, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring city of Beloit and is still living, making her home in Rockford, where she has resided for many years. The late Judge Louis M. Reckhow, who died at his home in Rockford on July 5, 1924, was for years one of the leading lawyers of the Rock River valley, engaged in practice in Rockford, and for twelve years served as judge of the Winnebago county court. He was a native of Winnebago county, born in Shirland township, a son of Williston Reckhow, one of the pioneers of that section, and in his generation was a man of large and helpful influence in the community, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with a comprehensive narrative relating to his life and services here.

Reared in Rockford, Williston E. Reckhow attended the grade and high schools there and then entered Beloit College and in 1917, the year in which he attained his majority, was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and a Phi Kappa Psi (Wisconsin Gamma Chapter), his studies having been largely directed toward preparation for the further study of law, and upon leaving college he took up law studies under the able preceptorship of his father. That was about the time this country took a hand in the World war and these studies presently were interrupted, for in November of that year (1917) Mr. Reckhow entered the service of the army and was assigned to the ordnance department, with station at the arsenal at Rock Island.

Upon the completion of his military service in January, 1919, the war then being over, Mr. Reckhow returned to Rockford, resumed his law studies, and in December, 1920, was admitted to the bar and was taken into the law firm then composed of his father, who two years before had retired from the bench,



and Earl D. Reynolds, the present judge of the court. By reason of ill health Judge Reekhow presently was compelled to retire from practice and the firm was continued as Reynolds & Reekhow until the election of Judge Reynolds to the bench of the circuit court in the fall of 1923, since which time Mr. Reekhow has been carrying on his practice independently, with present offices in the Trust building, and has established a fine clientele. In 1921 Mr. Reekhow was appointed by the late President Harding to the post of collector of internal revenue for the Rockford district and under reappointment by President Coolidge is still serving in that important capacity.

On August 30, 1919, in Sycamore, Illinois, Mr. Reekhow was united in marriage to Miss Ruth M. Whittemore, daughter of Harry M. Whittemore, a director of the Sycamore National Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Reekhow have two children: Robert Whittemore, born June 29, 1920; and Williston E., Jr., born July 10, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Reekhow are republicans and take an interested and helpful part in local civic affairs as well as in the general social and cultural activities of the community. Mr. Reekhow is a member of the Winnebago County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He is an active member of the local post of the American Legion, one of the influential members of the local Kiwanis Club, a member of the local University Club, and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### REV. JAMES F. RYAN.

It is always a pleasure to revert to the life of a man who has spent his active years in the service of his fellowmen; who unselfishly has sought to minister to those in need of spiritual guidance or physical succor; who, unmindful of the praise or blame of his fellowmen, goes forward from day to day in the performance of his humble duty, content to know that he is following the dictates of his own conscience and doing the Master's will. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life, for its influence continues to permeate the lives of others through succeeding generations. The Rev. James F. Ryan, who on July 7, 1925, was transferred from St. Patrick's Catholic church, at Janesville, to the pastorate of St. John's cathedral, Milwaukee, was for a number of years numbered among the leading religious workers of southern Wisconsin and during the period of his service as pastor of the church at Janesville won the respect and confidence of everyone in the community, regardless of sect or vocation. Father Ryan is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Whitewater on the 6th of May, 1867, the son of Thomas and Anna (Tynan) Ryan, both of whom were born and reared in Ireland. On coming to this country, they located in Whitewater, where the father was engaged in the grocery business.

James F. Ryan secured his elementary education in the public and parochial schools, after which he attended the State Normal School at Whitewater. He then entered St. Francis Seminary, in Milwaukee, where he pursued his studies

for the priesthood. He graduated and was ordained to the priesthood June 17, 1894. His first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's church in Milwaukee, where he served until August 1, 1897, when he was called to teach in St. Francis Seminary. There he spent eighteen years as an instructor, and on April 15, 1915, he was appointed pastor of St. Thomas church at Beloit, where he served until September 1, 1920, when he came to Janesville as pastor of St. Patrick's church. An able theologian, eloquent preacher, faithful pastor and loyal friend, Father Ryan made an indelible impress on the community here during his residence in Janesville, and his transfer to another field of work was considered a distinct loss to this community. He had taken an active part in many local interests not directly connected with his church work but all concerned with the general welfare of the city, being a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Twilight Club, and his voice and influence were always found in support of all measures for the betterment of the community welfare.

Father Ryan is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He was also the president and an active worker in the Rock County Conference of Social Work. Quoting the words of appreciation from a writer in a Janesville paper, "Regardless of faith, to know Dean Ryan was to respect him. No one questioned his devoutness to his faith, nor his interest in all people, his city and his community. His influence was felt both in and out of his own church. No personal effort to better Janesville was ever refused by Dean Ryan. He not only preached charity, he practiced it by personal efforts." Personally Father Ryan possesses to a marked degree the qualities that beget friendships and his friendships here were not limited by church lines or any artificial barrier. All who knew him liked him because of his candor, his courtesy, and his kindly Christian spirit that carried with it a blessing wherever he went.

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#### EDWARD E. SCHULTZ.

Among the able and successful members of the Jefferson county bar stands Edward E. Schultz, who though comparatively young in years has already gained an enviable standing among his colleagues and has been connected as counsel with much of the important litigation in the local courts. Mr. Schultz was born on the 15th of September, 1891, in Clyman, Dodge county, Wisconsin, the son of William H. and Lydia (Huebner) Schultz, farming folk of that community. He secured his elementary education in the district school near his home and in the high school at Juneau. He then engaged in teaching school, being so employed for two years at Knowles, Wisconsin, and for a similar period at Brownsville, this state. Having determined to devote his life to the practice of law, he then entered the law office of Bagley & Reed, at Madison, where he read law, and he also entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin. He was admitted to the bar in 1917 and at once came to Jefferson, where he has remained, enjoying a growing practice

and an increasing prestige as an able, trustworthy and reliable lawyer, a man whom the citizens of this community hold in high esteem and regard.

Mr. Schultz is a democrat in his political predilections and has taken an active interest in public affairs. He was a candidate for the office of district attorney but failed of election. He has served as city attorney of Jefferson since 1919 and in 1920 had charge of the census enumeration for the second congressional district. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he belongs to the Wisconsin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. As a lawyer he has evinced a familiarity with legal principles and a ready perception of facts, with the ability to apply the one to the other, which has won him a reputation as a safe and sound practitioner, and his life affords a splendid example of what an American youth, plentifully endowed with good common sense, energy and determination may accomplish when directed and controlled by correct principles.

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#### EDSON HEWITT.

The success of men in business or any vocation depends upon character as well as upon knowledge, for business demands confidence, steadiness and dependability, and where that is lacking business cannot go on. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth rather than for their wealth or political standing. Their associates and neighbors respect them, the younger generation heeds their example, and when they "wrap the drapery of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams" posterity listens with reverence to the story of their quiet and useful lives. Such a man was the late Edson Hewitt, who in every respect merited the high esteem in which he was universally held, for he was of exemplary character, steady and reliable in his daily life, and a man who always stood for the best things in community life.

Edson Hewitt was born on a farm in Pecatonica, Illinois, on the 24th of June, 1860, the son of Alexander and Louisa (Kidder) Hewitt. When he was five years of age the family moved to Rockford and in the public schools of this city he secured his education. When he was fourteen years of age his father died and it became necessary for him to go to work, his first employment being in a stocking factory. At the age of seventeen years he entered the employ of the Rockford Watch Company and learned the trade of watchmaking, thoroughly and in every detail. He was quick to learn and faithful in the performance of every task assigned to him. He was promoted to an assistant foremanship and later to foreman, becoming one of that company's most trusted employes and remaining in its employ for over thirty-five years. After this he went with the Rockford Knitting & Hosiery Company, remaining with that concern until his death, which occurred February 5, 1923, in his sixty-third year.

As a testimonial of the regard in which he was held by those who had been associated with him and who appreciated his genuine worth and his fineness of character, one who knew him well said of him: "In the passing of Edson Hewitt



EDSON HEWITT



one more of the old guard of the Rockford Watch Company has left us. Few of the present generation remember the time when, with three hundred and fifty skilled employes, the Rockford Watch Company led the industries of our city. Mr. Hewitt was connected with the plant for many years, both as a workman and foreman, and he was one that all those who are left will always recall as one who could be counted on." The closing words of that quotation reveal the essence of the character of the man. Mr. Hewitt, during all the years of his residence in this city, enjoyed the reputation of being a man who "could be counted on", not only in connection with his vocational work, but in every phase of life's activities in which he engaged. He was stable and dependable. His motives and actions were based on that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. His standard was a high one and he maintained it faithfully, being universally recognized as a splendid citizen of lofty character and sturdy integrity, true to his ideals—such a man that the world was better for his having lived.

Politically, Mr. Hewitt gave his support to the republican party, while fraternally he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was identified with the International Bible Students and was a firm and consistent believer in the verities of the Christian religion, which he exemplified in his own life. On Thanksgiving day, 1882, Mr. Hewitt was married to Miss Nellie Morrison, the daughter of Daniel Morrison, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Guy, who is a clerk in Ingersoll, Illinois; one who died in infancy; Ray, who is connected with the National Lock Company. He was married to Lula Westfall and they have a son, Raymond; Ruth, who is a teller in the Third National Bank of Rockford.

Daniel Morrison was a native of Scotland, where he was born January 12, 1813. In 1846 he came to Winnebago county, Illinois, and engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed for some years. He superintended the building of Hanchett's dam at Harrison. In February, 1863, he enlisted in the Fourteenth Regiment of Illinois Cavalry and was with General Burnside on his raid into Tennessee, over the Cumberland mountains to Knoxville, and was there during the siege of that place, being engaged almost daily for two months in skirmishes with Longstreet's troops. He followed him to Bristol, Virginia, and was later with General Stoneman in several actions in Georgia. He was captured by the enemy near Milledgeville and for nearly five months was kept a prisoner in the Florence and Andersonville prison pens. He was finally exchanged and was mustered out of the service in July, 1865. He died February 5, 1880.

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#### LOUIS M. RECKHOW.

Following the death in the summer of 1924 of Judge Louis M. Reckhow, who for twelve years occupied the bench of the Winnebago county court, one of the close associates of that distinguished jurist at the bar of this court was quoted by one of the Rockford newspapers as declaring that "Judge Reckhow will always be remembered as an impartial jurist and a just and

fair judge in all decisions." Continuing, this lawyer friend of the deceased said: "I have yet to know of one unmerited sentence ever handed down by Judge Reckhow while on the bench. He was a man of high ideals in business as well as in home life and his death will be regretted by hundreds of business associates as well as by young men of today who have benefited wisely from his counsel in his position as head of the juvenile court of Winnebago county." A fitting tribute and a just appreciation of the life, services and character of a good man whose passing was recognized as a community loss. For many years Judge Reckhow had done well his part in helping to establish a better social order in the community in which his useful life was spent and at his passing he left a good memory. It therefore is but fitting that in this definite history of the region he so long and honorably represented there should be presented some brief tribute to that memory.

Louis M. Reckhow was a native of Winnebago county, a member of one of the pioneer families of the beautiful valley of the Rock, and all his life was spent here. He was born on a farm in Shirland township, February 22, 1868, a son of Williston and Margaret (Miller) Reckhow, the former of whom died in the early '80s. Williston Reckhow's widow survived him for many years, her death occurring on January 5, 1923. She was survived by another son, William Reckhow of Chicago, and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Zahn, who is still residing in the old home neighborhood in Shirland township.

Reared on the farm, Louis N. Reckhow attended the district school in the neighborhood of his home and when fourteen years of age entered the academy in the neighboring city of Beloit, taking there what now would be regarded as a high school course. He early had begun to give his thought to the study of law and upon leaving the academy entered Beloit College, where his studies were pursued with particular referenee to the law, and in 1891 he was graduated from that institution, then being twenty-three years of age. During this college course Judge Reckhow was one of the active members of the Beloit Chapter of the college fraternity Phi Kappa Psi and was honored as a college orator and as a star on the college baseball team. Many years later, in 1921, when a chapter of Delta Sigma Rho, the national honorary oratorical fraternity, was instituted at Beloit he was given an honorary membership in that fraternity in memory of his forensic activities in his college days.

Following his graduation and admission to the bar, Louis M. Reckhow opened an office for the practice of law in Rockford and ever thereafter made that city his home. In 1901 he was elected city attorney and for four years occupied that position, and was reelected in 1905. In 1906 he was elected county judge to succeed to the vacancy on the bench created by the death of Judge Bailey and by successive reelections occupied the bench of the Winnebago county court for twelve years, or until 1918, when on account of ill health he declined to accept another nomination. It was during Judge Reckhow's incumbency on the bench that the juvenile court was created and in the setting up of this new agency for the administration of justice in Winnebago county Judge Reckhow rendered a service that will not soon be forgotten. It will be recalled that his interest displayed in behalf of wayward boys and girls attracted much attention throughout the state and numerous reforms in the juvenile

court system in Illinois may be said to have been directly attributable to his wise counsel and suggestions in that behalf.

Upon retiring from the bench Judge Reckhow enjoyed a period of respite from official and professional service and then in 1919 resumed his practice in Rockford, entering into a partnership arrangement with E. D. Reynolds, present judge of the circuit court. Not long afterward Judge Reckhow's son, Williston E. Reckhow, was admitted to the bar and became a member of this firm. Judge Reckhow's hopes of being able to resume his practice with something of his old-time vigor were to be disappointed, however, for his ill health compelled him presently to retire from practice altogether and after a lingering illness death came to him at his home on Oxford street, on the evening of Saturday, July 5, 1924, he then being in the fifty-seventh year of his age. Judge Reckhow was a member of the Rockford University Club and was also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and a member of the local Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Florence Chapman Reckhow, to whom he was married in September, 1893; and by a son, Williston E. Reckhow, mentioned above as having been associated with his father in practice and who is still practicing in Rockford, as is set out elsewhere in this work. To Judge and Mrs. Reckhow another child had been born: a daughter, Eleanor Louise, who died at the age of eight years. Mrs. Reckhow was born in the city of Beloit, where her marriage took place, and she is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Chapman, who were well known residents of that city.

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#### FRED R. O'NEAL.

Business activity in Beloit, Wisconsin, has received marked impetus from the constructive efforts of Fred R. O'Neal, who has embraced his opportunities, converting them into tangible assets, and is now classed with the city's leading realtors. He was born December 7, 1883, in Jacksonville, Morgan county, Illinois, a son of John C. and Kate (Duval) O'Neal, the former of whom was a well known agriculturist of that locality.

The grammar and high schools of his native town afforded Fred R. O'Neal his early educational advantages and in 1905 he was graduated from the University of Illinois, having completed a course in agriculture. For a year he was connected with Illinois College at Jacksonville in the capacity of football coach and in 1906 came to Beloit. He worked for a year in the plant of Fairbanks, Morse & Company, preparing himself for the position of salesman, and then became one of their traveling representatives. He was thus engaged until 1910, when he tendered his resignation, and in 1911 embarked in the real estate business in partnership with John W. Day, with whom he has since been associated. The firm of Day & O'Neal has a well appointed suite of offices in the Hyde & Brittan Bank building in Beloit and operates extensively in real estate, also handling insurance and loans. Its members are regarded as men of keen business insight, guided at all times by high standards of commercial



ethics, and many important transfers of property have been effected through their agency. They have been interested in a number of important development projects and have greatly enhanced the value of property in the neighborhoods in which their activities have been directed.

On June 29, 1910, Mr. O'Neal was married to Miss Nettie Rogers, a daughter of L. J. Rogers, who was long a prominent resident of Beloit and who died February 14, 1924. The children of this union are Roger and Barbara, the former of whom was born April 10, 1913, and the latter on May 13, 1915. Mr. O'Neal is an adherent of the republican party and served on the county board for two years, in 1915 and 1916. He is secretary of the Beloit Country Club, in which he takes a keen interest, and his fraternal affiliations are with the Masons and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Mr. O'Neal is a progressive business man, fully equipped to cope with conditions in the modern world of commerce, and his work has been of direct benefit to his city as well as a source of individual prosperity.

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#### WINFIELD L. ANDERSON.

In the second generation the name of Anderson is being upheld in the great furniture manufacturing industry in Rockford, for Winfield L. Anderson, secretary and treasurer of the Union Furniture Company of that city and one of the best known and most influential personal factors in that industry, literally grew up to the business, under the careful direction of his father, the late Charles F. Anderson, one of the pioneers in the furniture business in Rockford, becoming skilled in all branches of the industry. He is a native of Rockford and has lived in that city all his life. He was born May 1, 1887, a son of Charles F. and Charlotte (Gustafson) Anderson, who were married in that city on November 17, 1872, and the latter is still living there.

The late Charles F. Anderson, for many years one of the leaders in the furniture industry in Rockford, one of the organizers of the Union Furniture Company and responsibly connected with other interests of a similar character in the city, was a native of the kingdom of Sweden, born April 16, 1840, and was a well trained and skilled woodworker and cabinetmaker when in 1871 he came to the United States and became connected with the furniture manufacturing enterprises that then were beginning to show signs of their future great development in the city of Rockford. All the rest of his life he spent in that city, thus for more than fifty years being actively connected with the industry to which he devoted his attention. As one of the organizers of the Union Furniture Company, Mr. Anderson for years occupied an influential position in the furniture trade hereabout and in the exercise of the responsibilities this position entailed he did much to promote the general interests of that great industry. He also was actively identified with the organization of the Rockford Chair & Furniture Company and with the Rockford Varnish Company. He was one of the charter members of Zion Lutheran church, for many years a leader in the good works of the congregation of that church, and

in other ways did his part in local good works and the promotion of better civic conditions. Charles F. Anderson died at his home in Rockford, on May 21, 1923, then being in his eighty-third year. He is survived by his widow and by four children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters—Mrs. E. K. Johnson of Chicago and the Misses Ida and Esther Anderson of Rockford. He had lived to welcome the coming of four grandchildren and in these he took much pride and delight.

Winfield L. Anderson, son of Charles F. and Charlotte (Gustafson) Anderson, was reared in the city of Rockford and upon completing the course in the high school there had two years of supplementary study at Augustana College. From the days of his boyhood, under his father's capable direction, he had taken an interest in the affairs of the Union Furniture Company and upon his return from college gave his whole attention to that business, learning all branches of the industry, up through the operative side into the office, and in February, 1923, was elected secretary and treasurer of the company, a position he now occupies and which carries with it a large measure of administrative responsibility in the direction of the affairs of that concern, he thus being looked upon as one of the real leaders in the furniture manufacturing industry in that city.

On June 14, 1916, in Rockford, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Edna F. Erickson, daughter of Andrew Erickson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a daughter: Helen Louise Anderson, born December 11, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are republicans and are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club. Mr. Anderson is a member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club and also of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### LOUIS A. AVERY.

Conspicuous on the roll of names of men who have conferred honor on the profession of law in Rock county is that of Louis A. Avery, member of the widely known law firm of Jeffris, Mouat, Oestreich, Avery & Wood, of Janesville. For years he has stood in the front rank of the successful and influential professional men of this section of the state and is clearly entitled to specific mention in a history of his community. Mr. Avery is a native of Wisconsin, having been born at Fond du Lac on the 2d of September, 1878, and is the son of John S. and Eleckta (Kinney) Avery. He received his elementary education in the public schools of his native city and after graduation from the high school entered the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1903 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was admitted to the bar of this state that same year and at once entered upon the practice of his profession at Madison.

In 1905 Mr. Avery came to Janesville and became a member of the firm with which he is now identified. This is one of the largest and most prominent and successful law firms in the state of Wisconsin and since becoming associated with it Mr. Avery has had a very active part in the legal business which has come to

it. He possesses a great versatility of talents, and exactness and thoroughness characterize all his work. He is well informed in his profession and is faithful to his clients and the law, enjoying a wide reputation as an honest and fair practitioner, and is a man whose simplicity and cordiality of manner invite friendship. Mr. Avery has long enjoyed the respect of his professional colleagues at the bar and his record as a practitioner has been an enviable one in every respect. He is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, while politically he has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party. He is a man of definite convictions on the issues of the day and has long been an influential member of the body politic.

On October 2, 1912, Mr. Avery was married to Miss Jessie M. Porter, the daughter of Frank F. Porter, of Janesville, and they are the parents of two children: Robert Louis, born October 7, 1920; and Donald Porter, born January 9, 1924.

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#### STUART E. RICE.

Stuart E. Rice, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, president and general manager of the S. E. Rice Accessory Company, operating stores in Rockford, Madison and Beloit, with residence in Rockford, and one of the best known young men in the automobile accessories line in the Rock River valley, is a Kansan by birth, born in Osborne, county seat of the county of that name in north central Kansas, May 29, 1897, a son of Elmer James and Lulu Myrtle (Nolan) Rice, who later moved to Lyndon, county seat of Osage county in east central Kansas, where he was reared and went through the high school. Elmer J. Rice became a substantial merchant in Lyndon, a dealer in hardware and agricultural implements. Stuart E. Rice grew up familiar with the details of that form of merchandising and was associated with his father in business when in April, 1917, this country took a hand in the World war and called on its young men to get ready to go to war.

His patriotic impulses thoroughly aroused by this call to arms, Stuart E. Rice lost little time in enlisting his services in behalf of the army and in the May following (1917) was assigned to the artillery branch of the army. After a period of intensive training for service he was sent with the command to which he was attached to France and there rendered service as a private in the Eighty-eighth Division (artillery) until his discharge, for disability, in February, 1918. Upon his return to the States, Mr. Rice located in Chicago, taking connection there with the operations of the National Automobile Supply Company, was presently made superintendent of that company's plant and continued thus connected until 1924, in which year he bought an automobile supply store in Rockford and a similar establishment in Madison, Wisconsin, taking the stores over from the National Automobile Supply Company, and has since been in business on his own account, one of the leading men in his line in the cities



STUART E. RICE



mentioned. In May, 1925, these mercantile operations were extended to include an automobile accessory supply house in Beloit, Wisconsin, and in 1926 two new stores were added, one in Aurora and one in Elgin, so that five stores are now operated under the one management, which carries on under the firm name of the S. E. Rice Accessory Company, with Mr. Rice as president; his wife, K. B. Rice, vice president and treasurer; and G. C. Curtis of Madison as secretary. Under Mr. Rice's executive direction these stores have built up a fine business in their respective trade areas and are stocked and equipped for any call that may be made upon them in the trade.

On May 1, 1917, in Olathe, Kansas, Mr. Rice was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Betty McLeod, daughter of John McLeod of Osage City, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Rice have a son: Jack, born in December, 1920. The Rices have a pleasant home in Rockford and Mr. and Mrs. Rice take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the city. Mr. Rice is an active member of the post of the American Legion in Rockford and is also a member of the Lions Club of that city, belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### PEARLY AUGUST ANDERSON.

Among the several leaders in the industrial life of the city of Rockford who literally have grown up with those industries and thus are definitely identified with the great work that has done so much to put Rockford on the map as an industrial center of large importance, the name of Pearly August Anderson, secretary and treasurer of the Stonefield-Evans Shoe Company, manufacturers of shoes in Rockford, and better known in the trade simply as P. A. Anderson, stands well up toward the top of the list, for he has been connected with the manufacturing industries of his home town ever since the days of his boyhood and is thus thoroughly familiar with conditions in the industrial and commercial field hereabout. He was born in Rockford, May 21, 1881, a son of the late Alfred Anderson, one of the pioneers in the furniture manufacturing industry in Rockford, formerly and for years connected with the Union Furniture Company, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Reared in Rockford, Pearly August Anderson attended the schools of that city and early became connected with the operations of the Union Furniture Company, of which his father was one of the proprietors. Starting in the operative department he learned all branches of the process of manufacturing and marketing furniture and in the office of that concern became familiar with administrative procedure as related to the carrying on of a manufacturing industry in this trade area. Mr. Anderson continued his connection with the office of the Union Furniture Company until 1907, when he transferred his services to the office of the Stonefield-Evans Shoe Company, manufacturers of shoes in Rockford, going into that office as assistant to the secretary. In the next year (1907) a reorganization was effected in this company and Mr. Anderson was elected secretary and treasurer of the company, a position he since has

occupied. This position naturally carries with it a considerable measure of administrative responsibility and during the many years in which Mr. Anderson thus has been related to the operations of the concern he has done much to promote its interest, increase the output of its products and stimulate the market for those products.

On June 22, 1907, in Rockford, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss May F. Stibb, daughter of F. G. Stibb of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have five children, namely: Perry A., born April 12, 1908; Dorothy M., born September 12, 1909; Inez M., born October 31, 1913; Dexter F., born January 2, 1917; and Barbara L., born January 9, 1921. The Andersons are members of Calvary English Lutheran church and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club. They are republicans and have ever taken a proper part in the promotion of the civic interests of the community. Mr. Anderson is a member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club and has for years been looked upon as one of the real boosters of the industrial and commercial interests of the city of his birth and of his lifelong activities. He is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and has for years taken an earnest interest in Masonic affairs. He also is affiliated with Tebala Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Rockford.

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#### EDWIN W. CARLSON.

Edwin W. Carlson, head of the David Carlson Roofing Company of Rockford, a member of the directorate of the Security National Bank of that city, secretary of the Associated Building Contractors of Rockford and in other ways actively and prominently identified with the industrial and commercial life of that bustling city, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, thus being thoroughly familiar with general local conditions, not only as related to the building trades, with which he has been most conspicuously identified, but with general trade conditions. He was born April 19, 1889, a son of David and Ellen A. (Anderson) Carlson, the latter of whom is still living, making her home in Rockford, where she has resided for many years.

The late David Carlson, founder of the David Carlson Roofing Company and formerly and for many years actively engaged in the building trades in Rockford and also a well known contractor in the construction of sidewalks, was a native of the kingdom of Sweden, born in 1857 and was twenty-four years of age when in 1881 he came to this country and became a resident of Rockford, where he ever afterward was connected with the building trades, with particular reference to the construction of sidewalks and roofing, organizer of the David Carlson Roofing Company, which after his death was taken over by his son Edwin and has been continued under its original name. David Carlson died at his home in Rockford on March 14, 1915, following a surgical operation for rupture, and was survived by his widow, two daughters, the Misses Edith and Ruth Carlson, and two sons, Edwin and Inar Carlson. He was a member of the First Lutheran church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in the faith of that communion.

Reared in Rockford, Edwin W. Carlson supplemented the education acquired in the public schools of that city by a course in business college, and as a young man clerked in a local dry goods store. Not long afterward he became connected with the operations of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company as a clerk in its offices in Rockford, where he became well trained in the details of local railway administration. Thus equipped for further railway service, he later accepted a position as chief clerk in the offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee & Gary Railroad Company and was thus employed at the time of his father's death in 1915. Following his father's death Mr. Carlson took over the management of the business of the David Carlson Roofing Company in South Wyman street, and has continued to carry on that business, one of the best known contractors in that branch of the building trades in this part of the country. In January, 1924, his younger brother, Inar A. Carlson, became associated with him in this business and the brothers are now together carrying on the work established by their father years ago and are doing well. In addition to this, Edwin W. Carlson has other interests of a substantial character in and about the city, including, as referred to above, a place on the directorate of the Security National Bank of Rockford. He also is a member of the board of directors of the company operating the Haskell Park apartment building. As secretary of the Associated Building Contractors of Rockford he is one of the influential personal factors in promoting the interests of the related buildings trades in that city.

On June 24, 1916, in Rockford, Edwin W. Carlson was united in marriage to Miss Alice E. Dahlgren, daughter of Albert and Amanda Dahlgren of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have three children: David Albert, born September 23, 1917; Betty May, born May 24, 1919, and Edwin W., Jr., born September 10, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson are members of Emanuel Lutheran church and are republicans.

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#### THOMAS PATRICK BURNS.

Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the struggle of life without the assistance of wealth or influential friends, gradually overcomes unfavorable conditions and the obstacles in his pathway and by the master strokes of his own force and vitality succeeds in forging his way to the front and winning for himself a competency and a place of esteem and influence among his fellowmen. Such is the record of the well known business man of Janesville whose record has been one of which he is justifiably proud. Thomas Patrick Burns is a native of the city now honored by his residence and was born on the 14th of July, 1861, the son of Thomas and Mary (Farrell) Burns. His father was a native of Ireland, whence he emigrated to Canada, locating in Coburg. A short time later he went to Pennsylvania and in 1840 came to Janesville, Wisconsin, being numbered among the early settlers of this community. Here he engaged in teaming, being employed to haul goods from Janesville to the neighboring towns, and he enjoyed the distinction of being the first man in Janes-



ville to own a team of horses. A number of the people owned one horse rigs but up to the time of his coming no one owned a two horse team. He took an active part in local affairs in those early days and was highly respected throughout the community.

Thomas P. Burns attended the public schools of Janesville and in his boyhood days worked with his father on some land which the latter owned on the outskirts of the town. When he was seventeen years of age he went to work in the dry goods store of Archie Reed, where he thoroughly learned the business and with whom he remained until 1884. In the latter year Mr. Burns entered business on his own account, establishing a dry goods store in the Phoebe block. He met with encouraging success from the beginning and in 1890 he occupied the building at Nos. 5-11 West Milwaukee street now occupied by the Golden Eagle store. He remained there until 1914, when he moved to his present location, Nos. 16-18 West Milwaukee street, and it is called "The Busy Store in the Heart of Janesville." The business is conducted under the firm name of T. P. Burns & Company, of which Mr. Burns is secretary and treasurer, G. M. Neumer being president. They carry a large and well selected line of dry goods and enjoy a high reputation throughout the community as a reliable and trustworthy firm with which to deal. This has been the keynote of their success through the years, and today no merchant of Janesville enjoys to a higher degree the absolute confidence and good will of his fellow citizens. Mr. Burns is also secretary and treasurer of the Janesville Batting Mills.

On July 3, 1898, Mr. Burns was married to Miss Katherine C. Joyee, the daughter of Patriek Joyee, of Janesville. Politically he is independent, preferring to vote for the men and measures that meet with the approval of his judgment, regardless of party platforms or preferences. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Columbus. Personally he possesses to an eminent degree those qualities which commend a man to the favorable opinion of his fellowmen, for he has ever stood as an exponent of the finest and best things in community life.

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#### K. E. KNUTSSON.

K. E. Knutsson, president and general manager of the Illinois Cabinet Company of Roekford and a member of the directorates of several others of the considerable manufacturing concerns of that bustling city; long recognized as one of the influential factors in the development of the industrial life of the city of his adoption, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood, and of Roekford for more than thirty-five years, hence being thoroughly familiar with local conditions in the industrial field hereabout. He was born in the city of Stockholm, in the kingdom of Sweden, September 16, 1870, and there received good schooling and a sound technical training in the mechanical and woodworking industries, having qualified as a mechanical engineer when in 1889 he came to the United States, he then being in his nineteenth year.

In the following year (1890) Mr. Knutsson took up his residence in Rockford, being attracted to that city by the active development of the woodworking industries, and not long afterward became associated with the operations of the Scandia Furniture Company as secretary. Two years later, in 1892, Mr. Knutsson discerned the possibilities underlying a plan he had worked out for the local manufacture of printing plates and he organized the Rockford Illustrating Company, of which he became the head and manager. Beginning in a small way this concern gradually expanded, due to the excellence of its products, until it has become a well established and flourishing concern, now carrying on a general supply business in the allied lines of supplies for photo-engravers, artists, electrotypers and commercial photographers, as well as carrying on a general advertising and catalog service, its products having created a demand in a wide and growing market. Mr. Knutsson continued actively identified with the affairs of this concern for twelve years and still retains his interest in it, being treasurer of the company. In 1904 he discerned another attractive possibility in the manufacture of fine furniture specialties and in that year organized the Illinois Cabinet Company for the manufacture of high-grade furniture in Rockford and established a factory for this purpose at No. 2525 Eleventh street. As president of this concern Mr. Knutsson has built up an industrial enterprise that has added much to the name and fame of Rockford as a furniture center and has long been recognized as one of the leaders in the furniture line in that city. He has other interests of a substantial character besides those represented in this company and in the illustrating company, among these latter being a place on the directorates of the Rockford Milling Machine Company, the Rockford Furniture Company and the Manufacturers National Bank of Rockford.

On August 20, 1895, K. E. Knutsson was united in marriage to Miss Effie Lanagan of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Knutsson have a son: Roger Lloyd Knutsson, born in Rockford, July 26, 1903, who now is associated with his father in the operation of the Illinois Cabinet Company. The Knutssons are republicans and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in local civic affairs and in the general good works of the community in which they live.

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#### EDWARD L. CHESTER.

Edward L. Chester, one of Beloit's progressive merchants, is at the head of the city's largest dry goods establishment, and his rise in the business world is attributable to his natural sagacity, keen powers of observation, executive ability and capacity for sustained effort. He was born June 9, 1868, in the town of Le Roy, in Boone county, Illinois, a son of Lawrence and Anna Chester, both of whom were natives of Norway and members of pioneer families of that district. The Chester family located in the county in 1845 and were followed by the mother's parents, who arrived there about 1849. They were agriculturists and aided materially in the work of progress and development.

The public schools of Capron, Illinois, afforded Edward L. Chester his educational advantages and his initial experience along mercantile lines was gained

as a clerk in a general store of that place, where he spent seven years, acquiring a practical knowledge of the business. Early in 1894 he went to Rockwell City, Iowa, and opened a general store but was dissatisfied with the locality, selling the business at the end of six months. He came to Beloit in November, 1894, securing a small store at 208 East Grand avenue, but he is now located at 142 West Grand avenue, and since its inception the business has enjoyed a steady and healthful growth. It has been expanded from time to time and the firm of E. L. Chester & Company now enjoys the distinction of being the largest dealers in dry goods and ladies' ready-to-wear garments in the city. The house bears an unassailable reputation for business integrity and reliability and its patrons receive prompt, efficient and courteous service, always finding in this establishment the highest grade of merchandise and the best values for the amount expended. In building up the business Mr. Chester was assisted by his brothers, Martin W. and Henry B., who at first maintained the status of employes but are now members of the firm of E. L. Chester & Company, of which he is the executive head. He keeps in close touch with the work of each department and the store reflects his enterprising spirit and high standards of merchandising.

Mr. Chester is a republican in his political views and his connection with organizations of a social or fraternal nature is limited to membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Beloit Rotary Club. He reserves all of his energy for his business, in which he is deeply immersed, and in winning success he has also gained the esteem, confidence and good will of his fellowmen, while at the same time he has contributed substantially toward the upbuilding, improvement and prosperity of the city with which he has allied his interests.

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#### FRED W. LEESON, M. D.

Dr. Fred W. Leeson, a self-made man, is a prominent member of Beloit's medical fraternity and for twelve years has engaged in general practice in this city, winning that success which is the legitimate reward of untiring effort and indomitable purpose. Dr. Leeson is a native of Canada. He was born August 13, 1878, at Varney, in the province of Ontario, a son of Henry W. and Sarah Leeson, and received his elementary education in that town. He was afterward a pupil in the public schools of Durham and Owen Sound, Canada, and also attended the Northern Business College at the latter place. During 1904-5 he was a student at the Central College of Physicians and Surgeons at Indianapolis, Indiana, also filling a position in a drug store of that city. In 1906 he completed a course in the Illinois School of Pharmacy at Chicago, paying his way through that institution by doing relief work on Sundays and holidays in the Physicians Supply & Drug Company. He also had charge of the drug department of the Illinois Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1908 with the degree of M. D. Dr. Leeson was an interne at the Lake View Hospital for a year, from 1908 until 1909, and then went to De



DR. FRED W. LEESON



Kalb, Illinois. After a short stay at that place he moved to Sharon, Wisconsin, where he followed his profession until 1913, and has since been a resident of Beloit. He has been very successful in his efforts to cope with disease and each year has witnessed a marked increase in his practice, which now makes heavy demands upon his attention.

Dr. Leeson was married October 14, 1903, to Miss Hilje Mulder, a daughter of J. R. Mulder, of Rose Lawn, Indiana, and they have become the parents of a son, Fred Byron, born August 13, 1910. Dr. Leeson is liberal in his political views, voting for the candidate whom he considers best qualified for office irrespective of party ties. He is connected with all of the Masonic bodies and is also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Rock County, Wisconsin State and Tri-State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He also belongs to the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit and the local Kiwanis Club. Studious by nature, he keeps in close touch with the achievements of science in the fields of medicine and surgery and his genuine worth has established him high in public regard.

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#### OLIVER E. RAY.

Oliver E. Ray, postmaster of the village of Poplar Grove, Boone county, Illinois, and senior member of the firm of Ray & Magill, proprietors of a well equipped and well stocked general store in that pleasant village, is a native son of Boone county and has lived there all his life, thus now being one of the best known men in that section of the Rock River valley. Mr. Ray was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the village of Poplar Grove in June, 1869, and is the second in order of birth of the three children born to George and Mary (Ball) Ray, the latter of whom was born at Northboro, Massachusetts, March 7, 1847, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ball. Mr. Ray has an elder brother, Edgar J. Ray, who is now living at Brookings in South Dakota, where he is engaged in the plumbing and heating business. The daughter, Addie H. Ray, died June 9, 1892.

The late George Ray, a veteran of the Civil war and formerly and for years engaged in the mercantile business at Poplar Grove, who died at his home there in 1913, was born at Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1845 and was an adopted son of John Ray, a native of Scotland, who had become connected with the cotton mill operations of John Parkhill at Fall River and who in 1851 came with his family to Illinois and settled on a farm in the Poplar Grove district in Boone county, becoming one of the pioneers of that section. He developed a good piece of farm property there and on that place spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. George Ray was but six years of age when his parents settled on the farm in the Poplar Grove district and he thus grew up familiar with farm life and conditions. He was only sixteen years of age when the Civil war broke out but before that struggle came to an end he was able to get into service and in 1864, when nineteen years

of age, he enlisted and was attached to the One Hundred and Forty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until his honorable discharge on account of physical disability. After his marriage he engaged in farming until 1879, when he left the farm and opened a general store in the village of Poplar Grove, the establishment now being carried on by the firm of Ray & Magill, and was thus engaged in business until his retirement in 1909, his mercantile career thus having covered a period of an even thirty years. His death followed four years later and at his passing he left a good memory, for he had been a useful and influential member of the community, in the general development of which he had been a decisive personal factor for many years.

Oliver E. Ray was ten years of age when his father opened the store at Poplar Grove and he thus literally "grew up" to the mercantile business, a line with which he has been familiar since the days of his youth. He was graduated from the local high school and then took a course in the business college at Rockford, after which he became actively identified with the management of his father's store at Poplar Grove, eventually becoming a partner in that business. When in 1909 his father retired, the latter's interest was taken over by Fred Magill and the partnership has since been continued under the firm name of Ray & Magill, the business since then having been greatly developed and expanded in keeping with the general development of the community along modern lines. This firm carries a general line of dry goods, groceries and other commodities suitable to such a commercial establishment and has a wide patronage throughout that fine trade area. Mr. Ray has been successful in business and has considerable property interest in and about Poplar Grove in addition to his interest in the store. In 1911, under civil service, he was appointed postmaster of Poplar Grove and has since continued to serve in that official capacity. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he and his wife have ever been helpful participants in the general social life of the community.

It was in 1897 that Oliver E. Ray was united in marriage to Miss Ella Mae Moore, also a member of one of the old and influential families of Boone county, and they have one child, a daughter, Miss Lola M. Ray. Mrs. Ray was born in Poplar Grove, Illinois, where she has resided all her life, her father, Thomas Moore, having settled in Boone county about 1849. He became a considerable property owner in and about Poplar Grove and the family is substantially represented here.

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#### WARREN B. THAYER.

Warren B. Thayer, treasurer of the Thayer Action Company of Rockford and manager of the great plant of that company, the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to the manufacture of fine piano actions, is a native of the old Bay state, a member of one of the first of the American colonial families, but has been identified with affairs here in the middle west for more than

twenty years and thus is thoroughly familiar with general conditions hereabout. He was born in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, September 3, 1870, a son of Minott and Ella B. (Alden) Thayer, the latter of whom is of that family of Aldens in America which has its descent from John Alden of Mayflower fame, one of the Pilgrims who helped to settle Plymouth colony in 1620 and whose name has been preserved in story and song, one of the best known and most romantic names in American history. The Thayers also are of one of the earliest of the American colonial families, the progenitor of this particular line of the Thayers in America having been one of those hardy colonists who settled in the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1630.

Reared in the city of Boston, Warren B. Thayer finished the high school there and early became connected with the plumbing supply trades in that city, learning the business and then becoming engaged in it in a commercial capacity, a dealer in plumbers and gas and steamfitters supplies. He married when twenty-three years of age and continued to make his home in Boston until 1902, in which year he was installed as manager of the affairs of the Piano & Organ Supply Company of Chicago, and its treasurer, and moved to Chicago. In 1910 Mr. Thayer, who by this time had become widely known in the piano trade and had acquired a thorough familiarity with the intricate details of the exacting business connected with the supply of piano actions and accessories, acquired an interest in the old Kurtz Action Company in Rockford and in the following year (1917) the name of this concern was changed to the Thayer Action Company, by which name it since has been known, Mr. Thayer being the treasurer of the company and general manager of its affairs.

It is a matter of general pride in and about Rockford and throughout the Rock River valley that, as noted above, the Thayer Action Company of Rockford occupies the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to the manufacture of fine piano actions. The plant, with lumber yards and other necessary adjuncts, covers approximately twelve acres on Eighteenth and Nineteenth avenues and Tenth, Eleventh and Parmele streets. The piano action, as is pretty commonly known, is that intricate and delicate mechanism that transmits the impulse of the musician's fingers from the ivory piano key to the felt hammer that strikes the strings and produces the vibrations resulting in the musical tones of the piano. The action of a piano is constructed of thousands of specially formed parts of wood and metal, assembled with finest cloths, felts, leathers and metals of nickel, silver, brass and nickel-plated iron, the raw materials of which are drawn from all ends of the earth. The parts are formed, machined and assembled with the aid of special machinery designed by the company's own engineers and built in its own machine shops. A remarkably fine force of seven hundred skilled and specially trained artisans and mechanics is employed the year around in the large, comfortable plant, which is fitted to "the last word" in up-to-date appliances and fixtures.

It is not too much to say that an enviable reputation for highest quality, reliability and durability, long established and jealously maintained in the products of the Thayer Action Company, has elevated it by merit alone to that eminent position it now holds throughout the piano trade. The management maintains a broad-gauge policy, up-to-date, liberal and constructive, and Rock-



ford is justly proud of this prosperous and growing industry. Mr. Thayer, general manager and treasurer of the company, and Edward I. Hoeker, secretary, have both been long affiliated with the piano supply industry and their wide experience and long acquaintance with the requirements of the artistic craft of piano builders, at home and abroad, guarantee satisfactory quality of product. The steady growth of this business, wisely guided by these men, alone indicates the quality and value of their interesting line. Not only do the piano-makers throughout the United States incorporate in their instruments actions made in Rockford but the instruments are distributed throughout the continent and overseas. From northern wilds to torrid climes, across dreary deserts, over mountains on muleback, after long sea voyages, the delicate yet substantial mechanism constructed by Rockford artisans some day arrives to aid in brightening the home and elevating humanity through the production of music—"the greatest civilizing influence in the world."

In 1893, while still making his home in Boston, Warren B. Thayer was united in marriage to Miss Emma F. Clark, daughter of Loren Clark of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer have one child: A son, Alden Thayer, born in 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer are republicans and are members of the Rockford Country Club. Mr. Thayer is a Mason of many years standing and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a member of the locally influential Mid-Day Club and is also a member of the Illinois Athletic Club, the Chicago Yacht Club, the Press Club and the Piano Club of Chicago.

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#### ALFRED CARLSON.

In the great furniture industry in Rockford there are few names that command higher recognition than that of Alfred Carlson, president of the Al Carlson Manufacturing Company; president of the Old Colony Chair Company; president of the Fibre-Kraft Furniture Company; vice president of the Exeel Manufacturing Company; and in other ways actively and prominently identified with the industrial and commercial interests of that city and of the Rock River valley. He is a native of Rockford and has lived in that city all his life, familiar with the details of the furniture manufacturing business since the days of his boyhood and thus one of the best informed men along that line in the middle west. He was born November 13, 1880, a son of John and Mary Carlson, who became residents of Rockford many years ago.

Reared in Rockford, Alfred Carlson attended the public schools of that city and early began his career as a furniture man by working in furniture factories during his school vacation periods, this form of industrial service having been begun in 1892, when he was but twelve years of age, in the plant of the old Diamond Chair Company, an industrial concern no longer in existence. In that plant and in others of the sort in Rockford, Mr. Carlson became a thoroughly qualified furniture man, going on through the operative side into the office and thus becoming competent to take care of the details of the business as approached from any angle. In 1907, with a view to getting into business

on his own account, Mr. Carlson set about the organization of the Excel Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of furniture along somewhat different lines than any then being worked out in Rockford and he and those thus associated with him built up quite a successful business along that line, the Excel plant being one of the well equipped and profitably operated furniture factories of the city. Mr. Carlson continues his connection with that concern, vice president of the company and superintendent of the manufacturing plant.

It was in 1914 that Mr. Carlson, in association with others, bought the plant and the business of the old Imperial Furniture Company of Rockford and set the business of that concern going on a new basis, making a very successful enterprise out of it. In May, 1924, this concern was reorganized and incorporated as the Al Carlson Manufacturing Company, and the plant extended until now it is recognized as one of the largest manufacturing plants in the city, the growing market that has been created for its products having necessitated this form of expansion. Mr. Carlson is president of this company and also is the treasurer. John Cronk is the vice president and O. A. Barrett is the secretary, an executive force that accounts for the great success the enterprise has made. Mr. Carlson has other considerable interests in the furniture manufacturing line in Rockford and has long been recognized as one of the leaders in that form of industry hereabout. He is the president and treasurer of the Old Colony Chair Company and president and treasurer of the Fibre-Kraft Furniture Company and has other interests of an allied character. His two sons, who like himself have "grown up" to the furniture business, are associated with him in his enterprises, his elder son, Theodore Carlson, being now the assistant manager of the Fibre-Kraft Furniture Company and the younger son, Philip Carlson, assistant superintendent of Al Carlson Manufacturing Company. Mr. Carlson and his sons are republicans and take a proper and interested part in local civic affairs. Mr. Carlson is a member of the Masonic order and of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is affiliated with the Harlem Hills Country Club.

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#### GEORGE A. JACOBS.

Among the enterprising and progressive business men of Janesville, Wisconsin, the subject of this sketch stands in the front rank. Since coming to this city, more than two decades ago, he has devoted his energies almost entirely to the insurance business, which he has carried on with that discretion, foresight and energy which are the natural contributory elements of success. George A. Jacobs was born in Linden, Iowa county, Wisconsin, on the 25th of June, 1871, and is the son of Robert S. and Nancy (Vickerman) Jacobs. In 1884 the family moved to Livingston, Grant county, Wisconsin, where the father engaged in the harness business up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1915. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having served in the Second Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

George A. Jacobs attended the public schools of Livingston and then learned

the trade of a harness maker, at which he worked for a time. However, he was ambitious to secure a better education and he entered the Northern Indiana Normal School (now Valparaiso University), from which he was graduated in 1897 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. While a student there he had taught school, which vocation he continued after graduating, and from 1899 to 1903 he served as principal of the high school at Mount Morris, Illinois. During the ensuing year he worked for the King-Richardson Company, publishers, of Chicago, and in October, 1904, came to Janesville and opened an insurance office. He began in a small way, but by indefatigable industry, sound judgment and wise discrimination he soon was rewarded with increasing business, which during the subsequent years has continued until today he stands in the front rank of insurance men in this locality. He sells insurance of all kinds, and nothing else, and represents some of the strongest and most reliable companies in existence. He is closely identified with a number of business institutions and associations and has risen to a prominent place in the business world. He is treasurer of the Janesville Building and Loan Association; secretary of the Citizens Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Janesville; manager of the La Crosse Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of LaCrosse, Wisconsin; and president of the Northwestern Mutual Insurance Association, covering the state of Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. He is a member of the Janesville Kiwanis Club, of which he was one of the organizers and the first president, and is treasurer of the Young Men's Christian Association. His religious affiliation is with the Cargill Methodist Episcopal church, to which he gives generous support. Politically Mr. Jacobs gives his support to the republican party and is a member of the city council of Janesville. He has long maintained a keen interest in the general welfare of the community and gives his hearty support to all movements for the advancement of the public welfare along all legitimate lines. Although modest and unassuming he possesses strong and vigorous personality and in the best sense of the term is well fitted to be a leader of men.

On August 17, 1898, Mr. Jacobs was married to Miss Elizabeth Livingston, the daughter of George Livingston, of Livingston, Wisconsin. To them have been born two children: Gwendolyn and Robert L. Jacobs. Gwendolyn, who was born November 22, 1900, was graduated in 1925 from Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and is now attending the University of Wisconsin, working for her Master of Arts degree. Robert L., born September 28, 1904, is a senior in Lawrence College.

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#### GILMORE J. LANDSTROM.

Gilmore J. Landstrom, secretary-treasurer and manager of the Rockford Union Foundry Company of Rockford, secretary of the Rockford Machine Tool Company and in other ways identified with the industrial interests of that city, one of the best known of the younger leaders in the local industrial world, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life. He was born



GILMORE J. LANDSTROM



September 14, 1894, a son of John A. and Mary Landstrom, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Sweden and who many years ago became residents of Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, Gilmore J. Landstrom finished the high school there and early became connected with commercial pursuits, upon leaving school becoming a clerk and bookkeeper in a local hardware store. In 1917, when in his twenty-third year, Mr. Landstrom became manager of the affairs of the Rockford Union Foundry Company and has ever since been connected with the operations of that flourishing concern, secretary and treasurer of the company since January, 1924. He also is secretary of the Rockford Machine Tool Company.

On April 15, 1920, in Rockford, Gilmore J. Landstrom was united in marriage to Miss Mabel C. Swenson, daughter of Emil Swenson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Landstrom have a son: Howard Landstrom, born September 9, 1921. They are republicans and take a general interest in local civic affairs. Mr. Landstrom is a member of the Rockford Young Men's Business Association and takes an active and helpful interest in the activities of that useful and influential organization. He belongs to the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and has long been interested in the doings of that popular fraternal order.

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#### CHARLES E. COPELAND.

Charles E. Copeland, president of the old established firm that for over fifty years has been engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes at Jefferson, for some forty years carrying on as the Copeland & Ryder Company, one of the best known concerns of its kind in the country, is a native son of Jefferson and his interests ever have centered there, connected with the industry of which he now is an important personal factor since the days of his young manhood, and an officer of the company for almost twenty years. He was born on the old Copeland home farm, a part of which now is included within the city limits of Jefferson, January 7, 1862, and is a son of Charles and Hannah E. (Blodgett) Copeland, the latter of whom, born in Randolph, Vermont, July 14, 1826, died in 1918, when in the ninety-third year of her age. Charles Copeland, who was born in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, May 3, 1823, died at his home in Jefferson on February 7, 1889, he then being in his sixty-sixth year. He had come to Wisconsin in 1848, following his maternal uncle, John Reed, at one time congressman from the state of Massachusetts, who had come here in settlement days and had acquired title to considerable tracts of land in Jefferson county. Charles Copeland bought one of his uncle's farms, in the Jefferson neighborhood, and lived to see a part of that farm taken into the city. He was a good farmer and also took an interested and helpful part in local civic affairs, for some time serving as a member of the town board. He and his wife were members of the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) and their children were reared in the faith of that communion. There were six children, the subject of this sketch having had five sisters, as follows: Fannie, now de-

ceased, who was the wife of Eugene Hatch; Miss Adelaide Copeland, who continues to make her home at Jefferson; Elizabeth, who also is living in Jefferson, the widow of Henry Lane; Alice, who died in Oak Park, Illinois, and who was the widow of J. E. Harvey; and Isabelle, wife of George Bruns of Lake Mills, Jefferson county.

Reared on the home farm, Charles E. Copeland finished his school work in the old Liberal Institute in Jefferson and after his father's death continued to carry on the farm operations until 1893, when he became connected with the operations of the old Copeland & Ryder shoe factory that had been established by his cousin, George Copeland, and Louis Ryder at Jefferson in 1867. In 1907, after the reorganization of this concern as the Copeland & Ryder Company, Mr. Copeland was elected secretary and treasurer of the company and later on was elected president, in which latter capacity he has since been serving, one of the veteran manufacturers in this part of the state and one of the best known figures in the shoe manufacturing industry in the country. Mr. Copeland is a republican and he and his family are members of the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian).

Mr. Copeland has been twice married. On October 4, 1890, he was united in marriage to Miss Isabel Bird, daughter of Judge I. W. Bird of Jefferson, and to that union were born three children: Two sons, Charles Edward, born April 22, 1892; and John Bird Copeland, born June 7, 1896; and a daughter, Miss Mary E. Copeland, born November 24, 1900. The mother of these children died in 1911 and on June 17, 1916, Mr. Copeland married Miss Agnes A. Hebard of Lake Mills, daughter of Lucius Hebard of Waupaca. The junior Charles E. Copeland, now engaged in business in Jefferson, connected with the affairs of the Copeland & Ryder Company, has rendered public service as an alderman, representing the first ward of the city of Jefferson. He married Miss Ruth Bender, daughter of John Bender of Jefferson, and they have a son, Richard Copeland, representative in the fourth generation of the Copelands of Jefferson county.

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#### SIDNEY D. WILGUS, M. D.

Dr. Sidney D. Wilgus, proprietor of the Wilgus Sanitarium at Rockford; a veteran of the Spanish-American war and of the World war, a major in the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States army; former chairman of the New York State Board of Alienists; former superintendent of the Illinois State Hospitals at Elgin and Kankakee; and a psychiatrist and neurologist of established reputation nationally recognized, is a native of the old Empire state but has been identified with affairs in Illinois for the past fifteen years or more, a resident of Rockford and proprietor of the widely famed sanitarium that bears his name since 1913. This noted sanitarium, it may here be said, is intended to meet the needs of the medical profession in furnishing an ethical place for the treatment of such mental and nervous cases as are difficult to take care of at home. The sanitarium is located beside the Rock river two and one-half miles north of the business section of the city of Rockford, and consists of several

modern buildings surrounded by about six acres of ground covered with large elm and maple trees, offering advantages both of seclusion and accessibility.

Sidney D. Wilgus was born in the city of Buffalo, New York, February 16, 1872, and early turned his attention to the study of medicine. Following his graduation from the medical department of the University of Buffalo in 1895, the Doctor served for a year as an interne in the Buffalo General Hospital and then was appointed to a position on the staff of the New York State Hospital at Ogdensburg. In the meantime he had been rendering further service to the state as a member of the New York State National Guard, having become connected in 1890, as a private, with the Thirteenth Regiment, New York National Guard, at Brooklyn, and in 1892 was made a corporal in the Seventy-fourth Regiment at Buffalo. When the Spanish-American war came on in 1898 he was made a sergeant in the Two Hundred and Third Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and in this capacity rendered service during that brief but decisive conflict. Upon the completion of his military service Dr. Wilgus resumed his place as staff physician at the state hospital at Ogdensburg and was thus connected until 1902, when he was appointed psychiatrist for the city of New York, with headquarters in the great Bellevue Hospital, and two years later (in 1904) was appointed chairman of the New York State Board of Alienists for service with particular respect to the determination of the mental status of entrants at the immigrant station at Ellis Island.

In 1910, after six years of service in this important capacity, Dr. Wilgus was called to serve the state of Illinois, in that year having received the appointment of superintendent to the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane at Elgin. In 1911 he was transferred from that position to the superintendency of the state institution of a similar character at Kankakee and was there thus in public service until 1913, when he bought the sanitarium which he now is operating at Rockford, where he since has made his home. When this country took a hand in the World war in the spring of 1917 Dr. Wilgus was appointed psychiatrist for and in behalf of the medical appeal board of the selective service or draft board for the Rockford district, and later for a short time served as psychiatrist in the department of the surgeon general of the army. On May 1, 1922, he was commissioned a major in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States army.

The importance which the Wilgus Sanitarium has attained in the delicate field it occupies, it having come to be recognized as one of the leading private institutions of this sort in this part of the country, warrants a word of further explanation and description in this definite history of the beautiful valley region in which it is located. The Wilgus Sanitarium is licensed by the Illinois state department of public welfare and is prepared to care for nervous diseases, mild mental cases and drug and alcohol addicts, and it is but proper to say that the institution's facilities for treatment meet all modern requirements. The sanitarium is under the personal management and direction of Dr. Wilgus, whose twenty-five years of service in the amelioration of mental and nervous ailments gives him special qualifications along that line, to the personal care and attention he bestows upon each case thus being given a special and peculiar value. The treatment accorded at this sanitarium is modern in every respect and is



applied through the instrumentality of nurses and attendants trained in this specialty, these qualifications demanding not only professional skill but kindness, sympathy and tact. It is a part of Dr. Wilgus' plan of treatment to keep his patients occupied with outdoor amusements as much as possible and as the lawns are extensive outdoor exercise and games are prescribed and encouraged. In season, tennis, croquet and boating are much in vogue and a nearby nine-hole golf course is available to such of the institution's guests as properly may use it. This admirably appointed institution is steam-heated and electric lighted and the water supply is pumped from pure gravel springs. The accommodations are ample for thirty-five guests and the space for the two sexes is about equal. It has been found that the average rate for service in this institution ranges under forty-four dollars a week, dependent upon the extent and character of attention required, and that in general the length of treatment of patients runs around six weeks and of drug cases from three to four weeks.

On October 1, 1904, while making his home in New York city, Dr. Sidney D. Wilgus was united in marriage to Miss Katharine D. Weed, daughter of Elihu Weed of that city. Dr. and Mrs. Wilgus have five children: Katherine, born September 28, 1905; Francis, born July 11, 1907; Sidney, born June 8, 1909; Dorothy, born November 20, 1911; and Mary, born December 18, 1914. Dr. Wilgus is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association, the Tri-State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, and is also affiliated with the American Psychiatric Association and with the Chicago Neurological Society. He and Mrs. Wilgus are members of the Rockford Country Club and of the Harlem Hills Country Club. The Doctor is a member of the local post of the American Legion in Rockford and of the Officers Reserve Association. He is a member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club, is a Mason of many years standing and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He owns a beautiful home at No. 1422 National avenue, which was completed in the fall of 1924.

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#### WAYNE ALONZO MUNN, M. D.

Among the citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, who stand as distinguished types of the world's workers is Dr. Wayne A. Munn, one of the able and successful physicians of Rock county. A man of fine intellectual and professional attainments, of strong character and gracious personality, he has long enjoyed an enviable standing throughout the community honored by his residence. Wayne Alonzo Munn was born December 9, 1881, at Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, the son of James Edward and Jennie (Mareau) Munn, of Belvidere, both of whose families were numbered among the early settlers of Boone county.

Wayne A. Munn attended the public schools in Belvidere, graduating from the high school in 1901. Having determined to devote his life to the practice of medicine, he then matriculated in the Northwestern University Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1906 with the degree of Doctor of

Medicine. During the ensuing year he served as interne in St. Luke's Hospital, at Denver, Colorado, and then, in 1907, he entered the United States army as a contract surgeon, in which position he served for four months, when he resigned. On September 2, 1907, Dr. Munn came to Janesville and entered into a professional partnership with Dr. William H. Palmer, which lasted for one year, when they separated, and until 1919 Dr. Munn practiced alone. In the latter year he became associated with Dr. Frank B. Farnsworth and in 1923 they established the Munn-Farnsworth Clinic. Dr. Munn has achieved splendid success in the practice of the healing art and his labors for the amelioration of the people of this community have been recognized and appreciated by the public.

On September 1, 1918, Dr. Munn offered his services to his country and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the United States army. He was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he remained until he was discharged in December following. The Doctor has not permitted his professional interests entirely to overshadow all other things but keeps closely in touch with progress in other spheres. Thus he became a breeder of Guernsey cattle, in which he is considered an authority, keeping a fine herd of these animals on a farm which he owns just outside of Janesville. Dr. Munn is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, while fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

On November 26, 1907, Dr. Munn was married to Miss Daisy Belle Campbell, of Lake City, Colorado. He is a man of attractive personality, who easily makes friends and throughout this locality enjoys a marked popularity. He gives his support to all measures for the public good and as a physician he has ably upheld the noblest traditions of his profession.

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#### THOMAS B. GOODALL.

Unqualified commendation is deserved by the man who has the courage, stamina and ability to fight life's battles unaided and earn for himself a place of power and influence in the field of commerce. Of this type is Thomas B. Goodall, of Beloit, Wisconsin, who is dealing extensively in oil and gasoline, and his reputation as a farsighted, sagacious business man is not confined to the limits of this city. He was born November 22, 1879, in Le Roy, Boone county, Illinois, and his parents, Thomas and Helen Goodall, were also natives of that county, in which the father followed the occupation of farming, representing one of the pioneer families of that district.

In the acquirement of an education Thomas B. Goodall attended the public schools of Le Roy and Capron, Illinois, and his youth was spent on a farm. When he was eighteen years of age he started to learn the barber's trade but found the work uncongenial and next became a student at the Chicago Veterinary College. He did not complete his course at that institution, deciding that his talents lay in another direction, and in 1905 came to Beloit, where

opportunity awaited him. He was quick to perceive a good opening and embarked in the gasoline and oil business on a small scale, doing his own delivering and economizing in every possible way. He soon gained a start in the business, fostering its growth by deeply matured plans and unceasing effort, and his operations now cover a large territory, he having established bulk and filling stations in Beloit, Janesville and Clinton. Mr. Goodall has ever realized the fact that true commercialism rests upon the foundation of integrity, and that he is a business man of rare judgment and exceptional executive ability is indicated by the notable success of his venture. His brother, F. R. Goodall, of Harvard, Illinois, is also engaged in this line of work, having stations at Sharon, Wisconsin, and at Capron, Harvard and Woodstock, Illinois.

On October 16, 1901, Thomas B. Goodall was married to Miss Alice M. Berry, a daughter of Thomas Berry, of Capron, Illinois, and they have one child, Helen Imogene, born October 8, 1906. Mr. Goodall is connected with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and his political support is given to the republican party. He is vice president of the Wisconsin Oil Men's Association and for years has been active in its affairs. He is a leader in the line in which he specializes and occupies a central place on the stage of activity in Beloit, receiving the respect which is accorded by the American public to the self-made man.

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#### FRANK G. CARMACK.

In the field of automobile repair work and general automobile salvage operations in the Rock River valley, there is perhaps no more active operator nor one better known in that field than Frank G. Carmack, a veteran of the World war and an expert automobile mechanic, who is carrying on a business in salvage in Rockford that has brought him recognition as one of the real live wires in commercial and industrial circles in that city. Mr. Carmack is a native of northern Illinois and has been a resident of Rockford since the days of his young manhood. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Marengo, McHenry county, December 1, 1892, a son of George A. and Luella Carmack, both of whom are members of pioneer families in that county.

Reared on the home farm in the neighborhood of Marengo, Frank G. Carmack attended the schools of that city and when eighteen years of age became employed as a mechanic in the garage and repair shop of Clarence Barnes, one of the pioneer automobile men in Marengo. There he became a thoroughly qualified mechanic, familiar with the details of practical automobile mechanics. In 1912 he left Marengo and located in Rockford, where he became employed in the local field as an automobile mechanic, working from time to time in various automobile establishments in that city, and was thus engaged when in 1917 this country went to war. On October 4, 1917, Mr. Carmack enlisted his services in behalf of the army and was assigned to the air service, with station at the Kelly Aviation Field, San Antonio, Texas, from which field he presently was transferred to Weaver Field, Minneapolis. Following his graduation from



FRANK G. CARMACK



the United States Army Mechanics School at St. Paul he was assigned to duty as instructor in airplane mechanics, with grade of sergeant of the first class, and until after the war was over served as flight instructor at Weaver Field.

Mr. Carmack received his honorable discharge from army service on January 18, 1919, and returned to Rockford, where he set himself up in business in a small way in the automobile repair line, starting with a one-car garage. The skilled character of his workmanship assured his success and it was not long until he found himself with an established business on his hands. In 1922 he began to make a specialty of the second-hand automobile line, specializing particularly in automobile salvage operations, and this business grew in dimensions and importance until in 1924 he found it necessary to find adequate quarters in which to carry on. It was then that he bought his present tract of five acres on the Charles street road, just beyond the city limits, and there built up his present extensive plant, with ample accommodation for the hundreds of used cars which find their way to this plant, some for rehabilitation and restoration to useful service and some for the salvage pile. Serviceable parts are carefully treated and restored to the market and it is in this line that Mr. Carmack has become known as a leader in his line, a specialist in used parts for all makes of cars and the automobile "salvage king" of his district.

On September 21, 1916, Mr. Carmack was united in marriage to Miss Effie Sarber, daughter of William H. Sarber of Leaf River, Ogle county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Carmack are republicans and Mr. Sarber is a member of the post of the American Legion in Rockford.

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#### ELMER ELLSWORTH WOODWARD.

To have achieved success in a unique field, one in which not a few have failed, is the distinction attained by Elmer Ellsworth Woodward, president and general manager of the old established Woodward Governor Company of Rockford and one of the leading factors for many years in the industrial development of the beautiful Rock River valley. The waterwheel governor is an indispensable accessory to the modern hydro-electric plant. During the progress and development of turbine waterwheels and their installation there has also been remarkable development in waterwheel governors. For nearly four decades manufacturers of waterwheels and concerns using them have been greatly indebted to Mr. Woodward for his untiring efforts and his close application to this business, in which he has attained so enviable a position. It is particularly gratifying that Mr. Woodward's success has been achieved in his native city, for he was born in Rockford and has lived there all his life, connected with the affairs of the concern of which now he is the head, since the days of his youth. He was born October 9, 1862, a son of Amos W. and Mary A. (Sealy) Woodward, the latter of whom was born in England, a daughter of Richard Sealy and wife, who many years ago came to this country with their family and became residents of Rockford. Three of her brothers were soldiers of the Union during

the time of the Civil war and one, Robert Sealy, attained to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Amos W. Woodward, who in his generation was one of the leading manufacturers of Rockford, was a native of the old Pine Tree state and a member of a well established colonial family, the Woodwards of this line having been represented in this country since the coming of John Woodward from England in 1634 to become a member of the Massachusetts colony. Amos W. Woodward was born in Winthrop, Kennebec county, in the state of Maine, in the year 1829, a son of Amos and Nancy (Muzzy) Woodward, the latter of whom was born in Spencer, Massachusetts, in 1793, the daughter of a soldier of the Revolution. The senior Amos Woodward's father also was a soldier of the Revolution, having rendered service both at the battle of Concord and at the battle of Lexington, and at the battle of Bunker Hill he hauled powder to the troops. The senior Amos Woodward was born in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1786, and was reared a farmer but later became interested in the milling business, and in 1820 established a cotton mill in Gardiner, Maine. He died in 1868. His widow survived him until in 1885, she having reached the great age of ninety-two years at the time of her death. Of the six children born to them four reached maturity and reared families of their own and the Woodward connection of this line in the present generation is thus a considerable one.

Under the direction of his father Amos W. Woodward early became familiar with milling processes, as a young man working in his father's cotton mill, and hydraulic operations strongly attracted him, the fine waterpower in his native state of Maine affording him a rich field for experimentation. After he had attained his majority he went to Worcester, Massachusetts, and there took up the manufacture of machinists' tools, continuing thus engaged at that place until 1856, when he decided to come west and open operations in a manufacturing way in the promising territory of Minnesota, which at that time was striving toward the statehood it achieved two years later. On his way he became attracted to the good word which reached him about the excellence of the waterpower obtainable in Rockford and after a bit of investigation decided to cast in his lot with that of the people of Rockford. While becoming acquainted with conditions here he was for a short time employed in the manufacturing plant of Talcott & Emerson. He later was employed in the F. H. Manny plant and in the N. C. Thompson plant and then, in November, 1872, became engaged in the manufacturing business on his own account as a manufacturer of pumps. In the meantime (in 1861) he had married and established his home in Rockford and the setting up of his factory gave him further incentive to become a permanent resident. While working for the Thompson plant Mr. Woodward had devised a governor for use on water-wheels which was a decided improvement on anything then in use and he continued manufacturing these in his own factory, as the demand for them arose, until he had so definitely perfected the device as to make it a general commercial proposition, and he then devoted the full facilities of his factory to this end, carrying on his business under the name of A. W. Woodward until 1902, when he and his son, Elmer E. Woodward, who meanwhile had been growing up to the business, organized as the Woodward Governor Company,

the father as president of the company and the son as vice president and secretary, and entered upon a program of improvement and expansion which was destined to make the Woodward governor the best known and most popular device of its kind on the market. The elder Woodward continued active in business until his death, which occurred in 1919, and was succeeded to the presidency of the company by his son, E. E. Woodward, the immediate subject of this biographical review.

It thus will be observed that Elmer Ellsworth Woodward, as noted above, grew up to the governor business, his active connection with that line thus now having covered a period of more than forty years and it is conceded that there is no more able authority in that particular line of hydraulic equipment than he. It was after he had finished his schooling and when about twenty years of age that Mr. Woodward became actively identified with the operations of his father's factory, and his inventive turn of mind began to find proper exercise in the development of that business. The governors which had been built by the elder Woodward up until in the middle '80s were simple devices applicable to waterwheels driving mills through mechanical transmission devices. At that time the present hydro-electric unit, serving high-voltage transmission lines of what then would have seemed of incredible length, had not been conceived.

One of Mr. Woodward's early inventions was the compensating-type mechanical governor, which was greatly needed and which met with immediate favor, as many of the small and medium sized plants of that day required far better regulation than could possibly be obtained with a simple mechanical type. It is interesting to note in this connection that the compensating-type is the only successful quick acting mechanical governor in the world today. Recognizing, however, that this type has its limitations, Mr. Woodward a number of years ago developed and perfected the Woodward oil-pressure governor, which also was very favorably received.

The trend of the times continuously demands better and more accurate regulation, as well as many other refinements in design, and Mr. Woodward's genius has been quick to respond to these needs as well as to anticipate what is now essential in the most modern hydro-electric plants. He has been concerned with thousands of waterwheel installations under all kinds of conditions. Among the more recent of his achievements is the invention, development and perfection of the apparatus required on governors for automatic non-attended hydro-electric plants. It is thought that this improvement will permit many waterpowers to be developed that otherwise would not pay on account of the operating expense. It also is expected that this automatic apparatus will be sought by many plants because of its convenience and simplicity of operation.

As a youth Mr. Woodward was of a studious turn of mind and this trait has been preeminent in his career. Nothing apparently gives him more pleasure than to set himself to a difficult engineering problem, particularly if it pertain to the regulation of waterwheels, and invariably he will solve it. Not only is he a persistent student in engineering and a master of the mechanical end of his business, but he also is a man of good executive ability. The growth



of the business of which he is the head is indicative of his genius and his industry in the promotion of the hydro-electric industry throughout the country through the development of hydraulic equipment. In addition to his interest in the Woodward Governor Company Mr. Woodward has other considerable interests in and about Rockford and has for years been recognized as one of the forceful personal factors in the general industrial and commercial development of that city.

On February 10, 1887, in Freeport, Illinois, Elmer E. Woodward was united in marriage to Miss Mary F. Dunham, daughter of Captain Dunham of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Woodward have three children: two sons, Walter Theodore, born December 2, 1889, and Harold Stanton, born May 16, 1891; and a daughter, Dorothy Carroll, born December 22, 1896, who became the wife of Irl C. Martin of Broken Bow, Nebraska.

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#### CHARLES HENRY LANGE.

Among the prominent and successful lawyers and public-spirited citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, Charles Henry Lange occupies an enviable position, both by reason of his professional attainments and because of the beneficent influence he has for years exerted in the community. He was born in Montello, Marquette county, Wisconsin, on the 30th of August, 1877, the son of Gottfried William and Mary (Kroll) Lange, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, whence they emigrated to this country and settled in Montello, where the father followed the vocation of a tailor.

Charles H. Lange was reared under the parental roof and secured his early education in the public and high schools of Montello. He then attended and was graduated from the Stevens Point Normal School, after which he entered the Law School of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1906 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was admitted to the bar of Wisconsin and was then taken into the office of Olin & Butler, at Madison. This is one of the ablest and best known law firms in Wisconsin and they paid the subject a rare compliment when they invited him into their office, for it had been their practice for many years to take each year the best student of the graduating class into their office. Here Mr. Lange remained one year and then, in September, 1907, came to Janesville and formed a partnership with C. H. Hemingway, under the firm name of Hemingway & Lange. This arrangement continued until 1910, when it was dissolved, and since then Mr. Lange has practiced alone. Well fortified in the principles of the law, trained to think logically and clearly, and an eloquent and convincing speaker, Mr. Lange has long stood in the front ranks of his profession. From 1917 to 1919 he served as city attorney of Janesville. In 1908 he was elected justice of the peace and at each election since then he has been chosen without opposition to succeed himself. He has also held the office of deputy municipal judge continuously since 1908. Mr. Lange is a member of the Rock County Bar Association and the Wisconsin State Bar Association. Politically he is a staunch

supporter of the republican party, while fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the college fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta.

Mr. Lange was married on May 18, 1910, to Miss Edith E. Echlin, the daughter of Joseph C. Echlin, of Janesville, and to them have been born two children: Robert E., born September 26, 1912; and Charles Henry, Jr., born July 3, 1917. Mr. Lange possesses the confidence and regard of the community to a notable degree, for he has ever stood for the best things in community life, while he has been a liberal giver to all worthy benevolent and charitable objects. All who come within range of his influence are profuse in their praise of his admirable qualities of character and his kindly manner and gentlemanly courtesy.

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#### WILLARD N. VAN MATER, JR.

Two generations of Van Maters have been in executive control of the affairs of the Schumann Piano Company of Rockford—the senior Willard N. Van Mater, formerly and for years president of that company and now occupying the emeritus position of chairman of the board of directors of the company, having been succeeded by his son the junior Willard N. Van Mater, present chief executive of that old established industrial concern, for many years one of the leading industries of Rockford, whose products have gone into homes all over this country, the popularity of the Schumann pianos having been acknowledged by music lovers for many years.

The plant of the Schumann Piano Company of Rockford is the outgrowth and development of an industry established in that city in 1899, when the Smith & Barnes Piano Company of Chicago purchased the manufacturing plant of the Illinois Chair Company, which some time before had been established in Rockford but which found it expedient to close out its plant and thus accepted the proposition of the Chicago concern which converted the chair factory into a piano factory. Not long afterward this Chicago concern sold the plant to George K. Barnes of Rockford, who in 1901 established the Barnes & Son Piano Company and began the manufacture of pianos under that trade name. In 1904 the Barnes company closed out its holdings in Rockford by selling the plant to the Schumann Piano Company of Chicago, which in that year began its manufacturing operations in Rockford, retaining offices in Chicago.

The Schumann Piano Company started its operations in Rockford with a capitalization of three hundred thousand dollars and upon taking over the old Barnes plant increased its facilities to provide for a daily output of six pianos, the officers of the company at that time being as follows: President, Willard N. Van Mater; vice president, C. S. Hockett; treasurer, J. W. Van Mater; secretary, C. S. Marsh; and mechanical superintendent, E. K. Barnes. The senior Willard N. Van Mater continued to serve as president of this company until his retirement in 1914, when he was made chairman of the board and was succeeded by his son, Willard N. Van Mater, who had literally grown up to the piano business and who thus was thoroughly familiar with all the

operations and processes of the company of which his father so long had been the head and guiding genius.

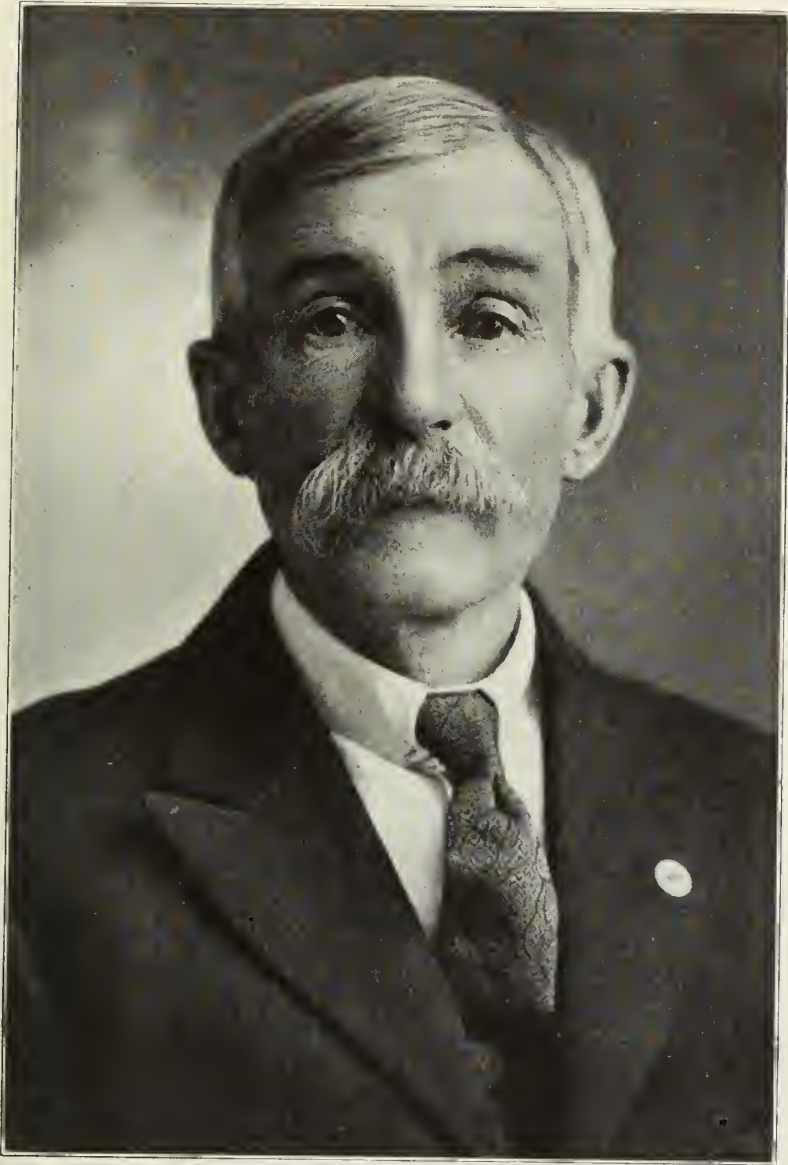
Willard N. Van Mater, Jr., president of this company, was born in the city of Chicago, August 19, 1889, and is thus now in the very prime of his vigorous young manhood, an experienced and competent manufacturer. He also occupies the position of treasurer of the company, the other officers being: C. B. McIntosh, vice president, and J. D. Hurst, secretary. With the continuing demand made upon the facilities of the Schmann Piano Company during the many years of its establishment in Rockford, extension of the plant has followed pace with this demand and now the company is turning out no fewer than three thousand pianos a year, these finding prompt distribution in a widely extended trade area.

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#### GOTTLIEB KEMMETER.

The man whose name heads this sketch is widely known as one of the honored and successful citizens of Jefferson, where for many years he has been prominently identified with one of its prosperous industries. Gottlieb Kemmeter is a native of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, having been born at Jefferson on the 16th of September, 1859. His parents were Michael and Caroline (Hetzel) Kemmeter, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, whence they came to the United States and settled in Jefferson county in 1850. The members of the Kemmeter family have engaged in brickmaking through several generations, the subject's father, grandfather and great-grandfather having engaged in that vocation in Germany. When Michael Kemmeter came to Jefferson county he began to make bricks by hand, found ready sale for his excellent products and in 1866 was enabled to buy the land on which the Kemmeter Brick & Coal Company is now located, and here he began to make bricks on a much larger scale. His five sons, Frank, Gottlieb, John, Charles and Michael, had all learned the trade of brickmaking under him. Frank and John eventually became farmers, the former being a successful farmer near Jefferson up to the time of his death in 1923, while the latter is still engaged in that calling near Jefferson. As the boys reached mature years they became of greater assistance to their father and in 1891, when the father retired, Gottlieb and Michael took over the operation of the brickyard. The father's death occurred in 1909 and was greatly regretted throughout the community, where he had gained the confidence and esteem of all who knew him.

Gottlieb and Michael Kemmeter continued the brick business together until 1893, when Michael died, and thereafter Gottlieb and his brother Charles ran it until 1914, when Charles died. Gottlieb Kemmeter is still operating the business, with the assistance of his sons, and is still actively engaged in the manufacturing end of the enterprise. The business has steadily grown through the years and is now one of the solid and prosperous concerns of Jefferson. In 1923 Mr. Kemmeter bought the Jefferson Brick & Tile Company and they now operate both plants, their productive capacity being sixty-two thousand



GOTTLIEB KEMMETER



bricks per day. They are also proprietors of a sawmill. Until 1915 they confined their attention entirely to the manufacture and sale of bricks, but in that year they also engaged in the coal business, now being extensive dealers in coal and wood.

In 1894 Gottlieb Kemmeter was married to Miss Josephine Ehr, of Portage, Wisconsin, who was reared at Milwaukee, this state, and they are the parents of the following children: Alphonse, Nicholas, Mary, Caroline, Edward, Florence and Bernard. Alphonse, Nicholas and Edward are associated with their father in the business, making the fifth successive generation to be connected with brickmaking. Mr. Kemmeter and his family are members of St. John the Baptist Catholic church and he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin. Nicholas and Edward are members of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Kemmeter is a man of great force of character and is always found in support of movements for the betterment of his community along all lines. Because of his sterling traits of character, his fine business success and his genial personality, he enjoys the confidence and good will of the entire community in which he has spent his life.

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#### ADAM GSCHWINDT.

Any reference to the life and services of Adam Gschwindt, vice president and general manager of the Rockford Electric Company, ought properly to be prefaced by some reference to that company's operations in that important manufacturing center. The people of Rockford are proud of the reputation that city has gained as being one of the best lighted cities in the country. It is said that the city has more electric signs than any other city of equal population in the United States, while its extensive and attractive boulevard lighting system places the city in the vanguard of American cities in so far as street lighting is concerned. It also is a matter of some local pride to point out that the Rockford Electric Company's main power plant is one of the largest, finest and best equipped plants in the country. The three great brick (cement lined) stacks, each two hundred and twenty-five feet in height, towering above the city, the great seven-hundred-foot span traveling coal crane, with a capacity to handle sixty-five tons of coal an hour, are familiar "landmarks" in the city and striking indices of local energy and power. It is but proper also to say that the management of this great public service corporation has been following the modern policy of treating the public with courtesy and consideration and that the relations thus established between the corporation and local consumers of power and light have been no slight factor in the establishment of this concern's place in the confidence and good will of the community. Every new device which electricity can use to lighten labor and increase the comfort of living is offered the public at rates as low as consistent with good business practice, and the response has been such that the magic current carried from the great power plant now works for hundreds in a way undreamed of

a few years ago. And the control of electrical energy still is but in its "infancy." What wonders will it not perform for the next generation?

The Rockford Electric Company is one of the units of the great American Gas & Electric Company of New York, which controls quite a number of similar plants throughout the United States and which is constantly bringing to the service it affords the results of the deep researches it constantly is carrying on in this behalf. The local plant of this company not only supplies light and power for the city of Rockford but it also supplies steam heat in the central section of the city. It has approximately a hundred miles of poles in the city, carrying more than five hundred miles of wire, and gives employment to no fewer than one hundred and fifty persons. It has twenty thousand meters in service, supplying eighty thousand people with light, power and heat, and the growth of its service in recent years has been nothing short of phenomenal. The city street-lighting service requires right around one thousand six hundred candlepower lights and the company also supplies the power for the operation of the lines of the Rockford & Interurban Railway Company. The growth of the use of electricity in power operations is revealed by the fact that in addition to the enormous energy required in the operation of the trolley cars there also is supplied to the community no less than ten thousand horse power service for local motors. Besides the light service for the streets, current is supplied for more than one hundred and fifty thousand incandescent lamps for inside use. Not only has this company one of the finest and best equipped power plants in the United States but the plant has the additional distinction of being the largest maintained in any city of less than one hundred thousand population in the country. Rockford's insistence on getting the best is one of the chief factors in the creation of its present proud standing as an industrial and commercial center.

Adam Gschwindt, vice president and general manager of the Rockford Electric Company, is a trained and practical electrician of many years standing and when in 1913 he became associated with the operations of the local power plant in Rockford he brought to that service a measure of experience based upon years of practical service in the east, where he literally had grown up in electrical service, a line with which he has been connected since the days of his boyhood. He was born in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, July 28, 1876, a son of Christian and Katherine Gschwindt, the latter of whom was born in that same place. Christian Gschwindt was of European birth, born in the kingdom of Wurttemberg, and was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents to this country, the family settling in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He became a tanner and in time was made the general superintendent of a chain of tanneries operated throughout that section of the east, and made his home in Scranton, where he continued active in business for many years, or until his retirement.

Adam Gschwindt was but a lad when his parents moved with their family from Stroudsburg to Scranton and his education was completed in the schools of the latter city. As a boy he became connected with the local operations of the American Gas & Electric Company at Scranton and the keen interest he took in his service in that connection brought its proper reward in advance-

ment and in time he was transferred to the general offices of the company in New York city as general purchasing agent and was elected third vice president of the company. In 1913 Mr. Gschwindt was made general manager of the operations of this company's great plant in Rockford, operating as the Rockford Electric Company, and has since made his home in that city, devoting his experience and his energies to the extension of the company's interests there. Significant of the influence he exerted in that city immediately upon his arrival there, it is interesting to recall that in the following year (1914) Mr. Schwindt was elected president of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and in 1915 was re-elected to that office, an unusual distinction, for as a rule local chambers of commerce find it expedient to "pass the honors around," and two-year terms are infrequent. During that period several important local projects were undertaken by the chamber and in the direction of these movements Mr. Gschwindt rendered a valuable local service. In 1917 when the movement was inaugurated to bring to Rockford an army cantonment Mr. Gschwindt was a member of the committee which had that matter in hand and was thus one of the active factors in the location at Rockford of Camp Grant, which became one of the leading training schools for soldiers and one of the most important military depots in the country. In addition to his interest in the electric light and power company Mr. Gschwindt has other local interests of a substantial character and is the president of the Roseland Can & Wire Goods Company of Rockford.

On May 18, 1896, Mr. Gschwindt was united in marriage to Miss Miriam Davis, daughter of William and Mary Davis of Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, the former of whom was manager of a large steel plant there. Mr. and Mrs. Gschwindt have five children, namely: Christine, born February 20, 1898; William H., born November 16, 1902; Janice, born December 29, 1906; Richard Campbell, born July 6, 1909; and Polly, born May 18, 1915. The Gschwindts have a very pleasant home at Rockton avenue and Halstead road, and take a proper interest in general community affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Gschwindt are members of the Rockford Country Club and he is a member of the Mid-Day Club, the Rockford Motor Club and the Hamilton Club of Chicago. He is a Thirty-second Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. In their political alignments he and his family adhere to the principles of the republican party.

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ORRA P. HAND.

It properly may be said that the great manufacturing plant of the Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford, manufacturers of piston rings for internal combustion engines and widely recognized as one of the real leaders in that line in this country, grew within the period of two years from an idea into one of the most important industries in the busy manufacturing city of Rockford. This concern was established in 1914 and began the manufacture of piston rings on a small scale. The idea behind the Burd ring was



admirable and all it needed was pushing. In the next year Orra P. Hand, an experienced industrial administrator, sales manager and publicity expert and president of the company, became connected with the concern with a view primarily to the expansion of its publicity campaign. His advertising methods gained immediate results. The "idea" was being introduced to those who most largely could profit by it and the product based upon this idea found a degree of favor among those who thus were induced to try it which placed it well at the front among similar products manufactured in this country. Three months after taking connection with this company Mr. Hand was made its secretary, with a measure of executive responsibility that enabled him still further to push his well designed program of expansion. A new and up-to-date manufacturing plant was erected and the business was placed on a basis worthy of the product it was putting out and of the world-wide market it was creating. In the next year (1916) Mr. Hand was elected vice president of the company and two years following (1918) he was elected president, the position he now occupies and in which executive capacity he has done much to extend the operations of the company in whose remarkable development he has almost from its inception been such a vital personal factor.

The Burd High Compression Ring Company, which thus so quickly grew from an "idea" into one of Rockford's outstanding industries, has an admirably equipped and thoroughly up-to-date plant at Twenty-third avenue and Tenth street, Rockford, and is now (1925) employing from four hundred to four hundred and fifty persons, thus being recognized as one of the leading industrial factors in the recent great development of the city. It is but proper to say that the piston ring manufactured by this company and which is its chief product, has been generally accepted in engineering circles as the best device of its kind on the market and the demand for this product is growing daily. All industries interested in or based upon the use of the internal combustion engine are concerned in the creation of piston rings and satisfied customers of the product of the Burd factories are continually acclaiming the merits of that product, which enters into the manufacture of engines for automobiles, airplanes, tractors and the like and all power agencies using the internal combustion engine. In addition to the manufacture of this piston ring, the Burd High Compression Ring Company also manufactures the Burd-Gillman shock absorber for automobiles and has built up a wide and growing market for that popular product. The Liberty Foundries Company of Rockford, organized in 1917 for the manufacture of a general line of gray iron castings, is a subsidiary of the Burd company and also has built up a large business.

Orra P. Hand, president of the Burd High Compression Ring Company, an active and influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and in other ways interested in the general industrial and commercial development of the city in which he has elected to make his home, was born in the city of Stillwater, Minnesota, August 25, 1875, a son of Henry and Mary Hand of that city, who later became residents of the city of Minneapolis. Upon completing the course in the Minneapolis high school Orra P. Hand, who early had given his attention to the study of law, entered the Law School of the University of Minnesota and in 1898 was graduated from that institution with

the degree of LL. B. For two years Mr. Hand was engaged in law practice in Minneapolis and then he found himself more interested in industrial development and in the means of promoting such development. Salesmanship had ever appealed to him and in 1900 he definitely abandoned the practice of law in favor of industrial development, taking a connection as assistant sales manager and advertising director for and in behalf of the Minnesota Iron Store Company of Minneapolis. Three years later he was married and established his home in Minneapolis and continued to reside there, connected with the affairs of the Iron Store Company, until 1915, when he became interested in the development of the program then being worked out by the newly organized Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford and became connected with that concern as publicity director. The results he obtained and the interest he displayed in the extension of this company's affairs led to rapid advancement and, as set out above, he was elected its president in 1918 and has since been serving in that administrative capacity.

It was on April 15, 1903, while still a resident of the city of Minneapolis, that Orra P. Hand was united in marriage to Miss Susan H. Hall, daughter of William S. Hall of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Hand have one child: a son, Orra Robert Hand, born April 10, 1907, who now (1925) is a student in the medical department of the University of Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Hand are members of the Rockford Country Club and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities and good works of the city. Mr. Hand is a member of the local University Club and of the locally influential Rockford Rotary Club and, as noted above, is one of the active members of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, widely recognized as one of the real boosters of the city. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

In passing, and as a bit of historical information that may prove of large interest to coming generations, it may be said that the Liberty Foundries Company, mentioned above as a subsidiary of the great Burd company, was incorporated in the spring of 1917 primarily to supply piston ring castings for the Burd company's plant, but the demand for light high-grade gray iron castings grew so rapidly that the original quarters of this company at Loomis and Buchanan streets were quickly outgrown and a new and larger site was secured adjacent to the Burd factory, in November, 1919. On this site a modern plant of well equipped foundry buildings was erected and has since been devoted exclusively to the manufacture of high-grade light castings. It thus will be observed that the Burd company's plant and that of the Liberty company at Twenty-third avenue and Tenth street are joint industries.

The Burd High Compression Ring Company has had to make material increase in its productive capacity from time to time and today ranks as one of the largest piston ring manufacturers in the world. From its very inception, as pointed out above, the product of this company found favor with local automobile owners and repair men and, in what seems like an almost incredibly short period, was accepted by many of the leading manufacturers of automobiles, airplanes, tractors and other industries using internal combustion engines as the best device of its kind on the market. In the early summer of

1914 the company occupied offices in the Stewart building, from which it moved to more commodious quarters at Nos. 307-309 South Main street. It was during the month of August, 1915, that it began the erection of its splendid new factory at Twenty-third avenue and Tenth street, which now is said to be the largest plant of its kind in the country devoted exclusively to the manufacture of patented piston rings. Offices and branches of this concern are maintained in all the principal cities of the country and in these branches complete stocks are carried, making it possible for any one in any part of the United States to get Burd piston rings within a few hours. The present (1925) offices of this company are as follows: President, Orra P. Hand; vice president, Chas. V. Weise; treasurer, F. F. Wormwood; and secretary, A. A. Lundgren. These gentlemen, with W. A. Forbes, G. O. Forbes, T. S. Swords, J. S. Barnes, and G. H. Higgins, also constituting the directorate of the company.

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#### WILLIAM O. PETERSON.

William O. Peterson, county supervisor, better known to his many friends throughout the Rock River valley as "Bill" Peterson, president of Bill Peterson, Incorporated, clothiers and men's furnishings, in Rockford, and for years a conspicuous personal factor in the commercial and social life of that city, is a native of Illinois and his interests have ever centered in this state. He was born in Havana, June 15, 1881, a son of the late William August and Anna M. Peterson, who later became residents of Rockford, where William August Peterson, a skilled merchant tailor, was long in business, one of the best known merchants of his time in that city.

It was in 1885 that William August Peterson moved with his family from Havana to Rockford, young "Bill" Peterson then being but four years of age. In consequence the latter attended the schools of that city, supplementing this by a course in the Rockford Business College, and under his father's capable direction he early became familiar with the details of the men's clothing business. He was for awhile in the days of his young manhood a salesman in the local dry goods store of Van Duzer & Eldridge and then went to Chicago, where he became employed as a member of the staff of commercial travelers representing the John V. Farwell Company in the midwestern trade area, a connection he retained for six years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he returned to Rockford and became associated with his father in the clothing business in that city, the two carrying on as the W. A. Peterson Clothing Company, with a store at No. 1302 Fourteenth avenue. In 1919 the elder Peterson died and Bill Peterson and his brothers, Ed A. and Frank H. Peterson, carried on the business until 1922, when Bill Peterson retired, leaving the business in the hands of his brothers, who are carrying it on today at the corner of Fourteenth avenue and Eighth street.

Upon his retirement from this concern in May, 1922, Bill Peterson bought the controlling interest in the old established clothing house of the S. A. Johnson Clothing Company of Rockford, a concern which was organized in 1862



WILLIAM O. PETERSON



and which thus is one of the oldest continuing commercial establishments in the Rock River valley, and a year later (1923) reorganized the company and incorporated as Bill Peterson, Incorporated, Clothiers, under which trade name the establishment now is doing business, Bill Peterson being president of the concern, and Ed A. Peterson, brother of the president, secretary and treasurer. This store at No. 408 East State street, is one of the best equipped and most admirably appointed men's clothing stores in the Rock River valley, carries a full line of men's and boys' apparel, and under the present management has worked up a fine business. In addition to his mercantile holdings Mr. Peterson has other interests of a substantial character, including a place on the directorate of the Security National Bank of Rockford; director of the Security First Mortgage Company; vice president and director of the Federal Industrial Finance Company; and is also a director of the Winnebago County Abstract Company. He is an ardent and active republican, has long given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, and in 1920 was elected to represent his district on the board of county supervisors, which important position of public trust and responsibility he now is occupying, giving his thoughtful and intelligent attention to the official promotion of the best interests of the county.

On April 14, 1903, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage to Miss Margery M. Giller of Portage, Wisconsin, and they have a son: Harry Kenneth Peterson, born May 23, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are members of the Harlem Hills Country Club and give proper attention to the community's general social activities. Mr. Peterson is a member of all the Masonic bodies, president of the Shrine Motor Club, and past monarch of Koom Grotto; and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### GEORGE STANLEY METCALF, M. D.

Among the physicians of Rock county, Wisconsin, who are proficient in their chosen calling and are conscientious workers in the sphere to which their life energies are devoted, stands Dr. George Stanley Metcalf, of Janesville, who while yet comparatively young in years has shown a profound knowledge of his profession. He is a native of the city in which he now lives, having been born here on the 15th of October, 1893, and is the son of George A. and Fannie B. (Sherman) Metcalf, of Janesville.

Dr. Metcalf attended the public and high schools of Janesville and took a one-year course in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. There followed two years at Lawrence College, at Appleton, Wisconsin, after which he entered the medical department of the University of Illinois, from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1920. Then for a year he served as interne in the Milwaukee Hospital, at Milwaukee, at the end of which time he came to Janesville and associated himself in practice with Dr. George W. Fifield. In 1922 this partnership was dissolved and Dr. Metcalf moved to Endeavor, Marquette county, Wisconsin, where he practiced for about a year and a half. He then went to Cleveland, Ohio, and for seven

months took postgraduate work, specializing in obstetrics and pediatrics. He then returned to Janesville and has continued in the practice of his profession here since that time. He is a member of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association and is a member and secretary and treasurer of the staff of Mercy Hospital. Politically Dr. Metcalf is independent, voting for the men whom he considers best qualified for the offices they seek. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and Phi Chi, a national medical fraternity.

On October 23, 1920, Dr. Metcalf was married to Miss Doris Amerpohl, the daughter of Louis Amerpohl, of Janesville, and they have two children: Lobert Louis, born December 16, 1921; and Elizabeth Margaret, born May 28, 1925. Dr. Metcalf is one of the solid men of character and action so essential to the prosperity and welfare of a community, and whose influence has been willingly extended in behalf of every deserving movement that has had for its object the advancement and welfare of the community.

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#### SWAN F. ANDERSON.

Swan F. Anderson, president of the Anderson Brothers Manufacturing Company of Rockford and for years a leader in local industrial circles, one of the best known and most substantial manufacturers of the Rock River valley, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his childhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, January 2, 1879, a son of L. John and Anna (Larson) Anderson, who in 1887 came to the United States with their family and became residents of the Rockford community, where they established their home.

It thus will be observed that Swan F. Anderson was but seven years of age when he became a resident of the Rockford community and he grew up here, attending the local schools and early evincing an interest in mechanical processes and industrial pursuits. His first work in the mechanical trades was in the plant of the old East Rockford Machine Company, where he became thoroughly grounded in his trade. Upon completing his apprenticeship Mr. Anderson was employed as a journeyman machinist in one and another of the numerous machine shops in Rockford until he was twenty-four years of age, when he went into business on his own account and following his marriage in the next year established his home in Rockford and has there continued to reside.

It was in 1905 that Swan F. Anderson went into the manufacturing business in a proprietary capacity in Rockford, he and Levin Faut and Elmer Lietzhoff in that year organizing the Rockford Tool Company, which is a continuing industry in Rockford, as is set out elsewhere in this work. Mr. Anderson was the president and general manager of this concern and he remained thus connected for a little more than ten years, or until 1916, when he cleared out his interest in that organization and in association with his brothers, Hugo E. and Axel L. Anderson, formed and incorporated the Ander-

son Brothers Manufacturing Company of Rockford and established in that city a new and flourishing industrial enterprise. Swan W. Anderson is president of this company, Hugo E. Anderson is the treasurer, and Axel L. Anderson is the vice president, all experienced and well trained machinists, thoroughly familiar with all details of their business. The Anderson Brothers Manufacturing Company has a fine modern plant at Kishumetee street and Eighteenth avenue and is well equipped for the manufacture of any thing in its line in the way of tools and machinery. This company has established a fine business under the capable direction of these experienced brothers, with constantly increasing demands upon its facilities and is gradually expanding its capacity to fill the growing market it has created for its products which enter into the trade throughout a wide area hereabout.

On October 6, 1906, in Rockford, Swan F. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Edith Forsberg, who also was born in Sweden, a daughter of F. L. Forsberg. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children: a daughter, Vera Anderson, born August 11, 1907; and a son, Ralph Anderson, born June 14, 1914. The Andersons have a pleasant home in Rockford and take a proper interest in community affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are republicans and are interested in all movements having to do with the betterment of local civic conditions. Mr. Anderson is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason, affiliated with E. F. W. Ellis Lodge No. 633, F. & A. M., at Rockford and with the consistory at Freeport, and is also a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Tabala Temple at Rockford.

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#### GEORGE WAYLAND COON, M. D.

Among the younger members of the medical profession in Rock county is Dr. George Wayland Coon, of Milton Junction, who has already won high praise for his skill and ability as a practitioner of the healing art. He is a native of Rock county, having been born at Milton Junction on the 1st of May, 1898, and is the son of Dr. George E. and Nettie (Crandall) Coon. George E. Coon was born April 20, 1868, near Milton Junction, the son of George M. Coon, who was numbered among the early settlers of Rock county. He attended the country schools and Milton College Academy and then matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1898 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He began to practice his profession in Hanover, went from there to Rockdale and in 1900 came to Milton Junction, where he has been ever since. Here he has built up a large practice, being widely known for his splendid success in his profession and for his worth as a man. He has filled a large place in the public life of the community and enjoys to a remarkable degree the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

George W. Coon, after attending the public and high schools in Milton Junction, went to Milton College for two years. He then entered the University of Wisconsin, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in



1920, and having determined to follow in his father's footsteps, he matriculated in Rush Medical College, Chicago, receiving his M. D. degree in 1922. During the ensuing year he served as interne in St. Joseph's Hospital, Chicago, at the end of which time he returned to Milton Junction and became associated with his father in practice. He also has an office at the Munn-Farnsworth clinic in Janesville and is on the staff of Mercy Hospital in that city. He is already winning prestige among his professional colleagues and is numbered among the well educated, symmetrically developed citizens of the community, where the essential qualities of manhood are held at their true value. He and his father are members of the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and the former is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa college fraternity.

On June 14, 1922, Dr. Coon was married to Miss Susie Burdick, the daughter of H. M. Burdick, of Milton Junction, and they have two children: Hallie Jean, born July 5, 1923; and Geraldine, born January 14, 1925.

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#### JOHN ABSON FISHER.

John Abson Fisher belongs to that notable class of men in whom every city takes particular pride—men who by force of character, indomitable perseverance and firmness of purpose, joined to natural ability, have earned the right to the distinctive title of "self-made." At an early age he began to provide for his own livelihood, exhibiting that spirit of self-reliance which is one of the fundamentals of success, raising the individual beyond the ranks of the commonplace and spurring him ever onward and upward. Mr. Fisher has made a life study of the paper industry, of which he has acquired a highly specialized knowledge, and is widely known in manufacturing circles of the middle west as president of the Beloit Box Board Company, with which he has been connected for eighteen years in an official capacity.

Mr. Fisher was born August 14, 1867, in Mottville, Michigan, and is a son of H. W. and Ellen Fisher, who for a half century have been residents of Elkhart, Indiana, the father being a retired farmer. They moved to that city in 1875, when J. A. Fisher was a boy of eight, and his education was acquired in its public schools. At the age of fourteen he went to work in the Combination Board Mill in Elkhart, where he was employed for eight years, learning the paper making business from the bottom up, and afterward filled positions in paper mills in Watertown, Brownville, Lockport and Fulton, New York, during that period constantly broadening his experience. He worked at intervals in the Elkhart mill, becoming recognized as a man of exceptional ability by its proprietor, Howard F. Smith, who had frequently urged him to assume the management of the plant. In 1904 Mr. Fisher took charge of the mill, which he operated until 1907 on a contract basis, and rehabilitated the business. In 1907 he came to Beloit and in partnership with Henry Weise, of Waterloo, Iowa, bought the plant of the Barrett Manufacturing Company, makers of roofing paper, and the business has since been conducted under the name of

the Beloit Box Board Company. F. M. Coons was later admitted to the firm and Mr. Fisher acted as general manager, supervising every detail of the work. In January, 1922, he purchased all of the stock and has since been president of the company. His sons are now associated with him in the business, Ernest R. being vice president, Ralph M., treasurer, and Robert W., secretary. They have inherited his business acumen and keen powers of discernment and are well qualified for the responsible duties intrusted to their care. The industry is one of the oldest and largest in Beloit and has reached its present stage of development through the systematic efforts of J. A. Fisher, who is endowed with a high order of executive ability and is an expert paper manufacturer, being unexcelled in this line of work. The business which he controls was operated as a sawmill in 1845 by Thomas A. Power and in 1855 it became known as the Beloit Paper Mill Company, of which Charles Walker was the president, with I. C. Newcomb as secretary. A change in ownership led to the adoption of the style of the Rock River Paper Company in 1868 and it was afterward acquired by the Beloit Strawboard Company. They operated the plant until 1889, when it was sold to the S. E. Barrett Manufacturing Company, who changed the name to that of the Barrett Manufacturing Company in 1896, and in 1907 the business was purchased by Mr. Fisher and his partner.

On October 30, 1887, Mr. Fisher was married to Miss Jeannette Louise Stuck, a daughter of G. W. and Margaret Stuck, of Elkhart, Indiana, and they have become the parents of three sons: Ernest R., born August 12, 1888; Ralph M., whose birth occurred October 28, 1891; and Robert W., who was born April 26, 1901. Mr. Fisher is an adherent of the republican party but is not active in political affairs, giving his undivided attention to his business. His heart is in his work, to which he brings an enthusiasm and belief in its importance which make it possible for him to keep up with the spirit of the age with all of its complexities. He has made progress his motto and his record should serve as a source of inspiration to those who aspire to the highest level of accomplishment.

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#### VICTOR PEASE RICHARDSON.

The conditions under which industrial and commercial enterprises of magnitude are prosecuted in this age of phenomenal advancement in all lines of human activity demand men who are forceful and of strong potentiality, courage and judgment. Numbered among such representatives in the personnel of the successful business men identified with the material and civic progress of Janesville and Rock county, Wisconsin, stands Victor Pease Richardson, president of the New Doty Manufacturing Company and one of the most prominent and progressive citizens of southern Wisconsin. Mr. Richardson was born in Janesville on the 10th of June, 1859, and is the son of Hon. Hamilton and Caroline (Pease) Richardson, who were of English and Scottish descent mainly. Hamilton Richardson was for many years one of the most prominent and

influential citizens of Wisconsin and is referred to at length on other pages of this work.

Victor P. Richardson secured his elementary education in the public and high schools of Janesville and was then appointed to a cadetship in West Point Military Academy, where he remained three years. At the end of that time he returned home and became identified with his father's business, which was then the Doty Manufacturing Company, manufacturing punching and shearing machinery. He took an active part in its management and when, in 1883, the name was changed to the New Doty Manufacturing Company he became president of the company, a position he has retained to the present time. He also has other local interests but his business interest is centered chiefly on the company with which he has been identified for so many years. Invulnerable integrity and high purpose have characterized his life and he has made an indelible impress on the community honored by his residence. Not only has he accomplished much in connection with the practical affairs of life, but his nature, strong and vigorous, has found expression in generous deeds and fruitful service for humanity, so that today he stands in the front rank of Janesville's truly representative citizens.

Despite the heavy demands made upon his time and attention by his business interests, Mr. Richardson has always found time to contribute to the public welfare, in the promotion of which he has been an important factor. He served as mayor of Janesville for two successive terms, 1900 to 1904 inclusive; has served as president of the city board of education, has been a member of the fire and police commission and the vocational school board, being still a member of the latter board. He is also a member of the board of regents of the University of Wisconsin. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to all branches of the order, and also belongs to the Janesville Rotary Club.

On November 23, 1885, Mr. Richardson was married to Miss Mary Dimock, the daughter of Edward L. Dimock, whose family was among the very earliest white families to settle in this locality. To Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have been born three children: Emma, Sybil and Caroline Pease. Emma was born July 27, 1889, and is now the wife of Henry G. Skavlem, a noted mining engineer now engaged in that capacity at Schunacher, Hudson Bay district, Canada. Caroline Pease, born November 14, 1897, is the wife of Donald B. Korst, of London, England. Sybil Hanks, twin sister of Caroline, is an opera singer and is now in Germany.

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#### CLARENCE LARSON.

Clarence Larson, a well known and popular young retail meat dealer on Fourteenth avenue, Rockford, was born in that city October 10, 1897, a son of Gust and Elizabeth Larson, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Sweden.

Reared in Rockford, Clarence Larson completed his education in the high



CLARENCE LARSON



school there and early became interested in the retail meat business, taking employment in the meat market of Reinholt Johnson, becoming a cutter in that establishment. In 1919 he engaged in business on his own account, opening a meat market at No. 1124 Fourteenth avenue, and has since been quite successful in business there, one of the most popular merchants on that flourishing commercial thoroughfare.

On November 5, 1922, Clarence Larson was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Carlson, daughter of J. P. Carlson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have one child: a daughter, Clarice, born September 26, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are republicans and give their interested attention to general community affairs. Mr. Larson is a member of the Masonic fraternity and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He is known pleasantly and familiarly among his friends as "Kelly" and his place of business is known in the neighborhood as Kelly's meat market.

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#### AXEL REHNBERG.

Axel Rehnberg, mechanical engineer and designer on the staff of the Thayer Action Company of Rockford and recognized as one of the most expert technicians in his line in the country, is, like so many of the skilled craftsmen who have done so much toward the development of the industrial interests of the city of Rockford, a native of the kingdom of Sweden but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was well trained in mechanical operations in his homeland and upon becoming a citizen of this country he perfected himself in the details of this line according to American practices and for more than twenty years has been actively engaged in that vocation. Mr. Rehnberg was born on September 9, 1883, and is a son of Carl and Charlotta (Carlsson) Rehnberg, both also natives of Sweden and the former of whom was the proprietor of a well equipped machine shop in his home town.

Reared in his native place, Axel Rehnberg received his schooling there, completing a course corresponding to that of the American high school, and under his father's capable direction was early trained in the art and mystery of mechanical operations, becoming a skilled machinist and mechanical draftsman, and was also trained in the principles of designing and toolmaking. When nineteen years of age and by that time a qualified "journeyman" machinist, Mr. Rehnberg came to the United States and by prior arrangement became located in Rockford. Upon his arrival, in 1902, he was given employment in the plant of the W. F. & John Barnes Company and was there engaged as a machinist for about three years, at the end of which time he started out to gain acquaintance with mechanical operations in some of the other cities of the country, meanwhile carrying on his studies in mechanical engineering and technique. He worked for a while in Milwaukee and then went to Chicago, where he was given his first executive position, that of foreman in the lathe department of the Hardinge Brothers' machine shop. From Chicago he went

to Menominee, Wisconsin, and was made foreman of the tool room of the Globe Iron Works in that city.

It was in 1907, the year of his marriage, that Mr. Rehnberg returned to Rockford to take up his permanent residence. For a short time after his return he was employed in the plant of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company and then his services were secured as machine designer in the plant of the Redin-Ekstrom Company, in which position he continued to render service until in 1911, when he transferred his services to the staff of the Thayer Action Company of Rockford as machine designer for that flourishing concern, and he since has been thus engaged. During the period of this highly technical service Mr. Rehnberg has designed no fewer than one hundred machines for the facilitation of the operations of this company, these machines being operated in the production of the small and often intricate parts used in the manufacture of piano actions, and to those not familiar with the mystery of intricate mechanical principles and operations the well nigh "human" qualities of some of these machines appear marvelous indeed.

On November 9, 1907, Axel Rehnberg was united in marriage to Miss Mary Person, daughter of Gustaf Person and also a native of the kingdom of Sweden, and they have two daughters: Lotta, born February 16, 1909; and Olga, born March 25, 1911. Mr. Rehnberg is a member of the board of the Rockford public library and has rendered excellent service in that behalf. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and of the Rockford Engineering Club and is affiliated with the local society of the Independent Order of Good Templars.

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#### GEORGE COPELAND.

In the memorial annals of that section of the beautiful and fruitful valley of the Rock river included within the confines of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, there are few names that stand out with greater prominence than that of the late George Copeland, pioneer manufacturer, who died at his home in the city of Jefferson on July 2, 1922, in the ninety-first year of his age. Manufacturer, banker and man of affairs, George Copeland had taken an interested and helpful part in the development of the general interests of his home town and county for more than half a century and his name long will be cherished there, for in all the relations of life he had proved true. It is now recognized that it was largely through his untiring energy and business sagacity that the great business of the Copeland & Ryder Company, shoe manufacturers at Jefferson, was brought to its present standing. For many years a director of the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Jefferson, established in 1874, and for years and until his death president of the same, he had taken a part in the general commercial development of the community, the value of which can be gauged only by the measure of the years. For many years he also was a member of the local school board, in which capacity he rendered a service of inestimable value, and as the recognized leader in the movement which brought about the

creation of the Jefferson public library his influence upon the social and cultural activities of the community was beyond estimation. An ardent churchman, a devoted follower of the teachings of the great Emanuel Swedenborg and one of the founders of the local congregation of the Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian), Mr. Copeland was a liberal contributor to religious and benevolent institutions and he ever was willing to aid and foster all proper local movements looking to the advancement of the community's general interests.

George Copeland was a New England Yankee of the old colonial stock and though long ago transplanted to the more genial atmosphere of southern Wisconsin continued to bear many of the marked characteristics of the rugged line which he represented. He was a descendant in direct line and in the seventh generation from one Lawrence Copeland, who died in Braintree, Massachusetts, in 1699, said to have been then one hundred and ten years of age. A son of this Lawrence Copeland, William by name, and George Copeland's ancestor in the second generation of the American descent, married a granddaughter of John Alden of Plymouth and it was thus that George Copeland could number John and Priscilla Alden among his ancestors, a fact which it is known afforded him a considerable measure of modest gratification. His mother, who was a Howard, was a member of that considerable family in America which traces to that John Howard, one of the original settlers of the town of West Bridgeport in the Massachusetts colony and who, according to the records, was granted in 1670 a license to keep an "ordinary" or tavern there. There are other families of Copelands of this line in Jefferson county and the family now is represented here in the fourth generation of the Wisconsin establishment, as is set out elsewhere in this work. In a local review published some years before his death it was stated that "among Jefferson's valued citizens none occupies a more notable or honorable position in public regard than George Copeland, a man whose life record may well serve as a source of inspiration to others, showing what may be accomplished through determined purpose intelligently directed. He has made for himself a most creditable place among the prosperous men of southeastern Wisconsin and throughout the entire period of his connection with manufacturing and financial interests here has maintained an unsullied reputation." True words, fitly spoken and which now, with the added perspective that contemplation of the grave gives, may justly be emphasized for the consideration of the coming generation.

George Copeland was born in the village of West Bridgewater in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, October 22, 1831, and was a son of Stephen Otis and Mary (Howard) Copeland, both, as noted above, members of colonial families in that state and the latter of whom spent her last days there. She was the mother of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity. Stephen Otis Copeland, who long survived his wife, spent his last days in Jefferson. The name Copeland came to be known in Jefferson county as early as in 1848, with the arrival here of Edward and Charles Copeland, nephews of Stephen Otis Copeland. It was in the fall of 1867 that George Copeland came here and in that same year came his brother-in-law, Louis Ryder. Both were experienced in shoe manufacturing processes and in association with Edward Copeland, who had



been here for almost twenty years, they established themselves in Jefferson as manufacturers of boots and shoes, opening a modest factory on the site now occupied by the plant of the Copeland & Ryder Company in that city. Each of the three partners in this pioneer enterprise contributed two thousand dollars to the establishment of the factory. After three years Messrs. George Copeland and Ryder bought Edward Copeland's interest in the concern, which was carried on as a partnership until the year 1888, at which time the Copeland & Ryder Company was organized with George Copeland as president, a position he occupied until his death. His cousin, Charles E. Copeland, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, was elected secretary and treasurer of the company, of which he is now president, in administrative charge of the operations of the old established manufacturing concern. In 1858, almost ten years prior to his arrival in Wisconsin, George Copeland married Miss Sarah Paine, a native of Maine, who died in 1908. Following the death of his wife after a companionship of fifty years, Mr. Copeland made his home with his sister, Mrs. Ryder, widow of his business partner of forty years standing, and it was there that his last days were spent in pleasant retirement, his death occurring, as has been mentioned, in the summer of 1922, and his body was taken back to the place of his birth in Massachusetts for burial.

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#### HENRY W. PERSON.

The name of Person has been identified with industrial activities in Rockford for many years, the late William Person having been long one of the important factors in local industrial circles, and his son, Henry W. Person, who is now connected with the operations of the Central Furniture Company, being recognized as one of the leaders among the younger men who so rapidly are coming to the front in the manufacturing field in that city. Henry W. Person was born at Rockford on February 21, 1893, a son of William and Anna H. (Swenson) Person, both natives of Sweden, who were married in Rockford, August 17, 1892. They were the parents of four sons, the other three being Fred C., Elmer R. and George, the last named of whom died in infancy.

The late William Person was born in Oland, Sweden, June 3, 1867, and was there reared. He learned the cabinetmaker's trade and remained in his native land until he had attained his majority when, in 1888, he came to the United States. By prior arrangement he proceeded to Rockford and in that city became employed in the plant of the Central Furniture Company. Two years later he transferred his services to the Rockford Cabinet Company and after his marriage (in 1892) established his home in that city. He became thoroughly familiar with the affairs of that expanding concern and in 1902 was made the superintendent of the plant. In 1909 when this company was reorganized and incorporated Mr. Person was elected vice president and continued to serve in that administrative capacity until his death on April 27, 1919, thus becoming recognized as one of the leading furniture manufacturers

in the middle western country. He also was a stockholder in the Haddorff Piano Company, the Rockford Varnish Company and the Rockford Light Furniture Company and was a man of influence in local industrial circles. He was a republican and a member of Salem Lutheran church, taking a good citizen's part in both civic and religious affairs as they affected the local community, and was held in high regard by all with whom he came in contact.

Henry W. Person was reared in Rockford and attended the public schools of that city and the local business college. His first service in a business way was as bookkeeper in the office of the contracting firm of Schmeling & Breitzman. He presently transferred his services to the local freight office of the Illinois Central Railway Company and in 1913, when but twenty years of age, was appointed local agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & Gary Railway Company, a position he occupied until in 1922, when he was elected secretary of the Mechanics Tool Company. On March 15, 1925, Mr. Person resigned that position and entered upon his present connection with the operations of the Central Furniture Company of Rockford and is now rendering further effective industrial service with that old established and flourishing manufacturing concern.

On June 15, 1915, at Rockford, Henry W. Person was united in marriage to Miss Ruth H. Thompson, daughter of Andrew Thompson, of Rockford, and they have two sons: Glen Henry Person, born May 29, 1917; and Philip Eugene Person, born August 8, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Person are members of the popular Harlem Hills Country Club and are republicans. Mr. Person is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### WILLIAM W. YOUNG.

William W. Young, a business man of ripe experience and pronounced ability, has advanced through the medium of his own efforts, realizing that the goal of success is reached only by those possessed of tenacity of purpose and tireless energy, and is now one of the leading manufacturers of Beloit, Wisconsin, which for thirty-three years has numbered him among its loyal citizens. He was born March 31, 1869, in Spring Grove, Green county, Wisconsin, a son of Isaac W. and Eliza (Woodling) Young, the former of whom was one of the pioneer agriculturists of that county.

The public schools of Spring Grove afforded William W. Young his educational advantages and his initial experience along manufacturing lines was gained in a carriage plant at Brodhead, Wisconsin. He next worked in a furniture factory at Janesville, and in 1891 came to Beloit, where he has since made his home. For a year he was a pattern maker for the P. B. Yates Machine Company and in 1892 entered the employ of Fairbanks, Morse & Company in a similar capacity. His worth was soon recognized and for eighteen years he acted as superintendent of the pattern shops of that corporation, with which he was connected until 1911. He then formed a partnership with Fred Fiebke

and the firm of Young & Fiebke embarked in mill work on a small scale. In 1912 Mr. Fiebke sold his stock to Mr. Young, who was then joined by Henry Schneider, and they were associated until 1914, under the firm style of Young & Schneider. The partnership was then dissolved and Mr. Young continued the business alone for ten years, constantly broadening its scope. In 1924 he organized the Young Manufacturing Company, of which he is the president. The other officers are: A. Leindorff, first vice president; Will Zienieker, second vice president; W. H. Thompson, treasurer; and Norman Nelson, secretary. They have a modern plant, well equipped for the manufacture of sash, doors, stairs and store fixtures, and they likewise do all kinds of cabinet work and pattern making. There is also in connection a retail store known as the Young Supply Shop. Mr. Young carefully supervises every detail of the business, keeping the output of the plant up to the highest standard, and displays marked foresight, initiative and executive ability in directing the operations of this large industry.

On October 10, 1894, Mr. Young was married to Miss Effie Martin, a daughter of T. E. Martin, of Spring Grove, Wisconsin. On March 25, 1922, she responded to the final summons, leaving two sons: Miles, born August 22, 1898; and Russell, whose natal day was December 14, 1900. Mr. Young's second union was with Mrs. Bernice Aldrich, of Beloit, Wisconsin. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Presbyterian church. He is allied with the republican party and takes the interest of a good citizen in public affairs but has never aspired to political office. He has earned the right to classification with Beloit's industrial leaders and his success is well deserved, for it has been worthily won.

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#### FRED W. DUPKE.

Fred W. Dupke, widely known as a master house painter and decorator, is now a successful manufacturer and a leader in industrial circles of South Beloit, Illinois. He has an expert knowledge of this business, which has constituted his life work, and what he has accomplished represents the fit utilization of his time, talents and opportunities. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 7, 1876, and his parents, Carl and Minnie Dupke, were natives of Germany. His father was a blacksmith by trade and for some time operated a shop in Milwaukee. He moved from that city to Concord, Wisconsin, and engaged in general merchandising, also handling agricultural implements.

The public schools of his native city afforded Fred W. Dupke his educational advantages and after leaving high school he worked for about two years in a commission house. He then served an apprenticeship to the painter's and decorator's trades under Henry Schroeder, a prominent Milwaukee contractor, remaining in his employ for four years. In 1897, when twenty-one years of age, Mr. Dupke started out for himself as a painting and decorating contractor, locating at Johnson Creek, in Jefferson county, Wisconsin. His



FRED W. DUPKE



capital amounted to twenty dollars and with this as a nucleus he built up a good business, remaining at Johnson Creek for four years. In 1901 he decided to expand the scope of his activities and came to Beloit, Wisconsin, opening a store on East Grand avenue in which he handled wall paper, paint and oil. He formed the Dupke Decorating Company and was remarkably successful in the venture, building up the finest decorating business in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. He gradually drifted away from the contracting field and devoted his attention principally to the sale of paint, oil, wall paper and pictures on both a wholesale and retail basis. In September, 1924, he purchased property in South Beloit, Winnebago county, Illinois, and remodeled the plant. He closed his store on the 1st of January, 1925, and is now engaged in the manufacture of paints and enamels, conducting the business under the style of the Dupke Paint Products Company, of which he is the president. W. H. Angell is filling the office of vice president and Allan V. Silverthorn acts as secretary and treasurer. Mr. Dupke is a business man of ripe experience, sound judgment and executive force and under his judicious management the future of the industry is assured.

On the 16th of April, 1901, Mr. Dupke was married to Miss Emma L. Grell, a daughter of John F. Grell, of Johnson Creek, Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of four children: Gertrude, the wife of Allan V. Silverthorn, cashier of the Forreston Commercial Bank of Illinois and an officer in the Dupke Paint Products Company; Carl, a student at Beloit College; Iona and Juanita.

Mr. Dupke votes the republican ticket and from 1914 until 1916 inclusive was a member of the common council of Beloit, in which he represented the fifth, now the seventh ward. He belongs to the Kiwanis Club and along fraternal lines is identified with the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Master House Painters & Decorators Association of the United States & Canada and his standing in that organization is indicated by the fact that he was honored with its presidency in 1920-21. At the outset of his career Mr. Dupke realized that hard work, tenacity of purpose and honest dealing are indispensable concomitants of success and through the employment of these agencies he has won prosperity and the right to the distinctive title of "self-made man." His deep interest in the welfare and progress of his city has been manifest by effective efforts in its behalf, and the respect accorded him is well deserved.

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#### CHARLES E. WHELOCK.

Though his last days were spent in Peoria, in which city he long had been engaged in business, one of the most progressive and substantial merchants of that city, the late Charles E. Wheelock was so well and widely known in and about Rockford and throughout the Rock River valley through his connection with the Wheelock mercantile interests that it is but proper and fitting that in this definite history of the region in which these interests have so long

been represented there should be carried some brief tribute to the good memory he left at his passing. Mr. Wheelock died at his home in Peoria on the night of May 23, 1910, and in its following issue one of the Peoria newspapers, commenting on the passing of the veteran merchant, observed that few men in the business or social life of that city had achieved the high place he occupied in the community. In this connection this newspaper further observed that "always the same quiet, unassuming gentleman, full of energy and gifted with rare business sagacity, in the commercial world he won a foremost place. In private life his friends are literally numbered only by the wide circle of his acquaintances. He was a man who stood wear. His many virtues were intrinsic and his faults, if any existed, were those of generosity. In the city's commercial progress he was a pioneer and always to the fore where enterprise and money were required for the public good. His friendships were many and lasting, and he had no enemies." Certainly a fine encomium and one that the surviving friends of the deceased throughout this valley will recognize as a just and fitting one.

Charles E. Wheelock was born in the city of Janesville, Wisconsin, September 21, 1858, and was a son of Wadsworth G. and Martha (Trott) Wheelock, the former of whom was a pioneer merchant of that city, founder of the Wheelock mercantile enterprises, and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work. Reared at Janesville, Charles E. Wheelock received his schooling there and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in commercial forms in his father's store, giving particular attention to the crockery and queensware line in which the elder Wheelock was for many years a leader throughout this section of the midwest country. In 1877, he then being but nineteen years of age, he was set up in business by his father in a branch store opened at South Bend, Indiana, doing business under the firm name of W. G. Wheelock & Son. He made a success of this business and remained at South Bend until in 1886, when he sold his interest in the concern to his brother, George H. Wheelock, and became established in business at Peoria, buying there the old established business of Miller Brothers, wholesale and retail china, glassware and queensware, which ten years later he incorporated as C. E. Wheelock & Company and which he developed into one of the largest concerns of its kind in the United States. In 1909 ill health compelled his retirement from active business and he was succeeded in executive direction of the affairs of this concern by his brother, George H. Wheelock, who also had "grown up" to the same line. Charles E. Wheelock was one of the real promoters of what may be regarded as the modern development of the city of Peoria and his memory will ever be kept green there. One of the leaders in the organization of the Business Men's Association of that city, he was elected its first president and in that capacity did much toward a proper direction of the commercial and industrial energies of the then rapidly developing city. He also was one of the founders and a member of the first board of governors of the Creve Coeur Club of that city.

In 1885, the year prior to his removal to Peoria, Charles E. Wheelock was united in marriage to Miss Cora Black of Owosso, Michigan, and at his passing he was survived by his widow and two sons, Ralph and George Wheelock, the

former then being twenty-four years of age and the latter, twenty-two. He was also survived by his three brothers, George H., Arthur W. and Frank W. Wheelock, all of whom likewise became prominently connected with mercantile affairs, as is set out elsewhere in this work. The father of these sons died in the summer of 1897.

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#### HON. HAMILTON RICHARDSON.

The comment has often been truthfully made that deserved appreciation of really great men is too often withheld until death awakens society, or a nation, to a sense of its loss. This is less true of the subject of this memoir than of most distinguished personages, for during a long period of his illustrious career his superior mental equipment and his splendid attainments were widely recognized and appreciated. So essentially was his career a part of the history of the growth, development and prosperity of Janesville that a history of this locality would be incomplete without specific mention of his career. Hamilton Richardson was born in the town of Le Roy, Genesee county, New York, on the 17th of October, 1820, and was a son of William and Mary (Pierson) Richardson, both of whom were born in Johnstown, New York. On the paternal side, Mr. Richardson was of English and Scottish descent and the name of Hamilton which he bore, after the maiden name of his paternal grandmother, was of Scottish origin. Mary Pierson was of English descent in the paternal line, while her mother, whose family was Van Valkenburg, was of old Mohawk Holland ancestry.

Hamilton Richardson was reared on his father's farm until the age of fifteen years and in the meantime attended the district schools of his home neighborhood. At the age mentioned he left home and entered the service of a mercantile firm, at the same time becoming a member of the family of one of its partners, a personal friend of his father's and an able and successful business man. Very soon after the admission of the state of Michigan into the Union, the subject and his employer migrated to that state, which at that time was an almost unbroken wilderness, practically the only settlement being along the southern border. The firm located in Genesee county at what is now the city of Flint, in the starting of which they were most important factors, for they laid out a large part of the town, built the first dam across the Flint river there, erected the first sawmill and established the first mercantile house in that county.

For a time the firm was very prosperous and their operations covered a wide field of activities, including banking, but the disastrous panic of 1837 forced them, with thousands of other business houses, into bankruptcy. Mr. Richardson must have given clear indications in his early years of the unusual capacity for business which he possessed, for he had an important part in the management of the extensive interests of the company. In 1840 Mr. Richardson returned to New York and entered the academy in Le Roy, but he had caught the progressive, enterprising spirit of the west and was keen to partici-



pate again in the rapidly moving events which were taking place in the newly opened country. In the spring of 1842 he went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he secured employment as bookkeeper in a large commercial house. He then went to Racine and engaged in the hardware business, but the business not meeting his expectations he sold out in the spring of 1844 and came to Janesville, where he again engaged in the hardware business. In this venture he met with fair success and in 1850, having decided to branch out, he and Mr. Truesdell erected the Excelsior Mills, later known as the Hodson Mills. In this venture he was unfortunate, as the mill was first nearly destroyed by fire and later almost ruined by a flood. Hard times, due to a succession of poor crops, followed, and Mr. Richardson determined to go elsewhere and make a new start. At that time California held out the greatest promise of quick returns and in the fall of 1851 he went to that state, locating at Marysville, the head of navigation on the Feather river. There he established a mercantile house through which he furnished supplies to the miners and mountain traders and during the four years that he conducted the business there he met with very gratifying success. While on an expedition over the mountains, visiting the camps, he was attacked and robbed by Joaquin's noted band of highwaymen and almost lost his life.

At that time freight transportation in California was almost entirely monopolized by a big company that was practically robbing the public by its exorbitant charges. Mr. Richardson, with the keenness of foresight and the courage that characterized all his business actions, helped to organize a company which operated a line of steamers on the navigable streams of the state and transported freight at a reasonable rate. Mr. Richardson was the moving spirit in this enterprise, being chosen secretary and treasurer of the company, and they were successful even beyond their expectations, both as to the financial returns and in their effort to break up the former monopoly. Mr. Richardson remained in California until 1856, when, feeling that he had amassed enough capital to enable him again to enter business in his former home he returned to Janesville and invested his money in real estate and other property. He became a stockholder in the Doty Manufacturing Company, the Janesville Cotton Mills and other manufacturing enterprises and was also a stockholder and a director of the First National Bank. In 1858 Mr. Richardson was married and immediately took his bride to Europe, where they remained until the end of the following year. On his return to Janesville Mr. Richardson bought the Doty Manufacturing Company, becoming the largest stockholder in the New Doty Manufacturing Company, and for many years remained actively and closely identified with the business and commercial interests of this section of the state. In July, 1883, President Arthur appointed him postmaster of Janesville, which position he held until February, 1888.

From his young manhood Hamilton Richardson had taken a keen and intelligent interest in public affairs, of which he acquired an accurate knowledge and in regard to which he held positive opinions. Up to the time of the Civil war he had been aligned with the democratic party, but the turn in events convinced him that his duty was to the administration and from that time on he gave his earnest and whole-hearted support to the prosecution of the war,

contributing largely of both time and means to that end, being a member of almost every committee that was organized for war purposes in the city of Janesville. In 1864 the republican and war democrats nominated and elected him to the legislature. Four years later he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners, and he was chairman of the committee which had in charge the erection of the beautiful and dignified Rock county courthouse. He was twice elected a member of the county board of supervisors, and in 1876 was still further honored by election to the state senate, in which he served four consecutive terms, or until 1882. His period in the legislature was marked by active and faithful service and by able and fearless participation in the debates and other activities of that body. He introduced some very important bills and was chairman of the important committee on charitable and penal institutions. He was the author of the law creating the Wisconsin system of county care of the insane. Prior to the passage of this law all states cared for the insane in state institutions, Wisconsin being the first state to create county institutions for the care of the permanently insane. He was also the author of the law creating the state board of control, which gives such board the control and supervision of all state charitable and penal institutions. He was recognized as one of the leading statesmen in Wisconsin and was a close personal friend and supporter of Senator Matt H. Carpenter.

In 1873 Mr. Richardson again visited Europe, making an extensive tour of the Old World. He never relinquished his interest in public affairs, with which he kept closely in touch even long after his retirement from active participation in business or politics. He spent the golden twilight of his life in the beautiful home which he had built in Janesville after he and his young wife had returned from their honeymoon trip, and there he breathed his last on September 22, 1906. Mr. Richardson was an appreciative member of the Masonic order, holding membership in West Star Lodge No. 14; Janesville Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, and Janesville Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar.

On August 9, 1858, Mr. Richardson was married to Miss Caroline A. Pease, who was born at Enfield, Connecticut, but was reared and educated in Hartford. Her father was Judge Lorrain T. Pease, of Hartford, who was in the employ of the government and in the discharge of his duties visited Wisconsin and Minnesota. His son, Hon. John J. R. Pease, who was a pioneer settler of Janesville, had come to Green Bay, Wisconsin, with his father in 1840, and he laid out a considerable part of the original plat of Janesville. To Mr. and Mrs. Richardson were born six children, namely: Victor P., of Janesville, who is referred to specifically in another page of this work; Sarah M., of Janesville; Hamilton P., of Chicago; John P., of Chicago; Marshall P., a lawyer, of Janesville; and Lorrain T., a captain in the regular army. Mrs. Caroline Richardson died in 1912.

In many respects Hamilton Richardson was one of the most notable men of his generation in this section of the state. None ever failed to credit him with high moral purpose, true nobility of character, a sterling sense of his responsibilities and a firm adherence to the loftiest ideals. Well disciplined in mind, maintaining a vantage point from which life presented itself in correct propor-

tions, guided and guarded by the most inviolable principles of integrity and honor, simple and unostentatious in his self-respecting, tolerant individuality, such a man could not prove other than a force for good in whatever relation of life he may have been placed.

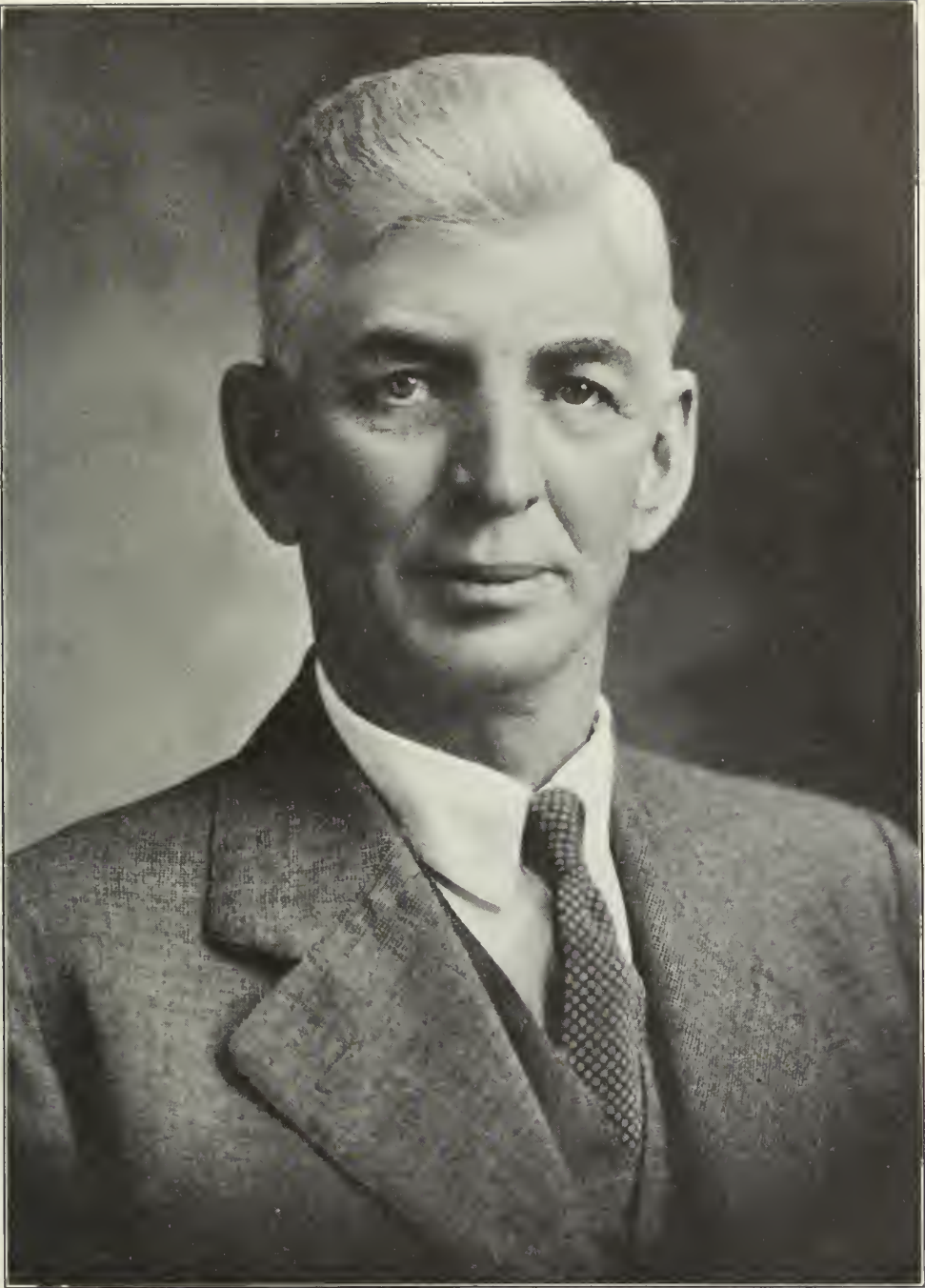
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### JOHN FAIR.

There are few men in Boone county and throughout this section of the Rock River valley who are more widely known or who are more deservedly popular among their acquaintances than John Fair, sheriff of Boone county and a successful highway contractor, who for thirty years and more has been engaged in business in Belvidere and who is known by practically every person in that city and throughout the county. Though not a native of Boone county, Sheriff Fair has been a resident of the county since the days of his boyhood and thus is as familiar with conditions hereabout as though he always had lived here. He was born in the city of Uxbridge, in the province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada, November 16, 1865, the second in order of birth of the eight children born to George and Mary (Acton) Fair, both of whom were born in Ireland, the latter a daughter of Robert Acton, who with his family crossed the water in 1844 and settled on a farm in the province of Ontario, which farm still is in the possession of the Acton family.

George Fair was a well grown lad when he left Ireland in 1849 with his parents, the family's intent being to establish a new home in Canada. His father, William Fair, had been in government employ in Ireland and was well circumstanced but he felt that better conditions awaited his children on this side of the water. That was about the time of Ireland's bitter period of distress, the great famine year of 1848 having turned the thoughts of many of the sons of Erin into new channels and thousands were leaving their native land for the United States or Canada. William Fair sought relief in Canada and fared well in his quest. He bought a bit of farm land in Broek township, Ontario county, in the province of that name and set up as a farmer, in time becoming well-to-do. He lived to the great age of ninety-eight years. Two of his sons turned to professional careers and became successful physicians. George Fair became well trained in farming operations on that place and after his marriage established his home on a farm and continued farming in Canada until 1885, when he closed out his holdings there and came with his family down into the United States and settled in Illinois, renting a farm in Belvidere township, Boone county. Upon his retirement from the farm he moved to Belvidere, where he spent his last days, engaged in carrying mails and in a local express business. He died at the age of sixty-five years.

John Fair was about ten years of age when he came with his parents to Boone county and here attended the local schools. As a young man he worked on the farm and was otherwise engaged until 1894 when he went into the cement business in Belvidere. In the next year he was married and established his home there. His business quickly grew to profitable proportions



JOHN FAIR



and as the demand for paving increased hereabout he became the leading contractor in that line in Belvidere, practically all of the cement paving done in that city having been laid under his direction. Mr. Fair has a complete outfit for big paving jobs and several miles of the state highway out of Belvidere were paved by him. His early facilities for the extension of this business were increased in 1899, when he became one of the original promoters and a considerable stockholder in the project put through by the Belvidere Stone Company, establishing the great quarries a mile and a half north of town. In 1920 Mr. Fair leased these quarries and has since carried on the business as an adjunct to his general contracting business, having at the quarry a stone-crusher with a capacity of one hundred and seventy-five tons a day. Not only has Sheriff Fair been diligent in his own business but he has for years been attentive to the public service. For twelve years he rendered service as a member of the board of supervisors and for three terms was president of that body. In 1922 he was elected sheriff of Boone county and is now (1925) incumbent in that office, elected for the term of four years, one of the most popular officials the county ever had.

In October, 1895, John Fair was united in marriage to Miss Emma Slater, daughter of William Slater of Cherry Valley and a member of one of the pioneer families of this section of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Fair have four children: Genevieve, wife of Dr. E. V. Bishop of Chicago; Ruth, who finished her schooling in Northwestern University and at the Normal School at De Kalb and is now a teacher in the schools of Libertyville; and John, Jr., and Barbara, who are still in school. Sheriff Fair is a Royal Arch and thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He also is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Order of Owls and is a member of the Lincoln Protective Association. The friends of Sheriff Fair testify to the useful character of his public service and to the kindly generosity of his nature. He has been helpful in many ways in directing aright the straying feet of young men in this community and has ever been found ready and willing to help causes that were found worthy of help.

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#### ROCKFORD MUNICIPAL SANATORIUM.

The municipal sanatorium law was passed by the Illinois legislature and approved by the governor in the spring of 1909. This law provided for the establishment and maintenance of a tuberculosis sanatorium by any municipality which might adopt the law by a popular referendum vote, and permitted a tax of one mill on the assessed valuation to be levied for this purpose. In 1911, on the initiative of Dr. Merton R. Harned, a committee was authorized by A. E. Hauter, then president of the Rockford Club, and under the auspices of this organization the first movement toward developing public opinion for the adoption of the sanatorium law in Rockford was launched. Dr. Harned called together the following committee to form an organization and shape public opin-

ion: Dr. W. H. Fitch, Miss Mary Beattie, Miss Jessie Spafford, Miss Violet Jensen, Mrs. James Joslin, Dr. Anna Weld, Dr. H. A. Pattison, Dr. A. M. Harrison, Rev. T. B. Thompson, P. A. Peterson, R. K. Welsh and Winthrop Ingersoll.

This committee arranged for a mass meeting, held at the old Grand Theatre on Wyman street on November 19, 1911, for the purpose of establishing a permanent organization. Publicity was given by the press and pulpit and the attendance was large. Mayor W. W. Bennett presided and Dr. J. W. Pettit of Ottawa, pioneer of the tuberculosis movement in the middle west, was the principal speaker, choosing for his subject "Tuberculosis, Curable in this Climate." Dr. W. H. Fitch spoke on "Local Conditions" and Dr. Minnick, secretary of the Illinois Tuberculosis Association, delivered an address on "Organization." Resolutions were adopted, declaring for a permanent organization in conformity with the state organization, calling for a publicity campaign for the adoption of the sanatorium law in the spring election, and establishing the name as the Winnebago County Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. A board of managers of thirty-three persons, active in public work in Rockford, was chosen and the following officers were elected: President, Dr. W. H. Fitch; first vice president, S. R. Catlin; second vice president, Rev. Thomas Finn; secretary, Dr. M. R. Harned; assistant secretary, Dr. H. A. Pattison; treasurer, Miss Mary Beattie.

Under the direction of T. B. Thompson, a campaign of publicity and education was begun, various civic organizations, the press, pulpits, public speakers and movie houses again cooperating freely in this effort to arouse public interest. The necessary number of signatures to bring the matter to a referendum vote was obtained and at the spring election of 1913 the municipal sanatorium law was adopted by the electorate of Rockford by a large majority. Mayor Bennett appointed the following trustees: Dr. Daniel Lichty, president; Dr. H. A. Pattison, secretary; and Dr. W. E. Parke, treasurer. The first building was completed in December, 1915, and opened to patients on January 1, 1916. A few years later the service building, containing boiler room, laundry room, coal bins and garage, was constructed, and about the same time the men's cottage, suitable for convalescent patients, was added to the group of buildings. In 1920 a series of one-story wings connected by corridors was begun and the last of these additions was completed in January, 1924, bringing the bed capacity of the sanatorium up to seventy patients. In the summer of 1922 a cottage was built on the grounds for the medical director and superintendent. In 1919 the Glackin law, establishing county sanatoria, was adopted by Winnebago county by referendum vote and the following board of trustees was appointed by the county board of supervisors: Dr. M. R. Harned, president; Dr. C. H. Boswell and Joe T. Peters. This board voted to join with the Rockford Municipal Sanatorium Board and conduct the local sanatorium both as a city and county institution. This plan has since been followed and has proved very effective.

The sanatorium has grown in capacity from eighteen beds, at the time of its opening, to seventy; from one building to eight, and from meager equipment to the most complete in the state outside of Chicago. The sanatorium board

took over the tuberculosis field work in the city early in the year 1922 and to this added a county program, consisting of three county nurses under the direction of Mrs. Helen Marshall, which now constitutes a comprehensive field service, both in the city of Rockford and in Winnebago county. The board of trustees of the sanatorium for the 1924-25 term is as follows: Dr. M. R. Harned, president; N. O. Gunderson, secretary; Dr. Anfin Egdahl, Dr. Manly H. Shipley, Dr. C. H. Boswell and H. A. Conklin. The duties of superintendent and medical director are discharged by Dr. Robinson Bosworth, who succeeded Dr. Walter C. Reineking on July 1, 1925. The sanatorium offers a refuge to the sick, where the path is made easier and where the necessary material and moral care is provided for the poor and the prosperous alike. Here good food and medical direction are supplied, fresh air, rest and regulated exercise insisted upon, temptation to do the wrong thing removed and the patient taught to get well and stay well. Here new habits are formed and a desire inculcated for fresh air, day and night, cleanliness, sane living and love for and interest in good health measures.

Among those who have rendered marked service for the cause and the institution, the names of Dr. Daniel Lichty, Dr. M. R. Harned, Dr. H. A. Pattison, Dr. Anna Weld, Miss Mary I. Beattie, Mrs. Helen Marshall, Miss Sadie Strand and Dr. W. C. Reineking stand out conspicuously, but it has been a movement for which the entire community has manifested interest and enthusiasm.

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#### PIERPONT JONATHAN EDWARDS WOOD.

Among the enterprising and successful members of the legal profession in Rock county, Wisconsin, stands Pierpont Jonathan Edwards Wood, junior member of the well known law firm of Jeffris, Mouat, Oestreich, Avery & Wood. Strong mental endowment, careful preparation for his life work and a forceful personality are the elements that have contributed to the success which has attended him, and today he occupies an enviable position in public esteem. Mr. Wood was born at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin, on the 12th of August, 1890, and is the son of William S. and Caroline (Pierpont) Wood, the former of whom was for many years engaged in the hotel business in Stoughton.

The subject attended the public and high schools in his native city and also the Hyde Park high school in Chicago, supplementing this by one year's attendance at the State University of Iowa. He then went to Fargo, North Dakota, and studied law in the office of Watson & Young and on the completion of his studies was admitted to the bar in Montana in December, 1913. He then formed a co-partnership and practiced at Billings and at Forsyth, Montana, under the name of Collius, Campbell & Wood, until 1918. In that year he enlisted in the United States army, becoming a private in the Field Artillery Corps, and was stationed at Camp Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained until receiving his discharge, November 30, 1918. In January, 1919, Mr. Wood came to Janesville and became a member of the firm of Jeffris, Mouat, Oestreich, Avery & Wood, in the work of which he has since taken an active



part. He has gained high prestige at the local bar, being recognized by his colleagues as a man of marked ability, sound principles and clean character.

Politically Mr. Wood is a staunch supporter of the republican party but has never been an aspirant for public office. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association; the Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Phi college fraternities, and the Janesville Country Club.

On October 27, 1915, Mr. Wood was married to Miss Helen Jeffris, the daughter of Malcolm G. Jeffris, senior member of the law firm of which Mr. Wood is a member and they are the parents of three children, namely: Pierpont Jeffris, born at Forsyth, Montana, May 2, 1917; Carolyn Pierpont, born at Janesville, December 25, 1919; and Malcolm Jeffris, born at Janesville, November 16, 1921.

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#### MERTON R. HARNED, D. D. S.

Dr. Merton R. Harned, a successful dentist with a background of more than forty years' experience, has long been one of the outstanding figures in professional circles of Rockford, Illinois, and has also achieved prominence through his activities in behalf of the municipal sanatorium. He was born January 26, 1862, in Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois, in which county his parents, Edmund B. and Susan H. (Sevwright) Harned, were early settlers and where his father followed the occupation of farming as a means of livelihood. Dr. Harned completed a course in the high school at Genoa, Illinois, and the Bryant Business College in Chicago, afterward becoming a student at the Philadelphia Dental College, from which he was graduated in 1884. He began his professional career at Oregon, Illinois, in the same year and in 1886 moved to Rockford, where he has since resided. He has attained his share of professional prestige and honor, having always been active in dental society work and willing to do his part in serving his profession. He has contributed to many papers and given many clinics along advanced lines in the progress of his chosen profession, his papers having been published in almost every dental magazine in the United States. He conducts an extensive practice and his office is supplied with every appliance used by the most progressive exponents of dental surgery.

Dr. Harned was married March 1, 1888, to Miss Kittie A. Sewall, a daughter of John and Mary Sewall, of Oregon, Illinois. Lora, the only child of this union, was born March 10, 1894, and became the wife of Arthur E. Sterling, who is a son of Lieutenant Governor Fred Sterling, of Rockford. Dr. Harned votes according to the dictates of his judgment, casting his ballot for those men and measures that he deems will best conserve the public weal, but is not active in politics. However, he has performed notable work in the field of public service. His interest and service have been largely along the lines of education and public health. He was active in the days of the university extension work of Chautauqua reading circles; in the organization of the Unity Club, which con-

ducted many courses along educational lines; the Parent-Teachers Associations; the fight to obtain a real school board for the city; the forming of the Rockford Club, which was the first real civic club in the city; and he has been the source of much civic development, notably the park system, the municipal sanatorium, of which he is now president of the board, and the creation of a Chamber of Commerce with a paid secretary, as well as many minor matters. It was during his activity in the Rockford Club, of which he was the second president, that he initiated the most notable of his public services, in the movement for a tubercular sanatorium. He and Mrs. Harned, who has always been a real partner, were active in organizing the Winnebago County Old Folks Home, and through her friendship with Mrs. Snow they, with W. W. Bennett, were the prime movers in the organization under the will of Jane M. Snow of the Jennie Snow Home for Aged Women, which cares for about twenty occupants. Mrs. Harned has been president of the board of lady managers and Mr. Bennett and Dr. Harned have been trustees of the estate.

Dr. Harned is a Mason and a member of the Church of the Christian Union, of the Rockford Art Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Izaak Walton Club. He is a charter member of the Northern Illinois Dental Society, the Odontological Society and the Winnebago County Dental Society, in each of which he has served as president and in almost every other capacity. He has been active in the Illinois State Dental Society and the Chicago Dental Society, rarely missing a meeting in thirty years, writing many papers and giving many clinics, always willing to help. He is also a member of the American Dental Society.

The Harneds find their recreation in travel—having visited nearly every state in the Union—in photography, golf and the conduct of a large farm thirty miles from Rockford, where they have a summer cottage and spend many happy hours with children and grandchildren.

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#### CHARLES A. CIBELIUS, M. D.

Earnest, purposeful and studious, Dr. Charles A. Cibelius is concentrating his energies upon his profession, in which he has gained a secure foothold, and is now numbered among the successful physicians of Rockford, Illinois. He was born June 23, 1892, in Racine, Wisconsin, and is a son of Joseph and Caroline Cibelius. His preliminary education was acquired in his native city and after the completion of his high school course he matriculated in the University of Wisconsin, from which he won the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1914. He was graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1916 and for a year and a half was an interne at St. Luke's Hospital of that city. During the World war he enlisted in the medical corps of the United States army and on September 14, 1917, was commissioned a first lieutenant. He was stationed for a time at Fort Riley, Kansas, and in 1918 was graduated from the army medical school at Washington, D. C. He was honorably discharged September 14, 1919, as a first lieutenant and in 1925 was made a major in the Officers Reserve Corps. Dr. Cibelius came to Rockford in 1919 and has since engaged in gen-

eral practice, devoting considerable attention to surgical work, in which he has acquired much skill, while he is also an accurate diagnostician. He is well versed in the science of medicine and surgery and uses his knowledge to good advantage in his efforts to alleviate suffering and check the progress of disease. He is a member of the staff of Rockford Hospital and also conducts a large private practice.

Dr. Cibelius was married July 26, 1919, to Miss Elizabeth Helm, a daughter of Walter B. and Mary Helm, of Rockford, and the children of this union are Mary Caroline and Charles Anthony, Jr. The former was born June 15, 1920, and the latter on October 26, 1922. Dr. Cibelius is an Elk and belongs to all the Masonic bodies. He is a member of the University Club and the Rockford Country Club. He devotes much time to study and keeps in close touch with the progressive work that is being done by the profession through his affiliation with the Winnebago County and Illinois State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association.

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#### FRED ARNOLD.

Fred Arnold, one of Rockford's enterprising and progressive young business men, founder and head of the Arnold Auto Supply Company, dealers in general automobile supplies and accessories, and in other ways interested in the commercial and industrial development of his home town, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, having grown up to the automobile business there, and therefore is one of the best known figures in that particular line in the city. He was born April 10, 1893, a son of Gottlieb and Anna Arnold, natives of Germany who came to the United States in 1890, locating in Rockford, the latter of whom is still living in that city. The late Gottlieb Arnold was a contractor in stone and brick masonry and carried on business along that line in Rockford until his death in 1905.

Reared in Rockford, Fred Arnold attended schools of that city and early began his training in the wider school of experience, his first personal venture into the field of business being as a newsboy selling papers on the streets of his home town. He then began working in local machine shops and in time became a competent machinist, a trade that has proved valuable to him in carrying on his present business. For some time he worked in the plant of the Spengler-Loomis Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of novelty specialties, and then was employed as an automobile machinist, working in established garages, and thus learned that phase of the great automobile industry from the ground up. Thus qualified for a further step along the lines of his chosen vocation in 1916 Mr. Arnold went into business on his own account, opening a general garage and automobile accessory shop in Rockford, and has since been thus engaged, now the proprietor of an admirably equipped and thoroughly well stocked establishment at Nos. 127-129 South First street, a place generally regarded as the largest establishment of its kind in the city, the proprietor having gradually increased his facilities and his stock until he



FRED ARNOLD



long has been in a position to take care of any assignment along the lines of his particular branch of merchandising and carrying in stock everything pertaining to the automobile. The business is carried on under the name of the Arnold Auto Supply Company, of which he is the head and manager, and Robert Arnold is the assistant manager.

On April 10, 1918, in Rockford, Fred Arnold was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ann Galley, daughter of William Galley of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have one child: A son, Robert Arnold, born April 17, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the city's general social activities. They are republicans and give such attention to local civic affairs as is incumbent upon all good citizens. Mr. Arnold is a member of all the Masonic bodies, a member of the Pioneer Club of Rockford and of the Rockford Automobile Club. He is one of the active members of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is one of the leaders in the Young Men's Business Association of that city.

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#### WARNER WHITNEY CORNISH.

Warner Whitney Cornish, manager of the Fort Atkinson plant of the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company of Chicago, manufacturers and distributors of dairy supplies and said to be the greatest concern of its kind in the world, manufacturing and marketing all sorts of machinery and supplies entering into the dairy products industry, is a native of Fort Atkinson, son of one of the founders of the great industry here referred to, and his interests ever have centered there, an active participant in the development of the great factory since the days of his boyhood and thus widely known in the general commercial and industrial circles of the fruitful Rock River valley. Mr. Cornish was born January 18, 1869, a son of Oscar S. and Elizabeth (Whitney) Cornish, the former a native of New York state and the latter of the state of Vermont. They were married in Wisconsin and here spent their last days, for years recognized as among the leaders in community good works in and about Fort Atkinson.

The late Oscar S. Cornish, one of the founders of the Cornish, Curtis & Greene Company and for years an active and influential factor in the industrial development of Fort Atkinson, arrived at that place in 1857 from his home place in New York. Ten years later, in 1867, in association with D. W. Curtis, he became engaged there in the lumber business, carrying on also a lumber mill which in time, as the dairy industry throughout that region began to develop, started the manufacture of churns and like equipment for the dairymen in this section. Out of this modest enterprise grew the great plant of what is now the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company at Fort Atkinson, a concern which manufactures every appliance known to the creamery trade, employs four hundred or five hundred persons and has for years been one of the most important contributing factors in the development of the various interests of Fort Atkinson. Oscar S. Cornish died in 1892 and his partner, D. W. Curtis, died in 1897. The industry was carried on and devel-

oped by the sons of its founders and in 1898 was consolidated with other interests under the name of the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company, with headquarters at Chicago and with sales branches and local manufacturing plants in all the important dairy centers in the United States. This company is capitalized at four million dollars and, as noted above, is recognized as the leading concern of its kind in the world. In addition to his industrial activities at Fort Atkinson, Oscar S. Cornish also took a helpful part in general community affairs, served for several terms as mayor of the city and as a member of the board of county supervisors and in other ways did well his part in promoting the best interests of the community, in the development of which he had been an active participant from the days of his young manhood. As already stated, he died in 1892, and his widow survived him for nearly fifteen years, her death occurring in 1906.

Warner W. Cornish, son of these sterling citizens, was reared at Fort Atkinson and from the days of his boyhood has been identified with the operations of the great manufacturing plant established there by his father. After his father's death, he then being twenty-three years of age, he represented the family interest in the factory and in time became the general manager of the plant, a position he ever since has retained, having been thus continued as local manager when the concern was reorganized as the present Creamery Package Manufacturing Company, in which he is a considerable stockholder. Mr. Cornish is a member of the Fort Atkinson Club, is a Knight Templar Mason and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. In his political views he holds to the tenets of the democratic party.

On April 27, 1893, Mr. Cornish was united in marriage to Miss Inez Bridges, daughter of S. A. Bridges, of Fort Atkinson, and they have three sons, namely: Harry B. Cornish, born May 11, 1896; Paul Whitney Cornish, born November 12, 1897; and Samuel Austin Cornish, born October 28, 1906. The Cornishes have a pleasant home in Fort Atkinson and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

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#### C. ALFRED SALL.

C. Alfred Sall, secretary and treasurer of the manufacturing concern operating as Sall Brothers Company in Rockford, a veteran of the World war and one of the well known young manufacturers of that fine industrial center, was born on a farm in Decatur county, northwestern Kansas, May 4, 1893, a son of John A. and Augusta Sall, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who in 1907 returned to that country with their family and are still living there.

Reared on the home farm in Kansas, C. Alfred Sall attended the schools of that neighborhood and was fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Sweden. When nineteen years of age, in 1912, he returned to the United States and located in Rockford, where he became an apprentice pattern-maker in the plant of the Emerson-Brantingham Company and was there employed when this country took a hand in the World war in 1917. In 1918 he got

into the service of the army and was assigned to the Forty-fifth Infantry, with which command he rendered service until his discharge in January, 1919, the war then being over. In the meanwhile his elder brother, John A. Sall, had opened a small shop on Revell avenue in Rockford and was engaged there in pattern-making, and when he returned from the army Alfred Sall joined his brother in this enterprise and has since been thus occupied. In the next year the operations of this concern had expanded in such fashion that larger quarters were necessary and the brothers then erected their present commodious plant at No. 2320 Kiswaukee avenue. In 1923 a reorganization was effected and the concern was incorporated as the Sall Brothers Company, with John A. Sall as president, A. R. Floberg as vice president and C. A. Sall as secretary and treasurer. The firm has a large and well equipped pattern shop and is doing an extensive business in that line and in the operation of a brass and aluminum foundry.

John A. Sall, president of this company, was born in Decatur county, Kansas, June 24, 1889, and was eighteen years of age when in 1907 he accompanied his parents to their old home in Sweden. Two years later (in 1909) he returned to the United States and located in Rockford, where he was for a season employed in the operations of one of the furniture factories there. In the next year—1910—he began working as a pattern-maker and has since followed that vocation, engaged in business on his own account since 1918 and president of the Sall Brothers Company since 1923. Both brothers are experts in their line and have a competent staff of operatives in their plant, the products of which are commanding a wide and growing market. John A. Sall is a member of the Masonic order. He was married to Miss Esther Broad of Rockford and they have one child: A son, Wesley Sall, born May 3, 1916.

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#### ROY EDGAR WISNER.

Roy Edgar Wisner, president of the Janesville Products Company, manufacturers of children's vehicles and spark plugs at Janesville; a member of the directorate of the Merchants & Savings Bank of that city, a past president of the influential Rotary Club of Janesville and an active member of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce, for years recognized as one of the leaders in the general commercial and industrial life of that city, has been a resident of Janesville for more than thirty years, or since the days of his boyhood, and has created a distinct personal impress upon the affairs of that thriving center.

Mr. Wisner was born in the city of Robinson in Crawford county, Illinois, March 24, 1878, and is a son of William E. and Mary A. (Granger) Wisner, who not long after that date moved with their family to Oelwein, Iowa. He was graduated from the high school in the latter place and then, in 1894, when in his sixteenth year, became employed in the office of the Wisconsin Carriage Top Company, at Janesville, entering that office on January 1 of that year. In 1897 he was made secretary of the company, which about that time was extending its operations and which thereafter until in 1918, when it was reorganized



as the Janesville Products Company, was known as the Wisconsin Carriage Company. When this latter reorganization was effected Mr. Wisner had been for some years treasurer and general manager of the Wisconsin Carriage Company and when the reorganization as the Janesville Products Company was effected in 1918 he was elected president, which executive position he now occupies, one of the best known manufacturers in his line in the Rock River valley. In addition to his manufacturing interests at Janesville Mr. Wisner has other interests of a substantial character, including a place on the directorate of the Merchants & Savings Bank of that city. He is a republican and is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

On December 18, 1907, at Janesville, Mr. Wisner was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Barker of that city and they have a very pleasant home there. Mrs. Wisner was born in Janesville and is a daughter of the late George Rutledge Barker, who died at his home in Janesville in the summer of 1914 and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work. George R. Barker, in his generation one of the best known and most influential men in this section of the Rock River valley, was born in October, 1839, and was thus in his seventy-fifth year at the time of his passing. He was born in the city of Jamestown in Chautauqua county, New York, and was a son of Job and Phebe Barker, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont and both members of colonial families in New England. Job Barker's memory ever will be kept green in Wisconsin, for he was one of the pioneers of Rock county, entrant of a tract of twelve hundred acres of "congress" land in that county in 1839 and settler at the point which came to be known as Barkers Corners, thus one of the real pioneers in that section of Wisconsin, as is set out elsewhere at considerable length and in quite entertaining fashion elsewhere in this work. This pioneer and his wife were the parents of eight children, but one of whom now is living, the venerable Mrs. J. W. Coolidge, whose husband is a kinsman of President Coolidge and who is now living at Medford, Massachusetts, past ninety years of age.

George R. Barker was but an infant when his parents took up their home in the then wilds of Wisconsin and he grew up to farming, a vocation he followed the remainder of his active life or until his retirement in 1902 and removal to Janesville, where his last days were spent and where his widow still is living. He was active and influential in civic affairs and had rendered public service as a member of the county board, as president of the school board, as president of the farm board and as a trustee of the Rock county infirmary. He was ever interested in the promotion of the general agricultural interests of the county, had served as master of the Janesville grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and also was the president of the Farmers Mutual Life Insurance Company. Of the six children born to George R. Barker and his wife, Mrs. Wisner is the last born, the others being as follows: Eudna P., who married William B. Conrad and who died in 1910; Julius Marville Barker, who married Pauline Davis and is now living in Washington, D. C.; Ella Claire, who married Arthur Aller of Janesville; Miss Mary Rogers Barker, who continues to make her home at Janesville; and George Cargill Barker, who married Alma Golling and is now living in Moose Jaw in the province of Saskatchewan in the dominion of Can-

ada. The mother of these children, Mrs. Margaret Cargill Barker, was born in Port Jefferson on Long Island, New York, February 10, 1843, and was married to Mr. Barker at Janesville on February 21, 1867. She is a daughter of William W. and Edna Cargill, the former of whom was born in the Orkney group of islands off the north coast of Scotland, in the year 1812.

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#### WILLIAM HAMILTON McGUIRE, M. D.

As one who has lent dignity and honor to the medical profession in his community and who brought to his chosen vocation the strength and devotion of one who appreciates the sacred importance of his work, it is eminently fitting that specific mention be made in this work of Dr. William H. McGuire, of Janesville. Dr. McGuire is a native of Canada, having been born in Hamilton, Ontario, on the 24th of June, 1884, the son of Francis A. and Lucille (Buckley) McGuire, the former of whom was for many years engaged in the real estate business but is now living retired in Brooklyn, New York. After attending the public schools in his youth, the subject attended St. Joseph's Academy, at St. Catharine, Ontario, going from there to Seton Hall College, at South Orange, New Jersey, and thence to Holy Cross College, at Worcester, Massachusetts, from which he was graduated in 1904 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Having decided to devote his life to the practice of the healing art, he then matriculated in the Long Island College Hospital Medical School, at Brooklyn, New York, where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1908. He then received an appointment from the secretary of the navy as interne in the United States Marine Hospital at Staten Island, but because of the fact that this hospital is for men only he declined the appointment, as he desired general experience. He then served an internship at St. John's Hospital, Long Island City, New York, and at the Norwegian Hospital, Brooklyn. He was also at the Swedish Hospital, Brooklyn, for one year and was externe at St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, for six months. From there he went to the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minneosta, where he attended the clinics for six months. On April 20, 1910, Dr. McGuire came to Janesville and has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession here. He enjoys a large and constantly increasing practice, in which he has been remarkably successful, and has gained high prestige throughout this section of the state as an able and trustworthy physician. He is a member of the staff of Mercy Hospital and is associate district surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern railroad.

Politically Dr. McGuire gives his support to the republican party and takes a keen interest in the general trend of public affairs, though the demands of his profession preclude his taking an active part in politics. Fraternally he is a member of Alpha Kappa Kappa, the national medical fraternity; the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin; the Catholic Order of Foresters; the Ancient Order of Hibernians; the Knights of Columbus, in which he has received distinct preferment, being grand knight of Carroll Council No. 596, at Janesville, and district deputy for the thirteenth district of Wisconsin. He is also a member of

the Rock County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

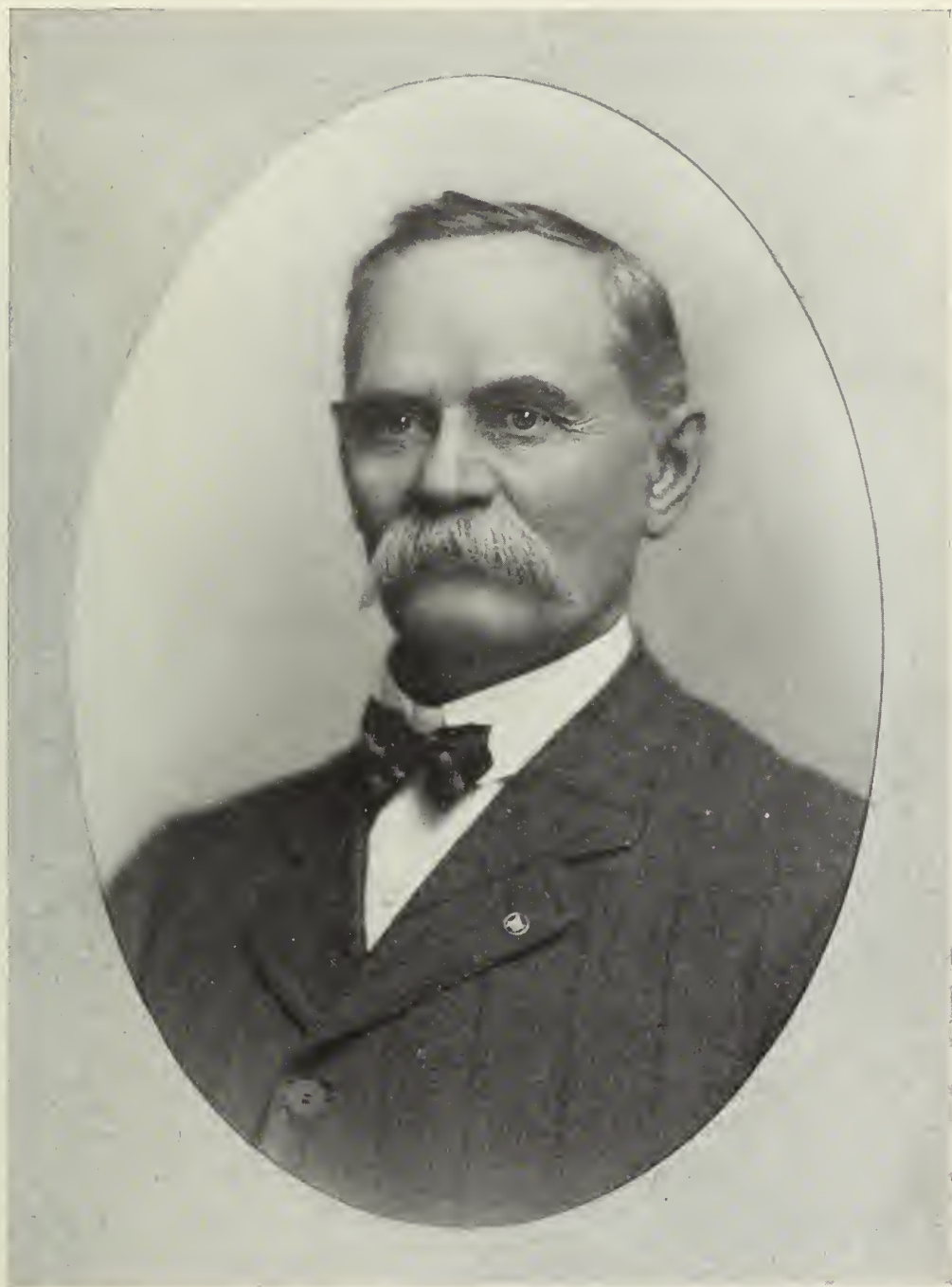
On June 26, 1912, Dr. McGuire was married to Miss Julia Maria Timmons, the daughter of Edward and Ellen Timmons, of Janesville, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Francis Edward, born March 27, 1913; William Hamilton, Jr., born June 21, 1916; and Helen Jane, born January 20, 1921. Personally Dr. McGuire is affable and popular with all classes and stands ready at all times to encourage and aid all laudable measures and enterprises for the general good. By a life consistent in motive and because of his many fine qualities of head and heart he has earned the sincere regard of a vast acquaintance, among whom are many warm and loyal friends.

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#### THE RUMRILL FAMILY.

Among the historic families of America are the Rumrills, whose initial claim to distinction is based on the fact that the first American ancestor of the family came to this country on the Mayflower. Thereafter the members of this family bore their share of the dangers and hardships incident to the early years of the newly established colonies and in the later civil life of New England they were numbered among the loyal and sturdy men who exemplified in their own lives the best spirit of that day and whose descendants in the present generation are maintaining the high standards established by this family in settlement days.

Simeon (or Simon) Rumrill, the Mayflower immigrant, was the progenitor of the family in America. Among his descendants was John Rumrill, to whom and his wife Lois were born several sons, the third of whom was Richard Whitmore Rumrill, born in Pittsfield, Vermont, June 7, 1824. Richard W. Rumrill spent his boyhood on his father's farm and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. He acquired an education in advance of the average of his day and as a young man came west as far as Ohio. He taught school in that state during the following winter and in the next year, 1844, he then being twenty years of age, came into Wisconsin and went to work on the farm of Jesse Smith in Vernon county. In the following winter he was engaged as a teacher in the schools of Hartland in Waukesha county and after his marriage in 1846 established his home on a farm of eighty acres east of Hartford in Washington county. In 1852 he disposed of his farm holdings in that county and moved to Rock county, buying here a tract of eighty acres in the Fulton neighborhood in the town of Porter, where he developed a good piece of property and where he was successfully engaged in farming for thirty-seven years or until his retirement in 1889 and removal to Edgerton, where he bought a home. Some six years later he disposed of that home and moved to Janesville, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Rumrill died January 7, 1900, and Mr. Rumrill survived her less than a month, his death occurring on February 3 of that year, he then being in his seventy-sixth year. Mrs. Rumrill was born January



GEORGE H. RUMRILL



12, 1825, and was thus just under seventy-five years of age at the time of her death.

It was on December 1, 1846, in Fulton township, Rock county, Wisconsin, that Richard W. Rumrill was united in marriage to Miss Adeline Tubbs Vaughn, theirs being the first marriage solemnized in that township. Mrs. Rumrill was a member of one of the real pioneer families of Rock county, the Vaughns having come here from New York state in settlement days. To Richard W. and Adeline T. (Vaughn) Rumrill were born three children, namely: George Hiram Rumrill, who was born on the home farm in the Hartford neighborhood on June 7, 1850, and who died at Janesville on September 1, 1924; Miss Emma Sarah Rumrill, born in the town of Porter in Rock county on June 15, 1852, and who died May 25, 1921; and Fred Azro Rumrill, born November 24, 1855, and who died October 2, 1858.

George Hiram Rumrill supplemented the education he received in the schools of Rock county by attendance at Albion College and Milton College and after his marriage established his home on an "eighty" which he had bought adjoining the home farm in the town of Porter. There he continued actively engaged in farming for nearly twenty years or until in 1892, when he moved to Janesville. He was for years actively identified with the wholesale tobacco trade here, having bought his first crop when nineteen years of age, and was widely known in that trade in so far as it related to Wisconsin leaf. He was a man of rugged strength of character, sound business ability and genial disposition and had a host of warm and loyal friends throughout the community. He died September 1, 1924, in Janesville.

On September 17, 1874, at Fulton, George H. Rumrill was united in marriage to Miss Mary Judson Green, daughter of Frederick Green of that place. She is still living, making her home at Janesville. To this union were born two daughters, Fannie Olive and Nellie May, the latter of whom was born April 12, 1880. Fannie Olive Rumrill, who was born October 9, 1876, married Percy L. Munger and is living at 419 South Garfield avenue in Janesville. Two children were born to them: Richard Rumrill Munger and Ruth Louise Munger. Nellie Rumrill married A. Graham Galbraith and they have three children: Ronald, Jean and Gordon.

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#### OSCAR F. WILSON.

No review of the manifold industrial interests that go to make up the sum of Rockford's preeminence as a manufacturing and commercial center would be complete without some special reference to the printing industry which has been brought to a high state of development in that city. Among the several printing plants of more than local note that have helped thus to put Rockford on the map as an industrial center, there is perhaps none that has revealed more clearly the executive qualities of its proprietor than has that of the Oscar F. Wilson Printing Company of Rockford, of which Oscar F. Wilson is the founder and present head. This plant is the development of more than twenty

years of earnest endeavor on the part of its proprietor and it is but proper to say that in rising to its present status as one of the largest and best printing establishments in this section of the country, it has but reflected the energy exerted in that behalf by the enterprising Mr. Wilson, who has come to be recognized as among the real leaders in the art preservative of all arts hereabout.

Oscar F. Wilson was born on a farm in Knox county, Missouri, August 4, 1875, a son of Samuel and Mary Wilson, who in 1890 moved with their family from that place to Rockford, where they established their home. By a comparison of above dates it will be observed that Oscar F. Wilson was fifteen years of age when he became a resident of Rockford in 1890. He finished the schools of that city and early entered upon an apprenticeship to the printing trade. Upon completing that apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman printer in Rockford until 1902, when he set up a printing shop at No. 225 South Church street and began operations there on his own account. Beginning in a modest fashion, Mr. Wilson gradually extended his business as the recognized superiority of the products of his plant began to command a wider market, and presently, in line with this expansion program, organized the business as the Oscar F. Wilson Printing Company, under which style the business since has been carried on with continually growing success. Mr. Wilson is head of this company and in general administrative charge of the business.

On July 1, 1909, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Kinniard, daughter of Robert Kinniard of Midway, Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have two children: A daughter, Sarah, born May 22, 1912; and a son, Francis, born February 2, 1917. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are republicans and have ever given proper attention to the general civic affairs and good works of the community. They are members of the Rockford Country Club and in other ways take an interested and helpful part in the city's general social activities. Mr. Wilson is a member of the board of directors of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and has long been recognized as one of the real "live wires" of that useful body. He also is an active member of the locally influential Rotary Club, a "booster" in all movements having to do with the advancement of the city's general interests, and is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

As an instance of the "catchy" and attractive manner in which Mr. Wilson exploits in behalf of the trade the admirable qualities of the products of his "quality" print shop, the following taken from an attractive brochure designed to draw the world's attention to the industrial activities of the city of Rockford, may be of interest to the general readers of this work, it being so suggestively appropriate to the matter in hand. Here Mr. Wilson sets out that "the development of printing has been by four stages, as follows: The first stage was the Jewish scribe, printing the early Israelitish parchment by hand. The second stage was the Franciscan monks of the early centuries of the Christian era, printing the Holy Bible by hand. The third stage was the early aborigine of the western hemisphere, carving hieroglyphics on birch bark. The fourth stage, Gutenberg, the inventor of movable types, printing the first book by that method. And so the progress has continued, the past thirty-five years showing more development in the art of printing than in all the ages previous.

“A printing plant today, in order to render ideal service to its customers, must have the following prime qualities—modern equipment down to the minutest detail, and the personnel must be made up of men of wide experience and a resourceful knowledge of all branches of the art. The Oscar F. Wilson Printing Company, located in the Cook building, corner of South Church and Chestnut streets, started out with the idea of meeting these qualifications, and their growth is evidence that the faith of their clients has not been misplaced. Big institutions never start big—they grow slowly and surely. A little idea may be expanded. The upbuilding of this organization has been a continuous process for more than twenty years. The building in which this printing plant is housed is light, airy and well ventilated, thus insuring the services of a better type of workmen. The quality of any work in the end depends not more on machinery than on the experience and ability of the men who run that machinery. Each man in this plant is a picked man for his job.

“This company occupies the entire second floor of the building—ten thousand square feet of floor space—and are equipped to handle any work from mailing cards to the largest catalog editions. From the initial layout of the job to the finished touches on the binding it is subject to a concentration of control, attention and responsibility. Such care has gained for this printing plant the appellation of ‘The Quality Shop.’ Leadership, after all, gravitates to the fittest. Quality-service must ever be the measure of that fitness. The aim of this printing company has been to give that full measure of quality-service that would proclaim them leaders. That is why they are selected to print the finest catalogs, and is why they were selected to print this book. Its execution speaks for itself.”

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#### WILLIAM K. MAGILL.

William K. Magill, a successful contractor, has been intimately associated with building operations in Beloit, Wisconsin, for more than thirty years, erecting many homes which are the ornaments of their respective neighborhoods. For nine years he has been a member of the common council and his efforts in every instance have been of signal service to the city with which he has allied his interests. He was born January 17, 1860, in Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, a son of William and Mary Magill, who settled in that district in pioneer times, becoming the owners of one of its valuable farms.

In the public schools of his native town William K. Magill acquired his education and worked on the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-one years. He learned the carpenter's trade in Belvidere and in 1889 came to Beloit, following that occupation as an employe until 1895. He then became a contractor, starting on a small scale, and as his skill gained recognition gradually increased the scope of his operations. He has built more than five hundred residences in Beloit and in working out his designs embodies all modern architectural ideas looking to comfort, convenience and beauty. He is an expert carpenter and has made a thorough study of the business, so that he is able to



meet every contingency and give a definite opinion upon any point of construction. He employs competent workmen and never allows the smallest detail of a contract to be slighted. He was one of the originators of the plan of building and selling homes on the basis of monthly payments, and through his agency many an honest, industrious workman has been able to secure a substantial, attractive dwelling by an initial deposit of fifteen dollars, augmented by small monthly sums. He has transformed unsightly vacancies into fine residential districts and contributed materially toward making Beloit a city beautiful.

On the 10th of January, 1893, Mr. Magill was married to Miss Cora E. Sage, a daughter of George B. Sage and a member of one of the old families of Beloit. The children of this union are three in number, namely: Fred G., born July 10, 1893, now an auditor in the employ of Fairbanks, Morse & Company; Mildred, who was born April 23, 1899; and Dora, born March 31, 1901.

Mr. Magill is an adherent of the republican party and has always manifested an unselfish spirit of devotion to the general welfare, reserving a portion of his time for civic affairs. In 1916 he was the successful candidate for alderman of the eighth ward and subsequent re-elections have continued him in the office. He has been a member of the board of public works for eight years and for six years has served on the finance committee. He is a Mason and is also identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Magill is a citizen who would be a valuable acquisition to any community, and measured by the standard of usefulness, his life has been a very successful one.

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#### EDGAR C. ALLEN.

Edgar C. Allen, president and general manager of the Rockford Illustrating Company and for more than twenty years actively identified with the interests of that concern, in which he has worked his way up from an operative position to his present status as head of the enterprise, has been a resident of Rockford since the days of his boyhood and is thus thoroughly familiar with conditions in that important commercial and industrial center. He was born in the city of Belvidere, county seat of the neighboring county of Boone, April 9, 1884, a son of H. W. and Ida (Carry) Allen, the latter of whom is still living. The late H. W. Allen was a native of Castile in Wyoming county, New York, as is his widow. In 1882, not long after their marriage, he and his wife came west and located in Belvidere, where Mr. Allen engaged in the grocery business. Not long afterward he took connection with the distributing house of Sprague, Warner & Company of Chicago and was for a quarter of a century thereafter connected with that concern as a traveling salesman, making his home during the greater part of this period in Rockford, where he died in 1911, at the age of fifty-five years.

Edgar C. Allen was but a lad when his parents took up their residence in Rockford and he attended the schools of that city. He early became interested in the mechanical trades and upon leaving school began working in the factory of the B. F. Barnes Company, where he became a competent machinist. In

1903, he then being about nineteen years of age, Mr. Allen transferred his services to the plant of the Rockford Illustrating Company and has ever since been connected with that concern, working his way up through the several departments, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with all details of the business, and in 1918 was elected president of the company, in which administrative position he now is serving and in the discharge of his executive duties has done much to advance the interests of the company. The Rockford Illustrating Company has a well equipped manufacturing plant on Market street and is accounted one of the going industrial establishments of the city.

On November 10, 1910, in Belvidere, Edgar C. Allen was united in marriage to Miss Verna Cleaveland, who also was born in that city, daughter of E. A. and Ella (Bradley) Cleaveland, both members of old families in Boone county, both the Bradleys and the Cleavelands having been numbered among the pioneers of that section of Illinois. E. A. Cleaveland formerly and for years was the head of the Belvidere Bed Springs Company but is now living retired. To Edgar C. and Verna (Cleaveland) Allen three daughters have been born: Jane, born December 5, 1911; Barbara, born December 3, 1916; and Betty, born February 18, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are republicans and are members of the Rockford Country Club. Mr. Allen is a member of the Masonic order and is affiliated with the locally influential Kiwanis Club of Rockford. He has been referred to in a prior chronicle as "An excellent example of the capable, self-reliant men of this locality and his prosperity is self-earned and richly deserved." He also has been referred to as "One of the substantial and reliable business men of the city and one who stands very high in public esteem."

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#### FRANK WILHELM LINDGREN.

Among the veteran machinists who have done so much to bring about the amazing development that in the past thirty or forty years has been wrought in the city of Rockford, Frank Wilhelm Lindgren, vice president of the Mechanics Machine Company of that city, and in other ways prominently identified with the industrial interests of the city, must be accounted as one of the leaders, for he has been actively connected with that phase of the city's development for almost forty years and is thus as thoroughly familiar with the general industrial and commercial conditions of this section of the country as any here. Though not a native of this country, Mr. Lindgren has been a resident here since the days of his young manhood, a period of almost forty years, and is thus a staunch American.

Frank Wilhelm Lindgren was born on a farm in the kingdom of Sweden, January 23, 1856, and was there reared. Upon finishing his schooling he became employed as a machinist and presently as a skilled mechanic was employed in the government's railway service in his home country, a form of service in which he continued active until he was thirty years of age when, in 1886, he came to the United States and by prior arrangement proceeded on out into Illinois and was employed as a machinist in the flourishing machine shop of the W. F. &

John Barnes Company in Rockford. Mr. Lindgren continued with this concern for four years, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the plant of the Rockford Electric Manufacturing Company and was thus employed until 1890, when, in association with Levin Faust and others, he became one of the organizers of the Mechanics Machine Company of Rockford, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with an interesting story of the trials and tribulations of that company in its "day of small things" and of the gradual development of the business it created in Rockford until it finally reached its present status as one of the most progressive and successful manufacturing concerns in the city.

Mr. Lindgren continues his connection with this company, of which for many years he has been the vice president, and he also is the vice president of that company's subsidiary organization, the Mechanics Tool Company. He also is financially interested in the Rockford Steel Furniture Company and to the affairs of this latter concern is now devoting the greater part of his personal attention, his services there having proved of value in a technical and advisory capacity. By a comparison of above dates, it will be observed that Mr. Lindgren has been actively and continuously connected with the industrial life of Rockford for forty years and has been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has been brought about in that field of human endeavor during that important period. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the city and many firm friends. When in a reminiscent mood he has many an interesting story to tell of the days when some of the now leading industrial concerns of Rockford were getting their start and of the vicissitudes some of them had to undergo while working out the problems of progress which they had to face and overcome.

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#### HOBERT W. EDSON, M. D.

Dr. Hobert W. Edson, a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital at Rockford and one of the well known young physicians of that city, is a member of one of the old families of the Rock River valley. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the pleasant village of Monroe Center, Ogle county, Illinois, September 12, 1895, a son of George and Marian Edson, both members of pioneer families in that section of the state who are still living there, George Edson being a substantial landowner and farmer of the Monroe Center neighborhood.

Reared on the home farm in Monroe Center, Robert W. Edson received his initial education in the schools of his home village, finished the Rockford high school and in 1914, he then being in his nineteenth year, he entered Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago in pursuance of an early formed design to become a physician. Following premedical studies there he matriculated for the regular medical course and in 1919 was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his degree Dr. Edson was appointed to an internship in the Hahnemann Hospital at Chicago and was thus occupied for a year,



DR. HOBERT W. EDSON



receiving there a measure of intensive practical experience in his professional work that proved a most valuable supplement to his college and clinical studies. In 1920 Dr. Edson engaged in the practice of his profession in Rockford and has since been located in that city, with present offices at No. 401 East State street, where he has done very well. Dr. Edson is a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital at Rockford and is an active member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is a member of the Masonic order and is also affiliated with the fraternal order of the Knights of Pythias. Dr. Edson has a daughter, Velora.

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### THE BLODGETT FAMILY.

That period of the nineteenth century embracing the two decades between 1830 and 1850 was characterized by the immigration of the pioneer element which made the great state of Wisconsin largely what it is today. These immigrants were in the main sturdy, heroic, sincere and upright people, such as constitute the strength of the commonwealth. It is scarcely probable that in the future of the world another such period can occur, or indeed any period when such a solid phalanx of strong-minded men and noble, self-sacrificing women will take possession of a new country. The period to which reference is made, therefore, cannot be too much or too well written up, and the only way to do justice to the subject is to record in permanent form the lives of those who led the van of civilization and founded the institutions which today are the pride and boast of a great state and a strong and virile people.

Among those who came to Wisconsin when the country was largely in its primitive wildness was the Blodgett family, which became one of the most prominent and influential families in the southern part of the state. Indeed, the spirit of pioneering and adventure seems to have been a characteristic trait, for the first member of the family on American soil was Thomas Blodgett, who with his wife Susan embarked on the "Increase" from London on the 18th of April, 1635. He settled at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and he and his wife became members of "Rev. Thomas Shepherd's Company," which founded what is now the Shepherd Memorial church. The various members of the family bore their share of the burdens of the new colony and during the subsequent years they stood as sturdy types of the rugged New England spirit whose influence has through all the years been felt in American life. The Blodgett connection became a large one, as may be inferred from the fact that they furnished one hundred and fourteen Revolutionary soldiers, a record surpassed by few other families, if indeed any. Samuel Blodgett, the great-great-great-grandfather of the present generation of the family, was a friend and correspondent of General Washington. Because of his progressive spirit and great enterprise, exhibited particularly in the building of a canal around Amoskeag falls at Manchester, New Hampshire, he was called the "Pioneer of Progress." His son, Samuel Blodgett, Jr., served on General Washington's

staff, later became chairman of the commissioners appointed to further the project of the national capitol, built the first house at Washington and advanced the first funds, ten thousand dollars, toward laying the foundation of the capitol and the president's house. His grandson, Caleb Blodgett, was born near Randolph, Vermont, April 17, 1786, and died August 7, 1840. On December 25, 1807, he was married to Chloe Kidder. In 1836, accompanied by his grandson William, he came to Beloit, Wisconsin, and bought for two hundred dollars the rights of Thibault, the French Canadian pioneer-settler. In the establishing of his claim he stood on a hill and following the custom of the Indians of that region he bought so many "looks," amounting to about seven thousand acres of land on the east bank of Rock river. With the assistance of the Indians he built a two-room log house, which stood on the banks of Rock river on what is now State street. In March of the following year he built the first sawmill in Beloit, digging a race down what is now called South Race street. He sold to Dr. White, of the New England Emigrating Company, a one-third interest in his claim, excepting the sawmill, for two thousand five hundred dollars. Mr. Blodgett had named the settlement New Albany, but the name did not appeal to the later arrivals, so that in the fall of 1838 a committee of three chose a new name, Beloit. On December 30 of that year, in Caleb Blodgett's house, twenty-four persons met and founded the First Congregational church, Mr. Blodgett's family Bible being used at that service. In many ways, Caleb Blodgett contributed to the development and prosperity of the settlement, and in the community life he was a most conspicuous figure up to the time of his death, in 1840.

In 1837, Selvey K. Blodgett, son of Caleb Blodgett, arrived in Beloit from Ohio, where he had been seeking a good location for a home for his family. He had been born in Batavia, New York, January 12, 1812, and was married to Mahaila Norris, who was born in Virginia on July 28, 1812. She was the first white woman to make her home in Beloit, coming here in December, 1836, with her father-in-law, Caleb Blodgett, and her two-year-old son, William. On his arrival here, Selvey K. Blodgett engaged in farming on the place which later became known as Yost's park, where, in a log house, on June 10, 1838, was born the first white child in Beloit, Selvey K., Jr. In 1852 Selvey K. Blodgett discontinued the farming business and went to California on a tour of investigation, but after three months he returned to Beloit and thereafter was engaged in the buying and shipping of stock and produce.

William Blodgett, son of Selvey K. and Mahaila (Norris) Blodgett, was born at Columbus, Indiana, March 13, 1834, and at the age of two years was brought to Beloit, Wisconsin, where in the pioneer and somewhat primitive schoolhouse of that period he secured his elementary education. He then worked for a time and having saved his money he entered D. V. Hill's Commercial College, in Chicago, where he took a full commercial course, including law and bookkeeping, for which he received a diploma in the spring of 1856. He then secured a position as bookkeeper for his uncle, John Hackett, who was engaged in the milling business. In 1857 he and his father, Selvey K. Blodgett, bought a half interest in this business and ten years later they bought the remaining interest. Following several changes in partnership, William Blod-

gett, in 1888, bought the entire ownership of the business, which he conducted alone until 1890, when the business was incorporated under the name of the Blodgett Milling Company, of which he was president up to the time of his death, which occurred August 27, 1901, at Janesville, Wisconsin. In July, 1893, the mill was almost totally destroyed by fire and in the fall of the same year the business was moved to Janesville.

On June 17, 1856, William Blodgett was married to Miss Elizabeth M. Hodge, who was born at Vesper, New York, December 2, 1834, and who died in Janesville on December 6, 1906. She was a woman of strong character, sweet womanly graces and high Christian attainments and exerted a silent and effectual influence for good on all who came into contact with her. She became the mother of five children, only two of whom now survive, Frank H. and Mrs. David Wheeler Holmes, of Janesville. Politically Mr. Blodgett was a democrat, while his religious affiliation was with the Beloit Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a trustee for many years. In the public life of the community he was long a prominent figure, having served three terms as alderman, a period as acting mayor, and in other local offices. Fraternally he was an active member of the Masonic order, holding membership in Morning Star Lodge No. 10; Chapter No. 9, Royal Arch Masons, and Beloit Commandery No. 6, Knights Templar. He was also a member of Myrtle Lodge No. 10, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of his community along all normal lines and was recognized as one of the most progressive and enterprising men of his community. He gave to the world the best of an essentially virile, loyal and noble nature and his standard of integrity and honor was inflexible. His death removed from the community one of her most substantial and highly esteemed citizens and the many beautiful tributes to his high standing in the world of affairs and as a man and citizen attested to the abiding place he had in the hearts and affections of the people.

David Wheeler Holmes was born in Hannibal, Missouri, in 1875. His parents were of old American stock, his father's family having received a grant of land from William Penn at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, while his mother was the daughter of Solomon Wheeler, an early settler and lifelong resident of Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Holmes worked his way through college, graduating (B. A.) from Northwestern University in 1896, a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He engaged in newspaper work and was with Marshall Field & Company, wholesale, until the fall of 1898, when he entered the employ of the Blodgett Milling Company, at Janesville, becoming secretary and treasurer through the ownership and control of a half interest in the business in 1900. On a similar basis he organized the Blodgett-Holmes Company in 1917. He has been a director of the Merchants & Savings Bank since 1915 and is a member of the University Club of Chicago. He retired through the sale of his interests in 1924.

On January 1, 1898, at Beloit, Wisconsin, Mr. Holmes was married to Alice Marie Blodgett, daughter of William and Elizabeth Blodgett. The children of this union are: Elizabeth Blodgett, born August 6, 1899, now Mrs. Roy



E. Wyatt, of Syracuse, New York; David Blodgett, born March 31, 1903, a graduate of the Harvard School of Business Administration; John Blodgett, born December 20, 1906, now at the University of Paris, France; William Blodgett, born February 9, 1912; and Norman Blodgett.

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JOHN A. BOWMAN.

Among the widely known and influential community builders of the city of Rockford there are few who have a wider acquaintance or who have created a more distinct impression upon that community than John A. Bowman, county recorder, realtor, banker, merchant, manufacturer and financier, who for years has been one of the leaders among the enthusiastic boosters of that city. Though of European birth Mr. Bowman has been a resident of this country since the days of his childhood and is thus as much an American as any, for he has grown up to the true American tradition and practice. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, January 22, 1860, and was nine years of age when in 1869 his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Bowman, came to the United States with their family. By prior arrangement the objective of the Bowman family upon coming here was the city of Rockford, at which place three brothers of Samuel A. Bowman had located. Samuel A. Bowman was a miner in his native land and without training in the industrial trades he found it difficult to secure remunerative employment in Rockford at that time and after a short stay there he moved with his family, in the fall of that same year, 1869, to Ishpeming, Michigan, where he found work in the iron mines and where he remained until 1873, when he homesteaded a tract of land in the Valley Springs neighborhood, in Minnehaha county, South Dakota, and there established his home.

John A. Bowman thus was thirteen years of age when in 1873 he became one of the factors in the development of a homestead farm in the Dakotas. He finished the somewhat illy organized schools of that neighborhood, and in 1880, when twenty years of age, began working in a lumberyard in Valley Springs, later becoming a clerk in a general store in Valley Springs and was made assistant postmaster, the post office being carried on in that store. He was married when twenty-five years of age and in that same year, in association with his brother-in-law, L. S. Hetland, engaged in the general mercantile business in Valley Springs, and was thus occupied for five years, or until 1890, when he disposed of his holdings there and with his family returned to Rockford, the scene of his first contact with the people of his adopted country, and here (with a brief exception) he ever since has made his home—a period of thirty-five years.

Upon his arrival in Rockford Mr. Bowman opened a shoe store on West State street and soon found his venture prospering. He presently bought a lot at Fourth avenue and Seventh street and on that corner erected a two-story brick business building and moved his store into that, there establishing the third store to be opened on Seventh street. Afterward he acquired the

lot immediately south of this corner and on that lot erected a three-story business block, which place he still owns, thus holding a record as one of the real pioneers among the now flourishing merchants of Seventh street. In 1893 Mr. Bowman sold his shoe store and became secretary of the Royal Sewing Machine Company, which later was merged with the present Free Sewing Machine Company. In 1895 he resigned that position to take a similar position with the Excelsior Furniture Company—secretary of that concern. Two years later circumstances arose which called him back to South Dakota and he disposed of his manufacturing interests in Rockford and with his family returned to his old home in the west, but a year later was back in Rockford and permanently reestablished here. Upon his return he became associated with Andrew Hanson in the grocery business on Seventh street. Three years later Hanson sold his interest in that store to Algot Gasslander and for three years thereafter the business was carried on under the firm name of Bowman & Gasslander. Mr. Bowman then sold his interest in the grocery and went into the retail clothing business in association with Charles Kjellquist, the two doing business under the name of the B. & K. Clothing Company, a concern which still is flourishing. About five years later Mr. Bowman retired from active participation in the clothing business and began to give his chief attention to realty business he meanwhile gradually had been developing, opening a general real estate agency in his own building on Seventh street, later taking into partnership with him in that line his eldest son, Leland Bowman, and the firm has since then carried on under the name of J. A. Bowman Company.

In 1911 when the duties of the recorder of deeds was taken from under the jurisdiction of the circuit court and the new office of county recorder created by law, Mr. Bowman was made the nominee of the republican party in Winnebago county to fill this new office and get its routine established. He was elected by a handsome majority and by successive reelections has been retained in that office, a period of nearly fifteen years. Upon taking charge of the affairs of the county recorder's office Mr. Bowman introduced a new and modern system of records, including an index system that has greatly simplified the work of research in that department of the county's archives, installed recording machines and in other ways brought that important department of the county's records up to date in its general procedure. He has given his painstaking attention to the direction of the affairs of this office and it has generally been agreed that he was the right man for the place when it came time for some one to create the new routine in keeping the deed records of the county. Besides his realty and commercial interests above referred to Mr. Bowman has other interests of a substantial character in and about Rockford and has long been known as one of the city's live wires in a general business way. He also has rendered further public service, for some time having been alderman from the old sixth ward. He was one of the organizers of the Central Life Insurance Company of Ottawa in 1914 and is one of the directors of that company which not long ago erected for its home office a great building on Michigan avenue in Chicago. He also was one of the organizers of the Commercial National Bank on Seventh street and is the present

vice president of that sound financial institution. He was appointed a member of the board of education in Rockford in 1913, and served until 1923.

On November 11, 1885, while making his home in South Dakota, Mr. Bowman was united in marriage to Miss Hannah A. Hetland, who also is of European birth, a native of the kingdom of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman have six children: Leland A., Chester A., Blanche M., Irving C., John A., Jr., and Grace. The eldest son, Leland A. Bowman, was graduated from Augustana College and, as noted above, is associated with his father in the general realty business in Rockford. The Bowmans are members of the Emanuel Lutheran church and are republicans. Mr. Bowman is a member of the Masonic order and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Woodmen of America.

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#### EDWIN LEVIN MONSON.

Edwin Levin Monson, superintendent of the plant of the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company in Rockford and widely known in manufacturing circles in that city, is a native of Rockford and most of his life has been spent in that city. He was born July 13, 1887, a son of Olaf and Emma Carolina Monson, natives of the kingdom of Sweden, who came to this country and settled on a farm in Madison county, Nebraska, where they remained for eight or ten years, or until about 1880, when they came to Illinois and located in Rockford, where the family ever since has been represented.

Reared in Rockford, Edwin L. Monson attended the schools of that city and when thirteen years of age, during his school vacations, began to "do for himself" as a worker in the mechanical trades and presently became employed in the plant of the Spengler Brothers Manufacturing Company, where he completed his trade. For some time thereafter he worked as a journeyman in local plants, including that of the Barber-Coleman Company, and then, in April, 1907, he became the superintendent of the Sundstrand plant in Minneapolis, and when Mr. Sundstrand presently returned to Rockford Mr. Monson continued on at that place until the spring of 1910, when he also returned to Rockford. In the meantime, while living in Minneapolis, he had improved his opportunity to acquire a further technical education by attendance at night school and in the study of the principles of mechanical drawing and mechanical engineering, and upon his return to Rockford he became foreman of the manufacturing plant of the National Lock Company, in charge of the machine department of that concern. Meanwhile, the Sundstrands had been making headway with their adding machine and were getting things going on a production basis with a well equipped factory. In 1912 Mr. Monson joined up with the Sundstrand organization and has ever since been connected with the operations of that flourishing concern, in this capacity having thus had a part in the development of the computing machines now known all over the country. In 1914 he was made the superintendent of the Sundstrand Adding Machine Company and has since been serving in that responsible capacity.



EDWIN L. MONSON



On June 5, 1915, in Rockford, Mr. Monson was united in marriage to Miss Sonja Maria Borg, who was born in the kingdom of Sweden, daughter of Algot Borg. Mr. and Mrs. Monson have three children: Blanche, born March 7, 1916; Roy, born September 16, 1917; and Sonja, born March 19, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Monson are republicans and are members of the Svea Souer Singing Society. Mr. Monson is a Mason and is also affiliated with the Rockford Engineering Society, one of the active members of that useful technical body.

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#### WILLIAM C. MAYER.

One of the most prominent, influential and successful business men of Jefferson, Wisconsin, is the man whose name forms the caption to this biographical sketch, and who is the president of the Jefferson Wood Products Company, one of the leading manufacturing enterprises of this locality. The qualities which have made Mr. Mayer successful have also brought him the esteem of his fellow citizens, for his career has been characterized by well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods. William C. Mayer was born on the 15th of January, 1870, in Watertown, Wisconsin, and is the son of Gottlieb and Ernestine (Tietz) Mayer. His parents were born and reared in Germany and came to the United States in 1864, settling in Watertown, where the father followed his trade, that of a carpenter.

The subject secured his education in the public and parochial schools of Watertown, attending the Watertown high school for one year. He then learned the carpenter's trade and later went to work for the Phil Heinrich Sash & Door Factory at Watertown, where he learned that business, remaining with that concern for five years. In 1893 Mr. Mayer came to Jefferson and went to work for Haubenschild & Puerner, carpenters. When Gottfried Fernholz acquired an interest in this concern in 1897 a new plant was built and the firm became Haubenschild & Fernholz, who also branched out into the retail lumber business. Mr. Mayer continued to work for these people and in 1900 he acquired an interest in the business, which by that time had become an important enterprise. In 1920 Mr. Mayer bought the factory, and the business was reorganized as the Jefferson Wood Products Company, of which he is president, Mrs. Mayer is vice president, and his son-in-law, Truman R. Spooner, is secretary and treasurer. Their business has steadily increased in volume and is now one of the most important industrial concerns in Jefferson. Mr. Mayer has devoted himself indefatigably to the interests of the business and is now reaping the legitimate reward for his years of earnest labor. He is a stockholder and director of the Jefferson County Bank.

On May 15, 1893, Mr. Mayer was married to Miss Emma R. Winkelman, the daughter of William Winkelman, of Watertown, Wisconsin, and they have a daughter, Hilda Henrietta, who is now the wife of Truman R. Spooner. Politically Mr. Mayer is not bound by party ties, reserving the right to vote according to the dictates of his own judgment. He is a member of the Benevolent

Protective Order of Elks and the Meadow Springs Golf Club, of Jefferson. In every measure or enterprise involving the welfare of the community in which he lives Mr. Mayer is deeply interested and his influence is of a most beneficent order. Quiet and unassuming, he is a man of forceful individuality and has gained a high place in the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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GEORGE H. SPENGLER.

George H. Spengler, secretary and treasurer and general manager of the George H. Spengler Company, manufacturers of punches and dies in Rockford, and one of the veterans in the industrial field in that city, is a native of the republic of Switzerland, born in the city of Schaffhausen, the capital of the canton of that name, February 19, 1867, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his young manhood. He was reared in his native place, getting there excellent general and technical schooling and was early apprenticed to the watchmaking trade, becoming a competent watchmaker in a country where precision in minute mechanical craftsmanship has been brought to a fine science. In 1886, then being nineteen years of age and a qualified craftsman, Mr. Spengler came to the United States and in Rockford rejoined his elder brother, Charles C. Spengler, now president of the Spengler-Loomis Company, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, who had become located in Rockford two or three years before that time.

Upon taking up his residence in Rockford, George H. Spengler became employed in the machine shop of the W. F. & John Barnes Company and in that shop and others of a like character in Rockford was employed until 1890, when he and his brother started in the manufacturing line on their own account, opening a machine shop and doing business under the firm name of Spengler Brothers, a connection which was maintained until 1907, when George H. Spengler disposed of his interests in Rockford and went to Fort Atkinson in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, as the superintendent for a manufacturing plant that was engaged there in the manufacture of creamery packages. He remained there until 1914, when he returned to Rockford and became the superintendent of the plant of the Spengler-Loomis Manufacturing Company, which his brother meanwhile had established there. In this connection Mr. Spengler continued actively employed until 1922, when he organized a business of his own and set up a manufacturing establishment under the name of the George H. Spengler Company for the manufacture of punches and dies and has since then been carrying on business in that connection, having built up a fine business, the products of this factory being in wide demand. Mr. Spengler is the secretary-treasurer and general manager of this company, which was incorporated in 1922; F. S. VanderBogart is the president of the company; and Clarence P. Thayer is the vice president. One of Mr. Spengler's sons, Harold C. Spengler, a competent young technician in mechanical processes, is associated with him in this business. The company's well equipped plant is located at No. 234 Mill street.

On February 24, 1894, Mr. Spengler was united in marriage to Miss Olga Lydia Schneider of Chicago and they have three children: Two sons, George E., born February 19, 1895, and Harold C., born December 21, 1898; and a daughter, Miss Helen Olga, born May 10, 1907. The Spenglers are republicans and take a proper interest in the general civic affairs of the community. Mr. Spengler is a member of the Masonic order and is an Odd Fellow of many years standing, his connection with that popular fraternal order having begun in 1892.

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#### CHARLES P. TOUTON.

In the front rank of the prominent and progressive business men of Janesville stands Charles P. Touton, president of the Shurtleff Ice Cream Company, one of the leading concerns in its line in southern Wisconsin. Though not a native of this locality, he has become thoroughly identified with its people and no citizen of this entire community is more vitally interested in the advancement of the best interests of the city. Mr. Touton was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on the 2d of June, 1877, the son of Philip and Elizabeth Touton, the former of whom was a master mechanic.

In 1878, when the subject was a babe of one year, the family moved to Fort Atkinson, Jefferson county, Wisconsin. In the public and high schools of that city he received his education and then learned the upholstering and carriage business. Some time later he became interested in the hotel business and ran, successively, the Carlton Hotel, at Edgerton, Rock county, Wisconsin; the Hotel Peru, at Peru, Illinois; the Star Rock State Park Hotel, in Illinois, and the Custer Hotel, at Galesburg, Illinois. In all these moves he was constantly bettering himself and met with fine success as a hotel man; but he was ambitious for a more active business life and in 1919 came to Janesville and bought the Shurtleff Ice Cream Company, which had been established in 1878 by George A. Shurtleff, and of which Mr. Touton is now president. Under his management the business has been greatly increased, the production capacity of the plant greatly enlarged and the company now enjoys a splendid reputation among the successful manufacturing concerns of this thriving community. They make a quarter of a million gallons of ice cream per year, manufacture and sell large quantities of butter, condensed milk and ice and also sell milk and cream. They have a well organized and successful dairy business and operate twelve trucks in the delivery of their various products. Mr. Touton has devoted himself indefatigably to the details of the business since coming here and his efforts are being rewarded with a very gratifying measure of success.

On May 22, 1901, Mr. Touton was married to Miss Belle McMillen, the daughter of Levingstone G. McMillen, of Fort Atkinson. To them was born a son, Robert Philip, on April 16, 1904, who is a graduate of Williams College. Mr. Touton is nominally a republican and votes that ticket in national elections, but in local elections he maintains an independent attitude, voting for the men and measures which meet the approval of his judgment. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, holding membership in all of its branches, the



Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Rotary Club. He is an interested member of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce and has been a potent factor in the successful efforts to maintain Janesville's high prestige among her sister cities. Because of his business ability, his success and his genial manner he has won and retains the sincere respect and esteem of the entire community.

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#### FRITZ A. FORSBERG.

Fritz A. Forsberg, president of the Reliable Machine Company of Rockford and one of the well known and influential figures in the industrial life of that city, is a native of Rockford, where he has been a resident all his life. He grew up to the business in which he is engaged, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with all branches of the machinist's trade, and in his present executive position as head of a flourishing industrial plant is able to bring to bear a service in that connection based upon years of practical and effective application to that department of the mechanical trades. He was born in Rockford, November 15, 1886, and is thus now in the very prime of his vigorous manhood. He is a son of Charles A. and Emma (Anderson) Forsberg, who were married in Rockford in 1881, and the latter is still living. The late Charles A. Forsberg, for many years one of the prominent manufacturers of Rockford, an inventor of note, was for more than fifty years a resident of Rockford, or until 1923, when he moved to the city of De Kalb, where he had manufacturing interests and where he died on November 14, 1924, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with a comprehensive narrative relating to his life and services.

Reared in Rockford, the place of his birth, Fritz A. Forsberg attended the schools of that city and as a lad began to learn the rudiments of the machinist's trade in his father's factory, under that skilled and careful tutelage becoming a highly trained machinist, his trade having been finished in the East Rockford Machine Works, of which his father was for years the head and where the elder Forsberg worked out some of those inventions of his which, as is told elsewhere, practically revolutionized the manufacture of wire fence material and kindred products. Upon completing his trade Fritz A. Forsberg started out as a journeyman machinist and was for several years thus engaged, working in various parts of the country and gaining thereby much valuable experience. In 1909, then being in his twenty-third year, he enlisted as a machinist in the United States navy and served out his four-year term of enlistment, rising in grade until his discharge at the end of that term (in 1913) as chief machinist's mate.

Upon the completion of his term of service in the navy Mr. Forsberg returned to Rockford and in association with his father and his brother, Gust H. Forsberg, also a practical machine man, organized the Reliable Machine Company and established a manufacturing plant at No. 1327 Tenth avenue, where he ever since has been in business, president of the company and gen-

eral manager of its affairs. Gust H. Forsberg, who is secretary of this company, was born in Rockford, March 30, 1884, and under his father's capable direction became a competent machinist. The brothers thus form an effective combination in the manufacturing way, both being practical men, and are doing well. The Reliable Machine Company's chief products are special machinery and tools and the concern is recognized as one of the well established and going manufacturing plants in the city. The Forsberg brothers are republicans and have ever given their interested attention to the general civic affairs of the city of their birth.

On July 1, 1916, Fritz A. Forsberg was united in marriage to Miss Huldah Peterson, daughter of Charles Peterson of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Forsberg have a pleasant home in Rockford.

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### JOHN CLIFF.

The progress of any section of the country is dependent upon the individual success of its citizens, and through the organization and capable conduct of a large contracting business John Cliff has been an influential factor not only in the upbuilding and improvement of Beloit, Wisconsin, but of other sections of the Rock River valley as well. He came to this country with no capital save youth, energy, determination and craftsmanship and with these assets has "made good," pressing steadily forward to the goal of prosperity.

Mr. Cliff is a native of Norway. He was born March 30, 1862, a son of Klette and Nettie Cliff, whose lives were spent in the "land of the midnight sun." He was educated in the public schools of Norway and then mastered the carpenter's trade under the direction of his father, who was a contractor and builder. In 1883, when twenty-one years of age, John Cliff followed the example of many of his fellow countrymen and sought his fortune in the United States, coming direct to Beloit. He worked for a year on a farm and then obtained a position in the construction department of the Chicago, Kansas & Nebraska Railroad. He spent two years with that corporation, working at Topeka, Kansas, and Omaha, Nebraska, and in 1885 returned to Beloit and was a driver for Robinson Brothers, who operated a bus line in Beloit. From 1887 until 1893 he was employed by Cunningham Brothers, a large contracting firm of this city. He has since engaged in contracting and each year has chronicled a marked increase in his business, which has now assumed large proportions. He has erected many of the finest residences, schools, churches and other public buildings in Beloit and his reputation as an expert and reliable building contractor has brought him business from many parts of the Rock River valley, which contains numerous examples of his handiwork. He is classed with Beloit's leading contractors and has greatly enhanced the value of real estate in the districts in which he has operated.

On December 22, 1890, Mr. Cliff was married to Miss Nettie Jacobson, also a native of Norway, and their family now numbers three children: Mabel, born December 23, 1892; Alvin, who was born June 23, 1896, and is asso-

ciated with his father in business; and Norma, born August 22, 1902. Mr. Cliff is a member of the Master Builders Association of Wisconsin and his fraternal affiliations are with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Order of Eagles and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Strong and purposeful, his efforts have been directed along steadily broadening lines of greater usefulness, and his worth as a man and citizen is uniformly conceded.

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PAUL A. HOWELL, D. D. S.

For seventeen years the name of Dr. Paul A. Howell has figured prominently in professional circles of Beloit, Wisconsin, in connection with the practice of dentistry, and experience and study have broadened his knowledge and ripened his ability. He was born August 31, 1886, in Lancaster, Grant county, Wisconsin, a son of Anton J. and Mary Howell. He attended the public schools of his native town and then matriculated in the dental department of Marquette University at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the class of 1908. After receiving his professional degree he went to Ironwood, Michigan, and for six months was associated with Dr. H. E. Fox, a prominent dentist of that place. He came to Beloit in the fall of 1908 and in the intervening period has built up an extensive practice. He has a well equipped suite of offices in the Kresge building and is regarded as one of the best dental surgeons in the city.

During the World war Dr. Howell enlisted in the dental corps of the United States army and in August, 1917, was commissioned a first lieutenant. He was sent to Camp McArthur at Waco, Texas, being assigned to the base hospital, and in December, 1917, was relieved from active duty. He belongs to the American Legion of which he is post commander and to all of the local Masonic bodies. He is a member of the Rock County and Wisconsin State Dental Societies and the American Dental Association, while his political support is given to the republican party. His professional activities have brought him a wide acquaintance and he stands high in his community.

On February 25, 1915, Dr. Howell was married to Miss Florence L. McCommons, a daughter of Perry McCommons, of Beloit, and they have two children: Mary Jane, who was born April 25, 1916; and Joseph Lowe, born July 3, 1921.

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GEORGE H. HIGGINS.

Major George H. Higgins, works manager for the Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford, an acknowledged expert in mechanical engineering as applied to the automotive industries, particularly with relation to the internal combustion engine, and for years one of the influential personal factors in the local industrial field in Rockford, was engaged in the operations



DR. PAUL A. HOWELL



of the Burd company there when this country took a hand in the World war in the spring of 1917 and he had a quite interesting experience in that connection. When war came on Mr. Higgins sought entrance into some branch of the service of the army that would get him overseas, but in view of his trained knowledge of engineering the government assigned him to a service in which this technical knowledge and experience could be applied with more direct value to the military service. The Burd ring company's plant, of which Mr. Higgins was then and still is the works manager, was placed on a war basis in its production department and he was commissioned to have complete control of the plant in so far as its work for the war department was concerned, this service including his supervision of the manufacture of valves and piston rings for the first of the celebrated Liberty motors constructed in America.

With Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Vincent, commanding the McCook field aeronautical laboratories, Major Higgins conferred with the Curtiss Airplane and Motor Corporation in Hammondsport, New York, and aided materially in the development of the Liberty motor. He also aided in the development of the Hispano-Souiza engine at the New Brunswick plant of the Wright-Martin Company during the war, this development of the Hispano-Souiza engines proving of vital assistance in enabling the allies to gain the supremacy of the air with their swift pursuit planes, such as the Spad, the Newport and the Bristol. In this connection it will not be considered improper to recall a bit of vital service rendered by Major Higgins during the war, when he found no fewer than eight hundred undelivered engines laid away in a plant warehouse and held out of a service that was crying for engines, because of an uncorrected slight engineering error that would not pass inspection. He discovered the immaterial deficiency and within twenty-four hours he had the technical errors of construction remedied and the engines in transit to their proper destinations. Special messengers rushed pistons from the Rockford plant after the war department had taken the unprecedented action of granting immediate permission for the remodeling of the engines, an action in itself a fine tribute to Major Higgins' ability, and workmen soon had the engines ready for shipment.

George H. Higgins was born December 29, 1882, in the pioneer village of Dawson, Kidder county, not far east of Bismarck, in the then territory of the Dakotas, which in 1889 was set off with the new state of South Dakota. He is a son of George C. and Mary Elizabeth (Ashley) Higgins, who were among the early settlers of that section of the Dakotas. He early turned his attention to the study of mechanics from the technical side and after three years spent in a technical college in Duluth entered railway service with a view to becoming a locomotive engineer, starting in as a fireman. Not long afterward, however, he abandoned this form of engineering in favor of mining engineering and was for two years thereafter engaged in mining and experimental engineering in the mines in Canada, acquiring there some very valuable experience. He then became connected with the technical department of the Commonwealth Edison Company and was for some time employed as a construction engineer for that company in Chicago. He then transferred his

services to the engineering department of the Buick Motor Company and was for several years engaged in that connection, during this time having an interesting experience as a driver of racing cars in the development of that company's engines, this participation in the racing game covering the years 1908-10. Later he transferred his connection to the Oakland Motor Company and was for some time superintendent of construction in that company's plant in Chicago, and also carried on in that city a general business in automobile repair work on his own account.

In 1915, when the expansion program of the Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford was definitely established, Mr. Higgins' services were secured as works manager for that company's operations and he ever since has been serving in that capacity, during that time having had the gratification of participating in the development of this concern until it had become recognized as the largest and most efficient plant for the manufacture of piston rings in the world, a story of remarkable industrial development which is told elsewhere in this work. Mr. Higgins is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and a member of the American Society of Steel Treathers. He is a republican in his political views, is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine and is also affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Higgins' affiliation with the Scottish Rite of the Masonic order is through the consistory at Freeport, having attained to this high degree in 1922, and he was elected president of the class that was thus honored in that year. Following the completion of his military service after the close of the World war Mr. Higgins was assigned to the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States army and is thus now serving, with the rank of major. His position as works manager for the Burd High Compression Ring Company of Rockford includes a similar technical engineering connection with that great concern's subsidiary plant of the Liberty Foundries Company, manufacturers of grey-iron castings, and he long has been recognized as one of the leaders in local manufacturing circles.

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#### MARSHALL P. RICHARDSON.

Among the able and successful lawyers of Janesville, Wisconsin, stands the man whose name appears above. A personal sketch of his father, Hon. Hamilton Richardson, will be found on other pages of this work, embodying also reference to the ancestral history of the family. Marshall P. Richardson received his elementary education in the public and high schools of Janesville and then attended Beloit College. He subsequently entered the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1889 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then began the study of law in the office of William Ruger, one of the able attorneys of Janesville, and in 1892 was admitted to the bar. He immediately entered upon the active practice of his profession in this city and remained alone in practice until 1917, when he formed a partnership with Stanley G. Dunwiddie, under the firm name of Richardson & Dunwiddie. This

firm has enjoyed a fine reputation, not only because of the ability of its members as lawyers but also because of their high reputations as men of sterling integrity and candor, which has earned for them the unbounded confidence of all who know them.

Mr. Richardson is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the republican party and has served continuously since 1907, with the exception of one year, as a member of the county board of supervisors. Fraternaly he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, while his religious creed is that of the Christian Science church.

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### G. PHILIP HOLM.

In the fine roster of those able citizens who in the past two or three decades have done so much to advance the material interests of the flourishing manufacturing city of Rockford, the name of G. Philip Holm, secretary and treasurer of the Holm-Page Company, general contractors and builders in Rockford, secretary and treasurer of the American Business Bureau in Rockford, and for years recognized as one of the leaders in general development work in that city and throughout that section of the beautiful Rock River valley, must be given a position well up toward the top, for he has done well the work his hand found to do along the lines of endeavor in which he has had special training.

G. Philip Holm is a native of Winnebago county, and has been a resident of that county all his life, the chief scene of his activities having been the city of Rockford, of which he became a resident in the days of his youth. He was born in the pleasant little city of Peatonica, Winnebago county, Illinois, February 2, 1884, a son of Gustav and Allfina Holm, who later became residents of Rockford, Gustav Holm becoming one of the leading building contractors in that city. It was through his connection from the days of his boyhood with the operations of his father along the lines of the latter's vocation as a building contractor that G. Philip Holm early became familiar with all the details of this exacting vocation and thus when the time came found himself in a position to take a commanding position in general building circles hereabout. His public schooling was supplemented by a course of special training in business forms and as a young man he became actively identified with his father's building operations. When in 1916 the business of the elder Holm was reorganized and became merged with that of the Holm-Page Company of Rockford, G. Philip Holm was elected secretary and treasurer of this company and since has been acting in this capacity, a position which carries with it a measure of administrative responsibility. It perhaps is not too much to say that the Holm-Page Company has become recognized as one of the leading contracting firms in the whole valley of Rock river and that Mr. Holm thus is one of the real leaders in building operations hereabout. He also is the



secretary and treasurer of the Holm-Page Real Estate Improvement Corporation and of the H. P. B. Sand & Gravel Company, and in the direction of the affairs of these latter concerns finds further outlet for his constructive energies. Mr. Holm also is the secretary and treasurer of the American Business Bureau of Rockford, a school of accountancy which is referred to elsewhere in this work, and in that connection is rendering a valuable community service, one of the real boosters of the general material interests of the city to whose up-building he has long been devoted.

On June 16, 1908, in Rockford, G. Philip Holm was united in marriage to Miss Olive Beckstrom, daughter of O. E. Beckstrom of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Holm have one child: a daughter, Harriet Virginia Holm, born June 16, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Holm are republicans and are members of the locally popular Harlem Hills Country Club. Mr. Holm is the president of the Rockford Riding Club, is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is also affiliated with the Svea Souer Singing Society of that city.

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#### JAMES A. DENNIS.

It is agreed among those familiar with the situation that when the late George Wyeoff Brown, founder of Brown's Business College, said of James A. Dennis, present principal and part owner of that institution, that the latter "is the best teacher of the commercial branches I ever saw in a schoolroom," the ease was in no wise overstated. For nearly thirty-five years Professor Dennis has been connected with Brown's and during that time has attained a reputation in general scholastic circles which fully sustains the estimate placed upon his services in that connection by the founder of that institution. When in 1917, the year prior to the death of the lamented Professor Brown, Mr. Dennis and his long-time associate, Professor P. J. Maw, principal of the college and present auditor of Winnebago county, bought the college that had for so many years been a fixed institution of learning in Rockford, a general impetus was given to all phases of that institution's work and it thus properly may be said that a new lease on life was taken by Brown's. This impetus has been maintained and even accelerated during the years that have followed, and the reputation of this institution in those particular commercial circles which it serves is thus a growing one.

"Brown's" is a fully accredited commercial school and the accredited courses it thus is enabled to offer its students have long been recognized as the standard of perfection in business training. These courses naturally are based upon the ordinary demands of the bookkeeping and accounting departments of commercial houses, extending, of course, to shorthand and typewriting and general business forms, and include not only comprehensive instruction in bookkeeping and accountancy, as well as shorthand (stenography) and typewriting (general secretarial procedure), but thorough instruction in the basic requirements of penmanship, spelling, calculation, arithmetic, business English, com-

mercial law and general office training, this latter including instruction and practice in the use of the latest standard office machinery such as computing machines and the like. This comprehensive curriculum carries no fewer than eleven distinct courses, this making Brown's available to all inquiring students who are seeking improvement along the lines of commercial training, these several courses covering in a general way the subjects of bookkeeping and accounting, shorthand and typewriting, a combined course, a general business course, a secretarial course, farm accounting, a select course, commercial teaching, machine bookkeeping, civil service and salesmanship, as well as a professional course in auditing and public accounting leading to the degree of certified public accountant. Brown's Business College is an old established institution, located at Nos. 101-107 West State street, Rockford, and needs no further special introduction to the people of the Rock River valley.

James A. Dennis, principal of Brown's Business College and since 1917 part proprietor, has been a resident of Rockford since 1891, in which year he arrived there to take charge of the normal department of the school of which he now is the head. Mr. Dennis is a native of Illinois, born in Morgan county, November 25, 1858. He attended the high school in Pana and the Western Normal School and College at Taylorville and was for fourteen years a teacher in the public schools of Christian county. It was in 1891 that he was called to Rockford as the head of the normal course being carried in the old business college then being conducted in that city and when in 1901 George Wycoff Brown bought that school and converted it into Brown's Business College, Mr. Dennis remained with the new organization and was made Mr. Brown's assistant and teacher of bookkeeping, commercial arithmetic, correspondence and commercial law. Two years later P. J. Maw, also an experienced teacher, became connected with the staff of this institution and in 1917, when failing health compelled the retirement of the veteran Professor Brown, Mr. Dennis and Mr. Maw bought the college and have since been carrying on the institution, as set out above, two of the best known and most successful school men in the middle west, their joint interests in the school being carried as a partnership. It is not too much to say that Brown's Business College is one of the real institutions in the Rock River valley. Organized a half century ago by Winans and Stoddard, it has ever since been maintained, a continuing institution, its development in every way having kept full pace with all other phases of the amazing development that has been brought about here during that wonderful period in American history, so that it has come to be recognized far and wide as a standard in its line hereabout.

On December 20, 1879, in Taylorville, Christian county, Illinois, James A. Dennis was united in marriage to Miss Ida Baldrige, daughter of John Baldrige of Stonington and a member of one of the old families of that section of Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis have three children, namely: William A., born June 18, 1881; Allie May, born April 3, 1885; and J. Adelbert, born November 15, 1894. The Dennises are members of the Court Street Methodist Episcopal church of Rockford and are republicans. Mr. Dennis is a member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and has for years been reckoned as among the real leaders in the development of the general commercial interests

of the community. He is a member of the Private Business School Owners Association of the United States and is recognized as one of the foremost educators of the middle west.

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#### HERBERT LEO COX.

Herbert Leo Cox, who devotes his talents to the interpretation of the law, is a successful attorney and for ten years has practiced in Beloit, Wisconsin. He was born September 11, 1892, in Milford, Illinois, and is a son of William N. and Alice Cox, the former of whom is a retired farmer and resides in Beloit. Herbert L. Cox was a boy of ten when his parents moved to this city and his elementary education was acquired in its public schools. He was graduated from the law department of the University of Wisconsin in 1915 and was admitted to the bar in the same year. He has since engaged in general practice in Beloit and in the intervening period has built up a lucrative clientele, winning a large percentage of his cases, which he prepares with thoroughness, precision and skill, while in their presentation he is clear, logical and forceful.

Mr. Cox was married April 25, 1919, to Miss Laressa Allen, a daughter of George W. Allen, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Patricia Allene, born February 21, 1924. Mr. Cox is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church and his fraternal relations are with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party but is not active in politics. His energies are reserved for his profession and his industry and ability insure his continuous progress therein.

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#### EDWARD JOSEPH FARRELL, M. D.

Dr. Edward Joseph Farrell, one of Rockford's well known and successful physicians, a specialist in endocrinology and in the alleviation of human ailments through the exercise of the principles of metabolism or the mutation of the tissues, has been in practice in Rockford since 1908 and during that time has acquired a wide acquaintance throughout that section of the Rock River valley, his professional duties having called him far and wide. The Doctor is a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford and is affiliated with the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He is a close student, ever keeping fully abreast of the amazing progress that of late years has been made in medical research and during the past two or three years has given his special attention to the treatment of those ills of the flesh that are responsive to the introduction of endocrine and such others as are best corrected through metabolism, and along the lines of these specialties has been able to report some exceedingly gratifying results.



DR. EDWARD J. FARRELL



Edward Joseph Farrell was born in the city of Chicago, November 25, 1882, a son of James Morgan and Maria (Dillon) Farrell of that city. Reared in Chicago, he supplemented his high school work by a preparatory course (premedic) in St. Ignatius College there and then entered the Medical College of Northwestern University, and in 1907, when in his twenty-fifth year, was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Farrell was appointed an interne in St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford and for eighteen months rendered service in that capacity, there acquiring a great deal of intensive practical experience in the practice of the profession to which he had devoted himself. During this period of hospital service Dr. Farrell became so attached to Rockford that upon leaving the hospital he established himself in practice there and has since been thus engaged, with present offices at No. 816, the Trust building, and has done very well. As noted above, during the past two or three years his time has been devoted more to special than to general practice and along the line of these specialties he has developed a wide patronage. The Doctor is a member of the Roman Catholic church, is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and is a member of the University Club of Rockford.

On November 26, 1913, Dr. Farrell was united in marriage to Miss Rose Marie Fite, daughter of August Fite of Lindenwood, Ogle county, Illinois, and a member of one of the old families of that county. Mrs. Farrell died on May 16, 1922. Dr. Farrell has one child, a son, Edward Joseph Farrell, Jr., born August 17, 1921.

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#### WILLIAM AMBROSE CANARY.

William Ambrose Canary, cashier of the Footville State Bank, at Footville, Rock county, Wisconsin, has been a lifelong resident of this locality and the people of the community have had ample means to know what sort of a man he is. The consensus of opinion is that he is a splendid citizen in the best sense of the term and well qualified for the responsible position which he is now so ably and efficiently filling. Mr. Canary was born at Footville on the 30th of May, 1897, the son of William J. and Julia (Murphy) Canary. Both families came to this locality in an early day, the Murphy's being among the very earliest settlers in this part of the country.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of Footville and then attended and was graduated from the high school at Janesville. After leaving school, in 1915, Mr. Canary entered the Footville State Bank as a clerk and was so employed there until 1918, when he enlisted in the United States navy and was stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois. He was discharged August 7, 1919, and from that date to January 1, 1920, he worked as a clerk in the civil service department at Great Lakes. Mr. Canary then entered the Rock County National Bank as bookkeeper and teller and was so employed until May 1, 1922, when he became cashier of the Footville State Bank, in which position he is

still serving, effecting a business-like administration of the bank's affairs and winning for himself high prestige in local business circles. This bank was organized in 1919, with a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars, W. O. Howell, of Footville, being president.

Mr. Canary is a member and secretary of the Footville Community Commercial Club, is treasurer of the Footville volunteer fire department and a member of the village board. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church, in the work of which he takes an interested part, being president of the Holy Name Society and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Politically he is a republican. Because of his success and his fine personal qualities he enjoys to an unusual degree the respect and confidence of the entire community.

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#### WILLIAM ERNEST VOIGT.

Among the native sons of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, who have by their indomitable energy, wise discrimination and sound judgment not only been successful in life but have also gained the esteem and respect of their fellow citizens, the subject of this sketch holds a leading place. William Ernest Voigt was born at Lake Mills, Jefferson county, on the 4th of March, 1867, and is the son of Ernest and Amelia (Zebell) Voigt. His parents were born and reared in Germany, whence they came to the United States in an early day, settling in Lake Mills in 1858, where the father followed his trade, that of a shoemaker, for many years. Eventually he retired from active labor and his death occurred April 3, 1921, at the age of eighty-three years.

William E. Voigt is indebted to the public and high schools of Lake Mills for his educational training, at the completion of which he went to work as clerk in a general store at that place. When he had attained his majority he went to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he was employed on a farm for about a year. He then returned to Lake Mills and for a short time was employed in a flour mill and in the same year, 1888, Mr. Voigt came to Jefferson and took a position as attendant in the Jefferson County Asylum, under Superintendent Henry Grasell. Six years later, on the death of Mr. Grasell, Mr. Voigt was appointed superintendent and has filled the position continuously since. Under his management many splendid improvements have been made at the asylum, which has grown to be a large institution. The asylum was established primarily for the care of the mentally diseased, but the county poor farm is now operated in connection with it. There are a number of fine buildings, admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were intended, and the grounds comprise six hundred and fourteen acres. Among the many fine features of the place is a splendid herd of Holstein cattle, which is known far and wide as an exceptionally fine herd. During the period of Mr. Voigt's incumbency of the superintendency he has discharged his duties in a manner that has received the approval and commendation of the trustees, who have wisely continued him in the position for which he has shown himself to be so admirably fitted. Politically Mr. Voigt is nominally a republican

but is not closely bound by party lines, usually voting according to the dictates of his judgment. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

On March 24, 1891, Mr. Voigt was married to Miss Kate Caskey, the daughter of Lafayette Caskey, of Potosi, Grant county, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of two children: Ralph, born July 7, 1898; and Ruth, born July 23, 1903, both of whom are attendants in the asylum. Mr. Voigt is a man of broad mind, humane impulses and sound common sense, three qualities especially valuable in the responsible position he holds, and he has so ordered his actions as to win the regard and esteem of the entire community in which he lives.

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#### EDWIN E. JONES.

Edwin E. Jones, certified public accountant, head of Edwin Jones & Company, certified public accountants, president of the American Business Bureau, a well established school of accounting and business at Rockford, a former member of the staff of instructors of the LaSalle Extension University of Chicago; co-author of the course of instruction of the American University of Commerce; and a widely recognized expert along these lines, is a native of the Hoosier state but has been a resident of Illinois since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the pleasant village of Tennyson, in the Booneville neighborhood, not far from the Ohio river in Warrick county, southern Indiana, May 14, 1882, a son of L. M. and Mary A. (Byers) Jones, both members of pioneer families in that section of Indiana. He finished the schools of Chrisney in the neighboring county of Spencer and was early qualified to teach school.

For four years Mr. Jones taught school in Tazewell county, Illinois, meanwhile spending his vacations in pursuit of special study in business forms in the business college in Peoria, and then became employed as an instructor in a business college in Chicago. For eight years Mr. Jones was thus engaged, at the same time continuing sedulously his studies in higher accounting, and in 1912 established himself as a public accountant in Chicago. In the next year (1913) he became an instructor in higher accounting on the staff of the LaSalle Extension University in Chicago and was thus connected until 1921, meanwhile, in 1916, having become a certified public accountant under the laws regulating that profession in the state of Indiana. It is not too much to say that Mr. Jones ever was seeking to perfect himself in this exacting profession and he came to be recognized as one of the leading certified public accountants in the middle west.

In the year 1924 Mr. Jones established in Rockford a highly organized correspondence school for the teaching of accounting and at the same time established himself as a certified public accountant in that city, where he since has made his home and where he has had a very favorable introduction to the public. The American Business Bureau was incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois on January 26, 1925, with Edwin E. Jones as president and general manager, Charles C. Spengler as vice president, and G. Philip Holm as secretary and treasurer, these latter being long-time and well estab-



lished residents of Rockford, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. These three, with Charles A. Wetzel, W. B. Thayer and A. Philip Smith of Rockford and Cecil B. Smeeton, a certified public accountant of Chicago, form the directorate of this corporation, which has ample capital back of it and which has started out with a program of expansion and with a curriculum of instruction in higher accounting and general business principles which give earnest promise of making it one of the leading correspondence schools in the country. Mr. Jones is the chief stockholder in the corporation and has general direction of its affairs, a position for which he is eminently well qualified by reason of his long training and practice and by his studious application to the principles of accounting. The bureau has well equipped quarters in the American Business Bureau building in Rockford.

On October 27, 1909, Edwin E. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Emma Brannock of Greensboro, North Carolina, and they have three children: two daughters, Edwinna E., born May 12, 1911, and Eloise M., born February 21, 1915; and a son, Ray Elwin, born December 3, 1923. Mr. Jones is a member of the American Society of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of Cost Accountants, the Indiana Association of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of University Instructors in Accounting, and the Illinois Institute of Accountants, and in the deliberations of these bodies has long taken an interested and helpful part, one of the recognized experts in his line in the middle west. He is a member of the Masonic order and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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#### HARRY O. SWANSON.

Harry O. Swanson, secretary of the Eleo Tool & Screw Corporation of Rockford and one of the best known of the younger leaders in the general industrial life of that city; a member of the Chamber of Commerce and in various ways actively interested in the industrial and commercial development of the city, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, familiar with mercantile and manufacturing lines since the days of his boyhood. He was born February 11, 1897, a son of Gustav C. and Ida (Berg) Swanson, who for many years have been residents of Rockford and the former of whom was formerly engaged in the mercantile business in that city.

Reared in Rockford, Harry O. Swanson supplemented his high school course there by a course in a business college and then became a clerk in the advertising department of the Emerson-Brantingham Company, implement manufacturers in Rockford. Two years later he transferred his services to the office of the Rockford Milling Machine Company, where for two years he was a stock clerk. He then became production manager of the hardware division of the National Lock Company and was thus engaged for five years, or until January, 1920, when he became the secretary of the Eleo Tool Corporation, which had been organized two years before—in 1918. While he was thus employed Mr. Swanson and his brother, Paul G. Swanson, discerned the possibilities under-

lying the establishment of a plant in Rockford for the manufacture of serews and began to organize a company to that end. They had their plans practically worked out and were all but ready to start the enterprise going when a consolidation plan was suggested by the Elco Tool Corporation and the Elco Tool & Screw Corporation was organized, the new enterprise thus becoming an important part of the old establishment. That was in December, 1922. Of this new organization Mr. Swanson became secretary and his brother, Paul G. Swanson, was elected treasurer of the corporation. The president of the corporation is Levin Faust, a veteran manufacturer of Rockford, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, and the vice president is C. G. Englund. The corporation has a well equipped plant at No. 1800 Fourteenth avenue and a wide market has been created for its products.

On August 24, 1918, Harry O. Swanson was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Almquist, daughter of Swan Almquist of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have one child: a son, Robert T. Swanson, born March 26, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the city's general social activities. They are republicans and in the civic affairs of the city also take an interested part. Mr. Swanson is a member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is known as one of the enthusiastic boosters of the general interests of his native town, ever ready to help promote any proper movement designed to advance those interests.

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#### WALTER ROBERT MEIER.

Self-made men, men who have achieved success through their own efforts and by reason of their personal qualities, are usually valuable members of their community and, unwittingly perhaps, build monuments more enduring than a marble obelisk. To this class unquestionably belongs the subject of this sketch, whose success and genuine worth have gained for him the unqualified respect and esteem of all who know him. Walter Robert Meier was born on the 4th of April, 1887, at Lake Mills, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, but his early years were spent on a farm near Shopiere, Wisconsin, in the public schools of which neighborhood he received his education. He devoted his energies to farm work until seventeen years of age, when he went to work for his uncle, Albert Teich, who owned and operated a creamery at Oakland Center, Wisconsin. He was ambitious and energetic and thoroughly learned every detail of the creamery business. At the age of twenty years he went into business on his own account, buying the Evergreen Creamery, near Janesville, Rock county, which he operated until 1908, when he sold it. During the ensuing years he operated creameries in Clinton, Beaver Dam and Kilbourn, Wisconsin, and in Leaf River and Adeline, Illinois. In 1909-10 Mr. Meier took a dairy course in the agricultural department of the University of Wisconsin, which supplementing his previous fine experience in the business made him exceptionally well qualified to operate a creamery.

In 1921 Mr. Meier moved from Kilbourn to Fort Atkinson, Jefferson county,

and established the Fort Atkinson Creamery Company, which has from the beginning enjoyed a very gratifying measure of success, being one of the most prosperous creameries in this part of the county. The plant is equipped with the best and most up-to-date machinery and the methods followed by Mr. Meier are in strict conformity with the most advanced and well proven methods now in use. Mr. Meier is a good business man and an indefatigable worker, so that the splendid success which is crowning his efforts here has been well merited. The products of his plant are mainly butter and ice cream, the quality of which is such that they find a ready market and enjoy a fine reputation among discriminating buyers.

On December 28, 1910, Mr. Meier was married to Miss Celia Schley, the daughter of Frederick Schley, of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Edith, born April 7, 1912; Eugene, born July 3, 1915; and David, born November 17, 1924. Politically Mr. Meier is a staunch supporter of the republican party and takes a keen interest in public affairs, especially those pertaining to the welfare of his own community. He is an active member and a trustee of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church at Fort Atkinson. He is a splendid example of the virile, progressive, self-made man who believes in doing well whatever is worth doing at all. A man of keen discernment and sound judgment and one who observes the highest standard of ethics in his business relations, he has long enjoyed the confidence and good will of all with whom he comes in contact.

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#### FRANK C. RUTZ.

Frank C. Rutz, vice president and assistant manager of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works, vice president of the Northern Motors Security Company and in other ways actively identified with the general industrial and commercial interests of Rockford and the Rock River valley, one of the prominent figures in the local manufacturing field, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country since he was five years of age and of Rockford for nearly thirty-five years, and is thus thoroughly conversant with local conditions, for he has been a witness to and a participant in the amazing industrial development that has been brought about in and about Rockford during the past two or three decades. He literally grew up in the malleable iron industry, starting in thirty years ago as office boy in the plant of the company with which he now is prominently connected in an administrative capacity, and is thus now widely known in the malleable iron trade. He was born in Germany, October 23, 1880, a son of Charles H. and Hannah Rutz, also natives of that country, who in 1885 came to the United States with their family and established their home in the city of Chicago, where they remained until 1892, when they moved to Rockford. Charles H. Rutz was for years connected with the operations of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and is now living retired in Rockford.

It will be noted by a comparison of above dates that Frank C. Rutz was



FRANK C. RUTZ



but five years of age when he came to this country with his parents and was twelve when he moved with them from Chicago to Rockford. He therefore had his initial schooling in Chicago and Rockford and supplemented this by a course in the business college in Rockford, which he entered after he had left the high school. In 1895, then being fifteen years of age, Mr. Rutz became office boy in the office of the Rockford Malleable Iron Works. His interest in the business was demonstrated from the beginning and he was advanced from one position to another in the big plant of this concern until he had learned the business "from the ground up." In 1912 Mr. Rutz was made assistant to the manager and upon the reorganization of the company in 1923 was elected vice president, which administrative position he now occupies, vice president and assistant manager of one of the leading industrial concerns in the Rock River valley. Walter A. Forbes is the president of this company, a most substantially established enterprise, and further details of the operations and scope of activities of this company is set out elsewhere in this work. Mr. Rutz has other substantial interests in the local industrial and commercial field, these including his position as vice president of the Northern Motors Security Company and a place on the directorate of the Rockford Metal Specialties Company.

On April 2, 1905, in Rockford, Frank C. Rutz was united in marriage to Miss Signe Berg, daughter of Matthew Berg of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Rutz have two daughters: Constance, born June 24, 1910; and Barbara, born May 23, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Rutz are republicans and are members of the Rockford Country Club and of the Harlem Hills Country Club. Mr. Rutz is a member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### CARL W. PIERSON.

Among the newer manufacturing industries which of late years have done so much to extend the name and fame of Rockford as an industrial center, with particular reference to the woodworking industries, The Pierson Company, manufacturers of the celebrated "American Beauty" radio cabinets and console speakers, must be accounted as among the leaders, for its products have found a wide and ready market and have gone far toward establishing a standard in that form of exacting handcraftsmanship. Carl W. Pierson, president of this company and in active administrative direction of its affairs, is a technician of established reputation, former head of the Rockford School of Engineering, now a branch of the vocational department of the Rockford city schools, and by inclination and training is admirably qualified to carry on the industry which he established there to bring out the artistic possibilities inherent in that particular form of decorative parlor cabinet work now coming into such great demand throughout the country, by reason of the introduction of the radio devices and the demands of the constantly growing radio public for artistic excellence in the cabinets in which these wonder work-

ing devices are housed. Carl W. Pierson is a native of the old Empire state, born in Salamanca, Cattaraugus county, February 22, 1888, and was but seven years of age when in 1895 his parents, Charles and Emelia (Johnsen) Pierson, moved with their family to Illinois and established their home in Rockford. Charles Pierson, a veteran woodworker and skilled craftsman in the finer touches of artistic cabinetmaking, is now the vice president of The Pierson Company at Rockford and widely known in industrial circles hereabout.

Reared in Rockford, Carl W. Pierson finished the high school in that city and then entered Walden College at McPherson, Kansas, and in 1911 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He supplemented this schooling by a special course in chemistry in the University of Kansas and for a year was a teacher in the McPherson high school. He then returned to Rockford and entered as a teacher at the Rockford School of Engineering, of which he became the president and which in the summer of 1914 was merged with the vocational department of the Rockford city schools. Upon leaving this school work Mr. Pierson entered the industrial field at Rockford as the secretary and general manager of the Light Furniture Company (now the Peerless Furniture Company of Rockford) and was thus connected until January, 1917, when in association with his father, Charles Pierson, and J. August Swenson, he organized The Pierson Company and engaged in the manufacture of parlor cabinets for radio outfits and phonographs, with a well equipped manufacturing plant at No. 836 Cedar street, and has since been rendering service in that connection as president of this company, of which his father, Charles Pierson, is the vice president and Mr. Swenson is the secretary and treasurer.

The Pierson Company was incorporated in April, 1917, and the high quality and artistic character of its products have created a wide and growing market for those products which now, as noted above, are setting a new standard in that particular form of decorative cabinet work, giving real force to this company's trade slogan: "Positively Foremost," and verifying the reputation the company has gained as the builders of "America's Finest Instruments." It may not be considered improper to point out that the building of the celebrated "American Beauty" radio cabinets and console speakers, the most widely distributed of the products of The Pierson Company, represents the outgrowth of years of close study of the critical requirements of the discriminating radio owning public. The thoughtful choice of rare and beautiful, well seasoned woods; the masterful treatment of design, fully authentic as to period art; the artistic arrangement, practical yet beautiful; the finish, the rich tones of color and the dignity and "class" that the cabinets represent, are features of these products that immediately impress the discriminating patron and which have been such largely determinative factors in creating for those products a degree of popularity throughout the country that has added no little to the fame of Rockford as a center of high-grade manufactured articles. The Pierson Company also maintains offices in Chicago (in the Republic building) and its trade-mark "American Beauty" has become widely recognized as a mark of distinction in its particular line of artistic products of the cabinetmaker's art.

On June 20, 1914, in Rockford, Carl W. Pierson was united in marriage to

Miss Bertha May Westfeldt, daughter of Frank J. and Anna S. (Erickson) Westfeldt of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson have one child: A son, Walden Pierson, born August 9, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson are republicans and take a proper part in the general civic and social affairs of the community. Mr. Pierson is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is recognized as one of the alert and intelligent boosters in behalf of the general interests of the city and of the community at large.

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#### RICHARD JULES BRYHN.

Richard Jules Bryhn, for nearly thirty-five years a resident of the city of Rockford and long established there as one of the leading dealers in oil and allied products in the Rock River valley, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country from the days of his young manhood, having made his home in Chicago for some years before taking up his residence in Rockford in 1892 as the local agent for the Standard Oil Company in that city. About twenty years ago he engaged in the oil business on his own account in Rockford and has ever since been thus occupied, during that time having built up a flourishing business. He was born in the kingdom of Norway, March 19, 1866, and when thirteen years of age took to the sea and grew up as a sailor before the mast, sailing on vessels out of foreign ports for six years, sailing the seven seas and touching at all the important ports of the world. When he was seventeen years of age, in 1883, Mr. Bryhn changed his home port and became a resident of the United States. For two years thereafter he continued the service of a sailor, going out in vessels in the Atlantic coastwise service and then, in 1885, joined his father, Samuel Christian Bryhn, and his elder brother, Charles F. Bryhn, who meanwhile had become engaged in newspaper work in Chicago, the former assistant editor of *Skandinaven*, a Scandinavian language newspaper in that city, and the latter city editor of that paper. Upon taking up his residence in Chicago, Mr. Bryhn became employed by the P. C. Hanford Oil Company, in charge of that concern's big pumping station, and was thus employed when five years later—in 1890—the Hanford interests were taken over by the Standard Oil Company. He continued in the Standard employ in Chicago until 1892, when he was assigned by that company to its Rockford station as local manager, and thus continued in the employ of the Standard Oil Company in Rockford for fourteen years, or until 1906, when he determined to capitalize his long experience in the oil business in his own behalf.

In 1906 Mr. Bryhn became established in the oil business in Rockford and ever since has been thus engaged, during that time having built up an enterprise that has become recognized as one of the leading private industries in that line in this section of the country. He began in a small way, buying his oil and similar supplies in the open market and making his own deliveries. As the quality and character of the service he thus was rendering became recognized in the city and the demand for his supplies grew, he gradually



extended his facilities for distribution and has so continued until now he is one of the leading jobbers and retailers in lubricating oils, gasoline and grease hereabout. In 1912 Mr. Bryhn opened in Rockford a general service station for the accommodation of the automobile trade and the demand for Bryhn service has since then necessitated the establishment of five more such stations in that city, he now having six well equipped service stations in Rockford, besides two similar stations with which he has connection in Belvidere, in the neighboring county of Boone, his business in the latter city being operated as a partnership under the name of Bollman & Bryhn.

R. J. Bryhn has been twice married. On August 8, 1887, while living in Chicago, and when twenty-one years of age, he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Uttberg, who also was of European birth, born in the kingdom of Sweden, and who died in Rockford on April 1, 1916. On November 27, 1919, Mr. Bryhn was married to Miss Margaret Vinton of New York and to this union one child has been born: a daughter, Margaret Evelyn, born May 21, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Bryhn are members of Trinity Lutheran church of Rockford, are republicans and are members of the Rockford Country Club and of the Harlem Hills Club of Rockford. Mr. Bryhn is a member of the American Oil Men's Association and of the National Petroleum Marketers' Association and in the deliberations of these influential trade bodies has long taken an active and helpful interest. He is a member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and of the locally influential Kiwanis Club of that city, is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all the bodies of that ancient order available to the inquirer, and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### JOHN HENRY LINDBLADE.

John Henry Lindblade, secretary and treasurer of the Winnebago Manufacturing Company of Rockford and one of the well known figures in the furniture manufacturing industry in that city, is a native of Rockford and has lived there all his life, growing up in the furniture trade and thus thoroughly familiar with all details of manufacture along that line. He was born November 12, 1890, a son of Alfred and Eva Charlotte Lindblade, both of whom were born in the kingdom of Sweden and who many years ago became residents of Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, John Henry Lindblade finished his education in the high school of that city and became thoroughly familiar with commercial forms, particularly as applied to manufacturing. Upon leaving school he was employed as cost clerk in the office of the Emerson-Brantingham Company, manufacturers of machinery and implements, and later was secured as a clerk in the post office. In 1910 Mr. Lindblade became a traveling salesman on the staff of the Rockford Furniture Company and was for five years thus engaged, at the end of that time being made a member of the office staff of that extensive manufacturing concern, a service he rendered for three or four years, or until 1919, when he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Winnebago Manufacturing Company

and has since been serving in that responsible administrative capacity. The Winnebago Manufacturing Company manufactures furniture and has created a wide demand for its products, which enter the market throughout a broad trade area hereabout. It has a well equipped and firmly established plant at No. 110J Seminary street and is doing well. In addition to his connection with this company Mr. Lindblade has other interests in the manufacturing line and is a member of the board of directors of the Litton Vencer Company of Rockford and the Ozark Hardwood Lumber Company of Springfield, Missouri.

On September 27, 1916, Mr. Lindblade was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Rosenquist, daughter of Charles and Christina Rosenquist of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Lindblade have two children: John Henry Lindblade, Jr., born October 7, 1919; and Robert Carlton Lindblade, born October 22, 1923. Mr. and Mrs. Lindblade are members of the Swedish Mission church and are also affiliated with the Harlem Hills Country Club. In their political preferences they adhere to the policies of the republican party and take a proper interest in the general civic and social affairs of the community.

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#### ARTHUR J. THORNE.

In one of the most exacting of all callings the subject of this sketch has attained distinction, being generally recognized as one of the most successful educators who have been connected with the school system of Jefferson county. Arthur J. Thorne is a native of the county in which he lives and was born on the 22d of May, 1869, the son of John G. and Mary Ann (Jolliffe) Thorne. In both paternal and maternal lines the subject is the scion of old pioneer stock, the Thornes having come to this county as early as 1846.

The subject secured his early education in the public schools of his home neighborhood and in the Soldiers Orphans Home in Madison. He also attended the high school in Palmyra, Wisconsin, after which he entered the normal school in Milwaukee, where he was graduated in 1903, with credits at the state university. He then began teaching in the Palmyra high school, where he remained four years, or until 1907, when he was elected county superintendent of schools for Jefferson county, and so satisfactory has been his administration of the intricate duties of this important position that he has been reelected at the end of each term and has thus occupied the office continuously for some eighteen years. Well educated, a close and studious reader and ever keeping in touch with the latest advances in educational methods, he has persistently and successfully striven to maintain the highest educational standard in the schools under his supervision, with the result that Jefferson occupies an enviable place among her sister counties of the commonwealth in the matter of education. Politically Mr. Thorne is not bound by party ties but votes invariably for the men and measures which in his judgment will be for the best interests of the general public. While living in Palmyra he was for four years treasurer of the town and village, and he is at the present time a member of the agricultural

committee of Jefferson county. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 24th of December, 1897, Mr. Thorne was married to Eleanor Stacy, the daughter of Henry C. Stacy, of Eagle, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and they have two children, Iva and Oromel H. No one is more entitled to the thoughtful consideration of a free and enlightened people than he who shapes and directs the public educational system, and during the years that Mr. Thorne has headed the schools of Jefferson county the schools have uniformly progressed in both the teaching personnel and the grade of service rendered, so that her reputation now is a high one, due mainly to the persistent and well directed efforts of the superintendent.

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ANTHONY BERNARD ZWASKA, B. Sc., M. D.

The medical profession of Winnebago county has an able exponent in Dr. Anthony B. Zwaska, of Rockton, who although comparatively young in years has firmly established himself in his profession and won the confidence and esteem of the people throughout his section of the country. Anthony Bernard Zwaska was born on the 20th of August, 1890, at Kewaskum, Wisconsin, and is the son of John and Anna (Trautman) Zwaska, of Kewaskum, where the father was successfully engaged in the furniture and undertaking business, being one of the prominent and influential citizens of Washington county. The subject received his elementary education in the public and high schools of his native town and then attended the State Normal School at Oshkosh and the Milwaukee University School, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree. Having determined to make the practice of medicine his life work, he then matriculated in the Marquette University School of Medicine, from which he was graduated in 1914 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Following the completion of his studies he served for eighteen months as interne in the Milwaukee County Hospital. On January 3, 1916, he came to Rockton and entered upon the practice of his profession, in which he has met with marked success, enjoying a widespread reputation as a careful, accurate and able physician, his practice covering a wide radius of the surrounding country.

In April, 1918, Dr. Zwaska was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the United States army, and for a time was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Eventually he was sent overseas and spent nine months in France as regimental surgeon of the Three Hundred and Forty-sixth Infantry Regiment. He was discharged from the service in May, 1919.

Dr. Swaska maintains an independent attitude in politics, preferring to vote according to the dictates of his judgment as to men and measures, regardless of party lines. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, while he sustains professional affiliation with the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Rock County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is cashier and a



DR. ANTHONY B. ZWASKA



member of the board of directors of the Rockton State Bank. The Doctor is eminently public-spirited, giving his unreserved support to all measures for the improvement of the community along material, civic or social lines, and he has won a high place in the confidence and regard of the entire community in which he lives.

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#### JOHN A. LOVE.

John A. Love, long a prominent figure in business circles of Beloit, Wisconsin, is a successful realtor and has also filled important civic offices, faithfully fulfilling every trust of which he has been the recipient. He was born October 7, 1850, in Delaware county, New York, and his parents, Richard C. and Harriett E. (Alverson) Love, were also natives of the Empire state. They migrated to the middle west, settling near Beloit, in Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1870, and there the father successfully engaged in farming and stock raising for many years. His demise occurred in 1894, when he had reached the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey, and the mother passed away in 1885, at the age of sixty-one years.

Mr. Love received his early instruction at Walton, New York, and completed his education in Mrs. Kendall's private school at Beloit, Wisconsin. He worked as a clerk in a grocery store at Canton, South Dakota, for about two years and on the expiration of that period returned to Beloit, where he has since resided. In 1878 he engaged in the grain business, forming a partnership with O. P. Smith, and they were associated until 1893 under the style of Smith & Love. For the next ten years Mr. Love carried on the grain business alone and in 1903 opened a real estate and insurance office, being joined by Don Van Wart. This relationship was continued until 1907, when the junior member of the firm withdrew, selling his stock to Mr. Love, who then admitted his son, H. J. Love, to a partnership. This association was severed by the son's death four years later but the business is still conducted under the name of J. A. & H. J. Love and is one of the largest in the city. Many important real estate transfers have been effected through the agency of the firm, which also deals in loans and insurance. Mr. Love is a sagacious, farsighted business man whose investments have been advantageously placed, and his integrity is above question.

Along fraternal lines Mr. Love is connected with the Masonic order and his political support is given to the republican party. His fellow citizens, appreciative of his worth and ability, chose him as treasurer in 1889 and for three terms he was the trusted custodian of the funds of the municipality. He was also elected city assessor and likewise made a fine record in that office. Mr. Love is a broadminded man of substantial worth and stands high in the esteem of the citizens of Beloit.

On the 26th of May, 1874, Mr. Love was married to Miss Jennie E. Sanders, a daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Sanders, of Redruth, England, and they became the parents of two children, Mae L. and Henry J. The daughter was born June 30, 1875, and is now the wife of W. F. Bauchle, who is associated

with her father in the real estate business. Henry J. Love was born in Beloit, March 10, 1878, and always made his home in this city. He was graduated from high school in 1895 and on New Year's day, 1900, was married to Miss Elizabeth Cunningham, a daughter of L. E. Cunningham, who served at one time as mayor of Beloit. They were the parents of a son, who died about 1907, and the shock hastened the death of the mother, who had long been an invalid. In the fall of 1910 Mr. Love married Miss Hazel Bains, of Kalamazoo, Michigan. His demise, which occurred in that city on the 2d of July, 1911, was deeply regretted by a large circle of sincere friends as well as the members of his family, for he was a young man of exceptionally fine character. He had ably assisted his father in the conduct of the business and was well known in local lodge circles, being assistant clerk of the Modern Woodmen of America, a past chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias and a member of the Woodmen of the World.

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#### PHILIP M. CHAPPEL.

For many years dog owners have been talking about a balanced meat food for dogs—a food which would supply every nutritive element requisite for the best health, growth and development of the dog from puppyhood to maturity. It has been discovered that the ideal food must be appetizing, convenient to feed, not too bulky, and it must be sold at a price that makes possible its use throughout the country. With the aid of a force of chemists and bacteriologists, together with the cooperation of one of the great veterinary colleges, Chappel Brothers (Incorporated), of Rockford succeeded in developing the ideal dog foods thus long sought. It has been discovered also that eighty per cent of all dog ailments are attributable to improper feeding and that meat must form the basis of any satisfactory foods for dogs or other carnivora, it being plainly apparent that there could be no proper substitute for meat as an essential ration for dogs. It was here that Chappel Brothers scored their great success as manufacturers of a balanced food for dogs. Their products are meat foods.

These well known and widely exported products of the Chappel laboratories include four essential varieties—Ken-L-Ration, a complete food requiring no other preparation, a balanced food rich in meat, cereal, ground bone and cod liver oil, served right out of the can; Hemo-Ration, a blood-making food specially recommended for breeding animals of both sexes and for anemic or convalescent animals, carrying as it does a large percentage of cod liver oil and being rich in organic iron and calcium phosphate; Pup-E-Ration, carrying the elements necessary for growth of body, bone and coat, rich in red meat, organic iron, calcium phosphate, cod liver oil and marrow fat, an ideal food for puppies and pregnant bitches, and Maro-Meat, this last being a clear lean meat and marrow product designed to meet the requirements of large kennels and veterinary hospitals for a concentrated basic meat food. It was in August, 1923, that Chappel Brothers began their operations in Rockford, being incorporated

at that time, and since then they have built up a trade in their products that not only covers the general trade area in this country, being now a nationally distributed product, but enters largely into the export trade, a demand having been created for these products in all the important centers of Europe and particularly in Holland and Norway.

Philip M. Chappel, president of Chappel Brothers, Incorporated, and the founder of the business above described, which in a comparatively short time has done much to extend the fame of "Made in Rockford" products, is a native of England, born June 28, 1872, and was six years of age when in 1878 his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark T. Chappel, came to the United States with their family and located in the city of Rochester, New York. Therefore Mr. Chappel was reared in Rochester and had his schooling there. When nine years of age he had his introduction to the meat trade in an establishment in Rochester and he followed that vocation on up through its several departments until he became thoroughly familiar with all details of the meat-packing business and an expert in primary food values. As a young man he became employed in the service of Swift & Company, the great Chicago meat-packers, and was thus employed for something more than seven years, at the end of which time he went into the meat-packing business on his own account. He and his brothers studied out the problems underlying the proper feeding of dogs and conceived the plan which has worked out so successfully in the creation of a proper laboratory for the preparation of adequate dog rations. As noted above, it was in August, 1923, that these brothers incorporated as the Chappel Brothers, Incorporated, and shortly afterward began active operations in Rockford, where they since have been located, with a well equipped establishment for the manufacture of their products on Peoples avenue. P. M. Chappel is the president of this corporation.

The firm holds membership in the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and has come to be recognized as one of the substantial additions to the general industrial establishment of the city. The Chappel brothers are Scottish Rite Masons and Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and Mr. P. M. Chappel is affiliated with the South Shore Country Club and the Saddle and Sirloin Club of Chicago.

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#### THOMAS MILTON ELLIS, Jr.

Thomas Milton Ellis, Jr., one of Beloit's most progressive and successful young business men, has found that there is always room at the top, even under the close competitive condition of the commercial world of today, if the climber has the required stamina, energy and ability. He is an influential factor in the management of the local traction system and the owner of a chain of motion picture houses in the middle west.

Mr. Ellis was born August 15, 1891, in Whitesboro, New York, and is a son of Thomas M. and Mary L. Ellis, the former of whom was for many years prominently connected with the street railways of Rockford, Illinois, and other cities but is now living retired in Beloit. The subject of this sketch attended



the public schools of Rockford, Illinois, and in 1909 was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science from St. Mary's College of Kansas. He has been connected with the street railway business during much of his life, starting as a lineman when quite young, and has worked his way upward through proven worth and ability. He is now acting as vice president and general manager of the Beloit Traction Company and is largely responsible for the fine transportation system afforded the residents of this city. In 1918 he embarked in the motion picture business, in which he has been remarkably successful, owning and operating the following theatres: The Orpheum in Rockford, Illinois; the Colonial and Plaza in Galesburg; the Avon and Lincoln Square in Decatur, this state; the Palace in Muscatine, Iowa; and the Majestic and Wilson, both situated in Beloit, Wisconsin. He gives to his patrons the finest productions of the silver screen and in the control of his extensive business interests displays notable foresight and wisdom and executive ability of a high order.

In politics Mr. Ellis is a republican with independent views, placing the qualifications of a candidate above the narrow bounds of partisanship, and his influence is always on the side of progress, reform and improvement. He belongs to the Beloit Country Club and is also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. His rapidly maturing powers have carried him into important relations, and judging by what he has already accomplished, the future holds much in store for him.

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#### MANLY HARRISON SHIPLEY, M. D.

Dr. Manly Harrison Shipley, a veteran of the World war with an officer's commission and a resident physician of Rockford since the completion of his military service at Camp Grant, is a native of the old Buckeye state but a resident of the Rock River valley by choice and inclination. He was born in the city of Newark, the county seat of Licking county, Ohio, November 19, 1886, a son of Dr. Henry and Mary Jeannette (Tabor) Shipley, both members of old families in Ohio. Dr. Henry Shipley, a graduate physician, became engaged in the practice of medicine in Newark in 1886, a promising young physician, and died untimely in that city in 1888. His widow, with her two-year-old son, returned to the home of her parents in Fredericktown, Knox county, Ohio, and it was thus that Manly H. Shipley was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents in Fredericktown.

Early evincing an aptitude for study, Manly Harrison Shipley was given every local advantage in the way of schooling and his high school course was completed in Pleasantville, Fairfield county, Ohio. In due time he entered Denison University at Granville (Ohio) and in 1912 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Science, his studies there having been carried on with a particular view to the further study of medicine, to which he early had devoted himself. He then entered the Medical College of Western Reserve University in Cleveland (Ohio) and in 1915 received from that institution his medical degree. After a year spent as an interne in the Cleveland

City Hospital, Dr. Shipley engaged in practice in Cleveland and was thus engaged when this country took a hand in the World war. In July, 1918, he enlisted his services in behalf of the Medical Corps of the army and in the following August was commissioned a first lieutenant and assigned to duty at Camp Cody in New Mexico, where he remained for seven months, at the end of which period of service he was transferred to General Hospital No. 28 at Fort Sheridan and after ten months of further service there was assigned to duty at the base hospital at Camp Grant, Rockford, where he was in further service for eight months, or until his final discharge on September 30, 1920.

During the period of his military service at Camp Grant, Dr. Shipley had become so greatly attracted to the desirability of Rockford and the beautiful Rock River valley as a place of residence that he had completed arrangements for definite location there when his term of military service should be completed, and on the day following his discharge—October 1, 1920—he opened an office for general medical practice in Rockford and has since practiced in that city, with present offices at No. 1030 Fourteenth avenue. Dr. Shipley is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and is a member of the staff of the Swedish-American Hospital at Rockford.

On January 9, 1918, while engaged in practice in the city of Cleveland, Dr. Shipley was united in marriage to Miss Frances Mabel King of Meadville, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Shipley died on January 20, 1924, leaving two sons: Ralph Edward Shipley, born February 23, 1920; and Richard Edwin Shipley, born November 16, 1921. Dr. Shipley is a member of the Masonic order and is also affiliated with the Royal Arcanum and the Loyal Order of Moose. He has local connection with the Harlem Hills Country Club and the Svea Soner Singing Society of Rockford and is a member of the medical fraternity Phi Rho Sigma.

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#### FRANK J. WOLFF.

Frank J. Wolff, president and treasurer of the manufacturing firm of Stephen & Wolff, Incorporated, in Rockford and for many years an active figure in local industrial circles, having grown up in the foundry business in Rockford, is a native of the old Buckeye state but has been a resident of Rockford since the days of his childhood. He was born in the city of Painesville, county seat of Lake county, Ohio, October 18, 1867, a son of Frederick and Rose (Eiser) Wolff, both of European birth, the latter a native of the republic of Switzerland, who had come to this country with her parents in the days of her youth. Frederick Wolff, a native of the kingdom of Prussia in the German empire, was a skilled cabinetmaker. He was married in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, later made his home in Painesville, and in 1872 moved with his family to Rockford, where he established his home and was for years actively working at his trade there.

Frank J. Wolff was but five years of age when his parents established their home in Rockford and he thus was reared in that city and had his schooling there. He early became attracted to the mechanical trades, with particular ref-

erence to foundry work, and served his apprenticeship to the molder's trade in the old Ward, Whiffen & Caulkins foundry plant, now the site of the operations of the Ward-Love Pump Corporation. After working for some time as a journeyman molder Mr. Wolff became connected with the operations of the Rockford Brass Company and in 1889 was advanced to the position of foreman of that plant, a position he occupied until January 1, 1922, when his present association with William A. Stephen, also an experienced and skilled molder, was formed. This association began as a partnership for the operation of a brass and aluminum foundry in Rockford and a foundry plant was established at the corner of Fulton and Latham streets, active operations beginning there on March 14, 1922. The concern prospered from the beginning and in pursuance of a general expansion program the firm or partnership in 1923 was changed to a corporate concern and has since been doing business under the name of Stephen & Wolff, Incorporated, Mr. Wolff being the president and treasurer of the corporation and Mr. Stephen the vice president and secretary. In addition to their general foundry work in the way of brass and aluminum castings, this concern specializes in the manufacture of high-grade dental fittings and the character and quality of its products have created for them a wide market throughout the great trade area centering in Rockford.

On June 4, 1891, in Rockford, Frank J. Wolff was united in marriage to Miss Emma Betts, daughter of A. B. Betts of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Wolff have three children: Two daughters, Edna, born May 7, 1892, and Mildred, born May 11, 1894; and a son, Francis Wolff, born May 12, 1904. Miss Edna Wolff became the wife of George Ferdinand and is now living in Kingston, Illinois. Miss Mildred Wolff became the wife of Sylvester Regan of Camp Grant and they have a son, Franklin Regan, born April 13, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Wolff are republicans and have ever taken a proper and interested part in the city's general civic affairs. Mr. Wolff is an Odd Fellow and is a member of the Young Men's Business Association. He has for years been an ardent fisherman and is one of the active members of the local branch of the Izaak Walton League.

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#### NOYES L. JACKSON.

Noyes L. Jackson, representative in the Illinois state general assembly from the eighth representative district, vice president of the Illinois Mutual Fire Underwriters, formerly engaged in the mercantile business in Belvidere, of which city he has been a resident for more than twenty years, is a native of the old Granite state but has been a resident of Illinois since the days of his young manhood. He was born in Rockingham, Windham county, Vermont, July 21, 1860, a son of Samuel and Harriet (Billings) Jackson, both of whom were born in that same place, the latter a daughter of Lewis Billings, who in his generation was a prominent business man in his community and for some time a member of the Vermont state legislature. Samuel Jackson was a son of Samuel Jackson, who was a merchant and landowner in Vermont. The junior Samuel Jackson became connected with the



NOYES L. JACKSON



paper mill industry in his native state and there died in 1864, his son Noyes then being but four years of age.

Reared in Vermont, Noyes L. Jackson had his schooling there and as a lad spent his vacations clerking in stores or in farming, and thus early became familiar with mercantile details and with farming, particularly with dairying operations. In 1880, when twenty years of age, he came to Illinois and in Elgin was employed in one of the great creameries. Two years later he became established in business on his own account in Marengo, a dealer in dairy products and supplies for twenty years at that place. In 1902 Mr. Jackson disposed of his interests in Marengo and moved to Belvidere, where he engaged in the mercantile business. Five years later he retired from that line and went into the realty business in Chicago, continuing, however, to make his home in Belvidere, with offices in Chicago. For ten years Mr. Jackson continued active in the realty business and then took his present connection with the Illinois Mutual Fire Underwriters, with well equipped offices in Belvidere. Mr. Jackson is the vice president of this company, O. H. Wright is the president and E. H. Tripp is the secretary. This company was established in Belvidere in 1905, starting in a modest way, and in the twenty years of its activity has been developed until it now (1925) is carrying insurance on property in northern Illinois to the amount of more than twenty million dollars. Mr. Jackson has ever given a good citizen's attention to civic affairs and during the time of his residence in Marengo served for some time as one of the trustees of the town. In 1924 he was elected to represent the eighth representative district of the state of Illinois in the lower house of the state legislature and is now serving in that important representative capacity. Mr. Jackson is a charter member of the local camp of the Modern Woodmen of America in Marengo, Illinois.

In 1885, while living in Marengo, Noyes L. Jackson was united in marriage to Miss Jessie B. Boies of that place and they have a daughter: Wilna, wife of Willis S. Brown, secretary and general manager of the Belvidere Screw & Machine Company. Mrs. Jackson is a daughter of W. A. Boies and wife, who in 1925 celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. W. A. Boies, one of the veteran dairymen of the state of Illinois, is widely known in the dairy industry throughout the middle west, and his operations frequently have been made the subject of interesting articles in the trade journals covering that field of industry.

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#### ROBERT HUTCHINSON, M. D.

Dr. Robert Hutchinson, one of the veteran physicians of northern Illinois and for nearly fifty years engaged in practice at Capron, Boone county, is a native of Ireland but has been a resident of the Rock River valley since the days of his young manhood, having come to this country with his parents back in the late '60s, the family coming out to Illinois and settling in Boone county. Dr. Hutchinson was born on a farm in County Armagh in the province of

Ulster in the north of Ireland on Christmas day in the year 1850, a son of Archibald and Agnes (Davidson) Hutchinson, who also were born in Armagh, members of old families there, and whose last days were spent in Boone county, Illinois, both living to a ripe old age, Mrs. Hutchinson having been seventy-nine years of age at the time of her death and Archibald Hutchinson, eighty-seven. The latter, who was a son of James Hutchinson, was also born on the farm in Armagh, which was the birthplace of his father and of his son, the Doctor. After his marriage he established his home on that place and continued farming until in 1868, when he closed out his holdings there and with his wife and eight children came to America. The family proceeded to Illinois and settled in Boone county. Upon his arrival here Archibald Hutchinson bought a tract of farm land in Boone township and there established his home. To that place, as his affairs prospered, he gradually added by further purchase until he became the owner of a well improved place of one hundred and eighty acres and was recognized as one of the substantial farmers of that section of the county. One of his sons, Archibald Hutchinson (II), a younger brother of the Doctor, is the owner of a farm of three hundred and twenty acres in the vicinity of Capron. The elder Archibald Hutchinson and his wife were the parents of eleven children, three of whom died in youth in their native Ireland, the other eight, as noted above, coming with their parents to Illinois. Of these children, Dr. Hutchinson was the tenth in order of birth.

Reared in his native Armagh, Robert Hutchinson was well schooled and by the time he came to this country, he then being eighteen years of age, was well up in his classics. Upon his arrival here he found there was a call for school teachers. He had no difficulty in passing the examination required and his first winter in Illinois (1868-9) was spent as a teacher in one of the district schools (Brookdale) in McHenry county. Until he attained his majority he remained on the home farm, aiding in the labors of developing and improving it, farming during the summer and teaching district school during the winter, meanwhile carrying on reading preparatory to taking up the study of medicine. In 1874 he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which institution he was graduated (M. D.) in 1876. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Hutchinson returned to Boone county and became engaged in practice at Capron, where, with the exception of a period of four years spent with his brother, Dr. William Hutchinson, years ago a physician for the Minnesota Mining Iron Company, he ever since has resided, one of the real veterans in medical practice in this section of the state. He has ever taken a proper interest in local civic affairs and has rendered public service as a member of the school board. He is a Knight Templar Mason and a Noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

In 1881 Dr. Robert Hutchinson was united in marriage to Miss Minerva Jane Herrick, who was born at Wheaton, Illinois, and who is a daughter of George A. Herrick, a substantial farmer of DeKalb county. The Herricks are an old colonial family and Mrs. Hutchinson is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Dr. and Mrs. Hutchinson have two children: Miss Minerva Agnes Hutchinson, who is now a teacher in the Kensington high school in the city of Philadelphia. Miss Hutchinson supplemented the schooling re-

ceived in the Capron high school and at Rockford College by attendance at the Michigan State University, from which she was graduated (A. B.) and then entered the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with the degree of Master of Arts; and George Archibald Hutchinson, who is a graduate of the Northwestern Medical School, Chicago, and is associated with his father in the practice of medicine in Capron.

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LEO F. PLUM.

It does not require a very close review of the general commercial and industrial conditions of the city of Rockford and of the Rock River valley in general to reveal that the day of the young man in business has arrived here as elsewhere throughout the country. This seems to be particularly true of the situation in the city of Rockford, where of late young men have been pushing to the front in a business way in a manner to suggest that the now passing generation will have to look well to the preservation of such commercial and industrial laurels as have been won in the past. One of these energetic and enterprising young men thus brought to mind is Leo F. Plum, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record and the president and treasurer of the Plum Coal Company, dealers in coal and manufacturers and distributors of ice in the city of Rockford, who has established a business in that city that gives fine promise of large development.

Though not a native of Rockford, Leo F. Plum has been a resident of that city since the days of his early childhood and was thus reared and had his schooling there. He was born in the village of Brodhead, up over the line in Green county, Wisconsin, April 18, 1896, and was but two years of age when in 1898 his parents, Frank and Julia Plum, moved with their family to the city of Rockford, where they established their home. Leo F. Plum finished the Rockford high school and then in 1914, when eighteen years of age, became connected with the operations of the George D. Roper Corporation, manufacturers of gas stoves and the like, in Rockford, starting in at the bottom in the foundry department of that plant, with a view to learning all the details of the production end of the business. He continued thus until the time when this country took a hand in the World war and then, on June 23, 1918, enlisted his services in behalf of this nation's arms and was assigned to service with Company M of the 310th Regiment of the Seventy-eighth Division of the army and was made corporal of his squad in that company. With this command he went overseas in the next month (July, 1918) and within a month was in active service on the battle front, serving thus until the signing of the armistice on the following November 11th, and during this period of active service participating in the decisive battles of the Meuse-Argonne campaign and at St. Mihiel.

Mr. Plum received his final discharge from the army on July 10, 1919, having meanwhile risen to the grade of sergeant, and upon the completion of his military service he returned to Rockford and resumed his former position with the Roper corporation, presently being made one of the foremen of that



concern. In 1922 he transferred his services to the foundry plant of the Fairbanks-Morse Company in Beloit, going there as production manager of that plant and was thus engaged until 1924, when he returned to Rockford and went into the coal and ice business, organizing the Plum Coal Company, of which he is the president and treasurer. The Plum Coal Company has a well equipped and amply stocked yards and plant at No. 181 Morgan street and is doing well. The ice manufacturing plant installed by Mr. Plum is of the latest and best approved type and the business is being carried on in a fashion which seems to insure its continued growth and development.

On August 29, 1918, Mr. Plum was united in marriage to Miss Agnes R. Wynn, daughter of Edward Wynn of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Plum have two children, sons both: Gregory Plum, born July 16, 1921; and William Plum, born January 16, 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Plum are republicans and take a proper part in the general civic affairs of the city, interested in all movements having to do with the betterment of local conditions. Mr. Plum is an active member of Walter R. Craig Post of the American Legion and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### JAMES ROBERT THOMPSON.

James Robert Thompson, proprietor and principal of Brown's Business College at Beloit, an educator of many years of experience and widely known in his profession, is a native son of the old Blue Grass state, a fact of which he never has ceased to be proud, but is a resident of Wisconsin and of the Rock River valley by choice, and during the comparatively brief period of his residence here he has done a good work and has become recognized as one of the leaders in general educational circles throughout the valley. Mr. Thompson was born on a farm in Hart county, Kentucky, January 4, 1877, a son of Samuel Washington and Fanny (McInteer) Thompson, and was there reared. He finished his high school work in the city of Bowling Green, that state, and then entered Valparaiso (Indiana) University, from which institution he was graduated in 1900. After a year of post-graduate work in Harvard University he entered upon his life's work as a teacher and was engaged in teaching in the public and normal schools of Kentucky until in 1914, when he was elected president of the Alabama Presbyterian College for Young Ladies at Talladega, Alabama, a position he occupied for three years, at the end of which time, in 1917, he resigned that position and established Harriman College at Harriman, Tennessee, of which institution he was elected president. For four years Mr. Thompson was thus engaged in conducting the affairs of that institution and then, in 1921, he disposed of his interests there and went to Denver, Colorado, where he bought a half interest in the Modern School of Business. In 1923 he sold that interest and bought from W. T. Brightup the Brown's Business College at Beloit, of which institution he since has been proprietor and principal. This institution, founded in 1900, is one of the best established of the great Brown chain of business colleges, of which there are no fewer than thirty in the United

States, and the curriculum carried out under Mr. Thompson's direction covers all the essential details of a thorough schooling in general commercial forms. Under Mr. Thompson's direction the attendance at this college has been greatly increased and it is generally recognized in informed circles that a good work is being carried on there. The college is admirably located at 221½ East Grand avenue and is amply and adequately equipped for the courses outlined in its prospectus.

On June 3, 1905, at Edmonton, Kentucky, Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Beauchamp, daughter of John A. Beauchamp, and they have a pleasant home at 131 West Roosevelt avenue.

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### JOHN C. GRUEL.

Among the able, efficient and popular officials of Jefferson county, Wisconsin, stands Sheriff John C. Gruel, to whom belongs the distinction of having been elected to his present office by a larger plurality than was ever received by any candidate for that office in this county. He is a native of Watertown, Wisconsin, where he was born on the 31st of March, 1872, the son of August and Dorothy (Allwardt) Gruel. His father was well known and prominent for many years and his death occurred February 5, 1925, at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the public and high schools of Watertown and then went to work on a farm near Watertown owned by Samuel Ramsey, with whom he remained for three years. In 1891 his father bought that farm and operated it for many years. After remaining with his father until 1896, Mr. Gruel engaged in the hotel business in Clyman, Wisconsin, where he also conducted a general store and a livery stable in partnership with Louis Kronitz, to whom he sold his interests in 1900. He then bought a well known tavern, the Deutcher-Dorf, in Watertown, which he operated for a number of years. In 1912 Mr. Gruel went to Canada, where he operated a farm of four hundred and eighty acres until 1916, when he returned to Watertown and again took over the tavern. In November, 1924, he was elected sheriff of Jefferson county, assuming the duties of his office on the 1st of the following January. His discharge of the responsible duties devolving upon him has been characterized by promptness and careful attention to every detail, so that he has justly merited the commendation which has been paid him by his fellow citizens. He is an able and fearless official, who is determined to carry out to the letter the legal requirements of his office and thereby confirm the good judgment of the voters in electing him. Politically Mr. Gruel has always supported the republican party, but this is the first public office to which he has ever aspired. Fraternally he is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Knights of Pythias and the Platt Deutscher Verein, of Watertown.

On July 27, 1899, Mr. Gruel was married to Miss Nellie Mahoney, the daughter of Thomas Mahoney, of Clyman, Wisconsin. Personally he is a man

of genial and friendly disposition, generous impulses, and accommodating, and because of his fine record and genuine worth he is held in the highest regard throughout the community.

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#### FRANK CLARENCE FRANZEN.

Frank Clarence Franzen, a veteran of the World war with an officer's commission and an overseas record, secretary and general manager of the Mechanics Tool Company of Rockford and one of the best known young men and most competent mechanical engineers and industrial administrators in that city, is a native son of Rockford and the greater part of his life has been spent there, the exception being that period covered by his service in the army and by industrial service for a time in some of the great machine shops in Chicago and Detroit. Mr. Franzen was born March 29, 1890, and is a son of Oscar and Selma (Bowman) Franzen, natives of Sweden, who had established their home in Rockford following their marriage. Oscar Franzen was killed in a railway accident in 1895, his son Frank then being but five years of age, and the latter thus was early deprived of a father's aid and comfort, being required when a mere lad to rely largely upon his own endeavors in the way of making a livelihood. It thus may properly be said, within the proper meaning of that oft abused term, that Mr. Franzen is a self-made and a self-educated man, for in his youth he lacked many of those adventitious aids that commonly ease over most of the rough places in the pathway of the American youth.

Reared at Rockford, Frank C. Franzen attended the public schools of the city for a limited time, for he early had to go to work. He was a good student, however, and in later reading and study he found himself able to acquire a degree of self schooling that kept him abreast of his needs along that line and in due time he was able to take a university course. He was fourteen years of age when he entered upon an apprenticeship to the machinist's trade in the plant of the Mechanics Machine Company at Rockford. Upon completing this apprenticeship he started out as a journeyman machinist and was thus for a while employed in such of the larger machine shops at Rockford as those of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company and the Free Sewing Machine Company and in 1911, the year in which he attained his majority, was made foreman of the hardening department of the plant of the National Sewing Machine Company at Belvidere, Illinois, and was thus engaged for one year, at the end of which time he returned to Rockford and was employed at the Barber-Coleman Company plant. After a period of employment there he went to Chicago, where he widened his experience by working in some of the great machine shops of that city and then went to Detroit to enlarge his experience in the processes of automobile manufacturing, his services there having been rendered in the plants of the Ford Motor Company, the Dodge Brothers and the Packard Motor Car Company.

Mr. Franzen was employed in a responsible capacity in the plant of the



FRANK C. FRANZEN



Ford Motor Company at Detroit when this country entered the World war in the spring of 1917. He joined the Signal Corps and was assigned for service in the military motors section of the war operations of the Packard Motor Car Company, in this technical capacity helping to build the first "Liberty" motors turned out for the uses of the army's airplane service. On November 23, 1917, upon the completion of the first ten of these celebrated motors he was ordered to report to Washington for service and after a period of intensive training there he was commissioned a second lieutenant of the air service. In December of that year he was sent overseas on a special detail, this service having had to do with the erection of a plant at Tours, France, for machine guns and airplane guns. Upon completing that detail Lieutenant Franzen was assigned to the installation and equipment of base engine shops at Romorantin, France, where he had charge of a force of eight hundred men and where he constructed a base known as Construction Center No. 2, the same being designed for the overhauling of airplane motors both of the French type and the American "Liberty" motors. On October 15, 1918, while thus engaged, he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and it was with this rank that he received his final discharge, February 13, 1919, the war then being over. On the day on which he received his final promotion Lieutenant Franzen, while returning from Paris to his post in a courier car (a Cadillac), met with an accident, a wayside collision, that left him with a broken shoulder and elbow, a disability that confined him to the hospital for six weeks. This unfortunate accident resulted in a permanent disability that when, long after the war was over, in January, 1925, the young ex-officer applied for appointment to the Air Service Officers Reserve Corps, caused the declination of this tender of service, the adjutant general of the Sixth Corps Area informing Mr. Franzen that "it is regretted that your physical disability precludes your appointment."

In connection with Mr. Franzen's important technical service overseas it is interesting to recall that the colonel in charge of the work wrote concerning the young officer that "he is an important unit of the production and maintenance division. During all his service under me he has shown a spirit of cooperation and enthusiastic energy that has been transmitted to all the men under him. These characteristics, together with his mechanical ability, have made his services of great value to the air corps." It is not too much to say that Mr. Franzen came to be recognized as an expert in military motors construction. Under the title of "The History of the Liberty Motor" he has written a detailed narrative of the development of that amazing engine, this story of his proving an exceedingly interesting and valuable contribution to the literature relating to the uses of internal combustion engines in war service. In this narrative Mr. Franzen concludes that "according to experts this motor (the Liberty) was superior to all other engines because of its interchangeability of parts and the ease with which it could be overhauled," and that "engineers say it will be a long time before any engine will compare with the Liberty in weight and horsepower." Mr. Franzen very properly may be regarded as a technical authority on the construction of this motor, for he was with it from the start. When war was declared he was connected with

that department of the Ford Motor Company that made the dies for the cylinders. On the following August 1 he was transferred to the Packard plant where the first ten Liberty motors were made. On the following December 29 (1917) he was sent to France and on the following May 15 (1918) helped to assemble the first De Haviland plane assembled in France and had charge of the base engine shops where all Liberty motors were overhauled during the war.

In the fall of 1919 Mr. Franzen entered the mechanical engineering department of the University of Illinois and there applied himself to special study, not only in mechanical engineering but in industrial administration, until in June, 1923, when he returned to Rockford and in September of that year entered the plant of the Mechanics Tool Company as superintendent and is now the secretary and general manager of that company, as has been set out above. Mr. Franzen is a member of the local post of the American Legion at Rockford and is first vice commander of the department of Illinois of the Disabled Veterans of the World War. He is a member of the Harlem Hills Country Club of Rockford and is a Scottish Rite (thirty-second degree) Mason and a Noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the blue lodge (Rockford No. 102) at Rockford, with the consistory (Scottish Rite) of the Valley of Detroit and with the temple (Moslem) of the Shrine at Detroit.

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#### L. FRED MULLER.

In the year 1923 Governor Small of Illinois appointed L. Fred Muller, president of the Union Dairy Company of Rockford, to represent the proud state of Illinois, with millions invested in the dairy industry, at the world's dairy congress held in Washington, D. C., in that year, an executive act of deserved recognition of the high place Mr. Muller occupies among the leaders of the great dairy industry in that state. But recognition of Mr. Muller's prominent position in the dairy world is no new thing. Nearly three years before, in 1922, he was elected chairman of the committee consisting of dairymen, farmers, health commissioners and physicians, to draft bills for the purpose of securing legislative enactment of laws for the proper and sanitary regulation of the dairy industry in the state of Illinois and in that capacity he rendered a public service of state-wide importance which ranked him as among the leaders in his line in the middle west. A prior chronicle, based on a review of industrial conditions in and about Rockford ten years ago, referred to Mr. Muller as "a man of sound judgment, wide experience and excellent business ability." He then was the secretary and general manager of the Union Dairy Company and had come to be recognized as among the leaders in his line. During the years since then Mr. Muller of course has gained proportionately in experience, his abilities thus being broadened, and his judgment in matters relating to the industry with which he is connected has been confirmed by his election to the executive position of president of the company with which he has so long been

connected, this position giving him general administrative direction of the company's affairs.

L. Fred Muller was born in the kingdom of Denmark, September 1, 1871, a son of L. Carl and Meta (Hertel) Muller, the latter of whom died in 1888, at the age of fifty-four years. L. Carl Muller, who for fifty-six years was a collector of customs in his native place, survived his wife for more than twenty years, his death occurring in 1911, he then being seventy-eight years of age. L. Fred Muller was reared in his native place, attended school there and at the age of fourteen became apprenticed to the carpenter trade, in due time becoming a skilled and competent craftsman. In 1892, the year in which he attained his majority, he came to the United States and was employed as a craftsman in the labors of erecting the great buildings for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago until that amazing task was completed, after which, in 1894, he went to West Virginia and was for a time employed as a carpenter in that state. He did not long remain there but in that same year returned to Chicago and took employment with Borden Milk Company's establishment, where he became thoroughly familiar with the process of insuring milk production and distribution under proper sanitary conditions. For four or five years Mr. Muller continued with the Bordens in Chicago and then he engaged in the distribution of condensed milk in Rockford, opening his retail and wholesale establishment in that city on October 22, 1899. In the following year he succeeded in interesting a group of public-spirited men in Rockford in the establishment of a sanitary milk distributing agency there and on May 1, 1900, the operations of the Union Dairy Company of Rockford began, with local headquarters at No. 808 South Fifth street, and with Mr. Muller as secretary of the company and manager of its affairs. In 1904 this company erected its present establishment at Nos. 216-218 South Church street and has since been carrying on its operations there, one of the most modern and efficient sanitary milk depots in the middle west. In 1920 Mr. Muller was elected president of the Union Dairy Company and has since been serving in that executive capacity, it being generally conceded by those who have an understanding of local conditions that the growth and general development of this business have been largely due to his thorough knowledge of the business and his conscientious attention to the details of administration.

On December 7, 1898, not long before he took up his residence in Rockford, L. Fred Muller was united in marriage to Miss Margaret L. Tanner, daughter of J. W. and Harriet (Corbett) Tanner of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Muller have two children: A daughter, Meta Harriet, born July 28, 1899; and a son, Joseph Muller, born September 18, 1901, both of whom still are living in Rockford. Miss Meta Muller became the wife of H. E. Powell of Rockford and has two children, Frederick Hugh Powell, born July 21, 1922, and John Muller Powell, born October 31, 1923; Joseph P. Muller married Grace Bernice Kellner, daughter of Emil Kellner, one of Rockford's well known citizens, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Muller have a son, Lorenz Kellner Muller, born March 1, 1925. Mr. and Mrs. L. Fred Muller are members of the English Lutheran church of Rockford and have for years been active in the good works of that congregation and in



general community good works. L. Fred Muller is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, is also affiliated with the fraternal orders of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and is a member of the local society of the Danish Brotherhood and of the Rockford Rotary Club.

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#### WILLIAM H. QUINN.

There is no satisfaction in life which can quite equal that of the man who has finished a successful career and after years of unremitting industry settles down to enjoy the fruit of his labors, knowing that he has accomplished something worth while. Among the retired business men of Beloit, Wisconsin, who are now enjoying the contentment that comes from results achieved and tasks well done, there is none more highly esteemed than William H. Quinn, who has erected many monuments to his skill as a building contractor and is now devoting his attention exclusively to civic affairs, demonstrating his public spirit by actual achievements.

Mr. Quinn was born May 17, 1853, in Ogdensburg, New York. His parents, Patrick and Catharine Quinn, were natives of Ireland. They immigrated to the United States in the early '50s and lived for a time in the Empire state, becoming residents of Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1858. William H. Quinn was a boy of five when the family settled in this city and his education was acquired in its public schools. He served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, which he followed as a journeyman until 1872, when he began contracting on a small scale. For forty years he engaged in that business with ever increasing success and at the time of his retirement in 1912 was the largest building contractor in Beloit. His buildings were substantially constructed and attractive in design, representing the best in workmanship and material consistent with the prices charged. He closely followed the Golden Rule in his commercial transactions, adhering to the spirit as well as the letter of a contract, and on all sides are found examples of his handiwork, which has constituted a most important feature in the improvement and attractiveness of the city.

Mr. Quinn was married to Miss Margaret Goldsborough, who died July 30, 1925. She was a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Goldsborough, prominent residents of Janesville, Wisconsin. The children of this union are Mary E.; and Margaret, who is now the wife of G. E. Knight, of Beloit.

Mr. Quinn gives his political support to the republican party and is a faithful communicant of St. Thomas Roman Catholic church. He is connected with the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is always found at the head of every project for municipal advancement and for eight years has been alderman of the first ward. He is serving as president of the city council and is also a member of the board of public works and chairman of the public property committee. Mr. Quinn has made his life count as a forceful factor in advancing the interests of his city along many lines, and the respect accorded him is well deserved. For

sixty-seven years he has been an interested witness of Beloit's growth and development, bearing his full share of the work, and his conversation spans the past in interesting reminiscences.

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### FRED C. HOLSTEIN.

Fred C. Holstein, of the old established Royce-Holstein Lumber Company, a corporation engaged in the general lumber, building material, coal and feed business at Fort Atkinson; a former member of the common council of that city and for years one of the energetic and progressive personal factors in the development of the city's general interests, is a native of the old Empire state but has been a resident of Wisconsin since the days of his childhood and of Fort Atkinson since the days of his young manhood, thus being thoroughly familiar with conditions throughout that section of the beautiful and fruitful valley of the Rock river. He was born in the city of New York, December 9, 1869, and is a son of Theodore and Wilhelmina (Telow) Holstein, natives of Germany, who in that same year had come to this country and located in New York city. After residing for a time in that city, Theodore Holstein came to Wisconsin with his family and settled on a farm in Walworth county, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, substantial citizens of that county.

Reared on the home farm in Walworth county, Fred C. Holstein finished his studies in the local schools and remained on the farm until he had attained his majority when, in 1890, he came to Fort Atkinson and became employed in the operations of the Northwestern Manufacturing Corporation, manufacturers of furniture at that place. Two years later he married and established his home there. For five years Mr. Holstein continued his labors as an operative in the furniture factory and then became employed in a local grocery store, a line he followed for five years. In 1900, he transferred his services to the office of the Wilcox-Morris Lumber Company, which in 1902, upon the entrance of Theodore B. Royce into the concern, became the Wilcox Lumber Company. On January 1, 1903, Mr. Holstein bought an interest in the company and has since had an administrative connection with the concern, which in April, 1912, was reorganized as the Royce-Holstein Lumber Company, a corporation, its present status. This well established concern is a continuation of the old Southwell Company founded in 1859 and is thus one of the oldest lumber and builders supplies plants in that section of the valley. The company also owns and operates a feed mill, the products of which are in wide demand throughout the trade area thus served. Mr. Holstein is a republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. He served four years (1916-20) as alderman from the second ward and was thus in the public service of the city at the time the new bridge was erected and several notable street improvements carried out.

On June 15, 1892, at Fort Atkinson, Mr. Holstein was united in marriage to Miss Frances Ralph, who was born in that city, daughter of C. O. and Milicent

(Jaycox) Ralph, both now deceased. They have two children: A daughter, Gladys, born September 13, 1896; and a son, LaVerne Holstein, born January 8, 1901, who is now living in Milwaukee. Miss Gladys Holstein married C. A. Johnson, now residing at Madison, Wisconsin, and has a little daughter, Frances Mary, born May 9, 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Holstein are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and have ever taken a helpful part in local good works. Mr. Holstein is a Knight Templar and Royal Arch Mason and is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

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#### LOUIS ADELBERT WILLIAMS.

Among the citizens of Rock county, Wisconsin, who during their lives not only were numbered among the successful business men of their community but also earned a high reputation as enterprising and progressive citizens and by their earnest and upright lives exerted a tremendous influence for good, stood Louis Adelbert Williams, who is now sleeping in God's acre, but whose memory still remains as a benediction to those who knew him. Mr. Williams was born on the 10th of April, 1862, in Janesville, and was the son of Randall and Laura Ann (Mason) Williams, who are referred to at length in a later paragraph. He received a good, practical education in the public schools of his native city and on completing his studies turned his attention to his father's business, in which he rendered effectual assistance up to the time of his father's death, in 1889, with the exception of a period of two years, during which time he devoted his attention to learning cheese making. After his father's death he took over the management of the varied business interests, in the handling of which he exhibited business ability and judgment of a high order, and up to the time of his own death he was looked upon as one of the representative men of the community. He was progressive, energetic and sagacious, farseeing in his view of business conditions and resourceful in directing his affairs. Personally he was a man of upright character, broad in his views but strong in his convictions, and he ever stood staunchly for those measures which promised to be of the greatest benefit to the community in which he lived. Tenacious of his own rights, he respected the rights of others, and in the best sense of the term he was always a gentleman in social intercourse as well as a model citizen in affairs affecting the public.

Politically Mr. Williams gave his support to the republican party and kept in close touch with the trend of public events. His religious connection was with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he was a generous supporter, as he was of all worthy benevolent and charitable organizations, also frequently giving material assistance to many less fortunate than he, though in all his giving he was entirely unostentatious, disliking publicity in such things. Fraternally he was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and also belonged to the Citizens Club. He was a genial and companionable man, and throughout the community he was ever held in the highest esteem.

On November 1, 1893, in Janesville, Mr. Williams was married to Miss



LOUIS A. WILLIAMS  
His brothers and sister



Nellie Elvina Gregg, who is a native of Iowa and who still survives him. She is a woman of charming personal qualities and is very popular in the circles in which she moves. She has long taken a deep interest in the various club and social activities of Janesville, being a member of the Federation of Women, of which she is secretary, the Order of the Eastern Star, the White Shrine, the Royal Neighbors of America, the Daughters of Rebekah, the Service Star Legion and the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. During the World war Mrs. Williams took an active interest in advancing the war work in this locality, and one of the most notable acts of her many deeds of kindness was her caring for eighteen boys during the war, besides much relief work, of which no record would be kept. Mr. Williams died on the 10th of May, 1915, and his passing was considered a distinct loss to the community which had so long been honored with his citizenship. He had set an example for integrity and right living which will ever be remembered and the beneficent effect of which affected the lives of those about him.

Randall Williams, whose death occurred in 1889, was a native of Chenango county, New York, where he was born March 13, 1812. He was the scion of old colonial and Revolutionary stock, and the ancestral line was traced back to Lancashire, England, where his paternal grandfather, McKane Williams, was born and reared. The latter was married to Miss Anne Cranson, a native of Holland, and in 1765, accompanied by his family, he came to America, locating in Rhode Island. When the War of the Revolution broke out he threw his influence in favor of the colonies and promptly enlisted, taking part in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. In the latter battle he was wounded and his son Henry, an uncle of Randall Williams, volunteered to take his place and served throughout the remainder of the struggle. In this battle Robert Williams, a brother of McKane Williams, was killed. After peace was declared, McKane Williams, accompanied by his son James, went to New York state, settling in Chenango county, and there he spent the remainder of his life, dying in the one hundredth year of his age.

James Williams, who accompanied his father to Chenango county, had been married in Rhode Island to Miss Betsy Haney, who was born in that state, though of English descent and belonging to a seafaring family. Their children were Cranson, who came to Jackson county, Michigan; and Randall, father of the subject of this memoir. In 1813 the family moved from Chenango county to Cortland county, where the death of James Williams occurred. His wife survived a number of years and died at the home of her daughter in Wayne county, Pennsylvania. At the age of fifteen years Randall Williams left home and went to Ulster county, New York, where he went to work for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, being employed in the repair gang, and remained there two years. At the end of that time, in the employ of the same company, he went to Pennsylvania, working on that section of the canal. He continued in the employ of that company for thirty years, all of which time he was in the repair department, and was a faithful and appreciated employe. In 1855, desiring to find a suitable location for a permanent home where he might properly raise his family of children, he paid a visit to Rock county, Wisconsin, but returned east without having made

a decision. However, two years later, accompanied by his family, he again came here and, leaving his family here he went to Kansas. Returning a few weeks later, and leaving two of his children in school at Milton, he took his wife and the three other children back to Pennsylvania. His wife died on the 13th of the following November, leaving five children, ranging in age from three to eighteen years. She was a native of Pike county, Pennsylvania, and had borne the maiden name of Mary Ann Kimball. In March, 1858, Mr. Williams returned to Janesville and here made his permanent home. His first business here was a bakery, which he later sold and then bought a planing mill, which he operated for several years. He then engaged in the wood business in partnership with Milo Curtis and eventually established a grocery store, in which he met with splendid success and continued for a number of years. He was also interested in the operation of a flouring mill at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin. As he prospered he wisely invested in farm lands, which rose in value through the years and to which he devoted a great deal of his time. Mr. Williams erected a great many buildings in Janesville, thus contributing directly to the advancement and upbuilding of the city, and also acquired several valuable business properties. He took an active part in fostering every movement calculated to advance the city along all legitimate lines and was for many years considered one of the most enterprising and progressive citizens of the community. He was a staunch republican in his political views and was long an active member and supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In November, 1860, in Janesville, Mr. Williams was married to Mrs. Dudley, nee Laura Ann Mason, and to them were born two children, Louis A. and Jessie J. Of the children born to his first marriage, four reached maturity: Franklin, Anna Maria, Alonzo and Mary.

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#### ERIC J. GUSTAFSON.

Eric J. Gustafson, proprietor of a well equipped machine shop and general garage in Rockford and one of the leaders in the line of automotive repair work in that city, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his childhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, May 12, 1883, and was but four years of age when in 1887 his parents, Claus John Levin and Clara Gustafson, came to the United States with their family and established their home in Rockford.

Reared in Rockford, Eric J. Gustafson acquired his initial education in the public schools of that city and supplemented this by a course in Brown's Business College and a course of two years of close application to the study of mechanical drawing and machine designing in a night school there, his purpose being to equip himself for the profession of a mechanical engineer. His progress along this line was so pronounced that when seventeen years of age, in 1900, he was given charge of the tool and experimental department of the plant of the Barber-Colman Company's plant in Rockford,

a position he occupied for about six years, or until 1906, when he transferred his services to the plant of the National Lock Company and was made foreman of tool and die making department of that concern. In 1909 Mr. Gustafson began operations on his own account, opening a small machine shop with a view to giving special attention to the repair of automobiles and automotive machinery. His success was assured from the beginning and the demand upon the resources of this shop has grown until now he finds it necessary to employ the services of ten or more skilled machinists in carrying on the operations of the plant. Mr. Gustafson has a well equipped machine shop and garage at Nos. 413-417 South Winnebago street and in addition to his general repair work does a considerable jobbing business in general automobile supplies and accessories. He handles no fewer than thirty of the leading lines of automobile replacement parts and his place has come to be regarded as one of the largest establishments of that sort in and about Rockford.

On December 23, 1915, in Rockford, Mr. Gustafson was united in marriage to Miss Hilda Victoria Gustafson, a daughter of Levin Gustafson, a native of the kingdom of Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson have two children: A son, Roy Eric Gustafson, born June 22, 1917; and a daughter, Miriam Victoria Gustafson, born January 4, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Gustafson are republicans.

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#### THOMAS ARTHUR JOHNSON, M. D.

Dr. Thomas Arthur Johnson, surgeon in chief and chief of staff of the Swedish-American Hospital at Rockford, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and one of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city of Rockford, is a native of Illinois and has been a resident of that state all his life. He was born in the township of Malta about nine miles southwest of the city of De Kalb, county seat of De Kalb county, Illinois, November 7, 1885, a son of Andrew J. and Mathilda (Peterson) Johnson, who resided in Malta for many years. Both are now deceased.

Reared in Malta, T. Arthur Johnson attended the public school and the De Kalb high school and then entered the University of Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1909, with the degree of Bachelor of Science and in which he was honored by election to the honorary scholastic fraternity Phi Beta Kappa for special attainments in college work, his studies along this line having been carried on with special reference to preparation for entering the medical profession. Upon leaving the university he entered Rush Medical College at Chicago and in 1911 was graduated from that institution, which conferred upon him its M. D. degree. He also there was honored by election to Alpha Omega Alpha. After his graduation he passed the civil service examination for internship in the Cook County Hospital at Chicago and in that institution he remained eighteen months, acquiring there a large measure of intensive practical experience, particularly in surgery, to which field of medical science he had specially devoted himself.

Upon leaving the hospital (in 1912) Dr. Johnson opened an office for prac-



tice in De Kalb and was there in practice until 1917, in which year he moved to Rockford and in this latter city has since been practicing, with present offices in the Swedish-American Bank building. In 1916, the year prior to taking up his residence in Rockford, Dr. Johnson passed the first examination of the national board of medical examiners, held in Washington and was one of the first five physicians thus successfully to pass that examination. In 1920 he was made a fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the meeting of that body held that year in Montreal, Canada. The Doctor also is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, of the Illinois State Medical Society, of the Tri-State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, and in the affairs of these learned bodies takes an active interest. In 1917, the year of his arrival in Rockford, he was appointed chief surgeon and chief of staff of the Swedish-American Hospital at Rockford and has since been serving in that responsible capacity, a surgeon whose skill has attracted wide attention. In 1918, the year following the establishment of his practice in Rockford, Dr. Johnson established in that city the "Johnson Clinic," given over almost wholly to surgical cases and which has proved of great value in the community, particularly in the case of industrial accidents, the demand for the services of this clinic now requiring the presence of two assistants to Dr. Johnson—Dr. A. M. Swanson and Dr. W. H. Elmer.

On June 6, 1923, in Rockford, Illinois, Dr. T. Arthur Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle E. Swanson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Swanson of De Kalb. Mrs. Johnson was graduated from Northwestern University in 1921 and she and the Doctor take an interested and helpful part in the general cultural activities of the city in which they have elected to make their home. Dr. Johnson is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He also is affiliated with the college fraternity (medical) Phi Beta Phi.

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#### LESLIE C. FISKE.

In his business career Leslie C. Fiske has demonstrated what it is possible to accomplish through industry and perseverance when directed by intelligence and sound judgment, for he has made his own way in the world and is now numbered among the largest dealers in electrical supplies in Beloit, Wisconsin, in which city he has made his home for twenty-three years. He was born September 24, 1882, in Waverly, Iowa, a son of Henry C. and Elizabeth (Ray) Fiske, the former of whom was engaged in railroad work in various sections of the country.

The public schools of Waverly, Iowa, and Platteville, Wisconsin, afforded Leslie C. Fiske his educational advantages, and after completing his studies he became a clerk in a hardware store at the latter place. In 1902 he came to Beloit and for a year was employed by Fairbanks, Morse & Company, working in the chemical department and also studying that science. He next became connected with the Beloit Electric Company and when the business was reorganized as the Beloit Gas & Electric Company he was employed as an electrician by the

new corporation, with which he remained until 1909, becoming an expert at his trade. He then started out for himself as an electrical contractor, purchasing the business of L. F. Kaufmann, and was successful in the venture. In 1913 he decided to expand the scope of his activities by the addition of automobile batteries and gradually enlarged both branches of the business. It is now known as the L. C. Fiske Electric Company, in which his brother, Charles Willard Fiske, is a partner, having charge of the electrical department. Their store carries lamps, vacuum cleaners, radio sets and practically everything in the line of electrical supplies. They have two establishments and in the second operate an automotive electric service. The business has prospered as a result of the combined efforts of its owners, who are thoroughly familiar with the lines in which they specialize, and the firm is one of the most enterprising and reliable in the city.

On the 10th of May, 1909, Leslie C. Fiske was married to Miss Bertha Merritt, a daughter of James Merritt, of Brodhead, Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of one child, Merritt, who was born February 12, 1921. Mr. Fiske is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a republican in his political views and lends the weight of his influence to those projects which are basic elements in his city's growth. The exercise of effort has developed his latent powers and a large circle of loyal friends is indicative of his personal popularity.

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#### JAY C. BREWER, M. D.

The man who devotes his talents and energies to the noble work of administering to the ills and alleviating the sufferings of humanity pursues a calling which in dignity, importance and beneficial results is second to no other. Among the successful, able and popular physicians of Jefferson county stands Dr. Jay C. Brewer, of Jefferson. Dr. Brewer was born in Jefferson on the 12th of April, 1889, and is the son of Dr. Jay B. Brewer and a grandson of Sylvester and Sarah Brewer, who were natives of Vermont and became early settlers in Jefferson county. Jay B. Brewer attended the public and high schools in Jefferson and then studied medicine under the preceptorship of his brother, Dr. Daniel Brewer, at Fairburg, Illinois, for one year. He then matriculated in Bennett Medical College, in Chicago, where he was graduated in 1892 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He at once came to Jefferson and entered upon the active practice of his profession, in which he has remained one of the most successful and prominent members during the subsequent years. He is a member of the Jefferson County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons, in which he belongs to all the branches, and with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America. Politically he is independent, voting as his judgment dictates. He stands deservedly high in the community and served as mayor of the city of Jefferson from 1912 to 1924.

Jay C. Brewer attended the public and high schools of Jefferson and was

then a student in Milwaukee Academy, where he was graduated in 1907. Like his father, he matriculated in Bennett Medical College (now Loyola University), where he was granted his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1911. For three years he had served as interne in the Jefferson Park Hospital, Chicago, where he was constantly in close touch with Dr. John Dill Robertson, the well known health commissioner of Chicago and who was a friend of the Brewer family. In 1911 Dr. Brewer came back to Jefferson and has since been actively engaged in the practice of his profession here. He has by his ability, skill and courteous manners gained a large clientele here and as a physician he is held in high regard by his professional colleagues. In 1914 Dr. Brewer took postgraduate work in the Illinois Post-Graduate Medical School, at Chicago, and in 1915-16 he took special work at the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. On June 13, 1917, Dr. Brewer offered his services in the World war and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Corps, being stationed at Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. He was sent overseas and was for fourteen months with the medical detachment of the One Hundred and Twentieth Field Artillery. He was discharged in March, 1919. He is now a captain in the United States Medical Reserve Corps and also a captain in the Wisconsin National Guards.

Politically the Doctor has never aligned himself permanently with any party, reserving the right to vote according to his judgment as to the fitness of candidates for the offices they seek. He is a member of the Masonic order, in which he has taken the degrees of all its branches. He served as health officer of Jefferson from 1912 to 1914. On May 29, 1924, he was married to Miss Beulah Clarke, the daughter of Samuel Clarke, of Edgerton, Wisconsin. Personally he is affable and popular with all classes and stands ready at all times to encourage and aid any laudable enterprises and measures for the general good. By a life consistent in motive and action and because of his many fine qualities of head and heart, he has earned the sincere regard of a vast acquaintance, among whom are many warm and loyal friends.

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#### ARTHUR W. WHEELOCK.

Arthur W. Wheelock, president of the Forest City Wholesale Grocery Company of Rockford and formerly and for years engaged in the crockery trade in that city, one of Rockford's veteran and influential merchants and for nearly forty years prominently identified with the general commercial and industrial interests of the city, founder of the Norse Pottery Company and connected with other substantial interests in and about Rockford, was born at Janesville, Wisconsin, March 5, 1866, a son of Wadsworth G. and Martha (Trott) Wheelock, who were for many years highly regarded citizens of that city.

Wadsworth G. Wheelock, a pioneer merchant of Janesville, died nearly thirty years ago, but his memory still is kept green in that community, for in his generation he was one of the leaders in the general commercial life of that city.



ARTHUR W. WHEELOCK



He was a native of Vermont and had been given a commercial training in his home state. In the middle '50s of the past century he came west and cast in his lot with that of the people of the then rapidly developing little city of Janesville, setting himself up there in the crockery trade. As time passed and the trade needs of this region expanded in accordance with the normal development of the trade area centering at Janesville, his business increased until he was at the head of several branch stores in various cities and was widely known in the crockery trade throughout the country. His sons were trained in this line and in their turn also became prominently identified with the same form of mercantile enterprise, so that the name Wheelock became widely known in the crockery trade throughout the United States. At the time of his passing Mr. Wheelock was referred to in the Janesville newspapers as "one of the oldest and best known of Janesville merchants" and as a man who had "lived a quiet and unpretentious life." It also was observed that "he was well and favorably known in the community and was one of the leading lights of the Congregational church." Further comment was made on the fact that "he paid strict attention to his business, in which he was a leader in this city, and made a yearly trip to the eastern market with his sons to purchase goods for their four stores." W. G. Wheelock died at his home in Janesville on August 24, 1897, and was long survived by his widow, whose death occurred in 1921. This veteran merchant was also survived by four sons, the subject of this biographical narrative and his three brothers—the late Charles E. Wheelock of Peoria, who died in 1910, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; George H. Wheelock, born January 4, 1864, who succeeded his brother Charles at Peoria; and Frank W. Wheelock of Rockford, who was born on June 19, 1870, all of whom followed in their father's footsteps and became prominently identified with the crockery business.

Reared at Janesville, Arthur W. Wheelock finished his schooling in the high school there and in 1885, when nineteen years of age, was installed by his father in a branch crockery store in his home town. Three years later he married and in that same year (1888) became established in the crockery business at Rockford, opening there a retail store for the sale of general crockery and chinaware. In 1898 he opened a branch store at Des Moines, Iowa, and in 1906 a similar store at Milwaukee and became quite successful in his mercantile operations. In the meantime, in 1905, he had organized the Norse Pottery Company and had begun the manufacture of a special line of pottery for use in his own retail establishments and by the general trade. In the pottery he thus established at Rockford he employed Scandinavian workmen, bred under the hereditary influence of their craft and the stimulus of the Danish government's fostering encouragement, and the standards of production established in this pottery were based upon the announced design to present a reproduction of some of the famous pieces of pottery found in the government museum at Copenhagen, the semblance to the originals being preserved by the skilled craftsmen employed for this purpose, a design in handicraftsmanship which had much to do with the great popularity attained by the products of this pottery company. On July 1, 1917, Mr. Wheelock closed out his interests in the crockery line and bought a controlling interest in the Forest City Wholesale Grocery Company,

was elected president of that company and has since then been devoting his attention to the expansion of the affairs of that flourishing mercantile concern.

It was on November 4, 1888, that Arthur W. Wheelock was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Wood, daughter of Frank Wood of Janesville, Wisconsin, and their residence since then has been at Rockford, where they are very pleasantly and comfortably situated. Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock have a daughter, Marguerite Elizabeth, who married Carson Porter of Rockford and has two sons, Robert Arthur and John R. Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock are republicans and are members of the Rockford Country Club. Mr. Wheelock is a past president (1923) of the Mid-day Club, is also a member of the Rotary Club and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### EVANS A. ANDERSON.

For many years Evans A. Anderson, cashier and a director of the Security National Bank of Rockford and former city treasurer, has been actively identified with the civic and commercial progress of the city of Rockford and has a wide acquaintance throughout this beautiful valley. He is a native of Rockford and has lived in that city all his life, continuously connected with banking operations since the days of his boyhood, and thus has a thorough acquaintance with the commercial and civic needs of the city of his birth. He was born November 7, 1891, a son of John A. and Jennie Charlotte Anderson of Rockford, and was reared in that city, supplementing the education acquired in the public schools by a course in Brown's Business College.

In the year 1909, then being but seventeen years of age, Evans A. Anderson began his banking career as a messenger in the Rockford National Bank. His apparently natural proficiency in business forms and his accuracy and precision in performing the duties thus laid upon his youthful shoulders, attracted the attention of his superiors and by gradual promotion he was advanced in the service of the bank until in 1915 he was elected assistant cashier of that institution, a post of trust and responsibility he was holding when in 1920 he transferred his services to an organization then being effected for the purpose of establishing a new bank on the east side of the river, his expert services proving of value in this organization, and when the directors of the newly established Security National Bank effected their organization in the early spring of 1920 he was elected cashier of that institution, a position he since has occupied.

The Security National Bank of Rockford opened its doors for business on May 30, 1920, with a competently organized staff and an effective equipment, and from the beginning its success was assured. The organizers of this bank were Gustave E. Blomquist, J. August Carlstrom, G. M. Olson, George Dobler and Oscar Hultberg and the initial officary of the bank, an officary which still is maintained, was as follows: President, Truman Johnson, former county clerk, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work; vice president, Gustave E. Blomquist; cashier, Evans A. Anderson; and assistant cashier, Arthur E. Anderson. This bank was chartered with a paid-up capital

of two hundred thousand dollars and a surplus of fifty thousand dollars. That the new bank was welcomed on the east side is evidenced by the fact that it now has deposits of right around two and one-half million dollars and has acquired resources in excess of three million dollars. The building in which the bank began its operations soon was found to be inadequate to the rapidly expanding business of the institution, and in 1924 ground was broken for the erection of a new and modern bank building at the corner of Seventh street and Fourteenth avenue, a fine, up-to-date, five-story building, with banking quarters carrying the last word in effective equipment. On January 1, 1925, these new quarters were occupied by the bank, the occasion being made one of general congratulation and felicitation on the part of the local commercial circles generally. As cashier of the bank Mr. Anderson has given its affairs his close and experienced attention and has come to be recognized as one of the leading young bankers of the valley.

On November 20, 1917, Evans A. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Alice A. Hassell, daughter of Ellis J. Hassell of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a pleasant home at Oaklawn and Paris, Rockford, and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the city's general social activities. Mr. Anderson is a Mason and is also affiliated with the fraternal orders of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Beginning in 1917, during the time of his connection with the Rockford National Bank, Mr. Anderson served a term as treasurer of the city of Rockford and upon the urgent demands of many of his friends in the campaign of 1925 he permitted the announcement of his name as a candidate for reelection to that office, as the nominee of the republican party. In the April election following he was elected by a handsome majority and is thus now serving his second term in that important office.

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#### CHARLES H. KNAPP.

Charles H. Knapp, head of the real estate firm of Knapp, Barnes & Company of Rockford; president of the Rockford Savings and Loan Association; a member of the directorate of the Rockford National Bank; and in other ways actively and prominently identified with the general commercial interests of that city—one of the leading men of affairs there—is a native of Winnebago county and has lived in that county all his life, a resident of Rockford since the days of his boyhood. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Rockford, Winnebago county, November 18, 1869, a son of William and Martha Knapp, both members of old families in that county, who later became residents of Rockford.

The late William Knapp was for years a farmer in the Burritt township neighborhood and a substantial citizen. In 1885 he closed out his personal interests on the farm and with his family moved to Rockford, where some years later, in association with his son, he became engaged in the realty business



and was thus occupied there the remainder of his life, his death occurring on March 8, 1916.

Charles H. Knapp was sixteen years of age when in 1885 he moved with his parents from the farm to Rockford and his schooling was completed in the business college in that city and at Beloit Academy. His first commercial experience was gained as a boy when he went to work in a Rockford hardware store at a wage of two dollars a week. From that employment he went into the office of D. H. Ferguson & Company, realtors, and it was there that he became thoroughly acquainted with the details of the real estate business as applied to the Rockford area. With the experience thus gained in 1893, he then being in his twenty-fourth year, Mr. Knapp went into the real estate and general insurance business in Rockford on his own account, in association with his father, opening an office in that city and carrying on the business under the firm name of William & C. H. Knapp. This venture proved successful and was carried on under that firm style until 1900, when William H. Barnes became a member of the firm, which since has conducted its affairs under the name of Knapp, Barnes & Company, one of the largest realty and general insurance agencies in Rockford, with present offices in the Trust building.

Mr. Knapp has long been recognized as one of the real community builders in and about Rockford, a man of enterprise and of public-spirited ambitions and has done much to promote the general commercial and civic interests of the community with whose needs he has been familiar from the days of his boyhood. In addition to the necessarily close attention he has to give to his realty and insurance business, he finds time to carry on in connection with other enterprises and as president of the Rockford Savings and Loan Association and a member of the board of directors of the Rockford National Bank is a figure of recognized importance in local financial circles. He is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and has long taken an active interest in the affairs of that popular fraternal organization.

On June 10, 1896, in Rockford, Charles H. Knapp was united in marriage to Miss Mabel R. Richardson of that city, a daughter of Oramel A. Richardson, who formerly and for years was one of the leading dealers in lumber in Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Knapp have three children: Roberta Forest, born May 14, 1897; Martha Elizabeth, born July 12, 1898; and Margaret Lees, born March 8, 1901.

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#### THEODORE DWIGHT WOOLSEY.

Theodore Dwight Woolsey, for nearly thirty years a member of the Beloit bar, is rated as one of the city's foremost attorneys and has also gained prominence by reason of his activity in municipal affairs. He was born January 18, 1874, in Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, a son of R. Dickson and Mary A. Woolsey, who migrated from New York state to Illinois and were among the early settlers of Ogle county. The father engaged in merchandising and was one of the substantial business men of Polo.

On the completion of a course in the Polo high school Theodore D. Woolsey entered the University of Illinois, which he attended for a year, and then became a law student at the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the class of 1895. He was admitted to the bar in the same year and in 1896 located at Beloit and here practiced alone until 1910. He then formed a partnership with Willard H. Arnold and the business was conducted under the style of Woolsey & Arnold until 1923, when they were joined by Joseph A. Johnston, at which time the present form of Woolsey, Arnold & Johnston was adopted. They act as counsel for a number of important corporations and theirs is the largest law firm in the city, to which their work is a credit, representing the highest degree of efficiency in the line in which they specialize, and since its organization the firm has figured in many large enterprises. Mr. Woolsey, the senior member, is a talented lawyer whose arguments are lucid, cogent and always to the point. Since 1906 he has been court commissioner of the circuit court of Rock county, and he is also a successful business man.

Mr. Woolsey was married February 4, 1893, to Miss Mary P. Bedford, a daughter of the Rev. R. C. Bedford, of Beloit, and they have become the parents of two sons: Theodore Dwight, Jr., who was born August 23, 1906, and is now a sophomore at Yale University; and Robert Bedford, born December 19, 1917.

Mr. Woolsey casts his ballot for the candidates of the republican party and is keenly interested in civic problems, to the solution of which he has devoted much time and thought. He drafted a bill creating a municipal court in Beloit and abolishing the old police and justice courts. The measure was passed by the state legislature in 1905 and has proven of much benefit to the city. He is a Knight Templar Mason and a member of Beloit Camp No. 348, of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is vice president of the Rock County Bar Association, a member of the judicial committee of the Wisconsin State Bar Association, and also belongs to the American Bar Association and the Commercial Law League of America. Mr. Woolsey is a keen analyst of men and conditions, well informed on all matters of public moment, and his professional standing is indicated by the offices which he fills.

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#### CLIFFORD LEROY OWEN.

By a life consistent in motive and action and because of his many commendable personal qualities, Clifford LeRoy Owen, of Footville, has earned the sincere regard of all who know him. He comes of ancestors who were numbered among the pioneers in this locality and each successive generation of the family has endeavored to carry its full share of the responsibilities of community life, supporting all measures and movements for the betterment of the public welfare. Mr. Owen was born January 3, 1889, in Chicago, Illinois, and is the son of Webster Jennings and Harriet Belle (Crall) Owen. His paternal grandfather, also named Webster Jennings Owen, was one of the first settlers in Footville and the subject's father established a lumber busi-

ness here some twenty-eight years ago. He was actively engaged in business affairs until 1918, when he retired, turning the management of the business over to his son, and is now living at Tomah, Wisconsin.

Clifford L. Owen attended the public and high schools in Footville and then took a course in a business college in Janesville, from which he was graduated. He then entered his father's business, which embraces lumber, coal and feed, and learned every detail of the business, so that when, in 1918, his father wished to lay aside the burdens and cares of active business he did so with perfect assurance, knowing that the business would be in safe and reliable hands. The W. J. Owen Lumber Company has long been one of the solid and prosperous commercial establishments of Footville and is still enjoying its full share of the public patronage. The subject has demonstrated his eminent business qualifications and has long been numbered among the progressive and enterprising citizens of his community.

Politically Mr. Owen is not bound by party ties, preferring to maintain an independent position, voting according to the dictates of his judgment. From 1922 to 1925 he was president of the village and in the latter year was elected a member of the county board of supervisors. Fraternaly he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He is also a member of the Footville Community Commercial Club, in the work of which he has taken an active part. He is public-spirited in his attitude toward public improvements, supporting every measure for the advancement of his town along all legitimate lines. On May 3, 1916, Mr. Owen was married to Miss Daisy Wells, the daughter of George Wells, of Footville, and they are the parents of a daughter, Betty Lorraine, born April 23, 1920.

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#### HAROLD B. ANDERSON, M. D.

Dr. Harold B. Anderson, a prominent and highly esteemed member of the medical fraternity of Beloit, Wisconsin, has continuously followed his profession for a period of forty-one years and in point of service is one of the oldest practicing physicians in Rock county. He was born May 29, 1863, in Janesville, Wisconsin, and his parents, Ole and Lena Anderson, were natives of Norway. They came to the United States in 1852 and the father was one of the pioneer agriculturists of Rock county, Wisconsin.

Dr. Anderson received his elementary education in the public schools of Janesville and afterward took a course in the University of Wisconsin. He studied medicine with Dr. Henry Palmer, a surgeon of Civil war fame, and in 1884, when twenty-one years of age, was graduated from the medical department of the University of Illinois. He first located at Orfordville, Wisconsin, near Janesville, where he maintained an office until 1910, and he has since engaged in general practice in Beloit. A close student of human nature, as well as the technicalities of his profession, he accurately applies his knowledge to the needs of his patients, and his services are in constant demand. Moreover, he possesses a kindly, sympathetic nature which is one of the physician's chief



DR. HAROLD B. ANDERSON



assets in the sickroom, and he has been very successful in his efforts to check the progress of disease.

On December 20, 1909, Dr. Anderson was married to Miss Lydia J. Kravick, a member of one of the old families of Dane county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of L. C. Kravick, who is now serving as chairman of the State Asylum Commission, with offices in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. Anderson is a republican in his political views, but has never held public office, subordinating all other interests to the demands of his profession. He is a member of the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit, the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. Dr. Anderson's life has been one of broad usefulness, devoted to the service of humanity, and his fine qualities of mind and heart have established him in the esteem of his fellowmen.

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#### BRUCE H. GARRETT.

Bruce H. Garrett, head of the law firm of Garrett, Maynard & Fell of Rockford and one of the veteran lawyers of that city, established in practice there for many years; a member of the Illinois state constitutional convention in 1920 and in other ways one of the leaders in local civic affairs; an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce and also prominently identified with local club and fraternal society affairs, is a member of one of the pioneer families of the Rock River valley. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the city of Rockford, November 1, 1865, a son of Benjamin F. and Esther A. (Hayes) Garrett, both of whom had come into the valley in settlement days with their respective parents. Benjamin F. Garrett was but three years of age when in 1838 his parents, Thomas and Mary Garrett, came here and settled on a farm in the Rockford neighborhood, Thomas Garrett becoming one of the substantial pioneers of that section. In his turn Benjamin F. Garrett became one of the substantial farmers of the Rockford neighborhood and here he spent his last days, his death occurring on April 3, 1900, he then being seventy-five years of age.

Reared on the home farm in the near vicinity of Rockford, Bruce H. Garrett attended the schools of that city and early took up the study of law, when nineteen years of age (in 1885) entering the law office of the late Albert D. Early, at that time one of the leaders of the Rockford bar, and carrying on his studies under this able preceptorship until 1887, when he attained his majority and was admitted to the bar, and was for some time thereafter associated with Mr. Early in practice in Rockford. In 1898 Mr. Garrett opened an office for the practice of his profession in Rockford and there practiced independently until 1919, when the present law firm of Garrett, Maynard & Fell was organized, since which time his practice has been carried on under that firm name, with present offices in the Trust building, this firm being recognized as one of the leading law firms in that section of Illinois. Mr. Garrett is a republican and has long been regarded as one of the leaders in the counsels of that party in Winnebago county, but he has not been an aspirant

for public office. In 1920 he was elected to represent his district in the convention called to revise the constitution of the state of Illinois and as a delegate rendered service in that historic body.

Mr. Garrett has been twice married. On February 25, 1891, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Donaldson of Rockford, who died on December 18, 1918. By that union Mr. Garrett has two children—a daughter, Grace E., born January 6, 1892; and a son, Donald B., born July 2, 1893, the latter of whom is now a resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Miss Grace E. Garrett became the wife of A. H. Eggers and is still living in Rockford. On December 13, 1920, Mr. Garrett was married to Miss Vera Gay of Mattoon, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Garrett have a pleasant home in Rockford and take a proper interest in the city's general social activities. Mr. Garrett is a Mason of high degree, having attained to all the bodies available to the inquirer in that ancient order, including the Scottish Rite and the Shrine, and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He also is an active and influential member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and is likewise a member of that influential organization of "boosters," the Kiwanis Club, whose motto is: "We Build." He and Mrs. Garrett are members of the Rockford Country Club and he maintains an active membership in the Winnebago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, a man of recognized influence in the counsels of his profession.

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#### WILLIAM JOHNSON.

It is not too much to say that during the eight years incumbency of William Johnson as state's attorney for the county of Winnebago the state of Illinois had no more faithful or effective public prosecutor than was he, and it is a matter of more than local note and record that his service in that important public capacity attracted much attention, favorable comment upon the character of that service having been heard in all parts of the state. As one newspaper had it—"Mr. Johnson's success in office is largely due to well prepared and personally tried cases. This success is evidenced by an increase in office receipts from twenty-two thousand dollars under former administrations to one hundred and twenty thousand dollars during his term." In this connection attention also was called to the fact that "during his term he has been successful in convicting fourteen defendants on the charge of murder and in other criminal proceedings he has so conducted his office as to win the distinction of being a fair prosecutor with a true conception of the rights of state and defendant." During the time of this country's participation in the World war the concentration of so many soldiers at Camp Grant (Rockford) naturally added many duties and responsibilities to the prosecutor's office, but as a local newspaper had it in commenting on this additional burden laid upon Mr. Johnson's shoulders: "Irrespective of the agitation of slackers, reds and the modern-day scoundrels, during this period Winnebago county was known

as the cleanest cantonment center in the country." Prior to the time of his election to the office of state's attorney Mr. Johnson had served for seven years as a justice of the Illinois state court of claims and was well equipped for the responsibilities of public service.

William Johnson, one of the best known lawyers in northern Illinois, for the past quarter of a century a resident of Rockford and formerly and for eight years state's attorney for the county of Winnebago, is a native of Illinois and has lived in that state all his life. He was born in the city of Chicago, October 23, 1876, a son of Swan and Hannah Johnson, and his schooling in that city was supplemented by a course in a business college there. He later studied law with his brother, who in his day was one of the prominent members of the bar of the city of Rockford, and under the latter's direction was prepared for law school. Following his graduation from the Law School of Dixon College in 1900, Mr. Johnson opened an office for practice in Rockford and two years later, in 1902, formed a partnership with his brother, Gust E. Johnson, and the two thereafter were engaged in practice together, under the firm name of Johnson & Johnson until 1918, when the failing health of Gust E. Johnson required the latter's retirement from active practice, his death following on May 8, 1919.

In 1904, under appointment by Governor Deneen, William Johnson entered upon a term of service as justice of the Illinois state court of claims and in that capacity served for something more than six years, or until 1911. In the following year (1912) during the incumbency of his brother, Gust E. Johnson, as state's attorney for the county of Winnebago, he was appointed acting state's attorney and upon his brother's resignation in 1915, on account of declining health, he was made acting state's attorney and in that capacity served for fifteen months, or until he formally entered upon his own incumbency in that office following his election thereto in 1916. By reelection Mr. Johnson served two full terms in this office, this term of service expiring in December, 1924, and it is not too much to say, as pointed out above, that the record he thus established is an enduring one. Since his retirement from the office of state's attorney Mr. Johnson has been engaged in the general practice of law in Rockford, with offices in the Swedish-American Bank building. He is a member of the Winnebago County Bar Association, of the Illinois State Bar Association and of the American Bar Association and in the deliberations of these bodies long has taken an earnest interest. He is a republican and is affiliated with the Masonic order, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, with the Knights of Pythias and with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

On December 28, 1905, William Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Landau, daughter of William Landau of Amboy, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one child: a daughter, Miss Myrtle Johnson, born January 17, 1908. The Johnsons have a very pleasant home in Rockford and in season there is cultivated on their grounds what one of the local newspapers referred to as "one of the prettiest beds of posies in this vicinity," which is a nice compliment to the esthetic tastes of the family. It is a matter of common observation on the part of his friends that Mr. Johnson is a great lover of flowers and finds much enjoyment in the cultivation of his posy beds. It also is pointed



out that while his official duties and his law practice generally have engaged his time quite fully, Mr. Johnson has not lost sight of the civic duties incumbent upon a good citizen and he has taken an interested and active part in the labors of promoting numerous projects looking to the betterment of conditions in and about his home town. When the movement for the establishment at Rockford of the Swedish-American Hospital was initiated he was one of the prime instruments in that movement and when the association having the matter in hand was organized he was elected its president and in that administrative capacity was the first directing head of that fine institution. During the time of this country's participation in the World war Mr. Johnson rendered effective service as a member of the Winnebago county board of review, in connection with the operations of the selective service draft board and the fairness of his decisions in that behalf was a matter of most favorable comment. In other ways he has rendered his duties to the community and, as one of his friends puts it—"gives generously of his time and his money to any plan or movement that is for the betterment of his city."

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#### STANTON ABRAHAM HYER.

Among the veterans of the Rockford bar there are few who have a wider acquaintance in that section of the Rock River valley than has Stanton Abraham Hyer, head of the law firm of Hyer, Gill & Rang, a former assistant attorney general for the state of Illinois; president of the Whitney Metal Tool Company of Rockford; vice president of the Eclipse Fuel Engineering Company; and in other ways prominently identified with the professional, civic and industrial life of the city of which he for many years has been a resident. He was born in the village of New Milford, not far from the city of Rockford, in Winnebago county, Illinois, April 4, 1862, a son of William and Julia A. (Bruner) Hyer, both of whom were members of old families in that county, the Hyers and the Bruners having been among the early settlers in that section of the valley of the Rock. The late William Hyer, an honored veteran of the Civil war, enlisted for service in behalf of the cause of the Union in the spring of 1862 and rendered service as a soldier in the Seventy-fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, until the conclusion of the war, afterward resuming his residence in Winnebago county, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1891.

Stanton Abraham Hyer had to make his own way in the world and he carried himself along through school while working on a farm. When nineteen years of age (in 1881) he found himself able to enter for a course in Beloit College, with a view to preparation for the study of law and after finishing that course in 1883 entered the law office of Charles A. Works, at that time one of the leaders of the Rockford bar. Under this able preceptorship he completed the required law studies and in 1885 was admitted to the bar. Thus qualified Mr. Hyer went to McPherson, Kansas, and in that rapidly developing county town began as a lawyer. He was well received by the people of

that town and county and his practice proved so successful that in the next year he saw his way clear to marry and establish his home in McPherson. There he remained for six years, or until 1891, in which year he became attracted to what then seemed great opportunities opening out in Spokane, Washington, and he disposed of his interests in McPherson and went to Spokane and opened a law office. Conditions there proved disappointing and two years later (in 1893) he returned to Rockford and became engaged in practice in that city, in association with his old preceptor, Charles A. Works, this partnership carrying on under the firm name of Works & Hyer, a mutually agreeable and quite successful arrangement which continued until the death of Mr. Works in 1904. Following the death of his venerable partner Mr. Hyer continued his practice independently until 1919, when he formed a partnership arrangement with Thomas E. Gill under the firm name of Hyer & Gill. In 1923 Carl K. Rang was admitted to this law firm, which is now established as the firm of Hyer, Gill & Rang, with offices in the Forest City National Bank building, one of the best known law firms in Rockford.

In addition to his law practice Mr. Hyer has long taken a practical interest in the general commercial and industrial affairs of the city and has other interests outside his office, among these being his position as president of the Whitney Metal Tool Company of Rockford, and as vice president of the Eclipse Fuel Engineering Company of that city, and a member of the board of directors of both companies. He also is a director of the Cotta Transmission Corporation of Rockford. All his life an ardent republican, Mr. Hyer has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs but has never held an elective office. By appointment he served as assistant attorney-general for this district for the state of Illinois for eight years, during the period 1904-12, and has a wide acquaintance throughout the state. He is an active member of the Rockford Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and belongs to the Rockford University Club, the Masonic order and the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

Mr. Hyer has been twice married. On December 15, 1886, in McPherson, Kansas, he was united in marriage to Miss Myrtle Warner of that place. To this union were born five children, namely: Carl Wheeler, born September 6, 1887; Edgar Stanton, born August 22, 1889, who was accidentally drowned on July 29, 1896; Marian Helene, born September 28, 1893, who died on July 6, 1899; Stanton Edgar, born May 28, 1900; and Frederic W., born September 6, 1902. The mother of these children died on September 6, 1910. On August 15, 1911, Mr. Hyer was married to Miss Harriet M. Andress of Chicago.

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#### JOHN L. BULL.

John L. Bull is the proprietor of one of the finest groceries in Beloit, his native city, and his success has been commensurate with his industry and ability. He was born December 10, 1881, a son of Albert M. and Mary Bull, and attended the public schools of Beloit. After leaving high school he was

employed as a clerk in the grocery stores of John Meehan and C. F. Hardy, under whom he gained valuable experience, and in 1911 had accumulated sufficient capital to start a business of his own. He purchased a small stock of goods and as his trade became established enlarged his store, which is now a model grocery, containing the best the market affords. He gives to his customers high class service and is content with a reasonable profit on his sales. He is an enterprising, farsighted business man and his is generally regarded as one of Beloit's leading groceries.

Mr. Bull was married May 15, 1907, to Miss Anna Will, a daughter of Robert Will, of Shirland, Wisconsin, and they now have a family of four children: Virginia, born October 8, 1909; Lydia, whose birth occurred on December 18, 1911; John L., Jr., who was born March 18, 1914; and Paul, born November 14, 1916. Mr. Bull is a republican in his political views and loyally supports all measures for the good of his community, in which he has attained high standing, for his course has at all times marked him as a citizen of worth.

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#### ANDREW WILHELM REDIN.

The friends of Andrew Wilhelm Redin, president of Redin, Eekstrom & Company, designers and manufacturers of special machinery in Rockford and one of the best known and most successful mechanical technicians in the middle west, are wont to refer to him as "a mechanical genius," and the term seems well applied, for in the exercise of his craft Mr. Redin not only has designed and patented numerous mechanical devices and appliances of large value in the mechanical industries, but he has built up a machine shop that has established a reputation for excellence of workmanship that makes its products standard in that field and has thus added much to the name and the fame of Rockford as an industrial center of large importance.

Andrew Wilhelm Redin is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country and of this region since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, September 15, 1863, and was there reared, taking early to the woodworking trades and becoming a skilled pattern-maker and cabinetmaker. In 1882, then being nineteen years of age and feeling competent to "hold his own" in his trade, he came to the United States and by prior arrangement proceeded on out into Illinois and became a resident of Rockford, where some years later he married and established his home. Upon coming to Rockford, Mr. Redin found employment in the machine shop of the W. F. & John Barnes Company and with his previously acquired facility in the use of tools quickly added to his accomplishment as a woodworker a thorough knowledge of the machinist's trade, becoming not only a skilled toolmaker but a competent craftsman in the general details of that trade. He remained with this company for ten years, or until 1892, when his services were secured by the S. B. Williams Knitting Company of Kenosha and for twelve years he was engaged in an executive capacity in the plant of that concern with special



ANDREW W. REDIN



reference to the details connected with its mechanical equipment. After that special work was completed he returned to Rockford and there, in 1904, became associated with his brother-in-law, Cordelius Eckstrom, in the establishment of a plant for the designing and manufacture of special machinery. Beginning in a small way, this concern has been gradually developed during the past twenty years and more until it long has been recognized as one of the leading industrial enterprises of the city, its affairs now being carried on under the firm name of Redin, Eckstrom & Company, of which Mr. Redin is the president under an act of incorporation recorded in 1920. Peter Eckstrom is the vice president of the company and Cordelius Eckstrom is the secretary and treasurer. Mr. Redin is the inventor of a number of special machines, on which he has taken patents, and the manufacture of these form a considerable department of the operations of the well established plant of this company at No. 1439 Railroad street.

On October 18, 1888, in Rockford, Andrew W. Redin was united in marriage to Miss Cordelia Eckstrom, who also was born in the kingdom of Sweden, daughter of Samuel Eckstrom, and who has been a resident of this country since the days of her girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Redin have seven children: Florence, Roy, Mildred, Evelyn, Clifton, Dexter and Lucille. The Redins have a pleasant home in Rockford and have ever given proper attention to the general affairs of the community in which they live, helpful in good works and in other activities designed to promote the common good.

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#### CHANDLER STARR.

Chandler Starr, veteran president of the Rockford Clearing House Association; formerly and for years cashier of the old Winnebago National Bank of Rockford; and present first vice president of the Rockford National Bank, has been actively and continuously connected with the banking interests of the city of Rockford for more than fifty years and there is perhaps no one in this valley who has a wider acquaintance in banking and general commercial circles than he. He was born in Rockford and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has taken place in that city since the days of his boyhood, a period of more than seventy years. He was born April 29, 1851, a son of Melancthon and Lucretia (Nevins) Starr, who had come west from New York city the year prior to that date and had settled in Rockford, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with interesting and informative details regarding the life and services of the late Melancthon Starr, who died in Rockford in 1885, after many years of active and useful connection with the banking interests of that city, one of the organizers of the old Winnebago National Bank and actively identified with its affairs until his death.

Reared in Rockford, Chandler Starr attended the schools of that city and then was sent to Williston Seminary at East Hampton, Massachusetts, for a finishing course. He married at the age of twenty-two and established his

home in Rockford, where he ever since has resided. Mr. Starr's first commercial connection in Rockford was as the clerk in the old Holland hotel, where he gained some very valuable experience in the ways of dealing with a somewhat exacting line of customers in a semi-public capacity, acquiring thus habits of affability that later were to distinguish him as a banker. His next service was as a clerk in the old dry goods store of C. W. Brown & Company and there he gained a further experience that was of much value later on, there acquiring a practical knowledge of commercial forms that proved a substantial "stepping stone" when he presently entered his father's bank.

On April 1, 1871, he then being just under twenty years of age, Mr. Starr entered the offices of the old Winnebago National Bank, of which his father was the vice president, starting right in at the bottom as a messenger. By gradual promotion he was advanced in the service of this bank until he became its cashier and in that responsible capacity he was serving when on January 1, 1920, the old Winnebago National Bank, after a period of service to the public covering more than eighty years, passed into the realm of things accomplished and was consolidated with the Rockford National Bank. In the reorganization following this consolidation Mr. Starr was made the first vice president of the latter bank and is thus now serving, his banking experience having covered, as noted above, a period of more than half a century. In 1898 Mr. Starr was elected president of the Rockford Clearing House Association and by successive reelections has been retained in that office, a period of more than a quarter of a century. He is a member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club of Rockford, is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and he and his wife are members of the Second Congregational church.

On January 1, 1874, in Rockford, Chandler Starr was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Ellis of that city and they have one child: a daughter, Norma, born December 29, 1879, who became the wife of W. S. Miller, now cashier of the Peoples Bank & Trust Company of Rockford, and they have two sons—Chandler Starr Miller and William Forbes Miller. Mrs. Starr was born in Rockford, a daughter of Colonel Edward F. W. and Lucy (Dobyns) Ellis, who became residents of Rockford in 1854. The lamented Colonel E. F. W. Ellis of heroic memory throughout this community, was a New Englander by birth, born in Wilton, Maine, April 15, 1819. He early took to the study of law and was practicing law in Ohio when in 1848 word came east of the discovery of gold in California. In the next year (1849) he went to California and became engaged there in the practice of law and in 1851 represented his district in the legislature of that state. In 1854 he returned east and located in Rockford, becoming there a member of the banking firm of Spafford, Clark & Ellis, and was thus in business when the Civil war broke out. An intense Union man, he at once enlisted his services in behalf of his country's cause and raised a company called the Ellis Rifles, which was accepted for service and was attached to the Fifteenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was elected lieutenant colonel of this gallant command and at the battle of Shiloh was serving at the head of the regiment when he met a brave soldier's fate, was shot through the breast, and expired almost instantly. Colonel Ellis

is recalled by his surviving contemporaries as having been a tall noble looking man, whose useful life held much of promise when thus untimely cut off. The city of Rockford mourned his death with profound sorrow and when on December 10, 1868, a second Masonic lodge was instituted in Rockford, it was given the name of the E. F. W. Ellis Lodge in memory of this distinguished patriot.

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### MELANCTHON STARR.

Though it now is forty years since Melancthon Starr passed from the scenes of vigorous action with which he had so long been associated in Rockford the memory of that pioneer banker and public-spirited citizen is kept green there, for his influence upon that community was an enduring one. A trained banker and commercial expert, in the vigor of his prime as a business man, Melancthon Starr became a resident of Rockford in 1850, coming into the west from a Wall street bank, and established himself in the mercantile business in the rapidly awakening town of Rockford. Not long afterward his services as a bank expert were called on in the liquidation of the affairs of a local bank that had gone on the rocks of financial peril and in 1855 he became definitely connected with the affairs of the Winnebago National Bank, was made vice president of that institution and in that capacity proved a tower of strength in local financial circles until his death thirty years later. In the meantime his son, Chandler Starr, vice president of the Rockford National Bank and for years president of the Rockford Clearing House Association, had become associated with his father in the affairs of the old Winnebago National Bank, for years being its cashier, and the name of Starr thus continues to be prominently associated with the banking interests of that city, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with further details regarding the life and services in this community of Chandler Starr.

Melancthon Starr was a native of the old Empire state, born in the city of Albany, capital of the state of New York, April 14, 1816, son of Chandler and Hannah (Smith) Starr, the latter of whom was born in the state of New Jersey in 1795. Chandler Starr was born in Warren, Connecticut, January 11, 1791, a son of the Rev. Peter and Hannah (Robbins) Starr, both members of colonial families. The Rev. Peter Starr, a clergyman of the Congregational faith, was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in September, 1744, a descendant of Captain Josiah Starr, who was born in Charlestown, in the Massachusetts colony, September 1, 1657, the Starrs thus showing representation in this country from the days of the very beginning of settlement in New England.

Reared in Albany, Melancthon Starr finished his education in the academy there and early engaged in commercial pursuits, getting his initial training in mercantile forms in a wholesale dry goods house in Albany. When twenty-four years of age, in 1840, he went to Tallahassee, Florida, where he set up a mercantile establishment, selling goods and doing a large business as a cotton factor. Conditions in the south at that time, particularly with respect to the institution of human slavery, proved so distasteful to him, however, that in 1843 he returned



north and became cashier in the Wall street banking house of Nevins, Townsend & Company in New York city. In 1850 he was attracted to the possibilities in a business way then opening out here in the Rock River valley and in that year came west and located in Rockford, opening there a dry goods store and becoming actively and usefully identified with the business interests of that then rapidly developing trade center. Not long afterward and as an incident to the widespread financial troubles then afflicting the country, the Charles I. Horsman bank in Rockford failed and Mr. Starr was made the assignee of that concern's affairs, closing out the wreck. It was thus that he became associated with the banking business in Rockford. His course in that affair drew to him the regard of all local business men and in 1855 he was made a member of the banking firm out of which presently grew the old Winnebago National Bank.

This historic old bank had its beginning with the establishment in Rockford in 1848 of a private banking house conducted by Thomas D. Robertson and John A. Holland. In 1851 J. S. Coleman, a New Yorker and a new arrival in Rockford, was admitted to this firm, the name of which then became Robertson, Coleman & Company, and in 1855 the firm moved from the small building in which its business had been carried on into a new building erected for banking purposes and which for many years afterward was the home of the Winnebago National Bank. Upon the death of Mr. Holland in 1855 Melancthon Starr was admitted to the firm and following the death of Mr. Coleman in 1864 the firm name was changed to Robertson & Starr, which firm style was maintained until the next year (1865) when, following the enactment of the national bank law, the bank took a charter under the federal banking act and became the Winnebago National Bank, Mr. Robertson serving as president and Mr. Starr as vice president, Spencer Rising at that time being cashier, and it was with this bank that Mr. Starr remained connected until his death, a fine, conservative, stabilizing influence in local financial circles. It is worthy to recall that Messrs. Robertson and Starr were so highly regarded as bankers and as careful, prudent business men throughout this section of the valley that they commonly were referred to by the admiring public hereabout as the old firm of Law & Gospel, their straightforward way of doing business making a powerful appeal to the people's general sense of fitness. Mr. Starr continued active in banking until the end and at his passing left a good memory, for he had been a fine influence for good in the community of which for thirty-five years he had been so important a personal factor. His death occurred at his home in Rockford on November 28, 1885, he then being in the seventieth year of his age.

In other than a merely business connection Mr. Starr's influence was widely exerted in that community. From the days of his youth he had adhered to the tenets of the Unitarian faith and was helpful in maintaining for some time the labors of a congregation of that communion in Rockford, but when this congregation finally was disbanded on account of dwindling numbers he put in his lot with that of the congregation of the Christian Union church and was helpful in the labors of that body as well as in all community good works. The service Mr. Starr individually rendered as one of the chief promoters of the movement which resulted in the establishment of a public library in Rockford was such as to leave in that connection an enduring monument to his memory. In all

local cultural movements he was equally active and as a leader of the old lyceum bureau enterprise did much to encourage cultural progress by bringing to the Rockford lecture platform many of the great publicists who during that period of intellectual development which followed the close of the Civil war did so much toward the stimulation of a new and broader national consciousness and in the creation of new habits of thought throughout the country. Reared a whig, Mr. Starr became a republican upon the formation of that party in 1856 and was long an active supporter of that party's principles in local and state affairs, but with the beginning of the activities of the prohibition party in the early '80s he warmly espoused that cause and was an ardent prohibitionist at the time of his death. His influence upon the community was good. His ideals were high and he had a gentleman's courage in maintaining his convictions along the lines of those ideals. It has been written of Melancthon Starr that "he was a man of the world in the best sense. He was one of nature's noblemen. It has been said he never left a promise unfulfilled. He treated all men with respect. The poorest man was made to feel in his presence that he was a gentleman and he always received the same courteous treatment as though he were the possessor of unlimited wealth and moved in the highest social circles." A fine appreciation, written years ago, but those still living in Rockford whose mellow recollections go back to the period during which Melancthon Starr wrought here will declare that the testimonial of personal worth still is a fitting one.

Melancthon Starr was twice married. On December 6, 1839, just prior to his departure for the south, in Norwich, Connecticut, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia M. Nevins, who was born in that place in 1817. To that union were born six children—three daughters and three sons. The mother of these children died in Rockford on April 26, 1857. On August 5, 1861, Mr. Starr was married to Miss Ellen M. Townsend, who was born in Massachusetts in 1834 and who survived him many years, her death occurring in 1921. There were no children of the second marriage. Mrs. Starr was one of the organizers of the local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in 1874, was an active member of the locally influential Century Club and, even as did her husband, ever gave a helpful hand in promoting local good works.

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#### OTTO F. BAMMEL.

Few business men of Fort Atkinson have received more encouraging rewards for persistent and well directed industry than has the subject of this sketch, who from a modest beginning has gained a leading place among the merchants in his line in this section of the county. Otto F. Bammel was born on the 8th of July, 1888, in Adell, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and is the son of Christ and Dorothy (Dannies) Bammel, the former being a successful farmer and prominent citizen of that locality. Otto F. Bammel secured his education in the public schools of Adell and then took a course in the business college in Milwaukee. He remained for a time in Milwaukee, being first employed as a

bookkeeper, and then went with Charles Truesdale in that city to learn the undertaking business. He completed his preparations in the Johnson College of Embalming, in Milwaukee, where he received his diploma in 1909. In 1911 he came to Fort Atkinson and established himself in the furniture and undertaking business, beginning in a small way, and he is now the leader there in his line and is one of the most enterprising and progressive merchants in the town, enjoying a large and constantly growing trade. As an undertaker, Mr. Bammel has proven himself to be especially well qualified for a profession that requires not only special technical skill, but thoughtfulness, tact and sound common sense in his relations with those who need his services. In 1913 the subject's brother, Paul B. Bammel, became associated with him and the business has since been conducted under the firm name of Bammel Brothers, Paul giving his particular attention to the furniture department.

Mr. Bammel has prospered in his business and has gained an influential position in local business circles. He is treasurer of the Fort Atkinson Manufacturing Company, vice president of the Wisconsin Furniture Dealers Fire Insurance Company, of Milwaukee, and vice president of the Wisconsin Furniture Dealers Association. Politically he is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment as to both men and measures. He now represents the seventh ward on the board of aldermen. He is a member of the Lutheran church, of which he is a liberal supporter, and belongs to the Fort Atkinson Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

On September 28, 1912, Mr. Bammel was married to Miss Lillian Kumrow, the daughter of August Kumrow, of West Bend, Wisconsin. They have one child, Lillian, who was born August 16, 1915. Personally Mr. Bammel is a man of exceptional qualities, such as have commended him to the favor of his fellowmen. Earnest purpose and tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and everyday common sense, have been important characteristics, and he well merits the respect and esteem which are accorded him.

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#### GEORGE DOBLER.

In the general financial and commercial circles of the city of Rockford there are few names better known than that of George Dobler, secretary of the Rockford Savings and Loan Association; chairman of the board of directors of the Security National Bank of that city; president of the Rockford real estate board; formerly and for twenty years active in the realty business in that city, and in other ways prominently identified with the general business interests of the community. He is a native son of Illinois, a member of one of the pioneer families of the commonwealth, and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Rockford since the days of his young manhood. He was born in the pleasant village of Warren, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, July 21, 1876, a son of Jonathan A. and Arabella Dobler, substantial residents of that place.

Reared in Warren, George Dobler attended the schools of that place and when nineteen years of age, in 1895, entered upon his commercial career as a



GEORGE DOBLER



clerk in the store of F. S. Kellogg, who then was the proprietor of a cigar and tobacco shop and news stand in Rockford, going to work in that store at a wage of five dollars a week. There he learned enough about the tobacco business to become interested in it as a commercial proposition and three years later, in 1898, bought a third interest in the Cutting Cigar Company in Rockford, a connection he maintained for a couple of years, or until 1900, when he sold that interest and began to give his whole attention to the development of a promising real estate business which he gradually had been working up in and about Rockford "on the side." It was in this latter line that Mr. Dobler found his forte and it was not long until he came to be recognized as one of the leading realtors in the Rock River valley. Beginning in 1905 Mr. Dobler for two years had as a partner in his realty business J. H. McFadden, the two doing business under the firm name of Dobler & McFadden, and he thereafter carried on his business independently until 1919, when Wayne L. Norton became his partner. In 1921 Ralph E. Johnson entered the old established Dobler real estate agency, the firm then becoming Dobler & Johnson, and this arrangement continued until January 1, 1925, when Mr. Dobler retired from the realty field, having sold his interest in the business to Bert Johnson, and the agency since has been operated under the name of Johnson & Johnson.

In the meantime, during the many years of his activity in the real estate and general insurance field, Mr. Dobler had been developing other interests and thus became a figure of importance in the local financial field. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of the Rockford Savings and Loan Association, established in 1918, and since 1919 has been serving as its secretary, this position carrying a large measure of administrative responsibility, and it was in order that he might devote his time more largely to this financial concern that he retired from the realty field. He also was one of the organizers of the locally influential real estate board in Rockford and was elected secretary of that body when it was established in 1912, an office he held continuously thereafter until his election to the position of president of the board in 1924. He has been a member of the directorate of the Security National Bank of Rockford since that institution's organization in 1920 and is the present chairman of that board, and is a director of the Security First Mortgage Company. He also is a member of the boards of directors of the Rockford Mortgage Company and the Laona Cheese Company of Rockford and has other interests of a substantial character, long having been recognized as one of the real leaders in the commercial world of the city of which he now for thirty years has been a resident. Mr. Dobler was appraiser for the Chicago & North Western Railroad in its realty holdings in Winnebago county, running into many hundreds of thousands. He was one of three appraisers appointed by the United States government in the task of deciding values for about eight thousand five hundred acres for the site for Camp Grant. He later volunteered his services in aiding the government in every way.

On September 1, 1904, Mr. Dobler was united in marriage to Miss Maude A. Johnson, daughter of William Johnson of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Dobler have two sons: Robert Harry, born March 21, 1907; and George William, born January 15, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Dobler are republicans and have ever taken

an interested part in local civic affairs. Mr. Dobler's chief diversions are found in the realm of outdoor sports and he is the secretary and treasurer of the old established Rockford Gun Club, in the affairs of which organization he has for years taken an active and helpful interest. He is a member of the Masonic order and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In 1921-22 he was a director of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce.

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#### ALBERT D. EARLY.

Following the death in the early spring of 1923 of Albert D. Early, dean of the Winnebago county bar, former president of the Illinois State Bar Association, a former president of the Illinois state civil service commission, and for years a member of the board of trustees of Northwestern University, there were universal expressions of sympathy and regret, for all hereabouts recognized that there had departed from the community one of its truest builders. It was significant that the clergyman chosen to conduct the funeral service based the tribute then paid the departed upon the text: "There is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel," and all felt the appropriateness of the tribute. The clergyman quoted one lawyer as having said that during more than fifty years of intimate acquaintance with Mr. Early he had never known the latter to do or be accused of doing one questionable act. High praise, but just. "The memory of the just is blessed."

Mr. Early was born in the city of Rockford, January 23, 1855, a son of John and Sophronia (Brown) Early, who had settled in Rockford in 1852, establishing their home at the corner of South Third and Oak streets. Concerning Mr. Early's mother, tribute was paid to her memory on the funeral occasion above referred to by one who had known the parents as "devout old-fashioned Christians," this tribute attesting that "He had a most wonderful mother, a quiet, gentle, refined lady—Oh, she was a lovely mother." The Hon. John Early, in his generation one of the best known and most influential citizens of Rockford, a one-time state senator and acting lieutenant governor of the state of Illinois, was born in Middlesex county, western Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada, March 17, 1828, and was eighteen years of age when in 1846 he came with his parents to Illinois, the family settling in Boone county. In 1852, following his marriage, he established his home in Rockford and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on September 2, 1877. For three terms he served as assessor of Rockford. In 1869 he was appointed a member of the board of trustees of the State Reform School at Pontiac. In 1870 he was elected to represent the twenty-third state senatorial district, then composed of the counties of Winnebago, Boone, McHenry and Lake, in the upper house of the Illinois general assembly, and in 1872 was reelected, his district then having been reapportioned as the ninth, composed of the counties of Winnebago and Boone, and in 1874 he again was elected state senator. When in 1872 Lieutenant Governor Beveridge succeeded to the governor's chair, following

the election of Governor Oglesby to the United States senate, Mr. Early was elected president of the state senate in succession to Mr. Beveridge and thus until the following election was the acting lieutenant governor of the state.

Reared amid the most favorable social environment, Albert D. Early became early interested in the study of law, pursuing these studies after his graduation from college under the local preceptorship of the late Horace W. Taylor, then one of the leaders of the Rockford bar, and when he attained his majority he was admitted to the bar. Following his graduation from Northwestern University, which was in 1877, he engaged in practice in Rockford and so continued the rest of his life, his offices ever having been maintained in the old building at No. 109 West State street, the building in which he began the study of law in the office of his preceptor, Horace W. Taylor, his tenancy having thus covered a period of almost half a century. From the beginning of his practice in Rockford, Mr. Early took a leading position at the local bar and that position was maintained to the end. He early devoted himself to the practice of corporation law and became widely known as a wise counsellor, building up an extensive practice, during the last ten years of his life having associated with him in this practice his younger son, B. B. Early. Mr. Early was the thirty-ninth president of the Illinois State Bar Association and for many years had been a member of the board of governors of that body. During the Lowden administration he served as the chairman of the Illinois state civil service commission and resigned that position at the close of that administration. He had long been a member of the board of trustees of Northwestern University at Evanston and its executive committee and in that capacity did much to advance the interests of that institution and to stimulate the work of the student body.

From many of Mr. Early's associates at the bar came testimonials of the highest character, a few of which it may be considered proper here to carry. It is a great thing for any lawyer to have it said of him by those who often had been pitted against him in the courts that "he always fought fairly"; that "a young lawyer never learned anything that was not true or honorable from him," and that "every young man could safely follow his life." A further fine testimonial was noted in the fact that Mr. Early had been the attorney of men whose fathers and grandfathers he had served as a young lawyer. He was the kind of a man whose professional life made young men wish to follow his profession. One clergyman who spoke in tribute of him observed that "greater than the great success he gained was the success he was," amplifying this by the further statement that "this was true of him in his chosen profession, the law, and in all his relations." "As a lawyer he was one of the leaders of the bar, not only in our city but in the state. He was thoroughly educated both by technical study and by long experience. Wrought into this education was an inherent love of justice and fair play which made him one of the truest of counsellors. Warm-hearted as he was, he never allowed personal preferences or differences to interfere with his judgment in the issues involved. He was a just man but as merciful as just." It also was observed that "in a rare way he realized the democracy of friendship, this friendship reaching out to the obscure and unnoticed folk who make up the rank and file of life. The kindly word, the warm handclasp, the material help he gave, made hundreds his debtors.



He leaves us with this inscription to his memory on the tablets of our hearts: 'Lawyer—Citizen—Friend.' "

During the World war Mr. Early lent his time and assistance to all war activities without stint, and was many times called to Camp Grant, where he met and cooperated as a civilian aide in a never-ending effort to help the government in every possible way. His two sons and son-in-law were in the service. He and his wife were members of the Second Congregational church, and he had for many years been one of the substantial supporters of the work of the congregation of that church. He also was a member of the University Club of Chicago and of the Rockford Lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and was an honorary member of G. L. Nevius Post No. 1 of the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition to his property interests at Rockford, Mr. Early owned a cottage in Chatham, Massachusetts, and he and Mrs. Early were accustomed to spending their summers there on the seaside.

Mr. Early's death occurred at his home in Rockford, on February 28, 1923. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Daisy Force Early, and four children, three of whom, Mrs. John A. Green, John Early and Benjamin Blakeman Early, were born of his marriage to Mrs. Emma Blakeman Early, who predeceased him in 1898; and the fourth, Flora P. Early, was born of his marriage to Flora Patch Early, who predeceased him in 1907.

In addition to the four children there are now nine grandchildren, Mrs. Green having two daughters and two sons; Mrs. B. B. Early having three sons; and Mr. John Early having two sons.

Immediately after the death of their father Mr. John Early and Mr. B. B. Early formed a law partnership in Rockford to continue his practice and are now located in the same offices their father occupied for upwards of fifty years. The former, who up to this time was practicing law in Chicago, graduated from Harvard College and Law School in 1907 and 1910, respectively; and the latter graduated from Northwestern University and Law School in the years 1910 and 1913, respectively.

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#### HOWARD WELLER LEE.

In the death of Howard Weller Lee, which occurred on the 9th of March, 1925, there passed away one of the most beloved and appreciated men who have ever honored Rock county with their citizenship—loved because of the kindly relations which always existed between him and all with whom he came in contact and appreciated because of his sterling integrity, marked ability and strength of character. Closely identified through a long period of years with important public affairs, his administration of the offices he filled was marked by a fidelity that won the spontaneous approval of his fellow citizens. Howard W. Lee was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on the 29th of January, 1849, and was the son of Harvey W. and Minerva (Williams) Lee. His parents were northerners, having been born and reared in the eastern states, and when the Civil war broke out they found it necessary to leave the south, which they did

in 1863. Coming to Rock county, Wisconsin, the father bought twenty acres of land on what is now Pleasant street, Janesville, and there he farmed and raised tobacco. After living here for many years he retired and moved to Buffalo, where his death occurred.

Howard W. Lee completed his education in the public and high schools of Janesville and then went to work for the American Express Company, with whom he remained a number of years and attained a responsible position. In 1874 he was transferred to the Milwaukee office but in 1876 resigned his position and returning to Janesville engaged in the grocery business in partnership with his father-in-law, Jonathan W. Nash. The following year Mr. Lee formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Wallace W. Nash, and opened a grocery store in Fulton, Rock county, where they continued for twenty years. During that period he became one of the prominent and influential citizens of Fulton, serving as postmaster, town clerk and clerk of the school board. In 1902 Mr. Lee sold his business in Fulton and moved to Janesville. In that same year he was elected county clerk of Rock county and held that office continuously up to the time of his death, his administration of the office being marked by efficiency, promptness and accommodation. During the period of his incumbency Rock county made tremendous strides forward in every way, the volume of business transacted through his office in 1924 amounting in round figures to a million dollars. He possessed an intricate and accurate knowledge of county affairs and for many years had been one of the most influential political leaders of his county, having often been termed "The Czar of Rock County," the phrase being more often used as a familiar compliment than otherwise. Although modest and unassuming and easily approached, he had a sturdy and vigorous personality and in the best sense of the term was a leader of men. He was a man of singularly sweet and genuine nature, and in his death there passed a good and useful man; but those who knew him best mourn him not as the public official and leader, worthy as his achievements were, but as the good citizen, the loving father, the faithful husband and the loyal and true friend.

On June 17, 1874, Mr. Lee was married to Miss Mary Alice Nash, the daughter of Jonathan W. and Sarah L. (Robinson) Nash, who were among the early settlers of Rock county. To their union were born the following children: (1) William Nash, born June 23, 1875, was married to Basha Pease, the daughter of Frank Pease, of Fulton, Wisconsin. They have three children—William Pease, born October 18, 1907; Howard E., born November 12, 1912; and Charles Richard, born September 15, 1918. (2) Mabel Carolyn, born September 20, 1878, is now the wife of Hubert B. Moseley, a prominent farmer of Beloit and member of the legislature from the second district of Rock county. They have two children—Lucius Lee, born February 12, 1915; and Mary Alice, born December 14, 1916. (3) Harriet E., born November 23, 1880, became the wife of Frank J. Pearson, of Edgerton, Rock county, and they have three children—Alice Lee, born January 4, 1909; Sarah Harmon, born September 17, 1910; and Helen, born February 9, 1924. (4) Robert Howard, who now lives in Seattle, Washington, was married to Leah K. Rowe, of Janesville, the daughter of Oscar Rowe, former mayor of this city, and of a prominent family. They have three children—Robert Howard, Jr., born

January 15, 1911; Betty Helen, born October 25, 1915; and Thomas Rowe, born October 19, 1922. (5) Jonathan Nash, born November 23, 1889, resides in Janesville with his mother, never having married. (6) Alan Edgar, born February 8, 1892, who is engaged in farming near Janesville, was married to Gladys Hugunin, the daughter of John Hugunin, of Janesville, and they have three children—John Hugunin, Jean and Elizabeth. (7) Charles Phelps, born October 17, 1893, was married to Margretha Levzow and they have one child, Barbara Ann. (8) Frank Weller, born June 10, 1896, remains unmarried and lives with his mother in Janesville.

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#### CHARLES E. WRIGHT.

Charles E. Wright, president of the W. & W. Dairy Company of Beloit, is prominently identified with one of Wisconsin's chief industries and along the path of opportunity open to all has reached the goal of notable success, while the methods which he has employed are such as will bear the light of close investigation and scrutiny, for the Golden Rule has constituted his guide through life. He was born July 4, 1876, at Chetopa, Kansas. His parents, Elisha and Theresa Wright, were originally from Bloomington, Illinois, but became pioneers in the settlement of southern Kansas.

When Charles E. Wright was but a year and a half old his father met an accidental death and his mother moved to Malden, Illinois, where he attended the public schools, afterward becoming a student at Hedding College in Abingdon, Illinois. He worked for a time for the Armour Elevator Company in Malden, and for two years was the proprietor of a general store at that place. He was similarly engaged at Afolkey, near Freeport, in Stephenson county, Illinois, for two years and on January 1, 1904, embarked in the creamery business at Durand, Illinois, as a partner of Orville G. Sturtevant. Their activities at that place were confined to the making of butter and in November, 1905, they sold out. The firm of Sturtevant & Wright then established a small creamery business in Beloit, starting with two delivery wagons, and their trade grew at a rapid rate, so that they were forced to seek more commodious quarters. In 1907 they erected the large modern building at No. 511 Cross street in which the business has since been housed and in 1909 Ira J. Wagner was admitted to a partnership. The business was incorporated December 7, 1912, as the Sturtevant, Wright & Wagner Dairy Company and was continued under that form until October, 1924, when Mr. Sturtevant's interests were purchased by Messrs. Wright and Wagner. It has since been conducted under the style of the W. & W. Dairy Company, of which Mr. Wright is the executive head, and in the operation of the business he maintains a high degree of efficiency. He has a comprehensive understanding of the dairy business, gained from more than twenty years of practical experience and constant study, and adds thereto administrative power and mature judgment. The company manufactures ice cream, bottled milk, powdered milk, butter and artificial ice and its output is made under perfectly sanitary conditions. The firm is noted for the purity



CHARLES E. WRIGHT



and excellence of its products and a well merited reputation for honorable dealing is also one of its valuable assets. A large fleet of trucks and dairy wagons is maintained for the distribution of its goods and the industry is one of the most important and prosperous in this section of the state.

Mr. Wright was married July 6, 1898, to Miss Carrie H. Palmer, who was a daughter of Ezra and Elizabeth Palmer, of Dover, Illinois, and on September 20, 1913, her life was brought to a close. She was the mother of two children: Anita Lucille, who was born March 7, 1900; and Homer Palmer, born August 30, 1903. On February 29, 1916, Mr. Wright was again married, his second union being with Miss Estella I. Kellogg, a daughter of Nelson Kellogg, of Galesburg, Illinois.

Mr. Wright is a republican in his political views and although his extensive business requires much of his attention, he has also found time for civic activities, being a member of the Beloit school board and one of the directors of the Young Men's Christian Association. He belongs to the Beloit Rotary and Country Clubs and his fraternal affiliations are with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Wright is a representative of that class of substantial business men who constitute the bulwark of a city's strength and development, and upon the broad foundation of determined purpose, high principles and tireless energy has been reared the fair fabric of his successful career.

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#### JOHN LAWRENCE DANIELS, M. D.

Among those who stand as distinguished types of the world's workers is Dr. John Lawrence Daniels, of Jefferson, one of the able and honored physicians of Jefferson county, who is a man of fine intellectual and professional attainments, gracious personality and strong character, and who has labored with zeal and devotion in the alleviation of human suffering. Dr. Daniels was born in the town of Lowell, near Beaver Dam, Dodge county, Wisconsin, the son of Conrad and Anna (Eiden) Daniels, who lived first at Lowell and later moved to Beaver Dam. The subject received his elementary education in the public and high schools at Beaver Dam and was then a student in St. Francis Seminary, at Milwaukee, for three years. Having determined to devote his life to the practice of medicine, he matriculated in the Milwaukee Medical College (now Marquette University), where he was graduated in 1905 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Daniels entered upon the practice of his profession at Helenville, Jefferson county, but in 1906 moved to Roselleville, remaining there until 1911, when he came to Jefferson and has since remained actively and successfully engaged in practice here. He conducts a general practice and has long stood in the front rank of his profession in this locality. He is now serving his second term as health officer of the city of Jefferson. He is a member of the Jefferson County Medical Society, the Wisconsin State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. Dr. Daniels is independent in his political

views and votes for the men he considers best qualified for public office, regardless of their party affiliations.

On February 1, 1903, Dr. Daniels was married to Miss Catharine Seitz, the daughter of Martin Seitz, of Jefferson, and they have one child, Douglas, born August 7, 1908. A physician of rare attainments, broad general culture and perfected skill, it has fallen to his lot to bring alleviation of suffering and restoration of health to thousands in this community and for years he has occupied a high place in the confidence and esteem of all who know him, and who value him for his genuine worth and exemplary character.

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#### EARL ROBERT COCHRAN, M. D.

Among the physicians of Winnebago county, Illinois, who have risen to eminence in their chosen field of endeavor is Dr. Earl R. Cochran, of Rockton, whose career has been that of a broadminded, conscientious worker in the sphere to which his life and energies have been devoted and whose comprehensive knowledge of his calling has won for him a leading place in his profession in that section of the state. Mr. Cochran was born at Holden, Missouri, on the 5th of February, 1878, the son of Alexander B. and Lucretia (Cummins) Cochran. His father was for many years a railroad man, running a locomotive for forty years, and is now on the retired list.

Earl R. Cochran secured his elementary education in the public school at Holden, Missouri, and the high school at Osawatomie, Kansas. He then entered Madison Academy, at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1903, and, having decided to devote his life to the healing art, he then matriculated in the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, where he was graduated in 1908, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. During the following ten months he served as interne in the Frances Willard hospital in Chicago and for two months under Dr. De Lee at his Ghetto dispensary in that city. Dr. Cochran then immediately entered upon the active practice of his profession at Rockton, Illinois, where, with the exception of the period of his military service, he has remained continuously since. The Doctor is licensed to practice in both Illinois and Wisconsin, Rockton being on the line between the two states. During his residence here he has not only built up a large practice, in which he has been uniformly successful, but he has also gained the respect and esteem of the entire community because of his fine personal character and his helpful public spirit. Dr. Cochran is the local surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad.

Upon the entry of the United States into the World war, the Doctor volunteered his services and on July 2, 1917, was commissioned a first lieutenant in the medical corps of the United States army and was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana, for training. He was ordered into active service on September 1, 1917, but on December 20, 1917, was ordered home to recuperate from an attack of pneumonia. He remained in active service until his discharge, in November, 1918. During the war period he was one

of the five members and the medical examiner of the Winnebago county draft board.

On September 21, 1908, Dr. Cochran was married to Miss Maybelle French, the daughter of Mrs. J. S. Duket, of Ashland, Wisconsin, and to their union have been born two children: Robert Roehm, born on September 13, 1917; and Patricia Joan, born on August 26, 1920. Politically Dr. Cochran is an ardent supporter of the republican party and takes an active interest in local and state political affairs, though he is not an aspirant to public office. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias and is also a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society and the Illinois State Medical Society.

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### GODFREY FERNHOLZ.

Among the men who were largely instrumental in advancing business interests in Jefferson and after a useful and honorable career passed on to the better life, was the late Godfrey Fernholz. He had spent practically his entire life in Jefferson, during which period he was a witness of and participant in the wonderful development of this region. His chief characteristics were keenness of perception, tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and everyday common sense. He was successful in business and respected in social life, and as a neighbor he discharged his duties in a manner becoming a liberal-minded, intelligent citizen of a community where the essential qualities of manhood have always been duly recognized and prized at their true value.

Mr. Fernholz was born at Jefferson, Wisconsin, on the 15th of April, 1858, and his death occurred at the Alexian Brothers Hospital in Chicago, January 12, 1916, in the fifty-eighth year of his age. He was reared under the paternal roof and secured a good education in the public schools. His first active work was at farming, which vocation he followed for a short time and then opened a livery stable in Jefferson and at the same time established a bus line between Jefferson and Jefferson Junction. After several years of successful operation along this line, Mr. Fernholz sold his interests and engaged in lumbering and manufacturing, becoming connected with the Haubenschild Lumber Company. He was highly successful in his business ventures and eventually bought the Haubenschild interests and the business was reorganized as the Fernholz Lumber Company, which became and long remained one of the most prominent and successful concerns in that line in this county. He was deeply interested in the commercial prosperity of this locality and was financially interested in several enterprises, being a member of the board of directors of the Jefferson County Bank and a director of the Banner Printing Company, and had been for years a prominent and important factor in every movement or measure advanced for the betterment of the city along any legitimate line.

On May 19, 1886, Mr. Fernholz was married to Miss Hattie A. Seifert, the daughter of John and Margaret Seifert, of Jefferson, and they became the parents of two children: Florence Margaret, born October 1, 1887, is now the wife of H. Howard Kafer, of Jefferson, and they have one child, Helen,



who was born August 15, 1910; Olive Louise, born January 14, 1892, became the wife of Edward A. Punzel, who was well known in Jefferson, being the manager of the Fernholz Lumber Company's yards, but whose death occurred January 21, 1922. To them was born a daughter, Mary Louise, born October 12, 1920. Mr. Fernholz was a manly man. Devoting the major part of his time and attention to the development of his business interests, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature but preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influences of human life, being to the end a kindly, genial gentleman, and no resident of Jefferson enjoyed to a greater degree the confidence and sincere regard of the entire community. He was a splendid type of the self-made man, had a fine presence and pleasant address and had in him the elements that make a man successful in the highest degree, preeminent among his qualities being that sound judgment which is ordinarily called common sense. His life was exemplary and his memory will long be cherished by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout this section of the county.

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#### MAURICE P. ROGERS, M. D.

Dr. Maurice P. Rogers, one of the best known and most prominent of the younger physicians and surgeons of the city of Rockford and a member of the staff of the Rockford City Hospital, is a native of Illinois and has resided here all his life. He was born in the flourishing village of Oak Park, that thriving western suburb of the city of Chicago, in Cook county, Illinois, October 20, 1892, and is a son of Sampson and Clara (Hoover) Rogers, who are still making their home in Oak Park. Sampson Rogers is a well established wool merchant.

Reared at Oak Park, Maurice P. Rogers acquired his early education there and upon leaving the high school entered the University of Wisconsin. After two years of study there he entered the University of Chicago, where he completed his premedical studies, and in 1914 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Thus equipped by preparatory study he entered the Rush Medical College at Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1916 with the degree of M. D. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Rogers was appointed an interne in the Presbyterian Hospital at Chicago and after a year of intensive practical experience in that institution located at Rockford and has since been engaged in medical practice in that city, giving his particular attention to surgery and obstetrics, with present offices in the Forest City Bank building. Dr. Rogers is a member of the staff of the Rockford City Hospital and has established a large and growing practice. He is affiliated with the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association and in the deliberations of these learned bodies takes a warm interest.

On May 2, 1917, the year in which he established his home at Rockford, Dr. Maurice P. Rogers was united in marriage to Miss Jeannette Leprevost,

daughter of Frederick and Estelle Leprevost of Clinton, Iowa, and to this union three children have been born: Jeanne, born January 22, 1918; Maurice P. Rogers, Jr., born August 18, 1919; and Daniel Von Huber Rogers, born March 5, 1925. Dr. and Mrs. Rogers have a pleasant home at Rockford and take an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of that city. The Doctor is a member of the Rockford Country Club, the University Club, the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, and is a Mason. He is affiliated with the college fraternity Beta Theta Pi and with the graduate medical fraternity Nu Sigma Nu and in the affairs of both these societies takes an active and helpful interest.

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#### WILLIAM OSCAR HANSEN.

William Oscar Hansen, formerly a member of the Wisconsin legislature, is teller of the Beloit Savings Bank and worthily bears a name which for more than seventy years has been an honored one in the annals of the city. He was born in Beloit, October 7, 1860, a son of Carelius and Guri (Aas) Hansen, both of whom were natives of Norway. His father was one of the pioneer manufacturers of the city and a complete record of his life is published elsewhere in this volume.

The grammar and high schools of Beloit afforded William Oscar Hansen his educational privileges and after his studies were completed he worked in his father's shop, in which he mastered the blacksmith's trade. In 1887 he left the city and for two years was an instructor in forge and foundry work at the Chicago Manual Training School. Upon his return to Beloit he became a member of the firm of C. Hansen & Sons, which had been organized by his father for the manufacture of agricultural implements. He was thus engaged from 1889 until 1902, when he resumed his former position at the Chicago Manual Training School, and remained in that city until 1901. Mr. Hansen then returned to his native city and since 1906 has been teller of the Beloit Savings Bank, of which his twin brother, Edward Franklin, is secretary and treasurer. They are able financiers and reliable business men who have contributed notably to the success and prestige of that institution.

William O. Hansen was married August 7, 1889, to Miss Nellie Gravidaler, a daughter of T. G. Gravidaler, of Newark, Rock county, Wisconsin, whose death occurred June 10, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have become the parents of two sons: Blaine, who was born November 20, 1890; and Waldo, born February 13, 1892. Mr. Hansen is allied with the republican party and in 1905 took his seat in the lower house of the state legislature, in which he served until 1907, inclusive. He left the impress of his individuality upon the laws enacted during those sessions, introducing the bill that created a municipal court in Beloit and abolished those formerly conducted by a police judge and justice of the peace. Mr. Hansen was at one time a member of the city council and throughout life has shown an unselfish spirit of devotion to the general good. He is much interested in the work of the Young Men's Christian As-

sociation of Beloit and for sixteen years has been one of its directors. He is serving as vice president of the local historical society and along fraternal lines is connected with the Masonic order. Mr. Hansen is a useful and influential member of society and his fellow citizens speak of him in terms of high regard.

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#### NELS J. BILLSTROM.

Nels J. Billstrom, a veteran manufacturer of the city of Rockford, head of the important industrial concern which bears his name and in which, in partnership association with his son, Edwin J. Billstrom, he is engaged in the manufacture of woodworking machinery; also president of the L. T. L. Tool Company, manufacturers of dies and tools; an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and in other ways interested in the industrial and commercial development of his home town, is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of the city of Rockford since the days of his young manhood, a period now covering more than forty-five years. He was born in the kingdom of Sweden, December 15, 1856, a son of Nels and Karen Billstrom, both also natives of that country.

Reared in his native place, Nels J. Billstrom grew up a practical machinist and remained there until he was twenty-three years of age when, in 1880, he came to the United States and by prior arrangement became a resident of Rockford, finding immediate employment there in the machine shop then being operated by William Gent, on the waterpower in that city. In the next year Mr. Billstrom was married and established his home in Rockford, which ever since has been his home, with the exception of a brief period during the late '80s when he took a prospecting trip through the west. Upon his return to Rockford in 1889 he became connected with the operations of the Rockford Machine Works and was for sixteen years thus connected, working his way up to the position of foreman of that plant.

In 1904 Mr. Billstrom engaged in the manufacturing business on his own account in Rockford, opening up a small machine shop and particularly interesting himself in the manufacture of an ingenious glue-clamp carrier which he had designed and patented one year before and the practicability and convenience of which had begun to appeal to all woodworking industries. This Billstrom glue-clamp carrier, a device enabling the gluing, clamping and drying process to be carried on as one operation, has found such favor in the woodworking field that it now is used universally, the market for this product created by Mr. Billstrom not only covering this country but foreign countries, and his export trade is a large feature of his business. Mr. Billstrom secured his initial patent on this device in 1903. Other patents covering improvements on his popular device were secured in 1909 and in 1916, and he has been very successful in creating a market for his product. He has a well equipped machine shop at No. 2002 Ninth street, and in addition to the manufacture of his gluing device also manufactures several other machines entering into the woodworking industries.



MR. AND MRS. NELS J. BILLSTROM



Of late years Mr. Billstrom has had associated with him in this business, under a partnership arrangement, his son, Edwin J. Billstrom, who grew up in the business and who now is the general manager of the concern, relieving his father of administrative cares. The elder Billstrom also is the president of the L. T. L. Tool Company of Rockford, manufacturers of dies and tools, and has other interests of an industrial and financial character in and about the city, one of the substantial residents of the town who has made his way in the industrial life of that city from a start as a workman. He is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and he and his family are republicans.

On May 28, 1881, the year following his arrival in Rockford, Nels J. Billstrom was united in marriage to Miss Anna Mathilda Hanson, who also was born in Sweden and who had come to this country some time prior to that date. Mr. and Mrs. Billstrom have four children: The son, Edwin J. Billstrom, mentioned above as partner of his father and general manager of the affairs of the Billstrom factory; and three daughters—Emma, Gunhild and Florence.

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#### JESSE A. BARLOGA.

Jesse A. Barloga, a well known and well established architect of Rockford, one of the leaders in his line in the Rock River valley, with a record of substantial achievement that is not confined to the local field, is a native son of Winnebago county and his interests have ever centered here. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Pecatonica on February 15, 1888, where his parents, Henry B. and Otilia Barloga, were well established.

Reared on the farm, Jesse A. Barloga finished his local studies in the Peecatonica high school and after preparatory work in the Illinois University Academy entered the university, from which institution he was graduated (B. S.) in 1911, having given special attention there to the course in architecture. Upon receiving his diploma Mr. Barloga became connected with the staff of Frank A. Carpenter, a well established architect at Rockford, and there became thoroughly grounded in the details of practical architectural operations. As a member of the local unit of the Illinois National Guard he rendered service in the army during the time of the flurry on the Mexican border in the summer of 1916, a member of Pershing's army, and when in the next year this country took a hand in the World war he sought a renewal of military activity, but his services as an architect were considered more immediately valuable and his war activities were thus confined to the civil service, aiding in the labors attending the erection of the military buildings at Camp Grant (Rockford), on which work he was occupied for a year.

Upon the completion of this war service Mr. Barloga opened an office for the practice of his profession at Rockford and has since been located there, with well equipped offices in the Trust building. The character of Mr. Barloga's work is such as to commend his services in discriminating building circles and he is widely known in his profession throughout this section of the country. Among the conspicuous examples of his art may be mentioned the hand-

some new Children's Home at Rockford, an admirable bit of institutional architecture; the Sigma Nu fraternity house at Iowa City; certain of the more recent buildings of the Iowa State University; the new Masonic temple at Polo and many of the finest of the residences that have been erected at Rockford in recent years.

On February 24, 1915, at Rockford, Jesse A. Barloga was united in marriage to Miss Viola Hodgson, daughter of Sannel Hodgson of that city, and to this union one child was born, a son, Henry Hodgson Barloga, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Barloga are members of the Congregational church, of the Rockford Country Club and are republicans. Mr. Barloga is a member of the locally influential Rockford Kiwanis Club, whose motto is "We Build," and of the University Club of Rockford. He is a member of all the Masonic bodies open to the inquirer and is likewise affiliated with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### JOHN CROCKER FOOTE.

When the late John Crocker Foote, for years a well known merchant at Belvidere, died at his home in that city in the summer of 1917 one of the local newspapers observed that "Mr. Foote had always been identified with the interests of the place in which most of his life had been passed and to the advancement of which he had largely contributed, and his departure from earthly scenes will be the source of sorrow and regret to a multitude of friends. He was a man of the highest Christian character, of unswerving integrity, cultured, genial, a true and constant friend, and widely esteemed in the community. To the bereaved family will be given the sympathy and condolences of all the friends."

Though a native of the old Empire state, John C. Foote had been a resident of Belvidere from the days of his young manhood and had thus for years been a conspicuous and influential factor in the commercial and social life of that city. He was born in the village of Hamilton in Madison county, New York, in 1841, and was a son of John J. and Mary (Crocker) Foote, both members of old colonial families and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, together with an interesting narrative relating to the late John J. Foote, in his generation one of the foremost citizens of the Rock River valley and from 1865 until the time of his death in 1905 a resident of Belvidere, where he had interests of varied character, banking, mercantile, industrial and agricultural, and who was regarded as one of the wealthiest men in the valley.

Reared in his home town of Hamilton, John C. Foote followed in the footsteps of his father in a mercantile way, becoming a druggist there, a line he followed at that place until two or three years after his father had moved out here to the Rock River valley, when he disposed of his holdings there and in 1869 came to Belvidere and set himself up in the drug business, with a store on South State street, and there remained active in business until his retire-

ment in 1914. His death occurred at his home at 303 East Lincoln avenue July 12, 1917, and at his passing he left a good memory, as has been recounted above. In 1867, at New York city, John C. Foote was united in marriage to Miss Helen Garvin, and he was survived by his widow and three daughters, Mrs. Helen Purinton, Mrs. May Garvin Engstrom and Mrs. Florence Engstrom; and a sister, Mrs. Harriet Foote Sabin, widow of the late David D. Sabin of Belvidere. His only son, John Garvin, passed away in 1903 at the age of twenty-six years.

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### JOEL B. WHITEHEAD.

In real estate circles in northern Illinois and throughout the Rock River valley generally there are few names more firmly established than is that of the veteran realtor, Joel B. Whitehead, who has been engaged in the real estate business at Rockford for almost thirty-five years and is regarded as one of the best informed men with relation to realty values in this section of the country. In addition to his activities in the realty field Mr. Whitehead also is widely known by reason of his local civic activities and his general promotion work, being for years prominently identified with the general civic and social movements of the community in which he has been so long established. He served for several years as a member of the local board of education, an active personal factor in the promotion of the interests of the Rockford city schools, and he also has rendered service as a member of the Winnebago board of supervisors, this latter term of public service having covered the years 1896-1902. In the campaign preceding the last city election his friends urged him to stand for the mayoralty as the nominee of the republican party, in the affairs of which party he has been for years earnestly interested, but he declined the honor.

Joel B. Whitehead was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Hillsboro in Montgomery county, Illinois, January 31, 1861, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Paisley) Whitehead, who were well established on their farm there. He finished his local schooling in the Hillsboro Academy and then entered Beloit College, where he was in attendance for three years (1883-86), at the end of which time he took up his residence at Rockford and there became employed in the stock department of the wholesale glove and mitten concern of Henry W. Price & Company and was thus engaged for four or five years, during which time, in the spring of 1890, he married and established his home in Rockford. It was on January 1 of the year following his marriage that Mr. Whitehead became engaged in the real estate business at Rockford, a line which ever since has engaged his attention and in which he has become very successful, this business comprehending not only the general realty market as related to this region, but also mortgage loans, investments and insurance. He has a well appointed office in the Rockford National Bank building and of late years has been assisted in his business by his son, Loren L. Whitehead, who is office manager.



It was on May 20, 1890, at Rockford, that Joel B. Whitehead was united in marriage to Miss Emma A. Leach, daughter of Sheppard and Phoebe Leach of that city, and to this union three children have been born, the son Loren, mentioned above, and two daughters—Ruth, born August 17, 1892, who died August 25, 1904; and Grace, born December 23, 1893, who died in infancy. Loren L. Whitehead, who was born September 28, 1897, was graduated from Beloit College in 1919 and has since been associated with his father in the real estate and investment business at Rockford, as above noted, one of the city's active and progressive young business men. The Whiteheads are members of the Second Congregational church and Mr. Whitehead has for years taken an interested and helpful part in the work of that congregation. He is a Mason of long standing, affiliated with all the bodies of that ancient order that are available to the inquirer, and is likewise a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

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#### ERNEST A. SILVERTHORN.

The best history of any community is that which deals with the life work of those who by their earnest efforts and well directed industry have forged ahead and become successful and representative members of their community. The subject of this sketch has solely through his own efforts forged his way to a place of independence and respect among his fellow citizens and as a representative citizen of his locality is entitled to specific mention in a history of this section. Ernest A. Silverthorn is a native of Footville, where his birth occurred on the 24th of December, 1892, and he is the son of George Darius and Elizabeth Jane (Royer) Silverthorn, who were among the early settlers of this place. The father established one of the first general stores here in 1875 and conducted it a number of years, eventually selling it to his son-in-law, F. J. Trevorrah, and retiring from active business, living at his home in Footville until his death, which occurred in 1913.

Ernest A. Silverthorn received his education in the public schools of Footville and in 1912 he established himself in the general insurance and real estate business, with offices in Footville and Orfordville. He continued that business until 1918, when he sold out to O. T. Rime, of Orfordville, and bought his father's old store from his brother-in-law, and he has conducted it since. He carries a large and well selected stock of such merchandise as is demanded by the local trade and by his courteous manners and good service has built the business up to a very satisfactory condition.

Mr. Silverthorn is a republican in his political views and has been an active factor in public affairs here, having served in 1923 as a member of the county board of supervisors. He was largely instrumental in having the road to Footville paved with concrete. He is an active member of the Footville Community Commercial Club and of the Modern Woodmen of America. On April 27, 1914, Mr. Silverthorn was married to Miss Edith Timm, the daughter of W. F. Timm, of Janesville, and they are the parents of one child, Gerald Timm Silver-

thorn, born February 18, 1916. Personally Mr. Silverthorn is a man of public spirit and generous impulses, who is never found lacking in support of measures for the community welfare. A worthy scion of one of Footville's early families he has so ordered his actions as to earn the confidence and good will of all who know him.

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LUCIUS S. MOSELEY.

A great essayist said, "The true grandeur of nations is in those qualities which constitute the true greatness of the individual." If this be true, then to such lives as that of the late Lucius S. Moseley is this country indebted for its high standing among the nations of the earth. In but few persons have there been combined so perfectly the qualities which commend men to their fellows. Possessing a strong and alert mind, a kindly and tolerant disposition, yet positive in his convictions and courageous in their utterance, a soundness of judgment and a shrewdness in human affairs that would have insured success in any undertaking, and a never failing friendliness in his relations with those with whom he came in contact, Mr. Moseley throughout his long and useful life commanded the admiration and respect of the community. Lucius S. Moseley was born in Indiantown, Bureau county, Illinois, February 26, 1843, and his death occurred January 5, 1923, in the eightieth year of his age. He was the second of four children born to Selden D. and Harriet U. (Gage) Moseley, the former a native of Wyndham, Connecticut, and the latter of Bedford, Massachusetts. Prior to their marriage the father and mother had gone with other colonists to Bureau county, arriving there in the early thirties and settling near Dixon. They married and lived there until 1843, when the father came to Rock county, Wisconsin, and after selecting a site for his home returned for his family. They arrived in Beloit on May 15, 1843. Their first home was located at the present junction of Bluff and D streets, and there they lived for thirteen years. He was the first drayman in Beloit, to which vocation he later added a blacksmith shop and still later a lumber yard. His death occurred in 1884.

Lucius S. Moseley was reared to manhood in Beloit, securing his education in the public schools of that city and in Beloit Academy. On August 14, 1862, he offered his services to his country, enlisting in Company B, Twenty-second Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, being mustered in at Racine. They were first sent to Cincinnati, whence they went through Kentucky to Louisville, from which point they were sent by transport down the Ohio river and up the Cumberland to Nashville. From there they marched to Brentwood and thence to Thompson's Station, where they received their baptism of fire and after five hours of desperate fighting were compelled to surrender, twelve hundred of the brigade being taken prisoners and sent to the notorious Libby prison at Richmond. Six weeks later Mr. Moseley, with others, was paroled and sent to the parole camp at Benton Barracks, Missouri. The paroled troops were later reorganized and sent to Murfreesboro, whence they joined Sherman's army and took part in the latter's historic march to the sea. At the hotly contested

battle of Peach Tree creek, July 20, 1864, Mr. Moseley's company went in with seventeen men and after the battle came out with nine men. Mr. Moseley, with his regiment, participated in the Grand Review at Washington and on July 29, 1865, was honorably discharged after nearly three years of continuous service, during which he was never absent from his regiment and never missed a roll call. For many years prior to his death the survivors of Company B met in reunion at Mr. Moseley's home on September 2d, the date of their mustering into the service.

On his return to civil pursuits Mr. Moseley engaged for a time in threshing and then engaged in farming, leasing land for a number of years. He then bought what was known as the Hugh Lee farm, of two hundred and forty acres, in addition to which he bought thirty-four acres within the limits of Beloit. Besides a general line of farming, Mr. Moseley was especially interested in the raising of live stock, keeping nothing but high grade and pure bred animals, having Jersey cattle, Poland-China hogs and thoroughbred chickens. He was very successful in his farming operations and was numbered among the most substantial farmers in his locality. He created a splendid homestead and the last years of his life were spent in comfort and ease. During his active years he was greatly interested in the various activities of the community. He served as president of the Rock County Sailors and Soldiers Association, was commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic for three years and had filled all the offices of his township except the chairmanship, which he had declined to accept. He was a splendid citizen in the best sense of the term. His motives and actions were based on that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. To such men as he the great middle west owes its present prosperity. His standard was a high one and he maintained it faithfully, being universally recognized as a man of lofty character and sturdy integrity, true to his ideals—such a man that the world was better for his having lived.

In December, 1869, Mr. Moseley was married to Miss Fannie M. Brittan, the daughter of Alfred Brittan, an early settler of Beloit township, and five children blessed their union, namely: Metta, Harry L., Hubert B., who is represented elsewhere in this work, Jessie V. and Florence H.

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#### ALBERT WILLIAM CHRISTENSON, M. D.

Dr. Albert William Christenson, one of the best known physicians of the city of Rockford, a captain in the Officers' Reserve Corps of the United States army and a veteran of the World war with an officer's commission, a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital, and for ten years and more a practicing physician of Rockford, is a native of Illinois and has been a resident of that state all his life. He was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the village of Garden Prairie, Boone county, May 25, 1886, a son of Andrew and Nellie Christenson, substantial farming people of that community, the former of whom is a native of the kingdom of Norway.



DR. ALBERT W. CHRISTENSON



Reared on the home farm in the neighborhood of Garden Prairie, Albert William Christenson supplemented the education he acquired in the local schools by a course in one of the Chicago high schools and early turned his attention to the study of medicine. Under capable preceptorship he was prepared for medical college and in due time entered the Medical School of Loyola University at Chicago and in 1913 was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D. Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Christenson was appointed an interne in Jefferson Park Hospital at Chicago and after a year of intensive practical experience in professional service in that institution established himself in practice in Rockford, where he since has been located, with present offices at No. 504 East State street, and has done very well both as a general practitioner and as a surgeon. The Doctor is a member of the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital of Rockford and is highly regarded in the profession.

His office is at No. 1007 Rockford National Bank building, and his residence is at No. 205 Midway apartments.

When this country took a hand in the World war in the spring of 1917, Dr. Christenson enlisted his services in behalf of the Medical Corps of the army, was commissioned first lieutenant in that corps, and sent to Camp Custer, and later transferred to Camp Dodge, at which latter post he was retained for some time after the war had come to a close. He was commissioned a captain of the Medical Corps, which title he still holds in the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps of the army and is thus now serving.

Dr. Christenson is a member of the Winnebago County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, and has ever kept abreast of the advances being made in his profession. He is a member of the college fraternity (Medical) Phi Delta; is a thirty-second degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine; is an active member of the locally influential Lions Club of Rockford; and is also affiliated with the Royal Arcanum.

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#### WALTER WILL CROCKETT, M. D.

Dr. Walter Will Crockett, a general practitioner, has been a member of the medical fraternity of Beloit, Wisconsin, for twenty years and during this period has become firmly established in public regard as an able representative of his profession and a citizen of worth. He was born February 11, 1869, in Seward, Winnebago county, Illinois, a son of John A. and Emma (Shimmin) Crockett, who were pioneers in the settlement of that district. John A. Crockett followed the occupation of farming as a life work. The maternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch took up government land.

Walter Will Crockett attended the public schools of Beloit and the local academy, afterward entering the Chicago Medical School of Northwestern University, from which he was graduated in 1896. He was associated for two years with Dr. I. C. Gary, a prominent physician of the Medical School of

Northwestern University, and in 1896 opened an office in Roscoe, Illinois, where he lived until 1905. He has since been a resident of Beloit and has long been numbered among the city's leading physicians. He is local surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, a member of the staff of the H. B. Strong Emergency Hospital, and also conducts an extensive private practice. His studies have covered a broad field and his investigations have been most thorough, bringing him a comprehensive knowledge of the most advanced methods and theories of the science of medicine and surgery.

Dr. Crockett was married June 26, 1898, to Miss Grace Baldwin, a daughter of George Baldwin of Roscoe, Illinois. Dr. and Mrs. Crockett have become the parents of four children: Genevieve, Russell, Jeannette and Walter David.

Dr. Crockett votes the republican ticket and along fraternal lines is connected with the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. He is a member of the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit, the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies, the American Medical Association and the American Association of Railway Surgeons. Dr. Crockett is a man of advanced scientific attainments and in the exercise of his beneficent calling is prompted by broad humanitarian principles.

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#### ERNEST RICHARD LUNDIN.

Ernest Richard Lundin of the firm of Lundin & Grip, building contractors at Rockford, giving special attention to masonry construction, has been a resident of Rockford for over twelve years and during that time has become a well recognized figure in the local building trades. Mr. Lundin was born in Sweden on January 10, 1880, and is a son of John and Clara Lundin, who also were born in that country. There he was reared and had his schooling and there he early became familiar with the bricklayer's trade, a skilled craftsman along that line. He married in his homeland, where he remained until 1913, when he came with his family to the United States and immediately proceeded to Illinois, establishing his home at Rockford, where he has ever since resided.

Upon coming to Rockford in 1913 Mr. Lundin became employed at his trade as a bricklayer and so continued until 1917, when he and Harry F. Grip formed a partnership under the firm name of Lundin & Grip and became engaged as mason contractors, a line which they since have followed quite successfully, with offices in the Reliance building. Among the buildings which they have aided to erect may be mentioned the new Children's Home building, the parochial school building of the Emanuel Lutheran congregation at Freeport, the building of the Monroe Center State Bank at Monroe Center, some fine residences at Sterling and numbers of fine residences and several factory buildings at Rockford. This firm is a member of the Associated Building Contractors of Rockford, which is affiliated with the Illinois state association of the same line of industry.

On March 30, 1905, in his native land, Ernest R. Lundin was united in marriage to Miss Thyra Anna Nathalia Olson, daughter of Adolph and Emma

Olson, and they have one child, Miss Gerthie Nathalia Lundin, born May 18, 1906. The Lundins reside at 618 Tenth street and are pleasantly situated there. They are republicans. Mr. Lundin is an Odd Fellow and is also a member of the compatriotic orders, the Vikings and the Vasa.

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#### NORMAN T. THOREN.

Norman T. Thoren, president of the Thoren Printing Company of Rockford and one of the well known young business men of that city, was born in Rockford, June 15, 1895, and is a son of Carl and Augusta Thoren, who are still living there. Reared at Rockford, he attended the local schools, going on into business college, and early became employed at clerical work, this service having been rendered at one time and another in the offices of the Burd Ring Company, the Free Sewing Machine Company and the Rockford Malleable Iron Works, in which capacity he obtained a thorough and valuable acquaintance with general local industrial and commercial conditions.

In 1919 Mr. Thoren became engaged in business on his own account, in that year organizing the Thoren Printing Company, associating with his brothers in the general printing business at Rockford, with a well equipped establishment at 1230 Fourteenth avenue. Norman T. Thoren is president of the Thoren Printing Company, R. S. Thoren is the vice president and R. C. Thoren is the secretary, a very congenial and harmonious arrangement which is effecting results of a highly satisfactory character, for this firm has built up a flourishing and growing business and has come to be recognized as one of the going concerns of the town. The Thoren brothers are members of the Fourteenth Avenue Business Men's Association and are earnest and effective boosters of the interests of that progressive and flourishing trade center in which they are located. They are republicans and take a proper interest in the general civic affairs of the community.

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#### PAUL ALLEN FOX, M. D.

Dr. Paul Allen Fox, a successful surgeon, has practiced in Beloit, Wisconsin, for a quarter of a century and enjoys an enviable reputation as a gynecologist. He was born March 28, 1872, in Oregon, Dane county, Wisconsin, and his parents, Dr. George Herbert and Lucy (Allen) Fox, were members of honored pioneer families of the state. The father was also a medical practitioner and for many years was numbered among the leading physicians of Oregon, Wisconsin. He moved from that locality to Janesville, this state, where he also built up a large practice, and remained a resident of that city until his death, which occurred in 1922.

Paul Allen Fox acquired his preliminary education in the grammar and high schools of Stoughton, Wisconsin, and then matriculated in the University



of Wisconsin, which he attended for three years. He received the M. D. degree from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1895 and began his professional career in Brooklyn, Wisconsin, where he spent five years. In 1900 he opened an office in Beloit, where he has since made his home, and each year has witnessed a marked increase in his practice, which has now assumed extensive proportions. In 1916, in association with Dr. Arthur C. Helm, he organized the Beloit Clinic and is serving as its president. He was also a leading spirit in the formation of the project for the building of the Beloit Hospital, which is a well equipped institution, thoroughly modern in its appointments, and maintains a staff of eight experienced physicians and surgeons. Although Dr. Fox is a general practitioner, he specializes in gynecology, having an expert knowledge of this branch of medical science, and has successfully performed many difficult surgical operations.

On the 10th of May, 1898, Dr. Fox was married to Miss Elizabeth Walters, a daughter of John Walters of Oregon, Wisconsin. Dr. and Mrs. Fox have a family of two children: Elizabeth, who was born November 30, 1902; and Joseph, born May 15, 1907. The Doctor is a republican but has never sought office as a reward for party fealty. He is identified with the Masonic order and belongs to the Rotary and Country Clubs of Beloit. He is also a member of the Physicians and Surgeons Club of Beloit, the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. He possesses a studious nature, a keen intellect and a progressive spirit and stands deservedly high in his profession.

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#### HARRY F. GRIP.

Harry F. Grip of the firm of Lundin & Grip, building contractors at Rockford, widely known in the building trades throughout the Rock River valley, was born in the city of Chicago on December 28, 1889, and is a son of John F. and Louise Grip, both of whom were born in Sweden. John F. Grip was a well established stonemason contractor at Chicago. In 1892 he moved from that city to Rockford, where he became engaged in the same line of building operations and where he ever since has made his home, now living retired there.

Harry F. Grip was but two or three years of age when his parents moved with their family from Chicago to Rockford and he thus was reared in the latter city, where he had his schooling. As a lad he became familiar with the building trades through association with his father's operations as a builder and he remained with his father until in 1909, when he began working for other contractors in Rockford and adjacent towns and thus continued until in 1917, when he and Ernest R. Lundin formed a partnership under the firm name of Lundin & Grip and became engaged as contractors in the line of masonry construction. They have since been quite successful along that line, with present offices in the Reliance building. Some of the building on which they have had contracts for the masonry work are the new Children's Home

building at Rockford, a Lutheran parochial school at Freeport, a bank at Monroe Center, the Palm apartment house at Rockford, some fine residences at Sterling and numerous fine residences and several factory buildings at Rockford. This firm is a member of the Associated Building Contractors and has an excellent rating in the trade.

On February 1, 1911, Harry F. Grip was united in marriage to Miss Ida M. Brundine, daughter of John Brundine, of Rockford, and they have two sons: Roger, born April 30, 1913; and Harry, born February 21, 1919. The Grips reside at No. 222 London avenue, where they are pleasantly situated. Mr. and Mrs. Grip are republicans. Mr. Grip is an Odd Fellow and is a member of the local compatriotic order of the Vasa.

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#### REV. EDWARD AUMANN.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic parish at Fort Atkinson has been an effective organization for more than forty years and is thus a definite and serviceable factor in the general social development of that section of the beautiful valley of the Rock river. This parish, of which the Rev. Edward Aumann, one of the best known and best loved clergymen in the valley, has for the past fifteen years been the pastor, had its establishment as a mission under the direction of the Order of the Fathers of the Holy Cross at Watertown on August 11, 1884, and under that fostering care was nurtured until presently the local congregation was able to see its way clear to the acquisition of a definite church home and bought the old Universalist church building. The parish was maintained as a mission for ten years or until in August, 1895, when the Rev. F. X. Schneider was installed as the first resident pastor. This good man remained as the spiritual adviser of his flock for ten years, or until in 1904, when he was succeeded by the Rev. John Pechong, who a year later was succeeded by the Rev. S. J. Dowling. The latter's service also covered about a year, at the end of which time the Rev. J. F. McCarthy was sent to take pastoral charge. Father McCarthy continued thus to serve until in 1911, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Edward Aumann, the present pastor of the parish, who was installed there on May 1, 1911, of that year and has since been rendering an effective service, the affairs of the parish having been greatly extended in all ways during his pastorate. In September, 1913, two years after his arrival, the parish school was established under the charge of the Sisters of St. Francis and this parochial school has since been developed in admirable fashion, now having an attendance of about one hundred and twenty-five pupils. Upon taking charge at St. Joseph's, Father Aumann set about the inauguration of plans for a better and more commodious house of worship for his flock and during the summer of 1915 the old church edifice was remodeled, as was the parish house, and the grounds surrounding the same improved as befitted the parish's growing importance. St. Joseph's parish now numbers about one hundred and twenty-five families and all departments of the parish's activities are reported to be in a flourishing condition.

Father Aumann is a native son of Jefferson county and his community service is therefore utterly wholehearted, as befits one "native and to the manner born." He was born in the city of Jefferson, county seat of the county of that name, February 28, 1880, and is a son of John and Caroline (Kemmeter) Aumann, both also natives of this county, the latter born in Jefferson, a daughter of Michael and Caroline Kemmeter, natives of Germany and the former of whom was widely known in his generation in this section of the valley as a brick manufacturer. John Aumann, who became a substantial farmer and landowner in the immediate vicinity of Jefferson, was a son of John and Mary Aumann, who had settled in the Jefferson neighborhood in the late '40s of the past century and were thus numbered among the useful pioneers of Jefferson county. Reared in the Jefferson neighborhood in the faith of the Roman Catholic communion, to which his parents were devoted, Edward Aumann received his initial educational training in the parochial school at Jefferson and early became inclined to the service of the church. Under local preceptorship he was prepared for the seminary and then entered St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee. He was fully instructed in the classics, philosophy and theology and prepared for holy orders. In 1904, when twenty-four years of age, Father Aumann was ordained to the priesthood, the ceremony being performed by Archbishop S. G. Messmer, and in that same year was appointed assistant to the pastor of St. Kilian's parish at Hartford in Washington county, Wisconsin, and was presently given charge of Holy Hill and St. Patrick's mission. In 1906 he was transferred to the parish of the holy Redeemer at Madison and there continued in service as assistant to the pastor until in 1911 when, as stated above, he was installed as pastor of St. Joseph's parish at Fort Atkinson and has since been in residence there, one of the best loved and most popular citizens of that place and an influential personal factor in the general affairs of the city. Father Aumann takes a warm interest in all movements designed to promote the general interests of his home town and is an active member of the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce. From the days of his boyhood he has had a close interest in local historical research and is an influential member of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, to the archives of which he not infrequently has contributed valuable material based on his considerable local research work.

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#### EDWIN J. BILLSTROM

Edwin J. Billstrom, superintendent and general manager of the Nels J. Billstrom Machine Company, with residence at No. 218 Regan street, Rockford, is proving in the success that attends his every-day work, the value of expert knowledge, coupled with natural aptitude for a certain line of endeavor. He is a son of Nels J. and Anna (Hanson) Billstrom, and was born in Rockford, Ill., September 25, 1896.

Edwin J. Billstrom grew up in this city and attended the public schools. He then took a course in engineering and also was a student in the Draughton-



EDWIN J. BILLSTROM



Porter Business College, Rockford. Immediately following the completion of his studies, he took a position in his father's manufacturing plant. This business had been established in 1903, upon a small scale, but has been developed until now two buildings are utilized, one seventy-five by one hundred feet in dimensions, and one fifty by one hundred feet. The shops are among the best equipped in their line in the state. The company manufactures woodworking machinery and the product is shipped all over the world, the company having customers in Canada and in all foreign countries. In 1915 four carloads of machinery were shipped to Russia. The business has shown a healthy and genuine increase annually. Mr. Billstrom is recognized as one of the live, enterprising young business men of Rockford, and under his active supervision further development may be anticipated.

Mr. Billstrom was married on December 8, 1917, to Miss Helen L. Johnson, daughter of Ernest R. and Amanda Johnson, the former a native of Tibro, Sweden, and the latter born in Rockford, Illinois. Mr. Billstrom is a chapter Mason and belongs to the Izaak Walton League and the Machine Company's Association.

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#### OSCAR H. JOHNSON.

Oscar H. Johnson, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, founder and vice president of the Novelty Furniture Company of Rockford and one of the best known and most energetic of the younger leaders in the great furniture manufacturing industry in that city, is a native son of Winnebago county, born at Westfield Corners, December 16, 1890, and thus is now in the prime of his vigorous young manhood.

Mr. Johnson attended the Rockford city schools and early became employed in the furniture factories of that city, learning the business "from the ground up." After some very practical experience along this line acquired in the plants of the Blackhawk Furniture Company and the Skandia Furniture Company he became engaged as a traveling salesman, calling on the furniture dealers throughout that great trade area centering at Rockford, and was thus engaged when this country entered the World war. On February 26, 1918, Mr. Johnson enlisted as a private and was assigned to the Fifty-third Engineers Corps and with that command rendered a year of service overseas. He received his discharge on June 14, 1919, and upon his return to Rockford resumed his former connection with the Blackhawk Furniture Company. Not long afterward he discerned the possibilities inherent in a new line of manufactured products at Rockford and set up a small factory on his own account for the manufacture of furniture novelties, with particular attention to radio cabinets and the like. The quality and character of the products turned out in his factory quickly attracted attention and he found that he was creating a wide demand for these products. With a view to extending his operations along general production lines Mr. Johnson was able to interest capital in his project and in 1922 he organized the Rockford Novelty Furniture Company. By the extension of his facilities and increased production he has built up a

business which has become recognized as one of the leaders in that particular line, this company now confining its output exclusively to the manufacture of high grade cabinets for radio outfits. Mr. Johnson is the vice president and general manager of this company, Arthur L. Johnson is the president, Joseph Johnson is the secretary, Boyd Easton is the treasurer and George Carlson is the assistant secretary, a combination that in general trade circles hereabout is regarded as an admirable one. The company has a well equipped plant at 1218-1220 Ford avenue.

On July 9, 1921, at Rockford, Oscar H. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Amelia Johnson of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have a pleasant home at Rockford and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the circle in which they move.

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#### EDWARD FRANKLIN HANSEN.

Edward Franklin Hansen is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of Beloit, Wisconsin, and a native son whose record is a credit to the city. For thirty-three years he has been secretary and treasurer of the Beloit Savings Bank and his name is inseparably associated with the history of the growth and progress of that institution. He has filled many civic offices and has also aided in framing the laws of his state, ably and faithfully executing every trust reposed in him. He was born October 7, 1860, and has always lived in Beloit, being thoroughly appreciative of the advantages and attractions of his city. His father, Carelius Hansen, was a native of Norway and a blacksmith by trade. He emigrated to the United States as a young man and settled in Beloit in 1854. He became one of the pioneer manufacturers of the city, building up an industry of much importance. He combined mechanical ingenuity with business acumen and executive ability and his enterprising spirit and high principles made him a citizen of worth to the community, in which he was known as "Charles" Hansen by his many friends. His wife, Guri (Aas) Hansen, was also a native of Norway and passed away in 1901, while his demise occurred on the 30th of January, 1917. In the family were eleven children, six of whom are living: William Oscar and Edward Franklin, twins; Miss Mary Hansen, Mrs. Charlotte R. Hopperstead, and William O., and Conrad M.

Edward Franklin Hansen attended the public schools of Beloit and his first business experience was gained under his father, who had organized the firm of C. Hansen & Sons for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Later E. F. Hansen was employed as a machinist in the shops of O. E. Merrill & Company of Beloit and in 1891 he was elected a director of the Beloit Savings Bank, of which he was made secretary and treasurer in the following year. He has since filled these offices and has labored earnestly and effectively to broaden the scope of the institution, possessing a keen insight into business affairs and having a comprehensive understanding of the details of modern finance.

On May 29, 1895, Mr. Hansen was united in marriage to Miss Carrie A. Ross, a daughter of L. E. and Susan M. Ross of Beloit. Mr. Hansen and family attend the First Congregational church. In politics he is a staunch republican. His identification with public affairs forms one of the vital interests of his life and he has never used his talents unworthily nor supported a dishonorable cause. The first office to which he was called was that of city treasurer, which he filled from 1885 until 1887 inclusive, and in 1888 he was made city clerk, acting in that capacity until February, 1896, when he resigned. In 1889 he was elected treasurer of the Beloit school district, holding that responsible position for ten years, and in the session of 1895-96 served the people of the first assembly district of Rock county as their representative in the state legislature. He was a member of the Beloit Board of Public Works in 1896, alderman of the second ward from 1897 until 1899 inclusive, and in 1901 was appointed by Judge Dunwiddie a member of the Rock county board of jury commissioners, on which he served for many years. Along fraternal lines he is connected with Beloit Lodge, No. 40, of the Knights of Pythias. At the present time he is the president of The Country Club of Beloit, having previously filled the offices of secretary and treasurer of the club. Mr. Hansen has been a moving spirit in the accomplishment of much important work along lines of municipal advancement and the reputation that comes from the performance of duty well done is his just reward.

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#### N. J. HANSON.

A due measure of success invariably results from clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life, but in following the career of one who gained success solely through his own efforts there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible. Persistent and indefatigable industry, sound business judgment and wise discrimination were the characteristic attributes of the late N. J. Hanson, of Rockford, who not only gained material success, but also left the indelible impress of his personality upon the lives of all with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Hanson was born in Sofden Socken, Skane, Sweden, on the 10th of June, 1853, and died at his home in Rockford on the 16th of July, 1901, at the age of forty-eight years. He was educated in the schools of his native land and spent his boyhood on the paternal farmstead. His mother died in Sweden in 1869, and on May 3, 1872, he and his father immigrated to the United States, coming by way of Quebec. They came direct to Rockford, Illinois, and when he reached here the subject was not only practically penniless but was also forty dollars in debt for his ship passage money. However, he had good health and great ambition, and he lost no time in looking for something to do. His first employment here was as a day laborer. He was steady and faithful in the performance of every task which he undertook and was wisely economical of his resources, so that eventually he found it possible to engage in business for himself. He opened a grocery store, in which his sound and



sterling business principles found exercise, and his enterprise rapidly grew until for fourteen years he was the leading grocer of this city. During ten years of this time he was in partnership with Claus Bengtson on East State street and then for four years he conducted a store in his own name on Seventh street. He also embarked in the furniture manufacturing business, in which his efforts were rewarded with a fine measure of success. He later organized the Skandia Coal Company, a successful concern, and subsequently erected what is known as the Hanson block, on Seventh street, a substantial three-story building, containing a store on the ground floor and flats on the two upper floors.

On December 2, 1875, Mr. Hanson was married to Miss Clara S. Bengtson, of Rockford, and to them were born five children: Mrs. Victor Nordin, Osear, Julian, George and Leona. Politically Mr. Hanson was an ardent supporter of the republican party and took an active interest in public affairs. During the administration of President Harrison he was appointed and served as a city mail carrier, and under Governor Tanner he was employed as a state carpenter, a position he held until illness prevented him from performing his duties. Fraternally, he was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He always stood ready to identify himself with his fellow citizens in any good work and extend a cooperating hand to advance any measure that was calculated to promote the public welfare. Quiet and unassuming, he possessed those qualities of character which beget friendships and throughout this locality he was held in the highest esteem because of his success, his genuine worth and his friendly disposition.

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#### CLYDE MILBRANDT.

Among the representative and progressive citizens of Footville, Rock county, Wisconsin, is Clyde Milbrandt, the present able and efficient manager of the Footville Telephone Company, who since coming to this locality has become a potent factor in the public activities of the community. Mr. Milbrandt was born in Monticello, Green county, Wisconsin, on the 4th of November, 1891, and is the son of Frank and Lillie (Richards) Milbrandt, prosperous farming people of that county. The subject received his education in the public schools of Monticello and then was employed in cement construction work in that locality until 1915, when he went to work for the Brooklyn Telephone Company, at Brooklyn, Wisconsin, as a lineman. He thoroughly learned the business and remained with that company until 1920, when he came to Footville and entered the employ of the Footville Telephone Company as lineman, in which position he continued until 1923, when he was chosen general manager of the company, which position he holds today. This is an independent company, with about three hundred and fifty subscribers in Footville and vicinity, and under the direction of Mr. Milbrandt excellent service is being rendered to its patrons. Mr. Milbrandt has a thoroughly practical knowledge of all the mechanical de-

tails of a telephone plant and is eminently qualified for the position he is so satisfactorily filling.

On September 7, 1921, Mr. Milbrandt was married to Miss Ada May Spencer, the daughter of C. V. Spencer, who now lives in California. To them has been born a daughter, Ida Lillian, born July 8, 1922. Politically Mr. Milbrandt is a republican and has taken an active interest in local public affairs since becoming a resident of Footville. He has been president of the school board since 1921 and in 1925 was elected president of the village board. He is also an active member of the Footville Community Commercial Club. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. On May 4, 1918, during the World war, Mr. Milbrandt enlisted in the Signal Corps of the United States army and was sent overseas, where he saw eleven months of active service. He was discharged June 30, 1919. A man of public spirit, marked business ability, exemplary character and friendly disposition, Mr. Milbrandt has earned a high place in the respect and confidence of the entire community.

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#### GEORGE FREDERICK.

George Frederick, manager of the loan and investment department of the Beloit Savings Bank, received no financial assistance when he started out in the business world but has gradually worked his way upward as he has demonstrated his worth and ability. He was born in Beloit, June 26, 1862, a son of Christopher and Katharine (Zinnel) Frederick, both natives of Germany. The father came to the United States with his parents in 1849 and before locating in Beloit lived for a time in Buffalo, New York. The mother was born January 8, 1840, and came to Beloit, Wisconsin, where she has since resided.

George Frederick received a public school education and at an early age became a wage earner, working first in a grocery store. He next entered the employ of the firm of Winslow & Rosenberg, dealers in hardware, and from 1876 until 1883 was connected with their establishment, acquiring a thorough knowledge of the trade. When twenty-one years of age he started a business of his own, opening a hardware store on State street in Beloit, and was its proprietor until 1901. After selling his stock he moved to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he embarked in the plumbing and heating business, and was thus engaged for twelve years, building up a good trade. In 1913 he returned to his native city and entered the Beloit Savings Bank, with which he has since been connected. He first acted as assistant to the treasurer and now has charge of the investment department. He is well informed regarding financial matters and efficiently manages the business intrusted to his care, exerting every effort to further the interests of the bank, which is one of the largest and strongest moneyed institutions in southern Wisconsin.

On June 26, 1895, Mr. Frederick was married to Miss Emilie Kurtz, a daughter of William and Christina Kurtz, who emigrated from Germany to the United States and settled in Shakopee, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Frederiek

have become the parents of four children: Paul Louis, who was born January 25, 1897, and is assisting his father in the bank; Lawrence, born July 29, 1899; Katherine, born October 16, 1902; and Edward, born April 26, 1911.

Mr. Frederick is a member of the Episcopal church and closely adheres to its teachings. He is allied with the republican party and at one time was a member of the common council of Beloit, in which he represented the second ward. He has always been a strong advocate of every measure destined to prove of benefit to his city, and that he is a man of strict integrity and moral worth is indicated by the high regard entertained for him by those among whom the greater part of his life has been passed.

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#### ARTHUR C. HELM, M. D.

Dr. Arthur C. Helm, physician and surgeon, has practiced continuously in Beloit for a period of forty-one years, constantly augmenting his knowledge and skill, and enjoys the twofold distinction of being one of the leading representatives of the medical fraternity of this city, as well as its oldest member. He was born October 23, 1857, at Indian Town, Iowa, a son of Woodhall and Mary A. (Clark) Helm, both of New York state. They started for the west in 1855 and were pioneers in the settlement of Iowa and Wisconsin.

Dr. Helm attended the grammar and high schools of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and received his higher education in the medical college of Northwestern University of Chicago, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1884 with the M. D. degree. He has since practiced in Beloit and from 1884 until 1887 was with Dr. H. B. Johnson. In 1890 the subject of this sketch was joined by his brother, Dr. Ernest C. Helm, of Chicago, with whom he was associated until 1892, and with the exception of these partnerships he has practiced alone. In 1916 he organized the Beloit Clinic and built the hospital, which now has a staff of eight doctors. It is one of the best equipped institutions of the kind in Rock county and a great asset to the city. Dr. Helm is local surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company and his comprehensive knowledge of his profession and the sureness and precision of his work have brought him an extensive practice.

On August 10, 1886, Dr. Helm was married to Miss Mary McMurdo, a daughter of James McMurdo, of Hortonville, Wisconsin, and they have become the parents of four children: Dr. Harold M. Helm, the eldest, was born May 18, 1888, and was graduated from Beloit College in 1909. He took a three-year academic course at the University of Wisconsin and next became a student at Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he received the M. D. degree in 1914. He afterward became an interne at the Cook County Hospital and filled that position for eighteen months: Alice Mildred, who was born on October 31, 1891, is the wife of Robert E. Haylett, of Long Beach, California; Clara Louise, born September 9, 1894, is now Mrs. William C. Sproul, of Rockford, Illinois; Mary R., born July 3, 1897, became the wife of Theodore Miles and resides in Taft, California.



DR. ARTHUR C. HELM



Dr. Helm is an adherent of the republican party and at one time was active in public affairs, serving for three years on the city council, while for a similar period he was a member of the police and fire commission. He enjoys outdoor life and belongs to the Stoughton and Beloit Country Clubs. He served on the local draft board during the World war, is a member of the Physicians & Surgeons Club of Beloit, of which he was the first president, and is connected with the Rock County and Wisconsin State Medical Societies and the American Medical Association. Dr. Helm has won that position of leadership in his profession which follows concentrated effort and ability of a high order and no resident of Beloit enjoys in a greater degree the esteem and admiration of its citizens.

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#### HUBERT BRITTAN MOSELEY.

The man whose name appears above is too well known to the citizens of Rock county, Wisconsin, to require any formal introduction here, for he not only has a well earned reputation as an enterprising and up-to-date agriculturist, but as a public-spirited citizen of his county he stands in the front rank. Being descended from old pioneer stock of this locality he has spent his life here and his career has been such as has conferred dignity on the community of which he is a representative citizen. Hubert Brittan Moseley was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on the 14th of October, 1874, and is the son of Lucius S. and Fannie (Brittan) Moseley, more extended mention of whom appears elsewhere in this work. The subject received his early education in the country schools of his native community and then entered Beloit College Academy. Since the age of six years he has lived continuously on the farm where he was reared and which was improved and developed by his father. On the latter's death, January 5, 1923, Mr. Moseley took the homestead over and is devoting himself to its operation. He is methodical and up-to-date in his work and his efforts have been crowned with a very gratifying measure of prosperity.

Fraternally Mr. Moseley is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and he also belongs to the Kiwanis Club of Beloit. Politically he has always been an ardent supporter of the republican party, has taken an active part in its campaigns and has been a prominent and influential figure in its councils. In 1922 he was elected to the state legislature for the second district of Rock county and was reelected in 1924. He is chairman of the town board and is a member of the county board of supervisors. He is chairman of the county highway committee and is treasurer of the school board of district No. 6 of the township of Beloit. In all these positions Mr. Moseley has so discharged his duties as to earn the approval of his constituents and the respect and esteem of everyone who knows him. His legislative service has been characterized by faithful attention to the duties of the position, in which he has carefully watched the interests of the district he represents, and he has rendered effective service on some of the most important committees of the house in which he serves. Absolute fidelity to his obligations and responsibilities has characterized all of

Mr. Moseley's public acts and year after year he has gained added prestige as a progressive, enterprising and reliable citizen.

On June 10, 1914, Mr. Moseley was married to Miss Mabel Carolyn Lee, the daughter of Howard Weller and Mary Alice (Nash) Lee, to whose personal sketch elsewhere in this work the reader is referred. To Mr. and Mrs. Moseley have been born two children: Lucius Lee, born February 12, 1915; and Mary Alice, born December 14, 1916. Personally Mr. Moseley is a man of fine presence, easily approached and affable in his relations with his fellow citizens. He has been a busy and industrious man during all the active years of his life, and close devotion to his work and fidelity of purpose have brought to him commensurate reward for his labors. He is a public-spirited, unassuming, conservative man whom to know is to respect and admire.

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#### GROVER CLEVELAND WEBBER.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished, and in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, there is particular interest attached to the career of the subject of this review, since he is a native son of Winnebago county, where practically his entire life has been passed, and he has so directed his ability and efforts as to gain recognition as one of the representative citizens of the community, being a worthy scion of one of our sterling pioneer families. Grover Cleveland Webber was born in Rockton, Illinois, on the 11th of May, 1884, the son of Thomas H. and Keturah (Piper) Webber. Thomas H. Webber was a native of England, whence he came to the United States at an early date. In 1849 he came to Rockton, of which he was one of the earliest settlers. Here he engaged in farming and contributed largely to the upbuilding of the community, where he lived up to the time of his death, which occurred February 3, 1899.

After the death of the father, the family moved into the town of Rockton, and in the schools of this place the subject received his educational training. This he supplemented by a course in Brown's Business College, in Rockford, Illinois. He was then employed in stores in Rockton until 1908, when he went to Beloit, Wisconsin, and bought an interest in the wholesale grocery business of the Chesbrough-Moss Company, with whom he remained for about six and a half years, after which he sold his interest in that business and came to Rockton, establishing himself in the retail grocery business here. In this line he has met with a flattering measure of success through the years and has built up a large and representative trade throughout the community. In 1922 Mr. Webber erected the substantial two-story building in which his store is now located. He carries a large and well selected line of groceries and accessory lines such as are usually found in an up-to-date store, and by careful attention to the tastes of his patrons and a determined effort to satisfy every customer who enters his store he has gained not only a successful business but also the universal confidence and good will of his fellow citizens. In addition to his

grocery business, Mr. Webber is vice president and a director of the Rockton State Bank, of which he was one of the organizers.

Politically, Mr. Webber has been a lifelong supporter of the republican party and he has for many years been actively interested in the public affairs of his community. He was at one time a member of the board of aldermen and served for many years as a member of the school board. He was especially active in the work of securing the erection of the Hononegah high school building, which was built at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars and named in honor of the daughter of Stephen Mack and his Indian wife. Stephen Mack was the first white settler in this section of the county. Fraternally, Mr. Webber is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

On November 14, 1907, Mr. Webber was married to Miss Pearl Clover, the daughter of C. F. Clover, of Rockton, and to them have been born two children: Carol, born April 24, 1911; and Jean, born April 12, 1918. A representative of one of our old and worthy pioneer families, he has through his earnest and active life and his career as a successful man of affairs risen to a splendid place in the community, whose interests he has ever had at heart.

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#### HARRY WILFRED ADAMS.

Harry Wilfred Adams, former mayor of the city of Beloit and for more than twenty years engaged in the practice of law in that city, one of the best known lawyers in the Rock River valley and an influential factor in the general civic and social life of the community, is a native of Wisconsin whose interests ever have centered here. He was born in the village of Blanchardville, Lafayette county, February 13, 1879, and is a son of John A. and Alice B. (Collie) Adams, the latter of whom was born in Stratford, England. John A. Adams was born at Adamsville, Wisconsin, in 1854, and was a son of John Adams, one of the sturdy pioneers of that state, who afterward became a resident of Dane county, where he rendered public service as sheriff and which district he also represented in both houses of the Wisconsin legislature. The late Alva Adams, who three times served as governor of Colorado during a stormy period in the political history of that state, was another of the sons of this pioneer Wisconsin legislator. Alva Blanchard Adams, present United States senator from the state of Colorado, is a son of the former governor. Frank Adams, another brother of John A. Adams, was for years the head of the Denver city board of public safety, and another brother, William Adams, for years served his district as a state senator in Wisconsin.

Reared at Blanchardville, Harry W. Adams completed the course in the high school at Black Earth in the neighboring county of Dane, graduating in 1896 when seventeen years of age. In the following fall he entered the University of Wisconsin and in 1900 was graduated (B. L.) from that institution. For a year thereafter he was engaged as a teacher in the Madison city schools and then entered the Law School of the university, from which he was graduated (LL. B.) in 1903. In connection with Mr. Adams' preparation for practice it



has been written of him in one of the state histories that while he was an undergraduate he "received a very adequate preparation for his future work in the law in more ways than one. In addition to building an excellent academic foundation for his legal studies by mastering the principles of government and familiarizing himself with the general movements in world history, he participated in extracurricular activities that tended to develop his reasoning powers and his oratorical talents. He was prominent in forensic affairs and one of the many members of Hesperia who have distinguished themselves in the legal profession in maturer years. In 1900 he was a member of its joint debate team and in 1901 represented Wisconsin in a debate against Iowa."

Upon the receipt of his diploma and following his admission to the bar, Mr. Adams became established in practice at Beloit and has ever since been a resident of that city, for more than twenty years thus a leader of the bar there. Upon starting to practice he had as a partner and associate one of his college classmates, C. D. Rosa, afterward judge of the municipal court and now (1925) state tax commissioner. For two or three years following the dissolution of this partnership Mr. Adams carried on his practice independently and then became a member of the law firm of Nolan, Adams & Reeder, with offices at Beloit and Janesville. This association was maintained for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Adams again resumed his independent practice. Two years later he and R. A. Edgar formed a partnership under the name of Adams & Edgar, an arrangement that was maintained until 1919, since which time Mr. Adams has practiced independently, with present offices in the Goodwin block. Mr. Adams is a member of the Rock County Bar Association, the Wisconsin State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Commercial Law League of America and has a wide acquaintance in his profession. He likewise is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and of the National Economic League of New York. He is also one of the two Wisconsin members of the National Advisory committee of the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, of New York.

Mr. Adams has been successful in practice and has acquired interests of a substantial character along other lines, including a place on the directorates of several local financial and industrial concerns, among which may be mentioned the Beloit Sand and Gravel Company, the Commonwealth Mortgage and Bond Company, the Beavers Reserve Fund Fraternity and the Beavers National Mutual Benefit. He has for years taken an active interest in the promotion of the affairs of the Beavers, a beneficiary society of wide connections, is a past president of the local branch of that society and a director of the national organization. He has long been recognized as an authority on insurance law and was the vice president and is at present a director of the Insurance Federation of Wisconsin.

The interests of his alma mater have ever been dear to him and, as has been written of him in this connection, he "is one of the all too small per cent of the graduates who may be counted upon to rally to every call for the support of the university." As president of the Beloit chapter of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association, Mr. Adams has done much to foster the interests of the university locally and as a member at large of the board of the association

has also been active in promoting its interests throughout this and adjacent states. He has other and interesting fraternal relations, is a Royal Arch, Knight Templar and Scottish Rite thirty-second degree Mason and is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Madison Club at the state capital and he and Mrs. Adams are members of the Beloit Country Club. Mrs. Adams also has other interesting club and social affiliations and has ever been a gentle and helpful factor in the general social and cultural activities of the community. She is a member of the park board of the city of Beloit. Both are members of the First Congregational church and Mr. Adams is an office bearer in this congregation. He also for years has been a member of the board of directors of the local branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. During the time of this country's participation in the World war he served as chairman of the Beloit chapter of the home service section of the American Red Cross.

It was during that period of national stress that Mr. Adams was serving as mayor of the city of Beloit, to which executive office he had been elected in 1914 and in which he served for four years. For six years prior to that time he had been serving as city attorney and his close acquaintance with municipal conditions gave to this service as administrative head of the city during war times a distinctive value which will not be forgotten. During the period of his service as mayor Mr. Adams took an active and helpful part in the affairs of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, in 1916 was elected vice president of that body and in the following year (1917), the year in which all the resources of the country were being exerted to the utmost to uphold this country's position in the great war, he was president of that important body, rendering thus a service which never can be overlooked in any review of the history of municipal administration in the state of Wisconsin. In the following year (1918) he was chairman of the legislative committee of the league and in that capacity rendered a further service in advancing in the halls of legislation some very important measures that were there being considered in behalf of the cities and towns of the state.

It is significant of the position Mr. Adams occupies in the general life of his home town that when the Beloit Kiwanis Club was organized in 1921 he was elected first president of that influential body, whose motto is "We Build." He also for years was one of the influential factors in the activities of the Beloit Chamber of Commerce and during the time of his service as chairman of the members' forum of that body did much to extend its interests. Another useful social activity that has long engaged his attention is the Beloit Historical Society, of which he is a past president, and under the auspices of which he has been able to do much in the way of stimulating a larger local interest in historical research and in the preservation of records, relics and other memorabilia of the days of the pioneers in this favored valley of the Rock river. As was written of Mr. Adams in that history of Wisconsin above referred to, "there is much in his career that reminds one of the strenuous, well rounded life of the illustrious leader of the progressive republican movement. Like Roosevelt, he makes even his recreations instructive or physically beneficial and spends

many of his vacations in motoring or travel, gaining much from his contact with other people and new modes of living."

On June 15, 1904, the year following his establishment in practice at Beloit, Harry W. Adams was united in marriage to Miss Prudence M. Bennett, who was born at Black Earth, Wisconsin, November 12, 1882, the daughter of Frederick M. and Sarah Bennett, and they have three children: A daughter, Miss Elgeva May Adams, born in 1905, who is now (1925) a senior in Beloit College; and two sons—Arthur Bennett Adams, born in 1908, who is a sophomore in the same college; and Allan Wilfred Adams, born in 1911, who is in high school.

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#### CHARLES A. FORSBERG.

The late Charles A. Forsberg was for many years closely identified with the manufacturing interests of Rockford and had many close friends and associates in that line of industry. For almost fifty years he had been prominently connected with the industrial life of this community and in that time, as an inventor and designer, became an influential factor in the local manufacturing field. At his passing, therefore, in the fall of 1924, he left a good memory hereabout and it is but proper that in this definite history of the region in which he so long had made his home there should be presented some brief tribute to that memory, together with a review of his life and services.

Charles A. Forsberg was a native of the kingdom of Sweden, born in the city of Lund in Malmohus, the southern province of that country, September 2, 1856, and from the days of his boyhood was trained in the mechanical arts, becoming a competent machinist and developing an originality of conception with relation to that trade that was destined eventually to make him an inventor and designer of note. Mr. Forsberg remained in his native place until after he had attained his majority and then, in the year 1878, he came to the United States and found employment as a machinist in Chicago. It was about that time that a new spirit was taking hold on the manufacturing industries of Rockford and his attention presently was attracted to the possibilities then underlying that field, and in the next year, 1879, he located in Rockford, his first connection there having been with the Elzbach machine shop, which then was specializing in the manufacture of an air brush.

On October 9, 1881, Mr. Forsberg was married to Miss Emma Anderson of Rockford and established his home there, at the same time becoming engaged in business as the founder of the East Rockford Machine Works, erecting a plant at the corner of Tenth street and Tenth avenue and starting in to develop there some of his own inventions and designs in a mechanical way, with particular reference to the improvement of the process for the manufacture of barbed wire and poultry fencing. His patents proved their value and one of his machines utilized in the manufacture of barbed wire fencing by the Elwood factories at De Kalb resulted in the practical revolutionizing of that industry. In other lines Mr. Forsberg's activities as an inventor and designer proved of large value to the industrial world and he was a large factor in the development of the



CHARLES A. FORSBERG



general industrial interests of his home town, for some years prior to his death having been associated with his sons, F. A. and G. H. Forsberg, in the operations of the Reliable Machine Company of Rockford, designer for that well established concern. In 1923 he and his wife moved to De Kalb, Mr. Forsberg's services as a designer having been secured by the Apollo Piano Company of that place, and there he spent his last days, his death occurring on November 14, 1924, after a brief illness, he then being past sixty-eight years of age.

At the time of his death Mr. Forsberg was a member of the Swedish Baptist church of De Kalb, having transferred his membership from a local Baptist congregation upon his removal from Rockford. Members of his family point to the fact that their father had always had three vital interests in life—his home, his church affiliation and his work. His body was returned to Rockford for burial and interment was made in the Scandinavian cemetery there after services at the home of the elder son, G. H. Forsberg, at No. 1208 Eighth street, the pastor of the Swedish Baptist church of De Kalb officiating. Mr. Forsberg is survived by his widow, six children and eight grandchildren. Elsewhere in this work mention is made of the two sons, G. H. and F. A. Forsberg of the Reliable Machine Company of Rockford. The daughters of this family are: Mrs. Gust Hultquist and Mrs. Herman Paulson of Chicago; and Mrs. Axel Swenson and Mrs. James Jensen of Rockford.

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#### EDWARD BLANCHARD MANLEY.

One of the conspicuous figures in the present day history of Winnebago county, Illinois, is Edward B. Manley, head of the Rockton Molding Sand Company, one of the most important and successful concerns in this locality. He has been actively identified with the business and industrial interests of this section and is widely known as one of the representative men of this county. He is essentially a man of affairs, sound of judgment and farseeing in what he undertakes, so that he has wielded a potent influence in the development of this locality and the upbuilding of its varied interests. Edward Blanchard Manley is a native son of Illinois, having been born in Hebron township, McHenry county, on the 16th of November, 1874, and is the son of Milton R. and Mary Jane Manley, both of whom were born and reared in Rutland, Vermont, whence in an early day they came to Illinois, settling in McHenry county, where the father followed the vocation of farming.

Edward B. Manley attended the public schools of his native township and the high school at Harvard. When he was six years of age he lost his father by death and, the family resources being somewhat strained during the ensuing years, at the age of seventeen years he went to work as a clerk in a hardware store in Harvard. He remained there until 1897, when he bought an interest in the business, which was thereafter conducted under the firm name of Three Manley Brothers, the other partners being his brothers, A. C. and T. M. Manley. In 1906 Mr. Manley sold his interest in the hardware store and with his father-in-law, F. A. Tanner, engaged in the real estate busi-

ness. Their specialty was southern land, in the sale of which they met with pronounced success, selling one and a half million dollars worth of land in the Panhandle district of Texas and in New Mexico. They closed this business in 1909 and for a time Mr. Manley engaged in drainage contracting. In 1911 he came to Rockton to take charge of the Rockton Molding Sand Company, a corporation which had been organized in 1907 and which he and his father-in-law had acquired. Under the former management the plant had been marketing an average of about one hundred and twenty-five cars per year. Mr. Manley decided that there was an opportunity here to build up a lasting and profitable business. They went ahead and installed every appliance that would expedite the work and make for economy, such as steam shovels, narrow-gage railway, milling plant, etc. The milling plant was designed and perfected by Mr. Manley, whereby all sand was loaded into both open and closed cars without the use of a shovel. A patent was granted on this mill in 1915. Mr. Tanner continued actively in the business for two years, when arrangements were made between them and Mr. Manley took over the entire operation and management of the business. This company now operates sand pits in the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. They have for sale forty-eight different grades and kinds of foundry sands, mined at various points from Albany, New York, to the Mississippi river, and this has become one of the important industries of Winnebago county, due to the indefatigable efforts and sound business policy of the owner. This company, from a small start, has been developed into one of the largest and best known companies of its kind in the United States.

On December 4, 1901, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Manley to Miss May Belle Tanner, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Tanner of Harvard, Illinois, and they are the parents of four children: Lyle Tanner, Harriet May, Dwight Edward and Russell Eugene. Mrs. Manley is also very prominent in the political and social affairs of Winnebago county, not only, however, as a leader in her own community, for in 1923 she was elected president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Winnebago county and reelected to the same office in 1924, refusing to accept the nomination in 1925. She is a fluent and impressive speaker and a tireless worker toward the betterment and upbuilding of the community in which she lives.

Religiously Mr. Manley is a Methodist, always having given freely of money and work for the support of the church. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, while politically he has always been a staunch supporter of the republican party. For many years he has been an active and important factor in local public affairs, having served as village trustee, school director in the grade school for various terms, and finally as a member of the board of education in the new Hononegah community high school district which was formed, taking in the townships of Roscoe and Rockton, and serving as chairman of the building committee during the construction of this new school costing one hundred thousand dollars. The name of the school was taken from that of an Indian chieftain's daughter who became the wife of Stephen Mack, a college educated man and the first white settler of Winnebago county.

Personally Mr. Manley is a man of splendid attributes of character, being

considerate of the interests of those about him and genial in his relations with others, while his influence has always been thrown on the right side of every moral issue. Because of his genuine worth, his fine public spirit and his genial disposition, he has won a host of warm and loyal friends throughout this community.

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#### WILLIAM ROY BOND.

Few men have gained as high a place in popular confidence and esteem in so short a space of time as has William Roy Bond, who has been engaged in the drug business in Rockton, Illinois, only since 1924. To those who become well acquainted with him, this is no mystery, for he possesses not only all the qualifications of a successful druggist but also those qualities of character which leave an impress on everyone with whom he comes in contact. William Roy Bond is a native of Paducah, Kentucky, where he was born on the 11th of June, 1889, the son of Washington M. and Armada Bond, of that city. He was reared at home and secured his education in the public and high schools of Paducah.

On completing his studies, Mr. Bond went to work in the Segenfelter drug store in his native town and devoted four years to an intensive study of pharmacy. He took the examinations and is a registered pharmacist in Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois. In 1912 he became employed in that vocation in Pekin, Illinois, and later went to Chicago, where he was similarly employed until 1924, when he came to Rockton and bought the drug store owned by E. A. Pollock, who had conducted it for about thirty years, the business having been established in 1890 by A. Rummell. Mr. Bond is an up-to-date business man, showing the progressive tendencies of the day, and he carries not only a full line of drugs but also the merchandise and accessories usually found in a modern drug store. By careful attention to the wants of his trade and courteous treatment of every customer who enters his store, Mr. Bond has greatly increased the business and has gained the good will and friendship of the entire community. He is genial and friendly in manner and is eminently public-spirited in his attitude toward all measures for the betterment of the community welfare. These attributes and his genuine worth have given him an enviable standing among the representative citizens of the locality.

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#### JOHN W. DAY.

The law of compensation holds good throughout the world. Industry and unfaltering purpose win success when intelligently directed and strength of character commands uniform regard. Both of these John W. Day has won and his operations in the real estate field have been of great value to Beloit, which numbers him among its most progressive business men and public-spir-



ited citizens. He was born February 14, 1879, in Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin, and was a boy of ten when his parents, Henry A. and Victoria Day, moved from Janesville to Beloit. He continued his studies in the public schools of this city and after the completion of his high school course entered Beloit College, which he attended for a year. For three and a half years he filled a position in the local office of Fairbanks, Morse & Company and then went to Chicago, where he spent nine years, working as a bookkeeper and accountant. He was employed by the American Bicycle Company, the American Bridge Company and the Devoe Paint Company and also in an architect's office. He was eager to advance and took up the study of engineering in the Art Institute of Chicago, attending night classes. On his return to Beloit he became accountant for the Warner Instrument Company, acting in that capacity until 1911, when he embarked in the real estate and insurance business, forming a partnership with F. F. Livermore, who soon after withdrew from the undertaking. In that same year (1911) Mr. Day was joined by Fred R. O'Neal and they have since been associated in business under the style of Day & O'Neal. Theirs is one of the largest real estate and insurance firms in the city and they also handle loans and bonds. They have figured in many important realty deals and in business circles of Beloit the firm name is synonymous with enterprise and probity.

Mr. Day was married June 25, 1902, to Miss Maude E. Woodman, a daughter of C. B. Woodman, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and they now have a family of three children: Warren, born March 4, 1906; Robert G., whose birth occurred March 13, 1908; and Lois B., who was born September 21, 1910.

Mr. Day is a staunch republican in his political views and is ever ready to give his support to measures for the promotion of the public welfare. For seven years he has represented the eighth ward in the city council and in the spring of 1925 was reelected without opposition. He has never placed personal benefit before the general good and during his tenure of office has been instrumental in securing for the municipality many needed improvements. He is a member of the Beloit Country Club and his fraternal relations are with the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Masonic order. He is also a member and the treasurer of the First Baptist church. Mr. Day has been faithful to every trust reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature, and possesses many fine qualities, as his fellow citizens attest.

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#### REV. IRVING MAURER.

Rev. Irving Maurer, educator and theologian, who was for several years a minister of the Congregational church, is now serving as president of Beloit College. He was born September 2, 1879, in Garnaville, Iowa, a son of Jacob D. and Loretta (Wirkler) Maurer, and attended the public schools of that town. He took a preparatory course in Beloit Academy and in 1904 received the B. A. degree from Beloit College. He was a teacher at that institution of learning

from 1904 until 1906 and also acted as pastor of the Congregational church at Shopiere, Wisconsin. Later he entered the Yale Divinity School, from which he was graduated in 1909, winning the degrees of M. A. and B. D. He was pastor of the Congregational church at Easton, Connecticut, during 1906-7 and went from there to the West End church of that denomination at Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he spent three years. He had charge of the Plymouth Congregational church at Utica, New York, from 1910 until 1913 and of the Edwards church at Northampton, Massachusetts, from 1913 until 1918. He then became pastor of the First Congregational church at Columbus, Ohio, which he served for six years, and in 1924 was called to the presidency of Beloit College.

Dr. Maurer was married June 17, 1908, in the chapel of Beloit College, to Miss Minnie Leona Vogt, his classmate at the college, and a daughter of Ezra and Mary Vogt, of Altamont, Illinois. Dr. and Mrs. Maurer have four children: Irving Vogt, who was born March 17, 1909; Mary Elizabeth and Lloyd Luther, twins, born July 22, 1912; and Margaret Leona, who was born March 19, 1914.

Dr. Maurer is not allied with any political faction, voting according to the dictates of his judgment. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Epsilon fraternities, the latter a Greek letter society of Yale University. He belongs to the National Education Association, the Faculty and Alumni Club of Beloit, the Country and Kiwanis Clubs of this city, and is also a member of the City Club of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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#### WILLIAM F. FREIDAG.

One of the most progressive men of the Rock River valley is William F. Freidag, president and treasurer of the Freidag Manufacturing Company, of Freeport, Illinois, a man whose indomitable courage, persistent and aggressive efforts and excellent management have gained for him the prosperity which he now enjoys. He has ever stood ready to do what he could in pushing forward the wheels of progress and advancing commercial prosperity in this vicinity, and his career has been one worthy the high esteem in which he is generally held throughout the community in which he lives.

Mr. Freidag was born on the 17th of August, 1876, in Freeport, and is the son of Philip and Caroline (Knecht) Freidag, natives of Alsace-Lorraine, who came to the United States and settled in Stephenson county in 1848. The father was a harness maker and followed that trade here for many years, his death occurring in 1919. He was survived but a short time by his widow, whose death occurred in 1920.

William F. Freidag received his educational training in the public and high schools of Freeport and then learned the machinist's trade in the plant of the Stover Manufacturing Company at Freeport. After serving his apprenticeship he worked at his trade in various places. He had also taken a course in mechanics at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago and was well

qualified in that line. From 1903 to 1908 Mr. Freidag was superintendent for Fuller & Johnson, at Madison, Wisconsin, and from the latter year until 1919 he was works manager for the Stover Manufacturing Company at Freeport. In 1920 he organized the Freidag Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of golf course equipment, toys, hardware specialties and radio fittings, in addition to which the firm does a large jobbing business. The officers of the Freidag Manufacturing Company are as follows: William F. Freidag, president and treasurer; O. S. Hitchner, vice president, and R. R. Tiffany, secretary, all of them being residents of Freeport. This company has from the beginning enjoyed a splendid business, which is increasing in volume each year, its products enjoying a wide sale throughout the country. Mr. Freidag has devoted himself indefatigably to the building up of the business and is considered by his associates a man of pronounced ability in a business way, as well as a highly skilled man in mechanical lines.

On September 16, 1901, Mr. Freidag was married to Miss Minnie Frances Anderson, the daughter of Frank Anderson, of Beloit, Wisconsin, and they are the parents of three children, namely: Helen, born March 13, 1905; Philip, born February 29, 1907; and Robert, born August 20, 1912.

Politically Mr. Freidag has always voted the republican ticket and has taken a deep interest in public affairs, though not in any sense a seeker after public office. Fraternally he is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and he also belongs to the Freeport Rotary Club and the Freeport Club.

Mr. Freidag is a man of quiet and unassuming manner but kindly and genial in his social relations, enjoying marked popularity among those with whom he associates, while throughout the community he is held in high esteem because of his success, his public spirit and his friendly manner.

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#### JOHN F. WESTER.

A history of the achievements of Rockford's business men in promoting the interests of the city would not be complete without some reference to the untiring efforts in that behalf of John F. Wester, one of Rockford's oldest druggists and manager of one of the leading furniture plants of that city. For many years Mr. Wester has taken an active part in the progressive movements that have been designed to build up the city and to make it a bigger and better place in which to live, and that in the exercise of these activities he has gained some material reward is a matter of congratulation. Public-spirited, a veritable "live wire" in local affairs, Mr. Wester's important personal business interests have not prevented him from taking part in the general civic work of the city and participation in fraternal activities. He recently was major of a committee of Chamber of Commerce members acting in behalf of a membership drive and personally secured more new members for the chamber than any other individual. He is a Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, an active member of the locally influential Kiwanis Club and is affiliated with the Harlem Hills



JOHN F. WESTER



Golf Club and with the popular singing society, Svea Soner. In his political views he ever has been an adherent of the tenets of the republican party and has never shirked his part in local civic movements. During the period 1908-13 Mr. Wester served as a member of the local school board in Rockford and in that capacity rendered a real service to the schools.

John F. Wester is of European birth but has been a resident of this country and of Rockford since the days of his young manhood, a period of more than thirty years, and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has been brought about in the general commercial and industrial situation hereabout during the past three decades and more. Born in Motala, in the kingdom of Sweden, November 16, 1871, John F. Wester was but a child when his parents moved with their family from that place to Oskarshamn in the Kalmar province of that country. In this latter place he completed his local schooling in a private school and then entered the Swedish University of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1891, then being in his nineteenth year. In that same year Mr. Wester decided that better opportunities awaited him in the United States than he might reasonably hope to meet with in his native place, and he came to this country and by prior arrangement located in Rockford, where he ever since has made his home and where a few years after his arrival he was married, thus acquiring an additional incentive to do his best in the place of his adoption.

The first step in the progress of the newly arrived citizen from far-away Sweden was to take the examination prescribed by the state of Illinois for registered pharmacists. He had no difficulty in passing this test of his competency and was at once given a position in the Lundholm drug store at No. 630 Seventh street. Not long afterward he transferred his services to the drug store then conducted by Joseph Ilg at No. 530 Seventh street, which place later came under the management of the late Frank O. Segurd. Mr. Wester remained with that store until 1895, when he became interested in the furniture manufacturing business and was thus engaged in a new line, acquiring a form of experience that later was to stand him well in stead, until 1899 when following the departure of Mr. Ilg from Rockford, he bought the drug store in which he formerly had been employed and which he ever since has owned, being thus now one of the real veteran druggists of the city. He still occupies the old stand at No. 530 Seventh street and has thus watched that thoroughfare grow from a neighborhood shopping district to a flourishing business street. In 1922 Mr. Wester completely remodeled his store, bringing it up to metropolitan requirements and the business since has been carried on in up-to-date fashion, under a local manager, for Mr. Wester's chief attention of late years has been given to his furniture manufacturing interests, as secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Peerless Furniture Company of Rockford, a manufacturing concern with which he has been connected for years and whose products have created a wide market, the "Peerless" brand having long stood as a standard in the several lines, particularly stand lamps, along which this company specializes. It is said that through his connection with this industry and the experience thus acquired in buying silks for lamp shades and the like, Mr. Wester has become recognized as one of the best and most expert

judges of silk in the middle west. In addition to his connection with the Wester Drug Company and with the Peerless Furniture Company he also is a member of the directorate of the Solem Machine Company, manufacturers of woodworking machinery in Rockford, and has other interests of a substantial character in and about the town.

On October 4, 1894, about three years after his arrival in Rockford, John F. Wester was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Sophia Adler, daughter of Nels Adler of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Wester have five daughters: Elvira, Eleanor, Elsie, Evelyn and Elizabeth. For years the family home of the Westers was maintained at No. 1010 Eighth street, but in 1924 Mr. Wester purchased the old home place of the Shumway estate at No. 1325 East State street, where the family is very pleasantly and very comfortably situated. Mr. and Mrs. Wester are members of the Harlem Hills Golf Club and they and their daughters have ever taken an interested part in the city's general social activities, helpful in promoting the cultural movements that arise from time to time and in all local good works. They are republicans and take their proper part in local civic affairs.

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#### FRANK D. PALMER.

In all that constitutes good citizenship and true manhood the subject of this sketch is a notable example, for his life in Dixon has been characterized by all those qualities which go to make a man esteemed at home and respected by all who know him. Frank D. Palmer, the present able and popular mayor of Dixon, Illinois, was born on the 11th of February, 1857, at Haverhill, Massachusetts, and is a son of Wesley and Mary (Cilley) Palmer, the former of whom was a native of Vermont and the latter of Chautauqua county, New York. The first members of the Palmer family in this country were three brothers who, on their arrival here, separated, one locating in Connecticut, one in Vermont and one in Maryland. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Benjamin Palmer, was a native of Vermont, where also Wesley Palmer was born and reared. The latter moved to Haverhill, Massachusetts and in 1860 came to Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring when he was seventy-three years old. One of his sons, J. F. Palmer, was prominent in the public life of Dixon, having served two terms as mayor, and his death occurred when he was eighty years of age.

Frank D. Palmer is the youngest of the children of Wesley and Mary (Cilley) Palmer. He received his elementary education in the public schools of Dixon and later attended Lombard College at Galesburg. On completing his education he engaged in teaching school, which profession he followed for ten years, and then engaged in the insurance business, in which he met with splendid success. In 1912 he was elected clerk of the Modern Woodmen of America and shortly afterward was appointed town clerk. He was later appointed school treasurer, which office he still fills. In 1919 Mr. Palmer became city commissioner, holding that office until 1923, when he was elected mayor of the

city for a four-year term, and he is now discharging the duties of that position to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. He was chosen to this office by an unusually large majority, though opposed by a strong, clean and popular candidate. He has proven himself an able, impartial and farsighted official, whose sole purpose has been the advancement of the welfare of the people of his community.

In March, 1881, Mr. Palmer was married to Miss Carrie Dodge, of Walnut, Illinois, who died in 1905, at the age of fifty years. She was the daughter of I. B. Dodge, whose family were early settlers in Bureau county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Palmer were born the following children: J. F., who is now a district manager in the circulation department of the Hearst newspapers; Homer W., of Chicago, a manufacturer of printing ink; and Inez, the wife of C. G. Carnahan, who is in the employ of the Peoples Gas Company in Chicago.

Fraternally Mr. Palmer is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, in which he has attained to the degree of a Knight Templar; the Order of the Eastern Star, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America; and the Mystic Workers of the World. He is one of the leading men of his community and has played well his part in the progress of the same. He is recognized as one of those men of brain and substance so essential to the growth and well-being of a community and whose influence has always been willingly extended in behalf of every deserving enterprise having for its object the material, civic or moral welfare of the locality in which he lives.

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#### EDWARD A. BLUST.

For more than forty years Edward A. Blust has been engaged in the dry goods business at Freeport and is thus one of the veteran merchants of the Rock River valley. He was born in Freeport and all his life has been spent there, and he therefore has been a witness to and a participant in the general development of that city during the whole of that period which may properly be regarded as the modern period of its development. When the park system was inaugurated there he was elected a member of the first board of park commissioners and in that connection did much toward getting the present admirable park system of the city started out on the way to its present status. In other ways he has taken the part of a good citizen in civic development and has for many years been recognized as one of the city's useful and progressive citizens.

Mr. Blust was born September 1, 1862, and is a son of George and Maria (Heck) Blust, both natives of the grand duchy of Baden in Germany and the latter of whom had come to this country in 1848, the year of the unsuccessful political revolution in her home country, that eventful year which marked so great a tide of German immigration to this country. George Blust, who had grown up in Baden as a tailor, came to the United States in 1850, the year he attained his majority, and after awhile found himself a resident of Free-



port, where he began working at his trade and where after his marriage he established his home. He died there in 1872, when forty-three years of age, and his widow survived him for thirty years, her death occurring in 1902. They were members of the Roman Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. Of the four children born to that parentage the subject of this sketch now alone survives.

Reared at Freeport, Edward A. Blust supplemented his local school work by a course in a commercial college at Milwaukee and then became employed as a clerk in the dry goods store of Donaldson & Grove in his home town. When twenty-one years of age, in 1883, he became engaged in business on his own account, opening a small dry goods store on the site he still occupies on what then was Galena street but which now is known as Main street. His business prospered and in 1892 he erected on that site (Nos. 10-12 East Main street) his present commodious store building, a three-story structure of substantial construction, one floor of which he gave over to the uses of a public hall, known as Blust's Hall, for many years a popular place of assemblage in Freeport. In addition to his well established mercantile business Mr. Blust has other interests of a substantial character, these including a place on the directorate of the Second National Bank of Freeport, of which sound old financial institution (organized in 1864) he is the vice president, and a place on the directorate of the Security Trust Company. He is a democrat and has ever taken an interested part in the city's general civic development but has not been a seeker after public office, his service in that connection having been confined to the service referred to above as a member of the park board.

On November 9, 1887, Mr. Blust was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Erwin, who was born at Colechester in McDonough county, Illinois, a daughter of Patrick and Margaret Erwin, both natives of Ireland, and they have two daughters: Mary Magdalene, wife of George Maurer of Freeport; and Margaret Cecelia, wife of Robert G. Luecke, also of Freeport. Mr. and Mrs. Luecke have two children, Margaret and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Blust are members of the Roman Catholic church and have ever taken a helpful part in the general activities of the parish with which they are affiliated. Mr. Blust is one of the veteran members of the local council of the Knights of Columbus.

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#### LEAVITT MOORE GRIFFIN, M. D.

Among the physicians of the Rock River valley who have risen to eminence in their chosen field of endeavor is Dr. Leavitt Moore Griffin, of Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, where he has been engaged in the practice of his profession since 1910. His career has been that of a broadminded, conscientious worker in the sphere to which his life and energies have been devoted, and his profound knowledge of his profession has won for him a leading place among the able medical men of his section of the state.

Dr. Griffin was born on the 8th of January, 1883, at Polo, and is the son of Leander and Mary (Hawks) Griffin, both of their respective families having

been among the early settlers of Ogle county, coming here about 1850. The subject received his preliminary education in the public schools of Polo, graduating from the high school in 1904, and he then matriculated in the Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago, from which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1908. He then spent a year as interne in the General Hospital at Toledo, Ohio, after which he went to Mexico City, Mexico, and engaged in practice for about two years. In 1910 he returned to Polo and has remained engaged in practice here to the present time. He has been more than ordinarily successful in the treatment of human ailments and has attained a deservedly high place in the professional ranks of the Rock River valley. He is a member of the Ogle County Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society and the American Medical Association.

On August 27, 1918, Dr. Griffin was married to Miss Eleanor Eakin, a graduate of Beloit College. Politically Dr. Griffin is not bound very closely by party ties but votes according to his best judgment. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is also a member of the Polo Country Club. He is a man of pleasing address and courteous manner, has a wide acquaintance throughout Ogle county and stands deservedly high in the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

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#### WILLIAM E. TREIN.

William E. Trein, proprietor of the old established and up to date "Trein's Jewelry Store" at Dixon and one of the veteran jewelers of the Rock River valley, is a native son of Dixon and with the exception of a few years during the earlier years of his career as a business man, when he was engaged in the jewelry business in the neighboring village of Ashton, his interests ever have centered here. He learned the rudiments of his calling under careful preceptorship in Dixon, where in due course he became established in business on his own account, and he has gradually developed a business that has long since gained for his establishment a reputation as one of the best appointed and most completely stocked jewelry stores in the valley. As a writer some time ago observed in a narrative relating to Mr. Trein and his mercantile establishment, "his business affairs are conducted along the strictest lines of commercial integrity and, moreover, his life is exemplary in other respects. He is always courteous, kindly and affable and all who know him personally have for him a warm regard. As has been truly remarked, after all that may be done for a man in the way of giving him early opportunities for obtaining the requirements which are sought in school and in books, he must essentially formulate, determine and give shape to his own character, and this is what Mr. Trein has done. He has persevered in the pursuit of a persistent purpose and has gained a most satisfactory reward."

Mr. Trein was born in the city of Dixon, August 28, 1873, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Farnau) Trein, the latter of whom is still living in Dixon,

one of the honored pioneer mothers of that city. Jacob Trein, who died at his home there in 1891, was a blacksmith in the beginning of the days of his activity in that city and later became foreman of the carriage shop of Van & Means, becoming thus one of the important personal factors in the industrial life of the town.

Reared in Dixon, W. E. Trein was educated in the schools of that city and as a young man became employed in the Dodge & Kling jewelry store in Dixon, from which establishment he presently transferred his services to the G. O. Windell store. In 1901 he became engaged in the jewelry business on his own account, opening a store in the village of Ashton, east of Dixon, and was thus engaged in business there until in 1906, when he disposed of that store and returning to Dixon bought a half interest in the Windell store, of which in that same year he became the sole proprietor. He also presently bought the stock of the E. L. Kling store and by these combinations became the leading jeweler in the city, a preeminence in that line which he since has maintained, proprietor, as stated above, of one of the best stocked jewelry stores in the valley, "Trein's Jewelry Store" being known far and wide throughout the fine trade area centering at Dixon.

On November 18, 1907, at Ashton, Mr. Trein was united in marriage to Miss Janet Griffith, daughter of Stanwood Griffith of that place. Mrs. Trein died December 12, 1915, giving her life for that of her son, Stanwood Griffith Trein, born on that day and who is now attending the Dixon schools. Mr. Trein is a member of the English Lutheran church, is a republican and is affiliated with the Masonic order.

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#### JOHN E. ANDRESS.

For more than twenty years John E. Andress, secretary and treasurer and general manager of the Barnes Drill Co. of Rockford, one of that city's important manufacturing concerns which he helped to organize, has been actively identified with the industrial interests of Rockford and in that time has come to be recognized as one of the potent personal factors in the development of those interests. In association with the late Benjamin Franklin Barnes of lamented memory in and about Rockford, Mr. Andress brought about the development of a fine manufacturing industry in Rockford, the Barnes Drill Co., and since the passing of the elder manufacturer in the summer of 1919, he has continued in managerial charge of the affairs of that concern and has still further developed its facilities and its trade until now it is recognized as one of the leading manufacturing plants in its line in the country, its products going into all the important industrial markets of the world, for the Barnes Drill Co.'s all geared drilling machines have an established reputation based upon many years of proved excellence.

The late B. Frank Barnes, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, had for fifty years, or since the days of his boyhood, been actively engaged in manufacturing pursuits in Rockford and



JOHN E. ANDRESS



had invented and manufactured a type of machinery in his line which practically revolutionized some of the processes into which the use of drill presses and machine lathes enter. Mr. Barnes died on July 29, 1919, and at his passing left a good memory hereabout, as is set out elsewhere. His widow survives him and is still making her home in Rockford, retaining the interest of her late husband in the Barnes Drill Co., this interest being fostered by Mr. Address.

John E. Address is a native of Illinois and has lived in this state all his life, having been a resident of Rockford and closely associated with the machine tool industry for more than twenty years. He was born in the city of Aledo, county seat of Mercer county, Illinois, April 5, 1876, a son of Byrum and Susan Jane (Morris) Address, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that section of the state. The late Byrum Address was a substantial farmer and landowner in the Aledo neighborhood and was actively engaged in farming until his retirement. He died in 1920, being then sixty-eight years of age.

Reared on the farm, John E. Address attended the public school and the Aledo high school and supplemented this by a course in the business college at Dixon, Lee county. Thus equipped for clerical service Mr. Address went to Chicago in 1898, and there became a stenographer and bookkeeper in the office of the western branch of the Norton Emery Wheel Company, a connection which he retained for four years, or until 1902, during which time he was advanced in service until he became assistant to the manager. It was in 1902 that Mr. Address transferred his services to the B. F. Barnes Co. at Rockford, in that year becoming acting secretary to Benjamin Franklin Barnes, president of the company, a flourishing manufacturing concern that had been organized in 1899, for the manufacture of drilling machines and small engine lathes. As secretary to the president Mr. Address also became general office manager of this concern and when in 1907 Mr. Barnes sold his interest in that company and the name of the concern was changed to that of the Rockford Drilling Machine Company, he accompanied the veteran manufacturer and in association with the latter organized the Barnes Drill Co. in July, 1907, and established an organization which today has a well equipped manufacturing plant on five and one-quarter acres of land owned in fee simple, near the center of the city of Rockford, at Nos. 814-830 Chestnut street. As set out elsewhere in this work, the development of the product of this manufacturing concern is based upon some important patents which Mr. Barnes had secured in the way of improvements in the drill press art, introducing the all geared construction and adding, subsequently, the self-oiling system, thus doing away with the old cone belts. The company has been successful from the start, growing from a comparatively small beginning in rented quarters to one of the important manufacturing industries of this section of the middle west and sending its products to every country in the world where there is a call for high-grade machinery in that line.

As secretary and treasurer of this company Mr. Address has had a measure of administrative responsibility in connection with the company's affairs that has been exercised most serviceably in the promotion of the company's interests and in the extension of its business. Since the death of Mr. Barnes he has personally represented the majority interest in the concern in behalf of

the veteran manufacturer's widow, and is thus in full managerial charge, one of the prominent factors in the industrial life of the city.

On June 17, 1903, one year after taking up his residence in Rockford, John E. Andress was united in marriage to Miss Ina Mae Reed, a daughter of George W. Reed of Aledo and one of the companions of his school days in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Andress have two children: A son, Reed M. Andress, born in Rockford, April 7, 1904; and a daughter, Miss Lynore Ethyl Andress, born June 21, 1907. Reed M. Andress supplemented his attendance at the public schools of Rockford by two years of study at the University of Illinois and is now (1925) a student in the Babson Institute at Boston, Massachusetts. Miss Lynore is attending Rockford College. Mr. and Mrs. Andress are republicans and take a proper and helpful part in the general civic and social affairs of their home town. Mr. Andress is an active member of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and of the locally influential Kiwanis Club and also is a member of the Masonic order and of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is also a trustee of the Court Street Methodist Episcopal church, Rockford. In the National Machine Tool Builders Association he is active on two important committees, namely, membership and foreign trade; this last named committee cooperates with our department of commerce, industrial machinery division, Washington, D. C.

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#### LLOYD E. HOLMES.

It is the progressive, wideawake men of affairs who make the real history of a community and their influence in directing and shaping its varied interests is difficult to estimate. Lloyd E. Holmes, for a number of years a successful educator and who is now engaged in the mill work business in Freeport, Illinois, is one of the enterprising spirits who is contributing very materially to the prosperity of his community, and he has gained a high standing among the business men of his locality.

Mr. Holmes is a native of Freeport, having been born here on the 14th of July, 1885, the son of Charles Sylvester and Rebecca (Yaunt) Holmes, the former of whom is an expert mill work man, having been engaged in that line of work for thirty-five years. Lloyd E. Holmes secured his elementary education in the public schools of Freeport, graduating from the high school, and then entered the University of Chicago, where he spent two years. Following this he engaged in teaching school and had charge of the industrial school in Schenectady, New York, for six years. He then returned to Freeport and was a teacher in the high school here until April, 1917, when, on the entry of the United States into the World war, he enlisted for service. He was assigned to the air service and was stationed at Rantoul, Illinois, where he remained until honorably discharged, December 17, 1918. The following year he engaged in mill work with his father, under whose direction he had learned the trade when a boy, their partnership being carried on under the firm name of C. S. & L. E. Holmes until April, 1925, when the business was incorporated

as the Holmes Mill Work Company, Inc., with the following officers: C. S. Holmes, president; L. E. Holmes, secretary and treasurer, and R. Rockow, vice president. They have a large and well equipped shop at No. 105 West Spring street, their equipment including a full line of up-to-date wood working machinery, and they are prepared to turn out, quickly and accurately, any work in their line. They have earned a high reputation for the accuracy and high quality of their products and are enjoying a large and steadily increasing business, their concern being now numbered among the best in its line in this part of the country.

On June 10, 1918, Mr. Holmes was married to Miss Marion E. Werutz, the daughter of James Oliver Werutz, of Lanark, Illinois. Fraternaly he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the American Legion, while politically he is aligned with the republican party. He is deeply interested in everything in any way affecting the prosperity or welfare of his community and his support may always be counted upon in all measures for the public good. He is a companionable and friendly man in his social relations and enjoys a marked degree of popularity throughout the community.

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#### EUGENE ZIEGLER.

Eugene Ziegler, station agent at Mayville since 1883, entered the employ of the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria Railroad in the capacity of assistant in 1881 and was retained by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul when this corporation took over the former line, so that the period of his railroad service now covers forty-four years. His birth occurred in Mayville, Dodge county, Wisconsin, on the 29th of September, 1864, his parents being Mathew and Adeline (Dannhaeuser) Ziegler. The father was born in Bavaria, Germany, and came to America in September, 1858. He located in Mayville, Wisconsin, and was connected with the brewing business for a number of years. In 1873 he bought an establishment of his own and incorporated it under the name of the M. Ziegler Brewing Company, remaining active in its operation and controlling its policy until his death, which occurred in February, 1892. Mathew Ziegler was one of the prominent citizens of Mayville for many years and active in political lines. He served as city treasurer with ability and energy, having been elected on the democratic ticket. He was an accomplished musician, having the true German love of that art, and received his education along this line in his native country. He was director of the first band in Mayville, an organization justly noted in its day, and never gave up his interest in music of this character. Both he and his wife were communicants of the Roman Catholic church. Their family numbered eight children, as follows: Frank, deceased; John Louis; Emil P.; Edward, who has also passed away; Eugene, of this review; Clotilda, the wife of Dr. Balg of Milwaukee, a doctor of languages; and Adelheid and Willibald, both of whom died in infancy.

Eugene Ziegler pursued his education in parochial and high schools of Mayville and subsequently took a course in bookkeeping in the Spencerian Busi-



ness College of Milwaukee. After spending several months in his father's brewing establishment he obtained a position as assistant to the agent of the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria Railroad Company at Mayville on the 5th of July, 1881. On the 12th of February, 1883, he was promoted, being appointed agent by Alonzo Kinyon, the president of the railroad. It was on the 5th of June, 1877, that the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria Railroad Company began laying its tracks preparatory to entering the town of Mayville. The first locomotive was placed on the track at Fond du Lac and was named in honor of George H. Wellmann, who had aided in financing the road. The second locomotive, a ten-wheel machine, was named in honor of Alonzo Kinyon, who had manifested a most active and helpful interest in the development of the railroad. In the comparatively brief period between 1877 and 1883 four different agents had represented the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria Railroad Company at Mayville. The first were Kroesing and Tidyman, after whom followed F. C. Christnacht, C. Dewey, Arthur Maxon and Eugene Ziegler, the last named being still in service. The conditions of early years stand in marked contrast to those of the present day. Mr. Ziegler was obliged to spend many a night in the old railway station, waiting for a train which might arrive at any moment but which was frequently delayed for hours. At such times when a train left the narrow track, which was no unusual accident, Mr. Ziegler took travelers on a hand car to Iron Ridge in order that they might resume the journey without delay. His reminiscences of those early days are indeed interesting.

On the 8th of September, 1883, the Fond du Lac, Amboy & Peoria was absorbed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. On the first Sunday of June, 1884, unusual activity was to be seen all along the road between Fond du Lac and Iron Ridge. By means of extra trains, track crews were transported from the La Crosse division, the Superior division down to Plymouth, the entire northern division and the Milwaukee Central Line (now the Soo Line), from Stevens Point to Wankesha. The laborers succeeded in laying the thirty miles of track in one day, having completed the work by five o'clock in the evening, which was an unprecedented accomplishment. From small beginnings the transportation facilities of Mayville have developed to important proportions. The town, which had but nine hundred inhabitants when Mr. Ziegler began his work in the railroad station, now has a population of more than three thousand. The Mayville Canning Company, the Mayville White Lime Works and the Mayville Iron Company had not yet been established here. Mr. Ziegler has given his best efforts during the greater part of his life not only to the furtherance of the interests of the railroad corporation which he represents but also to the upbuilding and development of his native town. He is active in business circles as treasurer of the Mayville Mutual Fire Insurance Company and as secretary of the M. Ziegler Brewing Company and is one of the best known and most beloved citizens of the town in which he has always lived.

In early manhood Mr. Ziegler was united in marriage to Emma Hartwig, a native of Germany. To them were born ten children, namely: Gretchen; Hedwig; Angela; Mathew, who died in October, 1897, at the age of three months; Othmar; Norbert; Victor; Helene; Herbert; and Richard.

Mr. Ziegler has been consistently independent in politics, and though at one time he served as supervisor of the third ward, has declined nominations for public office. Fraternally he is identified with the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin. He belongs to St. Mary's church and is director of the choir, in which he has sung since the age of twelve years. Mr. Ziegler also has membership in the Teutonia Maennerehor and is president of the Green Head Hunting Club. His entire life has been characterized by sterling qualities of manhood and citizenship and by allegiance to all those forces which make for progress and for public benefit.

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#### WILLIAM S. WILSON.

Among the lawyers of the Rock River valley none stands higher in the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens than does William S. Wilson, of Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois. During the period of his identification with the professional interests of this locality he has risen steadily in the respect of his colleagues and has met with distinctive success in the practice of his profession, having been identified as counsel with much of the important litigation in the courts of this county.

Mr. Wilson was born in the city of Chicago, on the 15th of December, 1895, and is the son of William and Rose (Schmich) Wilson, the latter of whom was born and reared near Freeport. The father was born in Ireland in 1850 and came to the United States with his parents, William and Margaret Wilson, who settled on a farm near Woosung, Illinois, in 1858. They devoted all of their active years to agricultural pursuits and there they spent the remainder of their lives. The subject's father continued to operate the home farm for a number of years and in 1897 he and his family came to Freeport, where he is now living retired.

William S. Wilson secured his preliminary education in the public schools of Freeport, graduating from the high school, and then entered Columbia College, at Dubuque, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1916 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then entered the law department of Georgetown University, at Washington, D. C., from which he was graduated in 1921 with the degrees of Bachelor of Laws and Master of Patent Law. He was soon afterward admitted to the bar and in the same year entered upon the practice of his profession in Freeport, which has commanded his close attention ever since. He is a member of the Stephenson County Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He has already gained a splendid reputation as a skillful and able lawyer, the honorable distinction which he has thus far achieved at the bar being an assurance of the still wider sphere of usefulness that he is destined to fill.

In Washington, D. C., December 18, 1917, Mr. Wilson enlisted in the United States air service and in May, 1918, was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was thereafter instructor at various flying fields in Texas and on May 14, 1918, he was furloughed to the Reserve Air Service at Ellington field, Texas, remain-

ing there until the close of the war. He has never been discharged from the service, in which he holds the rank of second lieutenant. He is a member and is the present commander of Freeport Post No. 139, American Legion, and is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Sigma Nu Phi college fraternity. Personally Mr. Wilson is a man of pleasing address and attractive personality, a clear and forceful speaker, frank and candid in his utterances and affable and friendly in all of his social relations. He enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout the locality where he lives and is extremely popular in the circles in which he moves.

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#### ERASTUS GILBERT SMITH.

Erastus Gilbert Smith, mayor of Beloit, is a representative of the city's best worth and intelligence and a chemist whose scientific attainments have earned for him nation-wide prominence. He was born April 30, 1855, in South Hadley, Massachusetts, a son of Byron and Nancy (Dwight) Smith, and after completing his preliminary studies entered Amherst College, from which he won the A. B. degree in 1877 and that of A. M. in 1880. He has devoted much time to research work in the field of chemistry and is a recognized authority on matters pertaining to this subject. He was awarded the Ph. D. degree in 1883 by the University of Göttingen, Germany, and in 1921 Beloit College conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL. D. He was professor of chemistry at Beloit College from 1881 until 1921, dean during 1903-4, and in 1921 became professor emeritus of that college. He has written a number of monographs on chemistry and is the author of the following books: "Determination of the Rock-Forming Minerals," published in 1885; and "Manual of Qualitative Analysis." Dr. Smith is also an astute business man, endowed with a high order of executive ability, and since 1913 has been president of the Beloit Savings Bank, which has prospered under his wise guidance.

On December 26, 1883, Dr. Smith was married to M. Elizabeth Mayher, of Easthampton, Massachusetts, and they have become the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters, namely: Gilbert M., Philip M., Elizabeth and Rebecca.

Dr. Smith is affiliated with the First Congregational church and his political support is given to the republican party. A recognition of the duties and obligations as well as the privileges of citizenship has led him to take an active part in the public life of his community and he served for three terms as mayor of Beloit, from 1887 until 1891. In 1924 he was again elected to that office, which he has since filled, giving to the municipality a good clean government and working along lines which produce the best results in the field of civic virtue and advancement. He belongs to the Kiwanis Club and the Delta Upsilon fraternity. Dr. Smith is serving on the state council of the Modern Woodmen of America and is also connected with the Knights of Pythias and all the Masonic bodies. He is president of the Beloit Historical Society,



HON. ERASTUS G. SMITH



a member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the American Chemical Society, the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft, and has been honored with a fellowship in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Smith has devoted his life to the acquisition of scientific knowledge, which has been of benefit to his fellowmen, and the record of his career is the best commentary on his ability and achievements.

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### JOHN BILLERBECK.

Few men of the past generation were held in higher esteem in the Rock River valley than the late John Billerbeck, of Freeport, whose death occurred May 13, 1899. His memory will long be revered by those yet surviving who knew him, for he was a man esteemed by all, owing to his marked business ability, his sterling honesty, his charitable nature and his readiness to help in the furtherance of any movement for the general upbuilding of the community.

Mr. Billerbeck was a native of Prussia, where he was born on the 13th of November, 1835. He was reared in his native land, in the public schools of which he received a good education, and in 1851 he immigrated to the United States. In that same year he came to Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois, and here obtained employment at his trade as a baker. After working for a number of years Mr. Billerbeck established in a small way what is known as the Vienna bakery, and he was rewarded with success from the start, so that as the business grew he was compelled from time to time to enlarge his facilities until at the time of his death he owned and operated one of the largest bakeries in the state of Illinois. This accomplishment was not the result of accident or especially fortunate circumstances but was brought about solely through his close attention to his individual affairs and the exercise of sound business judgment in everything that he did.

Beginning his career here with practically no cash capital, Mr. Billerbeck built up a business which grew so rapidly that in a few years he was a rich man. He then erected a splendid business block on the corner of South Galena avenue and Galena street and a few years later erected a commodious apartment house on South Galena avenue, both buildings being ornaments to the city. Thus he was eminently deserving of that proud title of self-made man and he richly earned the enviable standing which he attained in the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. Though devoting the major part of his time and attention to his own affairs, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature but preserved his faculties and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helping influences of human life, being to the end a kindly, genial friend and gentleman, whom all respected for his life and its accomplishments. Although quiet and unassuming, with no ambition for public position or leadership, he contributed much to the material, civic and moral advancement of his community, while his admirable qualities of head and heart

and the straightforward, upright course of his daily life gave him a hold on the hearts and esteem of the people which was never disturbed.

Mr. Billerbeck was a member of the Germania Society and in the days of the old volunteer fire department he was an active fireman. He was also a leading member of St. Joseph's church and a liberal contributor to that church and to St. Francis Hospital. He likewise was a member of St. Pius' and St. Joseph's societies, being treasurer of the latter society for twenty-two years.

In 1864 Mr. Billerbeck was married to Miss Minnie Reineke, who proved to be a true helpmate in the fullest sense of the word. They became the parents of five children: Anna, Anton, Lotta, Josie and Charles F. Anna became the wife of Philip Snyder and lives in Chicago. Charles F. was born January 31, 1881, and attended the parochial schools, after which he took a course in a business college in Freeport. He then entered his father's business and has remained identified with it continuously since. Mrs. Billerbeck carried on the bakery business from 1899 until her death in 1918, and since that year Charles F. Billerbeck has had charge of the enterprise, doing a wholesale and retail business, operating eight trucks for the distribution of his output throughout the surrounding territory. The business has continued to grow and is now one of the most successful and substantial concerns in Freeport, being conducted under the name of Billerbeck's Bake Shop.

Mr. C. F. Billerbeck was married August 1, 1907, to Miss Helen Kaste, the daughter of William Kaste, of Freeport. Politically he gives his support to the democratic party and was assistant supervisor for Stephenson county in 1921-24. He is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Columbus and the Freeport Country Club. He is a man of fine personal qualities, genial and friendly in all of his social relations and extremely popular in the circles in which he moves. Possessing marked business ability, he stands high in the commercial circles of his city and is numbered among the representative men of Freeport.

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#### WILLIAM D. BAUM.

William D. Baum, a well established building contractor at Dixon and one of the veterans in that line in the Rock River valley, is a native son of the old Empire state but has been a resident of Illinois since the days of his childhood and is thus thoroughly familiar with conditions here. He was born near Cicero, New York, August 31, 1859, and was six years of age when in 1865, following the close of the Civil war, his parents, Jacob and Rachel (Elwood) Baum, came with their family to Illinois and settled on a farm in the Malta neighborhood in DeKalb county. There Jacob Baum and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring November 9, 1891, and hers December 12, 1904.

Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Malta, William D. Baum attended the schools of that village and early learned the carpenter's trade, a line which he ever since has followed, years ago becoming a building contractor,

and he has been quite successful. He continued working at his trade in his home county until in 1892, when he formed a partnership with W. T. Greig and became engaged as a building contractor in Dixon, the two doing business under the firm name of Greig & Baum. This partnership was continued until in 1910, when it was dissolved, and since then Mr. Baum has been carrying on his building operations independently. He long has been recognized as one of the leading building contractors in that section of the valley and much of the important construction that has been done in and about Dixon during recent years has been under his direction, this work including the erection of the city hall and the Young Men's Christian Association building in Dixon, besides several of the churches in that city and quite a number of the finer residences.

Mr. Baum has been twice married. On December 16, 1885, in the village of Malta, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary B. Spickerman, daughter of William and Sarah Spickerman of that place. Mrs. Mary Baum died June 24, 1887, and on March 25, 1897, at Palmyra, Mr. Baum married Miss Flora A. Rogers, daughter of Walter and Hannah (Fellows) Rogers of that place. Mr. and Mrs. Baum are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are democrats. Mr. Baum is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

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#### LOUIS F. REINHOLD.

Among those who stand as distinguished types of the world's workers is Louis F. Reinhold, who is one of the able and honored lawyers of northwestern Illinois. He is a man of fine intellectual and professional attainments, of most gracious personality, of strong and rugged character, and one who has labored with zeal and devotion in his vocation.

Mr. Reinhold was born on the 17th of April, 1890, in the city now honored by his residence, and is the son of Edward and Henderika (Billker) Reinhold, the former of whom is engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Freeport. Louis F. Reinhold attended the public schools of Freeport, graduating from the high school, after which he entered the University of Wisconsin, where he remained for one and a half years. He then completed his study of law in the office of Witte & Manus, in Freeport, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1914, following which he entered upon the practice of his profession and became assistant state's attorney, in which capacity he rendered effective service from 1914 to 1916. During the years 1917 to 1919 he served as city attorney of Freeport. By a straightforward, honorable course he has built up a large and lucrative legal business and has gained a well earned reputation as a safe counselor and a reliable and trustworthy attorney. He is a constant student of his profession and is held in very high esteem among his professional colleagues. Mr. Reinhold's law practice was interrupted when in August, 1918, he enlisted for service in the World war and went to the officers' training camp at Camp Gordon, Georgia. He was commissioned a second lieutenant, Novem-



ber 30, 1918, but the war having closed he was honorably discharged December 5.

On August 21, 1923, Mr. Reinhold was married to Miss Ada L. Folgate, the daughter of Isaac J. Folgate of Freeport. Fraternally Mr. Reinhold is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, belonging to all branches of the order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the American Legion. He is also a member of the Stephenson County Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. Mr. Reinhold is a man of forceful individuality and commanding presence and has long held an enviable place in the respect and esteem of the community. He has evinced a deep interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare of the locality where he lives, supporting all measures for the material, civic or moral betterment of the people.

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#### CHARLES HENRY HEMINGWAY.

The Rock River valley has been fortunate in the character of her newspapers, among the leaders of which stands the Tri-County Press, published at Polo, Illinois, by Charles Henry Hemingway, under whose able and progressive management the paper has become one of the most influential journals in this section of the state. Mr. Hemingway was born at Janesville, Wisconsin, on the 7th of January, 1872, and is a son of Thomas and Anna Mary (Ehrlinger) Hemingway. The father, who was a blacksmith by trade, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 15, 1848, his parents being Thomas and Jeannette (Digit) Hemingway, the former of English and the latter of Scottish birth. The mother was born in New York city, October 22, 1847, a daughter of J. Michael and Mary (Roth) Ehrlinger, both of whom were natives of Bavaria, Germany. In 1876 our subject's parents located on a farm near the village of Hanover, about nine miles from Janesville, Wisconsin, and six years later they purchased a farm south of that village, where they lived until their deaths, in January, 1920, the mother dying on the 22d and the father on the 25th, and both being buried at Janesville on January 27th. They were survived by seven children, Charles H., Gertrude H., Genevieve M., Joseph W., Edna M., George L. and Ruth D., while a son, Thomas, died in infancy.

On October 20, 1882, at the age of ten years, Charles H. Hemingway met with an accident which resulted in the loss of his right hand, but, despite this handicap, he has gone right on with his life work, in which he has been eminently successful. He received his elementary education in the country schools, which he attended until his sixteenth year, walking a mile and a half to and from school. In 1888 he entered the Janesville public schools and in the fall of that year the high school, which he attended two years. Having decided to engage in teaching, he continued his studies in the State Normal School at White-water, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1890. In the following year he began teaching at Newark, Rock county, at the salary of thirty dollars a month. The following year he taught in his home district and then for three years was in district

No. 1, Center township. During the summer of 1896 Mr. Hemingway assisted in conducting a summer school for teachers at Monroe, Wisconsin, and in the ensuing fall returned to Whitewater Normal School to complete his work. By hard and diligent study he was able to take three years' work in two years, being graduated from that school November 12, 1898. He served as president of his class and of all the school's societies; won the 1897 junior oratorical contest; and was the leader of the school's winning joint debate team in 1898. In October, 1898, Mr. Hemingway became principal of the grade school at Brodhead, Wisconsin, and the following year was principal of the Albany, Wisconsin, schools. In the fall of 1902 he was elected, without opposition, superintendent of schools for the first district of Rock county, was re-elected without opposition in 1905 and by a two-to-one vote over his opponent in 1907, retiring from the office in 1909 after six and a half years of effective service. He entered the office determined to do three things—to raise the standard of the teaching force, to raise teachers' salaries and to improve the school buildings and equipment, in all of which he was successful, though meeting with stiff opposition from some quarters.

While performing the duties of the office of school superintendent Mr. Hemingway was able to give considerable time to the study of law, a profession which he was ambitious to enter, and in 1903 he matriculated in the law department of the University of Wisconsin, attending classes as his official duties would permit. He was graduated in 1906 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, and on his admission to the bar he engaged in the active practice. He was a charter member of the E. G. Ryan Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta honorary law fraternity, organized in 1904 at the university, and served as justice of the chapter in 1905-6. In 1908 and 1910 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the nomination for district attorney of Rock county. On January 1, 1911, he became literary secretary to R. T. Crane, head of Crane Company, Chicago, and became editor of that company's house organ, "The Valve World," continuing in that capacity until Mr. Crane's death in 1912, at which time, before leaving the employ of the company, he prepared a biography of Mr. Crane.

In January, 1913, Mr. Hemingway bought The Tri-County Press, at Polo, Illinois, from A. T. Cowan, now one of California's most successful publishers, and at once assumed the business and editorial control of the paper. In 1914 he sold a one-tenth interest in the paper to J. J. Wagner, who later increased his holding to one-fourth, but sold his interest back to Mr. Hemingway in 1923. The plant which Mr. Hemingway acquired was well equipped, but he was not satisfied with anything less than the best and he has added to the equipment from time to time until now it is generally regarded as the best country newspaper plant to be found anywhere in a city of the size of Polo. He has enjoyed a steady and constant growth in business through the years since coming here and today owns a valuable and profitable newspaper and printing plant. Mr. Hemingway is a good business man, exercising a soundness of judgment and wise discrimination that has enabled him to realize a very gratifying measure of prosperity. Editorially the Press under his direction has consistently stood for the best things in community life and just as consistently has opposed all forms of wrong. A man of positive opinions and honest convictions, he has

the courage of utterance and when occasion demands he is willing to fight for what he believes to be right. His courage and fearlessness have been recognized and appreciated throughout the community, and he has earned and receives the commendation and approval of the best people.

Politically Mr. Hemingway is nominally a republican, though he maintains an independent attitude, reserving the right to follow the dictates of his judgment as to men and measures. He is a shrewd judge of public sentiment, as is shown by the fact that his editorial opinions and the ballot box verdicts have coincided in every primary and election contest in the past dozen years. Mr. Hemingway's religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church.

On December 31, 1914, Mr. Hemingway was married to Miss Claribel Noa, who was at that time a teacher in the Polo high school. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago, a talented pianist, and a member of the Women's Club and the Would-be Tourists Club, both at Polo. She was born in Chicago, a daughter of Edward Frederick and Christina (Schlenger) Noa, the former a native of Alsace-Lorraine and the latter of Germany. To Mr. and Mrs. Hemingway have been born three children, Alice Marian, Dorothy Anne and Thomas Charles. Personally Mr. Hemingway is a man of pleasing presence, genial and friendly in his social relations, and has attained a high place in the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

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#### CHARLES S. HEPNER.

In studying the life history of Charles S. Hepner, well known consulting engineer and successful merchant of Freeport, Illinois, there are found in his makeup the qualities most essential to success. Starting at the bottom of the ladder, he has mounted unaided to a position of honor and independence in the business world and stands today among the representative men of his locality.

Mr. Hepner is a native of Illinois, having been born in Brookville, Ogle county, on the 20th of March, 1883, the son of Isaac W. and Malinda (Messner) Hepner. He secured his educational training in the public schools of his native town and then took up the study of civil engineering. Later he went to California and during the period from 1905 to 1911 he was in the employ of the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads and the Ray Consolidated Copper Company, at Ray, Arizona. His experiences in the west were of great value to him, for his work was of a character that gave him much practical experience in civil engineering, so that on leaving that part of the country in 1911 he had become a thoroughly competent operator in that line of work.

Locating in Freeport in 1911, Mr. Hepner was appointed city engineer, in which position he served continuously until 1923, when he opened an office as consulting engineer, and he is still carrying on that business, in which he has met with a very gratifying measure of success. In the spring of 1925 Mr. Hepner bought the long established hardware store of Weiss & Company, which had been in continuous operation for forty years. In this venture he showed a soundness of judgment and a keen sagacity that marks him as a man of far-

sighted acumen in business affairs, for the enterprise has proven for him a profitable venture.

On May 10, 1912, Mr. Hepner was married to Miss Evelyn Myott, the daughter of L. A. Myott of Los Angeles, California, and they have become the parents of two children: Charlotte, born October 6, 1914; and John, born January 8, 1917. Politically Mr. Hepner has always given his support to the democratic party and has taken a good citizen's interest in local public affairs. His religious connection is with Grace Protestant Episcopal church, of which he is a liberal supporter. Fraternally he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, in all branches of the order; the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, being a past exalted ruler of the Freeport lodge; the Freeport Country Club and the Kiwanis Club. By a straightforward and commendable course he has not only won pecuniary success but has also gained that which is of more importance, the confidence and good will of the entire community, for all who have come in contact with him have recognized the salient points of his character and appreciate his worth as a man and citizen.

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#### LEONARD CUTHBERT FERGUSON.

One of the most progressive and enterprising of the younger generation of business men in Freeport, Stephenson county, Illinois, is Leonard Cuthbert Ferguson, who is the treasurer of the Western-Newell Manufacturing Company at this place. By his energetic methods and sound business principles he has achieved distinctive success and is held in the highest esteem throughout the community.

Mr. Ferguson was born in Hammond, New York, on the 9th of August, 1898, and is the son of Daniel A. and Mary (Cuthbert) Ferguson of Hammond, New York, where the father was a prominent and successful minister of the Presbyterian church. The subject received his preliminary education in the public schools of Hammond and the high school at Ogdensburg, New York, from which he was graduated, and then entered Hamilton College, graduating in 1919 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He subsequently taught school for one year at Morristown, New Jersey, and the following year joined the Equitable Life Assurance Society in Utica, New York, where he sold insurance until 1921. In that year he became connected with the Newell Manufacturing Company, of Ogdensburg, New York, manufacturers of curtain rods, and in the fall of that same year he was transferred to Freeport, Illinois, where he opened a branch factory for his company, under the name of the Western-Newell Manufacturing Company, of which he became and is serving as the treasurer. The company also has a plant at Prescott, Ontario, Canada, known as the Newell Manufacturing Company, Limited, all these being separate companies but under the same head. Recently the company has erected a fine new factory in Freeport, this plant having proven a successful and profitable enterprise.

Mr. Ferguson has devoted himself indefatigably to the building up of the business here and has been eminently successful, gaining a splendid reputation

as an energetic, wide-awake business man. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Freeport Country Club and the Rotary Club. Personally genial and friendly, he has gained a host of warm and loyal friends in this city, who esteem him for his genuine worth as a man and citizen.

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#### JOHN W. INGALLS.

John W. Ingalls, who has been established as a florist in Rockford for more than thirty years and is thus one of the best known purveyors in that line in this section of the middle west, is a member of one of the old families in Winnebago county. He was born on a farm in Rockford township, that county, in 1867, a son of Harvey and Nancy (Fuller) Ingalls, the latter of whom had been a resident of this county since the days of her infancy. She was born in Genesee county, New York state, in 1838, and was thus but an infant when in 1839 her parents, John Fuller and wife, moved with their family out here into the wilds of the Rock River valley and settled on a tract of land on the north bank of Rock river, seven miles south of the frontier village of Rockford, which had been laid out but a few years before. John Fuller had entered a claim to that tract the year before, after which he returned to New York and in 1839 brought his family out here with him and established his home in the wilderness, he and his wife thus becoming substantial and useful pioneers of that section. They were the parents of eight children and the Fuller family of this line is well represented hereabout in the present generation. John Fuller died in 1849, at the age of forty-nine years. His widow survived him for many years, her death occurring in 1893, she then being eighty-four years of age. Henry Fuller, a brother of John Fuller, became one of the foremost of Chicago's pioneer citizens, banker and capitalist, and was the active promoter of that city's first street railway line.

Harvey Ingalls, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born in Brookfield, in the state of Vermont, and became one of the pioneer school teachers in Winnebago county. In 1855, as a young man of good training, he came out into the valley of the Rock river and became a teacher in Winnebago county, this service having been rendered in Riverside, Wig Hill and Weldon, and he was living here when the Civil war broke out. In 1862 he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company D of the Seventy-fourth Regiment, Illinois Infantry, with which command he served until the end of the war. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to Winnebago county and presently bought a tract of fifty acres of land three miles south of Rockford, where after his marriage to Nancy Fuller he established his home. He also developed a tract of two hundred acres in Harlem township. In 1878 Harvey Ingalls cleared out his active farming interests here and moved to Chicago, where he went into the commission business and where he remained until 1890, when he returned to Winnebago county and bought a small farm in the Centerville neighborhood and was there engaged in gardening until his retirement when seventy-three years of age.

John W. Ingalls was about ten or eleven years of age when his parents moved to Chicago and he attended the schools of that city. Under the capable direction of his uncle, J. S. Haskins, he was trained as a florist in Chicago and as a young man became employed in that business there. He was married in 1888, and continued to make his home in Chicago until the time of his father's return to Winnebago county in 1890, when he engaged in gardening in Rockford township. Two years later, in 1892, he bought an established greenhouse on the south side of Rockford and resumed his vocation as a florist, building up a good business there. In 1910 this establishment was destroyed by fire and he then bought the place in which he now is doing business, at the corner of Ninth street and Eleventh avenue, and has since been established there, one of the best known florists in this whole region. Mr. Ingalls makes a specialty of the culture of flowering plants for winter service, has a widely established reputation for the quality of his cut flowers and is a specialist in the preparation of floral mortuary offerings.

On June 18, 1888, while living in Chicago, John W. Ingalls was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Dempsey, daughter of Edwin and Sarah (Prentice) Dempsey. Mr. and Mrs. Ingalls have three children, namely: Ida E., wife of B. F. Kaplan of Rockford, born February 14, 1891; Fannie M., born June 17, 1894; and Clement N., born September 6, 1897. Mrs. Ingalls is a native of England but has been a resident of this country since the days of her girlhood. It was in 1880, following the death of his wife, that Edwin Dempsey came to the United States with his family and established his home in Chicago. He was an expert in the tea trade and in Chicago became employed as a tea tester in a distributing plant there. In 1905 he moved from Chicago to Rockford and set himself up in business as a wholesale dealer in tea, with an establishment on South Wyman street, where he was in business for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Chicago and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on February 8, 1914, he then being seventy-two years of age. As noted above, his wife had long predeceased him, her death having occurred in England in 1880, she then being thirty-five years of age.

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#### HENRY C. CHRISTIANS.

One of the most conspicuous figures in the recent history of southern Wisconsin is Henry C. Christians, head of the well known firm of H. C. Christians Co., at Johnson Creek, and who is too well known to the readers of this work to require any formal introduction here. Equally noted as a citizen whose useful career has conferred credit upon his community and whose business ability and sterling qualities have won for him more than local repute, he holds today distinctive precedence as one of the most progressive, substantial and successful men of this section of the state.

Henry C. Christians was born in the town of Aztalan, near Johnson Creek, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, on the 16th of June, 1862, and is a son of Fred-

erick and Emilie (Stiehm) Christians. He attended the public school at Johnson Creek in his youth, and also applied himself intensively at home to the study of a commercial course. His first employment was as a clerk in the general store of the George C. Mansfield Company in Johnson Creek, and in 1882, at the age of twenty years, he embarked in the general mercantile business on his own account. He was successful, but gradually drifted into the special lines of butter and eggs, which he bought and shipped. Close attention to this business, together with the exercise of sound judgment, soon demonstrated the splendid possibilities in this line and in 1892 the business was incorporated as the H. C. Christians Co. They have enjoyed marked success during practically the entire history of the business and now are doing practically a wholesale business in butter and eggs, with a large branch office in Chicago, the H. C. Christians Co. being rated as one of the largest and most successful in its line in this part of the country. Our subject is president of the company, George F. Christians, his son, is vice president and manager of the Chicago office while William Schneider is secretary and treasurer.

Henry C. Christians has always been actively interested in the public affairs of his community and has been a potent factor in the development, improvement and prosperity of Johnson Creek. He was clerk of the town of Aztalan from 1883 to 1886, and during the administration of President Cleveland he was postmaster of Johnson Creek. In 1894 he was elected to the state legislature, served one term and then declined to accept a renomination. He was for a number of years president of the Farmers & Merchants Bank in Jefferson but resigned because he felt he could not give sufficient time to the position. He has a winter home at Eagle Rock, near Pasadena, California, and has taken an active interest in the welfare of that locality, as he has of his home community.

Politically Mr. Christians is aligned with the democratic party. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, while he is also a member of the Milwaukee Athletic Club, the Meadow Springs Golf Club of Jefferson, the Oakmont Country Club of Glendale, California, and the Johnson Creek Club. He is a member of the Wisconsin State Young Men's Christian Association; is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, California, the Chamber of Commerce of Eagle Rock, California, and is on the advisory board of the Eagle Rock Branch of the Security Trust & Savings Bank of Los Angeles.

Mr. Christians' success in life has been the legitimate fruitage of his persistent industry, his sound business judgment and the correct principles which have guided his actions. Strong mental powers, invincible courage and a determined purpose have so entered into his composition as to render him a dominant factor in the business world and a leader of men in important enterprises. While engaged in the prosecution of his own individual affairs, he has not been unmindful of the general welfare of his community, for the betterment of which he has been an ardent advocate and worker. Measured by its accomplishment, its beneficence and its helpful optimism, his life has had wide and emphatic significance, and today no man holds to a greater degree the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

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