

The first death was probably that of Isaac L. Collet. The date of his death is May 21, 1870.

Below are given the Township Boards:

YEAR.	TRUSTEE.	CLERK.	TREASURER.
1875.....	E. B. Eastman.....	W. C. Thompson.....	J. H. Young.
1876.....	E. B. Eastman.....	T. C. Rosco.....	F. Lewin.
1877.....	T. E. Lormer.....	T. C. Rosco.....	F. Lewin.
1878.....	E. B. Eastman.....	T. C. Rosco.....	F. Lewin.
1880.....	T. C. Rosco.....	L. D. Clark.....	F. Lewin.

[NOTE.—In 1878, a change was made in the time when the officers took their office, and they hold over the year 1879.]

POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OF CLAY COUNTY.

Athelstane.....	James Riden.	Leopoa.....	B. Walton.
Batcham.....	S. S. Shivers.	Longford.....	George Kinrich.
Cartar Creek.....	Jas. C. McCurdy.	Morganville.....	D. M. Eddy.
Chapmanville.....	George Reikert.	Oak Hill.....	J. G. Dieter.
Clay Center.....	G. M. Stratton.	Peach Grove.....	Geo. Wensworth.
Delavan.....	A. Lapham.	Powellsburg.....	E. G. Putnam.
Exeter.....	A. C. Butler.	Riverdale.....	G. Atwood.
Fancy Creek.....	Otto Smith.	Rosevale.....	M. Sanders.
Gatesville.....	J. Bradbury.	Tabor.....	George Zadiken.
Hebron.....	Mrs. Orr.	Wakefield.....	R. Batchelor.
Industry.....	A. Munro.		

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

D. C. PIERCE.

The subject of this sketch was born September 27, 1833, about four miles from Buffalo, N. Y. When he was about a year old, his parents moved to New Buffalo, Mich., where they lived about seven years; then they moved to St. Joseph, Ind. In the spring of 1849, he started for California, and arrived there three weeks before his sixteenth birthday. In 1857, he returned to Indiana, and there married Sarah Warren August 26, 1858. The next spring after his marriage, he started for Pike's Peak, but stopped in this county, and, on the 1st of June, settled on the farm where he now resides. His nearest neighbor was Joseph Simpson. He has had three children, one girl, now married, and two boys. During the Indian scare of 1868, he was Lieutenant of a militia company on the Wildcat, and went with them to White Rock.

DR. GEORGE WIGG.

The father of Dr. George Wigg was, and is now, a boot and shoe manufacturer in Colechester, Essex Co., England. Here the subject of this sketch was born in March, 1841. He graduated from the grammar school, and, at the age of fifteen, began the study of medicine with Dr. Churchill. After two and a half years of study, he began practicing in his profession at Stratford, where he also preached occasionally in the Methodist Church. When about twenty-eight years old he came to America, landing in New York City, where for \$200 he purchased a piece of real estate, supposed to be at Junction City, Kan. When he reached that place he found that his speculation was a swindle. After staying about a week in Junction City, he paid \$15, all the money he had, to be taken to Clay Center. Then he went on to Chester's and took a homestead near there, calling the place Dale's Peak. There, in June, 1873, he married Miss Emma Wilson. They have three children, two sons and one daughter. He used to walk from his homestead to Clay Center on Saturday, preach there Sunday morning, walk to Morgantown and preach there in the afternoon, and then to Clifton, where he again preached in the evening. For this he received \$50 per year. In 1874, he moved to Clay Center and spent what little money he had in building a small house. To this he made additions at different times and has made other improvements on his place, which is now worth about \$2,500.

He has, probably, the finest medical library in the county. The first homœopathist in the county, he has built up an extensive practice. He devotes his leisure time to science and the cultivation of silkworms and bees.

G. KUHNLE.

F. Kuhnle, the father of Gotlieb or Cale, as he is generally called, was born in Enderbach, Germany, in October, 1819. He married Miss Sarah Pfeitlerer in 1844. Cale, their only son, was born in 1849, in Hartman's Weller, Germany. When Cale was only seven years old, his father came to America and settled in Missouri, twelve miles east of St. Joseph, where he rented a farm for three years. Then he bought a

farm adjoining the town site of Belmont, Kan. This unfortunately was washed away by the Missouri River, and he was again compelled to move. He went to the Delaware Reserve, but was ordered off by the United States Government. Returning to Belmont, he joined Philip Rothman and came to Clay Co., taking a homestead near his old neighbor. Cale remained on the homestead with his father until 1870, when he became a partner in the clothing store of N. Gollaber. In 1874, he purchased Mr. Gollaber's interest, and has ever since been the sole proprietor. Cale was married to Miss Kate Heimrich on the 21st of July, 1868. Though still a young man, he is already recognized as one of Clay Center's most enterprising merchants.

When they came to Clay Co. they had very little property. Now their fine residence, commodious store and warehouse speak for themselves.

DANIEL H. MYERS.

One of the most substantial men in the county is the President of the Republican Valley Bank—Daniel H. Myers.

He was born in Somerset County, Penn., March 5, 1838. His parents were natives of that State.

He lived on his father's farm until he was about sixteen years old, when he came West.

After spending nearly four months in an unsuccessful search for work in Northern Iowa, he went to Carroll County, Ill., where he worked on a farm for two years and a half.

He spent the winter of 1856-57 at home in Pennsylvania, and in the spring, came to Kansas, stopping for a time in Illinois.

In the fall of 1857, he went as teamster with the Government expedition under the command of Gen. Johnston, against the Mormons.

The expedition wintered at Fort Bridger, and, in the spring, proceeded to Salt Lake City, where they accomplished their object.

In August, the subject of this sketch went on to California, where he engaged in mining and farming.

In 1859, he returned by way of the Isthmus to Pennsylvania, where he was married, March 23, 1860, to Miss Catherine Younkens, a sister to Moses Younkens. A week after his marriage, he started for Kansas, and bought the farm, which he still owns, on Timber Creek, adjoining the county line. He has five children living, two sons and three daughters, and has buried two others.

He was the first Justice of the Peace in the southern half of the county, and has also served one term as County Commissioner.

He made his money by farming and stock-raising in this county, and in the fall of 1880, became President of the Republican Valley Bank.

THE DEXTER BROTHERS.

Clay Center is one of the most enterprising towns in the eastern part of Kansas. The merchants and citizens are of that class of zealous and energetic men which is needed to build up a stirring business center. The character of the town depends, in a great part, upon the

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, KANSAS.

men who found it. The Dexter Brothers, who were the original proprietors of the town site of Clay Center, were self-made men, enterprising, energetic and liberal.

Their grandfather, John Dexter, was one of the pioneers of Vermont, and held the rank of Captain in the Revolutionary war.

Joshua Simons, their grandfather on their mother's side, served as a private in the same great struggle.

John Dexter, the elder of the two brothers who compose this firm, was born in Windsor County, Vt., on the 27th day of November, 1820. The younger, Alonzo F. Dexter, was born June 3, 1833, in the same county. Both their parents died in 1839, when John was nineteen years old, and Alonzo only six years, leaving them with a few hundred dollars each, to fight their own way in the world.

JOHN DEXTER,

the elder brother, remained in Vermont until he was twenty-one years old, and then went to Lowell, Mass., where he worked in a factory.

In 1842, he went to Henderson County, Ill., and bought a farm. After living there a year, he returned to Lowell, where he remained until the spring of 1850. Here he was married to Miss Lucy C. Goding, on the 23d of November, 1844.

By this wife he had three children—William G., who was born in October, 1845; Elenora L., born in August, 1847, and John E., born in April, 1849, all of whom died before they were a year and a half old.

He went to California in the spring of 1850, and returned to Lowell in the fall of 1852. His wife died March 24, 1853. In the fall of 1853, he moved to Chicago, where he was employed as a traveling salesman by J. S. Wright, who dealt in agricultural implements.

He married his second wife, Miss Susan E. Haynes, on the 28th of May, 1860, in Monroe County, Ill.

He then settled in Henderson County of the same State, and lived there until he removed to Kansas, in 1864.

By his second marriage he has had three children, all of whom are now living—Lorenzo J., born July 9, 1861; George W., born January 21, 1867, and Elenora A., born June 5, 1871.

ALONZO F. DEXTER.

After the death of his parents, Alonzo F. Dexter went to New Hampshire, where he lived on a farm until he was ten years old.

When his brother returned from Illinois, he went to Lowell with him and worked in the factory. He twice returned to Vermont, and stayed a couple of years each time, but, in 1851, he was still at work in Lowell.

His health being poor, he decided to make a trip to the West. Though not yet of age, he obtained the money left him by his parents, and, with his elder brother, went to Council Bluffs. Then his brother returned to Lowell, and Alonzo made a visit to his brother-in-law, in Illinois.

In November 1852, he went to New Orleans, and the next spring to California, working his passage as a cabin boy in order to save his money.

There he engaged in mining in Tuolumne County, and, in nine years, saved up \$35,000. With this sum he came East, in the spring of 1862.

AT CLAY CENTER.

In May, 1862, the two brothers selected the town site of Clay Center, filed their claims on several sections of land in the county.

John returned to Illinois to prepare for the removal of his family to his new home.

Alonzo returned to California and there married Miss Emily Dunbar, September 28, 1862.

In August, 1864, the two brothers brought their families to Clay Center and commenced to build up the town.

When they selected the town site, it was supposed that the main line of the Kansas Pacific Railroad would follow the preliminary survey up

the valley of the Republican River. Though the railroad disappointed them, they were not discouraged, but went on with their undertaking, and at last were successful.

In May, 1866, the firm finished their steam saw-mill and corn mill.

A grist-mill was started the next year. They also opened a general store, which was closed in 1876.

They gave employment to many of the settlers at times when they sorely needed aid of some kind, and did all that lay in their power to build up the town and county.

After the organization of the county, a strong effort was made by other parties to locate the county seat on the west side of the river. The Dexter Brothers then furnished the money to build the stone court house, costing \$1,600, and received in return county scrip, which at that time was greatly depreciated in value.

On the 4th of July, 1876, the firm started their water-power mill.

Though the firm suffered considerably during the business depression which prevailed over the whole country a few years ago, they are now in a prosperous condition. During the three months of September, October and November, 1880, in addition to their local trade, they shipped forty-two car-loads of wheat, thirty-eight of corn, fifty-seven of chop, nine of flour, eight of meal and three of hogs. Beginning life with almost nothing, they are, after the many privations and hardships of frontier life in Illinois, California and Kansas, successful and prosperous, and deserve to be remembered by the citizens of Clay County, both of the present and future, as the men to whom the county owes much of its prosperity.

H. A. ELIAS.

H. A. Elias was born on May 29, 1847, in Todd Township, Huntingdon County, Penn. He is the son of A. Elias, born in the same county, a well-to-do farmer of German descent.

He came to Kansas in November, 1868, and selected Clay County as his future home, in April, 1871.

His wife, whom he married in this county, was the daughter of Mrs. Lavila Younkens, who was the first white woman in the county.

H. A. Elias is one of the industrious and enterprising farmers and stock-raisers of Clay County. He is the owner of a beautiful farm, on Section 22, Township 9, Range 4, well improved in every particular. Being a carpenter himself, he has shown his workmanship in constructing such fine buildings as he has on his farm. The prosperity of the county depends on such men as he, and success will certainly crown all his undertakings.

S. C. CHESTER.

The subject of this sketch is of the representative men of that class called self-made men. He was born in Burbage, Leicestershire, England, June 21, 1830. His parents being poor, he was compelled to go out at work when very young, and had no school advantages. When of age, seeing little prospect of bettering his condition in his native land, he decided to come to America, where better rewards were promised for a life of labor. He left England October 13, 1852, and arrived in New York November 20, following. Settled first in Honesdale, Wayne Co., Penn., but after two years, removed to Livingston County, Mich., where he married Mrs. Ann Morris December 26, 1855, who has with him shared the privations and hard work of a frontier life. In 1859, he removed with his family to Louisa County, Iowa, thence to Kansas in the spring of 1860, and settled on the claim where he now resides, May 1, of that year. Upon arrival at the claim, he had decided should be his future home; his worldly wealth consisted of one yoke of steers, and one \$20 gold piece, with no wagon or other farm tools. To-day his farm of 400 acres is one of the finest in the Northern part of the county, and the illustration of his buildings and surroundings shows what the results of twenty years of labor and attention to business have accomplished.

He has held both county and township offices, the duties of which he has discharged faithfully and honorably, being two years a County

Commissioner, four years Justice of the Peace, and two years Township Treasurer.

During the Indian trouble, he was a Lieutenant in the State militia.

He is a stanch member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has taken a prominent part in the organization of the society at Clifton, and the building of the church and parsonage, himself paying one-eighth of the total cost.

PHILIP ROTHMAN,

was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, on the 12th of May, 1828. His father was a wagon-maker, and he learned the same trade.

In 1849, during the civil war, he left Germany to escape being sent into the army, and came to this country, landing in New Orleans on Christmas Day.

After a week's stay in New Orleans, he went by boat to St. Louis, where he obtained work at his trade.

He remained there about a month, and then began farming in St. Clair County, Ill.

October 6, 1856, in Hannibal, Mo., he was married to Miss Regina Traut, who was born in Kurhessen, Germany.

He then turned his attention to railroading for a couple of years.

In 1858, he again tried farming, this time in Doniphan County, Kan. Being too poor to make a success of farming there, he decided to go still further West.

He made a trip to the Republican Valley in July, 1862, and selected the claim which he still owns. He returned to Doniphan County for his family, and, on the 15th of August, 1862, began living on his homestead.

He was Constable for the north half of the county while it was attached to Davis County. He also held the office of Sheriff for four years.

In 1873, he moved into town and kept a beer saloon, taking out the first license granted in the county.

In 1874, he closed his saloon and opened his hotel, calling it the "Farmers' Resort."

He has had six children, one of whom (Johnnie) died in Doniphan County when but a week old. Ida Iona died on the 7th of January,

1872, aged eight years. Eight days later he lost his son Daniel F., then fifteen years old. He has three daughters still living.

When he came to Clay County he had an ox team, a colt and a couple of calves, and was \$2.50 in debt. Now he has a fine farm of 240 acres, only three miles from Clay Center, his hotel and residence, a lithograph of which is given on another page.

W. H. BROUGHTON—SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.

W. H. Broughton was born in Crawford Co., Penn., June 19, 1842. Was married September 10, 1860, to Miss Mary Jane McCoy. Enlisted August, 1862, in the 145th Pennsylvania Volunteers, serving three years in the Second Army Corps in the Army of the Potomac, under Gen. Hancock, taking part in all the battles of that corps. Was honorably discharged June 6, 1865. Hoping to better his condition, he came to Kansas in the spring of 1870, to accept the generosity of Uncle Sam, and located a homestead April 7, where he now resides. A sketch of the improvements he has since made will be seen among the illustrations of this book. When the papers for the homestead were made out, he had a family of three children and not one cent of money, but plenty of energy and determination to have a home. During the summer of 1870, he erected a log cabin, which has since been found convenient for a stable, while he has a more comfortable stone house for his family. His family now number nine, the oldest of his children, Richard, being nineteen years of age, and the youngest, Ida, eighteen months. Two, not included in the above, have been carried away by death, the first death being George A., who died July, 1870, and Ada, twin sister of Ida, who died at the age of seven months.

Mr. Broughton's self-denial, hard labor, and close attention to Kansas farming, have been rewarded. He now has 360 acres of as fine land as the beautiful prairies of the West can afford, 200 acres of which are covered with a fine growth of wheat that promises a bountiful harvest the coming year. He has occupied the offices of Township Clerk and Road Overseer several terms, and nearly all his time in Kansas been a member of the School Board of his district, and is now occupying the office of Director.

He may be considered a fair representative of the successful homesteaders who have made a success of coming to Kansas to take a homestead.

